

Council Meeting – January 9, 2023

POST-ELECTION ACCESSIBILITY REPORT

As per the ***Municipal Elections Act, 12.1 (2)*** Within 90 days after voting day in a regular election, the clerk shall submit a report to council about the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities. 2009, c. 33, Sched. 21, s. 8 (8).

The Township of O'Connor's has an Accessibility Policy in place which states that citizens with disabilities achieve accessibility in the provision of goods and services by the Township to this community, consistent with the principles of independence, dignity, integration, and equality of opportunity as set out in the regulations of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. The Clerk-Treasurer/ Returning Officer also prepared in 2022, a Municipal Accessibility Plan, which was provided to the Election Staff, and is enclosed for your reference.

The Municipal Election, held on October 24, 2022, in the Township of O'Connor was conducted to the standards as stated in the Plan.

- The Township website and newsletter provided election information throughout the year, the voting process, including voting by proxy, voter identification requirements, the list of candidates for both Council and the School boards. Voters with vision impairment could change zoom level on their computer screen to enlarge the font if they could not read the information provided in the newsletter.
- The location – The Municipal Election was held in the accessible Council Chambers. The entrance is on ground level with no stairs or obstacles. The front entrance of the office, with an automated door, was kept open throughout the election. The voting booths were set up in such a manner that a voter in a wheelchair had enough space and a clear path to the voting booth. If voters were unable to get out of their vehicle or were uncomfortable attending inside due to the COVID virus, signage was posted outside the door to honk, and election officials would attend to the vehicle. The Election Officials were informed of the voting procedure to meet the voter in their vehicle. Accessible parking signs were posted at the front and back door.
- The Election Officials had received Accessibility Awareness training in the past, so only a brief refresher on situations were discussed during election training. A last-minute call in for the Poll Clerk position did not allow for any accessible training, however a copy of the Plan was made available for her to read during the election, and the Election Officials were made aware that if they had any questions, I would be available to confirm or address the situation.
- The ballots were printed on paper using an "Arial Black 14" font. Magnifiers were available in both voting booths as well.
- Chairs were available in the room and entrance for seating if voters had to wait in line.
- The Township office's accessible washroom was available throughout the voting times.

No issues arose during the 2022 Municipal Election regarding Accessibility.

Lorna Buob

Clerk-Treasurer/Returning Officer