

TOWN OF SMITHERS 2026 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Council Meetings are scheduled for 6:30 p.m.
in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Hall, 1027 Aldous Street, Smithers
or via ZOOM through the Town's website: www.smithers.ca

JANUARY 2026						
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LEGEND	
	Regular Council Meeting
	Committee of the Whole Meeting
	Standing Committee on Strategic Priorities
	2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION
	Inaugural Council Meeting
	Statutory Holiday
	BC Natural Resources Forum @ Prince George January 20-22
	Mineral Exploration Roundup @ Vancouver January 26-29
	Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference @ Edmonton June 4-7
	Union of British Columbia Municipalities Convention @ Vancouver September 14-18
	North Central Local Government Assoc. Convention @ Prince George - May 20-22, 2026
	Minerals North Conference @ Smithers May 6-8

Note: Although the Town of Smithers tries to assure the accuracy of all information presented, you should confirm all information before making any decisions based on it. Information can be confirmed through the Town of Smithers at phone: (250) 847-1600 or email: general@smithers.ca

The Town of Smithers reserves all rights and judgements to amend, postpone, or cancel Council meeting(s) due to unforeseen circumstances or events that may occur.

TOWN OF SMITHERS 2027 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

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in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Hall, 1027 Aldous Street, Smithers
or via ZOOM through the Town's website: www.smithers.ca

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LEGEND	
	Regular Council Meeting
	Committee of the Whole Meeting
	Statutory Holiday
	BC Natural Resources Forum @ Prince George January 19-21
	Mineral Exploration Roundup @ Vancouver January 25-28
	Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference @ Halifax June 10-13
	Union of British Columbia Municipalities Convention @ Whistler September 20-24
	North Central Local Government Assoc. Convention @ TBA
	Minerals North Conference @ Terrace TBA

Note: Although the Town of Smithers tries to assure the accuracy of all information presented, you should confirm all information before making any decisions based on it. Information can be confirmed through the Town of Smithers at phone: (250) 847-1600 or email: general@smithers.ca

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BYLAW NO.1883 -

AUTOMATED VOTE COUNTING SYSTEM AUTHORIZATION AND PROCEDURE

A bylaw to authorize an automated vote counting system and procedure.

WHEREAS pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, the Council of the Town of Smithers may, by bylaw, provide for the use of automated voting machines, voting recorders or other devices for voting in an election and assent voting;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Town of Smithers wishes to establish various procedures and requirements under that authority;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Town of Smithers, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. **CITATION:**

This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as "Bylaw No.1883 – Automated Vote Counting System Authorization and Procedure", and comes into effect on the date of adoption.

2. **ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION:**

This Bylaw repeals "Bylaw No. 1828 - Automated Vote Counting System and Authorization Procedure" and any amendments thereto.

3. **DEFINITIONS**

In this Bylaw all definitions shall be in accordance with the *Local Government Act*, except for the following:

"Acceptable mark" means a completed oval that the **vote counting unit** is able to identify, which has been made by an elector in the space provided on the **ballot** opposite the name of any candidate or opposite either 'yes' or 'no' on any other voting question.

"Automated vote counting system" means a system that counts and records votes and processes and stores election results which comprises:

- (a) a number of **ballot scan vote counting units**, each of which rests on a **ballot** box for collecting voted ballots;
- (b) a number of **storage ballot compartments** into which voted **ballots** are deposited where a **vote counting unit** is not functioning or when a **vote counting unit** is not being used which will therefore be counted after the close of voting on **general voting day**.

"Ballot" means a single automated **ballot** card designed for use in an **automated vote counting system**, which shows:

- (a) the names of all of the candidates for each of the offices to be elected;
and
- (b) all of the choices on all of the bylaws or other matters on which the opinion or assent of the electors is sought.

"Ballot return override procedure" means the use, by an election official, of a device on a **vote counting unit**, which causes the unit to accept a **returned ballot**.

"Election headquarters" means the Town of Smithers Municipal Hall at 1027 Aldous Street, Box 879, Smithers, B.C., V0J 2N0.

"General Local Election" means the elections held for Mayor and all Councillors of the municipality and School Trustees, which must be held every four years according to section 52 of the *Local Government Act*.

"General Voting Day" means:

- (a) for a **general local election**, the third Saturday in October in the year of the election;
- (b) for other elections, the date set under Section 54 of the *Local Government Act*;
- (c) for other voting, the date set under Section 174 of the *Local Government Act*.

"Memory pack" means the storage device which stores all the permanent results for the **vote counting unit**.

"Portable ballot box" means a **ballot** box that is used at a voting place where a **vote counting unit** is not being used.

"Results tape" means the printed record generated from a **vote counting unit** at the close of voting on **general voting day** which shows the number of votes for each candidate for each of the offices to be elected, including but not limited to Mayor, Councillors, and School Trustees and the number of votes for and against each bylaw or other matter on which the opinion or assent of the electors is sought.

"Returned ballot" means a voted **ballot** that was inserted into the **vote counting unit** by the elector or election official but was not accepted and was returned to the election official with an explanation of the **ballot** marking error which caused the **ballot** not to be accepted.

"Storage ballot compartment" means a **ballot** box into which voted **ballots** are temporarily deposited in the event that the unit ceases to function.

"Secrecy sleeve" means an open-ended folder or envelope used to cover **ballots** to conceal the choices made by each elector.

"Vote counting unit" means the device into which voted **ballots** are inserted and which scans each **ballot** and records the number of votes for each candidate and for and against each bylaw, or other matter on which the opinion or assent of the electors is sought.

4. USE OF VOTING MACHINES

- 4.1 Council of the Town of Smithers hereby provides for the use of an **automated vote counting system** for the conduct of elections and voting on bylaws or other matters on which the opinion or assent of electors is sought.

5. AUTOMATED VOTING PROCEDURES

- 5.1 The presiding election official for each voting place shall be available to demonstrate how to vote.
- 5.2 Upon entering the voting place, the elector shall proceed as instructed to the election official responsible for issuing **ballots**, who, upon fulfillment of the requirements of the *Local Government Act*, shall then provide a **ballot** to the elector, a **secrecy sleeve** and any further instructions the elector requests.
- 5.3 Upon receiving a **ballot** the elector shall immediately proceed to a voting booth to vote.
- 5.4 The elector may vote only by making an **acceptable mark** on the **ballot**:
- (a) Beside the name of each candidate of choice up to the maximum number of candidates to be elected for each of the offices to be filled, and
 - (b) Beside either 'yes' or 'no' in the case of each bylaw or other matters on which the opinion or assent of the electors is sought.
- 5.5 Once the elector has finished marking the **ballot**, the elector must place the **ballot** into the **secrecy sleeve**, proceed to the **vote counting unit** and under the supervision of the election official in attendance, insert the **ballot** directly from the **secrecy sleeve**, into the **vote counting unit** without the **acceptable marks** on the **ballot** being exposed.
- 5.6 If, before inserting the **ballot** into the **vote counting unit**, an elector determines that a mistake has been made when marking a **ballot** the elector may return to the voting booth to correct the ballot or request a replacement **ballot** by advising the election official in attendance.
- 5.7 Upon being advised of the replacement **ballot** request, the presiding election official shall re-direct the elector to the election official that issued their ballot. The election official will issue a replacement **ballot** to the elector and mark the **returned ballot** "spoiled" and shall retain all such spoiled **ballots** separately from all other **ballots** and they shall not be counted.

- 5.8 If the elector declines the opportunity to obtain a replacement **ballot** and has not damaged the **ballot** to the extent that it cannot be reinserted into the **vote counting unit**, the election official shall insert the **returned ballot** into the **vote counting unit** to count any **acceptable marks** which have been made correctly.
- 5.9 Any **ballot** counted by the **vote counting unit** is valid and any **acceptable marks** contained on such **ballots** will be counted in the election subject to any determination made under a judicial recount.
- 5.10 Once the **ballot** has been inserted into the **vote counting unit** and the unit indicates that the **ballot** has been accepted, the elector must immediately leave the voting place.
- 5.11 During any period that a **vote counting unit** is not functioning, the election official supervising the unit shall insert all **ballots** delivered by the electors during this time into a **storage ballot compartment**, provided that if the **vote counting unit** becomes operational or is replaced with another **vote counting unit**, the **ballots** in the **storage ballot compartment** shall, as soon as reasonably possible, under the supervision of the presiding election official, shall be inserted into the **vote counting unit** to be counted.
- 5.12 Any **ballots** that were temporarily stored in the **storage ballot compartment** during a period when the **vote counting machine** was not functioning, which are returned by the **vote counting unit** when being counted shall, through the use of the **ballot return override procedure** and under the supervision of the presiding election official, be reinserted into the **vote counting unit** to ensure that any **acceptable marks** are counted.
- 5.13 At voting places which are not equipped with a **vote counting unit**, electors shall, to the extent possible, vote in accordance with this section except that voted **ballots** shall be deposited into a **portable ballot box** as directed by the presiding election official.
- 5.14 A sample **ballot** similar to one that may be used in an **automated vote counting system** is attached as Schedule A to this bylaw.

6. ADVANCE VOTING OPPORTUNITY PROCEDURES

- 6.1 Unless the Chief Election Officer determines it is practical to use a **vote counting unit**, a **portable ballot box** as defined herein shall be used to conduct the vote at all advance voting opportunities. The presiding election official shall ensure that voting procedures at the advance voting opportunities shall follow as closely as possible those described in Automated Voting Procedures Section of this bylaw, except that the voted **ballots** shall be deposited into the **portable ballot box** supplied by the presiding election official.

- 6.2 At the close of voting at each advance voting opportunity where **portable ballot boxes** are used, the presiding election official shall ensure that:
- (a) No additional **ballots** are or can be inserted into the **portable ballot box** by securing and sealing the **ballot** deposit slot;
 - (b) the **portable ballot box** together with the other materials used in the advance voting opportunity is delivered to the Chief Election Officer at **election headquarters**.
- 6.3 At the close of voting at each advance voting opportunity where the Chief Election Officer has determined it practical to use an **automated vote counting unit**, the presiding election official shall ensure that:
- (a) the **results tape** in the **vote counting unit** are not generated; and
 - (b) the **memory pack** of the **vote counting unit** is secured.
- 6.4 At the close of voting at the final advance voting opportunity where the Chief Election Officer has determined it practical to use an **automated vote counting unit**, the presiding election official shall:
- (a) ensure that any remaining **ballots** in the **storage ballot compartment** are inserted into the **vote counting unit**;
 - (b) secure the **vote counting unit** so that no more **ballots** can be inserted; and
 - (c) deliver the **vote counting unit** together with the **memory pack** and all other materials used in the election to the Chief Election Officer at **election headquarters**.

7. SPECIAL VOTING OPPORTUNITY PROCEDURES

- 7.1 Unless the Chief Election Officer determines it is practical to use a **vote counting unit**, a **portable ballot box** shall be used to conduct the vote at all special voting opportunities. The presiding election official shall ensure that voting procedures at the special voting opportunities shall follow as closely as possible those described in Automated Voting Procedures Section of this bylaw, except that the voted ballots shall be deposited into the **portable ballot box** supplied by the presiding election official.
- 7.2 The presiding election official at a special voting opportunity shall ensure that the **portable ballot box** is secured when not in use and at the close of voting at the final special voting opportunity, the presiding election official shall seal the **portable ballot box** so that no more **ballots** can be inserted and that it cannot be opened without breaking the seal, and return it together with all other election materials to the custody of the Chief Election Officer at **election headquarters**.

- 7.3 If a **vote counting unit** is in use at a special voting opportunity, the presiding election official appointed to attend the special voting opportunity shall follow the procedures outlined in the Advance Voting Opportunity Section of this Bylaw as if it were an advance voting opportunity.

8 PROCEDURES AFTER CLOSE OF VOTING ON GENERAL VOTING DAY

- 8.1 After the close of voting on **general voting day** at voting opportunities where a **vote counting unit** was used in the election, but excluding advance and special voting opportunities, each presiding election official shall:
- (a) open all **portable ballot boxes**, under the direction of the Chief Election Officer, and insert all remaining **ballots** into the **vote counting unit**. Any **ballots** that are returned by the **vote counting unit** when being counted, shall, through the use of the **ballot return override procedure**, be reinserted into the **vote counting unit** to ensure that any **acceptable marks** are counted;
 - (b) ensure that any remaining **ballots** in the **storage ballot compartment** are inserted into the **vote counting unit**;
 - (c) secure the **vote counting unit** so that no more **ballots** can be inserted;
 - (d) generate three copies of the **results tape** from the **vote counting unit**;
 - (e) deliver one copy of the **results tape** to the Chief Election Officer;
 - (f) account for the unused, spoiled, and voted **ballots** and place them, packaged and sealed separately, into the **ballots** and results box along with one copy of the **results tape**, and the **memory pack** from the **vote counting unit**;
 - (g) complete the **ballot** account and place the duplicate copy in the **ballots** and results box;
 - (h) seal the **ballot** and results box;
 - (i) place the voting books, list of electors, the original copy of the **ballot account**, one copy of the **results tape**, completed registration cards, keys, and all completed forms into the election materials transfer box;
 - (j) seal the election materials transfer box and the election materials; and
 - (k) deliver the sealed transfer boxes, **vote counting unit**, materials, and supplies to the Chief Election Officer at **election headquarters**.
- 8.2 Upon fulfillment of the above provisions, the Chief Election Officer shall direct an election official to place the results in a spreadsheet which may be used for display indicating the total results.

9. RECOUNT

9.1 Informal recount

The decision to conduct an informal recount will be at the Chief Election Officer's discretion.

9.2 Formal recount

In accordance with section 146 of the Local Government Act, if there is an equality of votes for two or more candidates, the Chief Election Officer must declare the election is to be referred to a judicial recount.

10. GENERAL

10.1 Any enactment referred to herein is a reference to an enactment of British Columbia and regulations thereto, as amended, revised, consolidated, or replaced from time to time.

10.2 If any part, section, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Bylaw is for any reason held to be invalid by the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, the invalid portion shall be severed and the decision that it is invalid shall not affect the validity of the remainder which shall continue in full force and effect and be construed as if the Bylaw had been adopted without the invalid portion

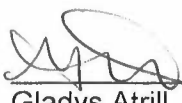
READ A FIRST TIME THIS 26TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2019.

READ A SECOND TIME THIS 26TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2019.

READ A THIRD TIME THIS 26TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2019.

ADOPTED THIS 10TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2019.

The Corporate Seal of the
Town of Smithers
was hereto affixed in the presence of:

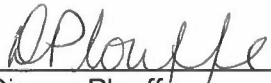


Gladys Atrill
Deputy Mayor



Alan Harris
Chief Administrative Officer

**CERTIFIED A TRUE AND CORRECT
COPY** of "Bylaw No.1883 - Automated
Vote Counting System Authorization and
Procedure".



Dianna Plouffe
Corporate Officer

"SCHEDULE A"



DEMONSTRATION BALLOT

Completely fill in the Oval opposite the name of each candidate you wish to vote for as shown 

PRESIDENT
(Vote for ONE)

THOMAS JEFFERSON ☐

ABRAHAM LINCOLN ☐

JOHN F. KENNEDY ☐

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER ☐

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT ☐

Write-in ☐

**COMMISSIONER OF AMERICAN
LITERATURE**
(Vote for ONE)

ERNEST HEMINGWAY ☐

WILLIAM FAULKNER ☐

JOHN STEINBECK ☐

SINCLAIR LEWIS ☐

Write-in ☐

POET LAUREATE
(Vote for ONE)

MARIANNE MOORE ☐

ROBERT FROST ☐

CARL SANDBURG ☐

T.S. ELIOT ☐

EZRA POUND ☐

Write-in ☐

MINISTER OF COMIC RELIEF
(Vote for ONE)

LUCILLE BALL ☐

BOB HOPE ☐

CAROL BURNETT ☐

LILY TOMLIN ☐

Write-in ☐

**COMMISSIONERS FOR NATIONAL
PASTIMES**
(Vote for TWO)

JIM THORPE ☐

BILL RUSSELL ☐

JOE DIMAGGIO ☐

PEGGY FLEMING ☐

Write-in ☐

Write-in ☐

MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION
(Vote for ONE)

AMELIA EARHART ☐

CHUCK YEAGER ☐

ORVILLE WRIGHT ☐

NEIL ARMSTRONG ☐

Write-in ☐

MINISTER OF ART
(Vote for ONE)

ANDREW WYETH ☐

ALEXANDER CALDER ☐

Write-in ☐



BYLAW NO. 1928

ELECTION AND ASSENT VOTING

A bylaw to provide for the determination of various procedures for the conduct of local government elections and assent voting.

WHEREAS pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, Council of the Town of Smithers may, by bylaw, determine various procedures and requirements to be applied in the conduct of local government elections and assent voting;

AND WHEREAS Council for the Town of Smithers wishes to establish various voting procedures and requirements under that authority;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Council for the Town of Smithers in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. CITATION:

- a) This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as "Bylaw No. 1928 – Election and Assent Voting" and comes into effect on the date of adoption.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION:

- a) This Bylaw repeals the "Bylaw No.1884 – Election and Assent Voting" and "Bylaw No. 1311 – Town of Smithers Elector Registration Bylaw (1999)" and any amendments thereto.

3. MINIMUM NUMBER OF NOMINATORS:

- a) The minimum number of qualified nominators required to make a nomination for office as a member of council shall be ten (10).

TOWN OF SMITHERS

BYLAW NO.1928

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4. NOMINATION DEPOSIT:

- a) Nominations for Mayor and Councillor must be accompanied by a nomination deposit in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) to be collected and returned in accordance with section 88 of the *Local Government Act*.

5. ELECTOR REGISTRATION:

- a) As authorized under section 76 of the *Local Government Act*, for all elections and assent voting the most current available Provincial list of voters prepared under the *Election Act*, shall become the register of resident electors no later than the 52nd day prior to general voting day.

6. FREEDOM OF THE MUNICIPALITY:

- a) A list of individuals who have been granted Freedom of the Municipality will form part of the register of electors.

7. NON-RESIDENT PROPERTY ELECTORS:

- a) The list of non-resident property electors will form part of the register of electors.

8. ADVANCE VOTING OPPORTUNITIES:

- a) As authorized under section 107 of the *Local Government Act*, in addition to the required advance voting opportunity on the 10th day before general voting day, the 3rd day before general voting day is also hereby established as an advance voting opportunity for elections and assent voting.
- b) Advance voting opportunities shall be available between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. at a location designated by the Chief Election Officer.
- c) The voting procedures for advanced voting opportunities shall be conducted in accordance with the Automated Vote Counting System Authorization and Procedure Bylaw No. 1883, as amended from time to time.

9. SPECIAL VOTING OPPORTUNITIES:

- a) As authorized under section 109 of the *Local Government Act*, special voting opportunities will be held on general voting day as follows:
 - a. at the Bulkley Lodge at 3668 Eleventh Avenue, Smithers, British Columbia from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. whereby only eligible

TOWN OF SMITHERS

BYLAW NO.1928

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electors who are residents or workers at this location may vote at this special voting opportunity; and

- b. at the Bulkley Valley District Hospital at 3950 Eighth Avenue, Smithers, British Columbia from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. whereby only those eligible electors who are residents, patients or workers at this location may vote at this special voting opportunity.
- b) A presiding election official may attend at locations established under subsection a. and b. to take the elector's vote.
- c) Pursuant to section 109 (3) of the *Local Government Act*, the Chief Election Officer may limit the number of candidate representatives who may be present at a special voting opportunity.
- d) The voting procedures for special voting opportunities shall be conducted in accordance with the Automated Vote Counting System Authorization and Procedure Bylaw No. 1883, as amended from time to time.

10. MAIL BALLOT VOTING

- 10.1. As authorized under section 110 of the *Local Government Act* and in accordance with this Bylaw, voting and elector registration of election may be done by mail.
- 10.2. The time limits in relation to voting by mail ballot will be determined by the Chief Election Officer.
- 10.3. Mail Ballot Voting Application Procedure
 - (1) An elector wishing to vote by mail shall apply by giving their name and address to the Chief Election Officer.
 - (2) Upon receipt of a request for a mail ballot, the Chief Election Officer will make available to an elector, no earlier than the start of the nomination period, and no later than 4:00 p.m. on the 3rd day before the general voting day, either by hand or by mail, a mail ballot package which contains:
 - i. the content as specified in section 110 (7) of the *Local Government Act*;
 - ii. information advising the applicant elector how to vote by mail ballot;
 - iii. a statement advising the elector that they must meet the eligibility to vote criteria and that the elector must attest to such fact; and

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- (3) The Chief Election Officer shall keep a register of mail ballots which includes the following:
- i. the name and address of all electors who request and are issued a mail ballot and elector registration package;
 - ii. the number of the elector, the number of the voting division in which the person is registered as an elector or new elector, if that person is not on the register of electors; and
 - iii. any other information that the Chief Election Officer deems appropriate for maintaining the register of mail ballots; and
 - iv. upon request, the register of mail ballots must be made available for inspection.
- (4) At the applicant elector's option, the Chief Election Officer may distribute the mail ballot package in any of the following ways:
- i. Sending the mail ballot package by Canada Post;
 - ii. Sending the mail ballot package by courier at the expense of the elector;
 - iii. Having the mail ballot package picked up by the elector at a designated time and location; or
 - iv. Having the mail ballot package picked up by a person authorized by the applicant elector on the applicant elector's behalf at a designated time and location.
- (5) The Chief Election Officer may request that the person authorized to pick up a mail ballot package on an applicant elector's behalf show identification and sign a form before being provided the mail ballot package.
- (6) The Chief Election Officer is not responsible for failing to deliver a mail ballot package if a request for a mail ballot is not received by the time limit for requesting a mail ballot established under this bylaw.

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10.4. Mail Ballot Voting Procedure

- (1) To vote by mail ballot, the elector shall mark the ballot in accordance with the instructions contained in the mail ballot package provided by the Chief Election Officer.
- (2) After marking the ballot, the elector shall:
 - i. Place the ballot in the secrecy envelope provided and seal the secrecy envelope;
 - ii. Place the secrecy envelope in the certification envelope, and complete and sign the certification printed on such envelope, and then seal the certification envelope;
 - iii. Place the certification envelop, together with a completed elector registration application, if required, in the outer envelope, and then seal the outer envelope; and
 - iv. Mail, or have delivered, the outer envelope and its contents to the Chief Election Officer at the address specified so that it is received no later than the close of voting on general voting day.
- (3) In accordance with section 110 (4) of the *Local Government Act*, electors who register by mail are not required to produce to an election official copies of proof of their identity and place of residence, however they must attest to such fact in the presence of a witness and record having done so on the certification envelope.

10.5. Mail Ballot Acceptance or Rejection

- (1) Where a mail ballot and its contents are received by the Chief Election Officer before the close of polls on general voting day, the Chief Election Officer shall, upon receiving the returned mail ballot envelope and its contents:
 - i. immediately record the date of receiving the returned mail ballot in the register of mail ballots;
 - ii. open the outer envelope and remove and examine the certification envelope and, if applicable, the completed elector registration application and verify the completeness of same as follows:

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1. confirm the identity and entitlement to vote of the elector whose ballot is enclosed,
 2. determine the fulfillment of the requirements in section 70 of the *Local Government Act* and the completeness of any application to register, if required; and
 3. determine the completeness of the certification envelope.
- (2) If the Chief Election Officer is satisfied that the elector has met the requirements in this section 10.5 (1), the Chief Election Officer shall:
- i. Mark the certification envelope as "accepted" and place the accepted and unopened certification envelope with the other certification envelopes in a designated mail ballot box ("accepted certification envelopes").
- (3) The accepted certification envelopes shall be secured in a mail ballot box marked "accepted certification envelopes" until such time as decided by the Chief Election Officer in subsection (7) below or the close of voting. The Chief Election Officer will retain such mail ballot boxes in their possession.
- (4) If, on receiving a returned mail ballot envelope and its contents, the Chief Election Officer determines that:
- i. The Chief Elections Officer is not satisfied as to the identity of the elector; or
 - ii. The elector has not completed an application for registration in accordance with this Bylaw or the *Local Government Act*; or
 - iii. The returned mail ballot envelope is received by the Chief Election Officer after the close of voting on general voting day,
- the Chief Election Officer will mark such envelope as "rejected", noting the reasons for the rejection and shall set aside the rejected certification envelope.
- (5) Any certification envelopes and their contents rejected in accordance with this section will remain unopened and will be subject to the provisions of the *Local Government Act* regarding their destruction.

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- (6) The Chief Election Officer will retain in their custody all accepted and rejected certification envelopes in order to manage any challenges made in accordance with this Bylaw.
- (7) At a place, date and time decided by the Chief Election Officer and before general voting day, the Chief Election Officer shall, invite candidates or candidate representatives to observe the opening of the accepted certification envelopes received up to that point for the purpose of preparing the mail ballots for counting and to provide an opportunity for challenges to the right to vote of an elector to be made. At such time, the Chief Election Officer shall, in the presence of at least 1 other election official, and any candidate representatives:
- i. Deal with any challenges to the mail ballot electors involving the accepted certification envelopes;
 - ii. Open the accepted certification envelopes;
 - iii. Remove the secrecy envelopes containing the ballots; and
 - iv. Unless the right of a person identified on the accepted certification envelope has been challenged and not resolved in favour of that person being permitted to vote, the Chief Election Officer, or their delegate(s) will open the secrecy envelope containing the ballot and run the ballot through the vote tabulator.
- (8) Any returned mail ballots received after the date and time set out in section 10.5 (7) will be handled in accordance with section 10.5 (1) through (6) until the close of general voting day.
- (9) As soon as practicable after the close of voting on general voting day, the unopened accepted certification envelopes and previously processed secrecy envelopes as well as any other returned mail ballots received before the close of voting will be opened, duly processed and the accepted ballots contained therein will be run through the vote tabulator and counted in accordance with this Bylaw and the *Local Government Act*.

10.6. Challenge of Elector

- (1) A person who qualifies under section 126 of the *Local Government Act* may challenge the right of a person exercising the right to vote by mail ballot on the grounds set out in section 126 up until 4:30 pm two days before general voting day.

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10.7. Elector's Name Already Used

- (1) If, upon receiving a request for a mail ballot, the Chief Election Officer determines that another person has voted or has already been issued a mail ballot in the elector's name, the Chief Election Officer shall comply with section 127 of the *Local Government Act*.

10.8. Spoiled Mail Ballot

- (1) Where an elector unintentionally spoils a mail ballot before returning it to the Chief Election Officer, the elector may request a replacement ballot by advising the Chief Election Officer of the ballot spoilage and by mailing or otherwise delivering by any appropriate means, the spoiled ballot package in its entirety to the Chief Election Officer. The Chief Election Officer will, upon receipt of the spoiled ballot package and request for replacement, record such fact, and proceed in accordance with this section, so far as practicable within the applicable time limitations.

- 10.9. As provided in the *Local Government Act*, a mail ballot must be received by the Chief Election Officer before the close of voting on general voting day in order to be counted.

11.RESOLUTION OF TIE VOTE AFTER JUDICIAL RECOUNT:

- (a) In the event of a tie vote after a judicial recount, the tie vote will be determined by lot in accordance with section 151 of the *Local Government Act*.

12.SEVERABILITY

- (a) If any portion of this Bylaw is declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, then the invalid portion may be severed and the remainder of the Bylaw will be deemed valid.

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 24th DAY OF MAY, 2022.

READ A SECOND TIME THIS 24th DAY OF MAY, 2022.

READ A THIRD TIME THIS 24th DAY OF MAY, 2022.

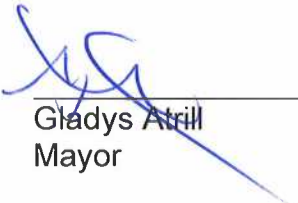
ADOPTED THIS 14th DAY OF JUNE, 2022.

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The Corporate Seal of the Town of Smithers
was hereto affixed in the presence of



Gladys Atrill
Mayor



Dianna Plouffe
Chief Administrative Officer

**CERTIFIED A TRUE AND CORRECT
COPY** of Bylaw No. 1928, cited as "Bylaw
No. 1928 - Election and Assent Voting"



Duncan Malkinson
Corporate Officer

2026 Candidate Reference Guide

Submitting Nomination Documents

- Nomination documents may be filed in person, by mail, email, or other delivery service during the nomination period, which opens at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, and closes at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 11, 2026. Late submissions cannot be accepted.
- Nomination packages are available from the Town of Smithers Municipal Hall and may also be provided electronically upon request. Original paper copies of nomination documents are not required.
- Candidates are encouraged to submit nomination documents in person, allowing the Chief Election Officer or Deputy Chief Election Officer to receive the required statutory declaration and review documents for completeness. Statutory declarations may also be made before a Commissioner for Taking Affidavits, lawyer, notary public, or other person authorized by law. Candidates should allow ample time before the nomination deadline in case corrections are required or delays occur, as late submissions cannot be accepted.

Nomination Deposit

- When submitting nomination documents, prospective Candidates are to pay a refundable nomination deposit of \$100.00. This deposit will be returned to you once you have filed the mandatory post-election paperwork with Elections BC in accordance with the *Local Campaign Financing Act*.

Number of Nominators

- In the Candidate Nomination Package, Form C2, the minimum number of qualified nominators required is ten (10).

Public Access to Nomination Documents

- Nomination documents will be available for supervised public inspection at the Town of Smithers Municipal Hall, 1027 Aldous Street, during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday from when documents are received until 30 days after the official election results are declared.

Declaration of Candidates

- The declaration of candidates for the 2026 Election takes place Friday, September 11, at 4:00 p.m. on at the Town of Smithers Municipal Hall, 1027 Aldous Street.

Challenge of Nomination

- An eligible elector, another nominee for office, or the local Chief Election Officer can challenge a prospective candidate's nomination when they believe the nomination documents are incorrect or the person is not otherwise eligible to be nominated for office. Challenges to nominations for the 2026 general local election can be submitted until 4:00 p.m. local time on September 15, 2026. The Provincial Court is required to hear the challenge and make a ruling by 4:00 p.m. local time September 18, 2026.

Withdrawal of Nominations

- Prospective candidates may reconsider and withdraw their candidacy during the nomination period and for seven days following the close of nomination period.
- Deadline for withdrawal of candidates is 4:00 p.m., Friday, September 18, 2026.

2026 Candidate Reference Guide

List of Electors

- Each candidate is entitled to one free copy of a list of registered electors (voter's list).
- A candidate must agree, in writing, that the information provided on the list of registered electors will only be used for election purposes before receiving a copy of the list.
- A candidate must treat the personal information on the list of electors carefully to ensure confidentiality. The list must be returned to the local government or otherwise destroyed following the election (October 30, 2026).

Candidate Representatives

- Candidate or Candidate representatives assigned to observe the count must be in the voting place before it closes at 8:00 p.m. Those in the voting place after 8:00 p.m. cannot leave until the count is complete, unless permitted by the presiding election official.
- Candidate representatives can only observe the count. They are not allowed to handle any ballots or to in any way assist with or interfere with the counting proceedings.
- Each candidate representative who attends a voting place must have made a solemn declaration to preserve the secrecy of the ballot and not interfere with an elector marking a ballot. Official agents and scrutineers may attend a voting place once they have made their solemn declaration – financial agents must have permission from the Presiding Election Official to be present at a voting place.
- Candidate representatives must carry copies of their appointment papers whenever they represent the candidate at an election proceeding.

Excerpt from the Town of Smithers Bylaw No.1841, Sign Bylaw

9.6 Political signs are permitted in all zones only during Federal, Provincial or Municipal election or referendum periods in accordance with Provincial or Federal legislations, subject to the following regulations:

- May be located in a road right-of-way provided that a Highway License of Occupation Agreement has been entered into with the Town for any sign over 1.5 m2 (16 ft2) in area in accordance with Section 10 of this bylaw;*
- Not be located on freehold land owned by the Town or in flower beds and formal landscaped areas;*
- Signs are deemed to be the property of and to have been erected, placed, installed, displayed or maintained by the person(s) whose name(s) are displayed thereon;*
- Removed within 7 days after the Election Day.*

David Schroeter, Chief Election Officer
Kim Smith, Deputy Chief Election Officer

Town of Smithers
1027 Aldous Street
Smithers, BC V0J2N0
250-847-1600