

City Council Meeting Agenda



April 24, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, Guelph City Hall, 1 Carden Street

Please turn off or place on non-audible all electronic devices during the meeting.

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Authority to move into closed meeting

That the Council of the City of Guelph now hold a meeting that is closed to the public, pursuant to the Municipal Act, to consider:

Confirmation of minutes for the closed Council meeting held on March 27, 2017.

C-CON-2017.7 ATU Collective Bargaining Mandate Request

Section 239 (2) (d) labour relations or employee negotiations.

Open Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

O Canada

Silent Reflection

First Nations Acknowledgement

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

Closed Meeting Summary

Confirmation of Minutes: (Councillor Gibson)

That the minutes of the open Council Meetings held March 27 and April 10, 2017, and the open meeting minutes of the April 3, 2017 Committee of the Whole, be confirmed as recorded and without being read.

Committee of the Whole Consent Report:

The following resolutions have been prepared to facilitate Council's consideration of various matters and are suggested for consideration. If Council wishes to address a specific report in isolation of the Committee of the Whole Consent Report, please identify the item. It will be extracted and dealt with separately as part of the Items for Discussion.

COW-PS-2017.02 Outstanding Resolutions of Public Services

Recommendation:

That the recommendations marked as "completed" within Report# PS-17-05 Outstanding Resolutions of Public Services be removed from the outstanding resolutions list.

COW-PS-2017.03 Animal Control By-law Chicken Amendments

Recommendation:

1. That as detailed in Public Services Report #PS-17-04 Animal Control By-law chicken amendments, that staff be directed to create an amendment to the Animal Control By-law (2016)-20122 to permit residents that cannot facilitate a 15 metre (50 feet) distance for the keeping of poultry to keep chickens provided the following can be met:

Hen coops and hen runs shall be a distance of at least 1.2m from the rear lot line and at least 1.2m from any side lot line of the dwelling lot on which the hen coop is located (meeting the setback requirements as per the zoning bylaw);

Pens (includes hen coop and hen run) must be located the furthest from any other dwelling, and must be 1.2m away from any property line;

Pens shall be located at least 7.5m from the lot line to any religious institution or business or school;

Pens shall be a minimum distance of 3m from all windows and doors of dwellings that are located on an abutting property;

Pens are not permitted in any front or side yard;

That the maximum number of hens be limited to ten (10).

2. That as detailed in Public Services Report #PS-17-04 Animal Control By-law chicken amendments, that staff be directed to create an amendment to the Animal Control Bylaw (2016)-20122 requiring food for poultry be stored in an animal proof secured container.
3. That as detailed in Public Services Report #PS-17-04 Animal Control By-law chicken amendments, that staff be directed to create an amendment to the Animal Control By-law (2016)-20122 requiring that coop floors be lined with an appropriate material to absorb fecal matter and to facilitate cleaning.

4. That as detailed in Public Services Report #PS-17-04 Animal Control By-law chicken amendments, that staff be directed to create an amendment to the Animal Control By-law (2016)-20122 requiring that residents keeping backyard chickens shall provide each hen with food, water, shelter, light, ventilation, appropriate substrate flooring, and provide opportunities for essential behaviours such as scratching, nesting, including but not limited to dust-bathing, and roosting, to maintain each hen in good health and welfare.
5. That as detailed in Public Services Report #PS-17-04 Animal Control By-law chicken amendments, that staff be directed to create an amendment to the Animal Control By-law (2016)-20122 prohibiting persons from killing a domestic animal on their property, except by a licenced vet or otherwise authorized by the City of Guelph.

COW-CS-2017.02 Tax Ratios 2017-2020 Assessment Cycle

Recommendation:

1. That the Tax Ratios for the 2017 year be adopted as set out in Table One of the "Tax Ratios 2017-2020 Assessment Cycle" Report CS-2017-02 dated Monday, April 3, 2017.
2. That the Tax Ratios for the remainder of the 2017-2020 assessment cycle be adopted based on start ratios for all tax classes except for the multi-residential ratio which will remain revenue neutral on an annual basis.
3. That the tax ratios be incorporated into the appropriate Tax Policy.

COW-CS-2017.03 2017 Tax Policy

Recommendation:

1. That the 2017 City of Guelph Property Tax Policies set out in Schedule 1 to the "2017 Tax Policy" CS-2017-07 report dated April 3, 2017, be approved.
2. That the tax policies be incorporated into tax ratio, tax rate, and capping by-laws to be adopted on April 24, 2017.
3. That a tax rate related to the dedicated infrastructure levy be calculated for the required amount and identified separately on the 2017 and future years' City tax bills replacing the previously separated Public Health levy.
4. That the maximum allowed capping parameters be used for 2017, allowing the City of Guelph to exit the capping program in the shortest time frame available.

**COW-2017.01 Councillors Mike Salisbury and Leanne Piper Request
for Access to Additional Training Funding 2017**

Recommendation:

That Councillor Leanne Piper be authorized to exceed her 2017 training allocation of \$3250 to an upset limit of \$400 in order to attend the American Planning Association conference in May 2017.

**CON-2017.09 Surplus Asset Sales Policies – Mayor Guthrie’s Motion
for which notice was given on March 6, 2017**

Recommendation:

1. That staff report back on the City of Guelph’s policy on local community non-profit access to surplus assets through our Wellbeing Grant policy.
2. That staff be directed to facilitate the potential transfer of one surplus ambulance to St. John’s Ambulance within the 2017 budget from the Infrastructure Renewal Reserve.

Council Consent Agenda:

The following resolutions have been prepared to facilitate Council’s consideration of various matters and are suggested for consideration. If Council wishes to address a specific report in isolation of the Consent Agenda, please identify the item. It will be extracted and dealt with separately as part of the Items for Discussion.

**CON-2017.11 Habitat for Humanity Development Charge Late
Payment Agreement**

Recommendation:

That the Mayor and Clerk be directed to execute the Development Charge late payment agreement with Habitat for Humanity, generally in the form included as Attachment 2 to IDE Report 17-46, dated April 24, 2017.

**CON-2017.12 Nomination of a City of Guelph Representative to
Apply for a Federation of Canadian Municipalities
(FCM) Board of Director Position**

Recommendation:

1. That Council endorse a City of Guelph representative to stand for election on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) National Board of Directors (Ontario Chapter) for the period starting in June 2017 and ending June 2018.

2. That Council confirms it will assume all costs associated with the representative's attendance at FCM's Board of Directors meetings and Annual Conference.
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Items for Discussion:

The following items have been extracted from the Committee of the Whole Consent Report and the Council Consent Agenda and will be considered separately. These items have been extracted either at the request of a member of Council or because they include a presentation and/or delegations.

CON-2017.14 Annual Report from the Integrity Commissioner

Presentation:

Robert Swayze, City of Guelph Integrity Commissioner

Recommendation:

That the 2016 Annual Report of the Integrity Commissioner, dated April 24, 2017, be received.

COW-CS-2017.04 2018 Municipal Election: Methods of Voting

Delegations:

Anne Gajerski-Cauley

Correspondence:

Richard Chaloner
Jared Ferrall
Eric Unger
Shawna Cartwright
Bob Moore
Susan Watson
Terry Robins
Jenn Kentner
Ray Stultz
Leah Scott
Todd Billings
Kevin Cahill
Tina Bonesso
Thomas Mooney
Stephanie Scapinello
Laura Roy
Aaron and Janice Douma
Bob Speaker
Nick Porcellato
Steve and Marlene Truscott
Victor McQuade

Lianne Keais
Rachel Schenk
Alex Barr
Cantrys Rondeau
Dan Tourangeau
Lindsay Smith
Jeff and Jen Cummings
Krystal Nicholson
Colleen Morrow
Tania Archbold
Lynette Churchill
Bryanne Aubrey
Marcia Barrett-Chatrand
Laurie Armstrong
Justin Van Daele
Ian Bier
Beverly-Ann Woods
Don McLellan
Eric Rapaci
Joel Croft
Ryan and Kelly Gerritsen

Jane Martin
Marg Harbin
Ferne Pederson
Chris Cates
Jeremy Nicholls
Joe Longo
Michael Reichlmayr
Elke Ruthig
Neil Rocha
Brendon Carson
Angela Clayson
Patrick Ireland
Sarah Rodrigues
Dolly and Ran Kambo
Alex Boughen
Dave Wilkinson
Amy MacIntyre
Hugh Martin
Louis Marchesano
Rishabh Naik
Kim Andrews
Suresh Naik
Mike Willis
Stuart Burke
Debbie Bush
Ryan Laurie
Matthew Wilson
Ian Kitchener
Kelly Zago
Donna and Steve Dodge
Mike Baker
Kara Perez
Thomas Miller
Tom Wiltsie and Jen McDermott
Vera Martin
Christina Tourangeau
Andrew Wellwood
Ron Ramsay
Lisa Natarelli
Laura Zver
Nathan Drescher
Rena Akerman
Michael Smyth
Lisa Buck
Bev Smyth
Brandon Raco
Denise Fell
Andrea Campbell Smith

Alan Jarvis
Terrie Jarvis
Wendy Dabbs
Adam MacIntyre
Sylvia Thurston
Colleen McElwain
Andrea Finlay
Dawn Humphrey
Brenda and Ian Walton
Melina Finnigan
Scott and Kimi Corney
Peter McCaskell
Michael Doyle
DE Harvey
Don Pflug
Andrew Friend
Carolan Sorbara
Jane Darch
Martha Jakowlew
Doug Minett
Robert White
Matthew Brunsting
Rob Brown
Liz Lindsay
Ryan Truscott
Alexandra Whate
Jane Londerville
Jane Aubrey
Helen Daniecki
George Allan
Terri Brown
Treena Adhikari
Sean and Shainna Poulin
Susan Carey
Sean Alexander
Melissa Bortolon
Peter Revie
Nancy Revie
Sabrina Circelli
Darina Griffin
Tony Meekes
Kelly Alves
Ze'ev Gedalof
Katerina Drescher
Ryan Fitzsimmons
Dave Estill
Scott McGregor
Katherine Hitch

Nick Scott
Erin Branson
Terry Wheeler
Dave Collins
Stacey Anne
Jamie Strickland
Brooks Hipgrave
Enzo Fonte
Rebecca Kingshott
Ron Peters
Tom Redman
Dan Freeman
Doug MacMillan
Wendy Banks
Wally Harris
Alison Davidson
Mark Paralovos
Erin Stuart
Michael Stultz
Kristen Chiasson

Steve Van Dam
John Scott
Chris Dawso
Patrick Stiles
Duy Nguyen
Ted Pritchard
Pat Matisz
Arni Mikelsons
Cameron Shelley
Claudette Young
Linda Kearns
Dale and Freda Murray
Pete and Anita Van Rootselaar
Julie Bowman
Françoise Py-MacBeth
David Rekker
Bree Woods
Sam Dent
Judy Dezell

Recommendation:

That a By-law be adopted to support the use of vote scanners/tabulators in the 2018 Municipal Election.

Special Resolutions

CON-2017.15 Exploring Pathways for Aligning Guelph's Corporate Assets with the Low Carbon Economy

1. That the following motion be referred to the Committee of the Whole for consideration:

That in alignment with the CEP mandate, city staff, in coordination with the newly formed Climate Change Office be directed to explore pathways for transitioning the corporation to net zero, or similar, low carbon designation.

That staff examine the current fleet procurement policy and explore pathways to fully electrifying the corporations transportation fleet.

That staff report back on potential next steps in Q4 of 2017.

CON-2017.16 Notice of Motion Policy

1. That the following be referred to the May 1, 2017 Committee of the Whole:

That Council suspend the use of Notices of Motion until staff bring forward a clear policy on their purpose and intent.

By-laws

Resolution to adopt the By-laws (Councillor Gordon).

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| By-law Number (2017)-20160 | A by-law to authorize the execution of a Engineering Services Agreement between Terra View Custom Homes Ltd., Terra View Construction Ltd. and The Corporation of the City of Guelph. (Harts Village Subdivision) |
| By-law Number (2017)-20161 | A by-law to authorize the execution of a Professional Consulting Services Agreement between Terra View Custom Homes Ltd., Terra View Construction Ltd. and The Corporation of the City of Guelph. (Harts Village Subdivision) |

Mayor's Announcements

Please provide any announcements, to the Mayor in writing, by 12 noon on the day of the Council meeting.

Notice of Motion

Adjournment

**Minutes of Guelph City Council
Held in the Council Chambers, Guelph City Hall on
March 27, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.**

Attendance

| | | |
|----------|--|-----------------------------|
| Council: | Mayor C. Guthrie | Councillor J. Hofland |
| | Councillor P. Allt | Councillor M. MacKinnon |
| | Councillor B. Bell | Councillor L. Piper |
| | Councillor C. Billings | Councillor M. Salisbury |
| | Councillor C. Downer | Councillor A. Van Hellemond |
| | Councillor D. Gibson | Councillor K. Wettstein |
| | Councillor J. Gordon | |
| Staff: | Mr. D. Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer | |
| | Ms. C. Clack, Interim Deputy CAO, Corporate Services | |
| | Mr. A. MacDonald, Acting Deputy CAO of Public Services | |
| | Mr. S. Stewart, Deputy CAO, Infrastructure, Development and Enterprise | |
| | Ms. K. Dedman, General Manager, | |
| | Mr. S. O'Brien, City Clerk | |
| | Mr. D. McMahon, Council Committee Coordinator | |

Call to Order (5:00 p.m.)

Mayor Guthrie called the meeting to order.

Authority to Resolve into a Closed Meeting of Council

1. Moved by Councillor Piper
Seconded by Councillor Gordon

That the Council of the City of Guelph now hold a meeting that is closed to the public, pursuant to Section 239 (2) (b), (c) and (f) of the Municipal Act with respect to personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees, proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality and advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose.

Carried

Closed Meeting (5:02 p.m.)

Rise and recess from Closed Meeting (5:28 p.m.)

Council recessed.

Open Meeting (6:30 p.m.)

Mayor Guthrie called the meeting to order.

Closed Meeting Summary

Mayor Guthrie spoke regarding the matters addressed in closed and identified the following:

Minutes

The minutes from the closed Council meeting held February 27, 2017 and the closed Committee of the Whole meeting held March 6, 2017 were adopted by Council.

C-COW-CS-2017.1 Public Appointments to Various Advisory Committees and the Board of Trustees of the Elliott Community

Information was received and Council will report out under Special Resolutions.

C-CON-2017.4 Request for an Exception to the Public Appointment Policy from Guelph Police Services Board

Information was received and Council will report out under Special Resolutions.

C-COW-IDE-2017.1 Hanlon Creek Business Park – Development Options

Direction was provided to staff regarding this matter.

C-CON-2017.5 Changes to GMHI Governance Structure

Information was received and Council will report out under Special Resolutions.

C-CON-2017.6 Charges and Fees, Lowes Road and Dawn Avenue

Information was received.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no disclosures.

Confirmation of Minutes

2. Moved by Councillor Hofland
 Seconded by Councillor Bell

That the minutes of the open Council Meetings held February 15, 16 and 20, 2017 and the minutes of the open Committee of the Whole meeting held March 6, 2017 be confirmed as recorded and without being read.

Voting in Favour: Mayor Guthrie, Councillors Allt, Bell, Billings, Downer, Gibson, Gordon, Hofland, MacKinnon, Piper, Salisbury, Van Hellemond and Wettstein (13)

Voting Against: (0)

Carried

Committee of the Whole Consent Report and Council Consent Agenda

The following items were extracted:

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| CON-2017.10 | CWWF and PTIF Transfer Payment Agreement |
| COW-IDE-2017.9 | Natural Heritage Action Plan (NHAP) Project Initiation |
| COW-IDE-2017.8 | Sidewalk Needs Assessment Update |
| COW-IDE-2017.20 | Exploring Opportunities to Accelerate Large Neighbourhood Commercial Growth in East Guelph - Councillor Gibson's Motion for Which Notice was Given February 13th |

Balance of Committee of the Whole and Council Consent Items

3. Moved by Councillor Allt
Seconded by Councillor Downer

That the balance of the March 27, 2017 Committee of the Whole Consent Report and Council Consent Agenda, as identified below, be adopted:

COW-CS-2017.1 Non Application of the Line Fences Act

Recommendation:

That the City of Guelph opt out of the application of the Line Fences Act and that the attached by-law regarding non-application of the Line Fences Act be brought forward for approval at the March 2017 Council meeting.

COW-IDE-2017.10 Sign By-law Variances – 158 Clair Road East

Recommendation:

1. That the request for variances from Sign By-law Number (1996)-15245, as amended, for 158 Clair Road East to permit three (3) interchangeable building signs to be located 0.92 metres from the ground, be approved.
2. That the request for variances from Sign By-law Number (1996)-15245, as amended, for 158 Clair Road East to permit 3 menu boards on the property, one pre-sell menu with a height of 2.02 metres above the adjacent roadway and two (2) integrated menu boards with a height of 2.33 metres above the adjacent roadway with sign faces of 3.63 square metres each, be approved.

COW-IDE-2017.11 Sign By-law Variances – 84-202 Clair Road East

Recommendation:

That the request for variances from Sign By-law Number (1996)-15245, as amended, to permit a 5.33 square metre illuminated freestanding sign at 84-202 Clair Road East to be setback 3 metres from the nearest public road allowance and to be a height of 6 metres above the adjacent roadway, be approved.

COW-IDE-2017.12 Annual and Summary Water Services Report - 2016

Recommendation:

That the Annual & Summary Water Services Report – 2016 be approved.

COW-IDE-2017.13 2017 Corporate Asset Management Plan and Policy

Recommendation:

1. That Council endorse the 2017 Corporate Asset Management Plan and Asset Management Policy.
2. That staff be directed to provide annual updates to Council on the key activities and progress of the 2017 Corporate Asset Management Plan and Policy.

COW-IDE-2017.15 Transportation Master Plan - Framework

Recommendation:

That the framework for the update to the 2005 Guelph –Wellington Transportation Master Plan as outlined in report IDE 17-34 be approved.

COW-IDE-2017.16 Pedestrian Crossing Treatments – Update to the Ontario Traffic Manual

Recommendation:

1. That the City of Guelph adopt the installation warrants for the Level 2 Pedestrian Crossover as outlined in Report 17-32 dated March 6, 2017.
2. That staff be directed to report back to Council in the third quarter of 2017 with a comprehensive report recommending an implementation strategy with the following integral components for a Pedestrian Crossover Program:
 - Communication Plan (Public Education and Outreach)
 - Implementation priority list of locations
 - Program to monitor compliance and pedestrian safety
 - Financial implications based upon an assessment of each recommended location

**COW-IDE-2017.17 Delegation of Authority for Infrastructure,
Development and Enterprise Services**

Recommendation:

1. That pursuant to Section 23(1) of the Municipal Act, By-law Number (2013)-19529 be amended by adding Schedule "EE" to provide staff the authority to approve successful bids where the procurement is budgeted but does not have specific approvals, as set out in Attachment 1 to the "Delegation of Authority for Infrastructure, Development and Enterprise Services" report dated March 6, 2017.
2. That pursuant to Section 23(1) of the Municipal Act, By-law Number (2013)-19529 be amended by adding Schedule "FF" to provide staff the authority to Appoint Risk Management Officials (RMOs) and Risk Management Inspectors (RMIs), as set out in Attachment 2 to the "Delegation of Authority for Infrastructure, Development and Enterprise Services" report dated March 6, 2017.
3. That the decision regarding delegated authority for variances to the Sign By-law, as set out in Attachment 3 to the "Delegation of Authority for Infrastructure, Development and Enterprise Services" report dated March 6, 2017 be deferred until the conclusion of a comprehensive Sign By-law review.
4. That pursuant to Section 23(1) of the Municipal Act, C By-law (2013)-19529 be amended by adding Schedule "GG" to provide staff the authority for residential demolition permits as set out in Attachment 4 to the "Delegation of Authority for Infrastructure, Development and Enterprise Services" report dated March 6, 2017.

**COW-IDE-2017.18 Outstanding Motions of Committee of the Whole
(Infrastructure, Development and Enterprise)**

Recommendation:

That the following motion, previously passed by Council, be eliminated from staff work plans and from the Outstanding Motion list:

April 20, 2016 Special Council

2016 Development Priorities Plan

"That Council direct staff to investigate and report back on the most effective way to quantify the cost of growth."

**COW-GOV-2017.19 Striking Committee Policy Review - Councillor
Wettstein's Motion for Which Notice was Given
December 5, 2016**

Recommendation:

That staff be directed to review, analyze and bring forward a recommendation updating the Striking Committee policies, processes and remuneration, and reporting of expenses and that staff report back to Committee of the Whole by Q4 2017.

CON-2017.6**Closed Meeting Investigation Report****Recommendation:**

That the Closed Meeting Investigation Report prepared by Amberley Gavel Ltd., relating to the closed meeting of Guelph City Council held on December 10, 2015, be received.

CON-2017.7**Charges and Fees, Lowes Road and Dawn Avenue****Recommendation:**

That report number CS-2017-39 titled "Charges and Fees, Lowes Road and Dawn Avenue" be received for information.

Voting in Favour: Mayor Guthrie, Councillors Alit, Bell, Billings, Downer, Gibson, Gordon, Hofland, MacKinnon, Piper, Salisbury, Van Hellemond and Wettstein (13)

Voting Against: (0)

Carried

Items for Discussion**CON-2017.10****CWWF and PTIF Transfer Payment Agreement**

4. Moved by Councillor Hofland
Seconded by Councillor Salisbury

Recommendation:

1. That a by-law supporting the City of Guelph's Clean Water and Waste Water Fund (CWWF) projects, as previously endorsed via CAO Staff Report CON-2016.25 (dated May 30, 2016) be approved.
2. That a by-law supporting the City of Guelph's Public Transit Infrastructure Fund (PTIF) projects, as previously endorsed via CAO Staff Report CON-2016.25 (dated May 30, 2016) and PS-16-27 (dated October 24, 2016) be approved.
3. That the execution of Transfer Payment Agreements between the City and the Province, with respect to CWWF and PTIF, be approved.
4. That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized as the municipal signing officers for the Transfer Payment Agreements between the City of Guelph and the Province of Ontario, with respect to CWWF and PTIF.

Voting in Favour: Mayor Guthrie, Councillors Alit, Bell, Billings, Downer, Gibson, Gordon, Hofland, MacKinnon, Piper, Salisbury, Van Hellemond and Wettstein (13)

Voting Against: (0)

Carried

COW-IDE-2017.9 Natural Heritage Action Plan (NHAP) Project Initiation

The following delegate spoke to this item:
Hugh Whiteley

5. Moved by Councillor Gibson
 Seconded by Councillor Downer

Recommendation:

That the Natural Heritage Action Plan project charter attached to Infrastructure, Development and Enterprise Services Report (IDE 17-25), dated March 6, 2017 be approved.

Voting in Favour: Mayor Guthrie, Councillors Allt, Bell, Billings, Downer, Gibson, Gordon, Hofland, MacKinnon, Piper, Salisbury, Van Hellemond and Wettstein (13)

Voting Against: (0)

Carried

COW-IDE-2017.8 Sidewalk Needs Assessment Update

6. Moved by Councillor Billings
 Seconded by Councillor Bell

Recommendation:

1. That the proposed criteria for prioritizing sidewalk construction, outlined in the report "Guelph Sidewalk Needs Assessment Study" dated January 2017, be approved.
2. That adequate right-of-way width be secured in new draft plans of subdivisions to provide sidewalks on both sides of the road where the anticipated sidewalk needs would rank as high upon subdivision completion.
3. That sidewalks be constructed adjacent to subdivision blocks that have been undeveloped for five (5) years or more and that the block developer be responsible for all costs to repair any sidewalk damage during site development.
4. That adequate funding to maintain new sidewalk facilities be included in future Operating Budgets.

Voting in Favour: Mayor Guthrie, Councillors Allt, Bell, Billings, Downer, Gibson, Gordon, Hofland, MacKinnon, Piper, Salisbury, Van Hellemond and Wettstein (13)

Voting Against: (0)

Carried

COW-IDE-2017.20

**Exploring Opportunities to Accelerate Large
Neighbourhood Commercial Growth in East Guelph -
Councillor Gibson's Motion for Which Notice was Given
February 13th**

7. Moved by Councillor Wettstein
Seconded by Councillor Gibson

Recommendation:

1. That in conjunction with the ongoing Comprehensive Commercial Policy review along the York Road intensification corridor, staff continue to consider neighbourhood commercial development.

Voting in Favour: Mayor Guthrie, Councillors Allt, Bell, Billings, Downer, Gibson, Gordon, Hofland, MacKinnon, Piper, Salisbury, Van Hellemond and Wettstein (13)

Voting Against: (0)

Carried

Councillor Allt raised a point of personal privilege.

8. Moved by Councillor Wettstein
Seconded by Councillor Allt

Recommendation:

2. That staff continue to report to Council on situations that may emerge.

Voting in Favour: Councillors Allt, Gordon, Piper and Wettstein (4)

Voting Against: Mayor Guthrie, Councillors Bell, Billings, Downer, Gibson, Hofland, MacKinnon, Salisbury and Van Hellemond (9)

Defeated

9. Moved by Councillor Gibson
Moved by Councillor Bell

Recommendation:

2. That staff report back to Council on these opportunities as they emerge or at established reporting milestones for the Commercial Policy Review.

Voting in Favour: Mayor Guthrie, Councillors Allt, Bell, Billings, Downer, Gibson, Gordon, Hofland, MacKinnon, Piper and Van Hellemond (11)

Voting Against: Councillors Salisbury and Wettstein (2)

Carried

Special Resolutions

CON-2017.8 Guelph as a Sanctuary City

Councillor Gordon withdrew the motion.

CON-2017.9 Surplus Asset Sales Policies

10. Moved by Councillor MacKinnon
 Seconded by Councillor Salisbury

Recommendation:

1. That the following be referred to Committee of the Whole:

That staff review and report back on the City of Guelph's surplus asset sales policies and that the potential for local community group/non-profit benefit be reviewed and included in the report.

Amendment

11. Moved by Councillor Downer
 Moved by Councillor MacKinnon

Point of order from Councillor Downer.

1. That the following be referred to **the April 3, 2017** Committee of the Whole:

That staff review and report back on the City of Guelph's surplus asset sales policies and that the potential for local community group/non-profit benefit be reviewed and included in the report.

Voting in Favour: Mayor Guthrie, Councillors Allt, Bell, Billings, Downer, Gibson, Gordon, Hofland, MacKinnon, Piper, Salisbury, Van Hellemond and Wettstein (13)

Voting Against: (0)

Carried

Main Motion as Amended

12. Moved by Councillor MacKinnon
 Seconded by Councillor Salisbury

Recommendation:

1. That the following be referred to **the April 3, 2017** Committee of the Whole:

That staff review and report back on the City of Guelph's surplus asset sales policies and that the potential for local community group/non-profit benefit be reviewed and included in the report.

Voting in Favour: Mayor Guthrie, Councillors Allt, Bell, Billings, Downer, Gibson, Gordon, Hofland, MacKinnon, Piper, Salisbury and Van Hellemond (12)

Voting Against: Councillor Wettstein (1)

Carried

CON-2017.10 City of Guelph and Guelph Public Library Governance

13. Moved by Councillor MacKinnon
Seconded by Councillor Bell

Recommendation:

1. That the following motion be referred to the May 1, 2017 Committee of the Whole:

That in collaboration with the Guelph Public Library, the current governance structure between the City of Guelph and the Guelph Public Library be reviewed to create or confirm governance and/or terms of reference best practices regarding the future development of a downtown main library and other branch locations.

Voting in Favour: Mayor Guthrie, Councillors Alit, Bell, Billings, Downer, Gibson, Gordon, Hofland, MacKinnon, Piper, Salisbury, Van Hellemond and Wettstein (13)

Voting Against: (0)

Carried

C-COW-GOV-2017.1 Public Appointments to Various Advisory Committees and the Board of Trustees of the Elliott Community

14. Moved by Councillor Hofland
Seconded by Councillor Gordon

Recommendation:

Downtown Advisory Committee

That Alastair McCluskey and Tyler Omichinski be appointed to the Downtown Advisory Committee for a term ending November 30, 2017 or until such time as successors are appointed.

Guelph Museums Advisory Committee

That Jayne Osborn be appointed to the Guelph Museums Advisory Committee for a term ending November 30, 2017 or until such time as a successor is appointed.

River Systems Advisory Committee

That Barry Smith be appointed to the River Systems Advisory Committee for a term ending November 17, 2017 or until such time as a successor is appointed.

Water Conservation and Efficiency Public Advisory Committee

That Amy Pawlick be appointed to the Water Conservation and Efficiency Public Advisory Committee for a term ending November 30, 2017 or until such time as a successor is appointed.

Board of Trustees of the Elliott Community

That Donna Kentner be appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Elliott Community for a three year term ending November 30, 2020, or until such time as a successor is appointed.

Voting in Favour: Mayor Guthrie, Councillors Allt, Bell, Billings, Downer, Gibson, Gordon, Hofland, MacKinnon, Piper, Salisbury, Van Hellemond and Wettstein (13)

Voting Against: (0)

Carried

C-CON-2017.4 Request for an Exception to the Public Appointment Policy from Guelph Police Services Board

15. Moved by Councillor Piper
Seconded by Councillor Billings

Recommendation:

That Len Griffiths be permitted to complete his term on the Guelph Police Services Board ending November, 2018 or until such time as a successor is appointed.

Voting in Favour: Mayor Guthrie, Councillors Allt, Bell, Billings, Downer, Gibson, Gordon, Hofland, MacKinnon, Piper, Salisbury, Van Hellemond and Wettstein (13)

Voting Against: (0)

Carried

C-CON-2017.5 Changes to GMHI Governance Structure

16. Moved by Councillor Hofland
Seconded by Councillor Allt

Recommendation:

1. That the current Chair of the board of Guelph Hydro Electric Systems Inc. ("Guelph Hydro"), Jane Armstrong, be appointed to the Strategies and Options Committee ("SOC") of Guelph Municipal Holdings Inc. ("GMHI") as member and Co-Chair, as a replacement for Pankaj Sardana, CEO of Guelph Hydro (with Derrick Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer of the City of Guelph, continuing as member and Co-Chair).
2. That the Chief Administrative Officer of the City of Guelph, either in that capacity or in his capacity of Director or Chief Executive Officer of GMHI, be directed to appoint a replacement community member to the SOC if a suitable candidate is found.

Voting in Favour: Mayor Guthrie, Councillors Allt, Bell, Billings, Downer, Gibson, Gordon, Hofland, MacKinnon, Piper, Salisbury, Van Hellemond and Wettstein (13)

Voting Against: (0)

Carried

By-laws

17. Moved by Councillor Downer
Seconded by Councillor Wettstein

That By-laws Numbered (2017)-20147 to (2017)-20153, inclusive, are hereby passed.

Voting in Favour: Mayor Guthrie, Councillors Allt, Bell, Billings, Downer, Gibson, Gordon, Hofland, MacKinnon, Piper, Salisbury, Van Hellemond and Wettstein (13)
Voting Against: (0)

Carried

Mayor's Announcements

Councillor Allt announced that the Canadian Masters 2017 Curling Championship is being hosted in Guelph at the Guelph Curling Club from April 3 – 8, 2017.

Councillor Gibson announced that Guelph was hosting Rogers Hometown Hockey on April 1 and 2, 2017 in Market Square.

Adjournment (7:42 p.m.)

18. Moved by Councillor Bell
Seconded by Councillor Salisbury

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

Minutes to be confirmed on April 24, 2017.

Mayor Guthrie

Stephen O'Brien - City Clerk

**Minutes of Guelph City Council
Held in the Council Chambers, Guelph City Hall on
April 10, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.**

Attendance

Council: Mayor Guthrie

Councillor P. Allt

Councillor B. Bell

Councillor C. Billings

Councillor C. Downer

Councillor J. Gordon

Councillor D. Gibson

Councillor J. Hofland

Councillor M. MacKinnon

Councillor L. Piper

Councillor M. Salisbury

Councillor A. Van Hellemond

Councillor K. Wettstein

Staff: Mr. S. Stewart, Deputy CAO, Infrastructure, Development and Enterprise Services
Mr. T. Salter, General Manager, Planning, Urban Design and Building Services
Ms. S. Kirkwood, Manager, Development Planning
Mr. C. DeVriendt, Senior Development Planner
Ms. T. Agnello, Deputy Clerk
Ms. D. Tremblay, Council Committee Coordinator

Open Meeting (6:30 p.m.)

Mayor Guthrie called the meeting to order.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no disclosures.

Council Consent Agenda

CON-2017.10 Proposed Demolition of 73-75 Essex Street, Ward 5

1. Moved by Councillor Bell
Seconded by Councillor Billings

1. That the removal of 73-75 Essex Street from the Municipal Register of Cultural Heritage Properties be approved.
2. That the proposed demolition of a residential building that contains (2) semi-detached units at 73-75 Essex Street be approved.

Voting In Favour: Mayor Guthrie, Councillors Alt, Bell, Billings, Downer, Gordon, Gibson, Hofland, MacKinnon, Salisbury, Van Hellemond, Wettstein (12)

Voting Against: Councillor Piper (1)

CARRIED

Planning Public Meeting

Mayor Guthrie announced that in accordance with The Planning Act, Council is now in a public meeting for the purpose of informing the public of various planning matters. The Mayor asked if there were any delegations in attendance with respect to the planning matters listed on the agenda.

1888 Gordon Street Proposed Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment File: OP1701/ZC1701 - Ward 6

Chris DeVriendt, Senior Development Planner presented the proposed Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment for 1888 Gordon Street indicating the applicant is requesting a change in the Official Plan from "General Residential" to the "High Density Residential" with a maximum residential density of 175 units per hectare. The applicant is also seeking to rezone the lands from Agricultural to High Density Residential Zone to permit two, fourteen (14) storey residential apartment buildings; a ten (10) storey residential apartment building; and two, four (4) storey residential apartment buildings containing approximately 491 residential units in total.

Staff will provide information regarding traffic, density, building height, shadow studies, the benefits of a private versus public road, tree management plan, waste collection, community energy initiative, number of affordable housing units and servicing capacity and strategy based on discussion by Council.

Krista Walkey, Stantec Consulting Ltd., representing the Applicant indicated that the proposal conforms to the general intent of the 2001 Official Plan except for density and the applicant is seeking an Official Plan amended to High Density Residential in accordance the City of Guelph draft Official Plan 48. She provided clarification with respect to the Zoning by-law amendment and the proposed composition and amenities of the site.

John Carvaggio, resident, stated concerns regarding the potential for increased traffic along Gosling Gardens. He advised he is in support of development in the area, but has concerns regarding traffic congestion and safety of the residents and children in the area. He said he did not receive notification from the City of the Public Meeting.

Erica Anderson, resident and President, Board of Directors for Wellington Condominium Corporation No. 219, (WCCEC) raised concerned with moving forward with an amendment in accordance with Official Plan Amendment 48 prior to a decision being made by the Ontario Municipal Board. She expressed concerns regarding proposed heights, increased density and reduction in setbacks. She was also concerned about impacts of noise levels, shadowing, increased night light, loss of privacy, potential structural and nuisance effects to the retaining wall, health and safety concerns relating to a potential access road in the rear of properties, and decreased property values. She advised that the WCCEC had not received a Notice of the Public Meeting. She suggested modifications to the proposal including: reorientation of the conceptual site model with the proposed 4 storey townhomes to the rear of the property with increased setbacks to mitigate shadow effects; reconsideration of the location or removal of the access road along the rear of the property, with speed control measures implemented if not removed.

Jessie Uhrig, resident, raised concerns regarding the loss of green space and the peaceful enjoyment of her property. She would like consideration be given to whether increased density would result in increases to healthcare, hospitals, daycare, schools, hydro utilities, water pressure and traffic using Gosling Gardens as public road.

Rachel Sun, resident, stated concerns regarding the number of trees being removed, traffic impacts and Gosling Gardens being used as a traffic thruway. She indicated that the development will have a negative impact on her quality of life. She requested the City give serious consideration to the development.

2. Moved by Councillor MacKinnon
Seconded by Councillor Billings

That Report IDE 17-43 regarding a proposed Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment application (OP1701/ZC1701) from Stantec Consulting Ltd. on behalf of The Tricar Group to permit a high density residential development on the property municipally known as 1888 Gordon Street and legally described as South West Part Lot 11, Concession 8, Part 1, Plan 61R-3081 and Part 1, Plan 61R-3404; Geographic Township of Puslinch, City of Guelph, Wellington County from Infrastructure, Development and Enterprise dated April 10, 2017, be received.

Voting In Favour: Mayor Guthrie, Councillors Alt, Bell, Billings, Downer, Gordon, Gibson, Hofland, MacKinnon, Piper, Salisbury, Van Hellemond, Wettstein (13)

Voting Against: (0)

CARRIED

3. Moved by Councillor Alt
Seconded by Councillor Salisbury

That notification be circulated to a radius of 200 meters for further consideration of 1888 Gordon St. proposed Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment File OP1701/ZC1701

Voting In Favour: Mayor Guthrie, Councillors Alt, Bell, Billings, Downer, Gordon, Gibson, Hofland, MacKinnon, Piper, Salisbury, Van Hellemond, Wettstein (13)

Voting Against: (0)

CARRIED

By-laws

3. Moved by Councillor Gibson
Seconded by Councillor Piper

"That By-law Numbers (2017)-20154 to (2017)-20159 are hereby passed."

Voting In Favour: Mayor Guthrie, Councillors, Alt, Bell, Billings, Downer, Gordon, Gibson, Hofland, MacKinnon, Piper, Salisbury, Van Hellemond, Wettstein (13)

Voting Against: (0)

CARRIED

Adjournment (8:03 p.m.)

6. Moved by Councillor Bell
Seconded by Councillor Piper

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

Minutes to be confirmed on April 24, 2017.

Mayor Guthrie

Tina Agnello – Deputy Clerk

**Minutes of Committee of the Whole Meeting
Held in the Council Chambers, Guelph City Hall on
April 3, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.**

That the balance of the April 3, 2017 Consent Agenda – Public Services as identified below, be adopted:

COW-PS-2017.02 Outstanding Resolutions of Public Services

That the recommendations marked as “completed” within Report# PS-17-05 Outstanding Resolutions of Public Services be removed from the outstanding resolutions list.

Voting in Favour: Councillors Allt, Bell, Billings, Downer, Gibson, Gordon, Hofland, MacKinnon, Piper, Salisbury, Van Hellemond and Wettstein (12)

Voting Against: (0)

Carried

Consent Agenda – Corporate Services

The following items were extracted:

COW-CS-2017.02 Tax Ratios 2017-2020 Assessment Cycle
COW-CS-2017.03 2017 Tax Policy

Consent Agenda – Committee of the Whole

The following item was extracted:

COW-2017.01 Councillors Mike Salisbury and Leanne Piper Request for Access to Additional Training Funding 2017

Items for Discussion – Corporate Services

Councillor MacKinnon assumed the Chair.

COW-CS-2017.04 2018 Municipal Election: Methods of Voting

Stephen O'Brien, City Clerk presented information regarding methods of voting available for the City for the 2018 Municipal Election and staff recommendations.

The following people spoke to this item:

Susan Watson

Jason Blokhuis

Richard Chaloner

Hugh Whiteley was not present.

2. Moved by Councillor Gibson
Seconded by Councillor Hofland

1. That a By-law be adopted to support the use of vote scanners/tabulators and internet voting in the 2018 Municipal Election.

2. That a By-law be adopted to support the optional use of an in-person, paperless method of voting in the 2018 Municipal Election as a complementary voting channel for the advance voting period.

Amendment

3. Moved by Councillor Piper
Seconded by Councillor Allt

That Clause 1 be amended by removing the words “and internet voting”.

Voting in Favour: Councillors Allt, Bell, Gordon, Hofland, Piper, Salisbury and Wettstein (7)

Voting Against: Councillor Billings, Downer, Gibson, MacKinnon, and Van Hellemond (5)

Carried

Main Motion as Amended

It was requested that the clauses be voted on separately.

Clause 1 as Amended

4. Moved by Councillor Piper
Seconded by Councillor Allt

That a By-law be adopted to support the use of vote scanners/ tabulators in the 2018 Municipal Election.

Voting in Favour: Councillors Allt, Bell, Gibson, Gordon, Hofland, MacKinnon, Piper, Salisbury and Wettstein (9)

Voting Against: Councillors Billings, Downer and Van Hellemond (3)

Carried

Clause 2

5. Moved by Councillor Gibson
Seconded by Councillor Hofland

That a By-law be adopted to support the optional use of an in-person, paperless method of voting in the 2018 Municipal Election as a complementary voting channel for the advance voting period.

Voting in Favour: Councillors Downer, MacKinnon, Piper, Salisbury and Wettstein (5)

Voting Against: Councillors Allt, Bell, Billings, Gibson, Gordon, Hofland and Van Hellemond (7)

Defeated

The meeting recessed at 3:55 p.m. and resumed at 4:08 p.m.
Councillor Van Hellemond left the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

Special Resolutions

CON-2017.9 Surplus Asset Sales Policies – Mayor Guthrie’s Motion for Which Notice was Given on March 6, 2017

The following person spoke to this matter:
Brian Pittana, St. John Ambulance in Guelph

6. Moved by Councillor Wettstein
 Seconded by Councillor Piper

That staff report back on the City of Guelph’s policy on local community non-profit access to surplus assets through our Wellbeing Grant policy.

Voting in Favour: Councillors Allt, Bell, Billings, Downer, Gibson, Gordon, Hofland, MacKinnon, Salisbury, Piper and Wettstein (11)

Voting Against: (0)

Carried

7. Moved by Councillor Piper
 Moved by Councillor Wettstein

That staff be directed to facilitate the potential transfer of one surplus ambulance to St. John’s Ambulance within the 2017 budget from the Infrastructure Renewal Reserve.

Voting in Favour: Councillors Allt, Bell, Billings, Downer, Gordon, Hofland, Piper, Salisbury and Wettstein (9)

Voting Against: Councillors Gibson and MacKinnon (2)

Carried

Items for Discussion – Public Services

Councillor Hofland assumed the Chair

COW-PS-2017.03 Animal Control By-law Chicken Amendments

Doug Godfrey, Manager, Operations provided a brief synopsis of the process to date.

8. Moved by Councillor Allt
 Seconded by Councillor Gordon
1. That as detailed in Public Services Report #PS-17-04 Animal Control By-law chicken amendments, that staff be directed to create an amendment to the Animal Control By-law (2016)-20122 to permit residents that cannot facilitate a 15 metre (50 feet) distance for the keeping of poultry to keep chickens provided the following can be met:

Hen coops and hen runs shall be a distance of at least 1.2m from the rear lot line and at least 1.2m from any side lot line of the dwelling lot on which the hen coop is located (meeting the setback requirements as per the zoning bylaw);

Pens (includes hen coop and hen run) must be located the furthest from any other dwelling, and must be 1.2m away from any property line;

Pens shall be located at least 7.5m from the lot line to any religious institution or business or school;

Pens shall be a minimum distance of 3m from all windows and doors of dwellings that are located on an abutting property;

Pens are not permitted in any front or side yard;

That the maximum number of hens be limited to ten (10).

2. That as detailed in Public Services Report #PS-17-04 Animal Control By-law chicken amendments, that staff be directed to create an amendment to the Animal Control Bylaw (2016)-20122 requiring food for poultry be stored in an animal proof secured container.
3. That as detailed in Public Services Report #PS-17-04 Animal Control By-law chicken amendments, that staff be directed to create an amendment to the Animal Control By-law (2016)-20122 requiring that coop floors be lined with an appropriate material to absorb fecal matter and to facilitate cleaning.
4. That as detailed in Public Services Report #PS-17-04 Animal Control By-law chicken amendments, that staff be directed to create an amendment to the Animal Control By-law (2016)-20122 requiring that residents keeping backyard chickens shall provide each hen with food, water, shelter, light, ventilation, appropriate substrate flooring, and provide opportunities for essential behaviours such as scratching, nesting, including but not limited to dust-bathing, and roosting, to maintain each hen in good health and welfare.
5. That as detailed in Public Services Report #PS-17-04 Animal Control By-law chicken amendments, that staff be directed to create an amendment to the Animal Control By-law (2016)-20122 prohibiting persons from killing a domestic animal on their property, except by a licenced vet or otherwise authorized by the City of Guelph.

Voting in Favour: Councillors Allt, Bell, Billings, Downer, Gibson, Gordon, Hofland, MacKinnon, Piper, Salisbury and Wettstein (11)

Voting Against: (0)

Carried

COW-CS-2017.02 Tax Ratios 2017-2020 Assessment Cycle

9. Moved by Councillor Allt
 Seconded by Councillor Hofland

1. That the Tax Ratios for the 2017 year be adopted as set out in Table One of the "Tax Ratios 2017-2020 Assessment Cycle" Report CS-2017-02 dated Monday, April 3, 2017.
2. That the Tax Ratios for the remainder of the 2017-2020 assessment cycle be adopted based on start ratios for all tax classes except for the multi-residential ratio which will remain revenue neutral on an annual basis.
3. That the tax ratios be incorporated into the appropriate Tax Policy.

Voting in Favour: Councillors Allt, Bell, Downer, Gordon, Hofland, MacKinnon, Piper, Salisbury and Wettstein (9)

Voting Against: Councillors Billings and Gibson (2)

Carried

COW-CS-2017.03 2017 Tax Policy

10. Moved by Councillor Hofland
 Seconded by Councillor Allt

1. That the 2017 City of Guelph Property Tax Policies set out in Schedule 1 to the "2017 Tax Policy" CS-2017-07 report dated April 3, 2017, be approved.
2. That the tax policies be incorporated into tax ratio, tax rate, and capping by-laws to be adopted on April 24, 2017.
3. That a tax rate related to the dedicated infrastructure levy be calculated for the required amount and identified separately on the 2017 and future years' City tax bills replacing the previously separated Public Health levy.
4. That the maximum allowed capping parameters be used for 2017, allowing the City of Guelph to exit the capping program in the shortest time frame available.

Voting in Favour: Councillors Allt, Bell, Gibson, Gordon, Hofland, MacKinnon, Piper, Salisbury and Wettstein (9)

Voting Against: Councillors Billings and Gibson (2)

Carried

COW-2017.01 Councillors Mike Salisbury and Leanne Piper Request for Access to Additional Training Funding 2017

11. Moved by Councillor Bell
 Seconded by Councillor Allt

That Councillor Leanne Piper be authorized to exceed her 2017 training allocation of \$3250 to an upset limit of \$400 in order to attend the American Planning Association conference in May 2017.

Voting in Favour: Councillors Allt, Bell, Billings, Downer, Gibson, Gordon, Hofland, MacKinnon, Salisbury, Piper and Wettstein (11)

Voting Against: (0)

Carried

Chair and Staff Announcements

Councillor Gibson commended staff for the success of the Hometown Hockey event held April 1st and 2nd.

Councillor Wettstein acknowledged the death of Charlie Whittaker, a longtime resident of Guelph who invested his time in numerous initiatives over the years.

Councillor Allt announced the Canadian Masters Curling Championship Event currently underway.

Adjournment (6:01 p.m.)

12. Moved by Councillor Bell
Seconded by Councillor Gibson

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

Minutes to be confirmed on April 24, 2017.

Mayor Guthrie

Stephen O'Brien - City Clerk

Staff Report



To **City Council**

Service Area Infrastructure, Development and Enterprise Services

Date Monday, April 24, 2017

Subject **Habitat for Humanity Development Charge Late Payment Agreement**

Report Number 17-46

Recommendation

That the Mayor and Clerk be directed to execute the Development Charge late payment agreement with Habitat for Humanity, generally in the form included as Attachment 2 to IDE Report 17-46, dated April 24, 2017.

Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

Habitat for Humanity has requested approval to defer the payment of Development Charges (DCs) for its project at 11 Cityview Drive South. This report provides a positive response to this request and recommends that the City enter into a Development Charge late payment agreement in order to implement this decision.

Key Findings

- There are minor financial implications in allowing for the late payment of Development Charges in this instance
- Habitat for Humanity continues to contribute to the City's supply affordable housing.

Financial Implications

The minor financial implication for the City is that a deferral of Development Charges payable delays the receipt of revenue which negatively affects cash flow. In this instance, the impact is minor due to the terms of the proposed agreement. Interest will accrue and be paid to the City with the principal DC late payment.

Report

Habitat for Humanity Wellington Dufferin Guelph (Habitat) is implementing the Habitat for Humanity Homebuilding Program in Guelph, as described in Attachment 1 which will contribute to the City's supply of affordable.

Habitat plans to start construction of a 30-unit townhouse project at 11 Cityview Drive South in the Spring of 2017. The City DCs for the 3-phase project are approximately \$674,000. DCs for the first phase of 12 units are approximately \$262,000. These amounts do not include education DCs. DCs are normally payable at the time of issuing a building permit for a given development. Habitat has requested the deferral of DCs to avoid having to arrange additional financing during the three year construction period. Habitat is requesting to pay the DCs owing, along with accrued interest, within three years of the time they would normally be due for each phase.

The City has provided grants to Habitat on six separate occasions since 2007 to offset various fees, including development charges. These grants were paid from the Affordable Housing Reserve Fund. City staff brought forth the Proposed Framework for an Affordable Housing Financial Incentives Program in November 2016. A proposed financial incentive plan will be presented to Council later this year. Habitat is not requesting financial incentives from the Affordable Housing Reserve Fund at this time.

With respect to the timing of collections for DCs, late payment agreements entered into by the City and owners fall under s.27 of the *DCs Act, 1997*:

Agreement, early or late payment

27. (1) A municipality may enter into an agreement with a person who is required to pay a development charge providing for all or any part of a development charge to be paid before or after it would otherwise be payable.

Staff recommends that the request for the DC late payment agreement be approved to support Habitat's development which helps contribute to City's supply of affordable housing.

Financial Implications

The financial implication for the City is that a deferral of Development Charges payable delays the receipt of revenue which negatively affects cash flow. In this instance, the impact is minor due to the terms of the proposed agreement. Interest will accrue and be paid to the City when the Development Charge payment is made.

The City's deferral of DCs payable would be given in exchange for Habitat's agreement to pay all DCs owing plus accrued interest within 3 years after they would ordinarily be due.

If Habitat is unable to make these payments, the proposed agreement will provide that DCs and interest can be collected through the property tax roll. Therefore, the City's risk of loss is low.

Consultations

Staff and Habitat will continue their ongoing contact.

Corporate Administrative Plan

Overarching Goals

Financial Stability
Innovation

Attachments

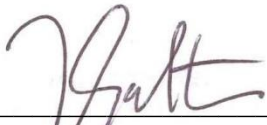
ATT-1 Habitat for Humanity Homebuilding Program
ATT-2 Development Charge Late Payment Agreement

Departmental Approval

Tara Baker, City Treasurer
Bruce Banting, Acting City Solicitor

Report Author

Tim Donegani



Approved By

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General Manager
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Recommended By

Scott Stewart
Deputy CAO
Infrastructure, Development and Enterprise
519-822-1260 x3445
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Attachment 1 – Habitat for Humanity Homebuilding Program

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY

Because Every Canadian Has the Right to a Home They Can Afford

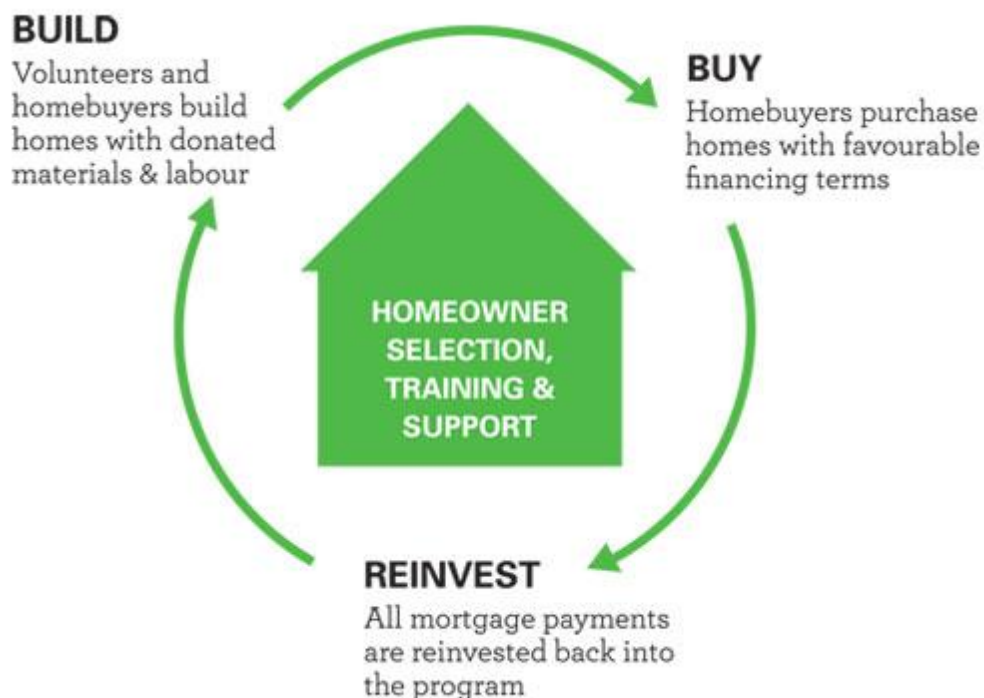
At Habitat for Humanity Canada, we believe in making affordable housing accessible to low-income families who could not otherwise afford to own a home.

We make this possible for our partner families by:

- Building homes using volunteer labour and donated materials
- Selling these homes to partner families with a required commitment of 500 volunteer hours
- Offering families an affordable and sustainable no-interest, no down-payment mortgage, with monthly payments set at 25 % of gross income (this includes principal repayment and property tax - at the discretion of the affiliate, homeowner insurance may be collected as well, in which case payments would not exceed 30% of gross household income)

Habitat homes help families avoid making impossible choices between rent and other basic necessities by providing them with a mortgage they can afford. An affordable mortgage allows our partner families to ensure their needs are met – including childcare, transportation, groceries, education, school supplies, medical and dental expenses, clothing, furniture, and more.

Partner families' monthly mortgage payments go into a revolving fund held by the affiliate that built the home. This fund is reinvested into the community, as it is used to build more homes for low-income families in need.



Habitat Homeowner Selection

When selecting potential partner families, affiliates consider an applicant's:

- Level of need
- Willingness to become partners in the program
- Ability to repay the no down-payment, interest-free mortgage that is geared to their income

Future homeowners must also contribute 500 hours of sweat equity, share in the labour of homebuilding, and participate in valuable training and preparation sessions. In return, their lives are transformed by the positive experience of working with their community and by the many benefits that come along with homeownership.

How Habitat for Humanity Keeps Costs Low for Partner Families

Habitat for Humanity manages the cost of new homes through:

- The use of modest designs
- The use of donated materials
- Utilizing volunteer labour
- Ensuring low administration costs

Our Partner Families

Families living below the poverty line who are able to repay an interest-free mortgage can qualify to become a partner family.

Future homeowners must share in the labour of homebuilding, contributing 500 hours of sweat equity, and must participate in valuable training and preparation sessions. In return, their lives are transformed by the positive impact of receiving the hand up of homeownership.

Our Volunteers

More than 63,000 volunteers work with Habitat for Humanity in Canada every year. Thousands more help to build homes in other countries through our Global Village program. We heavily depend on our volunteers, who may be professional trades-people donating a portion of their time and expertise, or first time builders who have never hammered a single nail.

Volunteers have been a vital part of our history and will continue to be in our ongoing success. If you would like to learn more about volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, please visit our [volunteer page](#).

Source: www.habitat.ca, retrieved March 4, 2013

ATT-2 Development Charge Late Payment Agreement

DEVELOPMENT CHARGE LATE PAYMENT AGREEMENT

(11 Cityview Drive South)

THIS AGREEMENT made this day of , 2017

BETWEEN:

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WELLINGTON DUFFERIN GUELPH

A not-for-profit corporation under the *Corporations Act* (Ontario) having its principal place of business at
#300-104 Dawson Road, Guelph ON, N1H 1A6

(“Habitat for Humanity”)

-and-

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GUELPH

(the “City”)

WHEREAS, in accordance with the *Development Charges Act, 1997*, the City’s Development Charge By-law Number (2014)-19692 ordinarily requires that development charges be paid to the City at or prior to issuance of a building permit in respect of development;

AND WHEREAS Section 27 of the *Development Charges Act, 1997* provides that a municipality may enter into an agreement with a person who is required to pay a development charge providing for all or any part of the development charge to be paid after it would otherwise be payable;

AND WHEREAS, in accordance with the *Planning Act*, the City’s Official Plan supports and encourages the creation of affordable housing opportunities;

AND WHEREAS Habitat for Humanity intends to carry out a development which consists of construction of 30 stacked townhouse dwellings on certain land as a form of affordable housing;

AND WHEREAS Habitat for Humanity proposes to provide to certain purchasers in need of financial assistance the opportunity of purchasing the dwellings and to offer such purchasers further financial assistance, secured by mortgages, which would reduce the purchasers’ financing costs to affordable levels;

AND WHEREAS Habitat for Humanity has requested from the City a deferral of payment of the development charges which would otherwise be payable at the issuance of a building permit in respect of the said development;

AND WHEREAS, by deferring the payment of development charges relating to the development, the City would be assisting Habitat for Humanity to provide the above-mentioned assistance, in keeping with the objectives of the City's Official Plan regarding affordable housing;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and the mutual covenants herein, the parties hereto hereby agree as follows:

ARTICLE 1 – INTERPRETATION

1.1 In this Agreement:

"Agreement" means this agreement, including all schedules to it;

"Benefit" means an amount equal to the amount of the DC deferred pursuant to this Agreement, as determined in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement;

"Building Permit Issuance" means the issuance of the building permit necessary for construction of a Phase of the Development;

"Building Permit Issuance Date" means, in respect of a Phase, the date of Building Permit Issuance for that Phase;

"Business Day" means any working day, Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding New Year's Day, Family Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Victoria Day, Canada Day, Civic Holiday, Labour Day, Thanksgiving Day, Remembrance day, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and any day which the City has decided to close City Hall offices to the public;

"City Priority Statement" means a statement in the form as set out in Schedule "A";

"DC" means the development charge for the Development determined by the City based upon the development charge rates in effect as of the date of this Agreement, imposed by the City pursuant to By-law Number (2014)-19692, excluding educational development charges or any other fees or charges;

"Development" means the residential townhouse development which will include approximately 30 Units, and which Habitat for Humanity proposes to construct on the Lands;

"Event of Default" means:

- The failure of Habitat for Humanity to make any payment to the City strictly in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement;
- The failure of Habitat for Humanity to comply with any provision of this Agreement other than the foregoing provision in respect of payment to the City, and its failure to correct or remedy such failure within fifteen (15) Business Days after being provided with written notice of such failure by the City;
- Becoming bankrupt or insolvent or taking the benefit of or making a proposal under any Act for bankrupt or insolvent debtors or filing any proposal or making any assignment for the

benefit of creditors or if a receiver is appointed on account of insolvency or as a result of Habitat for Humanity discontinuing its business; or

- Prior to or after executing this Agreement, making or being discovered to have made a material misrepresentation or omission, or providing materially inaccurate or false information to the City;

“Interest” means interest at the Royal Bank of Canada prime rate prevailing on the due date per annum calculated and compounded annually;

“Lands” means the lands described in Schedule “C”;

“Mortgage” means a vendor take-back mortgage retained by Habitat for Humanity upon the sale of a Unit under this Agreement;

“Phase” means one of the three phases contemplated for completing construction of the Development;

“Promissory Note” means a promissory note, in the form as set out in Schedule “B”, which is provided prior to Building Permit Issuance for a Phase, and which sets out, as principal, the amount of the DC for that Phase;

“Unit” means a condominium unit that includes a residential dwelling within the Development.

- 1.2 The headings in the body of this Agreement form no part of the Agreement but shall be deemed to be inserted for convenience of reference only.
- 1.3 This Agreement shall be construed with all changes in number and gender as may be required by the context.
- 1.4 This Agreement shall be construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the Province of Ontario and the laws of Canada applicable therein.
- 1.5 Any reference herein to any law, by-law, rule, regulation, order or act of any government, governmental body or other regulatory body shall be construed as a reference thereto as amended or re-enacted from time to time or as a reference to any successor thereto.
- 1.6 When calculating the period of time which or following which any act is to be done or step taken pursuant to this Agreement, the date which is the reference day in calculating such period shall be excluded.
- 1.7 There is no representation, warranty, collateral agreement or condition affecting this Agreement other than as expressed herein.
- 1.8 Time shall in all respects be of the essence of this Agreement.
- 1.9 No waiver by any party of any breach by any other party of any of its covenants, agreements or obligations in this Agreement shall be or be deemed to be waiver of any subsequent breach thereof or the breach of any other covenants, agreements or obligations, nor shall any forbearance by any party to seek a remedy for any breach by any other party be a waiver by the party so forbearing, of its rights and remedies with respect to such breach or any subsequent breach. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, any subsequent acceptance of any payment by the City shall not be deemed a waiver of any preceding breach of any term, covenant or condition regardless of the City's knowledge of such preceding breach at the time of the acceptance of such payment.

ARTICLE 2 – INITIATING THE DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Habitat for Humanity shall:

- (a) Obtain all approvals required for the Development; and
- (b) Be the registered owner of the Lands on the Building Permit Issuance Date for the first Phase.

2.2 Prior to Building Permit Issuance for each Phase Habitat for Humanity shall provide a Promissory Note for that Phase to the City.

2.3 Provided that Habitat for Humanity is in full compliance with all provisions of this Agreement on the Building Permit Issuance Date for each Phase, the City shall defer the payment of the DC beyond the Building Permit Issuance Date for that Phase, in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 3 – ESTABLISHING THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

3.1 Habitat for Humanity shall:

- (a) Complete construction of the Units on the Lands;
- (b) Register a plan of condominium that describes Units on the Lands;
- (c) Take all actions necessary for the Units to be and remain residential dwellings made available at a price at or below typical market prices for similar accommodation within the geographic limits of the City;
- (d) Sell each and every Unit only to a household with an income at or below the maximum income outlined in the 2016 Social Infrastructure Fund – Home Ownership Component program, or successor program, or other similar criteria, determined by Habitat for Humanity in consultation with the City, as affordable housing;
- (e) Upon sale of each and every Unit, retain a Mortgage on the Unit, which Mortgage contains the City Priority Statement, with the Mortgage payments geared to the income of the purchasing eligible low income household, or retain a second mortgage;
- (f) Not sell any Unit to anyone other than a household as described in paragraph 3.1 (d).

3.2 For each Phase, the Principal and Interest as defined in the Promissory Notes is payable on the third anniversary of the Building Permit Issuance Date Phase.

3.3 The Development Charges may be paid before the due date outlined in the Agreement, in whole or in part, without penalty.

3.4 In the event that Habitat for Humanity no longer holds any mortgage on a Unit, it shall notify the City forthwith, and the Benefit applying to this Unit, along with any Interest accrued, will be immediately payable to the City.

ARTICLE 4 – TERMINATION

- 4.1 This Agreement shall terminate once the Benefit has been fully paid to the City pursuant to this Agreement, whereupon the DC deferred pursuant to this Agreement shall also be deemed to have been paid in full to the City.
- 4.2 Upon payment in full to the City of all amounts owing to the City pursuant to this Agreement, and termination of this Agreement, the City shall return the Promissory Notes to Habitat for Humanity.

ARTICLE 5 – PROTECTIONS FOR THE CITY

- 5.1 Upon an Event of Default Habitat for Humanity shall immediately pay the City the outstanding Benefit plus Interest thereon calculated from the Building Permit Issuance Date.
- 5.2 Habitat for Humanity represents and warrants to the City that:
- (a) It is a non-profit corporation validly subsisting under the laws of Ontario;
 - (b) It has full corporate power and capacity to enter into this Agreement and any documents arising from this Agreement; and
 - (c) All necessary corporate action has been taken by it to authorize the execution and delivery of this Agreement.
- 5.3 Habitat for Humanity shall be solely and completely responsible and liable for payment to the City of the portions of the Benefit.
- 5.6 The City shall hold the Initial Promissory Notes as security against default, and in addition to, and not in substitution for, all other rights and remedies available to the City.
- 5.7 Habitat for Humanity shall indemnify the City and the City's members of council, officers, employees, contractors and agents, against all losses and liabilities related to acts or omissions, in connection with this Agreement, of Habitat for Humanity or any person for whom it is in law responsible. Habitat for Humanity shall, at the City's election, either assume the City's defence of any proceeding brought in respect of such loss or liability, or cooperate with the City in the defence, including providing the City with prompt notice of any possible loss or liability and providing the City with all information and material relevant to the possible loss or liability. This section shall survive the termination of this Agreement.
- 5.8 In the event of default by Habitat for Humanity in paying any amount owing to the City, the City may collect such amount owing as taxes for the applicable Units.

ARTICLE 6 – GENERAL

- 6.1 Written notices between the parties shall be given as follows:
- (a) Any notice, demand, acceptance or request required or permitted to be given hereunder in writing, shall be deemed to be given if either personally delivered or mailed by registered mail, postage prepaid, or sent by facsimile transmission, and

addressed as follows or to such changed address or facsimile number as provided by such respective party:

Habitat for Humanity Wellington Dufferin Guelph
#300-104 Dawson Road, Guelph ON, N1H 1A6
Attention: Steve Howard, Chief Executive Officer
(519) 767-9752 x22

The Corporation of the City of Guelph
1 Carden Street
Guelph, ON N1H 3A1
Attention: General Manager, Planning, Urban Design and Building Services
Telephone: (519) 822-1260 x2395

- (b) Any notice shall be deemed to have been given to and received by the party to which it is addressed if delivered personally, on the date of delivery; if mailed, on the fifth calendar day after mailing; and if sent by facsimile, on the date of sending, provided that an original receipt confirmation is obtained.

6.2 Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as meaning that the City gives any assurance that zoning amendments or any other applications under the *Planning Act* or building permit applications under the *Building Code Act* in respect of the Lands shall be approved, and this Agreement shall be without prejudice to the approvals and processes set out in the *Planning Act* and the *Building Code Act*. Furthermore, nothing shall be construed as purporting to limit the authority of the Ontario Municipal Board to make decisions and orders affecting the Lands or to limit Habitat for Humanity's rights of appeal, if any, under the *Planning Act*.

6.3 This Agreement is non-assignable by Habitat for Humanity without the prior written consent of the City, which consent may be withheld for any reason. Notwithstanding the foregoing or any other provisions of this Agreement, it is agreed by the parties that if and to the extent that any matters, obligations or actions to be performed or undertaken by Habitat for Humanity under this Agreement require a brokerage licence pursuant to the *Mortgage Brokerages, Lenders and Administrators Act, 2006*, such matters, obligations and actions may be undertaken and carried out by Habitat for Humanity Mortgage Services Inc. or another licensed brokerage determined by Habitat for Humanity, in place of Habitat for Humanity, but for whose performance of such matters, obligations and actions, Habitat for Humanity shall, in respect of this Agreement, remain solely responsible and liable.

6.4 Habitat for Humanity is estopped from contesting, before any court or tribunal of competent jurisdiction, the power or legal authority of the City to enter into this Agreement.

6.5 This Agreement shall not be amended unless amended in writing by all parties.

6.6 The City is neither a partner nor in joint venture with Habitat for Humanity and nothing in this Agreement shall be construed so as to make it a partner or in joint venture nor to impose any liability upon the City as such.

6.7 This Agreement shall be enforceable by and against the parties hereto, their heirs, executors, administrators, successors and permitted assigns and this Agreement and all the covenants by the Habitat for Humanity herein contained shall enure for the benefit of the City.

6.8 This Agreement may be executed in counterparts.

6.9 This Agreement shall be effective from and after the execution by the last party to execute it.

[Signature page follows]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have hereunto affixed their corporate seals duly attested by the hands of their proper signing officers in that behalf.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WELLINGTON DUFFERIN
GUELPH**

DATED AND SIGNED at the City of Guelph this
_____ day of _____, 2017

Per: _____

Name:

Title:

I have authority to bind the Corporation.

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GUELPH

DATED AND SIGNED at the City of Guelph this
_____ day of _____, 2017

Per: _____

Cam Guthrie, Mayor

Per: _____

Stephen O'Brien, City Clerk

SCHEDULE "A"

CITY PRIORITY STATEMENT

"It is acknowledged and agreed that, upon discharge of this charge or upon this charge becoming payable in full on demand, whichever occurs earlier, the amount of \$ [insert here the amount of the portion of the Benefit allocated to this Phase] of the total amount of this charge, being \$ [insert here total amount of this charge], shall be paid to The Corporation of the City of Guelph by Habitat for Humanity in accordance with the Development Charge Late Payment Agreement dated [insert here date of Agreement] between Habitat for Humanity and The Corporation of the City of Guelph. The Corporation of the City of Guelph shall have priority with respect to receiving such payment, over any and all persons having any interest in or under this charge."

SCHEDULE "B"

FORM OF PROMISSORY NOTE

Date:

Phase Number:

Number of Units:

Amount: \$

Due: As set forth below.

To: The Corporation of the City of Guelph (the "**City**")

For value received, the undersigned Habitat for Humanity Wellington Dufferin Guelph (the "**Undersigned**") promises to pay to the City or to its order, the principal sum of [insert amount in words and numbers] (the "**Principal**") in lawful money of Canada on the dates set forth below of each and every year as well before maturity and both before and after default and after judgment until actual payment.

1. For purposes of this Promissory Note,
 "**Agreement**" means the development charge late payment agreement dated [insert here date of Agreement] between the Undersigned and the City;
 "**Benefit**" has the meaning provided in the Agreement;
 "**Building Permit Issuance Date**" has the meaning provided in the Agreement;
 "**Interest**" has the meaning provided in the Agreement; and
 "**Phase**" has the meaning provided in the Agreement.
2. The Undersigned promises to pay the Principal/Benefit and Interest to the City on or before the third anniversary date of the Building Permit Issuance Date of the Phase.
3. Payments shall be made in Canadian funds by certified cheque or draft, drawn upon a bank, trust company or credit union licensed to carry on business as such in Ontario.
4. All or part of the Principal and Interest due hereunder may be prepaid from time to time without notice, bonus or penalty.
5. Payment of Principal and, if applicable, Interest, shall be made at Guelph City Hall , 1 Carden Street, Guelph, ON N1H 3A1 or at such other place in Ontario as the City may designate in writing to the Undersigned.
6. In the event of default, the Undersigned shall pay all costs incurred by the City in enforcing and collecting upon this Promissory Note, including legal costs on a solicitor and client basis.

7. There shall be no entitlement on the part of the Undersigned to set off against amounts owing pursuant to this Promissory Note.
8. Upon the payment to the City of all amounts payable to the City in accordance with the Agreement, this Promissory Note shall be delivered up by the City to the Undersigned for cancellation.
9. The Undersigned hereby waives presentment for payment, demand, notice of non-payment, notice of dishonour, protest and notice of protest, and any other notice required by law to be given to the Undersigned in connection with the delivery, acceptance, performance, default or enforcement of this Promissory Note and diligence in collection or bringing suit and consents to all extensions of time, renewals, waivers or modifications that may be granted by the City with respect to the payment or any other provision of this Promissory Note and the Undersigned agrees that no such action or failure to act by the City or any other person shall affect or impair the obligations of the Undersigned, or be construed as being a waiver by the City of its rights under this Promissory Note.
10. This Promissory Note and the rights, obligations and relations of the Undersigned and the City shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the Province of Ontario (but without giving effect to the conflict of law rules thereof). The Undersigned and the City agree that the Courts of Ontario shall have jurisdiction to entertain any actions or other legal proceedings based on any provisions of this Promissory Note. The Undersigned and the City do hereby attorn to the jurisdiction of the Courts of the Province of Ontario.

Dated at Guelph, Ontario this day of , 2017.

Habitat for Humanity Wellington Dufferin Guelph

By: _____

By: _____

I/We have authority to bind the Corporation.

SCHEDULE "C"

LANDS

11 Cityview Drive South, Guelph ON

Part of Lot 35, Registered Plan No. 53, Division C, as in RO706395, City of Guelph.

Staff Report

| | |
|---------------|--|
| To | City Council |
| Service Area | Office of the Chief Administrative Officer |
| Date | Monday, April 24, 2017 |
| Subject | Nomination of a City of Guelph Representative to Apply for a Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Board of Director Position |
| Report Number | CAO-I-1704 |

Recommendation

1. That Council endorse a City of Guelph representative to stand for election on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) National Board of Directors (Ontario Chapter) for the period starting in June 2017 and ending June 2018.
2. That Council confirms it will assume all costs associated with the representative's attendance at FCM's Board of Directors meetings and Annual Conference.

Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

To obtain City Council's endorsement of a City of Guelph representative to stand for election as a member of FCM's Ontario Board of Directors.

The full term of office for Board of Directors members is one year. The election takes place at the FCM Annual Conference in June 2017.

Key Findings

FCM's Board of Directors is comprised of 75 elected municipal officials and affiliate members representing each province and territory in Canada. Ontario is allotted sixteen members. During the Annual Conference held in June 2017, elections are held for these Board of Director positions.

Financial Implications

Based on the experience of comparable Ontario Directors, the costs to represent the City on FCM's Board of Directors is expected to be in the range of \$6,000 to \$8,000. These expenses factor costs for travel, accommodations and conference registration fees, for attendance at quarterly board meetings and the Annual Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia in June 2018.

Report

FCM's Board of Directors comprises 75 elected municipal officials and affiliate members representing each province and territory in Canada. Ontario is allotted sixteen members.

The Board of Directors sets policy priorities that reflect the concerns of municipal governments and affiliate members. It meets quarterly to develop policy positions on key national municipal issues.

During the quarterly meetings, the various standing committees meet to discuss and develop policy positions on these key issues. These recommendations are then forwarded to the Board of Directors who discuss and adopt the recommendations.

The election will take place at the FCM conference in Ottawa, on or about June 4, 2017.

The presence of a City of Guelph representative as an FCM Board of Director for Ontario enhances the City's advocacy opportunities at a provincial and federal level. In addition, representation on the Board will enable networking opportunities with other municipalities and sharing innovations in municipal governance.

To qualify for this position, City Council must endorse the candidate's nomination by resolution (See Attachment 1). Additionally, the prospective nominee is required to complete a Consent Form (See Attachment 2). Applicable documents must be provided to FCM by Wednesday May 17, 2017.

Financial Implications

Based on the experience of comparable Ontario Directors, the costs to represent the City on FCM's Board of Directors is expected to be in the range of \$6,000 to \$8,000. These expenses factor costs for travel, accommodations and conference registration fees, for attendance at quarterly board meetings and the Annual Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia in June 2018.

Consultations

Not applicable

Corporate Administrative Plan

Overarching Goals

Service Excellence

Financial Stability

Innovation

Service Area Operational Work Plans

Our People- Building a great community together

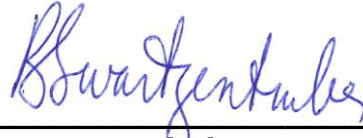
Attachments

ATT-1 FCM Election to Board of Directors Resolution
ATT-2 Consent Form



Approved By

Cathy Kennedy
Manager, Policy and
Intergovernmental Relations
519-822-1260 X 2255
cathy.kennedy@guelph.ca



Recommended By

Barbara Swartzentruber
Executive Director, Intergovernmental
Relations, Policy and Open Government
519-822-1260 x 3066
barbara.swartzentruber@guelph.ca

ATT-1 to Report CAO-I-1704

**FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES –
ELECTION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) represents the interests of municipalities on policy and program matters that fall within federal jurisdiction;

WHEREAS FCM's Board of Directors is comprised of elected municipal officials from all regions and sizes of communities to form a broad base of support and provide FCM with the prestige required to carry the municipal message to the federal government; and

BE IT RESOLVED that Council of the **City of Guelph** endorses _____ to stand for election on FCM's Board of Directors for the period starting in June 2017 and ending June 2018; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council assumes all costs associated with _____ attendance at FCM's Board of Directors meetings and Annual Conference.

ATT-2 To Report CAO-I-1704

FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW 2017

June 1-4, 2017, Ottawa,
Ontario

CONSENT FORM

Confidential to the FCM Chief Elections Officer and Elections Committee.

I, the undersigned, do hereby consent to have my name submitted for consideration as a member of the Board of Directors of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

CONDITIONS:

- a) **I am an elected municipal official holding office and an FCM Municipal Member in good standing;**
- b) **I am attaching a copy of a resolution from my municipal council, authorizing me to stand for election as a representative on FCM's Board of Directors;**
- c) **I have secured approval that my municipal council is prepared to incur the cost of my attending meetings of FCM's Board of Directors; and**
- d) **I will be in attendance at the Annual Conference, to be held June 1 to 4, 2017.**

Please print:

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

MUNICIPALITY: _____

PROVINCE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

Return under **CONFIDENTIAL** cover to:

Chief Elections Officer
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
24 Clarence Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 5P3
E-mail: elections@fcm.ca
Fax: 613-244-1500

For your name to be pre-printed on the ballot, your consent form and resolution must be received by FCM by May 17, 2017.

Staff Report



| | |
|--------------|--|
| To | City Council |
| Service Area | Corporate Services |
| Date | Monday, April 24, 2017 |
| Subject | Annual Report of the Integrity Commissioner |

Recommendation

1. That the report of the Integrity Commissioner dated April 24, 2017, be received.

Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

To provide a summary of the activities carried out by the Integrity Commissioner during 2016.

Key Findings

N/A

Financial Implications

N/A

Report

Background

I was appointed Integrity Commissioner for the City of Guelph by By-law on November 28, 2011 and I served until February 29th, 2016. The City issued a Request for Proposal for Integrity Commissioner services for the period from March 1, 2017 to December 31, 2020 and I was the successful Proponent. A new contract for services was executed on March 8, 2017. I currently serve also as the Integrity Commissioner for Mississauga, Oakville, Milton, the Region of Peel, Sarnia and several other smaller municipalities in Ontario.

My duties in Guelph as Integrity Commissioner include the following:

1. To provide advice to individual members of Council, Council as a whole, members of City staff and the public on interpretation of the Code;
2. To conduct inquiries into whether a member has contravened any applicable provision of the Code; and

3. To attempt to settle any complaints between a complainant and member.

General

My activity during the year included advising by telephone with confirmation in writing, six members of Council on confidential matters and preparing and presenting my 2015 annual report to Council. I also coordinated with the Clerk's Department in reviewing in detail the Council Code of Conduct with the intention of recommending changes to Council in 2017. This review was prompted by the introduction by the Ontario Government of Bill 68 – Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act, 2016 (summarized later in this report) which will require changes to all codes of conduct in the Province. The finalization of the Bill has been delayed with it only receiving second reading recently and we have decided to delay the report to Council until the changes to codes required by the Bill, are clearer.

Complaints

I received only one formal complaint in 2016, and prepared a preliminary report to Council on the complaint. The complaint was anonymous and was against 5 Councillors in relation to their decision to walk out of a closed session of Council and thereby deny quorum. The complainant alleged that leaving the meeting was an abdication of their responsibility as Councillors and secondly that discussing this action with the press was a disclosure of confidential information, both contrary to the Code. After conducting an investigation, I dismissed the complaint on the basis that leaving a meeting to deny quorum is a political tactic used to serve their constituents as they saw fit. Also, the disclosure of the denial of quorum was made by the Clerk in answer to a question at the next meeting of Council.

Municipal Integrity Commissioners of Ontario

During the year, I participated in meetings of the Integrity Commissioners of Ontario (MICO) where all of the Commissioners in Ontario discuss items of mutual interest. Several meetings of this group were held with MMAH Staff and AMO commenting on Bill 68. Staff permitted me to host one of these meetings at Guelph City Hall on October 20, 2016. Thanks to the City for supporting this group and also to the Mayor who opened the meeting with greetings from the City.

Bill 68

The current version of Bill 68 is before the Standing Committee on Social Policy of the Ontario Legislature and contains the following provisions relating to Integrity Commissioners:

1. All municipalities in Ontario will be required to have a Code of Conduct and access to an Integrity Commissioner.
2. The duties of the Integrity Commissioner have been made mandatory and expanded to include the application of the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* and conducting investigations on the Integrity Commissioner's own initiative;

3. The Integrity Commissioner may apply to a judge at the cost of the municipality, to seek determination of complaints received under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*.
4. The Minister can create minimum standards for Codes of Conduct.
5. The respondent member of Council will be permitted to participate in a council meeting considering suspension of his or her salary but will not be permitted to vote.

Financial Implications

N/A

Consultations

Consultation occurred with the Clerk's Department on required changes to the Council Code of Conduct.

Attachments

None

Report Author

Robert J. Swayze
Integrity Commissioner



Approved By

Robert J. Swayze
Integrity Commissioner
519-942-0070
robert.swayze@sympatico.ca

Correspondence Received Regarding:

2018 Municipal Election: Methods of Voting

March 31, 2017

Mayor Guthrie & Members of City Council
City of Guelph
Carden Street, Guelph, ON
BY EMAIL

Dear Mayor Guthrie & City Councils

I wish to express deep concern regarding voting electronically in Guelph. The Committee on Electoral Reform studied recently this with expert input and reported that "the secrecy and integrity of an online ballot cannot be guaranteed."

You will all recall, the still unresolved 'robo call' scandal in the 2011 federal election in which a number of serious and illegal practices were put in place in order to influence the outcome of the election. These included:

- Recording, uploading and launching of a fake Elections Canada message to send Conservative "nonsupporters" to the wrong polling station. An unexplained feature of the Conservative CIMS database allowed users to export phone numbers through a "constituent report" without leaving a record of their activity.
- Use of a proxy server to conceal the identity of the computers uploading lists to Racknine and launching the robocall message.
- Use of a burner phone to conceal identity
- Use of cash-loaded Visa gift cards to conceal identity
- Use of false, temporary e-mail addresses.
- Destruction of evidence – including wiping, dismantling and recycling of every computer used in the campaign and disassembly and distribution of pieces of the burner cellphone so it could not be traced.
- Use of fake names and addresses.

I would urge city council to consider this matter with utmost diligence to uphold the public trust.

We must have in place a system that will ensure it cannot be tampered with and can be verified post election, if necessary.

Sincerely,

Richard Chaloner, Maple St. Guelph

* * *

I'm in support of online voting.
Thanks
Jared Ferrall

* * *

Hi James,

Many residents of Guelph are very concerned that you're not supporting a staff recommendation to improve accessibility to voting.

<https://mayorguthrie.com/2017/04/03/accessible-online-voting-in-peril-despite-wishes-of-guelph-citizens/>

There's a responsibility to make elections as accessible as possible and online voting helps accomplish this.

I look forward to reading your official statement regarding this issue, so we can better understand your point of view.

Best,

-Eric Unger

* * *

Mayor Cam Guthrie and City Councilors

I would like to take a few moments of your time to give you my opinion regarding the elimination of accessible online voting.

Back in 2014 when I first heard of online voting I was relieved, to say the least. For me it allowed me the opportunity to cast my vote when I thought I wouldn't be able to, due to a severe back injury and subsequent surgery. I was unable to stand up straight, never mind trying to make it to my polling station.

I am sure there are other Guelph citizens who have physical or mental disabilities that make going out to the polling station difficult, if not impossible.

In my opinion, eliminating the accessible online voting will be a very big step backwards for many people who have a hard time getting out to the polls.

Please vote to keep the accessible online voting.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Shawna Cartwright

* * *

Dear Clerks,

I would like to register my concern about the possible lack of Internet Voting in 2018.

At tonight's Council meeting, it seemed that all of the historic facts supported Internet Voting, but only speculations were brought forward to oppose it.

May I remind Council that, based on the tweets of Adam Donaldson, there were many more statements to indicate that Internet Voting in 2014 was a success and that the risks have been anticipated and addressed.

-----Statements in Support of Internet Voting - as tweeted by Adam Donaldson

Internet voting: "opens up a new world" to people with disabilities says O'Brien.
O'Brien: No risk to this upcoming elxn, from admin standpoint '14 was successful
Internet/paperless purely puts us in better place for ranked.
There were no known issues from internet voting in 2014. The admin, and security all went well.

97 municipalities used internet voting in 2014, #'s will go up in 2018.
O'Brien says the cost of internet is 75 cents per voter, looked at phone in 2014 but hasn't revisited since internet so successful.
O'Brien says separate mailings (voter & mail fraud), 2-step process, can detect irregularities (more than 1 vote from same IP)
O'Brien points out that internet voting makes the elxn more accessible. Has a responsibility to make elxn as accessible as possible.

It seems to me that Council tonight has voted based on fear not on facts.

I am hoping that the facts will win out in time for Election 2018.

Sincerely,

Bob Moore

* * *

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Members of Guelph City Council:

At yesterday's Committee of the Whole, I greatly appreciated the concerns expressed by many Councillors to meet the needs of senior voters and citizens with disabilities.

I wish to provide the following reassurances, as outlined in the Municipal Election Act, that the suspension of internet voting does not change the requirement of the City to meet the needs of these electors through other avenues.

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/96m32#BK20>

I have cut and pasted the relevant sections at the end of this email.

As the clerk mentioned at the meeting, he has a statutory obligation under the MEA to provide voting options for electors with disabilities.

Moreover the MEA includes a requirement for polling stations to be situated in any institution with more than 20 beds and any retirement home with more than 50 beds. In addition, election officials are empowered both to attend a disabled elector within their room at a retirement home or institution, or to visit their private residence in order to allow them to vote.

There is no question that internet voting is convenient, however, the experience of the 2014 election has demonstrated that there are unacceptable security cracks in the processes of the current internet voting system. Electoral fraud is not an abstract issue in our community. Operatives in the Guelph Conservative campaign office in the 2011 Federal Election used false names, fake emails, proxy servers, cash-loaded credit cards and burner cell phones to attempt to cover their tracks. That crime has never been solved.

Most recently, unidentified individuals attempted to rig the Conservative leadership campaign by fraudulently registering ineligible voters. The Conservative Party was unable to establish who was behind this.

<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2017/03/17/tory-leadership-candidate-maxime-bernier-hits-back-after-kevin-oleary-camp-raises-fraud-allegations.html>

There is no question that internet voting is convenient, however, there is currently a conflict between the integrity and sanctity of our elections and the convenience and efficiency of voting and counting ballots via internet voting. In this clash of values, it is the integrity of our electoral system which needs to take priority.

Sincerely,
Susan Watson

Electors and candidates with disabilities

12.1 (1) A clerk who is responsible for conducting an election shall have regard to the needs of electors and candidates with disabilities. 2009, c. 33, Sched. 21, s. 8 (8).

Plan re barriers

(2) The clerk shall prepare a plan regarding the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities and shall make the plan available to the public before voting day in a regular election. 2016, c. 15, s. 11.

Report

(3) Within 90 days after voting day in a regular election, the clerk shall prepare a report about the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities and shall make the report available to the public. 2016, c. 15, s. 11.

Number and location of voting places

45. (1) The clerk shall establish the number and location of voting places for an election as he or she considers most convenient for the electors. 1996, c. 32, Sched., s. 45 (1).

Voting places in institutions, retirement homes

(7) On voting day, a voting place shall be provided on the premises of the following:

1. An institution for the reception, treatment or vocational training of members or former members of the Canadian Forces.
2. An institution in which, on September 1, 20 or more beds are occupied by persons who are disabled, chronically ill or infirm.
3. A retirement home in which, on September 1, 50 or more beds are occupied. 1996, c. 32, Sched., s. 45 (7); 2016, c. 15, s. 34 (2, 3).

Attendance on resident

(8) The deputy returning officer for a voting place described in subsection (7) may attend on an elector who is a resident of the institution or retirement home, to allow him or her to vote. 1996, c. 32, Sched., s. 45 (8).

Attendance on electors with disabilities

(9) To allow an elector with a disability to vote, a deputy returning officer shall attend on the elector anywhere within the area designated as the voting place. 2001, c. 32, s. 30 (3).

Other persons

(10) The other persons described in subsection 47 (1) are entitled to accompany a deputy returning officer when he or she attends on an elector under subsection (8) or (9). 1996, c. 32, Sched., s. 45 (10).

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Members of Council:

I believe that this article will be helpful in the current discussion around internet voting:

<https://municipalworld.com/feature-stories/page.php?postid=40>

Sincerely,
Susan Watson

* * *

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Members of Council:

The fact that many individuals engage in on-line banking has been put forward as an argument in favour of on-line voting.

You might be interested in the client identification requirements for financial institutions outlined by the Federal Government under FINTRAC: The Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada. I draw your attention to Section 4:

<http://www.fintrac-canafe.gc.ca/publications/guide/guide6/6G-eng.asp#s4>

By law, financial institutions have to follow very strict regulations to document and track the identity of individuals engaged in financial transactions. From what I can ascertain, internet voting, as carried out in Guelph in 2014, would not meet the client identification requirements mandated by FINTRAC.

4. Client Identity

4.1 When and how do you have to ascertain client identity?

As a financial entity, you have client identification obligations. You have to take the following measures to ascertain the identity of individuals or to confirm the existence of entities (entities meaning: corporations, trusts, partnerships, funds, and unincorporated associations or organizations), subject to the general exceptions in subsection 4.2.

If you cannot ascertain the identity of an individual or confirm the existence of an entity when you open an account according to the identification requirements, you cannot open the account. This means that no transaction other than an initial deposit can be carried out unless you are able to ascertain the identity of the individual or entity as explained throughout section 4. As well, if you suspect that the transaction is related to a money laundering or terrorist financing offence, you must file a suspicious transaction report, as explained in Guideline 3: Submitting Suspicious Transaction Reports to FINTRAC.

Sincerely,
Susan Watson

* * *

I would like to reiterate Mayor Guthrie's thoughts below. In a modern world we need online voting to engage youth and as many citizens as possible. I love Guelph because of the progressive nature, so why are we trying to move backward? Because of the marginal chance something untoward could happen? It seems dirty

politics are in place where councillors know voting demographics will change with the removal of online voting. Do the right thing and keep online voting.

"For a city that touts how progressive we are, that embraces technology to modernize our services and our Open Government ideals, that supports every effort to be more accessible and make things easier for our citizens. Eliminating the option of online voting is a step backwards.

The communication I've received over the past few hours on this decision is overwhelmingly against what the committee is currently recommending."

Terry Robins

* * *

To whom it my concern,

After reading the mayors post this morning, I am very concerned that 7 councillors decided to vote against online voting. This is an excellent option for voting that is accessible and inclusive. I used this for my own voting during the last election and was very happy with the process, and had planned on using it again.

I am extremely disappointed that councillors voted this way and I am very hopeful that my concerns will be heard and that online voting will continue.

From a concerned and frustrated resident,

Jenn Kentner

* * *

Hello,

My email is short and to the point. I feel to ensure that Guelph moves forward as a city and great place to live, it has to be inclusive of all people. Allowing all citizens the right to vote in a fair and secure manner is necessary and only allows us to have all individuals cast their vote.

To not allow this is not only regressive but it also reminds all individuals that you do not care about all citizens in Guelph. And if that is the case, Why are you in office? As a citizen in Ward 6, it is strange to see Karl has gone this route and Mark is looking progressively. Not on the same page.

Thanks for listening,

Ray Stultz

* * *

I would like to register my support for the city to keep the option of online voting. I am a resident of ward 6.

Thank you,

Leah Scott

* * *

Voting against on-line voting for the citizens of Guelph would be a step backwards. Think please of the future before you place your vote.

Thank you.

Todd Billings

* * *

Please be advised I am in support of online voting and in absolute disagreement with Ward 1 Councillor Bell, Ward 2 Councillor Gordon, Ward 3 Councillors Hofland and Allt, Ward 4 Councillor Salisbury, Ward 5 Councillor Leanne Piper and Ward 6 Councillor Wettstein.

Kevin Cahill CFP, CLU
President and Founder

* * *

Good day

To those on council who want to end on-line voting:

Keep the on-line voting. For some citizens, it's the only way they can cast their vote. Do they not count?

Put the welfare of the people before your own personal agenda.

Thank you
Tina Bonesso

* * *

Dear Guelph Council,

I write today in support of keeping online voting as an option for the citizens of Guelph.

Our last municipal election had the highest voter turnout recorded for Guelph, which clearly shows its need and that the system works.

Elections are about representing the will of the electorate, the people of Guelph. If the use of the online tool enables more voters to vote, why would any public representative interested in serving the community wish to prevent that?

I believe that once a method is instated, unless found to have verified flaws or misrepresentation, should remain. To remove a successful ballot casting tool should be left to the electorate, or an independent oversight committee.

As a previous user of the successful online tool, I ask for Guelph to keep it going. It is a cost effective method.

Sincerely,

Thomas Mooney
Guelph Resident

* * *

It would be disrespectful to the citizens of this great city to take away something we've asked for. For those with disabilities, small children, hectic work and life schedules, online access is a sophisticated way to allow our voices to be heard.

Please do not take away this right because you feel your own personal votes will be higher based on the older demographic that votes for you by checking off a box with a pencil. That's shameful and disgraceful of your purpose in office.

Thank you,
Stephanie Scapinello

* * *

I am writing to speak up about Councillors voting to end online voting in Guelph.

I voted online in the last election, and from what I understand, so did over 12,000 other people. Yet 7 Councillors recently voted to end online voting in the next election. That is inexplicable to me. It's 2017, it's the 21st century. Eventually most people will be completing their voting this way. Online voting is the voting of the future. I do not agree that online voting should be stopped, and I am angry that 7 Councillors voted this way, which is "backwards".

Keep online voting in Guelph. In fact, work to IMPROVE the online voting process, to make it even more efficient and easy to use.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
Laura Roy

* * *

Good Morning,

It has come to our attention that 7 councilors (Bell, Gordon, Hofland, Alt, Salsbury, Piper and Wettstein), have voted to abolish online voting for the 2018 election. If this isn't a step backwards, we don't know what is. Our culture is rapidly changing and online is becoming the new norm in our society. If council is looking for better voter turnout, wouldn't they want to keep online voting in place? Those with disabilities or who simply cannot get to a polling station will have to forfeit a vote all because of 7 councilors? In 2014, 33% of the vote was from online voting. Do they really want to silence 33% of the votes, 33% of their very own residents? If you do anything, please listen to the constituents of your city, the people who want a voice and have finally had a voice under the leadership of Mayor Cam Guthrie.

We want online voting to stay!

Thank you,

Aaron and Janice Douma

* * *

Good Morning,

I am reading with interest the dilemma facing the option for online voting. I used the online method during the last election and was really pleased with the security and ease of voting. As life gets busier and time is more precious, this in my humble opinion, is a natural step to encourage and allow constituents to vote.

I personally was not surveyed, however had I been, I would have voted to make this a permanent part of our voting process.

With best regards,

Bob Speaker

* * *

Hello;

I am emailing today to express my disappointment with the recent decision by council to end online voting. I believe that this only serves to deny access to some of our citizens, who might otherwise not make it to the polls to cast their ballot in person. We have taken a step forward in the last election to minimize barriers to voting. Voting among younger Canadians should only increase if given easier access, and a method/system that they prefer. In my personal opinion, this is a not so well concealed form of voter suppression. I would ask council to reconsider their decision.

Below is a piece published in the Huffington Post in May of 2016

Respectfully
Nick Porcellato

From the Huffington Post – May 31, 2016

The vast majority of Canadians want changes made to the voting system, especially the ability to vote online, according to a new poll.

Out of 1,000 people across Canada who were asked about electoral reform, 70 per cent were in favour of online voting, and 56 per cent supported a new electoral system, according to the survey released Monday by NRG Research and Peak Communicators.

It also found that online voting was the most popular reform supported across all age groups.

Nick Porcellato

* * *

We believe it is the right of the citizens of Guelph to vote online in the election of 2018. This right should be given to the citizens of Guelph and not taken away by council members. Let's progress!

Steve and Marlene Truscott

* * *

To the city council,

When someone does not want change to a system it usually means that they will be personally disadvantaged by the change. I am not sure what the rationale is in wanting to keep a system that dates from the 1800s. I would be 100% in favour of the online system of voting. To do otherwise would be backwards. Any councillor who does not want this should also get rid of their email and cellphone. They would need to go back to Alexander Graham Bell to be technologically current with a decision not to have online voting

Victor McQuade

* * *

I agree with Dan Gibson, Councillor Ward 1, that we as citizens of Guelph should be allowed to continue to cast our votes online in our municipal election. I may not personally cast my vote that way (we will see what happens that day) but for many people it is the only way they can due to whatever reasons.... Accessibility, time, hours of voting, etc.

Thank You

Lianne Keais

* * *

To whom it may concern,

I was informed that there may be no more online voting for city elections. This is not only a step back, but is extremely ableist for people who are physically or psychologically unable to leave their homes for whatever reason (e.g. People with agoraphobia). Additionally, if you want to increase voter turnout, going online is the way you're going to do that.

Respectfully,

Rachel Schenk

* * *

To whom it may concern,

You need to keep online voting as an option for the 2017 election. It is ridiculous 7 councillors would vote against an option that only increases voter turnout and gives people a potential venue to vote they may not otherwise have possible. It appears very selfish on the part of these 7 individuals. Where is their transparent defending this decision?

Mayor Guthrie has been vocal, open minded and transparent on this issue. As a 24 year old born and raised in Guelph, we are supposed to be a progressive city. These councillors need to actually take action and fix this rather than being all talk.

Signed a Lifelong Guelph citizen,

Alex Barr

* * *

Good afternoon Councillor,

My name is Cantrys Rondeau, and I a resident and homeowner in Ward 6. I am e-mailing you today to urge you to reconsider your stance on online voting in municipal elections.

Encouraging engagement in our community is so incredibly important, and online voting is a method to allow a greater number of our community members to be able have impact and voice. Removing this method of voting in my opinion is highly suppressive and not in line with the principles of fairness and accessibility of government.

If you truly represent the wishes of Ward 6 residents, I hope you will value and reflect these opinions on April 24th.

Thank you,

Cantrys Rondeau

* * *

Please keep the online voting system.

It is very convenient and essential in today's society.

Sincerely,

Dan Tourangeau

* * *

Taking away accessible options for #Guelph citizens to vote for whomever they want is voter suppression and an attack on our democracy

Keep my options alive!!!

I used this method as a single mom with a full time job this was so easy and convient! Made voting a simple task and not a chore.!

Do not scIENCE my voice as a citizen!

Lindsay Smith

* * *

I would be very disappointed if council moved away from Internet voting. My feedback.

Jeff and Jen Cummings

* * *

Hello!

I would like for Guelph to KEEP online voting for future elections.

I voted online last election and it was super easy and convenient. I felt the voting process was safe and secure.

Online voting is the way of the future for sure and it makes it completely accessible for those that are not able to get to a polling station for whatever reason - parents with young children, busy parents, students, elderly, disabled, commuters, travellers (work or pleasure), shift workers, millennials, and busy people in general - some people may not vote if it seems inconvenient or a hassle.

Online voting was very safe, secure and convenient.

Let's make it easy for more people to vote!

I appreciate you passing on my thoughts to council for vote on April 24.

Many thanks,
Krystal Nicholson

* * *

Good afternoon,

I am writing to express my complete and utter dismay that council voted to increase barriers to citizens wishing to exercise their right to vote in the 2018 election. I have voted in every single federal and provincial election since 2000 but the 2014 election was the first municipal election I voted in and I voted because I could vote online.

With over 1/4 of votes in 2014 being cast online and with no evidence of voter fraud, how can council (specifically, 7 councilors) possibly justify removing something that improves access to exercising the right to vote?

It is completely unacceptable for individuals who were elected by citizens to then turn around and make it more difficult for those same citizens to vote in the future. This is the exact definition of voter suppression - discouraging people from voting. How can these 7 councillors justify their positions? If there are legitimate concerns with the online voting system, the answer isn't to shut it down, it is to put the time, effort and work into it to make it function at a level we consider acceptable.

I can tell you with 100% certainty right now that regardless of their position on any other issue, no matter how important that issue is to me, I will never vote for anyone who has acted in a way that prevents or discourages someone they are supposed to represent from participating in the democratic process. Mr Wettstein, in case it isn't clear, I'm referencing you here. You've lost my vote and my confidence.

Thank you,
Colleen Morrow

* * *

To whom it may concern,

I used on line voting for the 2014 election cycle. I found it secure and easy to do.

I really feel it should continue to be an option for Guelph citizens to vote on line in further municipal elections.

Tania Archbold

* * *

Good afternoon.

I am writing to show my support in keeping the online voting an option for citizens of Guelph.

There are very few things in our ever changing world that do not use technology to improve its functions. Everything from life saving defibrillators to baby monitors. We trust such advancements to save lives of those suffering heart attacks and to help us keep an eye on our babies as they sleep. Of course there is always room to improve further, but you have to start somewhere right? Well I believe the same concept relates to our citizens casting their ballots. With so many families struggling to find a balance between work and family, why should we add more stress on them. Or consider the person who relies on transit to get to the location determined by the city, including travel it can take some people 40 mins one way to get to the destination. Including return time and waiting in a line to vote it could take up to two hours just to cast their ballot. Not to mention people with physical or mental disabilities who some days just cannot find the energy to move.

It is these people I think of when online voting was an option.

Today's youth do everything online, and they are reaching the voting age, they are also one of the lowest turnouts in our elections so why not tap into that and allow them to just simply vote with a few taps of a thumb while in the comfort of their homes or with friends. It will help to open discussions about politics to our youth, remove all barriers for those with disabilities and help that single parent spend much needed time with their families.

I hope council takes such instances into account when making their final vote. Because their vote can help us all vote with little or no stress.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion in this matter.

Lynnette Churchill

* * *

Hi Cam and fellow counsellors,

I would like to keep the online Voting option. We live in a city of people who don't just work Monday-Friday. Shift work, transportation, ability to vote isn't always an easy thing. Online Voting provides all citizens three ability to cast their vote fairly and quickly and in my assumption at a much lower cost for the city.

Counsel is supposed to be the voice of the city and their ward - not their sole opinion.

Let's keep online Voting in 2018 and execute the will of many not the will of few.

Thanks,

Bryanne Aubrey

* * *

I am opposed to the decision to make online voting available for the next election.

I am a disabled, almost senior (61) woman; I find some days I can't even get out. Other days I can blaze a trail for 3-4 hrs on an exceptional day I can hike 15k up a mountainside! I have other health issues as well but this is actually debilitating. I want the choice of voting early and via my personal computer OR waiting in line to vote and going back home to spend days in bed!

I am aware that councillor for my ward James Gordon voted against it rest assured he will be losing my vote!

I made the mistake of voting and Working for Farbridge years ago and will make my voice known in the area I live in as to how happy I am with our current mayor Cam Guthrie.

Marcia Barrett-Chartrand

* * *

I am writing to express my concern that the restriction of methods of voting has been voted against by 7 councillors and that the City of Guelph would be taking a step backwards by lowering accessibility, and could see a drop in voter turnout. We should in fact be moving in the opposite direction from this!

I count myself among those who have a strong preference for online voting. And the polls indicate quite clearly that the majority of voters share this same preference.

In addition, I find it quite curious that it is the usual cohort of 7 who have voted against online voting. This leads me to believe that their position is a political one, rather than a position arising from their stated security concerns.

I would welcome and appreciate a reversal of this decision.

Sincerely,
Laurie Armstrong

* * *

Hello there,

My name is Justin, a resident of Guelph and I want to make it abundantly clear that I don't want my voting rights to disappear and would like the option of internet voting.

Justin Van Daele

* * *

I strongly disagree with the current motion before council to roll back online voting.

The convenience of the new system and voter engagement last time around speaks for itself with thousands more Guelphites exercising their right to be part of the democratic process.

As a busy parent of young children with multiple jobs, the convenience this allows me and no doubt many others, far outweigh the potential "what if's". If there was a significant amount of fraud last election I believe we would figured that out by now. How many voters contacted the city and said their vote was stolen by someone? Was this more than the number of issues around fraud with the standard ballot?

Just my two cents, but I feel they echo the sentiment of many.

Ian Bier

* * *

Good afternoon,

I have recently heard city council has voted against online balloting for the municipal 2018 election. I do not agree with this action. I feel like we are taking a step backwards. It is 2017! Let's embrace technology.

Please listen to the people.
Thank you,

Beverly-Ann Woods

* * *

Greetings, how are you doing today? I am going to keep this as short as I can. Regarding online voting, I would hate to see it taken away. Having that as an option was one of the first things in a long time that made it much easier for me to vote. I've been in positions of having to work, asking to get out of work a little early to go vote and the response is typical from any where I have worked out. "Oh there is more than enough time to vote after work" Simply put that was not true. After work. I would have to travel 20-40 min to get home. Because of what I did for a living, I needed to shower and clean up, not just for my own personal hygiene, but for the sake of others too. At this point it would often be about 6 hours since lunch. So the decision of eating. or going to vote and dealing with the stress of not having had food after over 6 hours of very physical labour the choice is easy.. eat. put all this time together since getting off work and having "more than enough time to vote" you now head over to vote. the line up is so long and not moving. they close the poles in about an hour. Getting close to the door to go inside and actually vote. you get the response "Sorry everyone, the poles have closed" great. my vote doesnt count for another election.

Online voting was the first in a long time where I felt my voice counted for something. Do not take this away!

Dan McLellan

* * *

Please forward this message to those 7 councillors who are against online voting. I am totally disgusted with the decision you have made with this issue. Online voting may have some risks but enough to vote it down. Getting tired of so called politicians who put their own interest ahead of the electorate. You were voted there for a reason to represent and listen something that seems to be forgotten so quickly. Please reverse your decision or I will make sure this becomes an issue which you will regret in the future.

Eric Rapaci

* * *

Hello Cam

Please try to get this reinstated, this was the best and easiest way to vote . I used this in your last election and found it very easy and with lest hassles for voting . A

lot of my friends who had never voted came out on line and voted for the first time also.

Please find something else productive for those 7 counselors to do, other than wrecking a good thing that worked great.
Thanks for letting me rant

Joel Croft

* * *

Taking away online voting would be a huge step backwards. I believe this is an essential service that needs to be active during the 2018 election. Myself and my wife have very busy schedules and shifts along with 3 children. Getting out to the polls is a difficult task. Voting is important to us, online voting made the process easy and convenient.

We would be quite unhappy if this was removed.

Thank you and best regards,

Ryan and Kelly Gerritsen

* * *

Good Afternoon

I would like to write to show my concern regarding the vote to not have e-mail voting available in 2018.

I find this to be a step back in terms of where we as a City want to be and also in the way that the world is progressing. Our Youth do everything online in this day and age and we should be encouraging them to vote and have their say, I feel that if we have internet voting then we will see an increase in votes from our young demographic of ages 18 –35.

I respectfully ask council to revisit this based on what your constituents are requesting rather than the 7 Councillors who chose to speak for over 30% of the population who opted to vote this way in the last election, and the number that surely will grow if allowed. Please do not send us backwards, keep Guelph at the forefront of change and progression. I thank Councillor Dan Gibson for his vote in favour and urge Councillor Bob Bell to re-think his vote

Kind regards

Jane Martin

* * *

Dear Mayor Guthrie, Councillors, and staff,

Please add my name to the list of those who want to see internet voting made available to all in the 2018 election.

Everyone who uses the internet is aware of the risks , and, for the most part, continues to use it for many secure transactions such as filing their taxes and doing their banking. We also know that voter fraud takes place even with paper ballots. I worked at a polling station at the last municipal election, and there were problems with the signal at our location, making it a very difficult day. Some people who had arrived to vote, simply could not wait until we worked through the problems and left . I remember one or two who actually left and came back to exercise their right. No system is without risk.

I'm personally very surprised that any councillor voted against this, and would ask that you reconsider and take staff's advice. Denying the convenience of online voting to people who may not otherwise vote(for many reasons), chips away at our democracy.

Regards,
Marg Harbin

* * *

Councillors:

I feel that pulling the right to vote electronically is a huge step backward!! Please vote to allow online voting to happen! I hope you would remember that you were elected to see Guelph into the future, not to have it cling to the past. If online voting will give access to so many more people, I strongly believe you all should support it. I think the percentage of people who vote may go up because of the convenience of voting online as opposed to standing in line for a very long time waiting to vote with paper and pencil...which was my experience the last two times I voted!

As elected officials, I feel it is your duty to vote as your constituents would want you to. Already on social media you can see which way this would be. Please vote to allow online participation in our municipal elections!

Thank you,
Ferne Pederson

* * *

Mayor Guthrie & Respected Councillors for the City of Guelph,

I am writing you today because I have heard about the debate going on in your city on whether online voting should be allowed in the next municipal election or not, and wanted to contribute the research I have gathered about this topic. Attached to this message is a letter I have written which discusses how online voting does not live up to the promises its supporters often claim.

I applaud all the councilors who are opposed to using online voting in the next election and ask those who support using this insecure technology again, to reconsider your position. You see, I am a programmer and I can tell you without a doubt that, in the digital realm, you can do anything you want with a computer. That includes hacking or rigging an online voting system. Just because a hack isn't detected doesn't mean a hack never took place.

Some councillors are worried about voter fraud and I can attest this is a very legitimate cause for concern. When it comes to online voting there is no way to prove any vote received by the voting platform was cast by an actual person. How do we know all 12,800 online votes in the last election were cast by real people? Can any of you prove this? Can the returning office prove this? Can the online voting vendor prove this? No. A computer cannot tell the difference between a bot or a real person. So long as the right credentials are being transmitted the online voting system will accept the information. This makes it very easy for one person to cast multiple online ballots without ever being detected. Don't believe me? Think: Ticketmaster. They use all kinds of security to try and prevent bots from scooping up concert tickets, but they still get through.

A 43% voter turnout is a good thing, but what evidence is there to prove online voting is the reason for this? After all, Prime Minister Trudeau was elected with one of the highest turnouts in over 20 years (68%) and that happened with paper ballots. Can anyone prove online voting is the reason for this increase? Or will Guelph have an inexplicable drop in online voters like the Halifax Regional Municipality did going from 66,272 in 2012, to 55,788 in 2016? The simple fact is, statistics prove there is no proof online voting increases turnout.

As convenient as online voting may be, we shouldn't be sacrificing the validity of our elections for the sake of convenience. As my letter shows, online voting does NOT uphold the key principles to fair democratic elections, and as elected representatives it is your duty to evaluate the technology on the merits of how well it upholds these principles before using it. This is NOT a matter of voter suppression like some claim it to be. This is a matter of protecting the validity of our elections and protecting democracy.

I thank you in advance for taking time out of your hectic schedule to read my attached letter and keeping an open mind about online voting.

Regards,
Chris Cates

* * *

Hello clerks@guelph.ca,

Big KUDOS to Cam and Dan for standing up for progress.

The NO vote by council on the matter of online voting is the most recessive thing Guelph has done in a very long time. Scratch that. The fault here is not with the city or staff as their review efforts clearly pointed in a progressive direction of citizens accepting and asking for online voting.

The fault sits exclusively with a group of short-sighted city councillors that have been turned scared and paranoid of their own shadows by watching twenty-four hour news coverage and over-the-top television dramas.

Considering their acceptance of this massive step backwards, the "NO-group" of councillors should take the obvious next step and vote on the use of indelible ink in 2018. Take that voter fraud!

When we consider the reasons presented by the "NO-group", Guelphites should be wary that there is a gang of thugs out there bent on bringing down democracy in Guelph. Thugs organizing widespread computer hacking and voter fraud. Based on their NO votes: Bob Bell, Mike Salisbury, James Gordon, Leanne Piper, Karl Wettstein, June Hofland and Phil Allt must believe this. Just two days ago, any sensible person could have pictured this gang of evil-doers at the abandoned airfield, in their darkened hideout, snickering in anticipation of the 2018 municipal vote and the mayhem they were set to cause. Picture how unhappy they are today with this news of NO online voting. Who speaks for them and their happiness?

Considering the risk, Guelph should put together a taskforce of elected representatives and other concerned Guelphites to hunt down these anti-democracy trouble-makers and bring them to justice before they can bring the city to its knees in 2018 (or 2022 and beyond). Let it be known, that for their dedication to public safety, security and the democratic process, each and all of the above named councillors above will be automatically enlisted as distinguished members of GOAT ("Guelph Online Abuse Taskforce").

Questions.

Could online voting lead to greater voter turnout?

Could these voters be more progressive and readily adopt changes in technology?

Could the greater numbers of progressive informed voters lead to changes in council positions?

Isn't the use of paper anti-environment?

I've been a resident of Ward 1 for about 10 years. Ward 1 has had and continues to have its own unique issues (cough... Loblaw... cough). With the lack of progress over

those 10 years I was shocked that Bob was re-elected in 2014. Now his NO vote! Obviously progress is not Bob's middle name. By contrast, Dan should be given a long shiny red cape for all his Ward 1 efforts since 2014. Keep up the great work.

Not to put Bob down. He's a nice enough guy. He's been to my house. But to better understand Bob's acceptance and use of technology, one only needs to look to his website <http://www.bobbell.ca/>. Oddly, 2014 seems to be the last time it was updated. The page has indicated "Site Under Construction" since well before the 2014 election. The new Hanlon overpass didn't take that long to construct. Maybe his site has been hacked. We better get the GOAT.

With this recessive NO vote, let's hope that for election year 2018, Bob and the other recessive councillors will not have to worry about taking valuable time to update their respective websites touting their achievements to voters. If however they do feel the need to soapbox, in the interest of cyber-security and the safety of democracy, they should stick with paper flyers, sandwich boards, carrier pigeons, and newspaper ads. Much more in-line with their collective vision of the future.

Thanks!

Jeremy Nicholls

* * *

Good day, I am in full support of keeping internet voting as an option for the 2018 mayoral election.

Joe Longo

* * *

Hi there. Just emailing you because I am concerned over the potential scrapping of online voting. I think this is backwards and not the direction we as a community should be going. We should embrace technology; it is the future. Thank you for your time.

Michael Reichlmayr

* * *

Dear sir/ madam,

Respectfully requesting certain city councillors to reconsider and allow online voting as an option in Guelph. Inclusive and accessible for all.

Elke Ruthig

* * *

Please consider this email in support of online voting

Our voter turnout in municipal elections has been poor, almost historically so-- particularly with young people

These same young people are clamoring for technology. To further alienate potential voters by saying "no" to online voting is very much outside the mandate of council

We should be doing everything we can to encourage voters to vote

Instead, council is borderline attempting to surprise voters from voting

This is wrong

Neil Rocha

* * *

Hi James and Andy,

I am a constituent of your ward, on Victoria Rd N.

I am extremely disappointed in city council – particularly you, Councillor Gordon – to learn that Guelph is considering rescinding the ability to vote digitally. Despite the fact that I live in Guelph, it is nearly impossible for me to vote in-person as I work full-time in Orangeville and coach two elite soccer teams that take up most of my weeknights.

Politically speaking, I also find it regressive to make such a move, and flies in the face of the desire globally to increase voter participation. Taking away the "digital vote" dissuades handicapped people, very busy people, and for lack of a better term millennials, from voting.

The concerns voiced at council in favour of rescinding the digital vote vary between nonsensical, dramatic, and overblown. Councillor Watson suggesting that you could "register your cat" is one of the most absurd and immature things I have heard at the municipal level, in particular. If the biggest issue is MPAC and system security, then pass the motion and invest time & resources to fixing these issues prior to the election. It is entirely plausible & reasonable for this to happen. Sooner or later, all voting will be digital, and we will have to face this noise at one point or another.

I'm not sure if councilors quietly feel threatened by the digital vote or something, but that too would make little sense as it was the first digital vote that got them into office in the first place.

Please consider allowing the digital vote for 2018. If not, then ironically, I feel strongly enough about the issue that I will be taking time out of my day to go to Guelph specifically to vote in person against the politicians that ignorantly oppose this. We need MORE people involved in municipal politics & voting, not LESS.

Thanks,

Brendon Carson

* * *

Please don't take away the ability to vote online. It's an excellent option for people who: work odd hours, work out of town, have families, struggle to get out of the house, have anxiety disorders, have mobility issues, depend on public transit, etc.

The benefits are worth it!

Angela Clayson

* * *

We used this system last election. We want to use it again.
Our life is online (sadly) but it's reality.
Online banking is an everyday exercise for us. So voting online is just natural.

Let's do it again!

Thanks for reading.
Patrick Ireland

* * *

Dear Mayor Guthrie and City Councillors,

I am disappointed to hear the council is considering moving backwards, and have proposed removing online voting as an option for future elections. Voting is an expression of citizenship, and in this digital age it is unreasonable to put outdated and unnecessary restrictions on the process, when online voting has already proven successful in the past. I do not see a difference between the removal of online voting and active voter suppression.

I am a voter, and always have been. Online voting has made it significantly easier for me to vote. I work out of the city, generally 9-6, and am in a part-time masters program which has me in class 7-10 many nights. My husband spends about 1/3 of the year traveling for work, sometimes without any notice. Online voting means we can vote when it is convenient for us, in a way that makes sense for our lifestyle.

For me online voting is just a convenience. For others, such as those with a medical condition, transportation concern, etc., it is a necessity to ensure they have a voice. I have many friends in KW who were preparing to be stranded due to the recent transit strike warning; what if that happened during an election? What if my stepfather had another heart attack, and my mother could barely keep it together sleeping in a hospital chair, never mind stand in line during prescribed voting hours? What if my husband planned to vote and was called away to China for three weeks (a thing that has happened before)? How would they vote if it wasn't as easy as a few clicks?

Democracy can't run on your schedule. Continue allowing people to vote online, or the elections effectively mean nothing.

Regards,

Sarah Rodrigues

* * *

Hello,

I am very disappointed to hear the decision regarding online voting. I don't understand why we are stopping ourselves to move forward. I thought we were moving into paperless world and we had the perfect opportunity in the right direction. There are so many people who would like to vote but not able to do due to ride/work or other issues. This is such a good opportunity to get people more engaged with city matters. One side we complain people don't vote and when we have the chance to make it better... some of the Councillors go against it. I am very disappointed in my ward 6 Councillor Karl Wettstein not supporting this decision.

I respectfully ask to reconsider this decision and make the right choice. Listen to what people actually want.....

What we want is being able to vote online!

Thanks!

Dolly Kambo and Ran Kambo

* * *

Dear Clerks Office, Mayor Guthrie, and city council:

I am in absolute shock. If my email is too long to take the time to read, this is the synopsis: it is deplorable that 7 councilors have voted against online voting, and they must immediately reconsider their lack of judgement with this decision.

It is truly scary that these 7 individuals have the courage to vote against online voting. I'm sure that they don't need to be reminded that upwards of 13,000 - THIRTEEN THOUSAND - voters used online voting in 2014. Are they against increasing voter turnout? Because with this vote you might as well release an official statement reading: "Voter turnout is not important for a healthy democracy".

By casting this nay vote, these 7 councilors have now clearly admitted that they are afraid of the upcoming election. They are afraid that there is a monumental shift among constituents that there are councilors sitting in our chambers that are stuck in the old, corrupt way of running our city. Their reign is coming to an end, but what better way to keep their position than use corruption and deceit to continue their reign. Their justification for a No vote is simply fear mongering.

I want to be clear, and I truly hope these 7 councilors can read this sentence: you are not protecting the security and integrity of the upcoming election by putting online voting in the trash. Instead, you are intentionally making it more difficult to vote in the upcoming election as a last ditch effort to keep your seat at the table.

I am writing today to explicitly state that our city council must not remove online voting in 2018.

Sincerely,
Alex Boughen
A very concerned Guelphite

* * *

Dear city Clerk and Council members:

I honestly could NOT believe my eyes when I read that council voted against the ability for citizens to vote online in the 2018 election. My wife and I used the online system in 2014, it was seamless, easy to use and to minutes to complete. Hurray, I thought FINALLY Guelph is stepping into the 21st century. Apparently not?!?! Come on guys, don't be a technophobe, I strongly urge you to see the error in your ways, and ask you to reconsider! I mean even the Americans have figured out how to do this all over the US, and we are a heck of a lot more technologically advanced than those guys :-)

I mean lets take a moment, step back and think about it for a moment, if you can use your smartphone to pay for a coffee, I most certainly should be able to vote online from my PC, in the comfort of my own home. Besides, online voting actually increases voter participation, isn't that a good thing?

<https://www.guelphtoday.com/local-news/council-not-clicking-on-internet-voting-for-2018-municipal-election-579483>

PLEASE don't be a technology dinosaur, PLEASE reconsider and do the right thing and let us vote online, oh and maybe save a few trees in the process.

Dave Wilkinson

* * *

Good Afternoon,

My email is in response to an article that 7 City of Guelph councillors have voted in favor of stopping online voting.

I can't believe, that in 2017, this is the direction that a majority of City Council members want to take. Even more so, is the disappointment to see a Ward 2 representative vote in favour of this. As a Millennial, I enjoy the opportunity to go to the Advanced Poll to vote in person - this is something I have taken pride in since I was of age to vote, however this isn't always possible as a little thing called LIFE gets in the way. Career pressures mean that my work days are longer and later and life pressures mean that the extra time that I do get at home is spent focusing on my family and running a household. As responsibilities increase, free time decreases and the option to vote online allows the flexibility to vote when a spare minute presents itself all the while still allowing my voice to be heard.

I can't even imagine wanting to take this right away from anyone, a right that every citizen of the City is entitled to. Could it be that you are threatened? Threatened that the group of citizens more likely to vote online, are more likely to vote against you? As there have been no confirmed cases of fraud from the 2014 election, please, enlighten us as to why you would want to take this right away?

I challenge you to put yourself in the shoes of someone who depends on online voting. Someone who has mobility issues and can't easily reach a polling station. Someone who doesn't have their own means of transportation to get to a polling station and/or can't afford to take public transit. Regardless of the situation, how would YOU feel if you were told you could NOT vote? I would assume you wouldn't take it very lightly - as you shouldn't.

People have died for our right to vote which in turn has given us control over our destinies - which includes the ability to vote online. Welcome to 2017.

Amy MacIntyre

* * *

I was very surprised to hear the results from this motion at council. I think that some method of online voting is essential to getting higher participation in all of our elections. In today's news it is easy to find reasons not to trust it but we must find ways to make it work. I voted online last time just because of convenience. I am

retired, and a dedicated voter who feels that voting is a responsibility of being a citizen.

However many people are not physically able to get out to the polls. Many are very busy with work, commuting (especially in our community), and other family activities. Many citizens are not committing to voting as many of us (including councillors) and they need encouragement to vote. This is especially true of younger voters. Many of these citizens do everything online - shop, order food, take courses, and communicate constantly. Being able to vote from their cellphone will increase voter participation.

Yes there are challenges we need to work on improve the system and it sounds like council was nit-picking as many of these challenges as they could find in order to downplay the importance of this issue.

I hope Guelph city council can see fit to offer more convenient ways to vote. Many other jurisdictions have already moved that way. I also do not recall any issues identified from our online voting at last election. Do not throw out the "baby with the bathwater". Online voting is in its infancy, let it grow! Let democracy work!

Hugh Martin

I believe we should keep internet voting in the city. People always talk about voter turnout being low and blocking a voting method like this doesn't boost numbers at all.

Louis Marchesano

I will be a 1st time voter next year and I would like to vote online

Rishabh Naik

Hello

I want to ensure my vote, & opinion IN favour of online voting is noted by the city counsellors.

The fact that they think they have the right to take away Guelph Citizens voting rights & options is absurd. Perhaps their positions as city counsellors shld be revoked as they obviously do not have Guelph Residents interests as a priority

Thank you
Kim Andrews

It is important for a progressive city like Guelph to be an example and stand out and show that electoral reforms are important to citizens. Keep the only line voting option open for next year especially for those first time voters who otherwise won't show up at the polling stations, and stop voter suppression.

Suresh Naik

To the seven Councillors who voted against online voting:

Last election I was waiting for a heart transplant, and my heart was only working approximately 8% (ejection fraction). Because of this I found that I could barely walk 10 feet without gasping for air. Online voting was a savior for someone like me who always tries to do his civic duty by voting. I'm a proud Canadian Veteran, and I believe that every citizen should have the right to be able to vote. Now that I have had my heart transplant I have the strength to get out and vote, but why when we should have online voting are we talking about taking a step backwards? What about the voters in this fine city that physically can't get out to vote or those who find it easier and more convenient to vote online? Why should we turn our backs on these citizens of Guelph?

Because of these views I find it hard to understand why 7 Councillors would vote against allowing this to happen again. There were no irregularities last election so what is their reasoning for going backwards in these times where everything is moving towards being able to be done online?

Respectfully

Mike Willis

Hi Cam and Bob,

Cam, thank you for bringing this to the attention of Guelph residents.

Bob,

I will try and keep this short. I am disappointed in your decision to support shutting down Internet voting. Senior citizens and the disabled need this as a viable option for voting. I even voted online myself even though I am neither a senior nor disabled. You got my vote from my computer. It was convenient for me at the time and having the option was great. My wife liked having the option, but chose to vote in person. You got a vote from my wife as well, thanks to my recommendation for you. I honestly believe shutting down Internet voting is very short sighted and will

cause anger and resentment from those that could depend on it. Voting should not be a chore and it should not be difficult. Please reconsider your stance.

Note, I intentionally only emailed you, as the one councillor opposed who I believe can rationally change his mind with enough voices from your constituents.

Thank you for reading ,

Stuart Burke

* * *

Please keep online voting. I have to believe if banks are able to control Security so can the city. Voter registration issues can be fixed, nothing is perfect, but if we do not work on it, it will not improve. Please keep the convenience and with the times of online use!! If you are saying that at the time of 2018 you can not be organized or have a budget to support online registration, then fine but I would like to hear a plan then to improve these options.

Thank you

Debbie Bush

* * *

To Whom it May Concern,

Recently I became a father for the first time, an experience that changed my life forever. I have come to appreciate the vast amount of time and effort people put into their family lives everyday. As a citizen of the great city of Guelph I am very pleased with the services, and the opportunities, this city provides for my family.

The greatest opportunity we have as citizens is the right to vote. By restricting the ability to vote online we would be sending a terrible message to people. We would be telling them that their time isn't valuable and therefore neither is their voice. As we look to the south we see an administration that is trying to take voices away from their citizens. We need to be a shining example here in Guelph that it doesn't matter how, or for whom you vote, just vote.

To the council I say this: Please rethink your decision to take away online voting, now more than ever our voices must be heard.

Sincerely,

Ryan Laurie

* * *

Only Guelph election I have ever participated in was the last one - from my home office. Remove this option and I won't be voting and neither will my family and many friends.

It's 2017. Even the Feds are looking at doing this in the next election. Stay with the times and be a leader in democratic involvement!

Mathew Wilson

* * *

Dear Mayor Cam Guthrie and Guelph City Clerks,

I am writing you to voice my concern over city council's decision this week to eliminate online voting in the 2018 municipal election. This deeply troubles me. As you and many others have said, over 12,000 Guelph citizens cast their vote online in the previous election. By taking that away, the seven councillors who voted against online voting have effectively taken the voice of nearly 10% residents. I cannot possibly imagine how Bob Bell, James Gordon, Phil Allt, June Hofland, Mike Salisbury, Leanne Piper and Karl Wettstein believe that when it comes to democracy, less is more. That is simply wrong.

I read on Guelph Mercury Tribune that those seven councillors are concerned with voter fraud and the possibility of hacking. Unfortunately, voter fraud is present in elections, however it is present in both ballot boxes and online voting. Eliminating online voting does not equate to the elimination of voter fraud. As for the potential of hackers changing election results, I believe that citizens would be in favour of our governments spending more of our tax dollars in the proper security measures. After all, democratic institutions should always be in favour of democracy, no matter what the cost. People shop, bank, and communicate online, all of which has the possibility of being hacked. But the way I see it, if my bank can pay for the proper security measures to thwart hackers to protect my money, my government can do the same to protect my democratic voice.

I plead city council to change it's mind in eliminating online voting. People who are bedridden, away, or busy with family, work, or other variables in life, are losing their democratic right guaranteed by our government. Nearly 10% of Guelph voted online in 2014, and need to be able to do the same in this election.

I know if we are given this right back, as we should, I know I will cast my vote online to show my support of new technology in democracy.

Thank you for your time,

Ian Kitchener

* * *

I am the resident/owner of

and wish to keep online voting availability for elections.

Kelly Zago

* * *

Mr. Mayor & City Councillors,

Our son, who has many medical challenges, was finally able to vote for the first time during the last election thanks to online voting. Knowing he would not be excluded, as he is from so many life experiences, meant so much to him & to us. He became engaged in learning about municipal politics so that he could make what he thought was the best decision in leadership.

There are many Guelphites, as proven by the numbers availing themselves last election, who want the option of online voting.

We respectfully ask all of council to come together & do not take away the right to vote online.

Sincerely,

Donna and Steve Dodge

* * *

Keep online voting, thanks.

Mike Baker

* * *

Dear Mayor Cam and City Councillors,

I was shocked to read about the possible removal of online voting for the 2018 municipal election. I truly believe this is a big step backwards, which hinders many Guelph citizens their right to vote. Please, I ask for online voting to remain so that I have the ability to vote.

Thank you,

Kara Perez

* * *

Mr. Bell,

As one of your Ward 1 constituents. I am emailing you to inform you of my disappointment in your decision to vote against having Online voting an option again during the upcoming 2018 Municipal Elections. I would like to know how you came to the decision to vote against Online voting for 2018 without providing any evidence of voter fraud during the 2014 elections. Instead, sticking with the hypothetical route of it being a possibility.

I would like you to reconsider your vote on this matter.

Kind Regards,

Thomas Miller

* * *

Dear Mayor Cam:

I am writing to offer my opinion on the issue of not allowing the citizen's of Guelph vote online in the next election. My husband and I voted online in the last election and we truly appreciated having that option available.

I have physical disabilities which dictate if and when I move around or leave the house on any given day. We are trying to lead by example with our three teenage children and many a dinner politics is discussed and debated. We tell our children that they should never miss the opportunity to vote, and online voting makes it possible to take a few minutes on your phone, tablet, or computer to make your voice heard. I didn't have to stress about having to find my voting station, circle around for parking, or wait in lines. My husband didn't have to juggle work, quick dinner, run children to their evening activities, and then fit in voting at a physical voting location. He could vote in the car on his cell while waiting for the kids to finish up their music lessons.

The amount of people who tried out this option was a respectable number for a first time run. This number will naturally increase in future elections as word gets around how convenient and easy it is to vote online. To scrap this option is backwards thinking and would be an opportunity missed to encourage more people to vote and engage in civil politics. I truly hope the seven members of council who wish to vote against the continuation of online voting will reconsider. Please look at it from the view of those who are disabled, perhaps have transportation limitations, are busy working, or busy contending with family life to stand in line to vote. It must be cheaper to run online voting versus hiring people to oversee the vote, rent buildings, along with the environmental factor of a being paperless. I feel the above paragraph offers seven great reasons why this option of voting is of benefit, and should remain in place for future elections to come.

Much thanks:

Tom Wiltsie and Jen McDermott

* * *

Please Mr. Gordon, do the right thing and keep up with technology. Don't be so hard headed. I can guarantee you will not get my vote if it is on paper next time. I just filed my taxes via the internet. Do you still go to the post office and pick up a paper copy and fill in the blanks? Do you then go to the mail box to mail all your paper work in? Let's be honest here.

Mr. Guthrie and Mr. Vanhellemond keep up the good work and press on. You are doing the right thing. Both my husband and I voted using the internet and I will continue to use it. Thank you for all your hard work. I am glad you are here.

Sincerely,

Vera Martin

* * *

I am writing to express my support of the online voting system in the City of Guelph.

I participated in the last election using this system and was very pleased with the process.

Having the option of using the online voting system is very important in today's progressive society and includes many members of our City who may require an alternative method to paper ballots.

Please pass along my support of this system to the City Council to assist them with their upcoming vote.

Regards,

Christina Tourangeau

* * *

I wish to show my support for Internet Voting in the next municipal election.

Thank you
Andrew Wellwood

* * *

It's wrong that our city council removed the option of internet voting. I am totally for this option. We are now in an electronic society where we can shop, communicate, petition, renew licenses etc. Bring back the internet voting option .

Ron Ramsay

* * *

With the highest turnout ever for an election and you want to axe online voting? How does one come up with this decision?? I personally voted online this last round and if that wasn't an option i wouldn't have made it to a poll due to circumstances. Online voting opened the doors to people who otherwise can't leave to vote due to something beyond their control or many other things. The world is turning to online and yet your snubbing it off. Makes no friggen sense at all. What is the reasoning to this?? How can you justify it?? BAD BAD BAD DECISION!!!!

IRRITATED WARD 1 RESIDENT.

Lisa Natarelli

* * *

I would like to make my position on Online Voting part of the public record as I understand that there are 7 Guelph councilors that want to vote against it.

I'm a resident of Guelph that commutes over 1 hour to work and the only way I was able to vote in the last municipal election was due to online voting. I hope those 7 councilors reconsider their vote. From what I understand almost 13,000 people successfully and securely voted in the last election and there isn't any evidence of voter fraud. As a resident of Guelph, I hope you listen to us and keep the option to vote online.

Regards,
Laura Zver

* * *

I'm very disappointed in how this is being spun.

The councillors who expressed reservations about the security of online voting based on an inaccurate voters list are being accused of trying to attack democracy and support vote suppression. The worst part is the very politicians making these accusations know they are false. They know perfectly well their usual complaints about these councillors is that they put access and tolerance above financial considerations. Now they are arguing these seven have completely reversed their priorities and are in favour of decreased access and decreased participation. Ridiculous and childish.

The vote was against online voting and the concerns expressed were about ease of electoral manipulation. Saying they are anti democracy and pro vote suppression is dishonest.

If the voting system is secure, demonstrate that. That's how to achieve consensus on this issue.

If it isn't secure, it casts doubt on those who are so eager to have it used in this city with a history of election manipulation.

Susan Carey

This is an interview with Canada's hacking expert. It's good background material, especially his final statements.

https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/rob-magazine/why-canadas-hacker-king-is-very-afraid/article34471769/?ref=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.theglobeandmail.com&cmpid=p_m0417_robmag&service=mobile

Susan Carey

In 2014 I voted in the Guelph Municipal Elections using my computer from home. It was super easy, convenient and, as far as I could tell, secure.

The ability to vote online has brought civic engagement and democratic responsibility into the 21st Century. Any attempt to get rid of it is an attempt to shut down the democratic will of the citizens of this city by a few entrenched elites longing for the good old days.

I am incredibly displeased by the council's decision to end online voting and will be making my voice heard during the 2018 elections, where I will actively campaign against, and vote against, every councillor who shut down online voting.

Sincerely,

Nathan Drescher

Please consider internet voting as the way of the future as I feel it has been very convenient for seniors as well as people with mobility issues.

Come on people, this is not the Stone Age. For a city that thinks they are so progressive, denying internet voting is a step back in time.

Rena Akerman

* * *

Good Morning,

I understand there is thoughts and even a vote to eliminate online voting and move our progress to better voting backwards? Why would we want to turn back time and reverse any progress to improving our voting system? Online voting provides opportunity and flexibility for seniors, disabled and others to more easily access the ability to vote. Why remove this opportunity to allow these citizens an easier way to vote?

Are the liberals really that afraid that if too many people get out to vote they will be out of a job? With how they are managing our province and country there track record should speak for itself to have them booted out of office. We need a government in to treat our taxpayer dollars with respect, unlike the current governments that are too busy trying to buy urban votes as they know very few rural citizen would ever vote liberal as they are the ones being taken advantage of over and over.

Please stop the backwards movement, and allow us to continue to improve our voting system by allowing online voting. (yet another reason to kick the liberals out of power).

Thank you.

Michael Smyth

* * *

I would like to just let you all know that internet voting for the city election is a great thing. Many people today are very busy and love the option to be able to vote online instead of taking the time to go to the nearest voting station. Many seniors and people with disabilities may not have the access to get out to the station to vote so on line is much easier for them as well.

Thanks

Lisa Buck

* * *

We need on-line voting!

We need voting numbers up and the way to get the younger generation of voters on-board is to get the voting process up to date. It helps the elderly and shut-ins

to vote and they don't have to depend on someone getting them to the polls. That makes the systems available to everyone.

Please make sure that 2018 voting includes on-line options.

Bev Smyth

* * *

Hello Cam,

When it comes to Online Voting I think we can all agree that it was a success in 2014, so it frustrates me to know that there are certain members of council who do not support the use of online voting in the 2018 election.

I understand their concerns with online voting, particularly in regards to voter fraud and security; they are fair concerns and something I think we can all agree could pose an issue to our municipal democracy.

However, just because it is a potential problem, I don't believe it is a reason to flatly reject offering Online Voting in 2018, in conjunction with the current options to cast a ballot.

I would encourage council to support Online Voting in 2018 by May 1, 2017, as stipulated in the Election Act, and work diligently afterward to improve the system and address any concerns in time for the 2018 Municipal Election.

It can be done, now let's just do it.

Brandon Raco

* * *

Hi,

I am writing to indicate my whole hearted support for electronic voting in Guelph's elections. It is a very convenient, safe, and inclusive way for everyone to vote. For the elderly and those with physical or mental illness (or disabilities) it may be the only way they can participate in elections.

Thank you,

Denise Fell

* * *

I want to add that of course I would only support online/electronic voting if it was proven to be secure and efficient. If there are any concerns with security, those do need to be worked out first.

Denise Fell

* * *

To Whom it May Concern :

No consultation, no notice , no public debate . These words from Dan Gibson sting . City council - you do not have the right to make a decision to disallow online voting without public input . I am furious that these seven councillors have the audacity and ignorance to try to even pull a stunt like this . There is no proof or documentation provided to support their decision. There are many people rely on the online voting services , taking away online voting is taking away their right to vote !

I fully and wholeheartedly support Dan Gibson - council this matter needs to addressed by the voters. These seven councillors need to reevaluate their stance. Their decision stinks of deceitfulness .

Regards
Andrea Campbell Smith

* * *

I am a resident of Guelph and my wife and I voted electronically in the 2014 City election. According to the City officials, it was a great success with around 16,000 Guelph citizens casting online votes. As far as I know, there were no incidents of fraud ,or attempted fraud, and the entire voting process was trouble-free.

I believe electronic voting is the future - and it makes voting more accessible to the less mobile members of our community - and I disagree with the 7 Councillors who voted against this option, including one of my own Ward 6 Councillors, Karl Wettstein.

There is always the potential for fraud in any election and it exists even with paper-base voting. However, I believe that good IT security can reduce the risks of online voting to a level equal to that of manual ballots. I would like both voting options - online and paper - as options for the 2018 election.

I would like my feedback to be considered when this topic is discussed at future Council meetings and I encourage those dissenting Councillors to reconsider their decision.

Thank you,

Alan Jarvis

* * *

Online voting - another request to "PLEASE KEEP IT"

from

Terrie Jarvis

* * *

I too am disappointed that Councilor Bell has voted against online voting in the next election but there have been no reasons as to why being given. I agree with your statement "eliminating the option of online voting is a step backward". Being a Senior, 72 years of age, I realize that there are probably many in my category that would not care to use this new method, but i used it and found it quite convenient and easy to use.

It is my hope that we continue to embrace new ways of doing things.

Wendy Dabbs

* * *

Good Morning,

I am writing to express my displeasure for the lack of support the majority of council has shown for Online Voting to continue for the 2018 municipal election.

I work in Toronto and found it quite convenient to be able to cast my ballot online during the last election. I would be very disappointed to not have this option to ensure that my voice is heard and my vote counted.

The claims of voter fraud by the councilors who voted to remove the option of online voting are unproven. But worse, the move to remove this option is short-sighted, misguided and goes against supporting important parts of democracy; engaging youth and providing access to the process for all constituents.

Guelph is a city with vision and progressive ideas. The councilors who supported the removal of the online voting option need to remember this and that they represent all of their constituents.

Please express my concerns and my disagreement with the actions of the seven councilors who voted to remove my best option to participate in our municipal election and the inclusion of several other members of my community.

Thank you
Adam MacIntyre

* * *

PLEASE allow online voting !!!!!!! We LIVE in my house in Guelph and my husband has a house in Port Elgin and I have a vacation place near Port Elgin . Voting online would allow us to be at one of our other properties and still be able to vote in the Guelph elections . We do NOT vote in the Port Elgin elections ! Guelph is our home . Please allow Online voting !

Thanks , Sylvia Thurston

* * *

Councillors,

I live in ward 2 and am emailing to let you know that I support the staff recommendation to offer accessible, online voting. This is a no brainer since its an option offered elsewhere in the Province and frankly the technology is not all that new. The staff recommendation is reasonable.

It is more than a little frustrating to hear that there would be any question whether a paperless option would be the way to go. My husband voted online in the last election and I was planning on doing the same in 2018.

Regards,
Colleen McElwain

* * *

Hi there,

My name is Andrea and I am a mom of three who lives in the ward.

I would like online voting to remain an option for the future, and here's why:

- life is busy, and accessibility is important
- my children are going to grow up in a digital world, and their city needs to be able to keep up
- if you are worried about fraud- do something about it other than shutting the whole system down- how can you work to improve the system for the up and Coming generation? (how can I!?)
- to think that online voting isn't necessary is ridiculous and short sighted

For those who voted against online voting, please reconsider.

I did not vote online in the last election, but I may need to in the next one. You might need to in the next one. Let's move forward together.

Sincerely,

Andrea Finlay

* * *

Dear Bob,

As my Ward 1 counsellor, I am writing to you to express my opinion for the decision that is to be made regarding online voting for the 2018 Guelph city council election.

I am in favour of online voting for the upcoming election for the following reasons:

1. Accessibility: I believe that it increases accessibility for those citizens who are unable to physically get to an in person voting booth. (elderly, those with physical disabilities, citizens who are sick during election day, citizens with infants and young children to name a few).

2. Inclusivity: It could increase voter turnout for the younger demographic in our city (ages 18-25) who use the internet as their primary communication tool. Visiting an in person booth is seen as archaic and unnecessary. I believe that the election should represent Guelph citizens as a whole and this is a practical way to include this age demographic.

3. Efficiency: Guelph is seen as a progressive city on many fronts. With many municipalities moving to a digital system, I think that Guelph should also be embracing technology and moving to systems that are more efficient.

As a citizen in your ward, I would like you to hear my voice on this issue.

I have read that you voted to halt the staff recommendation to offer online voting as an option for the upcoming election.

Could you please explain to me why you voted this way?

With concern,
Dawn Humphrey

* * *

Please continue your stance against on-line voting. When I first learned of the debate I thought why discount on-line voting. After reading the Mercury article on-line, however, and after further consideration I must agree with the seven who voted against. I might be in favour if the process is made much more robust(I actually voted on-line in the last election).

My concerns include inaccuracies in the voter list, the potential for fraud (remember robocalls and recent Conservative membership fraud) and many others as enumerated in the Mercury article. There are provisions for accessibility as you are aware.

Cam - I was thoroughly confused by your first email and surprised? that you have not given a more thorough (unbiased) picture. That there is "no known fraud or misuse of the system" without stating how (and if) this has been demonstrated is misleading.

Apologies - I meant to keep this short.

Brenda Walton and Ian Walton

* * *

Please do not take this option of on line voting away. I really like it. I am aware of plenty of people who used it to vote last time . Cause they are confined to their homes. So if they can't vote online and can't leave their home due to mobility or mental health. Your really saying their vote doesn't matter. Which is not what I thought this city was about.

Thank you
Melina Finnigan

* * *

We are in favour of online voting.
It is so much more convenient for everyone.

Scott and Kimi Corney.

* * *

I was deeply disappointed with the following Councilors' decision not to support the wishes of such a large number of Guelph's citizens, when these Councilors indicated they would not support internet voting in the next Municipal Election.

Bob Bell
James Gordon
Phil Allt
June Hofland
Mike Salisbury
Leanne Piper
Karl Wettstein

A disabled member of my family would not have been able to vote in the last Municipal Election if internet voting for the advance polls had not available. This

personal experience, along with the fact that over 30% of votes cast in the last election were via the internet with no indication of problems, and coupled with the March poll showing overwhelming support for internet voting, are at the root of my disappointment in the above-named councilors' decision.

I respectfully request the above-named Councilors join with their colleagues on Council and support the wishes of the citizens of Guelph by voting in favour of internet voting for Guelph's next Municipal Election.

Sincerely,
Peter McCaskell

* * *

Folks, I'm not understanding what I'm reading and hearing on this subject.
Why would councilors want to take away the ability of residents to vote easier?
I'm hearing no voter fraud.
I'm hearing no misuse.
No security issues.
I'm hearing a large portion of the people use it.
So what's the problem?
If the system needs improving let's improve it.
If the City needs help in some way to lower cost let's get it done.
What else could there be to not want to use this as in an option to vote?

Michael Doyle

* * *

As one of the many senior residents in your ward, I would like to support online voting in the next election.
It would be beneficial to many Guelph residents as well as seniors.

Thank you.
DE Harvey

* * *

Good morning,

Please allow online voting in Guelph's next municipal election.

Thank you,
Don Pflug

* * *

Hi Bob,

I hope you will reconsider your vote against online voting. As someone who works outside of Guelph this option will allow me to stay involved and vote while not impacting my day to day work life.

Thank you,

Andrew Friend

* * *

I support internet voting!!!
Carolann Sorbara

* * *

Good morning - I am following up to Mayor Guthrie's FB post concerning the issue of on line voting. I would like to comment on how disappointing it was to learn on the local radio early this morning that some of our city councillors have decided to vote against the on line option for voting in our next election. I used this option last time we had a city election. I had been following the election and appreciated access to the candidates profiles and felt that I could make an informed choice for my vote. At the time of the election I thought how great that our city council had been so forward thinking and progressive with their decision to provide an on line vote. When I heard that this option will likely not happen for this next election, quite frankly, it didn't surprise me. City council has a real knack for moving backwards with the times rather than forwards. I really hope that the council will be able to reconsider their point of view, work out the concerns they have with security and access and offer this as an option. Guelph is a great place to live, let's keep it that way by making multiple options to vote a possibility. Come on city council you can do it!

Respectfully,
Jane Darch,

* * *

Hello,

I am a Ward 6 constituent and wish to express my disapproval of the move afoot by 7 of our councillors to eliminate the online voting option for the next municipal election.

Technology is most certainly something that needs to be embraced and used to its' fullest potential.

Of course there are risks associated with it, but with the proper protocols and protections ingrained in the system, the benefits FAR OUTWEIGH the risks.

The number of people who voted online in the past election should send a clear message to all of our elected officials that the citizens of Guelph want, and deserve, this option to encourage engagement and voter turnout.

I ask you to kindly forward my email to my councillors in Ward 6, Councillors Wettstein and McKinnon and I encourage them to LISTEN to the constituents and vote accordingly.

Respectfully,

Martha Jakowlew

* * *

Dear Guelph Council,

Under normal circumstances I would be all for improving the convenience of voting - in any election. Internet voting would seem to be a good thing. I'd certainly be happy to use it.

I've also spent a great deal of my career as a hi-tech person and am all too aware of the creativity of hackers: whether it be hacking systems, hacking the data used by those systems, or by using hacked data in ways not intended by those who provided the data.

I'm less than convinced that City of Guelph staff have sufficiently delved into Guelph's 2014 pilot use of online municipal voting. Until a thorough review of system and data vulnerability - and abuse - has been carried out, I think that it would be prudent to hold off on implementing internet voting in Guelph.

I encourage council to request that staff undertake this essential review work as soon as possible and bring back recommendations that address the issues that I raise here.

best to you all,

Doug Minett

* * *

Dear Councillor Bell,

I am disappointed that you, along with six (6) other City of Guelph Councillors voted to remove the wording "internet voting" from the following motion at the Monday, April 3 Committee of the Whole meeting:

Staff recommendation re: 2018 Municipal Election: Methods of voting

- That a by-law be adopted to support the use of vote scanners/tabulators and internet voting in the 2018 Municipal Election.
- As I watched the online coverage of the CoW meeting, read subsequent news reports and reviewed the Agenda material provided regarding this recommendation, it seemed to me that the seven members of Council opposing internet voting had the following concerns:
 - The accuracy of the Voters List as provided by MPAC
 - The security of internet voting and the potential for fraudulent use.
 - Both of these issues are red herrings and can, with some effort, be overcome for the upcoming election.

As for voter list, accuracy, Council could pressure the province to ensure that MPAC provides accurate voters lists and, as one of the delegates pointed out, doesn't allow their household to receive a voters card for someone who hasn't lived at that address for 14 years. Council could approach CRA for accurate information (which is updated yearly based on tax returns) or return to door-to-door enumeration. As for the security issue, this is a red herring put forth by those who wish to disenfranchise nearly 1/3 of Guelph voters who cast their ballots online in the 2014 election. NO ONE has provided any evidence of voter fraud either online or in person. Based on the "what if" scenarios presented around online voting, a determined voter could also obtain fake ID and cast a fraudulent ballot in person. It is true that no online system is 100 per cent secure but it hasn't stopped people from paying their property taxes online. It hasn't stopped people from registering and paying for City-run recreational programs online. It hasn't stopped Council from receiving sensitive or timely information from staff and council through e-mail. As long as staff and Council to their best to ensure security of online voting, the so-called threat of hacking and fraudulent voting will be mitigated.

As part of Cam Guthrie's campaign team during the 2014 election, I actively encouraged Guelph residents to use any of the means available – advance polls, online voting, election-day voting – to cast their ballot. We fielded a number of calls at the campaign office from people asking about the online voting process, who were referred to city staff for further information. Both during and following the election, I cannot recall one instance of even the suggestion of online voter fraud. In an era when increased voter turnout is being encouraged, the elimination of online voting is a step backwards. Even the federal Liberal Party of Canada considered online voting as part of its electoral reform package. The 2014 municipal election had the highest voter turnout in two decades, with nearly 1/3 of those voting doing so online. To eliminate online voting is to disenfranchise those voters. As one of your Ward 1 constituents, when this recommendation comes before Council at its April 24 meeting, I ask you to change your vote and support online voting in the 2018 election.

Yours sincerely
Robert White

* * *

Dear Mr. Mayor and Mr. Councillor,

I am writing to you to express my complete support for online voting for the municipal elections in 2018. I believe this was a resounding success in the last election and made voting more accessible for the electorate. I personally see absolutely no reason why this progressive initiative should be shut down. It enhances accessibility, voter turnout, and increases the quality of the democratic system in our wonderful city.

On a personal note, this system made it much easier for me to vote in the 2014 election as I commute to work. I wake up early and get home late, and was able to spend time with my family outside of work hours instead of waiting in line at a polling station. I was able to exercise my democratic right easily and was completely satisfied with the online experience to cast my ballot.

Please do your utmost to support online voting in 2018.

Sincerely,

Matthew Brunsting

* * *

Although I did not vote online last year (I took my son with me so he could see the voting process), I believe that it should stay an option for the residents of Guelph. Frankly, eliminating the option is extremely short sighted.

Do not let that group of councilors ruin it for all of Guelph.

Bob Bell,

I am a ward 1 resident, and I request that you re-consider.

Rob Brown

* * *

Please continue to keep the option available for online voting – this is a wonderful option for those who have difficulty getting to a physical poll location. It also makes it much more convenient.

As far as potential fraud – well that exists for poll voting as well.

Thanks.

Liz Lindsay

* * *

Dear City Councillors,

As a resident of Guelph that was born and raised in this great city, I always felt that we were a progressive, forward thinking and inclusive group of people. With the ever increasing move towards online everything nowadays, I find it puzzling that 7 Councillors have the power to vote down something that improved the accessibility of voting and encouraged residents to more easily participate in our democratic process. One can only look to the south to see the importance of every single person having their say on voting day. As someone who spends considerable time at home and in the hospital due to chronic health issues, I can assure you that being able to vote online saved a large amount of stress in trying to arrange suitable transportation and waiting at polling stations while ill.. and I am not alone. Seniors, those with disabilities, mental health issues and people in long term care facilities, all could benefit from being able to vote from the comfort of their own home or facility, in a place where they feel comfortable and safe. Cities around the world are turning to online voting as it encourages larger voter participation numbers, speeds up the process of tabulating the votes and is better for the environment by saving the endless amounts of paper involved in the current system. I strongly encourage you to reconsider this vote and allow those who want to vote online to have this option and opportunity to participate in making Guelph a better place to work, live and prosper.

Thank you for consideration,

Ryan Truscott

Hello Councillors Wettstein and MacKinnon,

I am a proud citizen of Guelph living in the Kortright Hills area and you are my Councillors. My family and I have called Guelph home for the last 13 years and we have voted in every municipal (and provincial and federal) election since we moved here. I wanted to add my two cents to this debate about the online voting.

I am currently a stay at home mom to two small children. Last municipal election, my kids were 2 1/2 and a new baby. As you can imagine, getting out to vote is a feat- dragging two small kids to the polling stations, waiting in line, trying to keep them from running wild or screaming while I fill out the ballot- it's a lot, but it is something that my partner and I take very seriously as citizens of this amazing country and city. When I realised that I could vote online last election, I was thrilled! It made it so much easier on our family. As I understand, there is no evidence of voter fraud from the online voting. I would ask that you both please support the online voting- it's not just for "lazy millennials"- it's for moms, and for families and it's good for democracy!

Sincerely,
Alexandra Whate

* * *

Just want to add my voice in support of online voting in the next municipal election. It's working in many other communities and there are ways of preventing voter fraud.

Thanks

Jane Londerville

* * *

Hi Mrs. Piper.

Just wanted to add my voice to the online voting issue as you represent me in Ward 5.

I have worked for federal and provincial elections in the returning office for the past 25 years. The voting system of only paper ballots is old and quickly becoming outdated and much needs to be done to improve how and when people can cast their ballot. I know this because my job is Special Ballot Coordinator for Guelph when an election is called and a lot of money is spent to access and provide voting for those who can not get to the polls for a variety of reasons. It is a service that is not provided in municipal elections and I am guessing it is due to cost as it is very expensive for the Provincial and Federal government to provide this.

I was thrilled in the previous Municipal election that the City of Guelph took the smart step to add the option of online voting and truly believe it is the way of the future. I was so proud of Guelph and their efforts to be cutting edge. Many people who are disabled, have anxiety issues, transportation cost, illness or just can not arrange their work schedule around advanced polls and going to the polls on election day now had another option. Look at the number of people who voted on-line!
Amazing.

Please re-consider your position about preventing on-line voting in the next election. It is safe, simple and accessible for all who can use the internet.

Thanks for all you do but please re-consider your position on this issue.

Respectfully,

Jane Aubrey

* * *

Have always voted making an appearance. This year because of my age, I want to vote on-line for the convenience. Please do not cancel this way of voting.

Helen Daniecki

* * *

I too would like to add my voice to the Citizens of Guelph who would like online voting to continue. To end it based on voter fraud is at best disingenous and at worst fear mongering. I too am asking with respect, that the 7 Councillors change their mind on this issue.

George Allan

* * *

To whom it may concern;

I along with my husband are totally for online voting! Getting my husband out to vote for a municipal election is extremely difficult. With the online system I was able to get him involved as well as making it easier for myself to vote.

I feel this would also make it easier for the disabled and elderly to vote as well. To the counsellors that voted against this process, I urge you to change your vote ! I believe the number of voters will increase tremendously.

Terri Brown

* * *

Totally behind this option! Get out the vote by keeping online voting alive!!

Treena Adhikari

* * *

Good Evening,

We are writing you as concerned Ward 1 citizens who voted in the 2014 civic election through the online voting system. The online voting system is a godsend to those who find it difficult for many reasons to go out and vote in person. Having this available to citizens enabled many people to take part and have their voice in choosing who will be their voice on council. Taking online voting away is a huge step backwards and limits many people in this regard. This is not how democracy works, we should be doing everything in our power to make voting as easy and accessible as possible, rather than hindering that process.

We proudly voted in 2014 via online voting and enjoyed the process. We urge you as voting citizens of this great community to keep the online voting in the future and not hinder our democracy by limiting our options. Taking this option away from the thousands who used it and the many who will use it in the future is a great disservice.

Respectfully,

Sean and Shainna Poulin

* * *

Based on the news this week, I'm not sure all of Guelph's City Councillors have their clocks set correctly. For the record, it's the 21st Century. We do things online in the 21st Century (using the Internet of all things!). That needs to include voting.

Sincerely,
Sean Alexander

* * *

Good evening,

I just wanted to send a quick email in regards to the online voting.

My husband and myself both voted online in the last municipal election and were greatly disappointed to hear that it was going to be discontinued.

Between working long hours and raising a child with a disability even a simple, quick trip to the store can be quite daunting at times.

Having the choice of being able to vote at home took a lot of pressure off of us.

Thank you for your time and I really hope you consider changing your decision on the matter.

Sincerely,

Melissa Bortolon

* * *

I respectfully ask that you reconsider council's decision to go against city staff recommendations to not only continue but expand online voting for 2018. It appears council has been swayed by FUD - fear, uncertainty and doubt and succumbed to "techno-panic" rather than refer to empirical evidence and fact.

Security concerns will ALWAYS be a reality with online systems but they can and should be mitigated given the benefits to citizens who cannot otherwise attend a physical voting location whether it be concerns for access, mobility or simply busy schedules.

When Internet voting was in place for 2014, our city said:

"Technical security measures such as using firewalls, user authentication practices, failover connectivity and server redundancy will all be in place. Robust process-related controls will also be established along with a comprehensive testing program designed to audit every stage of deployment to ensure the integrity of the system is upheld."

As an IT professional with 35 years of experience, I am not convinced that four years later, concerns for security would eclipse the need for progress. While sophistication of hackers continues to increase, so does the capability of technologies to prevent, detect and thwart it.

It would be a seriously regressive step to remove online voting capabilities for our city.

Regards,
Peter Revie

I am sending my husband's submission and by doing so, wholeheartedly agree with his ask. Please don't back pedal our Royal City's progress.

I respectfully ask that you reconsider council's decision to go against city staff recommendations to not only continue but expand online voting for 2018. It appears council has been swayed by FUD - fear, uncertainty and doubt and succumbed to "techno-panic" rather than refer to empirical evidence and fact. Security concerns will ALWAYS be a reality with online systems but they can and should be mitigated given the benefits to citizens who cannot otherwise attend a physical voting location whether it be concerns for access, mobility or simply busy schedules.

When Internet voting was in place for 2014, our city said:

"Technical security measures such as using firewalls, user authentication practices, failover connectivity and server redundancy will all be in place. Robust process-related controls will also be established along with a comprehensive testing program designed to audit every stage of deployment to ensure the integrity of the system is upheld."

As an IT professional with 35 years of experience, I am not convinced that four years later, concerns for security would eclipse the need for progress. While sophistication of hackers continues to increase, so does the capability of technologies to prevent, detect and thwart it.

It would be a seriously regressive step to remove online voting capabilities for our city.

Onwards and upwards!

Nancy F. Revie,

* * *

Hello

I would like to express my opinion that online voting is valuable and is the preferred method of voting for me.

Thank you,
Sabrina Circelli

* * *

while the election rolls remain so prone to error, and the technology is still 1.0, best to see the voter in person and say hello to one's neighbours while shaping the future of the city. I know the turn out is usually quite low for municipal elections, so every vote counts at least triple...with under 30% turn out - so want it to be the right one.

thank you.
darina griffin

* * *

In a world of technology, I can't believe our municipality wants to reverse progress and innovation on voting methods. We are far from the first to implement these accessible methods of conducting democracy. Systems of this kind have been implemented successfully in various municipalities.

The reservations indicated about online voting are hardly significant reasons to prevent its use. Voter registration/accuracy has no relation or consequence to online voting. Nor is security and voter fraud a worthy excuse - the process is also susceptible through traditional voting practices. Online voting systems also have implemented methods to prevent these kinds of voting issues - the excuse is a cop-out.

Quite frankly, the method of voting changes nothing except for the process of implementation.

I wish to see councilors modify their perspectives and continue with the practice of accessible online voting.

Continue to show that Guelph is an innovative and progressive municipality through our actions.

Sincerely,
Tony Meekes

* * *

I live in Ward One and I am in favour of internet voting. I think taking this away is a step in the wrong direction. We need to encourage young voter turnout and not offering them an electronic option would be a mistake.

Regards,
Kelly Alves

* * *

Dear Mayor Guthrie,

After serious reflection and a lot of research on the issue I have very reluctantly decided that I am opposed to internet voting in Guelph, at least for now. Like most people, I assumed that internet voting would improve turnout, engage constituencies who might otherwise not participate, reduce costs, and improve accessibility. However the evidence does not support any of these outcomes. What internet voting does is make it possible for people like me (already engaged, already planning to vote, technologically savvy) to vote more easily. It also opens up the potential for fraud. The argument that it hasn't happened yet is problematic - both because most fraudsters don't get caught, and because the "it hasn't happened yet" argument doesn't mean it can't or won't happen in the future. I reached out to two of the councillors you tried to name and shame, and they gave me thoughtful, nuanced answers, and pointed me toward evidence that I am convinced by. I would really like to vote from the convenience of my home or office, but not unless there is evidence to show that it achieves the goals its advocates claim it does, and not if it opens the door to potential fraud, however narrowly.

Regards,

Ze'ev Gedalof

* * *

Hello Cam,

I'm writing in regards that online voting is now cancelled. Just wanted to let the government know that it's pretty upsetting. And I don't really understand why the councilors don't want to use modern technologies as it's so easy and convenient for everyone. I find online voting super easy and secured.

I hope you will be able to bring it back and totally support you with it.

With kind regards,

Katerina Drescher

* * *

As a resident of Guelph I am shocked and astonished that you would choose to abolish online voting. How do we put our support behind getting this decision reversed? Is there a way to attend a hearing, or express our concerns?

Ryan Fitzsimmons

* * *

Dear City Clerks Office, Your Worship the Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing to express my surprise at the polarization that certain members of council have taken with regards to online voting.

I have written columns debating the points of online voting, which reference evidence, existing studies, and the experience of other municipalities. You can view one of my published op-ed pieces here: <https://www.guelphmercury.com/opinion-story/4919780-voter-accessibility-in-guelph-can-it-bring-up-our-voter-turnout-/>

Imagine my surprise when I am then labelled as someone who wants to suppress voting. That accusation paints me and those who wish to engage in thoughtful debate as criminals as that would be contrary to the Canada Elections Act. I respectfully ask those who insist on casting a wide, unfounded net to retract these hurtful statements. Debate is a cornerstone of democracy, and straw man arguments do not help foster debate.

I have attached for your reference a position paper which I had written a few years ago. I believe it articulates many key points that should be taken under consideration when it comes to voting. Further, I would urge you to take the time to read the evidence behind this.

I am happy to discuss this matter with anybody who so chooses.

Respectfully yours,

-David Estill

I'm a fan of voting. I have voted in every municipal, provincial and federal election since I've been eligible. This puts me squarely in the minority, unfortunately, since only 33% of eligible Guelph voters chose to exercise their right in the last municipal election. I think more people should vote. That said, I'm against internet voting in the City of Guelph.

At the end of the day, internet voting doesn't increase voter turnout, and it costs a lot.

There's lots of information about this on the City's website. One of the main sources that informs the City Clerk's report as well as council's decision is a poll done by Oracle. I was excited when I heard that the city had used polling to help choose its course—I'm a huge fan of evidence-based actions. So, imagine my shock when the poll showed that of the respondents, 87% had voted in the last municipal election.

Hmm. 87% of those polled said they had voted, while only 33% of those eligible voted. Oracle says this isn't a problem because "While there is a discrepancy between the survey results and actual turnout this is not an uncommon phenomenon. Despite the fact that voting is not compulsory, voters do not want to appear to be free riders within the system." To me, this casts a shadow over the entire poll. Either Oracle has vastly oversampled those who vote, or the people answering are willing to give false answers to the pollsters. Either way, it makes the data useless. Now when we see that 56% of people totally agree with the idea of internet voting, we have to remember- these are people who already vote. Or they're people who lie about their voting patterns. Regardless of which, it's clear that the data is flawed.

So, unfortunately, the Oracle polling data isn't terribly reliable.

Next we should look out into the world. Guelph won't be pioneering this issue; there are many who have led the way before us. An elections Ontario report has done a great job at showing a situational assessment of who is using internet and network voting (which often means voting by phone). 44 out of 444 Ontario municipalities use some form of network voting. The thing is that it didn't appreciably increase voter turnout. While uptake of internet voting is increasing, it's supplanting traditional forms of voting instead of increasing the number of voters by bringing in new voters.

The practical implementation issues get highlighted when we see a server crash in Stratford. Huntsville is returning to paper ballots from internet and telephone voting. Do you remember when the city rolled out its new website? I like the new site, it's a clean design. It did take them five or six days to post the swim schedule I was looking for. That was inconvenient. They worked hard to get the website up and running, and the best intentions are good, but even with posting their own website there were technical issues, and that's much simpler than harvesting and keeping track of votes. We need to make sure that votes don't get misplaced. This leads us to talk about security. Surely if we can do banking online securely, we can vote online securely, right?

There's one major difference. Banks have an incentive to get us to use internet banking- it saves them costs in branches if we do things ourselves. For those reduced costs, banks are willing to take on a degree of risk. Paypal or Visa will refund your account if someone goes on an unauthorized spending rampage. They're willing to replace a couple hundred bucks here and there for overall cost savings. Again, this doesn't translate well into voting. Our voting system needs to be airtight without a margin of error. We can replace money, but we can't replace someone's right to vote.

Another potential problem comes about with the one vote per voter issue. The one place that has this nailed is Estonia. Little known fact: Estonia is one of the world leaders in internet voting. They recognized early that identifying people for internet voting is tricky, so they issued a single government ID card to every one of the age of majority. Right now, if I were to ask you for government issued ID, you might hand me a passport, a driver's license, a health card, or something else. There are people who have all of these forms of ID, and people who have none. Without having one consistent system, it makes it very hard to validate that people are who they say they are. You can mail out PIN numbers, but unfortunately now you're adding in another security risk in Canada Post. Lots of mail sits in a mailbox for a while.

Then, you've got what I call the bored 13 year old security risk. While I sincerely hope that nobody would purposefully hack into an online system to alter voting results, there's the x factor that someone could do it just for fun. What happens if someone can get into the electronic database? Now we're in big trouble. It's tough to tell the zeros and ones that are supposed to be there from the zeros and ones that someone decides to add in. That said, there is the chance here for some funny things to happen. Maybe someone could add the Begging Bear onto the ballot. He'd be a shoe-in. I think he's in Ward 5.

Lastly, on the practical side, we have the cost. The city report pegs the cost between \$50,000 and \$90,000. Let's call it \$50,000 and assume that the city has a good procurement process. Council has issued a directive to city staff to find half a million dollars a year in efficiency savings. Wouldn't saving \$50,000 every four years in opting not to go with a voting system that won't change voter turnout appreciably be a good step? That's \$12,500 a year in savings, leaving only \$487,500 to go. You're welcome, audit department.

The Elections Ontario report notes that projected costs often go higher once security measures are adequately accounted for, and that it cannot possibly become a cost-saving method for those who implement it unless they decide to fully replace paper ballots. As a supplemental voting method, it's going to be costly. Also, should Elections Ontario or Elections Canada decide to put together their own internet voting system, chances are good the municipalities would be able to use the provincial or federal infrastructure.

So in summation: Let's not spend money on a system that isn't proven to work, that we don't have the infrastructure for, and that we don't actually have data showing support for from the citizenry. Practically, this is a mess waiting to happen.

Dave Estill

* * *

To whom it may concern,

This is a total shame that this is even an issue. It's 2017!!! Guelph needs to stay with the times and not boycott the internet for voting purposes. As a small business owner in town, a family man, a home owner, a tax payer and a 41 year old man who uses online services, I was so happy to be able to vote online for once. Until this past election in Guelph I have NEVER voted for anything due to inconvenience really. It would be a terrible shame to see our city, which is finally under the best guidance we've had yet, to step back from our forward motion and go back to the old school ways that nobody goes out to. I see no reason based on the votes for all parties, that this should be considered a possible fraud able system, it's ridiculous really.

Allow online voting to continue, don't let Guelph fall farther behind. It's time for Guelph to compare with all the other cities it's size. Now that we have the proper leadership let's embrace it. Let the people have voting the way they choose and that make sense for the generations to come.

Scott McGregor

* * *

I would like to express my serious concern about the online voting decision that recently had come to light. As a mother of one (soon to be 2) this is by far the easiest most efficient way for me to vote. I can't help but feel like this is councils way of preventing younger demographics (more likely to vote online) from exercising there democratic right. There is 0 proof of any fraud. Please let the councillors who made this decision provide some facts that would give us a good reason to go down this road. Speculation and assumptions are not facts

Katherine Hitch

* * *

Hi there,

I support the idea of internet voting even though I did not go that route myself last election. I work in the technology field and have gone from skeptic to believer in internet security. I'm going to assume these councilors who chose to do away with internet voting don't have much experience in internet security due to their online profiles they have made available. If internet security is done correctly it is very

difficult for someone to manipulate the voting count or what have you. I highly doubt the city of Guelph mayoral election would even begin to interest a seasoned hacker who may possibly be able to manipulate the vote. If internet security has come far enough that someone can renew their firearms license online, then I can't see why mayoral voting in Guelph can't happen online.

Yours truly,
Nick Scott

* * *

Hello,

I am writing to express my disappointment in the movement to disallow online voting in the 2018 election. This is a regressive decision that will impact thousands of voters, including myself. Please, reconsider.

Sincerely,
Erin Branson
Guelph resident

* * *

I can't understand why some of you councillors would vote to get rid of online voting. It is our duty as citizens to vote. Yet by passing this vote you take away the right of so many voters, who for whatever reason may have a hard time getting to the polling stations, to cast their ballot. You should be ashamed of yourselves. Overturn the vote so everyone can have a chance to vote. Maybe that's how some of you were elected or maybe that's how you think you will lose your seat in the next election. You were all elected to serve the people of Guelph. Do what's right and give those who cannot reach the polling stations their chance to vote.

Thank You
Terry Wheeler

* * *

Hello Councillor Salisbury,

That quote from the Guelph Today article stood out to me regarding the current issue of online voting.

I have written to several councillors who created this issue of online voting and have currently removed this method of voting for [2018](#).

It seems to me that councillors who have decided on behalf of voters are the ones demonstrating "a profound lack of leadership".

1. A poll of citizens was taken in which a large majority of people were in favour of online voting.
2. 1/3 of people who voted in the last election used online voting.
3. Based on what I can read out there, upwards of 3/4 of Ontario municipalities are offering online voting in the upcoming municipal elections.

Mayor Guthrie seems to be acting in the interests of the citizen's and is supported both by poll results and voter action in the previous election. You, and other councillors in disagreement seem to be the ones voting contrary to the people you are supposed to be representing.

Sincerely,

Dave Collins

* * *

I respectfully ask the councillors to reconsider their vote concerning internet voting. It worked well, it was a great option for people, and I don't think you should get rid of it without good reason.

Stacey Anne

* * *

Good Morning!

I just wanted to send a quick message to let you know that i will be quite disappointed if we lose the ability to vote online in the next election. I voted online this past election and found it easy and convenient. It also felt like we as a city were ahead of the game with regards to technology. Now if this is taken away we would be moving in the wrong direction. How embarrassing for our city to move in a direction away from progress!

Please allow us as Guelph citizens to vote conveniently from our own homes once again next election.

Jamie Strickland

* * *

This method of allowing people who are disabled, unable to get to polls and incapacitated MUST be allowed to continue.

The actions of certain Councillors is reprehensible.

Brooks Hipgrave

* * *

I am asking that the online voting not be taken away for the next election. The online voting allows us easy access and allows people with limited movement to vote from the comfort of their home.

I would also like to mention that voting at a poll is inconvenient, because the people at these polls are generally slow and create long lines and a severe back log.

LET US VOTE ON LINE.

Enzo Fonte

* * *

I totally support online voting. Do not take away accessible online voting

Rebecca Kingshott

* * *

Keep online voting for 2018

Ron Peters

* * *

Hello,

I firmly believe that online voting is a very important feature to keep in our municipal elections:

- It's accessible
- It's on the right side of democracy/history
- It encourages younger people to vote
- It encourages more people to vote
- And, importantly, issues around security and registration are surmountable

It is regressive policy to remove online voting. Instead, we should be acting progressively to make it sound, stable and viable. We should be investing in online voting systems, not burying our heads in the sand.

Let us not be frightened by the challenges online voting presents: the clear and vast benefits to our democracy are worth the investment. Let us be admired as one of the most progressive, forward thinking cities in Canada. Let us embrace technology instead of delaying the inevitable.

Thanks,
Tom Redman

* * *

KEEP ON LINE VOTING!

Dan Freeman

* * *

I am writing to support the majority of City Counsellors who voted against online voting on the basis that they do not believe sufficient security is in place to prevent fraud or related concern. I have full trust in the debate and conclusions of these Councillors that we cannot have this assurance. I believe strongly in making voting accessible for everyone, however only provided we have absolute confidence in the integrity of the voting mechanism.

Regards,
Doug MacMillan

* * *

Good Morning,

I am emailing in support of keeping online voting for the 2018 election. It keeps voting accessible and easy for more residents to be involved. I, personally, have voted online and very much appreciated the ease with which I was able to participate in the direction of our city. I am just 26 and this is the best way for me and my peers to be involved in important community matters. This will very quickly be the way of the future and eliminating it will keep Guelph miles behind the progress of other cities.

Thanks for your consideration.
Wendy Banks

* * *

I want computer voting!

Wally Harris

* * *

For the 2018 election – I am voting that we leave accessible voting.
Online voting to stay!

Alison Davidson

* * *

I would like to show my support for online voting and for Mayor Guthrie.

Please KEEP the option open. it helps everyone.

Thank you.

Mark Paralovos

* * *

To the council,

Please keep online voting, if the stats show we got the most votes with the online option it doesn't make sense to scrap it. We urge people to vote and to voice their opinion. I feel by removing this option of online voting hurts the community.

Thank you for your time,
Erin Stuart

* * *

This is just a quick email from a citizen of Guelph to express that displeasure of not being able to have online voting in the next election We want more young people to vote but we are not in the past Please reconsider that and we install on Voting voting thank you.

Michael Stultz

* * *

To Whom it May Concern,

I just wanted to voice my opinion when it comes to keeping the online voting option. I think it is a great option when it comes to reaching the younger generation and makes it easier for our senior citizens to vote without having to leave their homes.

Thanks,

Kristen Chiasson

* * *

To whom it may concern,
As a citizen of Guelph I think it is important to keep accessible on line voting.

Regards,
Steve Van Dam

* * *

I want it to be known I am in favour of On line voting. I used it last election and found it very convenient.

Guelph is suppose to be a very progressive city but we have six or seven people on council who are making very difficult for this city to go forward.

They talk about voter fraud but probably use the internet to buy personal items.

Staff has looked careful at the process and gave it a thumbs up. Why is it that this group gets to hijack what most of the citizens of Guelph desire?
Would it be because of internet voting, that their preferred candidate didn't get elected .

Voter turn out is very low for municipal elections, and young people barely vote at all; so it makes sense, since they are internet savvy, to accommodate this portion of the population.

Surely, if we can have chickens in our backyard, we can vote on line.

John Scott

* * *

Good afternoon all,

The decision to decline online voting for the 2018 election is very short sighted and in my opinion some council members approved because of their own agenda.
Please reverse this decision and return the system.

-Chris Dawso

* * *

To whom it may concern,

I don't normally speak up, but I have to on this.

Please keep online voting in the future.

It is absolutely mind-boggling that some councillors representing Guelph - (such a progressive City) would want to take us out of the digital era. Makes no sense. I voted online last election and may not have otherwise.

Thank you,
Patrick Stiles

* * *

Hi I am emailing about the ability to vote online. I am another from Guelph who appreciate the ability to vote online.

I believe it would be wise to adapt to era that we are in. As much as we believe things are better a certain way, that does not mean we should not change our ways and adapt. It will only show our inability to improve. We are in an age where communication via e-mail is normal and letters are becoming very obsolete because of the little time it takes to receive an e-mail. So why must we spend more time, money on venues, and materials just for an X.

That money could be spent on security and better software towards future voting that is to inevitability to come.

Adapt.
Concerned citizen of Guelph.
Duy Nguyen

* * *

Hello Mr. Mayor, Councillors and the Clerks' Department:

I replied to the Mayor's blog with the message below. My reply may have got lost in the inundation of positive replies for the Mayor's stand that 7 councillors somehow betrayed Guelph voters by not supporting a continuation and expansion of Online voting. I expected to be able to find my comments on the Mayor's blog, but I couldn't nor could I find any disagreement with the Mayor's position. I find it hard to believe that only Susan Watson and I are the only Guelphites to have found disagreement with the Mayor's belief that Online voting was the solution to Canadian complacency to voting. The Mayor's Blog challenges Guelphites to write to the Councillors and the Clerks' office so that's what I am doing.

I watched the April 3 Council Meeting of the Whole on Rogers Cable and I think anyone with questions as to why the councillors voted as they did, should watch it. It's clear that none of the councillors had any objection to an online vote that couldn't be corrupted or manipulated. None of our councillors are in favour of restricting anyone's access to voting and anyone who says differently is distorting the truth for their political advantage. All the significant debate and the reservations of the councillors centered on the security of the online system of

voting and the inadequacy of the voters list (full of errors and open to fraudulent access to the vote) supplied by MPAC, an agency of the Provincial government. There have been and continue to be, significant breakdowns and hacks of computer data systems. They've occurred in banking, commerce, between governments and during elections. Guelph was the centre for the robo calling scandal that still hasn't been fully resolved in a previous election. As much as Guelphites may want the convenience (what's not to want) of online voting, if we're not there yet with security, it's irresponsible to demand it. The Chief Clerk in his presentation, couldn't give the councillors the assurances they were asking for with online voting. There were conservative as well as progressive councillors voting against online voting because it's the responsible thing to do until you can guarantee the next election can't be corrupted.

Does the Mayor really believe the 7 councillors who voted not to pursue Online voting did so because they wish to limit access to the vote by Guelphites? That's what his blog says. Is the convenience of Online Voting worth the risk of having democracy over-turned. Does the Mayor really believe that voting systems that don't even have the security of Banking Systems can't be hacked? That's what the Blog says. Does the Mayor believe the MPAC voters lists supply accurate data? What happened to garbage in, garbage out? Why are cautions about how our electoral system could be manipulated and damaged are ignored and even ridiculed on the blog? Elections are a fundamental foundation of Canadian democracy and shouldn't be trifled with for political gain.

Voting is a right and a privilege of being a Canadian and I find it hard to believe that Canadians would risk the outcome of the exercise for the sake of convenience. Easier is better as long as there are no attendant risks.

If the councillors at the meeting could have been assured of an accurate voting list, and a secure online voting system that couldn't be hacked, they would have approved the Online voting.

Ted Pritchard

* * *

No internet voting...come on people its 2017!!! Is it because you think more people will vote if done on line.and you won't get elected..because you are probably right

Pat Matisz

* * *

I would like to follow up on my email of earlier today to quantify my statement that I am someone who works in the computer industry:

- I have a Major in Computer Science from the University of Toronto
- I was one of the first 100 employees at Open Text Corporation, and went on to become a Product Manager of Records Management

- Since 2002 I have been running a web company called Northern Village
- In 2013 I cofounded a software company that runs a Software as a Service offering called YikeSite to allow people to easily update their websites.

I also find it interesting that Waterloo, the computer software capital of Canada has also rejected electronic voting because of the problems associated with it, as reported in the following article:

<http://www.therecord.com/news-story/6979179-waterloo-rejects-online-voting-ranked-ballot/>

Arni Mikelsons

* * *

Hello June and Phil,

I would like to thank you very much for voting against internet voting, and encourage you to continue that stance in the vote on council to not have electronic voting, however, to have electronic ballot-counting machines.

The main issue I have is a combination of the inaccuracy of the MPAC list, and that there are no ID requirements for electronic voting. This means that it is possible to have voters cards sent to a residence, and with the knowledge of someone's birth day, they can vote for them.

Some people have pointed to the fact that there is no evidence of fraud, but no investigation has happened, and would be financially challenging to have such an audit. However, it is known that people in Guelph have tried to steal election boxes, and there were robocalls directing people to go to the wrong polling station, so we know that there is the desire to commit voter fraud in Guelph.

At the very least, electronic voting should be suspended until these things are resolved.

Further, as someone who works in the computer industry, I do not believe that it is possible for an electronic voting process to be up to the standards required for a free and fair election, because there is no audit trail. With other electronic transactions, such as banking or shopping, the transactions are connected with the person who make the transaction. If something goes wrong, one can call up the institution and have any error that is made corrected. With paper voting, if it is suspected that something was not done correctly, including errors with the electronic ballot-counting machines, the paper ballots can be recounted by hand to provide a level of trust that the election was conducted fairly.

On the other hand, with electronic voting there are no such assurances. There would need to be verification that the people clicking the button actually is the voter, which cannot be at the level of someone providing identification at a polling

booth. And there is no double checking that the computer counted the votes correctly. Even without malicious intent, computers sometimes do funny things, or go down. Once that happens, those votes are lost.

I do hope that you can have a fruitful discussion of this very important topic, and make sure that the safety of the voting process is kept as strong as possible.

Arni Mikelsons

* * *

Cameron Shelley

Dear Sir or Madam:

I write to urge you **not to adopt e-voting** for Guelph at this time. Although the technology has its advantages, convenience being the most obvious, its drawbacks make it unsuitable for adoption.

The pros and cons of e-voting have been tested and weighed by many governments, including several in Canada. Rather than repeat all the points addressed in these reports, let me simply draw your attention to them and their recommendations. I urge you to read them over in more detail before making any final decisions.

I will append a few additional observations beneath.

On March 1, 2017, the *New Brunswick Commission on Electoral Reform* submitted its report to the New Brunswick legislature. The Commission studied the matter of e-voting and made the following recommendation: "The government not proceed with electronic voting

at this time, due to concerns related to security, confidentiality and privacy."

URL: <http://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/eco-bce/Consultations/PDF/PathwayToAnInclusiveDemocracy.pdf>

In December 1, 2016, the *House of Commons Committee on Electoral Reform* studied the matter of e-voting and made the following recommendation to the Parliament of Canada: "The Committee recommends that online voting not be implemented at this time."

URL: <http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Mode=1&Parl=42&Ses=1&DocId=8655791&Language=E&File=267>

On February 1, 2014, The *Independent Panel on Internet Voting* issued its report to the Government of British Columbia. Its main recommendation was: "Do not implement universal Internet voting for either local government or provincial government elections at this time."

URL: <http://www.internetvotingpanel.ca/docs/recommendations-report.pdf>

On June 1, 2013, the Chief Electoral Officer of Ontario issued his *Alternative Voting Technologies Report* to the Ontario Government. It studied the matter of electronic voting, including e-voting, which it called "network voting," and made the following recommendation: "At this point, we do not have a viable method of network voting that meets our criteria and protects the integrity of the electoral process."

URL: <http://www.elections.on.ca/content/dam/NGW/sitecontent/2014/reports/Alternative%20Voting%20Technologies%20Report%20%282012%29.pdf>

On May 6, 2013, the Chief Electoral Officer of Nova Scotia issued his *Elections Nova Scotia: Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer April 1, 2012 – March 31, 2013*.

In the matter of Internet voting, the Officer made the following recommendation: "And, while most would agree that online voting is consistent with our increasingly online society, the basic questions of how to maintain the security, validity, and integrity of our elections has not yet, in our opinion, been satisfactorily answered."

URL: https://electionsnovascotia.ca/sites/default/files/ENS%20AR%20Web%202012_13.pdf

Since 2006, the Province of Quebec has maintained a moratorium on electronic voting of all kinds in light of previous experience with the technology.

URL: <http://www.electionsquebec.qc.ca/english/municipal/media/electronic-voting.php>

I will include a quotation from the BC Report cited above as it summarizes the trade-offs involved in e-voting most succinctly:

The panel concludes that Internet voting has the potential to provide some benefits for administering local government elections and provincial elections in British Columbia and that the most significant potential benefit of Internet voting is increased accessibility and convenience for B.C. voters. Other presumed benefits, such as increased turnout and lower cost are not typically realized.

The panel also concludes that Internet voting has some significant inherent risks. It is important to understand that although the Internet is used for an increasing number of interactions (such as banking, shopping, dating, planning trips, and the like) with their own risks, voting over the Internet has a set of unique challenges that inevitably introduce a number of additional risks. The extent to which each of these risks can be mitigated or eliminated also depends on the details of the way in which an Internet voting model is implemented. Security at the voter's device, reduced transparency and auditability compared to traditional voting methods, and cost were seen by the panel to be the most significant challenges to implementing Internet voting for either local government or provincial government elections.

These reports are highly relevant to the issue of e-voting in Guelph. Unequivocally, they suggest that the adoption of e-voting in Guelph would be premature.

In the event that the City of Guelph wants to press ahead in spite of the evidence and arguments presented in these reports, I recommend a deliberate and

systematic approach. The Council should specify the general principles that any electoral voting system, including e-voting, should display. Several of the reports cited above provide excellent examples. Then, it should assess any e-voting system on offer in light of those principles to ensure that it satisfies them adequately and in a way that is better overall than the existing, paper ballot system.

A cautious approach will be disappointing in some respects. I concede the significance of the putative advantages of e-voting make it attractive. On the matter of increased voter turnout, note that the reports cited above dispute that this result actually occurs. Experience with e-voting in other countries reaches similar conclusions. Voters in countries like ours do not lack for opportunities to vote. The BC Report cited above makes the following observation:

While there have been some Internet voting elections where voter turnout has increased, when other factors such as the apparent closeness of the race and interest in particular contests (e.g., a mayoral election without an incumbent) are taken into consideration, research suggests that Internet voting does not generally cause non-voters to vote. Instead, Internet voting is mostly used as a tool of convenience for individuals who have already decided to vote.

The existing, paper voting system provides many opportunities to vote. Decreases in voter turnout are likely due mainly to other causes than lack of opportunity. This information also bears on the claim that non-adoption of e-voting amounts to voter suppression. I take *voter suppression* to mean an attempt to decrease voter turnout through manipulation of the election system. Since adoption of e-voting does not reliably increase voter turnout, as the reports above conclude, then non-adoption of e-voting cannot be considered an act of voter suppression.

On the matter of accessibility, there is no doubt that e-voting would simplify the voting process for some citizens who are physically unable to travel to a polling station. Perhaps a scheme to permit those citizens to use e-voting should be considered. However, existing alternatives such as vote-by-mail should be considered as well. The Town of Minto, Township of Guelph/Eramosa, the Town of Erin, and the Township of Centre Wellington did so successfully in their municipal elections of 2014. Although a vote-by-mail scheme raises some of the same concerns as e-voting, it is simple, low-cost, and its pros and cons well understood. In light of these reports and considerations, I hope you will agree that it is not time to adopt e-voting in Guelph.

Yours truly,

Cameron Shelley

* * *

Please be advised that I am very much in favour of keeping "On Line Voting" alive in the city of Guelph. We desperately need to get the young people interested and

get them voting and without "On Line Voting" this just isn't going to happen. It works and this has been proven, if you don't think it is safe fix it, don't dismiss it!

Claudette Young

* * *

Mayor and Council,
City of Guelph

Subject: Internet Voting in 2018

Dear Mayor and Council,

Like my fellow citizens I have been reading with interest news stories about the pros and cons of using Internet Voting in our next municipal election.

I voted using the Internet in the 2014 election, and am not averse to the idea of electronic voting.

But, for the election in 2018 I would be reluctant to endorse the City using Internet voting again for two reasons.

#1 The MPAC List. In 2014 I had just participated as a worker in the returning office in the provincial election when I became involved in the fall municipal election. In comparison to the provincial voter's list the source list used for the municipal election, the MPAC list, was shamefully bad. It included long-deceased residents, residents who had moved many election cycles previously, long gone adult children of current residents, and other assorted enumeration-related mistakes I am sure you are aware of.

I will need a very high degree of assurance that serious accuracy problems with the source voters list, including the very insecure, very loose online registration process it uses, have been resolved before saying "yes" to Internet voting in 2018. So far I have heard or read nothing to give me this reassurance. Just because something bad didn't happen with it the last time doesn't mean it won't this time – especially now that it has been so widely publicized as being faulty.

#2 The voting process itself. The second concern I have is with the voting process itself, and the fact that at no time during that process is a voter asked to provide proof of identification, as they are in every other kind of voting process. Government issued identification must be presented in any other kind of voting process, in any other kind of election. More than one person told me that if they had been less scrupulous people they could have voted a number of times because they possessed the registration cards of their long gone adult children. Along with the pin # on the voter card all they would need would be a birth-date – which I assume a parent would be able to provide – to proceed through the voting steps.

This is unacceptable. The voter identification validation must be substantially improved for me to feel there is the highest degree of integrity in the election result. There are better ways to tie the person to their vote than the process that was used last time.

If we are to have faith in the outcome, we need to have faith in the process. Please ensure our top priorities are integrity and competency, not easy access or convenience.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Linda Kearns,

* * *

I am completely confused on the fact that 7 councillors can't understand why online voting is so vital to our community. Look at how many people voted because of the convince alone. People who are disabled, parents with kids and busy. Those who are away on holidays. And the list goes on. The pros for on line voting out way the cons.

Please Please don't take away on line voting.

Dale and Freda Murray

* * *

Hello,

Please tell the councillors that I want to keep accessible online voting for the 2018 election.

Far more convenient!

Thank you, Anita Van Rootselaar

* * *

Hello,

Please tell the councillors that we want to keep accessible online voting for the 2018 election.

Far more convenient!

Thank you,
Pete & Anita Van Rootselaar

* * *

Mayor Guthrie does NOT have my support in regards to online voting.
Some safety measures need to be put into place before I could support this.
Some of us haven't forgotten the robocall scandal.
Safety of citizens private information comes first.

Julie Bowman

* * *

I think it's crucial to adapt to technologies- especially those that can potentially encourage and promote citizenry and democratic participation. It's also important to invest in technologies to protect and improve upon the technology to make it safer for participation.

Françoise Py-MacBeth

* * *

Hello Ms Piper, Ms Downer, (my Ward 5 representatives) and Clerk (to submit these as written comments),

I am writing to express my opinion on the issue of internet voting that came up in the last Committee of the Whole meeting. After reading the minutes, I wanted to express my thoughts so that you can take them into consideration for the April 24th meeting.

For the Guelph municipal elections, I am strongly in favour of internet voting. As my councilors, I implore you to uphold my right to vote in this way.

As the director for a US-based software company overseeing all of Canada from my Guelph office, I find myself travelling quite a bit. In fact, this was the case during the last election. Thankfully internet voting was available to me since I was in town for neither the advance polls nor election day itself. While my votes did not end up being with the majority, I was very happy to have participated in the democratic process. If internet voting had not been available to me and my choices were not elected, then I would have felt extremely disappointed, and left wondering, "What if I had been in town to vote? Would that have made the difference?". Again, I'm thankful that was not the case.

I understand there are some concerns around internet voting, especially when it comes to security. Because of my job, I encounter this quite a bit. As an example, many people are wary of "cloud security". And yet I find it interesting that every day, those same people will make on-line purchases with their credit cards, use a free email account like Gmail, or perform online banking tasks. In addition to realizing the inconsistency between their personal and corporate actions, what ends up helping them come around are two points:

1) They do their due diligence to assess the risk. Of course, there is always a risk - no system is 100% as evidenced by the fact that voting cards were showing up for my wife 15 years after she moved from an apartment here in Guelph. So the questions that need to be answered are, "What is the risk?" and "Do we have evidence for this risk?" and "What has been done to mitigate the risk?"

2) They learn that a significant number of people can be negatively affected by NOT having an internet-based approach, and that the pros of productivity and access outweigh the cons of unlikely security threats. Many of these people requesting better accessibility are in the 18-30 age range and hold very different views on internet and security than those of us in the 40+ group.

Guelph has successfully provided internet voting in the past. It sounds like there is no evidence of vote tampering because none has been reported. Surely if there were concerns about the security around internet voting in 2014, the unsuccessful candidates throughout the City would have banded together to gather anecdotal evidence and request a full audit by the CRO. However that did not happen, probably because no-one heard of any significant issues to investigate. The time for hand-wringing about internet voting was in the fall of 2014 - identifying it now as risky is a red herring.

As an aside, the delegations raising the robocall issue of 2011 as rationale for abandoning internet voting seem unrelated. Yes, that was a terrible incident having to do with an election, but did not have anything to do with voter ID. In addition, these concerns are not taking into account the fact that internet security is improved daily.

All that being said, there is no reason that we cannot mandate those in charge of the internet voting process to include some additional measures. If ID security is the main issue, request that. If multiple authentication steps are desired, request that. If your issue is with MCAP, address that. With the election 18 months away, there is enough time to make some adjustments and offer internet voting again. If it's not quite ready, make it ready for 2018

If you do not allow it, please let me know what your response to me will be should I be unable to vote through traditional means during the next election.

Sincerely,
David Rekker

* * *

Hello Current Mayor,

I'm not in favor of online voting at this time or in the foreseeable future. It isn't something that can be scrutinized well enough for our community.

I find your leadership lacking.

Bree Woods

* * *

Dear Mayor Guthrie,

You have asked for my thoughts on online voting, so that is why I am emailing you.

I am rather disappointed by your turning online voting into a political campaign based on emotion, rather than a healthy democratic discussion. Our democracy is here for good reasons, and one of these reasons is to debate these difficult issues. In the case of online voting, there are obviously really great pros and cons to the issues. Please leave the politics out of it, and allow for the facts which experts are showing altering opinions on in this issue, to make the decision.

Sincerely,
Sam Dent

* * *

Mr. O'Brien,

I am more than a little concerned about the possible change in course for the 2018 municipal election and moving away from online voting. As you know, municipal elections traditionally have the lowest voter turnout of any election in Canada. Why on earth would you make it more difficult to vote. I work in downtown Toronto and live in the south end of Guelph. My days are jammed packed with work and family obligations. Nonetheless, I do not take my obligation to vote lightly - I feel it is my duty to fulfill this obligation as a sign of thanks to those who have fought for the freedom. Technology just so happens to make fulfilling the obligation easier. I used online voting in the last municipal election and have praised the experience with many folks that voted in other municipalities the traditional way.

I also find the potential change in course incongruent with the stated direction of the Innovation Guelph effort. Either the city is or is not investing in technology to make the lives of its citizens easier and solve problems. Online voting is one solution to the lack of voter engagement - aka solving a problem.

To my ward councillors, to garner my vote, online, at the next municipal election I expect you to operate in facts and make informed decisions. Banks have figured out how to secure my identity online. Guelph also appeared to have solved that

issue in 2014 for voting - move on. There are much more pressing issues to address in the city.

By way of full disclosure, I work for the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. Councillor Downer is an AMO Board member and is working on a Digital Government Task Force I asked the AMO Board to establish. Guelph has been a shining example to other municipalities of the digital progress it has made. While ultimately the decision of how to vote in October 2018 rightly rests with Guelph City Council for transparency purposes I want to be clear I have a personal and professional interest in this subject.

Judy Dezell