

Local Election Principles

- Democratic - Elections enable local citizens to select representatives who make decisions to create and sustain safe and viable communities.
- Autonomous - Municipalities are empowered to implement the will of their local electors within areas of their jurisdiction.
- Locally Focused – Local elections are dedicated to addressing locally defined needs and issues.
- Inclusive - Every eligible person can participate as a voter, contributor, or candidate with minimal barriers (e.g. financial).
- Fair -Each candidate has an even playing field regardless of whether they are an incumbent, a returning, or a first-time candidate.
- Enforceable – Authority for ensuring election rules are followed is clearly established.
- Scalable – election rules are applicable and adaptable to local authorities of all sizes.
- Transparent – Election rules and processes are easy to access and understand, and voters have access to interim disclosure statements candidates and third-party advertisers before the elections.
- Nonpartisan - Candidates are elected to represent and be accountable to municipal residents, not a political party.