

Appendix 4 – City of Mississauga Campaign Contribution Rebate Program Options

Background

At the January 28, 2020 Governance Committee meeting the Committee discussed the Corporate Report from the Director of Legislative Services and City Clerk, dated January 13, 2020 entitled *City of Mississauga's 2022 Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program* (Appendix 3). The Report discussed and provided details on the City of Mississauga's Election Campaign Finances Rebate Program (rebate program). The committee requested that staff report back on the cost of the preferred rebate formula with increasing maximum rebates a contributor can receive.

Comments

For the 2018 Municipal Election, the rebate program allowed rebates of 25% on campaign contributions of \$25 or more up to a total rebate of \$150. The total rebate payout following the 2018 Municipal Election was \$35,700.

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

The eligibility requirements, other than the minimum eligible contribution, would not change from the 2018 rebate program by-law. To be eligible for a rebate, an individual who makes a contribution must:

- Reside in the City of Mississauga
- Be a Canadian Citizen
- Be at least 18 years old
- Not be prohibited from voting according to subsection 17(3) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996

In addition, the following individuals would be ineligible for a contribution:

- A candidate in the election
- Any person who contributes to a candidate in the election where the person contributing is the spouse or child of the candidate; and/or
- Corporations

Financial Impact

The financial impact of changes to the rebate program depends 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

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 possible cost of the rebate program.

Rebate Program Cost Modelling	
Maximum Rebate per Contributor	Total Rebate to be Paid Out*
\$500	\$59,500
\$750	\$89,000
\$1,000	\$95,500
\$1,250	\$97,500
\$1,500	\$99,000
\$1,750	Maximum rebate reached**
\$2,000	Maximum rebate reached
\$2,250	Maximum rebate reached
\$2,500	Maximum rebate reached

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

***This cost modelling was 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.*

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. This number may increase or decrease depending on the variables noted above.

Conclusion

The City Clerk is seeking direction regarding the rebate formula that should be used for the 2022 Municipal Election. Once the formula is approved by Council, the associated by law will be updated accordingly.