

City Council

Motion without Notice

MM8.41	ACTION			Ward:All
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Strengthening Local Democracy - by Councillor Mary Fragedakis, seconded by Councillor Jon Burnside

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

** This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

Recommendations

Councillor Mary Fragedakis, seconded by Councillor Jon Burnside, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Province of Ontario to broaden its current on-line public input process by undertaking public hearings on the Municipal Elections Act Review and proposed amendments to the City of Toronto Act, 2006.
2. City Council request the City Manager to promote the provincial on-line public consultation process on the Municipal Elections Act Review and the City of Toronto Act, 2006 through existing City outreach mechanisms, social media and community networks.
3. City Council request the City Manager to undertake public consultation after City Council considers the City Manager's report on proposed amendments to the City of Toronto Act, 2006 at its meeting on September 30, 2015 to obtain input from the public on Council's priorities for changes to the Act.

Summary

Toronto is the largest city in Canada, and contains a wide diversity of communities and interests. A strong and fair foundation for local government is fundamental for the effective governance of Toronto.

Any proposed changes to the Municipal Elections Act or the City of Toronto Act, 2006 should follow an unbiased process that includes substantial public consultation. This would be consistent with our democratic values and traditions. For example, when the province of Ontario last considered substantive changes to the provincial elections process, it held both a Citizens Assembly and a province-wide referendum.

The current level of public consultation for the Municipal Elections Act and the City of Toronto Act, 2006 falls far short of that done for related legislation and should be significantly enhanced to be consistent with our democratic values.

This matter is urgent as the current provincial public consultation surveys have closing dates of July 27 and August 6, 2015.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM8.41

(July 8, 2015) Fiscal Impact Statement from the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2015/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-82120.pdf>