Document 1 - By-law to Authorize the Use of an Alternative Voting Method

BY-LAW NO. 2022-XX

A by-law of the City of Ottawa to authorize the use of an alternative voting method for the 2022 Municipal Elections and any by-elections that may occur during the 2022-2026 Term of Council.

WHEREAS Subsection 42(1)(b) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* provides that the Council of a local municipality may pass by-laws authorizing the use of an alternative voting method, such as voting by mail, that does not require electors to attend a voting place in order to vote; and

WHEREAS Subsection 42(5) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* provides that when a by-law authorizing the use of an alternative voting method is in effect, Section 43 (advance vote) and Section 44 (voting proxies) shall only apply if the by-law so specifies; and

WHEREAS due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Ottawa deems it in the interest of the City to pass a by-law to authorize electors to use an alternative voting method, being a Special Mail-in Ballot, which may be returned by mail and does not require electors to attend a voting place in order to vote;

THEREFORE the Council of the City of Ottawa enacts as follows:

- 1. The Council hereby authorizes electors to use an alternative voting method for the 2022 Municipal Elections and any by-elections that may occur during the 2022-2026 Term of Council, being a Special Mail-in Ballot established by the City Clerk.
- 2. The City Clerk shall determine the dates, times, and locations at which the Special Main-in Ballot must be received in order to be counted in accordance with the Vote Counting Procedures established for the 2022 Municipal Elections and any by-elections that may occur during the 2022-2026 Term of Council.
- 3. The City Clerk shall determine the dates, hours and locations during which the advance vote is held and shall establish the criteria for voting proxies to authorize proxy voting at a voting place but not proxy voting for the Special Mail-in Ballot.

ENACTED AND PASSED this 9th day of March, 2022.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

BY-LAW NO. 2022 -

LEGAL SERVICES JP – L06-00-20-ELEC

COUNCIL AUTHORITY: City Council March 9, 2022