

Committee of the Whole Report

DATE: Tuesday, June 04, 2019

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: RETURNING OFFICER'S REPORT 2018 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

FROM:

Nick Spensieri, Deputy City Manager, Corporate Services

ACTION: FOR INFORMATION

Purpose

To detail lessons learned from the planning and execution of the 2018 Municipal Election, and outline recommendations for the 2022 Municipal Election.

Report Highlights

- Participation in Advance Vote continues to increase, with 4.45% of electors casting their ballot early during an eight-day Advance Vote period in 2018
- A total of 74 registered candidates were certified for the 2018 Municipal Election across 16 offices between local and regional council, and four school boards
- More than 700 staff recruited as election officials quit by the morning of Voting Day, representing a growing challenge to staff a paper-based election

Recommendation

1. That this report be received for information.

Background

The 2018 City of Vaughan Municipal Election Returning Officer's Report included as Attachment 1 summarizes the planning and execution of the 2018 Municipal Election and identifies recommendations based on lessons learned compiled throughout the project. The lessons learned will be integrated into the planning and preparation for the 2022 Municipal Election along with the outcome of the assessment of internet voting being undertaken for consideration by Council in 2020. Elements of the lessons learned

were successfully adopted and implemented in April as part of the 2019 York Region District School Board Vaughan Ward 1 and 2 By-Election.

Previous Reports/Authority

[Learning from the Elections – Preparations for the 2018 Municipal and School Board Elections, Item 3, Report No. 22, Committee of the Whole \(Working Session\) May 12, 2015](#)

Analysis and Options

A full analysis of the 2018 Municipal Election including lessons learned and recommendations for improvement for the 2022 Municipal Election are outlined in Attachment 1. Highlights from the report recommendations include:

- **Redesign the ballot marking field:** The existing arrow design has proven to be an ongoing challenge for electors and election officials. Changes to a more intuitive and commonplace marking field has been recommended to make this process clearer and to reduce the frequency of cancelled ballots. This change was made during the 2019 YRDSB By-Election, with the implementation of an oval marking space consistent with Elections Ontario and Elections Canada marking fields.
- **Continue participation in the Elections Ontario Technology Sharing Program:** In 2018, the City entered into a lease agreement with Elections Ontario to make use of tabulators and ePoll notebooks at a reduced cost. This allowed for the widescale implementation of electronic voters' list management across the city for Voting Day. It is recommended that this participation continue for future elections. In 2019, the City once again made use of this program to procure tabulators and ePoll notebooks for the 2019 YRDSB By-Election.
- **Redesign the Voter Information Cards:** The existing Voter Information Card package caused considerable confusion due to the presence of two individual cards attached by perforation. Voters experienced challenges identifying each person's card when distributing cards amongst the household. A change to individual cards has been recommended to make locating each card in the package easier. In 2019, Election Services worked on a redesigned Voter Information Card package with the City's vendor, to create a household package containing an informational letter and individual cards for up to four members of the household.
- **Continue to advocate for changes to the administration and accuracy of the Voters' List:** The accuracy and correctness of the Voters' List provided to the

City by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation continues to pose a significant challenge to municipal election administrators. Outdated and missing information, including long-deceased electors remaining on the list and school support being identified incorrectly create frustration for voters and increased volume of revisions at the Office of the City Clerk and at voting places during the election. The City Clerk / Returning Officer endorses the recommendations of the Chief Electoral Officer of Ontario in the report to the Legislature on the 2018 Ontario General Election for the adoption of a single registry for addresses in the province, and for Elections Ontario to assume MPAC's responsibility for preparing the Preliminary List of Electors and administering municipal voters' list data.

Financial Impact

The 2018 Municipal Election is funded from the Election Reserve, final costs for the 2018 Municipal Election will be known upon the conclusion of the 2018 Contribution Rebate Program and any outstanding business of the 2018-2022 Compliance Audit Committee.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

The City administers the election of members to York Region Council representing the City of Vaughan.

Conclusion

The lessons learned from the 2018 Municipal Election will be incorporated into the planning for the 2022 Municipal Election on Monday, October 24, 2022. A number of lessons learned were trialed or implemented in the recently conducted York Region District School Board Vaughan Ward 1 and 2 By-Election with success.

For more information, please contact: Evan Read, Manager, Elections and Special Projects, extension 8241

Attachment

1. 2018 City of Vaughan Municipal Election Returning Officer's Report, Office of the City Clerk, May 14, 2019

Prepared by

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