

From: ["Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca)

To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)

Date: 10/8/2021 5:14:17 PM

Subject: [Memo to Council: Accessible Voting Options for Municipal Elections – RTS 14485 and 14488](#)

Attachments: [Memo - Accessible Voting Options for Municipal Elections RTS 14485 and 14488 \(003\).pdf](#)

Dear Mayor and Council,

The attached memo provides an update to Council on the status of the motion entitled Accessible Voting Options for Municipal Elections, adopted on April 27, 2021. In the motion, Council directed staff to request to the Province for the ability to include telephone voting and/or online voting in the upcoming 2022 municipal election including access to databases to validate voters' personal information and for staff to engage with the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee and the Seniors Advisory Committee on the status of accessible voting options for the citizens of Vancouver.

Summary of the memo:

- legislative changes were adopted in the spring of 2021 to expand mail ballot option to all voters in light of the pandemic;
- Province's response to the request for telephone and/or online voting; and
- Provides confirmation of engagement with Advisory Committees.

Should you have any questions, please contact Rosemary Hagiwara at rosemary.hagiwara@vancouver.ca.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

MEMORANDUM

October 8, 2021

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Maria Pontikis, Civic Engagement and Communications Director
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Rosemary Hagiwara, Deputy City Clerk

FROM: Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk

SUBJECT: Accessible Voting Options for Municipal Elections – RTS 14485 and 14488

Introduction

The purpose of this memo is to update Council on the status of the following motion entitled Accessible Voting Options for Municipal Elections, adopted on April 27, 2021:

- A. THAT Council directs staff to request that the Province amend the *Vancouver Charter* to provide the required authority for the City to authorize telephone, mail-in and/or online voting in preparation for the 2022 municipal election understanding that telephone voting is a critical need.
- B. THAT Council request that the elections staff team present to the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee and the Seniors Advisory Committee on the status of accessible voting options for the citizens of Vancouver.
- C. THAT Council direct staff to request that the Province provide the City with the ability to validate voters' personal information, such as a personal health number, Vancouver Public Library card or other forms of authentication.

Mail in, Telephone and Online Voting (parts A and C of the above resolution)

In the spring of 2021, the Province amended *the Vancouver Charter* to allow a mail in ballot option for all voters as a result of the pandemic and the uptake in mail in ballots during the 2020 Provincial election. Staff are confident that this option will be attractive to many voters in the upcoming 2022 municipal election and have started preparing to accommodate the anticipated interest.

Staff have submitted the above Council resolution to the Province, stating the City's desire to have the *Vancouver Charter* amended to allow online or telephone voting and the ability to validate voters' personal information against provincial or authorized database. The Province has informally indicated that these changes will not be in place for the 2022 municipal election and that consultations with other municipalities will be required.

In September 2012, an independent expert panel conducted research on best practices on Internet Voting and examined issues associated with implementing voting for provincial and local government elections. The panel submitted the [Independent Panel on Internet Voting](#) report to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia in February 2014 with four recommendations listed on page 55 of the report.

Election Workshop with Advisory Committees (part B of the above resolution)

Staff value input from the City's Advisory Committees in election planning. On March 1, 2021, staff held a joint advisory election workshop with the Chairs of the Seniors' and Persons With Disability Advisory Committees before their terms ended. Further workshops have been planned with the newly appointed Advisory Committees in the fall and winter. Staff will continue the dialogue with Advisory Committees to seek out opportunities to help make voting easier for voters.

Should you have any questions, please contact Rosemary Hagiwara at rosemary.hagiwara@vancouver.ca.

Sincerely,



Katrina Leckovic
City Clerk

604.873.7999 | katrina.leckovic@vancouver.ca