

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

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

Date: 12/1/2021 11:15:06 AM

Subject: [Accessible Voting Options for Municipal Elections](#)

Attachments: 268542 Mochrie Signed Final.pdf

Mayor and Council,

On April 21, 2021, you passed the following resolution calling on staff to request changes to the Vancouver Charter to authority additional options for voting in the 2022 election.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

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.

Please find attached the response from the Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs on this matter. As indicated, the Province is not in a position to consider the requested changes for the 2022 election.

Best,
Paul



December 1, 2021

Ref: 268542

Paul Mochrie
City Manager
City of Vancouver
453 12th Ave W
Vancouver BC V5Y 1V4

Dear Paul Mochrie:

Thank you for your letter regarding accessible voting options for municipal elections. I apologize for the delay in responding.

As the ministry responsible for overseeing the legislative framework for local elections in British Columbia, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs is committed to identifying and considering opportunities to facilitate the administration of local elections by local governments in a way that continues to enable fair and transparent elections.

The City of Vancouver's request to authorize telephone and online voting as well as the request to validate voters' personal information represent significant changes to the local elections legislative framework that will involve complex policy considerations and require legislative amendments. One of the guiding principles when considering changes to the local elections legislative framework is consistency and applicability of local elections rules to all local governments in B.C.

While Vancouver is governed by its own act, the local elections rules are consistent with those in the *Local Government Act* that are applicable to all other local governments. If these requests were to be considered, further consultation would be needed with the Union of BC Municipalities, as well as with the Local Government Management Association of BC, to understand potential impacts to other local governments.

For these amendments to be in place for the 2022 general local elections next fall, these amendments would need to receive royal assent in the legislative assembly during the spring session. Given the need for broader discussions with stakeholders, as well as the timing implications for adding amendments to the legislative agenda, it will not be possible to establish these changes in time for the 2022 general local elections.

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Paul Mochrie
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Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping, fluid strokes that form a cursive name.

Okenge Yuma Morisho
Deputy Minister