

Local Election Principles

Version 2: Updated April 2021

- **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 from candidates and third-party advertisers before the elections.
- **Nonpartisan** - Candidates are elected to represent and be accountable to municipal residents, not a political party.
- **Respectful** - Local elections provide an opportunity for candidates and voters to demonstrate their continuing commitment to sharing their perspectives and seeking to understand differences respectfully