

**Subject: Bylaw No. 21/002 - Election Bylaw No. 20/021 Amendment****APPROVALS:****Jamie Doyle**\_\_\_\_\_  
Director\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer**Recommended Motion:**

1. THAT Bylaw No. 21/002, being an amendment to the Election Bylaw No. 20/021, be read a first time.
2. THAT Bylaw No. 21/002 be read a second time.
3. THAT Bylaw No. 21/002 be considered for third reading.
4. THAT Bylaw No. 21/002 be read a third and final time.

**Summary and Background:**

All local municipal elections must be conducted in accordance with the *Local Authorities Election Act* ("Act"), which includes giving Council the authority to establish provisions relating to nominations, including nomination deposits. The Election Bylaw, Bylaw No. 20/021, currently requires nomination deposits to be paid by candidates in the form of cash, certified cheque or money order as outlined in the Act.

On December 14, 2020, the Minister of Municipal Affairs issued Ministerial Order No MSD:103/20, which modifies the Act to allow the nomination deposit to be provided by in-person payments using a debit card or credit card in addition to cash, certified cheque or money order. This modification is only in effect for the 2021 general election year given the widespread community transmission of the COVID-19 virus, which impedes the ability of people to gather safely in groups and has created an unforeseen situation that will impact the municipal general election, for which the provisions of the Act are insufficient.

The proposed amendment to the Election Bylaw No. 20/021 would enable candidates to provide their nomination deposits by cash, certified cheque, money order or by in-person payments using a debit card or credit card for the 2021 Municipal General Election only. As we navigate the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, candidates who are wishing to file their nominations, including nomination deposit, are required to contact the Elections Office to make an appointment.

This Bylaw is being recommended for all three readings in order to facilitate the acceptance of alternate payments methods by candidates for the nomination deposits.

**Rationale for Recommendation:**

Candidates may file their nominations during regular business hours in the Nomination Period, which runs from January 1, 2021 to 12 noon on September 20, 2021; therefore, enabling the payment of nomination deposits by multiple payment methods will limit the impact that the widespread community transmission of the COVID-19 virus may have on candidates.

**Strategic Priorities:**

Responsible Government

**Attachments:**

**Bylaw No. 21/002 - Election Bylaw No. 20/021 Amendment**