



# City of Richmond

## Report to Council

**To:** Richmond City Council  
**From:** Claudia Jesson  
Director, City Clerk's Office  
Chief Election Officer

**Date:** June 11, 2021  
**File:** 12-8125-85-01/Vol 01

**Re:** 2021 General Local By-Election Results

### Staff Recommendation

That the Declaration of Official Results for the 2021 General Local By-Election, attached to the staff report dated June 11, 2021 from the Chief Election Officer, be received for information by Richmond City Council in accordance with the requirement of Section 158 of the *Local Government Act*.

Claudia Jesson  
Director, City Clerk's Office  
Chief Election Officer  
(604-276-4006)

Att. 3

<b>REPORT CONCURRENCE</b>	
<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b> 	
<b>REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b> N/A
<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b> 	

## Staff Report

### Origin

In accordance with Section 158 of the *Local Government Act*, the Chief Election Officer is required to report the results of the election to the local government within 30 days of the official declaration of election results. This report fulfills this statutory requirement.

### Analysis

The Official Declaration of Election Results is attached (Attachment 1). The Declaration includes the number of overall votes for each candidate in the election. The “Poll-by-Poll” results are also attached (Attachment 2) as is the total number of ballots cast at each voting opportunity (Attachment 3).

In terms of spoiled ballots, 92 people spoiled their ballots on their first try. However, all of those individuals had an opportunity to obtain a new ballot since automated vote counting machines detect spoiled ballots before the ballot is finally accepted into the ballot box. The most common reason for a spoiled ballot is inadvertently voting for too many candidates in a single office (over-voting). When the vote counting machine detects a spoiled ballot, the ballot is returned to the elector and a warning is given indicating that the ballot is spoiled. The elector is then given the opportunity to check their ballot and to request a replacement if they wish. The detection of spoiled ballots is an important benefit of the automated vote counting machines as under a manual hand-counted election, over-voted and other spoiled ballots would not be detected and such ballots would unfortunately have to be set aside and not counted after the close of voting.

In the 2021 Richmond By-Election, a total of 13,002 ballots were cast at all voting opportunities, which represents a voter turnout of 9.16 % after factoring-in the additional Election Day registrations; there were 264 new voter registrations with a total of 141,939 registered electors.

### Review of By-Election

The City’s voter turnout is comparable to several other local by-elections in BC in recent months, where ballots cast elect a single councillor has commonly been in the 10 per cent range. Turnout for Richmond’s 2018 General Local Election, electing the Mayor and 8 Councillors, was 36.86%.

The most significant change in voter behaviour for 2021 was the use of mail ballot voting. Mail ballots accounted for the largest single poll in the By-Election, with 1,895 of 13,002 votes cast, compared with 360 mail ballot votes cast in the City’s 2018 General Local Election. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City was granted a Ministerial Order in April, 2021 enabling mail ballot voting for all eligible electors, rather than only those meeting specific criteria in accordance with the *Local Government Act*. Local governments are not required to provide mail ballot voting for elections.

Staff will review operational aspects of this by-election in planning for future elections.

**Financial Impact**

None.

**Conclusion**

The official results of the 2021 Richmond By-Election are hereby reported as required by the *Local Government Act*.



Claudia Jesson  
Director, City Clerk's Office and Chief Election Officer  
(604-276-4006)

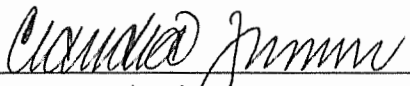
- Att. 1: Declaration of Official Election Results for 2021 By-Election  
2: By-Election 2021 Results by Polling Location  
3: 2021 Richmond By-Election Poll-by-Poll Ballots Cast

**City of Richmond**  
**DECLARATION OF OFFICIAL BY-ELECTION RESULTS**  
**May 29, 2021**

**Office of Councillor**

I, Claudia Jesson, Chief Election Officer, do hereby declare elected, Andy Hobbs,  
who received the highest number of valid votes for the Office of Councillor.

Declared at the City of Richmond, British Columbia this 2nd day of June, 2021. *(at 12:16pm)*

  
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Claudia Jesson  
Chief Election Officer

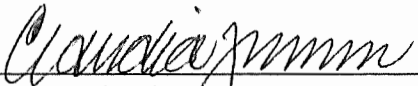
**City of Richmond**  
**DECLARATION OF OFFICIAL BY-ELECTION RESULTS**  
May 29, 2021

**Office of Councillor**

Total Number of Votes Received by Each Candidate

<b>Office of Councillor</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Votes</b>	
Andy HOBBS	3,095	<b>ELECTED</b>
Jonathan HO	2,785	
Karina REID	2,767	
Ken HAMAGUCHI	1,515	
Khilvinder Kay HALE	708	
Sunny HO	693	
Jennifer HUANG	655	
John ROSTON	446	
Mark LEE	239	
Dennis PAGE	81	

This determination of election results is made by the Chief Election Officer on June 2, 2021 at 12:16pm and is based on ballot accounts reviewed in accordance with s. 145 of the *Local Government Act*.

  
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Claudia Jesson  
Chief Election Officer

2021 Richmond By-Election - Poll-by-Poll Results

2021 Richmond By-Election		Voting Location	Voting Date	Johnathan HO	Sunny HO	Andy HOBBS	Jennifer HUANG	Mark LEE	Dennis PAGE	Karina REID	John ROSTON	Voting Location Totals	
GVD #01	Burnett Secondary School	May 29, 2021	50	130	261	43	299	32	24	4	228	34	1,105
GVD #02	Cambie Secondary School	May 29, 2021	35	36	147	45	140	19	3	71	19	525	
GVD #03	Cook Elementary School	May 29, 2021	21	31	118	37	62	32	14	3	98	14	430
GVD #04	Hamilton Elementary School	May 29, 2021	4	12	62	6	67	10	13	2	71	6	253
GVD #05	MacNeill Secondary School	May 29, 2021	17	30	171	19	65	19	0	72	17	430	
GVD #06	McMath Secondary School	May 29, 2021	72	350	137	14	454	18	4	510	62	1,636	
GVD #07	McNair Secondary School	May 29, 2021	53	91	156	39	220	45	10	8	212	16	850
GVD #08	Richmond Secondary School	May 29, 2021	31	67	256	52	149	61	22	2	193	31	864
GVD #09	Steveston-London Secondary School	May 29, 2021	45	161	220	33	243	44	14	7	192	31	990
GVD #10	Talmey Elementary School	May 29, 2021	12	15	134	19	32	8	4	0	28	3	255
ADV 01	Cambie Secondary School	May 15, 2021	12	9	32	19	29	3	5	2	26	6	143
ADV 02	McMath Secondary School	May 15, 2021	19	97	18	13	190	7	6	6	142	24	522
ADV 03	McNair Secondary School	May 15, 2021	25	24	16	5	31	12	2	5	40	9	169
ADV 04	Richmond City Hall	May 15, 2021	25	31	79	66	116	46	8	6	101	11	489
ADV 05	Richmond City Hall	May 19, 2021	35	32	85	51	154	81	14	5	83	18	558
ADV 06	Richmond City Hall	May 20, 2021	23	28	102	44	115	70	5	3	68	22	480
ADV 07	Cambie Secondary School	May 22, 2021	10	8	47	11	30	5	1	2	38	3	155
ADV 08	McMath Secondary School	May 22, 2021	18	95	56	7	188	11	3	0	122	18	518
ADV 09	McNair Secondary School	May 22, 2021	26	15	54	11	41	16	4	1	38	6	212
ADV 10	Richmond City Hall	May 22, 2021	30	28	165	60	75	38	9	3	80	17	505
MAIL	Mail Ballots	May 29, 2021	145	225	469	99	395	78	36	15	354	79	1,895
<b>TOTAL VOTES PER CANDIDATE</b>			<b>708</b>	<b>1,515</b>	<b>2,785</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>3,095</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>2,767</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>12,984</b>
			Vote % 5.45%	11.67%	21.45%	5.34%	23.84%	5.04%	1.84%	0.62%	21.31%	3.43%	7 Overvotes
			11 Undervotes (blank ballots);										
			<b>13,002 TOTAL BALLOTS CAST</b>										

### 2021 Richmond By-Election Total Ballots Cast by Location

Div.	City of Richmond Voting Locations	Total Ballots Cast
GVD #01	Burnett Secondary School	1,108
GVD #02	Cambie Secondary School	525
GVD #03	Cook Elementary School	431
GVD #04	Hamilton Elementary School	253
GVD #05	MacNeill Secondary School	1,638
GVD #06	McMath Secondary School	851
GVD #07	McNair Secondary School	430
GVD #08	Richmond Secondary School	864
GVD #09	Steveston-London Secondary School	990
GVD #10	Talmey Elementary School	255
ADV 01	Cambie Secondary School – May 15, 2021	143
ADV 02	McMath Secondary School – May 15, 2021	522
ADV 03	McNair Secondary School – May 15, 2021	170
ADV 04	Richmond City Hall – May 15, 2021	489
ADV 05	Richmond City Hall – May 19, 2021	558
ADV 06	Richmond City Hall – May 20, 2021	481
ADV 07	Cambie Secondary School – May 22, 2021	155
ADV 08	McMath Secondary School – May 22, 2021	518
ADV 09	McNair Secondary School – May 22, 2021	213
ADV 10	Richmond City Hall – May 22, 2021	505
MAIL	Mail	1,903
<b>TOTAL =</b>		<b>13,002</b>