



ABmunis responds to amendments to Bill 20

May 23, 2024

EDMONTON – *The following statement was issued on behalf of President Tyler Gandam and the Alberta Municipalities Board of Directors:*

Alberta Municipalities is disappointed to see the provincial government is not listening to Albertans and is ploughing ahead with Bill 20. Albertans, through numerous polls and responses to this bill have said they don't want:

- Political parties at the municipal level;
- Local elections influenced by corporations and unions;
- The provincial government to take away power from Alberta voters by being able to repeal municipal bylaws behind closed doors; and
- Their municipal taxes to go up because of the increase in costs to manually count election votes versus using an electronic counter.

The proposed amendments to Bill 20 did not move the needle on these issues. We are disappointed with the level of provincial government consultation with Albertans, with municipalities and with municipal associations. None of the many [solutions](#) we shared with the provincial government over the past few months are reflected in these amendments.

We are anticipating that the provincial government will forge ahead with Bill 20. Alberta Municipalities will turn its attention to the development of regulations to help ensure local governments maintain their autonomy and authority on matters that affect the day-to-day lives of the more than 4 million Albertans who live in ABmunis' member-communities.

Our hope is that the Minister of Municipal Affairs hosts meaningful and substantive stakeholder engagement with ABmunis representatives and its members. Our efforts to shape regulations will profoundly affect how this imperfect and hastily designed legislation shows up in communities of all sizes and locations across Alberta for years to come.
