



ALBERTA

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary-Hays*

AR118376

March 12, 2025

Dear Chief Elected Officials:

As you are aware, changes to the *Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA)* in *Bill 20, the Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendments Act, 2024*, came into force on October 31, 2024. One of these changes prohibits the use of tabulators, voting machines, vote recorders, and automated voting systems in local elections.

This change inadvertently created a lack of clarity regarding whether Elector Assistance Terminals (EATs) would be permitted in upcoming local elections. As you may know, an EAT is an assistive voting machine that enables electors with visual or physical disabilities to vote independently and privately. EATs are not connected to the Internet or another network and create a paper ballot that records the vote cast by the elector. EATs were offered in some local jurisdictions in the 2021 general elections and to electors in the 2023 provincial general election.

Our government is planning to bring forward *LAEA* amendments in spring 2025 to clarify that local authorities may, by bylaw, offer EATs to electors. In order to offer EATs in the 2025 general local elections, a local authority will be required to pass a bylaw by June 30, 2025.

If you have any questions regarding this upcoming change, please reach out to Municipal Affairs staff by telephone at 780-427-2225 (toll-free in Alberta by first dialing 310-0000) or via email at ma.advisory@gov.ab.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ric McIver".

Ric McIver
Minister