



January 22, 2019

Hon. Sylvia Jones
MPP, Dufferin-Caledon
244 Broadway Ave.
Orangeville, ON L9W 1K5

Sylvia,

During the recent municipal election, Mono staff once again experienced significant problems with the quality of the voters' list provided by MPAC. This has been an ongoing issue; for not just Mono, but most municipalities in Ontario. Concerns raised by the Town's Deputy Clerk, who oversaw the management of the voter's list for the 2018 municipal election, include confusion with Elections Ontario's voters' list; adult children either not being on the list, or on it when they had not lived at home in years; and renters and other non-property owners not on the list. You may have even heard of the case in Mono, which made it to at least two television networks, where a deceased dog was on our voters' list.

Like many municipalities, Mono used an alternate method of voting, in our case Internet and telephone voting. As a mostly rural community and without public transit, where travelling to voting locations can pose a hardship to a significant segment of the population, these alternate means of casting one's vote is seen as an important way to engage with the electorate. Internet and telephone voting have shown itself to be particularly useful to those that find it difficult to physically get to voting locations.

The benefits of these alternate methods; however, are seriously impaired when the voters' list is of such questionable quality as is the case with the product that Mono received from MPAC. And it is not just the issues that I have so far outline. Mailing addresses that mysteriously differ from our tax records without any plausible explanation is a perennial problem. Combined, the voters' list as presently maintained by MPAC is wholly insufficient to the task and not up to the quality that citizens demand from their governments. The impact of a poorly maintained voters' list will only get worse as more municipalities adopt alternate means of voting.

In an effort to find a better method of maintaining the municipal voters' list, Mono Council passed the following resolution at our January 8, 2019 session:

Resolution #12-1-2019

Moved by Manktelow, Seconded by Martin

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Town of Mono endorse and support the attached resolution of the Town of Kearney regarding Voters' List for Municipal Elections and supports the re-establishment of the multi-stakeholder working group between the parties outlined in the resolution to identify ways to create and maintain the Voters' List for Municipal Elections;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to AMCTO and MPP Sylvia Jones.

The Town of Mono looks forward to working with municipalities, AMCTO, MPAC and provincial representatives to find a workable solution to the problem of maintaining the municipal election voters' list.

Best Regards,

Original signed by:

Laura Ryan, Mayor

Laura Ryan
Mayor

cc: AMCTO
All Ontario Municipalities

Subject:

Council Resolution re Voters' List for Municipal Elections

Good afternoon,

In light of the recent municipal election, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney passed the following resolution in regard to the creation, maintenance and general quality of the Municipal Voters' List:

Resolution #

10.(d)(iii)/21/11/2018

WHEREAS concern over the quality of the Municipal Voters' List is not a new phenomenon;
AND WHEREAS in 2012, the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) published a "Voters' List Position Paper" and since that time has been advocating for transformational changes to the way that Ontario creates and maintains the Voters' List for municipal elections;

AND WHEREAS the Preliminary List of Electors which forms the Voters' List in Ontario is supplied by data from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC);

AND WHEREAS despite the incremental changes made by MPAC, MPAC has a limited ability to fix the currency and accuracy issues that impairs the current process and the Voters' List continues to be flawed with data inaccuracies and outdated information;

AND WHEREAS a transformational solution to the way that the Voters' List is created and managed is required;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney supports the re-establishment of the multi-stakeholder working group between the Ministry of

Municipal Affairs, Ministry of Finance, AMCTO, MPAC and Elections Ontario in exploring and identifying ways to create and maintain the Voters' List for Municipal Elections;

AND FURTHER Council requests an update be provided from this 'Voters' List Working Group' on the transformational solutions being discussed;

AND FURTHER that this resolution be circulated to all Ontario Municipalities for their consideration and support.

CARRIED

We hope that this resolution will be of interest to your Municipality, and that you will support this endeavour moving forward.

Sincerely,

Cindy Filmore

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