



Staff Report

Administration

Report To: Committee of The Whole
Meeting Date: August 21, 2017
Report Number: FAF.17.103
Subject: Changes to *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, Requirement for 25 Persons to Endorse a Candidate's Nomination
Prepared by: Corrina Giles, Town Clerk

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report FAF.17.103, entitled "Changes to *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, Requirement for 25 Persons to Endorse a Candidate's Nomination";

AND THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains confirms that the requirement to have candidate nominations endorsed by 25 electors, in accordance with the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, would not be a challenge for candidates in the Town of The Blue Mountains;

AND THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains supports the requirement of _____ electors in a municipality for the requirement for candidates to have their nomination endorsed by 25 electors to apply.

B. Overview

Bill 68, entitled "Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act, 2017" made changes to the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*. One of the changes is that nominations for a municipal election must now be endorsed by 25 electors eligible to vote in an election for an office in the same municipality. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs is asking municipalities if this will present a challenge to candidates in certain municipalities.

C. Background

Bill 68 received Royal Assent on May 30, 2017. Section 33, Filing of Nomination, of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, will be revised, effective April 1, 2018 to provide that the nomination of a candidate for an office on a council must be endorsed by at least 25 persons. More than one candidate may be endorsed by the same person. Persons endorsing a nomination must be eligible to vote in the municipal election within the municipality if the regular election was held on the day the person endorsed the nomination.

D. Analysis

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs has corresponded with Clerks to advise that this revision may present a challenge to candidates in some municipalities, and have asked for Council feedback on the following two questions (see Attachment #1):

1. Would potential candidates in your municipality have any challenges in fulfilling the requirement to have their nomination endorsed by 25 electors?
2. The Minister of Municipal Affairs now has the authority to provide an exemption from the requirement for municipal council candidates to have their nomination endorsed by 25 electors in a municipality with less than the prescribed number of electors. What number of electors in a municipality is the appropriate threshold for the exemption to apply?

In response to Question #1, staff confirm that the number of eligible electors in the 2014 election was 10794. Staff do not believe the requirement to have nominations endorsed by 25 electors would be challenge for candidates in The Blue Mountains.

In response to Question #2, the Ministry is seeking input from Council as to how many electors a municipality should have for the endorsement of 25 electors for a candidate's nomination apply

E. The Blue Mountains Strategic Plan

Goal #4: Promote a Culture of Organizational and Operational Excellence
Objective #5: Constantly Identify Opportunities to Improve Efficiencies and Effectiveness

F. Environmental Impacts

None

G. Financial Impact

None

H. In consultation with

None

I. Attached

1. Attachment 1, Ministry of Municipal Affairs correspondence (undated)

Respectfully Submitted,

Corrina Giles, Town Clerk

Troy Speck, CAO

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17-74433

Dear Clerk:

I am writing you on behalf of the Honourable Bill Mauro, Minister of Municipal Affairs, regarding recent changes to the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 under Bill 68 (Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act, 2017).

We heard from a number of municipalities that the requirement to collect 25 signatures endorsing a candidate's nomination, which comes into force on April 1, 2018, may present a challenge to candidates in certain municipalities.

At Standing Committee on Social Policy, the government brought forward an amendment to the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 to provide an exemption to this requirement for candidates in municipalities with fewer than the prescribed number of electors. As a part of that process, we committed to consulting with municipalities to understand any challenges that they anticipate candidates within their municipality may face in meeting this requirement.

To help municipalities attract suitable candidates for their elections, we are looking for your council's feedback regarding the following two questions:

1. Would potential candidates in your municipality have any challenges in fulfilling the requirement to have their nomination endorsed by 25 electors?
2. The Minister of Municipal Affairs now has the authority to provide an exemption from the requirement for municipal council candidates to have their nomination endorsed by 25 electors in a municipality with less than the prescribed number of electors. What number of electors in a municipality is the appropriate threshold for the exemption to apply?

We look forward to hearing back from you by September 15, 2017. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

Lou Rinaldi
Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs