

## **2010 Election Accessibility Report**

<b>Date:</b>	January 17, 2011
<b>To:</b>	Executive Committee
<b>From:</b>	City Clerk
<b>Wards:</b>	All

### **SUMMARY**

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In accordance with subsection 12.1(2) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended (*MEA*), the City Clerk has prepared a report about the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities.

The attached report identifies the various initiatives undertaken by the City Clerk's Office for the 2010 election as well as the outcomes and recommended actions for future elections.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The City Clerk recommends that City Council receive this report for information.

#### **Financial Impact**

There is no financial impact of receiving this report for information.

### **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

The *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, was amended in late 2009, to require that the City Clerk have regard, in conducting the election, to the needs of electors and candidates with disabilities and shall submit a report to council about the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities. These are among the City Clerk's statutory duties. The manner in which these sorts of duties are fulfilled is within the sole discretion of a municipal clerk. Subsection 12.1(2) of the *MEA* requires the City Clerk to report on these matters within 90 days after voting day.

## COMMENTS

On December 15, 2009, the *Good Government Act, 2009* (Bill 212) received Royal Assent. Included in this Bill were several amendments to the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* requiring the Clerk to:

- have regard to the needs of electors and candidates with disabilities;
- ensure that all voting places were accessible to electors with disabilities; and
- submit a report to Council within 90 days of voting day on the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that effect electors and candidates with disabilities.

The 2010 Election Accessibility Plan was developed to implement and communicate a strategy for identifying, removing and preventing barriers to accessibility in the election process. Plan development began in February 2010 and was updated as new information and opportunities were identified or became available. The Plan was circulated to over 200 individuals, agencies and organization associated with the disability community for feedback (an initial draft on July 16 and an updated version on September 3, 2010).

The attached report outlines the various initiatives implemented by the City Clerk's Office and how barriers were identified, removed and prevented in the conduct of the 2010 election to enable all electors to exercise their democratic right to vote. Going forward the lessons learned can be used to guide the City as it moves to implement the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

The cost of implementing the accessibility plan was \$542,127.37 which represents 8% of the total election budget. The source of these funds was the Election Reserve, and expenditures are detailed in the attached report.

## CONTACT

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## SIGNATURE

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Ulli S. Watkiss,  
City Clerk

## ATTACHMENTS

2010 Toronto Election Report on Accessibility  
2010 Election Accessibility Plan, Outcomes and Summary of Future Actions