Member Motion

City Council

Motion without Notice

MM52.33	ACTION			Ward: All
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Request to Examine Alternate Methods of Electing the Mayor of the City of Toronto - by Councillor Ootes, seconded by Councillor Feldman

Recommendations

Councillor Ootes, seconded by Councillor Feldman, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the City Manager to research and report to the Executive Committee in the new term of Council on alternate methods on the election of the Mayor for the City of Toronto for 2014.

Summary

The City of Toronto is the largest city in Canada and the Mayor of Toronto receives the most votes of any elected official in Canada. As Toronto is such a heavily populated metropolis, the race for Mayor can be highly contested with many candidates, high profile or otherwise.

To ensure that the individual who is elected is representative of the majority of voters in the City, the Municipal Elections Act should be altered to state that the race for Mayor should be decided by a form of voting that represents a result of 50% + 1. This will ensure that the Mayor has a mandate and the support of a majority of those who voted.

As there are different forms of voting, it would be helpful for City Staff to report to the Executive Committee where recommendations can be debated and options available can be discussed before entering into discussions with the Province of Ontario to change the Municipal Elections Act, specifically for the election of the Mayor of the City of Toronto.

By changing the voting system specifically for the Mayor of Toronto, the election would result in a candidate being selected by a greater than 50% majority of voters and therefore would be the most representative of the will of the people.

(Submitted to City Council on August 25 and 26, 2010 as MM52.33)

^{*} This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair. Council has added this Motion to the agenda for debate.