

Update on Internet Voting for Persons with Disabilities

Presentation to Disability Issues Committee
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Director Election & Registry Services
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Background

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February 2013 – Disability Issues Committee

Recommended to the Executive Committee that the City Clerk report on a strategy to allow for internet voting for voters with disabilities for 2014 Election

June 2013 – City Council

Requested the City Clerk form a working group of City staff and community stakeholders to implement internet voting for persons with disabilities in time for the 2014 Election

Guiding Principles

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Solution must be accessible and adhere to the Municipal Elections Act and the following principles:

- The secrecy and confidentiality of an individual's vote is paramount
- The election is fair and must not favour one candidate over another
- The election is accessible to all voters
- The integrity of the process is maintained throughout the election
- Voters and candidates are treated fairly
- There should be certainty that the results of the election reflect the votes cast
- The proper majority vote governs by ensuring that valid votes are counted and invalid votes are rejected so far as reasonably possible.

Internet Voting Criteria

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The solution must:

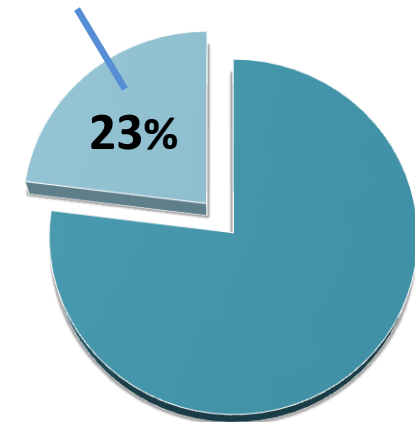
- ensure secrecy of the vote
- be accessible
- provide voter authentication
- be secure
- be auditable
- be scalable



Identifying Eligible Users

- Anyone who falls within the definition of disabled under the Ontario Human Rights Code
- Voters required to self identify

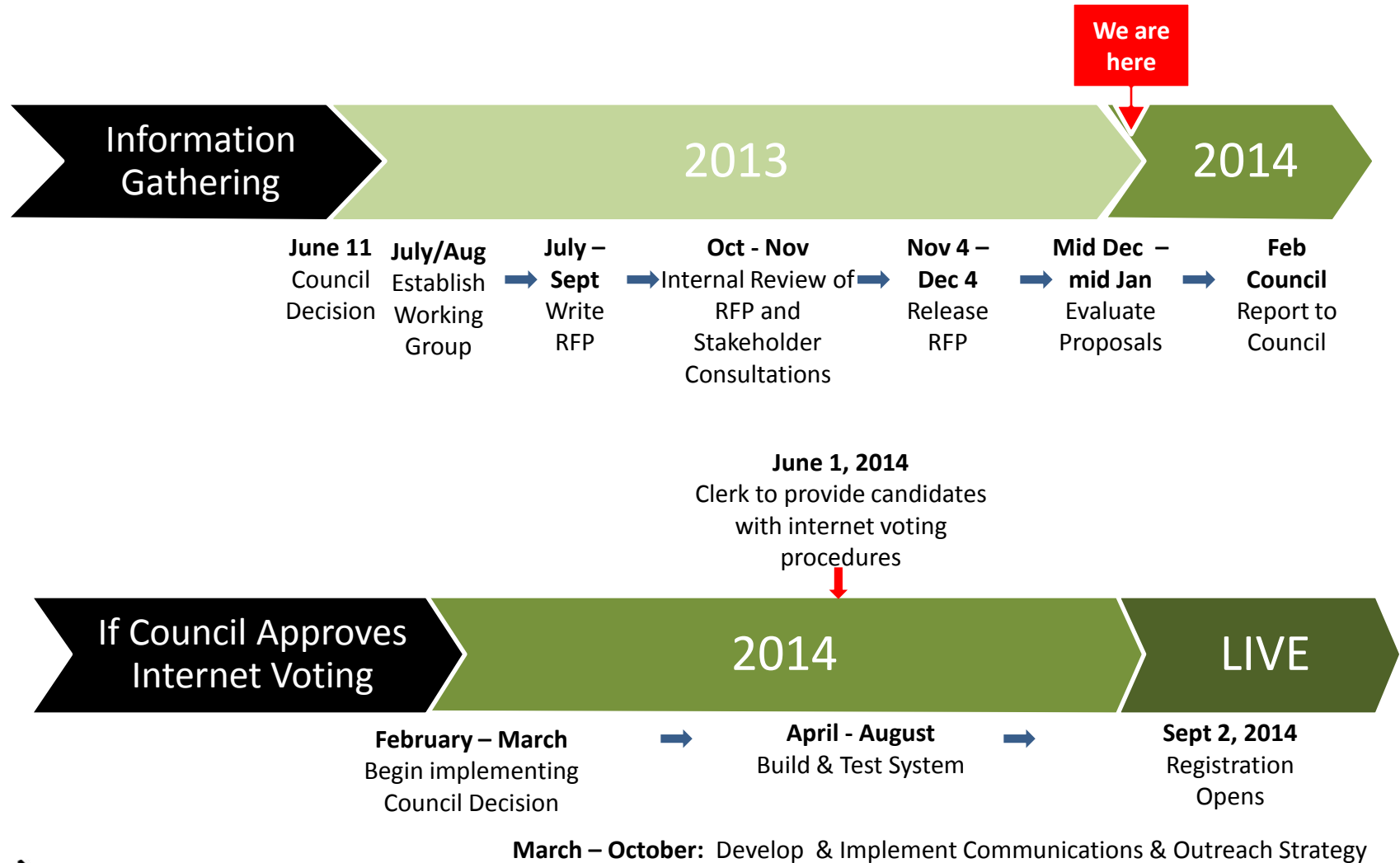
Possibly up to
400,000
Eligible Users



23% of Torontonians sometimes or often experience disabilities or activity limitations*

Project Timelines

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Project Team

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- Functional expertise
 - Election staff
- Expertise from various City divisions
 - Purchasing & Materials Management, Equity, Diversity & Human Rights, Information & Technology, Social Development Finance and Administration, 311
- Engaged external subject matter experts
 - One from OCAD Inclusive Design Research Centre specializing in technology usability and accessibility
 - One each from Western & Concordia Universities specializing in cyber security and cryptography
- Fairness Monitor



Consultations

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October 22, 2013 at North York Civic Centre

October 23, 2013 at Metro Hall

November 21, 2013 at Metro Hall

Accessibility Directorate of Ontario

AODA Alliance

Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians

ARCH Disability Law Centre

The Bob Rumball Centre for the Deaf

Canadian Council on Rehabilitation & Work

Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

Canadian Hearing Society

CNIB

CAMH

Centre for Independent Living in Toronto

Communication Disabilities Access Canada

Cystic Fibrosis Toronto

Disabilities Issues Committee members

Diversityworkx

Epilepsy Ontario & Epilepsy Toronto

Ethno-Racial Disability Coalition of Ont.

Holland Bloorview Kids Rehab Hospital

March of Dimes Ontario

Ministry of Government Services Ontario

MS Society

OCAD–Inclusive Design Research Centre

Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy

Ryerson University – Disabilities Studies

Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Disabilities Issues Committee members

Variety Village

Wheel Trans Associated Organizations

Consultation Feedback

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- Participants expressed *interest & enthusiasm,*
- Some felt *they were being treated differently* and strongly felt *internet voting should be available to all voters*
- Many expressed that *any solution should be accessible to people with all types of disabilities*

Consultation Feedback

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Privacy concerns:

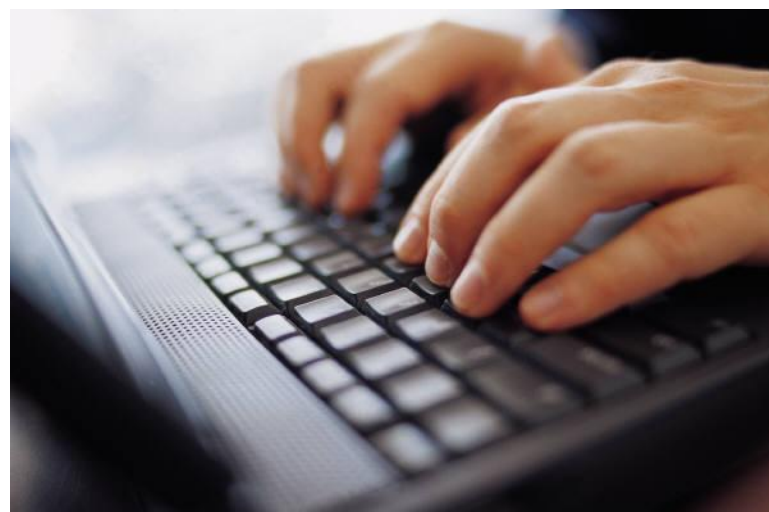
- *What information will I have to divulge to access the system?*
- *What personal data would be stored?*
- *How would information be kept confidential & secure?*



Request for Proposal

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- RFP released November 4, 2013
- Solution must provide persons with disabilities the ability to vote privately and independently and a method of:
 - voter registration
 - voter authentication
 - casting a secure ballot
 - tallying votes



Phase 2 - Implementation



June 1 -Legislative Deadline:
Clerk to provide candidates with internet voting procedures



Feb to Mar
Award Contract

Apr to Sept
Development of Communication & Education Materials

Apr to Aug
System Development & Testing

Sept 2
Registration Opens

Continued Community Involvement

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Assistance required:

- Develop communications strategy
- Develop education and communication materials
- User testing of system



Election Website

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The screenshot shows the City of Toronto website header with the logo and navigation menu. The main content area features a banner image of a wheelchair symbol on a coin slot. Below the banner is a navigation bar with links: Home, Voters, Candidates, Employment, Library, Education, and Accessibility. The main heading is "Internet Voting for Persons with Disabilities". The text below the heading states: "On June 11, 2013 City Council requested the City Clerk to form a working group of City Staff and community stakeholders to implement Internet voting for persons with disabilities in time for the 2014 municipal election." A list of links follows: Public Consultations, Request for Proposal (RFP) - for Internet Voting for Persons with Disabilities, June 11, 2013 Council Meeting Minutes, Staff Report for action on Proposed Electoral Reforms - Internet Voting for Persons with Disabilities, and February 14, 2013 Disability Issues Committee Meeting. To the right, there is a "Contact Us" section with "Election Services" information, including address (100 QUEEN ST W, 1st Floor N, Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2), phone (416-338-1111), fax (416-395-1300), and email (elections@toronto.ca). Below that is an "Election Videos" section with two entries: "Voter Assist Terminal" and "Voter Assist Terminal - ASL".

<http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=67787903a36c1410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD>

Contact Information

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