



The Corporation of the
**Township
of
Uxbridge**
In The Regional Municipality of Durham

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SENT VIA EMAIL

November 15, 2024

Premier Doug Ford
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
Via email: (premier@ontario.ca)

**RE: AMCTO RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UPDATES TO THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS
ACT – TOWNSHIP FILE: A-00G**

Please be advised that during the regular meeting of Council of October 28, 2024, the following motion was carried:

WHEREAS elections rules need to be clear, supporting candidates and voters in their electoral participation and election administrators in running elections;

WHEREAS legislation needs to strike the right balance between providing clear rules and frameworks to ensure the integrity of the electoral process;

WHEREAS the legislation must also reduce administrative and operational burden for municipal staff ensuring that local election administrators can run elections in a way that responds to the unique circumstances of their local communities;

WHEREAS the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* (MEA) will be 30 years old by the next municipal and school board elections in 2026;

WHEREAS the MEA sets out the rules for local elections, the *Assessment Act, 1990* and the *Education Act, 1990* also contain provisions impacting local elections adding more places for voters, candidates, and administrators to look for the rules that bind the local democratic process in Ontario;

WHEREAS with rules across three pieces of legislation, and the MEA containing a patchwork of clauses, there are interpretation challenges, inconsistencies, and gaps to fill;

WHEREAS the Act can pose difficulties for voters, candidates, contributors and third-party advertisers to read, to interpret, to comply with and for election administrators to enforce;

WHEREAS while local elections are run as efficiently and effectively as can be within the current legislative framework, modernization and continuous improvement is needed to ensure the Act is responsive to today's needs and tomorrow's challenges;

WHEREAS to keep public trust and improve safeguards the Act should be reviewed considering the ever-changing landscape which impacts elections administration including privacy, the threats of foreign interference, increased spread of mis/disinformation and the increased use of technologies like artificial intelligence and use of digital identities;

WHEREAS the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks, and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) reviewed the Act and has provided several recommendations including modernizing the legislation, harmonizing rules, and streamlining and simplifying administration;


AND WHEREAS AMCTO put forward recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2026 elections and longer-term recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2030 elections;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Township of Uxbridge calls for the Province to update the MEA with priority amendments as outlined by AMCTO before Summer 2025 and commence work to review and re-write the MEA with longer-term recommendations ahead of the 2030 elections;

AND THAT this resolution will be forwarded to all municipalities in Ontario for support and that each endorsement be then forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (minister.mah@ontario.ca), the Minister of Education (minister.edu@ontario.ca), the Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery (todd.mccarthy@ontario.ca), Minister of Finance (Minister.fin@ontario.ca), the Premier of Ontario (premier@ontario.ca), MPP Peter Bethlenfalvy (Peter.Bethlenfalvy@pc.ola.org), and AMCTO (advocacy@amcto.com).

Result: Carried

Yours truly,



Debbie Leroux
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk

Cc: Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (minister.mah@ontario.ca)
Minister of Education (minister.edu@ontario.ca)
Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery (todd.mccarthy@ontario.ca)
Minister of Finance (Minister.fin@ontario.ca)
MPP Peter Bethlenfalvy (Peter.Bethlenfalvy@pc.ola.org)
AMCTO (advocacy@amcto.com)