**MEMBER REQUEST FOR DECISION (RFD) SPRING 2020 MUNICIPAL LEADERS' CAUCUS**

**Adopted as Amended on June 18, 2020**

# DATE SUMBITTED:

February 24, 2020

# TOPIC:

Local Elections Reserved for Local Issues

# RECOMMENDATION:

The Council from the City of Grande Prairie requests that the AUMA Board support maintaining local elections for local issues.

# BACKGROUND:

We believe local elections are for local issues.

The Province of Alberta has indicated they intend to hold several referendums and Senate elections in conjunction with the next municipal election in Alberta in 2021.

The City of Grande Prairie does not support adding a federal Senate election and referendum at the same time as municipal elections in 2021.

Our stance is rooted in the belief that local elections are to remain focused on local matters that deeply impact the everyday lives of our residents. Municipal matters are lost when provincial, federal, and international discussions become the epicenter of local elections, political discourse, and media coverage.

Tying federal and provincial issues to a municipal election runs the risk of diluting local issues, losing the focus on electing municipal representatives, and diminishing the local context to municipal elections. There is additional risk of polarizing the electorate and fostering a disconnect between local representatives and their constituents.

We believe the proposed referendums are of great enough importance that Albertans deserve the right to weigh them outside of a time when they also have to decide on local matters. We also believe that a separate election time for Alberta Senators helps keep Senate accountable for federal issues, and local authorities accountable for local issues.