

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
"Hagiwara, Rosemary" <rosemary.hagiwara@vancouver.ca>
Date: 4/10/2018 4:03:23 PM
Subject: Memo - Permanent Resident Voting - RTS 12120
Attachments: RTS #12120 - Permanent Resident Voting (2).pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Rosemary Hagiwara, Chief Election Officer, in response to RTS 12120 – Research on the Pros and Cons of Allowing Permanent Resident Voting. A brief summary of the memo is as follows:

- The rules for conducting municipal elections are dictated by the Province and the authority is granted through the Vancouver Charter.
- Currently, permanent residents are not eligible to vote in municipal elections and changes to the policy requires a change to the Vancouver Charter.
- Research on pros and cons is better undertaken at the provincial level.

Also, please accept my apologies for the late delivery of this memo. Pursuant to Council's original resolution passed June 28, 2017, staff were directed to provide a response prior to December 2017: a deadline we obviously did not meet.

Should you have any questions regarding the substance of the memo, please contact Rosemary at 604.873.7177 or Rosemary.Hagiwara@vancouver.ca.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie | Deputy City Manager
City of Vancouver | 453 W 12th Avenue
Vancouver | BC V5Y 1V4
604.873.7666 | paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca



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MEMORANDUM

April 10, 2018

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager
Francie Connell, City Solicitor
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Lynda Graves, Manager, Administration Services, City Manager's Office
Rena Kendall-Craden, Director, Communications
Kevin Quinlan, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Naveen Girn, Director, Community Relations, Mayor's Office

FROM: Rosemary Hagiwara, Chief Election Officer

SUBJECT: RTS #12120 – Research on Allowing Permanent Residents to Vote in Municipal Elections

This memo is in response to the resolution approved by Council on June 28, 2017:

B. THAT staff advance the recommendation of the Engaged City Task Force, as set out in the "Independent Election Task Force Final Report", dated January 2017, which has been endorsed by Council at the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on January 24, 2017, (see the IETF Final Report), supported by the Mayors Working Group on Immigration and Refugees, and part of the active workplan of the City's Cultural Communities Advisory Committee and the Vancouver Foundation - to investigate the pros and cons and options for allowing permanent residents to vote in municipal elections and report back to Council on their findings prior to December 2017.

Local government elections in British Columbia are governed by the *Local Government Act* and the parallel provisions in the Vancouver Charter. Under the Vancouver Charter and *School Act*, these rules also apply to the Vancouver Park Board and School Board elections. The rules for conducting municipal elections (for example, who can vote) are dictated by the Province. Vancouver City Council, like other local governments in BC, only have election-related authority in those areas where the Province has explicitly given them powers.

In the resolution of June 28, 2017, Council asked staff to research on options of allowing permanent residents the ability to vote in a municipal election. After consideration, staff are in the opinion that such research requires a significant amount of time and resource to undertake, and most cities do not

have permanent resources dedicated to reviewing election procedures and staying on top of emerging trends and best practices. Staff recommends such research is better undertaken at the provincial level as any changes to the policy would require authority granted by the Province.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rosemary Hagiwara
Chief Election Officer