

Municipal Government Act Change Summary

Bill 28, *Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act, 2026*

Governance and Accountability

This fact sheet has been developed as an information resource. It is not legal advice and cannot be used in place of consulting with a lawyer. In the event of a conflict between the legislation and this fact sheet, the legislation prevails.

Relevant *Municipal Government Act* sections

- Section 130.1
- Section 146.011(1)
- Section 146.02(1)
- Section 146.021(1)
- Section 146.03(1)
- Section 146.04
- Section 146.05(1)
- Section 146.06(1)
- Section 146.07(1)
- Section 146.08(1)
- Section 146.09(1)
- Section 153
- Section 201.1(1)(b)

Councillor Accountability Framework

Previous *Municipal Government Act* requirements

Since the repeal of councillor codes of conduct in 2025, municipalities cannot pass or continue to implement or enforce bylaws or resolutions related to councillor behavior.

What has changed

A new councillor accountability framework will address unacceptable councillor behaviour including misuse of municipal assets and services, confidentiality of information, and rules regarding egregious or threatening behaviour and improper use of influence.

New provisions in the Act establish rules, processes, and procedures for submitting a complaint, conducting preliminary reviews, investigations, and appeals.

Only councillors are eligible to file a complaint, and a complaint can only be made against a councillor on the same council. The Minister can also initiate an investigation at the local level.

Preliminary reviews and investigations will be conducted by an investigator chosen by council from a roster designated by the Minister. For any complaint filed by a councillor, a preliminary review must occur to determine if the complaint, in whole or in part, is frivolous, vexatious, or out of scope. If the investigator determines that any part of the complaint is frivolous, vexatious, or out of scope, the investigator must end that part of the investigation.

After conducting the preliminary review, the investigator must report the results to the Minister and council and advise if all or a part of the investigation has ended.

If the complaint is potentially valid following the preliminary review, it must proceed to an investigation. Once the investigation is complete, a report is prepared that contains a summary of the investigation, as well as a recommendation as to whether a contravention has occurred and what sanctions, if any, should be applied. It is the council's decision, by resolution, to determine if the framework was contravened and whether to apply sanctions.

The framework establishes an appeal mechanism for council's decisions as to whether there was a contravention and imposition of any sanctions. An appeal commissioner appointed by the Minister hears the appeal and provides recommendations to the Minister on whether to accept, reject, or vary the council's resolution. If the appeal commissioner's recommendations are different from council's decisions, the appeals commissioner must provide reasons.

To conclude the appeal, the Minister, by order, determines if there was a contravention and may apply sanctions. When issuing an order, the Minister must publish the appeal commissioner's recommendations and, if applicable, reasons for the recommendation as well as the Minister's decision. If the Minister's decision varies from the appeals commissioner's, the Minister must include reasons in writing.

If at any point during the preliminary review or investigation, the investigator finds that a complaint, or part of a complaint, pertains to pecuniary interest, the framework establishes a process for mandatory referral to the Court of King's Bench.

What it means

Municipal Affairs will establish, by regulation, further details to implement the councillor accountability framework. The regulation is expected to include types of contraventions, sanctions, fees, timelines for each step, and further guidance on investigator and appeal commissioner rosters.

While the framework includes a process for complaints related to pecuniary interest matters, existing disclosure and disqualification requirements continue to apply. These rules have not changed.

What do municipalities have to do?

It is recommended that municipalities and their councillors review the rules, processes, and procedures regarding the accountability framework established in the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)*. Further information and requirements to support implementation will be in a forthcoming regulation.

Viability Reviews – Vote of Electors

Previous *Municipal Government Act* requirements

The *MGA* establishes a municipal viability review process administered by Municipal Affairs. Following a review, electors vote on whether the municipality should dissolve. The Minister could only recommend dissolution of the municipality to Cabinet if electors voted in favour of it.

What has changed

Changes to the *MGA* retain the step for electors to vote on a question of dissolution after a viability review has been completed and before dissolution can occur. However, the results of this vote are no longer binding, though they remain an important consideration in the Minister's decision. This change is in effect immediately.

What it means

This change enables the Minister and Cabinet to consider the results of the vote alongside other considerations when making recommendations and decisions on the dissolution of a municipality.

What do municipalities have to do?

No action is required from municipalities.

Effective Date

The amendments to the *MGA* took effect upon Bill 28's Royal Assent on May 14, 2026.

While provisions in the Act related to the accountability framework are in force, implementation requires the creation of a forthcoming regulation.

Resources

To learn more, please refer to:

- Amendment summary for Bill 28: <https://www.alberta.ca/system/files/ma-bill-28-legislation-information-guide.pdf>
- [Municipal Government Act](#)

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