



## Potential Changes to the *Local Authorities Election Act*

On June 24, 2020, [Bill 29: Local Authorities Election Amendment Act, 2020](#) was introduced in the Alberta Legislature.

Bill 29 received first reading on June 24, 2020. If passed, the bill will come into force on September 1, 2020.

Many of the changes proposed in Bill 29 will have an effect on local elections.

These include:

- Introduction of higher (\$10,000) limits on self-contributions, and allowing contributions of up to \$5,000 per person, per candidate, across Alberta rather than a provincial-wide limit.
- Introducing a requirement for a review of financial statements for any candidate who spends or receives more than \$50,000 during their campaign.
- Requiring surplus funds greater than \$1,000 to be donated directly to a registered charity rather than being held in-trust (amounts less than \$1,000 may be kept by the candidates or donated directly to charity).
- Removes “political advertising” from third party advertising meaning that third party advertising is only regulated during the election period between May 1 and the close of voting stations on election day in the year of the election. Ensures that third party advertising is focused on the promotion and/or opposition of candidates, rather than issue-based advertising during election period.
- Introduction of a provincial registrar for third parties who register to advertise in more than 10 local jurisdictions across Alberta.
- Reinstatement a four week period of time between nomination day and election day from six week in the previous version of the act.

These highlighted changes are provided based on Bill 29 as currently drafted. If changes to this bill occur updates will be provided as information becomes available.

All potential candidates, electors, third party advertisers, and individuals considering donating to a campaign are encouraged to review Bill 29 as they prepare for the 2021 Edmonton General Election.

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Additional information regarding changes to the *Local Authorities Election Act* will be posted at [edmonton.ca/elections](http://edmonton.ca/elections) as soon as it is made available by the Government of Alberta. Supporting resources will be released once Bill 29 is passed.

[This link](#) connects to the news release from the GOA. Municipal Affairs is available to answer specific questions on the proposed legislative changes and the potential impacts on local elections: 780-427-2225 or [ma.lgsmail@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ma.lgsmail@gov.ab.ca).

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