

**TOWN OF INGERSOLL
Clerk's Report
ELECTION
ALTERNATE VOTING METHOD
NOMINATIONS**

Report No. C-014/10

Approval Date: December 11, 2010

Mayor Holbrough and Members of Council:

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the report is to provide Council with an update on the election changes and to request Council's approval to prepare the necessary by-law to authorize an alternate voting method (by mail) for the 2010 election.

ALTERNATE VOTING

Ingersoll Town Council approved an alternate voting method for the 2006 Election, in which there was an increase of voter participation by approximately 30%. The town elected to use the services of Data Fix and has continued to maintain the information on the software.

There were a few concerns pertaining to the alternate method (i.e. declaration form completion, ballot not in the Ballot Secrecy Envelope and the lack of the declaration sheet). Data Fix provided a venue for Clerks to make recommendations. I am pleased to report that the voting instructions are in colour, the signature area on the Declaration Form is highlighted in yellow and the return address of the municipal office is on the Declaration Form that is then put in the window envelope. This should alleviate some of the issues of not putting the Declaration Form into the envelope.

Administration is recommending that Council authorize the preparation of a by-law to authorize an alternate voting method (by mail) for the 2010 Election.

AMENDMENTS TO THE ELECTION ACT

Bill 212 – Municipal Elections Reform is presently being considered by the legislature. At the time of the writing of this report, amendment to the Bill is still a possibility.

Currently, the following are the highlights as it pertains to the Municipal Election for 2010:

IMPORTANT DATES:

Nomination Period:	January 1 of election year (no change)
Nominations Close:	second Friday in September at 2:00 p.m. (Sept. 10, 2010)
Withdrawal of Nomination	second Friday in September at 2:00 p.m. (Sept 10, 2010)
Election Day:	fourth Monday in October 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Oct. 25, 2010)
Regular Campaign ends:	December 31 (no change)
Extended campaign ends:	June 30 of the year following the election, or when debt Retired (whichever occurs first) NOTE: Second 6 month supplementary campaign period Is being eliminated.
Last day for question on ballot:	April 28, 2010
Last day for alternative voting By-law & procedures:	June 1, 2010
Deadline to appoint Compliance audit committee:	October 1, 2010
New term commences:	December 1, 2010

❖ **Many issues are addressed in the proposed bill.**

Attached for your review is a copy of the presentation regarding Bill 212 that outlines the highlights. May I ask that you review the Election Calendar located on pages 33 and 34.

Filing costs remain at \$200 for the position of Mayor and \$100 for other council members with estimated spending limits calculated as: Mayor - \$13,172.80 and for Council member - \$10,672.80

Further information will be provided in a report form when confirmation is received. Watch the Town's website www.ingersoll.ca for continuous election information throughout 2010 and 2011.

Recommendation:

That the Clerk be authorized to prepare a by-law to authorize an alternative voting by-law.

Respectfully submitted:

Elaine Clark
Clerk