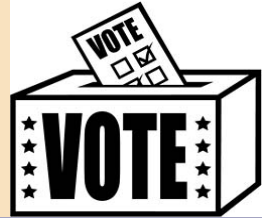


# Voting in Calgary's 2007 General Election

Vibrant  
COMMUNITIES Calgary



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## INFORMATION FOR VOTERS

- Why Vote?
- When is the election?
- What are the requirements to vote?
- How to get informed?
- Where to vote?



**Calgary's 2007 General Election will be held on October 15, 2007, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

### Four good reasons to vote in the 2007 Calgary General Municipal election:

- 1) The **accessibility and affordability of public transportation** (such as the Low Income Transit Pass), which many Calgarians rely on to access work, volunteer opportunities and medical appointments, depends, in part, on local politicians;
- 2) Your **economic wellbeing** may depend on whether or not City Council approves the Sustainable Ethical and Environmental Procurement Policy, a policy intending to ensure that items and services purchased by The City are produced in accordance with applicable codes of conduct regarding working conditions, safety, forced labour, and freedom of association. Council will also decide whether or not the policy mandates employers to pay their employees in Calgary a Living Wage (a minimum of \$12.00 per hour with benefits or \$13.25 per hour without benefit) allowing individuals and families to meet their basic needs, maintain a decent standard of living in their communities and to save for future needs and goals;
- 3) Many **affordable housing** solutions fall under municipal jurisdictions. The municipal government largely determines residential zoning regulations, including, for example, whether or not homeowners can build secondary suites, a proven strategy to increase rental accommodation, lower mortgage costs, and increase property value; and,
- 4) Your **physical and mental health** largely depends on who gets elected. Your ability to participate in recreational activities, such as skating, swimming, and visiting the public library is dependent on the affordability of user fees, which are decided upon by local authorities.



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FOUNDATION

# DID YOU KNOW?

- **Voter turnout in Calgary's 2004 General Election was less than 20 per cent**
- **One Alderman won the last election by 146 votes**
- **You must produce identification to vote in Calgary's General Election**
- **Voters can no longer vote using mail-in-ballots**

# Get informed!

## New identification requirements to vote

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007, Calgary City Council voted in favour of a new identification requirement for municipal elections. Beginning with the October 2007 municipal election, a person can vote if he or she is a Canadian citizen, will be 18 years or older on polling day, has resided in Alberta for the six consecutive months immediately preceding polling day, and after producing one of the accepted types of identification.

Unfortunately, this new requirement will create a barrier to democratic participation for many people living on low income, including our city's growing homeless population. Without proper identification, people will not be permitted to vote in the 2007 General Election.

John Rook, CEO of The Salvation Army Community Services, agrees that a significant number of his shelter residents would not have one of the accepted identifications. Rook further comments, "To discriminate against one who has 'no fixed address' is abhorrent. Life has kicked many of these people hard. They have come through significant abuse; many have tried to avoid our world by seeking solace in drugs and alcohol; predators pimp them with no regard for their feelings and certainly with no regard for their personhood. Let us ensure that, at a minimum, they have a legitimate and effective means to voice their opinion on election day."

The City should look to ways they can reduce barriers to this important democratic right and responsibility. This should include modeling its voting requirements after the federal and provincial requirements, neither of which mandates that voters must produce identification.

### Acceptable identification for Calgary's 2007 General Election:

- Canadian Passport
- Birth Certificate
- Baptismal Certificate
- Alberta Personal Health Card
- Alberta Identification Card
- Certificate of Canadian Citizenship
- Firearms-Possession Only License
- Veteran Affairs Canada Card
- Old Age Security (OAS) Card
- Canadian Driver's or Operator's Licence
- Canadian Military Identification, and
- Firearms Licence Possession-Acquisition



If you do not have one of the acceptable pieces of identification, Vibrant Communities Calgary recommends that voters apply for a Alberta Personal Health Card; a card can be delivered to your residence within two weeks of application. If you would like more information, please visit [www.health.gov.ab.ca](http://www.health.gov.ab.ca) or call Alberta Health's toll free telephone number 310-0000 then (780) 427-1432.

# Get involved! Vote!

Information on Wards, voting station locations, and names of candidates are available online at The City of Calgary's website: [www.calgary.ca](http://www.calgary.ca). Additional information can be found at the Election and Information Services Office located at 1103 - 55 Avenue N.E. Their telephone number is (403) 221-3850.

## An overview of how the incumbents' voted on key issues

### **Sustainable Environment and Ethical Procurement Policy Pilot Implementation, 22 January 2007**

For: Madelaine King, Joe Ceci, Druh Farrell, Gord Lowe, Helene Larocque, Andre Chabot, Ray Jones, Craig Burrows, Dale Hodges, Diane Colley-Urquhart, Bob Hawkesworth  
Against: Ric McIver

### **Voter Identification, 12 March 2007**

For: Helene Larocque, Gord Lowe, Ric McIver, Craig Burrows, Andre Chabot, Bob Hawkesworth, Ray Jones and Madeline King  
Against: Druh Farrell, Linda Fox-Mellway and Joe Ceci

### **Curbside Recycling, 17 April 2007**

For: Madeline King, Druh Farrell, Joe Ceci, Linda Fox-Mellway, Bob Hawkesworth, Gord Lowe, Craig Burrows and David Bronconnier  
Against: Dale Hodges, Diane Colley-Urquhart, Andre Chabot, Ric McIver, Helene Larocque, and Ray Jones

### **Public Behaviour Bylaw, 20 November 2007**

For: Madeline King, Druh Farrell, Linda Fox-Mellway, Craig Burrows, Ric McIver, Ray Jones, and Dave Bronconnier  
Against: Dale Hodges, Joe Ceci, Andre Chabot, Bob Hawkesworth, Helene Larocque

## Sample Questions to ask Candidates

- What policies and programs would they put in place to help the working poor? Should The City pay all its employees a Living Wage?
- What are their plans to address the need for affordable housing?
- How should crime and safety be addressed?
- What policies and programs would they put in place to increase democratic participation and volunteerism?
- How would they increase the affordability and accessibility of public transportation?

## DID YOU KNOW?

Anyone can vote at an Advanced Voting Station.

The Advanced Vote will be held October 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10 between 12 p.m. and 7 p.m. Please telephone (403) 221-3850 or visit [www.calgary.ca](http://www.calgary.ca) to find the location of the nearest Advanced Voting Station in your community.

Physically incapacitated electors who are unable to attend the regular or Advanced Voting Stations may vote at their own residence.

Voters may request this service by telephoning the Election and Information Services Office: (403) 221-3850.



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**Vibrant Communities Calgary (VCC)** exists to ignite community action to create and implement bold solutions that reduce and prevent poverty through collaboration and education. VCC is part of a national network where diverse community leaders from across Canada share ideas, practices and policies that strengthen their community-based poverty reduction initiatives.

VCC develops and supports creative and innovative poverty reduction strategies in Calgary, knowing that our combined diversity of experience and expertise will achieve results none of us could achieve individually.

## Vibrant Communities Calgary Partners

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