



February 13, 2026

Re: BIA taxpayers to vote on potential disestablishment of the Business Improvement Area

Dear Downtown Business Owner,

The City of Red Deer is writing to inform you of an upcoming vote related to the potential disestablishment of the Business Improvement Area (BIA) and the Downtown Business Association (DBA).

An in-person vote will be held on **Monday, March 16, 2026**, to gather input from eligible BIA levy payers. This vote is a required step in a legislated process following City Council's first reading of a bylaw that would disestablish the BIA.

In December, the DBA board formally requested that The City initiate disestablishment proceedings. Provincial legislation requires that businesses affected by the BIA levy be given the opportunity to vote on whether disestablishment proceeds.

### **Voting dates and location**

Eligible voters may cast a ballot in person at the following times and location:

**Advance voting:** Saturday, March 14, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Voting day:** Monday, March 16, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Location:** Board Room, Servus Arena 4725 43 Street, Red Deer, AB

### **Who can vote**

Each BIA taxpayer is eligible for one vote. A taxpayer is a person who operates a business within the BIA and is responsible for paying the BIA levy. Each eligible business must designate a representative to vote on its behalf.

### **Identification requirements**

In addition to providing photo identification proving their identity, voters are required to provide reasonable proof that they are the person selected by the business to vote on behalf of the business. This can be any documentation or verification that shows the individual operates the business or has been authorized by the business to be its voter.

Reasonable proof might include:

- corporate registry documents confirming a person's authority
- a person's name being on the business license or a BIA tax notice
- a motion or letter from a corporation's board or the partners approving a person to vote
- a letter (or email) from the taxable business, from a verifiable business contact (ideally on letterhead, or from a business email address), signed/sent by an owner/director/officer, or partner, identifying the business and naming the individual who is selected to vote for that business

A signed declaration is also required by each voter, confirming they are a taxpayer for that business and have been selected to vote for that business (and acknowledging it is an offence to make a false statement).

### **Results and next steps**

Results of the vote will be announced on Monday, March 16, 2026, once all ballots have been counted and verified.

The outcome of the vote will determine next steps:

- If a majority of votes support disestablishment, City Council must proceed with adopting the disestablishment bylaw.
- If a majority of votes oppose disestablishment, City Council cannot proceed. First reading of the bylaw will be rescinded, and City Council will be prevented from passing another BIA disestablishment bylaw for two years. The BIA will remain legally in place.

All eligible businesses are encouraged to learn about the vote and make a plan to participate.

### **Why you are receiving this message**

The City is currently revising the 2026 BIA tax roll, which will be finalized in late February. To ensure businesses receive timely information about the vote, this communication has been sent to those listed on the 2025 BIA tax roll and to current business licence holders within the Business Improvement Area. As a result, some recipients may not be eligible to vote. Only businesses listed on the finalized 2026 BIA tax roll are eligible.

If you know of a business that should receive this information, please share it with them. In late February, this message will also be sent directly to those listed on the 2026 BIA tax roll who have not yet received it.

All recipients are encouraged to review voter eligibility details and, if applicable, designate a voting representative.

For more information and to sign up for email updates, please visit [reddeer.ca/downtownbusiness](https://reddeer.ca/downtownbusiness).

Sincerely,  
The City of Red Deer