



AUGUSTA TOWNSHIP

2022 Municipal Elections Accessibility Plan

Introduction:

The Election's Accessibility Plan is a tool to support and strengthen the Township's commitment to the needs of persons with disabilities.

The focus of the plan is to identify to be taken to in advance of the elections to help eliminate barriers for persons with disabilities and ensure electoral services are accessible to all electors and candidates.

The Clerk's department shall post the pre-election plan and post-election report on the Township's website and distribute to other stakeholders as requested.

Legislative Requirements:

The Clerk is responsible for conducting municipal elections and establishing policies and procedures to ensure that all electors have the opportunity to fully participate in the 2018 Augusta Township municipal election.

The Municipal Act, 1996, as amended states that:

- There shall be regard for the needs of electors and candidates with disabilities
- The clerk shall prepare and make available to the public a plan to identify and prevent barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities before voting day.



AUGUSTA TOWNSHIP

- Within 90 days after voting day, the clerk shall prepare a report about the identification, removal and prevention of barriers and shall make the report available to the public.
- The clerk shall ensure that each voting place is accessible to electors with disabilities.
- The Clerk shall make such changes to the ballot as he or she considers necessary to assist electors with visual impairments to vote without assistance.

Initiatives:

Communication

Provide information in plain and clear language;

Ensure election information on the website is accessible compliant; and

Offer alternative formats upon request.

Assistance to Candidates:

Provide candidates with access to information in alternative formats upon request;

Provide each candidate with the “Candidates’ guide to Accessible Elections”;

Voting Places:

Barrier free voting locations will be open for advance voting to provide in-person internet/telephone opportunities for individuals without means to access voting via internet or telephone and a polling station will be open on election day for internet/telephone voting via touch screen tablet or touch tone telephone or paper ballots;



AUGUSTA TOWNSHIP

Provide designated or reserved parking for persons with disabilities at the voting location; and

In the event of an temporary service disruption, Election Officials will commit to providing reasonable measures to ensure that services are reinstated as quickly as possible and that alternative services are provided where feasible.

In the event of a disruption in service or emergency information will be posted at the location and on the website, electronic sign and facebook (in so far as it is possible), and where applicable media advisory, including reason for the disruption, its anticipated duration and alternative services/facilities available.

Voting Provisions for electors with disabilities:

Internet and telephone voting, including TTY;

Help centres for assistance with electronic voting;

Election official at the voting place to assist a voter casting his/her ballot when requested after the oral auth is administered.

Provide seating in waiting area;

Provide supplies to assist electors such as magnifying glass and large print ballots;

Allow support animals in voting place;

Provide curb side voting for persons with a physical disability who request that the ballot be brought out to their vehicle;

Use large print and accessible fonts on paper ballots;



AUGUSTA TOWNSHIP

Accessibility Training:

All staff at the voting place and help centres will be trained on accessibility requirements.

Feedback:

Anyone wishing to provide feedback to identify areas where changes need to be considered and ways in which the township can improve the delivery of an accessible election, please notify the Clerk:

Annette Simonian
Clerk, Township of Augusta
3560 County Road 26,
Prescott, ON K0E 1T0
Email: asimonian@augusta.ca
Phone: 613-925-4231 X 105
Fax: 613-925-3449

This document is available in an alternate format upon request.