



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee

Date: October 18, 2013

From: David Weber
Director, City Clerk's Office

File: 12-8125-70-01/Vol 01

Re: 2014 General Local and School Election Program and Budget

Staff Recommendation

That the 2014 General Local and School Election be administered and delivered as outlined in the staff report dated October 18, 2013 from the Director, City Clerk's Office, with a program that includes 5-10 additional voting places in neighbourhoods and in the City Centre, additional temporary staff, and the "vote anywhere" approach, subject to further consideration of the following as part of the 2014 budget process:

1. One-time expenditure funding of \$251,000 in 2014 to augment the current 2014 election budget; and
2. \$100,000 in additional annual funding to the Election Reserve in 2014 and thereafter in order to ensure the same level of service for the 2017 election and future elections.

David Weber
Director, City Clerk's Office
(604-276-4098)
Att. 4

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 	
REVIEWED BY DIRECTORS 	INITIALS: DW
APPROVED BY CAO 	

Staff Report

Origin

For the 2011 General Local and School Election, a number of new initiatives were introduced that were aimed at removing barriers to voting thereby increasing electoral participation. The introduction of these initiatives was in response to an earlier Council referral which asked staff to analyze and comment on low voter turnout. Following the official reporting of the 2011 local election results on December 9, 2011, Council adopted the following referral:

That staff report back on the election program generally and on the various new initiatives that were implemented for the 2011 election.

A general overview of the election program, including information on governing legislation, electors and voting opportunities, election staffing and training, public awareness, advertising, on-line tools, general election day operations and the 2011 election budget are included in **Attachment 1** in response to the referral.

The remainder of this report responds to the request for a report on the various new initiatives that were implemented for the 2011 election and presents an approach looking ahead to the 2014 local election.

Background

On February 28, 2011, staff brought forward a report to Council through Committee in response to a referral which asked staff to analyze and comment on low voter turnout. The report indicated that Richmond's local government election voter turnout had been in decline in previous years, reaching a low of 22.1% in 2008. Although a concerning statistic, the report also showed that this was a typical figure when compared to local government voter turnout figures regionally, and consistent with generally declining elector participation rates observed provincially, nationally and internationally.

The 2011 report also presented available demographic and survey data which focused on voter satisfaction and the main factors and reasons cited by consistent voters for voting (an interest in the issues, a sense of responsibility, civic duty) and the reasons cited by consistent non-voters for not voting (disengagement with politics, general pessimism, lack of knowledge, not available/too busy). In general, the problem of low voter turnout was presented as (a) almost universal in terms of a general societal trend, (b) complex and multi-faceted in terms of its cause, and (c) with no apparent simple short-term solution.

In terms of appropriate actions that could be taken locally, it was acknowledged that even though a large part of the low voter turnout issue resided in the political realm and would be most appropriately addressed in that forum as an ongoing dialogue, there were some things that could potentially be done administratively to help to improve voter turnout by removing barriers to voting. As a result, a number of initiatives were recommended and approved along with one-time funding for implementation.

Analysis

Overview of initiatives implemented for the 2011 election

The City undertook five initiatives for the 2011 election with a view to removing barriers to voting and providing enhanced information to the public about the election. They were:

(1) The "vote anywhere" initiative

The "vote anywhere" initiative allowed electors to vote at any voting place while at the same time, provided for a secure and efficient election. The system was implemented using a centralized electronic voters list that allowed front line election staff at the voting places to determine whether a voter had already voted, even if it was at another location. Using the centralized voters list, front line election staff would electronically "cross off" a voter's name on the voters list and this would electronically cross off that voter's name from all voters lists city-wide. This key feature is what made it possible to implement a secure approach to the election that did not necessarily have to tie the voters down to any particular designated voting place.

The vote anywhere approach provided voters with the choice and convenience to vote either close to home in their neighborhoods or vote when they were out running errands in the community. By removing designated voting divisions, voting places could be located in higher-traffic locations such as community centres or shopping malls. This attempted to address some of the concerns raised in the satisfaction surveys which indicated that voters sometimes said they didn't vote because they were too busy, they didn't know where the designated voting places were, or that their designated voting place was not conveniently located.

An analysis of the data from the electronic voters list system shows that voters took advantage of the ability to vote at any voting place of their choosing. If a comparison is made in areas where the same voting places were used in both 2008 and 2011, an average of **41%** of voters in 2011 chose to vote at a voting place other than the one that was their designated neighbourhood voting place in 2008.

Attachment 2 shows (for this key comparator group of voting places):

- (1) the number of electors voting at a voting place who came from within the traditional divisional boundaries as compared to the number of electors who came from further afield and were "voting anywhere" by coming to that particular voting place); and
- (2) for all of the electors who voted in 2011 and who lived within one of these traditional voting division boundaries, how many of those voted at the traditionally designated voting place and how many chose to "vote anywhere" at another voting place.

The degree to which voters voted outside their immediate area given the choice to do so varied from voting place to voting place, with voting places on arterial roads, and those at community centres and shopping malls garnering higher numbers of voters who were "voting anywhere." Voting places that were located squarely within neighbourhoods and away from arterial roads tended to have higher numbers of voters attending from that immediate vicinity. (The maps in **Attachment 3** depict, for several representative voting places, the areas from whence voters came, given the choice to vote at any voting place).

One-time funding in the amount of \$88,000 was approved for the 2011 “vote anywhere” initiative for hardware, software, vendor implementation services, connectivity, and election staff training.

(2) The publication of candidate profiles

For many election cycles, the City Election Office has mailed a *Voters Guide* to every household in Richmond outlining basic information for voters (for example, a map showing the location of voting places, basic eligibility and identification requirements, hours of voting, etc.). For the 2011 election, the *Voters Guide* included for the first time brief candidate profiles in addition to the regular election information. The profile statements and photographs were submitted by the candidates as part of the nomination process. To ensure consistency and fairness, candidates were required to follow strict submission guidelines.

This initiative attempted to address concerns raised in the satisfaction surveys that indicated that voters sometimes didn’t vote because they didn’t feel they had enough information to make an informed choice, they didn’t know who was running or they didn’t know how to find information about the candidates. The candidate profiles in the *Voters Guide* gave the public a general overview of the candidates and provided a consistent starting point for further information. The City of Vancouver has published candidate profiles for several election cycles already without issue and Richmond experienced a similar positive response to the profiles when they were included for the first time in 2011.

One-time funding in the amount of \$16,000 was approved in 2011 to cover incremental costs for the printing and additional postage required for the expanded 2011 *Voters Guide*.

(3) More advance voting opportunities

Advance Voting has proven to be a popular way to vote, especially for people who are busy or who work on weekends. In keeping with the theme of removing barriers to voting, the City offered an unprecedented 9 advance voting opportunities on 5 separate days, including on the so-called “Super Saturday” where 5 advance voting opportunities were offered in different areas of the City on a single day one week before General Voting Day.

Also for the first time in 2011, advance voting was offered outside of City Hall with advance voting opportunities provided in Steveston (McMath School), East Richmond (Cambie Community Centre); City Centre (the Library/Cultural Centre, the Richmond Olympic Oval and Kwantlen College) and the South Arm area (McRoberts School).

While the City Hall Advance Polls were the most popular, advance voting at the other locations in the community also attracted many voters with a total of 4,448 or 14.3% of all ballots being cast at advance voting opportunities. In comparison, in 2008, 2,942 ballots were cast in advance or 10.6% of all ballots cast.

(4) Expanded and enhanced public education and election awareness campaign

In order to reach a broader audience with key messages about the election, the City’s advertising and public education campaign went well beyond the usual minimum statutorily required advertisements. Additional ads were designed with more visual appeal. Newspaper wraps were

used to present election information more prominently. The City participated in a regional radio election awareness campaign in partnership with other municipalities in the lower mainland. Social media was used for the first time in the form of a customized election facebook page that helped to provide key messages and election information in new ways and to expanded audiences.

One-time funding in the amount of \$25,000 was approved in 2011 to fund the enhanced 2011 election awareness campaign.

(5) Improved universal access to voting opportunities for electors with disabilities.

In keeping with the various initiatives to remove barriers to voting, during the planning stages of the election, staff attended a demonstration session which featured an “accessible voting station.” Such stations are not yet common in Canada but are prevalent in the United States where federal law requires that they be made widely available. The accessible voting stations consist of a ballot marking device which allows people living with disabilities to independently mark their own ballot without the need for assistance. The device accepts a standard ballot and, with the aid of descriptive audio, enhanced video display, Braille keypad, and connections for sip/puff devices, the voter uses the machine to mark their choices on the ballot.

Following a demonstration of the equipment at the Richmond Centre for Disability, two such units were obtained on a trial basis and deployed at advance voting at City Hall and on General Voting Day at the Lansdowne Mall Voting Place. The equipment performed well and providing it represented an important step in removing a significant barrier to voting.

2011 Election Budget

The cost for the 2011 election was \$508,000, broken down generally as shown below (See **Attachment 1** for further detailed breakdown).

2011 Election Costs	
Advertising / Public Awareness	\$53,600
Printing and Postage	\$103,550
Staffing (at polls and office admin. staff)	\$226,650
Technical Services, Equipment	\$102,375
Supplies, Miscellaneous	\$21,900
Total Costs	\$508,075

The election budget for 2011 was \$476,000, which consisted of the regular funding of \$347,000 from the Election Reserve and the 2011 one-time funding of \$129,000 for the approved initiatives that were undertaken for the 2011 election.

The 2011 election was over budget by approximately \$32,000 owing to (a) the need for additional staff at the voting places and the administration and training costs associated with managing the voting place staff, (b) higher than anticipated costs for technical support, in

particular for system testing, equipment configuration, and election day technical support, and (c) various increased fixed costs for printing, postage, and advertising. This amount was covered through the regular departmental budget.

In addition to these directly identifiable costs, the election has required a significant level of support by regular staff in the City Clerk's Office and Information Technology, increasingly over the last several election cycles. This is impacting regular departmental work to such a degree that it is becoming unsustainable in terms of getting the regular work completed as required. In addition, it also means that the election budget no longer reflects the true costs of the election or the level of funding and staff support required to fully administer and deliver the election since so much of it is being administered by regular staff through the regular budget. In order to adequately resource expected service levels, staff are proposing an expanded election budget that better reflects the true costs of the election.

2014 Proposed Election Program and Budget

The initiatives implemented in 2011 were the most significant changes to be introduced to the election program since the implementation of automated vote counting 18 years earlier in 1993. The initiatives were well-received by the public and for the first time in several elections, voter turnout increased over the previous election. In 2011, 31,126 people voted in Richmond, for a turnout of 23.74% as compared to 2008 when 27,709 people voted for a turnout of 22.1%.

It would be overly simplistic to attribute this slight reversal in voter behaviour to the new initiatives or to any other single factor. Indeed, the factors affecting voter turnout in local elections are multi-faceted and complex and far more dependent on political factors. However, if administrative barriers to voting can be removed and the public responds positively, then it is appropriate to continue to improve further in that direction. For this reason, staff are recommending that the initiatives that were introduced in 2011 be continued, including the publication of candidate profiles, enhanced public awareness and advertising, improved and more accessible voting opportunities and the "vote anywhere" approach.

In addition, for the 2014 election, staff are recommending the addition of 5 to 10 voting places city-wide. The number of voting places in Richmond has not appreciably increased over the last 20 years even though the population of Richmond has increased significantly over the same period (in recent elections 32 to 34 Election Day voting places are set-up with varying numbers of advance voting opportunities).

In order to better serve the growing population in the City Centre area, which has been increasingly under-served in terms of the number of voting places provided, there was a slight shift in the location of voting places toward the City Centre in 2011. While this balanced the location of voting places across the City according to population distribution, this resulted in slightly fewer voting places in the neighbourhood areas. It would be appropriate moving forward to increase the number of voting places in neighbourhoods and in the City Centre given the general increase in population across Richmond. The average cost for each additional voting place is \$5,000 and covers incremental costs per voting place for staffing, training, administration, equipment and supplies.

For the 2014 election, and as part of the one-time request, staff are proposing that a \$50,000 contingency be established that would cover unanticipated costs, for example, legal consulting, judicial recounts, challenges to the election, and other unanticipated circumstances. This amount would remain and carry over to future elections if not needed.

In order to provide an adequate level of staff at the voting places, provide sufficient training for front line staff, and adequate management of the election process generally, additional temporary staffing resources are required to support the election. This will also ensure that regular staffing levels and work is also not overly impacted. An additional amount of \$90,000 would extend the existing temporary election assignments as well as add additional resources to administer the process.

In 2011, Council asked staff to explore the feasibility and options for Internet voting and to report back to Council regarding the potential for implementation for the 2014 civic election. While the prospect for Internet voting continues to be widely debated in conjunction with voter turnout and democratic participation generally, to date there have been no legislative changes introduced that would permit Internet voting in BC local government elections, although there have been developments toward that goal (see **Attachment 4** for further detail on these developments). As there is no legislative authority for such, Internet voting cannot be proposed or further explored for implementation for the 2014 election.

2014 Election Budget - Proposed

2014 Election Budget - Proposed	
Election Program as per 2011	\$508,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General cost breakdown in 2011 was: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Advertising / public awareness (\$53,000) ○ Printing and postage (\$103,550) ○ Staffing (at polls and office staff) (\$226,650) ○ Technical services, equipment (\$102,375) ○ Supplies, miscellaneous (\$21,900) • Funding sources in 2011 for \$508,000 consisted of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$347,000 from Election Reserve; ○ \$129,000 from one-time funding; and ○ \$32,000 from regular departmental budget 	
Additional 5 to 10 voting places	\$50,000
Temporary staffing	\$90,000
General contingency	\$50,000
Total Proposed Budget for 2014 (includes contingency)	\$698,000
Existing funding from Election Reserve	(\$347,000)
Proposed funding requirement for 2014 (\$251,000 in one-time; \$100,000 in additional on-going)	\$351,000

Financial Impact

The total cost for the 2011 election was \$508,000. Staff recommend that the additional services and initiatives from 2011 be incorporated into the 2014 election program.

For the 2014 election, staff also recommend the addition of 5 to 10 voting places as well as additional temporary staffing and the establishment of a (one-time) general contingency for a total amount of \$190,000.

To fund the proposed 2014 election program (and future elections at the same level of service), an additional on-going amount of \$100,000 to the Election Reserve would be required starting in 2014. In addition, one-time funding of \$251,000 would be needed to “catch up” because normally, the election is funded by making 3 annual transfers to the Election Reserve, arriving at full funding by the third year. As 2014 is already the third year of that 3-year cycle, a one-time amount is required to catch up for the first two years of the cycle. Taken together with the \$347,000 already accumulated and available in the Election Reserve, this would provide the full funding of \$698,000 for the proposed 2014 election budget and the same level of funding for future elections, by-elections and referenda.

Conclusion

The theme to delivering the 2011 election was to remove administrative barriers to voting and this was accomplished by providing an enhanced communications and public outreach program, providing more accessible and additional advance voting opportunities, as well as providing electors with the ability to vote “at large” if they wished to do so. The voter turnout increased slightly in 2011 (which reversed the downward trend from the previous several elections) and 41% of voters took advantage of the ability to “vote anywhere” by voting at a voting place other than the one that was traditionally designated.

For the 2014 election, it is proposed that these initiatives continue with further refinements as to the best locations of voting places, along with the addition of voting places in both neighbourhood locations and city centre to better serve all areas of the City given the growth in population in recent years.

The level of funding proposed better reflects the administrative cost and staffing required to support the election service levels, provide the substantive and increased training for front-line election staff (especially in light of the changing legislative and regulatory requirements), and to generally deliver the election while minimizing impacts to regular business processes.



David Weber
Director, City Clerk's Office
(604-276-4098)

The City of Richmond Election Program

Governing Legislation and Mandate

Under the City of Richmond election program, the Director, City Clerk's Office (Corporate Officer) is also designated by bylaw as the City's Chief Election Officer and is therefore responsible for the administration of elections and by-elections for the City of Richmond and the Richmond School District. Under current legislation, a General Local and School Election must be held on the third Saturday in November every three years for the Offices of Mayor, Councillor, and School Trustee. The next election will be held on November 15, 2014.

The Richmond General Local and School Election is administered in accordance with the provisions of:

- The Local Government Act (Part 3 and 4),
- The Community Charter (Part 4),
- The School Act (Part 4),
- The Civic Election Administration and Procedure Bylaw No.7244, and
- The Election and Political Signs Bylaw No.8713.

For the 2014 election, the BC Provincial Government has proposed additional new legislation in the form of The Local Election Campaign Financing Act (currently under review and consultation and proposed to be introduced during the 2014 spring legislative session).

Electors

For the last local election in 2011, Richmond had 131,082 registered electors. The City, by bylaw, adopts the Provincial Voters List (the Richmond portion) as the Richmond List of Electors, which is the common practice for municipalities across BC. The Provincial Voters List is maintained by Elections BC and draws from numerous federal and provincial government sources to ensure accuracy as far as possible. The City supplements the list by taking advance voter registrations in the period leading up to local elections as well as by providing elector registration opportunities at the time of voting (as required by the Local Government Act).

Voting Opportunities

In 2011, Richmond had 32 voting places open on General Voting Day (from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm), provided 9 advance voting opportunities, 8 "mobile polls" at local care facilities as well as opportunities for mail-in ballots for travellers and people with limited mobility. In total, 31,126 ballots were cast at all voting opportunities combined and the results were counted and tabulated using automated vote counting machines. The automated vote counting technology has been in use in Richmond for 20 years and is a well accepted and efficient technology. Final election results were broadcast live to the City website following the close of the polls at 8:00 pm, with all results available on-line by 8:45 pm.

Election Staffing and Training

In order to staff the various voting places, advance voting opportunities and mobile polls, the City Clerk's Office hires and trains approximately 250-275 temporary front-line election staff every election cycle (to fill approximately 350 positions). In 2011, 264 temporary staff were hired to fill 351 front-line election positions (a number of individuals worked on more than one day and in more than one role, for example, working at advance voting and on General Voting Day. Many of the most senior temporary election staff (those in charge of the voting places) have extensive experience working elections in Richmond. A rigorous mandatory training program is provided to temporary election staff which includes:

- Elector registration training sessions,
- Vote-counting machine orientations (hands-on training),
- Computer training for those working with the on-line voters list, and
- A "mock election" night used to demonstrate and review election procedures,

In addition to the in-person training sessions, all election staff are provided with detailed election training manuals and are provided access to customized on-line training videos which cover a range of election procedures and processes.

In addition to the approximately 350 front-line election positions, the City Clerk's Office hires an Election Coordinator and opens a public Election Office within City Hall. The Election Coordinator is a temporary full-time assignment for at least 8 months preceding the election. The Election Coordinator is joined by two other temporary auxiliary administration staff in the Election Office closer to the time of the election. In total, these 3 staff assignments are the equivalent to about a one-year TFT administrative position. The Election Coordinator position is usually filled by a regular staff member from the City Clerk's Office with that person's regular position being back-filled on a temporary basis. In addition to the dedicated Election Office staff, a considerable amount of election-related work is undertaken by other staff in the City Clerk's Office with technical support for the election being provided by the IT Division.

Public Awareness / Advertising / Public Access Tools

Numerous statutorily-required advertisements must be placed in local newspapers at specific points in time leading up to the election in order to notify and inform the public about advance voter registration, the opening of nominations, voting opportunities, and other basic election information. In addition to the statutory advertising, the City Election Office also places additional advertising and key messaging in local papers, in the form of "newspaper wraps" and other less formal and more visually accessible ads, such as bus stop shelter posters.

In addition to print media, the City Election Office prepares and mails to every Richmond household a *Voters Guide* which includes all the pertinent information needed by voters to find the voting places, to understand the eligibility and identification requirements, how to obtain assistance in advance or at the time of voting, and to find out who is running in the election. For the first time in 2011, the *Voters Guide* also included candidate profiles and candidates photographs, which were submitted by candidates along with their nomination papers. The *Voters Guide* is also available on-line in English, French, Chinese and Punjabi.

All manner of election-related information is also available on the City Website Election Pages and for the first time in 2011 on the City Election Office Facebook Page. The City website included several electronic database tools to assist voters to find voting places and to check whether they were registered on the voters list. On General Voting Day, the public could view live election results on the City website as the results are reported from the various voting places. In total in 2011, the Election Pages on the City website had **67,365** public page views with **16,744** of those page views occurring on General Voting Day.

Election Day Operations

On General Voting Day and during advance voting opportunities, voters are able to register to vote if necessary immediately before casting a ballot. Voting place election staff, who have received training in election day procedures arrive early at each voting place to set-up equipment and materials and to prepare to receive electors. Each voting place team is supported by City staff stationed at an election call centre at City Hall. The call centre is available for general inquiries by election staff and the public.

If technical problems present themselves at the voting places during voting hours, technical support staff are available and can be dispatched to any voting location to provide assistance. Additional ballots, supplies and other equipment is also available and ready for distribution to the voting places as required. At the end of the evening, when the polls close, memory cards from the automated vote counting machines are transported to election headquarters where the results are downloaded, compiled and published live to the City website.

Election Budget - 2011

Election Funding Sources - 2011		\$ 476,000
• Election Reserve (\$115,700 placed in reserve in each of 3 years)	347,000	
• One-time funding for Candidate Profiles	16,000	
• One-time funding for Additional Awareness & Advertising	25,000	
• One-time funding for Vote Anywhere Initiative	88,000	

October 18, 2013

Election Costs – 2011

Election Costs by Category - 2011		
Advertising / Public Awareness		\$ 53,600
• Statutory and other Advertising	31,850	
• Voters Guide (with Candidate Profiles)	21,750	
Printing and Postage		\$ 103,550
• Ballot printing	24,000	
• Misc. Printing – training manuals, special signage, voters lists, etc.	7,550	
• Mailed Voter Cards (approx. 70,000 pieces)	26,000	
• Postage for Voter Cards	46,000	
Staffing		\$ 226,650
• Election Day staffing @ Voting Places (Approx. 350 positions)	106,000	
• Election Day staffing – Call Centre HQ; internal tech. support	8,600	
• Election staff training	12,250	
• Election Office staffing (May-Dec; 2 full-time, 1 part-time)	87,000	
• Overtime – other departments	12,800	
Technical Services, Equipment and Support		\$ 102,375
• Vote Counting Machines - Programming, maintenance, testing, equipment rental, and election day technical support staff	31,175	
• Electronic Voters List system	49,700	
• Computer equipment for Voting Places - Laptops, barcode scanners, cabling, data plans/airtime	21,500	
Supplies and Miscellaneous		\$ 21,900
• Voting Place Supplies – Stationery, office supplies	10,500	
• Moving & Deliveries – transporting equipment and supplies to and from Voting Places, set-up/take down costs	4,600	
• General Miscellaneous Costs – cell phones, security, office supplies, legal consulting, confidential document shredding, etc.	6,800	
Total Election Expenses 2011		\$ 508,075

“Vote Anywhere” Statistics

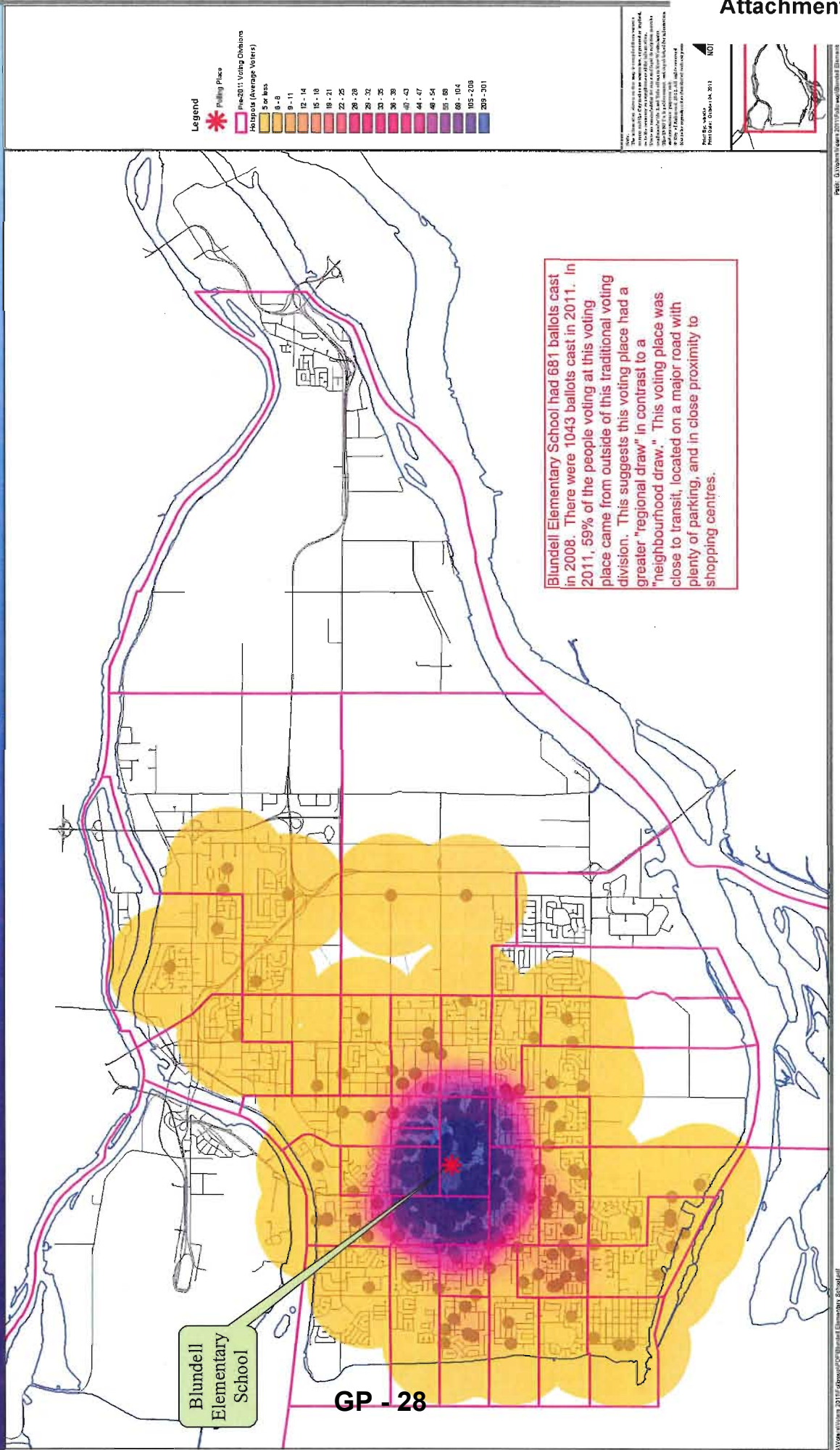
Voting Places	Ballots cast in 2008 (divisional voting only)	Ballots cast in 2011 (with “vote anywhere”)	# of “local” people living within this old divisional boundary who voted at this local voting place in 2011	# of people living outside of this old divisional boundary who chose to vote at this voting place in 2011 (ie: People who “voted anywhere” by coming here from elsewhere)	# of “local” people living within this old divisional boundary who voted at this local voting place in 2011	# of people living within this old divisional boundary who voted in 2011	# of “local” people living within this old divisional boundary who voted somewhere else in Richmond in 2011 (ie: People who “voted anywhere” by going somewhere else to vote)
Blundell	681	1043 ↑	427 (41%)	616 (59%)	427 (65%)	660	233 (35%)
Brighouse	629	464 ↓	365 (79%)	99 (21%)	365 (48%)	768	403 (52%)
General Currie	1248	775 ↓	668 (86%)	107 (14%)	668 (43%)	1540	872 (57%)
Grauer	629	859 ↑	340 (40%)	519 (60%)	340 (55%)	623	283 (45%)
Hamilton	592	565 ↓	543 (96%)	22 (4%)	543 (80%)	676	133 (20%)
McNair	710	1209 ↑	595 (49%)	614 (51%)	595 (77%)	773	178 (23%)
Quilchena	789	528 ↓	387 (73%)	141 (27%)	387 (44%)	888	501 (56%)
Richmond Sec.	596	963 ↑	542 (56%)	421 (44%)	542 (72%)	754	212 (28%)
Steves	670	822 ↑	574 (70%)	248 (30%)	574 (77%)	743	169 (23%)
Stev.-London	864	1216 ↑	559 (46%)	657 (54%)	559 (57%)	981	422 (43%)
Tait	696	427 ↓	383 (90%)	44 (10%)	383 (47%)	821	438 (53%)
Westwind	800	862 ↑	669 (78%)	193 (22%)	669 (74%)	905	236 (26%)
Woodward	564	576 ↑	410 (71%)	166 (29%)	410 (67%)	609	199 (33%)
Wowk	937	833 ↓	532 (64%)	301 (36%)	532 (46%)	1158	626 (54%)
<p>Average number of people who “voted anywhere” by going somewhere else to vote when given the choice →</p>							41%

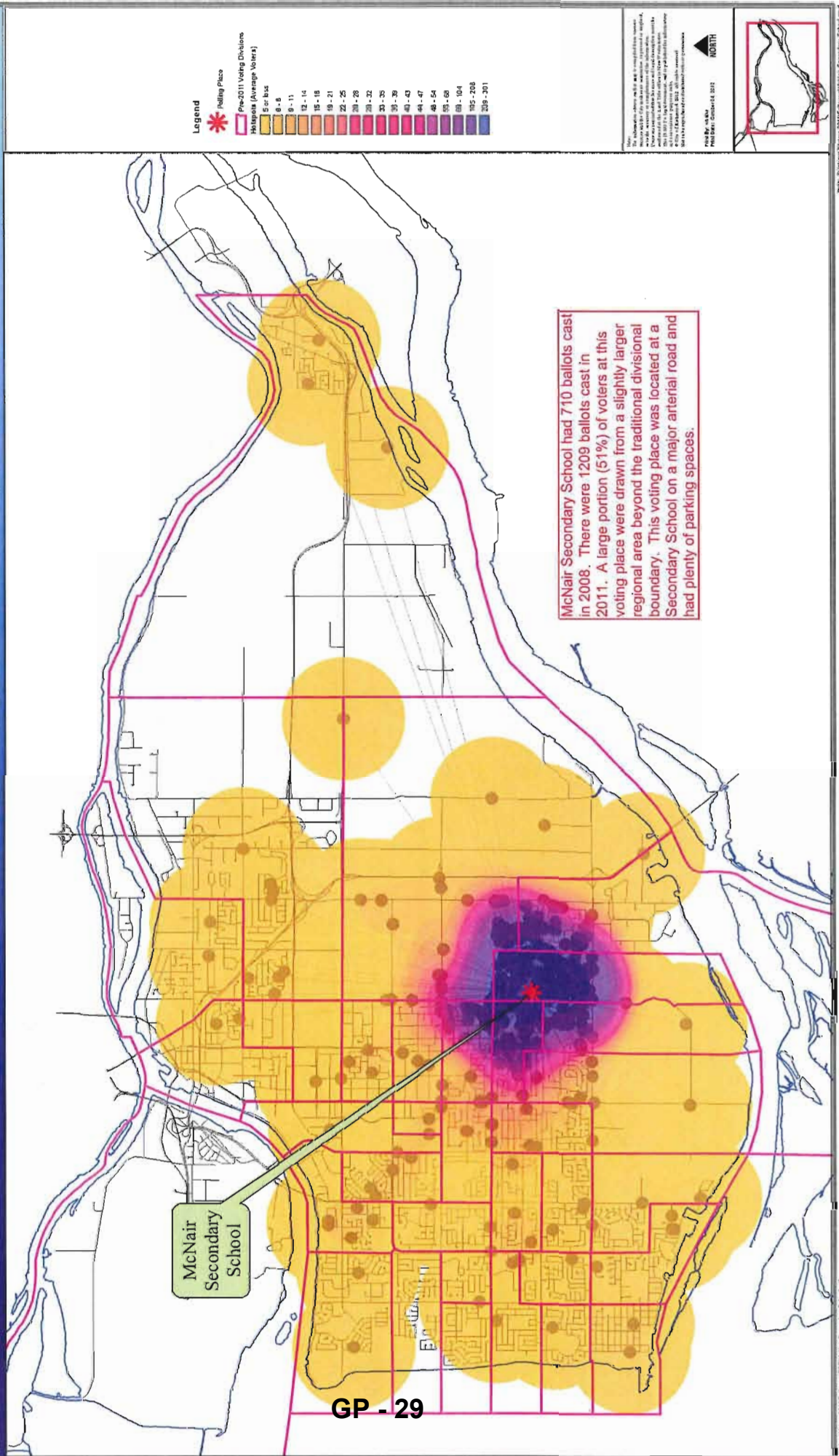
Note: The above noted Voting Places were used in both the 2008 and 2011 election, therefore, represent the best “apples to apples” comparator group for statistical purposes. In total, there were 32 General Voting Day Voting Places.



2011 Voter Distribution for Blundell Elementary School

General Election Day-November 19, 2011

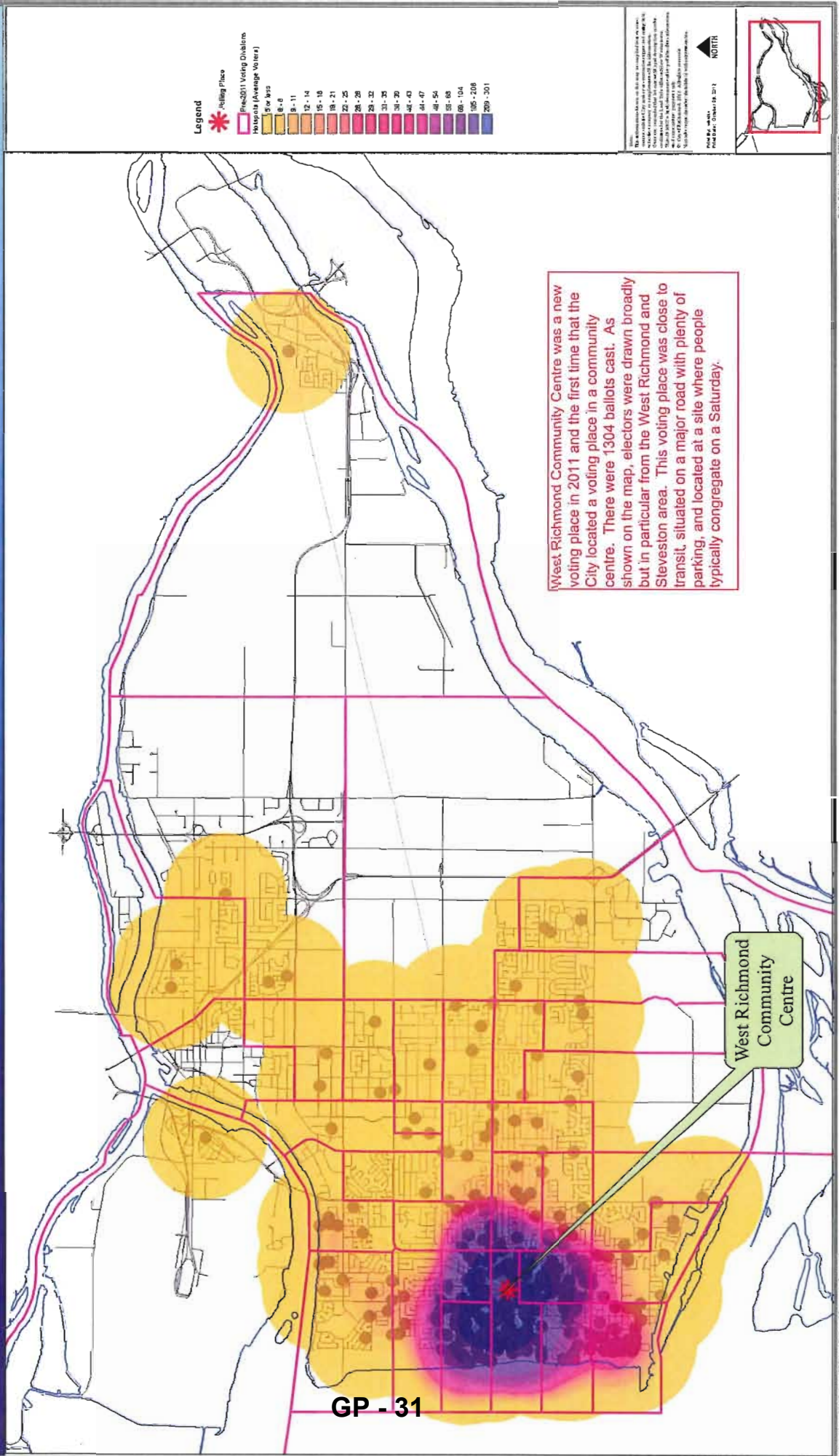




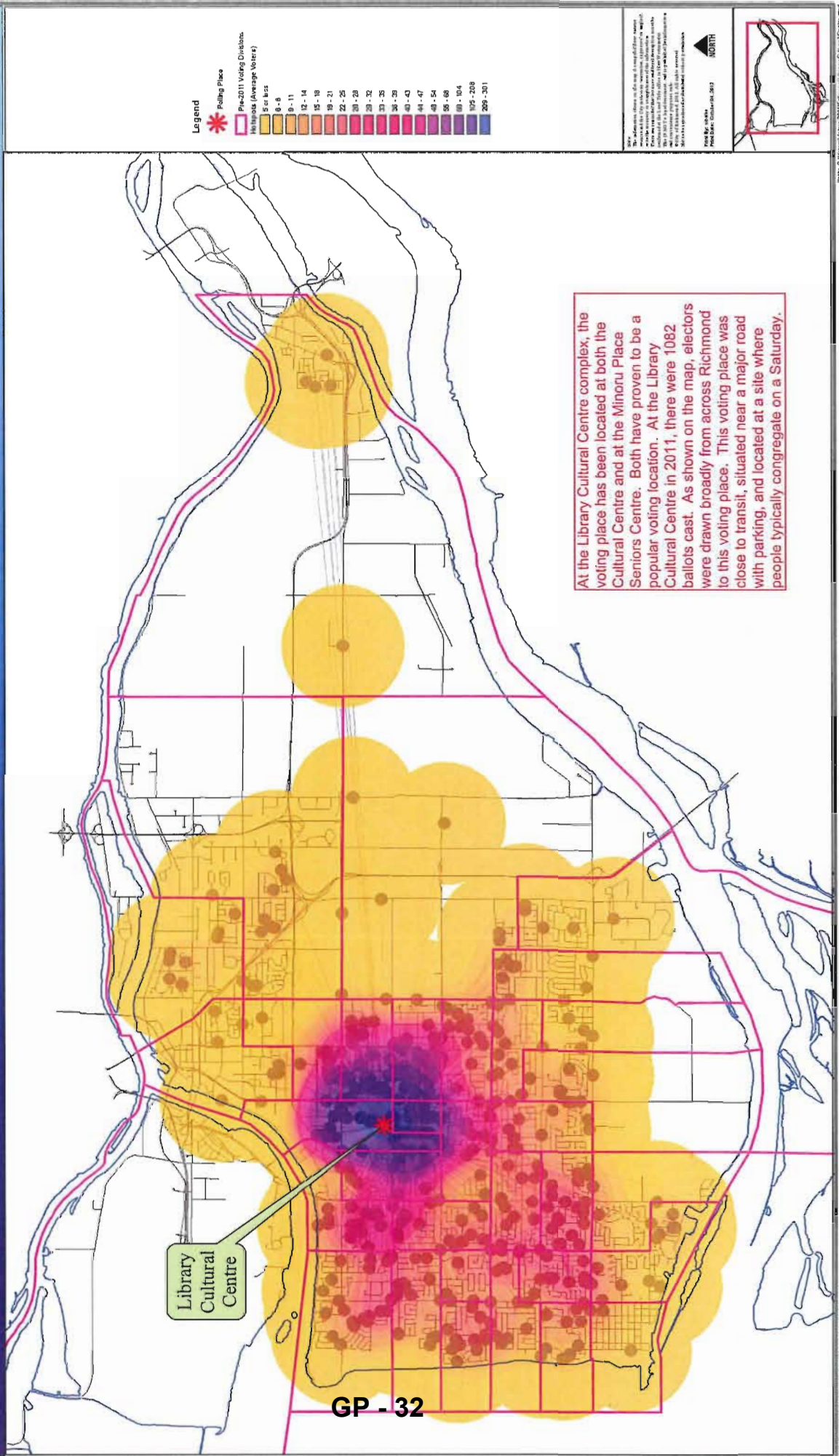




2011 Voter Distribution for West Richmond Community Centre General Election Day-November 19, 2011

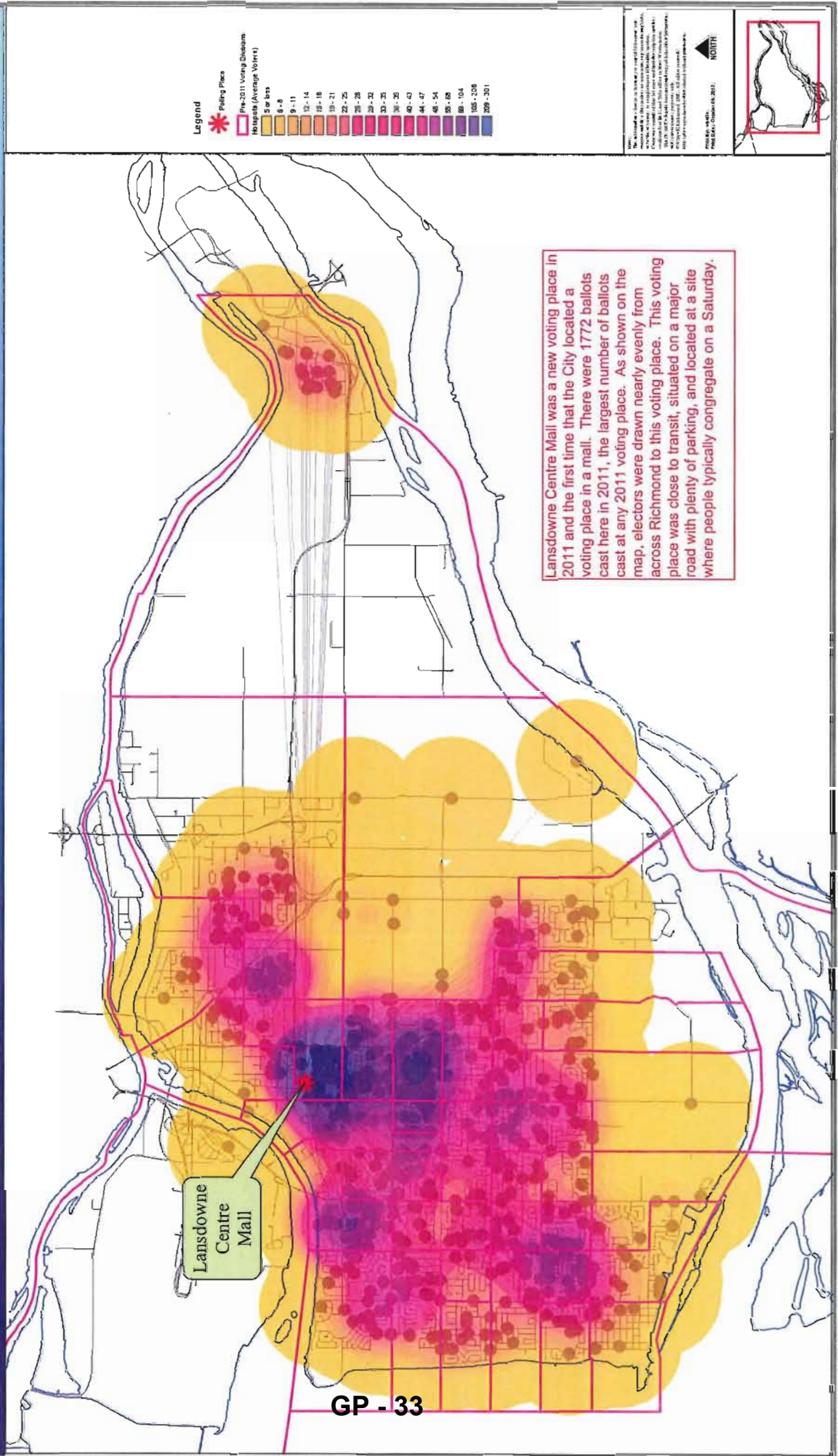


Richmond 2011 Voter Distribution for Library Cultural Centre General Election Day-November 19, 2011



Richmond 2011 Voter Distribution for Lansdowne Centre Mall

General Election Day-November 19, 2011



Internet Voting and BC Local Government Elections

On February 28, 2011, Richmond City Council considered a staff report on voter turnout in Richmond and in response to one of the discussion points in the report, Council adopted the following referral:

That staff explore the feasibility and options for internet voting and report back to Council regarding the potential for implementation for the 2014 civic election.

Since 2011, no legislative changes have been introduced that would permit Internet voting in BC local government elections, although there have been developments toward that goal.

In August 2011, Elections BC submitted a discussion paper to the BC Legislature on Internet voting. This discussion paper was preceded in early 2011 by a considerable amount of public dialogue on the subject largely due to the City of Vancouver's proposal to conduct an Internet voting pilot project during the 2011 local government election. Vancouver's request to the BC Provincial Government to approve the pilot project was subsequently denied, but interest in the potential of Internet voting continued.

At the 2011 UBCM Convention, a resolution was endorsed to request that the Province of BC initiate the policy analysis and legislative changes required to advance Internet voting in time for the next local government election. The Provincial response to UBCM was supportive of the concept generally and of exploring ways to address the challenges presented by online voting, such as the security, transparency and integrity of the vote and voter confidence in the system.

In August 2012, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General formally requested that the Chief Electoral Officer for BC establish a non-partisan expert panel to study best practices and to examine opportunities and challenges related to the potential implementation of Internet-based voting for provincial and local government elections in British Columbia. Using as its launching point the Elections BC Discussion Paper on Internet Voting, the Independent Panel on Internet Voting has been meeting since September 2012. The panel's website (www.internetvotingpanel.ca) includes notes from the meetings that have been held in 2012 and 2013 documenting the progress made.

The panel released an interim report on its website on October 23, 2013 and requested public feedback. A final report to the BC legislature is anticipated early in 2014. One of the key findings of the panel is that they believe that it is not feasible to implement an internet voting system or opportunity which complies with the principles established and recommended by the panel in time for the 2014 local government elections.

The Executive Summary from the interim report follows.



1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Independent Panel on Internet Voting (the panel) was formed by the Chief Electoral Officer on August 9, 2012, following an invitation of the B.C. Attorney General, to examine opportunities and challenges related to the potential implementation of Internet-based voting as a channel of voting for provincial or local government elections in British Columbia. The panel comprised the Chief Electoral Officer and four additional members met 13 times between September 2012 and October 2013. In that time the panel reviewed the existing and evolving literature and spoke to a variety of experts in the fields of technology, Internet security and electoral administration. The panel examined research on both the benefits of and challenges to implementing Internet voting and heard from experts strongly in favour of and strongly opposed to the idea of implementing Internet voting in British Columbia.

This preliminary report is intended to provide the public with a summary of the information the panel used to form its preliminary conclusions outlined below. The panel hopes that members of the public and other interested individuals and groups will use this report to become informed regarding the concepts, principles and arguments made both for and against implementing Internet voting at either the local or provincial government level.

The panel invites public comment on this report through the Independent Panel on Internet Voting website (internetvotingpanel.ca) until December 4, 2013. The panel will review the constructive feedback it receives and consider that feedback in its final report to be submitted to the Legislative Assembly in early 2014.

1.1 Conclusions and recommendations

The panel concludes that Internet voting has the potential to provide some benefits for administering local government elections and provincial elections in British Columbia and that the most significant potential benefit of Internet voting is increased accessibility and convenience for B.C. voters. Other presumed benefits, such as increased turnout and lower cost are not typically realized.¹

The panel also concludes that Internet voting has some significant inherent risks. It is important to understand that although the Internet is used for an increasing number of interactions (such as banking, shopping, dating, planning trips, and the like) with their own risks, voting over the Internet has a set of unique challenges that inevitably introduce a number of additional risks. The extent to which each of these risks can be mitigated or eliminated also depends on the details of the way in which an Internet

¹ For more on the potential benefits of implementing Internet voting, see 4.0 Perceived and actual benefits of Internet voting, page 10



voting model is implemented. Security at the voter's device,² reduced transparency and auditability compared to traditional voting methods, and cost were seen by the panel to be the most significant challenges to implementing Internet voting for either local government or provincial government elections.³

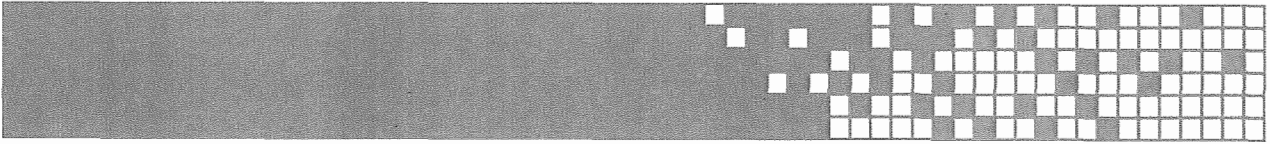
While Internet voting has been investigated by various jurisdictions around the world over the past fifteen years, it is still not widely implemented. Internet voting is used in only a limited number of jurisdictions, and only on a limited basis.

Weighing the benefits and challenges to implementing Internet voting in specific circumstances is the role of policy-makers. There is a high level of trust in the current voting processes used at the local and provincial government levels, but there are opportunities for improvement in each. The panel believes that Internet voting has the potential to be an additional voting channel for voters with specific accessibility challenges in future local or provincial government elections, provided that the recommendations outlined in this report are followed and any system implemented complies with the principles established by the panel. The panel believes it is not feasible for this to occur in time for the 2014 local government elections.

To guide members of the Legislative Assembly, and potentially local government officials, in their task of weighing the benefits and risks of Internet voting, the panel sets forth the following recommendations:⁴

1. Do not implement **universal** Internet voting for either local or provincial government elections at this time. However, if Internet voting is implemented, its availability should be limited to those with specific accessibility challenges. If Internet voting is implemented on a limited basis, jurisdictions need to recognize that the risks to the accuracy of the voting results remain substantial.
2. Take a province-wide coordinated approach to Internet voting.
3. Establish a technical committee to evaluate Internet voting systems and support jurisdictions that wish to implement approved systems.

2 References in this report to the voter's "device" can be read as any means by which an individual could cast a ballot for Internet voting (e.g., computer, tablet, smartphone)
3 For more on the challenges to implementing Internet voting, see 5.0 Perceived and actual challenges to implementing Internet voting, page 20
4 For more on the panel's recommendations and principles, see 8.0 Preliminary recommendations, page 45



4. Evaluate any Internet voting system against the principles established by the panel:

Accessibility

Ballot anonymity

Individual and independent verifiability

Non-reliance on the trustworthiness of the voter's device(s)

One vote per voter

Only count votes from eligible voters

Process validation and transparency

Service availability

Voter authentication and authorization