

From: Kathrine Mabley

Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 10:01 AM

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Subject: Member Motion Online Voting Letter of Support

Dear Members of Council,

I support the member motion to include online voting for the October 2022 Municipal elections. It is vital that Council support higher levels of voters' participation in the democratic process. I strongly encourage Council to approve online voting in the upcoming Municipal election, and to continue to do so 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. Making it easier and more convenient for residents (wherever they are located) to cast their vote in matters as important to democracy as these elections are, is a right I feel is long overdue in this City.

Reasons I'm 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 is finally accessible for residents who are not in the City (ie, snowbirds foreign property owners etc.) to vote on matters that directly impact them.
- It's less costly for the City because 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 fewer voting stations required.

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

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