



REPORT TO COUNCIL

To:	Mayor and Council
From:	Deputy Clerk Laura Brandt
Date of Meeting:	January 18, 2023
Report Title:	2022 Municipal Election – Accessibility Report

Recommendation: That Council receives and approves this report as presented for information purposes.

Background: This report supports and strengthens the Municipality's commitment to respond to the needs of all electors and candidates. The focus of this report is to ensure that electoral services are accessible to all electors and candidates. The intention is to identify, reduce or eliminate barriers and create a positive voting experience.

The *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* states that a Clerk responsible for conducting an election shall have regard for the needs of electors and candidates with disabilities.

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 plan available to the public before voting day in a regular election.

Within 90 days after voting day in the regular election, the Clerk and/or Deputy Returning Officer shall prepare a report about the identification, removal, and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities and shall make the report available to the public.

Evaluation: On June 9, 2021, Council passed By-law 2021-35 selecting the alternative method of mail, telephone, and internet voting for the 2022 Municipal Election.

As alternative methods of voting were chosen, it eliminated the need for polling stations for in person voting. Travelling to a physical polling station could create hardship or be a barrier to a person with disabilities who has mobility restrictions or has a difficult time with transportation due to a physical disability.

Mail, telephone, and internet were chosen in part, to provide equal access and equal opportunity to persons with disabilities.

Person with disabilities could access the voting system by mail in ballot, over the telephone (both mobile and landline) or by the internet. This enabled that a person with a disability had the opportunity to vote from any location, using more than one method increasing their level of independence when voting.

Consultation and Plan

1. Conducted an internal and external site audit
2. Compiled a 2022 Municipal Election Accessibility Plan and ensured that any potential needs of an elector with a disability were identified and addressed to the greatest extent possible.
3. Provided contact information for the Election Help Centre to assist electors with disabilities that require assistance to place their vote.

Election Help Centre

Electors who had questions or required any assistance could contact the Voter Help Line at (705) 387-3947 as well as access information on our website at magnetawan.com/government/2022-municipal-election. Electors could also reach out to the help centre directly by email at election@magnetawan.com

A voter Help Centre was established at 4304 Highway 520, Magnetawan, municipally known as the Magnetawan Municipal Office and Community Centre and was open the following dates and times for those electors who required assistance:

Date	Time
October 11 to 21, 2022	8:30am to 4:30pm (weekdays only)
October 24, Election Day	8:30am to 8:00pm

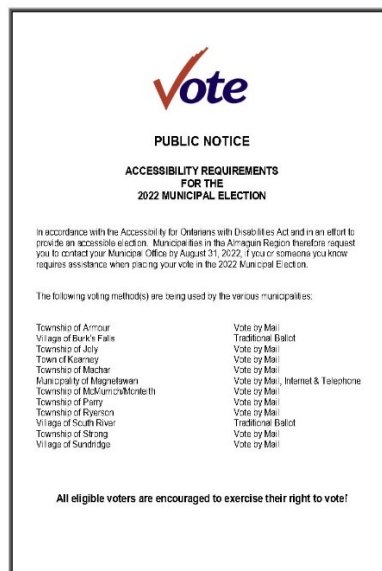
Advertising

An Election page on the Municipal Website was created containing information on the voting method, assistance and location of the Election Help Centre, services, and the 2022 Election Accessibility Plan.

The Voter Information Letters mailed out to electors also included all the above information stated in the Election Help Centre section of this report.

The Municipalities August Newsletter included a 2022 Municipal Election insert containing information with key dates and alternative voting methods.

The below advertisement was also circulated in the local newspaper and posted on our Municipal Elections page on the Municipal Website.



Electors

No Electors identified with the CAO/Clerk as requiring any accommodation.

Candidates

No Candidates identified with the CAO/Clerk as requiring any accommodation.

Conclusion: The Municipality has met the legislative requirements that are set out to ensure that every elector and candidate had the opportunity to fully participate in the 2022 Municipal Election

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Brandt
Deputy Clerk