

Use of electronic communication and photographic devices at a voting place	City Clerk's Office – Toronto Elections
	Policy No.: POL-ELER-003

1. Policy

To maintain the secrecy of the vote, the City Clerk prohibits the use of electronic communication and/or photographic devices at the voting place by electors, scrutineers and candidates, except when used as an assistive device: for example, to communicate with Elections Officials, to magnify or increase text size on written materials, to scan written materials to translate or convert to speech or, to show acceptable identification and/or the Voter Information Card.

Identification is accepted in whichever format it was first issued. In the case of documents issued electronically (such as e-statements or e-invoices), a printed copy, photo or online version shown on a mobile device are accepted. Photocopies, photos or scanned versions of documents that were not issued electronically (such as drivers' licences) are not accepted.

Designated election officials may use electronic communication and/or photographic devices for election purposes only when necessary and after receiving approval from the Managing Deputy Returning Officer or Deputy Returning Officer. When possible, staff should leave the voting place to use these devices.

2. Application

This policy applies to election officials designated by the City Clerk, electors, scrutineers, and candidates during City of Toronto municipal elections and/or by-elections. For information on media refer to the City Clerk's policy on *Media attendance at a voting place*.

3. Authority/Legislative reference(s)

Section 49 of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 states that every person present at a voting place or at the counting of votes shall help to maintain the secrecy of the voting, and outlines a number of offences relating to interfering with or revealing the marking of a ballot.

Section 12 of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 states that the City Clerk may provide for any matter or procedure that is not otherwise provided for in an Act or regulation and that, in their opinion, is necessary or desirable for conducting the election.

Date Approved: June 2022