



## REFERRAL OF MEMBER MOTION BY CITY COUNCIL

### Revised Writ Periods for Toronto Municipal Elections - Request to Province to Amend the Ontario Municipal Elections Act

<b>Date:</b>	July 26, 2013
<b>To:</b>	Executive Committee
<b>From:</b>	City Council
<b>Wards:</b>	All Wards

#### City Council Decision

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City Council on July 16, 17, 18 and 19, 2013, referred Motion MM37.21 to the Executive Committee.

#### Recommendations

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Councillor Michelle Berardinetti, seconded by Councillor Joe Mihevc, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Province of Ontario to amend the Ontario Municipal Elections Act to reduce the writ period for Toronto municipal elections so that Mayoralty candidates may not commence campaign activities until May 1st of each election year and Council candidates may not commence campaign activities until June 1st of each election year.

#### Summary

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The Ontario Municipal Elections Act establishes the regulations under which candidates for municipal office must operate during the election campaign. One major component of the regulatory process governs the period during which municipal candidates may campaign (the "writ period"). Currently, the Ontario Municipal Elections Act designates January 2nd as the commencement date of the writ period for Toronto municipal election candidates subsequent to their registration for the position for which they are seeking election. The effective result of this regulation is that municipal candidates are conducting their campaigns from January 2nd through to Election Day in late October each election year (October 27th in 2014). Therefore, incumbent Mayoralty and Council candidates seeking re-election to office are in reality often diverted from ongoing Council business

since the writ periods extend for ten months from January to Election Day in late October each election year. In addition, there is a transition period lasting from the date of the election to December 1st. Given that December hosts Christian and Jewish holidays, and New Year's festivities, the reality is that the real work of City business does not commence until early January the following year. This is not beneficial to the City's business and such an extensive writ period is not necessary nor in the best interests of the City and its residents.

(Submitted to City Council on July 16 and 17, 2013 as MM37.21)