2025 Trustee, Toronto District School Board (TDSB) Ward 11 (Don Valley West) By-Election

Media Technical Briefing

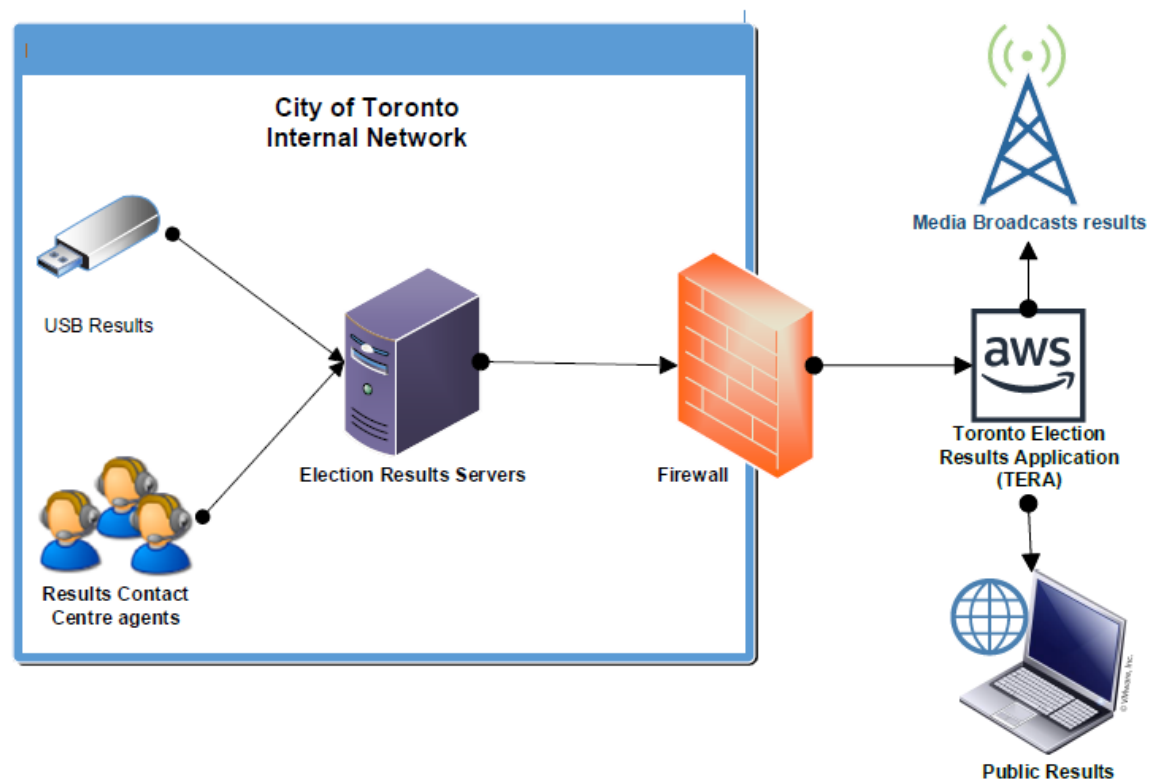How to Access Election Unofficial Results

Notice

This briefing provides information for the media to gain access to City's election unofficial results data.

- The 2025 TDSB Ward 11 By-Election zero results data file will be available on February 12, 2025.
  - The data file will show zero vote totals for each candidate, zero voters, and zero poll results received.
- The data file will be updated as polls are reported after voting closes at 8 p.m. on election day March 3, 2025 .
- The City is not providing any live results system test data for this by-election – testing should be conducted using the zero data file.

By-Election VOTE March 3

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Election Results Transmission

Media Results files

- Election results file will be available in a machine-readable JSON file format

- The live Election results data file for All Candidates – TDSB Ward 11 will be available at the link below:

  - unofficialresult.json

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Getting the latest information

- Technical information and updates will be available on the Toronto Elections website:

  www.toronto.ca/elections/results

- Click the **Live Results Information for Media** tile regularly for any new information.

- We strongly suggest you **test in advance of election day. Technical support will not be available on election day, March 3.**

- The technical contacts will be available to answer your questions before election day.

Technical Contact Information

For Technical questions:

- Tharshan Sundaramoorthy, Elections Manager

  Tharshan.Sundaramoorthy@toronto.ca

  416-395-1319

- Simon Leung, Project Manager

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All other questions: media@toronto.ca

Important Dates

Date	Details
February 12, 2025	Zero results data file (JSON format) for the 2025 TDSB Ward 11 By-Election testing available
March 3, 2025	Election day unofficial results available after 9 p.m.
	*Please note the City is not providing any live results system test data for this by-election – testing should be conducted using the zero data file.

Q&A 1/4

Question: The filename is given as "unofficialresult.json". Can you confirm that the filename will be the same on the night of the election? We just want to be sure it won't be changing to "officialresult" or something like that. And once the results are complete, will there be a final data file with official results?

Answer: The filename will not change on election night.

Question: The JSON files are being stored in AWS, is there any caching on those files and how long is the cache set for? Do we need to apply a cache buster or something?

Answer: AWS will refresh the files every 60 seconds for the JSON file. You will need to address any caching scenarios based on how you build your consuming solution. For your consideration, the JSON file has a "seq" attribute where the value is based on a timestamp.

Question: Will there be results file available but just with zeroed data until election night?

Answer: Unofficial results file with zeroed data will be posted on February 12, 2025 until election night.

Q&A 2/4

Question: We have a workaround, but it seems the CORS policy on the data files doesn't allow them to be accessed by other domains. Will you be updating the cross domain policy?

Answer: It is not recommended to make direct AJAX calls to mediaresults.toronto.ca from another domain. The intent is to download the results file, parse it and setup/host your own website or television crawl.

Question: Will the election results be available at the exact [same URL](#)for both testing and election night?

Answer: Yes - https://mediaresults.toronto.ca/results/unofficialresult.json

Question: Does the candidate field reorganize itself based on votes received or does it stay in alphabetical order?

Answer: It will reorganize based on total votes received. If two or more candidates have the same number of votes, those will organize based on name.

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Q&A 3/4

Question: Are the total number of polls and total voters values in that feed accurate? In other words can we pre-populate our system with these values now with the values in the feed or will these values change as we get closer to election day?

Answer: Both values are subject to change as we approach election day.

Question: I understand that the feed will activate at 8 p.m. on Election Day, after the polls close. I also understand that the feed will be updated every 60 seconds. But I can't find when the feed will be turned off. Will it run until midnight.

Answer: On Election Day, the live JSON results files will be updated every 60 seconds, starting from 8 p.m. until all results have been received. There is no fixed end time. A zeroed unofficial results file will be posted on February 12, 2025 for reference.

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Q&A 4/4

Question: I cannot find any mention in the documentation about rate limiting on the election results API. As we are testing, should we be mindful of how often we poll the API?

Answer: There is no rate limiting; however, you should retrieve the JSON file, parse and then store it into your own system. Rate limiting will become an issue if you link directly to the content from your own web pages (for example, by hosting a web page that retrieves the JSON file via AJAX). The JSON should not be retrieved in this fashion.

Question: Are there any concerns related to retrieving the results files over HTTP vs HTTPS?

Answer: The files can be downloaded over Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS) only. If your integration software attempts an unencrypted Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) connection to the mediaresults.toronto.ca site, the site responds with a redirect to the HTTPS version of the URL.

It is strongly recommended that you configure your integration software to use the HTTPS version of the URL. This improves security by ensuring the connection is always encrypted and may improve your integration software's system performance by reducing the number of requests. Doing so will also improve your resilience to certain types of internet service provider outages.

Appendix

unofficialresult.json
File Structure

Top Level

```
{
 "electionDesc" : " 2025 TDSB Ward 11 By-Election ",
 "office" : [ ... ],
 "seq" : "17*********75"
}
```

Office

```
{
 "id" : 3,
 "name" : "Toronto
District School board",
 "ward" : [ ... ]
},
...
```

Ward

```
{
 "num" : "11",
 "polls" : "21",
 "pollsReceived" : "0",
 "totalVoters" : "69337",
 "votesReceived" : "0",
 "candidate" : [ ...]
},
...
```

Candidate

```
{
 "name" : "Candidate Name",
 "votesReceived" : "0",
 "percentage" : "0.00"
},
...
```

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