

VOTE

October 22

2018 Election Accessibility Plan

Toronto Accessibility Advisory
Committee

City Hall, Committee Room #1

April 19th, 2018

Toronto's Municipal Election

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- Fourth largest municipal election in North America
 - Over 1.8 million eligible electors
 - Over 1,700 voting locations
 - Over 15,000 people will be hired
- Elections and by-elections are administered under the Municipal Elections Act
- The Municipal Elections Act provides independence and discretion to the Clerk for all elections

Election Accessibility Plan

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- In 2010, the Municipal Elections Act required the Clerk to prepare a plan regarding the identification, removal, and prevention of barriers that affect voters and candidates with disabilities.
- The Plan is a living document that has been developed with input from persons with disabilities, and the organizations that represent them.

[Link to the 2018 Election Accessibility Plan](#)

Public Consultation

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- Accessibility Outreach Network
- Workgroups
- Special consultations

Communication & Information

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- Provide election information in alternate formats and using various channels
- Leverage partnerships to disseminate election information and reach people with a range of disabilities across Toronto
- Outreach at events
- MyVote

Candidates

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- Accessibility for candidates with disabilities
 - Resources available in accessible formats
 - Information sessions for candidates are held in accessible locations
 - Accommodation statement is included in communications that promote information sessions
- Information to support accessible campaigning
 - Accessibility information and messaging is incorporated into candidate information sessions
 - Resources on accessibility are included in candidates' packages and online tools

Voting Places

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- Voting place inspections and modifications
- Accessibility Officers
- Preliminary list of voting places are posted online in advance for public input

Accessible Customer Service

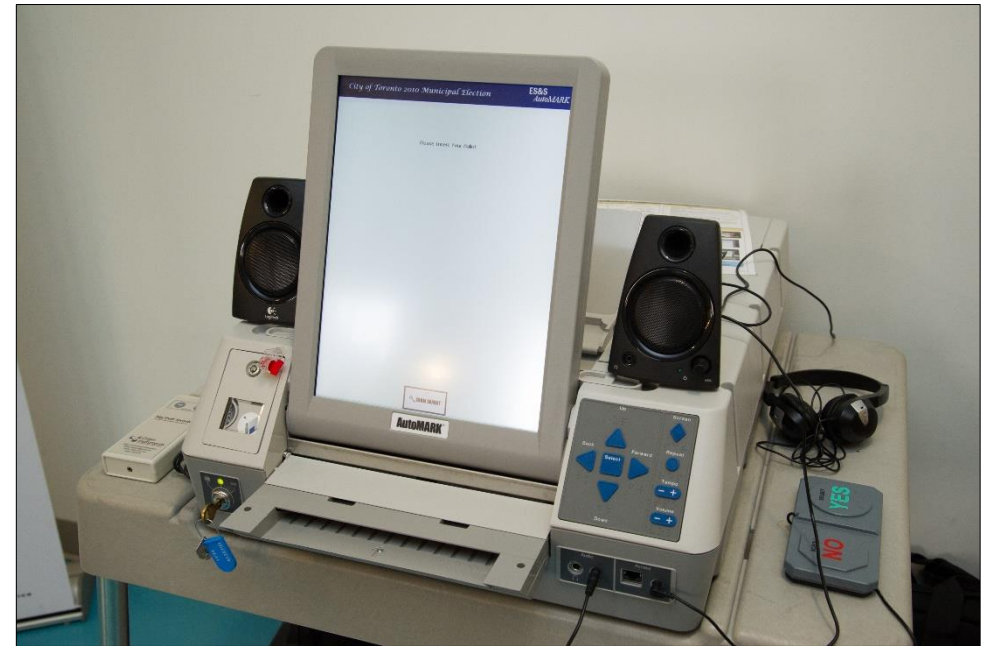
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- Accessibility training and resources provided to all election staff
- Recruitment of persons with disabilities to support training of Accessibility Officers and Information Officers
- Dedicated e-mail and phone line
- Voter Assist Terminal instructional videos and demos

Voting Options

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- Voter Assist Terminals
- Ballot Transfer
- Proxy Voting
- Curbside Voting
- Personal assistance to voters
- Voting places in long-term care, retirement homes, and shelters
- Pilot home-voting program



Home Visit Pilot Program

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- The home visit pilot program is an alternative voting method where election officials bring a ballot to the voter to allow them to vote from home.
- Eligibility criteria:
 - Must be an eligible elector in City of Toronto elections; and
 - Unable to attend a voting place without unreasonable difficulty due to injury, illness, or disability.

Legislative Framework

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- Section 42 of the Municipal Elections Act authorizes the use of alternative voting methods that do not require electors to attend a voting place in order to vote.
- In April 2017, City Council passed by-law 422-2017 authorizing the use of home visit voting as an alternative voting method for home-bound electors for municipal elections in the City of Toronto.
- The Municipal Elections Act requires the City Clerk to establish procedures for the use of any alternative voting method authorized by by-law.

[Link to Home Visit Pilot Program Procedures](#)

Program Overview

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- Program will run during the 9-day advance vote period and will serve approximately 900 electors across the City.
- Voters can register by phone or e-mail between September 4th October 5th.
- Home Visits will be conducted by teams of two Election Officials (Home Visit Officers) and ballots will be securely sealed using double envelopes.

Internet Voting

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- In 2013, City Council requested the City Clerk to investigate the implementation of Internet voting in the 2014 election.
- After extensive research and consultation with security experts, the Clerk recommended City Council not proceed with Internet voting as there is currently no system that is fully accessible and can guarantee security, ballot secrecy and vote integrity.
- City Council adopted this recommendation at its meeting on December 1, 2016.

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Questions