

2020 Local Government Election - Polling Location Update

ISSUE

Planning an election involves considering many factors and making decisions well in advance so that plans can be executed. Planning an election during a pandemic increases many factors to consider and requires responding to situations as they arise. This report provides information on two voting location changes for Election Day, along with an update on advance poll voting opportunities.

BACKGROUND

At its regular business meeting held April 27, 2020 City Council approved the list of polling places for the 2020 local government election. Two of the approved polling places are no longer available for use and have been relocated.

At its meeting held July 27, 2020 City Council directed the Administration to report on the possibility of establishing additional advance polls and additional regular polling stations for the November 2020 municipal election.

This report addresses two changes to Election Day polling places, cancellation of one advance poll, and details the locations of three additional advance poll voting opportunities.

CURRENT STATUS

The city has historically taken the approach to provide one polling location for each neighbourhood as is reasonably practicable. As detailed in appendix 1, sixty-six polling places have been established on Election Day. In order to provide adequate voting opportunities prior to Election Day, eleven advance polls have been established. Due to COVID-19, the election team has been challenged to make adjustments to its election planning, as required and appropriate.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Section 26 of *The Local Government Election Act, 2015* states that if any polling place becomes unavailable, the Returning Officer shall name another place as an alternate polling place. Due to COVID-19 and to take precautionary measures, two voting locations are no longer available for use on Election Day, November 9, 2020. Changes are identified in Table 1.

Neighbourhood	Previous Location	New Location	Address
Brighton (poll 807)	Wilson's Lifestyle Centre	Holy Family Catholic School (Willowgrove)	815 Stensrud Road
Grosvenor Park (poll 607)	Redeemer Lutheran Church	Saskatoon Misbah School	222 Copland Crescent

Table 1: Election Day Polling Place Location Updates

In accordance with the requirements of section 26 of the LGEA, the Returning Officer will undertake to make further polling place changes as necessary should the availability of other venues change prior to Election Day.

At the August 4, 2020 Special Council Meeting, City Council directed Administration to report back on additional advance polls. Three additional advance poll voting opportunities have been established, as detailed in table 2:

Location	Address	Date	Time
Saskatoon Access Transit (New! Drive-thru location)	422 46 th Street East (north industrial)	Sun, Nov 1	10 am to 5 pm
Station 20 West Community Enterprise Centre	1120 20 th Street	Sun, Nov 1 Mon, Nov 2	10 am to 5 pm
Lakewood Civic Centre	1635 McKercher Drive	Sun, Nov 1 Mon, Nov 2	10 am to 5 pm

Table 2: Additional Advance Poll Voting Opportunities

Due to COVID-19, Place Riel at the University of Saskatchewan is longer available to use as an advance poll. A new location is not being established to replace this advance poll. Appendix 2 details the dates and times of the now ten established advance polls between October 30 and November 5, 2020.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no privacy, legal, social, or environmental implications identified.

NEXT STEPS

Back-end data, PDF/GIS poll maps, the Where's My Poll Finder? Tool, and the communication plan will be updated to reflect changes in polling places as well as the addition of three advance polling locations. Should further venues become unavailable prior to Election Day, appropriate communication will be undertaken and poll finder maps and tools will be updated and changed. An [interactive GIS map](#) showing all polling locations has been created and will be updated as required.

APPENDICES

1. 2020 Election Day Polling Places (update)
2. 2020 Advance Poll Calendar (update)

Report Approval

Written by: Scott Bastian, Returning Officer
Reviewed and approved by: Joanne Sproule, City Clerk