



SUBJECT: 2022 municipal election accessibility report

TO: Corporate Services, Strategy, Risk & Accountability Cttee.

FROM: Office of the City Clerk

Report Number: CL-02-23

Wards Affected: all

File Numbers: 165-16

Date to Committee: January 9, 2023

Date to Council: January 24, 2023

Recommendation:

Receive and file office of the city clerk report CL-02-23 regarding the 2022 municipal election accessibility report attached as Appendix A.

PURPOSE:

Vision to Focus Alignment:

- Building more citizen engagement, community health and culture
- Deliver customer centric services with a focus on efficiency and technology transformation

Background and Discussion:

The 2022 Municipal Election Accessibility Report, attached as Appendix A, provides a review of the accessibility initiatives undertaken during the election to improve access for voters and candidates.

Section 12.1(3) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, (the Act), states that the clerk must provide a report 90 days after Voting Day regarding the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors with disabilities.

Strategy/process

The 2022 Municipal Election Accessibility plan reviews the proposed initiatives in the 2022 Accessibility Plan and provides areas for improvement for the 2026 election. The team continuously strives to gather feedback from the community on how to further improve election accessibility in Burlington. Whereas this report focuses on accessibility, a fulsome debrief report on the election, as well as recommendations for improvement for 2026 is anticipated for the March/April meeting cycle.

Financial Matters:

Not applicable

Total Financial Impact

Any accessibility remediations that were required were funded through the election budget.

Source of Funding

Election reserve is provided to support the election costs. Each year there is an annual contribution of \$160,000

Other Resource Impacts

Not applicable.

Climate Implications

Not applicable

Engagement Matters:

The 2022 Municipal Election Accessibility Plan was presented to the Burlington Accessibility Advisory Committee on June 9, 2022 and feedback received was implemented during the election. Suggestions and further feedback from the Accessibility Coordinator as well as the Burlington Seniors Advisory Committee received on June 27, 2022 were incorporated into planning and implementation for the 2022 election.

Post-election survey was completed by voting location site supervisors and the survey for the public and other election officials is still open until December 23, 2022.

Feedback gathered through those surveys will be addressed and utilized in planning for 2026 to ensure accessibility is further improved. Additionally, the Election Team continues to gather feedback and will engage the community in consultations as the 2026 municipal election planning progresses.

Conclusion:

The 2022 Municipal Election Accessibility Report reviews the initiatives that were implemented to ensure the election was an accessible one for electors and candidates. The election team identified areas for improvement and will continue to engage with the community as planning for the 2026 election progresses.

Respectfully submitted,

Aleksandra Hutchison
Elections Officer
(905) 335-7600 ext. 7957

Appendices:

A. 2022 Municipal Election Accessibility Report

Report Approval:

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, the Chief Financial Officer and the Executive Director of Legal Services & Corporation Counsel.