



MOUNT ALLISON STUDENTS' UNION

ELECTIONS & REFERENDA

OPERATING PROCEDURE V

AUGUST 2015



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PREAMBLE AND DEFINITIONS

PURPOSE

Whereas the membership of Mount Allison's Student Union (MASU) elects Representative and Executive Officers to govern and direct the organization, the organization relies on an electoral process that is consistent, accessible, and fair. This Operating Procedure outlines the procedures and regulations for nominations, campaigning, voting, counting, scrutinizing, and enforcement of procedure of all elections and referenda affiliated with the MASU.

DEFINITIONS

"MASU Elections Office" — shall refer to the Elections Office of the MASU constituted in Law VIII of the Bylaws.

"Campaigning" — shall refer to any promotion of a particular candidate to a particular position during a MASU-affiliated election.

"Elected Executive Officer" — shall refer to the four (4) elected Executive Officers, whose powers and responsibilities are defined in Law IV of the Bylaws.

"Representative Officer" — shall refer to the elected Officers, whose powers and responsibilities are defined in Law IV of the Bylaws, and who, along with the elected Executive Officers, constitute the voting members of Council.

"Fall Semester" and "Winter Semester" — shall refer to the semesters defined by the Academic Calendar of Mount Allison University

"Optional Preferential Voting" — shall refer to a voting system where an elector may rank as many or as few candidates as they wish, based on preference; further information may be found *here*, as well as in Section 8 of this Operating Procedure.



ELECTIONS SCHEDULE

WINTER ELECTIONS

1. The Winter Nomination Period will open on the first week of January of the Winter Semester;
2. The nomination period will last fourteen (14) days;
3. The campaigning period will begin seven (7) days after nomination open, and shall last a minimum of twelve (12) days;
4. Voting must be completed before the first week of February;
5. The CRO shall notify all students of the election schedule and descriptions of each contested position at the opening of nominations.

SPRING ELECTIONS

1. The Spring Nomination Period will open the week after the Week of Independent Study;
2. The nomination period will last seven (7) days;
3. The campaigning period shall last a minimum of seven (7) days;
4. Voting must be completed before the first week of April;
5. The CRO shall notify all students of the election schedule and descriptions of each contested position at the opening of nominations.

FALL ELECTIONS

1. The Fall Nomination Period will open on the second week of class in the Fall Semester;
2. The nomination period will last seven (7) days;
3. The campaigning period shall last a minimum of seven (7) days;
4. Voting must be completed before the first week of October;
5. The CRO shall notify all students of the election schedule and descriptions of each contested position at the opening of nominations.

BY-ELECTIONS AND SCHEDULE SUSPENSIONS

1. As per Laws III and VIII of the Bylaws, the MASUEO may initiate by-elections when determined necessary by Council or the membership.
 - a. Such circumstances include:
 - i. The resignation of elected Executive and Representative Officers, and
 - ii. The impeachment of elected Executive and Representative Officers;
 - iii. In either of the above circumstances, the MASUEO shall, as per Operating Procedure X – Human Resource Manual, arrange a by-election within fourteen (14) days of notification. This process may be overridden, as described in Operating Procedure X.
2. The Executive Committee may tender a recommendation to the MASUEO and to Council to schedule elections such that do not adhere to the above timelines for elections. In such instances, the President shall present a motion to suspend the schedule to Council in favor of an alternate timeline, which shall ratify the suspension by a simple majority vote.
3. The MASUEO shall call and execute a referenda under the terms contained in Article VI.1 of the Constitution. Voting for referenda shall take place within three (3) weeks of either a vote of Council, or of receipt of a legitimate petition.



NOMINATIONS AND CANDIDACY

NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION

1. All members wishing to be nominated for an election shall solicit a nomination form from the MASU office, which shall include the job description for the available position.
2. All nominations must bear the signatures of at least fifteen (15) supporters for Executive elections and at least ten (10) supporters for Councillor elections, in addition to a nominator, a seconder, and the nominee. Supporters must be eligible to vote in the election for which the nomination is put forth, under Law III.2.
3. Each nomination must be verified by the CRO to ensure that it satisfies the conditions of Law III.2.d.
4. Upon tendering a legitimate nomination, nominees shall be considered candidates.
 - a. The above clause notwithstanding, no candidate is permitted to run for more than one position simultaneously.

ALL-CANDIDATES MEETINGS AND CANDIDATE RESOURCES

1. All candidates must attend required meetings of the candidates, herein referred to as All-Candidates Meetings, or send a designated agent at the discretion of the CRO;
 - a. No candidate may campaign until they have attended an All-Candidates Meeting;
 - b. No agent may represent more than one candidate at an All-Candidates Meeting;
 - c. Thirty-six (36) hours notice is required, to be tendered to candidates by the CRO, for all meetings of the candidates;
 - d. The CRO shall call an All-Candidates Meeting prior to the commencement of campaigning, wherein the CRO shall:
 - i. Review the rules, schedules, protocols, and regulations of campaigning and of the election;
 - ii. Distribute an information booklet, detailing the rules, schedules, protocols, and regulations of elections contained in this Operating Procedure and in the Bylaws;
 - iii. Clarify any special conditions for campaigning, such as material use and campaign timelines. All candidates shall have input into this process, and the MASUEO shall make the final decision; and,
 - iv. Distribute the forms constituting the Candidate Package, including a Receipt Log to track expenses related to campaigning, a Scrutineer Appointment Form, and a Candidate Withdrawal Form.
2. An "Scrutineer Appointment" form must be completed prior to the opening of polls if a candidate wishes to have a scrutineer.

WITHDRAWAL OF NOMINATION

1. Candidates who wish to have their names removed from the ballots may tender a "Withdrawal from Election by a Candidate" form to the CRO.
2. At the discretion of the CRO, one (1) day shall be considered adequate notice to withdraw a nomination.

CAMPAIGNING

ELECTION SPEECHES AND COMMUNICATION

1. All candidates will be given the opportunity to give speeches to their prospective constituencies at a forum arranged by the CRO;
 - a. The CRO will film a speech given by each candidate, which will then be available for all constituents to view on the MASU website.
 - b. Time limits on speeches will be at the discretion of the CRO, and must be made
2. The CRO will request a written summary of each candidate's platform, which will be distributed to all students.

LIMITATIONS ON CAMPAIGNING

1. Campaigning shall commence at a time to be determined by the CRO, but not before the first All-Candidates Meeting;
2. Candidates will be allowed to begin campaigning after attending the All-Candidates meeting;
3. The total amount of money spent, and in-kind donation and services received may not exceed \$150.00 for Executive Elections and \$50.00 for all other elected positions;
4. All campaign materials, including online materials, must be removed 12 hours prior to the opening of the polls;
5. Candidates must not act in such a manner that it places a voter under duress with regard to their vote, as decided by a CRO investigation;
6. No campaigning shall occur in the MASU Office and/or the Student Affairs Office.
7. At no time are the resources of the MASU Office to be used for campaigning. Such MASU resources as banner paper, coloured poster paper, email lists, etc. are not to be used by any candidate or any member of the Union in support of any candidate;
8. The following people are not permitted to campaign for any candidate(s), unless they chose to temporarily resign their position:
 - a. The Chairperson;
 - b. the Deputy Chair;
 - c. the Chief Returning Officer;
 - d. the Deputy Chief Returning Officer;
 - e. the Vice-President, Finance and Operations; and,
 - f. the MASU Ombudsperson;
9. Campaign-related events shall not involve alcohol;
 - a. The above clause notwithstanding, campaign events at licensed venues are permitted, provided that no candidate provides alcohol for a member of the MASU, and that the consumption of alcohol by candidates is lawful;
10. Any events that support or are deemed supportive of a specific candidate must be approved by the CRO prior to the event;
11. Candidates are only permitted a certain number of paper posters during the campaign in an attempt to cut down on paper waste:
 - a. three (3) banners;
 - b. one hundred and fifty (150) letter-size paper posters or smaller;
 - c. A signage tally sheet is used to keep an official record of the signage used by a candidate and must be signed by the CRO



CAMPAIGNING

12. Candidates are expected to maintain a professional attitude and conduct themselves in a professional manner during election campaigning:
13. Slander and/or defacing the campaign materials of other candidates is strictly prohibited;
14. The MASUEO reserves the right to deem other conduct inappropriate during election campaigning, subject to the same enforcement standards as other limitations outlined herein.



ENFORCEMENT OF PROCEDURE

ENFORCEMENT AND DISQUALIFICATION

1. The CRO shall be responsible for the enforcement of regulations in accordance with Law III of the Bylaws and this Operating Procedure.
 - a. If a candidate is found to be in violation of any provisions in the Section 5 of this Operating Procedure, a candidate may face a fine of up to the maximum campaign spending limit or disqualification;
 - b. If a candidate is found to be in violation of Section 5, Limitations On Campaigning Clauses 5 and/or 9, they will be disqualified pending investigation;
 - c. If a candidate exceeds his/her spending limit by less than 15%, the CRO will levy an appropriate fine. If a candidate exceeds his/her spending limit by more than 15%, he/she may be disqualified;
2. For all fines incurred before the closing of the polls, candidates must pay their fine or make arrangements with the CRO before the closing of the polls. All fines incurred after the closing of the polls must be paid within 48 (forty-eight) hours;
3. Any candidate or member of the union may file a complaint against another candidate, to be tendered in writing to any Officer of the MASUEO:
 - a. A complaint may be submitted up to one (1) week after election day;
 - b. Complaints must include the statements of one (1) named witness;
 - c. The CRO will send an acknowledgment in writing to each claimant immediately upon receiving a complaint and shall keep a record with the Office Manager of all complaints filed. The CRO will initiate the following process to determine the validity of the complaint:
 - i. At the call of the CRO, the MASUEO shall meet within forty-eight (48) hours to address the validity of the complaint. The CRO shall extend an invitation to the claimant to attend part of this meeting;
 - ii. If the claimant so wishes, they may present a brief case for their complaint at this meeting, and shall be dismissed after doing so;
 - iii. Following the dismissal of the claimant, the MASUEO will deliberate on the validity of the complaint, and will notify the candidate of the findings of the MASUEO with regards to the validity and nature of the complaint within twenty-four (24) hours of the meeting;
 - iv. Minutes shall be taken at this meeting to record the deliberation and findings, and shall be produced within twenty-four (24) hours following any request to do so;
 - v. All complaints deemed valid by the MASUEO, by the process outlined above, shall be treated as a violation of the regulations contained in this procedure;
 - d. By submitting a complaint, the claimant agrees to allow the MASUEO to exercise discretion in the handling of the complaint: vexatious or frivolous complaints shall not be pursued. All tendered complaints shall be treated in accordance to this procedure, and shall be handled according to the timeline herein;
4. If the claimant is unsatisfied with the response of the CRO, they may file a complaint with the Ombudsperson, who shall handle the complain according to the process outlined in Operating Procedure XII;



ENFORCEMENT OF PROCEDURE

5. A candidate who has been disqualified by the CRO may continue to campaign only if they have launched an official appeal with the Ombudsperson, and that appeal has been accepted by the Appellate Chair, as per the process outlined in Operating Procedure XII;
6. If credible new evidence is revealed to the CRO or Ombudsperson following the election that incriminates any of the victorious candidates, the election may be overturned.

ELECTION EXECUTION

VOTING SYSTEMS

1. For all elections with two (2) or more candidates, a system of optional preferential voting will be used. The counting of these ballots shall be done in accordance with Section 8 of this Operating Procedure;
2. In the event that only one nomination is put forth for an elected position, a yes or no ballot shall be used. That candidate shall be declared elected if a majority of those ballots indicate support for the candidate. If a majority is not obtained, nominations for the position shall be reopened for five (5) days and the election re-held.

ELECTION PROCEDURES

1. All MASU elections or referenda must be held over a minimum two days with polls open not less than twelve (12) hours;
2. Members of the MASU who are eligible but unable to vote during polling hours must contact the CRO to determine an appropriate advance polling method given their particular location.
3. Notice as to the time and, if appropriate, place of the polling shall be posted no fewer than twenty-four (24) hours prior to polls opening;
4. Election voting shall occur by secret ballot, to be complete online unless otherwise requested:
 - a. The CRO will make available paper ballots for those eligible voter who submit a request no fewer than twenty-four (24) hours before the closing of polls.
 - b. Paper ballots must have the signature of the CRO on the reverse to be considered valid; any ballot not containing the signature shall be considered invalid;
5. The CRO shall work in partnership with the University to acquire the necessary information to conduct an online election:
 - a. The CRO shall uphold the terms and conditions of any election-associated contract signed between the MASU and the University;
 - b. The CRO shall uphold the terms and conditions set out by the electoral system-provider;
 - c. Only Officers of the MASUEO may have access to the online election account.
6. There shall be no voting by proxy
7. Counting of ballots in all elections shall be the duty of the Chief Returning Officer, as outlined in 8 of this Operating Procedure;
8. In all elections photographs of each of the candidates shall be posted in plain view at each polling stations.

POLLING STATIONS

1. Polling stations may be set up around the Mount Allison University campus on polling days to inform and encourage members to vote, at the discretion of the MASUEO. Polling stations may use a computer, on which members may access their online ballots.
2. Polling clerks manning the polling stations are not permitted to attempt to influence a voter's decision through word or deed, but may encourage a student vote, provided such encouragement is not harassing or threatening.
3. Polling clerks shall volunteers from those SAC Councillors who are not running for election.

BALLOT FORMAT AND COUNTING

OPTIONAL PREFERENTIAL VOTING (OPV) COUNTING

1. For elections where OPV is to be used, the ballot shall allow the voter to rank, in order of preference, each candidate. As many or as few candidates may be ranked by the voter.
2. In the event that more than one elected position is being contested on the same ballot, each position shall be considered an individual ballot;
3. For all elections, the candidate receiving an absolute fifty percent-plus-one (50% + 1) majority of all votes cast, for a particular elected position, shall be declared elected:
 - a. "All votes cast" shall include those that are deemed spoiled by the CRO. Upon request from a candidate or scrutineer, the CRO must be prepared to justify deeming it a spoiled ballot. If the candidate disagrees, s/he may make an appeal to the MASU Judicial Committee, at which time the status of the ballot may be decided by a simple majority of the voting members.
 - b. If a candidate has an absolute majority, no further counting is necessary. If no candidate is elected, the candidate with the least number of votes is excluded, and the candidate's votes are re-sorted to the other candidates according to the preference shown on each ballot paper.
 - i. If any of those ballot papers do not list additional preferences, those ballot papers are known as exhausted ballot papers and are removed from the count. They are then only used to balance the number of votes at the end of each exclusion, to the number of first-preference votes.
 - ii. The process of exclusions is repeated until such time as a candidate has an absolute majority of the votes remaining in the count and that candidate is elected. The absolute majority needed to be elected is recalculated after every candidate is excluded. This is due to exhausted ballot papers not continuing in the count.
4. In the event of a tie:
 - a. The candidate, from among those tied, with the fewest votes in the previous round is eliminated;
 - b. If there is still a tie, those counting votes then look back to the next most recent round and if necessary, to further progressively earlier rounds until one candidate can be eliminated;
 - c. If this also results in a tie, among the tied candidates, the candidate who would have the fewest votes in the following round will be eliminated;
 - d. If the candidates are tied after applying the procedure outlined in the above Clauses a. – c., then the CRO will declare the election null and void and re-open nominations no less than three (3) business days after the close of the original polls.

BALLOT CLARIFICATIONS

1. The option to abstain from voting for as many or as few as the voter wishes shall be presented on each ballot. An abstention from voting for any candidate (i.e. a blank ballot) shall be recorded as an exhausted ballot in all rounds. An abstention from voting for a second or subsequent preference shall be deemed exhausted in the appropriate round. Abstentions, like exhausted ballots, shall count towards quorum, but not towards any candidate.

BALLOT FORMAT AND COUNTING

2. A spoiled ballot shall count towards quorum, but not towards any candidate. A paper ballot shall be deemed spoiled if:
 - a. The physical ballot is filled in a way that the voter's decision is incomprehensible;
 - b. The ballot is physically deformed beyond legibility; or,
 - c. A preference ballot is completed in an illogical or unapproved manner;
3. OPV ballots cast online shall not be considered spoiled. In the instance that a ballot is left blank, it shall be treated as an abstention.

COUNTING PROCEDURE SUMMARY

1. The CRO shall notify all candidates of the time and place of the counting.
2. Only the CRO and those designated by the CRO may handle paper ballots.
3. The CRO is responsible for all cast ballots from the time the last ballot is cast until they are no longer needed.
4. Counting procedures will occur as follows:
 - a. Count all spoiled and exhausted ballots and determine whether or not the majority of votes are spoiled. If the majority of votes are spoiled or exhausted, this will be deemed a vote of non-confidence for the candidates, and the nominations will re-open;
 - b. Tabulate the first choices for each candidate. If a candidate achieves a majority of all votes cast, they are declared the winner. If no majority is achieved, proceed to Clause c. of this subsection;
 - c. Eliminate the candidate with the fewest votes and redistribute that candidate's votes among the remaining candidates. Ballot papers with no second preference listed are set aside as spoiled ballots;
 - d. If no candidate has a majority after the second count, it is necessary to continue to a third count by excluding the next remaining candidate with the fewest votes and distributing the preference as indicated. The counting continues until one candidate has a majority of votes;
 - e. The total votes needed for an absolute majority is recalculated each round, based on the formal votes in that round (i.e. the total votes cast less all exhausted and spoiled ballots).



ELECTIONS ACCOUNTABILITY

SCRUTINEER APPOINTMENT

1. During the counting of ballots, it is recommended that each candidate select a scrutineer from among MASU members to be present on her/his behalf.
 - a. No person may serve for more than one candidate in any race and no candidate may have more than one scrutineer;
 - b. An "Appointment of a Candidate's Scrutineer" form must be completed before the end of MASU office hours the first day the polls are open. This declaration must be in writing, must bear the signature of the candidate and the scrutineer, and is subject to the approval of the Chief Returning Officer;
2. With the exception of the Officers of the MASUEO and any polling clerks, the scrutineers are the only individuals allowed in the polling area.
3. The scrutineers may not be any of the following:
 - a. An Executive Officer,
 - b. An Officer from the Office of the Chair,
 - c. An Officer of the MASUEO,
 - d. The Entertainment or Assistant Entertainment Director,
 - e. The Ombudsperson, or
 - f. Any poll clerk.
4. It is the candidate's responsibility to inform their scrutineer of the time and place of the counting of the ballots.

RECOUNTS

1. If a candidate desires a recount, s/he must indicate so in writing to the MASU Elections Office within twenty-four (24) hours of the results being released.



REFERENDA INITIATION

PURPOSE

1. The MASU shall periodically hold referenda to gauge the will of its Members with regards to specific issues. A referenda shall be used for one of the following purposes:
 - a. Seeking approval for the contribution of a specified amount to a project, group, or another initiative;
 - b. Mandating the union with a specific policy or lobbying position;
 - c. Increasing union fees as outlined in Article II.3 of the MASU Constitution; or
 - d. Any amendment to the MASU Constitution, other than those outlined in Law XVII of the Bylaws;
2. Referenda shall not be held as polls or surveys of the union;
3. Referenda shall be held regularly for Council to remain accountable to its membership:
 - a. A fee increase of the sort outlined in Section 10, Purpose, Clause 1.a. shall expire three (3) years after the fee increase initially passed referendum, unless the same fee is supported in a subsequent referendum;
 - b. Policies passed through referenda may only be amended or repealed by subsequent referenda, as per Article VI of the Constitution.

INITIATION

1. Referenda questions shall only be posed with Yes or No responses possible.
2. A question shall be put to referendum by one of the following mechanisms:
 - a. A petition containing the text of the proposed resolution and consisting of signatures of twenty-five percent (25%) of MASU Members; or
 - b. A resolution containing the text of the proposed resolution approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of Council;
3. In the case of increasing union fees per Law II.3.a of the Constitution, the increase must be recommended by the Executive Committee and reviewed by the Finance Committee before council approval;
4. In the case of constitutional amendments per Law VII.1 of the Constitution, changes must be recommended by the Executive Committee and reviewed by the Operations Committee before council approval;
5. Any question put forward through the above Clause 2. must have established wording and be neutrally phrased;
6. All referenda must be held in the same academic year (September to April) in which they were initiated;
7. Once a question has been approved a date to host the referendum no sooner than ten (10) days will be arranged by the CRO, President, and Vice-President Finance and Operations.
8. The responsibility of referendum polling is left to the MASUEO;
9. The Members of the MASU must be notified and given referendum questions as they will appear on the ballot, at least ten (10) days before the balloting.
10. The Members of the MASU must also be notified of the time and, if appropriate, location of polling stations well in advance of their opening.
11. Voting on referenda shall be done online, following the procedure outlined for elections in this Operating Procedure, contained in Sections 7 – 9.



FORMAL POSITIONS ON REFERENDA ITEMS

FORMAL POSITIONS

1. There shall exist a Yes (in support) and a No (in opposition) campaign for each referendum question;
 - a. During the notification process outlined in Section 10 of this Operating Procedure, the CRO shall invite any union members to register for a Yes or No side officially. Registration may be completed through the submission of a "Referenda Campaign" form to the CRO.
 - b. All members formally running a support or opposition campaign must attend an all-candidates meeting;
 - c. One spokesperson to liaise with the MASU shall be appointed by the CRO.
 - d. Once campaigning has begun union members may continue to register for either campaign;
2. The CRO shall hold forums for public debate, question periods, etc., for the Yes and No sides individually, if requested. A spokesperson may also be appointed at this meeting if not previously done at the all-candidates meeting.
3. The spokesperson of each campaign must ensure their side adheres to MASU campaigning policy, outlined in Section 5 of this Operating Procedure.
4. All union members have the right to register for either the Yes or No position of any referendum question with the exception of the following S.A.C. members:
 - a. The CRO,
 - b. The DRO,
 - c. The Vice-President, Finance and Operations,
 - d. The Chairperson, and
 - e. Ombudsperson;
5. Each campaign body will be reimbursed up to \$50 for campaign materials by the MASU. These funds will be adjudicated by the CRO, who will disperse funds upon receiving appropriate proof of purchase.

REFERENDA CAMPAIGNING

CAMPAIGNS

1. Campaigning shall commence at a time to be determined by the CRO;
2. Active campaigning on or off campus shall be defined as, but not necessarily limited, to:
 - a. Distribution of campaign materials (e.g., flyers, posters, banners, buttons, clothing, cards or other campaign materials defined by the CRO);
 - b. Production of media advertisements, excluding static website and social networking electronic media;
 - c. Speaking to classes, residences, or individuals for the purpose of representation of a platform as a candidate or representative of a referendum position, or hosting any sessions or events to the same effect in the general student populace; and
 - d. All campaign materials, in question, must be approved by the CRO before distribution.
3. Only the Yes and No sides for each question are permitted to actively campaign.
4. Active campaigning must cease 12 hours before the opening of election polls and all campaign materials must be removed.
5. Campaigning is limited to \$50 for each side of every question.
6. No campaigning shall occur in the MASU Office and/or Student Affairs Office.
7. At no time are the resources of the MASU Office to be used for campaigning. Such MASU resources as banner paper, coloured poster paper, email lists, etc. are not to be used by any Union in support of either side.



ELECTION OUTCOMES

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

1. As per Section 8 of this Operating procedure, the candidate receiving an absolute fifty percent-plus-one (50% + 1) majority of all votes cast, for a particular elected position, shall be declared elected;
2. Immediately following the counting the CRO shall notify the candidates and the Executive Committee, as to the results of any election:
 - a. Following notification of the candidates and executive committee, a public announcement will be made through a Mount Allison student wide email within 24-hours following the election;
 - b. The CRO shall post a public notice as to the results in the MASU Office.
3. In addition to the communications outlined in the preceding clause, the CRO shall notify Members of the MASU through any other means of public notification, which can include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a. The MASU Website;
 - b. The MASU Social Media Accounts;
 - c. Argosy;
 - d. CHMA

REFERENDA OUTCOMES

1. Twenty-five percent (25%) of union members shall constitute a quorum for all questions.
2. As per Article VI of the Constitution, referenda shall be deemed binding if passed by at least a two-thirds (2/3) majority of MASU Members.
 - a. The MASU and its Council will be bound to the outcome of any binding referendum result, which may not be overturned.
3. If a question passes with a simple fifty percent-plus-one (50%+1) majority and does not reach the two-thirds (2/3) majority, the referenda shall be deemed non-binding. The referenda question will be brought to council at the first meeting following the election:
 - a. The spokesperson for the Yes campaign will be invited to speak on the merits of the referenda.
 - b. The spokesperson for the No campaign will be invited to speak on the merits of the referenda.
 - c. Council will be bound to the outcome any non-binding referendum if a motion to approve the referenda is passed by Council with a two-thirds (2/3) majority.