

**Amendment to By-law No. 591-2000
(Election Contracts Authority)**

Date:	February 8, 2007
To:	Executive Committee
From:	City Clerk
Wards:	N/A
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

The current by-law authorizes the City Clerk to sub-lease the City's vote-counting equipment and contract the services of City staff to supervise the use of the equipment. The by-law does not specifically authorize the provision of election management and administration contracts. This by-law amendment would permit the City Clerk to enter into contracts to provide election services only.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Clerk's Office recommends that City Council:

1. amend By-law 591-2000 to authorize the City Clerk to enter into agreements for the provision of election management and administration services without the City's vote-counting equipment to other governments and organizations as substantially set out in Appendix A;
2. authorize and direct the appropriate City Officials to take whatever action is deemed necessary to implement the foregoing, including the introduction in Council of any bills.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications from this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At its August 1, 2, 3 and 4, 2000 meeting, City Council enacted and passed By-law 591-2000 which authorized the City Clerk to enter into agreements with persons interested in using the City's vote-counting equipment and election services.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The City Clerk has contracted vote-counting equipment and election services approximately 20 times in the last 5 years. City Clerk's staff have conducted contract elections in British Columbia, Alberta, Quebec and New Brunswick, along with a by-election in Vaughan and a political party leadership convention. Each time the contracts included the City's vote-counting equipment as well as staff.

The City Clerk has received urgent requests from other municipalities and levels of government for election management and administrative assistance from City of Toronto staff. It was recently brought to the City Clerk's attention that to provide these services without the rental of the City's vote-counting equipment requires an amendment to the existing by-law. This amendment is urgent as the Clerk needs to finalize commitments to these other jurisdictions by March 2007.

The current by-law only authorizes the City Clerk to sub-lease the City's vote-counting equipment and contract the services of City staff to supervise the use of the equipment. The by-law does not specifically authorize contracts for the provision of election services by staff without the vote-counting equipment. In order for the City Clerk to take advantage of these contract opportunities, that enhance the City's reputation as a leader in field of governance and democratic administration, an amendment to the by-law is required. Legal Services was consulted in the preparation of this report.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Ulli S. Watkiss, City Clerk

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Draft Bill

**APPENDIX A
DRAFT BILL**

Authority: as adopted by City of Toronto Council on **March 5** , 2007

Enacted by Council: March 2007

CITY OF TORONTO

Bill No. *(Bill Number)*

BY-LAW No. *(By-Law Number)*

To amend City of Toronto By-law No. 591-2000 to authorize the City Clerk to enter into agreements for the provision of election services by the City Clerk's staff

WHEREAS City of Toronto By-law No. 591-2000 authorizes the City Clerk to enter into agreements for the sub-lease of the City's vote-counting equipment to municipalities, unions, community organizations and others, and contract services of the Election Services staff to supervise the use of the equipment; and

WHEREAS the City Clerk has been asked to enter into agreements for the provision of election services by her staff without the vote-counting equipment;

The Council of the City of Toronto HEREBY ENACTS as follows:

1. **By-law 591-2000 is amended by adding the following as section 2:**

The City Clerk is authorized to enter into agreements for the provision of election services by the City Clerk's staff to other governments and other organizations.

ENACTED AND PASSED this **3/ /2007**.

David R. Miller
Mayor

Ulli S. Watkiss
City Clerk