

City of Mississauga

Corporate Report



<p>Date: March 1, 2025</p> <p>To: The Chair and Members of Governance Committee</p> <p>From: Diana Rusnov, Director, Legislative Services and City Clerk</p>	<p>Originator's files:</p> <hr/> <p>Meeting date: March 31, 2025</p>
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Subject

City of Mississauga Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program Review

Recommendation

That with respect to the Corporate Report dated March 1, 2025, from the Director of Legislative Services and City Clerk, titled "*City of Mississauga Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program Review*".

- a. Governance Committee direct staff as to whether the City of Mississauga's Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program should be implemented for the 2026 General Election.
- b. If an Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program is implemented for the 2026 General Election, Governance Committee provide direction to staff on a campaign contribution rebate calculation formula to be used to calculate the rebate an eligible elector will receive for their contribution.
- c. If an Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program is implemented for the 2026 General Election, Governance Committee provide direction to staff on the criteria for contributors to be eligible for a campaign contribution rebate for those who contribute to campaigns during the 2026 General Election and any subsequent by-elections.
- d. If an Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program is implemented for the 2026 General Election, a by-law be enacted to authorize the formula and eligibility requirements for the City of Mississauga Campaign Contribution Rebate Program for the 2026 General Election and any subsequent by-elections.
- e. Once a by-law is passed establishing the formula and eligibility requirements for the City of Mississauga's Campaign Contribution Rebate Program for the 2026 General Election and any subsequent by-elections, the appropriate amount of funds be transferred from the Election Reserve 30135 into the Election Cost Centre 22450 to cover the cost of the program as required for the General Election and any subsequent by-elections.

Executive Summary

- The City of Mississauga Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program (rebate program) was passed by Council ahead of the 2018 General Election.
- Prior to the 2022 General Election, the eligibility requirements and rebate calculation formula used in 2018 were reviewed and changed.
- At the February 19, 2025, General Committee meeting, staff were directed to report to Governance Committee on the rebate programs in other municipalities.

Background

At the February 19, 2025, General Committee meeting, staff were directed to provide information to Governance Committee on the estimated total payout for the 2022 general election and 2024 by-election if the eligibility requirements for the Election Campaign Contribution Rebate program had been restricted to Mississauga residents.

Ahead of the 2014 general election, Governance Committee considered the implementation of a rebate program. Reports were presented to Governance Committee on January 14, 2013 (Appendix 1), February 27, 2013 (Appendix 2) and June 12, 2013 (Appendix 3). A rebate program was not implemented.

Ahead of the 2018 general election, Governance Committee considered a Corporate Report regarding the implementation of a rebate program at the September 19, 2016, committee meeting (Appendix 4). General Committee then considered a Corporate Report based on direction from Governance Committee at the February 15, 2017, committee meeting (Appendix 5). General Committee directed staff to draft a by-law to implement a rebate program. The by-law (Appendix 6) was adopted at the May 24, 2017, Council meeting. A housekeeping by-law (also appendix 6) was adopted on April 11, 2018 *“to clarify the contribution eligibility for the rebate program”*.

The rebate program established for the 2018 general election allowed eligible contributors who contributed \$25 or more to receive a rebate of 25% percent of their contribution up to a total amount of \$150. Following the 2018 general election just under \$36,000 in rebates was paid out.

Ahead of the 2022 general election, Corporate Reports related to potential changes to the rebate program were considered by Governance Committee on January 28, 2020 (Appendix 7), General Committee on September 9, 2020 (Appendix 8), and by Budget Committee on June 21, 2021 (Appendix 9). On September 29, 2021, a by-law was adopted changing the eligibility requirements and rebate calculation formula for the 2022 general election (Appendix 10). The rebate calculation formula adopted by Council for the 2022 general election was as follows:

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1. A minimum contribution of \$100 made in the form specified by the MEA is required to be eligible for rebate.
2. The maximum rebate a contributor may receive is \$1,500.
3. If the total contribution(s) made by a contributor to all candidates is \$300 or less, the maximum rebate to be paid to the contributor is 75% of that total.
4. If the total contribution(s) made by a contributor to all candidates is more than \$300 but not more than \$1000, the rebate to be paid to the contributor is \$225 plus 50% of the difference between \$300 and the remainder of the contribution total.
5. If the total contribution(s) made by a contributor to all candidates is more than \$1000 the maximum rebate that will be paid to the contributor is the lesser of:
 - i. \$575 plus 33.33% of the contribution amount that is over \$1000; or
 - ii. \$1,500
6. If a contributor makes multiple donations of less than the minimum requirement of \$100, but the total contribution for the multiple donations is equal to or greater than the \$100 minimum, the contributions are ineligible for rebate.

Under the current rules, adopted for the 2022 general election, to be eligible for a rebate, the contributor must:

1. Be a Canadian citizen.
2. Be at least 18 years of age.
3. Not be prohibited from voting according to subsection 17(3) of the MEA. Those prohibited from voting under section 17(3) include a corporation or person who is: serving a sentence of imprisonment, acting as executor or trustee or in any other representative capacity, who was convicted of the corrupt practice described in subsection.
4. Contribute between the time the applicable candidate files their nomination and the day the applicable candidate's campaign period ends.
5. Contribute to an applicable candidate who is registered in the rebate program.
6. Comply with the contribution rules specified in the MEA.
7. Comply with the rebate program rules as specified by the City Clerk.

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Candidates are responsible for ensuring that contributors meet the above criteria by completing the Campaign Contribution Rebate Request Form. For a contribution to be eligible for a rebate, Candidates must also:

1. Complete the appropriate registration form and submit it to the City Clerk.
2. File a Financial Statement – Auditor's Report Candidate – Form 4 (financial statement) accordance with the MEA.
3. Submit Contribution Rebate Request Forms in the manner that the Clerk deems acceptable.
4. Comply with all other campaign finance rules in the MEA.
5. Comply with all other rules of the rebate program as specified by the City Clerk.

The total rebate payout was \$711,000 following the 2022 general election and \$903,000 following the 2024 by-election. It is important to note that the payout for the 2024 by-election is based on the primary financial statement filing only. Additional rebates may be paid out based on the supplementary financial statement filing if candidates received additional contributions.

At the February 19, 2025, General Committee meeting, staff were directed to report to Governance Committee on the rebate program structures other Ontario municipalities have implemented. In addition, the committee requested information on what the estimated rebate payout could potentially have been following the 2022 general election and the 2024 by-election if eligibility requirements were restricted to Mississauga residents.

Comments

Section 88.11 (1) to (4) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, (MEA) states:

- (1) *A municipality may, by by-law, provide for the payment of rebates to individuals who made contributions to candidates for office on the municipal council.*
- (2) *A local board may, by resolution, provide for the payment of rebates to individuals who made contributions to candidates for office on the local board.*
- (3) *The by-law or resolution shall establish the conditions under which an individual is entitled to a rebate.*
- (4) *The by-law or resolution may provide for the payment of different amounts to different individuals on any basis.*

The MEA provides no further direction regarding eligibility requirements for contributors or the formula to be used to calculate rebate payouts. The eligibility requirements and the rebate calculation formula are up to the discretion of Council.

Benchmarking

At the request of General Committee, details related to rebate programs that have been implemented in other Ontario municipalities are below:

Municipality	Residential Eligibility Requirements	Minimum Contribution	Rebate Formula	Maximum Allowable Rebate
Ajax	Eligible electors residing in Ajax.	\$20	75% of eligible contributions up to the maximum.	\$187.50
Markham	Eligible electors and permanent residents of Canada residing in Markham.	\$50	75% of eligible contributions up to the maximum.	\$150
Mississauga	Eligible electors residing in Ontario.	\$100	See page 3 above.	\$1,500
Oakville	Eligible electors residing in Oakville.	\$100	50% of all eligible contributions up to the maximum.	\$600
Ottawa	Eligible electors residing in Ontario.	\$25.01	If the contribution by an individual to a candidate is equal to or greater than \$25.01 and not more than \$100, the rebate is 50% of the total contribution.	\$75*

			If the contribution by an individual to a candidate is greater than \$100, the rebate is \$50 plus 25% of the amount by which the contribution exceeds \$100.	
Toronto	Eligible electors residing in Ontario.	\$25.01	<p>75% of total contributions between \$25 and \$300.</p> <p>50% + \$225 of total contributions over \$300 but not more than \$1,000.</p> <p>33.33% + \$575 of total contributions more than \$1,000 to a maximum of \$1,000.</p>	\$1,000
Vaughan	Eligible electors residing in Vaughan.	\$50	75% of all eligible contributions to the maximum.	\$150
Whitby	Eligible electors residing in Whitby.	\$25	<p>If the total contribution(s) is \$100.00 or less, the rebate paid is 75% of that total.</p> <p>If the total</p>	\$200

			contribution(s) is \$100.01 or more, the rebate paid is 75% of \$100.00 plus 25% of the difference between the total contribution and \$100.00, up to a maximum rebate of \$200.00.	
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**The maximum rebate to an individual may not exceed \$75 except for candidates who withdrew their nomination in accordance with the MEA. In such circumstances, the rebate to an individual is 75% up to a maximum of \$900.*

Potential Changes Requested by General Committee

At the February 19, 2025, General Committee meeting, staff were directed to report to Governance Committee on the cost of the rebate program following the 2022 general election and the 2024 by-election if the rebate calculation formula remained the same, but contributor eligibility had been restricted to Mississauga residents.

The following is the total payout following the 2022 general election based on the current rebate program rules and the estimated payout following the 2022 general election had the eligibility requirements been limited to Mississauga residents:

Total Rebate Payout following the 2022 General Election	Estimated Rebate Payout following the 2022 General Election had eligibility been restricted to Mississauga Residents
\$711,000	\$330,000

The following is the total payout following the 2024 by-election based on the current rebate program rules and the estimated payout following the 2024 by-election had the eligibility requirements been limited to Mississauga residents:

Total Rebate Payout following the 2024 By-Election	Estimated Rebate Payout following the 2024 By-Election had edibility been restricted to Mississauga Residents
\$903,000*	\$360,000

**This does not include rebates that may be paid out based on the supplementary financial statement filing.*

Application of Other Rebate Formulas

To provide additional information to Governance Committee, staff have explored the impact of applying different rebate formulas to the contributions reported during the 2024 Mississauga by-election. Staff chose to use Oakville's formula, because the maximum possible rebate payment is the highest next to Toronto's. Toronto's formula is similar to Mississauga's, so it was not chosen. Additionally, staff applied Ottawa's formula because the maximum possible rebate payout is the lowest except in situations where a candidate has withdrawn as noted above. Staff chose to apply the rebate formulas to the 2024 by-election contributions because the total payout was higher than 2022.

Assumed Residential Eligibility Requirements	Minimum Contribution	Rebate Formula	Maximum Allowable Rebate	Estimated payout if used in Mississauga during the 2024 by-election
Eligible electors that are Mississauga residents.	\$100	Based on Oakville's formula: 50% of all eligible contributions up to the maximum.	\$600	\$280k
Eligible electors that are Mississauga residents.	\$25.01	Based on Ottawa's formula: 50% of the total contribution for contributions equal to or	\$75	\$80k

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		greater than \$25.01 and not more than \$100.		
		\$50 plus 25% of the amount by which the contribution exceeds \$100 for contributions greater than \$100.*		

**Ottawa also includes an additional formula for contributions that are made to candidates who withdraw their nomination. This part of the formula was not applied.*

The above estimates are only intended to provide Governance Committee with an idea of how formula changes can impact payouts. The total rebate payout following an election is dependant on a variety of factors that are difficult to anticipate, for example, the number of eligible contributions that are collected during a campaign period.

Financial Impact

The financial impact of changing the rebate program is dependent on the formula and eligibility requirements adopted by Council. It is also dependent on variables including:

- The number of candidates that participate in the rebate program.
- The number of candidates running for the office of Mayor. This is because the spending limit for this race is significantly higher than the spending limit for individuals running in Ward races and therefore more contributions are typically collected.
- The ability of candidates to collect a high number of eligible contributions; and
- The number of eligible contributions that are collected by participating candidates.

To help estimate potential rebate program costs for the 2026 general election, staff suggest comparing the cost of the 2022 general election and not the 2024 by-election. This is because there are differences with the by-election such as the number of candidates running for the Mayoral race which has a higher spending limit.

If the eligibility requirements and rebate calculation formula do not change, and if the number of participating candidates and eligible contributions received during the 2026 general election are similar to the 2022, it can be assumed that the total rebate payout following the 2026 election could be approximately \$700k.

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If the eligibility requirements for the rebate program are restricted to Mississauga residents for the 2026 general election and the number of candidates and eligible contributions are similar to the 2022 general election, it is possible that the total cost could be approximately \$330k. For the purposes of clarity, staff are not suggesting that the above are the final totals that could be paid out following the 2026 general election. They are estimates based on information from the 2022 general election and are only intended to give Governance Committee an idea of costs. The cost of elections and by-elections, inclusive of rebates are funded from the "Reserve for Elections" (#30135).

Conclusion

Staff are requesting direction from Governance Committee related to the formula and eligibility requirements for the rebate program. A new rebate program by-law will be drafted accordingly, and changes will be implemented for the 2026 General Election.

Attachments

Appendix 1: Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program – January 14, 2013

Appendix 2: Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program – February 27, 2013

Appendix 3: Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program Procedure and By-law – June 12, 2013

Appendix 4: Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program for the 2018 Election – September 19, 2016

Appendix 5: Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program – Estimated Costs – February 15, 2017

Appendix 6: A by-law to authorize the implementation of a City of Mississauga Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program for the 2018 Municipal Election

Appendix 7: City of Mississauga's 2022 Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program – January 28, 2020

Appendix 8: Election Administration Information Report: City of Mississauga Campaign Contribution Rebate Program and Consolidated Statistics – September 9, 2020

Appendix 9: City of Mississauga Campaign Contribution Rebate Program for 2022 Election – June 21, 2021

Appendix 10: A by-law to authorize the implementation of a City of Mississauga Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program for the 2022-2026 Term of Council



Diana Rusnov, Director, Legislative Services and City Clerk

Prepared by: Laura Wilson, Manager, Elections and Vital Statistics



Corporate Report

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5.

DATE: January 8, 2013

TO: Chair and Members of Governance Committee
Meeting Date: January 14, 2013

Governance Committee

JAN 14 2013

FROM: Brenda R. Breault, CMA, MBA
Commissioner of Corporate Services and Treasurer

SUBJECT: **Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program**

RECOMMENDATION: That the report entitled Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program, from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and Treasurer, dated January 8, 2013 be received for information.

**REPORT
HIGHLIGHTS:**

- In response to a request of the Governance Committee, the details regarding Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Programs implemented in other municipalities have been reviewed.
- There are a number of options for a Rebate Program and the cost of a program will vary depending on the rebate provided, the number of candidates who participate, and the amount of campaign contributions received.

BACKGROUND:

A request has been received by the Governance Committee from a member of the public, for the City to restrict the collection of Election Campaign Contributions from corporations and trade unions. In addition, the Governance Committee has requested staff to investigate the implementation of an Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program by the City of Mississauga. The purpose of this report is to provide the Chair and Members of the Governance committee with

information regarding the operation of a municipal election campaign contribution rebate program. Unlike Federal and Provincial election campaign contributions, Municipal Election campaign contributions are not eligible for tax credits under the provisions of the *Municipal Elections Act* or the *Income Tax Act*.

In accordance with the Municipal Elections Act (MEA)

82. (1) “A municipality may, by by-law, provide for the payment of rebates to individuals, corporations or trade unions who made contributions to candidates for office on the municipal council.”

The essence of a contribution rebate program is that a municipality would rebate a contributor a percentage of a contribution made to a candidate’s campaign. The rationale for implementing a rebate program is to:

- encourage more candidate participation
- create more interest in Municipal Elections, therefore increasing turnout
- Increase contributions from individual electors rather than corporations and trade unions.

Registration in the rebate program is completely voluntary and during the nomination process the candidate is asked whether or not they would like to participate. No rebate will be issued until the candidate files their financial statement by the relevant date, and in compliance with all requirements of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended. Most municipalities track the registration manually and assume all administrative tasks in house.

COMMENTS:

Various municipalities across Ontario have established Election Campaign Contribution Rebate programs. Each program has different criteria regarding eligibility of a contributor (individuals vs Corporations), percentage of rebate (formula) in relation to the amount contributed and timeframe in which a contributor may apply for the rebate. See Appendix 1 - Rebate Program Benchmarking for the details regarding each program.

The following factors must be taken into consideration when considering the financial impact of the program on the municipality, as well as the administrative impact;

- number of candidates eligible
- number of contributors
- number of candidates elected who used the program
- dollar value of contributions received

Appendix 2 – Rebate Program Statistics outlines the experience of other the municipalities who have implemented a program.

Rebate Formula Options

There are a number of options for rebate formulas. The total cost of the Rebate Program would vary depending on the formula included in the By-law. In addition, the administration of the program becomes more complicated based on the rebate formula implemented.

Appendix 3 provides an overview of the rebate formulas currently used by other municipalities.

Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program Implementation

Staff from the Elections Office discussed the merits of the Election Campaign Rebate Program with the election staff in the Town of Oakville, City of Vaughan and Town of Markham.

They indicated that having a Rebate program provided a perceived opportunity to increase participation in the electoral process and an opportunity to assist candidates in their fundraising efforts, particularly for non-incumbent candidates.

The criticism of a program is that all taxpayers subsidize individuals who contribute to any candidate's campaign. If the program does not place restriction on who is eligible for a rebate this would include contributions received from non-residents, candidates, candidate's spouse and family members, and corporations and trade unions. In addition, any Rebate program will result in additional costs to the corporation in terms of funding and administration.

The Town of Oakville implemented a rebate program in 2003 on the bases of meeting the goals of encouraging more candidate participation, creating more interest in the Municipal Elections and increasing turnout, and increasing contributions from individual electors rather than corporations. Following the 2010 election, the City Clerk determined *“that the rebate program had not met the goals for which it was established”*. As a result of the findings and the experience with the rebate program the City Clerk recommended that the program be discontinued for the 2014 Municipal Election. Nonetheless, the Town of Oakville’s Council chose to continue with the program.

It is important to note that according to section 68(1) of the MEA *“ a candidate’s election campaign period for an office shall be determined in accordance with the following rules:*

- 1. The election campaign period begins on the day he or she files a nomination for the office under section 33.*

Regardless of whether a candidate withdraws his/her nomination, if the candidate collected contributions, the contributors may be eligible to apply for a rebate.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Any rebate program established would result in additional tax funded costs to the municipality. It is difficult to forecast the financial impact because the cost of the program would be impacted by the details of the program and the number of candidates and contributors who participate. In addition, it is estimated that the Election Office would require one additional position to oversee the program and process the rebates.

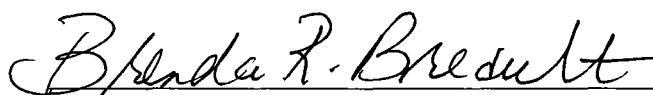
The Municipal Elections are funded from the Election Reserve. Each year \$550,000 is placed into the Reserve to fund the next election. An Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program was not included in the proposed budget. Additional tax funding would be required to cover any contribution rebate program.

CONCLUSION:

Election Campaign Rebate Programs have been implemented in a number of municipalities across the Province. The Rebate Programs vary between these municipalities, including who is eligible to receive a rebate, and what amount of rebate is provided. The financial impact is also difficult to predict because it is dependent upon the number of candidates and the amount of campaign contributions that are collected. Regardless of the Rebate Program selected, the administration of the program is complex.

ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix 1 - Rebate Program Benchmarking
Appendix 2 – Rebate Program Statistics
Appendix #3 – Rebate Formulas



Brenda R. Breault, CMA, MBA
Commissioner of Corporate Services and Treasurer

Prepared By: Pina Mancuso, Manager of Elections



REBATE PROGRAM BENCHMARKING

Municipality	Highlights of Program
Oakville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any eligible elector residing in the town of Oakville who is not a candidate, candidate's spouse, common-law spouse, same-sex partner, children of the candidate are eligible for a rebate. • Only contributors of money are eligible. • Corporations, trade unions, non-resident eligible electors are not eligible for rebates.
Ajax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any eligible elector, who is not a candidate, spouse or child of candidate, is eligible. • Only contributions of money are eligible for rebate. • Rebates are only available to those individuals who make a contribution between the date of the candidate's nomination filing up to and including Voting Day. • An individual who contributes to more than one candidate is eligible for a rebate in respect of each contribution but no more than the maximum allowable rebate (\$150). • Contributions from corporations and trade unions are ineligible.
Toronto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any resident in the province of Ontario is eligible to receive a rebate. • Candidates, their spouses and children are eligible but not until after the Candidate's campaign closes and the final financial statement is filed. • Only contributions of money are eligible. • Contributions from corporations and trade unions are ineligible.
Whitby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whitby's program was approved by Council in principal and is subject to the 2012 Budget approval. • Whitby's program is to be identical to Ajax.

*Formula's and criteria will vary across all municipalities that have implemented the program.

*These statistics are based on information from the City of Ottawa

Municipality	Program Highlights
Markham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any individual who is a resident of the Province of Ontario is eligible for a rebate. • The following are ineligible: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Contribution of goods and services. -A Candidate's contribution of inventory from a prior election. -Contributions made by corporations and trade unions.
Vaughan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any resident of the City of Vaughan is eligible for a rebate • The following are ineligible: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Contributions of goods and services. -A Candidate's contribution of inventory from a prior election. -Contribution made by corporations and trade unions. -Contributions made by the Candidate and Candidate's spouse, siblings, grandparents, parents, children and grandchildren.

*Formula's and criteria will vary across all municipalities that have implemented the program.

*These statistics are based on information from the City of Ottawa

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Rebate Program Statistics

Municipality	Oakville	Ajax	Toronto	Whitby	Markham	Vaughan
Electoral Population	121,330	69,624	1,637,310	81,713	185,469	175,470
Voter Turnout	40%	25.4%	50.55%	31.05%	35.5%	40.55%
# of rebates paid	465	116	14,051	12	2,300	434
% of electors contributing (based on the # of rebates paid)	0.38%	0.16%	Unavailable	.015%	1.24%	0.25%
# of Candidates that participated	28 total (63%)	12 total (57%)	176 total (55%)	4 total (16%)	42 total (95%)	42 total (93%)
# of Candidates eligible	44	21	319	24	44	45
Amount paid in rebates	\$78,105	\$10, 605	\$3,680,820 (to date)	\$775	\$375,000	\$61,717
Cost of administering Program	\$27,551	\$6000	Unavailable (Approx. 46 mths of staff time)	Unavailable	\$11,541	\$28,279
Total cost of Rebate Program	\$105,656	\$16,605	\$3,680,820	\$775	\$386,541	\$89,997

**These statistics are based on information from the Town of Richmond Hill*

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Rebate Program Formulas

Municipality	Formula
Oakville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions less than \$100 = INELIGIBLE • Contributions over \$100: rebate = 50% of total contribution
Ajax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions less than \$25 = INELIGIBLE • Contributions \$25 - \$100: rebate = 75% of the total contribution • Contributions over \$100: rebate = \$75.00 + 50% of the difference between the total contribution and \$100 • Maximum rebate regardless of contribution = \$150
Toronto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions less than \$25 = INELIGIBLE • \$25 - \$300: rebate = 75% of the total contribution • \$301 - \$1000: rebate = \$225.00 + 50% of the difference between the contribution and \$300 • Contributions over \$1000: rebate = the lesser of \$575 + 33.3% of the difference between the total contribution and \$1000 • Maximum rebate = \$1000
Whitby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as formula for Ajax
Markham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions less than \$50 = INELIGIBLE • Contributions \$50 - \$300 = 75% of total contribution • Contributions over \$300 = 75% of \$300 + 50% of the difference between the total contribution and \$300 (maximum rebate = \$350)
Vaughan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions less than \$50 = INELIGIBLE • Maximum rebate regardless of contribution = \$150 • Contributions over \$50 = 75% of total contribution

*Information regarding the above formulas is from the City of Ottawa



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Governance Committee

FEB 27 2013

DATE: February 21, 2013

TO: Chair and Members of Governance Committee
Meeting Date: February 27, 2013

FROM: Brenda R. Breault, CMA, MBA
Commissioner, Corporate Services and Treasurer

SUBJECT: **Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program**

RECOMMENDATION: That the report dated February 21, 2013 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and Treasurer, entitled Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program be received, and that direction be provided to staff with respect to the establishment of a rebate program for the 2014 Municipal Election.

**REPORT
HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Governance Committee requested staff to report back on a Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program for Mississauga residents.
- Two options are provided for which costs have been estimated based on the 2010 Municipal Election campaign contributions.
- Direction is requested with respect to the establishment of an Election Campaign Contribution Program for the City of Mississauga. If a rebate program is supported, a by-law will be prepared to outline the conditions under which an individual is entitled to receive a rebate and the rebate amount and the rebate amounts.

BACKGROUND:

On January 14, 2013, the Governance Committee approved Recommendation GOV-0006-2013 which stated:

That the report entitled Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and Treasurer, dated January 8, 2013 be received for information and that staff be directed to report back on a rebate program for the City that includes the following:

- a) Mississauga residents only; and*
- b) Rebate for individual contributions; and*
- c) Rebate of 50% up to a maximum of \$375 for contributions over \$100.*

Recommendation GOV-006-2013 was adopted by Council on February 6, 2013. Discussion at Council clarified that the Committee also wished to consider rebates for smaller donations. This report provides information regarding the scope, structure and costs associated with a proposed Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program. The previous report on the Rebate Program to the Governance Committee, dated January 8, 2013, which contained details of programs implemented in other municipalities, is attached as Appendix 1.

COMMENTS:

Based on the direction provided by the Governance Committee, two options are being presented as possible frameworks for a rebate program that would provide Mississauga residents with a rebate for making a campaign contribution to candidates in the Municipal Election. Under both options, it is proposed that campaign contributors must be residents of the City of Mississauga in order to be eligible for rebate. Further, contributions from candidates, their spouses, businesses, corporations and trade unions would be ineligible for rebate.

There was considerable discussion at the previous Governance Committee meeting regarding the structure of a rebate program to support and encourage donations from Mississauga residents at the lower range of the total permissible donation amount of \$750 per candidate. The options presented provide opportunity for a rebate of 50% of the total amount contributed once the contribution reaches a

certain minimum threshold. Estimates of the cost of the options presented have been determined based on campaign contributions made during the 2010 Municipal Election.

The first option proposes a 50% rebate on total contributions of \$50 or more. The maximum rebate would be \$375 based on a \$750 contribution.

OPTION 1

Estimated cost \$115,000**

Contribution Amount	Applicable Rebate
Less than \$50	Ineligible
\$50 up to \$750	50% of total contribution

The second option is also designed to provide the same rebate for all eligible contributors but requires a higher minimum threshold contribution before the rebate applies. The maximum rebate would continue to be \$375.

OPTION 2

Estimated cost \$85,000**

Contribution Amount	Applicable Rebate
Less than \$100	Ineligible
\$100 up to \$750	50% of total contribution

**** estimated costs based on 2010 candidate financial statements**

The rebate program would require candidates to issue receipts to contributors. Contributors would be required to file a request for rebate with the City and Election staff would prepare rebates only after a Candidate's Financial Statement had been submitted in compliance with the *Municipal Elections Act*, 1996, as amended (MEA).

The rebate program would only apply to candidates for Council. The school boards would be responsible for determining if any rebate would be provided to those who made contributions to candidates for

office on the school board. This rebate would be paid and administered by the school board.

Administration of the program will require an additional staff resource for 18 months at a cost of \$90,000. Implementation of the program will also require upgrades to the existing election module and/or new software. A further assessment of the technical requirements will be undertaken if a decision is made to proceed with a rebate program.

Should it be the desire of Council to proceed with the establishment of a rebate program, a by-law must be prepared which shall establish the conditions under which an individual is entitled to a rebate and the rebate amounts.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Although estimates of the cost of implementing the program have been provided, it is important to note that the financial impact associated with the program is difficult to predict because it is dependent upon the amount of campaign contributions collected by candidates. Funding for a rebate program is not currently included in the 2014 Municipal Election budget. Should direction be provided to proceed with the establishment of a rebate program, the 2014 Municipal Election budget must be increased to cover the anticipated cost of the rebate and an additional staff resource be provided at a cost of \$90,000 for 18 months.. In addition, the annual funding of the Election Reserve will be required to increase to reflect the additional cost of the election program.

CONCLUSION: Municipal Election Contribution Rebate Programs have been established by other municipalities with the expectation that the program may encourage more residents to contribute to candidates and thereby somewhat ease the financial burden associated with election campaigns as well as encourage more residents to get engaged in Municipal Elections and thereby increase voter turnout. Assessing the overall success of a rebate program in achieving these goals is difficult. Direction is sought with respect to the implementation of a rebate program for the 2014 Municipal Election.

2(d)

ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix 1 – Report dated January 8, 2013

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Brenda R. Breault", written over a horizontal line.

Brenda R. Breault, CMA, MBA
Commissioner of Corporate Services and Treasurer

Prepared By: Pina Mancuso, Manager, Elections

2(e)



Corporate Report

Clerk's Files

Originator's
Files

DATE: January 8, 2013

TO: Chair and Members of Governance Committee
Meeting Date: January 14, 2013

Governance Committee

JAN 14 2013

FROM: Brenda R. Breault, CMA, MBA
Commissioner of Corporate Services and Treasurer

SUBJECT: **Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program**

RECOMMENDATION: That the report entitled Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program, from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and Treasurer, dated January 8, 2013 be received for information.

**REPORT
HIGHLIGHTS:**

- In response to a request of the Governance Committee, the details regarding Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Programs implemented in other municipalities have been reviewed.
- There are a number of options for a Rebate Program and the cost of a program will vary depending on the rebate provided, the number of candidates who participate, and the amount of campaign contributions received.

BACKGROUND:

A request has been received by the Governance Committee from a member of the public, for the City to restrict the collection of Election Campaign Contributions from corporations and trade unions. In addition, the Governance Committee has requested staff to investigate the implementation of an Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program by the City of Mississauga. The purpose of this report is to provide the Chair and Members of the Governance committee with

information regarding the operation of a municipal election campaign contribution rebate program. Unlike Federal and Provincial election campaign contributions, Municipal Election campaign contributions are not eligible for tax credits under the provisions of the *Municipal Elections Act* or the *Income Tax Act*.

In accordance with the Municipal Elections Act (MEA)

82. (1) "A municipality may, by by-law, provide for the payment of rebates to individuals, corporations or trade unions who made contributions to candidates for office on the municipal council."

The essence of a contribution rebate program is that a municipality would rebate a contributor a percentage of a contribution made to a candidate's campaign. The rationale for implementing a rebate program is to:

- encourage more candidate participation
- create more interest in Municipal Elections, therefore increasing turnout
- Increase contributions from individual electors rather than corporations and trade unions.

Registration in the rebate program is completely voluntary and during the nomination process the candidate is asked whether or not they would like to participate. No rebate will be issued until the candidate files their financial statement by the relevant date, and in compliance with all requirements of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended. Most municipalities track the registration manually and assume all administrative tasks in house.

COMMENTS:

Various municipalities across Ontario have established Election Campaign Contribution Rebate programs. Each program has different criteria regarding eligibility of a contributor (individuals vs Corporations), percentage of rebate (formula) in relation to the amount contributed and timeframe in which a contributor may apply for the rebate. See Appendix 1 - Rebate Program Benchmarking for the details regarding each program.

2(g)

The following factors must be taken into consideration when considering the financial impact of the program on the municipality, as well as the administrative impact;

- number of candidates eligible
- number of contributors
- number of candidates elected who used the program
- dollar value of contributions received

Appendix 2 – Rebate Program Statistics outlines the experience of other the municipalities who have implemented a program.

Rebate Formula Options

There are a number of options for rebate formulas. The total cost of the Rebate Program would vary depending on the formula included in the By-law. In addition, the administration of the program becomes more complicated based on the rebate formula implemented.

Appendix 3 provides an overview of the rebate formulas currently used by other municipalities.

Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program Implementation

Staff from the Elections Office discussed the merits of the Election Campaign Rebate Program with the election staff in the Town of Oakville, City of Vaughan and Town of Markham.

They indicated that having a Rebate program provided a perceived opportunity to increase participation in the electoral process and an opportunity to assist candidates in their fundraising efforts, particularly for non-incumbent candidates.

The criticism of a program is that all taxpayers subsidize individuals who contribute to any candidate's campaign. If the program does not place restriction on who is eligible for a rebate this would include contributions received from non-residents, candidates, candidate's spouse and family members, and corporations and trade unions. In addition, any Rebate program will result in additional costs to the corporation in terms of funding and administration.

The Town of Oakville implemented a rebate program in 2003 on the bases of meeting the goals of encouraging more candidate participation, creating more interest in the Municipal Elections and increasing turnout, and increasing contributions from individual electors rather than corporations. Following the 2010 election, the City Clerk determined *"that the rebate program had not met the goals for which it was established"*. As a result of the findings and the experience with the rebate program the City Clerk recommended that the program be discontinued for the 2014 Municipal Election. Nonetheless, the Town of Oakville's Council chose to continue with the program.

It is important to note that according to section 68(1) of the MEA *"a candidate's election campaign period for an office shall be determined in accordance with the following rules:*

- 1. The election campaign period begins on the day he or she files a nomination for the office under section 33.*

Regardless of whether a candidate withdraws his/her nomination, if the candidate collected contributions, the contributors may be eligible to apply for a rebate.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Any rebate program established would result in additional tax funded costs to the municipality. It is difficult to forecast the financial impact because the cost of the program would be impacted by the details of the program and the number of candidates and contributors who participate. In addition, it is estimated that the Election Office would require one additional position to oversee the program and process the rebates.

The Municipal Elections are funded from the Election Reserve. Each year \$550,000 is placed into the Reserve to fund the next election. An Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program was not included in the proposed budget. Additional tax funding would be required to cover any contribution rebate program.

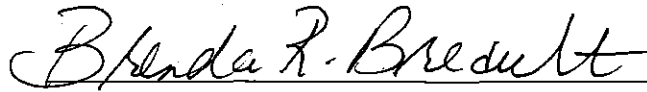
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CONCLUSION:

Election Campaign Rebate Programs have been implemented in a number of municipalities across the Province. The Rebate Programs vary between these municipalities, including who is eligible to receive a rebate, and what amount of rebate is provided. The financial impact is also difficult to predict because it is dependent upon the number of candidates and the amount of campaign contributions that are collected. Regardless of the Rebate Program selected, the administration of the program is complex.

ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix 1 - Rebate Program Benchmarking
Appendix 2 – Rebate Program Statistics
Appendix #3 -- Rebate Formulas



Brenda R. Breault, CMA, MBA
Commissioner of Corporate Services and Treasurer

Prepared By: Pina Mancuso, Manager of Elections

REBATE PROGRAM BENCHMARKING

Municipality	Highlights of Program
Oakville	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any eligible elector residing in the town of Oakville who is not a candidate, candidate's spouse, common-law spouse, same-sex partner, children of the candidate are eligible for a rebate.• Only contributors of money are eligible.• Corporations, trade unions, non-resident eligible electors are not eligible for rebates.
Ajax	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any eligible elector, who is not a candidate, spouse or child of candidate, is eligible.• Only contributions of money are eligible for rebate.• Rebates are only available to those individuals who make a contribution between the date of the candidate's nomination filing up to and including Voting Day.• An individual who contributes to more than one candidate is eligible for a rebate in respect of each contribution but no more than the maximum allowable rebate (\$150).• Contributions from corporations and trade unions are ineligible.
Toronto	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any resident in the province of Ontario is eligible to receive a rebate.• Candidates, their spouses and children are eligible but not until after the Candidate's campaign closes and the final financial statement is filed.• Only contributions of money are eligible.• Contributions from corporations and trade unions are ineligible.
Whitby	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whitby's program was approved by Council in principal and is subject to the 2012 Budget approval.• Whitby's program is to be identical to Ajax.

*Formula's and criteria will vary across all municipalities that have implemented the program.

*These statistics are based on information from the City of Ottawa

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Municipality	Program Highlights
Markham	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any individual who is a resident of the Province of Ontario is eligible for a rebate.• The following are ineligible:<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Contribution of goods and services.-A Candidate's contribution of inventory from a prior election.-Contributions made by corporations and trade unions.
Vaughan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any resident of the City of Vaughan is eligible for a rebate• The following are ineligible:<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Contributions of goods and services.-A Candidate's contribution of inventory from a prior election.-Contribution made by corporations and trade unions.-Contributions made by the Candidate and Candidate's spouse, siblings, grandparents, parents, children and grandchildren.

*Formula's and criteria will vary across all municipalities that have implemented the program.

*These statistics are based on information from the City of Ottawa

Rebate Program Statistics

Municipality	Oakville	Ajax	Toronto	Whitby	Markham	Vaughan
Electoral Population	121,330	69,624	1,637,310	81,713	185,469	175,470
Voter Turnout	40%	25.4%	50.55%	31.05%	35.5%	40.55%
# of rebates paid	465	116	14,051	12	2,300	434
% of electors contributing (based on the # of rebates paid)	0.38%	0.16%	Unavailable	.015%	1.24%	0.25%
# of Candidates that participated	28 total (63%)	12 total (57%)	176 total (55%)	4 total (16%)	42 total (95%)	42 total (93%)
# of Candidates eligible	44	21	319	24	44	45
Amount paid in rebates	\$78,105	\$10, 605	\$3,680,820 (to date)	\$775	\$375,000	\$61,717
Cost of administering Program	\$27,551	\$6000	Unavailable (Approx. 46 mths of staff time)	Unavailable	\$11,541	\$28,279
Total cost of Rebate Program	\$105,656	\$16,605	\$3,680,820	\$775	\$386,541	\$89,997

**These statistics are based on information from the Town of Richmond Hill*

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APPENDIX 3

Rebate Program Formulas

Municipality	Formula
Oakville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions less than \$100 = INELIGIBLE • Contributions over \$100: rebate = 50% of total contribution
Ajax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions less than \$25 = INELIGIBLE • Contributions \$25 - \$100: rebate = 75% of the total contribution • Contributions over \$100: rebate = \$75.00 + 50% of the difference between the total contribution and \$100 • Maximum rebate regardless of contribution = \$150
Toronto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions less than \$25 = INELIGIBLE • \$25 - \$300: rebate = 75% of the total contribution • \$301 - \$1000: rebate = \$225.00 + 50% of the difference between the contribution and \$300 • Contributions over \$1000: rebate = the lesser of \$575 + 33.3% of the difference between the total contribution and \$1000 • Maximum rebate = \$1000
Whitby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as formula for Ajax
Markham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions less than \$50 = INELIGIBLE • Contributions \$50 - \$300 = 75% of total contribution • Contributions over \$300 = 75% of \$300 + 50% of the difference between the total contribution and \$300 (maximum rebate = \$350)
Vaughan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions less than \$50 = INELIGIBLE • Maximum rebate regardless of contribution = \$150 • Contributions over \$50 = 75% of total contribution

*Information regarding the above formulas is from the City of Ottawa



Corporate Report

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2

DATE: May 28, 2013

TO: Chair and Members of Governance Committee
Meeting Date: June 12, 2013

Governance Committee

JUN 12 2013

FROM: Brenda R. Breault, CMA, MBA
Commissioner, Corporate Services and Treasurer

SUBJECT: **Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program
Procedure and By-law**

- RECOMMENDATION:**
1. That a pilot Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program be approved for the 2014 Municipal Election, as outlined in Appendix 3 of the Corporate Report dated May 28, 2013 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services.
 2. That the implementing By-law, substantially in the form outlined in Appendix 4, be enacted in accordance with Section 82 (1) of the *Municipal Elections Act 1996*.

**REPORT
HIGHLIGHTS:**

- At the Council meeting on March 6, 2013, Council passed resolution 0032-2013 directing staff to pursue the implementation of a Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program (the Rebate Program) and report back.
- Procedures for the Rebate Program and a draft by-law are attached to this report.

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BACKGROUND:

On March 6, 2013 Council approved resolution 0032-2013 which stated:

Recommendation GOV-0016-2013 to GOV-0018-2013 inclusive contained in the Governance Committee Report 3-2013 dated February 27, 2013 be approved save and except GOV-0017-2013 regarding the Election Rebate Program which was amended to direct staff to pursue option two and report back.

This report provides information regarding the detailed procedure, scope, structure and costs associated with the Rebate Program. The previous two reports presented to the Governance Committee regarding the Rebate Program are included as Appendices 1 and 2.

COMMENTS:

At Council's direction, rebates would be issued as follows:

Contribution Amount	Applicable Rebate
Less than \$100	Ineligible
\$100 up to \$750	50% of total contribution

The scope of the Rebate Program is outlined in Appendix 3. The draft By-law is attached as Appendix 4.

Through detailing the procedures and writing the draft implementing the By-law, the Elections Office has identified the following concerns that relate to the Rebate Program:

- The cost of administering the program cannot be accurately estimated as cost will depend on the number of Candidates and contributors that participate and the amount of contributions that are made.
- The City of Mississauga does not have the legislated right to conduct audits to determine if requests for rebates are legitimate. Rebates will be issued based on the information provided by Candidates and Contributors and the program in accordance with the requirements of the Rebate Program.
- If a rebate is found to be illegitimate, the City of Mississauga has no legislated disciplinary course of action.
- Based on information provided by other municipalities who have a Rebate Program it has been identified that it may not meet the

goals of Council to encourage more residents to contribute to Candidates and thereby somewhat relieve the financial burden on Candidates, and generate more resident interest in Municipal Elections and thereby increase voter turnout.

Given the uncertainty of the outcomes which will be achieved from the implementation of a Rebate Program, it is recommended that the Program be undertaken as a pilot program for the 2014 Municipal Election, and that Election staff review and report back to Governance Committee following the conclusion of the 2014 Rebate Program.

**FINANCIAL
IMPACT:**

The anticipated costs associated with the Rebate Program are as follows:

- \$400,000 in rebate payouts are estimated based on the following estimates: approximately 175 candidates participate in the program, each candidate having 15 contributors requesting a rebate for contributions made on an average of \$300 (initiating a payout of \$150 per contributor).
- Program administration cost estimated to be \$100,000 which includes one staff person for 18 months and postage and other material costs.

The estimated number of contributions and average contribution is based on an analysis of the 2010 Municipal Election. The number of candidates is predicted to be higher as this is the first Election in quite some time where there is no incumbent for Mayor. Funding for the Rebate Program will be included in the Election Budget.

This program will be funded from the Election Reserve Fund. Since this program requires an additional \$500,000 be drawn from the Reserve Fund, the annual election reserve contribution must be increased by \$125,000 starting from 2014. As a result of this change the annual election contribution level funded through the operating budget will be increased to \$625,000 from \$500,000.

Should the amount of the rebates paid out following the 2014 Municipal Election exceed the estimate, the annual contribution to the Election Reserve will have to be increased for future years.

CONCLUSION:

It is recommended that the Rebate Program be implemented as a pilot

2014 Municipal Election and payout of all rebates, staff will evaluate the effectiveness and financial impact of the pilot program and report back to Governance Committee.

- ATTACHMENTS:**
- Appendix 1: Corporate Report dated January 8, 2013 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services entitled Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program.
 - Appendix 2: Corporate Report dated February 21, 2013 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services entitled Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program.
 - Appendix 3: Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program Detailed Procedures.
 - Appendix 4: Draft Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program Implementing By-law.



Brenda R. Breault, CMA, MBA
Commissioner, Corporate Services and Treasurer

Prepared By: Pina Mancuso, Manager, Elections



Corporate Report

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2d

DATE: January 8, 2013

TO: Chair and Members of Governance Committee
Meeting Date: January 14, 2013

Governance Committee
JAN 14 2013

FROM: Brenda R. Breault, CMA, MBA
Commissioner of Corporate Services and Treasurer

SUBJECT: Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program

RECOMMENDATION: That the report entitled Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program, from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and Treasurer, dated January 8, 2013 be received for information.

**REPORT
HIGHLIGHTS:**

- In response to a request of the Governance Committee, the details regarding Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Programs implemented in other municipalities have been reviewed.
- There are a number of options for a Rebate Program and the cost of a program will vary depending on the rebate provided, the number of candidates who participate, and the amount of campaign contributions received.

BACKGROUND:

A request has been received by the Governance Committee from a member of the public, for the City to restrict the collection of Election Campaign Contributions from corporations and trade unions. In addition, the Governance Committee has requested staff to investigate the implementation of an Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program by the City of Mississauga. The purpose of this report is to provide the Chair and Members of the Governance committee with

information regarding the operation of a municipal election campaign contribution rebate program. Unlike Federal and Provincial election campaign contributions, Municipal Election campaign contributions are not eligible for tax credits under the provisions of the *Municipal Elections Act* or the *Income Tax Act*.

In accordance with the Municipal Elections Act (MEA)

82. (1) "*A municipality may, by by-law, provide for the payment of rebates to individuals, corporations or trade unions who made contributions to candidates for office on the municipal council.*"

The essence of a contribution rebate program is that a municipality would rebate a contributor a percentage of a contribution made to a candidate's campaign. The rationale for implementing a rebate program is to:

- encourage more candidate participation
- create more interest in Municipal Elections, therefore increasing turnout
- Increase contributions from individual electors rather than corporations and trade unions.

Registration in the rebate program is completely voluntary and during the nomination process the candidate is asked whether or not they would like to participate. No rebate will be issued until the candidate files their financial statement by the relevant date, and in compliance with all requirements of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended. Most municipalities track the registration manually and assume all administrative tasks in house.

COMMENTS:

Various municipalities across Ontario have established Election Campaign Contribution Rebate programs. Each program has different criteria regarding eligibility of a contributor (individuals vs Corporations), percentage of rebate (formula) in relation to the amount contributed and timeframe in which a contributor may apply for the rebate. See Appendix 1 - Rebate Program Benchmarking for the details regarding each program.

The following factors must be taken into consideration when considering the financial impact of the program on the municipality, as well as the administrative impact;

- number of candidates eligible
- number of contributors
- number of candidates elected who used the program
- dollar value of contributions received

Appendix 2 – Rebate Program Statistics outlines the experience of other the municipalities who have implemented a program.

Rebate Formula Options

There are a number of options for rebate formulas. The total cost of the Rebate Program would vary depending on the formula included in the By-law. In addition, the administration of the program becomes more complicated based on the rebate formula implemented.

Appendix 3 provides an overview of the rebate formulas currently used by other municipalities.

Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program Implementation

Staff from the Elections Office discussed the merits of the Election Campaign Rebate Program with the election staff in the Town of Oakville, City of Vaughan and Town of Markham.

They indicated that having a Rebate program provided a perceived opportunity to increase participation in the electoral process and an opportunity to assist candidates in their fundraising efforts, particularly for non-incumbent candidates.

The criticism of a program is that all taxpayers subsidize individuals who contribute to any candidate's campaign. If the program does not place restriction on who is eligible for a rebate this would include contributions received from non-residents, candidates, candidate's spouse and family members, and corporations and trade unions. In addition, any Rebate program will result in additional costs to the corporation in terms of funding and administration.

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The Town of Oakville implemented a rebate program in 2003 on the bases of meeting the goals of encouraging more candidate participation, creating more interest in the Municipal Elections and increasing turnout, and increasing contributions from individual electors rather than corporations. Following the 2010 election, the City Clerk determined *"that the rebate program had not met the goals for which it was established"*. As a result of the findings and the experience with the rebate program the City Clerk recommended that the program be discontinued for the 2014 Municipal Election. Nonetheless, the Town of Oakville's Council chose to continue with the program.

It is important to note that according to section 68(1) of the MEA *"a candidate's election campaign period for an office shall be determined in accordance with the following rules:*

- 1. The election campaign period begins on the day he or she files a nomination for the office under section 33.*

Regardless of whether a candidate withdraws his/her nomination, if the candidate collected contributions, the contributors may be eligible to apply for a rebate.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Any rebate program established would result in additional tax funded costs to the municipality. It is difficult to forecast the financial impact because the cost of the program would be impacted by the details of the program and the number of candidates and contributors who participate. In addition, it is estimated that the Election Office would require one additional position to oversee the program and process the rebates.

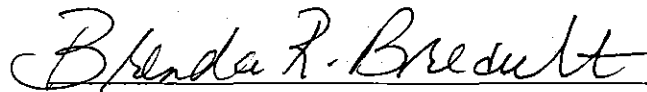
The Municipal Elections are funded from the Election Reserve. Each year \$550,000 is placed into the Reserve to fund the next election. An Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program was not included in the proposed budget. Additional tax funding would be required to cover any contribution rebate program.

CONCLUSION:

Election Campaign Rebate Programs have been implemented in a number of municipalities across the Province. The Rebate Programs vary between these municipalities, including who is eligible to receive a rebate, and what amount of rebate is provided. The financial impact is also difficult to predict because it is dependent upon the number of candidates and the amount of campaign contributions that are collected. Regardless of the Rebate Program selected, the administration of the program is complex.

ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix 1 - Rebate Program Benchmarking
Appendix 2 - Rebate Program Statistics
Appendix #3 - Rebate Formulas



Brenda R. Breault, CMA, MBA
Commissioner of Corporate Services and Treasurer

Prepared By: Pina Mancuso, Manager of Elections

REBATE PROGRAM BENCHMARKING

Municipality	Highlights of Program
Oakville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any eligible elector residing in the town of Oakville who is not a candidate, candidate's spouse, common-law spouse, same-sex partner, children of the candidate are eligible for a rebate. • Only contributors of money are eligible. • Corporations, trade unions, non-resident eligible electors are not eligible for rebates.
Ajax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any eligible elector, who is not a candidate, spouse or child of candidate, is eligible. • Only contributions of money are eligible for rebate. • Rebates are only available to those individuals who make a contribution between the date of the candidate's nomination filing up to and including Voting Day. • An individual who contributes to more than one candidate is eligible for a rebate in respect of each contribution but no more than the maximum allowable rebate (\$150). • Contributions from corporations and trade unions are ineligible.
Toronto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any resident in the province of Ontario is eligible to receive a rebate. • Candidates, their spouses and children are eligible but not until after the Candidate's campaign closes and the final financial statement is filed. • Only contributions of money are eligible. • Contributions from corporations and trade unions are ineligible.
Whitby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whitby's program was approved by Council in principal and is subject to the 2012 Budget approval. • Whitby's program is to be identical to Ajax.

*Formula's and criteria will vary across all municipalities that have implemented the program.

*These statistics are based on information from the City of Ottawa

2010 Rebate Program Benchmarking

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Municipality	Program Highlights
Markham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any individual who is a resident of the Province of Ontario is eligible for a rebate. • The following are ineligible: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Contribution of goods and services. -A Candidate's contribution of inventory from a prior election. -Contributions made by corporations and trade unions.
Vaughan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any resident of the City of Vaughan is eligible for a rebate • The following are ineligible: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Contributions of goods and services. -A Candidate's contribution of inventory from a prior election. -Contribution made by corporations and trade unions. -Contributions made by the Candidate and Candidate's spouse, siblings, grandparents, parents, children and grandchildren.

*Formula's and criteria will vary across all municipalities that have implemented the program.

*These statistics are based on information from the City of Ottawa

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Rebate Program Statistics

Municipality	Oakville	Ajax	Toronto	Whitby	Markham	Vaughan
Electoral Population	121,330	69,624	1,637,310	81,713	185,469	175,470
Voter Turnout	40%	25.4%	50.55%	31.05%	35.5%	40.55%
# of rebates paid	465	116	14,051	12	2,300	434
% of electors contributing (based on the # of rebates paid)	0.38%	0.16%	Unavailable	.015%	1.24%	0.25%
# of Candidates that participated	28 total (63%)	12 total (57%)	176 total (55%)	4 total (16%)	42 total (95%)	42 total (93%)
# of Candidates eligible	44	21	319	24	44	45
Amount paid in rebates	\$78,105	\$10,605	\$3,680,820 (to date)	\$775	\$375,000	\$61,717
Cost of administering Program	\$27,551	\$6000	Unavailable (Approx. 46 mths of staff time)	Unavailable	\$11,541	\$28,279
Total cost of Rebate Program	\$105,656	\$16,605	\$3,680,820	\$775	\$386,541	\$89,997

**These statistics are based on information from the Town of Richmond Hill*

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Rebate Program Formulas

Municipality	Formula
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Ajax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions less than \$25 = INELIGIBLE • Contributions \$25 - \$100: rebate = 75% of the total contribution • Contributions over \$100: rebate = \$75.00 + 50% of the difference between the total contribution and \$100 • Maximum rebate regardless of contribution = \$150
Toronto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions less than \$25 = INELIGIBLE • \$25 - \$300: rebate = 75% of the total contribution • \$301 - \$1000: rebate = \$225.00 + 50% of the difference between the contribution and \$300 • Contributions over \$1000: rebate = the lesser of \$575 + 33.3% of the difference between the total contribution and \$1000 • Maximum rebate = \$1000
Whitby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as formula for Ajax
Markham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions less than \$50 = INELIGIBLE • Contributions \$50 - \$300 = 75% of total contribution • Contributions over \$300 = 75% of \$300 + 50% of the difference between the total contribution and \$300 (maximum rebate = \$350)
Vaughan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions less than \$50 = INELIGIBLE • Maximum rebate regardless of contribution = \$150 • Contributions over \$50 = 75% of total contribution

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Corporate Report

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Governance Committee

FEB 27 2013

DATE: February 21, 2013

TO: Chair and Members of Governance Committee
Meeting Date: February 27, 2013

FROM: Brenda R. Breault, CMA, MBA
Commissioner, Corporate Services and Treasurer

SUBJECT: **Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program**

RECOMMENDATION: That the report dated February 21, 2013 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and Treasurer, entitled Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program be received, and that direction be provided to staff with respect to the establishment of a rebate program for the 2014 Municipal Election.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Governance Committee requested staff to report back on a Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program for Mississauga residents.
- Two options are provided for which costs have been estimated based on the 2010 Municipal Election campaign contributions.
- Direction is requested with respect to the establishment of an Election Campaign Contribution Program for the City of Mississauga. If a rebate program is supported, a by-law will be prepared to outline the conditions under which an individual is entitled to receive a rebate and the rebate amount and the rebate amounts.

BACKGROUND:

On January 14, 2013, the Governance Committee approved Recommendation GOV-0006-2013 which stated:

That the report entitled Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and Treasurer, dated January 8, 2013 be received for information and that staff be directed to report back on a rebate program for the City that includes the following:

- a) Mississauga residents only; and*
- b) Rebate for individual contributions; and*
- c) Rebate of 50% up to a maximum of \$375 for contributions over \$100.*

Recommendation GOV-006-2013 was adopted by Council on February 6, 2013. Discussion at Council clarified that the Committee also wished to consider rebates for smaller donations. This report provides information regarding the scope, structure and costs associated with a proposed Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program. The previous report on the Rebate Program to the Governance Committee, dated January 8, 2013, which contained details of programs implemented in other municipalities, is attached as Appendix 1.

COMMENTS:

Based on the direction provided by the Governance Committee, two options are being presented as possible frameworks for a rebate program that would provide Mississauga residents with a rebate for making a campaign contribution to candidates in the Municipal Election. Under both options, it is proposed that campaign contributors must be residents of the City of Mississauga in order to be eligible for rebate. Further, contributions from candidates, their spouses, businesses, corporations and trade unions would be ineligible for rebate.

There was considerable discussion at the previous Governance Committee meeting regarding the structure of a rebate program to support and encourage donations from Mississauga residents at the lower range of the total permissible donation amount of \$750 per candidate. The options presented provide opportunity for a rebate of 50% of the total amount contributed once the contribution reaches a

certain minimum threshold. Estimates of the cost of the options presented have been determined based on campaign contributions made during the 2010 Municipal Election.

The first option proposes a 50% rebate on total contributions of \$50 or more. The maximum rebate would be \$375 based on a \$750 contribution.

OPTION 1

Estimated cost \$115,000**

Contribution Amount	Applicable Rebate
Less than \$50	Ineligible
\$50 up to \$750	50% of total contribution

The second option is also designed to provide the same rebate for all eligible contributors but requires a higher minimum threshold contribution before the rebate applies. The maximum rebate would continue to be \$375.

OPTION 2

Estimated cost \$85,000**

Contribution Amount	Applicable Rebate
Less than \$100	Ineligible
\$100 up to \$750	50% of total contribution

**** estimated costs based on 2010 candidate financial statements**

The rebate program would require candidates to issue receipts to contributors. Contributors would be required to file a request for rebate with the City and Election staff would prepare rebates only after a Candidate's Financial Statement had been submitted in compliance with the *Municipal Elections Act*, 1996, as amended (MEA).

The rebate program would only apply to candidates for Council. The school boards would be responsible for determining if any rebate would be provided to those who made contributions to candidates for

office on the school board. This rebate would be paid and administered by the school board.

Administration of the program will require an additional staff resource for 18 months at a cost of \$90,000. Implementation of the program will also require upgrades to the existing election module and/or new software. A further assessment of the technical requirements will be undertaken if a decision is made to proceed with a rebate program.

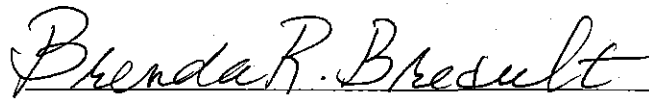
Should it be the desire of Council to proceed with the establishment of a rebate program, a by-law must be prepared which shall establish the conditions under which an individual is entitled to a rebate and the rebate amounts.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Although estimates of the cost of implementing the program have been provided, it is important to note that the financial impact associated with the program is difficult to predict because it is dependent upon the amount of campaign contributions collected by candidates. Funding for a rebate program is not currently included in the 2014 Municipal Election budget. Should direction be provided to proceed with the establishment of a rebate program, the 2014 Municipal Election budget must be increased to cover the anticipated cost of the rebate and an additional staff resource be provided at a cost of \$90,000 for 18 months. In addition, the annual funding of the Election Reserve will be required to increase to reflect the additional cost of the election program.

CONCLUSION: Municipal Election Contribution Rebate Programs have been established by other municipalities with the expectation that the program may encourage more residents to contribute to candidates and thereby somewhat ease the financial burden associated with election campaigns as well as encourage more residents to get engaged in Municipal Elections and thereby increase voter turnout. Assessing the overall success of a rebate program in achieving these goals is difficult. Direction is sought with respect to the implementation of a rebate program for the 2014 Municipal Election.

ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix 1 – Report dated January 8, 2013



Brenda R. Breault, CMA, MBA

Commissioner of Corporate Services and Treasurer

Prepared By: Pina Mancuso, Manager, Elections



Corporate Report

Clerk's Files

Originator's
Files

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DATE: January 8, 2013

TO: Chair and Members of Governance Committee
Meeting Date: January 14, 2013

FROM: Brenda R. Breault, CMA, MBA
Commissioner of Corporate Services and Treasurer

SUBJECT: **Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program**

Governance Committee

JAN 14 2013

RECOMMENDATION: That the report entitled Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program, from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and Treasurer, dated January 8, 2013 be received for information.

**REPORT
HIGHLIGHTS:**

- In response to a request of the Governance Committee, the details regarding Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Programs implemented in other municipalities have been reviewed.
- There are a number of options for a Rebate Program and the cost of a program will vary depending on the rebate provided, the number of candidates who participate, and the amount of campaign contributions received.

BACKGROUND:

A request has been received by the Governance Committee from a member of the public, for the City to restrict the collection of Election Campaign Contributions from corporations and trade unions. In addition, the Governance Committee has requested staff to investigate the implementation of an Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program by the City of Mississauga. The purpose of this report is to provide the Chair and Members of the Governance committee with

information regarding the operation of a municipal election campaign contribution rebate program. Unlike Federal and Provincial election campaign contributions, Municipal Election campaign contributions are not eligible for tax credits under the provisions of the *Municipal Elections Act* or the *Income Tax Act*.

In accordance with the Municipal Elections Act (MEA)

82. (1) "*A municipality may, by by-law, provide for the payment of rebates to individuals, corporations or trade unions who made contributions to candidates for office on the municipal council.*"

The essence of a contribution rebate program is that a municipality would rebate a contributor a percentage of a contribution made to a candidate's campaign. The rationale for implementing a rebate program is to:

- encourage more candidate participation
- create more interest in Municipal Elections, therefore increasing turnout
- Increase contributions from individual electors rather than corporations and trade unions.

Registration in the rebate program is completely voluntary and during the nomination process the candidate is asked whether or not they would like to participate. No rebate will be issued until the candidate files their financial statement by the relevant date, and in compliance with all requirements of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended. Most municipalities track the registration manually and assume all administrative tasks in house.

COMMENTS:

Various municipalities across Ontario have established Election Campaign Contribution Rebate programs. Each program has different criteria regarding eligibility of a contributor (individuals vs Corporations), percentage of rebate (formula) in relation to the amount contributed and timeframe in which a contributor may apply for the rebate. See Appendix 1 - Rebate Program Benchmarking for the details regarding each program.

The following factors must be taken into consideration when considering the financial impact of the program on the municipality, as well as the administrative impact;

- number of candidates eligible
- number of contributors
- number of candidates elected who used the program
- dollar value of contributions received

Appendix 2 – Rebate Program Statistics outlines the experience of other the municipalities who have implemented a program.

Rebate Formula Options

There are a number of options for rebate formulas. The total cost of the Rebate Program would vary depending on the formula included in the By-law. In addition, the administration of the program becomes more complicated based on the rebate formula implemented.

Appendix 3 provides an overview of the rebate formulas currently used by other municipalities.

Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program Implementation

Staff from the Elections Office discussed the merits of the Election Campaign Rebate Program with the election staff in the Town of Oakville, City of Vaughan and Town of Markham.

They indicated that having a Rebate program provided a perceived opportunity to increase participation in the electoral process and an opportunity to assist candidates in their fundraising efforts, particularly for non-incumbent candidates.

The criticism of a program is that all taxpayers subsidize individuals who contribute to any candidate's campaign. If the program does not place restriction on who is eligible for a rebate this would include contributions received from non-residents, candidates, candidate's spouse and family members, and corporations and trade unions. In addition, any Rebate program will result in additional costs to the corporation in terms of funding and administration.

The Town of Oakville implemented a rebate program in 2003 on the bases of meeting the goals of encouraging more candidate participation, creating more interest in the Municipal Elections and increasing turnout, and increasing contributions from individual electors rather than corporations. Following the 2010 election, the City Clerk determined *"that the rebate program had not met the goals for which it was established"*. As a result of the findings and the experience with the rebate program the City Clerk recommended that the program be discontinued for the 2014 Municipal Election. Nonetheless, the Town of Oakville's Council chose to continue with the program.

It is important to note that according to section 68(1) of the MEA *"a candidate's election campaign period for an office shall be determined in accordance with the following rules:*

- 1. The election campaign period begins on the day he or she files a nomination for the office under section 33.*

Regardless of whether a candidate withdraws his/her nomination, if the candidate collected contributions, the contributors may be eligible to apply for a rebate.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Any rebate program established would result in additional tax funded costs to the municipality. It is difficult to forecast the financial impact because the cost of the program would be impacted by the details of the program and the number of candidates and contributors who participate. In addition, it is estimated that the Election Office would require one additional position to oversee the program and process the rebates.

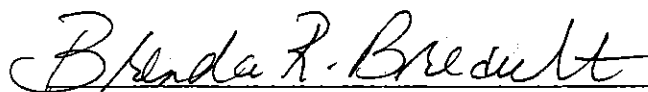
The Municipal Elections are funded from the Election Reserve. Each year \$550,000 is placed into the Reserve to fund the next election. An Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program was not included in the proposed budget. Additional tax funding would be required to cover any contribution rebate program.

CONCLUSION:

Election Campaign Rebate Programs have been implemented in a number of municipalities across the Province. The Rebate Programs vary between these municipalities, including who is eligible to receive a rebate, and what amount of rebate is provided. The financial impact is also difficult to predict because it is dependent upon the number of candidates and the amount of campaign contributions that are collected. Regardless of the Rebate Program selected, the administration of the program is complex.

ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix 1 - Rebate Program Benchmarking
Appendix 2 - Rebate Program Statistics
Appendix #3 - Rebate Formulas



Brenda R. Breault, CMA, MBA
Commissioner of Corporate Services and Treasurer

Prepared By: Pina Mancuso, Manager of Elections

REBATE PROGRAM BENCHMARKING

Municipality	Highlights of Program
Oakville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any eligible elector residing in the town of Oakville who is not a candidate, candidate's spouse, common-law spouse, same-sex partner, children of the candidate are eligible for a rebate. Only contributors of money are eligible. Corporations, trade unions, non-resident eligible electors are not eligible for rebates.
Ajax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any eligible elector, who is not a candidate, spouse or child of candidate, is eligible. Only contributions of money are eligible for rebate. Rebates are only available to those individuals who make a contribution between the date of the candidate's nomination filing up to and including Voting Day. An individual who contributes to more than one candidate is eligible for a rebate in respect of each contribution but no more than the maximum allowable rebate (\$150). Contributions from corporations and trade unions are ineligible.
Toronto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any resident in the province of Ontario is eligible to receive a rebate. Candidates, their spouses and children are eligible but not until after the Candidate's campaign closes and the final financial statement is filed. Only contributions of money are eligible. Contributions from corporations and trade unions are ineligible.
Whitby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whitby's program was approved by Council in principal and is subject to the 2012 Budget approval. Whitby's program is to be identical to Ajax.

*Formula's and criteria will vary across all municipalities that have implemented the program.

*These statistics are based on information from the City of Ottawa

2010 Rebate Program Benchmarking

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Municipality	Program Highlights
Markham	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any individual who is a resident of the Province of Ontario is eligible for a rebate.• The following are ineligible:<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Contribution of goods and services.-A Candidate's contribution of inventory from a prior election.-Contributions made by corporations and trade unions.
Vaughan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any resident of the City of Vaughan is eligible for a rebate• The following are ineligible:<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Contributions of goods and services.-A Candidate's contribution of inventory from a prior election.-Contribution made by corporations and trade unions.-Contributions made by the Candidate and Candidate's spouse, siblings, grandparents, parents, children and grandchildren.

*Formula's and criteria will vary across all municipalities that have implemented the program.

*These statistics are based on information from the City of Ottawa

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Rebate Program Statistics

Appendix 2

Municipality	Oakville	Ajax	Toronto	Whitby	Markham	Vaughan
Electoral Population	121,330	69,624	1,637,310	81,713	185,469	175,470
Voter Turnout	40%	25.4%	50.55%	31.05%	35.5%	40.55%
# of rebates paid	465	116	14,051	12	2,300	434
% of electors contributing (based on the # of rebates paid)	0.38%	0.16%	Unavailable	.015%	1.24%	0.25%
# of Candidates that participated	28 total (63%)	12 total (57%)	176 total (55%)	4 total (16%)	42 total (95%)	42 total (93%)
# of Candidates eligible	44	21	319	24	44	45
Amount paid in rebates	\$78,105	\$10,605	\$3,680,820 (to date)	\$775	\$375,000	\$61,717
Cost of administering Program	\$27,551	\$6000	Unavailable (Approx. 46 mths of staff time)	Unavailable	\$11,541	\$28,279
Total cost of Rebate Program	\$105,656	\$16,605	\$3,680,820	\$775	\$386,541	\$89,997

*These statistics are based on information from the Town of Richmond Hill

Rebate Program Formulas

Municipality	Formula
Oakville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions less than \$100 = INELIGIBLE • Contributions over \$100: rebate = 50% of total contribution
Ajax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions less than \$25 = INELIGIBLE • Contributions \$25 - \$100: rebate = 75% of the total contribution • Contributions over \$100: rebate = \$75.00 + 50% of the difference between the total contribution and \$100 • Maximum rebate regardless of contribution = \$150
Toronto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions less than \$25 = INELIGIBLE • \$25 - \$300: rebate = 75% of the total contribution • \$301 - \$1000: rebate = \$225.00 + 50% of the difference between the contribution and \$300 • Contributions over \$1000: rebate = the lesser of \$575 + 33.3% of the difference between the total contribution and \$1000 • Maximum rebate = \$1000
Whitby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as formula for Ajax
Markham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions less than \$50 = INELIGIBLE • Contributions \$50 - \$300 = 75% of total contribution • Contributions over \$300 = 75% of \$300 + 50% of the difference between the total contribution and \$300 (maximum rebate = \$350)
Vaughan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions less than \$50 = INELIGIBLE • Maximum rebate regardless of contribution = \$150 • Contributions over \$50 = 75% of total contribution

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Eligibility Criteria

Eligible	Ineligible
Must be a City of Mississauga resident.	Contributions made by non-residents and contributions made by the candidate, candidate's spouse, siblings, grandparents, parents, children or grandchildren are ineligible to receive a rebate.
Contributions must be over \$100.00 but no more than \$750.00.	Contributions under \$100.00.
Candidates nominated for Council.	Candidates nominated for Trustee.
Candidates must sign their Nomination Form (EL01) indicating that they are enrolling in the Rebate Program.	Candidates who have opted out of the Rebate Program.
Monetary contributions given to an eligible Candidate during their campaign period.	Contributions of goods and services; contributions made by a corporation or trade union; proceeds of fundraisers.
Rebates will only be issued once the candidate files their financial statement (EL04) by the legislated deadline as stated in the MEA under section 77.	Contributions given to a Candidate who is in default.

Responsibilities

Candidate

1. Must enroll in the program by signing their Nomination Form (EL01) indicating they wish to participate and will adhere to the set out guidelines.
2. Candidates must initial contribution receipts (EL08) confirming that the Candidate has communicated to the contributor whether or not they are participating in the Rebate Program.
3. All monetary contributions over \$100.00 must be recorded under Schedule 1 on the Candidate's Financial Statement (EL04) and information must include the Contributors name, qualifying address and mailing address.
4. All monetary contributions over \$100.00 must be also documented on the electronic template provided by the Clerk's Office with the Contributors name, qualifying address and mailing address and submitted at the time of filing the Candidate's Financial Statement (EL04).
5. At the time the Candidate files their Financial Statement (EL04), they must include the pink copies of the Receipt for Campaign Contributions (EL08), as well as the electronic template provided by the Clerk's Office for all contributions exceeding \$100.00.
6. A Financial Statement (EL04) must be submitted by the legislated date to the Office of the City Clerk as stated in Section 78 (1) of the MEA in order for their contributions to be eligible for rebates.
7. Candidates who are participating in the Rebate Program are required to use the prescribed Form (EL08, Receipt for Campaign Contributions) in order for their contributors to be eligible for rebates.

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Contributor

1. The request for rebate must be brought in person or submitted by mail to the Clerk's Office, or by email accompanied with a scanned copy of the receipt (EL08) by September 30, 2015 4:30pm.
2. Rebates will only be issued for those contributions made during the Candidate's campaign period.
3. Must provide qualifying address and mailing address to the Candidate and notify the Clerk's Office by mail, in person, or by email if any changes take place prior to receiving the rebate.

Election Office Administration

Elections Office Administration process:

1. Elections staff will prepare rebates only after a Candidate's Financial Statement (EL04) has been submitted in compliance with the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (MEA) and only if the Clerk is satisfied that the rebate request was received during the Candidate's campaign period.
2. Election staff must confirm upon the filing of the Candidate's Nomination Form (EL04) whether or not they are participating in the program.
3. Elections staff will provide numbered receipts (batch of 25 will be provided upon filing and additional copies can be purchased for a sum); explain the importance of obtaining the required contributor information and filling out the electronic spreadsheet for all contributions over \$100.00.
4. Requests for rebate will be accepted in person at the Clerk's Office, by mail or by email accompanied with a scanned copy of the receipt (EL08).
5. Request for rebates will not be processed after September 30, 2015. All inquiries must be submitted before this deadline.



A BY- LAW TO ESTABLISH A MUNICIPAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION REBATE PROGRAM

WHEREAS section 82 (1) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, (*MEA*), permits a municipality to enact a By-law, to provide for the payment of rebates to individuals, corporations, or trade unions who made contributions to candidates running for office on the municipal council;

AND WHEREAS section 82 (3) of the *MEA* states that the By- law or resolution shall establish the conditions under which an individual, corporation or trade union is entitled to a rebate;

AND WHEREAS section 82 (4) of the *MEA* states that the By- law or resolution may provide for the payment of different amounts to different individuals, corporations or trade unions, on any basis;

AND WHEREAS, on _____, the Council of the Corporation of the City of Mississauga (the "Council") approved the establishment of a City of Mississauga Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program (the "Rebate Program") that would pay rebates to individuals that made contributions to candidates running for office on the Municipal Council;

AND WHEREAS procedures and requirements must be established for the administration of the Rebate Program;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Corporation of the City of Mississauga ENACTS as follows:

- (1) In this By- law,
 - (a) "City" means the Corporation of the City of Mississauga in the Regional Municipality of Peel;
 - (b) "The Rebate Program" means the Mississauga Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program;
 - (c) "The Elections Office" means the section of the Office of the City Clerk that administers the Rebate Program.
 - (d) "The Clerk" means the City Clerk.
 - (e) "The Candidate" means a candidate running for office on Council.
 - (f) "The Contributor" means an individual who has contributed to a candidate's campaign in the 2014 Municipal Election and is eligible for a rebate as prescribed in this By- law.

By- Law _____

APPENDIX 4

- (2) A Rebate Program providing for the payment of rebates to individuals residing in the City, who make contributions to candidates running on Council, for the 2014 municipal election is hereby authorized.
- (3) The Council hereby establishes the qualifications and requirements for participation in the Rebate Program as described in Schedule "A" to this By- law.
- (4) The Council hereby establishes the administrative procedures as described in Scheduled "A" to this By- law as they relate to the Rebate Program.
- (5) The Council hereby establishes the responsibilities of the City, the Candidate and the Contributor insofar as they relate to the administration of, and participation in the Rebate Program.

ENACTED AND PASSED this day of 2013.

MAYOR

CLERK

SCHEDULE "A" TO BY- LAW _____

QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENROLMENT IN AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES FOR THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION REBATE PROGRAM

1. Enrolment in the Rebate Program

A Candidate running for municipal office in the 2014 City of Mississauga Municipal Election may, if they so choose, enrol in the Rebate Program whereby residents of the City of Mississauga that contribute to the Candidate's campaign will receive a rebate from the City of Mississauga (*see Section 3, Rebate Calculation*). To enrol in the Rebate Program, Candidates must sign their Nomination Form (EL01) in accordance with s.33 of the *Municipal Elections Act*, indicating that they wish to participate. (*see Section 4, Candidate/ Contributor Responsibilities*).

2. Eligibility

Eligibility for participation in the Rebate Program is as follows:

Eligible	Ineligible
Must be a Mississauga resident.	Contributions made by non- residents and contributions made by the Candidate, Candidate's spouse, siblings, grandparents, parents, children or grandchildren are ineligible to receive a rebate.
Contributions must be over \$100.00 but no more than \$750.00.	Contributions under \$100.00.
Candidates nominated for Council.	Candidates nominated for Trustee.
Candidates must sign their Nomination Form (EL01) indicating that they are enrolling in the Rebate Program.	Candidates who have opted out of the Rebate Program.
Monetary contributions given to an eligible Candidate during their campaign period.	Contributions of goods and services; contributions made by a corporation or trade union; proceeds of fundraisers.
Rebates will only be issued once the Candidate files their financial statement (EL04) by the legislated deadline as stated in the MEA under section 77.	Contributions given to a Candidate who is in default.

3. Rebate Calculation

Rebates shall be calculated as follows:

Contribution Amount	Applicable Rebate
Less than \$100	Ineligible
\$100 up to \$750	50% of total contribution

4. Candidate/ Contributor Responsibilities

The administrative procedures herein only apply to candidates who opt in to the Rebate Program. Participation in the Rebate Program is discretionary and any Candidate or Contributor participating in the program shall comply with the provisions set out in this by-law.

The responsibilities of the Candidate and Contributors for participation in the Rebate Program are as follows:

Candidates:

- (a) Must enroll in the program by signing their Nomination Form (EL01) indicating they wish to participate and will adhere to the set out guidelines.
- (b) Candidates must initial contribution receipts (EL08) confirming that the Candidate has communicated to the contributor whether or not they are participating in the Rebate Program.
- (c) All monetary contributions over \$100.00 must be recorded under Schedule 1 on the Candidate's Financial Statement (EL04) and information must include the Contributors qualifying address and mailing address.
- (d) All monetary contributions over \$100.00 must be also documented on the electronic template provided by the Clerk's Office with the qualifying address and mailing address and submitted upon filing the Candidate's Financial Statement (EL04).
- (e) At the time the Candidate files their Financial Statement (EL04), they must include the pink copies of the Receipt for Campaign Contributions (EL08), as well as the electronic template provided by the Clerk's Office for all contributions exceeding \$100.00.
- (f) A Financial Statement (EL04) must be submitted by the legislated date to the Office of the City Clerk as stated in Section 78 (1) of the MEA.
- (g) Candidates who are participating in the Rebate Program are required to use the prescribed Form (EL08, Receipt for Campaign Contributions) in order for their contributors to be eligible for a rebate.

Contributors:

- (a) The request for rebate must be brought in person or submitted by mail to the Clerk's Office, or by email accompanied with a scanned copy of the receipt (EL08) by September 30, 2015 4:30pm.
- (b) Rebates will only be issued for those contributions made during the Candidate's campaign period.
- (c) Must provide qualifying address and mailing address to the Candidate and notify the Clerk's Office by mail, in person or by email if any changes take place prior to receiving the rebate.

5. Election Office Administrative Practices

The Election Office Administration process for the Rebate Program is as follows:

- (a) Elections staff will prepare rebates only after a Candidate's Financial Statement (EL04) has been submitted in compliance with the MEA and only if the Clerk is satisfied that the rebate request was received during the Candidate's campaign period.
- (b) Election staff must confirm upon the filing of the Candidate's Nomination Form (EL04) whether or not they are participating in the program.
- (c) Elections staff will provide numbered receipts (batch of 25 will be provided upon filing and additional copies can be purchased for a sum); explain the importance of obtaining the required contributor information and filling out the electronic spreadsheet for all contributions over \$100.00.
- (d) Rebates will be processed only in person at the Clerk's Office, by mail or by email accompanied with a scanned copy of the receipt (EL08).
- (e) Request for rebates will not be processed after September 30, 2015. All inquiries must be submitted before this deadline.

City of Mississauga

Corporate Report



Date: 2016/08/30

To: Chair and Members of Governance Committee

From: Gary Kent, Commissioner of Corporate Services and
Chief Financial Officer

Originator's files:

Meeting date:
2016/09/19

Subject

Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program for the 2018 Election.

Recommendation

1. That the report from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer dated August 30, 2016 be received for information.
2. That direction be provided with respect to the implementation of a Rebate Program for the 2018 Municipal Election.

Report Highlights

- Providing a rebate program requires additional tax funded financial resources for rebate payments, staffing and administration.
- A rebate program partially subsidizes election campaign financing by the municipality rather than wholly from donors.
- The cost of a rebate program varies depending on the value of the rebate provided, number of candidates that participate and the amount of eligible contributions received.

Background

Municipal Election campaign contributions are not eligible for tax credits under the provisions of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* ("MEA") or the *Income Tax Act*. The MEA states:

88.11 (1) A municipality may, by by-law, provide for the payment of rebates to individuals who made contributions to candidates for office on the municipal council. 2016, c. 15, s. 51.

A rebate program enables a municipality to reimburse contributions made by individuals to the campaign of a candidate running for Mayor or Councillor. The concept for providing a rebate program is to encourage greater participation in municipal politics by reducing the financial burden placed on candidates and campaign donors.

Governance Committee	2016/08/30	2
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A rebate program requires candidates to issue receipts to donors who would then apply for a rebate from the municipality. Staff would prepare rebates for donors after a candidate files his or her financial statements in compliance with the *MEA*. Registration in the rebate program by individual candidates is voluntary.

Currently there is no provision in the *MEA* that allows municipalities the legislative ability to conduct audits to determine if requests for rebates are legitimate. Rebates would be issued using the information provided by candidates and donors in accordance with the program procedures.

Comments

Staff presented three reports to Governance Committee in 2013 (**Appendix 1**) with respect to providing a rebate program for the 2014 Municipal Election. These reports reviewed several rebate programs offered by large Ontario municipalities. Subsequently the City of Markham has compiled updated statistics for rebate programs offered by municipalities during the 2014 election year (**Appendix 2**). Staff have reviewed the statistics between programs offered in 2010 and 2014 and observed that some municipalities saw an increase in campaign contributions while others did not.

All municipalities surveyed have a minimum donation threshold to qualify for a rebate. Too high of an eligibility threshold may discourage some prospective donors that have less financial resources to donate. A lower threshold or a flat rebate amount for lesser contributions may increase accessibility for donors but may also increase rebate payment costs and administration.

In 2013 Council provided direction to staff to develop a rebate program. Staff presented two options having a minimum \$50 and \$100 donation thresholds respectively to be eligible for a rebate. Donors were also required to be Mississauga residents to be eligible. Donations to schoolboard trustee campaigns were not eligible for rebates. Council instructed staff to proceed with the design of a program based on a \$100 donation threshold pursuant to *Council Resolution 0032-2013*. A draft By-law outlining a rebate program was presented by staff to Governance Committee who chose not to implement the program for the 2014 Election (*Governance Committee Resolution 0027-2013*).

Financial Impact

The City's municipal elections are financed by annual contributions to the Election Reserve collected from municipal taxes. Additional tax funding would be required as the 2018 Election budget does not account for a rebate program. The total cost for rebates is determined by three main factors: the total number of candidates registered, the total number of candidates that register for the program and the total number of contributions. It is difficult to accurately forecast the cost. In addition to the rebate payments there will be administration costs associated with the program such as staff costs, cheques processing costs and postage.

Governance Committee	2016/08/30	3
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Staff have performed an analysis using the campaign contributions from the 2014 Election in an effort to provide an estimated cost of the program. The formula is based on the \$100 minimum donation threshold.

Candidates:	98
Rebate Payout Formula:	50% of contributions between \$100 - \$750
Campaign Contributions Over \$100:	\$1,374,580.11
Estimated Total Rebates Paid at 50%:	\$688,000

The Election Office would require one additional temporary employee for 18 months to administer the program and process rebates.

<u>Expense</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Rebates	\$688,000
Staffing – Elections	\$102,000
Supplies & Postage	\$5,000
Total	\$795,000

*****Staffing: Grade C position for 18 months*****

The cost of the proposed rebate program has not been included in the annual transfer to the Election Reserve and an increase to the transfer will be required if the program is implemented.

Conclusion

Election Campaign Rebate Programs have been implemented in various municipalities in Ontario. A rebate program introduces additional tax funded costs on the municipality and increases the complexity of the Election administration. It is suggested that eligibility for a rebate be restricted to Mississauga residents only in efforts to control costs and to encourage interest in municipal politics amongst Mississauga residents. A by-law is required to establish a rebate program for the 2018 Election.

Alternatively, Council may engage the Federal and Provincial governments to suggest that contributions made to municipal political campaigns should be regarded and processed in the same manner as contributions made to Federal and Provincial campaigns where contributions are included in the donors' Income Tax filing. This would eliminate the financial burden on municipalities to fund rebate payments.

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Attachments

Appendix 1: Previous Corporate Reports

Appendix 2: Election Contribution Rebate Program



Gary Kent, Commissioner of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Pina Mancuso – Manager, Elections



Corporate Report

Clerk's Files

Originator's
Files

5.

DATE: January 8, 2013

TO: Chair and Members of Governance Committee
Meeting Date: January 14, 2013

Governance Committee

JAN 14 2013

FROM: Brenda R. Breault, CMA, MBA
Commissioner of Corporate Services and Treasurer

SUBJECT: **Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program**

RECOMMENDATION: That the report entitled Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program, from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and Treasurer, dated January 8, 2013 be received for information.

**REPORT
HIGHLIGHTS:**

- In response to a request of the Governance Committee, the details regarding Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Programs implemented in other municipalities have been reviewed.
- There are a number of options for a Rebate Program and the cost of a program will vary depending on the rebate provided, the number of candidates who participate, and the amount of campaign contributions received.

BACKGROUND:

A request has been received by the Governance Committee from a member of the public, for the City to restrict the collection of Election Campaign Contributions from corporations and trade unions. In addition, the Governance Committee has requested staff to investigate the implementation of an Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program by the City of Mississauga. The purpose of this report is to provide the Chair and Members of the Governance committee with

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information regarding the operation of a municipal election campaign contribution rebate program. Unlike Federal and Provincial election campaign contributions, Municipal Election campaign contributions are not eligible for tax credits under the provisions of the *Municipal Elections Act* or the *Income Tax Act*.

In accordance with the Municipal Elections Act (MEA)

82. (1) *"A municipality may, by by-law, provide for the payment of rebates to individuals, corporations or trade unions who made contributions to candidates for office on the municipal council."*

The essence of a contribution rebate program is that a municipality would rebate a contributor a percentage of a contribution made to a candidate's campaign. The rationale for implementing a rebate program is to:

- encourage more candidate participation
- create more interest in Municipal Elections, therefore increasing turnout
- Increase contributions from individual electors rather than corporations and trade unions.

Registration in the rebate program is completely voluntary and during the nomination process the candidate is asked whether or not they would like to participate. No rebate will be issued until the candidate files their financial statement by the relevant date, and in compliance with all requirements of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended. Most municipalities track the registration manually and assume all administrative tasks in house.

COMMENTS:

Various municipalities across Ontario have established Election Campaign Contribution Rebate programs. Each program has different criteria regarding eligibility of a contributor (individuals vs Corporations), percentage of rebate (formula) in relation to the amount contributed and timeframe in which a contributor may apply for the rebate. See Appendix 1 - Rebate Program Benchmarking for the details regarding each program.

The following factors must be taken into consideration when considering the financial impact of the program on the municipality, as well as the administrative impact;

- number of candidates eligible
- number of contributors
- number of candidates elected who used the program
- dollar value of contributions received

Appendix 2 – Rebate Program Statistics outlines the experience of other the municipalities who have implemented a program.

Rebate Formula Options

There are a number of options for rebate formulas. The total cost of the Rebate Program would vary depending on the formula included in the By-law. In addition, the administration of the program becomes more complicated based on the rebate formula implemented.

Appendix 3 provides an overview of the rebate formulas currently used by other municipalities.

Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program Implementation

Staff from the Elections Office discussed the merits of the Election Campaign Rebate Program with the election staff in the Town of Oakville, City of Vaughan and Town of Markham.

They indicated that having a Rebate program provided a perceived opportunity to increase participation in the electoral process and an opportunity to assist candidates in their fundraising efforts, particularly for non-incumbent candidates.

The criticism of a program is that all taxpayers subsidize individuals who contribute to any candidate's campaign. If the program does not place restriction on who is eligible for a rebate this would include contributions received from non-residents, candidates, candidate's spouse and family members, and corporations and trade unions. In addition, any Rebate program will result in additional costs to the corporation in terms of funding and administration.

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The Town of Oakville implemented a rebate program in 2003 on the bases of meeting the goals of encouraging more candidate participation, creating more interest in the Municipal Elections and increasing turnout, and increasing contributions from individual electors rather than corporations. Following the 2010 election, the City Clerk determined *"that the rebate program had not met the goals for which it was established"*. As a result of the findings and the experience with the rebate program the City Clerk recommended that the program be discontinued for the 2014 Municipal Election. Nonetheless, the Town of Oakville's Council chose to continue with the program.

It is important to note that according to section 68(1) of the MEA *"a candidate's election campaign period for an office shall be determined in accordance with the following rules:*

- 1. The election campaign period begins on the day he or she files a nomination for the office under section 33.*

Regardless of whether a candidate withdraws his/her nomination, if the candidate collected contributions, the contributors may be eligible to apply for a rebate.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Any rebate program established would result in additional tax funded costs to the municipality. It is difficult to forecast the financial impact because the cost of the program would be impacted by the details of the program and the number of candidates and contributors who participate. In addition, it is estimated that the Election Office would require one additional position to oversee the program and process the rebates.

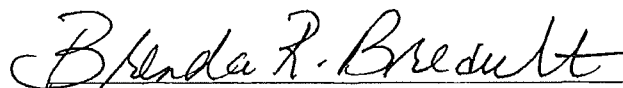
The Municipal Elections are funded from the Election Reserve. Each year \$550,000 is placed into the Reserve to fund the next election. An Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program was not included in the proposed budget. Additional tax funding would be required to cover any contribution rebate program.

CONCLUSION:

Election Campaign Rebate Programs have been implemented in a number of municipalities across the Province. The Rebate Programs vary between these municipalities, including who is eligible to receive a rebate, and what amount of rebate is provided. The financial impact is also difficult to predict because it is dependent upon the number of candidates and the amount of campaign contributions that are collected. Regardless of the Rebate Program selected, the administration of the program is complex.

ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix 1 - Rebate Program Benchmarking
Appendix 2 – Rebate Program Statistics
Appendix #3 – Rebate Formulas



Brenda R. Breault, CMA, MBA
Commissioner of Corporate Services and Treasurer

Prepared By: Pina Mancuso, Manager of Elections

REBATE PROGRAM BENCHMARKING

Municipality	Highlights of Program
Oakville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any eligible elector residing in the town of Oakville who is not a candidate, candidate's spouse, common-law spouse, same-sex partner, children of the candidate are eligible for a rebate. Only contributors of money are eligible. Corporations, trade unions, non-resident eligible electors are not eligible for rebates.
Ajax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any eligible elector, who is not a candidate, spouse or child of candidate, is eligible. Only contributions of money are eligible for rebate. Rebates are only available to those individuals who make a contribution between the date of the candidate's nomination filing up to and including Voting Day. An individual who contributes to more than one candidate is eligible for a rebate in respect of each contribution but no more than the maximum allowable rebate (\$150). Contributions from corporations and trade unions are ineligible.
Toronto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any resident in the province of Ontario is eligible to receive a rebate. Candidates, their spouses and children are eligible but not until after the Candidate's campaign closes and the final financial statement is filed. Only contributions of money are eligible. Contributions from corporations and trade unions are ineligible.
Whitby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whitby's program was approved by Council in principal and is subject to the 2012 Budget approval. Whitby's program is to be identical to Ajax.

*Formula's and criteria will vary across all municipalities that have implemented the program.

*These statistics are based on information from the City of Ottawa

2010 Rebate Program Benchmarking

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Municipality	Program Highlights
Markham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any individual who is a resident of the Province of Ontario is eligible for a rebate. The following are ineligible: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Contribution of goods and services. -A Candidate's contribution of inventory from a prior election. -Contributions made by corporations and trade unions.
Vaughan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any resident of the City of Vaughan is eligible for a rebate The following are ineligible: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Contributions of goods and services. -A Candidate's contribution of inventory from a prior election. -Contribution made by corporations and trade unions. -Contributions made by the Candidate and Candidate's spouse, siblings, grandparents, parents, children and grandchildren.

*Formula's and criteria will vary across all municipalities that have implemented the program.
 *These statistics are based on information from the City of Ottawa

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Rebate Program Statistics

Municipality	Oakville	Ajax	Toronto	Whitby	Markham	Vaughan
Electoral Population	121,330	69,624	1,637,310	81,713	185,469	175,470
Voter Turnout	40%	25.4%	50.55%	31.05%	35.5%	40.55%
# of rebates paid	465	116	14,051	12	2,300	434
% of electors contributing (based on the # of rebates paid)	0.38%	0.16%	Unavailable	.015%	1.24%	0.25%
# of Candidates that participated	28 total (63%)	12 total (57%)	176 total (55%)	4 total (16%)	42 total (95%)	42 total (93%)
# of Candidates eligible	44	21	319	24	44	45
Amount paid in rebates	\$78,105	\$10,605	\$3,680,820 (to date)	\$775	\$375,000	\$61,717
Cost of administering Program	\$27,551	\$6000	Unavailable (Approx. 46 mths of staff time)	Unavailable	\$11,541	\$28,279
Total cost of Rebate Program	\$105,656	\$16,605	\$3,680,820	\$775	\$386,541	\$89,997

*These statistics are based on information from the Town of Richmond Hill

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Rebate Program Formulas

Municipality	Formula
Oakville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions less than \$100 = INELIGIBLE • Contributions over \$100: rebate = 50% of total contribution
Ajax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions less than \$25 = INELIGIBLE • Contributions \$25 - \$100: rebate = 75% of the total contribution • Contributions over \$100: rebate = \$75.00 + 50% of the difference between the total contribution and \$100 • Maximum rebate regardless of contribution = \$150
Toronto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions less than \$25 = INELIGIBLE • \$25 - \$300: rebate = 75% of the total contribution • \$301 - \$1000: rebate = \$225.00 + 50% of the difference between the contribution and \$300 • Contributions over \$1000: rebate = the lesser of \$575 + 33.3% of the difference between the total contribution and \$1000 • Maximum rebate = \$1000
Whitby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as formula for Ajax
Markham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions less than \$50 = INELIGIBLE • Contributions \$50 - \$300 = 75% of total contribution • Contributions over \$300 = 75% of \$300 + 50% of the difference between the total contribution and \$300 (maximum rebate = \$350)
Vaughan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions less than \$50 = INELIGIBLE • Maximum rebate regardless of contribution = \$150 • Contributions over \$50 = 75% of total contribution

*Information regarding the above formulas is from the City of Ottawa



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Governance Committee

FEB 27 2013

DATE: February 21, 2013

TO: Chair and Members of Governance Committee
Meeting Date: February 27, 2013

FROM: Brenda R. Breault, CMA, MBA
Commissioner, Corporate Services and Treasurer

SUBJECT: **Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program**

RECOMMENDATION: That the report dated February 21, 2013 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and Treasurer, entitled Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program be received, and that direction be provided to staff with respect to the establishment of a rebate program for the 2014 Municipal Election.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Governance Committee requested staff to report back on a Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program for Mississauga residents.
- Two options are provided for which costs have been estimated based on the 2010 Municipal Election campaign contributions.
- Direction is requested with respect to the establishment of an Election Campaign Contribution Program for the City of Mississauga. If a rebate program is supported, a by-law will be prepared to outline the conditions under which an individual is entitled to receive a rebate and the rebate amount and the rebate amounts.

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BACKGROUND:

On January 14, 2013, the Governance Committee approved Recommendation GOV-0006-2013 which stated:

That the report entitled Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and Treasurer, dated January 8, 2013 be received for information and that staff be directed to report back on a rebate program for the City that includes the following:

- a) Mississauga residents only; and*
- b) Rebate for individual contributions; and*
- c) Rebate of 50% up to a maximum of \$375 for contributions over \$100.*

Recommendation GOV-006-2013 was adopted by Council on February 6, 2013. Discussion at Council clarified that the Committee also wished to consider rebates for smaller donations. This report provides information regarding the scope, structure and costs associated with a proposed Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program. The previous report on the Rebate Program to the Governance Committee, dated January 8, 2013, which contained details of programs implemented in other municipalities, is attached as Appendix 1.

COMMENTS:

Based on the direction provided by the Governance Committee, two options are being presented as possible frameworks for a rebate program that would provide Mississauga residents with a rebate for making a campaign contribution to candidates in the Municipal Election. Under both options, it is proposed that campaign contributors must be residents of the City of Mississauga in order to be eligible for rebate. Further, contributions from candidates, their spouses, businesses, corporations and trade unions would be ineligible for rebate.

There was considerable discussion at the previous Governance Committee meeting regarding the structure of a rebate program to support and encourage donations from Mississauga residents at the lower range of the total permissible donation amount of \$750 per candidate. The options presented provide opportunity for a rebate of 50% of the total amount contributed once the contribution reaches a

certain minimum threshold. Estimates of the cost of the options presented have been determined based on campaign contributions made during the 2010 Municipal Election.

The first option proposes a 50% rebate on total contributions of \$50 or more. The maximum rebate would be \$375 based on a \$750 contribution.

OPTION 1

Estimated cost \$115,000**

Contribution Amount	Applicable Rebate
Less than \$50	Ineligible
\$50 up to \$750	50% of total contribution

The second option is also designed to provide the same rebate for all eligible contributors but requires a higher minimum threshold contribution before the rebate applies. The maximum rebate would continue to be \$375.

OPTION 2

Estimated cost \$85,000**

Contribution Amount	Applicable Rebate
Less than \$100	Ineligible
\$100 up to \$750	50% of total contribution

**** estimated costs based on 2010 candidate financial statements**

The rebate program would require candidates to issue receipts to contributors. Contributors would be required to file a request for rebate with the City and Election staff would prepare rebates only after a Candidate's Financial Statement had been submitted in compliance with the *Municipal Elections Act*, 1996, as amended (MEA).

The rebate program would only apply to candidates for Council. The school boards would be responsible for determining if any rebate would be provided to those who made contributions to candidates for

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office on the school board. This rebate would be paid and administered by the school board.

Administration of the program will require an additional staff resource for 18 months at a cost of \$90,000. Implementation of the program will also require upgrades to the existing election module and/or new software. A further assessment of the technical requirements will be undertaken is if a decision is made to proceed with a rebate program.

Should it be the desire of Council to proceed with the establishment of a rebate program, a by-law must be prepared which shall establish the conditions under which an individual is entitled to a rebate and the rebate amounts.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Although estimates of the cost of implementing the program have been provided, it is important to note that the financial impact associated with the program is difficult to predict because it is dependent upon the amount of campaign contributions collected by candidates. Funding for a rebate program is not currently included in the 2014 Municipal Election budget. Should direction be provided to proceed with the establishment of a rebate program, the 2014 Municipal Election budget must be increased to cover the anticipated cost of the rebate and an additional staff resource be provided at a cost of \$90,000 for 18 months.. In addition, the annual funding of the Election Reserve will be required to increase to reflect the additional cost of the election program.

CONCLUSION: Municipal Election Contribution Rebate Programs have been established by other municipalities with the expectation that the program may encourage more residents to contribute to candidates and thereby somewhat ease the financial burden associated with election campaigns as well as encourage more residents to get engaged in Municipal Elections and thereby increase voter turnout. Assessing the overall success of a rebate program in achieving these goals is difficult. Direction is sought with respect to the implementation of a rebate program for the 2014 Municipal Election.

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ATTACHMENTS: Appendix 1 – Report dated January 8, 2013

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Brenda R. Breault", written over a horizontal line.

Brenda R. Breault, CMA, MBA
Commissioner of Corporate Services and Treasurer

Prepared By: Pina Mancuso, Manager, Elections



Corporate Report

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DATE: May 28, 2013

TO: Chair and Members of Governance Committee
Meeting Date: June 12, 2013

FROM: Brenda R. Breault, CMA, MBA
Commissioner, Corporate Services and Treasurer

SUBJECT: **Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program
Procedure and By-law**

Governance Committee
JUN 12 2013

- RECOMMENDATION:**
1. That a pilot Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program be approved for the 2014 Municipal Election, as outlined in Appendix 3 of the Corporate Report dated May 28, 2013 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services.
 2. That the implementing By-law, substantially in the form outlined in Appendix 4, be enacted in accordance with Section 82 (1) of the *Municipal Elections Act 1996*.

**REPORT
HIGHLIGHTS:**

- At the Council meeting on March 6, 2013, Council passed resolution 0032-2013 directing staff to pursue the implementation of a Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program (the Rebate Program) and report back.
- Procedures for the Rebate Program and a draft by-law are attached to this report.

BACKGROUND:

On March 6, 2013 Council approved resolution 0032-2013 which stated:

Recommendation GOV-0016-2013 to GOV-0018-2013 inclusive contained in the Governance Committee Report 3-2013 dated February 27, 2013 be approved save and except GOV-0017-2013 regarding the Election Rebate Program which was amended to direct staff to pursue option two and report back.

This report provides information regarding the detailed procedure, scope, structure and costs associated with the Rebate Program. The previous two reports presented to the Governance Committee regarding the Rebate Program are included as Appendices 1 and 2.

COMMENTS:

At Council's direction, rebates would be issued as follows:

Contribution Amount	Applicable Rebate
Less than \$100	Ineligible
\$100 up to \$750	50% of total contribution

The scope of the Rebate Program is outlined in Appendix 3. The draft By-law is attached as Appendix 4.

Through detailing the procedures and writing the draft implementing the By-law, the Elections Office has identified the following concerns that relate to the Rebate Program:

- The cost of administering the program cannot be accurately estimated as cost will depend on the number of Candidates and contributors that participate and the amount of contributions that are made.
- The City of Mississauga does not have the legislated right to conduct audits to determine if requests for rebates are legitimate. Rebates will be issued based on the information provided by Candidates and Contributors and the program in accordance with the requirements of the Rebate Program.
- If a rebate is found to be illegitimate, the City of Mississauga has no legislated disciplinary course of action.
- Based on information provided by other municipalities who have a Rebate Program it has been identified that it may not meet the

goals of Council to encourage more residents to contribute to Candidates and thereby somewhat relieve the financial burden on Candidates, and generate more resident interest in Municipal Elections and thereby increase voter turnout.

Given the uncertainty of the outcomes which will be achieved from the implementation of a Rebate Program, it is recommended that the Program be undertaken as a pilot program for the 2014 Municipal Election, and that Election staff review and report back to Governance Committee following the conclusion of the 2014 Rebate Program.

**FINANCIAL
IMPACT:**

The anticipated costs associated with the Rebate Program are as follows:

- \$400,000 in rebate payouts are estimated based on the following estimates: approximately 175 candidates participate in the program, each candidate having 15 contributors requesting a rebate for contributions made on an average of \$300 (initiating a payout of \$150 per contributor).
- Program administration cost estimated to be \$100,000 which includes one staff person for 18 months and postage and other material costs.

The estimated number of contributions and average contribution is based on an analysis of the 2010 Municipal Election. The number of candidates is predicted to be higher as this is the first Election in quite some time where there is no incumbent for Mayor. Funding for the Rebate Program will be included in the Election Budget.

This program will be funded from the Election Reserve Fund. Since this program requires an additional \$500,000 be drawn from the Reserve Fund, the annual election reserve contribution must be increased by \$125,000 starting from 2014. As a result of this change the annual election contribution level funded through the operating budget will be increased to \$625,000 from \$500,000.

Should the amount of the rebates paid out following the 2014 Municipal Election exceed the estimate, the annual contribution to the Election Reserve will have to be increased for future years.

CONCLUSION:

It is recommended that the Rebate Program be implemented as a pilot

2014 Municipal Election and payout of all rebates, staff will evaluate the effectiveness and financial impact of the pilot program and report back to Governance Committee.

- ATTACHMENTS:**
- Appendix 1: Corporate Report dated January 8, 2013 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services entitled Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program.
 - Appendix 2: Corporate Report dated February 21, 2013 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services entitled Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program.
 - Appendix 3: Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program Detailed Procedures.
 - Appendix 4: Draft Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program Implementing By-law.



Brenda R. Breault, CMA, MBA
Commissioner, Corporate Services and Treasurer

Prepared By: Pina Mancuso, Manager, Elections

Rebate Program Formulas

Municipality	Formula
Oakville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions less than \$100 = INELIGIBLE • Contributions over \$100: rebate = 50% of total contribution
Ajax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions less than \$25 = INELIGIBLE • Contributions \$25 - \$100: rebate = 75% of the total contribution • Contributions over \$100: rebate = \$75.00 + 50% of the difference between the total contribution and \$100 • Maximum rebate regardless of contribution = \$150
Toronto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions less than \$25 = INELIGIBLE • \$25 - \$300: rebate = 75% of the total contribution • \$301 - \$1000: rebate = \$225.00 + 50% of the difference between the contribution and \$300 • Contributions over \$1000: rebate = the lesser of \$575 + 33.3% of the difference between the total contribution and \$1000 • Maximum rebate = \$1000
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Markham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions less than \$50 = INELIGIBLE • Contributions \$50 - \$300 = 75% of total contribution • Contributions over \$300 = 75% of \$300 + 50% of the difference between the total contribution and \$300 (maximum rebate = \$350)
Vaughan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions less than \$50 = INELIGIBLE • Maximum rebate regardless of contribution = \$150 • Contributions over \$50 = 75% of total contribution

*Information regarding the above formulas is from the City of Ottawa

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible	Ineligible
Must be a City of Mississauga resident.	Contributions made by non-residents and contributions made by the candidate, candidate's spouse, siblings, grandparents, parents, children or grandchildren are ineligible to receive a rebate.
Contributions must be over \$100.00 but no more than \$750.00.	Contributions under \$100.00.
Candidates nominated for Council.	Candidates nominated for Trustee.
Candidates must sign their Nomination Form (EL01) indicating that they are enrolling in the Rebate Program.	Candidates who have opted out of the Rebate Program.
Monetary contributions given to an eligible Candidate during their campaign period.	Contributions of goods and services; contributions made by a corporation or trade union; proceeds of fundraisers.
Rebates will only be issued once the candidate files their financial statement (EL04) by the legislated deadline as stated in the MEA under section 77.	Contributions given to a Candidate who is in default.

Responsibilities

Candidate

1. Must enroll in the program by signing their Nomination Form (EL01) indicating they wish to participate and will adhere to the set out guidelines.
2. Candidates must initial contribution receipts (EL08) confirming that the Candidate has communicated to the contributor whether or not they are participating in the Rebate Program.
3. All monetary contributions over \$100.00 must be recorded under Schedule 1 on the Candidate's Financial Statement (EL04) and information must include the Contributors name, qualifying address and mailing address.
4. All monetary contributions over \$100.00 must be also documented on the electronic template provided by the Clerk's Office with the Contributors name, qualifying address and mailing address and submitted at the time of filing the Candidate's Financial Statement (EL04).
5. At the time the Candidate files their Financial Statement (EL04), they must include the pink copies of the Receipt for Campaign Contributions (EL08), as well as the electronic template provided by the Clerk's Office for all contributions exceeding \$100.00.
6. A Financial Statement (EL04) must be submitted by the legislated date to the Office of the City Clerk as stated in Section 78 (1) of the MEA in order for their contributions to be eligible for rebates.
7. Candidates who are participating in the Rebate Program are required to use the prescribed Form (EL08, Receipt for Campaign Contributions) in order for their contributors to be eligible for rebates.

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Contributor

1. The request for rebate must be brought in person or submitted by mail to the Clerk's Office, or by email accompanied with a scanned copy of the receipt (EL08) by September 30, 2015 4:30pm.
2. Rebates will only be issued for those contributions made during the Candidate's campaign period.
3. Must provide qualifying address and mailing address to the Candidate and notify the Clerk's Office by mail, in person, or by email if any changes take place prior to receiving the rebate.

Election Office Administration

Elections Office Administration process:

1. Elections staff will prepare rebates only after a Candidate's Financial Statement (EL04) has been submitted in compliance with the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (MEA) and only if the Clerk is satisfied that the rebate request was received during the Candidate's campaign period.
2. Election staff must confirm upon the filing of the Candidate's Nomination Form (EL04) whether or not they are participating in the program.
3. Elections staff will provide numbered receipts (batch of 25 will be provided upon filing and additional copies can be purchased for a sum); explain the importance of obtaining the required contributor information and filling out the electronic spreadsheet for all contributions over \$100.00.
4. Requests for rebate will be accepted in person at the Clerk's Office, by mail or by email accompanied with a scanned copy of the receipt (EL08).
5. Request for rebates will not be processed after September 30, 2015. All inquiries must be submitted before this deadline.



**A BY- LAW TO ESTABLISH A MUNICIPAL ELECTION
CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION REBATE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS section 82 (1) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, (*MEA*), permits a municipality to enact a By-law, to provide for the payment of rebates to individuals, corporations, or trade unions who made contributions to candidates running for office on the municipal council;

AND WHEREAS section 82 (3) of the *MEA* states that the By- law or resolution shall establish the conditions under which an individual, corporation or trade union is entitled to a rebate;

AND WHEREAS section 82 (4) of the *MEA* states that the By- law or resolution may provide for the payment of different amounts to different individuals, corporations or trade unions, on any basis;

AND WHEREAS, on _____, the Council of the Corporation of the City of Mississauga (the "Council") approved the establishment of a City of Mississauga Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program (the "Rebate Program") that would pay rebates to individuals that made contributions to candidates running for office on the Municipal Council;

AND WHEREAS procedures and requirements must be established for the administration of the Rebate Program;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Corporation of the City of Mississauga ENACTS as follows:

- (1) In this By- law,
 - (a) "City" means the Corporation of the City of Mississauga in the Regional Municipality of Peel;
 - (b) "The Rebate Program" means the Mississauga Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program;
 - (c) "The Elections Office" means the section of the Office of the City Clerk that administers the Rebate Program.
 - (d) "The Clerk" means the City Clerk.
 - (e) "The Candidate" means a candidate running for office on Council.
 - (f) "The Contributor" means an individual who has contributed to a candidate's campaign in the 2014 Municipal Election and is eligible for a rebate as prescribed in this By- law.

- (2) A Rebate Program providing for the payment of rebates to individuals residing in the City, who make contributions to candidates running on Council, for the 2014 municipal election is hereby authorized.
- (3) The Council hereby establishes the qualifications and requirements for participation in the Rebate Program as described in Schedule "A" to this By- law.
- (4) The Council hereby establishes the administrative procedures as described in Scheduled "A" to this By- law as they relate to the Rebate Program.
- (5) The Council hereby establishes the responsibilities of the City, the Candidate and the Contributor insofar as they relate to the administration of, and participation in the Rebate Program.

ENACTED AND PASSED this day of 2013.

MAYOR

CLERK

SCHEDULE "A" TO BY- LAW _____

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENROLMENT IN AND
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES FOR THE MUNICIPAL
ELECTION CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION REBATE PROGRAM**

1. Enrolment in the Rebate Program

A Candidate running for municipal office in the 2014 City of Mississauga Municipal Election may, if they so choose, enrol in the Rebate Program whereby residents of the City of Mississauga that contribute to the Candidate's campaign will receive a rebate from the City of Mississauga (see Section 3, *Rebate Calculation*). To enrol in the Rebate Program, Candidates must sign their Nomination Form (EL01) in accordance with s.33 of the *Municipal Elections Act*, indicating that they wish to participate. (see Section 4, *Candidate/ Contributor Responsibilities*).

2. Eligibility

Eligibility for participation in the Rebate Program is as follows:

Eligible	Ineligible
Must be a Mississauga resident.	Contributions made by non- residents and contributions made by the Candidate, Candidate's spouse, siblings, grandparents, parents, children or grandchildren are ineligible to receive a rebate.
Contributions must be over \$100.00 but no more than \$750.00.	Contributions under \$100.00.
Candidates nominated for Council.	Candidates nominated for Trustee.
Candidates must sign their Nomination Form (EL01) indicating that they are enrolling in the Rebate Program.	Candidates who have opted out of the Rebate Program.
Monetary contributions given to an eligible Candidate during their campaign period.	Contributions of goods and services; contributions made by a corporation or trade union; proceeds of fundraisers.
Rebates will only be issued once the Candidate files their financial statement (EL04) by the legislated deadline as stated in the <i>MEA</i> under section 77.	Contributions given to a Candidate who is in default.

3. Rebate Calculation

Rebates shall be calculated as follows:

Contribution Amount	Applicable Rebate
Less than \$100	Ineligible
\$100 up to \$750	50% of total contribution

4. Candidate/ Contributor Responsibilities

The administrative procedures herein only apply to candidates who opt in to the Rebate Program. Participation in the Rebate Program is discretionary and any Candidate or Contributor participating in the program shall comply with the provisions set out in this by-law.

The responsibilities of the Candidate and Contributors for participation in the Rebate Program are as follows:

Candidates:

- (a) Must enroll in the program by signing their Nomination Form (EL01) indicating they wish to participate and will adhere to the set out guidelines.
- (b) Candidates must initial contribution receipts (EL08) confirming that the Candidate has communicated to the contributor whether or not they are participating in the Rebate Program.
- (c) All monetary contributions over \$100.00 must be recorded under Schedule 1 on the Candidate's Financial Statement (EL04) and information must include the Contributors qualifying address and mailing address.
- (d) All monetary contributions over \$100.00 must be also documented on the electronic template provided by the Clerk's Office with the qualifying address and mailing address and submitted upon filing the Candidate's Financial Statement (EL04).
- (e) At the time the Candidate files their Financial Statement (EL04), they must include the pink copies of the Receipt for Campaign Contributions (EL08), as well as the electronic template provided by the Clerk's Office for all contributions exceeding \$100.00.
- (f) A Financial Statement (EL04) must be submitted by the legislated date to the Office of the City Clerk as stated in Section 78 (1) of the MEA.
- (g) Candidates who are participating in the Rebate Program are required to use the prescribed Form (EL08, Receipt for Campaign Contributions) in order for their contributors to be eligible for a rebate.

Contributors:

- (a) The request for rebate must be brought in person or submitted by mail to the Clerk's Office, or by email accompanied with a scanned copy of the receipt (EL08) by September 30, 2015 4:30pm.
- (b) Rebates will only be issued for those contributions made during the Candidate's campaign period.
- (c) Must provide qualifying address and mailing address to the Candidate and notify the Clerk's Office by mail, in person or by email if any changes take place prior to receiving the rebate.

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5. Election Office Administrative Practices

The Election Office Administration process for the Rebate Program is as follows:

- (a) Elections staff will prepare rebates only after a Candidate's Financial Statement (EL04) has been submitted in compliance with the MEA and only if the Clerk is satisfied that the rebate request was received during the Candidate's campaign period.
- (b) Election staff must confirm upon the filing of the Candidate's Nomination Form (EL04) whether or not they are participating in the program.
- (c) Elections staff will provide numbered receipts (batch of 25 will be provided upon filing and additional copies can be purchased for a sum); explain the importance of obtaining the required contributor information and filling out the electronic spreadsheet for all contributions over \$100.00.
- (d) Rebates will be processed only in person at the Clerk's Office, by mail or by email accompanied with a scanned copy of the receipt (EL08).
- (e) Request for rebates will not be processed after September 30, 2015. All inquiries must be submitted before this deadline.

Municipal Election Candidate Contribution Rebate Programs in Ontario

The following table outlines the scope and financial impact of Municipal Election Candidate Contribution Rebate Programs across Ontario for the 2014 Municipal Election.

	Ajax	Oakville	Ottawa	Markham	Toronto	Vaughan	Whitby
Electoral population in 2014	74,891	125,722	632,385	195,805	1,813,915	190,724	87,406
Criteria for contributor to qualify for contribution rebate	Ajax voter	Oakville voter & resident	Ontario resident	Ontario resident	Ontario resident	Vaughan voter & resident	Whitby voter
Corporation or trade union eligible	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Contributor must apply for contribution rebate directly to the municipality	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Cut off date to apply for contribution rebate	12 noon Dec. 1 the year following an election	90 days after financial filing deadline	4:30 pm on the 90th day after the last financial filing deadline	Not applicable	December 31 the year following an election	December 31 the year following an election	Not applicable
Timeframe for a contribution to be made & qualify for a contribution rebate	Between candidate's nomination filing and Voting Day	Between candidate's nomination filing and final financial filing	Between candidate's nomination filing and supplementary period, if applicable	No restriction	Between candidate's nomination filing and supplementary period, if applicable	Between candidate's nomination filing and supplementary period, if applicable	Between candidate's nomination filing and Voting Day
Program excludes candidate, spouse or children of candidate	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Audited statement required	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Formula used to calculate contribution rebate	75%	50%	See below	See below	See below	75%	25%
Minimum contribution eligible for a contribution rebate	\$50	\$100	\$25.01	\$50	\$25	\$50	\$25
Maximum allowable contribution rebate	\$200	\$375	\$75	\$350	\$1000	\$150	\$150
Number of contribution rebates issued*	89	263	2,166	2,781	16,543	341	43
Total contribution rebates issued*	\$12,266	\$40,402.65	\$105,185	\$546,363	\$4,005,376	\$48,615	\$3,750
CCRP cost per elector* (Total contribution rebates issued / Electoral population)	\$0.16	\$0.32	\$0.17	\$2.79	\$2.20	\$0.26	\$0.04
Number of candidates eligible to use Program	21	46	148	51	423	31	35
Number of candidates that used Program	10 (48%)	22 (48%)	117 (79%)	44 (86%)	181 (43%)	28 (90%)	12 (34%)
Number of candidates elected who used Program	4 of 7	11 of 13	24 of 24	12 of 13	45 of 45	9 of 9	5 of 8

* These numbers are as of April 2016.

Ottawa Formula:

- Contribution between \$25.01 and \$100, rebate is 50% of the contribution
- Contribution between \$100.01 and \$200, rebate is \$50 plus 25% of the amount by which the contribution exceeds \$100

Markham Formula:

- Contribution between \$50 and \$300, rebate is contribution x 75%
- Contribution between \$301 and \$550, rebate is \$225 + 50% of contribution between \$300 and \$550

Toronto Formula:

- Total contributions between \$25 and \$300, rebate is contribution x 75%
- Total contributions over \$300 but not more than \$1,000, rebate is contribution - \$300 x 50% + \$225
- Total contributions more than \$1,000, rebate is contribution - \$1,000 x 33 1/3% + \$575

City of Mississauga
Corporate Report



Date: 2017/01/23

To: Chair and Members of General Committee

From: Gary Kent, Commissioner of Corporate Services and
 Chief Financial Officer

Originator's files:

Meeting date:
 2017/02/15

Subject

Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program – Estimated Costs

Recommendation

That the report titled 'Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program – Estimated Costs' from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer dated January 23, 2017 be received for information.

Report Highlights

- At the November 16, 2016 Special Council Meeting additional information was requested regarding the estimated costs associated with implementing a campaign rebate program for the 2018 Municipal Election.
- Cost estimates were requested based on the lowest rebate formulas implemented by other municipalities, specifically Whitby and Ottawa, using the City of Mississauga's 2010 Municipal Election contributions.
- The cost of a rebate program is dependent on a number of variables and estimates based on previous elections will not be exact predictors of the cost of a rebate program in a future election.
- The estimated costs of a rebate program for Mississauga reflect total contributions received by candidates in the 2010 Municipal Election, excluding contributions received by candidates/spouses, trade unions, Corporations and non-residents.

Background

A rebate program enables a municipality to reimburse contributions made by individuals to the campaign of a candidate running for Mayor or Councillor. The concept for providing a rebate program is to encourage greater participation in municipal politics by reducing the financial burden placed on candidates and campaign donors.

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A rebate program requires candidates to issue receipts to donors who would then apply for a rebate from the municipality. Staff would prepare rebates for donors after a candidate files his or her financial statements in compliance with the Municipal Elections Act (MEA) which would be March 2019, following the 2018 Municipal Election. Registration in the rebate program by individual candidates is voluntary.

In 2013 Council directed staff to develop a rebate program (Council Resolution 0032-2013) based on the following parameters:

- Mississauga residents only
- 50% rebate up to a maximum of \$375 for contributions over \$100
- Contributions made by individuals only
- Contributions from Candidates and their spouses are excluded

A draft By-law outlining a rebate program was presented by staff to Governance Committee who chose not to implement the program for the 2014 Election (Governance Committee Resolution 0027-2013).

In September 2016, a report was prepared for Governance Committee updating the estimated cost of a rebate program based on the 2014 Municipal Election contributions. Upon further analysis, it has been determined that contributions from ineligible contributors (corporations, trade unions, non-Mississauga residents and candidates and their spouses) were not excluded from the calculation. The revised estimate of the cost of rebates based on only eligible contributors from the 2014 Municipal Election is \$219,174.

Comments

At the November 16, 2016 meeting, Council requested staff to provide estimated cost analysis based on the 2 lowest rebate formulas implemented by other municipalities, and to use the 2010 Election contributions. Appendix 1 illustrates the Financial Rebates paid using the 2 lowest rebate formulas implemented by Whitby and Ottawa, with an estimate of Mississauga's costs. Providing a true comparison is not possible because Candidates were not required to report the details nor list the contributor for financial contributions between \$25 and \$100. The estimates provided for Mississauga have been based on reported contributions over \$100 and as a result are understated.

The total cost for a rebate program is determined by five main factors:

- number of candidates that register for the program
- amount of eligible contributions received by candidates
- percentage of rebate
- maximum rebate determined

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- parameters such as only applying to Mississauga residents, and excluding candidate or candidates' spouses

Because the cost of a rebate program is dependent on these variables, estimates based on previous elections will not be exact predictors of the cost of a rebate program in a future election.

The Election Office has previously indicated it would require one additional temporary employee for 18 months to administer the program and process rebates. This estimate was based on discussions with other municipalities and the timelines associated with the filing of Financial Statements and Supplementary Financial Statements.

Bill 181 added new responsibilities for the Clerk to review and report on the compliance of contributions included in financial statements filed in accordance with the Legislation. As this is an additional administrative responsibility, staff have been reviewing the implementation and identified that an additional staff resource will be required in 2019. Should this resource be approved, it is proposed that this person could also administer a rebate program if established.

The administrative details of a rebate process were established and included in the draft by-law prepared in 2013 and have been provided in Appendix 2.

As requested by Council, staff investigated whether refunds could be issued through the tax bill as a cost saving measure and were informed that that this option would not be feasible as not all contributors are homeowners. In addition, a tax bill is for a property not a person. The credit on the tax bill goes towards taxes and if the property sells, then a portion of the credit would go to the new owner and not the person who gave the rebate. As a result, rebates would be processed through cheque requisitions and mailed to individual contributors, resulting in direct administrative costs of \$5,000 for postage, communication and supplies.

Financial Impact

The City's municipal elections are financed by annual contributions to the Election Reserve collected from municipal taxes. The annual contribution to the Election Reserve is \$600,000. The costs of a rebate program would not be reflected until 2019. If a rebate program was implemented, the annual contribution to the Election Reserve could be increased by \$60,000, starting in 2018, to mitigate the annual financial impact.

In Bill 68, introduced by the Province on November 16, 2016, the maximum contribution has been increased from \$750 - \$1,200. If this legislation is implemented, the cost of the program could increase unless there is a defined maximum rebate limit established.

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Conclusion


Election Campaign Rebate Programs have been implemented in various municipalities in Ontario. In benchmarking these neighbouring municipalities there appears to be no factual or statistical evidence that a rebate program increased donor participation.

A rebate program introduces additional tax funded costs on the municipality and increases the complexity of the Election administration. A by-law is required to establish a rebate program for the 2018 Election.

Attachments

Appendix 1: Comparison of Financial Rebates based on Whitby and Ottawa

Appendix 2: Proposed Process for Providing Election Contribution Rebates



Gary Kent, Commissioner of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer
Prepared by: Pina Mancuso, Manager, Elections

Comparison of Financial Rebates based on Whitby and Ottawa

Appendix #1

	Whitby (statistics and formula based on 2014)	2010 Mississauga (Whitby's 2014 formula is applied, Mississauga statistics are based on 2010 contributions as per Council's request)	2014 Mississauga (Whitby's 2014 formula is applied Mississauga statistics are based on 2014)
Electoral Population	87,406	417,919	444,755
Number of Rebates Paid	43	326	1005
Formula	25%	25%	25%
Minimum Contributions	\$25	N/A	N/A
Maximum Rebate	\$150	\$150	\$150
Total Rebates Paid	\$3,750	\$26,470	\$96,820

*** Mississauga calculations exclude contributions under \$100 because this information was not reported; Mississauga calculations are based on all contributions received over \$100;

	Ottawa (statistics and formula based on 2014)	2010 Mississauga (Ottawa's 2014 formula is applied, Mississauga statistics are based on 2010 contributions as per Council's request)	Mississauga (Ottawa's 2014 formula is applied Mississauga statistics are based on 2014)
Electoral Population	632,385	417,919	444,755
Number of Rebates Paid	2,166	326	1005
Formula	\$25.01 - \$100 -50% \$100.01 - \$200 - \$50 + 25% of amount that exceeds \$100	\$25.01 - \$100 -50% \$100.01 - \$200 - \$50 + 25% of amount that exceeds \$100	\$25.01 - \$100 -50% \$100.01 - \$200 - \$50 + 25% of amount that exceeds \$100
Minimum Contributions	\$25.01	N/A	N/A
Maximum Rebate	\$75	\$75	\$75
Total Rebates Paid	\$105,185	\$21,888	\$71,878

*** Mississauga calculations exclude contributions under \$100 because this information was not reported; Mississauga calculations are based on all contributions received over \$100

Proposed Process for Providing Election Contribution Rebates

The following is a draft of the proposed administrative process for providing contribution rebates should Council establish an election contribution Rebate Program (*the program*). Should a program be established, finalized administrative practices will be specified by by-law. Participation in the program will be optional and any participating Candidate or Contributor will be required to comply with the governing by-law.

The responsibilities of Candidates are proposed as follows:

- At the time a Candidate running for Municipal Council files his or her Nomination, he or she may enroll in the program by completing a registration form and acknowledging that he or she will adhere to the guidelines as specified in the by-law. At the time of enrollment, the Candidate will also be required to acknowledge that he or she, or his or her representatives, will relay all contributor requirements and contribution rules to Contributors;
- Registration in the program is required at the time of filing for Nomination; Candidates will not be allowed to register in the program after they begin accepting contributions;
- For Candidates participating in the program, all monetary contributions \$25 and over must be recorded on the Candidate's Financial Statement and information must include the Contributor's qualifying address and mailing address;
- Rebates will only be issued if the Candidate files his or her Financial Statement in accordance by the legislated deadlines as specified in the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.
- Candidates will be required to submit copies of the contribution receipts issued for all contributions \$25 and over and receipts must include:
 - The Contributor's name;
 - A declaration that the Contributor is not a corporation or trade union;
 - The Contributor's qualifying address
 - The Contributor's mailing address;
- A missing or incomplete receipt will result in the denial of a rebate;
- Documentation in addition to the Candidate's Financial Statement and copies of contribution receipts may be required; all monetary contributions \$25 and over may be required to be documented in a form specified by the Clerk – Candidates may be required to provide information electronically, etc.

The responsibilities of Contributors are proposed as follows:

- Contribution rebates will **only** be processed for Contributors that donate to Candidates who are enrolled in the program as noted above;
- The request for rebate must be brought in person, sent by mail or submitted via email to the Clerk's Office by 4:30 pm on September 27, 2019;
- Rebates will only be issued for those contributions made during the Candidate's campaign period;
- Contributors are required to provide their mailing address and proof of their qualifying address to the Candidate in order to be eligible for a rebate – this information must be included on the contribution receipt;
- Contributors will be required to provide a copy of their portion of the contribution receipt to the Clerk's Office in order to receive a rebate;
- If there is a change to the Contributor's mailing address - the Contributor is responsible for notifying the Clerk's Office of the change.

Elections Office Administrative practices are proposed as follows:

- The Elections Office will prepare rebates in the form of cheques only after the Candidate has filed their Financial Statement in accordance with the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* and only if the Clerk is satisfied that the Candidate enrolled in the rebate program when the Candidate filed his or her Nomination;
- The Elections Office will not process rebates for Contributors that contribute to a Candidate who does not file his or her Financial Statement;
- The Elections Office will not process a rebate for any contribution request if a Candidate has not provided a copy of a complete contribution receipt to the Elections Office;
- The Elections Office will not process any rebate for a Contributor that cannot provide his or her portion of the contribution receipt;
- The Elections Office will process rebates only when the Candidate meets the following requirements:
 - The Candidate files his or her Financial Statement;
 - The Candidate submits all required tracking sheets;
- Requests for rebate will not be accepted after 4:30 pm on September 27, 2019.



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA

BY-LAW NUMBER 0067-2017

A by-law to authorize the implementation of a City of Mississauga
Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program for the
2018 Municipal Election

WHEREAS subsection 88.11(1) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, provides that a municipal council may pass a by-law authorizing the payment of rebates to individuals who make contributions to candidates for office on the municipal council;

AND WHEREAS subsection 88.11(3) of the *Municipal Elections Act 1996*, provides that the by-law enacted according to 88.11(1) shall establish the conditions under which an individual is entitled to a rebate;

AND WHEREAS on February 22, 2017 Council for the Corporation of the City of Mississauga approved General Committee recommendation GC-0051-2017 which recommends the implementation of a Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program for the 2018 Mississauga Municipal Election;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the City of Mississauga hereby ENACTS as follows:

DEFINITIONS

1. For the purposes of this By-law, "Election" shall mean the regular election according to the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* as amended that takes place in 2018 in the City of Mississauga.

ELIGIBILITY FOR A REBATE

2. Notwithstanding Section 88.15 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, for the purposes of this By-law, only a contribution of money will be eligible for rebate.
3. In order to qualify for a rebate, an individual who makes a contribution must:
 - (a) reside in the City of Mississauga;
 - (b) be a Canadian citizen;
 - (c) be at least 18 years old;
 - (d) not be prohibited from voting according to subsection 17(3) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*; and
 - (e) contribute between the time the candidate files his or her nomination and the day the candidate's campaign period ends.
4. Notwithstanding Section 3 of this By-law, the following are ineligible for a rebate:
 - (a) a candidate in the Election;
 - (b) any person who contributes to a candidate in the Election where the person contributing is the spouse or child of the candidate; and/or
 - (c) corporations.

APPLICATIONS TO THE CITY CLERK

5. An individual who makes a contribution to a candidate during the Election may apply to the City Clerk for a rebate.
6. Candidates must register for the Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program by completing the registration form and agreeing to the terms and conditions of the Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program in order for individuals who contribute to the candidate's campaign to be eligible for a rebate.
7. The City Clerk shall establish forms and procedures for the administration of this Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program which shall include but not be limited to the timelines for when candidates and contributors shall register with the City Clerk to be eligible for participation in the Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program.

ISSUANCE OF A REBATE

8. The City Clerk shall issue a rebate to an individual in accordance with Schedule "A" of this By-law if the following conditions are met:
 - (a) the individual has not been found to be in contravention of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*;
 - (b) the candidate to whom the contribution was made has enrolled in the Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program with the City Clerk;
 - (c) the candidate to whom the contribution was made has filed all documents and paid any amounts as required under the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* by the prescribed dates;
 - (d) the City Clerk is satisfied that the receipt for the contribution in question filed by the candidate to whom the contribution was made is bona fide; and
 - (e) the City Clerk is satisfied that the candidate to whom the contribution was made has not contravened the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.
9. In addition to section 8 of this By-law, the City Clerk shall issue a rebate:
 - (a) if the candidate to whom the contribution was made files his or her financial statement(s) in accordance with the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* and if no compliance audit request is received for the candidate to whom the contribution was paid:
 - (i) after the compliance audit request deadline has passed following the primary financial filing deadline; or
 - (ii) if the candidate to whom the contribution was made extends his or her campaign period, after the compliance audit request deadline has passed following the supplementary financial filing deadline.

OR

 - (b) if a compliance audit request is received and:
 - (i) the Election Campaign Finances Committee finds that the candidate was not in contravention of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* and no forensic audit is ordered; or
 - (ii) the Election Campaign Finances Committee orders a forensic audit and the auditor finds that the candidate was not in contravention of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.
10. The amount of the rebate shall be calculated as per Schedule "A" attached hereto and forming part of this By-law.
11. The City Clerk may delegate any and all duties available according to this By-law.

10.1

ENACTED and PASSED this 24 day of ~~April~~ May, 2017.

APPROVED AS TO FORM City Solicitor MISSISSAUGA			
R. Genoway			
Date	2017	05	15

Bonnie Crombie
MAYOR

Crystal Green
CLERK

AMENDED BY BY-LAW	
63-18	

SCHEDULE "A"

CALCULATION OF REBATE

Rebates for contributions to a candidate running for the offices of ward councillor or mayor in the City of Mississauga will be calculated as follows:

1. A minimum contribution of \$25.00 is required to be eligible for a rebate.
2. A contributor shall receive 25% of their total contribution(s) over \$25.00, up to a maximum rebate of \$150.00.
3. An individual who makes multiple contributions over \$25 within the contribution limits of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, may receive a rebate in respect to the total of the contributions, but is not entitled to receive a total rebate amounting to more than the maximum allowable under Schedule "A".
4. If a contributor makes multiple donations of less than the minimum requirement of \$25.00, but the total contribution for the multiple donations is equal to or greater than the \$25.00 minimum, the contributions are ineligible for rebate.



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA

BY-LAW NUMBER 0063-2018

A Housekeeping by-law to amend the Corporation of the City of Mississauga By-law 0067-2017 being a by-law to authorize the implementation of a City of Mississauga municipal election campaign contribution rebate program for the 2018 municipal election

WHEREAS on February 22, 2017, Council for the Corporation of Mississauga approved General Committee recommendation 0051-2017 to implement a municipal election campaign contribution rebate program for the 2018 municipal election based on a minimum contribution of 25 dollars;

AND WHEREAS on May 24, 2017 Council for the Corporation of Mississauga enacted and passed a by-law to authorize the rebate program (the "Rebate By-law");

AND WHEREAS Council wishes to enact a housekeeping by-law to amend the Rebate By-law to clarify the contribution eligibility for the rebate program according to General Committee recommendation 0051-2017;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Corporation of the City of Mississauga hereby ENACTS as follows:

THAT By-law 0067-2017 is hereby amended as follows:

1. That section 2 of Schedule "A" is hereby amended by deleting the words "over \$25.00" and replacing it with "of \$25.00 or more".
2. That section 3 of Schedule "A" is hereby amended by deleting the words "over \$25.00" and replacing it with "of \$25.00 or more".

ENACTED AND PASSED this 11 day of April, 2018.

APPROVED AS TO FORM City Solicitor MISSISSAUGA			
<i>R. Gensoway</i>			
Date	2018	04	04

Bonnie Crombie

MAYOR

W. J. Brown

CLERK

City of Mississauga Corporate Report



Date: 1/13/2020

To: Chair and Members of Governance Committee

From: Diana Rusnov, Director, Legislative Services and City Clerk

Originator's files:

Meeting date:
1/28/2020

Subject

City of Mississauga's 2022 Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program

Recommendation

1. That Governance Committee provide direction to the City Clerk on the following items related to the City of Mississauga's Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program:
 - a. the percentage amount an eligible contributor can receive as a rebate on their contribution
 - b. the minimum campaign contribution eligible for a rebate; and
 - c. the maximum rebate an eligible contributor can receive on their contribution
2. That any necessary changes be made to the City of Mississauga's Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program by-law, By-law numbers 0067-2017 and 0063-2018.
3. That the necessary funds be transferred into the Election Reserve to cover the cost of the 2022 Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program payouts and that the amount required to cover the cost of the program be transferred into the Election Reserve for future General Elections and By-elections until such time that Council adopts a new formula.

Report Highlights

- The City of Mississauga's Election Campaign Contribution Rebate program (rebate program) was established by By-law 0067-2017 (Appendix 1) and By-law 0063-2018 (Appendix 2) ahead of the 2018 Municipal Election.
- The current rebate program rules allow eligible contributors that contribute \$25 or more to receive a rebate of 25% percent of their contribution up to a total amount of \$150.
- The City Clerk is seeking direction on the rebate formula to be used for the rebate program for the 2022 Municipal Election.
- The City Clerk is responding to comments and suggestions received with respect to the administrative processes related to the rebate program.

Background

In 2017, under the authority of section 88.11 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* (MEA), By-law 0067-2017 established the City of Mississauga's Campaign Contribution Rebate Program. Candidate and contributor eligibility requirements and responsibilities are as follows:

- candidates had to:
 - be running for office of Ward Councillor or Mayor
 - enroll in the rebate program by completing a registration form
 - follow the campaign finance rules in the MEA
 - complete an Contribution Rebate Receipt for each contribution received that was eligible for a rebate
 - provide a copy of the receipt to the contributor
 - retain a copy of the receipt for their campaign records
 - provide a copy of the receipt to the Office of the City Clerk by the deadline noted on the receipt
- contributors had to:
 - be eligible to vote in the 2018 Mississauga Municipal Election
 - be a resident of the City of Mississauga
 - not be a candidate or the spouse or child of a candidate
 - follow the contribution rules in the MEA
 - sign the Contribution Rebate Receipt
 - request their rebate by submitting a copy of their receipt to the Office of the City Clerk in person, via post or via email by the deadline

Following the 2018 Municipal Election, approximately \$36,000 in rebates was paid out to contributors that met the requirements

The following statistics, comments and suggestions have been gathered through the 2018 Municipal Election Candidate Survey related to the rebate program:

Did you participate in the Campaign Contribution Rebate Program?		
Yes	32.43%	12 response total
No	67.57%	25 response total

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Do you think the Campaign Contribution Rebate Program improved your ability to raise campaign funds?		
Yes	24.32%	9 response total
No	16.22%	6 response total
I did not participate	59.46%	22 response total

Would you like the City of Mississauga to continue offering the Campaign Contribution Rebate Program?		
Yes	70.27%	26 response total
No	29.73%	11 response total

Comments and suggestions made by survey respondents included:

- eliminating the carbon copy receipts in favour of electronic receipts
- making the process easier
- increasing the rebate amount that a contributor can receive
- making the rebates available through a federal or provincial income tax rebate

Staff took the above comments and suggestions into account when reviewing the rebate program rules and processes.

Comments

Rebate Formulas

Currently the City of Mississauga's rebate program allows rebates of 25% on campaign contributions of \$25 or more up to a total rebate of \$150. The following information has been gathered regarding the rebate formula used in other municipalities:

Municipality and Summary of Eligibility Rules	Minimum Contribution	Rebate Formula	Max. Rebate
Ajax -Limited to residents of the town of Ajax -Cannot be a candidate or the spouse or child of a candidate	\$20	75% of the total contribution	\$225
Markham -Limited to residents of the	\$50	\$50 — \$300: 75% of contribution to a maximum contribution rebate of	\$350

Province of Ontario		<p>\$225</p> <p>\$301 — \$550: \$225 plus 50% of the difference between the total contribution and \$300 to a maximum contribution rebate of \$350</p> <p>\$551 — \$1,200: \$350 rebate</p>	
<p>Mississauga</p> <p>-Limited to residents of the City of Mississauga</p> <p>- Cannot be a candidate or the spouse or child of a candidate</p>	\$25	25% of the total contribution	\$150
<p>Oakville</p> <p>-Limited to residents of the Town of Oakville</p> <p>-A candidate for an office on municipal council or their family member are not eligible to receive a rebate for contributions to that individual candidate's campaign</p>	\$100	50% of the total contribution	\$2,500
<p>Ottawa</p> <p>-Limited to residents of the Province of Ontario</p> <p>-Cannot be a candidate or the candidate's spouse or the candidate's dependent child</p>	\$25.01	<p>\$25.01 – \$100: 50% of the total contribution</p> <p>\$100 or more: \$50 plus 25% of the amount by which the contribution exceeds \$100</p>	\$75
<p>Toronto</p> <p>-Limited to residents of the Province of Ontario</p> <p>-Candidates must file an audited financial statement and a copy of the receipt issued for the contribution and a copy of all campaign expense invoices</p>	\$25.01	<p>Total contributions between \$25.01 and \$300: total contribution amount x 75%</p> <p>Total contributions over \$300 but not more than \$1,000: total contribution amount minus \$300 x 50% + \$225</p> <p>Total contributions over \$1,000: total contribution amount minus \$1,000 x 33 1/3% + \$575</p>	\$1,000
<p>Vaughan</p> <p>-Limited to residents of the City of Vaughan</p>	\$50	The lesser of 75% of the contribution or \$150	\$150

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-Cannot be the candidate or the spouse, sibling, grandparent, parent, child or grandchild of the candidate			
Whitby -Limited to residents of the Town of Whitby	\$25.00	25% of the total contribution	\$150

The following is the total amount municipalities paid out or, would pay out if the deadline for requesting a rebate had passed at the time this report was written:

Municipality	Amount <i>(numbers rounded)</i>
Mississauga	\$35,735
Ajax	\$20,000*
Markham	\$500,000
Oakville	\$100,000
Ottawa	\$100,000*
Toronto	Unavailable**
Vaughan	\$75,000
Whitby	\$7,800

**This number may increase as the deadline for requesting a rebate had not passed when the benchmarking was conducted.*

***2014 payout was \$4,000,000*

When comparing total payouts it's important to consider the impact of eligibility requirements related to residency on the total amount being paid. For example, formulas applied in municipalities where residents of the Province of Ontario are eligible for a rebate may result in a lower payout when applied in the City of Mississauga where the eligibility requirements are limited to residents of the municipality.

Staff are seeking direction from Governance Committee regarding the rebate formula that should be used going forward. The financial impact of the formulas is discussed in the Financial Impact section of this report.

Administrative Processes

As part of the rebate program review process and because of comments and suggestions received, the rebate program administrative procedures are being reviewed. Information related to other municipalities rebate program administrative processes is noted below:

Municipality	Receipt Type	Administrative Process for a Rebate to be Issued
Ajax	Carbon copy receipts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Candidates provide a copy of the receipt to the contributor; and -Candidates retain a copy of the receipt for their records; and -Candidates provide a copy of the receipt to the Clerk's Office
Markham	Carbon copy receipts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Candidates are required to provide a spreadsheet of their contributors when they file their Financial Statement and may be required to produce a copy of the contribution receipt; and -Candidates issue a carbon copy receipt to their contributors; and -Contributors apply for a rebate in person, via mail or via an electronic application receipt
Oakville	Carbon copy receipts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Candidates keep a copy of the receipt; and -Candidates provide a copy of the receipt to the Clerk's Office; and -Candidates return any unused or voided receipts to the Clerk's Office; and -Contributors keep a copy of the receipt; and -Contributors provide a copy of the receipt to the Clerk's Office
Ottawa	Paper copies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Candidates provide a paper copy of the rebate receipt to the Clerk's Office; and -Contributors provide a paper copy of the rebate receipt to the Clerk's Office; and -The two copies must match
Toronto	Uses both a three part hard copy receipt or an electronic receipt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Candidates provide two copies of a completed receipt to their contributor -Candidates submit a copy of the rebate receipt when filing their Financial Statement; and -Contributors keep a copy of the receipt for their records; and -Contributors provide a copy of the receipt to the Clerk's Office
Vaughan	Carbon copy receipts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Candidates provide contributors with two copies of the

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		receipt; and -Contributors submit one copy of the receipt along with a signed application receipt to the Clerk's Office; and -Candidates log their receipt numbers in their electronic financial filing which is checked with the contribution applications
Whitby	Paper form	-Candidates are provided with paper copies of the receipt form; and -Candidates submit all rebate forms to the Clerk's Office

Based on the processes used in other municipalities and the feedback received about the City of Mississauga's rebate program, staff are considering the following changes:

- eliminating the requirement that a contributor must apply for a rebate. This means only candidates would be required to submit the rebate receipt to the Elections Office although under section 88.22(1)(f) candidates would still be required to issue a contribution receipt to the contributor
- once a new Election information management system is procured, working with the vendor to potentially add an electronic rebate program receipts component
- if electronic receipts are possible, staff are considering the continued use of carbon copy receipts in addition to the electronic receipts, so that in instances where candidates need to issue a receipt and do not have access to a computer, they are still able to do so

Financial Impact

The financial impact that changes to the rebate program will have is dependent on a variety of factors. These factors include:

- the number of candidates that participate in the program during the 2022 election
- how many contributions participating candidates receive that are eligible for a rebate
- the amounts of the eligible contributions given to candidates

In the following chart, the rebate formulas used in other municipalities have been applied to the total number of contributions that were eligible for a rebate in the City of Mississauga. This is intended to provide an idea of the potential financial impact changing the rebate formula may have:

Municipality	Minimum Contribution	Formula Applied Based on City of Mississauga Eligibility Criteria	Rebates Payable when applied to the City of Mississauga
Ajax	\$20	75% of the total contribution To a maximum rebate of \$225	\$66,000
Markham	\$50	\$50 — \$300: 75% of contribution to a maximum contribution rebate of \$225 \$301 — \$550: \$225 plus 50% of the difference between the total contribution and \$300 to a maximum contribution rebate of \$350 \$551 — \$1,200: A \$350 contribution rebate is issued To a maximum rebate of \$350	\$90,000
Oakville	\$100	50% of the total contribution To a maximum rebate of \$2,500	\$99,000
Ottawa	\$25.01	\$25.01 – \$100: 50% of the total contribution \$100 or more: \$50 plus 25% of the amount by which the contribution exceeds \$100 To a maximum rebate of \$75	\$24,300
Toronto	\$25.01	Total contributions between \$25.01 and \$300: total contribution amount x 75% Total contributions over \$300 but not more than \$1,000: total contribution amount minus \$300 x 50% + \$225 Total contributions over \$1,000: total contribution amount minus \$1,000 x 33 1/3% + \$575 To a maximum rebate of \$1,000	\$117,600

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Vaughan	\$50	75% of the total contribution to a maximum rebate of \$150	\$47,500
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The final financial impact will be dependent on the rebate formula adopted and the factors noted above.

Conclusion

The 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.

Attachments

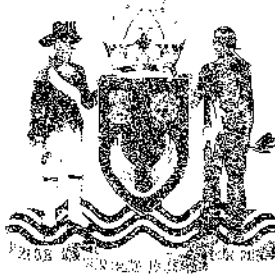
Appendix 1: By-law 0067-2017 A by-law to Authorize the Implementation of a City of Mississauga Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program for the 2018 Municipal Election

Appendix 2: By-law 0063-2018 A Housekeeping by-law to amend the Corporation of the City of Mississauga By-law 0067-2017 being a by-law to authorize the implementation of a City of Mississauga municipal election campaign contribution rebate program for the 2018 Municipal Election



Diana Rusnov, Director, Legislative Services and City Clerk

Prepared by: Gus Mangos, Elections Officer



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA

BY-LAW NUMBER 0067-2017

A by-law to authorize the implementation of a City of Mississauga
Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program for the
2018 Municipal Election

WHEREAS subsection 88.11(1) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, provides that a municipal council may pass a by-law authorizing the payment of rebates to individuals who make contributions to candidates for office on the municipal council;

AND WHEREAS subsection 88.11(3) of the *Municipal Elections Act 1996*, provides that the by-law enacted according to 88.11(1) shall establish the conditions under which an individual is entitled to a rebate;

AND WHEREAS on February 22, 2017 Council for the Corporation of the City of Mississauga approved General Committee recommendation GC-0051-2017 which recommends the implementation of a Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program for the 2018 Mississauga Municipal Election;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the City of Mississauga hereby ENACTS as follows:

DEFINITIONS

1. For the purposes of this By-law, "Election" shall mean the regular election according to the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* as amended that takes place in 2018 in the City of Mississauga.

ELIGIBILITY FOR A REBATE

2. Notwithstanding Section 88.15 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, for the purposes of this By-law, only a contribution of money will be eligible for rebate.
3. In order to qualify for a rebate, an individual who makes a contribution must:
 - (a) reside in the City of Mississauga;
 - (b) be a Canadian citizen;
 - (c) be at least 18 years old;
 - (d) not be prohibited from voting according to subsection 17(3) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*; and
 - (e) contribute between the time the candidate files his or her nomination and the day the candidate's campaign period ends.
4. Notwithstanding Section 3 of this By-law, the following are ineligible for a rebate:
 - (a) a candidate in the Election;
 - (b) any person who contributes to a candidate in the Election where the person contributing is the spouse or child of the candidate; and/or
 - (c) corporations.

APPLICATIONS TO THE CITY CLERK

5. An individual who makes a contribution to a candidate during the Election may apply to the City Clerk for a rebate.
6. Candidates must register for the Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program by completing the registration form and agreeing to the terms and conditions of the Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program in order for individuals who contribute to the candidate's campaign to be eligible for a rebate.
7. The City Clerk shall establish forms and procedures for the administration of this Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program which shall include but not be limited to the timelines for when candidates and contributors shall register with the City Clerk to be eligible for participation in the Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program.

ISSUANCE OF A REBATE

8. The City Clerk shall issue a rebate to an individual in accordance with Schedule "A" of this By-law if the following conditions are met:
 - (a) the individual has not been found to be in contravention of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*;
 - (b) the candidate to whom the contribution was made has enrolled in the Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program with the City Clerk;
 - (c) the candidate to whom the contribution was made has filed all documents and paid any amounts as required under the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* by the prescribed dates;
 - (d) the City Clerk is satisfied that the receipt for the contribution in question filed by the candidate to whom the contribution was made is bona fide; and
 - (e) the City Clerk is satisfied that the candidate to whom the contribution was made has not contravened the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.
9. In addition to section 8 of this By-law, the City Clerk shall issue a rebate:
 - (a) if the candidate to whom the contribution was made files his or her financial statement(s) in accordance with the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* and if no compliance audit request is received for the candidate to whom the contribution was paid:
 - (i) after the compliance audit request deadline has passed following the primary financial filing deadline; or
 - (ii) if the candidate to whom the contribution was made extends his or her campaign period, after the compliance audit request deadline has passed following the supplementary financial filing deadline.

OR

 - (b) if a compliance audit request is received and:
 - (i) the Election Campaign Finances Committee finds that the candidate was not in contravention of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* and no forensic audit is ordered; or
 - (ii) the Election Campaign Finances Committee orders a forensic audit and the auditor finds that the candidate was not in contravention of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.
10. The amount of the rebate shall be calculated as per Schedule "A" attached hereto and forming part of this By-law.
11. The City Clerk may delegate any and all duties available according to this By-law.

ENACTED and PASSED this 24 day of April May, 2017.

APPROVED AS TO FORM City Solicitor MISSISSAUGA			
R. Genoway			
Date	2017	05	15

Bonnie Crombie
MAYOR

Carol Kline
CLERK

AMENDED BY BY-LAW	
63-18	

SCHEDULE "A"

CALCULATION OF REBATE

Rebates for contributions to a candidate running for the offices of ward councillor or mayor in the City of Mississauga will be calculated as follows:

1. A minimum contribution of \$25.00 is required to be eligible for a rebate.
2. A contributor shall receive 25% of their total contribution(s) over \$25.00, up to a maximum rebate of \$150.00.
3. An individual who makes multiple contributions over \$25 within the contribution limits of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, may receive a rebate in respect to the total of the contributions, but is not entitled to receive a total rebate amounting to more than the maximum allowable under Schedule "A".
4. If a contributor makes multiple donations of less than the minimum requirement of \$25.00, but the total contribution for the multiple donations is equal to or greater than the \$25.00 minimum, the contributions are ineligible for rebate.



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA

BY-LAW NUMBER 0063-2018

A Housekeeping by-law to amend the Corporation of the City of Mississauga By-law 0067-2017 being a by-law to authorize the implementation of a City of Mississauga municipal election campaign contribution rebate program for the 2018 municipal election

WHEREAS on February 22, 2017, Council for the Corporation of Mississauga approved General Committee recommendation 0051-2017 to implement a municipal election campaign contribution rebate program for the 2018 municipal election based on a minimum contribution of 25 dollars;

AND WHEREAS on May 24, 2017 Council for the Corporation of Mississauga enacted and passed a by-law to authorize the rebate program (the "Rebate By-law");

AND WHEREAS Council wishes to enact a housekeeping by-law to amend the Rebate By-law to clarify the contribution eligibility for the rebate program according to General Committee recommendation 0051-2017;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Corporation of the City of Mississauga hereby ENACTS as follows:

THAT By-law 0067-2017 is hereby amended as follows:

1. That section 2 of Schedule "A" is hereby amended by deleting the words "over \$25.00" and replacing it with "of \$25.00 or more".
2. That section 3 of Schedule "A" is hereby amended by deleting the words "over \$25.00" and replacing it with "of \$25.00 or more".

ENACTED AND PASSED this 11 day of April, 2018.

APPROVED AS TO FORM City Solicitor MISSISSAUGA			
<i>L. Gendreau</i>			
Date	2018	04	04

Handwritten signature of Bonnie Crombie.

MAYOR

Handwritten signature of the Clerk.

CLERK

City of Mississauga

Corporate Report



Date: June 22, 2020

To: Mayor and Members of General Committee

From: Gary Kent, CPA, CGA, ICD.D, Commissioner of
Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer

Originator's files:

Meeting date:
September 9, 2020

Subject

Election Administration Information Report: City of Mississauga Campaign Contribution Rebate Program and Consolidated Statistics

Recommendation

1. That the Corporate Report dated June 1, 2020 from the Director of Legislative Services and City Clerk titled *Election Administration Information Report: City of Mississauga Campaign Contribution Rebate Program and Consolidated Statistics* be received.
2. That Council provide direction to staff regarding the rebate formula to be used for the City of Mississauga's 2022 Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program.
3. That a by-law be established to authorize the formula for the 2022 City of Mississauga Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program.
4. That, once a by-law is passed establishing the formula for the City of Mississauga's Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program, the appropriate amount of funds be transferred into the Election Cost Centre to cover the cost of the City of Mississauga's Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program going forward.

Report Highlights

- At the January 28, 2020 Governance Committee meeting, the committee requested that staff report to General Committee on the following topics:
 - The financial impact of a new formula for the City of Mississauga's Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program
 - Statistics related to municipal elections in the Greater Toronto Area and beyond

Background

At the January 28, 2020 Governance Committee meeting, Elections Administration staff submitted three Corporate Reports from the Director of Legislative Services and City Clerk. The first; dated January 13, 2020, was titled *Ranked Ballot Elections – Review of the City of London's Experience* (Appendix 1) the second; dated January 13, 2020 was titled *2018 City of Mississauga Municipal Election Information Overview* (Appendix 2) and the third; also dated January 13, 2020 was titled *City of Mississauga's 2022 Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program*.

At the meeting, Governance Committee directed staff to report back to General Committee on the following three topics:

- Information related to Ranked Choice Voting (RCV). This information is included in the Corporate Report dated May 1, 2020, titled *Election Administration Information Report: Ranked Choice Voting*
- The financial impact of various rebate formulas associated with the City of Mississauga Election Campaign Finance Rebate Program (rebate program)
- Consolidated statistics related to municipal elections

A separate report has been prepared for Ranked Choice Voting and is included on the July 8, 2020 Council agenda.

Appendix 4 provides detailed information on potential rebate program formulas and Appendix 5 provides consolidated municipal election statistics.

Comments

City of Mississauga's Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program

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. Appendix 4 of this report provides options for the maximums rebate allowable based on the above noted criteria. Once approved, staff will prepare a by-law to authorize implementation of the rebate program formula.

Consolidated Statistics

At the January 28, 2020 Governance Committee meeting, the committee directed staff to consolidate various statistics found in Corporate Report dated January 13, 2020 from the Director of Legislative Services and City Clerk titled *City of Mississauga Municipal Election Information Overview*. Appendix 5 expands the information originally provided in the January 13, 2020 report.

Financial Impact

The Financial impact of the rebate program is included in Appendix 4 of this report. With the information shown in Appendix 4 in mind, and using the eligible campaign contribution numbers from 2018, staff estimate that changes to the rebate program may cost approximately \$100,000. Once a by-law is passed establishing the formula for the rebate program, approximately \$100,000 will need to be added to the Election Cost Centre (715885-22450) to cover the cost.

Conclusion

The election campaign contribution rebate program was implemented for the 2018 election at a cost of \$35,700. Based on Council's direction to review the option of increasing the amount of possible rebates, it is estimated that with a maximum rebate of \$1500 per contributor the cost of the rebate program would grow to approximately \$100,000 based on 2018 contributions. Staff are seeking direction on the rebate formula to be used for 2022 Municipal Election.

Attachments

Appendix 1: Ranked Ballot Elections – Review of the City of London's Experience

Appendix 2: 2018 City of Mississauga Municipal Election Information Overview

Appendix 3: City of Mississauga's 2022 Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program

Appendix 4: City of Mississauga Campaign Contribution Rebate Program Rebate Program Options

Appendix 5: Consolidated Statistics



Gary Kent, CPA, CGA, ICD.D, Commissioner of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Gus Mangos, Elections Officer

City of Mississauga Corporate Report



Date: 2020/01/13

To: Chair and Members of Governance Committee

From: Diana Rusnov, Director, Legislative Services and City Clerk

Originator's files:
File names

Meeting date:
1/28/2020

Subject

Ranked Ballot Elections - Review of the City of London's Experience

Recommendation

That the Corporate Report dated January 13, 2020, from the Director of Legislative Services and City Clerk, entitled Ranked Ballot Elections - Review of the City of London's Experience be received.

Report Highlights

- This report looks at the City of London's experience with implementing Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) in the 2018 municipal election.
- In the City of London's experience, voter turnout did not increase with the use of RCV.
- The use of RCV did not change the outcome of the election; the winning candidate in all 15 races in the City of London would have been the same winning candidate had the first past the post system of voting been used.

Background

At the November 4, 2019 Governance Committee meeting it was requested that staff report back to the committee regarding RCV. This report looks at the City of London's experience and the outcomes related to implementing RCV.

Comments

Overview

Prior to the 2018 Municipal Election, Bill 181, the *Municipal Elections Modernization Act, 2016*, amended the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, to allow municipal Councils to implement Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) for municipal elections. In accordance with Ontario Regulation 310/16, RCV, if implemented, would apply to races for municipal council only.

In the City of Mississauga's current first-past-the-post method of voting, voters are allowed to

pick one candidate from each race and the candidate with the most votes wins. There is no requirement for the percentage of votes a candidate must get in order to win a race.

Alternatively, in a RCV election, voters are given the option to rank candidates in order of preference for each race. A candidate must obtain 50% + 1 of the vote to win. Initial results are tabulated based on the first choices of voters. If no candidate obtains 50% + 1 of the vote, a runoff occurs.

In a runoff:

- the candidate with the lowest number of votes is eliminated from the contest
- the first choice votes that originally went to the eliminated candidate are set aside
- the second choices on those ballots are counted

Runoffs continue until a candidate receives 50% + 1 of the vote. There is no legislated requirement regarding how many choices a voter can be given.

The intention of RCV is to:

- Provide more choice for voters
- Discourage negative campaigning
- Eliminate vote splitting
- Reduce strategic voting
- Ensure the candidate with the most support wins

Implementation Summary of Outcomes

During the 2018 Municipal Election the only municipality in Ontario to implement RCV was the City of London. The City of London produced a report entitled “2018 Municipal Election” which summarises their experience with implementing RCV.

<https://pub-london.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=59976>

In their report, the City of London notes the following:

- RCV did not increase voter turnout. The historical voter turnout in the City of London is as follows:
 - 2010 turnout = 42.93%
 - 2014 turnout = 43.2%
 - 2018 turnout = 39.46%
- The winning candidate in all 15 races would have been the winning candidate had the election been a first-past-the-post election; RCV did not change the outcome
- For the Mayoral race:
 - 47% of voters made three choices
 - 22% marked their first and second choice
 - 30% ranked one candidate

Challenges Related to RCV Implementation

A summary of the challenges related to the implementation of RCV as reported by the City of London and the City of Kingston, which also produced a report on the City of London's experience with RCV, include:

Vote Counting Technology

- As the City of London was the first municipality to implement RCV, they requested that the Province consider certifying the vote-counting equipment, the Province declined
- The City of London requested funding from the Province to pay for an auditor to monitor a review the RCV process, this request was also declined
- As it was the first year that RCV was permitted, the City of London hired their own independent auditor to review the City's RCV procedures

Results Reporting

- On election night, only the first choice votes were tabulated
- For races requiring a runoff, additional rounds of ballot counting began at 10am the next day and unofficial results were announced by 3pm.
- Generally, it is anticipated that in an RCV election results will take longer to post. On election night, poll by poll results are irrelevant until all results are added since all results must be counted to determine the 50%+1

Voter Education

- The City of London felt that education and communication was vital to ensure that voters were aware of the change in how to vote and how the votes would be calculated
- The City of London spent \$141,000 on community outreach related to RCV to communicate to their 248,000 voters
- In their "2018 Municipal Election" report the City of London notes:

The enhanced communication protocols... was very labour intensive, with all the Elections staff and Managers in the City Clerk's Office working evenings and weekends attending events, including festivals, community meetings and meetings of organizations

- To communicate to voters, City of London staff:
 - held two candidate information sessions
 - attended 160 community events
 - increased communication over social media platforms
 - conducted voting demonstrations for the media
- The City of London's website, billboards and bus shelters were used to help with communication

Expenses

- The additional cost of implementing RCV for the City of London was \$515,446
- A comprehensive breakdown of the expenses related to the City of London's implementation of RCV is included on page 8 of their Report, but highlights include:
 - \$147,752 spent on an independent auditor
 - \$41,000 spent on additional election workers
 - \$82,686 spent on staff resources, including a full time communications staff

City of Kingston

As previously noted the City of Kingston produced a report entitled "*City of London Experiences with Ranked Choice Voting*" which also explores the City of London's experience with implementing RCV.

https://www.cityofkingston.ca/documents/10180/35286121/City-Council_Meeting-17-2019_Report-19-165_City-of-London-Experiences-with-Ranked-Choice-Voting_UPDATED.pdf/a754749e-cb6d-4dcb-95f6-e0bd2bcecacb

The City of Kingston's City Council have directed staff to implement RCV for the 2022 Municipal Election.

Financial Impact

The financial impact of implementing RCV is dependent on:

- If the City of Mississauga determines it necessary to hire an independent auditor
- Communications initiatives employed
- Additional staffing costs required to provide I.T. and administrative support
- Additional election workers required at the voting locations to assist and explain the process

Other possible dependencies include potentially having to upgrade the vote counting equipment and software.

Conclusion

Staff will continue to research and review new technology with the intention of making voting easier and more convenient for voters while upholding the principles of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.

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Originatorsfiles: File names



Diana Rusnov, Director, Legislative Services and City Clerk

Prepared by: Laura Wilson, Elections Officer

City of Mississauga

Corporate Report



Date: 1/13/2020

To: Chair and Members of Governance Committee

From: Diana Rusnov, Director, Legislative Services and City Clerk

Originator's files:

Meeting date:
1/28/2020

Subject

2018 City of Mississauga Municipal Election Information Overview

Recommendation

That the Corporate Report dated January 13, 2019, from the Director of Legislative Services and City Clerk, titled *2018 City of Mississauga Municipal Election Information Overview* be received.

Report Highlights

- At the January 30, 2019 General Committee meeting, committee members made comments in relation to the 2018 and upcoming 2022 municipal elections. This report is provides information in response to those comments.
- Results of the 2018 candidate survey are included as an attachment.
- With the introduction of Vote Anywhere 26% of voters voted outside their ward on advanced polling days and 30% of voters voted at a different location other than the one they would have voted at during the 2014 Municipal Election.

Background

The Corporate Report dated January 15, 2019 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer titled *"The 2018 City of Mississauga Election – New Initiatives and Election Summary"* was included on the January 30, 2019 General Committee Agenda (Appendix 1). Committee members provided comments in relation to the report and the 2018 and upcoming 2022 Municipal Elections. This report is in response to those comments. At the January 30, 2019 meeting, staff were requested to develop a survey for candidates who ran in the 2018 election. The survey was intended to gather information on possible improvements to election administrative processes. The results are included as Appendix 2.

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Although General Committee members discussed election signs at the January 30, 2019 meeting, information with respect to the Sign By-law is not included in this report. Sign By-law information will be provided by the Planning and Building Department. In addition, staff were requested to report to Governance Committee regarding internet voting. However, due to the complexity of implementation, staff will report back at a later date.

Comments

Voters List

General Committee raised concerns about the accuracy of the Voters' List. Staff recognize that the inaccuracies are frustrating for candidates and voters. In addition, staff is aware that when voters have to correct Voters' List information, completing an Application for Revision to the Voters' List can slow down the voting process.

In 2018 there were approximately 20,000 revisions made to the Voters' List. As the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) manages the Voters' List for all municipalities across Ontario, individual municipalities have little control over the quality of the data. The Provincial Government has proposed that Elections Ontario manage municipal Voters' Lists instead of MPAC. In a News Release dated October 25, 2019 from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing the Province states:

Our government is proposing to eliminate duplication by combining the provincial and municipal voters lists, giving Elections Ontario the responsibility of managing the updated list and taking the burden off of municipalities.

Due to the passing of Bill 5 which reduced the City of Toronto's Wards from 47 to 25, Toronto's City Clerk entered into a data sharing agreement with Elections Ontario's Chief Electoral Officer. This allowed the City of Toronto to use the Province of Ontario's Voters' List information. In their 2018 Municipal Election Report, Toronto notes:

Access to the Provincial voters' list added 150,000 additional eligible electors and reduced the number of revisions by 45% compared to 2014 (219,897 in 2014 to 119,611 in 2018).

With these statistics in mind, staff are hopeful that if the municipal Voters' List is managed by Elections Ontario, the quality of the list will improve.

Voter Turnout

General Committee raised concerns with respect to voter turnout for the 2018 Municipal Election. The information provided below shows the voter turnout in Mississauga dating back to 1997:

Historical City of Mississauga Voter Turnout			
Year	Eligible Voters	Ballots Cast	Voter Turnout Percentage
1997	347,271	72,996	20.9%
2000	384,350	98,397	25.6%
2003	416,456	83,241	19.99%
2006	445,964	110,248	24.72%
2010	417,919	143,501	34.34%
2011*	42,704	11,536	27.01%
2014	444,755	162,655	36.57%
2015**	42,786	8,995	21.02%
2018	451,333	119,567	26.49%

**2011 Ward 5 By-election*

***2015 Ward 4 By-election*

The average Voter Turnout is 26.29%. Spikes in voter turnout could have a variety of reasons, for example, the higher turnout in 2014 may be due in part to the long standing Mayor retiring and a new Mayor being voted in.

The information below shows a comparison of voter turnout in municipalities throughout the GTA and beyond. The average voter turnout amongst these municipalities over the last three general elections is 37.95%.

Voter Turnout Comparison			
Municipality	2010 Voter Turnout	2014 Voter Turnout	2018 Voter Turnout
Brampton	33.13%	36.2%	34.5%
Burlington	37.6%	25.3%	39.79%
Caledon	43.26%	34.9%	32.29%
Hamilton	40.45%	34.02%	38.36%
London	42.93%	43.2%	39.46%
Milton	32.62%	33.35%	37%
Mississauga	34.34%	36.57%	26.49%
Oakville	40%	33%	37%
Ottawa	44%	39.92%	42.55%
Toronto	50.55%	54.7%	40.9%

The City of Mississauga falls under the average voter turnout amongst the above municipalities, and with this in mind a communications plan is developed before every election.

Communications completed a comprehensive, multi-channel, year-long campaign to ensure all audiences received timely, consistent and relevant information. The approach to communicating with voters and candidates align with the approach of other municipalities.

Paid advertising for the 2018 election was included in/on:

- MiWay Buses
- MiWay Bus Shelters
- Mobile street signs
- City of Mississauga owned assets
- The Mississauga News
- InSauga
- The Peel Weekly News
- Active+
- Modern Mississauga

In addition, advertising was translated and placed in 10 multicultural outlets through the Diverse Communities Promotions Program. The City of Mississauga also issued 11 media releases/advisories and Communications staff attended five community events throughout the

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summer of 2018. Community groups were also provided with an elections toolkit that included printable posters, key information, a Frequently Asked Questions document and digital assets to engage voters.

Social media was also utilized to help promote the election. The following chart shows how social media platforms were used:

Platform	Posts	Impressions*	Engagements**
Twitter	36	178,040	6,295
Facebook	22	63,224	39,593
LinkedIn	4	14,729	361

**Impression refers to the number of times the post was displayed*

***Engagements refers to the number of times the post was clicked on*

For context, analytics show that the 2018 municipal election received significant media coverage. This included 312 articles that had a potential circulation/reach of 38,000,000.

Elections and Communications staff will continue to partner to communicate to voters. Elections staff will also continue to review ways to make the voting process easy for voters while protecting the security and integrity of the vote.

Vote Anywhere

From a customer service perspective the Vote Anywhere (VA) model is positive in that it provides voters with more options for where they vote. Below is a comparison chart showing the increase in voting location options for voters between the 2014 and 2018 Municipal Elections:

	2014 Voting Location Options for Voters	2018 Voting Location Options for Voters
Advance Poll Days	1	22 throughout the municipality
Election Day	1	10 on average

Analysis conducted by the City of Mississauga's Geospatial Analysis and Visualization team shows that approximately 26% of voters voted outside of their Ward on Advance Poll Days. On Election Day, approximately 30% of voters voted at a location that was different from where they would have been required to vote if VA was not implemented and voters were restricted to a polling subdivision. These statistics demonstrate that voters are taking advantage of the flexibility provided through VA.

In addition to providing more voting location options, VA allows any voter to be served by any Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) which can help reduce wait times. This is because voters are not restricted to one polling subdivision and can be served by the next available DRO, similar to a lineup at a bank.

As an example, during the last Federal Election, City of Mississauga staff observed that because VA was not implemented and voters were restricted to one DRO, a lineup would occur in front of one DRO, while other DROs did not have any voters to serve. The Vote Anywhere (VA) model helps address this problem because any DRO can serve any voter.

In addition to the above, VA helps keep the City of Mississauga up to date with current trends. The table below shows the municipalities in the surrounding area that used a VA model in 2018.

Municipality	Advance Poll Days		Election Day	
	Vote Anywhere in the City	Vote Anywhere in your Ward	Vote Anywhere in the City	Vote Anywhere in your Ward
Ajax	Yes		Yes	
Brampton	Yes			Yes
Burlington	Yes			Yes
London	Yes		Not offered	
Markham	Yes		Yes	
Milton	Yes		Not offered	
Mississauga	Yes			Yes
Oakville	Yes			Yes
Ottawa	Yes		Not offered	
Toronto* see note	Yes		Not Offered	
Vaughan	Yes		Not offered	
Whitby	Yes		Yes	

**On Advance Poll Days Toronto had a voting location at City Hall at which any voter could vote. In addition, on Advance Poll Days, 2 locations in each Ward were available.*

As voting technology evolves, Elections staff are committed to researching and identifying the technology that will be most beneficial for voters while ensuring the security and integrity of the vote.

Voter Notification Letters

Concerns were raised by General Committee regarding the use of letters to notify electors about their voting options rather than more traditional Voter Notification Cards. The challenge to using the more traditional card is fitting the many voting location options (in some cases up to 37 locations were available over Advance Poll and Election Days), the multiple voting dates and differing voting times etc. into a limited space and in a design that meets accessibility

requirements. The information below shows what other municipalities used to communicate election information:

Municipality	Communication Type
Ajax	Voter Notification Letters – provides security required for information related to internet voting
Brampton	Voter Notification Cards & a cover letter - sent to each household; cards were two to a page and attached by a perforation that could be detached when voters went to vote
Burlington	Voter Notification Letters – allowed room for information related to internet voting
Caledon*	Voter Notification Cards – cards were sent to each elector
Hamilton*	Voter Notification Cards with up to five voters listed on each card – cards were sent per household
London	Voter Notification Cards – cards were bundled and sent per household attached by a perforation that could be detached when voters went to vote
Markham	Voter Notification Letters – letters were sent to each individual voter which kept each voter's PIN used for online voting, private
Milton*	Voter Notification Cards – cards were bundled and sent per household
Mississauga	Voter Notification Letters to each household
Oakville	Voter Notification Cards & a cover letter sent to each household
Ottawa	Voter Notification Letters sent to each voter
Toronto**	Voter Notification Cards
Vaughan	Voter notifications are bundled and sent per household with two Voter Notification Cards per sheet; cards can be separated along a perforated edge
Whitby	Voter Notification Cards sent to each voter

**These municipalities did not offer Vote Anywhere*

***Offered Vote Anywhere on Advance Poll days only*

Staff are committed to working with the Communications Divisions and Print and Mail Services to find a solution that will be easily identifiable to voters. Options include designing an envelope that closely resembles a traditional Voter Notification Card (VNC), or designing a VNC that folds out.

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Mandatory Location Process

General Committee raised questions about communication to long term care facilities and hospitals. Under section 45(7) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, the Clerk is required to provide voting locations at various institutions. Staff communicate with these locations about voting and voting times. However, the Elections Office will work with the Communications Division to increase awareness within these facilities.

Using Schools as Polling Locations

Having a Professional Activity Day (PA) so that students are not in school on Election Day would eliminate security concerns related to the safety of students. In addition, a PA day would address issues related to traffic in the school area and parking on school grounds potentially making it easier, in some instances, for voters to access the voting location. Elections staff have requested that the School Boards consider scheduling a PA day on Election Day, but so far, this request has not been fulfilled. Following the January 30, 2019 General Committee meeting, a letter was sent by the Mayor on behalf of Council making a similar request that a PA day be scheduled for Election Day. So far no response has been received with respect to this request.

Candidate Survey

General Committee requested that staff create a Candidate Survey for those that ran in the 2018 municipal election, requesting feedback about key election administration processes. The survey included questions related to:

- effective ways to communicate information
- additional information candidates require
- the candidate information session
- common questions candidates received from voters
- the Voters' List
- Vote Anywhere
- when voters are saying they are most likely to vote
- the Campaign Contribution Rebate Program
- election Sign rules
- the Financial Filing System

The survey results are attached as Appendix 2 of this Corporate Report. Staff will consider the information provided through the survey when planning for the 2022 Municipal Election.

Financial Impact

As staff plan for the 2022 municipal election, Business Cases and Budget Requests will be submitted if funding is required.

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Conclusion

This report is intended to provide information in response to questions and concerns raised at the January 30, 2018 General Committee regarding the 2018 Municipal Election. It is very early in the planning process for the 2022 Municipal Election, but elections staff will continue to work closely with stakeholders and partners such as the Information Technology and Communication Divisions to ensure a fair election that upholds the principles in the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.

Attachments

Appendix 1: The 2018 City of Mississauga Election – New Initiatives and Election Summary

Appendix 2: Report – 2018 Municipal Election Candidate Survey



Diana Rusnov, Director, Legislative Services and City Clerk

Prepared by: Laura Wilson, Elections Officer

City of Mississauga Corporate Report



Date: 1/13/2020

To: Chair and Members of Governance Committee

From: Diana Rusnov, Director, Legislative Services and City Clerk

Originator's files

Meeting date:
1/28/2020

Subject

City of Mississauga's 2022 Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program

Recommendation

1. That Governance Committee provide direction to the City Clerk on the following items related to the City of Mississauga's Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program:
 - a. the percentage amount an eligible contributor can receive as a rebate on their contribution
 - b. the minimum campaign contribution eligible for a rebate; and
 - c. the maximum rebate an eligible contributor can receive on their contribution
2. That any necessary changes be made to the City of Mississauga's Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program by-law, By-law numbers 0067-2017 and 0063-2018.
3. That the necessary funds be transferred into the Election Reserve to cover the cost of the 2022 Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program payouts and that the amount required to cover the cost of the program be transferred into the Election Reserve for future General Elections and By-elections until such time that Council adopts a new formula.

Report Highlights

- The City of Mississauga's Election Campaign Contribution Rebate program (rebate program) was established by By-law 0067-2017 (Appendix 1) and By-law 0063-2018 (Appendix 2) ahead of the 2018 Municipal Election.
- The current rebate program rules allow eligible contributors that contribute \$25 or more to receive a rebate of 25% percent of their contribution up to a total amount of \$150.
- The City Clerk is seeking direction on the rebate formula to be used for the rebate program for the 2022 Municipal Election.
- The City Clerk is responding to comments and suggestions received with respect to the administrative processes related to the rebate program.

Background

In 2017, under the authority of section 88.11 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* (MEA), By-law 0067-2017 established the City of Mississauga's Campaign Contribution Rebate Program. Candidate and contributor eligibility requirements and responsibilities are as follows:

- candidates had to:
 - be running for office of Ward Councillor or Mayor
 - enroll in the rebate program by completing a registration form
 - follow the campaign finance rules in the MEA
 - complete an Contribution Rebate Receipt for each contribution received that was eligible for a rebate
 - provide a copy of the receipt to the contributor
 - retain a copy of the receipt for their campaign records
 - provide a copy of the receipt to the Office of the City Clerk by the deadline noted on the receipt
- contributors had to:
 - be eligible to vote in the 2018 Mississauga Municipal Election
 - be a resident of the City of Mississauga
 - not be a candidate or the spouse or child of a candidate
 - follow the contribution rules in the MEA
 - sign the Contribution Rebate Receipt
 - request their rebate by submitting a copy of their receipt to the Office of the City Clerk in person, via post or via email by the deadline

Following the 2018 Municipal Election, approximately \$36,000 in rebates was paid out to contributors that met the requirements

The following statistics, comments and suggestions have been gathered through the 2018 Municipal Election Candidate Survey related to the rebate program:

Did you participate in the Campaign Contribution Rebate Program?		
Yes	32.43%	12 response total
No	67.57%	25 response total

Do you think the Campaign Contribution Rebate Program improved your ability to raise campaign funds?		
Yes	24.32%	9 response total
No	16.22%	6 response total
I did not participate	59.46%	22 response total

Would you like the City of Mississauga to continue offering the Campaign Contribution Rebate Program?		
Yes	70.27%	26 response total
No	29.73%	11 response total

Comments and suggestions made by survey respondents included:

- eliminating the carbon copy receipts in favour of electronic receipts
- making the process easier
- increasing the rebate amount that a contributor can receive
- making the rebates available through a federal or provincial income tax rebate

Staff took the above comments and suggestions into account when reviewing the rebate program rules and processes.

Comments

Rebate Formulas

Currently the City of Mississauga's rebate program allows rebates of 25% on campaign contributions of \$25 or more up to a total rebate of \$150. The following information has been gathered regarding the rebate formula used in other municipalities:

Municipality and Summary of Eligibility Rules	Minimum Contribution	Rebate Formula	Max. Rebate
Ajax -Limited to residents of the town of Ajax -Cannot be a candidate or the spouse or child of a candidate	\$20	75% of the total contribution	\$225
Markham -Limited to residents of the	\$50	\$50 — \$300: 75% of contribution to a maximum contribution rebate of	\$350

Province of Ontario		<p>\$225</p> <p>\$301 — \$550: \$225 plus 50% of the difference between the total contribution and \$300 to a maximum contribution rebate of \$350</p> <p>\$551 — \$1,200: \$350 rebate</p>	
<p>Mississauga</p> <p>-Limited to residents of the City of Mississauga</p> <p>- Cannot be a candidate or the spouse or child of a candidate</p>	\$25	25% of the total contribution	\$150
<p>Oakville</p> <p>-Limited to residents of the Town of Oakville</p> <p>-A candidate for an office on municipal council or their family member are not eligible to receive a rebate for contributions to that individual candidate's campaign</p>	\$100	50% of the total contribution	\$2,500
<p>Ottawa</p> <p>-Limited to residents of the Province of Ontario</p> <p>-Cannot be a candidate or the candidate's spouse or the candidate's dependent child</p>	\$25.01	<p>\$25.01 – \$100: 50% of the total contribution</p> <p>\$100 or more: \$50 plus 25% of the amount by which the contribution exceeds \$100</p>	\$75
<p>Toronto</p> <p>-Limited to residents of the Province of Ontario</p> <p>-Candidates must file an audited financial statement and a copy of the receipt issued for the contribution and a copy of all campaign expense invoices</p>	\$25.01	<p>Total contributions between \$25.01 and \$300: total contribution amount x 75%</p> <p>Total contributions over \$300 but not more than \$1,000: total contribution amount minus \$300 x 50% + \$225</p> <p>Total contributions over \$1,000: total contribution amount minus \$1,000 x 33 1/3% + \$575</p>	\$1,000
<p>Vaughan</p> <p>-Limited to residents of the City of Vaughan</p>	\$50	The lesser of 75% of the contribution or \$150	\$150

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-Cannot be the candidate or the spouse, sibling, grandparent, parent, child or grandchild of the candidate			
Whitby -Limited to residents of the Town of Whitby	\$25.00	25% of the total contribution	\$150

The following is the total amount municipalities paid out or, would pay out if the deadline for requesting a rebate had passed at the time this report was written:

Municipality	Amount <i>(numbers rounded)</i>
Mississauga	\$35,735
Ajax	\$20,000*
Markham	\$500,000
Oakville	\$100,000
Ottawa	\$100,000*
Toronto	Unavailable**
Vaughan	\$75,000
Whitby	\$7,800

**This number may increase as the deadline for requesting a rebate had not passed when the benchmarking was conducted.*

***2014 payout was \$4,000,000*

When comparing total payouts it's important to consider the impact of eligibility requirements related to residency on the total amount being paid. For example, formulas applied in municipalities where residents of the Province of Ontario are eligible for a rebate may result in a lower payout when applied in the City of Mississauga where the eligibility requirements are limited to residents of the municipality.

Staff are seeking direction from Governance Committee regarding the rebate formula that should be used going forward. The financial impact of the formulas is discussed in the Financial Impact section of this report.

Administrative Processes

As part of the rebate program review process and because of comments and suggestions received, the rebate program administrative procedures are being reviewed. Information related to other municipalities rebate program administrative processes is noted below:

Municipality	Receipt Type	Administrative Process for a Rebate to be Issued
Ajax	Carbon copy receipts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Candidates provide a copy of the receipt to the contributor; and -Candidates retain a copy of the receipt for their records; and -Candidates provide a copy of the receipt to the Clerk's Office
Markham	Carbon copy receipts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Candidates are required to provide a spreadsheet of their contributors when they file their Financial Statement and may be required to produce a copy of the contribution receipt; and -Candidates issue a carbon copy receipt to their contributors; and -Contributors apply for a rebate in person, via mail or via an electronic application receipt
Oakville	Carbon copy receipts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Candidates keep a copy of the receipt; and -Candidates provide a copy of the receipt to the Clerk's Office; and -Candidates return any unused or voided receipts to the Clerk's Office; and -Contributors keep a copy of the receipt; and -Contributors provide a copy of the receipt to the Clerk's Office
Ottawa	Paper copies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Candidates provide a paper copy of the rebate receipt to the Clerk's Office; and -Contributors provide a paper copy of the rebate receipt to the Clerk's Office; and -The two copies must match
Toronto	Uses both a three part hard copy receipt or an electronic receipt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Candidates provide two copies of a completed receipt to their contributor -Candidates submit a copy of the rebate receipt when filing their Financial Statement; and -Contributors keep a copy of the receipt for their records; and -Contributors provide a copy of the receipt to the Clerk's Office
Vaughan	Carbon copy receipts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Candidates provide contributors with two copies of the

		receipt; and -Contributors submit one copy of the receipt along with a signed application receipt to the Clerk's Office; and -Candidates log their receipt numbers in their electronic financial filing which is checked with the contribution applications
Whitby	Paper form	-Candidates are provided with paper copies of the receipt form; and -Candidates submit all rebate forms to the Clerk's Office

Based on the processes used in other municipalities and the feedback received about the City of Mississauga's rebate program, staff are considering the following changes:

- eliminating the requirement that a contributor must apply for a rebate. This means only candidates would be required to submit the rebate receipt to the Elections Office although under section 88.22(1)(f) candidates would still be required to issue a contribution receipt to the contributor
- once a new Election information management system is procured, working with the vendor to potentially add an electronic rebate program receipts component
- if electronic receipts are possible, staff are considering the continued use of carbon copy receipts in addition to the electronic receipts, so that in instances where candidates need to issue a receipt and do not have access to a computer, they are still able to do so

Financial Impact

The financial impact that changes to the rebate program will have is dependent on a variety of factors. These factors include:

- the number of candidates that participate in the program during the 2022 election
- how many contributions participating candidates receive that are eligible for a rebate
- the amounts of the eligible contributions given to candidates

In the following chart, the rebate formulas used in other municipalities have been applied to the total number of contributions that were eligible for a rebate in the City of Mississauga. This is intended to provide an idea of the potential financial impact changing the rebate formula may have:

Municipality	Minimum Contribution	Formula Applied Based on City of Mississauga Eligibility Criteria	Rebates Payable when applied to the City of Mississauga
Ajax	\$20	75% of the total contribution To a maximum rebate of \$225	\$66,000
Markham	\$50	\$50 — \$300: 75% of contribution to a maximum contribution rebate of \$225 \$301 — \$550: \$225 plus 50% of the difference between the total contribution and \$300 to a maximum contribution rebate of \$350 \$551 — \$1,200: A \$350 contribution rebate is issued To a maximum rebate of \$350	\$90,000
Oakville	\$100	50% of the total contribution To a maximum rebate of \$2,500	\$99,000
Ottawa	\$25.01	\$25.01 – \$100: 50% of the total contribution \$100 or more: \$50 plus 25% of the amount by which the contribution exceeds \$100 To a maximum rebate of \$75	\$24,300
Toronto	\$25.01	Total contributions between \$25.01 and \$300: total contribution amount x 75% Total contributions over \$300 but not more than \$1,000: total contribution amount minus \$300 x 50% + \$225 Total contributions over \$1,000: total contribution amount minus \$1,000 x 33 1/3% + \$575 To a maximum rebate of \$1,000	\$117,600

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Vaughan	\$50	75% of the total contribution to a maximum rebate of \$150	\$47,500
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The final financial impact will be dependent on the rebate formula adopted and the factors noted above.

Conclusion

The 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.

Attachments

Appendix 1: By-law 0067-2017 A by-law to Authorize the Implementation of a City of Mississauga Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program for the 2018 Municipal Election

Appendix 2: By-law 0063-2018 A Housekeeping by-law to amend the Corporation of the City of Mississauga By-law 0067-2017 being a by-law to authorize the implementation of a City of Mississauga municipal election campaign contribution rebate program for the 2018 Municipal Election



Diana Rusnov, Director, Legislative Services and City Clerk

Prepared by: Gus Mangos, Elections Officer



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA

COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 2017-07-10

A by-law to authorize the implementation of a City of Mississauga
Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program for the
2018 Municipal Election

WHEREAS subsection 88.11(1) of the *Municipal Elections Act*, 1996, provides that a municipal council may pass a by-law authorizing the payment of rebate to individuals who make contributions to candidates for office on the municipal council;

AND WHEREAS subsection 88.11(3) of the *Municipal Elections Act*, 1996, provides that the by-law enacted according to 88.11(1) shall establish the conditions under which an individual is entitled to a rebate;

AND WHEREAS on February 22, 2017 Council for the Corporation of the City of Mississauga approved General Committee recommendation GC-OQ51201 which recommends the implementation of a Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program for the 2018 Mississauga Municipal Election;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the City of Mississauga hereby ENACTS as follows:

DEFINITIONS

1. For the purposes of this By-law, *Municipal Election* shall mean the regular election according to the *Municipal Elections Act*, 1996 as amended that takes place in 2018 in the City of Mississauga.

ELIGIBILITY FOR A REBATE

2. Notwithstanding Section 88.5 of the *Municipal Elections Act*, 1996, for the purposes of this By-law, only a contribution of money will be eligible for rebate.
3. In order to qualify for a rebate, an individual who makes a contribution must:
 - (a) reside in the City of Mississauga;
 - (b) be a Canadian citizen;
 - (c) be at least 18 years old;
 - (d) not be prohibited from voting according to subsection 17(3) of the *Municipal Elections Act*, 1996; and
 - (e) contribute between the time the candidate files his or her nomination and the day the candidate's campaign period ends.
4. Notwithstanding Section 3 of this By-law, the following are ineligible for a rebate:
 - (a) a candidate in the Election;
 - (b) any person who contributes to a candidate in the Election where the person contributing is the spouse or child of the candidate; and/or
 - (c) corporations.

APPLICATIONS TO THE CITY CLERK

5. An individual who makes a contribution to a candidate during the Election may apply to the City Clerk for a rebate.
6. Candidates must register for the Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program by completing the registration form and agreeing to the terms and conditions of the Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program in order for individuals who contribute to the candidate's campaign to be eligible for a rebate.
7. The City Clerk shall establish forms and procedures for the administration of this Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program which shall include but not be limited to the timelines for when candidates and contributors shall register with the City Clerk to be eligible for participation in the Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program.

ISSUANCE OF A REBATE

8. The City Clerk shall issue a rebate to an individual in accordance with Schedule "A" of this By-law if the following conditions are met:
 - (a) the individual has not been found to be in contravention of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*;
 - (b) the candidate to whom the contribution was made has been enrolled in the Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program with the City Clerk;
 - (c) the candidate to whom the contribution was made has filed all documents and paid all amounts as required under the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* by the prescribed dates;
 - (d) the City Clerk is satisfied that the receipt for the contribution in question filed by the candidate to whom the contribution was made is bona fide and
 - (e) the City Clerk is satisfied that the candidate to whom the contribution was made has not contravened the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.
9. In addition to section 8 of this By-law, the City Clerk shall issue a rebate:
 - (a) if the candidate to whom the contribution was made files his or her financial statement in accordance with the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* and no compliance audit request is received for the candidate to whom the contribution was paid:
 - (i) after the compliance audit request deadline has passed following the primary financial filing deadline; or
 - (ii) if the candidate to whom the contribution was made extends his or her campaign period, after the compliance audit request deadline has passed following the supplementary financial filing deadline.
 - OR
 - (b) if a compliance audit request is received and:
 - (i) the Election Campaign Finances Committee finds that the candidate was not in contravention of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* and no forensic audit is ordered; or
 - (ii) the Election Campaign Finances Committee orders a forensic audit and the audit finds that the candidate was not in contravention of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.
10. The amount of the rebate shall be calculated as per Schedule 'A' attached hereto and forming part of this By-law.
11. The City Clerk may delegate any and all duties available according to this By-law.

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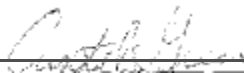
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MAYOR



CLERK

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SCHEDULE "A"

CALCULATION OF REBATE

Rebates for contributions to a candidate running for the offices of ward councillor or mayor in the City of Mississauga will be calculated as follows:

1. A minimum contribution of \$25.00 is required to be eligible for a rebate.
2. A contributor shall receive 25% of their total contribution(s) over \$25.00, up to a maximum rebate of \$150.00.
3. An individual who makes multiple contributions over \$25 within the contribution limits of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* may receive a rebate in respect to the total of the contributions but is not entitled to receive a total rebate amounting to more than the maximum allowable under Schedule "A".
4. If a contributor makes multiple donations of less than the minimum requirement of \$25.00, but the total contribution for the multiple donations is equal to or greater than the \$25.00 minimum, the contributions are eligible for rebate.



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A Housekeeping by-law to amend the Corporation of the City of Mississauga By-law 0067-2017 being a by-law to authorize the implementation of a City of Mississauga municipal election campaign contribution rebate program for the 2018 municipal election

WHEREAS on February 22, 2017, Council for the Corporation of Mississauga approved General Committee recommendation 0051-2017 to implement a municipal election campaign contribution rebate program for the 2018 municipal election based on a minimum contribution of 25 dollars;

AND WHEREAS on May 24, 2017 Council for the Corporation of Mississauga enacted and passed a by-law to authorize the rebate program (the "Rebate By-law");

AND WHEREAS Council wishes to enact a housekeeping by-law to amend the Rebate By-law to clarify the contribution eligibility for the rebate program according to General Committee recommendation 0051-2017;

NOW THEREFORE the Council for The Corporation of the City of Mississauga hereby ENACTS as follows:

THAT By-law 0067-2017 is hereby amended as follows.

- I. That section 2 of Schedule "A" is hereby amended by deleting the words "over \$2500" and replacing it with "of \$25.00 or more".
2. That section 3 of Schedule "A" is hereby amended by deleting the words "over \$2500" and replacing it with "of \$2500 or more".

ENACTED AND PASSED this 11 day of April, 2018.

APPROVED AS TO FORM City Solicitor MISSISSAUGA
<i>R. Gendreau</i>
Date 12/04/2018 10:41:04

Barrie Crambre
MAYOR

W. J. Brown
CLERK

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.

Appendix 5 – Consolidated Statistics

Voter Turnout Comparison							Vote Anywhere				Communication Type
							Advance Poll Days		Election Day		
Municipality	2010 Voter Turnout	# of races without an incumbent (Mayor, Councilor and Trustees)	2014 Voter Turnout	# of races without an incumbent (Mayor, Councilor and Trustees)	2018 Voter Turnout	# of races without an incumbent (Mayor, Councilor and Trustees)	Vote Anywhere in the City	Vote Anywhere in your Ward	Vote Anywhere in the City	Vote Anywhere in your Ward	
Ajax	25.40%	0 of 13	30.42%	0 of 13	32.91%	2 of 13	Yes		Yes		Voter Notification Letters – provides security required for information related to internet voting
Brampton	33.13%	4 of 21	36.20%	11 of 21	34.50%	8 of 21	Yes			Yes	Voter Notification Cards & a cover letter – sent to each household; cards were two to a page and attached by a perforation that could be detached when voters went to vote
Burlington	37.58%	1 of 14	34.14%	1 of 14	39.79%	3 of 14	Yes			Yes	Voter Notification Letters – allowed room for information related to internet voting
Caledon	32.29%	2 of 9	34.90%	3 of 13	32.29%	4 of 13	Did not offer Vote Anywhere				Voter Notification Cards – cards were sent to each elector
Hamilton	40.50%	5 of 31	34.02%	5 of 37	38.36%	4 of 38	Did not offer Vote Anywhere				Voter Notification Cards with up to five voters listed on each card – cards were sent per household
London	39.91%	3 of 25	43.20%	5 of 25	39.46%	4 of 25	Yes		Not offered		Voter Notification Cards – cards were bundled and sent per household attached by a perforation that could be detached when voters went to vote
Markham	35.55%	7 of 18	37.09%	5 of 18	38%	8 of 18	Yes		Yes		Voter Notification Letters – letters were sent to each individual voter which kept each voter's PIN used for online voting, private
Milton	32.00%	0 of 14	30.00%	0 of 14	37.00%	2 of 14	Yes		Not offered		Voter Notification Cards – cards were bundled and sent per household
Mississauga	34%	5 of 27	37%	9 of 27	26%	7 of 27	Yes			Yes	Voter Notification Letters to each household
Oakville	40%	1 of 21	33.00%	0 of 21	37.00%	5 of 23	Yes			Yes	Voter Notification Cards & a cover letter sent to each household
Ottawa	44.38%	17 of 45	39.92%	21 of 61	42.55%	4 of 61	Yes		Not offered		Voter Notification Letters sent to each voter
Toronto	50.55%	24 of 84	54.67%	22 of 84	41.00%	17 of 65	Yes		Not offered		Voter Notification Cards
Vaughan	40.55%	1 of 13	30.28%	0 of 16	26.89%	2 of 16	Yes		Not offered		Voter notifications are bundled and sent per household with two Voter Notification Cards per sheet; cards can be separated along a perforated edge
Whitby	31.05%	1 of 10	26.88%	2 of 11	26.32%	3 of 11	Yes		Yes		Voter Notification Cards sent to each voter

City of Mississauga

Corporate Report



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

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

Prepared by: Gus Mangos, Elections Officer

City of Mississauga Corporate Report



Date: 1/13/2020

To: Chair and Members of Governance Committee

From: Diana Rusnov, Director, Legislative Services and City Clerk

Originator's files:

Meeting date:
1/28/2020

Subject

City of Mississauga's 2022 Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program

Recommendation

1. That Governance Committee provide direction to the City Clerk on the following items related to the City of Mississauga's Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program:
 - a. the percentage amount an eligible contributor can receive as a rebate on their contribution
 - b. the minimum campaign contribution eligible for a rebate; and
 - c. the maximum rebate an eligible contributor can receive on their contribution
2. That any necessary changes be made to the City of Mississauga's Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program by-law, By-law numbers 0067-2017 and 0063-2018.
3. That the necessary funds be transferred into the Election Reserve to cover the cost of the 2022 Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program payouts and that the amount required to cover the cost of the program be transferred into the Election Reserve for future General Elections and By-elections until such time that Council adopts a new formula.

Report Highlights

- The City of Mississauga's Election Campaign Contribution Rebate program (rebate program) was established by By-law 0067-2017 (Appendix 1) and By-law 0063-2018 (Appendix 2) ahead of the 2018 Municipal Election.
- The current rebate program rules allow eligible contributors that contribute \$25 or more to receive a rebate of 25% percent of their contribution up to a total amount of \$150.
- The City Clerk is seeking direction on the rebate formula to be used for the rebate program for the 2022 Municipal Election.
- The City Clerk is responding to comments and suggestions received with respect to the administrative processes related to the rebate program.

Background

In 2017, under the authority of section 88.11 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* (MEA), By-law 0067-2017 established the City of Mississauga's Campaign Contribution Rebate Program.

Candidate and contributor eligibility requirements and responsibilities are as follows:

- candidates had to:
 - be running for office of Ward Councillor or Mayor
 - enroll in the rebate program by completing a registration form
 - follow the campaign finance rules in the MEA
 - complete an Contribution Rebate Receipt for each contribution received that was eligible for a rebate
 - provide a copy of the receipt to the contributor
 - retain a copy of the receipt for their campaign records
 - provide a copy of the receipt to the Office of the City Clerk by the deadline noted on the receipt
- contributors had to:
 - be eligible to vote in the 2018 Mississauga Municipal Election
 - be a resident of the City of Mississauga
 - not be a candidate or the spouse or child of a candidate
 - follow the contribution rules in the MEA
 - sign the Contribution Rebate Receipt
 - request their rebate by submitting a copy of their receipt to the Office of the City Clerk in person, via post or via email by the deadline

Following the 2018 Municipal Election, approximately \$36,000 in rebates was paid out to contributors that met the requirements

The following statistics, comments and suggestions have been gathered through the 2018 Municipal Election Candidate Survey related to the rebate program:

Did you participate in the Campaign Contribution Rebate Program?		
Yes	32.43%	12 response total
No	67.57%	25 response total

Do you think the Campaign Contribution Rebate Program improved your ability to raise campaign funds?		
Yes	24.32%	9 response total
No	16.22%	6 response total
I did not participate	59.46%	22 response total

Would you like the City of Mississauga to continue offering the Campaign Contribution Rebate Program?		
Yes	70.27%	26 response total
No	29.73%	11 response total

Comments and suggestions made by survey respondents included:

- eliminating the carbon copy receipts in favour of electronic receipts
- making the process easier
- increasing the rebate amount that a contributor can receive
- making the rebates available through a federal or provincial income tax rebate

Staff took the above comments and suggestions into account when reviewing the rebate program rules and processes.

Comments

Rebate Formulas

Currently the City of Mississauga's rebate program allows rebates of 25% on campaign contributions of \$25 or more up to a total rebate of \$150. The following information has been gathered regarding the rebate formula used in other municipalities:

Municipality and Summary of Eligibility Rules	Minimum Contribution	Rebate Formula	Max. Rebate
Ajax -Limited to residents of the town of Ajax -Cannot be a candidate or the spouse or child of a candidate	\$20	75% of the total contribution	\$225
Markham -Limited to residents of the	\$50	\$50 — \$300: 75% of contribution to a maximum contribution rebate of	\$350

Province of Ontario		<p>\$225</p> <p>\$301 — \$550: \$225 plus 50% of the difference between the total contribution and \$300 to a maximum contribution rebate of \$350</p> <p>\$551 — \$1,200: \$350 rebate</p>	
<p>Mississauga</p> <p>-Limited to residents of the City of Mississauga</p> <p>- Cannot be a candidate or the spouse or child of a candidate</p>	\$25	25% of the total contribution	\$150
<p>Oakville</p> <p>-Limited to residents of the Town of Oakville</p> <p>-A candidate for an office on municipal council or their family member are not eligible to receive a rebate for contributions to that individual candidate's campaign</p>	\$100	50% of the total contribution	\$2,500
<p>Ottawa</p> <p>-Limited to residents of the Province of Ontario</p> <p>-Cannot be a candidate or the candidate's spouse or the candidate's dependent child</p>	\$25.01	<p>\$25.01 – \$100: 50% of the total contribution</p> <p>\$100 or more: \$50 plus 25% of the amount by which the contribution exceeds \$100</p>	\$75
<p>Toronto</p> <p>-Limited to residents of the Province of Ontario</p> <p>-Candidates must file an audited financial statement and a copy of the receipt issued for the contribution and a copy of all campaign expense invoices</p>	\$25.01	<p>Total contributions between \$25.01 and \$300: total contribution amount x 75%</p> <p>Total contributions over \$300 but not more than \$1,000: total contribution amount minus \$300 x 50% + \$225</p> <p>Total contributions over \$1,000: total contribution amount minus \$1,000 x 33 1/3% + \$575</p>	\$1,000
<p>Vaughan</p> <p>-Limited to residents of the City of Vaughan</p>	\$50	The lesser of 75% of the contribution or \$150	\$150

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-Cannot be the candidate or the spouse, sibling, grandparent, parent, child or grandchild of the candidate			
Whitby -Limited to residents of the Town of Whitby	\$25.00	25% of the total contribution	\$150

The following is the total amount municipalities paid out or, would pay out if the deadline for requesting a rebate had passed at the time this report was written:

Municipality	Amount <i>(numbers rounded)</i>
Mississauga	\$35,735
Ajax	\$20,000*
Markham	\$500,000
Oakville	\$100,000
Ottawa	\$100,000*
Toronto	Unavailable**
Vaughan	\$75,000
Whitby	\$7,800

**This number may increase as the deadline for requesting a rebate had not passed when the benchmarking was conducted.*

***2014 payout was \$4,000,000*

When comparing total payouts it's important to consider the impact of eligibility requirements related to residency on the total amount being paid. For example, formulas applied in municipalities where residents of the Province of Ontario are eligible for a rebate may result in a lower payout when applied in the City of Mississauga where the eligibility requirements are limited to residents of the municipality.

Staff are seeking direction from Governance Committee regarding the rebate formula that should be used going forward. The financial impact of the formulas is discussed in the Financial Impact section of this report.

Administrative Processes

As part of the rebate program review process and because of comments and suggestions received, the rebate program administrative procedures are being reviewed. Information related to other municipalities rebate program administrative processes is noted below:

Municipality	Receipt Type	Administrative Process for a Rebate to be Issued
Ajax	Carbon copy receipts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Candidates provide a copy of the receipt to the contributor; and -Candidates retain a copy of the receipt for their records; and -Candidates provide a copy of the receipt to the Clerk's Office
Markham	Carbon copy receipts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Candidates are required to provide a spreadsheet of their contributors when they file their Financial Statement and may be required to produce a copy of the contribution receipt; and -Candidates issue a carbon copy receipt to their contributors; and -Contributors apply for a rebate in person, via mail or via an electronic application receipt
Oakville	Carbon copy receipts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Candidates keep a copy of the receipt; and -Candidates provide a copy of the receipt to the Clerk's Office; and -Candidates return any unused or voided receipts to the Clerk's Office; and -Contributors keep a copy of the receipt; and -Contributors provide a copy of the receipt to the Clerk's Office
Ottawa	Paper copies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Candidates provide a paper copy of the rebate receipt to the Clerk's Office; and -Contributors provide a paper copy of the rebate receipt to the Clerk's Office; and -The two copies must match
Toronto	Uses both a three part hard copy receipt or an electronic receipt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Candidates provide two copies of a completed receipt to their contributor -Candidates submit a copy of the rebate receipt when filing their Financial Statement; and -Contributors keep a copy of the receipt for their records; and -Contributors provide a copy of the receipt to the Clerk's Office
Vaughan	Carbon copy receipts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Candidates provide contributors with two copies of the

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		receipt; and -Contributors submit one copy of the receipt along with a signed application receipt to the Clerk's Office; and -Candidates log their receipt numbers in their electronic financial filing which is checked with the contribution applications
Whitby	Paper form	-Candidates are provided with paper copies of the receipt form; and -Candidates submit all rebate forms to the Clerk's Office

Based on the processes used in other municipalities and the feedback received about the City of Mississauga's rebate program, staff are considering the following changes:

- eliminating the requirement that a contributor must apply for a rebate. This means only candidates would be required to submit the rebate receipt to the Elections Office although under section 88.22(1)(f) candidates would still be required to issue a contribution receipt to the contributor
- once a new Election information management system is procured, working with the vendor to potentially add an electronic rebate program receipts component
- if electronic receipts are possible, staff are considering the continued use of carbon copy receipts in addition to the electronic receipts, so that in instances where candidates need to issue a receipt and do not have access to a computer, they are still able to do so

Financial Impact

The financial impact that changes to the rebate program will have is dependent on a variety of factors. These factors include:

- the number of candidates that participate in the program during the 2022 election
- how many contributions participating candidates receive that are eligible for a rebate
- the amounts of the eligible contributions given to candidates

In the following chart, the rebate formulas used in other municipalities have been applied to the total number of contributions that were eligible for a rebate in the City of Mississauga. This is intended to provide an idea of the potential financial impact changing the rebate formula may have:

Municipality	Minimum Contribution	Formula Applied Based on City of Mississauga Eligibility Criteria	Rebates Payable when applied to the City of Mississauga
Ajax	\$20	75% of the total contribution To a maximum rebate of \$225	\$66,000
Markham	\$50	\$50 — \$300: 75% of contribution to a maximum contribution rebate of \$225 \$301 — \$550: \$225 plus 50% of the difference between the total contribution and \$300 to a maximum contribution rebate of \$350 \$551 — \$1,200: A \$350 contribution rebate is issued To a maximum rebate of \$350	\$90,000
Oakville	\$100	50% of the total contribution To a maximum rebate of \$2,500	\$99,000
Ottawa	\$25.01	\$25.01 – \$100: 50% of the total contribution \$100 or more: \$50 plus 25% of the amount by which the contribution exceeds \$100 To a maximum rebate of \$75	\$24,300
Toronto	\$25.01	Total contributions between \$25.01 and \$300: total contribution amount x 75% Total contributions over \$300 but not more than \$1,000: total contribution amount minus \$300 x 50% + \$225 Total contributions over \$1,000: total contribution amount minus \$1,000 x 33 1/3% + \$575 To a maximum rebate of \$1,000	\$117,600

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Vaughan	\$50	75% of the total contribution to a maximum rebate of \$150	\$47,500
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The final financial impact will be dependent on the rebate formula adopted and the factors noted above.

Conclusion

The 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.

Attachments

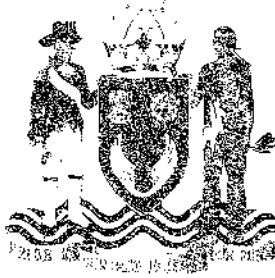
Appendix 1: By-law 0067-2017 A by-law to Authorize the Implementation of a City of Mississauga Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program for the 2018 Municipal Election

Appendix 2: By-law 0063-2018 A Housekeeping by-law to amend the Corporation of the City of Mississauga By-law 0067-2017 being a by-law to authorize the implementation of a City of Mississauga municipal election campaign contribution rebate program for the 2018 Municipal Election



Diana Rusnov, Director, Legislative Services and City Clerk

Prepared by: Gus Mangos, Elections Officer



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA

BY-LAW NUMBER 0067-2017

A by-law to authorize the implementation of a City of Mississauga
Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program for the
2018 Municipal Election

WHEREAS subsection 88.11(1) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, provides that a municipal council may pass a by-law authorizing the payment of rebates to individuals who make contributions to candidates for office on the municipal council;

AND WHEREAS subsection 88.11(3) of the *Municipal Elections Act 1996*, provides that the by-law enacted according to 88.11(1) shall establish the conditions under which an individual is entitled to a rebate;

AND WHEREAS on February 22, 2017 Council for the Corporation of the City of Mississauga approved General Committee recommendation GC-0051-2017 which recommends the implementation of a Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program for the 2018 Mississauga Municipal Election;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the City of Mississauga hereby ENACTS as follows:

DEFINITIONS

1. For the purposes of this By-law, "Election" shall mean the regular election according to the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* as amended that takes place in 2018 in the City of Mississauga.

ELIGIBILITY FOR A REBATE

2. Notwithstanding Section 88.15 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, for the purposes of this By-law, only a contribution of money will be eligible for rebate.
3. In order to qualify for a rebate, an individual who makes a contribution must:
 - (a) reside in the City of Mississauga;
 - (b) be a Canadian citizen;
 - (c) be at least 18 years old;
 - (d) not be prohibited from voting according to subsection 17(3) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*; and
 - (e) contribute between the time the candidate files his or her nomination and the day the candidate's campaign period ends.
4. Notwithstanding Section 3 of this By-law, the following are ineligible for a rebate:
 - (a) a candidate in the Election;
 - (b) any person who contributes to a candidate in the Election where the person contributing is the spouse or child of the candidate; and/or
 - (c) corporations.

APPLICATIONS TO THE CITY CLERK

5. An individual who makes a contribution to a candidate during the Election may apply to the City Clerk for a rebate.
6. Candidates must register for the Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program by completing the registration form and agreeing to the terms and conditions of the Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program in order for individuals who contribute to the candidate's campaign to be eligible for a rebate.
7. The City Clerk shall establish forms and procedures for the administration of this Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program which shall include but not be limited to the timelines for when candidates and contributors shall register with the City Clerk to be eligible for participation in the Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program.

ISSUANCE OF A REBATE

8. The City Clerk shall issue a rebate to an individual in accordance with Schedule "A" of this By-law if the following conditions are met:
 - (a) the individual has not been found to be in contravention of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*;
 - (b) the candidate to whom the contribution was made has enrolled in the Municipal Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program with the City Clerk;
 - (c) the candidate to whom the contribution was made has filed all documents and paid any amounts as required under the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* by the prescribed dates;
 - (d) the City Clerk is satisfied that the receipt for the contribution in question filed by the candidate to whom the contribution was made is bona fide; and
 - (e) the City Clerk is satisfied that the candidate to whom the contribution was made has not contravened the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.
9. In addition to section 8 of this By-law, the City Clerk shall issue a rebate:
 - (a) if the candidate to whom the contribution was made files his or her financial statement(s) in accordance with the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* and if no compliance audit request is received for the candidate to whom the contribution was paid:
 - (i) after the compliance audit request deadline has passed following the primary financial filing deadline; or
 - (ii) if the candidate to whom the contribution was made extends his or her campaign period, after the compliance audit request deadline has passed following the supplementary financial filing deadline.
 - OR
 - (b) if a compliance audit request is received and:
 - (i) the Election Campaign Finances Committee finds that the candidate was not in contravention of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* and no forensic audit is ordered; or
 - (ii) the Election Campaign Finances Committee orders a forensic audit and the auditor finds that the candidate was not in contravention of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.
10. The amount of the rebate shall be calculated as per Schedule "A" attached hereto and forming part of this By-law.
11. The City Clerk may delegate any and all duties available according to this By-law.

ENACTED and PASSED this

24

day of

~~April~~ May, 2017.

APPROVED AS TO FORM City Solicitor MISSISSAUGA			
R. Genoway			
Date	2017	05	15

Bonnie Crombie
MAYOR

Carolyn Chen
CLERK

AMENDED BY BY-LAW	
63-18	

SCHEDULE "A"

CALCULATION OF REBATE

Rebates for contributions to a candidate running for the offices of ward councillor or mayor in the City of Mississauga will be calculated as follows:

1. A minimum contribution of \$25.00 is required to be eligible for a rebate.
2. A contributor shall receive 25% of their total contribution(s) over \$25.00, up to a maximum rebate of \$150.00.
3. An individual who makes multiple contributions over \$25 within the contribution limits of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, may receive a rebate in respect to the total of the contributions, but is not entitled to receive a total rebate amounting to more than the maximum allowable under Schedule "A".
4. If a contributor makes multiple donations of less than the minimum requirement of \$25.00, but the total contribution for the multiple donations is equal to or greater than the \$25.00 minimum, the contributions are ineligible for rebate.



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA

BY-LAW NUMBER 0063-2018

A Housekeeping by-law to amend the Corporation of the City of Mississauga By-law 0067-2017 being a by-law to authorize the implementation of a City of Mississauga municipal election campaign contribution rebate program for the 2018 municipal election

WHEREAS on February 22, 2017, Council for the Corporation of Mississauga approved General Committee recommendation 0051-2017 to implement a municipal election campaign contribution rebate program for the 2018 municipal election based on a minimum contribution of 25 dollars;

AND WHEREAS on May 24, 2017 Council for the Corporation of Mississauga enacted and passed a by-law to authorize the rebate program (the "Rebate By-law");

AND WHEREAS Council wishes to enact a housekeeping by-law to amend the Rebate By-law to clarify the contribution eligibility for the rebate program according to General Committee recommendation 0051-2017;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Corporation of the City of Mississauga hereby ENACTS as follows:

THAT By-law 0067-2017 is hereby amended as follows:

1. That section 2 of Schedule "A" is hereby amended by deleting the words "over \$25.00" and replacing it with "of \$25.00 or more".
2. That section 3 of Schedule "A" is hereby amended by deleting the words "over \$25.00" and replacing it with "of \$25.00 or more".

ENACTED AND PASSED this 11 day of April, 2018.

APPROVED AS TO FORM City Solicitor MISSISSAUGA			
L. Gendreau			
Date	2018	04	04

Handwritten signature of Bonnie Cembere.

MAYOR

Handwritten signature of the Clerk.

CLERK

City of Mississauga Corporate Report



Date: June 22, 2020

To: Mayor and Members of General Committee

From: Gary Kent, CPA, CGA, ICD.D, Commissioner of
Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer

Originator's files:

Meeting date:
September 9, 2020

Subject

Election Administration Information Report: City of Mississauga Campaign Contribution Rebate Program and Consolidated Statistics

Recommendation

1. That the Corporate Report dated June 1, 2020 from the Director of Legislative Services and City Clerk titled *Election Administration Information Report: City of Mississauga Campaign Contribution Rebate Program and Consolidated Statistics* be received.
2. That Council provide direction to staff regarding the rebate formula to be used for the City of Mississauga's 2022 Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program.
3. That a by-law be established to authorize the formula for the 2022 City of Mississauga Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program.
4. That, once a by-law is passed establishing the formula for the City of Mississauga's Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program, the appropriate amount of funds be transferred into the Election Cost Centre to cover the cost of the City of Mississauga's Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program going forward.

Report Highlights

- At the January 28, 2020 Governance Committee meeting, the committee requested that staff report to General Committee on the following topics:
 - The financial impact of a new formula for the City of Mississauga's Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program
 - Statistics related to municipal elections in the Greater Toronto Area and beyond

Background

At the January 28, 2020 Governance Committee meeting, Elections Administration staff submitted three Corporate Reports from the Director of Legislative Services and City Clerk. The first; dated January 13, 2020, was titled *Ranked Ballot Elections – Review of the City of London's Experience* (Appendix 1) the second; dated January 13, 2020 was titled *2018 City of Mississauga Municipal Election Information Overview* (Appendix 2) and the third; also dated January 13, 2020 was titled *City of Mississauga's 2022 Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program*.

At the meeting, Governance Committee directed staff to report back to General Committee on the following three topics:

- Information related to Ranked Choice Voting (RCV). This information is included in the Corporate Report dated May 1, 2020, titled *Election Administration Information Report: Ranked Choice Voting*
- The financial impact of various rebate formulas associated with the City of Mississauga Election Campaign Finance Rebate Program (rebate program)
- Consolidated statistics related to municipal elections

A separate report has been prepared for Ranked Choice Voting and is included on the July 8, 2020 Council agenda.

Appendix 4 provides detailed information on potential rebate program formulas and Appendix 5 provides consolidated municipal election statistics.

Comments

City of Mississauga's Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program

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. Appendix 4 of this report provides options for the maximums rebate allowable based on the above noted criteria. Once approved, staff will prepare a by-law to authorize implementation of the rebate program formula.

Consolidated Statistics

At the January 28, 2020 Governance Committee meeting, the committee directed staff to consolidate various statistics found in Corporate Report dated January 13, 2020 from the Director of Legislative Services and City Clerk titled *City of Mississauga Municipal Election Information Overview*. Appendix 5 expands the information originally provided in the January 13, 2020 report.

Financial Impact

The Financial impact of the rebate program is included in Appendix 4 of this report. With the information shown in Appendix 4 in mind, and using the eligible campaign contribution numbers from 2018, staff estimate that changes to the rebate program may cost approximately \$100,000. Once a by-law is passed establishing the formula for the rebate program, approximately \$100,000 will need to be added to the Election Cost Centre (715885-22450) to cover the cost.

Conclusion

The election campaign contribution rebate program was implemented for the 2018 election at a cost of \$35,700. Based on Council's direction to review the option of increasing the amount of possible rebates, it is estimated that with a maximum rebate of \$1500 per contributor the cost of the rebate program would grow to approximately \$100,000 based on 2018 contributions. Staff are seeking direction on the rebate formula to be used for 2022 Municipal Election.

Attachments

Appendix 1: Ranked Ballot Elections – Review of the City of London's Experience

Appendix 2: 2018 City of Mississauga Municipal Election Information Overview

Appendix 3: City of Mississauga's 2022 Election Campaign Contribution Rebate Program

Appendix 4: City of Mississauga Campaign Contribution Rebate Program Rebate Program Options

Appendix 5: Consolidated Statistics



Gary Kent, CPA, CGA, ICD.D, Commissioner of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Gus Mangos, Elections Officer