



2022 Municipal Elections Accessibility Report

January 23, 2023

Background

In accordance with section 12.1(3) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, (MEA) following the 2022 municipal election, the Clerk shall prepare a report about the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities.

The Ontario Human Rights Code and Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) define a disability as:

- Any degree of physical disability, infirmity, malformation or disfigurement that is caused by bodily injury, birth defect or illness and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, includes diabetes mellitus, epilepsy, a brain injury, any degree of paralysis, amputation, lack of physical co-ordination, blindness or visual impairment, deafness or hearing impediment, muteness or speech impediment, or physical reliance on a guide dog or other animal or on a wheelchair or other remedial appliance or device
- A condition of mental impairment or a developmental disability
- A learning disability, or a dysfunction in one or more of the processes involved in understanding or using symbols or spoken language
- A mental disorder, or
- An injury or disability for which benefits were claimed or received under the insurance plan established under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997

Voting Methods

To provide accessible and independent voting for all electors, Vote-By-Mail was used in the 2022 Municipal Election.

Opportunities for Improvement in 2026

- *Consider a paperless election in 2026.*

Voting Locations

All voting locations were inspected to assess whether or not they met the accessibility standards. This ensured that candidates, voters and election workers were able to access voting locations. In accordance with section 45(7) of the MEA, voting locations were provided in Long Term Care Facilities that met certain legislated requirements.

Ballot Return Stations were set up for one day per urban area and an additional two days were added due to the lateness of the mailout of the Ballot Kits. The Town of Minto Municipal Office was available as a ballot return station during regular business hours. Staff went to the homes of individuals who were unable to attend the office or ballot return stations as required to provide ballots and/or pick up ballots beyond the mailing timeframe.

Opportunities for Improvement in 2026

- *Consider a paperless election in 2026.*

Communications

A communications plan was created and followed during the 2022 Election. Further communication was made regarding the additional ballot return stations.

Opportunities for Improvement in 2026

- *Further use of local newspaper*
- *Use of local radio stations*

Conclusion

It was the goal of Town of Minto Clerk's Department to ensure that electors within the Municipality who required accessibility services were provided with the best opportunity to vote as independently as possible in the 2022 Municipal Election. Election staff also strived to make the nomination and registration process as accessible as possible for candidates. The 2022 Municipal Election total voter turnout was 27.72% , the provincial average of was 36.30% (This does not include the turnout for Municipalities that did had all members of Council acclaimed). Remarkably, the highest voter turnout by age group was the 70's age group with a voter turnout of 48.13%. The Town of Minto Clerk's Department will continue to learn, develop, and adjust our approaches to meet the needs of persons with disabilities. All residents and Staff/Council feedback regarding the accessibility of the election will be considered by the Clerk's Department in preparation for the next Municipal Election.

Feedback

Public feedback about the manner in which election services were provided to persons with accessible needs may be submitted to the Municipal Clerk through a variety of methods:

Phone: 519-338-2511 ext 230

Fax: 519-338-2005

Mail: Town of Minto, Attention: Annilene McRobb, 5941 Hwy 89, Harriston, ON NOG 1Z0

Email: annilene@town.minto.on.ca