



To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Carlie Turpin, Manager, Elections

RE: Markham's Municipal Election Candidate Contribution Rebate Program

Date: March 20, 2018

At the February 6, 2017 General Committee meeting, Committee adopted the following amendments to Markham's Municipal Election Candidate Contribution Rebate Program:

- A requirement that all campaign contributors to apply to the City of Markham for the issuance of a contribution rebate and the deadline for all contributors to apply be 90 days after the candidate's financial filing deadline.
- Confirmation that all contributions made to a candidate between the date on which a candidate files a nomination form and the end of the candidate's campaign period are eligible for a contribution rebate.

Committee also approved implementation of the Rebate Program (as amended) in principle for the 2018 Municipal Election pending a report back from staff on any changes to campaign finance rules resulting from the Province's recent review of municipal election legislation.

Bill 68 - Bill 68, Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act

Bill 68 received royal assent on May 30, 2017 and made the following changes to campaign contributions:

- 1) Contribution Limits
Section 88.9 amended Individual contribution limits (previously \$750) by raising the limit to \$1,200. The \$5,000 aggregate contribution limits have not been amended.
- 2) Self-funding Limit
Section 88.9.1 (1) amended the self-funding limit for candidates and/or their spouse. A candidate for an office on a council and his or her spouse shall not make contributions to the candidate's own election campaign that, combined, exceed an amount equal to the lesser of,
 - a) the amount calculated by adding,
 - i. in the case of a candidate for the office of head of council of a municipality, \$7,500 plus 20 cents for each elector entitled to vote for the office, or
 - ii. in the case of a candidate for an office on a council of a municipality other

than the office of head of council, \$5,000 plus 20 cents for each elector entitled to vote for the office; and,

b) \$25,000.

The self-funding limit (the total amount of contributions made by the candidate and his/her spouse to the campaign) is set to a **maximum** limit of \$25,000.

This self-funding limit would only apply to municipal candidates. It does not apply to school board trustee candidates or to third party advertisers.

Staff have reviewed these changes and determined they do not impact the Markham's Rebate Program. A revised Municipal Election Candidate Contribution Rebate Program By-law, incorporating the changes made at the February 6, 2017 General Committee meeting, will be placed on the April 3, 2018 Council meeting agenda for adoption by Markham City Council.