



Township of Laurentian Valley  
2022 Municipal and School Board Elections  
Post-Election Accessibility Report

January 20, 2023

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## Background

The *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* as amended provides the following clauses, as they relate to candidates and voters with disabilities:

### **12.1 (1) Electors and Candidates with Disabilities**

A Clerk who is responsible for conducting an election shall have regard to the needs of electors and candidates with disabilities. 2009, c. 33, Sch. 21, s. 8 (8).

### **12.1 (2) Plan-barriers**

The Clerk shall prepare a plan regarding the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affected electors and candidates with disabilities and shall make the plan available to the public before voting day in a regular election. 2016, c. 15s. 11, part

### **12.1 (3) Report**

Within 90 days after voting day in a regular election, the clerk 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. 2016, c. 15, s. 11, part.

In accordance with Section 12.1 (2) the Clerk of the Township of Laurentian Valley developed an Election Accessibility Plan for the 2022 Municipal and School Board Elections in addition to the Township's pre-existing Accessibility Standards for Customer Service Policy. The plan was made available to the public with notice on the Township website, available in an alternate format upon request.

## Identification of Barriers

- Reviewed election voting equipment to determine which equipment would eliminate accessibility barriers.
- Evaluated and assessed all voting equipment to ensure it met the needs of voters with disabilities.
  - The municipality provided three options for voting in the 2022 Municipal and School Board Election (internet, phone and traditional ballots). These three options provided alternative options for persons with disabilities to ensure that could participate in the election.
- Reviewed accessibility of potential polling stations to determine best location.

# Removal and Prevention of Barriers

## Information and Communications

- Ensured that all information was made available to candidates and voters in alternate formats upon request.
- All relevant information was posted to the Township's website;
- Provided candidates with information regarding campaign expenses and rules related to candidates with disabilities (Count Us In: Removing Barriers to Political Participation Quick Reference Guide to Accessible Campaign Information and Communication, published by Accessibility Directorate of Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services).
- Established an election email address for receiving and addressing feedback.

## Voting Locations

- In order to ensure full accessibility, a site inspection was conducted on the Municipal Office to ensure it meets the accessibility standards.
- Accessible parking signage and spots are designated in the municipal parking lot for electors that require them.

## Voting

- Provided accessible voting equipment at the Voter Help Centre and on Election Day and the day following (Municipal Office), which included iPads and a telephone.
- Provided training to elections staff on how to operate the above types of voting equipment.
- Provided electors with iPads and a telephone at the Voter Help Centre for 10 days preceding the election.

## Staff Training

- Election staff was given training on the election process and to identify when an elector needed assistance.
- Staff made electors aware of the different options for voting and of the magnifying sheets available.
- Election staff was encouraged to assist voters who looked like they needed help.
- An Election staff was positioned to greet electors as they came in the building and assist them if it was required.
- Staff participated in a post-election discussion to review the election process and areas to improve for the next election.