

From: debsemail

Sent: Friday, February 4, 2022 4:22 PM

To: Office-Mayor Richmondhill officemayor@richmondhill.ca; Joe DiPaola joe.dipaola@richmondhill.ca; Carmine Perrelli carmine.perrelli@richmondhill.ca; Greg Beros greg.beros@richmondhill.ca; Tom Muench tom.muench@richmondhill.ca; Castro Liu castro.liu@richmondhill.ca; David West david.west@richmondhill.ca; Karen Cilevitz karen.cilevitz@richmondhill.ca; Godwin Chan godwin.chan@richmondhill.ca; Clerks Richmondhill clerks@richmondhill.ca; Stephen Huycke stephen.huycke@richmondhill.ca

Cc: 'Gary Thompson'

Subject: Voting in favour of online voting in the Municipal Election

Dear Members of Council

We strongly encourage Council to approve online voting in the upcoming Municipal election, and to continue going forward.

It's absolutely amazing that 93% of voters who cast their ballots in the Mayor By-election chose to vote online. This resulted in the overall voter turnout rate of 32%, exceeding the 27% in the last Municipal election. We strongly believe that if online voting is available for the upcoming election we could see voter turnout jump to 35% – 40%.

These are some of the reasons we're in favour of online voting:

- It's very easy, safe and secure to vote online from the comfort of your home
- It's much safer during a pandemic to vote online than going to a polling station
- It's easier and more convenient for people with disabilities, health issues, parents with children etc. to cast their vote from home and feel that their voice matters
- It's accessible for students of voting age to cast their ballots even though they're away at school
- It's less costly for the City rather than having numerous polling stations and staffing, when less polling stations are needed for the few who still wish to cast their ballot onsite
- It appears that online voting results are available much quicker after the polls close than having to wait on tabulators from polling locations to arrive at City Hall
- It's less time consuming to vote online compared to travelling to a voting station
- It's less costly to the voter to vote online rather than travelling (car, taxi, public transportation) to a voting station
- It would lead to a reduction of onsite voting stations, thereby reducing the disruption to schools where voting stations are held
- It would lead to a reduction in printing costs, paper consumption and distribution of the associated voting materials due to less voting stations required

For these reasons, we strongly support and request Council to approve online voting for the upcoming Municipal election and for all elections going forward.

Thanks for your consideration.

Best regards,
Deb & Gary Thompson
49 Blackforest Drive
Richmond Hill