



Accessibility Plan for the 2026 County of Brant Municipal
and School Board Elections

Introduction

The County of Brant is committed to ensuring that the 2026 Municipal and School Board Elections are accessible to all electors and candidates. The Accessible Election Plan 2026 is a commitment to removing barriers and ensuring that persons with disabilities can participate fully in the electoral process.

Purpose

The focus of the Accessible Election Plan 2026 is to:

- Ensure that electoral services are accessible to all voters and candidates; and
- Identify and eliminate barriers for persons with disabilities.

Plan Development and Review

The Accessible Election Plan 2026 was developed under the consideration of policies and procedures consistent with the principles of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001*, the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*, and respecting the dignity and independence of persons with disabilities.

The Clerk's Office will continue to learn, develop, and adjust the Plan in order to meet the needs of persons with disabilities. This Plan will be reviewed and updated as new opportunities are identified or become available. Following the election, Clerk's staff will review the outcomes with the Accessibility Advisory Committee to identify potential areas of improvement and any additional barriers experienced during the election that can be addressed in future plans. Clerk's staff will, as per the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, report to Council within 90 days following the election on the outcomes and performance of the Accessible Election Plan 2026.

Legislative Requirements – Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended

The Clerk is responsible for conducting municipal elections and establishing policies and procedures to ensure that all electors and candidates have the opportunity to fully participate in the 2026 Municipal Election.

The *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, states the following:

- 12.1(1) A clerk who is responsible for conducting an election shall have regard to the needs of electors and candidates with disabilities. 2009, c. 33, Sched. 21, s. 8 (8).
- 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. 2016, c. 15, s. 11.
- 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. 2016, c. 15, s. 11.
- 41(3) The clerk shall make such changes to some or all of the ballots as he or she considers necessary or desirable to allow electors with visual impairments to vote without the

assistance referred to in paragraph 4 of subsection 52(1). 1996, c. 32, Sched., s. 41 (3); 2001, c. 32, s. 30(1).

- 45(2) In establishing the locations of voting places, the clerk shall ensure that each voting place is accessible to electors with disabilities. 2009, c. 33, Sched. 21, s.8 (23).

Key Areas of Focus in the Elections Process

The County of Brant is committed to taking measures to identify and remove accessibility barriers that may exist through the voting process and at Voter Assistance Locations. The following areas have been identified as areas of focus within the election process to prevent and remove accessibility barriers:

- Elections Communication and Information
- Voting Locations
- Voting Methods
- Recruitment and Selection of Election Workers
- Assistance for Candidates

Elections Communication and Information

- Ensure election information is available in clear, simple language.
- Update election information posted on the County of Brant website to identify temporary disruptions.
- Ensure that election web pages are constructed to AODA standards.
- Ensure that electors and candidates can contact elections staff to note concerns or ask questions regarding accommodation practices.

Voting Locations

- All Voter Assistance Locations are to be inspected prior to Advanced Polls and Voting Day to ensure that any accessibility issues are mitigated.
- Where possible, the accessible entrance is to be the same as the main entrance.
- Use large-print signage at Voter Assistance Locations.
- Welcome the use of support persons and service animals in voting places. Educate elections staff on appropriate communication with voters and service animals.
- Ensure adequate spacing in Voter Assistance Locations for scooters and other mobility devices to navigate without issue.
- All voting kiosks will be set at standing and sitting heights, with seating available.

Voting Methods

- Provide electors with the option to vote by telephone or online.
- Provide electors with the option to vote by proxy.
- Upon request, provide electors with the opportunity to vote from anywhere at the Voter Assistance Locations (including curbside) utilizing cellular-enabled tablets.
- Upon request, elections staff at the Voter Assistance Locations will assist the elector with voting or reading the ballot.

- Enable voters to swear an oath if they are unable to provide the required identification and/or documentation with a signature.

Recruitment and Selection of Election Workers

- Provide training and reference materials for all elections staff, including:
 - How to interact and communicate with persons with various types of disabilities.
 - How to interact with persons who use assistive devices or require the assistance of a service animal or support person.
 - What to do if a person is having difficulty accessing election information or services.
- Ensure the worker's manual and/or other relevant materials are available in a format accessible to the individual, upon request.

Assistance for Candidates

- Ensure the candidate guide and/or other relevant publications are available in a format accessible to the individual upon request.
- Provide the Voters' List to candidates in an electronic format upon request.
- Provide accommodations and special information services upon request.

Review of Polling Locations

The following facilities will serve as polling locations during the 2026 County of Brant Municipal and School Board Elections. A review of each facility has been undertaken by Clerk's staff, and a description of the facility is included below, with an eye to describing any accessibility considerations.

During the selection of Voter Assistance Locations, priority was given to facilities that provide barrier-free access. However, given the County of Brant's expansive geographic area and the availability of suitable facilities, the geographic location of certain facilities was also a significant consideration.

Ward 1

Gaukel Memorial Community Centre (Advanced Polls and Election Day)

The Gaukel Memorial Community Centre is a County of Brant facility with ample parking, including designated accessible parking spaces, and an at-grade entrance with a slight incline. The Voter Assistance Location will be located on the ground floor in the Community Room.

Glen Morris Centennial Hall (Advanced Polls and Election Day)

The Glen Morris Centennial Hall is a private facility with ample parking. Accessible signs will be posted in parking spots nearest to the entranceway to provide accessible parking spaces. While this facility is not wheelchair accessible, elections staff will assist electors by bringing cellular-enabled tablets to the designated accessible parking spaces, allowing electors to access voting services from their vehicle.

Ward 2

Cowan Community Health Hub (Advanced Polls and Election Day)

The Cowan Community Health Hub is a Brant Municipal Enterprise owned facility with ample parking, including designated accessible parking spaces, and at-grade entryways. The Voter Assistance Location will be located in the Community Room. The Community Room may be accessed through the main lobby or via the side entrance located on the south side of the Cowan Community Health Hub.

North Ward School (Advanced Polls and Election Day)

North Ward School is a Grand Erie District School Board facility with low on-site parking, two designated accessible parking spaces, and an at-grade entrance. The Voter Assistance Location will be located within the gymnasium. This location will be used from October 24th to October 26th.

Sojourn Church (Advanced Polls Only)

The Sojourn Church is a private facility with ample parking and an at-grade entrance. The Voter Assistance Location will be located within the Music Room. This location will only be used from October 19th to October 23rd.

Ward 3

Brant Sports Complex (Advanced Polls and Election Day)

The Brant Sports Complex is a County of Brant facility with an at-grade entrance located on the west side of the building which leads to the Voter Assistance Location within the LaFarge Hall. The Brant Sports Complex features ample parking, including designated accessible parking spaces.

Cedarview Church (Advanced Polls and Election Day)

The Cedarview Church is a private facility with an at-grade entrance and ample parking, including designated accessible parking spaces. The Voter Assistance Location will be located within the JK/SK room.

County of Brant Paris Office - Gallagher Boardroom (Advanced Polls and Election Day)

The County of Brant Paris Office – Gallagher Boardroom has a one step entryway located on Lisa's Way, between the Rexall Pharmacy and County of Brant Paris Office. Ample parking is available in the municipal parking lot located behind the building, including designated accessible parking spaces. While this Voter Assistance Location is not wheelchair accessible, elections staff will assist electors by bringing cellular-enabled tablets to the designated accessible parking spaces, allowing electors to access voting services from their vehicle.

Ward 4

Burford Community Centre (Advanced Polls and Election Day)

The Burford Community Centre is a County of Brant facility with ample parking, including designated accessible parking spaces, and an at-grade entrance. The Voter Assistance Location will be located on the ground floor in the Mary Lowes Room.

Scotland Community Centre (Advanced Polls and Election Day)

The Scotland Community Centre is a County of Brant facility with ample parking, including designated accessible parking spaces, and an at-grade entrance. The Voter Assistance Location will be located within the gymnasium.

Ward 5

Airport Community Hall (Advanced Polls and Election Day)

The Airport Community Hall is a County of Brant facility with an accessible ramp located at the building entrance, and ample parking including designated accessible parking spaces.

Onondaga Community Hall (Advanced Polls and Election Day)

The Onondaga Community Hall is a County of Brant facility with an accessible ramp located at the building entrance and ample parking. Accessible signs will be posted in parking spots nearest to the entranceway to provide accessible parking spaces.

TF Warren Group Cainsville Community Centre (Advanced Polls and Election Day)

The TF Warren Group Cainsville Community Centre is a County of Brant facility with ample parking, including designated accessible parking spaces, and an at-grade entrance. The Voter Assistance Location will be located in the Renway Meeting Room.

Alternative Voting Locations

Alternative Voting Locations are County of Brant facilities which serve as locations where electors may vote without needing assistance. Elections staff will not be working these facilities. All County of Brant Public Library Branches will operate as Alternative Voting Locations within their regular business hours during the advanced polling period and will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. The Burford Customer Service Office – Reception Area and the Paris Customer Service Office – Reception Area will operate during their regular business hours during the advanced polling period and on Election Day.

County of Brant Burford Customer Service Office – Customer Service Counter (Advanced Polls and Election Day)

The County of Brant Burford Customer Service Office has an at-grade entrance and accessible parking spaces. The voting location will be set up within the front office reception area.

County of Brant Paris Customer Service Office – Customer Service Counter (Advanced Polls and Election Day)

The County of Brant Paris Customer Service Office has an at-grade entrance facing Grand River Street North, with ample parking is available in the municipal parking lot located behind the building, including designated accessible parking spaces. The voting location will be set up within the front office reception area.

County of Brant Public Library – Scotland-Oakland Branch (Advanced Polls and Election Day)

The County of Brant Public Library – Scotland-Oakland Branch has an at-grade entrance and one designated accessible parking space.

County of Brant Public Library – Burford Branch (Advanced Polls and Election Day)

The County of Brant Public Library – Burford Branch has an at-grade entrance and one designated accessible parking space.

County of Brant Public Library – Paris Branch (Advanced Polls and Election Day)

The County of Brant Public Library – Paris Branch has an at-grade and accessible parking located in the municipal lot on Broadway Street West.

County of Brant Public Library – Glen Morris Branch (Advanced Polls and Election Day)

The County of Brant Public Library – Glen Morris Branch has a gravel parking lot and is not wheelchair accessible.

County of Brant Public Library – St. George Branch (Advanced Polls and Election Day)

The County of Brant Public Library – St. George Branch has an at-grade entrance and one designated accessible parking space.

For further details on the accessibility of the County of Brant Public Library branches, please visit the County of Brant Public Library [website](#).

Hospital & Care Facilities

As per the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, County election staff will be working in partnership with the facilities' staff at the listed locations to help residents participate in the election. Arrangements have been made in advance to issue Voter Information Letters. Residents at the facilities will receive assistance from their aides.

The facilities that elections staff will be roving are the following locations:

- Park Lane Terrace
- Telfer Place
- Queensview Retirement Community
- Hardy Terrace
- Brucefield Manor

County elections staff have provided Brantford General Hospital staff with guidance on how to assist eligible electors participate in the election remotely.

Post-Election Report

Following the election, the Clerk will review the outcomes with the Accessibility Advisory Committee to identify opportunities for improvement and any additional barriers experienced during the election that may be addressed in future accessibility plans. Within 90 days following the election, the Clerk will report to Council on the outcomes and effectiveness of the Accessible Election Plan 2026.

The Clerk's post-election report will be available on the County of Brant website in an accessible format and distributed to disability groups and other stakeholders, upon request.

Feedback

Clerk's staff welcomes feedback, comments, or suggestions to identify areas where changes and improvements can be considered to improve the delivery of an accessible election. The feedback process enables the Clerk's Office to identify opportunities for improvement, identify training requirements, strengthen the delivery of election services, and ensure that accessible options are available to electors.

Please provide us with your feedback so that we may continuously improve the accessibility of the County of Brant Elections.

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