Alberta **News** release

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New legislation to make municipal elections more transparent and secure

Edmonton... A more secure and transparent election process to promote integrity and public confidence in Alberta's municipal electoral system is the goal of Bill 28, the *Local Authorities Election Amendment Act, 2006*. Ron Liepert, MLA for Calgary-West, introduced the bill in the Legislative Assembly on March 23.

Bill 28 provides local jurisdictions with the flexibility to tailor procedures to address their citizens' requirements.

The proposed legislation deals with things such as special ballot procedures, voter identification, campaign processes, and eligibility of candidates convicted of an offence under the *Local Authorities Election Act*, as well as including recommendations related to the Clark Report on election irregularities in Calgary during the 2004 municipal election.

The proposed legislation was arrived at after public consultation on the act, conducted by an MLA committee. The committee consisted of Liepert; Ray Prins, MLA for Lacombe-Ponoka; and Lloyd Snelgrove, MLA for Vermilion-Lloydminster. The committee held open houses in eight communities across the province in fall 2005, and also offered a discussion paper and questionnaire on proposed changes to the act.

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