

Mail in Ballot Process

The 2020 Municipal/School Board Election saw a large uptake in the Mail-in Ballot voting option this year. With the onset of the pandemic, Elections Regina along with many other municipalities across Saskatchewan put forward recommended changes to their Council to make the mail-in ballot option available to all voters, with the option to have additional witnesses sign the registration form and they were able to send their application into the election office by email, mail or fax with a copy of their government issued photo id with a signature. This option allowed voters to vote using a no-contact or less in-person process.

Elections Regina worked with City facilities across Regina and trained the front staff as election officials to review and accept applications in order to offer additional accessible locations for residents who either preferred to bring in their applications or who were unable to meet all of the requirements to apply by a contactless method. This option was well received by the public and these facilities collected nearly 200 applications. The Special Poll locations that were facilitated using the mail-in ballot option accounted for 505 of the ballots received.

Identified Improvements for 2024:

- Research and review different options to process mail-in ballots to automate the process to alleviate some of the manual processes
- Work with the Ministry of Government Relations to make amendments to *The Local Government Election Act, 2015* and *The Local Government Election Regulations, 2015* to streamline the mail-in ballot process