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Preserve Non-Partisan Elections for Alberta School Board Trustees

Sponsor: ASCA Board of Directors

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Issue:

The Alberta Provincial Government has introduced legislation, *Bill 20 - the Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act*, that will introduce partisan politics into municipal elections. This change will disrupt democracy at a local level.

Non-partisan elections for school board trustees are essential for ensuring that trustees are selected based on their qualifications, dedication, and commitment to serving the educational needs of students, rather than their political affiliations.

Introducing party politics into school board elections in Alberta risks undermining the integrity of the education system, politicizing decision-making processes, and diverting attention away from student achievement and well-being. Maintaining non-partisan elections for school board trustees allows for a more inclusive and representative democracy within the education system, encouraging broad participation from diverse candidates and voters who are focused on improving educational outcomes for all students.

Background:

[Municipal Political Parties – LAEA Review](#)

[Alberta could soon change legislation on municipal political parties | Globalnews.ca](#)

[Review of the Local Authorities Election Act \(LAEA\) and the Municipal Government Act \(MGA\)](#)

[UCP able to remove councilors and axe city bylaws in new sweeping bill aimed at municipal politics](#)

Preserving non-partisan elections for school board trustees aligns with the principles of inclusivity, fairness, and accountability that are fundamental to effective governance in education.

Recommendation:

That the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) advocates to the Minister of Education and the Government of Alberta for the preservation of non-partisan elections for school board trustees.