
City Council

Motion without Notice

MM52.34	ACTION			Ward: All
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Request to amend Chapter 693, Article II Elections Signs, to change the first date for the display of election signs from 25 days to 21 days prior to the election date in recognition of Jewish Holidays and the Jewish Sabbath - by Councillor Ootes, seconded by Councillor Feldman

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

Recommendations

Councillor Ootes, seconded by Councillor Feldman, recommends that:

1. City Council amend Chapter 693, Article II, Election Signs, to change the first date where the erection or display of election signs for the 2010 municipal election would be permitted, from 25 to 21 days prior to voting day.
2. City Council direct that in accordance with Section 162-2A(3) of Chapter 162, Public Notice, that publishing this member motion on the agenda in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 27, Council Procedures is, due to the urgent nature of this matter, considered to be adequate public notice of the abovementioned amendment to Chapter 693, Article II, Election Signs.

Summary

As a result of the change in the municipal election date by the Province of Ontario, the City of Toronto will now be holding municipal elections on October 25, 2010. Section 693-9.B. of Chapter 693, Article II, Election Signs, of the City of Toronto Municipal Code prohibits the erection or display of an election sign for a municipal election until 25 days prior to the election date. As a result of the change in the election date, the first date upon which a candidate may be allowed under Chapter 693, Article II to erect or display an election sign is now September 30, 2010.

Unfortunately, the change in the election date by the Province of Ontario has caused this first day where an election sign may be displayed to fall on an important Jewish holiday. Additionally, the change in the election date has resulted in the second and third days (October 1st and 2nd, 2010) upon which a candidate may display an election sign to be days where candidates, and volunteers, due to religious observance may also be unable to engage in the activities inherent in erecting and displaying election signs.

Due to the schedule of meetings adopted by City Council to reflect the change in the election date, there will not be a meeting of the appropriate standing committee prior to September 30, 2010. As a result, the matter must be considered at this meeting of City Council to permit an amendment to Chapter 693, Article II, address this issue in relation to the 2010 Municipal election.

In light of this, it is recommended that Toronto City Council pass this motion to amend Chapter 693, Article II, to change the date to October 4th, 2010, four days later, to ensure that all candidates running for municipal office are on equal ground.

(Submitted to City Council on August 25, 26 and 27, 2010 as MM52.34)