

RESOLUTIONS

POLICY NO. AP002

PURPOSE

1. ABmunis represents over 260 municipalities that face a wide variety of complex issues. ABmunis vision is to be a change agent that enables municipalities to be a fully engaged order of government with the capacity to build thriving communities. ABmunis mission is to be the voice of urban municipalities and provide visionary leadership, solutions-based advocacy and service excellence.
2. As part of fulfilling our vision and mission, ABmunis conducts a resolutions process that enables Member municipalities to identify and prioritize common issues and solutions that empower ABmunis Board of Directors to advocate to the federal and provincial governments on Members' behalf.
3. The purpose of the Resolutions policy ("the Policy") is to establish a clear and consistent process for resolutions that aligns with ABmunis broader advocacy initiatives.

DEFINITIONS

4. In this Policy:
 - a. **"Advocacy"** means the wide variety of actions undertaken by ABmunis to address municipal and policy issues.
 - b. **"ABmunis"** means the Association of Alberta Municipalities.
 - c. **"ABmunis Administration"** means ABmunis employees.
 - d. **"Board"** means the Alberta Municipalities Board of Directors.
 - e. **"Board Member"** refers to a member of the ABmunis Board of Directors.
 - f. **"CEO"** means the person appointed by the ABmunis Board of Directors as Chief Executive Officer.
 - g. **"Committee"** means a standing Committee of the Board, or an ad-hoc Committee established by the Board.
 - h. **"Convention"** means the annual Convention held by ABmunis to conduct the business of the Association, consider resolutions, and provide opportunities for education and networking.
 - i. **"Elected Representative"** refers to an elected representative of a Member of ABmunis.
 - j. **"Friendly Amendments"** refers to those that are so simple or uniformly acceptable that they can be adopted by unanimous consent during debate. This eliminates the necessity for a formal amendment process including seconding, debating, and voting.
 - k. **"Member"** refers to a Regular Member as defined in the ABmunis Bylaws.
 - l. **"Political Capital"** refers to the goodwill, trust and influence a political figure/organization has with the public and other political figures/organizations.
 - m. **"Resolutions Book"** means the electronic document that includes resolutions to be considered at Convention.

POLICY

Call for Resolutions

5. No later than January 31 of each year, ABmunis issues a call for resolutions to be considered at ABmunis Convention during the Resolutions Session.
6. The call includes information on:
 - a. ABmunis resolutions policy and process, including a resolution writing guide and template;
 - b. ABmunis prioritization policy and process, so that Members understand how ABmunis identifies the level of engagement it invests in various issues;
 - c. Strategic initiatives approved by the Board, so Members are aware of where ABmunis is focusing its attention and resources; and
 - d. The Resolutions Library, so Members are aware of past resolutions and ABmunis actions on them as well as resolutions that are due to expire at that year's Convention as per Section 61 of this policy.

Movers and Seconders

7. Resolutions may be sponsored by:
 - a. A single Member's council. Resolutions sponsored by a single Member must be seconded by another Member's council;
 - b. The councils of a group of Members. All group sponsored resolutions are deemed to be seconded; or
 - c. The Board.
8. The sponsor of a resolution is deemed to have moved the resolution and is referred to as the "mover".

Research and Writing

9. As outlined by the template in Appendix "A", each resolution shall be written in the following format:
 - a. A concise title, which specifies the issue in the resolution;
 - b. A preamble of "WHEREAS" clauses, which provide a clear, brief, and factual context for the operative clause;
 - c. An operative clause, which clearly sets out what the resolution is meant to achieve and the proposal for action; and
 - d. Background information, which provides further context as to why the issue is important to Alberta municipalities.
10. Primary responsibility for researching and drafting resides with the mover.
11. Members are encouraged to seek initial advice from ABmunis Administration on resolution topics and sources of information, as well as feedback on the format, accuracy and clarity of draft resolutions.

Submission

12. Resolutions must be submitted to ABmunis Administration no later than May 31 of each year.
13. ABmunis CEO may grant an extension of the deadline if:
 - a. Convention is scheduled later than Thanksgiving Day in any year; or
 - b. Conditions prevent Members from submitting resolutions by the deadline (e.g. There is an emergency event.)
14. Resolutions must be submitted:
 - a. Electronically, as specified in the call for resolutions;
 - b. In the format specified by the template in Appendix “A”;
 - c. Along with minutes that show proof of the moving and seconding councils’ approvals as required in section 7; and
 - d. In adherence to the guidelines presented in this policy.

Emergent Resolutions

15. A resolution related to a matter of an urgent nature arising after the resolution deadline may be considered as “emergent” on a case-by-case basis.
16. The criteria of an emergent resolution are that it **must**:
 - a. Deal with an issue of concern to Alberta municipalities which has arisen after the resolution deadline, or just prior to the resolution deadline, such that Members could not submit it as a resolution in time;
 - b. Have a critical aspect that needs to be addressed before the next Convention; and
 - c. Comply with the guidelines for resolutions set out in this policy.
17. Members wishing to move emergent resolutions shall provide notice to ABmunis Administration as soon as possible with a deadline of noon the day before Convention opens.
18. Emergent resolutions must be submitted:
 - a. Electronically, as specified in the call for resolutions;
 - b. In the format specified by the template in Appendix “A”;
 - c. Along with minutes that show proof of the moving council’s approval and
 - d. In adherence to the guidelines presented in this policy.
19. The determination of whether the proposed resolution meets the criteria of an emergent resolution will be made by:
 - a. ABmunis Board, if the proposed emergent resolution is submitted before the final Board meeting prior to Convention; or
 - b. ABmunis Executive Committee, if the proposed emergent resolution is submitted after the final Board meeting prior to Convention.
20. If the Board or Executive Committee determines the resolution meets the criteria of an emergent resolution, the Board or Executive Committee will second the resolution.

21. If the resolution receives approval for consideration after the Convention Guide is sent to be published, the mover will provide ABmunis with 1,000 printed copies of the resolution.
22. Emergent resolutions accepted by the ABmunis Board or Executive Committee shall be added to the Resolution Session Agenda following the Category C resolutions as defined in Section 24(a).

ABmunis Review

23. ABmunis Administration will review resolutions as they are submitted and advise movers if a resolution:
 - a. Could trigger any of the criteria set out in Section 28;
 - b. Addresses a topic covered by an already active resolution;
 - c. Contradicts existing ABmunis policy;
 - d. Poses potential risks for Alberta Municipalities or any of the association's members as a result of publishing, debating, and/or the voting results.
 - e. Should be combined with a similar resolution being moved by another municipality; or
 - f. Has any further deficiencies such as:
 - i. Absence of any indication of the resolution being endorsed by the council of the moving and seconding municipality;
 - ii. Unclear, contradictory, incorrect, or misleading statements;
 - iii. Lack of enough background information to justify the action being proposed; or
 - iv. Incorrect formatting.
24. ABmunis Administration will compile resolutions into a draft Resolutions Book that:
 - a. Categorizes resolutions as follows:
 - i. Category A – position papers moved by the Board;
 - ii. Category B – issues that align with ABmunis strategic initiatives; or
 - iii. Category C – other issues of potential interest to Alberta municipalities.
 - b. Resolutions within these categories may be grouped by theme (e.g. governance, infrastructure, safe and healthy communities).
 - c. Proposes ABmunis comments on each resolution relating to:
 - i. Whether and how the resolution relates to an existing ABmunis position or strategic initiative; and
 - ii. Other considerations that may affect ABmunis ability to act on the resolution.
 - d. Identifies resolutions that potentially trigger the criteria set out in Section 28.
25. ABmunis Municipal Governance Committee will review and recommend any amendments to the draft Resolutions Book as required, including:
 - a. proposed comments;
 - b. any need for risk mitigation; and
 - c. any Section 28 concerns.

26. ABmunis may edit resolutions for consistency with the ABmunis template, clarity, grammar, and punctuation without the formal approval of the moving and seconding municipalities, so long as the edits do not change the intent of the resolution and the mover is informed.
27. The draft Resolutions Book will then be forwarded to the Board for consideration.
28. To preserve ABmunis credibility, the Board reserves the right to ensure issues raised by resolutions to be considered at Convention are related to municipal interests and do not:
 - a. Involve conflicts between individual municipalities;
 - b. Involve conflicts between individual municipalities and citizens, other organizations, etc.;
 - c. Involve internal issues of a municipality;
 - d. Promote the interests of individual businesses;
 - e. Direct a municipality to take a course of action;
 - f. Result in the perception that ABmunis is partisan and supports a political party or candidate;
or
 - g. Lack the clarity required to determine the issue and/or what is being asked of the ABmunis.
29. If Section 28 conditions exist, the Board may reject the proposed resolution and notify the mover with an explanation of why the resolution will not appear in the Resolutions Book.
30. The mover of a rejected resolution may appeal the decision by bringing forward a motion at the Resolutions Session for the resolution to be considered, and the decision can be reversed by 2/3 majority of votes cast.
31. ABmunis will electronically publish and distribute the Resolutions Book to Members at least eight (8) weeks prior to Convention to provide councils enough time to review and discuss the resolutions.
32. Resolutions are also published in the Resolutions Library on ABmunis website and in the Convention Guide that is distributed in hard copy at Convention.

Resolutions Session

33. All procedures at the Resolutions Session will be governed by Robert's Rules of Order as modified by this policy.
34. As provided in ABmunis Bylaws, quorum for all proceedings at a Resolutions Session will be comprised of Elected Representatives of 25% of ABmunis Regular Members.
35. Prior to the beginning of the Resolutions Session, the Resolutions Session Chair will ask for a motion from the floor to adopt the Resolutions Session Agenda as presented in the Convention Guide, with the addition of any emergent resolutions submitted after the guide was published.

36. Amendments from the floor to the Resolutions Session Agenda will be accepted when duly moved and seconded.
37. The motion to approve the Resolutions Session Agenda will be passed by a simple majority of votes cast. A 2/3 majority of the votes cast will be required to approve amendments to the Resolutions Session Agenda.
38. If there are no amendments to the Resolutions Session Agenda, resolutions will be debated in the order they are presented in the Convention Guide. No further amendments to the approved Agenda will be accepted.
39. So long as there is quorum (Section 34), the Resolutions Session shall not be closed until all resolutions listed in the agenda are debated and voted upon, or the allotted time for the Resolutions Session has expired, unless the majority of delegates present vote to extend the allotted time.
40. Resolutions which are not debated at a Resolutions Session because of insufficient time or lack of quorum will be considered by the Board following the Convention.

Introduction and Debate

41. The Resolutions Session Chair will introduce each proposed resolution by indicating its number, title, the names of the mover and seconder, and the operative clause.
42. A mover may withdraw a proposed resolution when the resolution is introduced. In this event, the Resolutions Session Chair shall declare the resolution withdrawn and no further debate or comments will be allowed.
43. Resolutions that are moved by the Board must be seconded from the floor by an Elected Representative of a Member.
44. A spokesperson from the mover will then have up to two (2) minutes to speak to the resolution.
45. Next, ABmunis comments on member-moved resolutions may be presented by a Board Member.
46. These comments must be approved in advance by the Board.
47. The Resolutions Session Chair will then open debate by calling for a speaker in opposition, seeking clarification or proposing an amendment.

48. Speakers will have a two (2) minute time limit and shall not speak more than once on any one question.
49. If no one rises to speak in opposition, for clarification or to propose an amendment to a resolution, the question will be immediately called.
50. As provided in the ABmunis Bylaws, the persons entitled to speak to a resolution during the Resolutions Session are:
 - a. Elected Representatives in attendance whose municipalities are Regular Members of ABmunis in good standing.
 - b. In the event a Regular Member is unable to be represented at the Resolutions Session by an Elected Representative, an official appointed by motion of the Council to represent it, if notice of such appointment is submitted in writing to ABmunis CEO at least three (3) days prior to the date of the Resolutions Session.
 - c. Upon a motion from the floor, or at the discretion of the Resolution Session Chair, a representative of an Associate Member as defined in ABmunis bylaws.
51. No debate on accompanying background material and information for resolutions is allowed.
52. When no opposing position speaker is available, the Resolutions Session Chair will declare the end of the debate and the spokesperson from the mover will be allowed one (1) minute for the closing of debate.

Amendments

53. “Friendly amendments” are those that are so simple or uniformly acceptable that they can be adopted by unanimous consent during debate. This eliminates the necessity for a formal amendment process including seconding, debating, and voting.
54. Friendly amendments must be agreed to by the mover of the main motion and there must be no objection from voting delegates to the amendment being made on a friendly basis.
55. Only one amendment will be accepted at a time, and only one amendment to the amendment is permitted at a time.
56. Amendments, including “friendly amendments”, should preferably be submitted in writing to the Resolutions Session Chair prior to the amendment being introduced, but verbal amendments will also be accepted from the floor.
57. Amendments (except friendly amendments) must be seconded from the floor or they do not proceed.
58. Debate and voting procedures for an amendment (except friendly amendments) shall be the same as for a resolution as set out elsewhere in this policy.

Voting

59. The conflict of interest guidelines for council votes, as outlined in the Municipal Government Act, shall also apply to Convention resolution votes for all delegates. It is incumbent upon each delegate to adhere to these guidelines.

60. Voting may, at the discretion of the Resolutions Session Chair, be by:

- a. electronic device;
- b. a show of hands of eligible voters; or
- c. paper ballot.

61. The number of votes necessary for any resolution to pass is a simple majority of votes cast for that resolution (50% plus one vote).

Action on Adopted Resolutions

62. All adopted resolutions will be sent to the relevant provincial and/or federal ministry or organization for response.

63. Further advocacy on resolutions will be recommended to the Board by the relevant Committee based on analysis completed using the Prioritization and Levels of Engagement Frameworks in Appendix “B”.

64. Category A resolutions are considered active until the Board deems them to be complete or inactive.

65. Category B and C resolutions have an active life of up to three (3) years if not completed before then, following which they are deemed inactive.

66. Members or the Board may sponsor renewal of a resolution that is going to expire.

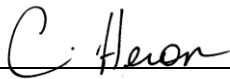
POLICY REVIEW

67. This Policy will be reviewed annually. Any required changes will be presented to the Board for approval.

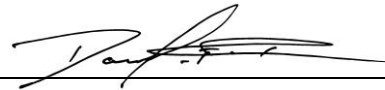
APPENDICES

- A. Resolution Template
- B. Prioritization and Levels of Engagement Frameworks

	Date	Minute Page No.
Approved	Mar 25, 2004	3
Amended	Jan 27, 2005	8
Amended	Feb 24, 2005	3
Amended	Feb 23, 2006	11
Amended	May 20, 2010	4
Amended	May 25, 2012	6
Amended	Oct 25, 2012	12
Amended	Nov 2, 2017	3
Amended	Aug 22, 2019	2
Amended	Dec 17, 2020	2
Amended	Apr 28, 2022	2
Amended	Dec 15, 2022	3



President, Mayor Cathy Heron



Chief Executive Officer, Dan Rude

APPENDIX A

Resolution Template

WHEREAS the purpose of the “Whereas clauses” is to clearly and succinctly describe the issue or opportunity that the resolution is bringing forward, and identify why the subject is relevant to Alberta’s municipal governments;

WHEREAS the clauses should identify whether the issue involves the need for information sharing, policy changes, legislative/regulatory change or a combination thereof, and refer to specific documents and sections whenever possible;

WHEREAS depending on the complexity of the issue, including roughly five “Whereas” clauses is ideal;

WHEREAS further information can be included in the background; and

WHEREAS these clauses should lead logically to the operative clause.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate forThis operative clause is the call to action. It should include a clear and specific request for the Government of Alberta, Government of Canada or another organization to act. This is the most important part of the resolution and should be written clearly, so there is no doubt as to what action is being requested. This is the most important part of the resolution and should be written clearly, so there is no doubt as to what action is being requested.

BACKGROUND:

No preamble can be comprehensive enough to give a full account of the situation that gave rise to the resolution. In all cases, supplementary or background information is necessary (1 to 2 pages maximum).

The Background should answer the following questions:

- What is the impact of the issue on municipalities and how many municipalities are impacted? (Provide examples and/or statistics where possible.)
- What priority should the resolution be given?
- Does the issue and call to action align with one of Alberta Municipalities’ strategic initiatives?
- Has the issue been addressed by Alberta Municipalities in response to a resolution or otherwise in the past and what was the outcome?
- Have other associations or groups acted on this issue, or are they considering action? (e.g. Is a similar resolution being considered by the Rural Municipalities of Alberta?)
- What other considerations are involved? (e.g. Does the proposed action align with goals of the provincial or federal government, or other organizations?)

Note on fonts:

Headings - Franklin Gothic Book, 13

Body – Franklin Gothic Book, 11

APPENDIX B

Prioritization Framework

Questions	Sample considerations	Analysis
Does the issue align with ABmunis strategic initiatives?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will action on the issue contribute towards realizing the goals of the strategic initiative or will it lead to scope creep without adding value? 	
Is the issue within municipal jurisdiction?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the issue exclusive to municipalities or does it also involve federal or provincial government? 	
What is the impact on Members and how many Members are impacted?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is this a significant issue to a single Member or to many Members? If the issue only impacts a few Members today, does it have the potential to impact more Members in the future? 	
Will engagement in this issue build or deplete political capital?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the issue align with the priorities of the government of the day? Or, will we have to push to get it onto the agenda or actively counter their agenda? 	
Does the issue involve the need for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information sharing? Funding? Policy Change? Legislative/regulatory change? All of the above? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The answer to this question will influence the time, resources, and chances for success. In general, changes to legislation requires more time and effort than changes to regulations. Requests for funding must consider that federal and provincial governments face funding constraints. 	
Is there an opportunity for ABmunis to add value to this issue?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does ABmunis have the expertise on staff, on the Board/Committees, among Members to add value? ABmunis is often best positioned to provide input on higher level principles and only has the capacity to engage at a detailed technical level on a limited number of issues. Are there other organizations that have greater expertise and credibility on the issue? Is it better for municipalities to respond directly, or is a collective response needed? 	

<p>What are timelines involved?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there time to seek input from Members/Committees and seek approval from the Board? • In other words, is there time to determine a collective response, or should ABmunis just let Members know about an issue and let them respond individually? 	
<p>What are the chances of success?</p>	<p>Given the answers to the above questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How likely will ABmunis advocacy on an issue result in tangible benefits for Members? • Has the relevant decision maker (i.e., provincial, or federal government) indicated they are open to making changes? Has a consultation process been initiated? 	
<p>Does ABmunis have the capacity to respond effectively?</p>	<p>Given the answers to the above questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would action on this issue take time and resources away from key priorities? • Does ABmunis have the time and resources to conduct appropriate analysis, engage Members, build partnerships, create meaningful solutions and report back to Members on this issue? 	
<p>Conclusion</p>		
<p>Based on the analysis above, what should ABmunis level of engagement* be on this issue?</p> <p>What action should be taken?</p> <p>How will the action be reported?</p>		

*As outlined in the levels of engagement framework

Levels of Engagement Framework

Level of Engagement	Potential Actions	Reporting
Low – Inform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article in ABmunis newsletter. • Informal email or phone call at the administrative level on issues that can be quickly resolved. • Monitoring for potential future impacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information item for a Committee or Board • Update to ABmunis Resolutions Library
Medium – Contribute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing Note or Request for Decision through a Committee seeking direction or a recommendation to ABmunis Board. As a result, further action may be taken including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Letters ○ Meetings ○ Presentations to Committees ○ Webinars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates to the relevant ABmunis Committee. • Updates to Members through the ABmunis newsletter and Resolutions Library.
High – Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement an advocacy strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular updates at to Board and relevant ABmunis Committee. • Updates to Members through ABmunis newsletter, website, and events.