



City of Hamilton
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West, 1st Floor
Hamilton, Ontario
Canada L8P 4Y5
www.hamilton.ca

Stephanie Paparella
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk
Phone (905) 546-2424 Ext. 3993
Fax # (905) 546-2095
stephanie.paparella@hamilton.ca

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Doug Brewer
Director of Policy
Ministry of Municipal Affairs
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto, ON
M5G 2E5

Minister's Chief of Staff
Ministry of Finance
Frost Building South, 7th Floor
7 Queen's Park Crescent
Toronto, ON
M7A 1Y7

Carla Y. Nell
Vice President, Municipal and Stakeholder
Relations
Municipal Property Assessment Corporation
1340 Pickering Parkway, Suite 101
Pickering, ON
L1V 0C4

Angela Morgan, CMO, AOMC
President
AMCTO
2680 Skymark Avenue
Mississauga, ON
L4W 5L6

Stéphane Perrault
Chief Electoral Officer of Canada
Elections Canada
30 Victoria Street
Gatineau, Quebec
K1A 0M6

Greg Essensa
Chief Electoral Office of Ontario
Elections Ontario
51 Rolark Drive
Toronto ON
M1R 3B1

Please be advised that Hamilton City Council at its meeting of December 19, 2018, approved Item 7.3, which reads as follows:

7.3 Maintaining the Voters' List for Municipal Elections

WHEREAS, concerns over the quality of the Municipal Voters List is not a new phenomenon;

WHEREAS, in 2012, the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) published a Voters List Position Paper and since that time has been advocating for transformational changes to the way that Ontario creates and maintains the Voters' List for municipal elections;

WHEREAS, the Preliminary List of Electors, which forms the Voters' List in Ontario, is supplied by data from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC);

WHEREAS, despite the incremental changes made by MPAC, MPAC has a limited ability to fix the currency and accuracy issues that impairs the current

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process and the Voters' List continues to be flawed with data inaccuracies and outdated information; and,

WHEREAS, a transformational solution to the way that the Voters' List is created and managed is required;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Council of the City of Hamilton supports the re-establishment of the multi-stakeholder working group between the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Ministry of Finance, AMCTO, MPAC, Elections Canada and Elections Ontario in exploring and identifying ways to create and maintain the Voters' List for Municipal Elections;
- (b) That Council requests an update be provided from this Voters' List Working Group on the transformational solutions being discussed;
- (c) That representatives from MPAC be invited to a future General Issues Committee meeting to hear the City of Hamilton's concerns (attached hereto) and advise the City on what steps MPAC will be taking in the future;
- (d) That a letter of concerns respecting the Voter's List for Municipal Elections and a request for investigation be forwarded to the Ombudsman's Office; and,
- (e) That a copy of this motion, respecting the Voter's List for Municipal Elections be circulated to all municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

On behalf of Hamilton City Council, we thank you for your consideration respecting this very important matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Paparella
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk

Copied:

Paul Dube, Ombudsman of Ontario

Jamie McGarvey, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario

All Ontario Municipalities

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The City of Hamilton is looking to the Working Group to find resolutions that would include, but not be limited to, the following matters that were encountered during the 2018 municipal election process:

- (a) Neighbours on the same Voter Notification Cards (VNC);
- (b) Polling locations not matching the address;
- (c) Incorrect mailing addresses;
- (d) Electors showing up at an address who had never lived there;
- (e) Addresses outside of the polling subdivision;
- (f) Incorrect names on the VNCs;
- (g) Entire buildings missed;
- (h) Completed the EL15 last Election and still not on the Voters' List;
- (i) No units listed in buildings; and,
- (j) Electors who had lived at their residence for many years not receiving a VNC.

The responsibility of adding the Applications to Amend, Correct and Delete forms has now been downloaded from MPAC to the municipalities. In the case of the City of Hamilton, it required the inputting of over 27,000 applications into the Datafix program; with the legislated deadline for inputting these applications being 30 days from Election Day, which became a very labour intensive and time-consuming task.

Forms that could not be inserted into the Datafix program within the 30-day deadline, were not accepted by MPAC; leaving some of the elector submitted corrections undone and to remain incorrect for the next election.

MPAC has agreed to keep the Voter Look Up program available all year round rather than just in an election year; leaving the obligation of improving the Voters List with the elector and the municipalities.

It was suggested that a campaign be commenced by preparing a drop off card for every household in the city (each municipality would manage their own). This card could include all aspects of adding, correcting and deleting information from the Voters' List. It should also include how to deal with situational voters such as borders, tenants, family members and students.

After the drop off program has concluded, and in conjunction with the appropriate communications strategy, municipalities should continue, on a quarterly basis, to remind electors to check the Voter Look Up program on their respective municipalities website to ensure their information is correct.

In an election year, this program could be expanded to a monthly basis and include radio and print advertisements to reinforce to the elector that the responsibility of ensuring they are correctly included on the voters list on Election Day is their own.

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Municipalities continue to pay for and use an inaccurate, outdated product (voters list). Unless there is a proactive strategy in place for the preparation of a much more accurate voters list for all municipalities, the same issues will most likely occur in 2022.