



Municipality of Calvin

Report to Council

December 5, 2022

REQUEST: That Council review the 2022 Post-Election Accessibility Report from the Elections Clerk.

RECOMMENDATION: BE IT RESOLVED That the Municipality of Calvin Council acknowledge receipt of the 2022 Post Election Accessibility Report as submitted by the Elections Clerk.

The Municipality of Calvin is a community that respects the dignity and rights of persons with disabilities has made efforts to ensure it is a barrier free community. The legislative requirements for accessible elections are set out in the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* (MEA) and the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)*.

This Post-Election Report is a requirement under Section 12.1(3) of the (MEA) and the focus is to evaluate accessibility of the 2022 Municipal and School Board elections. Under the Act, the Elections Clerk must have regard to the needs of electors with disabilities and it is a requirement that within 90 after a regular election, the Elections Clerk must prepare a report and make the report available to the public. The report will be made available to the public by posting on the municipal website at www.calvintownship.ca

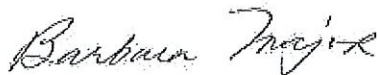
In accordance with the MEA the Elections Clerk is responsible for conducting municipal elections and establishing policies and procedures to ensure that all the electors have the opportunity to fully participate in the elections process. The MEA further states that the clerk shall prepare a plan regarding the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities and shall make the report available to the public before Voting Day in a regular election. In accordance with the *Municipal Elections Act*, an Election Accessibility Plan was developed and upon completion, the proposed plan was presented to and approved by the Municipality of Calvin Council on June 14, 2022. It is available on the website.

The following outlines the actions taken to identify, remove and prevent barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities.

Actions		Considerations for 2026 Election
1.	<p>Implementation of Alternative Voting in the form of online and telephone voting which allowed electors to cast their ballots using telephone, tablet or telephone anytime from October 14, 2022 to 8 p.m. on October 24, 2022.</p> <p>A YouTube video showing how to vote was available on the Municipal Website (elections).</p> <p>Additionally, online/telephone voting allowed electors to cast their ballot from home, thereby providing a greater level of privacy to electors with disabilities who may have difficulty voting a traditional paper-based voting location due to the fact that they had no need for assistance from others to vote.</p>	<p>Same.</p> <p>2022 Voter turnout was significantly improved with a 56.7% elector participation.</p> <p>In 2018 there was a 42.3% participation rate and in 2014 a 46.1% participation rate.</p> <p>There were 86.9% (311) of voters who used the internet to vote.</p>
2.	<p>Pre-voting testing/audit were undertaken to ensure that the voting system was accessible, secure and accessibility features functioned.</p>	Same
3.	<p>Voter Help Centre with voting kiosk (2) was established at the Municipal Administration Building which has a barrier free parking area and accessible door. Adequate chairs for seating were provided. The Voter Help Centre was open on five (5) days including election day.</p>	Same
4.	<p>Appropriate signage at voting location</p>	Same
5.	<p>Personal assistive devices permitted at the Voter Help Centre, eg: walkers, wheelchairs, etc... Electors with support persons were assisted as required including amendment of their information on the Voters' list and casting ballot following completion of appropriate oaths. Magnifying sheets were available to assist voters with low vision.</p>	Same
6.	<p>Election staff monitored elector's concerns and ensured that their needs were met. Eg: if an additional chair for someone helping was required, it was provided. Staff offered</p>	Same

	assistance to electors and did not assume an individual needed assistance.	
7.	Election-related assistance was provided at the Voter Help Centre and also remotely by calling the designated election assistance phone line or send an email to the designated email address	Same
8.	Communication initiatives and information for both candidates and electors was available in paper format and on the website and in enlarged format if requested.	Same
9.	Bulletins for citizens were mailed on a regular basis, promoting the Voter Look-Up, sharing key dates and on "how to vote". These were also posted at the Municipal Office.	Same
10.	All election information was made available on the municipal website.	Same. Consideration required by Council to ensure the website continues to be current and meet Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG-2 Level AA)
11.	Candidates were provided supplementary information to promote awareness of campaign requirements.	Same
12.	Voter Look Up was promoted to both candidates and electors to encourage checking and amending their information on the Voters' List provided by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC).	Consideration that a laptop be provided for one day at the Municipal Administration Building to encourage electors to update their information on the Voters' list.

Respectfully submitted



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Elections Clerk
Municipality of Calvin

c.c. Municipal Interim Clerk Peggy Young-Lovelace
Municipal Administrator Jacob Groves