

**Key comments from Council Member Consultations - *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* and
*Municipal Conflict of Interest Act***

Table 1: *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*

Consultation Question	Themes
General 1. From your experience, what parts of municipal elections in Ontario currently work well? What parts should be changed? Is there anything else you want to tell us about your experience with municipal elections?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nomination period should be shorter balanced with sufficient time for fundraising. A 5-7 month election period may be appropriate. • The Voters' List needs improvement in terms of accuracy. • The criteria to run for office, particularly for the office of the Mayor, should be reviewed. For example, increasing the nomination filing fee and/or requiring a certain number of endorsements from residents.
Campaign Financing 2. What was your experience with financing an election campaign? What areas might be improved, and how?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election campaign finances rules should be clearer particularly related to fundraising. • Spending limits should be higher in Toronto given the costs of running a campaign in Toronto are higher. • Disclosure of election campaign finances during the campaign period to increase transparency should be considered.
Third Party Advertising 3. What are your thoughts on third party advertising in municipal elections? Should there be rules for third party advertising? If so, what should these rules require?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are few concerns about third party advertising for municipal elections.
Accessibility 4. What are your thoughts and experience with accessibility in municipal elections? Have you experienced or observed accessibility challenges or barriers related to voting or running for office? If so, what were those challenges and what would help to overcome those barriers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toronto has taken a leadership role in accessibility generally including making voting places accessible.
Enforcement 5. Do you feel that municipal election rules are effectively enforced? Why or why not?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement of election rules should be more consistent. • There should be more enforcement to discourage candidates from breaking election campaign finance

Consultation Question	Themes
	<p>rules.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is support to increase the threshold/criteria for requiring a compliance audit.
<p>Ranked Ballots</p> <p>6. What are your thoughts on ranked ballots for Ontario municipal elections? Should municipalities be able to use ranked ballots for certain offices and not others? Should public consultation by a municipality be required before implementing ranked ballots or switching back to the current system? What form should that consultation take?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was limited support for using ranked ballots for some municipal jurisdiction and not others; consistency is desirable. • Consultation and/or the requirement to hold a referendum is advisable prior to the implementation of ranked ballots. • Sufficient time and resources will be required for public education and outreach prior to implementing ranked ballots.

Table 2: *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*

Consultation Questions	Themes
<p>Rules</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do municipal councillors need more support to comply with conflict of interest rules? 2. Do you think the current rules prevent municipal councillors from participating in municipal decision making too often? 3. How might the conflict of interest rules be made clearer for municipal officials and the public? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More support for Members to comply with conflict of interest rules would be beneficial. • Some Members may be declaring perceived conflicts of interest frequently because the rules may not be clear.
<p>Penalties and Enforcement</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. What do you think are appropriate penalties for violating the conflict of interest rules? 5. Who should enforce municipal conflict of interest rules? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be a range of penalties for breaches of the Act. • Courts should enforce the MCIA breaches. • Better enforcement for those who have been found in conflict is desirable.