

COUNCIL REPORT – OFFICE OF THE CITY AUDITOR

Edmonton

2021 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

RECOMMENDATION

That the March 18, 2022, Office of the City Auditor report OCA01120, be received for information.

Report Purpose

Information only

Executive Summary

This report presents the results of the 2021 Municipal Election.

REPORT

The municipal election was held on October 18, 2021 and determined the mayor and city councillors for the next four-year period. The election also determined school board trustees for the Edmonton Catholic Separate School Board and Edmonton Public School Board. Our objective was to assess whether the 2021 Municipal Election planning and voting were conducted in accordance with provincial legislation and Edmonton Elections procedures.

We found that the 2021 Municipal Election planning and voting were conducted in accordance with provincial legislation, City of Edmonton Bylaw 19457 *Elections Bylaw*. We observed a couple of deviations from Edmonton Elections procedures, but none that would have impacted the municipal election results.

We validated testing that Edmonton Elections performed on vote tabulating machines, both before and after the election, and did not find any issues. During advance voting opportunities and on election day, OCA staff visited 151 of the 240 voting stations. Two observations were made relating to the wrong ballot styles being offered to voters, each of which was caused by human error. Edmonton Elections responded once they were notified of the issues, and have since put plans in place to mitigate the risk in future elections. We have reviewed those plans and confirmed that they will reduce the risk of similar occurrences happening in the future.

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POLICY

Bylaw 16097, Audit Committee Bylaw, Section 14(d) states that, "Committee will review all reports from the City Auditor dealing with completed audit projects."

ATTACHMENT

1. 2021 Municipal Election Report