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<b>TO:</b>	<b>CHAIR AND MEMBERS CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON MAY 13, 2014</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>CATHY SAUNDERS CITY CLERK</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE VOTING MACHINES, VOTE COUNTING EQUIPMENT, VOTING BY MAIL, ADVANCE AND PROXY VOTING</b>

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
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That, on the recommendation of the City Clerk, the attached proposed by-law (Appendix "A") BE INTRODUCED at the Municipal Council meeting to be held on May 20, 2014 to authorize the use of accessible voting machines, poll optical scanning vote tabulators, central count optical scanning tabulator, voting by mail, advance voting and proxy voting for the 2014 municipal election.

<b>PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER</b>
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Corporate Services Committee Report – August 20, 2013 City Clerk – Vote Tabulation System and Election Software

Corporate Services Committee Report – January 21, 2014 – New Initiatives – 2014 Municipal Election

<b>BACKGROUND</b>
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Tabulation Equipment

Subsection 42(1)(a) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, (the Act) as amended, makes provision for the Council of a local municipality to pass a by-law authorizing the use of voting and vote-counting equipment, such as voting machines, voting recorders or optical scanning vote tabulators. The City of London began using central count optical scanning voting tabulators for the 1991 Municipal Election and has used similar equipment for each subsequent Municipal Election.

The City of London has been one of the last large urban municipalities to solely utilize central count tabulation. While the tabulation equipment for the last election worked very well in terms of accuracy and reliability, the time required to tabulate results was lengthy, resulting in final results not being available for many hours after the polls closed.

2014 will bring a significant change to the tabulation process through the deployment of in poll tabulation for every advance voting location and voting day poll. On September 17, 2013, Council approved the lease of in poll tabulation units for each of our 134 voting day poll locations, 1 central count unit to tabulate vote by mail ballots, as well as ballots cast in nursing homes and institutions and accessible voting machines at each of our advance vote locations. Electors will mark their ballot at the poll (at advance polls and on voting day), the marked ballot will immediately be fed through the tabulation equipment and then be deposited into a ballot box. The elector will then receive confirmation that their ballot has been counted. When the polls close, the results will be uploaded and provided to the public as soon as possible.

Vote by Mail

Subsection 42(1)(b) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, makes provision for the Council of a local municipality to pass a by-law authorizing the electors to use an alternative voting method, such as voting by mail. Voting by mail was implemented in the 2010 Municipal Election, and this voting alternative will be available again in 2014. Electors will be given the opportunity to prequalify and preregister to cast their ballot by mail. This is similar to the special ballot process that is provided for in Federal Elections.

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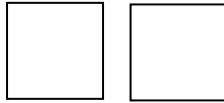
A vote by mail ballot kit will be mailed to those electors who have prequalified and preregistered to use the voting by mail alternative. Electors have the option of returning the Ballot Return Envelope containing the sealed Ballot Secrecy Envelope and Voter’s Qualification Form, to the Municipal Elections Office by Canada Post or by hand delivering it to the Municipal Elections Office up to and including voting day.

The cost to undertake voting by mail is approximately \$2.00 per voter, excluding the cost to produce the ballot. Voting by mail is a low cost, effective approach to providing the ability to vote to electors who would not be able to vote at an advance poll, a voting day poll, or by proxy (ie., out of Country, student away at school, etc.).

Advance Vote and Proxy Voting

Subsection 42(5) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, provides that when a by-law authorizing the use of an alternative voting method is in effect, sections 43 (advance vote) and 44 (voting proxies) of the Act apply only if the by-law so specifies. Both advance voting and proxy voting will be available for the 2014 Municipal Election, in addition to the proposed alternative voting method. The appointment time for a proxy vote will begin after the close of nominations (2:00 PM, Friday, September 12, 2014), until the close of voting on voting day (8:00 PM, October 27, 2014).

<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED BY:</b>
<b>SARAH CORMAN MANAGER, LICENSING AND ELECTIONS</b>	<b>CATHY SAUNDERS CITY CLERK</b>



APPENDIX "A"

Bill No.  
2014

By-law No. E.-

A by-law to authorize the use of accessible voting machines, poll optical scanning vote tabulators, central count optical scanning tabulator, voting by mail, advance voting and proxy voting for the 2014 municipal election.

WHEREAS subsection 42(1)(a) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, provides that the council of a local municipality may pass a by-law authorizing the use of voting and vote-counting equipment such as voting machines, voting recorders or optical scanning vote tabulators;

AND WHEREAS subsection 42(1)(b) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, provides that the council of a local municipality may pass a by-law authorizing electors to use an alternative voting method, such as voting by mail, that does not require electors to attend at a voting place in order to vote;

AND WHEREAS subsection 42(5) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, provides that when a by-law authorizing the use of an alternative voting method is in effect, sections 43 (advance vote) and 44 (voting proxies) apply only if the by-law so specifies;

NOW THEREFORE the Municipal Council of The Corporation of the City of London enacts as follows:

1. The use of poll and central optical scanning vote tabulators for the purpose of counting votes at municipal elections is hereby authorized.
2. Sections 43 (Advance Votes) and 44 (Voting Proxy) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, apply to the City of London 2014 Municipal Election.
3. The use of accessible voting machines for advance voting at all advance poll locations is hereby authorized.
4. The use of voting by mail be provided upon request to qualified voters as an alternative voting method that does not require electors to attend at a voting place in order to vote at municipal elections is hereby authorized.
5. By-law No. E.-172-166 passed by the Municipal Council on May 3, 2010 is hereby repealed.
6. This by-law comes into force and effect on the day it is passed.

PASSED in Open Council on May 20, 2014.

Joe Fontana  
Mayor

Catharine Saunders  
City Clerk

First Reading – May 20, 2014  
Second Reading – May 20, 2014  
Third Reading – May 20, 2014