2026 Municipal Election Accessibility Plan

This plan is for use in the 2026 Municipal Election in conjunction with the City of Belleville Accessibility Policy.

Objectives

This plan is intended to highlight measures that the Municipality will be implementing to ensure equal opportunity for all voters and candidates. These objectives include:

- that the Voter Assistance Centres are accessible;
- that persons with disabilities are able to independently vote;
- that persons with disabilities have full and equal access to all election information;
- that persons with disabilities can fully participate in the Municipal Election as an voter and/or candidate; and
- that voters with disabilities are aware of the accessibility measures available.

Legislative Requirements

The Municipal Elections Act, 1996, S.O. 1996, Chapter 32, as amended states:

Voters and candidates with disabilities

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

Plan re barriers

(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.

Report

(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

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

Attendance on voters with disabilities

(9) To allow an elector with a disability to vote, a deputy returning officer shall attend on the elector anywhere within the area designated as the voting place.

Voter Assistance Center(s) and Election Centre

The following two (2) locations have been designated as Voter Assistance Centres

Quinte Sports & Wellness Centre
265 Cannifton Road
Belleville, ON

Gerry Masterson Thurlow Community Centre
516 Harmony Road
Corbyville, ON

An Election Center has been established at Belleville City Hall, 169 Front Street, Belleville, during regular working hours, Monday to Friday.

All locations are accessible to voters with disabilities and have accessible parking, automatic doors and accessible washrooms.

Voting

Internet and telephone voting is an accessible voting method that enables persons with disabilities to cast their vote in a manner that respects and promotes their dignity, independence, integration and equality of opportunity.

Voting Assistance

Election Official

A voter who requires such assistance to vote may ask an Election Official for assistance and assist and/or vote as directed by the voter.

Friend of Voter

In lieu of an Election Official assisting a voter, the voter may request that a friend accompany them to vote.

Interpreter

Where an Election Official does not understand the language of a voter, an interpreter, provided by the voter, shall translate for the voter.

VRI – Video Remote Interpreting

Voter Assistance Centre Supervisors can facilitate VRI, which consists of a qualified sign-language interpreter joining by secure video in real time to support the voter.

Election Materials

The Municipality shall upon request, provide or arrange for the provision of accessible formats and communication supports for persons with disabilities, in accordance with the Municipality's Accessibility Policy.

Training

The Municipality shall ensure that training is provided on the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, the accessibility standards referred to within the Integrated

Accessibility Standards (Ontario Regulation 191/11), the Human Rights Code as it pertains to persons with disabilities and on Municipal policies and procedures related to the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and its Regulation to all Election Officials.

Notice of Temporary Service Disruption

If there is a temporary disruption in the delivery of election information or services, the Municipality shall provide public notice on the Municipal website and social media channels, at the physical site of the disruption and when possible, in the local media. The notice shall include the reason for the disruption, anticipated duration and a description of alternative methods of delivering the information or service.

Reporting

Pursuant to Section 12.1 (3) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended, within 90 days after Voting Day, the Clerk shall submit a report to Council about the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect voters and candidates with disabilities and shall make the report available to the public.

The report will be made available to the public via the Municipal website and at the Municipal Office.

Feedback

Feedback is welcome in order to identify areas where changes need to be considered and ways in which the Municipality can improve the delivery of an accessible Municipal Election.

Feedback on this Plan can be submitted to the following:

Clerk's Office
169 Front Street
Belleville, ON K8N 2Y8
Phone: 613-967-3200 ext. 3214
E-mail: bellevillevotes@belleville.ca

Resources

2026 Municipal Election Procedures
Accessibility Policy
Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended