



Pickering Civic Complex  
One The Esplanade  
Pickering, Ontario  
Canada L1V 6K7  
Direct Access 905.420.4660  
Toll Free 1.866.683.2760  
cityofpickering.com

CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Clerk's Division

Division 905.420.4611

Facsimile 905.420.9685

clerks@city.pickering.on.ca

December 9, 2004

Subject: *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*  
Bill C-261  
-Lower the Voting Age

Please be advised that the following resolution was passed by the Council of the Corporation of the City of Pickering at its meeting held on December 6, 2004:

WHEREAS the voter turnout across Canada has been steadily decreasing over the years at Federal, Provincial and Municipal elections; and

WHEREAS young people have expressed that they do not feel engaged in the electoral process; and

WHEREAS young people have a good knowledge of the electoral process and the way the three levels of government operate through school programs that start in the early grades; and

WHEREAS a lowering of the voting age from eighteen to sixteen will have the advantage of reinforcing a pattern of voter participation that will stay with our youth throughout life; and

WHEREAS the Member of Parliament for Ajax-Pickering, Mark Holland, has introduced Bill C-261 that if enacted would have the effect of lowering the voting age for Federal elections to sixteen while at the same time ensuring that a candidate must be at least eighteen years of age;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the City of Pickering hereby states its support for Bill C-261 to lower the voting age from eighteen to sixteen at the Federal level; and

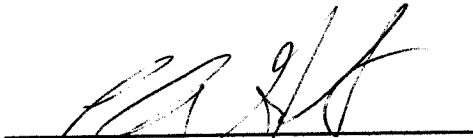
FURTHER THAT the Legislature of the Province of Ontario be requested to amend the *Elections Act*, which governs Provincial elections and the *Municipal Elections Act*, 1996 which governs Municipal elections to lower the voting age from eighteen to sixteen; and

AND FURTHER THAT copies of this resolution be forwarded to:

- The Right Honourable Paul Martin, Prime Minister of Canada
- Mark Holland, MP, Ajax-Pickering
- Dan McTeague, MP, Pickering-Scarborough East
- The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario
- The Honourable John Gerretsen, Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- All Ontario Municipalities
- Wayne Arthurs, MPP, Pickering-Ajax-Uxbridge
- The Honourable Michael Bryant, Minister Responsible for Democratic Renewal

If you have any questions with respect to this matter, please contact the Clerks Division at 905.420.4611.

Yours truly,



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C. Anne Greentree, B.A., AMCT  
Deputy Clerk

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