

Attachment 9



Voting systems and alternative voting methods

February 17, 2020

Agenda

- Context
- Decision making criteria
- Vote tabulators & remote voting options
- Principles
- Engagement findings
- Administrative considerations & trends
- Recommendations

Context

Voting methods = how you cast your ballot

Remote options can include vote by mail, vote by phone or internet voting



Voting methods

Decision making criteria

- Does it uphold the principles of the Municipal Elections Act (MEA)?
- What have we heard from community engagement?
- How effectively can we administer and support it?
- What broader election trends are we seeing?

Vote tabulators & remote voting options



MEA principles

- (a) the secrecy and confidentiality of the voting process is paramount;
- (b) the election shall be fair and non-biased;
- (c) the election shall be accessible to the voters;
- (d) the integrity of the voting process shall be maintained throughout the election;
- (e) there is to be certainty that the results of the election reflect the votes cast;
- (f) voters and candidates shall be treated fairly and consistently; and
- (g) the proper majority vote governs by ensuring that valid votes are counted and invalid votes are rejected so far as reasonably possible.

Engagement findings

Questions



How would you rate your understanding of how to vote using the following three remote voting methods?

Good and very good	73.92%	58.90%	76.58%
Poor and very poor	9.70%	17.84%	12.21%
Neutral and unsure	16.38%	23.26%	11.21%

Please rank in order of priority preference which voting methods you are most likely and least likely to use if unable to vote in person.

First choice	21.05%	15.64%	65.10%
Second choice	29.24%	48.47%	15.65%
Third choice	49.71%	35.89%	19.25%

Administrative considerations & trends

- Tabulators – support integrity, accessibility and increasingly used by Elections Ontario.
- Mail – new to us but well established at all levels of government.
- Internet – widely used municipally but data accuracy, lack of standards and inability to audit or recount outside the system a concern.
- Phone – low adoption, potential for a poor voter experience in addition and integration with internet voting system a concern.

Recommendations

1. That a by-law be adopted to support the use of vote tabulators in the 2022 municipal and school board election.
2. That a by-law be adopted to support the use of vote by mail as an alternative voting method in the 2022 municipal and school board election.

Thank you



Looking for more information?

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