



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: January 5, 2017
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Meeting Date: January 24, 2017

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: City Clerk
SUBJECT: Independent Election Task Force - Final Report

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receive the final report of the Independent Election Task Force (Appendix A) for information.

REPORT SUMMARY

The Independent Election Task force has prepared their final report for Council's consideration, which includes recommendations on how to advance previous Council directives related to the Vancouver local election.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

At its Regular Council meeting on January 20, 2016, Council approved the establishment of an independent Election Task Force and its terms of reference.

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing.

REPORT

Background/Context

At its Regular Council meeting on January 20, 2016, Council approved the creation of an independent Election Task force with a broad mandate to:

- (i) survey candidates and parties as to their experience in the election;
- (ii) review whether the allocation of resources from Council are sufficient to meet expectations in an election; and
- (iii) create a plan for advancing previous Council directives to staff regarding electoral procedures including:
 - (a) Request to Province for ability to implement campaign finance reforms including limits to contributions and a ban on corporate and union donations;
 - (b) Request to Province for ability to use proportional voting systems;
 - (c) Request to Province to make anonymous balloting data available in open data format after an election;
 - (d) Request to Province to conduct an online voting pilot; and
 - (e) The priority actions from the Engaged City Task Force and the Healthy City Strategy *

*The Engaged City Task Force and Healthy City Strategy priority action items include:

- Increasing the number of “positive cues” to encourage voting;
- Targeting voter registration;
- Investigating the extension of voting rights to permanent residents;
- Using the election ballot to get feedback on voter satisfaction with the current voting system;
- Taking action on campaign finance reform; and
- Increasing municipal voter turnout to at least 60 per cent by 2025.

In April 2016, 12 members were selected by Council to participate as part of the Independent Election Task Force. As noted in their terms of reference, the Task Force was directed to report back to Council no later than December 2016 with a final report that included a plan for advancing previous Election-related directives. Task Force members had their first meeting in June 2016 and met over a five month period to research, plan, and prepare their final report. The Task Force was supported throughout this period by an independent meeting facilitator/writer and City staff.

Strategic Analysis

City of Vancouver elections are governed by the Vancouver Charter, Local Elections Campaign Financing Act (LECF) and the School Act. The legislative framework for conducting municipal elections is controlled by the Province.

Staff have begun planning for the 2018 election and by November 2017, staff expect to be fully immersed in the implementation of the project plan developed for the 2018 municipal election.

It is important that any changes to the governing provincial legislation become law by November 2017 in order for changes to be implemented in time for the 2018 general local election.

Implications/Related Issues/Risk (if applicable)

Financial

There are no financial implications at this time. Should Council wish to proceed with any (or all) of the Task Force recommendations, staff will report back to Council with the estimated cost of implementation.

CONCLUSION

At its Regular Council meeting on January 20, 2016, Council approved the establishment of an independent Election Task Force and its terms of reference.

The Independent Election Task force has prepared their final report for Council's consideration, which includes their recommendations on how to advance previous Council directives related to the Vancouver local election.

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