

**CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER
BYLAW NO. 8311, 2022**

A Bylaw to Amend Local Government Elections Procedures Bylaw No. 7985, 2018 and
to repeal Special Voting Opportunities Bylaw No. 6143, 1993

The Council of The Corporation of the City of New Westminster in open meeting
assembled ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

Citation

1. This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as "Local Government Elections Procedures Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 8311, 2022."

Amendments

2. Local Government Elections Procedures Bylaw No. 7985, 2018 is amended by:

- a. Inserting the following definition in section 2 in alphabetical order:

"social service centre" means a government or other facility which provides social services to specific populations, which includes but is not limited to: health, mental care and food services.

- b. Insert the following as a new Section 6

6. Special Voting Opportunities

- (a) The Chief Election Officer is hereby authorized to establish special voting opportunities in order to give electors who may otherwise be unable to vote an opportunity to do so.
- (b) The Chief Election Officer is authorized to establish the date, voting hours and place where a special voting opportunity is to be conducted.
- (c) Electors may only vote at a special voting opportunity if they:
 - i. Have a disability, illness or injury that affects their ability to vote at another voting opportunity; or
 - ii. Are users of an emergency shelter or social service centre; or,
 - iii. Are residents or patients of a hospital, care facility or similar facility or institution located in the City of New Westminster.
- (d) An elector at a special voting opportunity who is unable to proceed to a voting compartment may request to vote elsewhere in the facility, and after receiving the request the presiding election official or designate

must attend the elector for the purpose of allowing the elector to receive and mark a ballot; and

- (e) One candidate representative of the ballots for Mayor, Councillor and School Trustee is entitled to be present at each special voting opportunity with that candidate representative chosen by agreement of the candidates for that ballot or, failing such agreement, by the Chief Election Officer.

- c. Inserting the following as a new section 7

7. Mail Ballot Voting

Authorization for Mail ballot procedure

- (a) As authorized under section 110 of the *Local Government Act*, voting and elector registration may be done by mail.
- (b) The following procedures for voting and registration must apply:
 - i. sufficient record will be kept by the Chief Election Officer so that challenges of the elector's right to vote may be made in accordance with the intent of the Local Government Act; and
 - ii. a person exercising the right to vote by mail under the provisions of the Local Government Act may be challenged in accordance with section 126 of the Local Government Act.
- (c) The time limits in relation to voting by mail ballot will be determined by the Chief Election Officer for each election.
- (d) 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 for an election.

- d. Renumber subsequent sections as appropriate.

Repeal of Bylaw 6143, 1993

- 3. Special Voting Opportunities Bylaw No. 6143, 1993, and all amending bylaws are hereby repealed.

GIVEN FIRST READING THIS _____ day of _____ 2022.

GIVEN SECOND READING THIS _____ day of _____ 2022.

GIVEN THIRD READING THIS _____ day of _____ 2022.

ADOPTED THIS _____ day of _____ 2022.

Mayor Jonathan X. Cote

Jacque Killawee, City Clerk