



E-voting Overview

Halifax Regional Municipality
UNSM – Spring Conference 2012





Overview

- Responsibilities of Election Office
- HRM E-voting experience
 - 2008 Municipal & School Board Elections
 - 2009 Special Election – District 6
- Budget implications of e-voting methods
- Lessons Learned
- Options for 2012
- RFP process
- Election Office 2012
- Challenges & Opportunities



Responsibilities

■ To:

- ensure integrity of the electoral process
- ensure compliance with legislated and statutory requirements of the Municipal Elections Act and Education Act of NS
 - E-voting By-law, Policies & Procedures required
- to ensure electors are provided with the accessibility and information required to fully exercise their right to vote
- to ensure candidates are provided with the information necessary to make informed decisions about running for public office and to conduct their campaigns in an appropriate manner



Experience in HRM

- Two (2) alternative voting pilots
 - 2008 Municipal and School Board Election
 - Advanced poll Oct 4-Oct 6th (60 hours) prior to in person advanced polls
 - 2009 Special District 6
 - Totally integrated voting for 8 days through ordinary polling day (e-voting or in person)
 - Sept 12th – Sept 19th



2008 Voter Participation Rates

- Overall voter participation rates for 2008 Municipal and School Board Election
 - 279,326 electors in HRM (8% increase from 258,396 in 2004)
 - 36.18% voter turnout for 2008 Municipal Election
 - 36.32% voter turnout if spoiled/rejected ballots are included in count

- Convenience matters to voters:
 - 28.4% of voters (28,709) cast their ballots in 3 days of e-voting
 - Internet is the preferred channel
 - 87.8% voted on Internet
 - 12.2% voted by phone
 - 45.25% (almost 1/2) of voters in 2008 voted in one of the advanced polls (electronic & in-person)

2009 Special Election- Voter Participation Rates

- Overall voter participation rates for 2009 Special Election – District 6
 - 12,476 electors
 - 35.32% voter turnout – significantly higher than most special elections
- Convenience matters to voters:
 - 74.2% of voters (3,264) cast their ballots electronically
 - Internet is the preferred channel
 - 79.8% voted on Internet
 - 20.2% voted by phone
 - 25.8% cast ballots by paper in either the advanced or election day polls



Election Budget & Expenses

~~Election Budget 2008~~

- Total Election budget \$1.6 million
- Election Costs
 - Traditional Election
 - Budget \$1million
 - Actual cost \$922,229
 - Electronic Voting (early advanced)
 - Budget \$600,000
 - Actual cost \$593,780
 - Recoveries
 - HRSB \$336,076
 - CSAP \$ 26,026
 - Cost to HRM \$1,188,907

~~Election Budget 2009 (special)~~

- Total budget \$95,000
- Election costs
 - Traditional Special Election
 - Budget \$45,000
 - Actual cost \$50,865
 - Electronic Voting (through entire period)
 - Budget \$38,700
 - Actual Cost \$40,850
 - Equipment cost per poll location \$10,000/1 only



Lessons learned from the E-Voting Pilot Projects

- Partnerships in delivering e-voting matter
- E-voting well received by voters and candidates
- E-voting improves voter accessibility
- E-voting is a “greener” solution
- E-voting costs - but can be effective in managing election costs if managed correctly
- E-voting can improve consistency in the interaction between election officials and voters (e.g.. Advanced Polls)
- E-voting improves the speed and accuracy of the voter count
- E-voting sharply focuses issues that have always been present in the electoral process



Options for 2012 –Discussed

- 1) Stay with early advanced poll for e-voting in 2012 –
- Viable Alternative but not most cost effective
- 2) Integrate e-voting & In Person for advanced polls
(with substantially reduced number) and in person only on
polling day in 2012 – ***Viable Alternative only if number of
advanced polls are substantially reduced***
- 3) Integrated e-voting and In person for advance polls
(no reduced numbers) and in person only for polling day
– ***NOT viable due to risk and cost***
- 4) Totally integrated election (e-voting & in person all
locations through polling day – as District 6)-
NOT viable due to cost and risk



Options for 2012

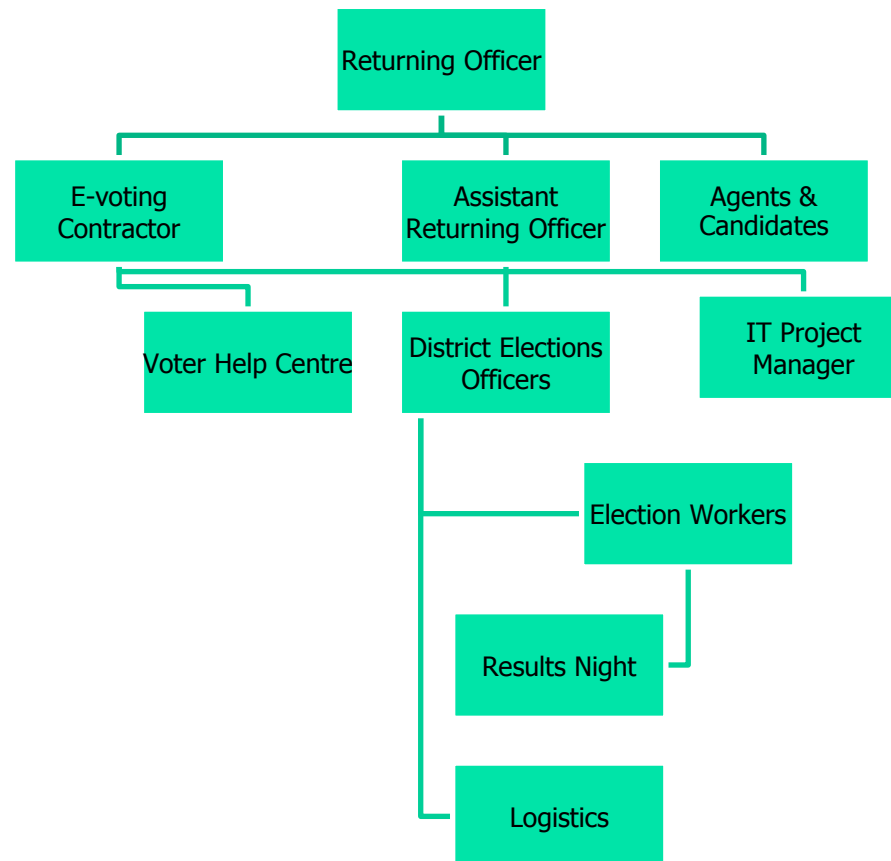
- Decision of Council September 2010
- Advanced polls E-voting only (due to change to Elections Act)
- Ordinary Polling Day – In Person Only (reduces cost & risk)
- Challenge – How to ensure electors not on the voters list get chance to cast ballots electronically if they so choose
 - Solution – Limited number of registration poll locations during Advanced Electronic polls (16)
 - Additional costs \$150,000



RFP Process

- Determine requirements
- Determine evaluation criteria
- Go to market
- Market has changed
 - Intelivote highest technical scoring proponent
 - Knowledge of local legislation/conditions beneficial
 - Pricing models matter more & more (no increase to election budget in 2012)
- Award to Scytl for 2012 elections (sub contractors Datafix/Doculink)

2012 Election office





2012 Challenges & Opportunities

■ Challenges

- New vendor
- Student voters
- Poll locations during e-voting advanced polls
- Increasing number of electors (est. 315,000 – increase of 12%) – no increased budget
- New Districts

■ Opportunities

- Length of e-voting period
- Reduced number of poll locations
- Student voters
- Poll locations during e-voting advanced polls
- % vote likely by e-voting