



**Date:** 09/08/2019

## **MEMORANDUM**

---

**To:** Chair and Directors, Committee of the Whole  
**And To:** John MacLean, Chief Administrative Officer  
**From:** Alice Johnston, Manager of Corporate Services/Deputy CAO  
**Date of Meeting:** Committee of the Whole\_Sep12\_2019  
**File:** 550-01  
**Subject:** Detailed Information on Regional District Voting Rules

---

### **Item for Discussion:**

It has been requested that further detail be provided in relation to the rules that govern how regional district Directors vote at Board meetings.

### **Background:**

The voting rules for regional district boards are contained within the *Local Government Act* – Part 6, Division 3. The general rules are:

- 1) Most votes require a majority to pass
- 2) Each Director present must vote
- 3) Not raising your hand is a vote in the affirmative
- 4) Tie votes are defeated (majority has not been achieved)
- 5) The Chair votes in each motion they are entitled to vote on
- 6) If only one Director would be entitled to vote, voting reverts to every Director present having one vote on the matter

The different types of regional district votes are:

**Corporate Vote, Unweighted:** this is the default vote; the vote when no other rule has been specified. It means that each Director present is entitled to vote and has one vote per Director.

Used for (in part):

- 1) Establishing bylaws for services
- 2) Regulatory bylaws
- 3) Resolutions and bylaws on the general conduct of the Board's business including procedure bylaws
- 4) The majority of Board business/receipt of information
- 5) Policy

**Corporate Vote, Weighted:** this is the vote used most commonly for matters involving money. Each Director present is entitled to vote with the number of votes assigned to them (see attachment); all available votes must be cast for the same objective. Used for (in part):

- 1) Resolutions authorizing persons to enter into contracts
- 2) Authorizing the acquisition, expropriation or disposal of real property
- 3) Adopting the financial plan
- 4) Authorizing borrowing and liabilities

**Stakeholder Vote, Weighted:** this is the vote used for matters regarding the administration and operation of a service. The intent is that the areas that participate in a service should be the ones making decisions in relation to how the service is provided. Used for (in part):

- 1) Fees and charges bylaws
- 2) Parcel tax bylaws
- 3) Resolutions regarding the administration and operation of a service (other than general administration)

\* Remember, if a stakeholder vote involves only one stakeholder, the vote reverts to a corporate, unweighted vote. A vote can never be taken based on only one Director.

**Stakeholder Vote, Unweighted:** this vote is only used for land use planning matters. The default rule (corporate, unweighted) applies; however, because municipal members may not vote in land use matters unless they opt in and share costs, it becomes a stakeholder unweighted vote. Used for:

- 1) Rural Land Use Bylaws, OCP's, Zoning Bylaws, DVP's, etc.

Although the voting rules in the Local Government Act are not discretionary, we polled the two regional districts closest to us to determine how they handle voting at their Board tables. The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George votes in the same manner as the CRD, with the applicable voting displayed on their agendas.

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District doesn't generally point out whether a vote is corporate, weighted or stakeholder to the Board. The Corporate Officer has the applicable voting available in case it either comes up as a question from a Board member or the vote is not unanimous, and they need to be sure of the result. Most times, everyone at their table votes and they feel that helps with the cohesiveness of the group. The only time that they make sure to point out the stakeholder vote is when the Board is making grants to a group and the funds are coming only from the electoral area fund.

## **Attachments:**

Voting Unit Breakdown for Cariboo Regional District Board