

MOTION

At its Regular Council meeting on January 18, 2011, Vancouver City Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets meeting on January 20, 2011, in order to hear from speakers.

6. Online Voting Pilot Project

MOVED by Councillor Reimer
SECONDED by Councillor Louie

WHEREAS

1. Less than 35% of eligible voters in Vancouver cast ballots in the last two civic elections;
2. Voter turnout is considered an important indicator of social cohesion and vital to a healthy democracy;
3. Research conducted by Elections Canada on voter turn out in the last federal election found that 57% of non-voters cited time pressures that prevented them from getting to a voting place in person;
4. Elections Canada will be conducting an online voting pilot in the 2013 federal election;
5. Online voting can greatly improve accessibility by increasing the time and place options available to voters to cast a ballot;
6. Online voting is used in more than three dozen Canadian municipalities ranging from 44 municipalities in Ontario, such as Markham, ON which piloted online voting in 2003, to Halifax, Nova Scotia which conducted successful pilots in a 2008 general election and 2009 by-election;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Clerk report to Council on the feasibility of conducting an online voting pilot in the 2011 municipal elections or, if 2011 is not feasible, what the earliest date for a pilot would be.

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