

Strong Mayor Framework

Zone 7 Fall 2025 Meeting

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and
Housing

Agenda

- Strong Mayor Powers Overview
- Resources
- Questions & Answers
- Appendices

Disclaimer

- The information provided in this presentation by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is not a substitute for specialized legal or professional advice.
- This presentation is intended to provide an overview of the strong mayor powers framework and provides a summary of complex matters.
- This presentation reflects laws and practices that are subject to change.
- Heads of council, municipalities and councillors are responsible for making local decisions that are in compliance with the law such as applicable statutes and regulations. Implementation is a local responsibility, and municipalities should seek their own legal advice and interpretation regarding specific situations.
- For more information, please refer to the relevant legislation and regulations which can be found online at: www.ontario.ca/laws.

Overview of the Strong Mayor Powers Framework

Context

- In some municipalities, the head of council has additional powers and duties, known as strong mayor powers.
- In Fall 2022, the heads of council of the City of Toronto and the City of Ottawa were the first to receive strong mayor powers.
- The strong mayor powers framework has since been expanded to 216 municipalities (including Toronto and Ottawa):
 - 44 of these municipalities received strong mayor powers in 2023.
 - 170 of these municipalities received strong mayor powers in Spring 2025.

Nov. 23, 2022

*Strong Mayors,
Building Homes Act,
2022*

(and associated
regulations) came
into force

Dec 20, 2022

*Better Governance
Act, 2022*

(and associated
regulations) came
into force

July 1, 2023

Amendments to
O.Reg. 530/22
under *Municipal
Act, 2001*, came
into force

Oct 31, 2023

Further
amendments to
O.Reg. 530/22
under the
Municipal Act, 2001
came into force

May 1, 2025

Further
amendments to
O.Reg. 530/22
under the
Municipal Act, 2001
came into force

Summary of Strong Mayor Powers and Duties (Part 1)

The heads of councils of Toronto and designated municipalities can:

1. Appoint the municipality's chief administrative officer (CAO)
 2. Hire certain municipal division heads and establish and re-organize divisions
 3. Create committees of council, assign their functions and appoint the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of committees of council
 4. Appoint the chairs and vice-chairs of prescribed local boards
-

The current Minister's regulations do not prescribe any local boards so this power cannot be used.

Summary of Strong Mayor Powers and Duties (Part 2)

The heads of council of Toronto and designated municipalities can:

*Power is subject to prescribed provincial priorities, which are:

1. Building 1.5 million new residential units by December 31, 2031.
2. Constructing and maintaining infrastructure to support housing, including, transit, roads, utilities, and servicing.

5. Bring forward matters for council consideration if the head of council is of the opinion that considering the matter could potentially advance a provincial priority.*

6. Propose certain municipal by-laws if the head of council is of the opinion that the proposed by-law could potentially advance a provincial priority.* Council can pass these by-laws if more than one-third of council members vote in favour.

7. Veto certain by-laws if the head of council is of the opinion that all or part of the by-law could potentially interfere with a provincial priority.*

Summary of Strong Mayor Powers and Duties (Part 3)

The heads of council of Toronto and designated municipalities can:

8. Propose the municipal budget and in-year budget amendments, which would be subject to council amendments and a separate mayoral veto and council override process

9. Direct staff to do certain things related to their additional powers and duties.

Visual - Strong Mayor Budget Process

**STRONG
MAYOR
BUDGET
TIMELINES**

By February 1
*Head of Council
introduces proposed
budget*

**Up to 30 days after
receiving the
proposed budget**
*Council can shorten via
resolution*

**Up to 10 days following
council amendment
period**
*Head of Council can
shorten by providing
document to members of
council and municipal clerk*

**Up to 15 days
following veto
period**
*Council can shorten
via resolution*

**STRONG
MAYOR
CRITERIA**

Head of council prepares a proposed municipal budget and provides to each member of council, municipal clerk and makes available to the public

Council can make amendments to the proposed budget by passing resolutions with a simple majority vote

Head of council **veto**s one or more council amendments

OR

Head of Council **does not** exercise veto power

OR

Council **does not** make amendments to the proposed budget

Council may override some or all of the head of council's vetoes with a 2/3 majority of council vote.

Proposed budget, as amended by council deemed to be adopted by the municipality

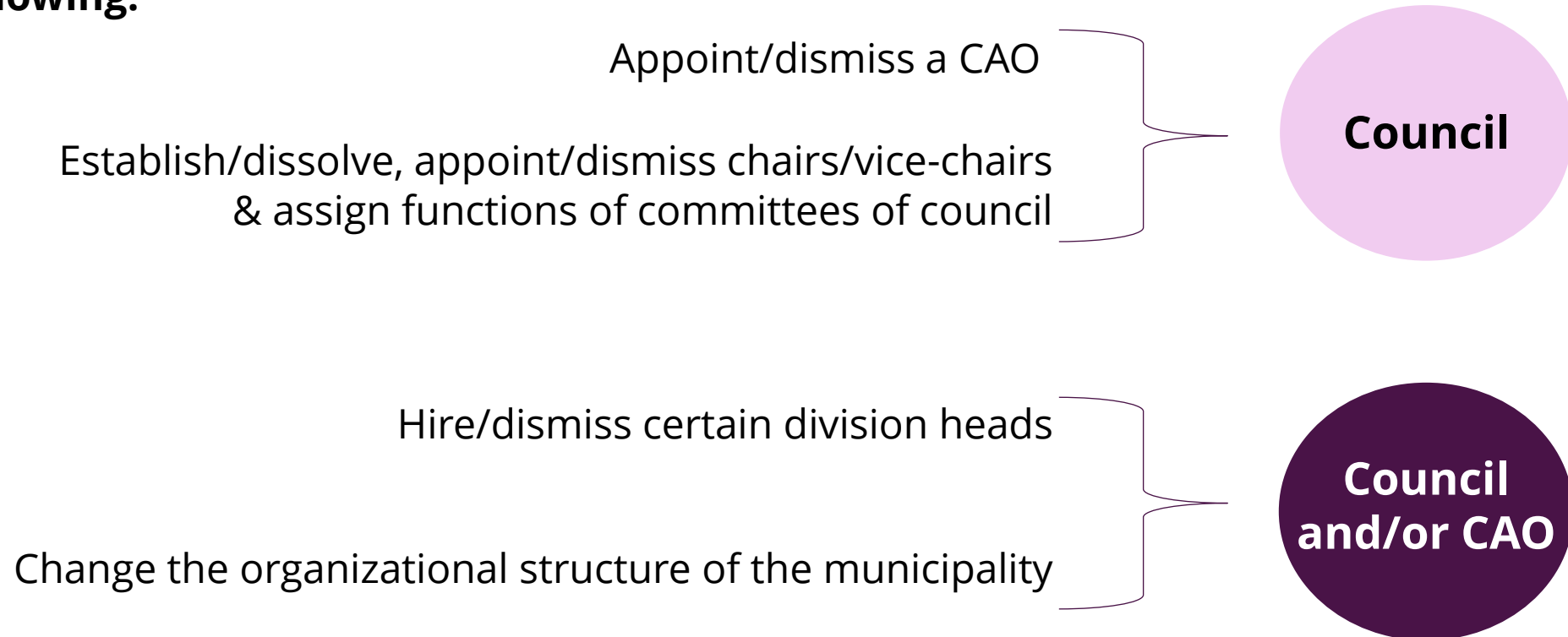
Proposed budget, deemed to be adopted by the municipality

Proposed budget, including any amendments that were: 1) not vetoed or 2) that were vetoed, and the veto was overridden, is deemed to be adopted by the municipality

Delegation of Strong Mayor Powers

- Strong mayors can choose to delegate certain powers to council and or to the municipality's Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

Strong mayors can delegate these powers to the following:



Monitoring and Implementation of the Strong Mayor Framework

- Implementation of the strong mayor powers framework is a local matter.
- It is up to the head of council, council and municipality to implement the framework in accordance with the legislation and associated regulations.
- In practice, this means that each strong mayor municipality may have adapted local processes and procedures to implement the strong mayor framework based on their local needs and circumstances.
- To support municipalities with implementation, the Ministry provides updated guidance via the Ontario Municipal Councillor's Guide and continues to offer training to municipalities upon request.
- The Ministry continues to monitor the local implementation of the strong mayor framework.

Resources

Strong Mayor Resources: Provincial

- Regulations made under the *Municipal Act* that relate to strong mayor powers and duties:
 - [O. Reg. 580/22](#)
 - [O. Reg. 530/22](#)
- The *Municipal Act* - [PART VI.1 SPECIAL POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE HEAD OF COUNCIL](#)
- Ontario Municipal Councillor's Guide ([Chapter 10](#))

Mayoral Decision Webpages

- Section 284.4 of the *Municipal Act* provides that a head of council who exercises their strong mayor powers is required to do this in writing, making the information available to the public.
- Many municipalities have established websites to make written documentation about the use of strong mayor powers available to the public.
- When sharing information about local strong mayor decisions, you may want to consider how accessible the information is that is being shared:
 - Having a convenient landing page location and highlighting legislative framework information (e.g. background on powers coming into force; links to legislation, etc.)
 - Organizing the information in such a way that distinctly lists by type of decisions, including by-laws, direction to staff, etc.
 - Providing topic summaries
 - Including accessible PDF links where possible
 - Identifying pathways for more information (e.g. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and key staff contact information)

Webpage Considerations

The screenshot shows the Town of Ajax website. At the top is a navigation bar with the 70th anniversary logo and several menu items: 'Apply, Register and Pay', 'Home and Property', 'Get Involved', 'Play and Discover', 'Business and Growth', and 'Inside Town Hall'. Below the navigation bar is a search bar and a 'Trending' section. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column is titled 'Mayoral Decisions' and contains text explaining the Mayor's powers and a list of five decisions. The right column is titled 'Inside Town Hall' and contains a list of links to various services and information. At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with the text 'Fall 2025 Town of Ajax'.

Mayoral Decisions

The Mayor of the Town of Ajax has special powers and duties conveyed by Part VI.1 of the Municipal Act, 2001. These include, but are not limited to, the power to:

- Bring items to Council that advance certain provincial priorities, and to veto any by-law adopted by Council that, in the opinion of the Mayor, may interfere with those priorities;
- Appoint the Chief Administrative Officer;
- Hire and dismiss certain Town officials and establish or amend the organizational structure of the Town of Ajax;
- Establish committees of Council, assign their functions and appoint Chairs and Vice-Chairs of those committees; and,
- Propose the Town's budget subject to amendments by Council, a Mayoral veto and a Council override process.

These powers must be exercised by the Mayor in writing and all decisions must be made available to the public, subject to the provisions of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Below, you can access Decisions issued by the Mayor of the Town of Ajax.

Mayoral Decisions

Date	Title/Description
July 10, 2023	1-2023 - Organizational Structure and Employment Matters
July 10, 2023	2-2023 - Committees of Council
January 15, 2024	1-2024 - Use of Mayor's Veto Powers - 2024 Budget
February 21, 2024	2-2024 - Veto of By-law 12-2024
December 13, 2024	3-2024 - Use of Mayor's Veto Powers - 2025 Budget

Mayoral Declarations under S. 5.3 of the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act

The Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, s. 5.3 requires the Mayor to disclose any pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, when exercising any of the powers or duties assigned by Part VI.1 of the Municipal Act. Specifically, the Mayor:

- Shall, upon becoming aware of an interest in the matter, disclose the interest by filing a written statement of interest and its

Inside Town Hall

- Access to Information
 - Accountability and Transparency
 - Freedom of Information
 - Mayoral Decisions
 - Open Data
 - Insurance Certificates
 - Insurance Claims
- About Ajax
- Accessible Ajax
- Animal Services
- Budget and Financial Services
- By-Law Services
- Careers
- Committees and Boards
- Committee of Adjustment
- Common By-Laws
- Council Meetings
- Council Recognition

Features:






- Displayed within “Access to Information” area of municipal website
- A summary of legislative authority

Webpage Considerations cont'd...

The Mayor is required to exercise these powers in writing and make them available to the public, subject to the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protections of Privacy Act. A public listing of Mayoral Decisions and Directions is available in the chart below.

Mayoral decisions and directions

2025

Date	Number	Subject matter
July 2, 2025	2025-B8 	Direction – Planning Notices related to ZBA and OPA for 343 Waterloo Avenue
April 1, 2025	2025-B7 	Direction – 2026 City Budget
September 9, 2025	2025-A69 	Decision – Written approval of By-laws passed at the September 9, 2025, meeting of City Council
September 3, 2025	2025-A68 	Decision – Written approval of By-laws passed at the September 3, 2025 meeting of City Council
August 21, 2025	2025-A67 	Decision – Written approval of By-law(s) passed in accordance with section 14.5 of the City of Guelph Delegation of Authority Bylaw and Section 36 of the Planning Act on August 21, 2025
July 23, 2025	2025-A66 	Decision – Written approval of By-laws passed at the July 23, 2025 meeting of City Council
July 22, 2025	2025-A65 	Decision – Written approval of By-laws passed at the July 22, 2025 meeting of City Council

Features:

- Includes linked/pdf copies of each decision
- Subject matter listed for each decision

Webpage Considerations cont'd...

Mayoral Decisions

Home / City & Council / Council & Committee / Mayoral Decisions

City & Council

Council & Committee

2022-2026 Council Priorities, Outcomes & Measures of Success

Mayoral Decisions

Council & Committee Meetings

City Council Members

Mayoral Decisions e-Updates
Subscribe to the publication of documents in this register by subscribing to Mayoral Decisions E-Updates.
[Subscribe](#)

Effective July 1, 2023, the Province announced that Strong Mayor Powers will be extended beyond Toronto and Ottawa to 26 additional municipalities – Hamilton included. These changes are being put in place to support the Province's priority and commitment to increasing the housing supply by 1.5 million homes by December 31, 2031. These tools will also help cut red tape and speed up the delivery of key shared municipal-provincial priorities such as transit and infrastructure.

Mayoral powers under the Municipal Act

Under [Part VI.1](#) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, the Mayor has the following special powers and duties as the head of City Council:

- Appoint and dismiss the City Manager as well as various senior managers; *
- Create committees of Council, assign their functions, and appoint the Chairs and Vice Chairs of committees of Council; *
- Propose the City's budget subject to Council amendments, a Mayoral veto, and a Council override process;
- Submit matters for Council's consideration, or veto by-laws, if the Mayor believes it will advance a prescribed Provincial Priority; and
- Direct City staff in writing.

*The Mayor may choose to delegate these specific powers and duties.

The Mayor is required to exercise these powers in writing and make them available to the public, subject to the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. A public listing of Mayoral Decisions and Directions is available in the chart below.

Legislative Framework

Mayoral decisions made pursuant to the *Municipal Act, 2001*

2025			2023/2024		
DATE	NUMBER	SUBJECT			
January 22, 2025	MDE-2025-01 (PDF, 100.79 KB)	To give written approval of by-laws passed at the January 22, 2025 meeting of City Council			
January 23, 2025	MDE-2025-02 (PDF, 102.08 KB)	To give written approval of by-laws passed at the January 23, 2025 meeting of City Council			
February 12, 2025	MDE-2025-03 (PDF, 98.38 KB)	To give written approval of by-laws passed at the February 12, 2025 meeting of City Council			
February 19, 2025	MDE-2025-04 (PDF, 31.24 KB)	To provide written notice to shorten the 10-day period for the Mayor to veto a resolution to amend the...			

Features:

- Displayed under “Council & Committee” area of municipal website
- Organized by year of decision

Webpage Considerations cont'd...



[Staff Directory](#) [Call Us](#) [Email Us](#) [Search](#)

[Living in Loyalist](#) [Explore and Play](#) [Business and Development](#) [Council and Administration](#)

Mayoral Decisions 2025

Strong Mayor Powers FAQ

What are Strong Mayor Powers?

Can the Mayor choose to delegate specific powers and duties?

What are the provincial priorities for which the Mayor has the power to veto by-laws and pass by-laws with just one-third of their council's support?

Which municipalities are affected by Strong Mayor's Powers?

Are there any transparency and accountability measures in place?

When did the Strong Mayor's Powers come into effect?

How do these powers impact the municipal budget process?

How does the mayor's veto power work?

Features:

- Includes a Strong Mayor Powers FAQ
- Clear, accessible path for more information

Questions and More Information

If you have questions or require more information, please contact:
Clerk's Division
(613) 386-7351
Contact by email at clerk@loyalist.ca

Webpage Considerations cont'd...

The screenshot shows the City of Barrie website with a dark blue header and navigation menu. The main content area is divided into sections for 'Mayoral Decisions & Directions' and '2025 Mayoral Decisions'. A sidebar on the left contains a 'Contact' section and a 'Government & News' menu.

Navigation: Service Barrie, Accessibility, Search, Services & Payments, Community, Recreation & Environment, Planning, Building & Infrastructure, Business & Economy, Government & News.

Contact: City Clerk's Office, CityClerks@barrie.ca, 705-739-4204, 705-739-4243.

Government & News: Contact Us, Mayor, Council & Committees, Office of the Mayor, City Council, Committees & Task Forces, Meetings, Items for Discussion, Mayoral Decisions & Directions, Accountability & Conduct.

Home > Government & News > Mayor, Council & Committees

Mayoral Decisions & Directions

Strong mayor powers were expanded to the Mayor of Barrie and 25 other large and fast-growing municipalities, on **July 1, 2023**. The designated municipalities are single- or lower-tier municipalities with a population over 100,000, or growing to 100,000 by 2031, that have submitted a **housing pledge** to the province.

The mayor is required to exercise these powers in writing and make them available to the public, subject to the **Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act**. Mayoral decisions and directions are listed below.

2025 Mayoral Directions

Direction	Short Description
MDIR010-25	Written direction to prepare an amendment to the City's current Development Charges By-law to provide that development lands owned or leased from the municipality by a non-profit institution for institutional uses by the non-profit institution shall receive a 100% discount on the City's Development Charges. Dated September 10, 2025.
MDIR009-25	Written direction to staff to undertake additional direction related to motion 25-G-197 concerning Development Charges Deferrals and provision of 20% Affordable housing. Dated September 8, 2025.
MDIR009-25	Written direction to staff re municipal development charges. Dated July 4, 2025.
MDIR008-25	Written direction to staff to prepare a funding agreement to provide Georgian College with \$7.5 million dollars over a period of 10 years, subject to conditions. Dated June 24, 2025.

2025 Mayoral Decisions

Decision	Short Description
MD015-25	Written approval of by-laws. Dated August 13, 2025.
MD014-25	Written approval of by-laws. Dated July 23, 2025.
MD013-25	Written decision re matters for City Council's consideration as part of the Mayor's 2026 Business Plan & Budget. Dated June 24, 2025.
MD012-25	Written approval of by-laws. Dated June 18, 2025.
MD011-25	Written approval of by-laws. Dated June 4, 2025.
MD010-25	Written approval of by-laws. Dated May 14, 2025.
MD009-25	Written approval of by-laws. Dated May 7, 2025.
MD008-25	Written approval of by-laws. Dated April 30, 2025.
MD007-25	Written approval of by-laws. Dated April 16, 2025.
MD006-25	Written approval of by-laws. Dated April 9, 2025.
MD005-25	Written approval of by-laws. Dated March 26, 2025.
MD004-25	Written approval of by-laws. Dated March 5, 2025.
MD003-25	Written approval of by-laws. Dated January 29, 2025.
MD002-25	Written direction to establish an Executive Committee as a Committee of Council that will report to General Committee. Dated January 20, 2025.
MD001-25	Written approval of by-laws. Dated January 15, 2025.

There are no mayoral decisions at meetings chaired by Deputy Mayor, R. Thomson, as the Deputy Mayor cannot exercise mayoral decisions.

Features:

- Has distinct lists for mayoral decisions and mayoral directions

Questions?



Thank you!

Appendix 1: Frequently Asked Questions

Question 1

Can municipalities reject strong mayor powers by opting out from the regulation designating them as a strong mayor municipality?

Answer:

- The regulation does not provide a mechanism for a strong mayor municipality to remove themselves from the strong mayor framework.
- Ontario expanded strong mayor powers to the heads of council of 170 additional single and lower-tier municipalities with councils of six or more members, bringing the total of strong mayor municipalities to 216.
- The regulation expanding the strong mayor framework came into force on May 1, 2025.

Question 2

If a municipality reduces their council composition to 5-members, will their designation as a strong mayor municipality be revoked?

Answer:

- Council size and composition is determined locally and municipalities may increase or decrease their council size before each council term.
- There is currently no mechanism under the Municipal Act that designates strong mayor municipalities based on council size. Rather, the 6-member threshold is a provincial policy decision which is implemented through the list of designated municipalities in O. Reg. 530/22.
- If a municipality changes the size of their local council, the Minister may change their designation as a strong mayor municipality.

Question 3 (Part 1)

Are there any limitations or checks on the mayor's authority?

Answer:

- The head of council in strong mayor municipalities is subject to existing accountability and transparency rules, as well as certain additional rules.
- Generally, when the head of council uses their strong mayor powers or duties, they are required to provide written documentation to the municipal clerk and members of council by the next business day. They must also make this written documentation available to the public. Written documentation requirements vary with respect to some of the powers and duties.
- Additionally, when a head of council directs municipal staff to do certain things related to their strong mayor powers and duties, they must do so in writing and are required to provide written documentation to the municipal clerk and CAO (if one is appointed) by the next business day.

Question 3 (Part 2)

Answer (cont'd):

- The head of council is also subject to rules in the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act that limit the use of their strong mayor powers or duties when they have certain pecuniary (financial) interests in a municipal matter.
- Council also has the ability to override a head of council's veto of by-laws or budget amendments if two-thirds of all council members vote to override the veto.

Question 4 (Part 1)

I value the collaborative working relationship our council has developed. How can heads of council continue to support council participation and input in decision making under a strong mayor framework?

Answer:

- It is up to individual heads of council to decide how and whether to use or delegate certain strong mayor powers.
- The head of council may delegate the following strong mayor powers to council:
 - appointing a chief administrative officer
 - creating, assigning functions and appointing chairs of committees of council
- The head of council may also delegate the following strong mayor powers to either council or the municipality's chief administrative officer (if one is appointed):
 - hiring certain municipal division heads
 - changing the organizational structure of a municipality

Question 4 (Part 2)

Answer (cont'd):

- Certain strong mayor powers and duties cannot be delegated, for example:
 - The power and duty to propose the municipal budget cannot be delegated.
 - The head of council cannot delegate their strong mayor powers related to provincial priorities (i.e., bring forward matters for council consideration, by-law proposal power, and veto power). However, the head of council can choose not to use these powers.
- While the head of council cannot delegate all of their strong mayor powers and duties, they can work together with the municipal council to establish local processes that best respond to their local needs and circumstances.

Question 5

Can a strong mayor revoke a prior delegation of their powers? If so, can this decision be made unilaterally, without notice or consultation?

Answer:

- Yes, it is ultimately up to the head of council to decide whether to delegate certain strong mayor powers to council and or the CAO, and strong mayors have the authority to revoke prior delegations.
- The strong mayor framework does not require a head of council to consult or provide specific notice regarding a delegation decision.

Question 6

Can strong mayor powers be delegated to a deputy head of council (either directly elected or selected by council)?

Answer:

- While the head of council has the ability to delegate certain strong mayor powers, the legislation and regulations limit who these powers can be delegated to.
- The strong mayor framework provides no ability for the head of council to delegate the strong mayor powers to a deputy head of council.
- In the case of a head of council vacancy or absence, strong mayor powers do not transfer to an interim / acting mayor.
- In the case of a vacancy, once a new mayor has been elected pursuant to a by-election, that person will be the head of council and will be able to exercise the strong mayor powers and duties.

Question 7

The Municipal Act clearly assigns the power of a municipality to appoint a chief administrative officer (CAO) to the head of council. Do strong mayors, however, have the authority to *dismiss* the CAO?

Answer:

- Yes. In a strong mayor municipality, the powers of a municipality under MA, section 229, with respect to the chief administrative officer, are assigned to the head of council. Subject to local circumstances, including existing contracts or collective agreements, a strong mayor has the authority to appoint or dismiss the municipality's CAO.

Question 8

My municipality appoints the same person as the CAO and the Clerk. How would the head of council be able to use their strong mayor powers with respect to a person appointed to both roles?

Answer:

- The head of council can choose to appoint their municipality's chief administrative officer, and can hire/fire certain municipal division heads – excluding statutory positions. Positions that are excluded from this power include the clerk or deputy clerk. This means that the head of council has the authority to appoint the CAO and council retains the authority to appoint the clerk.

Question 9 (Part 1)

How do you calculate the voting thresholds (e.g., more than 1/3 of all council members, or 2/3 of all council members) for the strong mayor by-law proposal and veto powers?

Answer:

- In a strong mayor municipality, by-laws proposed by the head of council using the strong mayor by-law proposal power are passed if more than one-third of all council members vote in favour of the by-law. This means that the total number of votes in favour must exceed one third of total votes of council members.
 - For example, if the head of council of a municipality with a 6-member council uses the strong mayor by-law proposal power, the proposed bylaw requires at least 3 council members must vote in favour to meet the “more than 1/3” threshold.

Question 9 (Part 2)

Answer (cont'd):

- Council also can override a strong mayor veto if two-thirds of all council members vote to override the veto. This means that the total number of votes in favour of overriding must be equal to or exceed two thirds of total votes of council members.
 - For example, if council of a municipality with a 7-member council wanted to override a mayor's decision to veto a bylaw, this would mean council would need 5 members to vote in favour of overriding the strong mayor veto
- During these processes, the head of council remains as a member of council for council decision-making with one vote.

Question 10

Is a strong mayor required to approve a by-law that council votes in favour of passing in order for the by-law to be passed by the municipality?

Answer:

- The strong mayor framework does not require heads of council to approve by-laws in order for them to be passed.
- For certain by-laws, there are special commencement rules for by-laws related to the head of council's power to veto by-laws. The time that certain by-laws are deemed to have been passed by council will depend on actions of the head of council, including whether the head of council provides written approval of the by-law.
- The special commencement rules apply to by-laws under the Municipal Act, City of Toronto Act, Planning Act and section 2 of the Development Charges Act.
- For more information, see section 284.11(4) of the Municipal Act, 2001.

Question 11

Does a head of council's delegation of powers reset after the municipal election (or a by-election)?

Answer:

- The head of council may choose to delegate certain strong mayor powers.
- The scope of the delegation, including the term, will depend on the specifics of each particular delegation.
- When delegating their powers, the head of council could explore whether the delegation should provide that it is revoked at the end of their term or whether it continues after a municipal election.

Question 12

How do restricted acts provisions apply to strong mayor municipalities?

Answer:

- In a strong mayor municipality, certain powers and/or duties of the council are assigned to the head of council. As such, any powers or duties of council that are assigned to the head of council are subject to the restricted act provisions in the Municipal Act, 2001 or the City of Toronto Act, 2006.
- Municipalities that are unsure of how restricted acts provisions apply to a specific situation in their municipality are encouraged to seek legal advice.

Question 13

With respect to the upcoming 2026-2030 municipal term, it is anticipated that newly elected strong mayors will face a compressed timeline for preparing the municipal budget. What advice or support does the Ministry have for municipalities who will face challenges in meeting the February 1, strong mayor budget deadline?

Answer:

- Municipalities may wish to start putting plans, procedures, and timelines in place that will facilitate the 2026 municipal budget process. Municipalities may also wish to review and update existing policies and procedures to ensure alignment with the strong mayor framework.
- The implementation of the strong mayor framework is a local matter. It is up to the head of council, council and municipality to implement the framework in accordance with the legislation and associated regulations. In practice, this means that each strong mayor municipality may adapt local processes and procedures that best respond to the municipality's local needs and circumstances.

Question 14

Now that my municipality must adopt a strong mayor budget, must the head of council issue a mayoral directive to allow certain boards to continue preparing and submitting grant requests to be incorporated into the municipality's operating budget-- as has been done in previous years?

Answer:

- In a strong mayor municipality, the powers and duties of a municipality with respect to proposing and adopting a budget are assigned to the head of council of the municipality. The budget includes estimates of all sums required during the year for the purposes of the municipality, which may include amounts required for boards, commissions or other bodies.
- The implementation of the strong mayor framework is a local matter. It is up to the head of council, council and municipality to implement the framework in accordance with the legislation and associated regulations. In practice, this means that each strong mayor municipality may adapt local processes and procedures that best respond to the municipality's local needs and circumstances.

Question 15

Now that my municipality must adopt a strong mayor budget, how will the head of council and staff communicate about budgetary matters. How will the rest of council be involved?

Answer:

- In a strong mayor municipality, the head of council has the responsibility to prepare and propose the municipal budget on or before February 1 of each year, which would be subject to council amendments and a separate head of council veto and council override process.
- Outside of the strong mayor framework, municipal councils may continue to exercise other powers of the municipality that relate to or impact the municipality's spending.
- The implementation of the strong mayor framework is a local matter. It is up to the head of council, council and municipality to implement the framework in accordance with the legislation and associated regulations. In practice, this means that each strong mayor municipality may adapt local processes and procedures that best respond to the municipality's local needs and circumstances.
 - For example, the head of council and the municipality may work together to establish local processes for council to provide input and to seek public input in relation to the strong mayor budget.

Question 16

Tax rate bylaws happen after the budget process has finished. How does that work in a strong mayor municipality?

Answer:

- The powers and duties of a municipality with respect to proposing and adopting a budget are assigned to the head of council of the municipality.
- Outside of the strong mayor framework, municipal councils may continue to exercise other powers of the municipality that relate to or impact the municipality's finances.
- For the purposes of raising the municipality's general and special levies, a local municipality must pass a by-law levying a separate tax rate on the assessment in each property class, rateable for the levy's respective purpose.

Question 17

Must municipalities create a new rates by-law if there is an in-year amendment?

Answer:

- In a strong mayor municipality, the head of council has the power, for the purpose of raising an additional levy amount in the year to propose an in-year budget amendment for the municipality in accordance with the rules and process set out in the regulation.
- Municipalities are required to pass a by-law levying a separate tax rate on the assessment in each property class for the general municipality levy and any special municipality levies.
- The current budgeting framework recognizes municipalities as responsible and accountable governments, with responsibility to manage their annual budgeting processes, taking into account local circumstances and needs.
- Municipalities may wish to consult with legal counsel for assistance with interpreting the legislation.

Appendix 2: Mayoral Decision Webpages