



# 2018 Municipal Election Information Presentation

**General Committee  
March 5, 2017**

# Information Presentation Outline

1. Ontario Municipal Elections - Legislative Framework
2. Online Voting in Ontario
3. Markham's Online Voting Journey
4. Markham Voting Statistics Since 2003
5. 2018 Municipal Election – Key Dates
6. Markham's 2018 Municipal Election Model

# 1. Legislative Framework

- Municipal Elections Act (the Act) governs all Municipal Elections/By-Elections in Ontario.
- Principles of the Act:
  - Secrecy & confidentiality of vote is paramount
  - Election must be fair, unbiased & accessible to all voters
  - Integrity of the process must be maintained throughout election
  - There should be certainty of results (they reflect votes cast)
  - Voters & Candidates to be treated fairly & consistently

# 1. Legislative Framework (Cont'd)

- In accordance with the Act, the Clerk is responsible for the legislative & administrative conduct of municipal elections/by-elections in Ontario (Section 12).
- The Clerk may provide for any matter or procedure that:
  - Is not otherwise provide for in an Act or regulation; &
  - In the Clerk's opinion, is necessary or desirable for conducting the election/by-election.

## 2. Online Voting in Ontario

- Ontario is a global leader in online voting.
- In the 2014 Municipal Election in Ontario:
  - 97 municipalities (21.8%) offered online voting (up from 44 in 2010)
  - 62 municipalities (14%) ran fully electronic elections
  - Online voting was made available to 2.4 million voters
- According to the report: Cyber Threats To Canada's Democratic Process prepared by the Communications Security Establishment (CSE) for the Federal Government in 2017, the cyber threat to Canada's democratic process at the sub-national level (including municipalities) is very low.

\*The CSE is one of Canada's key security & intelligence organizations.

## 2. Online Voting in Ontario (Cont'd)

- In 2018, Newmarket & Aurora will be joining Markham & offering online voting to their voters.
- Newmarket offering online voting only (no paper ballots); Aurora offering online voting during the Early Voting Period only (paper ballots only on Voting Day).
- ScytI\* is providing the online voting platform to both Newmarket & Markham.

\*ScytI provided the online voting platform to Markham in the 2014 Municipal Election.

## 3. Markham's Online Voting Journey

- Markham first implemented online voting for 2003 Municipal Election – as part of a multi-channel service delivery strategy.
- Online voting has now been successfully deployed in 4 consecutive binding municipal elections in Markham (2003, 2006, 2010, 2014) – the City is a leader in multi-channel voting.
- Why Online Vote? Because it:
  - Supports Markham's digital leadership goals
  - Supports the City's accessibility & diversity objectives
  - Is “greener” than in-person voting
  - Is convenient for residents
  - Is cost effective

## 3. Markham's Online Voting Journey (Cont'd)

- Markham's Online Voting model has evolved considerably since 2003 & is informed by:
  - Municipal Elections Act (principles).
  - Rigorous testing & lessons learned from 2003, 2006, 2010 & 2014 municipal elections.
  - 2017 Communications Security Establishment report entitled "Cyber Threats To Canada's Democratic Process".
  - 2014 & 2010 independent security assessments.
  - 2014, 2010 & 2006 user experience surveys (of voters).
  - 2010 Literature review undertaken by Dr. Henry Kim, York University (review examined academic & professional literature regarding online voting especially with respect to security & accessibility).
  - 2006 Risk Assessment conducted by Dr. Kim (assessment examined risks associated with various voting channels).



## 4. Markham's Voter Turnout Since 2003

Year	Online	In-Person	Total Early Voting Turnout	Voting Day Voter Turnout	Total Voter Turnout
<b>2003</b>	4.5% (7,210)	2.0% (3,333)	6.5% (10,543)	21.5% (31,655)	<b>28.0%</b> (42,198)
<b>2006</b>	6.5% (10,639)	2.8% (4,513)	9.3% (15,152)	28.6% (46,796)	<b>37.9%</b> (61,948)
<b>2010</b>	5.7% (10,597)	3.2% (5,914)	8.9% (16,511)	26.6% (49,416)	<b>35.5%</b> (65,927)
<b>2014</b>	5.62% (11,002)	4.18% (8,125)	9.8% (19,127)	27.3% (53,493)	<b>37.1%</b> (72,620)

## 4. Online Voting Statistics Since 2003

### Online Voting Registrants:

- 2003: 11,708 (7.5% of eligible voters)
- 2006: 16,251 (9.7% of eligible voters)
- 2010: 17,231 (9.3 % of eligible voters)
- **2014: 13,615 (6.7 % of eligible voters)**

### Online Voters:

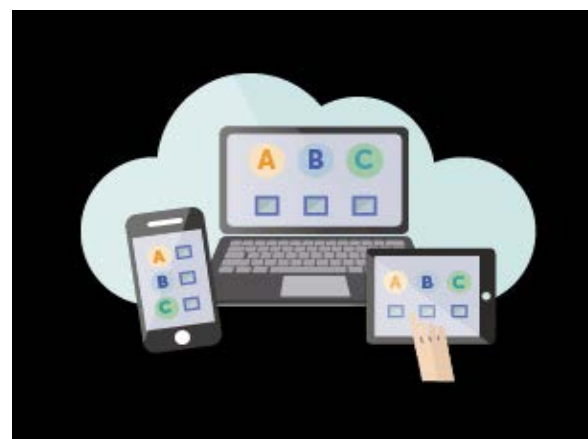
- 2003: 7,210 (61.6% of registrants)
- 2006: 10,639 (65% of registrants)
- 2010: 10,597 (61.5% of registrants)
- **2014: 11,002 (81% of registrants)**

## 5. 2018 Municipal Election – Key Dates

- **Nomination Period** - May 1, 2018 – \*July 27, 2018 (\*2 PM Deadline)
- **Nomination Day** – Friday, July 27, 2018 (2 PM Deadline)
- **Paper Ballot Early Voting Period** – Friday, October 12 – Friday, October 19, 2018
- **Online Early Voting Period** – Friday, October 12, 2018 - Monday, October 22\*, 2018
- **Voting Day** – Monday, October 22, 2018
- **Term of Office** – begins Saturday, December 1, 2018 – November 14, 2022.
- **End of Campaign Period** – Monday, December 31, 2018
- **Financial Statement & Auditors Report - Filing Deadline** – Friday, March 29, 2019 (2 PM)

## 6. Markham's 2018 Municipal Election Model

- In accordance with the Act, Council is required to pass a by-law authorizing the use of vote counting equipment (tabulators) & alternative voting methods (online voting) in an election (Section 42).
- Accordingly, on April 11, 2017, Markham City Council passed By-laws 2017-20 & 2017-21 authorizing the use of Optical Scan Vote Tabulators & Internet Voting for the 2018 Municipal Election.



## 6. 2018 Municipal Election Model

- Online voting does not relieve voters, candidates or others from acting in accordance with Act [Section 49(2)] which states that no person shall:
  - Interfere or attempt to interfere with an elector who is marking the ballot .
  - Obtain or attempt to obtain information about how a voter intends to vote or has voted.
  - Communicate any information obtained about how a voter intends to vote or has voted.

## 6. 2018 Municipal Election Model - Risks

### Risks

- All election models (paper, vote-by-mail, touch screen, tabulators, telephone, online) have inherent risks.
- The key for election administrators is to identify, understand & manage risks.
- Greater public awareness of internet security & privacy requires more rigour around risk management/mitigation.

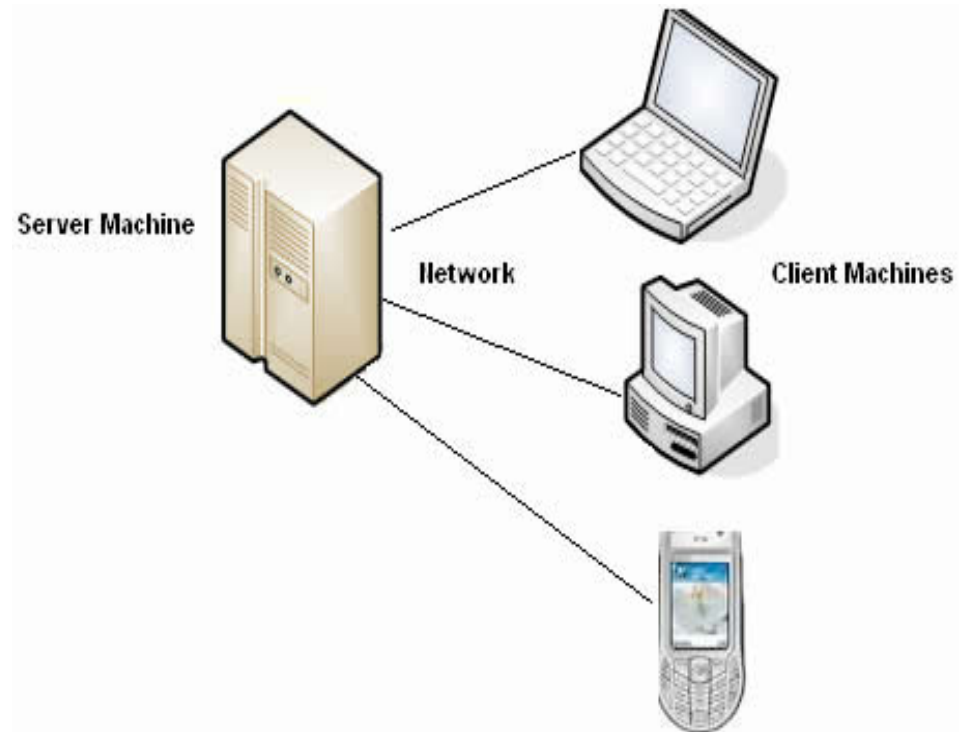
## 6. 2018 Election Model - Risk Mitigation

Risk	Mitigation Strategy
<b>Security</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Threats of computer viruses or hacker-orchestrated 'denial of service' attacks could compromise an election and public confidence in election</li> </ul>	<b>Security</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require third party audit of vendor platform</li> <li>Vendor threat assessment monitoring tool running during duration of voting period</li> <li>Robust security protocol for access to online voting platform</li> <li>Active communication of penalties associated with election fraud</li> </ul>
<b>Access</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digital divide between those who have home computers with Internet connections and those who do not</li> </ul>	<b>Access</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over 95% of Markham households report having internet access and home computers</li> <li>Markham libraries are equipped with numerous computer terminals to provide public access to computers</li> <li>All City facilities have public Wifi networks</li> </ul>
<b>Fraud/coercion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunity for vote-buying or voter suppression</li> </ul>	<b>Fraud/Coercion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual responsibility to acknowledge and accept declaration of qualification to vote</li> <li>Security protocols to flag IP addresses casting multiple ballots</li> <li>Active communication of penalties associated with election fraud</li> </ul>
<b>Voters' List</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing concerns about the accuracy of the List</li> </ul>	<b>Voters' List</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extensive Revision Days in the community</li> <li>Promotion of MPAC's VoterLookup tool</li> <li>Online municipal tool for Voters' List revision</li> </ul>
<b>Voter Confusion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Change in methodology from last four elections (no paper ballots on Voting Day in 2018)</li> </ul>	<b>Voter Confusion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Robust communication plan</li> <li>Strong presence in the community in weeks leading up to election</li> </ul>

## 6. 2018 Election Model - Security

### Multiple Aspects of Security

- **Server related security**
- **Client related security**
- **Connection related security**
- **Voting application security**
- **Voting process security**





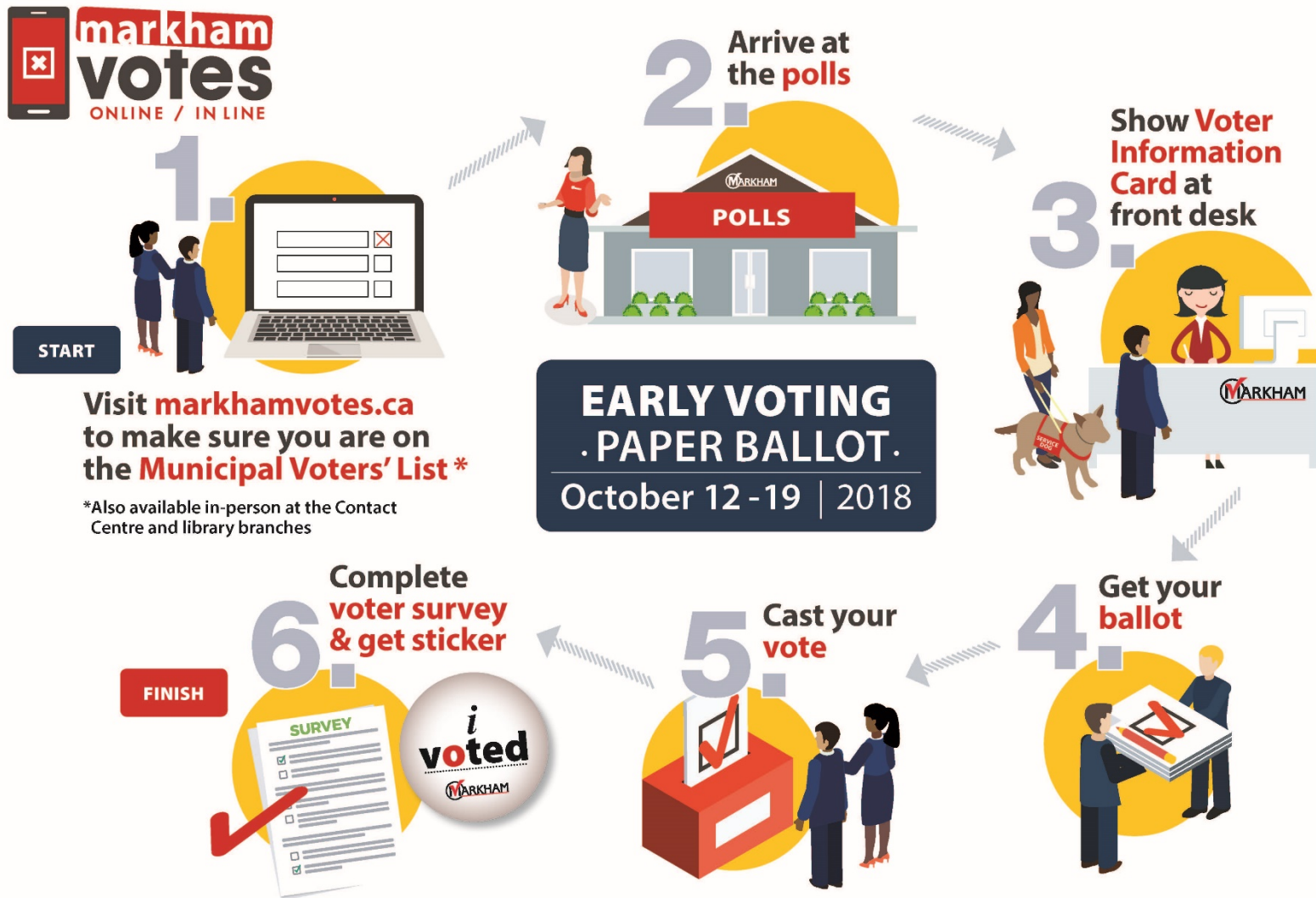
## 6. 2018 Election Model

- In accordance with the Act (Section 43/45), the Clerk is responsible for establishing:
  - Early voting dates, times & locations
  - Voting Day voting places (including Special Voting Places)
- The Clerk is required to provide a Voting Place in the following:
  - An institution for the reception, treatment or vocational training of members or former members of the Canadian Forces.
  - An institution in which, on September 1, 20 or more beds are occupied by persons who are disabled, chronically ill or infirm (ex. hospital).
  - A retirement home in which, on September 1, 50 or more beds are occupied.

## 6. 2018 Election Model

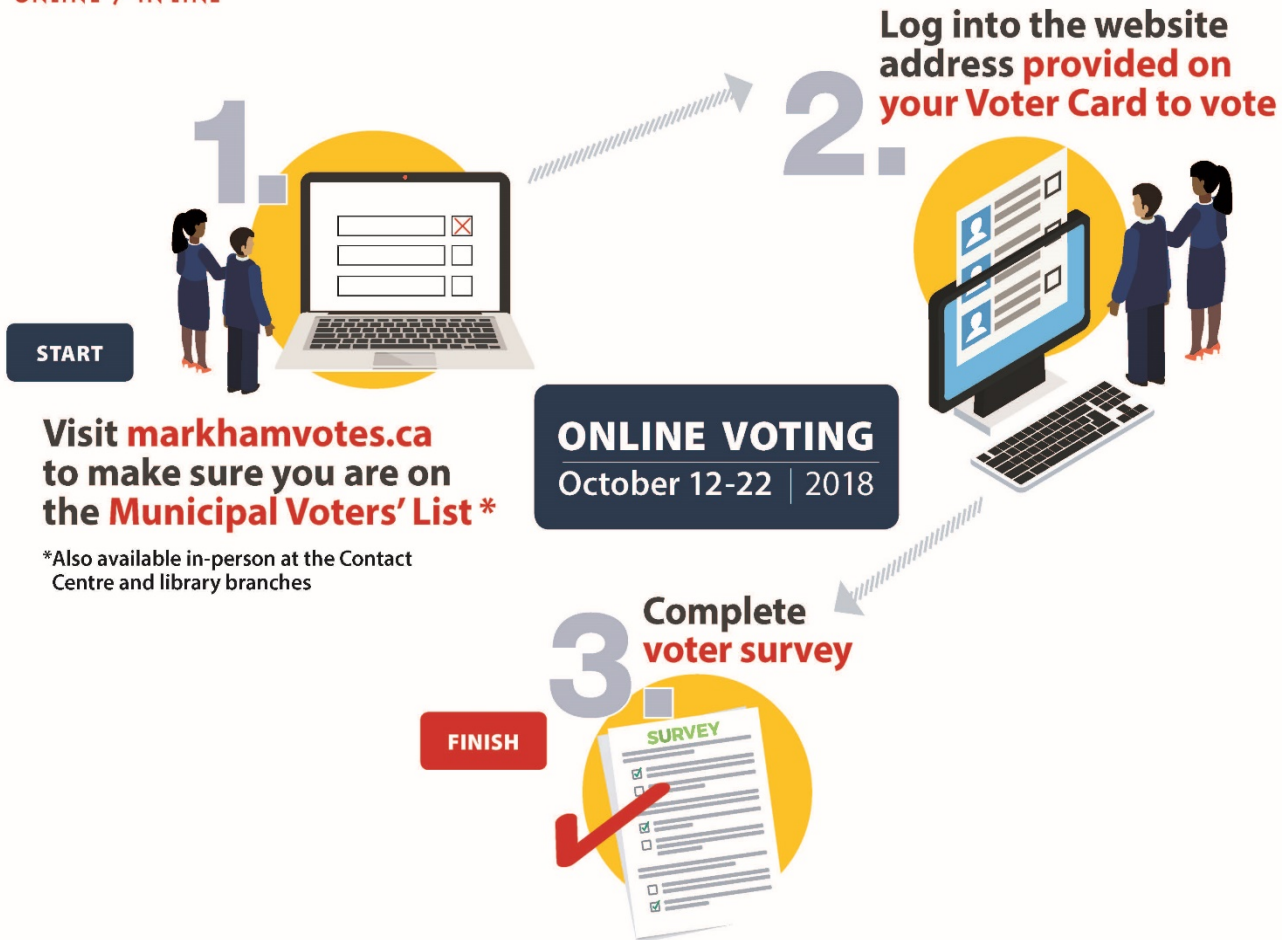
- In 2018, the City is expanding Markham's online voting program – as in previous elections, electors will still have the choice of casting a paper or an online ballot.
- For maximum convenience, a total of **325** hours of voting will be offered as follows:
  - Early Voting Period: 2 voting channels to be offered: 1) in-person voting using paper ballots (“vote anywhere”); & 2) online voting
  - Voting Day: 1 voting channel to be offered - online voting (no paper ballots); eligible voters may cast an online ballot at any one of the City's twelve voting places, or at one of the City's eight libraries, or from home, work, train, etc.

## 6. 2018 Election Model

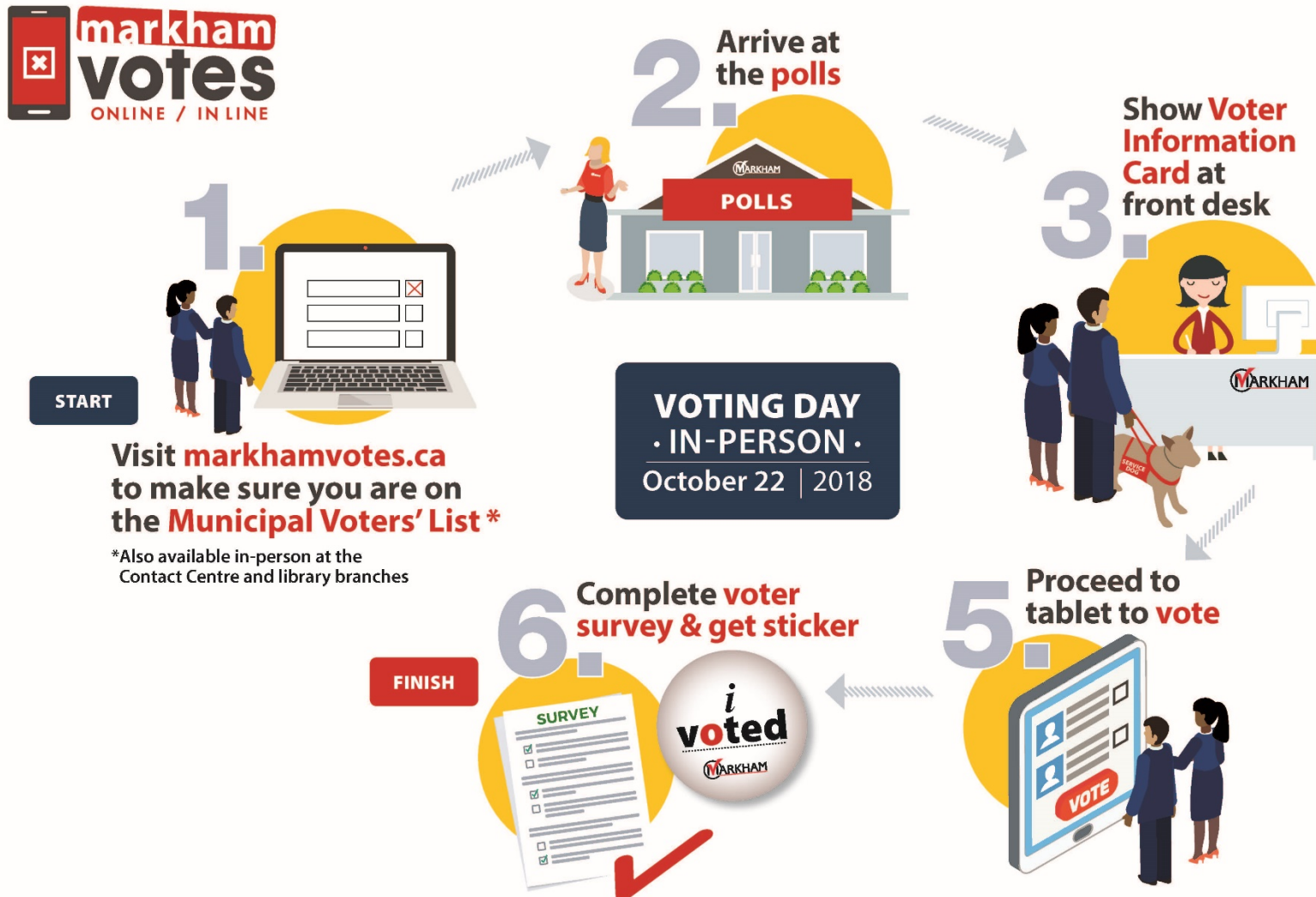




## 6. 2018 Election Model



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## 6. 2018 Election Model – Voter Assistance Centers

- All City Libraries will be designated as Voter Assistance Centers during the entire Voting Period (Oct. 12 – Oct. 22)
- Services available will include:
  - Additions to the Voters' List
  - Revisions to the Voters' List
  - Access to computers for voting
  - Assistance with the online voting process/platform
  - General information about the election

## 6. 2018 Election Model – Early Voting Period

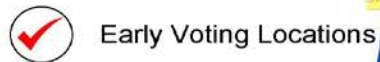
The in-person Early Voting Period (Paper Ballots) will run for 8 consecutive days

Location	Ward	Friday Oct. 12	Sat. Oct. 13 – Sun. Oct. 14	Mon. Oct 15 – Fri. Oct. 19
Aaniin Community Centre	Ward 7	10 AM – 8 PM	9 AM – 5 PM	10 AM – 8 PM
Angus Glen Community Centre	Ward 6	10 AM – 8 PM	9 AM – 5 PM	10 AM – 8 PM
Centennial Community Centre (	Ward 3	10 AM – 8 PM	9 AM – 5 PM	10 AM – 8 PM
Cornell Community Centre	Ward 5	10 AM – 8 PM	9 AM – 5 PM	10 AM – 8 PM
Milliken Mills Community Centre	Ward 8	10 AM – 8 PM	9 AM – 5 PM	10 AM – 8 PM
Pan Am Centre	Ward 3			10 AM – 8 PM
Thornhill Community Centre	Ward 1	10 AM – 8 PM	9 AM – 5 PM	10 AM – 8 PM



## 6. 2018 Election Model - Early Voting Places

### Markham Ward Boundaries 2018 Municipal Election



Early Voting Locations

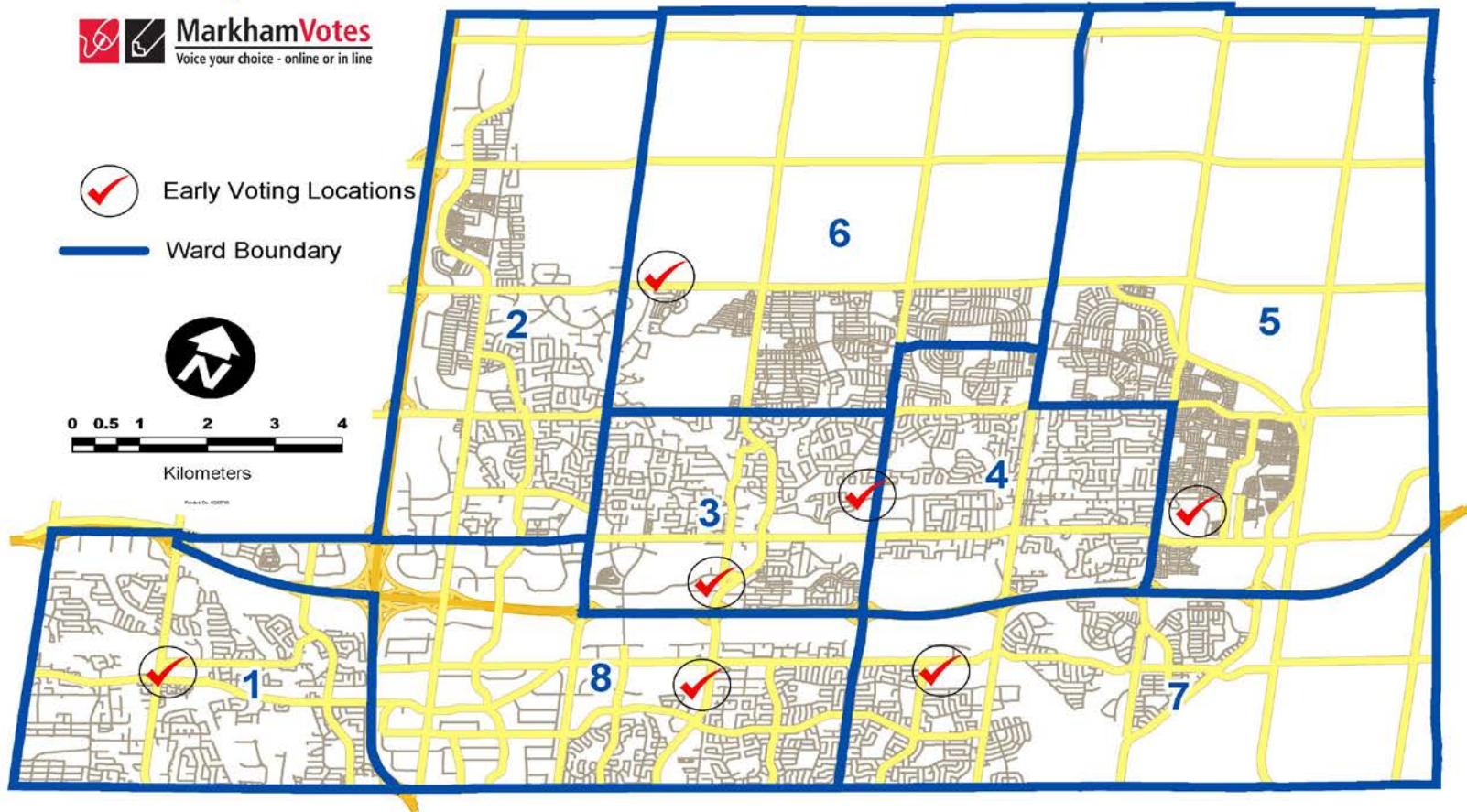


Ward Boundary



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Kilometers





## 6. 2018 Election Model – Voting Day

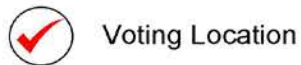
- Moving to 12 “super polls” & a “vote anywhere” model

Location	Ward	Hours
Aaniin Community Centre	Ward 7	10 AM – 8 PM
Angus Glen Community Centre	Ward 6	10 AM – 8 PM
Armadale Community Centre	Ward 8	10 AM – 8 PM
Centennial Community Centre	Ward 3	10 AM – 8 PM
Cornell Community Centre	Ward 5	10 AM – 8 PM
Flato Markham Theatre	Ward 2	10 AM – 8 PM
Markham Museum	Ward 4	10 AM – 8 PM
Markham Village Community Centre	Ward 4	10 AM – 8 PM
Milliken Mills Community Centre	Ward 8	10 AM – 8 PM
Pan Am Centre	Ward 3	10 AM – 8 PM
Thornhill Community Centre	Ward 1	10 AM – 8 PM
Varley Art Gallery	Ward 3	10 AM – 8 PM

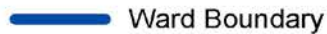


## 6. 2018 Election Model – Voting Day Voting Places

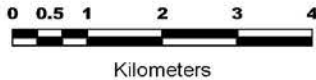
### Markham Ward Boundaries 2018 Municipal Election



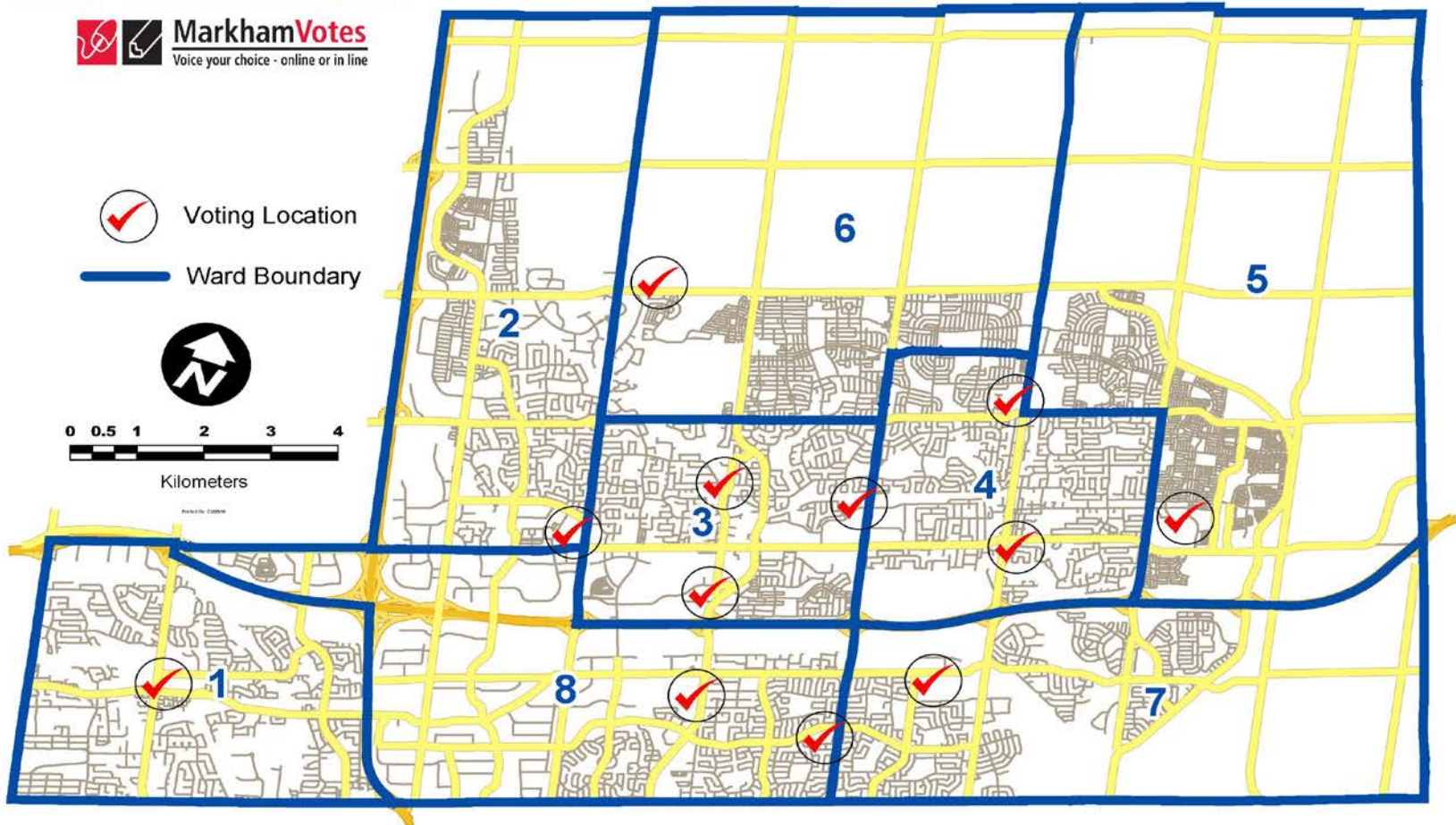
Voting Location



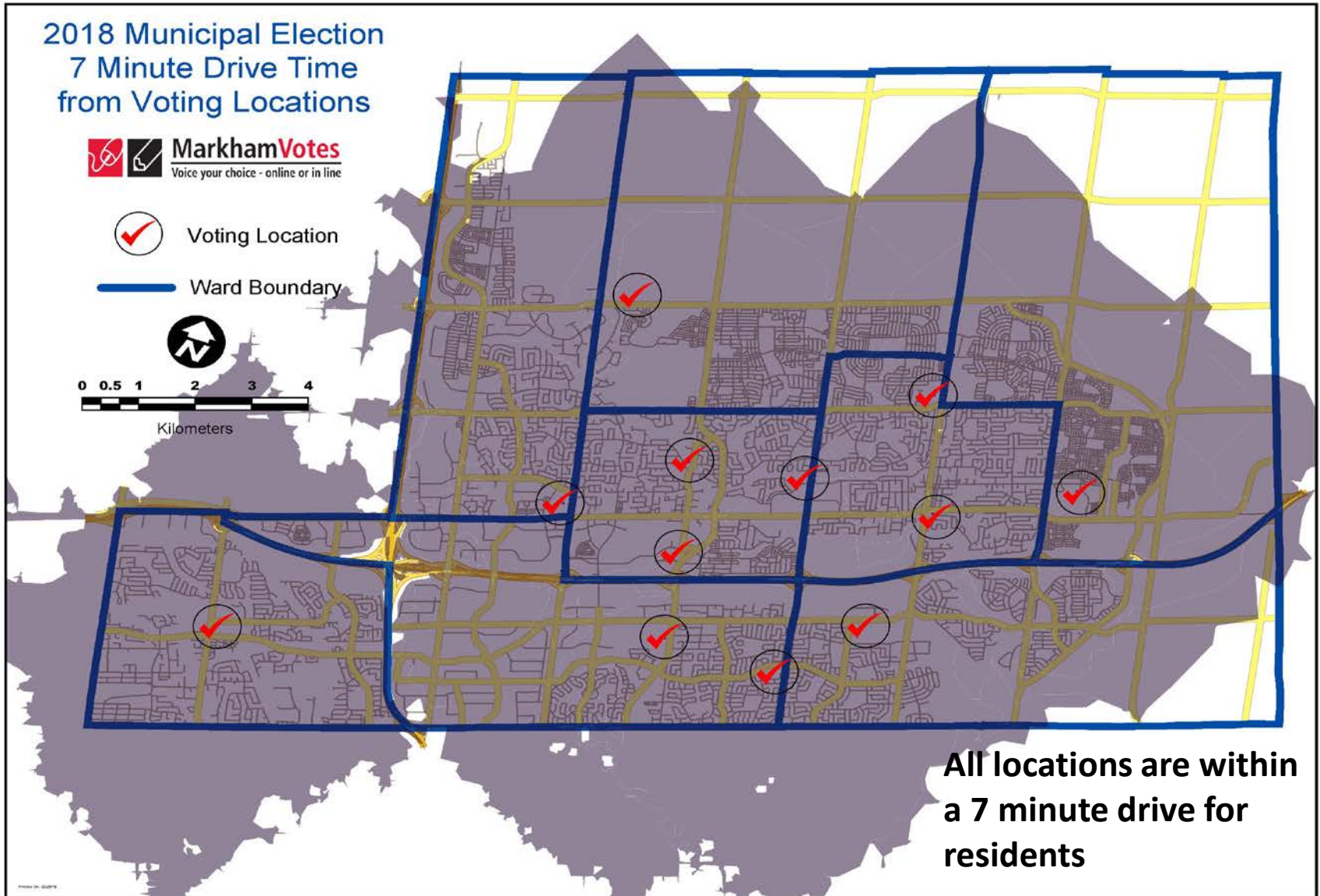
Ward Boundary



Kilometers



## 6. 2018 Election Model – Voting Day Voting Places



## 6. 2018 Election Model – Summary of Hours

- Early Voting Opportunities:

	2014	2018	Change
Paper Ballot Hours	66	76	Increase of 10 hours
Online Voting Hours	173	239	Increase of 66 hours
<b>Total Voting Hours</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>Increase of 76 hours</b>

- Voting Day Opportunities:

	2014	2018	Change
Paper Ballot Hours	10	0	Decrease of 10 hours
Online Voting Hours	0	10	Addition of 10 hours
<b>Total Voting Hours</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Number of voting hours on Voting Day remains at 10 - same as in 2014</b>



## 6. 2018 Election Model – Voters' List

- The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) is responsible for preparing the Preliminary List of Electors for Ontario municipal elections.
- Revisions to the Voters' List may be done between September 4 until the end of voting on October 22, 2018. In 2014, approximately 6,000 revisions were made to Markham's Voters' List.
- Eligible electors in Markham can revise the Voters' List either online (using a new tool) or in-person in 2018.
- In-person Voters' List revisions will be available:
  - At several planned "Revision Events" to be held across the City at Community Centers
  - At special events such as Apple Fest, Children's Festival & Canada Day
  - On an ongoing basis at all City Libraries during regular operating hours

## 6. 2018 Election Model – Community Outreach

- The comprehensive communication & public outreach plan will include:
  - Attendance at various Markham Advisory Committee meetings (including Accessibility Advisory Committee, Seniors Advisory Committee, Race Relations Committee).
  - Presentations to community groups, newcomer associations, diversity organizations, ratepayer groups.
  - Attendance at various high profile City special events
  - Advertisements in various media outlets
  - Extensive use of social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, WeChat)



## 6. 2018 Election Model – Rebate Program

- The City will continue offering contribution rebates to individuals who donate to a candidate for municipal council, up to a maximum of \$350.
- 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.
- Contributors are required to apply to the City of Markham for the issuance of a contribution rebate and the deadline to apply is 90 days after the candidate's financial filing deadline.

## 6. 2018 Election Model - Joint Compliance Audit Committee

- The Act requires each municipality to establish a Compliance Audit Committee to consider requests for audits of candidates' campaign finances.
- Committees may be required to appoint auditors & determine if legal proceedings are required as a result of the auditors' reports.
- All municipalities in York Region are participating in a joint Compliance Audit Committee - this approach ensures consistency across the Region in terms of the review & consideration of Compliance Audit Applications.
- Recruitment for the Committee is currently underway.



## 6. 2018 Election Model Benefits

- **Innovation** (*Markham's Digital Leadership*)
  - Furthers Markham's reputation as a leader in online voting & technology, & positions Markham as the largest lower tier municipality to vote online.
  - Markham's Digital Strategy is made up of 4 themes & supporting initiatives
    - Theme: Engaging & Serving the Community
      - Initiative: develop Markham's role as leader in Digital Democracy
      - Deliverable: expanding online voting to Voting Day in 2018 election
- **Convenience**
  - Allows people who commute or travel regularly the ability to cast a ballot from anywhere they have an internet connection

## 6. 2018 Election Model Benefits

- **Inclusivity** (*Engaged, Diverse & Thriving City*)
  - engages electors by providing convenient way to cast their ballot.
  - fully accessible platform that allows individuals with accessibility needs to cast a ballot independently without having to leave their home.
- **Sustainability** (*Safe & Sustainable Community*)
  - reduces carbon footprint by eliminating travel to voting places.
  - reduces amount of paper required to support elections.
- **Effective & Efficient Services** (*Stewardship of Money & Resources*)
  - Moving to online voting presents operational efficiencies (ex. reduced numbers of voting places, significantly reduced staffing levels).
  - Potential for long term cost efficiency.



# Questions?