

TO: CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 1995 NOVEMBER 06

FROM: CITY CLERK

SUBJECT: 1996 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

PURPOSE: The purpose of this report is to appoint the Chief Election Officer for the 1996 Municipal Election, seek Council's direction with respect to enumeration procedures and to obtain Council authority to bring forward a bylaw authorizing the use of the automated voting machines.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Debbie Comis be appointed Chief Election Officer for the 1996 Local Government Election.
2. THAT Maryann Pasqua be appointed Deputy Chief Election Officer for the 1996 Local Government Election.
3. THAT Voter Registration Centers be established in Shopping, Recreation and Seniors Centers during 1996 June and July.
4. THAT the City Solicitor be requested to prepare a bylaw in accordance with Section 102 of the Municipal Act authorizing the use of automated voting machines in the 1996 Local Government Election.

REPORT

In preparation for the 1996 Local Government Election a number of recommendations are being submitted to Council for approval.

Section 42.1 of the Municipal Act of B.C. provides as follows:

- "(1) For the purposes of conducting an election, the local government must appoint a chief election officer and a deputy chief election officer."

These roles have traditionally been fulfilled by the City Clerk and Deputy City Clerk and as a result it is recommended that these individuals be appointed to serve in these positions for the 1996 election.

In 1993 Council adopted Bylaw No. 9945 to use the most current, available Provincial Voters List as the foundation for the Municipal Voters List. This bylaw is in effect and therefore we will continue to use the Provincial List in addition to the advance voter registration process. As the Provincial Government will be holding an election in 1996 we will be using the most current version available of the Provincial Voters List.

For the past several elections Council have approved the use of booths in shopping malls, recreation centers and seniors centers to conduct voter registration. This has proved to be a useful and cost effective method of registering voters rather than the more expensive door-to-door enumeration. For this reason we are again recommending the use of what the legislation now refers to as Special Registration Opportunities. Voter registration will also be provided through the election office on a continual basis until 1996 September 24 (the date provided for in the Municipal Act for closure of advance registration).

In addition to voter registration we are also proposing to use the registration booths as an opportunity to demonstrate and teach people how to use automated voting equipment. Through the use of a video guide and an automated voting machine we hope to generate interest in the new procedures as well as educate the public on their use. Additional training opportunities will also be provided throughout the year for the public, election staff, candidates and their agents so that all persons involved in the election process will have the opportunity to be well versed in the operation of the equipment, its speed, accuracy and security components.

Section 102 of the Municipal Act requires a bylaw be prepared to provide for the use of automated voting machines in an election. As the bylaw must be approved by the Minister before it is adopted, it would be appropriate to begin this process now in order to ensure that all requirements are fulfilled well in advance of the election.

For the information of Council, the date for the 1996 local Government Election is November 16. The election office will be opened and election staff in place on 1996 January 02. We anticipate at least five ballots will be placed before Burnaby Voters in 1996 for the positions of Mayor, Councillors, School Trustees, Health Board Members and a Park Dedication Referendum.

Discussions have been initiated and are ongoing with staff at the Burnaby School District with respect to cost recovery for conducting the election for School Trustees for the Burnaby School Board as provided for in the Municipal Act. A further report will be submitted to Council providing details of the discussion for Council approval as soon as the information becomes available.

Respectfully submitted,



D.R. Comis
CITY CLERK

Copy: Deputy City Manager Corporate Services
City Solicitor

