

Markham's Commitment to Diversity and E-Government Strengthens Voter Access

Your Council and Confirming Your Vote

Markham was first surveyed as a township in 1793 by William Berczy and was incorporated as a Town in 1972. Markham is now a progressive urban centre that comprises over 89,000 households, a total population over 304,000 and approximately 170,000 eligible voters. It is also the most ethnically diverse municipality in Canada, according to 2006 Census Canada data, with over 63 per cent of its residents, originating from outside of Canada.

Markham is governed by a 13 member Council including the Mayor and four Regional Councillors elected to serve the municipality at large and eight Ward Councillors to serve one of Markham's eight wards. Municipal politicians serve a four-year term and a new Council will be elected October 25, 2010.

Markham Council plays a central role by making decisions that affect local services, programs and policies such as:

- Construction and maintenance of roads
- Waste, recycling and organics collection
- Library services
- Fire and emergency services
- Community planning
- Recreational facilities and programming; and
- Building safety and bylaw enforcement

To vote in the October 25, 2010 election, one must be (as of October 25, 2010)

- A Canadian citizen
- 18 years of age and,
- Owner or tenant of a property in Markham; or
- The spouse of an owner or tenant of property in Markham

Access for All

Markham's is well known for its leadership in heritage preservation, economic development, environmental protection, development of innovative cultural venues and progressive community initiatives. We were one of the first municipalities in Ontario to pass a bylaw allowing the Town to provide election information in languages other than English, and one of the first municipalities in Canada to offer internet voting.

Markham began to implement a number of new measures to ensure accessibility to the electoral process as early as 2003 with features to allow voters to mark their ballots independently with special appliances and visual and audio features. Secure, online voting was also introduced at that time to provide greater convenience and accessibility for voters, and a language line was introduced to provide service in over 176 languages.

Markham's Voter Participation Exceeds Provincial Average

The result has meant progressive increases in voter turnout and participation in Markham's electoral process. The provincial average for voter turnout is less than 30 per cent, but in Markham voter turnout increased 37.6 per cent in 2006 from 26.7 per cent in 2003; with over 10,600 residents casting their vote online.

Table 1: Locations to add or change voting information:

Tuesday, September 7	Thornhill Community Centre, 7755 Bayview Ave., Thornhill	5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
	Angus Glen Community Centre, 3990 Major Mackenzie Dr. E (Unionville)	5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Thursday, September 9	Milliken Mills Community Centre, 7600 Kennedy Rd. (Milliken)	5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
	Markham Village Community Centre, 6041 Highway #7 (Markham)	5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, September 11	Markville Shopping Centre, 5000 Highway #7 East (at McCowan Rd.) Kiosk on lower level in front of Sportchek)	10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 12	Markville Shopping Centre, 5000 Highway #7 East (at McCowan Rd.) Kiosk on lower level in front of Sportchek)	10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.