



Report
Staff Report
The Corporation of the City of Brampton
4/23/2025

Date: 2025-03-20

Subject: **2026 Municipal Election – Translation of Voter Information**

Contact: Shawnica Hans, Deputy Clerk, Elections, Accessibility and Lottery
Licensing, City Clerk's Office

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Clerk's Office

Report number: Legislative Services-2025-181

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the report from Shawnica Hans, Deputy Clerk, Elections, Accessibility and Lottery Licensing, City Clerk's Office, to the Committee of Council Meeting of April 23, 2025, re: **2026 Municipal Election – Translation of Voter Information**, be received; and,
2. That a by-law attached as Appendix 1, be passed to provide that election information to voters may be translated into the following additional languages for the 2026 City of Brampton Municipal Election:
 - a. French
 - b. Punjabi
 - c. Urdu
 - d. Gujarati
 - e. Tamil
 - f. Hindi
 - g. Spanish
 - h. Portuguese
 - i. Tagalog (Pilipino, Filipino)
 - j. Vietnamese
 - k. Italian

OVERVIEW:

- The *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended (MEA) requires municipalities to pass by-laws in order to administer certain matters related to a municipal election.
- This report details and recommends the passing of a by-law relating to the use of different languages for voter information.
- The estimated cost to translate election information to the languages identified in this report is \$5,000 and was identified in the 2026 Elections Forecast. Costs associated with the 2026 Brampton Municipal Election shall be funded by the Election Reserve. Sufficient funding is available for language translation costs in Reserve #25 – Municipal Elections.

BACKGROUND:

The *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended (MEA), provides that the 2026 Municipal Election shall be held on Monday, October 26, 2026. Planning and implementation work for the election is underway within the City Clerk's Office.

Section 9.1(2) of the MEA enables municipalities to pass a by-law to produce certain voter information in languages other than English.

CURRENT SITUATION:**Communications in Languages other than English and French**

Section 9.1(2) of the MEA requires that a by-law be passed to provide information to voters in languages other than English, unless such information pertains to the election of a French school board candidate, in which case the information must also be provided in French.

In 2022, "how to vote" (how to mark a ballot) information was translated into languages spoken at home by at least 0.5% of the population, plus French and Italian, at the direction of Council. This information was made available to voters at all voting locations on voting day and advance voting days, and on the City's BramptonVotes website.

For the upcoming 2026 Municipal Election, recognizing Brampton's diversity, and in ensuring inclusive customer service, the City is continuing to build on its efforts to assist voters whose first language is not English.

The current corporate policy is to translate pertinent information into the top ten (10) languages spoken by the Brampton population by mother tongue (based on the 2021

Census information). The election team recommends that for the purposes of the municipal election, key voter information (i.e. voter identification requirements, how to vote, etc.) may be translated into languages spoken at home by at least 0.5% of the population based on the 2021 Census Information provided by Statistics Canada, plus French and Italian. The same criterion was used in the 2022 municipal election. Although Italian is not spoken by at least 0.5% of the population (according to 2021 Census information), it is included in the corporate policy to translate into the top ten (10) languages spoken by the population by mother tongue. The election team recommends including Italian to align with the corporate policy. There are no other languages that differ from the corporate policy and the election team recommendations.

These languages include (this list is consistent with those languages translated in the 2022 Municipal Election, plus Italian):

a. Punjabi	13.47%
b. Urdu	2.19%
c. Gujarati	1.81%
d. Tamil	1.44%
e. Hindi	1.24%
f. Spanish	0.99%
g. Portuguese	0.74%
h. Tagalog (Pilipino, Filipino)	0.72%
i. Vietnamese	0.52%
j. Italian	0.20%

The proposed by-law to provide voter information to be translated into languages spoken at home by at least 0.5% of the population, plus French and Italian is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. Staff recommend that the by-law be passed.

It must be noted that the MEA prohibits prescribed forms (e.g. nomination form, appointment for voting proxy, etc.) from being permanently altered in any language other than English or French.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

The estimated cost to translate election information to the languages identified in this report is \$5,000 and was identified in the 2026 Elections Forecast. Costs associated with the 2026 Brampton Municipal Election will be funded by the Election Reserve. Sufficient funding is available for language translation costs in Reserve #25 – Municipal Elections.

Legal Implications

In accordance with the MEA, a by-law is required authorizing the translation of voter information into languages other than English and French. The draft by-law is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

Communications Implications

A communications plan will be developed for the 2026 Municipal Election. The plan will include extensive voter education and public engagement, which will be available in multiple languages in accordance with the recommended Voter Information Languages by-law.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA:

This report achieves the Strategic Focus Area of Government & Leadership by planning for the administration of a fair and transparent municipal election process and providing access to voter information in multiple languages.

CONCLUSION:

This report and attached draft by-law fulfill the City's responsibilities under the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, for the administration of certain matters related to a municipal election.

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Attachments:

- Appendix 1: Draft 2022 Municipal Election By-law – Voter Information Languages