



## Accessibility Report

*Municipal Elections Act, 1996 S. 12.1 (3)*

### Introduction

Haldimand County is committed to making municipal elections accessible for voters, candidates and election workers. In accordance with section 12.1 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (Act)*, the Haldimand County Accessible Election Plan 2022 was developed to ensure electors with a disability were provided with the opportunity to vote as independently as possible in the Haldimand County Municipal Election.

As required by Subsection 12.1 (3) of the Act, this report notes the identification, removal and prevention of barriers in the recent 2022 municipal election. The following sections relate to the Accessibility Plan and describe how issues were addressed.

### Elections Communication and Information

- Information was provided in alternative formats upon request and through multiple channels.
- The election website was updated regularly to be informative and accessible.
- Timely and relevant information was provided through a series of advertisements and social media platform posts.
- Ensured that note pads and pens were available at all voting locations to assist in communicating with electors who are deaf, deafened, or hard of hearing.
- Publicized communication channels so that electors with election accessibility concerns could readily contact elections staff.

### Voting Places

- Reviewed and updated Voting Place Accessibility Check list.
- Conducted site visits of all voting locations to ensure compliance with the Accessibility Check list.
- Provided a sufficient number of voting locations throughout the County.
- All voting locations were “vote anywhere” giving electors the choice of which location to attend.
- Conducted routine checks of the facility throughout voting day to ensure accessibility.
- Provided appropriate signage at voting locations.
- Ensured a minimum of two designated or reserved parking spaces at each voting location for persons with disabilities.
- Provided magnifying sheets at all voting locations.
- Hired additional election staff assigned as door and elevator operators to provide assistance where needed.

### Voting Methods

- Provided “Vote Anywhere” in the County on all Advance Voting Days and Voting Day.
- Internet voting was available for 17 days during the Advance voting period, allowing for voters to vote from their residences and to not have to attend a voting place.
- Proxy votes were provided in extenuating circumstances where internet voting was not feasible.
- Ballot design was reviewed to ensure legibility through a use of appropriate fonts, sizes and colours where possible.
- Election staff was trained to assist voters with the voting process when requested.
- On occasion, curbside voting was made available. Training on this option will be emphasized in future.
- On-site voting was provided at the following roving/special locations in accordance with the requirements of the Act:
  - a) Anson Place
  - b) Edgewater Gardens

- c) Grandview Lodge
- d) Leisure Living Retirement Home
- e) Parkview Meadows (some additional residents had the opportunity to vote at this roving/special poll).

#### Recruitment and Training of Election Workers

- Election Staff training sessions incorporated training and reference material to meet the Accessible Customer Service Standards and on how to interact and communicate with persons having various types of disabilities and with persons who use an assistive device or service animal.
- Training manuals and/or other relevant materials were available in an accessible format, upon request.

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