



REFERRAL OF MEMBER MOTION BY CITY COUNCIL

Further Amendments to the Municipal Elections Act

Date:	July 26, 2013
To:	Executive Committee
From:	City Council
Wards:	All Wards

City Council Decision

City Council on July 16, 17, 18 and 19, 2013, referred Motion MM37.12 to the Executive Committee.

Recommendations

Councillor Paul Ainslie, seconded by Councillor Josh Matlow, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to amend section 41 of the Municipal Elections Act, (ballot provisions) to allow for:
 - a. candidate names to be placed in random order, rather than alphabetical order, to ensure fairness for all candidates; and
 - b. candidate photographs to be included on ballots to assist voters whose home language is not English.

2. City Council request the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to amend the Municipal Elections Act to provide the following changes to the election financing rules:
 - a. shorten the financial filing deadline from the last Friday in March following the election to 30 days after the end of the campaign period, (section 77); and
 - b. require candidates to disclose in their financial filing details about in-kind support given to them by all formal or informal organizations (section 66).

Summary

The City of Toronto is moving forward with election reform in its adoption of a request that the Province of Ontario grant approval to explore alternative electoral systems such as ranked voting. This Motion proposes further amendments to the Municipal Elections Act which will provide for greater transparency, fairness and inclusiveness.

(Submitted to City Council on July 16 and 17, 2013 as MM37.12)