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The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Finance and Administration Committee
From: Commissioner of Corporate Services
Report: #2026-A-7
Date: March 10, 2026

Subject:

Approval of 2026 to 2030 meeting schedule and the First Meeting of Regional Council following the 2026 Municipal Elections

Recommendation:

That the Finance and Administration Committee recommends to Regional Council:

- A) That the Regional Clerk be directed to prepare a by-law to provide for the First Meeting of Regional Council to be held on Wednesday, November 25, 2026, at 10:00 AM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, Whitby;
 - B) That the monthly Regional Council and Standing Committee meeting schedule outlined in Section 5.1 of this report be adopted for the 2026 to 2030 term of Council; and
 - C) That a copy of this report be forwarded to the Clerks of the Area Municipalities for their information.
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Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to recommend a date for the First Meeting of Regional Council following the municipal elections on October 26, 2026, and to establish a regular meeting schedule for Regional Council and Standing Committees for the next four-year term of Council.

2. Background

- 2.1 The next four-year term of Council will begin on November 15, 2026, and end on November 14, 2030, in accordance with the Municipal Act.

2.2 In order to proceed with planning for the next term of Council, it is necessary to establish a date for the First Meeting of Regional Council following the municipal elections on October 26, 2026, and to establish a meeting schedule for the next term of Council.

2.3 Regional Council's meeting schedule is used to set advisory committee meeting schedules and is reviewed by the area municipalities and other agencies when establishing their meeting schedules.

3. Previous Reports and Decisions

3.1 Report #[2022-INFO-40](#): 2022 to 2026 Regional Council and Committee Meeting Schedule.

3.2 Report #[2022-A-3](#): First Meeting of Regional Council following the 2022 Municipal Elections and the 2022 to 2026 Regular Meeting Schedule of Regional Council and Standing Committees.

3.3 Report #[2018-COW-70](#): Approval of 2018 to 2022 Meeting Schedule and Council Governance Structure.

4. First Meeting of Regional Council

4.1 Council's inaugural meeting procedures state that "the first meeting of Council after a regular election shall be held after the councils of the area municipalities have held their first meetings, but in any event not later than thirty-one (31) days following the day on which the term of office in respect of which the election was held commences, on such date and at such time and place as may be fixed by By-law of the Regional Council".

4.2 The Area Municipal Clerks have confirmed that their respective Councils will be holding their first meetings on or before November 23, 2026. It is therefore recommended that the First Meeting of Regional Council be held on November 25, 2026.

4.3 The proceedings at the First Meeting of Regional Council will include the filing of certificates and declarations of office for members of Council; inaugural address by the Regional Chair; and the appointment of Standing Committee Chairs and members to Standing Committees.

5. Regular Meeting Schedule

5.1 The following is the proposed monthly meeting schedule for Regional Council and Standing Committees based on the current schedule and would start on the first Tuesday of each month:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
-	Community Growth and Economic Development	Works	Health and Social Services	-
-	Finance and Administration	Committee of the Whole (as required)	-	-
-	-	-	-	-
-	-	Regional Council	-	-

5.2 In accordance with the Procedural By-law, no meetings will be scheduled in the months of July or August, during the mid-winter break (March break) approved by the Ministry of Education, or during the months of September, October or November in 2030 due to the municipal elections. Modifications will also be made as required for designated holidays.

6. Transit Executive Committee

6.1 Transit Executive Committee meetings are currently held on the first Wednesday of each month, following Works Committee meetings.

6.2 Following Council's approval of a meeting schedule for the 2026 to 2030 term of Council, a report will be presented to the Transit Executive Committee recommending a Transit Executive Committee meeting schedule.

7. Relationship to Strategic Plan

a. Strong Relationships

- S1. Enhance inclusive opportunities for community engagement and meaningful collaboration.
- S5. Ensure accountable and transparent decision-making to serve community needs, while responsibly managing available resources.

8. Conclusion

8.1 It is recommended that the Regional Clerk be directed to prepare a by-law to provide for the First Meeting of Regional Council to be held on Wednesday, November 25, 2026 at 10:00 AM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, Whitby; and that the monthly Regional Council and Standing Committee meeting schedule outlined in Section 5.1 of this report be adopted for the 2026 to 2030 term of Council.

8.2 Following Council's approval of a meeting schedule for the 2026 to 2030 term of Council, the Regional Clerk will prepare a detailed meeting schedule for inclusion in the Council Information Package.

8.3 For additional information, contact: Alexander Harras, Regional Clerk and Director of Legislative Services, at 905-668-7711, extension 2100.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Barb Goodwin, MPA, CPA/CGA,

B.Comm, CPM, CMMIII

Commissioner of Corporate Services

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer