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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"  
CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"  
Date: 5/14/2019 3:50:36 PM  
Subject: Questions to staff on the Municipal Election Review

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Greetings Mayor and Council

Please find below questions and answers regarding Municipal Election Review:

1. Goal 1 (Appendix A p. 7) was to provide information to voters. We inserted info into several papers, but not the Georgia Straight which is the only locally owned paper. They asked me if the city considers local procurement as a priority. Our answer to that? The decisions on advertising placement are driven by where and who our target audience are to ensure that we maximize our efforts and best value to the City. In general, print newspapers have experienced declines in circulation while costs of advertising placement have increase. There is also a shift of news consumption to digital venues.

The City purchased advertisements in the Georgia Straight (2 full page on 2 different days), the Vancouver Courier and Star Metro Vancouver. The City also purchased advertisements in other languages with Sing Tao, Epoch Times, South Asian Post and Indo-Canadian Awaaz to promote the election in addition to digital advertising.

2. What has been the analysis of the effect of the randomized ballot on voters, especially seniors? The post-election survey conducted (Appendix B, page 43) noted that 64% of the senior participants said it took longer to vote and 39% found the order confusing. Seniors were in agreement with other age groups that the ballot in random order increased fairness for people running in the election.
3. Some voters relayed to me that the increased wait times at some polling places appeared to be a problem with the black markers bleeding through the ballot, making ballot reading problematic. True or not? The wait times at some voting locations contributed a couple of factors, not issue with the black markers. The ballot is designed so that if there are any bleeds, it would not interfere with the reading of the markings by the ballot tabulator. With more names on the ballot resulting in a longer ballot size, it took more time for the ballot tabulator to scan each ballot. In addition, the ballots landed awkwardly into the ballot boxes causing them to pile up much faster than normal. Over the course of the day, this resulted in ballot jams at some locations when the ballot boxes filled up. The ballot boxes were ordered a year in advance in order to secure supply and without knowing how many candidates would be on the ballot, the largest available size was ordered.

With the ability for voters to vote anywhere, it is difficult to predict where voters would go to vote. To assist voters, a dynamic voting place lookup tool was made available on the City's website to present to voters with the least busy nearby location.

4. Have we thought about increasing the number of nominators required for candidacy as one possible measure to decrease the overall number of candidates? Prior to 2008, only 2 nominators were required to nominate a candidate running for office. This requirement was amended to 25 in 2008. Staff have requested to the Province for a change in the Vancouver Charter to increase the requirement from 25 to 100 for the Mayor position and 25 to 50 for all other positions. An environmental scan of Calgary, Montreal, Toronto, and Winnipeg indicate similar or higher requirement and note that these municipalities operate on a ward system.

The nomination deposit remained at \$100 for the last 20 years. Staff would also recommend an increase to the nomination deposit from \$100 to \$200 for Mayor and to \$150 for all other positions.

Calgary: 100 nominators required & \$500 deposit (all positions)  
Montreal: 200 nominators for Mayor, 25 for Councillor; no deposit requirements  
Toronto: 25 nominators (all positions); \$100 deposit for Council & \$200 for Mayor  
Winnipeg: 250 nominators for Mayor, 25 for Councillor; no deposit requirements  
Provincial election: 75 nominators; \$250 deposit  
Federal election: 100 nominators (except in rural district); \$1,000 deposit

Best

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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.*