



2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

This plan is for use in the 2026 Municipal Election in conjunction with the Township of Perth South's Accessibility Plan.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Accessibility Plan for the 2026 Municipal Election is to:

1. Ensure that the voter services are accessible to all voters and candidates;
2. Identify and eliminate barriers for persons with disabilities; and
3. Create a positive and inclusive voting experience.

VOTE BY MAIL

The Township of Perth South is using the Vote by Mail voting method for the 2026 Municipal Election. Voter kits are mailed to voters whose names are listed on the Voters' List and voters can complete their kit at their convenience before mailing kits back to the Township.

Instead of Voting Locations or Polls, a Ballot Return Station will be established for voters to drop off their completed voter kit. If eligible voters have not received a voter kit in the mail, they can obtain a voter kit from Election Officials at the Ballot Return Station. Voters can complete their voter kit on-site at the Ballot Return Station and submit it to an Election Official at the Ballot Return Station.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, S.O. 1996, Chapter 32, as amended states:

Electors and candidates with disabilities

12.1 (1) A clerk who is responsible for conducting an election shall have regard to the needs of electors and candidates with disabilities.

Plan re barriers

(2) The clerk shall prepare a plan regarding the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities and shall make the plan available to the public before voting day in a regular election.

Report

(3) Within 90 days after voting day in a regular election, the clerk shall prepare a report about the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities and shall make the report available to the public.

Accessibility

45(2) In establishing the locations of voting places, the clerk shall ensure that each voting place is accessible to electors with disabilities.

Attendance on electors with disabilities

(9) To allow an elector with a disability to vote, a deputy returning officer shall attend on the elector anywhere within the area designated as the voting place.

Ballot Return Station

The Ballot Return Station will be accessible to electors with disabilities. It shall have accessible parking, automatic doors, and accessible washrooms.

VOTING ASSISTANCE

An Election Official may permit an elector who needs assistance in voting to have such assistance as the Election Official considers necessary, and in accordance with the Accessibility Plan.

Election Official

A voter who requires such assistance to vote may ask the Election Official for assistance and assist and/or vote as directed by the voter.

Friend of Elector

In lieu of the Election Official assisting a voter, the voter may request that a friend accompany them to vote.

ELECTION MATERIALS

The Township shall, upon request, provide or arrange for the provision of Accessible Formats and Communication Supports for persons with disabilities, in accordance with the Township's Accessibility Plan.

TRAINING

The Township shall ensure that training is provided on the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, the accessibility standards referred to within the Integrated Accessibility Standards (Ontario Regulation 191/11), the Human Rights Code as it pertains to persons with disabilities and on Township policies and procedures related to the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and its Regulation to all Election Officials.

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY SERVICE DISRUPTION

If there is a temporary disruption in the delivery of election information or services, the Township shall provide public notice on the Township website and Facebook page, at the physical site of the disruption and when possible, in the local media. The notice shall include the reason for the disruption, anticipated duration and a description of alternative methods of delivering the information or service.

REPORTING

Pursuant to Section 12.1 (3) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, within 90 days after Voting Day, the Clerk shall submit a report to Council about the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities and shall make the report available to the public. The report will be made available to the public via the Township website and at the Township Office.

FEEDBACK

Feedback is welcome in order to identify areas where changes need to be considered and ways in which the Township can improve the delivery of an accessible Municipal Election.

Feedback on this Plan can be submitted to the following:

Lizet Scott, Clerk

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Phone: 519-271-0619 ext. 224

E-mail: lscott@perthsouth.ca

RESOURCES

2026 Municipal Election Procedures

Joint Accessibility Plan

Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended