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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
CC: ["City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"](#)
Date: 1/19/2021 3:02:36 PM
Subject: Random order ballot - Council questions

Mayor and Council,

Please see below answers to two additional questions to staff that were not addressed earlier this morning.

Best,
Paul

Question from Councillor Carr

Q: Can you offer more information on the confusion that voters experienced in the 1993 election? Is the feedback similar to what was expressed in the joint advisory committee meeting?

The 1996 City Manager's report to Council did not further elaborate on the feedback from voters. An excerpt of the 1996 report is copied for your reference:

In 1993, the City Clerk recommended, and Council approved, the order of names be determined by lot. With the number of candidates seeking election for city office, the resulting random order made it difficult for voters to locate candidates names on the ballot. This proved confusing for voters, and resulted in numerous complaints from voters at the polls on election day.

Question from Councillor De Genova

Q: For visually impaired individuals, would there be randomized ballots in braille?

The ballots themselves will not be in braille but assistive ballot marking devices are available and feature braille markings on the paddles and buttons. The voter would use the controls of the device to navigate through the spoken list of candidates (in the same order as the ballot) to indicate their selection.

The machine also features:

- Sip-and-puff-, paddle- or other accessibility devices
- Audio instructions and braille markings on paddles and buttons
- Large print or high colour contrast
- Audio and written ballot marking instructions in Cantonese, Mandarin, and Punjabi

In 2018, staff worked with the Seniors' and Persons with Disabilities advisory committees, to introduce the availability of these machines, as well as, inform 13 organizations who serve persons with disabilities about the machines to share with their members.

Although the uptake on the use of the accessible voting machines was very low (estimated 2 recorded uses), the benefit of being able to offer this segment of the population independence and privacy when it comes to marking a ballot over conventional methods (having an Election Official or friend/relative assist the voter) is significant.

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.