

SHAPE THE FUTURE VOTE

Alternate formats available upon request

2022 Municipal Election Accessibility Plan

Accessibility Advisory Committee

March 8, 2022





230 Days

Until the 2022
Municipal and School
Board Elections

Principles of Democratic Elections

- The secrecy of the vote is paramount
- The election should be accessible to all voters and candidates
- The election should be fair and non-biased
- The integrity of the process should be maintained at all times
- There should be certainty that the results of the election reflect the votes cast
- Voters and candidates should be treated fairly and consistently within the municipality

Items for Discussion

- Our mandate
- 2018 accessibility measures
- 2022 Accessibility Plan
- Demonstration of voting technology

Our Mandate

The City of Brampton is committed to providing candidates and electors with disabilities full and equal access to all election information and services.

Our Mandate

In accordance with the following legislation, the City Clerk must provide appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities have the opportunity to participate fully in the 2022 Municipal Election:

- Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended
- Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001
- Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005

2018 Accessibility Measures

- Audit of potential voting locations
- Election information/forms available in alternate formats upon request
- Touchscreen/audio voting technology
- Magnifying screens
- More advance voting opportunities than in 2014

2018 Accessibility Measures

- Staff training/election workers – inclusive customer service
- Proxy voting
- Customer service outside of regular business hours, as requested
- Service animals permitted in all voting locations
- Voter information translated into multiple languages

2022 Accessibility Plan

This plan is a requirement under the Municipal Elections Act:

Section 12.1 (1) A clerk who is responsible for conducting an election shall have regard to the needs of electors and candidates with disabilities.

Section 12.1 (2) The clerk shall prepare a plan regarding the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities and shall make the plan available to the public before voting day in a regular election.

2022 Accessibility Plan

Section 12.1 (3) 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.

Section 45 (2) In establishing the locations of voting places, the clerk shall ensure that each voting place is accessible to electors with disabilities.

2022 Accessibility Plan

The plan ties into the City of Brampton's Municipal Accessibility Plan and overall commitment towards accessibility.

The plan outlines steps to be taken by the City of Brampton Election Office to address accessibility requirements in an attempt to ensure that the election is accessible to all electors and candidates.

Voting Locations

- The Municipal Elections Act states that each voting place must be accessible to electors with disabilities
- The City of Brampton has over 140 voting locations
- Site inspections are conducted for each identified voting location to ensure it meets defined accessibility requirements
- For locations that are identified as having accessibility concerns, plans will be in place to address any issues prior to Voting Day

Voting Locations

- Where accessible parking is not close to the entrance, accessible parking space with signs and marking tape will be established
- For any voting locations that do not have an accessible entrance, an election worker will be hired to assist with opening the door for electors and directing them to the voting place
- Adequate signage will be placed on the exterior and interior of the voting location to direct electors to the voting place

Voting Locations

- Voting place layout maps will be provided to ensure consistent set-up of voting places, and to ensure each voting place contains an accessible voting area
- Specific needs of election workers with disabilities will be addressed

Voting Methods

Incorporate various voting methods to assist electors with accessibility requirements in voting independently:

- Providing accessible voting equipment at each Advance Voting location and at one designated location in each ward on Voting Day
- Accessibility tools include headphones (audio ballot), high contrast viewing, Braille keypad, Sip-N-Puff, Rocker Paddles

Voting Methods

- Providing magnifying sheets for use by electors with a visual impairment
- Providing a pad of paper to assist in communicating with electors with hearing impairments
- Providing curbside voting for any electors unable to enter the voting location

Communication and Access to Information

The City of Brampton recognizes that electors and candidates may require current election details and access to information in alternate formats.

- Information about the election will be available on the City's website
- Providing, upon request, elector and candidate information in alternate formats

Communication and Access to Information

- Encouraging candidates to inform Election Office of any specific accommodations regarding access to information
- Providing translation services to voters and candidates as required
- Providing “how to vote” information for electors in multiple languages

Communication and Access to Information

- Using temporary notice of disruption signs – to indicate reason, how long and alternate locations to vote
- Responding to feedback and inquiries

Training

City of Brampton election workers will be equipped to assist all electors at the voting location:

- Providing inclusive customer service training materials to all election workers
- Encouraging election workers to assist electors and candidates as required
- Requiring election workers to periodically check access doors and parking area to ensure electors can enter the voting location with ease

Additional Opportunities for Customer Service

- Advance Voting – different options for voting in advance of election
- Proxy voting
- Vote anywhere in your ward on Voting Day
- Address COVID-19 protocols and impact on accessibility to maintain service standards

Updates

This plan may be updated, at the discretion of the City Clerk, as new opportunities for improvement in customer service become available.

This plan, along with any updates will be made available on www.brampton.ca/bramptonvotes

Thank you!

