

RE: FEASIBILITY OF AUTOMATED ELECTION SYSTEM
(ITEM 5, REPORT NO. 15, 1984 FEBRUARY 27)

ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the recommendation of the Director Administrative and Community Services be adopted.

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ITEM	11
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	19
COUNCIL MEETING	1984 03 12

TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER

FROM: DIRECTOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

SUBJECT: FEASIBILITY OF AUTOMATED ELECTION SYSTEM

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.

B A C K G R O U N D

On 1984 February 27 Council received a report dealing with the responses received from those municipalities from which support was requested for the concept of an automated voting and election tallying system and the required amendment to the Municipal Act. At that time Council tabled the report pending a response from staff to a number of concerns expressed by members of Council respecting this subject. This report deals with those concerns.

R E P O R T

1. Rejected Ballots

The system of reporting used during the municipal election held on 1972 December 09 prevents drawing a comparison between the number of rejected ballots of that election and the number of rejected ballots that occurred in the recent election on 1983 November 19. The only rejected ballots that result from an automated voting system occur when the voter either chooses to leave the ballot blank or votes for a greater number of candidates than the number required to be elected. The number of rejected ballots from the 1983 November 19 election were as follows:

Mayor	398
Alderman	589
School Trustee	767
Referendum	<u>1,221*</u>
	<u>2,975</u>

*The majority of the rejected ballots for the referendum were blank/unmarked ballots.

FEASIBILITY OF AUTOMATED ELECTION SYSTEM

2. Elderly Citizens

Two staff members attended the East York, Ontario municipal election held on 1982 November 08 where an automated election system was in use. Our employees interviewed a number of people regarding their impressions of the automated system. Senior citizens were among the voters interviewed at the polling station and these individuals expressed support for the system. Several of the interviews were recorded and the tape is available in the Clerk's Department for Council's reference.

3. Financing

The total initial one time capital expenditure required to implement the votomatic system would be \$101,570.00 for option 1 or \$161,723.00 for option 2. Option 1 only includes the voting machine whereas option 2 is a self contained unit which when folded resembles an attache case and when assembled provides a complete free standing polling booth with voting machine. The cost figures provided above were obtained in early 1983 and therefore may not represent current costs.

Staff estimated it would take five (5) elections to recover the capital outlay. Based on information we have been able to obtain from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities pending in legislation could see Burnaby have a municipal election in 1985 for a two (2) year term of office and then the 1987 election and each election thereafter will be for three (3) year terms of office. Therefore, the capital cost will not be fully recovered until the 1996 municipal election where under the existing two (2) year terms the costs would have been recovered in 1993. These statements are based on the assumption that there will be no byelections during this period.

For your information attached as Figure 1 is the cost comparison chart Council initially received as part of Item 03, Municipal Manager's Report No. 59, 1983 October 03. This chart indicates the savings expected to be realized over a period of four (4) elections excluding the initial capital outlay.

4. Additional Information

For Council's information the three (3) municipalities that indicated the votomatic system would not be an advantage are listed below along with each municipality's number of registered voters and the number of voters that cast ballots in the most recent election:

	Registered Voters	Number Voted
City of New Westminster	24,481	5,238
District of North Vancouver	32,641	9,026
District of Richmond	53,623	16,132
District of Burnaby	78,022	21,131

-3-

FEASIBILITY OF AUTOMATED ELECTION SYSTEM

S U M M A R Y

The study completed by staff did not include any estimates for the recovery of costs through the sharing of equipment with other municipalities though this was considered as a possible way of recovering our costs over a shorter period of time. The pending legislation as mentioned would prevent sharing of equipment and further extend the recovery period as noted previously.

In the opinion of staff the longer cost recovery period and the impossibility of sharing equipment that would result from the implementation of the proposed legislation which will see every municipality holding its municipal elections on the same date every three years still will not detract from Burnaby's long term savings nor, of course, from the improvements in speed and accuracy of tallying.



J.E. FLEMING
DIRECTOR - ADMINISTRATIVE AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES

COST COMPARISON CHART

YEAR	CURRENT PAPER BALLOT METHOD	PORTABLE VOTOMATIC "OPTION 1"	SAVINGS	SELF CONTAINED VOTOMATIC "OPTION 2"	SAVINGS
1983	Ballots \$ 6,867.00				
1985	Election staff \$ 56,410.00 Polling booths, ballot boxes \$ 8,349.00 Ballots, etc. \$ 7,913.00 \$ 72,672.00	Election staff \$ 45,680.00 Polling booths, ballot boxes \$ 8,349.00 Ballots, etc. \$ 3,155.00 \$ 57,184.00	\$ 15,488.00	Election staff \$ 45,680.00 D.R.O. transport, etc. \$ 875.00 \$ 3,255.00 Ballots, etc. \$ 49,710.00	\$ 22,962.00
1987	Election staff \$ 63,025.00 Polling booths, ballot boxes \$ 9,184.00 Ballots, etc. \$ 9,119.00 \$ 81,328.00	Election staff \$ 50,660.00 Polling booths, ballot boxes \$ 9,184.00 Ballots, etc. \$ 3,085.00 \$ 62,929.00	\$ 18,399.00	Election staff \$ 50,660.00 D.R.O. transport, etc. \$ 965.00 \$ 3,085.00 Ballots, etc. \$ 54,710.00	\$ 26,618.00
1989	Election staff \$ 69,870.00 Polling booths, ballot boxes \$ 10,102.00 Ballots, etc. \$ 10,510.00 \$ 90,482.00	Election staff \$ 55,760.00 Polling booths, ballot boxes \$ 10,102.00 Ballots, etc. \$ 3,105.00 \$ 68,967.00	\$ 21,515.00	Election staff \$ 55,760.00 D.R.O. transport, etc. \$ 1,060.00 \$ 3,105.00 Ballots, etc. \$ 59,925.00	\$ 30,557.00
1991	Election staff \$ 76,784.00 Polling booths, ballot boxes \$ 11,112.00 Ballots, etc. \$ 12,113.00 Construction of Polling booths, etc. \$ 8,704.00 \$ 108,713.00	Election staff \$ 60,845.00 Polling booths, ballot boxes \$ 11,112.00 Ballots, etc. \$ 3,125.00 Construction of Polling booths, etc. \$ 8,704.00 \$ 83,786.00	\$ 24,927.00	Election staff \$ 60,845.00 D.R.O. transport, etc. \$ 1,165.00 \$ 3,125.00 Ballots, etc. \$ 65,135.00	\$ 43,578.00
FOUR ELECTIONS TOTAL	\$ 353,195.00	\$ 272,866.00	\$ 80,329.00	\$ 229,480.00	\$ 123,715.00

NOTE:

This cost comparison chart does not include the initial (one time) capital expenditure which would be required for the purchase of the equipment.

ITEM
11
19
11
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.
COUNCIL MEETING 1984 03 12