



MEMBER MOTION

Section 5.4.4(b) of Procedure By-law

Meeting:	Council X
Meeting Date:	February 9, 2022
Subject/Title:	Online Voting for the October 2022 Election
Submitted by:	Councillor Chan

WHEREAS the City of Richmond Hill had conducted the School Board Trustee By-election in October 2020 with online voting exclusively without any incidents;

WHEREAS the City of Richmond Hill has completed the Mayoral By-election in January 2022 with online voting along with in-person voting;

WHEREAS 93% of voters who casted their ballots in the Mayoral By-election chose to vote online between January 18 and January 24, 2022;

WHEREAS the overall turnout rate at 32% in the Mayoral By-election in January 2022 exceeds that of the 2018 municipal election at 26%;

WHEREAS it is desirable to have a higher turnout rate among voters for the 2022 municipal election to be held in October 2022;

WHEREAS online voting has been demonstrated as the preferred choice of voters in Richmond Hill and helped to result in an increase of turnout rate as it provides a fast, convenient and secure way for voters to cast their ballots at any time without travelling to voting centres;

WHEREAS the City elections team has shown to be capable of conducting online voting competently and effectively in the School Board Trustee By-election in October 2020 and the Mayoral By-election in January 2022;

WHEREAS it is deemed advisable to demonstrate Council's commitment to promote a higher turnout rate among voters at municipal elections in support of higher levels of voters' participation in the democratic process;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1) The Council reconsider its June 9, 2021 decision not to authorize the use of Internet Voting for municipal elections.

- 2) That Council authorize, pursuant to Section 42(1)b) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, the use of Internet Voting as an alternative voting method (in addition to Optical Scan Vote Tabulators) for municipal elections and by-elections.
- 3) That the City Clerk be directed to place the necessary by-laws authorizing the use of Internet Voting, as an additional voting method in addition to Optical Scan Vote Tabulators, for municipal elections on a future Council agenda for enactment.
- 4) That any additional costs to conduct the 2022 Municipal Elections using both Internet Voting and Optical Scan Vote Tabulators, including the cost of additional temporary contract employees, that cannot be accommodated in the approved 2022 election budget be funded by the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve.

Moved by: Councillor Chan

Seconded by: