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# MEMBER COMMUNICATION

ALERT N°: 09/084

To the attention of the Clerk and Council  
December 4, 2009

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ALERT

## Passage of *Good Government Act, 2009* Means New Municipal Elections Rules to Take Effect

### Issue:

On Thursday December 3, 2009 the *Good Government Act, 2009* was carried on Third Reading.

### Background:

On October 27, 2009 the Honourable Chris Bentley, Attorney General introduced a bill which would amend the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*. Following debate in the Legislature and consideration by the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs this fall, the Act was passed yesterday. Proclamation and the necessary regulations are expected shortly.

Major changes include:

**Date Change** – Elections will now be held on the fourth Monday of October. The next municipal election will be held on October 25, 2010.

**Campaign Financing** – The existing surpluses of municipal candidates may be used for 2010 only. In future elections, surpluses will go to the municipality. Fundraising limits are now increased to 85 cents per elector and there is now a new contribution limit of \$5,000 per contributor in each jurisdiction. Financial reporting requirements for candidates are also enhanced. In addition, audit and accounting fees will now be excluded from a candidate's spending limit. This amendment to the original bill was made during the Standing Committee's review.

**Compliance Audits** – All municipal councils will now be responsible for appointing citizens to Compliance Committees of 3-7 citizens. These committees will address issues related to a candidate's election campaign finances.

AMO is pleased to see many of its recommendations adopted in the Act.

**Action:** For your information.

REFERENCE: This information is available in the Policy Issues section of the AMO website at [www.amo.on.ca](http://www.amo.on.ca).

RECOMMENDED

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