

Town of Thessalon

Election Accessibility Plan

2022 Municipal Election

This Plan is for use in the 2022 Municipal Election in conjunction with the municipality's current Accessibility Plan and the IASR Standards.

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1. Introduction

The Municipal Elections Act, (MEA) Section 12.1 (1) places responsibility on the Clerk, who is responsible for the appropriate legislative and administrative conduct of the municipal elections in the Town of Thessalon, to have regard for the needs of the electors and candidates with disabilities. Accessible Customer Service Standards must be followed when conducting municipal elections.

The Town of Thessalon municipal elections will be conducted in a manner that shall ensure that electors and candidates with disabilities have full and equal access to all election information and services, and that persons are able to vote independently and privately with access to voting assistance if required.

Section 12.1 (2) of the MEA requires that within ninety (90) days of voting day the Clerk shall submit a report to Council regarding the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect elector and candidates with disabilities.

2. Staff Training

All staff carrying out election duties will complete the Town of Thessalon Accessible Customer Services Training and specific Election Training to comply with the municipal Accessibility Plan and to ensure that persons with disabilities are served in a way that accommodates their individual needs. The training will include how to interact/communicate with persons with various types of disability, who may require the assistance of a support person or a service animal, or staff if requested, etc.

3. Provision of Election Information

Election information will be provided to electors and candidates with disabilities in an alternative format, agreed upon between the requester and the Clerk.

4. Notice of Temporary Service Disruption

The Clerk shall provide public notice on the municipal website and in the local media if there is a temporary disruption in the delivery of election information or services. The notice shall include the reason for the disruption, the expected duration and an explanation of alternative methods of delivering the information or service. Every effort shall be made to provide alternative methods of providing the information or service to persons with disabilities.

5. Staff Assistance

The Clerk=s department staff are available throughout the election to assist with any issues that may arise with respect to providing a barrier-free election. Contact information for assistance is as follows:

Town of Thessalon
187 Main Street, P. O. Box 220
Thessalon, Ontario P0R 1L0
Telephone: 705-842-2217, Fax: 705-842-2572
Email: robert@thessalonca

6. Voting - Paper Ballot

The system uses paper ballots on which the names of all candidates are printed. This method allows the use of various means, (magnifying glass, large print, etc.) to read the text, allowing improved accessibility for voters.

7. Accessible Voting

Section 45(2) of the MEA requires that the clerk shall ensure that each voting place is accessible to electors with disabilities.

Accessible voting will take place at the Municipal Office, 187 Main Street, Thessalon, Ontario. The parking lot has designated parking for individuals with disabilities that are clearly marked and located close to the voting place entrance.

8. Feedback Process

The Accessible Customer Service Feedback Form can be found under the Plans, Policies & By-laws section of the municipal website, www.thessalon.ca and at the Municipal Office.

The feedback received will be provided by the Clerk and appropriate action will be taken to remove barriers or provide accommodation if necessary.

The information received on the Accessible Customer Service Feedback form will be summarized in the post-election Election Accessibility Report and will be used to improve accessibility measures in future municipal elections.