

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - APRIL 20, 2010

2010 GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION ADVANCE VOTING

Recommendation:

The City Clerk and Returning Officer recommends:

- 1) That a By-law be enacted to establish the dates and times set out at Attachment 1 for the purpose of advance voting in respect of the 2010 general municipal election.

Contribution to Sustainability

N/A

Economic Impact:

The provision of expanded hours and days for advance voting will increase staffing and other expenses. A full accounting of the additional costs will be provided in a summary report on the 2010 election.

Communication Plan

The times and dates for advance voting will be widely communicated, particularly on the Election website (www.vaughanvotes.ca), in printed media such as on Voter Information Cards and Election Brochures distributed to every Vaughan household, and through the media.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval on the times and dates for advance voting pursuant to section 43 of the *Municipal Elections Act*.

Background – Analysis and Options

Recommendation 5 of the Final Report of the Task Force on Democratic Participation and Renewal recommended that advance voting be extended and labeled "Advance Voting Week" for the 2010 general municipal election.

After careful examination of the opportunities, the City Clerk is recommending the establishment of Advance Voting Week, plus additional days as noted below, to provide numerous opportunities for Vaughan voters to vote where and when it is most convenient to do so. Enactment of the By-law as recommended will have the effect of accomplishing the following:

1. Ward Locations

As has typically been the case in Vaughan, an opportunity for advance voting is being provided in each of the City's five wards. The 2010 advance voting locations will be established at community centres in Wards 2 (Father Ermanno Bulfon), 3 (Vellore Village), 4 (Thornhill Woods) and 5 (Dufferin-Clark), and at the current Civic Centre building in Ward 1.

The community centre locations are being recommended to operate between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. during weekdays (October 4th through 8th), while the Civic Centre location is proposed to have the extended hours of 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on those days. All five ward locations will operate from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the weekend (October 9th & 10th).

2. Designated Shopping Locations

The management of the City's two regional shopping centres, Vaughan Mills and the Promenade Shopping Centre have been extremely cooperative and have allowed for the use of those locations for the purpose of Advance Voting Week. In addition to providing space, each mall will assist with the provision of directional and promotional signage.

To provide for consistent messaging, the advance vote will be conducted during a consistent set of hours despite some variances in the mall hours for the two locations:

Weekdays (October 4 th through 8 th)	10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Weekend (October 9 th & 10 th)	11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

3. Woodbridge Fall Fair

Enthusiastic cooperation has also been received from the Woodbridge Fall Fair which operates October 9th through 11th, 2010 (the 11th being Thanksgiving Day).

Advance Voting will take place in a temporary structure in the Fair parking lot, outside of the paid area itself. The Fair's management have agreed to locate the displays of any candidates who choose to rent a table at the Fair in a manner that provides a suitable distance from the voting location.

Voting at the Fair will take place between 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Saturday October 9th and Sunday October 10th, and between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Monday (Thanksgiving Day), October 11th.

Establishing an advance voting location at the Woodbridge Fall Fair completes our objective of establishing voting locations with high public traffic in the west, central and eastern parts of the City.

4. York University

Subsection 45(3) of the *Municipal Elections Act* permits voting places to be established outside of the municipality. Through the cooperation of the Administration of York University, two advance voting days have been arranged for Monday October 18th and Tuesday October 19th. Voting will take place in a central commons area with substantial foot traffic due to its proximity to retail, transportation and food court facilities.

Scheduling conflicts at the University require the advance vote to occur the week following Advance Voting Week, and given the proximity to Election Day itself the vote can only be conducted on two days. Nevertheless, given the number of Vaughan residents enrolled at York (the University estimates some 2,500) even two days of advance voting could have a significant impact on voter turnout.

Advance Voting Process

Detailed advance voting procedures will form part of the published voting procedures to be communicated at a later date. Council should be aware, however, that advance voting will employ a 'vote anywhere' approach which enables any qualified Vaughan elector to vote at any one of the advance voting locations, regardless of their place of residence. Voters who vote during Advance Voting Week (expanded as noted above) will be automatically struck off the voters' list thus preventing them from voting at another advance vote location, or on Election Day.

The York University site will in addition employ 'ballot-on-demand' technology to print the appropriate blank ballot according to the ward and school support shown on the voters list. Though back-up ballots will be on hand, ballot-on-demand will efficiently produce the correct ballot from amongst the 25 different ballot faces in use for the election. The success of ballot-on-demand will be closely monitored for potential use in future elections.

All ballot papers and the vote tabulators themselves will be secured throughout Advance Voting Week (as expanded). No vote results will be produced until the close of polls on Election Day, October 25, 2010.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

This report supports the objectives of Vaughan Vision 2020, particularly with respect to –

Management EXCELLENCE:
Demonstrate Leadership & Promote Effective Governance.

Regional Implications

N/A

Conclusion

The dates and times recommended in this report for the purpose of conducting advance votes provide convenient opportunities for Vaughan electors to cast their ballots. By providing advance voting locations at Vaughan Mills, the Promenade Shopping Centre, the Woodbridge Fall Fair and at York University, voters will have opportunities to cast ballots while going about their daily activities.

The establishment of Advance Voting Week, as expanded, is a significant component of the City Clerk's campaign to increase voter turnout for the 2010 general municipal election.

Attachments

1. Advance Vote Dates and Times

Report Prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey A. Abrams
City Clerk and Returning Officer

ADVANCE VOTE DATES AND TIMES

Location Type	Days and Times			
	Monday through Friday: October 4, 2010 to October 8, 2010	Saturday and Sunday: October 9, 2010 & October 10, 2010	Monday (Thanksgiving): October 11, 2010	Monday and Tuesday: October 18, 2010 & October 19, 2010
Designated Community Centres (Wards 2, 3, 4 and 5)	10:00 a.m to 6:00 p.m.	11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.		
Current Civic Centre (Ward1)	6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.		
Designated Shopping Centres	10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.	11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.		
Woodbridge Fall Fair		10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	
York University				9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.