

Date: 2020-02-21

Subject: **Accessibility Measures for the 2022 Brampton Municipal and School Board Election**

Contact: Shawnica Hans, Program Manager, Elections, City Clerk's Office

Report Number: Legislative Services-2023-108

Recommendations:

1. That the report from Shawnica Hans, Program Manager, Elections, City Clerk's Office to the Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting of March 7, 2023, re: **Accessibility Measures for the 2022 Brampton Municipal and School Board Election**, be received.

Overview:

- Under Section 12.1 (3) of the Municipal Elections Act, within 90 days after Voting Day, the Clerk is required to prepare a report about the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities, and make the report available to the public.
- The Accessibility Measures report for the 2022 Brampton Municipal and School Board Election was posted on the City's website in January 2023.
- This report provides an overview of the Accessibility Measures report, which is attached as Appendix A, for Committee's reference.

Background:

Legislative Requirements under the Municipal Elections Act, 1996

Section 12.1 of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended (MEA) states the following:

- 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.
- 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.

Accessibility Plan

Election staff attended the March 8, 2022 meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee to present the [Accessibility Plan for the 2022 Municipal and School Board Election](#) under Section 12.1 (2) of the MEA, and to provide a virtual demonstration of the voting technology to be used for the election. The voting technology included vote tabulators and accessible voting units, and a variety of accessibility tools.

The Accessibility Plan included various accessibility measures to be implemented in the election, from voting location selection, to public communications, training and voting methods. The plan was posted on the City's website.

Current Situation:

Accessibility Measures Report

Under Section 12.1 (3) of the MEA, within 90 days of the election, the City Clerk is required to prepare a report detailing the accessibility measures that were implemented in the election. The report was posted on the City's website on January 20, 2023. The report, attached as Appendix A, outlines the steps that were taken by Election staff to ensure that the 2022 Municipal and School Board Election was accessible to all electors and candidates.

The report includes the following information:

- Voting locations – selection and accessibility
- Voting methods and elector assistance – accessible voting equipment, assistance at the voting location, and alternate voting methods
- Access to information – provision of election information and public engagement
- Election worker training – inclusive customer service and electors who require assistance
- Voting opportunities – advance voting and vote anywhere on Voting Day

New Initiatives for the 2022 Municipal and School Board Election

The home voting service was relaunched for the 2022 Municipal and School Board Election, as an alternate voting method. The service was previously piloted in the 2014 election. Through the home voting service, electors who were home-bound due to illness, injury or disability could request an appointment for home voting.

A team of two election workers would visit the elector in their home to provide an opportunity to vote independently. Completed ballots were securely held until Voting Day and then tabulated. Election staff had planned to serve up to 100 electors through the home voting service, which took place during the Advance Voting period. Election staff successfully delivered this service to 51 electors, through 39 home visits.

Feedback from those who used the service was positive. A request to accommodate caregivers will be considered in future elections.

Next Steps

Planning for the next municipal and school board election will begin once post-election activities for the 2022 election have concluded. Election staff will be evaluating the accessible voting technology as well as researching voting methods for the next election.

Staff commits to engaging the Accessibility Advisory Committee in any discussions and decision making regarding accessibility at the voting location and throughout the election period in general.

Corporate Implications:

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications related to this report.

Other Implications:

There are no other implications related to this report.

Term of Council Priorities:

This report fulfills the Council Priority of a Well-run City by documenting the City's commitment towards accessible elections.

Conclusion:

The City Clerk has legislated responsibility towards accessibility in municipal elections. The 2022 Brampton Municipal Election Accessibility Report documents the measures that were undertaken to ensure that the 2022 Municipal and School Board Election was accessible to all candidates and electors.

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Attachments:

- Appendix A – Accessibility Measures Report for the 2022 City of Brampton Municipal and School Board Election

