Accessibility Initiatives Undertaken for 2026 Municipal Election

Attached for Council's information is a report as required by Section 12.1 (3) of the Municipal Elections Act regarding the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities.

Identification of Barriers

	Actions
1.	Reviewed our election accessibility initiatives
2.	Considered methods to meet accessibility needs
3.	Assessed voting procedures to ensure they met the needs of the electorate
4.	Considered any risks of our past election practices, identifying the likelihood of our practice creating a risk to accessibility of candidates and electors

Removal and Prevention of Barriers

Communications and Information

	Actions
1.	Ensured communication initiatives and information for candidates and electors were available in larger print, if required

Voting Locations

	Actions
1.	Considered voting locations to ensure accessibility
2.	Provided one central voting location for Polls 1, 2, 3, and 4 (Westwind Shores) on voting day with accessible voting procedures Provided a second voting location at the Algoma Manor for Algoma Manor residents where there where staff available to assist where necessary
3.	Provided appropriate signage at voting locations
4.	Permitted service animals and support persons in all voting locations
5.	Considered a process to facilitate notification of any last-minute voting location changes, should an emergency occur
6.	Ensured designated parking for persons with disabilities at each voting location
7.	Had a staff member available at entry to the Municipal Office polling location for purpose of greeting voters
8.	Additional staff were available at Municipal Office for purpose of completing forms for Additions, Changes and Deletions

Voting

	Actions
1.	Provided fully accessible procedures at the advance and regular voting locations
2.	Offered advance voting opportunities from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on a Saturday
3.	Provided voting opportunities on the premises of a retirement home in which 50 or more beds are occupied

Staff Training

	Actions
1.	Staff training incorporated provisions to meet Accessible Customer Service Standards and Ontario Human Rights Code and AODA, etc.
2.	Provided reference materials
3.	Strongly encouraged election workers to approach an elector if it appeared that the elector required assistance to access, exit and to get around in the voting location
4.	Election staff was appropriately trained

Voting Method
Traditional Paper Ballot with magnifying glasses available at each voting station