

Additional Options for Advance Vote

Costs Associated with Advance Voting

Recommendation:

That the February 6, 2013, Corporate Services report 2013COC032, be received for information.

Report Summary

This report provides a response to the motion regarding the addition of another day of advance voting and associated costs.

Previous Council/Committee Action

At the January 28, 2013, Executive Committee meeting, the following motion was passed:

That Administration provide further information for the February 6, 2013, City Council meeting on additional advance voting options, including an additional day of advance voting, and potential costs of these options.

Report

For the 2013 General Election, advance voting is scheduled to occur from October 8, 2013, to October 19, 2013, excluding Sunday and holiday Monday. In 2010, approximately 15,000 electors voted in the advance vote.

Advance voting includes:

1. City-wide voting which occurs Tuesday to Saturday both weeks from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
2. All Wards on the two Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

3. Within Senior Accommodation facilities on the two Saturdays.

The timing of the advance vote allows for ballot production and delivery from Ontario to Edmonton and the completion of logic and accuracy testing for the tabulators.

As the City wide voting occurs in Ward 6, no additional voting would be provided for in this ward. To add another day of advance voting for the remaining 11 wards, the estimated costs would be as follows:

1. Staffing: \$20,000
2. Supplies, ballots: \$3,300
3. Voting Stations: \$6,000
4. Tabulators and support: \$7,700
5. Additional support teams: \$300 for one day
6. Advance Vote coordinator (2 months): \$5,000

The total costs for one day would be approximately \$42,300. For consistency in the message to voters, if another day was added to advance voting, we would ensure it occurred in both weeks of advance voting, thereby doubling the costs to approximately \$85,000.

This expenditure could be funded through the approved 2013 Election budget.

Corporate Outcomes

Providing voters with voting options enhances the democratic process and our citizens' connection to their community, and supports the goals of *The Way We Live*.