



League Recommends Changes to Civic Election Rules

Task Force to improve Civic Election rules

www.localelectiontaskforce.gov.bc.ca

The provincial government struck a task force on **local election reform** last fall. While there was limited opportunity for citizen input, SCL did make a submission. The task force will report its findings to the legislature May 30, 2010 with plans to implement changes in time for our next municipal and school board elections, fall 2011.

Democracy Dinner

Local election reform was the theme for Saanich Civic League's first-ever Democracy Dinner April 22. In wide ranging, 'round the dinner table conversation participants agreed on a number of points which form SCL's brief submission to the Task Force.

Engaging in conversation Democracy Dinner



SCL SUBMISSION TO TASK FORCE ON LOCAL ELECTION REFORM

Civic Engagement

SCL submits to Task Force

We believe a primary focus of the Task Force should be civic engagement. Voter turnout is at an all-time low for municipal and school board elections in most B.C. communities. Surely a priority 'improvement' question is how to re-engage citizens in democracy and democratic processes at the local level.

Corporate Vote

We do not support re-introduction of the corporate vote in civic elections. We do support one person one vote.

Campaign Financing / Spending Limits

SCL favours a level playing field for all candidates and recommends

- a) a cap on campaign spending
- b) that there be a maximum allowable financial contribution from any one individual to any one candidate
- c) that every effort be made for optimum transparency on who contributes, how much, to whose campaign.

Advertising

SCL does not support anonymous advertising and believes that endorsements in campaign literature must be attributable.

end submission April 30, 2010



OTHER TOPICS FOR CONVERSATION

Many other topics were discussed during our Democracy Dinner on **Election Reform** but not all, in a short convivial evening over dinner, achieved consensus among those at the table. Therefore, not all items were included in the Task Force submission.

While the subjects below were not part of SCL's submission, they did contribute to an intriguing evening's conversation enjoyed by all who attended:

- Improving candidate's credentials via pre-nomination training
- Terms of Office
- Political parties at the civic level
- Municipalities deciding their own voting system
- Ward Systems
- STV
- Contributions to candidates' campaigns from corporations, businesses, unions, and organizations
- Third party advertising
- Tax-deductible civic campaign contributions.

Next
Democracy Dinner
May 14

OUR FOOD & FARM FUTURE

Evening begins with a guided tour of Haliburton Community Organic Farm.

<http://www.haliburtonfarm.org>

To reserve your seat go to SCL website HOT NEWS.