

2022 Municipal Election



Background

- Municipal elections are governed by the *Municipal Elections Act* (MEA), 1996
- The general principles under the MEA are:
 - the secrecy and confidentiality of the voting process is paramount;
 - the election shall be fair and non-biased;
 - the election shall be accessible to the voters;
 - the integrity of the voting process shall be maintained throughout the election;
 - there is to be certainty that the results of the election reflect the votes cast;
 - voters and candidates shall be treated fairly and consistently; and
 - the proper majority vote governs by ensuring that valid votes are counted and invalid votes are rejected so far as reasonably possible.

Elections 101

- In October, electors will vote for members of Council, regional chair and school board trustees.
- The City Clerk is responsible for the administration of municipal elections in the City of Burlington.
- You can vote if:
 - You are a Canadian citizen
 - You are at least 18 years old
 - You are not prohibited from voting under any law
 - You are a resident of Burlington (rent or own), or you or your spouse own or rent property in Burlington

Key Dates

- May 19, 2022 – Nominations open
- July 2022 – Recruitment process for election workers begins
- August 19, 2022 – Nomination day
- October 11-20, 2022 – Online Early Voting Period
- October 15 & 18, 2022 – In-person advance polls
- October 24, 2022 – Voting Day
- November 15, 2022 – New term of office begins

Voting Methods

- For the 2022 municipal election, electors will have different options to cast their ballot including online voting, in-person advance polls, proxy-voting and in-person voting locations on voting day
- Online voting will be offered over a ten-day period where electors can use their own devices such as a computer, tablet or smartphone to cast a vote independently.

Voting Methods cont'd

- In-person voting locations will have tools and trained staff to provide assistance to electors when requested.
- If an elector is unable to physically enter a location, election workers can provide curbside voting.
- Proxy voting will allow electors to appoint another person to vote on their behalf
- There will be voting opportunities in long-term care institutions and retirement homes on voting day.

Voting Locations

- The City of Burlington will have a total of 27 in-person voting locations including polling day polls and advance polls.
- All voting locations are inspected to ensure accessibility for all electors.
- Electors will be able to vote in any location in their ward.

2022 Accessibility Plan

- The City of Burlington is committed to providing electors and candidates with disabilities equal access to all election information and services.
- The 2022 Accessibility Plan provides an overview of initiatives for the upcoming election, aimed at improving accessibility for voters and candidates during an election.
- The main objective of the plan is to identify and eliminate barriers for persons with disabilities to ensure the election is accessible for all.

2022 Accessibility Plan cont'd

- The plan is organized into key areas such as: consultation, voting locations, voting methods, communication and access to information, and recruitment and training.
- In accordance with the MEA, the Clerk will prepare a report withing 90 days after voting day about the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors with disabilities and will make this report available to the public. The report will examine the effectiveness of accessibility initiatives proposed in this plan.

Accessibility Plan Highlights

- Consultation
 - This key area was considered to ensure stakeholders have input into the accessibility plan. This is a living document and is updated as feedback is received and considered. The plan was presented to BAAC on June 9th and will be shared with BSAC.
- Voting Locations
 - The Act states that each voting location must be accessible to all electors. Site inspections were conducted for all proposed voting locations prior to finalizing the list of voting locations. For any locations prior with accessibility concerns, remediation plans will be put into place to address any issues prior to Voting Day.

Accessibility Plan Highlights cont'd

- Voting Methods
 - The City will provide electors with various methods to cast their vote including online voting, in-person advance polls, proxy voting and in-person accessible voting locations on Voting day including polls in institutions such as long-term care and retirement homes.
- Communication and Access to Information
 - The Election Team will ensure that election information is available online in clear and simple language and that it is continuously updated to reflect the most recent developments and information. Election Information will be provided in alternate formats upon request and information about voting options will be clearly communicated to electors and candidates.

Accessibility Highlights cont'd

- Recruitment and Training
 - All election workers will receive training to ensure they are able to provide accessible customer service and are well equipped to assist all electors. Accessibility training will be a mandatory component of election training, and election workers will gain an understanding about the services and accommodations available to assist all electors.
 - Election workers will also be provided with an opportunity to indicate any accommodations they may require to work on advance polls or Voting Day to ensure an inclusive experience.

Voters List

- Your name must be on the voters list in order for you to cast a ballot. The voters list for each municipal election is prepared from data kept by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC).
- Adding Your Name to the Voters' List
 - You can check to see if MPAC has your information in its database at **voterlookup.ca**. You can also call them at 1-866-296-MPAC (6722) or TTY: 1-877-889-MPAC (6722).
- The Voters List Becomes official on September 1
- After September 1, you will be able to check if you are on the voters list and make changes directly through the City until the close of voting on Election Day to apply for any changes.

Identification

- When you go to vote you must show identification that shows your name and Burlington address. Photo identification is not required. Examples of identification include:
 - Ontario driver's license
 - Ontario health card (if your name and address are printed on the card)
 - mortgage, lease or rental agreement
 - bill for hydro, water, gas, telephone, Internet
 - any other document included on [Ontario's acceptable documents for voter identification list](#)
- A Canadian passport is not an acceptable identification document because you write your address inside your passport yourself.

Communication and Engagement

- Corporate Communications have developed a number of tactics to support the 2022 municipal election.
- These include dedicated election site, media releases, digital ads, engagement events, social media and print (including newspaper ads, posters, City Talk and direct mail post cards)
- Dedicated election site: myvoteburlington.ca
- The summer City Talk issue coming out in July will have election information.
- Posters and white board notices at the Seniors Centre
- Read-o-graphs at City facilities

Get Involved

- Working the election is a great way to get involved.
- We are looking to fill almost 150 roles externally
- Job descriptions are available on the election site at myvoteburlington.ca
- Applications can be submitted online.
- Election workers will have the opportunity to indicate any accommodations they may require to work.

Additional Information

- More information is available on the election site: myvoteburlington.ca
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Voter's Guide: <https://www.ontario.ca/document/2022-voters-guide-ontario-municipal-council-and-school-board-elections>
- Contact the Elections Team: elections@burlington.ca

Questions?