

City of Mississauga
Corporate Report



<p>Date: May 14, 2021</p> <p>To: Chair and Members of Budget Committee</p>	<p>Originator's files:</p>
<p>From: Diana Rusnov, Director, Legislative Services and City Clerk</p>	<p>Meeting date: June 21, 2021</p>

Subject

City of Mississauga Campaign Contribution Rebate Program for 2022 Election

Recommendation

1. That the Corporate Report dated May 14, 2021 from the Director of Legislative Services and City Clerk titled City of Mississauga Campaign Contribution Rebate Program (rebate program) for 2022 Election be received.
2. That the Budget Committee provide direction to staff regarding the rebate formula to be used for the rebate program.
3. That a by-law be established to authorize the formula for the rebate program.
4. That, once a by-law is passed establishing the formula for the rebate program, the appropriate amount of funds be transferred from the Election Reserve 30135 into the Election Cost Centre 22450 to cover the cost of the rebate program going forward.

Background

In 2017, under the authority of section 88.11 of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (MEA), By-law 0067-2017 established the rebate program for the 2018 Municipal Election. The rebate program allowed eligible donators who contribute \$25 or more to receive a rebate of 25% percent of their contribution up to a total amount of \$150. Following the 2018 Municipal Election, \$35,700 in rebates was paid out.

At the January 28, 2020 Governance Committee meeting, Elections Administration staff submitted a Corporate Report from the Director of Legislative Services and City Clerk entitled City of Mississauga's 2022 Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program (Appendix 1). The Governance Committee recommended that the rebate program be updated for the 2022 election to set \$100 as the minimum contribution eligible for a rebate and that a total of 50% of a contribution be eligible for a rebate, however staff were directed to report back on options related to the maximum rebate one contributor could receive. Governance Committee directed staff to report to General Committee on the financial impact of various rebate formulas associated with the rebate program.

At the September 9, 2020 General Committee meeting, staff submitted a Corporate Report from the Director of Legislative Services and City Clerk entitled Election Administration Information Report: City of Mississauga Campaign Contribution Rebate Program and Consolidated Statistics (Appendix 2). General Committee then requested that the rebate program be referred to a future Budget Committee for consideration.

Comments

Governance Committee proposed that the rebate program be changed for the 2022 election.

The preferred formula is as follows:

- Minimum rebate of \$100
- Eligible contributors would be entitled to a rebate of 50% of the total contribution
- The maximum rebate is yet to be determined

As per direction from Governance Committee, staff have applied the preferred rebate formula noted above, to maximum rebate amounts in increments of \$250 (below) to model the potential cost of the rebate program:

Rebate Program Cost Modelling*	
Maximum Rebate per Contributor	Total Rebate to be Paid Out**
\$500	\$86,625
\$750	\$94,230
\$1,000	\$96,168
\$1,250	\$97,017
\$1,500	\$97,192
\$1,750	Maximum rebate reached***
\$2,000	Maximum rebate reached
\$2,250	Maximum rebate reached
\$2,500	Maximum rebate reached

**Table updated from previous report presented at September 9, 2020 General Committee Meeting; Election Administration Information Report: City of Mississauga Campaign Contribution Rebate Program and Consolidated Statistics - Appendix 4: City of Mississauga Campaign Contribution Rebate Program Rebate Program Options*

***Based on eligible contributions received during the 2018 Municipal Election.*

****This cost modelling is based on the 2018 rebate program formula and eligible contributions received. Because the highest contribution eligible for a rebate in 2018 was \$2,850, there is no scenario where a contributor could receive more than \$1,425 in 2018.*

Financial Impact

The financial impact of changes to the rebate program is dependant on a variety of factors:

- The number of candidates that participate in the program during the 2022 election
- The number of contributions that are eligible for a rebate
- The amounts of the eligible contributions

With the above information in mind, and using the eligible campaign contribution numbers from 2018, staff estimate that changes to the rebate program may cost approximately \$100,000, dependant on the variable notes above.

Funds will be transferred from the Election Reserve 30135 into the Election Cost Centre 22450 to cover the cost of the rebate program going forward.

Conclusion

The rebate program was implemented for the 2018 election at a cost of \$35,700. It is estimated that with the proposed changes the cost of the rebate program may grow to approximately \$100,000 based on 2018 contributions. Staff are seeking direction on the rebate formula to be used for the 2022 Municipal Election. Once approved, staff will prepare a by-law to authorize implementation of the rebate program formula.

Attachments

Appendix 1 - City of Mississauga's 2022 Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program - January 28, 2020

Appendix 2 - Election Administration Information Report: City of Mississauga Campaign Contribution Rebate Program and Consolidated Statistics - September 9, 2020



Diana Rusnov, Director, Legislative Services and City Clerk

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