

<b>Use of electronic communication and photographic devices at a voting place</b>	City Clerk's Office – Election Services
	<b>Policy No.:</b> POL-EMO-001

**1. Policy**

To maintain the secrecy of the vote, the City Clerk prohibits the use of electronic communication and/or photographic device(s) at the voting place by electors, scrutineers and candidates, except when used to show acceptable identification and/or the Voter Information Card.

Identification is accepted in whichever format they were first issued. In the case of documents issued electronically (such as e-statements or e-invoices), both a hard copy or online version shown on a mobile device are accepted. Photocopies or scanned versions of documents that were not issued electronically are not accepted (e.g. a Canadian passport).

Designated election officials may use electronic communication and/or photographic device(s) for election purposes only when necessary and after receiving approval from the Managing Deputy Returning Officer or Deputy Returning Officer. When possible, staff should leave the voting place to use these devices.

**2. Application**

This policy applies to election officials designated by the City Clerk, electors, scrutineers, candidates and the media during City of Toronto municipal elections and/or by-elections.

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

Section 49 of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (MEA) states that every person present at a voting place or at the counting of votes shall help to maintain the secrecy of the voting, and outlines a number offences relating to interfering with or revealing the marking of a ballot.

Section 12 of the 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.

**Date Approved: February 2018**