



## CITY OF VICTORIA – ALTERNATIVE APPROVAL PROCESS

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The Alternative Approval Process under the *Community Charter* ([Part 4, Division 2](#)) is a common method used by municipalities and regional governments to obtain elector assent for certain types of proposed bylaws, agreements, or other matters.

In this case the Alternative Approval Process, also known as a Counter Petition, will be used to obtain the approval of electors to adopt a bylaw that authorizes the City to finance, through long-term debt, the \$42 million capital construction cost of a bridge to replace the Johnson Street Bridge.

To initiate the Alternative Approval Process Council passed a resolution setting the parameters which included approving the Elector Response Form and the proposed deadline for the Alternate Approval Process.

The City has since published one notice in a newspaper outlining the purposes of the proposed bylaw. A second notice will be published on Saturday, November 28. Electors have until January 4 to sign an Elector Response Form opposing the bylaw. This provides electors 45 days to submit their forms. If more than 10% of the electors submit valid petitions, the City cannot proceed with the proposed bylaw without holding a referendum.

Anybody who is eligible to vote in a City of Victoria election is eligible to submit an Elector Response Form. That means any Canadian citizen who is 18 years of age or more, has lived in BC for at least six months and has lived in Victoria for at least 30 days is able to fill out the form.

After the deadline date, the Corporate Administrator will certify the number of valid Elector Response Forms. If the number of valid Elector Response Forms submitted exceeds the 10% threshold (estimated 6,343 people), Council will need to consider whether it still wants to proceed with the proposal. If so, Council must first hold a referendum.