



## MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Kimberley Kitteringham, City Clerk / Returning Officer

Prepared by: Scott Chapman, Manager, Elections

Date: January 25, 2022

**Re: Use of Corporate Resources for Election Purposes Policy – Proposed Updates**

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### RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the staff memorandum titled 'Use of Corporate Resources for Election Purposes Policy – Proposed Updates' dated January 25, 2022 be received.
2. That Council approve the updated *Use of Corporate Resources for Election Purposes Policy* as reflected in **Appendix 'A'** of this memorandum; and further,
3. That staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

### BACKGROUND:

At its January 17, 2022 meeting, General Committee received an information report on the City of Markham's *Use of Corporate Resources for Election Purposes Policy* ahead of the 2022 Ontario Provincial Election and 2022 Markham Municipal Election.

During the Committee's consideration of the report, the following comments were made in reference to potential revisions to the *Policy*:

- Modifying Councillors' discretionary budget access in a municipal election year from 11/12<sup>th</sup> to 10.5/12<sup>th</sup>, to account for the additional two weeks between the start of the 2022-2026 Council term and the end of the year (Section 3.2);
- Modifying Councillors' discretionary budget access between January 1 and April 30 in a municipal election year from 6/11<sup>th</sup> to 6/12<sup>th</sup> (or 50%), for ease of understanding and consistency with the corresponding parent section (Section 3.2.1);
- Simplifying the definition of 'Election Period' through deference to the applicable electoral legislation (Section 4 – 'Definitions');
- Clarifying the language around use of 'corporate identifiers' in campaign materials (Section 1.9);
- Clarifying the language around discontinued services in a municipal election year for Councillors who are not seeking re-election (Sections 3.5 and 3.6); and,
- Minor clerical revisions to the context-setting sections ('Applicability/Scope', 'Background').

Staff have reviewed the *Use of Corporate Resources for Election Purposes Policy* in light of the comments raised by General Committee, and are proposing amendments reflected in the updated policy attached as **Appendix ‘A’** based on these comments.

Staff will continue to communicate this *Policy* along with a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document to Councillors, staff, candidates, third party advertisers, and all other election stakeholders throughout the election year.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Appendix ‘A’ – Updated *Use of Corporate Resources for Election Purposes Policy*

Appendix ‘B’ – Redline version of Existing *Use of Corporate Resources for Election Purposes Policy*  
(reflecting proposed amendments)