



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Options for the Preparation of the Voters' List for Toronto's Municipal Election

Date:	October 4, 2007
To:	Executive Committee
From:	City Clerk
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

At its July 25, 26 and 27, 2006 meeting, Council recommended that “in view of the continuing issues surrounding [the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation’s (MPAC’s)] ability to prepare an accurate voters’ list, the City Clerk be instructed to report to the next term of Council on other options that City Council could consider for the compilation and preparation of the City’s voters’ list.”

The attached report provides the results of the City Clerk Office’s extensive review and recommends that Council request the Province to allow the City Clerk to use Elections Ontario’s Permanent Register of Electors, supplemented by information from any other relevant source, to prepare the voters’ list for Toronto’s municipal elections.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Clerk recommends that City Council:

1. request that the Province enact Toronto-specific election legislation that meets Toronto’s unique needs by allowing the City Clerk to use Elections Ontario’s Permanent Register of Electors, supplemented by information from any other relevant source, as the basis of Toronto’s voters’ list.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications resulting from this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At its July 25, 26 and 27, 2006 meeting, Council requested that the City Clerk investigate other methods for the compilation and preparation of the City's voters' list.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

One of the key elements providing legitimacy to an election is an accurate, current and reliable voters' list. While concerns have been expressed for several elections on the accuracy of Ontario municipal voters' lists, the 2006 election presented the City Clerk with a unique and demanding problem – the inclusion of 276,682 names whose eligibility to vote had not been confirmed by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) prior to delivery of the Preliminary List of Electors.

COMMENTS

The attached report provides information on the extensive research conducted by the City Clerk's Office on alternative methods for the compilation and preparation of Toronto's voters' list.

Any desire on the part of Toronto City Council to alter the manner in which voters' lists are prepared for the City's elections will require the Ontario Legislature to enact amending legislation.

CONTACT

Greg Essensa, Director, Elections and Registry Services
Phone: 416-392-8019, Fax: 416-392-3781, Email: gessensa@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Ulli S. Watkiss, City Clerk

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 1 – Toronto's Voters' List Options Report