



Burlington Seniors' Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes

Date: November 1, 2021
Time: 12:00 pm
Location: Virtual

1. Land Acknowledgement

2. Declarations of Interest:

None.

3. Delegation(s):

None.

4. Regular Items:

4.1 2021 Election Survey Results and Comments Required on Election Policies from the Office of the City Clerk

City Clerk, Kevin Arjoon, and Deputy City Clerk, Amanda Fusco, attended this special meeting of the Burlington Seniors' Advisory Committee to discuss the election survey results and receive feedback regarding upcoming policies. The survey was completed in 2021 and asked residents about their experience in the 2018 election. The following information was discussed:

- **Campaign Contribution Rebates:** the survey indicated 60% of residents are not in support and 40% are in support of these rebates. At the Provincial and Federal levels you are able to receive a contribution rebate for your income tax. The city's program would be funded from the property tax base, and there are several municipalities currently providing this modest election rebate, such as Mississauga and Whitby. This report will go to the December 2021 CSSRA meeting on [Monday December 6, 2021.](#)

- The modest rebate would potentially start at a \$25 contribution and go to \$150. It is meant to provide a rebate to those who have smaller donations.
- It is believed that this can help in terms of assisting candidates who would not be able to self fund their campaigns- it allows residents to support candidates with smaller contributions and still receive a rebate. Ajax did an analysis on this program and there is not extensive data that shows that this incentive program would encourage people to run for city council. However, this rebate could assist in voter turnout rates.
- Concern that money should be spent on something else, and not on rebates. It was noted that campaign contributions would not be a part of the capital budget, therefore the election budget would not be impacted by these rebates.
- Reviewing Sign by-laws: sign by-laws as well as bumper stickers and vehicle wraps will be reviewed. Currently signs are not permitted on public property.
- 2022 Election Engagement:
 - Kevin reported that online voting will be offered again for advanced purposes only, not for voting on the day of the election.
 - Kevin reported in regards to a question posed by the committee, that we will be looking at polling stations in terms of retirement homes and long term care homes to make sure we get the right fit especially with COVID. Similarly with schools, we are looking at alternative arrangements for polling stations as in COVID there has not been access to these locations. There may be a need for super polls which would combine polling stations.
 - The use of corporate resources policy was brought up to ensure that incumbents do not use corporate resources such as email lists and zoom licenses in order to promote their campaign.
 - Visiting schools in their civics and careers classes was discussed. This could be a potential way to advocate for voter turnout.

5. Other Business:

None.

6. Adjournment:

12:45 p.m.