

MEMORANDUM

To: Regional Chair Emmerson and Members of Regional Council

From: Bruce Macgregor
Chief Administrative Officer

Date: October 15, 2020

Re: Information on the deferred motion to directly-elect the Regional Chair

A motion to directly elect the Regional Chair position was deferred to the October 2020 Council meeting

At the [February 6, 2020](#) Committee of the Whole meeting, staff were directed to provide the following information related to the Regional Chair position:

- (i) direct election
- (ii) requiring the Chair to also be an elected member of a local Council
- (iii) maintaining the status quo.

This memorandum is reproduced in Attachment 1.

At the [February 27, 2020](#) Council meeting, Mayor Taylor moved the following motion, which was seconded by Regional Councillor Li. Council deferred consideration of this motion to the October 2020 Council meeting:

1. That the Regional Chair be directly elected by an at large election.

There is no legislated requirement to review the method of selecting the head of council

While Council must review the number of members on council that represent the lower-tier municipalities this term, and following every second regular election, there is no requirement to review the method of selecting the head of council or any other member of council.

Council must achieve a ‘triple majority’ and hold at least one public meeting before it can change the method of selecting the Regional Chair

The process for changing the method of selecting the head of council is set out in the *Municipal Act*. The process is the same as the one Council recently followed to change its composition.

Regional Council can, after holding at least one public meeting, enact a bylaw to change the manner of electing the Regional Chair to a Region-wide election. However, before the bylaw comes into effect it must receive a ‘triple majority’ which occurs when:

1. The bylaw receives the support of a majority of votes on Regional Council;
2. A majority of the councils of all local municipalities pass resolutions consenting to the bylaw; and
3. The total number of electors in the local municipalities that have passed resolutions consenting to the bylaw form a majority of all the electors in York Region.

The triple majority process must be completed before December 31, 2021 for the Regional Chair to be directly-elected in the 2022 election

This process would need to be complete by December 31, 2021 to be in place for the 2022 election.

If such a change is enacted the Regional Chair position would be listed on each local municipal ballot. The local municipal clerks would be responsible for conducting the election for Regional Chair. The Regional Clerk’s Office would be responsible for taking nominations as well as other ancillary duties such as establishing campaign spending limits and collecting election finance statements.

Bruce Macgregor
Chief Administrative Officer

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Attachments (1)