



**Edmonton
Elections**

2025 EDMONTON ELECTION

FINAL REPORT

July 2026

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The lands on which Edmonton sits and the North Saskatchewan River that runs through it have been the sites of natural abundance, ceremony and culture, travel and rest, relationship building, making and trading for Indigenous peoples since time immemorial.

Edmonton is located within Treaty 6 Territory and the Métis Nation homelands. We acknowledge this land as the traditional territories of many First Nations such as the Nehiyaw (Cree), Denesuliné (Dene), Nakota Sioux (Stoney), Anishinaabe (Saulteaux) and Niitsitapi (Blackfoot). The City of Edmonton owes its strength and vibrancy to these lands and the diverse Indigenous peoples whose ancestors' footsteps have marked this territory as well as settlers from around the world who continue to be welcomed here and call Edmonton home.

Together we call upon all our collective honoured traditions and spirits to work in building a great city for today and future generations.

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NOTES

The data presented in this report constitute the official final figures for the 2025 Edmonton Election. Variations from previously released figures may be observed, stemming from either the standard post-election data reconciliation process or distinct methodologies used for calculation.

Links to external websites or documents are provided for convenience and are active at the time of publication.

MESSAGE FROM THE RETURNING OFFICER AND CITY CLERK

I am pleased to share the 2025 Edmonton Election final report. Our fundamental mission is to uphold the confidence and trust of Edmontonians in their local government by delivering inclusive, transparent and accountable public services. While this work takes many forms and extends long before and after any electoral event, elections provide a vital opportunity to engage electors in a meaningful democratic experience.

The 2025 Edmonton Election, held on October 20, 2025, was an important moment for our city. Edmontonians elected a Mayor, 12 Councillors, and Trustees for the public and Catholic school boards, with more than 206,000 voters participating from an electorate of nearly 680,000. This represented a turnout of just over 30 per cent.

The Edmonton Elections team delivered this election in a significantly different legislative and operational environment from previous elections. Amendments to the *Local Authorities Election Act* introduced major changes, including the mandatory use of a permanent electors register, enhanced voter eligibility verification requirements, and the prohibition of electronic tabulators, resulting in a full return to hand-counted ballots for the first time in Edmonton's modern municipal history. Additionally, local political parties and slates were permitted to participate in the municipal election, reflecting a major shift in how candidates could organize and campaign.

Edmonton Elections continued to expand voter access through advance and special ballot voting opportunities. More than 40,000 Edmontonians cast their ballots during advance voting or by special ballot, reflecting strong early participation and helping to distribute voting demand. Our accessible voting supports, elector assistance tools and customer service enhancements ensured that Edmontonians of all abilities and backgrounds could participate in the democratic process.



Aileen Giesbrecht,
Returning Officer and City Clerk

I want to express my sincere gratitude for the dedication and professionalism of our Elections team, as well as the thousands of election workers who supported advance voting and Election Day operations. I also extend thanks to colleagues from the City of Edmonton, Edmonton Public Schools and Edmonton Catholic Separate School Division, partner agencies, and community organizations whose collaboration was essential in delivering this complex and evolving election.

Looking ahead to 2029 and beyond, we are committed to building on the lessons learned in 2025. We will continue refining our processes, modernizing service delivery, and strengthening public trust to ensure that every eligible elector in Edmonton has the opportunity to participate in a democratic process that is accessible, reliable and reflective of our city's values.

Aileen Giesbrecht
Returning Officer and City Clerk

01

INTRODUCTION

2025 EDMONTON ELECTION BY THE NUMBERS

Voter Turnout



Eligible Electors 679,945 629,006 (2021)	Number of Voters 206,799 236,488 (2021)	Ballots Cast 587,906 236,488 (2021)*	Voter Turnout 30.41% 37.6% (2021)
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Candidates



Mayor 13 11 (2021)	Councillor 81 74 (2021)
Public School Trustee 32 40 (2021)	Catholic School Trustee 14 8 (2021)
140 Candidates 133 (2021)	

Political Participants



2 Political Parties Not Applicable (2021)
5 Third Party Advertisers 2 (2021)

Voting Stations



Advance Vote 12 12 (2021)	Election Day 223 212 (2021)
Seniors Facilities 68 58 (2021)	Post Secondary 5 4 (2021)
308 In Person Voting Opportunities 286 (2021)	

Races



Mayor 1	Councillor 12
Public School Trustee 9	Catholic School Trustee 7*
29 Races	

* The candidate in Catholic School Division Ward 75 was elected by acclamation.

* In 2021 six races for Catholic School Trustee were acclaimed with only Ward 77 having an election held.

Election Workers



Advance & Institutional Voting Staff 248 602 (2021)	Election Day Voting Staff 2,264 2,561 (2021)	Voting Station Count Workers 3,054 Not Applicable (2021)*	Count Centre Count Workers 461 69 (2021)
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* In 2021 one ballot with multiple races was cast per elector with the legislation changing in 2025 to require one ballot per race.

* Some election workers filled multiple positions.

* Some Election Day Voting Staff in 2021 acted as Tabulator Clerks which were replaced by Count Workers in 2025.

KEY DATES

October 31, 2024

Campaign period for 2025 Edmonton Election begins

January 1, 2025

Nomination period begins

March 3, 2025

2024 campaign disclosure statements due

May 1, 2025

Election advertising period begins

August 1, 2025

Special ballot application opens

September 22, 2025

Nomination Day - nominations close at noon

September 30, 2025

Interim 2025 financial disclosure statements due

October 7-11, 2025

Advance voting (noon to 8 p.m.)

October 20, 2025

Election Day



October 24, 2025

Statement of Official Election results released at noon

October 27, 2025

Deadline for candidate applications for a threshold recount

November 10, 2025

Elector deadline to apply for judicial recount

December 31, 2025

Campaign period for 2025 Edmonton Election ends

January 1, 2026

Campaign period for 2029 Edmonton Election begins

March 2, 2026

2025 financial disclosure statements due

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2025 Edmonton Election was held on October 20, 2025. This final report expands on the [2025 Edmonton Election Interim Report](#) presented to the City of Edmonton Audit Committee on February 4, 2026. It identifies key priorities to help inform the planning and delivery of the 2029 Edmonton Election.

AT A GLANCE: ELECTION OVERVIEW & RESULTS

- ✦ **Voter Turnout:** 30.41 per cent of eligible electors (206,799 people) cast a ballot.
- ✦ **Candidates:** 177 candidates filed a notice of intent and 140 completed the nomination process.
- ✦ **Elected officials:** The Mayor and 12 Councillors were elected across various wards in the City of Edmonton. In addition, 16 Trustees were elected for the Edmonton School Division and Edmonton Catholic Separate School Division.
- ✦ **Cost:** The total election project cost was \$14.2 million over 3 years, with significant impacts from new legislative requirements like hand counting and permanent electors register implementation.

MANAGING BIG CHANGES

The 2025 election saw the biggest shift in voting rules in decades:

- ✦ **Hand counting:** Edmonton Elections was prohibited from using electronic ballot counting machines (tabulators), which were used in every election since the 1990s. All ballots had to be counted by hand, which extended the time it took to publish unofficial results.
- ✦ **Voter lists:** A new system was used to verify and update voter information in real time at voting stations.
- ✦ **Political parties:** Local political parties and slates were officially allowed for the municipal election.

THE VOTER EXPERIENCE

- ✦ **Voting stations:** 234 voting stations (12 advance, 222 Election Day).
- ✦ **Convenience:** 86 per cent of in-person voters who responded to the voter experience survey felt their voting location was convenient.
- ✦ **Wait times:** While 84 per cent of voters who responded to the elector survey finished within 60 minutes, approximately 16 per cent faced waits longer than 1 hour.
- ✦ **Early voting:** Over 38,000 residents took advantage of the 5-day advance voting period (October 7–11, 2025).
- ✦ **Special (mail-in) ballots:** Despite a Canada Post strike, the City successfully processed 2,549 special ballot requests by using couriers and extended office hours for drop off and pick up.

EVENT MANAGEMENT

- ✖ Electoral integrity was maintained through the Election Logistics Management System, which served as the operational backbone for all functions, from worker management to secure results processing.
- ✖ A new secure cart logistics model was successfully adopted, significantly improving the chain of custody and efficiency of voting place operations by using secure election carts to distribute supplies.
- ✖ Support was provided through a multi-layered structure, including Presiding Deputies and Assistant Presiding Deputies at the 234 voting stations, 68 Area Supervisors, and 12 Ward Offices.

STAFFING THE ELECTION

- ✖ **Workforce:** 248 advance and institutional voting staff; 2,264 Election Day voting staff; 3,054 voting station count workers; and 461 Count Centre count workers – a large increase in positions from the 2021 Edmonton Election needed to handle the manual count.
- ✖ **Recruitment:** Successfully expanded the workforce by introducing new strategies, including recruiting 16-year-olds and early onboarding of experienced staff.
- ✖ **Training:** Workers completed a mix of online and in-person training. The majority of workers felt well-prepared by the training, and self-guided online modules were effective. A nine-month Election Leadership Training Program was implemented for supervisors.

KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE 2029 ELECTION

In preparation for 2029, Edmonton Elections is focused on six strategic areas, including:

- ✖ Enhancing the **voting experience**
- ✖ Enhancing the **election worker experience**
- ✖ Enhancing **political participant services**
- ✖ Streamlining **count and results processes**
- ✖ Strengthening **voting day operations**
- ✖ Strengthening **institutional capacity and organizational readiness**

02 OVERVIEW

ABOUT EDMONTON ELECTIONS

Edmonton Elections is the non-partisan section within the Office of the City Clerk that administers the Edmonton General Election (Edmonton Election) on behalf of the City of Edmonton, Edmonton School Division (Edmonton Public School Board) and Edmonton Catholic Separate School Division.

Edmonton Elections completes this work in alignment with the provisions and associated regulations of the Municipal Government Act, the Local Authorities Election Act, the Education Act and the City of Edmonton Elections Bylaw 21014.

Between elections, Edmonton Elections consists of staff from the Elections and Legislative Projects section, led by the Director and City Clerk. In the 18 months before the election, the election project team of approximately 60 staff is assembled to plan and administer the election, with the guidance and support of Executive Leadership and other corporate partners. The election project team oversaw and supported the 4,900 election workers who served Edmontonians at voting stations and counted ballots after the close of voting on Election Day.

CORE ELECTION TEAM JANUARY – JUNE 2024 4 PEOPLE



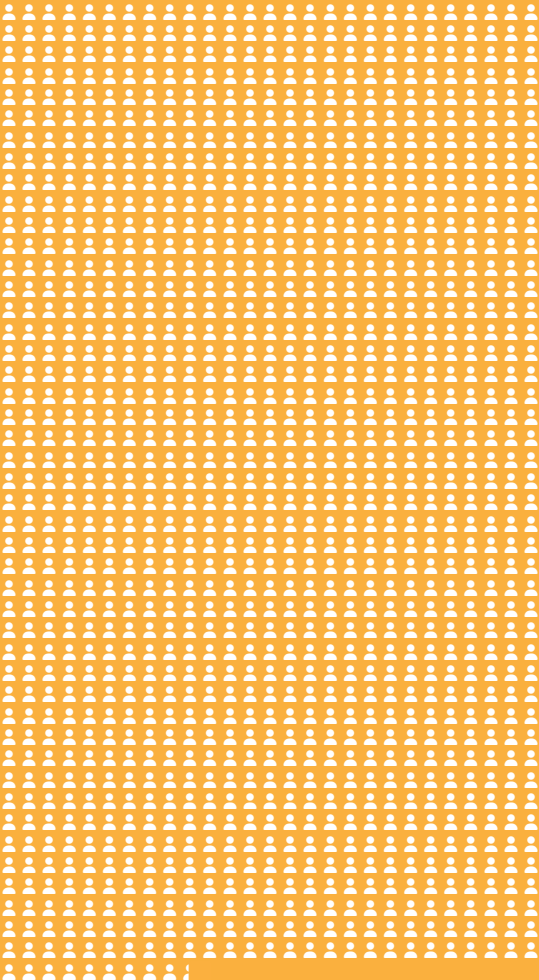
CORE PROJECT TEAM JUNE 2024 – MARCH 2025 16 PEOPLE



EXTENDED PROJECT TEAM APRIL – DECEMBER 2025 60 PEOPLE



ELECTION WORKERS OCTOBER 2025 4900 PEOPLE



CORE TEAM POST-ELECTION JANUARY 2026 7 PEOPLE





Edmonton Elections Team

ROLE OF CITY COUNCIL AND SCHOOL BOARDS

The role of City Council and school boards in local elections is established in the legislation. These elected authorities are responsible for passing bylaws and resolutions within the authority provided by the *Local Authorities Election Act*, *Municipal Government Act* and *Education Act*, including establishing ward boundaries and nomination requirements. City Council also approves the budget allocation for the election.

ROLE OF THE CITY CLERK AND RETURNING OFFICER

At the City of Edmonton, the City Clerk is also the Returning Officer. Under joint election agreements with the Edmonton School Division and Edmonton Catholic Separate School Division, Edmonton Elections administers trustee elections, with the City Clerk/Returning Officer also serving as the Returning Officer for school board elections.

The duties and responsibilities of the Returning Officer are established in the *Local Authorities Election Act* and the City of Edmonton's Elections Bylaw (Bylaw 21014). The City Clerk/Returning Officer also undertakes the delegated duties of the Secretary in the *Local Authorities Election Act*.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Edmonton Elections administers the Edmonton Election within legislative requirements and, since the 2021 election, uses the following principles to guide decisions and demonstrate Edmontonians have confidence in accessible electoral processes.

Accessible

All Edmontonians are able to access the services, supports and information they need to trust and participate in civic processes.

Inclusive

All Edmontonians are able to participate in civic processes.

Equitable

Barriers to services, supports and information will be removed, enabling all Edmontonians to see themselves represented in the outcome of civic processes.

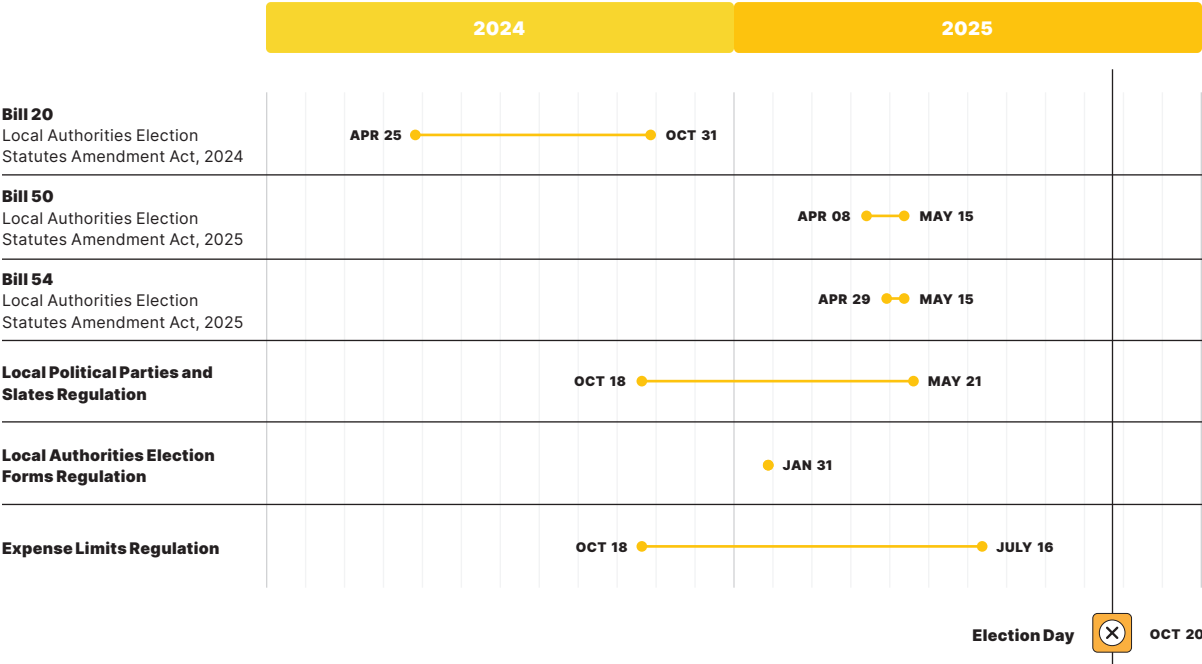
Ethical

Edmonton Elections will maintain the highest standard of ethics at all times, and ethics will be a primary focus for all decisions and activities.

Safe

All participants will be able to respectfully and safely engage with civic processes





LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The 2025 Edmonton Election was administered in accordance with provincial legislation, municipal bylaws, and school board bylaws and resolutions, including:

- ✦ *Local Authorities Election Act*, which regulates election procedures, including candidate nominations, voting processes and post-voting activities such as the counting of votes, as well as election finances and contributions disclosures for candidates and third party advertisers.
- ✦ *Municipal Government Act*, which establishes requirements for municipal wards, elections and by-elections.
- ✦ *Education Act*, which establishes similar requirements for school board wards, elections and by-elections, as well as defines eligibility for voting or running in trustee elections.

Although there are many similarities, the legislative context for local elections is distinct from provincial and federal elections and therefore the voting experiences are different, e.g. multiple ballots and multiple ballot boxes.

The 2025 Edmonton General Election saw significant changes in the legislative landscape with amendments to the *Local Authorities Election Act* and associated regulations leading up to the 2025 Edmonton Election:

LOCAL AUTHORITIES ELECTION ACT

The *Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2024* (October 2024), *Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2025* and *Election Statutes Amendment Act, 2025* (May 2025), along with new regulations, significantly changed how local elections are administered and impacted all aspects of the 2025 Edmonton Election.

In addition to the broad scope of these amendments, the introduction within the 18 months leading up to the October 20, 2025 election posed a significant challenge for the planning and administration of the 2025 Edmonton Election. The following provides a summary of legislative changes that had an impact on the planning and execution of the 2025 Edmonton Election¹.

1. The October 2, 2024, Office of the City Clerk Report [OCC02658, Bill 20 Update and Budget Adjustment](#) provides more information on the legislative changes affecting the 2025 Edmonton Election.

Voter Registration and Identification

Prior to the *Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2024*, municipalities could choose to use a permanent electors register to administer local elections. The City of Edmonton had not used one since 1992.

Edmonton Elections is now required to establish and maintain a permanent electors register, primarily using elector information received from the provincial Register of Electors through a data-sharing agreement with Elections Alberta. Election workers must verify each elector's registration on the permanent electors register prior to receiving ballots.

New voter identification requirements vary depending on whether or not the elector is registered on the permanent electors register. Vouching rules were also changed to limit vouchers to confirming a voter's address only. Electors being vouched for must present acceptable identification to validate their identity.

In summer 2025, Municipal Affairs advised municipalities that, in addition to any elector not listed on the permanent electors register, all electors voting in a school board election must also complete a statement of eligibility before voting.

Ballot Counting and Recounts

The *Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2024* prohibited the use of alternative voting equipment for the counting of ballots. Since Edmonton Elections had used electronic vote tabulators for every election since the 1990s, this change required the development and implementation of new procedures and staffing models to conduct a hand-counted vote. With these new processes, separate ballots and ballot boxes were used for each race and every ballot was verified manually by an election official.

Two new types of recounts were also introduced in the *Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2024*:

- ✖ preliminary recounts of unofficial results
- ✖ recounts on request of official results

Each type of recount has distinct rules, application deadlines and completion timelines, which were subsequently amended in May 2025.

In May 2025, the legislation was also amended to specifically permit the use of electronic elector assistance terminals, which allow an elector to mark a ballot by an accessible means, including by use of a braille-coded keypad, touch screen, pressure-sensitive paddle or breath-enabled marking.

Introduction of Local Political Parties and Slates

Local political parties and slates of candidates were introduced for the 2025 Edmonton Election, allowing candidates to run under a party banner or cooperate as a slate. The *Local Political Parties and Slates Regulation* was introduced in October 2025. It authorizes these new political participants to participate in municipal elections in Calgary and Edmonton, and establishes registration and campaign finance rules.

Updated Election Financing Rules

The *Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2024* extended the campaign period to four years, beginning January 1 of the year following the previous election. Previously, the period when candidates were permitted to accept campaign contributions or incur campaign expenses began on January 1 of the year of the election.

Candidates are now permitted to collect contributions and incur election expenses outside of an election year, and must first register by submitting a notice of intent to run at any time during the campaign period. The rules for eligible contributors and contribution limits for all political participants were changed by the *Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2024*, and expense limits were introduced in the *Expense Limits Regulation*.

All registered political participants are now subject to increased financial reporting requirements. Registered candidates and local political parties are required to file annual disclosures reporting received contributions and incurred expenses during the campaign period. In May 2025, the *Election Statutes Amendment Act, 2025* introduced a new requirement for candidates, local political parties and third-party advertisers to file interim disclosure statements before the end of September in the election year. The legislation now requires all financial disclosure statements to be published online, which Edmonton Elections has done since 2013.

Election Forms

Most forms used to administer elections, including candidate nomination, voting and counting processes, are prescribed by the *Local Authorities Election Forms Regulation*. This regulation was updated January 31, 2025 to align with the 2024 legislative requirements. Municipal Affairs provided additional guidance on the impact of subsequent legislative amendments on prescribed forms in August 2025.

WARD BOUNDARIES BYLAW

Edmonton Elections conducts a review of ward boundaries after each election and recommends adjustments to Council based on changes in the population and number of electors in each ward. The review conducted after the 2021 Edmonton Election recommended minor adjustments to ward boundaries.

The City of Edmonton's Council Composition and Ward Boundaries Bylaw (Bylaw 15142) was amended in June 2023 to adjust one boundary between Ward papastew and Ward Karhiio to better align with school board ward boundaries². The boundary change came into effect on Election Day, October 20, 2025.

Major adjustments of ward boundaries are reviewed by a Ward Boundary Commission. The next Ward Boundary Commission is scheduled to be established after the 2029 election.

2. [OCC01350](#) Bylaw 20304 - City of Edmonton Ward Boundaries and Council Composition Bylaw (Amendment No. 4)

ELECTION BYLAW

Most election rules are set by the *Local Authorities Election Act*. However, the *Local Authorities Election Act* allows elected authorities (City Council and school boards) to make local decisions on specific areas, such as:

- ✘ Adding more ways to vote
- ✘ Setting rules for candidate nominations
- ✘ Determining voting hours
- ✘ Providing accessibility tools at voting stations

These local decisions and additional procedures for Edmonton Elections are formally outlined in the City of Edmonton Elections (Bylaw 21014) and school board bylaws.

A review of the City of Edmonton's Elections Bylaw was conducted in summer 2024 and a report was delivered to Council in October 2024 outlining the available policy decisions³. Given the number of amendments required to comply with new legislative requirements, the Returning Officer recommended that the Election Bylaw, (Bylaw 19457), be repealed and replaced. Bylaw 21014 – Elections Bylaw was approved in December 2024⁴.

In addition to removing the provisions relating to the use of tabulators to count ballots that no longer complied with the *Local Authorities Election Act*, this new bylaw:

- ✘ Established a more enabling requirement to provide a voter template for electors with low or no vision at all with in-person voting opportunities
- ✘ Expanded accessibility for electors to pick up their special ballot packages in person on Election Day and clarified delivery timelines for mailed special ballot packages
- ✘ Maintained current nomination requirements

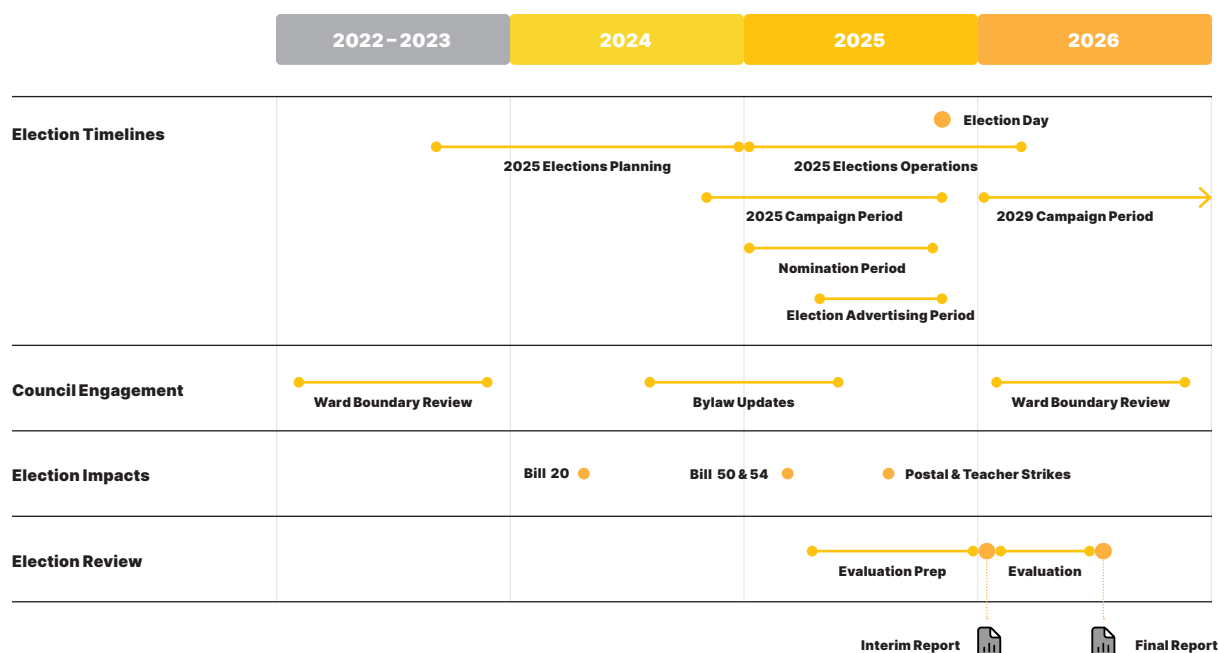
The Elections Bylaw was amended in May 2025 to provide for the use of voter assistance terminals to enable voters with disabilities to vote independently, as permitted by the *Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2025*⁵.

Each school division also passes bylaws establishing the ward boundaries and form of nominations for candidates in their jurisdiction. As authorized by the *Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2024*, the Edmonton Catholic Separate School Division approved a bylaw requiring all candidates to provide a criminal record check with their nomination package in December 2024.

3. [OCC02694](#) Elections Bylaw Policy Decisions

4. [OCC02695](#) Bylaw 21014 - Elections Bylaw

5. [OCC03055](#) Bylaw 21201 - Amendments to Election Bylaw 21014



THE ROAD TO THE 2025 EDMONTON ELECTION

Significant planning for the 2025 Edmonton Election began in 2023 and adapted in response to several factors over 2024 and 2025. Changes to election legislation, including the *Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2024* (October 2024), the *Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2025* and *Election Statutes Amendment Act, 2025* (May 2025), required Edmonton Elections to update its systems and processes to align with the requirements of the amended legislation.

In September and October of 2025, election operations were further impacted by both a postal and teachers strike. Voter information cards, a significant communication channel to Edmontonians, were disrupted, along with the availability of election workers.

With each election, Edmonton Elections completes an evaluation to understand what went well and identify opportunities for improvement in preparation for the next election event. Planning for the evaluation of the 2025 Edmonton Election started in early 2025 with the development of an evaluation framework and engagement with partners to collect survey data for analysis. Additionally, as with previous elections, the Office of the City Auditor was engaged. For the 2025 Election, they completed an advisory engagement⁶ rather than an audit due to the legislative changes.

The evaluation of the 2025 Edmonton Election will support a deeper understanding of the feedback and data collected, identifying contributing factors and areas for improvement. This work will inform election planning work throughout 2027 and 2028, and support the delivery of the 2029 Edmonton Election.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE 2021 EDMONTON ELECTION

The strategic planning for the 2025 Edmonton Election was centered on delivering a voting experience that was efficient and accessible for every elector. The planning process began with an extensive and thorough review of the lessons gathered from the previous election cycle. The essential document guiding this effort was the [2021 Edmonton Election Report](#). It carefully reviewed the 2021 election and identified a number of clear recommendations for how to improve the planning, operations, and administration of the next election. These recommendations were vital to improving the 2025 Edmonton Election.

6. Office of the City Auditor, [Advisory Report: 2025 Edmonton Election](#)

2021 REPORT RECOMMENDATION	ACTIONS & RESULTS
Formally expand election project timelines to a full two-year cycle, with the appropriate changes to the budget and staffing, to reflect the increasing complexity of the project.	Budget for 2025 election approved by Council in December 2022. This allowed for project planning to begin in 2023 with the recruitment of project staff and replatforming of the elections logistics management system. Core project staff were hired in early 2024.
Review and update the software and hardware used to manage and administer the election project, in particular tablets required onsite and the election database management system.	Selected a new elections logistics management system in 2022 and implemented eight modules for the 2025 Edmonton Election between Fall 2023 and Summer 2025. Older tablets at their end-of-life were decommissioned and laptops were deployed at the voting stations to support the permanent electors register and real time strike-off.
Having a professional development (non-instructional) day on Election Day with EPSB and ECSD, to minimize security and health risks.	Edmonton Public Schools designated October 20, 2025 as a professional development day in their 2025-2026 school year calendar.
Aligning municipal and school division ward and subdivision boundaries to common geographical features, to minimize the number of subdivisions with multiple ballot styles.	Ward boundary review conducted in 2023. One boundary change was approved by Council to align the boundary between Ward papastew and Ward Karhiio with school board ward boundaries.
Municipal Elections are fixed dates, other orders of government should limit proximity of their elections.	The federal election originally scheduled to coincide with the 2025 Edmonton Election was held on April 28, 2025. Prior to this, the risks and impacts of the federal election being held on the same day as the municipal election were accommodated in the recruitment strategy, planning for advance voting days and early booking of voting stations.
Streamline warehousing and distribution locations to minimize duplication of effort.	Renovated the main Edmonton Elections warehouse to enable all inventory, receiving, packing and distribution of supplies to take place from a single warehouse location, and implemented a new inventory management system.
Review and update the Understanding Voter Needs report prior to the start of the election project cycle to support a comprehensive voter outreach and engagement strategy.	In 2024, Edmonton Elections conducted a public voter engagement initiative and survey of community organizations to better understand the needs of Edmonton voters. The resulting Accessibility and Inclusion Plan to reduce barriers to participation was implemented for the 2025 Edmonton Election.

NEW INITIATIVES

To further support the administration and experience of the 2025 Edmonton Election, Edmonton Elections implemented several new initiatives to address legislative changes, improve the voting process, and ensure greater accessibility and efficiency. The following section highlights some of these key initiatives.

ENHANCED RECRUITMENT INITIATIVES

To improve accessibility, diversity and the recruitment of additional election workers, the hiring strategy was expanded to feature the following new external recruitment initiatives:

- ✖ **Lower minimum age requirement.** The minimum age requirement for the Deputy Returning Officer position was lowered to 16 years. This brought Edmonton Elections into alignment with provincial and federal recruitment requirements, and provided youth with an opportunity to actively engage in election processes while also broadening the pool of potential applicants.
- ✖ **Post-secondary hiring event.** Edmonton Elections held a hiring event in partnership with Norquest College, creating an in-person application opportunity and a means to engage with a diverse student community.

In addition, the following new internal hiring initiatives leveraged the core competencies of City of Edmonton employees and provided a further means to fill election worker positions:

- ✖ **Election Leadership Training Program.** Area Supervisors, who provided quality assurance to voting stations on Election Day, were recruited through the Election Leadership Training Program, a nine-month learning opportunity offered to emerging people leaders.
- ✖ **Adopt-a-Voting Station.** Teams of City of Edmonton employees fully staffed 29 voting stations across the City. The initiative provided a valuable opportunity to participating groups and further enhanced internal leadership capacity within the organization.

CART LOGISTICS MODEL

Based on findings from the 2021 election, a new voting station logistics model was implemented for the 2025 Edmonton Election. Secure election carts were used to distribute all ballots, forms and voting supplies to voting stations for advance vote and Election Day voting opportunities. The mobility and security features of the election carts greatly simplified the logistics and safety of moving election materials to voting stations for election workers.

ELECTRONIC ELECTOR REGISTER AT VOTING STATIONS

To integrate the new permanent electors register in voting processes at voting stations, Edmonton Elections used an electronic elector register at the voting stations. This application enabled election workers to search, update and add electors to the permanent electors register, and strike off voters during the voting process. Real-time strike off data allowed Edmonton Elections staff to monitor and provide enhanced support to voting stations. This required deploying new computer equipment and software to each voting station during advance voting and on Election Day.

The electronic elector register enhanced security standards, protecting the integrity of personal information and adding a layer of security to voting processes. By processing updates to elector data during the voting process, the need to process updates to the permanent electors register after the election was alleviated.

ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION

Edmonton Elections developed a public [Accessibility and Inclusion Plan](#) outlining actions taken to identify and mitigate barriers to participation for historically underrepresented communities. The plan featured 28 actions across four areas of focus and is the foundation for longer term strategies to ensure equitable access to opportunities related to the Edmonton Election.

EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

As described in the next section, a new holistic evaluation framework was developed to enable effective internal monitoring and evaluation, as well as transparent public reporting. This framework included:

- ✖ Advisory services from the Office of the City Auditor
- ✖ A robust internal monitoring framework based on data and indicators derived from the new election logistics management system
- ✖ Surveys to collect diverse perspectives from voters, non-voters, election workers and political participants on the 2025 Edmonton Election
- ✖ Operational process and documentation reviews by other election management bodies during and after the election

ELECTION EVALUATION PROCESS

While the *Local Authorities Election Act* provides the general election framework, Edmonton Elections is responsible for planning and executing all the legislative, operational and technical details. Staff began making these decisions shortly after the 2021 election. This review focuses specifically on how Edmonton Elections planned and ran the election.

For the 2025 Edmonton Election, a holistic evaluation and reporting framework was developed, based on a robust administrative review and the perspective of a broad range of participants.

To conduct this review, Edmonton Elections:

- ✖ obtained advisory services from the Office of the City Auditor before, during and after the election;
- ✖ partnered with a third-party research consultant and the City of Edmonton Corporate Research Unit to collect feedback from electors, political participants, and election workers;
- ✖ engaged other election management bodies to review processes and procedures during and after the election; and
- ✖ analyzed administrative data collected during the election through a variety of sources.

The Office of the City Auditor has provided the Office of the City Clerk with audit and advisory services for each municipal election since 1989. For the 2025 Edmonton Election, the Office provided Edmonton Elections with advice on risk and controls:

- ✖ **During election preparation** by reviewing process documentation, attending training and mock events, and verifying the testing of elector assistance terminals.
- ✖ **On voting days** by observing election processes at advance and Election Day voting stations.
- ✖ **After the election** by observing recount procedures and validating ballot accounting prior to the finalization of the results.

The findings and recommendations from the Office of the City Auditor's advisory project are detailed in the [2025 Municipal Election Advisory Report](#).

Edmonton Elections collected survey data and feedback from over 8,000 electors, election workers and political participants during and shortly after the election. Elections Calgary and Elections Saskatchewan also reviewed key processes and provided suggestions and opportunities for improvement. Internal analysis and evaluation continued into early 2026.

Edmontonians were encouraged to provide feedback and insights throughout the election project. The feedback received through phone calls, emails and directly from Edmontonians informed the real-time administration of the election, and contributed to the evaluation of the 2025 Edmonton Election.

Formal and informal feedback was also received during and after the election from City of Edmonton staff who worked at voting stations as part of the Adopt-a-Voting Station program, participated in the Election Leadership Training Program, and provided leadership and operational support at the Count Centre.

Project leads for key areas of the election process prepared closeout reports documenting the work completed, lessons learned and recommendations for process improvements. Core project team staff provided specific feedback through a survey and additional post-election assessment workshops were held with cross-functional teams.

The new Election Logistics Management System provided additional quantitative data about voting stations, election worker recruitment, candidates, voting processes and results entry.

An initial analysis of this data was completed in late 2025, in preparation for the interim report to the Audit Committee in February 2026, and analysis continued through the first quarter of 2026.

SURVEY DESCRIPTIONS

- ✦ **Voter experience survey.** This online survey was available to voters by scanning a QR code on posters and postcards available at voting stations and included in special ballot packages. It launched on September 22 and closed on October 21, 2025. It took approximately 3 minutes to complete and 5,918 responses were received.
- ✦ **Elector survey.** This longer online survey of voters and non-voters was conducted by a third-party research consultant from November 10-20, 2025 and received 1,001 responses.
- ✦ **Political participants survey.** Candidates, official agents, party officials and third-party advertisers were invited by email to complete a survey conducted by the City of Edmonton about their experiences during the election. The survey was available between December 3-17, 2025 and received responses from 51 political participants.
- ✦ **Election worker survey.** Conducted by the City of Edmonton between November 19 and December 7, 2025, this survey gathered feedback from 1,839 election workers about their experiences during recruitment, training and working at voting stations and the Count Centre.

03

EVENT PREPARATION AND PEOPLE MANAGEMENT

WARDS, VOTING SUBDIVISIONS, VOTING STATIONS

The City of Edmonton has divided the city into 12 distinct geographic areas called wards for electing councillors to City Council. The Edmonton School Division and Edmonton Catholic Separate School division also use wards to elect school board trustees. Edmonton Public Schools has nine wards and Edmonton Catholic Schools has seven, each represented by one Trustee.

Municipal ward boundaries are determined by the Ward Boundaries and Council Composition Bylaw¹ and the Ward Boundary Design Policy². Ward boundaries ensure effective representation by balancing the current and projected population of each ward, while considering communities of interest.

After every election, the Returning Officer reviews ward boundaries and may recommend minor adjustments to Council to support effective representation and improve election administration. For the 2025 election, Council approved a minor adjustment moving the Calgary Trail South industrial area from Ward Karhiio to Ward papastew to better align municipal and school board ward boundaries³.

A commission of Council-appointed residents reviews ward boundaries after every third general election, or when Council determines major adjustments are required. The next major review is scheduled to take place after the 2029 municipal election.

VOTING SUBDIVISIONS

To facilitate the administration of an election, the Returning Officer divides municipal wards into voting subdivisions. Each residential address is assigned to a voting subdivision, which determines the elector's designated voting station. On voting days, electors may only vote at the voting station assigned to their residential address.

Where municipal and school board ward boundaries do not align, Edmonton Elections aligned voting subdivision boundaries to school board ward boundaries wherever possible. In 2025, three voting subdivisions spanned multiple wards in a school division, down from four in 2021. This further improved the overall management and distribution of ballots at these voting stations.

Edmonton Elections, supported by City geographic information system staff, establishes voting subdivision boundaries for every election to account for population changes and support efficient planning. This process aims to create the best voting opportunities in each ward by considering factors such as:

- ✦ the number of eligible electors,
- ✦ proximity to suitable voting station facilities,
- ✦ alignment with municipal and school board ward boundaries, and
- ✦ alignment with neighbourhood boundaries.

1. [Bylaw 15142 City of Edmonton Ward Boundaries and Council Composition Bylaw](#)
2. [Council Policy C469B Ward Boundary Design](#)
3. Maps of municipal and school board wards are available on the Edmonton Elections [website](#)



VOTING STATION LOCATIONS

Once voting subdivisions are established, facilities are secured for advance voting and Election Day. As in 2021, Edmonton Elections established one advanced voting station in each municipal ward and one Election Day voting station for each voting subdivision.

Advance voting stations were centrally located within the ward and chosen based on proximity to public transit, availability of parking, and compliance with accessibility criteria. Most were located at community or recreation centres.

Election Day voting stations were evaluated against comparable benchmarks and typically located closer to where electors live, often within walking distance. Locations included public and private schools, community centres and places of worship.

Since Edmonton Public Schools designated Election Day as a non-instructional day, Edmonton Public School locations were prioritized. Edmonton Catholic Schools were also preferred due to their prominence and convenience within neighbourhoods. Overall, 74 per cent of Election Day voting stations were located in schools.

The facilities used for voting stations vary from election to election. While facilities used as voting stations in previous elections were prioritized, factors like changes to voting subdivision boundaries, facility suitability and availability often resulted in some electors being assigned to a different voting station than previous municipal, provincial or federal elections.

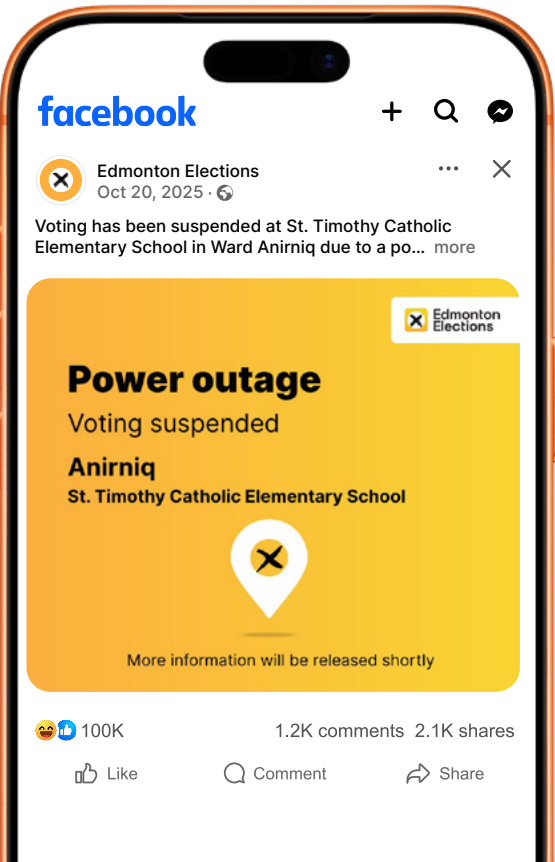
Voting Station Accessibility

Edmonton Elections prioritizes physical accessibility at voting stations, selecting facilities that meet the City of Edmonton's Accessibility and Universal Design guidelines. In addition, the distance from voting stations to the nearest transit public stop was reduced from one kilometre in 2021 to a maximum of 400 metres in 2025. If a location did not meet guidelines, staff conducted site inspections and implemented modifications, including adding signage, creating temporary accessible parking, installing temporary ramps and establishing temporary on-demand bus stops in collaboration with Edmonton Transit Service.

Backup Voting Stations

In the event of an emergency or other unforeseen circumstance at a voting station, the Returning Officer is authorized by legislation to relocate the voting station. Only the Minister of Municipal Affairs has the authority to extend or adjourn voting. To minimize potential voting disruptions, a backup voting station is selected and assigned to every location in advance.

The emergency preparedness plan for voting stations was initiated when a power outage occurred at St. Timothy's Catholic School in Ward Anirniq at 6 p.m. on Election Day. Following an indication from EPCOR that power would not be restored before voting closed at 8 p.m., backup voting station protocols were activated at 6:45 p.m. The voting station was successfully moved to Caernarvon School, the closest voting station within the ward, by 7:30 p.m. Voters were directed to the new location via on-site signage and through social media.



FINDINGS

In the 2025 Edmonton Election, 222 voting subdivisions were established, with between 16 and 22 in each municipal ward. This was a five per cent increase from the 212 voting subdivisions in 2021. There were 12 advanced voting stations operating from October 7 to 11, 2025, one in each ward. The average number of registered electors in each voting subdivision was 3,051, ranging from the smallest at 735 to the largest at 5,737 electors. Larger voting subdivisions were generally located in newer residential areas where there are limited facilities available, while smaller voting subdivisions are less common and generally resulted from geographical constraints.

The feedback received on voting stations highlights the success achieved with using a wide-ranging network of facilities, with a strong emphasis on schools. Overall, voter satisfaction with the convenience of voting station locations was very high, with 86 per cent of all voters agreeing their voting station location was convenient. Satisfaction was somewhat higher for Election Day voters (88 per cent) than those who voted at advance voting stations (78 per cent). Among advance voters, driving was the most common method of transportation to their voting station (84 per cent), while 10 per cent reported they walked to their voting station. For Election Day voters, travel methods were split between driving (53 per cent) and walking (43 per cent).

When planning future elections, Edmonton Elections intends to establish processes and criteria to improve voting opportunities across the city. This includes identifying and assessing new facilities for potential voting stations, particularly in new areas of the city. Edmonton Elections will continue to explore ways to improve convenience for advance voting and will work with our education partners to request that Election Day be designated as a non-instructional day.

ELECTION WORKERS, RECRUITMENT & TRAINING

The Edmonton Election was made possible by the 4,882 residents who participated as election workers in 6,424 positions at voting stations and count locations across the city. This was a significant increase in civic engagement from the 3,160 election workers who took part in the 2021 Edmonton Election.

STAFFING MODEL

Edmonton Elections introduced an updated voting station model to support new legislative requirements, such as using the permanent electors register to validate each voter's eligibility, issuing separate ballots for each race, and manually counting votes.

During voting hours, a team of Deputy Returning Officers, led by a Presiding Deputy and Assistant Presiding Deputy, implemented standardized voting procedures across four roles:

- ✖ **Greeter:** Ensured electors were at their assigned voting station and had authorized identification, managed the line of voters, responded to questions and facilitated accessibility processes.
- ✖ **Voter Services Clerks:** Verified elector identification and eligibility, managed the permanent electors register to add or update information, and issued and managed ballots.
- ✖ **Ballot Box Clerk:** Ensured ballots were initialled by the Voter Services Clerk and placed in the appropriate ballot box.
- ✖ **Floater:** Assisted electors with accessibility needs, helped the flow of the voting process and provided administrative support for voter registration forms.



Following the close of voting, distinct teams at the voting stations, led by a Count Supervisor, implemented the counting processes.

- ✖ **Count Supervisors:** Oversaw the counting process, consolidated the results for each race and entered the results into the centralized election logistics management system.
- ✖ **Count Workers (Counters):** Sorted, validated and counted ballots, and recorded the results on the tally sheet.

In many cases, election workers filled multiple positions. The majority of election workers who worked during advance voting (84 per cent) also worked at an Election Day voting station. Furthermore, election workers who staffed Election Day voting stations had the option to also conduct the count of ballots, and 1,054 of them (49 per cent) chose to do so.

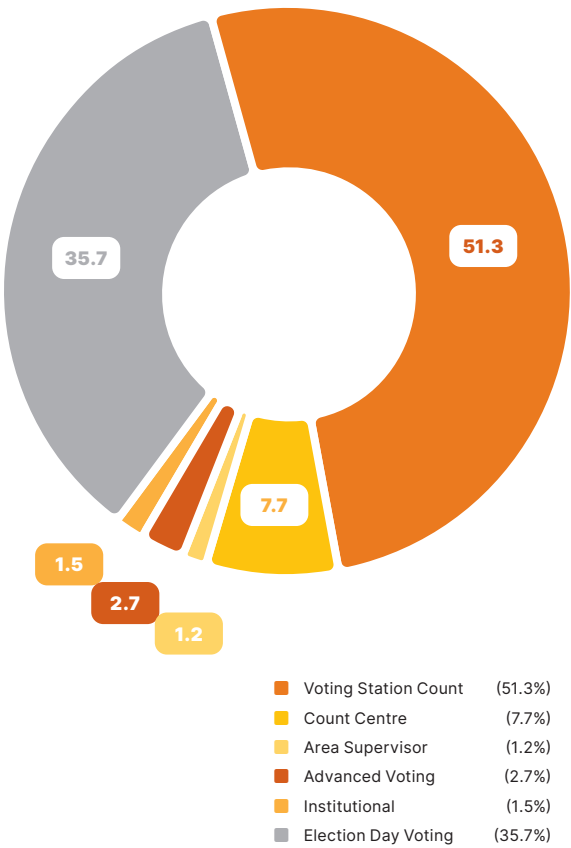
The overall staff pool was supported by more than 450 standby workers, who were deployed during advance vote and on Election Day to fill gaps caused by absences and provide additional support at busy voting stations.



The 6,424 election worker positions included the following:

Election Day Voting Stations	5,265
Presiding Deputy and Assistant Presiding Deputy	452
Deputy Returning Officer	1,685
Count Supervisor	222
Count Worker	2,839
Area Supervisors	67
Advance Voting Stations	160
Presiding Deputy and Assistant Presiding Deputy	31
Deputy Returning Officer	126
Area Supervisors	3
Institutional Voting Stations⁴	88
Presiding Deputy and Assistant Presiding Deputy	16
Deputy Returning Officer	72
Count Centre	461
Count Supervisor	25
Count Worker	436
Standby Workers	450

ELECTION WORKER POSITIONS, 2025



More than 300 City of Edmonton staff contributed to the election. Beyond their roles as election workers, they provided quality assurance and support to voting stations as Area Supervisors, managed essential logistics as Ward Office Supervisors, and filled a number of leadership and support positions at the Count Centre.

4. Institutional voting stations offered on-site voting services at seniors accommodation and supportive living facilities, hospitals, post-secondary institutions and shelters during advance voting and on Election Day.

RECRUITMENT STRATEGY AND INITIATIVES

The 2025 Edmonton Election recruitment strategy combined best practices for high-volume recruitment and retention, with a focus on accessibility and removing participation barriers. The effort resulted in 11,633 applications, making it the largest recruitment initiative the City has ever undertaken. Of the 5,409 Edmontonians who completed the hiring process with the recruitment team, 5,143 completed training and 4,882 workers filled 6,424 positions across advance and Election Day voting.

The strategy included several new initiatives:

- ✦ **Early expression of interest:** Ahead of the recruitment strategy launch, Edmonton Elections invited early expressions of interest through social media channels and emails to previous election workers. This generated 278 responses, allowing recruiters to connect with experienced applicants before the external recruitment window officially opened on July 21, 2025.
- ✦ **Early recruitment of previous workers:** To fill leadership positions with experienced individuals, former election workers could apply early. These individuals were encouraged to act as "recruitment ambassadors." This early recruitment accounted for approximately 20 per cent of all hires.
- ✦ **Adjusting minimum age:** Lowering the minimum age for the Deputy Returning Officer position to 16 provided an opportunity to engage youth in the electoral process and broadened the overall applicant pool. The initiative was promoted through targeted social media campaigns and materials at recreation and youth centers.
- ✦ **Integrated media and hiring event:** This event, held in partnership with Norquest College, served as a final recruitment push, offering face-to-face interactions with the recruitment team. The event attracted 350 attendees and resulted in 142 new applicants.
- ✦ **Election worker retention:** Edmonton Elections used targeted communications, including reminder emails, election trivia challenges, and recruitment calls to action to boost engagement and retention rates.
- ✦ **Accessible and inclusive hiring:** To establish a diverse workforce and reduce barriers, Edmonton Elections included several accessibility actions, including:
 - ✦ Creating a competency matrix to identify roles that could be performed by individuals with disabilities
 - ✦ Promoting hiring opportunities through the City's Talent Diversity Team
 - ✦ Using images that reflect Edmonton's diverse population
 - ✦ Applying plain language standards to all recruitment materials
- ✦ **Adopt-a-Voting Station:** Through this initiative, City employees were invited to fully staff a voting station on Election Day. This program leveraged the core competencies of City staff and provided leadership development experience. Twenty-nine voting stations were fully staffed through the initiative.



ELECTION WORKER TRAINING

All election workers completed a training program featuring general and role-specific learning. Training was delivered in three ways:

- ✦ **Self-guided online learning:** An online platform offered a basic understanding of core election processes for all workers and served as a central reference throughout the training period.
- ✦ **Instructor-led training:** Role-specific sessions reinforced critical learning areas and provided detailed instruction on core processes.
- ✦ **Materials and resources:** Manuals, checklists, and quick reference guides supported election workers during their workday.

All Deputy Returning Officers were cross-trained for all four roles at their assigned voting opportunity, providing greater flexibility for the Presiding Deputy to assign and reassign staff as necessary during the day.

Self-Guided Online Learning

The online training program allowed all election workers to build a fundamental understanding of key voting and counting processes and their specific job duties. The position-specific modules accommodated different learning styles through a variety of accessible formats, including:

- ✦ Text
- ✦ Audio
- ✦ Images and video

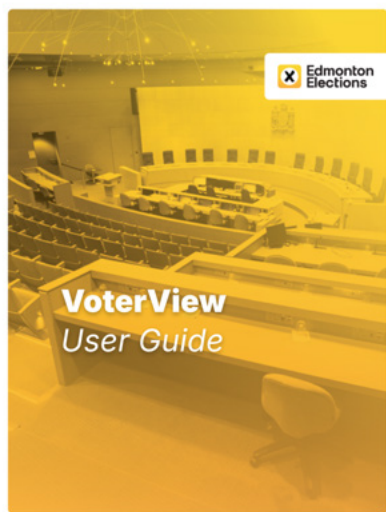
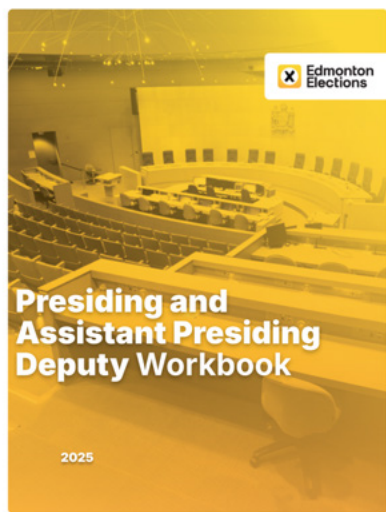
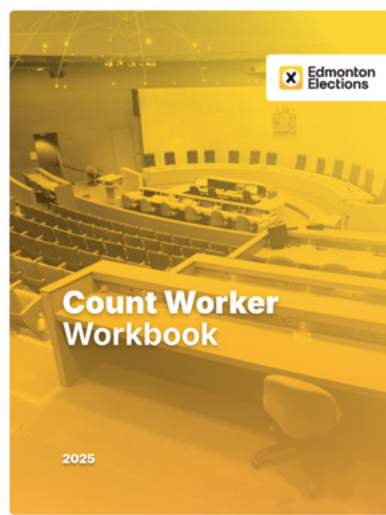
To further enhance accessibility, captions were embedded in every lesson. Each module concluded with a knowledge check or quiz to verify understanding.

Instructor-led Training

All election workers attended mandatory role-specific, instructor-led training sessions either in-person or virtually. These sessions focused on:

- ✦ Reinforcing the most critical voting and counting processes
- ✦ Clarifying specific position responsibilities
- ✦ Reinforcing cross-training for Deputy Returning Officers

Eight instructors delivered 326 training sessions at five venues across the city and through virtual meeting platforms, using facilitation guides, presentations, activity materials and participant workbooks.



Materials and Resources

To support training and daily operations, Edmonton Elections provided election workers with position-specific workbooks, a user guide for the election management system, and resources including actionable checklists, sample forms and core process guides.

A binder containing the resources was provided to the Presiding Deputy at each voting station and made available electronically to election workers before their workday.

Election Readiness Fair

In response to feedback from advance voting election workers, Edmonton Elections held an Election Readiness Fair for key leadership staff between the advance voting period and Election Day. This event allowed Presiding Deputies, Assistant Presiding Deputies and Area Supervisors a hands-on opportunity to practice core voting and counting processes, including:

- ✕ The electronic election logistics management system
- ✕ Mock voting stations
- ✕ Ballot accounting procedures
- ✕ Forms and materials

The Election Readiness Fair empowered leaders with the hand-on experience needed for Election Day.

Election Leadership Training Program

The nine-month long Election Leadership Training Program gave emerging City of Edmonton leaders the opportunity to develop and use core leadership skills in an election setting. The curriculum included:

- ✦ Enhanced election training, including a voting station simulation
- ✦ Conflict management skills
- ✦ Transferable leadership skills

Delivered through in-person sessions and online e-learning, the program established a virtual peer community to enable participants to support each other during and after the election.

Participants served in key leadership roles on Election Day, including as Area Supervisors and Ward Office Supervisors. This helped strengthen quality assurance on Election Day and enhanced the on-site support for Presiding Deputies.

Election Worker Training Data

Total Training Sessions	326
Training Venues	5 locations across Edmonton, a virtual classroom
Total number of individuals trained	5,143

FINDINGS

The workforce for elections in Edmonton is unique in that a small core team develops operating processes and procedures, which a much larger, temporary staff implements, the vast majority of whom work only one day. Recruiting, training and supporting these staff during their work day is one of the biggest challenges facing Edmonton Elections, and it is one that is shared with other election management bodies.

Staffing Model

Although the number of electors assigned to each voting station varied significantly, there was less variation in the number of election workers at each voting station. Of the 21 per cent of voters that responded to the elector survey who found it hard to cast their ballot, 26 per cent attributed the difficulty to staffing challenges. Likewise, 32 per cent of election workers reported that there were not enough staff to handle the volume of voters and 14 per cent reported absentee staff at their voting station. Determining an appropriate voting station staffing model and reducing absenteeism will continue to be priorities for future elections.

Recruitment

New recruitment and onboarding initiatives and improvements were successful and provided a strong foundation for future elections. The number of applications received significantly exceeded expectations and election workers reported high levels of satisfaction with their recruitment experience. Ninety-one per cent found the application easy to submit, 84 per cent reported that job postings accurately reflected their positions and 83 per cent reported the recruitment process was completed in a timely manner.

Election Worker Training

When asked about online training, 80 per cent of election workers agreed that the content was relevant to their job duties and 88 per cent agreed that it was easy to access. For instructor-led training, 73 per cent agreed that content was directly relevant to their job duties, 81 per cent agreed that the session was conveniently located and 73 per cent found their instructor to be effective. A lower number of respondents found that the instructor-led sessions met their needs (67 per cent), as compared to the self guided, on-line training modules (78 per cent), and a notable number (23 per cent) felt that the instructor-led training sessions were too short.

The majority of election workers found the provided written materials and resources met their needs and were easy to use. Many felt that improvements could be made to the level of detail offered in the user guides, such as more diagrams, clearer directions and improved organization.

When asked about their overall experience with election worker training, 66 per cent of election workers reported that it prepared them well to perform their assigned role. Respondents who worked as count workers or supervisors were more likely to indicate that the training prepared them well (76 per cent) compared to respondents who worked in voting stations (51 per cent).

This feedback reflected differences between election workers responsible for voting processes and those who conducted count. Seventy-five per cent of count workers and count supervisors agreed that instructor-led training met their overall needs, compared to 56 per cent of respondents who worked in voting stations. Similarly, 79 per cent of count workers agreed the written materials were useful and 82 per cent agreed that the training content was relevant, compared to 68 per cent and 63 per cent of voting process election workers, respectively.

Election workers overwhelmingly indicated that more hands-on training would have better prepared them, particularly for the electronic permanent electors register, ballot accounting procedures and ballot counting. This aligns with the suggestion made by the Office of the City Auditor and the feedback from election administrators from other jurisdictions who reviewed Edmonton Elections' processes and procedures during and after the election.

Although not initially planned, the success of the Election Readiness Fair provides a foundation for future experiential learning opportunities. In the post-election worker survey, 85 per cent of the field leadership staff who attended agreed that they were able to apply what they learned at the Readiness Fair to their work and 81 per cent agreed that their attendance helped them to better support their team.

Overall, the Election Leadership Training Program received positive feedback. Election Day feedback was consistent with that of other election workers. Notably, many participants cited more hands-on training for election workers on the use of the permanent electors register as their primary recommendation for the next election.

Edmonton Elections is committed to reviewing its strategy and approach to improve the effectiveness of election worker training and resources to improve the experience of election workers, along with their confidence and ability to serve Edmontonians in future elections.

EVENT MANAGEMENT

04

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

As in previous elections, Edmonton Elections uses specialized election software to help administer and manage the many complex activities required to deliver the 2025 Edmonton Election. However, the scope and scale of these activities were greatly expanded due to legislative changes.

There was also a substantial shift in how technology was deployed and used at voting stations. Whereas election technology was primarily used to count paper ballots in previous elections, the prohibition on vote tabulators and introduction of the permanent electors register created a more complex role for technology during the voting process.

ELECTION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The election logistics management system is the core, integrated web platform used to manage planning, operations and elector data. Acting as the election's operational foundation, it consists of integrated modules to manage the election process from candidate nominations through to results reporting, including:

- ✖ **Staff Management:** Recruiting, training and paying election workers.
- ✖ **Logistics:** Tracking equipment and managing voting facilities, including accessibility assessments.
- ✖ **Election Operations:** Ensuring election integrity and protecting data by managing the permanent electors register and strike-offs in real-time, special ballot application and management, and securely maintaining registries for candidates and third-parties. Monitoring voting station readiness in real-time.
- ✖ **Election Results:** Offering tools for robust incident management and a strictly controlled process for election results, including data entry, multiple levels of verification, and the secure transfer of official results to public and open data websites.

Following a review after the 2021 election, Edmonton Elections implemented a new information system to securely manage the information and technology. The election logistics management system implementation was a two-year project that began in September 2023. The scope and timelines for the implementation were significantly impacted by the 2024 legislative changes, particularly the new requirements to use a permanent electors register and to count ballots by hand.

Proactive security measures were prioritized to identify and mitigate potential vulnerabilities before the system was deployed for live operations. Edmonton Elections collaborated with the City's Corporate Information Security Office to conduct a thorough risk assessment of the election logistics management system's architecture.

To ensure an objective evaluation of the system's defenses, a specialized third-party vendor was contracted to perform comprehensive penetration testing. This simulated real-world cyberattacks to validate the system's security.

Permanent Electors Register

As required by legislation, Edmonton Elections established the new permanent electors register using provincial data from Elections Alberta. To facilitate this, Edmonton Elections entered into a data sharing agreement with Elections Alberta that outlined the governance and security requirements to facilitate the exchange of elector data as required by legislation. Rigorous internal security practices were enforced to protect elector data from unauthorized access or accidental exposure.

Edmonton Elections uses Elections Alberta’s self-serve portal, Voterlink, as the primary voter registration platform. This allows electors to update their registration information with both the province and municipality at the same time. The final election list included all updates made before August 16, 2025. As required by the legislation, all updates received during the election were shared with Elections Alberta following the election.

Electronic Register at Voting Stations

To comply with new legislative requirements, Edmonton Elections used an electronic elector register to integrate the new permanent electors register into the voting process at all voting opportunities. This system provided near real-time synchronization between voting stations and the central database. Election workers used this system to verify each voter’s eligibility, update elector registration information, and record their participation (including ballots issued) in the system.

Using the election logistics management system for this purpose:

- ✖ provided greater security of elector information
- ✖ allowed for real-time oversight during voting
- ✖ improved the accuracy of election records
- ✖ streamlined the process for updating the permanent electors register

The equipment used to implement this system included laptops for the Voter Services Clerks that were connected to the election logistics management system through wireless connectivity hubs. These hubs provided secure network access and facilitated the transmission of election data between voting stations and the Election Office. Due to procurement time constraints, each voting station also received a small number of computer mice to provide an option for staff who preferred a mouse over the laptop trackpad.

Information Security

To protect sensitive data, such as personal information and election results, a comprehensive security framework was implemented across the system. Edmonton Elections collaborated with the City's Corporate Information Security Office to conduct a thorough risk assessment of the system architecture, including third party testing to simulate real-world cyberattacks. Strict user authentication protocols and rigorous internal security practices were enforced to protect data from internal threats or accidental exposure.

FINDINGS

The new election logistics management system was closely integrated with the development of processes for the 2025 Edmonton Election. The introduction of new legislative requirements midway through the implementation project required significant amendments to the scope and plan for the implementation. Accommodating the new requirements in such a short timeline required extensive customizations that compressed the project schedule and increased project costs.

While the impacts were mitigated well for many key processes, such as managing voting stations, election workers and special ballots, the compressed timeline negatively affected the development of voting and counting processes, and the election worker training program. The compressed timeline meant these complex business processes and system solutions were developed simultaneously, and were not fully tested before the training program was finalized. This prevented the development of a hands-on training environment for election workers.

Although the instructor-led training sessions and user guide for the election management system was intended to fill this gap, the lack of hands-on experience was a challenge for election workers that slowed down the voting process. In particular, 22 per cent of election workers did not find the provided technology easy to use. Specific feedback from election workers related to challenges navigating and using election software and the use of laptop track pads instead of computer mice. Future development and use of the election management system should consider improvements to make the system easier to use for election workers. Developing a training environment for any election system used by election workers should be a priority for future elections.

LOGISTICS

Logistics is the means by which ballots, voting equipment and supplies are inventoried and packed in the warehouse and securely distributed to and from voting opportunities.

ELECTION CARTS

Edmonton Elections introduced a new distribution model for the 2025 Edmonton Election that used 247 purpose-built election carts to securely transport election materials to and from voting stations¹. This was a key response to the 2021 recommendation to streamline warehouse and distribution.

These lockable carts were used to deliver all supplies to voting stations for advance voting and on Election Day, replacing the need for election workers to physically pick up their supplies before their workday. The carts also provided secure storage at the voting stations. While critical items, such as ballots and ballot accounting forms, were delivered to ward offices after the close of voting, equipment and other materials were locked inside the carts and returned to the Edmonton Elections' warehouse.

This new cart model significantly improved the security and efficiency of voting place operations. It resulted in a more reliable chain of custody, simplified the setup process at voting stations, and reduced the workload on staff.

Election carts packed with advance vote supplies.
As more supplies were needed to operate five days of voting at each advance voting station, two carts were used to transport supplies to these locations.



1. The secure cart model was not used at institutional voting opportunities, due to the shorter duration of voting, and the smaller scale of the voting opportunities.

Distribution

Six ward offices, one for every two municipal wards, were established across the city to serve as distribution hubs for voting stations on Election Day. In addition to deploying standby election workers as needed throughout the day, these locations were stocked with routine voting station supplies to expedite the delivery when needed. At the close of voting, the Count Supervisor from each voting station delivered their sealed ballot boxes and key election forms to their designated ward office, where they were organized and securely loaded for return to Edmonton Elections.

Edmonton Elections partnered with a third party logistics vendor to:

- ✖ Deliver and return election carts to voting stations
- ✖ Expedite supply deliveries on voting days
- ✖ Return ballot boxes and critical materials from ward offices to the election warehouse on Election Night
- ✖ Deliver and return ballot boxes to the Count Centre

SUPPLIES

It takes a lot of supplies to conduct an election. As voting and counting processes were developed, Edmonton Elections determined the supply needs for all voting opportunities and used detailed packing lists to ensure the correct quantities were prepared and delivered. All materials needed to conduct the 2025 Edmonton Election were managed centrally. The timelines for ordering and packing supplies were compressed as a result of necessary extensions for finalizing processes due to legislative changes.

While the table below does not show all items required, it provides an understanding of the scale of supplies used to successfully run the 2025 Edmonton Election:

Supply Item	Quantity
Ballots	2.4 million
Envelopes	42,000
Forms	589,000
Signs	15,800
Ballot Boxes	3,500
Privacy Screens	2,200
Pens	18,500

FINDINGS

Overall, the shift to using the secure cart model to distribute supplies for the 2025 Edmonton Election was a success.

The secure cart model improved operations in three substantive ways:

- ✦ **Streamlined distribution:** Instead of each presiding deputy picking up supplies in the morning on their work day, carts were distributed to facilities and stored securely until staff arrived.
- ✦ **Enhanced security:** Supplies remained locked inside the carts during delivery and whenever they were not actively being used at the voting station.
- ✦ **Reduced risks on voting operations:** Having all supplies at the voting station also minimized the impact on voting operations when an election worker did not arrive as expected with the necessary supplies.

While 74 per cent of election workers agreed that they received all of the supplies needed to do their jobs, 19 per cent disagreed. Although processes were in place to resupply voting stations, the volume of supply requests on Election Day exceeded expectations and additional deliveries were needed to meet this demand. In addition to reviewing the amount of supplies sent to voting stations, Edmonton Elections is committed to reviewing the locations and processes used to provide additional supplies to voting stations.

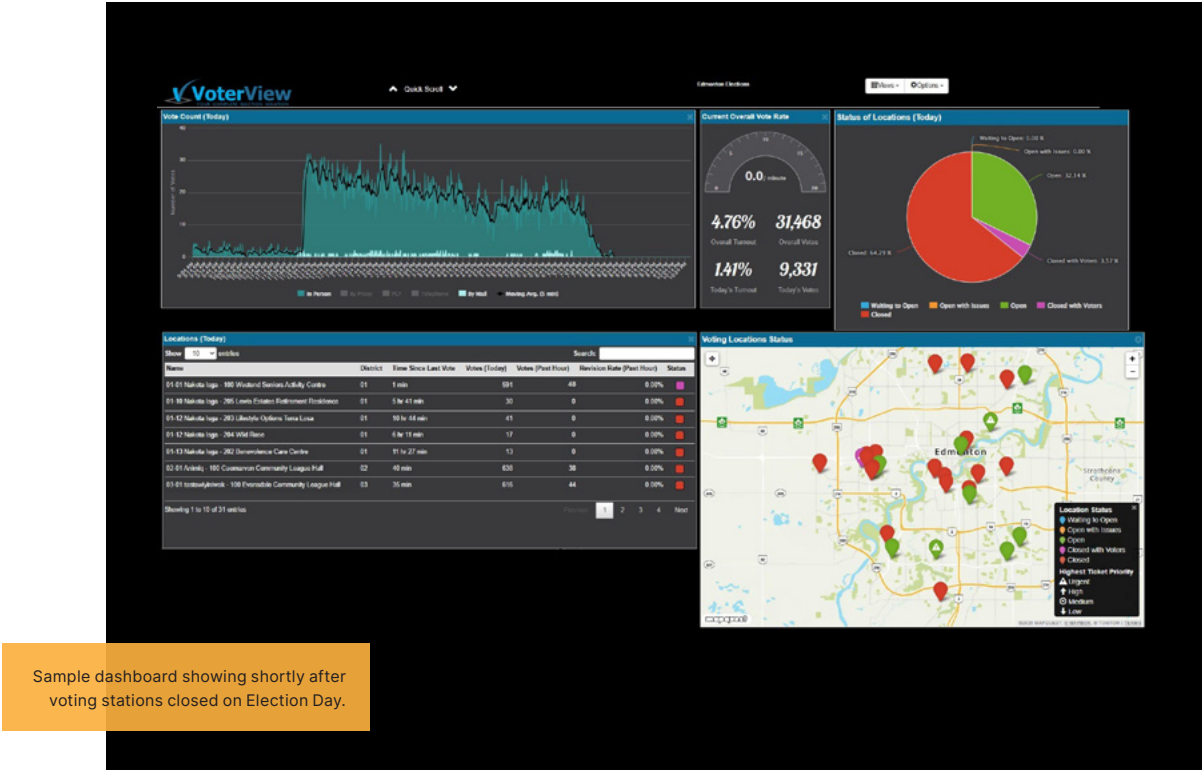
During voting operations, Election Central also received several requests from Presiding Deputies for additional supplies that ended up being found in the carts. This was most often due to a lack of familiarity with the supplies or difficulty locating the items when needed. Incorporating a greater focus on materials and supplies in the training and reference materials is recommended to avoid these time-consuming challenges for voting station staff in the future.

The management of key election materials after the election is a vital and substantive task for Edmonton Elections. Election workers often arrive at ward offices with their materials simultaneously at the end of the voting period. With each ward office managing an average of 37 voting stations, the efficient intake of materials in a short period of time was a challenge. Issues with inconsistent completion of paper chain of custody forms and improper labelling of ballot boxes at voting stations hindered the tracking of materials to Edmonton Elections.

Recommendations to streamline this process in future elections include:

- ✦ simplifying the labelling of ballot boxes to clearly differentiate between boxes that contain ballots and those that contain other materials prescribed by the legislation
- ✦ improving staffing and training for ward offices, and
- ✦ using clear checklists to ensure processes and information are completed consistently at each point in the chain of custody.

To ensure that post-election activities like recounts and ballot accounting are conducted efficiently, Edmonton Elections is focused on refining post-voting material management. By streamlining workflows and improving adherence to ballot box labelling protocols, Edmonton Elections aims to provide a more organized and prompt availability of all essential election materials.



Sample dashboard showing shortly after voting stations closed on Election Day.

VOTING DAY OPERATIONS

The 2025 Edmonton Election had multiple layers of support on voting days. At the voting station level, a Presiding Deputy and an Assistant Presiding Deputy managed operations, resolved immediate issues and escalated concerns as necessary. They were supported by Area Supervisors who travelled between three to four voting stations to perform quality control for voting processes, deliver additional supplies and identify emerging issues. Area Supervisors were also available by phone and were a key liaison between voting stations and the Edmonton Elections leadership team.

The Election Central call centre provided centralized operational assistance to field leadership staff by phone during advance voting and on Election Day. Staffed by core Edmonton Elections staff, it provided a single point of contact for support with issues related to election processes, information technology, staffing and supplies. Election Central began operations three hours before voting stations opened and continued until the last voting stations had returned their materials to the ward office. Election Central was the primary support for count workers after voting stations closed.

Election Central coordinated with ward offices to deploy standby workers to cover absences or provide additional capacity at busy voting stations on Election Day. Ward offices were also vital hubs for returning key election materials after voting closed.

For the first time, the Edmonton Elections leadership team used dashboard software built into the election logistics management system to oversee voting operations across the city in near real-time. In addition to monitoring issues being reported to Election Central, the leadership team was able to proactively contact voting stations that were not reporting the expected voting station status (e.g. open or closed) or that were experiencing a high number of voters and identify any additional support needs.

FINDINGS

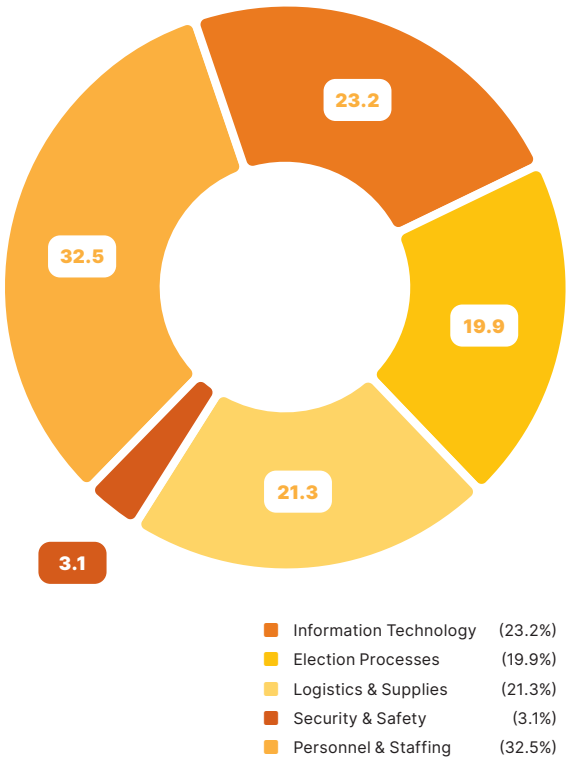
Overall, 79 per cent of election workers surveyed said they felt supported in their work. Area Supervisors continue to be a key role in the field support model. While 74 per cent of election workers found the support received from the Area Supervisors helpful, Area Supervisors were not able to provide in-person support to all of their assigned voting stations at key times of the day, such as during opening and closing.

While Election Central was designed to fill that gap, election workers were less satisfied with the call centre support, with 61 per cent rating Election Central as helpful. On Election Day, Election Central received 2,859 calls for support from field leadership staff related to voting processes, technology, supplies, safety/security and staffing. This was a 250 per cent increase from 2021. The average call length increased from 5.5 minutes to 6 minutes on Election Day. Additionally, Election Central received 400 calls from field leadership staff over the five days of advance voting, with 34 per cent of those coming on the first day of advance voting.

While Election Central staffing was increased approximately 25 per cent from 2021, call volumes were much higher than anticipated. As a result, almost three times more calls went unanswered on Election Day than in 2021. Managing these call volumes was particularly challenging at the start of the day when staff were implementing voting processes for the first time, and at the close of voting when some voting stations still had electors in line and others were struggling with the transition to count.

ELECTION CENTRAL
SUPPORT CATEGORY

percentage based on number
of tickets logged under
each category



While Edmonton Elections’ leadership team had more visibility into operations at voting stations and the nature of the issues being reported to Election Central, it was a challenge to issue broader updates to voting stations, especially on Election Day. During advance voting, Edmonton Elections leadership met with Area Supervisors and Presiding Deputies before voting opened each day. On Election Day, when a scheduled check-in was not possible, Edmonton Elections leadership relied on Area Supervisors when attempting to disseminate important updates to voting stations during the day.

Given the challenges experienced in this election, improving the central support model, staffing and processes to enhance supports for voting stations and improve issue management is a priority for future elections.

ELECTION COSTS

The budget for the 2025 Edmonton Election was set as part of the 2022 to 2026 City of Edmonton budget at \$12,078,000. In October 2024, Council approved a revised budget of \$17,355,441 in response to the projected impacts of the legislative changes made by the *Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2024* (Bill 20)².

The actual cost of the 2025 Edmonton Election was \$14,269,921, an increase of \$5.86 million from the 2021 election. The majority of the \$3 million difference between the actual cost versus estimated cost was due to:

- ✖ Lower than anticipated printing costs for ballots
- ✖ Leasing instead of purchasing computers
- ✖ Printing and postage savings due to the postal service disruption that prevented the mailing of voter information cards
- ✖ Fewer core staff recruited to implement new legislative requirements

2025 Edmonton Election Costs (2023-2025)

Administration (staff, election office, governance)	\$7,395,329
Election Workers	\$2,030,329
Information Technology (computers, election management system, telecommunications, assistive technology)	\$2,515,658
Materials & Supplies (ballots, forms, election supplies)	\$563,478
Facilities (voting stations, count centre & ward offices)	\$373,020
Communications & Advertising	\$445,533
Logistics (freight, delivery, election carts and warehousing)	\$946,573
Total	\$14,269,921

Edmonton Elections also administers trustee elections for Edmonton Public Schools and Edmonton Catholic Separate School Division. Under the current cost-sharing agreements, which cover the period 2017 to 2026, these school boards collectively fund 40 per cent of the applicable election expenses.

2. [OCC02658](#) – Bill 20 Update and 2025 Edmonton Election Budget Adjustment

VOTER ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

05

ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION

Edmonton Elections is committed to administering accessible and inclusive elections by identifying and reducing barriers to participation.

VOTER ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

Public engagements enhance understanding and inform the development of effective improvements. Edmonton Elections first conducted public consultations in 2016 and the resulting [Understanding Voter Needs Report](#) guided actions for the 2017 and 2021 elections, focusing on improving the ease and inclusivity of voting. Building on this, Edmonton Elections gathered updated insights to ensure accessibility initiatives effectively address the needs of all voters early in the planning process for the 2025 election.

A central component of this effort was the 2024 Voter Engagement Initiative. Edmonton Elections gathered input from Edmontonians and community organizations through surveys, online submissions and a focus group discussion, and published the findings in a [What We Heard Report](#). The main online survey was distributed to over 17,000 members of the Edmonton Insight Community and publicly posted on the Engaged Edmonton website.

Among the individual respondents who experienced barriers to voting, almost half (49 per cent) did not participate in the 2021 Edmonton election. The most frequently cited barriers included:

- ✖ Limited information on election procedures, candidates and voting locations.
- ✖ Health-related access issues.
- ✖ Work-related time constraints.

A survey was sent to more than 270 organizations and groups that work directly with diverse communities across Edmonton. These organizations were also invited to participate in a follow-up discussion to identify the obstacles to election participation faced by the populations they serve, as well as potential solutions to address these challenges.

Community groups identified a lack of access to information as the key barrier to voting. The most impactful suggested actions were to:

- ✖ Increase communication about the role of municipal government, the voting process, eligibility criteria, voter identification requirements and the importance of voting.
- ✖ Increase the use of social media to share important election dates and information.
- ✖ Engage young and new voters.
- ✖ Engage older generations who were historically prevented from participating in elections.
- ✖ Test key messages with partner organizations.

The valuable feedback received through the Voter Engagement Initiative supported Edmonton Elections to develop actions that could mitigate barriers and improve access for more Edmontonians during the 2025 Edmonton Election.

BALLOT DESIGN FOCUS GROUP

Edmonton Elections held four focus groups to gather feedback on how to design ballots that are more accessible, focusing on layout, readability and ease of use. Participants reviewed three ballot designs and shared ideas for improving accessibility, including:

- ✖ Using pictures or diagrams in addition to written instructions.
- ✖ Using bold, large fonts for better readability.
- ✖ Using multiple methods, such as colour and text, to differentiate ballot types.

This feedback was incorporated into the final ballot design.

ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION PLAN

In 2025, Edmonton Elections developed and published its first public [Accessibility and Inclusion Plan](#). The plan outlined 28 specific barrier-mitigating actions across six distinct areas of focus:

- ✖ **Voter accessibility:** Improve the voting experience at the voting station.
- ✖ **Effective communication:** Ensure the use of inclusive language through a mix of communication and media tactics.
- ✖ **Transportation to the voting station:** Reduce barriers and enhance transit service in partnership with Edmonton Transit Services.
- ✖ **Accessibility for election workers:** Use accessible and inclusive hiring practices to recruit election workers who reflect the diverse composition of Edmonton communities. Provide accessible training opportunities and workplace accommodations where needed to ensure all election workers can perform their assigned role effectively and with confidence.
- ✖ **Accessibility for candidates:** Provide accessible, plain language resources related to legislated processes.
- ✖ **Systemic and historic barriers:** Commit to developing an ongoing, collaborative and relationship-based approach to further understand and mitigate long-term barriers to participation.

The Accessibility and Inclusion Plan considered feedback from individuals and community groups through the 2024 Voter Engagement Initiative, as well as existing strategies and best practices from a variety of sources, including:

- ✖ Edmonton Elections' 2017 Understand Voting Needs report.
- ✖ Evaluative inputs and lessons learned from the 2017 and 2021 Edmonton Election projects.
- ✖ The City of Edmonton's Accessibility for People with Disabilities Survey, which included a question specific to elections.
- ✖ Direct engagement with civic agencies, including the Accessibility Advisory Committee, Community Services Advisory Board and the City of Edmonton Youth Council.
- ✖ Internal consultation within the City of Edmonton, including the Respect in the Workplace team, accessibility advisors and employee resource networks.
- ✖ Analysis of best practices and voter engagement initiatives from other jurisdictions, including municipal, provincial and federal strategies and reports.

Accessibility and Inclusion Actions

The accessibility and inclusion actions outlined in the plan blended established operational practices and new initiatives, including those specifically enabled by the *Local Authorities Election Act*. In addition to ensuring the physical accessibility of voting stations, as described on page 22, actions included:

- ✖ A dedicated accessibility email address for electors to request accommodations, supports or resources.
- ✖ Tactile voter templates, pencil grips and magnifiers at all voting opportunities.
- ✖ Hearing loops and elector assistance terminals at all advance voting stations and at a city-wide voting opportunity on Election Day.
- ✖ Clear signage for accessible parking and entrances.
- ✖ Translated voting instructions available at all voting locations, and posters identifying the languages in which services can be provided by election workers at each location.
- ✖ Curbside voting for electors unable to access the voting station.
- ✖ Expanded special, institutional and facility-based voting opportunities.
- ✖ Defined processes and training to support election workers with identifying when accessibility supports may be needed and for providing accessibility supports at voting stations.
- ✖ Correctional facilities received information to support electors within those facilities to vote by special ballot.



ELECTOR ASSISTANCE TERMINALS

Legislative and bylaw amendments in May 2025 permitted the use of electronic elector assistance terminals for the 2025 Edmonton Election. These devices allow voters with disabilities to independently mark their ballot using a variety of accessibility tools. They were available at all advance voting locations and the Edmonton Elections office on Election Day, and underwent logic and accuracy testing before and after use.

FINDINGS

In the post-election elector survey, 14 per cent of all respondents and 25 per cent of respondents with disabilities indicated that they face barriers to voting. While the voter engagement initiative yielded the largest volume of feedback Edmonton Elections has ever gathered from a single source, the vast majority (91 per cent) of respondents indicated that they participate in every election and only one per cent reported experiencing barriers that prevent them from voting.

The response to the community partner survey was low, with only nine responses from the 276 organizations who received it. Of those nine groups, four attended the follow-up facilitated conversation. While the feedback provided was relevant and impactful, the low response rate, along with the overrepresentation of highly-motivated voters and low number of electors who experience barriers in the 2025 online survey, suggests that Edmonton Elections must explore new ways to cultivate meaningful, more direct connections with individuals and groups experiencing barriers to participation. Building and maintaining trusted relationships and information sharing practices across communities between elections will allow Edmonton Elections to develop a deeper understanding of what influences elector behaviour, create more meaningful mitigating responses and improve the information and services for Edmontonians during elections.

Edmonton Elections offered multiple ways to vote for the 2025 election. In addition to convenient Election Day and advance voting station locations, in-person voting was offered at 64 senior accommodation facilities, four hospitals, five post-secondary schools and a voting station designed to meet the needs of houseless electors. A total of 3,103 electors cast their ballots at these specialized locations. Special ballot (mail-in) voting was also available until 7 p.m. on Election Day.

Among the 22 respondents to the voter experience survey who voted by special ballot, 15 were satisfied with their voting experience overall, 19 indicated that the instructions were clear and 17 found election staff to be helpful and knowledgeable. However, four out of 9 respondents did not agree that the options provided for collecting and returning their special ballot package during the Canada Post strike met their needs.

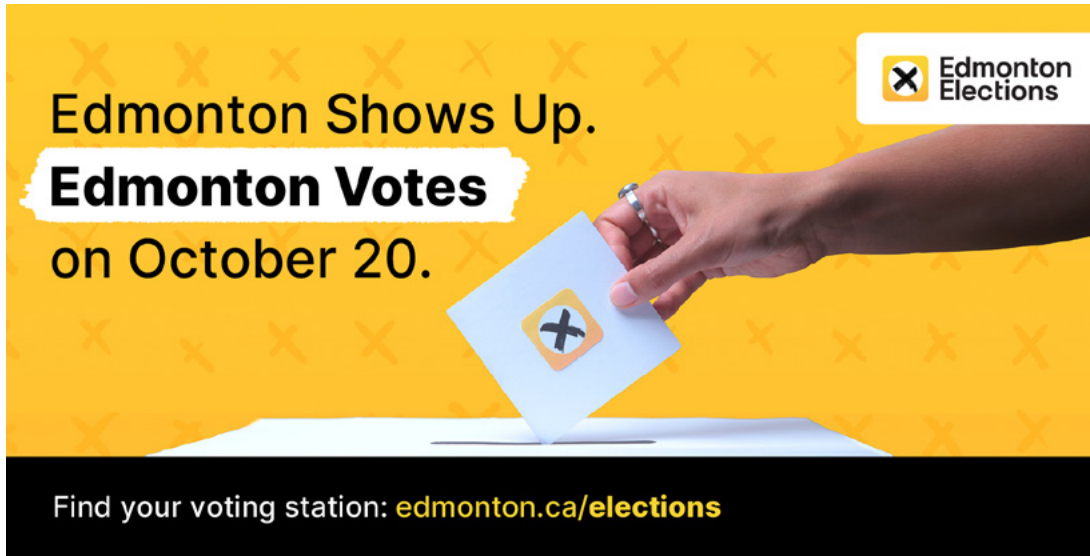
While the majority of those who voted in person agreed that the accessibility supports at the voting station met their needs (57 per cent), 35 per cent of respondents with disabilities disagreed that these supports met their needs. Detailed feedback indicated that the long wait times and lack of seating were particular challenges for many of these electors.

Although Edmonton Elections responded quickly to the change in legislation that enabled the use of voter assistance terminals five months before the election, the short timeline to procure the devices prevented Edmonton

Elections from developing and delivering adequate training to advance vote workers. As a result, some voters reported challenges when using the terminals to mark their ballots because election workers were unfamiliar with the equipment. This gap will be addressed ahead of the 2029 Edmonton Election.

Election workers reported very high levels of satisfaction with the accessibility of their work location (99 per cent) and training delivery (97 per cent). Eighty per cent of respondents indicated that they knew how and felt comfortable requesting accommodations if needed.

Edmonton Elections is proud of the progress that was made to deliver an accessible, inclusive and safe election in 2025, and is committed to further reducing barriers to participation for electors, election workers and political participants. This commitment involves a sustained effort to address long-standing, systemic barriers that limit participation for electors in equity-deserving communities. In addition to deepening the understanding of barriers and ways to mitigate them, key actions will include enhancing training for election workers on accessibility processes and equipment, empowering them to quickly address needs at voting stations.



PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

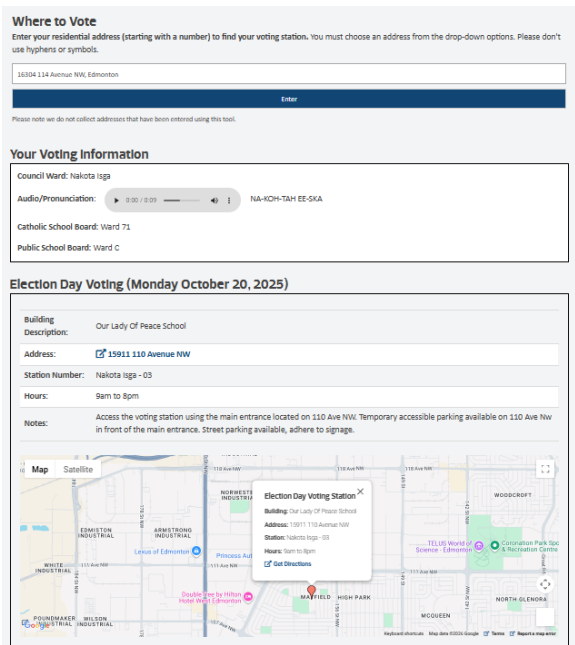
Edmonton Elections communicates with electors to enhance public knowledge and understanding of the electoral process. The communication plan for the 2025 Edmonton Election established the following priorities:

- ✦ **Boost public awareness** of the 2025 Edmonton Election and help people understand the voting process.
- ✦ **Establish Edmonton Elections** as the primary source of information about the election.
- ✦ **Keep Edmontonians informed** about all the ways they can participate in the election.
- ✦ **Encourage and empower** every Edmontonian to vote in the upcoming election and recognize their part in the process.

Edmonton Elections used a distinct, unified brand identity for its marketing materials with the theme 'Edmonton Shows Up.' This theme draws on individuals' perceptions of themselves—as someone who shows up. For community, for family, for friends, for the big things and the small things. The campaign positioned the Edmonton Election as another way Edmontonians could embody those values.

COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

Digital communication channels, such as social media and digital advertisements, were a prominent feature of the communication strategy for the 2025 Edmonton Elections. The digital approach supported the use of traditional media, such as newspaper and radio advertisements, to extend the reach of key communications.



Website

The City of Edmonton’s digital platforms served as key information hubs for providing accessible and reliable information about the 2025 Edmonton Election. The election website, edmonton.ca/elections, was updated throughout the election to keep voters, candidates, and other involved parties engaged. To make the information more accessible to everyone, mobile-friendly pages, plain language and helpful visuals were prioritized.

The online “Where to Vote” tool allowed electors to enter their residential address to find their designated voting locations. The tool displayed both advance voting and Election day voting information, including location, dates, times and accessibility details with a map view. It also specified assigned municipal and school board wards, including an audio pronunciation of the municipal ward name.

Social Media

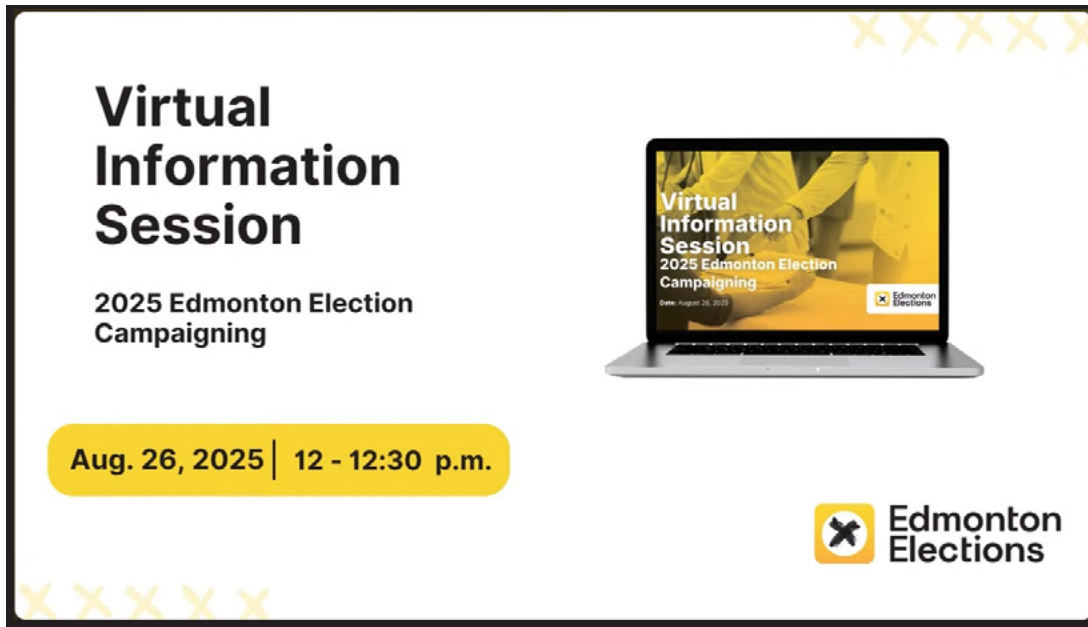
A key part of the overall communication strategy was a focused social media plan. Social media is a powerful, direct way to reach a wide audience, especially people who don't follow traditional media channels.

The platforms used—Facebook, Instagram, and X (formerly Twitter)—offer significant reach for the communication efforts, given that they are used by 74 per cent, 57 per cent, and 39.5 per cent of Canadian users, respectively. Edmonton Elections used these platforms strategically, recognizing that older social media users tend to prefer Facebook, while younger audiences favour Instagram.

The social media accounts were used to share vital information about the election process, including:

- ✖ The campaign to register to vote.
- ✖ In-person voting options and special ballots.
- ✖ Campaigning rules and activities.
- ✖ Key event promotions, such as Nomination Day and the start of election worker recruitment.

Social media was also essential for sharing important information about unexpected situations in real time. For example, when a power outage forced the relocation of a voting station, this channel was used to inform the media and voters in that area where to go.



Virtual Information Sessions

Public information sessions were another important component of the communication strategy. For the 2025 Edmonton Election, seven virtual information sessions were held between October 31, 2024 and October 2, 2025.

While information sessions were delivered to candidates in past elections, these sessions were developed with the general public in mind. They covered topics such as candidate nominations, election advertising and working the election. Each 30-minute virtual information session was broadcast live on the City of Edmonton's [YouTube](#) channel and recordings were available on the Edmonton Elections website.

Newsletters

Edmontonians could subscribe to receive the Edmonton Elections monthly newsletter through the website. Similar to the virtual information sessions, the target audience for these newsletters was expanded from candidates to the general public. Sent monthly from February to October 2025, the newsletters provided timely information about key dates, available resources and upcoming events.

COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGNS

The communication strategy was organized into campaigns that promoted timely information to voters, political participants and election workers at key points in the election calendar.

Register to Vote

The goals of the register to vote campaign were to inform voters about the new permanent electors register and to encourage them to confirm or update their registration information using the provincial [Voterlink](#) voter registration website operated by Elections Alberta.

The campaign ran from June 24, 2025 to August 15, 2025. During this time, Edmonton Elections used various channels to share these key messages, including:

- ✖ Social media posts
- ✖ Digital advertising
- ✖ Radio advertisements
- ✖ Digital billboards

At a media event on July 3, 2025 at the Stanley Milner Public Library, the Returning Officer demonstrated the online voter registration process and provided information about the new permanent electors register.



After the August 15, 2025 deadline to register to vote, further communications informed voters about how they could still register to vote at the voting station or through the special ballot process.

Election Worker Recruitment

The external election worker recruitment campaign began on July 21, 2025, with the launch of a specific election worker webpage and social media posts. Edmonton Elections shared messaging in a number of ways, including digital advertising, radio advertisements, and postcards and posters made available at community hubs.

The election worker webpage shared information on the types of positions available, pay rates, shift lengths and locations, and an overview of how to submit an application with a link to the application portal.

Edmonton Elections highlighted application opportunities with community groups who provide services to underrepresented residents, including new Canadians and Indigenous electors, through the City of Edmonton's Talent Acquisition Outreach team. Youth focused materials promoting the Youth at the Booth initiative were shared at youth hubs including City of Edmonton recreation facilities and through social media via SnapChat. On July 31, 2025, Edmonton Elections hosted a virtual information session focused specifically on employment opportunities.



Vote early
Advance voting is open October 7-11.

Edmonton Elections

Edmonton Shows Up. **Edmonton Votes.** edmonton.ca/elections

Edmonton Elections

We're hiring!
Apply to work the 2025 Edmonton Election.

Edmonton Shows Up. **Edmonton Votes.**

Advance Voting

Communications promoting advance voting options focused on:

- ✖ Locations where people could vote
- ✖ Operating hours for these locations
- ✖ Identification requirements

Voters were also reminded to use the voting location assigned to their residential ward.

Messaging was shared across a variety of channels, including:

- ✖ Signs placed along heavily used transit routes
- ✖ Radio advertisements
- ✖ Social media posts and advertisements
- ✖ Digital advertisements and billboards

Election Day

Communications on Election Day focused on sharing core aspects of the voting process—how, where and when to vote—driving residents to edmonton.ca/elections for more detailed information.

Communications channels promoted the online “Where to Vote” tool, where electors could find their assigned voting station and review information requirements needed for the polls.

RESPONSE TO THE CANADA POST LABOUR DISRUPTION

Postal services were suspended on September 25, 2025 as a result of a labour dispute between Canada Post and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers. The most significant impacts of this disruption were that voter information cards and special ballot packages could not be delivered, and political participants were not able to submit their interim financial disclosures by mail.

Each election, Edmonton Elections sends voter information cards to inform electors of when and where to vote. With the new permanent electors register, Edmonton Elections planned to send individualized cards to each registered elector, and a generic card to each residential address without registered electors. These cards were intended to provide voting details and identification requirements, and to help election workers streamline the voting process. Edmonton Elections was in the final stages of preparing the cards for mailing when the disruption occurred and no voter information cards were delivered.

To ensure Edmontonians were informed about the election, Edmonton Elections took the following steps in response to the strike:

- ✱ **Expanded advertising campaigns:** Planned radio and billboard advertisements were increased, print ads ran in both the Edmonton Journal and the Edmonton Sun, and road signs were placed outside advance voting locations.
- ✱ **Distributed information at City facilities:** Generic voter information cards and posters were available to patrons at public libraries and recreation centres.
- ✱ **Increased social media use:** Posts were increased, directing voters to the Edmonton Elections webpage and highlighting the "Where to Vote" tool.
- ✱ **Hosted media event:** An event was held to emphasize other ways for voters to get information and promote the alternative options for voting by special ballot.
- ✱ **Expanded office hours:** Edmonton Elections implemented expanded office hours beginning Monday, September 29, 2025.

FINDINGS

Navigating the modern communication landscape to ensure the public can identify and access reliable, credible voting information is an increasing challenge for election administrators. Establishing Edmonton Elections as the primary source of election information was a strategic communication objective for the 2025 Edmonton Election.

Edmonton Elections was seen as the most credible source of voting information across all major demographic groups in the post-election survey of electors. However, only 41 per cent could correctly identify Edmonton Elections as the organization responsible for administering municipal and school board elections. This suggests that Edmonton Elections needs to better distinguish itself from other levels of election administrators to strengthen its visibility and public recognition.

The Edmonton Elections website saw almost 2.2 million page views between January 1 and October 31, 2025, an increase of 44 per cent when compared to the web traffic from the 2021 election during the same period.

Electors reported that it was easy to access information about what identification was needed to vote (82 per cent), their eligibility requirements (77 per cent), and when and where to vote (77 per cent). Respondents to the post-election elector survey reported more difficulty with finding information about the wards they were voting in (71 per cent) and who the candidates were (69 per cent). When asked about how to improve awareness and access to information, most suggestions called for centralized candidate information, simpler online tools and clearer, multi-channel communication.

Maintaining this momentum between elections will set Edmonton Elections up for increased success in future election events.



OUTREACH

Alongside the broad public communications strategy, Edmonton Elections implemented an outreach strategy to raise awareness and improve understanding of voting opportunities and processes among electors who are more likely to experience barriers to running, working or voting in elections.

Based on data from the Voter Engagement Initiative, the Understanding Voter Needs report, and studies from other jurisdictions, five key groups were identified as typically underrepresented:

- ✖ Youth
- ✖ Seniors
- ✖ New Canadians
- ✖ People with disabilities
- ✖ Indigenous peoples

Barriers to voting experiences by these electors include:

- ✖ Not knowing about voting opportunities or the role of municipal government
- ✖ Challenges related to mobility and physical access
- ✖ Lack of familiarity with the voting process
- ✖ Lower levels of trust in government

Outreach was seen as a critical part of Edmonton Elections' communication strategy to help overcome these barriers. Given Edmonton's significant population growth, these efforts could encourage long-term participation in local democracy.

The three main goals of the outreach plan were:

- ✖ **Increase awareness of how to vote and work:** Provide communication materials and translations to help Edmontonians understand how, when, and where to vote, and how to work in the election.
- ✖ **Increase confidence:** Share information that demonstrates that all Edmontonians have a stake in the 2025 Edmonton Election.
- ✖ **Building community:** Partner with organizations and community leaders to find advocates ("champions") for participation.



The approach prioritized personal communication and relied on established community relationships to connect with individuals who might otherwise not engage. Community leaders can substantially increase participation by collaborating with local organizations.

As part of this strategy, Edmonton Elections implemented various communication tactics:

- ✦ **Targeted distribution:** Materials were given to community partners, including the Edmonton Public Library and seniors accommodation facilities, to share information on voting opportunities, voting place hours and locations, eligibility, and how to vote by special ballot.
- ✦ **Event engagement:** Edmonton Elections attended community events and held a dedicated post-secondary hiring event to promote opportunities for Edmontonians to participate as election workers.
- ✦ **Partnerships:** Edmonton Elections worked with the City of Edmonton's Indigenous Relations Office to share information with young, Indigenous voters at K-Days.

FINDINGS

As an emerging area of focus for Edmonton Elections, outreach activities prioritized sharing information as a first step of a longer term approach. Moving forward, Edmonton Elections will work to cultivate more transformational relationships within communities that will help serve future elections. This will be a key focus of the comprehensive engagement and communication strategy that Edmonton Elections intends to develop and implement in advance of the 2029 Edmonton Election. The goal is to ensure that these relationships are established between elections to better support accessibility and engagement with electors, election workers and prospective candidates who experience barriers during election events.



AsiaFest Social Media posts





POLITICAL PARTICIPANTS

06

CANDIDATES

- To be eligible for nomination as a candidate in the 2025 Edmonton Election, an individual was required to be:
- ✦ At least 18 years of age
 - ✦ A Canadian citizen
 - ✦ A resident of the City of Edmonton for at least six consecutive months before nomination day
 - ✦ Not otherwise ineligible or disqualified under the legislation

Separate school board trustee candidates had additional requirements under section 74(3) of the [Education Act](#).

NOTICE OF INTENT

The first step for Edmontonians who wanted to run for a position on City Council or a school board was to submit a notice of intent to be nominated. Amendments to the *Local Authorities Election Act* introduced the requirement for candidates to submit a notice of their intention to seek election prior to receiving campaign contributions or incurring campaign expenses.

A notice of intent could be submitted by an eligible individual at any point during the campaign period, which was October 31, 2024 to December 31, 2025 for the 2025 Edmonton Election. As required by the *Local Authorities Election Act*, Edmonton Elections maintains a public [register of candidates](#) who filed a notice of intent on its website.

Under the legislation, candidates submit their notice for a particular jurisdiction, but are not required to declare which position or ward they plan to run in. During the 2025 Edmonton Election campaign period, 177 candidates filed a legislatively compliant notice of intent with Edmonton Elections.

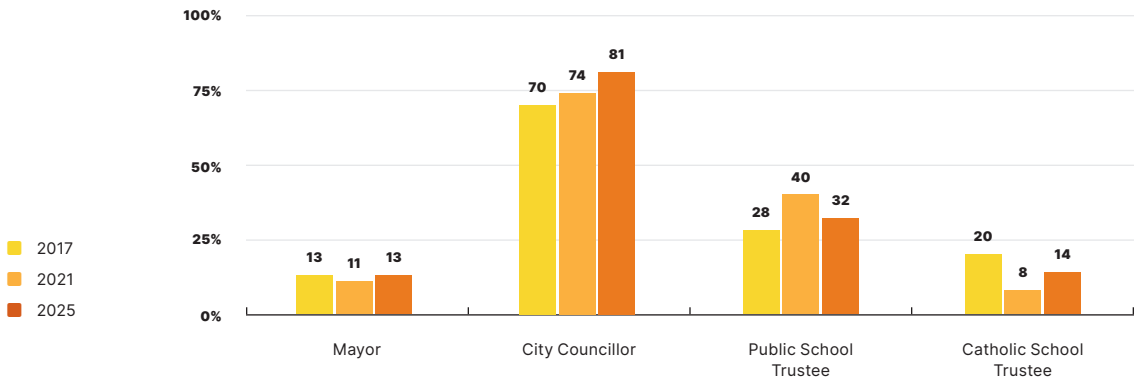
Jurisdiction	Number of Candidates Submitted a Notice of Intent
City of Edmonton	126
Edmonton Public Schools	36
Edmonton Catholic Schools	15
Total	177

NOMINATIONS

Candidates must complete the nomination process in order to appear on the ballot. This is when they declare which position and ward, if applicable, they are seeking election for. Nomination requirements are established in the *Local Authorities Election Act*, *Education Act*, and the bylaws established by the City of Edmonton and each school board. The nomination process required candidates to:

- ✦ Confirm they meet eligibility requirements, as outlined by the *Local Authorities Election Act*, in front of a Commissioner for Oaths
- ✦ Complete the nomination forms, including gathering signatures from the required number of eligible electors
- ✦ Submit the completed package and required deposit to Edmonton Elections, in-person or by mail courier

NOMINATED CANDIDATES, 2017 TO 2025



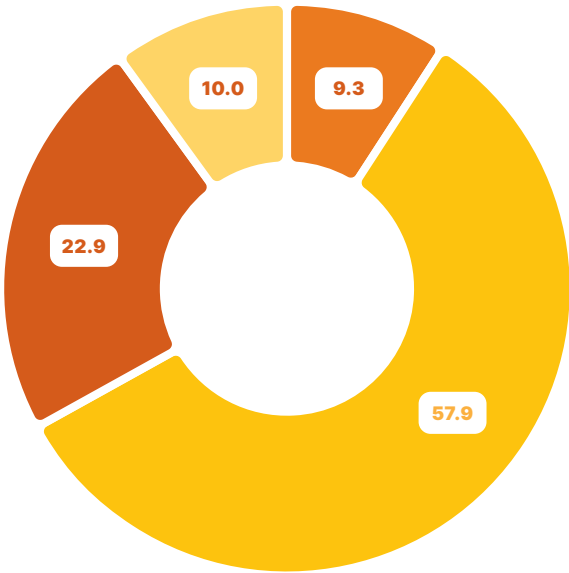
Nomination requirements varied by contest. Candidates for Mayor required a minimum of 100 signatures and a deposit of \$500. Candidates in all other contests needed at least 25 signatures and a deposit of \$100. To sign a candidate's nomination paper, an individual must be eligible to vote in the election for which the candidate was seeking nomination.

Position	Signatures Required	Deposit Required
Mayor	100	\$500
Councillor	25	\$100
Public Trustee	25	\$100
Catholic School Trustee	25	\$100

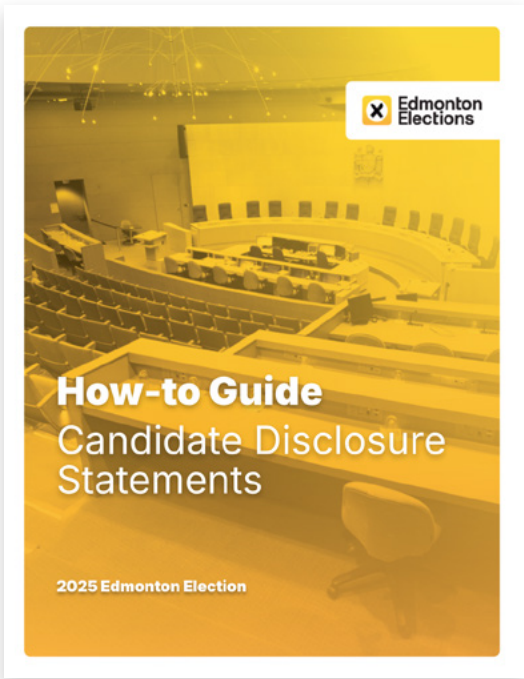
The *Local Authorities Election Act* was amended in 2024 to allow local authorities to pass a bylaw to require candidates to submit a criminal record check with their nomination package. The Edmonton Catholic Separate School Division passed a bylaw to implement this requirement for Separate School Trustee candidates for the 2025 Edmonton Election.

Candidates were able to submit nomination papers to the Returning Officer from January 2, 2025 to Nomination Day, September 22, 2025, with 140 candidates completing the nomination process.

NOMINATED CANDIDATES BY POSITION, 2025



- Mayor (9.3% – 13)
- City Councillor (57.9% – 81)
- Edmonton Public School Trustee (22.9% – 32)
- Edmonton Catholic School Trustee (10.0% – 14)



Position	Nominated Candidates
Mayor	13
City Councillor	81
Edmonton Public School Trustee	32
Edmonton Catholic School Trustee	14
Total	140

Candidates may withdraw their nomination until 24 hours after the close of nominations. If, after this deadline, only one candidate is nominated in any race, the Returning Officer is required to declare that candidate to be elected by acclamation. The position of Trustee in Ward 75 of the Edmonton Catholic Separate School Division was filled by acclamation.

Edmonton Elections published the list of nominated candidates on its website. To provide accessible information to electors, candidates were asked to provide the link to their campaign website in their nomination package so it could be included on the official candidate list.

SUPPORTS TO CANDIDATES

Navigating complex nomination and campaign finance rules can be a barrier for many people interested in seeking office. Edmonton Elections provided a number of resources to support candidates in understanding and complying with the rules. For the notice of intent process, this included a dedicated webpage, a one page How To guide, and a Frequently Asked Questions document.

Similar support was available for filing nomination papers. Nomination appointments were conducted at City Hall and the Edmonton Elections office, both of which are barrier-free facilities accessible via public transit. At these appointments, Edmonton Elections reviewed nomination packages with candidates, providing candidates with an opportunity to resolve any concerns before submitting their package. Commissioner for Oaths services were also provided by Edmonton Elections at no cost to candidates.

A dedicated campaign financing webpage provided information on expense limits, contribution regulations, key dates and reporting requirements. Edmonton Elections also provided fillable electronic disclosure statement forms and a detailed guide for filing disclosure statements. In addition, staff provided direct support to each candidate, including reviewing filed disclosure statements for completeness and compliance with legislated requirements, and flagging potential errors or omissions with candidates when required.

Additionally, an email distribution list was used to share updates, key dates and information on legislated processes with candidates. Edmonton Elections also hosted seven virtual information sessions, many of which were focused on helping candidates understand key components of the election process including nominations, campaign advertising and campaign financing.

Contribution Limits, 2025 Edmonton Election

	Municipal Candidates	School Board Candidates	Local Political Parties	Slates
Candidate Self-finance	\$10,000/ campaign period	\$10,000/ campaign period	N/A	N/A
Individuals	\$5,000/year to all candidates in municipality	\$5,000/year to all candidates in each division	\$5,000/year to all registered parties in each jurisdiction	\$0
Corporation, trade union or employee organization	\$5,000/campaign period to all candidates in municipality	\$5,000/campaign period to all candidates in each division	\$5,000/year to all registered parties in each jurisdiction	\$0

LOCAL POLITICAL PARTIES AND SLATES

Changes to the *Local Authorities Election Act* brought about the introduction of local political parties and slates in Edmonton's municipal election. Candidates could either be endorsed by a local political party, form a slate with other candidates, or run unaffiliated.

A local political party is an organization with a fundamental purpose to participate in public affairs by endorsing one or more candidates in a local jurisdiction and supporting their election. Local political parties are required to register with Edmonton Elections before accepting contributions or incurring campaign expenses. A slate is a group of two or more candidates with the fundamental purpose to support the election of the slate's candidate members. Slates cannot accept contributions, but may incur shared campaign expenses in accordance with the regulations.

Two political parties registered with Edmonton Elections and endorsed nominated candidates. One slate registered, but ultimately withdrew their registration before appearing on the ballot. The name of the local political party appeared next to the name of these affiliated candidates on the ballot. Edmonton Elections maintains a register of local political parties and slates on its [website](#).

CAMPAIGN FINANCING

Regulations on campaign financing, including those relating to contributions, expense limits and reporting requirements, are outlined in the *Local Authorities Election Act* and the *Local Political Parties and Slates Regulation*.

New contribution rules were in effect for the 2025 Edmonton Election. Contributors are responsible for ensuring that they are eligible to contribute, that the contribution is within their contribution limit, and for only contributing their own funds. Candidates may also self fund their campaigns up to the maximum allowable limit of \$10,000.

The new *Expense Limits Regulation* established expense limits for candidates, political parties and slates. These limits varied between contests and were based on Edmonton's population at the beginning of the campaign period¹.

Expense Limits, 2025 Edmonton Election

	2024	2025
Candidate - Mayor	\$505,449.50	\$1,010,899.00
Candidate - Councillor	\$42,120.79	\$84,241.58
Local Political Party		
Per ward contested	\$42,120.79	\$84,241.58
Maximum (12 wards)	\$505,449.50	\$1,010,899.00
Slate	Expenses split equally between candidates	

All candidates who filed a notice of intent, and all registered parties and slates are required to file campaign disclosure statements throughout the campaign period to report all contributions received, expenses incurred, and transfers made to and from a local political party. For the 2025 Edmonton Election, the following disclosures were required:

- ✖ 2024 Annual: October 31 - December 31, 2024
- ✖ 2025 Interim: January 1 - July 31, 2025
- ✖ 2025 Final: January 1 - December 31, 2025

As required by the Local Authorities Election Act, Edmonton Elections publishes redacted disclosure statements [online](#) following a review for completeness and compliance with legislated requirements.

1. In accordance with the Expense Limit Regulation, the population is determined using the [Population List](#) published by Municipal Affairs. According to this list, Edmonton's population was 1,010,899.

THIRD-PARTY ADVERTISERS

A third-party advertiser is a registered individual, corporation or group that uses election advertising to promote or oppose a municipal or school board candidate, or a position on an issue that is the subject of a vote on a bylaw or question during the election advertising period.

Third-party advertisers are required to register with Edmonton Elections if they spend or receive (or intend to spend or receive) more than \$1,000 on election advertising in a local jurisdiction during the election advertising period. Third-party advertisers must not be affiliated with or collude with candidates, political parties or slates.

In total, Edmonton Elections had five registered third-party advertisers during the 2025 election advertising period, which ran from May 1 to October 2025, with one that ultimately withdrew its registration before the election. Edmonton Elections maintains a Register of Third Party Advertisers on its [website](#).

FINDINGS

Edmonton Elections successfully implemented significant legislative and structural changes while maintaining strong levels of engagement with candidates and supporting their financial transparency.

Overall, 63 per cent of political participants who responded to a post-election survey were satisfied with the quality of service they received from Edmonton Elections. Respondents found the candidate information updates (78 per cent), direct support (70 per cent) and Edmonton Elections website (70 per cent) to be the most useful resources.

Candidates reported positive experiences with nomination and financial disclosure processes. Key findings show that candidates felt:

- ✦ **Well-informed:** 83 per cent agreed they felt well-informed about the nomination process from start to finish and 73 per cent indicated that they understood the new campaign finance rules.
- ✦ **Easy submission:** 87 per cent found it easy to submit their notice of intent to run.
- ✦ **Timely confirmation:** 87 per cent were satisfied with how quickly their nomination was confirmed.

Although 74 per cent of candidates felt well informed about voting opportunities, they were less satisfied with the clarity of rules at the voting stations (54 per cent) and Count Centre (48 per cent), and only 37 per cent felt well informed about ballot counting activities. Broadening the audience for virtual information sessions, as described on page 49, provided more opportunities for the public to be informed. However, only 50 per cent of political participants found these sessions to be useful.

Although 69 per cent reported that the process to submit the interim campaign disclosure was straightforward, a significant number of final disclosure submissions were incomplete and many political participants required additional support from Edmonton Elections to understand and comply with the reporting requirements. Improving communications and streamlining future financial reporting processes, within the framework established by the legislation, will improve the experience for all political participants.

Overall, the findings suggest that Edmonton Elections communicated well with political participants about the processes and regulations that directly affected them, but highlight an opportunity to improve the information provided to political participants about broader voting and counting processes.

Additional feedback from political participants during and after the election indicated a desire for stronger enforcement of regulations regarding campaigning and conduct of political participants to increase accountability among political participants. While Edmonton Elections acknowledges these concerns, the *Local Authorities Election Act* does not provide Edmonton Elections or the Returning Officer with investigative or enforcement authorities. Complaints must be referred to the relevant authorities. Edmonton Elections takes all inquiries and complaints seriously and works closely with political participants to support their understanding of their responsibilities and obligations.



VOTING OPPORTUNITIES

70

VOTING OPPORTUNITIES

Edmonton Elections offers multiple opportunities for eligible electors to cast their ballots. In the 2025 election, electors could choose from:

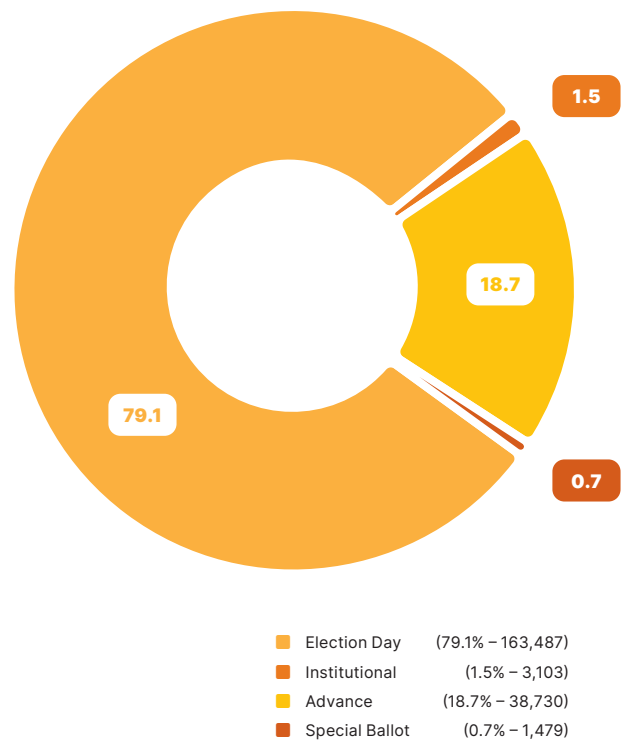
- ✦ **Special (mail-in) ballot:** For the first time, all electors were eligible to apply for a mail-in ballot. Applications were accepted from August 1 until Election Day, and completed packages were due by 7 p.m. on October 20.
- ✦ **Advance voting** at the station designated for their ward between October 7 and 11.
- ✦ **Election Day voting** at the assigned station in their residential area on October 20.

Eligible electors who are residents of seniors accommodation facilities, receiving services at a hospital or community support centre, and at post-secondary institutions could also choose to vote at one of the 74 **institutional voting** stations established during advance voting and on Election Day.

VOTER TURNOUT

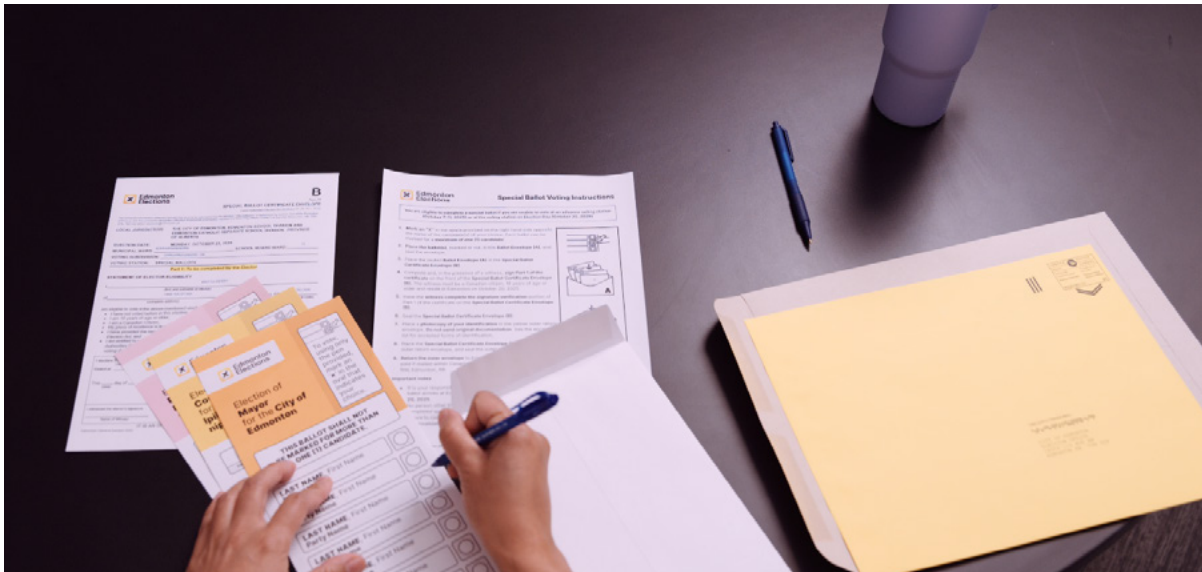
Voter turnout is calculated as the percentage of registered electors that voted in at least one race during the 2025 Edmonton Election.¹ There were 679,945 eligible electors registered for the 2025 Edmonton Election, including additions and updates made during voting. A total of 206,799 eligible Edmontonians voted in this election, for a total overall turnout of 30.41 per cent. Detailed voter turnout statistics are included in Appendix 2.

TOTAL VOTERS BY VOTING OPPORTUNITY



A total of **206,799** eligible Edmontonians voted in this election, for a total overall turnout of **30.41 per cent**

1. In previous elections, when there was no permanent electors register, voter turnout was calculated using an estimated number of eligible electors.



SPECIAL (MAIL-IN) BALLOTS

Amendments to the *Local Authorities Election Act* enabled all eligible voters who were not able to vote during advance voting or on Election Day to use a special (mail-in) ballot for the 2025 Edmonton Election. Packages were available starting August 1, 2025, through an online portal, telephone, email, mail or in-person.

Special ballot package distribution began on September 27, when printed ballots became available after the close of nominations. In-person special ballot voting was available at the Edmonton Elections office from September 27 until 7 p.m. on Election Day. The elector assistance terminal was available to any elector for special ballot voting on Election Day.

To be counted, voters had until 7 p.m. on Election Day to return their completed special ballot packages, including a copy of their identification and completed special ballot certificate, signed by both the voter and an eligible witness. Return options included Canada Post (a postage-paid envelope was provided for voters in Canada), third-party courier services, or in-person drop-off at the Edmonton Elections Office.

A dedicated team managed all aspects of the special ballot process, reviewing applications, distributing approved packages and validating the returned packages. They ensured each returned special ballot package met all legislated requirements. In accordance with new legislative requirements, the process included matching the voter's signature on the certificate to their provided identification and verifying that the elector's signature was witnessed by another eligible elector.

Edmonton Shows Up.
Edmonton Votes.

There are many ways
to **show up** this October.

Apply for a special ballot. Use accessibility tools. Or bring an interpreter with you.

Find out more:
www.edmonton.ca/forvoters

Edmonton Elections

Edmonton Elections promoted mail-in voting through various communication channels, including online ads and messages shared via social media. Postcards and posters were distributed to key community partners, such as the Edmonton Public Library and City recreation facilities. Promotional materials were also shared directly with organizations that provide information services to individuals with disabilities. Edmonton Elections also engaged directly with correctional facilities to facilitate special ballot voting for incarcerated electors.

POSTAL DISRUPTION SERVICE ADJUSTMENTS

The national postal workers' strike interrupted the delivery of special ballots from September 25 until Election Day.

To manage this disruption, Edmonton Elections took action to ensure voters could still access and return their packages on time:

- ✖ **Extended office hours:** The Elections Office offered longer hours, including evenings and weekends, for voters to pick up, complete and drop off their ballots.
- ✖ **Courier services:** courier services were used to distribute and return special ballot packages.

FINDINGS

Despite the expansion of special ballot eligibility, Edmonton Elections did not experience a significant increase in special ballot voting. Edmonton Elections received 2,549 applications for special ballot packages, slightly lower than the 2,586² applications received in 2021.

- ✖ **Online applications:** Over 90 per cent (2,311) of all applications were submitted using the online portal.
- ✖ **In-person pickups:** 1,223 packages were collected in-person at the Elections office.
- ✖ **International voters:** 32 packages were sent to voters overseas, including destinations in the United States, New Zealand and Japan.
- ✖ **Return rate:** 65.6 per cent of the packages sent to electors were returned and accepted.

Feedback from voters showed high satisfaction with the clarity of the special ballot process and support they received. Of the 22 special ballot voters that responded to a short survey included in their special ballot package:

- ✖ 17 respondents found the process for returning their special ballot to be straightforward
- ✖ 19 respondents said the package instructions were clear
- ✖ 17 respondents agreed that Edmonton Elections staff were knowledgeable and helpful

A majority of respondents were satisfied with the options for returning the special ballot package, particularly alternatives offered during the Canada Post strike.

Some electors, particularly those overseas, found it challenging to fulfill the new legislated requirement to have an eligible elector act as a witness and sign the special ballot certificate. In some cases, this requirement prevented electors from successfully completing the special ballot process.

2. This does not include the modified special ballots requested by electors residing in institutional voting facilities that could not receive in-person voting services due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

INSTITUTIONAL VOTING

Institutional voting is an important component of the Accessibility and Inclusion Plan. As permitted by legislation, Edmonton Elections established institutional voting stations to provide on-site voting opportunities to electors who may experience barriers accessing other voting locations.

For the 2025 Edmonton Election, voting opportunities were established for electors:

- ✦ Residing in supportive living or seniors accommodation facilities
- ✦ Who are in-patient in hospitals/treatment centers
- ✦ At post-secondary institutions
- ✦ Accessing services from community support centres³

Institutional voting took place throughout the advance voting period and on Election Day. The voting schedule at each location was established in consultation with the facility and communicated to electors in advance.

The voting process was managed by a dedicated team of election workers who were specifically trained for this purpose. Each institutional voting team included:

- ✦ A Presiding Deputy responsible for the overall operation of the voting station
- ✦ Four Deputy Returning Officers who served as Greeters, Voter Services Clerks and Ballot Box Clerks.

Working with facility staff, these teams set up a voting station in a central communal area. Room-to-room voting services were also provided at some supportive living and seniors accommodation facilities as needed. Room-to-room voting was not offered at hospitals.

FINDINGS

To reduce barriers to participating in elections, Edmonton Elections identified and coordinated with facilities well in advance of the election. In total, Edmonton Elections engaged with 113 different facilities and organizations to offer institutional voting opportunities between May and September 2025.

Institutional and facility-based voting opportunities were available at 74 locations in the 2025 Edmonton Election. This represents a 19 per cent increase from the 62 locations established in 2021, when voting opportunities were heavily restricted due to pandemic health measures.

- ✦ Locations: 74 voting stations, a 19 per cent increase from 62 in the 2021 election.
- ✦ Types of facilities: 64 seniors accommodation facilities, four hospitals, five post-secondary institutions, and one station for electors at community support organizations.
- ✦ Voter participation: 3,103 eligible electors voted at an institutional voting station, including:
 - ✦ 2,560 at seniors accommodation and supportive living facilities
 - ✦ 124 at hospitals and the community support centre
 - ✦ 419 at post-secondary institutions

3. Voting stations at post-secondary institutions and the community support centre were operated as advance voting locations and offered vote anywhere services to all eligible electors.



ADVANCE VOTING

The *Local Authorities Election Act* enables the Returning Officer to establish the days, hours and locations for advance voting. For the 2025 Edmonton Election, the advance voting period ran for five days, from October 7 to October 11, with stations open from 12 to 8 p.m. at one voting station in each municipal ward.

This schedule offered electors 40 hours of advance voting. While this is fewer than the 60 hours offered over the 10-day advance voting period in the 2021 election, it offered extended voting hours on each day to provide greater convenience for electors, aligned with the length of the advance voting period in similar-sized jurisdictions, and gave Edmonton Elections the necessary time to complete final preparations for Election Day.

During advance voting, electors were required to cast their ballot at the voting station designated for their residential address, based on their ward. Edmonton Elections prioritized accessible facilities that could handle a large volume of voters and were easy to reach using various transit options. Locations included City of Edmonton recreation facilities, the Stanley Milner Public Library, and community hubs such as community leagues. All advance voting stations were equipped with voter assistance terminals and hearing loops.

At advance voting stations, voting processes were similar to the model used on Election Day, as described on page 24. In many cases, the boundaries of Edmonton Public and Edmonton Catholic Separate School Board wards overlap with multiple municipal wards. With one voting station per municipal ward, this meant that multiple school board ballots and additional ballot boxes, up to five different school board ballots and seven ballot boxes in total, were required at each location. Additional steps were included in the voting process and highlighted during election worker training to ensure that electors were issued the school board ballot they were eligible to receive.

FINDINGS

Advance voting continues to be a popular option for electors in Edmonton. Of the 206,799 voters who cast a ballot, 38,730 (19 per cent) cast their ballot at an advance voting station.

Advance voter turnout remained high, exceeding the pre-pandemic turnout of 12 per cent in the 2017 election. However, the increased use of advance voting experienced during the 2021 election (27 per cent) was not maintained into 2025.

Busiest day and time: Saturday, October 11, saw the highest volume of voting, with 10,120 votes cast. On average, the highest number of voters arrived during the first two hours that voting stations were open (12 to 2 p.m.).

Location convenience: While 78 per cent of advance voters found their voting location convenient, this satisfaction level was lower than the 88 per cent reported by Election Day voters. This was likely due to a single voting location used per municipal ward during advance vote.

Transportation: Most people who voted in advance voters personal vehicles to access the voting stations:

- ✖ **Car:** 84 per cent traveled by car.
- ✖ **Active Transportation:** 12 per cent used active transportation (10 per cent walked and 2 per cent cycled).
- ✖ **Public Transit:** 2 per cent used public transit.

Overall, electors who participated during the advance voting period reported higher levels of satisfaction than those who cast their ballots on Election Day.

- ✖ 85 per cent found election workers to be knowledgeable and helpful.
- ✖ 82 per cent reported that instructions on voting station signs were clear.
- ✖ 71 per cent agreed that the time it took to complete the voting process was reasonable.

Unlike those who work only on Election Day, advance voting staff have the benefit of working multiple days, enabling them to become increasingly comfortable and confident when serving electors. With fewer voting stations operating, Edmonton Elections leadership are also able to provide increased levels of support to voting stations during advance voting.

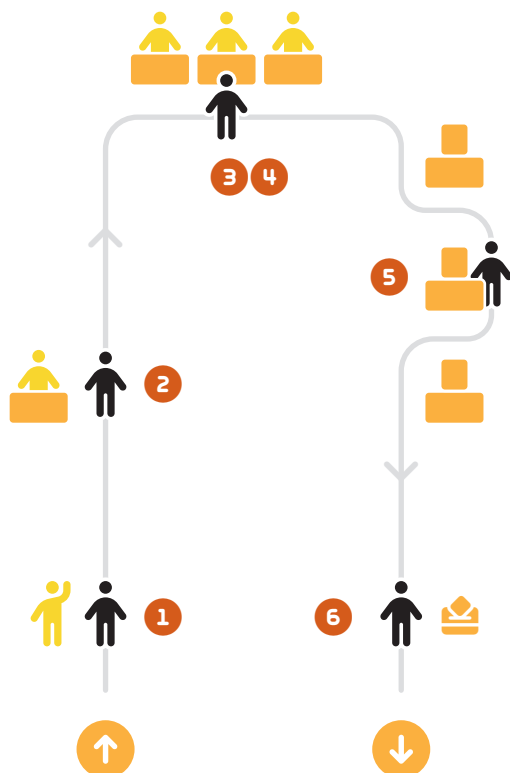
Expanding advance voting options may provide an opportunity to improve the voting experience for all electors. In the last election, 131 election workers took part during both advance vote and on Election Day, 82 per cent of the total number of advance voting station staff. Increasing the number of advance voting locations would require a larger pool of election workers, potentially making more staff with direct experience and familiarity with voting processes available during other voting opportunities, improving service to electors on Election Day.

The administration of multiple ballots, especially with divergent ward boundaries, is a unique feature of local elections that adds significant complexity to the voting process. To streamline the voting process and improve the experience for both electors and election workers, possible options include introducing a specialized position for issuing ballots or increasing the number of voting stations in each ward during advance vote to reduce the number of ballot types required at each location. Additionally, reviewing the use and information on voter information cards will help electors know where to vote and what to expect, simplifying the voting process.

ELECTION DAY

Election Day was Monday, October 20, 2025. On Election Day, voters cast their ballots at one of 222 voting stations established in neighbourhoods across the city from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. As with advance voting, voters were required to cast their ballots at the voting station assigned to their residential address.

Locations - primarily schools and neighborhood centres like community leagues and halls - were chosen based on size, accessibility and geographic convenience. Edmonton Public Schools scheduled a non-instructional day, dedicating their facilities exclusively to voting for the day.



NEW VOTING MODEL

Edmonton Elections introduced a new voting model, as outlined on page 24, to implement new legislative requirements, including the permanent electors register, and issuing multiple ballot types to each elector.

At the voting station, the process for the elector was as follows:

- 1 **Arrival:** Electors were greeted at the entrance to the voting station by a Deputy Returning Officer who confirmed the elector was at the location assigned to their residential address and that they had authorized identification. The Greeter inquired whether the elector required additional supports to complete the voting process before directing them to complete the Elector Register Form in the designated area before checking in with the Voter Services Clerk.
- 2 **Form and ID:** The elector completed the required Elector Register form and provided authorized identification to the Voter Services Clerk.
- 3 **Registration Check:** A Voter Services Clerk used the form to confirm the voter's details, update their information, or securely add them as a new elector to the system.
- 4 **Receive Ballot:** Once eligibility was confirmed, the clerk instantly struck the voter off the electronic register in real time and issued the necessary ballots.
- 5 **Cast Vote:** The elector marked their ballots behind a privacy screen and deposited them in the corresponding ballot box, managed by a Deputy Returning Officer. Other Deputy Returning Officers were available to answer questions and provide additional accessibility support to electors as needed.
- 6 **Departure:** The voter then exited the voting station, collecting a postcard with information on the voter survey if they wished.



FINDINGS

A total of 163,487 voters cast their ballots on Election Day, accounting for 79 per cent of the total election turnout.

While the total number of Election Day voters slightly decreased compared to 2021 (169,125), the proportion of the total turnout on Election Day increased by approximately eight per cent.

Peak voting hours: Voting volumes steadily increased throughout the day, hitting its peak between 5 and 8 p.m. Approximately 24 per cent of all Election Day voters (39,223 people) voted during this early evening window.

Location convenience: Election Day voting station locations were more convenient for electors than advance voting stations, with 88 per cent of Election Day voters stating their voting location was convenient.

Transportation: A majority of Election Day voters also used personal vehicles to access the voting stations, but the greater convenience of these locations is reflected in the high number of electors who walked to their voting station.

- ✖ Car: 53 per cent traveled by car.
- ✖ Active Transportation: 43 per cent walked and one per cent cycled.
- ✖ Public Transit: 1 per cent used public transit.

While the majority of voters (58 per cent) who cast their ballot in person on Election Day reported being satisfied, 31 per cent were dissatisfied.

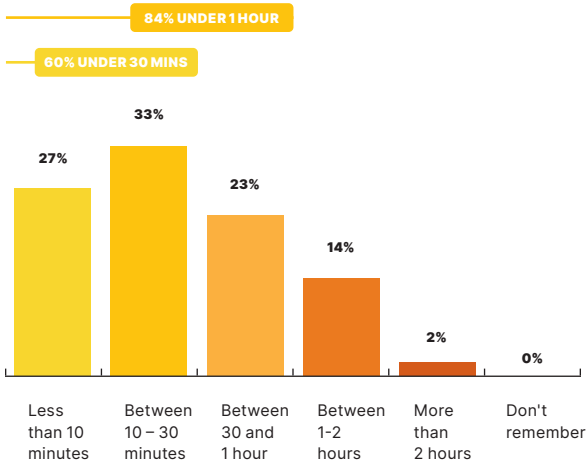
Overall, Election Day voters were more likely (24 per cent) to report voting challenging. Among those who found it challenging, the issues cited were:

- ✖ Long wait times (60 per cent)
- ✖ The voting process was complicated (38 per cent)
- ✖ Untrained or insufficient staff (26 per cent)
- ✖ Unclear communication/information (11 per cent)

The time it took to vote was highly correlated to voter satisfaction. Long wait times was a common issue:

- ✖ **Wait Times:** 20 per cent of Election Day voters reported waiting for more than one hour to vote. This is significantly higher than the eight per cent of advance voters who experienced similar wait times.
- ✖ **Reason for Difficulty:** Of the voters who found the process challenging, 60 per cent cited the long wait time as the primary reason.

TIME NEEDED TO CAST BALLOT(S)



Only 22 per cent of Election Day voters agreed that wait times were reasonable, and 75 per cent of responding Election Day voters disagreed that wait times were reasonable.

Key factors contributing to the long wait times identified in Edmonton Elections’ post-election analysis include:

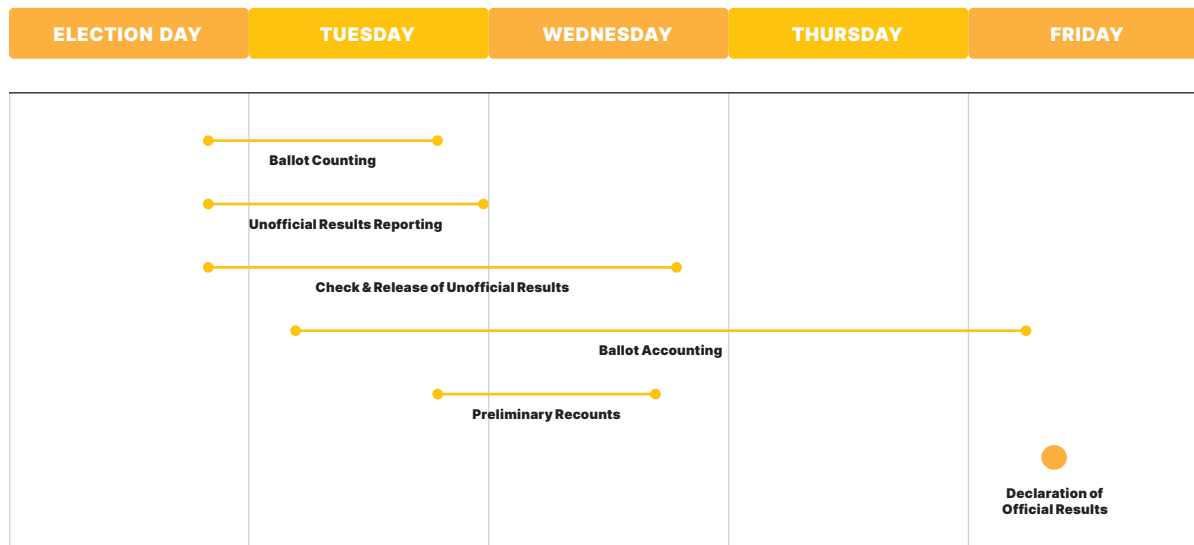
- ✖ A lack of hands-on training for election workers, particularly on the use of the permanent electors register and real time strike off tool, which lengthened the time to serve each elector. Election workers relied on guides and other written materials to navigate less common scenarios, such as adding an elector to the permanent electors register or editing their information.
- ✖ The number of election workers assigned to each voting station was determined by the expected time required to serve each elector. The timing of legislated changes and the subsequent adjustments to the voting process left little opportunity to recruit, hire and train additional staff, which stretched the capacity of voting station teams. Electors experienced longer than anticipated wait and service times as a result.

- ✖ Due to the Canada Post labour disruption, Edmonton Elections was unable to distribute Voter Information Cards. These cards would have been customized to confirm the voting station assigned to each residential address and are typically heavily used by both election workers and electors as a key source of information. Without these cards, many electors went to the wrong voting stations. The process for election workers to confirm that the elector was at their assigned voting station became longer and complex without this quick reference material, increasing long line ups and wait times.
- ✖ Election workers were required to use a variety of different processes during voting hours, many of which required them to use forms and other documents that they found to be complicated. In particular, implementing ballot accounting processes meant that some election workers paused their service to electors, which caused periodic delays at a number of voting stations.

Reducing wait times and improving the elector experience is Edmonton Elections’ top priority for future elections.

THE COUNT AND RESULTS REPORTING

08



THE COUNT AND RESULTS REPORTING

The *Local Authorities Election Act* establishes procedures for finalizing election results after voting ends. This includes rules for when and where ballots must be counted, and how to determine which ballots are valid and which must be rejected.

After the last ballot is deposited at a voting station, the ballot boxes are sealed until the ballots are counted on Election night. The Returning Officer is permitted to release initial, unofficial results as they come in from the voting stations and Count Centre.

There are a number of key steps to validate the results before they are declared official by the Returning Officer at noon on the fourth day after the election, including:

- ✖ All ballots must be counted
- ✖ Unofficial results must be recorded, checked and released publicly

- ✖ Statements of the vote and other count documentation must be returned to Edmonton Elections, reviewed and validated
- ✖ Any preliminary recounts must be called and completed

With 1,286 ballot boxes to be counted and 964 statements of the vote to be validated, a significant number of staff and coordination was required to complete these activities over this three and a half day period.

UNOFFICIAL COUNT AND UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

The process for counting ballots and releasing unofficial results for each race changed significantly for the 2025 Edmonton Election:

- ✦ **Hand Counting:** Due to the restriction on using electronic tabulators, all ballots had to be counted by hand.
- ✦ **Counting Locations:**
 - ✦ **Election Day Ballots:** Ballots cast at each of the 222 voting stations on Election Day were counted at that same location after the last voter left the voting station.
 - ✦ **Other Ballots:** Ballots from advance voting, institutional voting and special ballot voting were counted at the centralized Count Centre.

NEW BALLOT COUNTING PROCESS

To comply with new legislative requirements, Edmonton Elections introduced a new system for counting all ballots by hand at both local voting stations and the centralized Count Centre.

To decide on the best approach, Edmonton Elections first studied counting methods used in other jurisdictions. In January 2025, three different manual counting methods were tested to evaluate how accurate, efficient, and scalable each option was.

Based on these tests, the round table method was selected. This process was based on the system used successfully in several other jurisdictions, including New Zealand and some municipalities in Ontario. Further testing was conducted in the summer of 2025 to fully refine this new counting process.

The round table count process used multiple safety measures to ensure every ballot for every candidate was counted correctly. Count workers were organized into

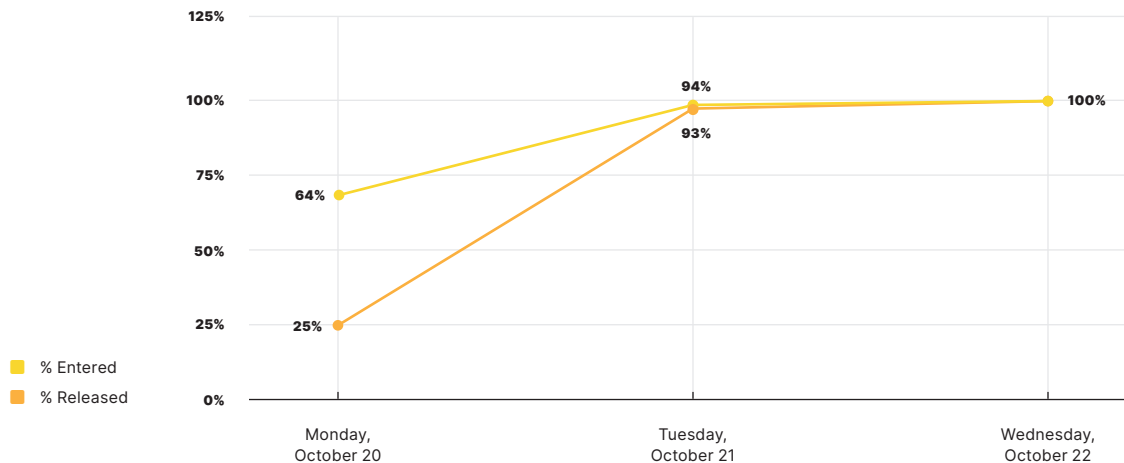


teams of two to four to count one box at a time using the following process:

- ✦ **Sorting:** Each Count Worker was assigned to sort ballots for one or more candidates. As the ballots were unfolded, a Count Worker would add a vote for their assigned candidate to their stack and pass all other ballots to the Count Worker on their right.
- ✦ **Double-Check:** Once sorting was complete, each stack of ballots was independently counted by two different Count Workers who wrote the results on a tally sheet.
- ✦ **Verification:** The Count Supervisor then reviewed the tally sheet to make sure the two counts matched.
- ✦ **Sealing:** After all ballots were counted, the Supervisor directed the team to seal the ballots in the ballot box, as required by the legislation.

In some cases, there were multiple ballot boxes for the same race at a voting opportunity. New ballot boxes were used for each day of advance, institutional and special ballot voting. Additional ballot boxes were also used at many Election Day voting stations due to large volumes of ballots. The counting process continued until all ballot boxes were counted.

Candidates appointed scrutineers to observe all stages of the counting process, both at voting stations and the Count Centre. Scrutineers were able to register any objections regarding the determination of valid or rejected ballots as they were being counted. They were also welcome to sign any forms or ballot box seals.

**RESULTS ENTERED /
RELEASED BY DATE****UNOFFICIAL RESULTS CONSOLIDATION AND ENTRY**

Once all ballots were counted for each race, the Count Supervisor was responsible for consolidating and reporting the results process:

- ✘ **Consolidation:** If a race used more than one ballot box the results from each tally sheet were combined onto a single worksheet to determine the results for that race at that voting station.
- ✘ **Documentation:** The Count Supervisor transferred the results for each race from the final results worksheet to the official Ballot Account and Result of Vote form (Form 19).
- ✘ **Secure data entry:** To ensure accuracy, the results from Form 19 were entered into the results module in the election logistics management system twice, by two separate election workers. The system performed a validation check to confirm the data entered matched before it was submitted.

In total, 964 results were entered into the election logistics management system from all voting stations.

CHECK AND RELEASE OF UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

After the unofficial results were entered into the election logistics management system, Edmonton Elections staff conducted a manual quality assurance check before the Returning Officer reviewed and approved the results for release.

If any results data was inconsistent or incomplete, it was put on hold while further review took place. This was done to mitigate the risks of human error and ensure that the unofficial results accurately represented the votes cast for each candidate.

Unofficial Results release timeline

- ✘ 25 per cent of results were released before 2 a.m. on Election night.
- ✘ 93 per cent of results were released by 10 p.m. on October 21, 2025.
- ✘ All remaining results were released shortly after the conclusion of the recounts on the afternoon of October 22, 2025.



COUNTING AT ELECTION DAY VOTING STATIONS

While voting stations closed at 8 p.m. on Election Day, the counting of votes could not begin until all voters in line cast their ballots and left the voting station. Due to the long lines in some locations, this meant that counting could not start right away.

Additional staff were recruited to conduct the count of ballots at each voting station. Each location had one Count Supervisor and between six and 20 Count Workers, based on the expected number of ballots cast at the location. All Count Supervisors and 63 per cent of Count Workers were fresh staff that had not worked at a voting station during the day.

The Count Supervisor assigned the Count Workers to teams of up to four people to count one box at a time. After 11 p.m., count workers were trained to conclude any counts that were in progress, but not start any new counts. Ballot boxes were returned to Edmonton Elections on Election night and any unopened ballot boxes were transported to the centralized Count Centre to be counted the following day. There were 45 of these ballot boxes.

CENTRALIZED COUNT CENTRE

The 2025 Edmonton Elections established its centralized Count Centre at the Edmonton EXPO Centre. Over two days, this facility counted and reported the results from the 121,724 ballots cast during advance voting, at institutional voting locations and by special ballot.

The operation involved significant resources:

- ✕ 436 Count Workers
- ✕ 25 Count Supervisors
- ✕ 39 City of Edmonton support staff

The centralized counts officially started at 7:30 p.m., as permitted by the Elections Bylaw. Advance voting ballots were counted first.

Setup of counting stations:

- ✖ Each station consisted of a Count Supervisor overseeing up to five teams.
- ✖ Each counting team handled one ballot box at a time.
- ✖ After a team completed a count, the Count Supervisor reviewed the results before passing them to the Data Entry team.
- ✖ Once all ballot boxes for a specific race were counted, the data entry team combined the results to calculate the totals for each candidate, and entered them into the results module.

There were a total of 320 ballot boxes from advance voting. The number of ballot boxes varied depending on the race.

Race	Number of Advance Vote Ballot Boxes
Mayor	60
Councillor	5 each, 60 total
Public School Trustee	10-21 each, 120 total
Catholic School Trustee	10-15 each, 80 total

The first advance voting results were entered at 9:48 p.m. and the last were entered at 1:59 a.m. The Count Centre then closed for the night, with all ballot boxes secured in a locked cage under the watch of security staff, who remained on site until counting resumed the following morning.

As each elector returned all of their ballots in a single envelope which could not be opened and sorted before the count, in accordance with the legislation, the process for special ballots started with opening all ballot envelopes and sorting the ballots before the ballots could be counted. Similarly, a single ballot box was used for each institutional voting station, so these ballots also had to be sorted by race before they could be counted.

Voting Opportunity	Number of Boxes to be Sorted
Institutional Voting	60
Special Ballot	23

This sorting and counting process began as soon as the advance vote counts were finished. Counting activities were stopped at 2:00 a.m. and resumed at 8:00 a.m. the following day.

The remaining results were entered throughout the next day. Institutional voting results were entered between 1:43 p.m. and 8:34 p.m. Special ballot results were entered between 3:43 p.m. and 9:06 p.m.

Additionally, any ballot boxes from Election Day voting stations that had not been counted before those locations closed were transported to the Count Centre and counted on October 21, 2025.

FINDINGS

Edmonton Elections prioritized accuracy when selecting the counting method and releasing election results. As expected, the manual process for counting ballots took longer than the tabulation of results using electronic tabulators in previous elections. However, feedback from electors and political participants indicates that the time it took to release unofficial results in this election did not meet expectations.

- ✖ **Voters:** A majority (57 per cent) preferred to see results released within 6 hours of the polls closing. Another 29 per cent felt that releasing results the following day was acceptable.
- ✖ **Political Participants:** Only 37 per cent of political respondents agreed that the time it took to release the unofficial results was reasonable.

While there are challenges associated with vote counting, there is an opportunity to speed up the release of results by focusing on four key areas:

1. **Improving the transition** from closing the voting stations to starting the count.
2. **Streamlining** the counting processes.
3. **Improving training** for count workers.
4. **Evaluate location strategy** to optimize number of voters and ballots per voting station.

While 59 per cent of election workers agreed that the transition from closing voting stations to beginning the count was efficient, there is an opportunity to streamline the process and help reduce the time taken to report unofficial results. Streamlining the voting process will also enable voting stations to close on time.

When asked about their experience with the counting processes, 78 per cent of respondents agreed that the count processes and procedures were clear, but only 68 per cent agreed that the counting process was efficient.

The Office of the City Auditor observed the conduct of the count at 12 voting stations. They reported that some Count Supervisors struggled with administrative processes, including filling out required documentation and entering results into the voting system. The Office of the City Auditor recommended providing more hands-on training for the completion of key forms and worksheets used by the Presiding Deputy and Count Supervisor. While 76 per cent of count workers indicated that their training prepared them well for their duties, 24 per cent of the suggestions election workers made to improve training were related to improving hands-on training.

POST-ELECTION DAY ACTIVITY

Following the release of unofficial results, all ballot boxes and documentation were returned to Edmonton Elections. In the days following Election Day, Edmonton Elections completed a number of processes to prepare for the release of official results.

BALLOT ACCOUNTING

Ballot accounting is the process of validating the election results by reconciling how many ballots were provided to a station, how those ballots were used (either as valid votes cast, spoiled, or rejected ballots), and how many ballots were returned after voting and counting were complete. As mandated by the *Local Authorities Elections Act*, ballot accounting must be completed before the statement of official results is released on the fourth day following the election.

Beginning on October 21, 2025, City of Edmonton staff conducted ballot accounting over three and a half days. This involved:

- ✖ Verifying the accuracy of each of the 964 Ballot Account and Result of Vote forms by reconciling the records of ballots provided to each voting station, and over 3,000 tally sheets and consolidation worksheets.
- ✖ Confirming the accuracy of the data entered in the election logistics management system.

The Office of the City Auditor observed and validated the ballot accounting process, and did not identify any areas for improvement in their report on the 2025 Edmonton Election.

RECOUNTS

Recount readiness is a key part of the election process, ensuring all procedures, resources and staff are in place to manage a recount smoothly and accurately if needed. The legislation allows the Returning Officer to conduct a recount of votes before official results are released only when specific conditions are met, such as when potential administrative or technical errors, or rejected or objected ballots, may have affected the outcome of the election. These recounts must also be completed within the 3.5-day period between the close of voting and the release of official results.

On Tuesday, October 21, as part of the initial quality assurance check of unofficial results, potential administrative or technical errors that may have affected the reported results were identified. The Returning Officer called for a recount to be held on Wednesday, October 22. Affected candidates were notified in advance and able to attend or appoint scrutineers to attend and observe the full recounting process.

The recount was conducted in accordance with the legislative requirements and included a full recount of all ballots cast in the Ward sipiwiniwak Councillor race, including from:

- ✖ Advance voting stations
- ✖ Institution voting stations (senior accommodation facilities, post-secondary institutions, hospitals)
- ✖ Special ballots (mail-in ballots)
- ✖ Election Day voting stations

Alongside the recount preparations, the ballot accounting process also identified an administrative error in the results for this race. Specifically, a transposition error in the completion of the tally and consolidation worksheets for the ballots cast during advance voting was identified. The recount confirmed that this error resulted in ballot counts not being correctly attributed to the candidates, and errors in the unofficial results.

After official results are published, recounts are only permitted if requested by the second place candidate in a very close race or authorized by a judge. There were no applications for a Returning Officer recount or judicial recount after the official results were released.

ADDITIONAL COUNTS

On October 21, 2025, the ballot accounting process determined that election workers at three voting stations had not fully completed the counting process for five ballot boxes before returning them to Edmonton Elections. These five ballot boxes consisted of three from the ipiihkoohkanipiaohsi-05, one from the Metis-07, and one from the Pihesiwin-05 voting stations, covering Councillor, Public Trustee, and Catholic Trustee races.

To ensure that affected candidates were able to observe the counting of these ballot boxes with appropriate notice, the count of these ballot boxes took place alongside the recount for the Ward sipiwiyniwak Councillor race on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, with the results released on the same day.



DECLARATION OF OFFICIAL RESULTS

In accordance with the legislation, the Returning Officer announced the official results of the 2025 Edmonton Election at the Edmonton Elections office and posted them on the Edmonton Elections website at Noon on Friday, October 24, 2025.



With **206,799** of the **679,945** registered electors casting a ballot, voter turnout was **30.41 per cent** for the 2025 Edmonton Election.

FINDINGS

In addition to requiring new processes for counting ballots by hand, the prohibition on electronic tabulators also required new manual processes for election workers to record, consolidate and report election results. Edmonton Elections implemented a number of quality assurance safeguards to reduce the potential impact of human errors on the accuracy of the election results. These checks and balances worked as planned, and successfully identified and corrected errors in the unofficial election results.

However, it was not without challenges. Although 78 per cent of election workers reported that the forms and worksheets were easy to complete, many of the errors identified during ballot accounting were the result of election workers completing the forms incorrectly. The reviews conducted by third party election administrators confirmed that Edmonton Elections needs to focus on reducing the complexity of ballot accounting and results reporting processes and forms. This work can be supported by more extensive simulation of these processes with people who are not familiar with election administration to identify gaps in training materials or areas where forms may be unclear before they are finalized.

In addition, the ballot accounting process took longer than anticipated. Although the process was completed in time for the Returning Officer to validate and release the official results on time, completing ballot accounting in a more timely manner will ensure the Returning Officer can make informed decisions about the preliminary recounts. Looking ahead, Edmonton Elections will need to review all steps to make the ballot accounting and official results reporting process simpler, more efficient and more intuitive for staff, especially where paper forms and digital systems meet.

ELECTION RESULTS

The following candidates were declared elected:

City of Edmonton

Position	Elected Candidate
Mayor	Andrew Knack
Councillor for Ward Aniriq	Erin Rutherford
Councillor for Ward Dene	Aaron Paquette
Councillor for Ward Ipiihkoohkanipiahtsi	Jon Morgan
Councillor for Ward Karhiio	Keren Tang
Councillor for Ward Métis	Ashley Salvador
Councillor for Ward Nakota Isga	Reed Clarke
Councillor for Ward O-day'min	Anne Stevenson
Councillor for Ward papastew	Michael Janz
Councillor for Ward pihêsiwin	Mike Elliot
Councillor for Ward sipiwiyiniwak	Thu Parmar
Councillor for Ward Sspomitapi	Jo-Anne Wright
Councillor for Ward tastawiyiniwak	Karen Principe

Edmonton School Division

Position	Elected Candidate
Ward A Trustee	Sherri O'Keefe
Ward B Trustee	Linda Lindsay
Ward C Trustee	Holly Nichol
Ward D Trustee	Nickela Anderson
Ward E Trustee	Sarah Doll
Ward F Trustee	Julie Kusiek
Ward G Trustee	Saadiq Sumar
Ward H Trustee	Melanie Hoffman
Ward I Trustee	Jan Sawyer

Edmonton Catholic Separate School Division

Position	Elected Candidate
Ward 71 Trustee	Leah Fiorillo
Ward 72 Trustee	Sandra Palazzo
Ward 73 Trustee	Kara Pelech
Ward 74 Trustee	Debbie Engel
Ward 75 Trustee	Alene Mutala
Ward 76 Trustee	Lisa Castell Turchansky
Ward 77 Trustee	Laura Thibert

Detailed election results are included in [Appendix 1](#) and available online.



09

LOOKING FORWARD

LOOKING FORWARD

The 2025 Edmonton Election successfully navigated the biggest legislative and operational changes in decades, including a mandatory return to hand-counted ballots and a new permanent electors register. Out of nearly 680,000 eligible voters, 206,799 cast a ballot, resulting in a total voter turnout of 30.41 per cent. Key successes included:

- ✦ **Adaptation to Major Legislative Change:** Edmonton Elections delivered the election successfully despite legislative changes that affected almost every aspect of the election process.
- ✦ **Enhanced Logistics and Security:** The adoption of a new secure cart logistics model significantly improved the distribution, security and chain of custody for all election materials.
- ✦ **Increased Workforce:** The team successfully recruited a significantly larger workforce than in previous elections, driven by new recruitment initiatives like lowering the minimum age to 16 for some positions.
- ✦ **Voter Convenience and Accessibility:** Most in-person voters found their voting location convenient. Accessibility efforts included increasing the number of institutional voting locations, offering elector assistance terminals and providing translated voting instructions.
- ✦ **Effective Risk Management:** The team successfully managed the postal service disruption by offering extended office hours and courier services to ensure voters could still access and return special (mail-in) ballots.

While the 2025 election achieved major operational milestones, this review identifies critical areas for improving the elector experience and process efficiency. The focus now shifts to resolving challenges that directly impacted voters, such as long wait times on Election Day, delayed unofficial results and training deficiencies.

The success of the 2025 Edmonton Election was made possible by the collective effort of the entire community. Edmonton Elections extends a heartfelt thank you to the thousands of election workers whose professionalism and hard work ensured the integrity of the process, to the candidates for their dedication to local democracy, and to all Edmontonians who showed up to participate and make their voices heard.

The heart of democracy lies in maximizing participation and delivering results that build public confidence. Every single ballot is important, and the integrity of our process depends on ensuring universal accessibility and a seamless experience for every eligible Edmontonian. Driven by this commitment and the valuable lessons learned in 2025, Edmonton Elections is laying the groundwork now by focusing on six strategic priorities for the 2029 election cycle.

KEY PRIORITIES

Enhance Voting Experience

- ✖ Incorporate learnings from the 2025 election and electoral best practices to streamline voting models, processes and forms.
- ✖ Review the scheduling and locations for all voting opportunities.
- ✖ Increase accessibility, public awareness and knowledge of the electoral process using plain language informational materials and diverse communication methods.
- ✖ Improve the system for managing public inquiries and complaints during election events.

Enhance Election Worker Experience

- ✖ Continue expanding the strategy to recruit a diverse and capable workforce.
- ✖ Develop, test and implement an interactive election training program and robust training materials.
- ✖ Improve accessibility and streamline onboarding and payroll administration services for election workers.

Enhance Political Participant Services

- ✖ Enhance supports for political participants to navigate electoral legislation.
- ✖ Streamline registration, nomination and financial disclosure processes and forms.
- ✖ Develop scrutineer educational materials and improve processes for managing scrutineers at voting stations.

Streamline Count & Results Processes

- ✖ Review unofficial count and results entry processes, including forms and staffing models.
- ✖ Review staffing and processes to improve Count Centre operations.
- ✖ Enhance processes for ballot accounting and releasing official results.

Strengthen Voting Day Operations

- ✖ Enhance the role and staffing of ward offices to provide efficient field supports and management of materials on voting days.
- ✖ Review the central support model, staffing and processes to enhance supports for voting stations and improve issue management.

Strengthen Organizational Capacity & Event Readiness

- ✖ Develop an event management approach and detailed event plans to ensure ongoing readiness for by-elections and elections.
- ✖ Strengthen internal and external relationships to enhance the electoral management process and continue to reduce barriers to the electoral process.
- ✖ Review and develop communication strategies to provide Edmontonians with high-quality, relevant and reliable information during and between electoral events.
- ✖ Review and enhance election logistics management systems to support efficient election management processes.
- ✖ Review and strengthen supply chain management for the distribution and return of key election supplies and materials.
- ✖ Enhance testing of processes and systems to support preparedness.

ROAD TO 2029 EDMONTON ELECTION

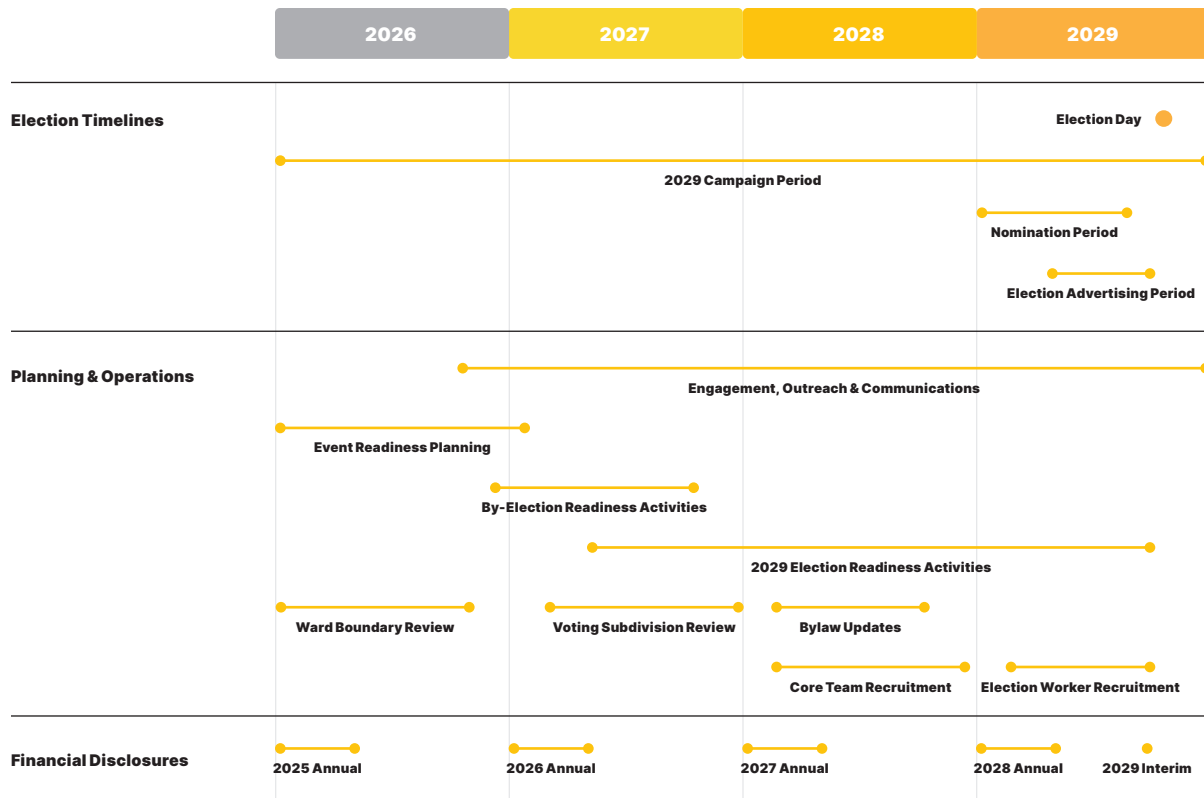
Edmonton Elections will undertake the following activities to prepare for the 2029 Edmonton Election over the next four years.

2026 (Year 1)

- ✖ Complete a comprehensive review and report on the 2025 Edmonton Election.
- ✖ Receive, review and post final financial disclosures for the 2025 Edmonton Election.
- ✖ Begin accepting candidate notices of intent to be nominated for the 2029 Edmonton Election.
- ✖ Begin accepting registrations for local political parties, slates of candidates and third-party advertisers.
- ✖ Review the core team organizational structure.
- ✖ Review the election logistics management system.
- ✖ Review population changes and ward boundaries.
- ✖ Develop election event readiness plans and information technology roadmap.
- ✖ Review joint election agreements with school boards.
- ✖ Implement an election engagement strategy.
- ✖ Review the website structure and content to improve accessibility.
- ✖ Attend and observe electoral events taking place in other jurisdictions to learn from other election management bodies.

2027 (Year 2)

- ✖ Continue accepting candidate notices of intent to be nominated for the 2029 Edmonton Election.
- ✖ Continue accepting registrations for local political parties, slates of candidates and third-party advertisers.
- ✖ Receive, review and post financial disclosures for the 2026 calendar year.
- ✖ Review election processes and materials for by-elections, petitions and the 2029 Edmonton Election.
- ✖ Develop by-election event readiness activities, including:
 - ✖ Training materials
 - ✖ Event communication plans
- ✖ Continue engagement and outreach.
- ✖ Review voting subdivisions for 2029 Edmonton Election.
- ✖ Begin core election team recruitment for 2029 Edmonton Election.



2028 (Year 3)

- ✖ Receive, review and post financial disclosures for the 2027 calendar year.
- ✖ Continue accepting candidate notices of intent to be nominated for the 2029 Edmonton Election.
- ✖ Continue accepting registrations for local political parties, slates of candidates and third-party advertisers.
- ✖ Review Elections Bylaw and present recommendations to Council.
- ✖ Continue engagement and outreach.
- ✖ Continue recruiting and begin onboarding core election team staff for 2029 Edmonton Election.
- ✖ General election event readiness:
 - ✖ Develop training materials for 2029 Edmonton Election
 - ✖ Test and simulate election processes for 2029 Edmonton Election
 - ✖ Select voting stations for 2029 Edmonton Election
 - ✖ Procure technology and supplies for 2029 Edmonton Election
- ✖ Begin implementation of pre-election communication plan for 2029 Edmonton Election.

2029 (Year 4)

- ✖ Receive, review and post financial disclosures for the 2028 calendar year.
- ✖ Receive, review and post interim financial disclosures to July 31, 2029.
- ✖ Continue accepting registrations for local political parties, slates of candidates and third-party advertisers.
- ✖ Accept candidate notices of intent to be nominated for the 2029 Edmonton Election.
- ✖ Accept candidate nominations for the 2029 Edmonton Election.
- ✖ Expand engagement and outreach for the 2029 Edmonton Election.
- ✖ Transition to event communication plan for the 2029 Edmonton Election.
- ✖ Recruit and train field leadership and support staff.
- ✖ Recruit and train election workers for voting stations.
- ✖ Print, pack and distribute election materials.
- ✖ Conduct the 2029 general elections.
- ✖ Evaluate and review 2029 Edmonton Election.

APPENDIX 01 OFFICIAL RESULTS

A1

Elected candidates
in **bold**.

CITY OF EDMONTON

MAYOR

Candidate	Party / Slate Name	Valid Votes Received	Valid Votes Received (%)
BAKHMUT, Paul		1,192	0.58%
BILLINGSLEY, JR., Ronald Stewart		1,066	0.52%
CARTMELL, Tim	Better Edmonton	61,668	29.83%
CATERINA, Tony		6,502	3.14%
CHUKWUDI, Abdul Malik		778	0.38%
DENMAN, Vanessa		1,719	0.83%
GUDANOWSKI, Andy, Andrzej		573	0.28%
JAFFER, Rahim		8,980	4.34%
KNACK, Andrew		78,519	37.98%
MOHAMMAD, Omar		20,505	9.92%
NADAUK, Utha		291	0.14%
TUGWELL, Olney		356	0.17%
WALTERS, Michael		24,596	11.90%

COUNCILLOR - WARD Anirniq

Candidate	Party / Slate Name	Valid Votes Received	Valid Votes Received (%)
AL KASSAB, Ali		699	4.42%
BRADY, Nurmaiya	Better Edmonton	1,014	6.41%
FEDIUK, Rob	PACE	2,002	12.66%
HAYMOUR, Ali		1,024	6.48%
RUTHERFORD, Erin		6,194	39.18%
WAJO, Aggripa		156	0.99%
WATSON, Jesse		4,722	29.87%

Elected candidates
in **bold**.

COUNCILLOR - WARD Dene

Candidate	Party / Slate Name	Valid Votes Received	Valid Votes Received (%)
BRAKE, Paul		599	4.01%
MAZZOCCA, Albert	PACE	2,328	15.57%
PALMER, Lana		2,500	16.72%
PAQUETTE, Aaron		6,453	43.15%
SANDHU, Banisha	Better Edmonton	2,733	18.27%
VALOIS, Jean Pierre		343	2.29%

COUNCILLOR - WARD Ipiihkoohkanipiahtsi

Candidate	Party / Slate Name	Valid Votes Received	Valid Votes Received (%)
DEMIAN, Ramey		447	2.57%
MATHISON, Beth		327	1.88%
MORGAN, Jon		6,406	36.81%
MUGHAL, Fahad		395	2.27%
OLOKUDE, Funke		2,895	16.64%
RHEUBOTTOM, Nicholas	Better Edmonton	1,162	6.68%
RICE, Jennifer		5,771	33.16%

Elected candidates
in **bold**.

COUNCILLOR - WARD Karhiio

Candidate	Party / Slate Name	Valid Votes Received	Valid Votes Received (%)
BALE, Jason		3,007	19.35%
BAUTISTA, Manny		1,003	6.45%
BUTTAR, Joti	Better Edmonton	2,900	18.66%
GARG, Yogesh		275	1.77%
KAUR, Hali	PACE	448	2.88%
MAH, Paul		197	1.27%
REHMAN, Atiq		642	4.13%
SOOCHIT, Avinash		97	0.62%
TANG, Keren		6,975	44.87%

COUNCILLOR - WARD Métis

Candidate	Party / Slate Name	Valid Votes Received	Valid Votes Received (%)
DALEL, Abdulhakim		271	1.25%
GOSSE, James		682	3.14%
MATTHEWS, Caroline	Better Edmonton	6,244	28.71%
PARADIS, Norm		433	1.99%
SALVADOR, Ashley		10,564	48.57%
THOMAS, Justin	PACE	3,555	16.35%

COUNCILLOR - WARD Nakota Isga

Candidate	Party / Slate Name	Valid Votes Received	Valid Votes Received (%)
CLARKE, Reed	Better Edmonton	6,177	35.78%
GOCUAN, Nicky		1,363	7.90%
MAGGAY, Rajah		5,714	33.10%
MUGODO, Joseph		770	4.46%
STEELE, Diana	PACE	2,044	11.84%
WOODRUFF, Jordon		1,194	6.92%

COUNCILLOR - WARD O-day'min

Candidate	Party / Slate Name	Valid Votes Received	Valid Votes Received (%)
AARON, David		519	4.17%
HAMMERSCHMIDT, Stephen	Better Edmonton	2,198	17.66%
MILLER, James		298	2.39%
PERMANN, Lee		86	0.69%
PIRBHAI, Adil		100	0.80%
PYE, Anand Benjamin		1,884	15.14%
STEVENSON, Anne		6,269	50.38%
STEWART, Patrick		923	7.42%
TESFAY, Mulugeta (Mully)		166	1.33%

Elected candidates
in **bold**.

COUNCILLOR - WARD Sspomitapi

Candidate	Party / Slate Name	Valid Votes Received	Valid Votes Received (%)
BASHIR, Imran		615	4.47%
CHUA - FRITH, Annie		857	6.22%
KANDOLA, Harman Singh	Better Edmonton	3,291	23.90%
RANDHAWA, Sukhi		517	3.75%
SINGH, Sandeep		1,029	7.47%
SUI, Ashok		378	2.74%
VAN DIEST, Steve	PACE	1,632	11.85%
WRIGHT, Jo-Anne		5,452	39.59%

COUNCILLOR - WARD papastew

Candidate	Party / Slate Name	Valid Votes Received	Valid Votes Received (%)
DOYLE, Joshua	Better Edmonton	3,533	18.92%
HILLMAN, Mark	PACE	3,177	17.01%
HOLGERSON, Terrie		799	4.28%
JANISZEWSKA, Rozalia		546	2.92%
JANZ, Michael		10,620	56.87%

Elected candidates
in **bold**.

COUNCILLOR - WARD pihêsiwin

Candidate	Party / Slate Name	Valid Votes Received	Valid Votes Received (%)
AWATTA, Sara		1,006	5.14%
ELLIOTT, Mike	Better Edmonton	8,054	41.17%
KAMAL, Mohammad Ali		917	4.69%
LANGLEY, Larry		2,346	11.99%
LIU, Jackie		6,068	31.02%
PATEL, Rupesh		1,171	5.99%

COUNCILLOR - WARD sipiwiniwak

Candidate	Party / Slate Name	Valid Votes Received	Valid Votes Received (%)
FARES, Bassam		676	3.08%
FRIESEN, Darrell	Better Edmonton	6,040	27.50%
GENERAL, Giselle Quezon		4,850	22.08%
HEIKKINEN, Danny		2,055	9.36%
KOTCH, Roger		1,055	4.80%
PARMAR, Thu		6,667	30.36%
ROPCEAN, Ken	PACE	619	2.82%

COUNCILLOR - WARD tastawiniwak

Candidate	Party / Slate Name	Valid Votes Received	Valid Votes Received (%)
AMMAR, Fidel	PACE	2,051	13.57%
CHAK, Farhan		1,969	13.03%
IDI, Jimmy Clement		736	4.87%
PORRITT, Jennifer		2,832	18.74%
PRINCIPE, Karen	Better Edmonton	7,526	49.79%

EDMONTON CATHOLIC SEPARATE SCHOOL DIVISION

TRUSTEE - WARD 71

Elected candidates
in **bold**.

Candidate	Valid Votes Received	Valid Votes Received (%)
FEEHAN, Mona-Lee	1,954	42.40%
FIORILLO, Leah	2,654	57.60%

TRUSTEE - WARD 72

Candidate	Valid Votes Received	Valid Votes Received (%)
PALAZZO, Sandra	4,772	75.85%
VALSTAR, Annette	1,519	24.15%

TRUSTEE - WARD 73

Candidate	Valid Votes Received	Valid Votes Received (%)
FERNANDES, Ron	1,432	33.40%
PELECH, Kara	2,170	50.62%
SWANSON, Mark	685	15.98%

TRUSTEE - WARD 74

Candidate	Valid Votes Received	Valid Votes Received (%)
ENGEL, Debbie	4,875	78.23%
PARCON, Berchman	1,357	21.77%

Elected candidates in **bold**.

TRUSTEE - WARD 75

Candidate	Valid Votes Received	Valid Votes Received (%)
MUTALA, Alene	(Acclaimed)	(Acclaimed)

TRUSTEE - WARD 76

Candidate	Valid Votes Received	Valid Votes Received (%)
CASTELL TURCHANSKY, Lisa	4,835	57.85%
JOHNSON, Susan	3,523	42.15%

TRUSTEE - WARD 77

Candidate	Valid Votes Received	Valid Votes Received (%)
CHINES, Santo	1,549	25.68%
THIBERT, Laura	4,483	74.32

EDMONTON SCHOOL DIVISION

TRUSTEE - WARD A

Elected candidates
in **bold**.

Candidate	Valid Votes Received	Valid Votes Received (%)
KOSMAN, Marcelle	2,644	23.92%
MOHAMED, Hassan Tukade	2,069	18.72%
O'KEEFE, Sherri	3,946	35.70%
RENAUD, Nicole	2,394	21.66%

TRUSTEE - WARD B

Candidate	Valid Votes Received	Valid Votes Received (%)
ALI, Ahmed (Muruh)	1,869	15.87%
LINDSAY, Linda	8,204	69.66%
OLESEN, Erik Scott	1,705	14.48%

TRUSTEE - WARD C

Candidate	Valid Votes Received	Valid Votes Received (%)
CLOW, Amyjoy	2,440	16.01%
NICHOL, Holly	12,800	83.99%

Elected candidates in **bold**.

TRUSTEE - WARD D

Candidate	Valid Votes Received	Valid Votes Received (%)
ANDERSON, Nickela	9,039	47.21%
BACHAND, Colette	3,825	19.98%
HUNT, Nancy	5,545	28.96%
RANON, Rufino Comia	738	3.85%

TRUSTEE - WARDE

Candidate	Valid Votes Received	Valid Votes Received (%)
DOLL, Sarah	8,741	59.45%
HOWARD, Jodi	2,447	16.64%
SMIT, Chuck	2,981	20.27%
TURNER, Raine	535	3.64%

TRUSTEE - WARD F

Candidate	Valid Votes Received	Valid Votes Received (%)
KUSIEK, Julie	13,364	64.96%
MARSHALL, Alex	7,209	35.04%

Elected candidates
in **bold**.

TRUSTEE - WARD G

Candidate	Valid Votes Received	Valid Votes Received (%)
LENANA, Aleen	3,073	17.78%
PATEL, Pranshu	1,901	11.00%
RONDEAU, Corrine	4,785	27.69%
SUMAR, Saadiq	7,522	43.53%

TRUSTEE - WARD H

Candidate	Valid Votes Received	Valid Votes Received (%)
AKOM, Joshua Boateng	492	3.85%
HOFFMAN, Melanie	7,849	61.45%
KUMAR, Rajesh	995	7.79%
LI, Edison	2,397	18.77%
PATEL, Dhaval	1,040	8.14%

TRUSTEE - WARD I

Candidate	Valid Votes Received	Valid Votes Received (%)
CHOHAN, Gursharan Singh	1,764	9.08%
MANI, Tamilvanan	348	3.76%
PATEL, Sanjay	1,041	11.26%
SAWYER, Jan	6,091	65.89%

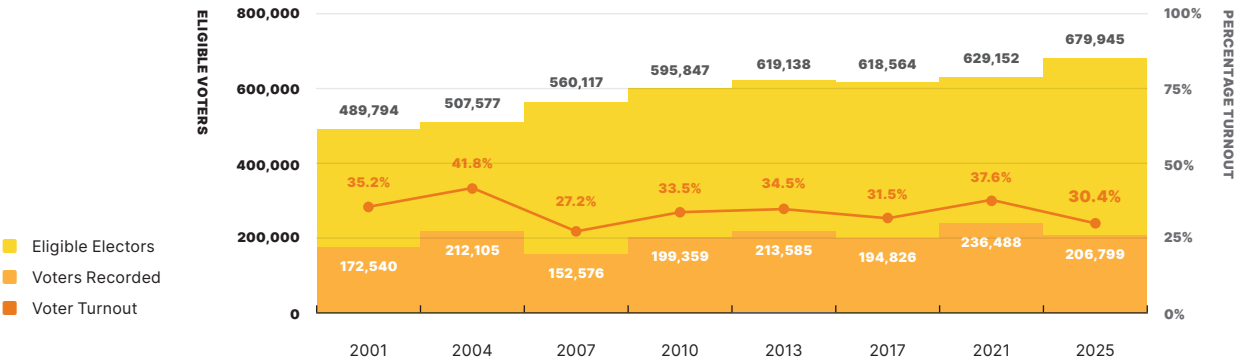


A2

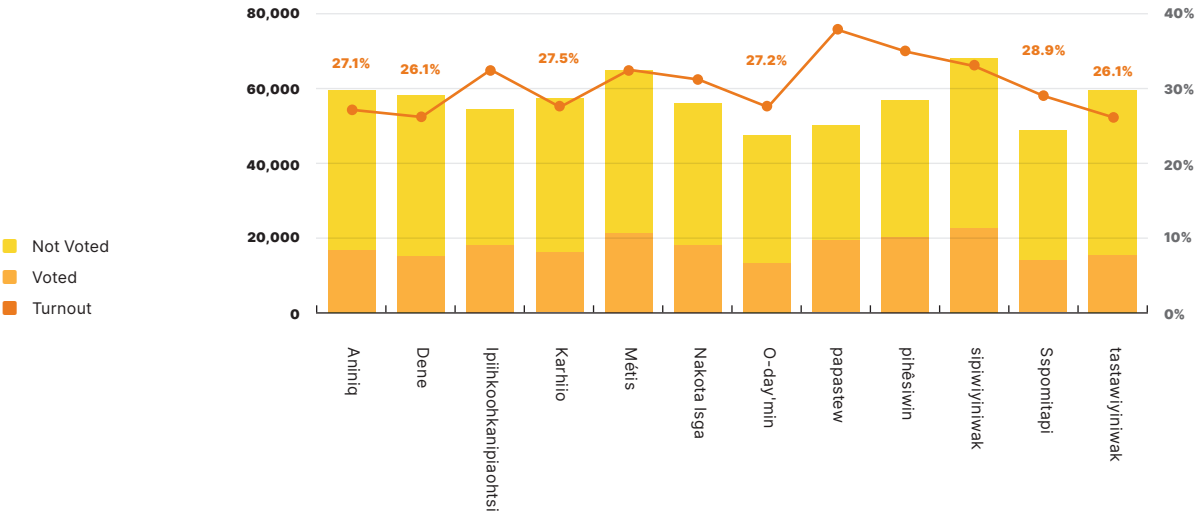
APPENDIX 02 ELECTION STATISTICS

ELECTION STATISTICS

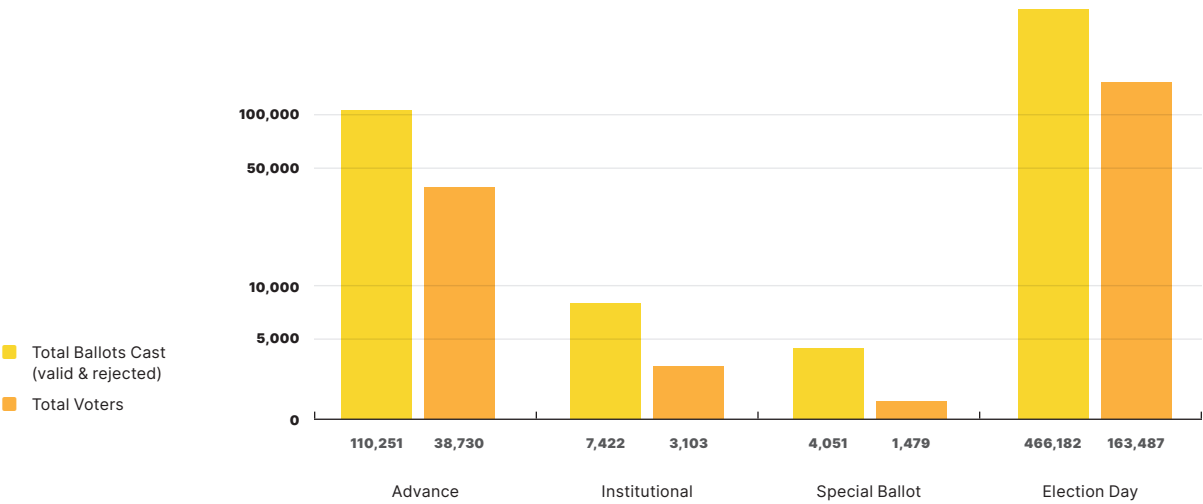
VOTER TURNOUT, 2021-2025



VOTER TURNOUT BY WARD



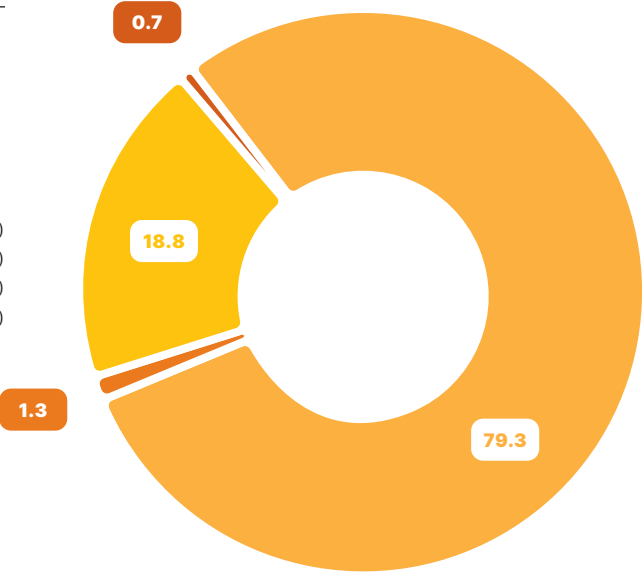
BALLOTS CAST AND
VOTERS BY VOTING
OPPORTUNITY



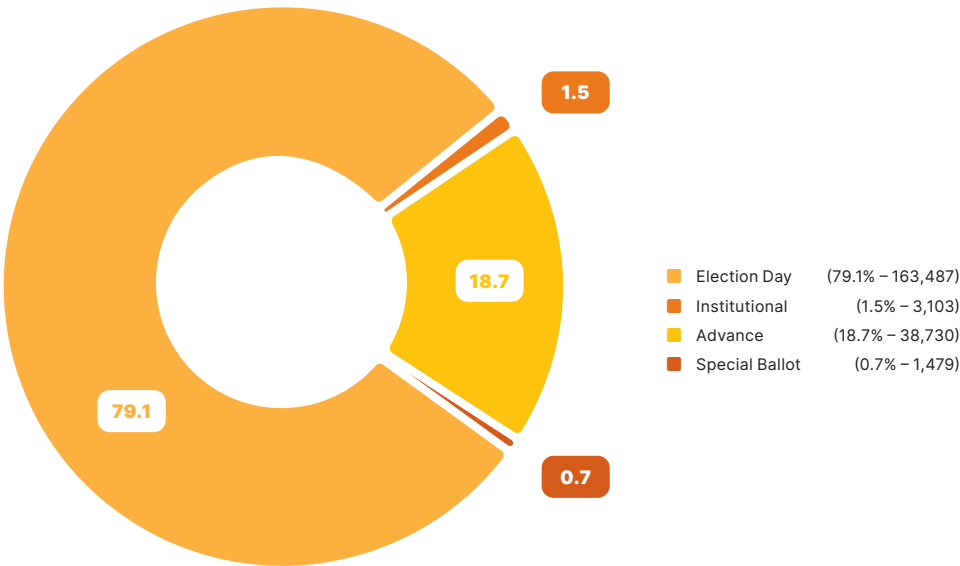
BALLOTS CAST BY
VOTING OPPORTUNITY

Includes valid and
rejected ballots

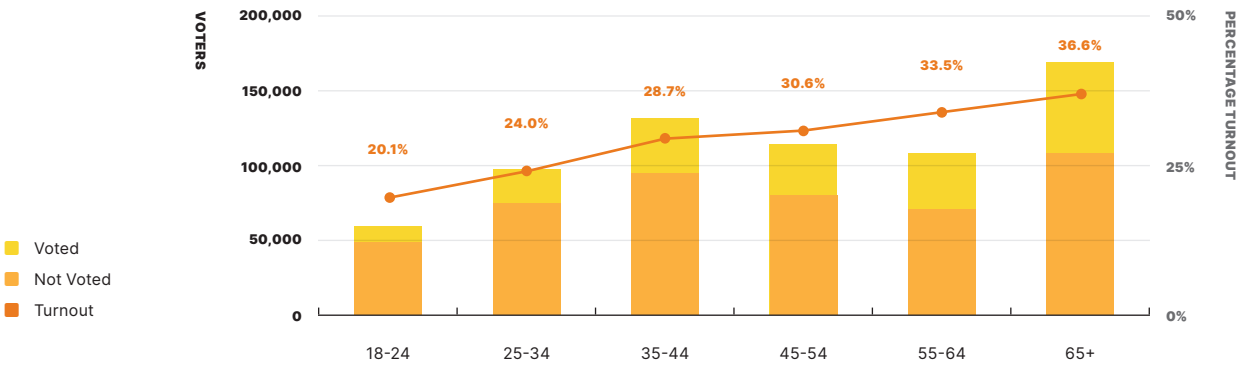
- Election Day (79.3% – 466,182)
- Institutional (1.3%)
- Advance (18.8% – 110,251)
- Special Ballot (0.7%)



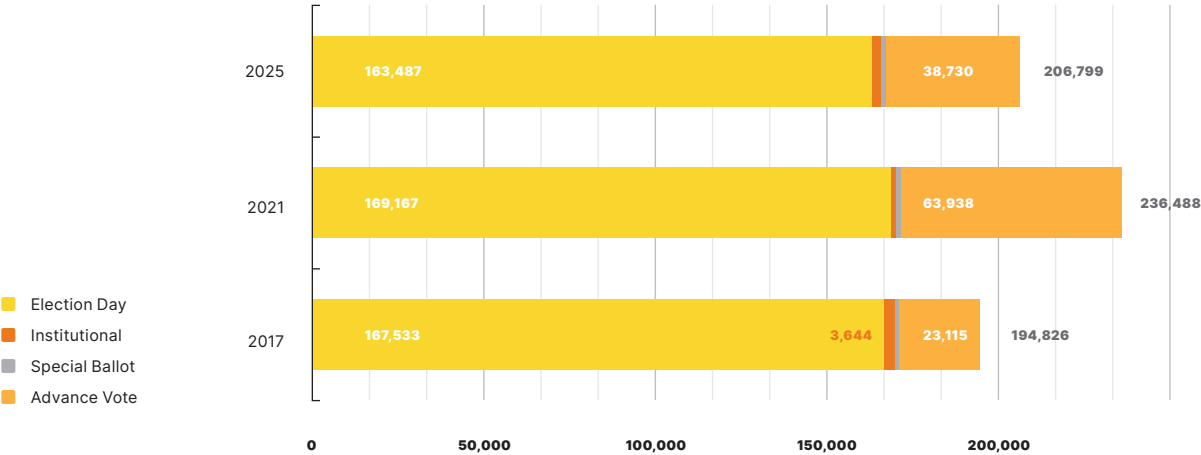
TOTAL VOTERS BY VOTING OPPORTUNITY



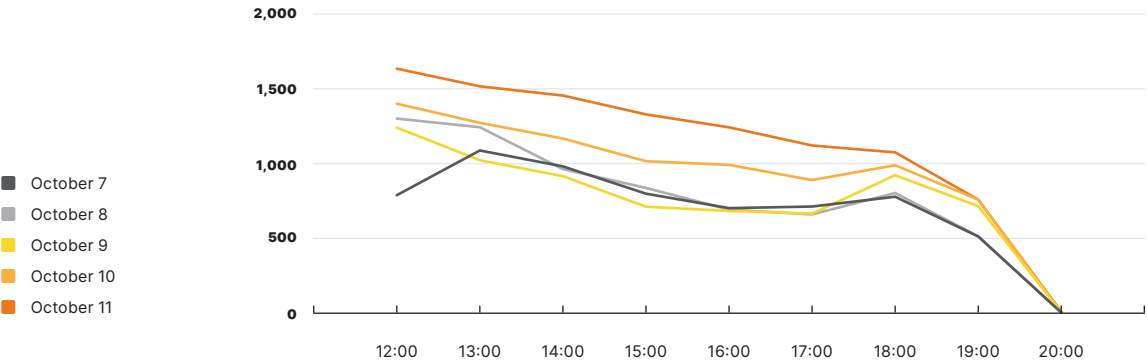
REGISTERED ELECTORS BY AGE AND PARTICIPATION, 2025



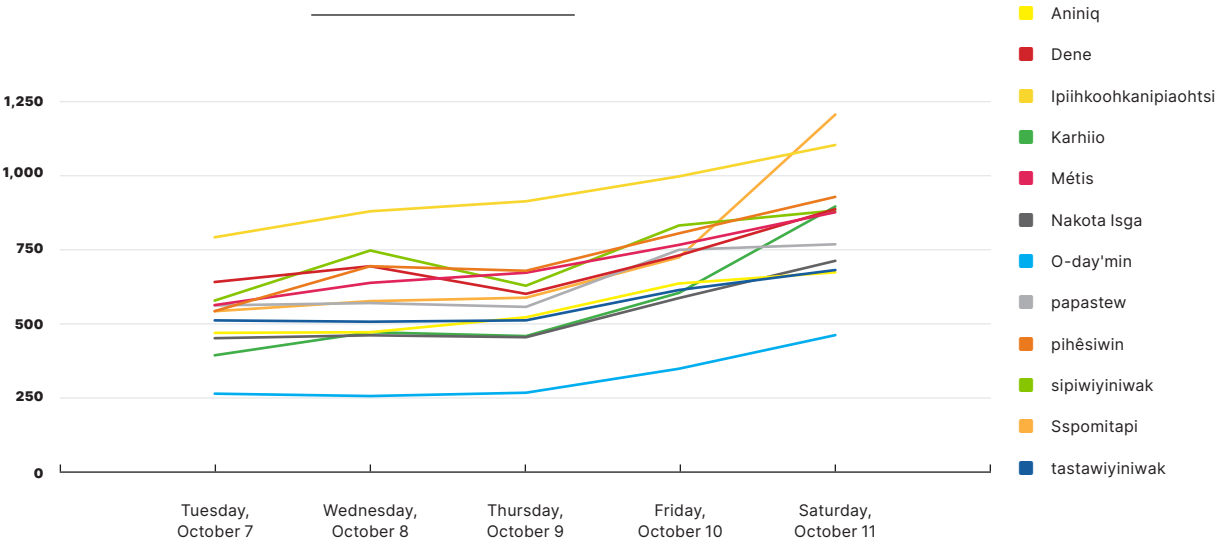
VOTERS BY VOTING OPPORTUNITY, 2017 – 2025



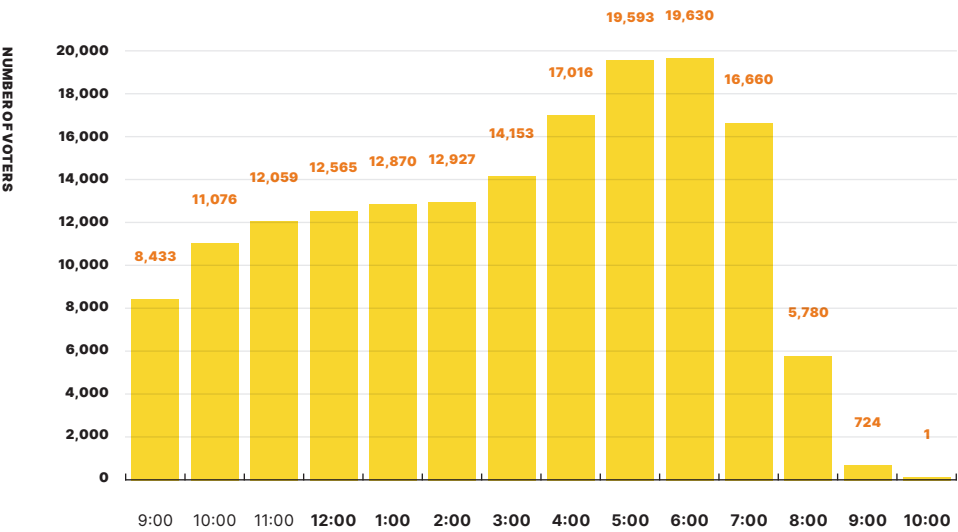
ADVANCE VOTING VOLUMES BY DAY AND HOUR



ADVANCE VOTING
VOLUME BY DAY BY WARD



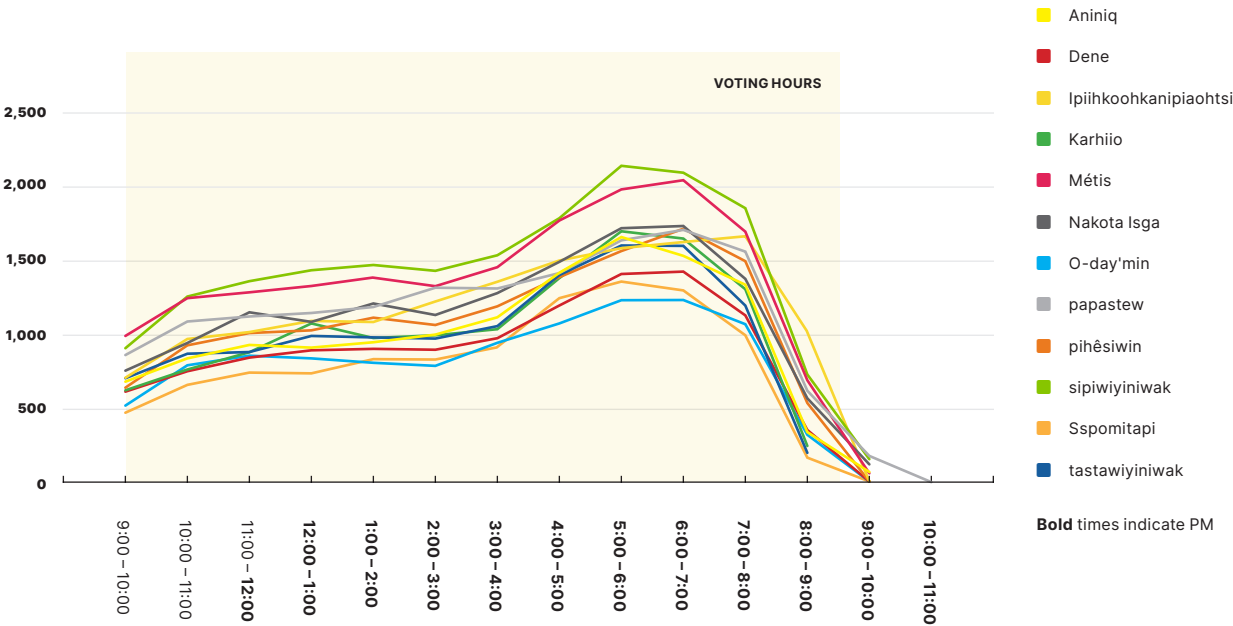
NUMBER OF VOTERS PER
HOUR ON ELECTION DAY



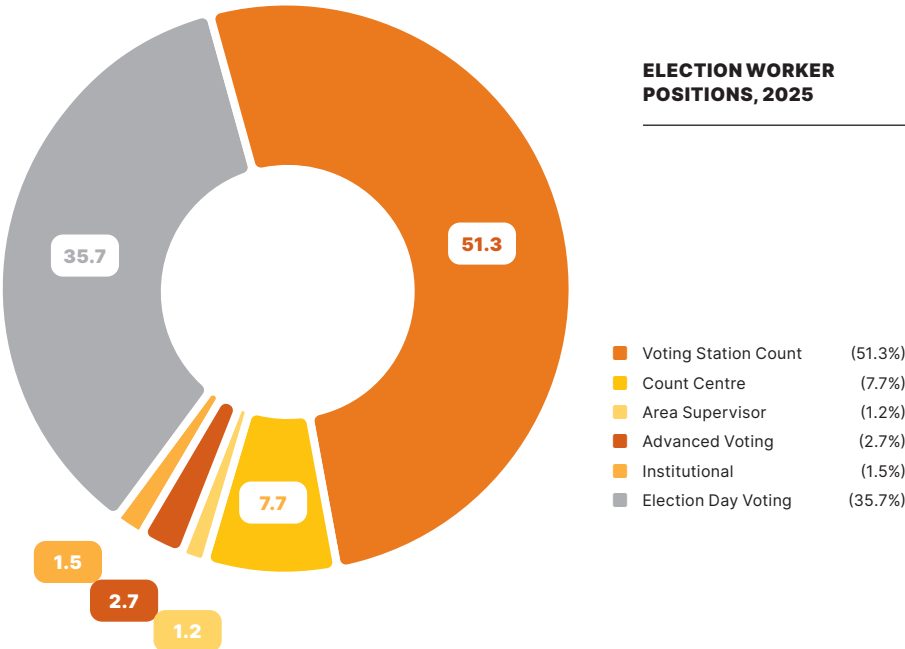
Bold times indicate PM

HOURLY VOTERS BY WARD

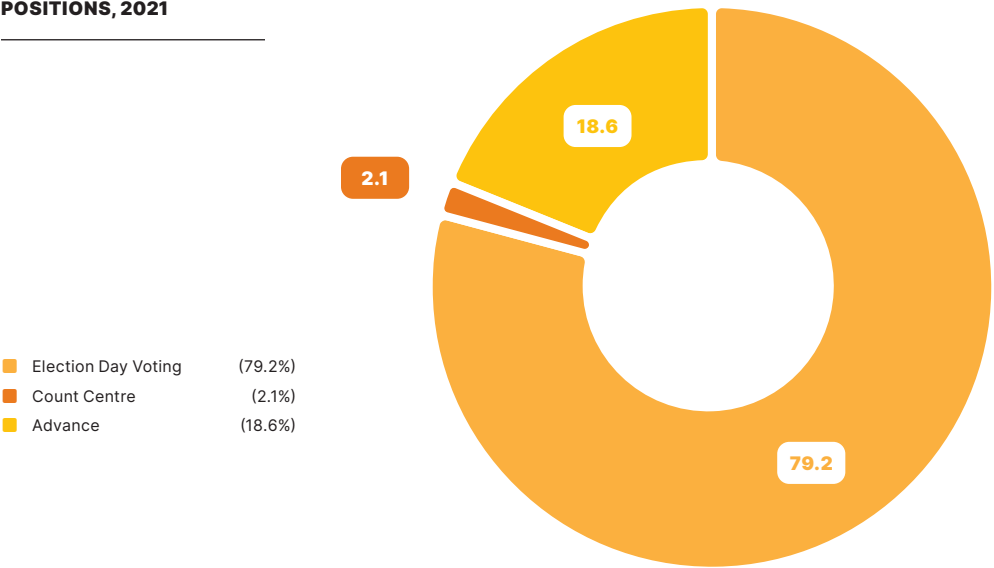
Election Day Voting Stations



ELECTION WORKERS

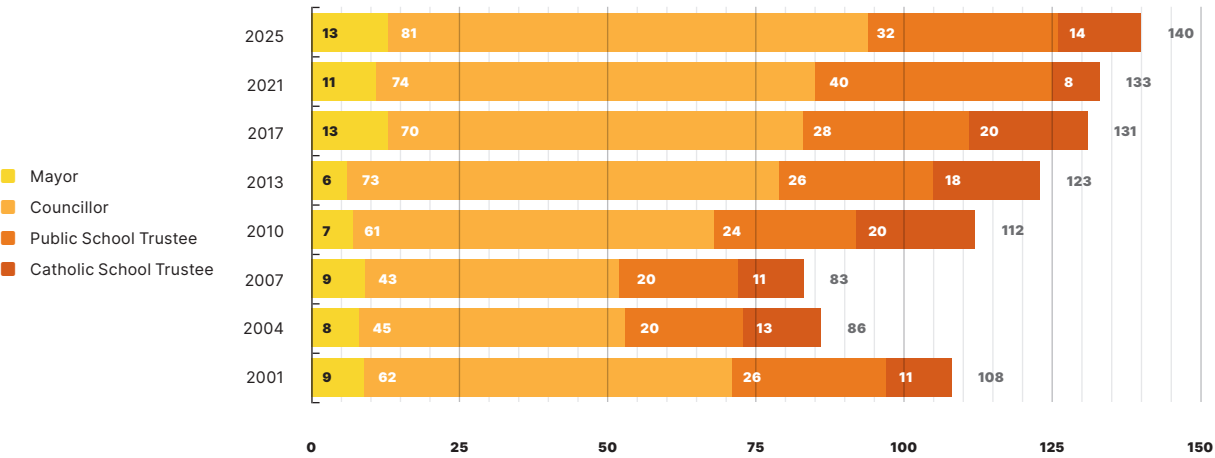


ELECTION WORKER POSITIONS, 2021

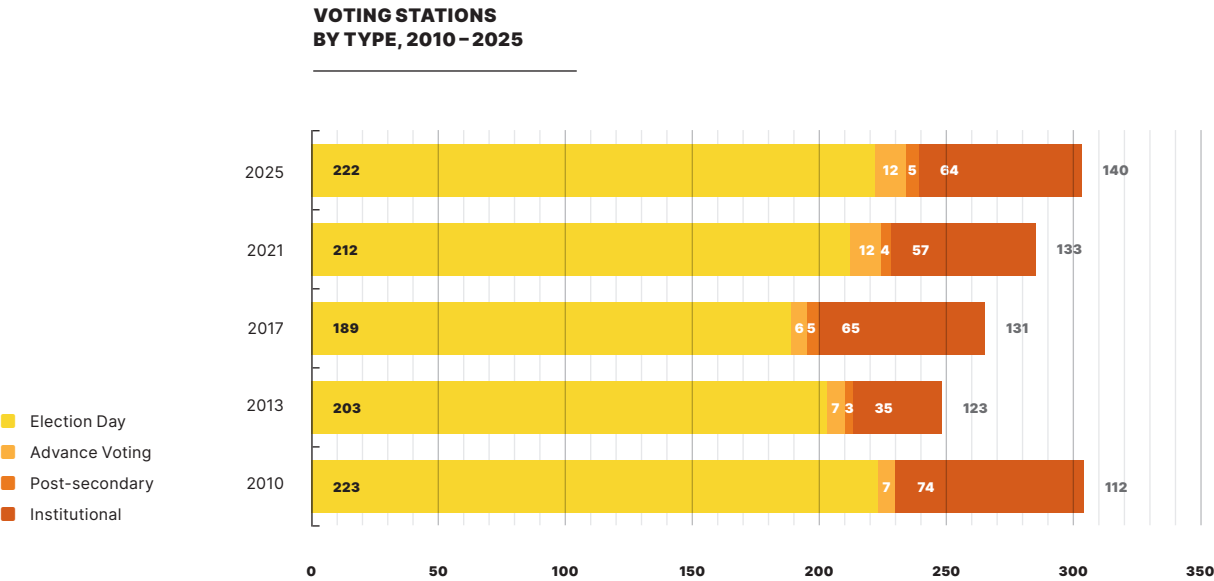


POLITICAL PARTICIPANTS

NOMINATED CANDIDATES, 2001-2025



VOTING STATIONS

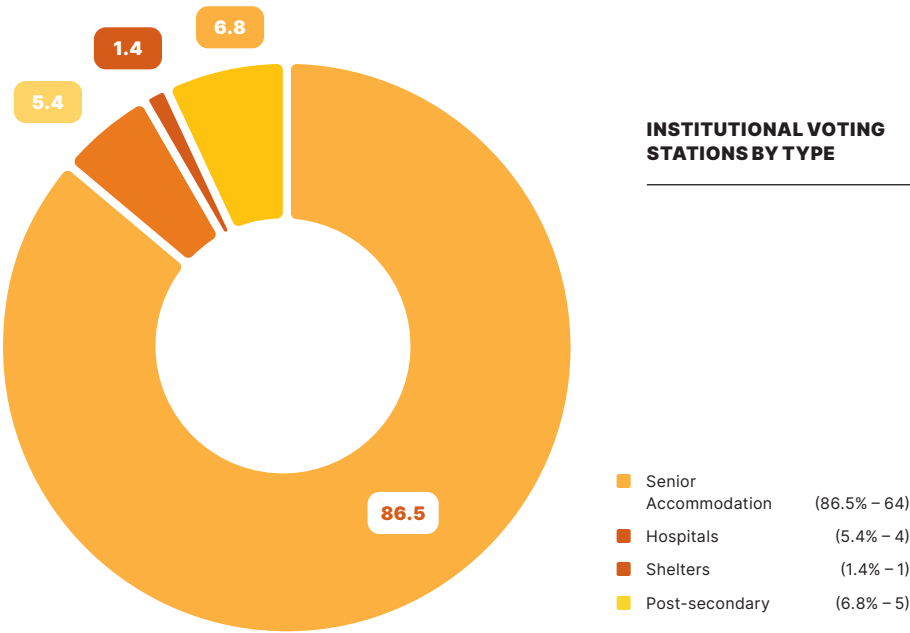


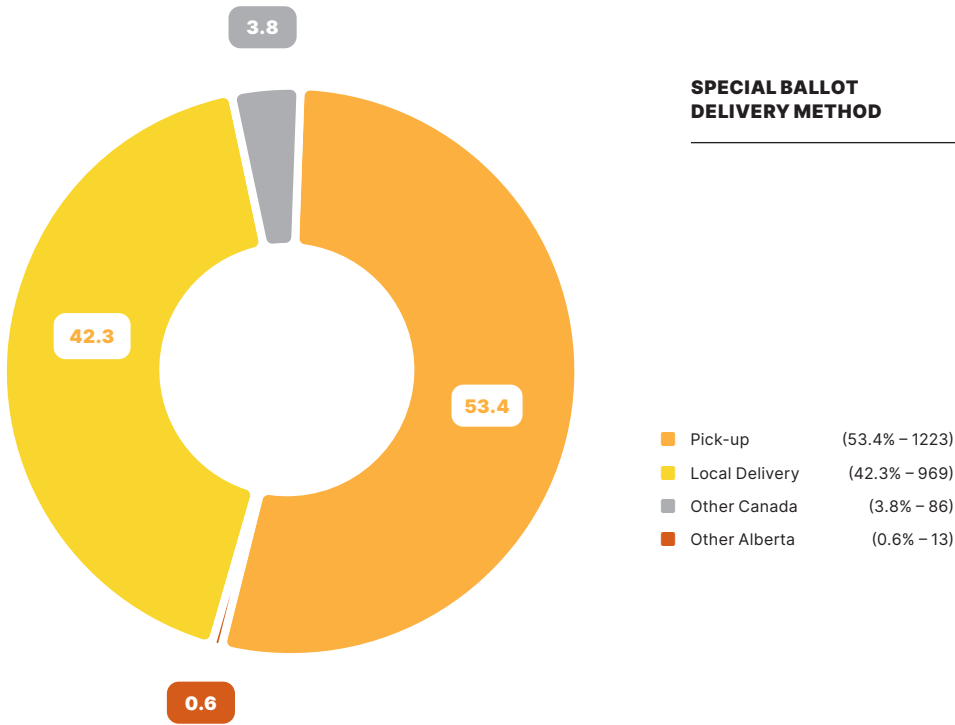
**BUSIEST ELECTION DAY
VOTING STATIONS
(TOTAL VOTERS)**

Ward and Location Name	Total Voters
sipiwiyiniwak - 13 Westridge Wolf Willow Community League	1,472
sipiwiyiniwak - 19 Parkland Immanuel Christian School	1,366
papastew - 17 D.S. MacKenzie School	1,313
papastew - 16 St. Stanislaus Catholic School	1,261
Nakota Isga - 09 David Thomas King School	1,256

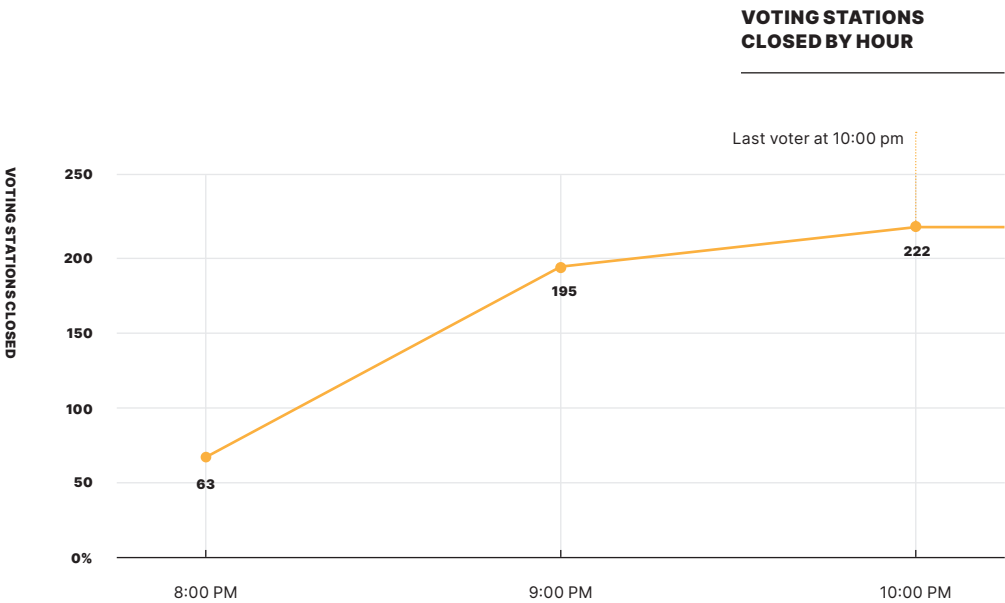
**BUSIEST ELECTION
DAY VOTING STATIONS
(VOTERS PER HOUR)**

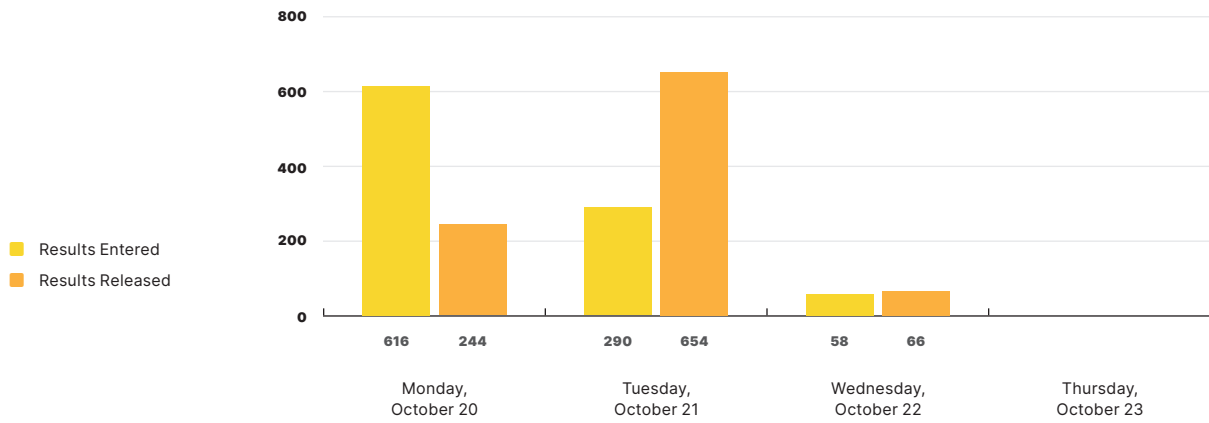
Ward and Location Name	Number of Voters (Busiest Hour)
papastew - 16 St. Stanislaus Catholic School	201
sipiwiyiniwak - 13 Westridge Wolf Willow Community League	177
papastew - 17 D.S. MacKenzie School	168
pihêsiwin - 01 Riverbend School	167
sipiwiyiniwak - 13 Westridge Wolf Willow Community League	166





COUNT AND RESULTS ENTRY



**RESULTS ENTERED /
RELEASED BY DATE****RESULTS ENTERED /
RELEASED BY DATE**