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## REPORT TO GOVERNANCE AND FIRST NATIONS RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026

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**SUBJECT**     **2026 General Local Election – Appointment of Chief Election Officer and the Deputy Chief Election Officers**

### **ISSUE SUMMARY**

To appoint a Chief Election Officer and Deputy Chief Election Officers for the purposes of conducting the upcoming 2026 General Local Elections.

### **BACKGROUND**

Pursuant to the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* and the *Local Government Act*, local governments and Elections BC share responsibility for local elections. Local governments administer elections and set voting opportunity dates, times and places, accept nomination documents, count ballots, announce election results, and follow a process to determine the successful candidate in the event of election ties. Elections BC administers, investigates and enforces the campaign finance disclosure and election advertising rules.

The CRD conducts elections in the three Electoral Areas (EA) for EA Directors and for the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission and the Juan de Fuca Land Use Committee. In addition, the CRD conducts elections in the EAs on behalf of the Islands Trust Trustees and School District Trustees.

Section 58 of the *Local Government Act* requires a local government to appoint a Chief Election Officer and Deputy Chief Election Officer for the purposes of conducting the upcoming 2026 General Local Election set for Saturday, October 17, 2026. The Chief Election Officer must then appoint election officials required for the administration and conduct of the election, and undertake all the statutory duties set out in the *Local Government Act*.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

#### *Alternative 1*

The Governance and First Nations Relations Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That pursuant to Section 58 of the *Local Government Act*, the Board appoint Kristen M. Morley as Chief Election Officer with the power to appoint such other assistance as may be required for the administration and conduct of the 2026 General Local Elections; and
2. That the Board appoint Colleen Doty, Kerry Fedosenko, Meriel Galloway, Marlene Lagoa, and Marius Miklea as Deputy Chief Election Officers.

#### *Alternative 2*

That this report be referred back to staff for additional information.

**IMPLICATIONS**

A general local election cannot be conducted without the appointment of a Chief Election Officer and at least one Deputy Chief Election Officer. Given the geographic disparity of the three Electoral Areas, and our conduct of the election on behalf of the Islands Trust and School Districts #61, #62, #63 and #64, more than one Deputy Chief Election Officer is required to assist with the elections. CRD coordinates and staffs 30 polling locations for advance and general voting.

Unlike municipal elections which typically have all nominees on one ballot, CRD elections will require 17 different ballot forms to reflect the different races in each EA or sub-regional area, including:

- 3 races for Electoral Area Director;
- 7 races for Island Trustee;
- 11 races for School District Trustee;
- 6 races for the Juan de Fuca Land Use Committee; and
- 1 race for Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission.

**CONCLUSION**

Preparations are currently underway for the 2026 General Local Election. Appointment of the election officer positions is required and necessary to provide staff and contracted Deputy Chief Election Officers with the proper authority for the successful administration of the election.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Governance and First Nations Relations Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That pursuant to Section 58 of the *Local Government Act*, the Board appoint Kristen M. Morley as Chief Election Officer with the power to appoint such other assistance as may be required for the administration and conduct of the 2026 General Local Elections; and
2. That the Board appoint Colleen Doty, Kerry Fedosenko, Meriel Galloway, Marlene Lagoa, and Marius Miklea as Deputy Chief Election Officers.

Submitted by:	Marlene Lagoa, MPA, Senior Manager, Legislative Services & Deputy Corporate Officer
Concurrence:	Kristen Morley, J.D., Corporate Officer & General Manager, Corporate Services
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer