

<b>TO:</b>	<b>CHAIR AND MEMBERS CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON MARCH 28, 2017</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>CATHY SAUNDERS CITY CLERK</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>ADVANCE VOTING DAYS AND USE OF VOTE COUNTING EQUIPMENT, VOTING MACHINES, VOTING BY MAIL, AND PROXY VOTING</b>

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
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That, on the recommendation of the City Clerk, the following actions be taken with respect to the 2018 Municipal Election:

- a) the attached proposed by-law (Appendix "A") **BE INTRODUCED** at the Municipal Council meeting to be held on April 4, 2017 to establish the following advance voting dates and times:

Saturday, October 6, 2018 from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Tuesday, October 9, 2018 to Saturday, October 13, 2018, inclusive, from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM; and

- b) the attached proposed by-law (Appendix "B") **BE INTRODUCED** at the Municipal Council meeting to be held on April 4, 2017 to authorize the use of poll optical scanning vote tabulators, touch screen voting machines, voting by mail, advance voting and proxy voting for the 2018 Municipal Election.

<b>PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER</b>
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- None

<b>BACKGROUND</b>
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The *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, contains provisions allowing the Municipal Council of a municipality to pass by-laws authorizing the use of voting machines, voting recorders or optical scanning vote tabulators providing that the by-law is passed on or before May 1<sup>st</sup> in the year before an election. Further, the Act states that all municipalities must have an advance vote on one or more dates and that the clerk shall establish the dates, the number and location of voting places, and the hours the voting places will be open.

The attached proposed tabulation and vote equipment by-law (Appendix "B") satisfies legislative requirements irrespective of whether the City proceeds with the current vote process or a ranked ballot process. This by-law must be passed on or before May 1, 2017.

<b>DISCUSSION</b>
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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 2018 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, July 27, 2018), until the close of voting on voting day (8:00 PM, October 22, 2018).

The advance vote is scheduled for Saturday, October 6, 2018, Thursday, October 11, 2018, and Saturday, October 13, 2018. The continuous advance voting at City Hall will run Saturday,

October 6, 2018 through to Saturday, October 13, 2018 (with the exception of Sunday, October 7, 2018 and Thanksgiving Monday, October, 8, 2018). The hours will be 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM each day of advance voting.

Tabulation and Vote Equipment

Subsection 42(1)(a) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, makes provision for the Municipal Council 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 optical scanning voting tabulators at the 1991 Municipal Election and has used similar equipment for each subsequent Municipal Election.

For 2018, staff are proposing touchscreen voting devices at every advance voting location and in poll tabulators for Voting Day locations. Touchscreen voting devices will allow electors to mark their ballot electronically, independently, and with accessible components (audio, large text, sip and puff devices).

On Voting Day, electors will be able to mark their paper ballot at the poll, the marked ballot will immediately be fed through the optical scanning vote tabulator 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 Municipal Council 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 and 2014 Municipal Elections, and this voting alternative will be available again in 2018. 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.

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 provide the ability for electors to vote who would not be able to vote at an advance poll, a voting day poll, or by proxy (eg. illness, out of country, student away at school, etc.).

<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.  
2017

By-law No. E.-

A by-law to establish the dates for advance voting and the hours during which voting places shall be open on those dates for the 2018 Municipal Election.

WHEREAS subsection 43(1) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, provides that before voting day, each local municipality shall hold an advance vote on one or more dates.

AND WHEREAS subsection 43(2) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, provides that subject to subsection 43(3), the clerk shall establish, the date or dates on which the advance vote is held; the number and location of voting places for the advance vote; and the hours during which the voting places shall be open for the advance vote, which may be different voting places.

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

1. The following advance voting dates and times are hereby established for the October 22, 2018 Municipal Election:
  - a) Saturday, October 6, 2018 from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM
  - b) Tuesday, October 9, 2018 to Saturday, October 13, 2018, inclusive, from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM;
2. This by-law comes into force and effect on the day it is passed.

PASSED in Open Council on April 4, 2017.

Matt Brown  
Mayor

Catharine Saunders  
City Clerk

## APPENDIX "B"

Bill No.  
2017

By-law No. E.-

A by-law to authorize the use of touchscreen voting machines, poll optical scanning vote tabulators, voting by mail, advance voting and proxy voting for the 2018 Municipal Election; and to repeal By-law No. E.-178-192 entitled "A by-law to authorize the use of accessible voting machines, optical scanning vote tabulators, mail in voting, advance voting and proxy voting at Municipal Elections."

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 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 2018 Municipal Election.
3. The use of touchscreen 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.-178-192 passed by the Municipal Council on May 20, 2014 is hereby repealed.
6. This by-law comes into force and effect on the day it is passed.

PASSED in Open Council on April 4, 2017.

Matt Brown  
Mayor

Catharine Saunders  
City Clerk

First Reading – April 4, 2017  
Second Reading – April 4, 2017  
Third Reading – April 4, 2017