

## AMALGAMATION PUBLIC CONSULTATION QUESTION



### What election format should be used to elect a council for the newly amalgamated town in 2022 if amalgamation is approved?

As part of proposed amalgamation process, the Towns have committed to engage directly with the public on specific topics. The Towns are seeking public input on what voting system the residents prefer for the 2022 election, if an amalgamation is approved.

The information provided here focuses on the election. The election format is also the format for democratic representation – how the amalgamated Town will be represented by the Councillors for their four (4) year term.

Future councils of the amalgamated municipality, if amalgamation is approved, **also have the authority to reassess the election format**. The public input requested today will inform current decisions and provide insight into long-term community expectations.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW - THERE'S A CHOICE

### 'At Large' System of Voting

Is the same system that has always been used. A Mayor would be elected from the whole amalgamated community and the voters elect six (6) Council members from all the candidates running in the whole amalgamated community.

### 'Ward' System of Voting

There can be numerous options related to ward systems, but for the purpose of this exercise, it means establishing ward boundaries by dividing the amalgamated community into relatively equal areas based on population.

A Mayor would be elected by the whole amalgamated community, as is the case in the 'at large' system. Council members would be elected from each ward. The candidates must be residents of the ward they run in for at least six months. Residents of each ward could only vote for the candidates running in their ward. Every eligible resident can vote for the Mayor.

Under both 'At Large' and 'Ward' formats, the Mayor and Council all still vote on all matters related to Council.

If wards are preferred by the public and the Joint Friendship Agreement Committee (JFAC) for the potential amalgamated municipality, the specific ward boundaries will be determined by JFAC. No decisions have been made about the ward boundaries.

There are a few options for wards including:

- an east ward and a west ward;
- a north ward and a south ward; or
- a variation on these geographical areas depending on population.

*NOTE - In October 2021 there will be a normal municipal election for both Black Diamond and Turner Valley in which each community will vote for their own Mayor and Council. If amalgamation is approved, there will be another municipal election in late 2022 that would elect a Mayor and Council to oversee the newly amalgamated community beginning January 1, 2023 with their term ending in October 2025 to align with all other Alberta municipal elections.*

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### AND NOW, THE QUESTION...

#### If Black Diamond and Turner Valley unite under an amalgamation, what election format do you prefer?

1. At Large Representation
2. Ward Representation  
If you chose ward representation, do you want a ward system?:
  - a. Only for the 2022 election as a transition stage in amalgamation
  - b. Permanently
3. I don't know

#### **MGA REFERENCE - Division 2 Elections, Appointments and Ward System**

**Election of councillors 147(1)** Subject to Division 5, councillors other than a chief elected official are to be elected in accordance with the Local Authorities Election Act. (2) The election is to be by a vote of the electors of the whole municipality unless the municipality is divided into wards, in which case section 148 applies.

**Division of municipality into wards 148(1)** Unless otherwise provided for in a bylaw under this section, when a municipality is divided into wards, (a) only an elector who is resident in the ward may vote for a councillor in that ward, and (b) councillors are elected for each ward.

#### **LOCAL AUTHORITIES ELECTION ACT REFERENCE - Qualification of candidates**

21(1) A person may be nominated as a candidate in any election under this Act if on nomination day the person (a) is eligible to vote in that election, (b) has been a resident of the local jurisdiction and the ward, if any, for the 6 consecutive months immediately preceding nomination day, and (c) is not otherwise ineligible or disqualified.

#### **ELECTORAL WARD ACTIVITY DATES:**

**May 17 - May 31, 2021**

**Please provide your input by 4:00 p.m. - May 31, 2021**

**SCAN THE QR CODE OR GO TO  
THE LINK BELOW TO PARTICIPATE:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T9NLGCH>

