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Overview of Proposed Election Model & Key Dates

General Committee

March 8, 2010



Purpose

- Seek further feedback on proposed election model to help inform future decisions
- Outline key dates relative to proposed election model
- Outline next steps, including future reports



Statutory Framework

- Municipal elections administered in accordance with <u>Municipal Elections Act, 1996</u> (Act)
- Clerk charged with responsibility for conducting elections; may provide for any procedure not already provided for in Act & in Clerk's opinion is necessary for conducting the election
- Council required to approve aspects of the proposed election model, where not delegated:
 - —Early & special voting hours
 - —Alternative voting method



Background

- January 22, 2010 General Committee requested a presentation outlining election model & associated key dates
- Staff developed a recommended election model following review of Ward 3 By-election & 2006 Election (including post-online voting survey)
- Included relevant candidate, voter & election official feedback
- Peer review/discussion of election models AMCTO & area municipal clerks

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Background, Cont'd

- Development and issuance of RFP online voting platform/vote tabulators
- Online voting literature review (Dr. Henry Kim, York University), will help to inform evaluation of RFP submissions & model
- Consultation with Diversity & Accessibility Coordinator. Further consultation planned with Race Relations & Accessibility committees
- Attendance at Carleton University & Elections Canada Workshop on Online Voting, January 26, 2010

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Proposed Election Model

Guiding Principles: Municipal Elections Act, 1996

- Secrecy & confidentiality
- Fair, non-biased & accessible
- Protecting the integrity of the process
- Certainty of the results
- Fair & equal treatment of voters





Proposed Election Model (Cont'd)

Key Considerations: Proposed Model

- Continued interest & public desire for multi-channel voting approach (online and in-person voting options)
- Changes in election technology, election vendors & service providers
- Population changes & development growth
- Availability of voting places
- Ensure election model can be supported by adequate & appropriately trained election officials
- Capacity for accessibility & ability to support services to Markham's diverse language & cultural groups
- Communications planning introduction of Web 2.0

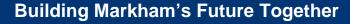
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Proposed Election Model (Cont'd)

Proposed Model

- Online voting offered during Early Voting Period only
- In-line voting offered during Early Voting Period & on Voting Day
- Use of optical scan vote tabulators & complimentary (e.g., accessible) technology for in-line voting
- Online voting platform to be accessible
- No other voting modes proposed (e.g., vote by mail, telephone voting)





Proposed Election Model (Cont'd)

Rationale for Proposed Model

- Established model (used in 2003, 2006)
- Multi-channel model engages broad spectrum of voters
- Supports accessibility & diversity considerations
- Supportive from a variety of perspectives:
 - Technology infrastructure
 - o **Security**
 - o Availability
 - o Auditable



Proposed Election Model (Cont'd)

Rationale for Proposed Model, Cont'd

- Process
 - o Legal compliance
 - o Staff training & support
 - o Communications
 - o Resources
- Voter experience
 - Usability, access, ability to better accommodate support to voters whose mother tongue is not English
- Further considerations to be fleshed out through RFP process

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Key Dates

Nominations/withdraw: January 4 – Sept 10, 2010 (2 pm)

Voters' List revisions: September 7 – October 25, 2010

Certification of Nominations: September 13, 2010

Proxy certificates issued: September 14 – October 25, 2010

Online voting registration: September 24 – October 21, 2010

Online voting: October 16 (10 am) – October 21 (8 pm)

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Key Dates (Cont'd)

Proposed Early Voting Period:

- October 16 & 17, 10 am 6 pm (6 locations throughout Markham)
- October 18 21, 12 noon 8 pm (Civic Centre, Armadale Community Centre)

Voting Day: Oct 25, 10 am – 8 pm

Results certified: October 28, 2010



Key Dates (Cont'd)

Additional Key Dates TBC:

- Voters' List revision/information days
- Election Sign By-law provisions
- Candidate Information session(s)
- Revised key dates to be provided to Council & registered candidates, posted on Markham's website





Next Steps

- Compliance Audit Committee (March 29, 2010) – Presentation & Report
- By-law to authorize use of alternative voting procedures (April 12, 2010) – Report
- Council award report RFP for online voting platform, vote tabulators (April 12, 2010) – Report (if required)