



PO Box 1749  
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## Item No. 10.1.9

Committee of the Whole  
May 13, 2008  
Halifax Regional Council  
May 27, 2008

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dan English".

Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "G. Kaiser".

Geri Kaiser, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer - Corporate Services  
and Strategy

**DATE:** May 5, 2008

**SUBJECT:** By-Law A-400, Respecting Alternative Voting for Municipal Elections  
And Approve the date for completion of the Final List of Electors to be  
used in the 2008 Municipal and School Board election

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### ORIGIN

Regional Council's motion of January 9, 2007 to approve internet / phone voting option in addition to present voting system for advanced voting and status quo for election day for the 2008 Municipal and School Board election.

Municipal Elections Act sec. 146A (1) A council may by by-law authorize voters to vote by mail or another voting method.

Regional Council's motion of January 22, 2008 to award RFP 07-138, Integrated Telephone and Internet Advanced Voting to Intelivote Systems Incorporated conditional on all of the necessary protocol, by-law and legislation be in place to staff's satisfaction by May 15, 2008 to enable successful implementation and provide value for money.

### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council:

1. Approve in principle By-Law A- 400, Respecting Alternative Voting for Municipal Elections and set a public hearing date.
2. Approve the date of August 22, 2008 for the completion of the final list of electors to be used in the 2008 Municipal and School Board elections.

## **BACKGROUND**

RFP No. 07-138 was awarded to Intelivote Systems Incorporated to deliver the Integrated Internet/telephone advanced voting option as approved by Council. This will enable voters in all areas of HRM to vote from their homes, place of work, or any location with internet or telephone access at a time that is convenient to the voter during the designated advanced voting period.

The results of the advanced voting will be opened and reported at the close of polls on election day, October 18, 2008, as is the case with all advanced poll results.

As per Council's direction, the intention for the 2008 Municipal and School Board elections is to continue with the status quo for election day.

## **DISCUSSION**

HRM has worked closely with the Province to advance amendments to the Municipal Elections Act to ensure that electronic, mail and other forms of voting can be made available up to 24 hours per day, at a minimum, for the entire period of advanced polls for such time as set out by Council in a municipal by-law. The amendments have been tabled and staff expect those enabling amendments to be proclaimed during the spring sitting of the Provincial legislature.

By-Law A- 400 proposes that the advanced polling days for the alternative voting options will be from 8:00 a.m. on Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup> until 8:00 p.m. on Monday, October 6, 2008. Advance poll dates to cast a ballot in person will be Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008 from 12 noon to 8:00 pm on both dates.

Following completion of the final list of electors on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008, voter notifications will be mailed to voters whose appear on the final list of electors. Notifications will include a Personal Identification Number (PIN) and instructions for voting to be utilized for advanced internet or telephone voting should the voter wish to exercise these advanced voting options.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

There are no budget implications associated with the recommendations outlined in this report.

## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN**

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

## **ALTERNATIVES**


There are no recommended alternatives.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

### By-Law Number A-400 Respecting Alternative Voting for Municipal Elections

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Linda Grant, Returning Officer, 490-8683

Financial Approval by:   
Catherine Sanderson, Senior Manager, Financial Services, 490-1562