

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Tuesday, October 22, 2024

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: JOINT INTERNET VOTING PROCUREMENT INITIATIVE

FROM:

Wendy Law, Deputy City Manager, Legal and Administrative Services & City Solicitor

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To request Council authorization to enter into an agreement with York Region municipalities for the purposes of a joint procurement initiative for an internet voting solution for the 2026 Municipal Election.

Report Highlights

- Council authorized the use of internet voting as an alternate voting method at its meeting of June 25, 2024.
- A joint procurement initiative for internet voting will procure a common solution for internet voting across the majority of York Region municipalities at an advantage price.

Recommendations

1. That the City Clerk / Returning Officer be authorized to enter into an agreement with York Region municipalities for the purposes of a joint procurement of an internet voting solution, in a form satisfactory to Legal Services.

Background

Elections Vaughan outlined the roadmap for the 2026 and 2030 Municipal Elections at the Committee of the Whole (Working Session) meeting of November 29, 2023, which included the future use of internet voting for municipal elections in Vaughan. A subsequent report on voter verification for internet voting was put to Committee of the Whole (2) on May 14, 2024. Council passed a by-law authorizing the use of internet

voting as an alternate voting method for municipal elections in the City of Vaughan at its June 25, 2024 meeting.

Preliminary discussions have been had with several other York Region municipalities who have expressed an interest in entering into a joint procurement initiative for the purposes of procuring an internet voting solution for the 2026 Municipal Election.

Previous Reports/Authority

[ELECTIONS VAUGHAN ROADMAP 2030, Committee of the Whole \(Working Session\) Report No. 50, Item 3, 12 December, 2023.](#)

[UPDATE ON INTERNET VOTING VERIFICATION, Committee of the Whole \(2\), Report No. 20, Item 13, 22 May, 2024.](#)

[BY-LAW 103-2024, A By-law to authorize the use of internet voting for municipal elections in the City of Vaughan.](#)

Analysis and Options

Elections Vaughan intends to leverage their experience and resources to lead a joint procurement initiative amongst a majority of York Region municipalities for the purposes of procuring an internet voting solution for the 2026 Municipal Election. This joint procurement initiative would make use of the shared experiences and knowledge of the participating municipalities and their staff to draft and issue a Request for Proposals (RFP), conduct a shared evaluation of bids, and secure a contract with advantageous pricing for all participants.

The procured solution would be deployed for the 2026 Municipal Election and participants would thereafter have the benefit of shared experiences deploying a common solution across much of York Region. The City of Vaughan's procurement policies and procedures will govern the joint procurement process. Upon vendor selection, individual municipal participants will be responsible for final negotiation of their respective contract between themselves and the successful proponent. Entering into an agreement provides clarity around roles and responsibilities for the various participating municipalities and provides for appropriate controls to manage risk.

Financial Impact

All costs associated with the conduct of a municipal election are funded from the Election Reserve. A joint procurement initiative will attempt to obtain more advantageous pricing for all participants.

Operational Impact

Procurement and Legal Services staff are providing support to the Office of the City Clerk to lead this initiative.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

Participation by other York Region municipalities will result in a consistent deployment of an internet voting solution across the majority of the Region and provide favorable pricing for the procurement of such a solution by all participants. Opportunities to share best practices and materials during the deployment may also be possible between election administrators during the 2026 Municipal Election.

Conclusion

A joint procurement initiative for an internet voting solution will leverage the knowledge and expertise of a majority of York Region municipalities to procure technology for the 2026 Municipal Election negotiated at a favorable price for all participants. The City of Vaughan's procurement policies and procedures will govern the joint procurement, with each participating municipality being responsible for negotiating the final contract between the successful proponent and their respective municipality.

For more information, please contact: Evan Read, Manager, Election, Registration and Protocol Services, evan.read@vaughan.ca

Attachments

N/A

Prepared by

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