

HRM's Experience with Electronic Voting

The 2008 Municipal Elections and beyond...

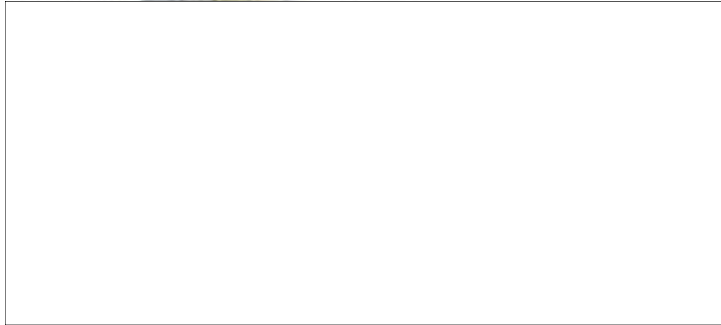
The Canadian-Europe Transatlantic Dialogue

Carleton University

January 2010



Halifax Regional Municipality



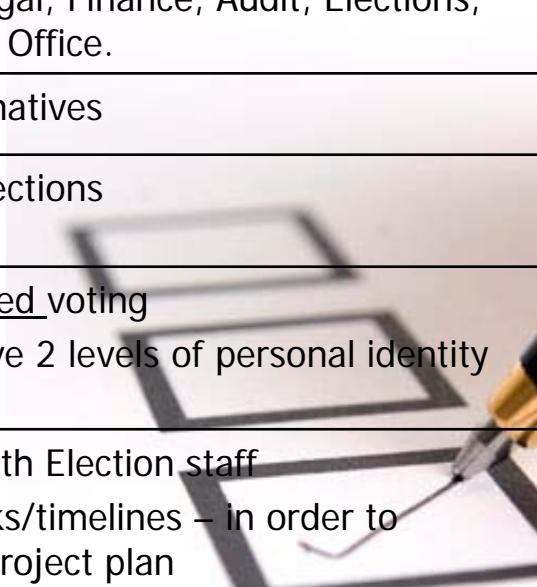
- Formed in 1996 through amalgamation of previous municipal units Halifax, Dartmouth, Bedford, County and Metropolitan Authority
 - Mayor (elected at large), 23 district Councillors
- Land mass size of PEI, almost 3X population –projected by be over 410,000 by 2012
 - Source Environics Analytics analysis conducted for HRM Dec 2009
- HRM is made up of over 200 communities - urban, suburban & rural
- HRM is the Hub of Atlantic Canada
 - Conference Board of Canada 2009
- HRM produces 48% of Nova Scotia's Total GDP and 20% of Atlantic Canada's
 - Source – Greater Halifax Partnership Economic Forecast for Greater Halifax





HRM's E-voting journey 4 years in the making..

2004	Council directs staff to explore complementary voting alternatives for use in the 2008 Municipal and School Board Election
December 2005	HRM issues Expression of Interest No. 05-418 to examine complementary and alternative voting options Cross-departmental Evaluation Team: Legal, Finance, Audit, Elections, IT, Client Services, Procurement, DCAO's Office.
Summer/fall 2006	Council & staff discuss options and alternatives
November 2006	Review of the 2006 Ontario Municipal Elections
January 2007	Council approved internet/phone <u>advanced</u> voting Two primary concerns: be advanced, have 2 levels of personal identity verification
January-March 2007	Business process review and mapping with Election staff Understanding how current process works/timelines – in order to identify critical points for 2008 election project plan

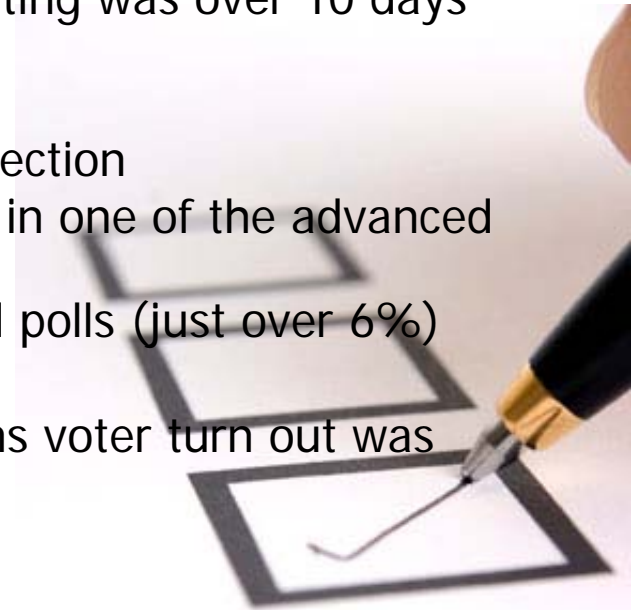


The E-voting journey (cont.)

October 2007 January 2008	RFP No. 07-138 with detailed deliverables Selection of preferred vendor & Proof of Concept. Awarded to Intelivote Systems. Inc
February –March 2008	Amendments to Municipal Elections Act (sec 146A) to include dates, hours & offenses & penalties.
June 2008	HRM By-law 400 approved by Council, preparation of Policies & Procedures documentation
July 2008	Voters list transferred from Elections Nova Scotia & data review by HRM
August 2008	Policies & Procedures completed/ Voter Revisions Period <i>Are You on the Voters List?</i>
September 2008	Start advertising and conduct candidate sessions <i>Make your Vote Count!</i>
October 4- October 6th	<i>Advanced Internet Voting</i> - Voter help centre key contact with voters during this period
October 11 th & 14 th October 18th	<i>In person Advanced polls</i> <i>Regular Polling Day</i>

2008 Event demographics

- 279,326 electors in HRM
- 28,709 participated in E-voting in 3 days (10.28% of eligible voters/ 28.4% of all votes cast)
 - 87.8% voted on Internet
 - 12.2% voted by phone
- Substantially higher in municipalities where E-voting was over 10 days including election day (73% in Stewiacke)
- Convenience matters to voters:
 - 36.18% voter turn out for 2008 municipal election
 - 45.25% (almost ½) of voters in 2008 voted in one of the advanced polls (electronic & in-person)
 - In 2004 15,708 voted in in-person advanced polls (just over 6%)
- Engagement matters to voters
 - In districts with close races/strong campaigns voter turn out was well above the overall average



A Balance of principles

- Accessibility and scrutiny
- Engagement and integrity
- Voter convenience and election security

No electoral process is without risk...its about managing those risks..





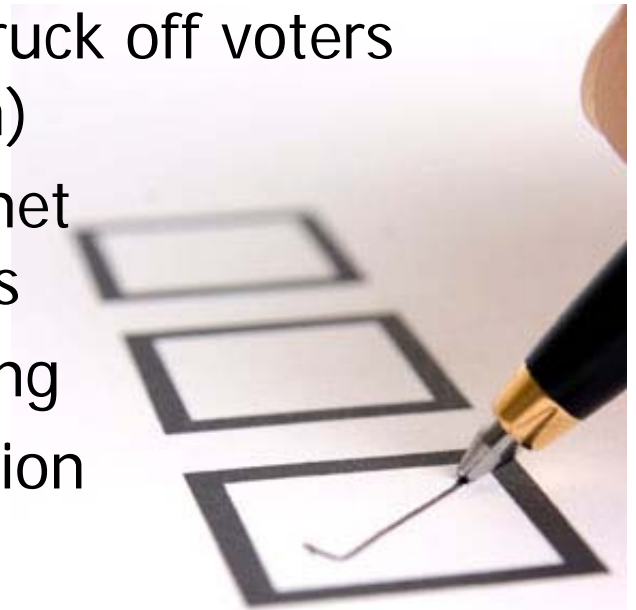
Our Objectives..

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



Technical considerations

- Partnership with Elections Nova Scotia & vendor
- HRM Election System & data transfer to vendor (when, how) – at close of final List of Electors
- Real time voters list vs. producing struck off voters list (speaks to advanced poll decision)
- Election Central support – ACD/internet connectivity/network & firewall issues
- Results night – real time web reporting
- Contingency planning & implementation



Legislative considerations

- Municipal Elections Act
 - Revisions required/ cooperation
- HRM By-law A-400





Critical issues for success..

- Solid understanding of the election process
- Multi- disciplinary approach
- Data integrity- voters list
- Handling the issue of voter identification – for HRM through “2 shared secrets”
- Internal controls & 3rd party procedures audit
- Communications – public, candidate, media





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Make Your **Vote** Count! **HRM elections 2008**

The Halifax Regional Municipality will be holding Municipal and School Board elections in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act on the third Saturday of October **(October 18, 2008 Other Key Dates)**. The purpose of the election is to elect Mayor, Regional Concillors and School Board members.

All eligible voters are encouraged to participate in the Municipal and School Board Elections.

Recently Added Information!

[E-Voting & Phone Voting Tutorials](#)

[Polling Locations](#)

[Voter Notification Letter Details](#)

[Notice of Poll \(Candidate Listing\)](#)

[General Information](#) | [How Can I Vote](#) | [Where Do I Vote](#) | [Polling Locations & Dates](#) | [Questions](#)

General Information

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LINKS

- Voter Notification Letter Details
- E-Voting Questions and Answers

E-Voting Advanced Polls

E-Voting will occur from 8:00 am Saturday October 4th to 8 pm Monday October 6th **ONLY**

Tutorials

Tutorials will open in a new window and are in Flash 7.0 format. Each tutorial is approximately 5 minutes viewing time.

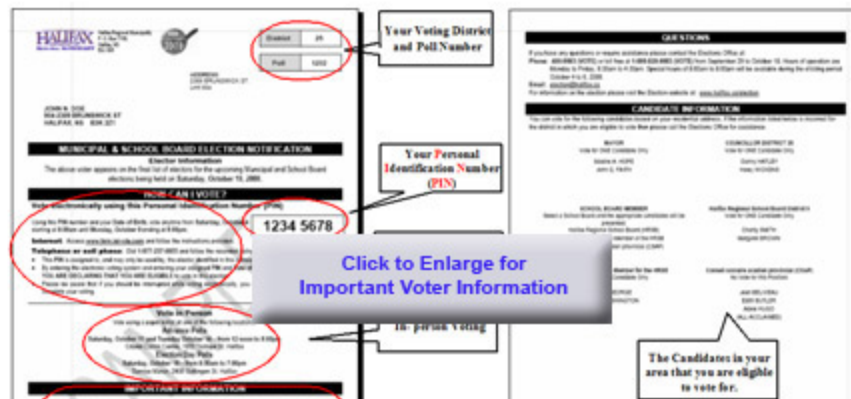


E-Voting Tutorial



Phone Voting Tutorial

Voter Notification Letters with voting instructions will be in the mail on September 29th



The image shows a sample of a voter notification letter from Hallex. Several key pieces of information are highlighted with red circles and callouts:


- Your Voting District and Poll Number:** A callout points to a box containing "District #1" and "Poll 1000".
- Your Personal Identification Number (PIN):** A callout points to the number "1234 5678".
- Click to Enlarge for Important Voter Information:** A callout points to a link on the letter.
- The Candidates in your area that you are eligible to vote for:** A callout points to the "CANDIDATE INFORMATION" section of the letter.

The letter itself includes sections for "MUNICIPAL & SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION NOTIFICATION", "HOW TO VOTE", and "CANDIDATE INFORMATION".



Event demographics

Age	Eligible	Voted	% of group	% of E-voters
18-19 * need to get this group on the voters list	776	103	13.3%	0.34%
20's & 30's	97,025	6,964	7.12%	24.26%
40's & 50's	110,408	13,969	12.65%	48.67%
60's & 70's	53,621	6,907	12.88%	24.07%
80's & 90's	12,512	765	6.12%	2.66%

- Oldest electronic voter was 93. He voted by phone with assistance from the voter help centre and a family member.
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There is a story behind every vote..



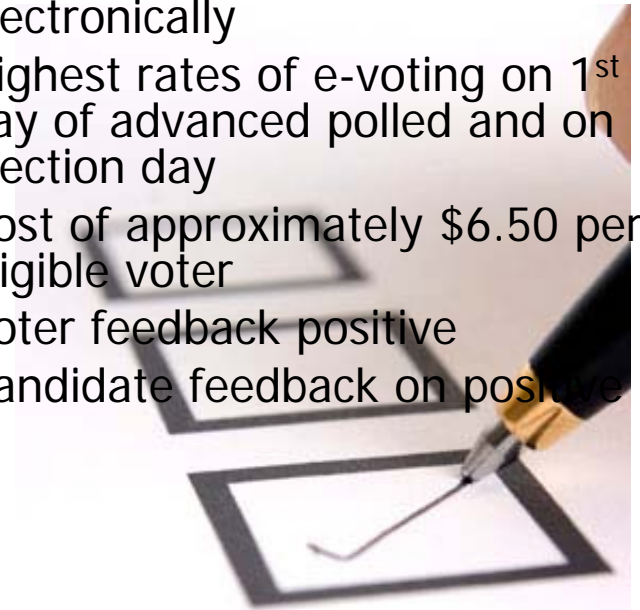
- Over 30 countries
- Over 50 Canadian towns & cities
- From a neighbour's phone & at public c@p sites
- Being able to vote independently for the 1st time using a mouth stick at your own computer
- Voting from Sable Island
- From a Canadian Forces ship off Somalia
- From a Canadian Coast Guard vessel on patrol just outside the 200 mile limit
- From every major university in Atlantic Canada





September 2009 By-election

- Special election in 1 district, 12,479 voters, 1 polling location
- Opportunity to pilot fully integrated electronic and in-person voting
- E-voting from 1st day of advanced polls up to and including election day
- Heavy on technology requirements - "real time" voters list, lap tops, printers, internet connectivity, kiosk,
- Redundancy & contingency planning
- Utilized the candidate module for the first time
- 35.2% turnout for a special election – significant increase over most recent special elections (27.1%,21.5% and 10.2%)
- 74.2% of voters voted electronically
- Highest rates of e-voting on 1st day of advanced polled and on election day
- Cost of approximately \$6.50 per eligible voter
- Voter feedback positive
- Candidate feedback on positive



Lessons learned at HRM...

- E-voting works, excellent partnerships
- E-voting is well received by voters & candidates
- E-voting can be cost effective – there are challenges
- E-voting is the “greener” option
- E-voting delivers faster more reliable voting results
- E-voting sharply focuses issues that have always been present in the electoral process
- E-voting changes campaigning
- Election officials must have a plan as to how to manage the issues, risks and the media surrounding implementation of E-voting





Thank you.

