

2022 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN



Sarnia
ONTARIO

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Introduction



The 2022 Municipal Election Accessibility Plan provides an overview of election initiatives aimed at improving accessibility for electors and candidates with disabilities during an election cycle.

In the conduct of the 2022 Municipal Election, the City of Sarnia is committed to having regard to the needs of electors and candidates with disabilities.

The 2022 Municipal Election Accessibility Plan is a living document that will be improved and updated as new opportunities are identified for improving accessibility for electors and candidates with disabilities.

Accessible Customer Service



The City is providing accessible customer service through accessible customer service training alongside issue identification and support.

Accessible Customer Service Training

All Election Officials will be provided with accessible customer service training.

All those participating in election duties will be trained to recognize and ensure that persons with disabilities are served in a way that accommodates their needs.

Issue Identification and Support

A dedicated contact person has been assigned for anyone who encounters an accessibility issue:

Dale Mosley, Accessibility Coordinator

Phone: 519-332-0330 x3307

Email: dale.mosley@sarnia.ca

Voting Method Options and Accommodations



The methods of voting for the 2022 Municipal Election has been established as:

- a) Paper Ballots with optical scan Vote Tabulators on Voting Day at in-person voting places; and
- b) Internet Voting during the defined Internet Voting Period.

With respect to the use of Paper Ballots on Voting Day at in-person Voting Places, the City of Sarnia is making voting accessible to electors with disabilities through the following means:

Assistive Voting Technology (Voter Assist Terminals)

Assistive Voting Technology will be available at select voting places which can be used by an elector to mark their ballot selections. The City's Website and Voter Information Letters will be used to communicate the Voting Places where Assistive Voting Technology is available.

Support Persons and Animals

Support persons and service animals are welcome in voting places. Any person with a disability accompanied by a support person or service animal may enter the Voter Help Centre or any Voting Place with their support person or service animal.

Curbside Voting

Election Officials will be trained to provide curbside voting, upon request, to accommodate the needs of electors with disabilities.

Special Voting Places in Retirement Homes and Institutions

Special Voting Places will be established at retirement homes that are occupied by 50 or more persons at institutions that have beds that are occupied by 20 or more persons who are disabled, chronically ill or infirm.

The City of Sarnia will consult with administrators of retirement homes and institutions to determine how to best to administer the voting process at the respective Voting Places.

Voter Assistance and Supplies

When requested, an election official in the voting place can assist a voter with the voting process, including the marking of their ballot.

Supplies will be available at Voting Places that can assist voters with disabilities, including:

- Magnifying sheets to assist voters with low vision.

- Note pads and pens available at all voting places to assist with communication with voters who are deaf, deafened or hard of hearing.

With respect to Internet Voting, the City of Sarnia is making voting accessible to voters with disabilities through the following means:

Accessible Voting Technology

The Internet Voting System is compliant with WCAG 2.0 level AA standards as required by law and compliant with the Information and Communication Standard under Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

Voter Help Centre

A Voter Help Centre will be available during regular business hours during the Internet Voting Period. Voting kiosks will be available to voters who do not have access to a computer to vote online. When requested, an Election Official in the Voter Help Centre can assist a voter with the voting process at a voting kiosk. All individuals working in the capacity of an Election Official are formally appointed as such and administered an oath of secrecy prior to voting day.

Accessible Customer Service



The City is ensuring all Voting Places are accessible to electors with disabilities through Voting Place accessibility audits and through greeters.

Voting Place Accessibility Audits

Each voting place selected for 2022 Municipal Election has gone through a thorough review process to identify potential barriers for voters with disabilities and to create a plan to remove these barriers. The following are categories that were audited in the review of the locations:

- Accessible parking
- Path of travel to the building
- Ramps
- Building Entrances
- Lobby, Hallways, & Corridors
- Interior Doors
- Elevators
- Accessible Washrooms

Greeters

Greeters will be hired to assist in mitigating voting place accessibility issues by performing the following roles when needed:

- Helping open doors without automated power door openers;
- Directing voters to the accessible entrance if it is different from the main entrance.

Candidate Information



The City is providing information to support accessible campaigning thorough the publishing of candidate resources such as the Candidates' Guide to Accessible Elections produced by The Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO).

The City is ensuring accessibility for candidates with disabilities by making the candidate's guide and/or other relevant publications and forms available in an accessible format.