


TO: GENERAL COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: VOTING DATES AND HOURS – ADVANCE/ALTERNATE VOTING OPPORTUNITIES AND REDUCED HOURS FOR RETIREMENT HOMES ON VOTING DAY– 2014 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

PREPARED BY AND KEY CONTACT: W. COOKE, DEPUTY CITY CLERK, EXT. 4560

SUBMITTED BY: D. MCALPINE, CITY CLERK/DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AND COURT SERVICES

GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL: R. FORWARD, MBA, M.SC., P.ENG., GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SERVICES 

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER APPROVAL: C. LADD, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER 

RECOMMENDED MOTION

1. That the draft by-law included as Appendix "A" to Staff Report CLK009-14 to provide for:
 - a) Advance voting/alternate voting opportunities; and
 - b) Reduced hours of voting in institutions and retirement homes on Voting Dayfor the in the 2014 Municipal Election, be passed.

PURPOSE & BACKGROUND

2. The final Voting Day in the 2014 Municipal Election is Monday, October 27th, 2014. The hours of voting are established by Provincial legislation as 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Historically, Barrie has provided a number of advance/alternate voting opportunities during the weeks preceding the final Voting Day and has also utilized reduced hours on Voting Day itself for retirement homes and institutions.

Advance Voting

3. Section 43 (1) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996, S.O. 1996, c. 32* requires a Council to pass a by-law establishing one or more dates for an advance vote and the hours during which voting places shall be open on the date(s). Different hours are permitted for different voting places.

Reduced Hours of Voting in Institutions and Retirement Homes

4. Section 45 (7) of the *Municipal Elections Act*, requires that a voting place be provided on Voting Day on the following premises:
 - a) An institution for the reception, treatment or vocational training of members or former members of the Canadian Forces;
 - b) An institution in which, on nomination day, 20 or more beds are occupied by persons who are disabled, chronically ill or infirm; and
 - c) A retirement home in which, on nomination day, 50 or more beds are occupied

5. Where the voting in such premises is solely for the use of the residents of the institution of retirement home, Council may pass a by-law to provide for reduced hours of voting in the locations.

ANALYSIS

6. The provision of alternative voting dates, hours and locations allows eligible electors to exercise their democratic privilege by enabling them to cast their vote on dates and in a location most convenient to them. Alternative/advance voting opportunities are provided in an attempt to increase voter turnout and convenience. Although in some countries, alternate/advance voting is only offered to electors who are unable to vote on Voting Day itself, in Canada, advance voting is available to all electors.
7. As part of the 2014 Municipal Election, a number of alternative/advance voting opportunities are being proposed during the weeks prior to Voting Day. Similar to past elections, 20 City-wide voting locations in total are being proposed for both the Alternative Voting Days and Voting Day itself. Any eligible elector would be able to cast their vote at any of the locations, on any voting day. All of the voting locations will be accessible and will have accessible voting equipment. These 20 voting locations are proposed to be open:
 - a) Tuesday October 21st, 2014 to Friday, October 24th from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.;
 - b) Saturday October 25th, 2014 from 10:00 am to 6:00 p.m.; and
 - c) Monday, October 27th, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (hours established by legislation)
8. As a new initiative for the 2014 Municipal Election, in addition to the above five days, a voting opportunity will be provided on Saturday, October 11, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at one location. Any eligible elector would be able to cast their vote at the location. The voting location will be accessible and will have accessible voting equipment. The intent of this new initiative is to provide an earlier opportunity for "snowbirds" and/or students to vote in response to enquiries received in past elections.
9. Similar to past elections, residents of specific long term care facilities and retirement homes will be able to vote in the convenience of their home. Staff have contacted representatives of the retirement homes and institutions identified in Section 45 (7) of the *Municipal Elections Act* to discuss the dates and times of voting as well as general information concerning the election process. Each location will be open for a period of 2 hours for an advance/alternative voting opportunity, or until such time as an officer of the institution in conjunction with the election official, determine that the eligible electors have been provided an opportunity to vote. The specific dates for voting at each location are being established in consultation with representatives of the facility.
10. In 2010, as an outreach initiative, an alternative voting opportunity was provided at each building containing 100 or more dwelling units. In 2014, this initiative is proposed to be expanded to provide an alternate voting opportunity(ies) at individual buildings with 75 or more dwelling units as well as complexes containing 75 or more dwelling units.

11. The following is an overview of all of the advance/alternate voting opportunities that are proposed:

Any City of Barrie Elector
1 voting location on Saturday, October 11 th , 2014 between 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
20 voting locations on Tuesday, October 21 st , 2014 between 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
20 voting locations on Wednesday, October 22 nd , 2014 between 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
20 voting locations on Thursday, October 23 rd , 2014 between 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
20 voting locations on Friday, October 24 th , 2014 between 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
20 voting locations on Saturday, October 25 th , 2014 between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Residents of buildings/complexes containing 75 or more dwelling units
Wednesday, October 15 th , 2014 between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. <u>or</u> 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 16 th , 2014 between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. <u>or</u> 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
Friday, October 17 th , 2014 between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. <u>or</u> 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Retirement Homes/Institutions - residents of the specific institution or retirement home
Wednesday, October 15 th , 2014 between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.
Thursday, October 16 th , 2014 between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.
Friday, October 17 th , 2014 between 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Reduced Hours of Voting in Institutions and Retirement Homes

12. As in past elections, reduced hours for retirement homes and institutions are being proposed on Voting Day itself. An additional one hour of voting will be provided on Voting Day at each of the locations (or until such time as an officer of the institution in conjunction with the election official, determine that the eligible electors have been provided an opportunity to vote). The representatives of the facilities have indicated that they believe one hour of voting on the Voting Day itself, will be sufficient for each location given the smaller number of residents in each building.
13. A list of voting locations, advance/alternative voting opportunities (dates and times) will be made available to all candidates on or before September 10th, 2014 along with the voting location maps.

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

14. There are no environmental matters related to the recommendation.

ALTERNATIVES

15. The following alternative is available for consideration by General Committee:

Alternative #1 The dates and hours associated with the alternate voting and reduced hours for voting in retirement homes and institutions could be altered.

Staff have secured the use of facilities for the dates and hours identified. Additional voting opportunities in 2014 are being provided as an increased outreach initiative.

FINANCIAL

16. The costs associated with supporting the alternative voting opportunities and reduced hours of voting in institutions and retirement homes on Voting Day, Monday, October 27th, 2014 have been included in the 2014 election accounts.

LINKAGE TO COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

17. The recommendation included in this Staff Report is not specifically related to any of City Council's Strategic Priorities.

APPENDIX "A"

Draft By-law

A By-law of The Corporation of the City of Barrie to provide for advance voting and to provide for reduced hours of voting in institutions and retirement homes on Voting Day in the 2014 Municipal Election.

WHEREAS, Section 43(1) of the Municipal Elections Act, S.O., 1996 provides that a municipal council shall pass a by-law establishing one or more dates for an advance vote, and the hours during which voting places shall be open on that date or dates;

AND WHEREAS, Section 46(3) of the Act provides that a municipal council may pass a by-law with respect to reduced voting hours in voting places in retirement homes or those institutions as defined in Section 45(7) of the said Act, where the voting place is only for the use of the residents;

AND WHEREAS, the Council of The Corporation of the City of Barrie adopted motion 14-G-xxx which provides for advance voting and reduced hours of voting in institutions and retirement homes on Voting Day in the 2014 Municipal Election;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of The Corporation of the City of Barrie hereby enacts as follows:

1. **THAT** advance voting shall be held on the dates and hours specified in Schedule "A" attached hereto, with respect to the municipal election to be held on Monday, October 27th, 2014:
2. **THAT** reduced hours of voting in institutions and retirement homes shall be held on Voting Day, Monday, October 27th, 2014, as specified in Schedule "B".
3. **THAT** this by-law shall come into force and effect immediately upon the final passing thereof.

READ a first and second time this ____ day of _____, 2014.

READ a third time and finally passed this ____ day of _____, 2014.

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF BARRIE

MAYOR – J. LEHMAN

CITY CLERK – DAWN A. MCALPINE

SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW NUMBER 2014-

ADVANCE VOTING

Any City of Barrie Elector

1 voting location on Saturday, October 11th, 2014 between 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
20 voting locations on Tuesday, October 21st, 2014 between 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
20 voting locations on Wednesday, October 22nd, 2014 between 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
20 voting locations on Thursday, October 23rd, 2014 between 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
20 voting locations on Friday, October 24th, 2014 between 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
20 voting locations on Saturday, October 25th, 2014 between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Residents of buildings/complexes containing 75 or more dwelling units

Wednesday, October 15th, 2014 between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. or 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 16th, 2014 between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. or 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
Friday, October 17th, 2014 between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. or 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

**Retirement Homes/Institutions
Residents of the specific institution or retirement home only**

Wednesday, October 15th, 2014 between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. or until such time as an officer of the institution in conjunction with the election official, determine that the eligible electors residing at the subject facility have been provided an opportunity to vote
Thursday, October 16th, 2014 between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. or until such time as an officer of the institution in conjunction with the election official, determine that the eligible electors residing at the subject facility have been provided an opportunity to vote
Friday, October 17th, 2014 between 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. or until such time as an officer of the institution in conjunction with the election official, determine that the eligible electors residing at the subject facility have been provided an opportunity to vote

SCHEDULE "B" TO BY-LAW NUMBER 2014-

**REDUCED HOURS OF VOTING FOR RETIREMENT HOMES AND INSTITUTIONS
ON VOTING DAY (MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2014)**

Retirement Homes/Institutions - residents of the specific institution or retirement home

Between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. or until such time as an officer of the institution in conjunction with the election official, determine that the eligible electors residing at the subject facility have been provided an opportunity to vote

OR

Between 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. or until such time as an officer of the institution in conjunction with the election official, determine that the eligible electors residing at the subject facility have been provided an opportunity to vote