

<b>Media attendance at a voting place</b>	City Clerk's Office – Election Services
	<b>Policy No.:</b> POL-PE-001

### **1. Policy**

To maintain the privacy and secrecy of the vote, the City Clerk prohibits media from entering, filming or photographing inside a voting place without prior approval from the City Clerk.

### **2. Application**

This policy applies to election officials designated by the City Clerk, electors and all media at a voting place during City of Toronto municipal elections and/or by-elections. Any existing City of Toronto policies that apply to the media also apply at the voting place.

### **3. Authority/Legislative reference(s)**

Section 12 of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (MEA) states that the City Clerk may provide for any matter or procedure that is not otherwise provided for in an Act or regulation and that, in their opinion, is necessary or desirable for conducting the election.

### **4. Implementation**

- 4.1. The secrecy and confidentiality of the voting process is paramount.
- 4.2. Prior to the advance vote and election day, media will be advised that if they wish to film or photograph at the voting place, they must make prior arrangements with the City Clerk. Staff from the City of Toronto's Election Services and Strategic Communications division will coordinate the requests.
- 4.3. If the media arrives at a voting place unexpectedly, a designated election official shall notify the ward centre immediately and follow instructions from the ward centre. The designated election official reserves the right to deny entry until they receive approval from the ward centre.

- 4.4. If permission is granted from the City Clerk, media may film or photograph from the doorway of the voting place but only with the permission of the occupants of the voting place.
- 4.5. The designated election official shall ensure that voting place staff, electors and other individuals in the voting place have agreed to be filmed or photographed and will advise the media of this agreement.
- 4.6. While the voting place boundary covers the entire property, permission to interview, film or photograph is generally not required if the media wish to do so outside the voting place boundaries.

## **5. Related Policies/Procedures/Guidelines/Information**

City Clerk's policy on the *Use of electronic communication and photographic devices at a voting place.*

**Date Approved:    October 2018**