

Request for Decision

Transit for Municipal Election

Presented To:	City Council
Presented:	Tuesday, Aug 14, 2018
Report Date	Tuesday, Jul 24, 2018
Type:	Routine Management Reports

Resolution

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury authorizes the provision of free public transit on Election Day, October 22, 2018, and future municipal elections for persons accessing transit to exercise their right to vote in Municipal and School Board Elections as outlined in the report entitled "Transit for Municipal Election" from the General Manager of Corporate Services, presented at the City Council meeting on August 14, 2018;

AND THAT staff be directed to prepare the necessary bylaw.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan / Health Impact Assessment

This report refers to "improving communications within city hall and between the City and the community at large, by taking steps to get to know the needs of the entire community" which is identified in the Strategic Plan under the key pillar of Responsive, Fiscally Prudent, Open Governance.

Report Summary

This report seeks Council authorization to provide free access to public transit on Election Day, October 22nd, 2018 and future municipal elections for those persons wishing to access transit in order to exercise their right to vote.

Financial Implications

The estimated cost is anticipated to be no more than \$10,000 to be funded from the Election Reserve Account.

Signed By

Report Prepared By

Eric Labelle
City Solicitor and Clerk
Digitally Signed Jul 24, 18

Financial Implications

Liisa Brule
Coordinator of Budgets
Digitally Signed Jul 25, 18

Recommended by the Department

Kevin Fowke
General Manager of Corporate Services
Digitally Signed Jul 25, 18

Recommended by the C.A.O.

Ed Archer
Chief Administrative Officer
Digitally Signed Jul 27, 18

Background

The 2018 Municipal and School Board Election is quickly approaching and Election Day will occur on October 22nd, 2018. In May of 2017, Council approved electronic voting as the sole method of vote for the 2018 election. This method not only provides electors with a reliable and convenient way to exercise their right to vote but it also provides electors with disabilities the ability to cast their vote independently using their own assistive technologies.

While it is expected that most electors will vote from the comfort of their homes the City will nonetheless provide voting locations throughout the City for persons who may not have a mobile device or a computer or for those persons that may require assistance with the voting process. It is further acknowledged that some persons may not wish to attend at a voting location and they may instead wish to access a mobile device or computer at the home of a friend or relative.

As a way to further engage the public, to increase the accessibility of the process and encourage electors to exercise their right to vote, staff recommend that public transit be provided at no charge for electors going or returning from voting on a Municipal Election Day. The costs of this initiative are expected to be relatively low and would be funded from the Election Reserve Account.

References

Report presented to Council one May 30, 2017 entitled "Method of Vote During the 2018 Municipal and School Board Election"

<http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&agenda=report&itemid=22&id=1128>