

The Regional Municipality of York

Committee of the Whole
Finance and Administration
June 11, 2020

Report of the Chief Administrative Officer

Regional Council Composition - Additional Member Representing the City of Vaughan

1. Recommendations

1. Council receive the resolutions from the local municipalities confirming that a bylaw to change the composition of Regional Council, substantially in the form outlined in Attachment 1, has the support of a majority of the local municipalities representing a majority of the electors in York Region.
2. The Regional Clerk be directed to issue notice of a public meeting in September 2020 regarding Regional Council's intention to consider a bylaw to change its composition by increasing the number of members representing the City of Vaughan from four (4) to five (5).

2. Summary

In 2018, the *Municipal Act, 2001* was amended to require regional municipalities to review the number of members of its council that represent the lower-tier municipalities by December 2020, unless they already made changes in the previous term. Regional Council considered this on [February 27, 2020](#) and initiated the process to change its composition by adding another member from the City of Vaughan.

Key Points:

- Triple majority approval is required to increase Council's composition.
- Eight of the nine local municipalities have consented to the extra member from the City of Vaughan.
- These eight municipalities represent approximately 95% of all electors in the Region.
- A public meeting is required before Regional Council can enact the bylaw to confirm the change.

3. Background

The *Municipal Act* requires all regional municipalities to review the composition of their council, unless they enacted a change to their composition during the previous term

In 2018, the *Municipal Act* was amended to require regional municipalities to review the number of members of its council that represent the lower-tier municipalities. Council can either adopt a bylaw to change the number of members representing each local municipality, or a resolution affirming the current number of members.

The Region has not changed its composition since 2003 and was therefore required to complete a composition review by December 2020.

In February 2020, Council directed staff to commence the triple majority process as quickly as possible

On [February 27, 2020](#) Regional Council considered a review of its composition and made the following decision:

1. That Council add one member representing the City of Vaughan, with no further adjustments to be made to the composition of Council at this time.
2. That Council start the triple majority process as quickly as possible.
3. That the Regional Clerk circulate this report to the Clerks of the nine local municipalities.

Council must achieve a ‘triple majority’ and hold at least one public meeting before it can enact a bylaw to change its composition

Section 219 of the *Municipal Act* sets out the ‘triple majority’ requirements and the requirement for at least one public meeting before council composition can be changed. A ‘triple majority’ is:

- A majority of all votes on Regional Council must be cast in its favour.
- A majority of the nine local municipal councils must pass resolutions consenting to the bylaw or resolution.
- The total number of electors (i.e. eligible voters from the last municipal election), in the local municipalities that have passed resolutions consenting to the bylaw or resolution must form a majority of all electors in York Region.

To start this process, local municipalities were requested to consent to a draft bylaw to add one member representing the City of Vaughan by no later than May 15, 2020. The draft bylaw is shown in Attachment 1.

4. Analysis

A majority of local municipalities, representing a majority of electors, have consented to the bylaw

Table 1 contains a summary of the local municipal responses. It shows that a majority of local municipalities, representing approximately 95% of the electors in York Region, consent to the bylaw to increase the number of representatives from the City of Vaughan. This meets the requirements of two of the components of the triple majority process.

Table 1
Responses from Local Municipalities

Municipality	% of Electors	Consented to Bylaw
Aurora	5%	No
East Gwillimbury	3%	Yes
Georgina	5%	Yes
King	3%	Yes
Newmarket	8%	Yes
Whitchurch-Stouffville	4%	Yes
Markham	28%	Yes
Richmond Hill	16%	Yes
Vaughan	28%	Yes

To complete the triple majority process, Council must hold a public meeting and then enact the bylaw

Due to the current global pandemic, all Council and Committee of the Whole meetings are being held virtually. Staff recommends scheduling the public meeting in September 2020 to allow time for physical meetings to restart or, alternatively, explore technology solutions that allow for optimal public participation. Holding the meeting in September still provides sufficient time for Council to enact a bylaw prior to the December 2020 deadline.

If approved, the extra member for Vaughan will be elected in the 2022 Municipal Election.

5. Financial

An additional Council member will receive an annual salary of approximately \$58,000 plus an average benefit rate of 18.4%. The package totals approximately \$69,000 per member. Members are also entitled to mileage and other expenses related to the exercise of their duties. This averaged \$1,690 per member in 2019.

6. Local Impact

The City of Vaughan is the only local municipality directly affected by the proposed change in composition. The City will incur additional local costs including salary, benefits, expenses and other administrative costs for the extra member. The City will also be responsible for managing the election of the extra member.

7. Conclusion

The *Municipal Act* requires all regional municipalities to review the number of members of its council that represent the lower-tier municipalities by December 2020, unless they already made changes in the previous term. The Region has not changed its composition since 2003.

Regional Council considered its composition on February 27, 2020 and initiated the triple majority process to add a member for the City of Vaughan. A 'triple majority' is:

- A majority of all votes on Regional Council must be cast in its favour
- A majority of the nine local municipal councils must pass resolutions consenting to the bylaw or resolution
- The total number of electors (i.e. eligible voters from the last municipal election), in the local municipalities that have passed resolutions consenting to the bylaw or resolution must form a majority of all electors in York Region

A majority of the local municipalities, representing a majority of York Region electors, have consented to the additional member. To complete the process, Council must hold a public meeting and then enact the bylaw.

Staff recommends scheduling the public meeting in September 2020 to allow time for physical meetings to restart or, alternatively, explore technology solutions that allow for optimal public participation. Holding the meeting in September still provides sufficient time for Council to enact a bylaw prior to the December 2020 deadline.

If the bylaw is approved, the change would be in effect for the 2022 Municipal Election.

For more information on this report, please contact Christopher Raynor, Regional Clerk at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71300. Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.

Approved for Submission: **Bruce Macgregor**
Chief Administrative Officer

May 29, 2020
Attachments (2)
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