



TOWNSHIP OF
Southwold

2022 Post Election Accessibility Report

This is a report from the Clerk regarding the identification, removal, and prevention of barriers relating to electors and candidates with disabilities as described under section 12.1(3) of the

Municipal Elections Act in relation to the 2022 municipal election that took place in the Township of Southwold on Monday, October 24, 2022.

The 2022 municipal election was for the following offices:

Office of Mayor – One Position

Office of Deputy Mayor – One Position

Office of Councillor – Three Positions

School Board Trustee – Thames Valley District School Board – Two Positions

School Board Trustee – London District Catholic School Board – One Position

School Board Trustee – Conseil Scolaire Viamonde – One Position

School Board Trustee – Conseil Scolaire Catholique Providence – One Position

Under the Municipal Elections Act, the Clerk is responsible for the proper legislative and administrative conduct of municipal elections in the Township of Southwold. In compliance with the Act, the Clerk is making available to the public this report on accessibility initiatives.

Applicable Sections of the Municipal Elections Act

Electors and candidates with disabilities

12.1(1) A clerk who is responsible for conducting an election shall have regard to the needs of electors and candidates with disabilities.

Plan re barriers

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.

Report

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.

In an effort to make the 2022 municipal election in the Township of Southwold accessible to electors and candidates, the Clerk established a number of initiatives to ensure compliance with the Act.

Under the Act, the Clerk may provide for any matter or procedure that in the Clerk's opinion is necessary or desirable for conducting the election, including the establishment of procedures to ensure that persons with disabilities had the opportunity to participate fully in the 2022 municipal election. The Clerk used the following parameters in establishing the **2022 Municipal Election Accessibility Plan**:

1. Electors and candidates with disabilities have full and equal access to all election information and services.
2. Persons with disabilities have full access to voting places.
3. Persons with disabilities are able to independently and privately mark their ballot and have access to alternative methods of voting assistance.

Solicited feedback from staff, candidates and others involved in the election

The new Township website ensured the election information provided to candidates and voters was accessible

Information was provided to all candidates about accessibility through the candidate information package

Candidates were advised about the availability of information in alternative formats, but there were not any requests

Candidate meeting was held in an accessible location

Utilized Vote-by-Mail to minimize or eliminate many of the physical accessibility barriers to voting as voters could vote from their home with their usual supports

In addition to return mail, ballots could be dropped off at the Municipal office, which is accessible and staffed by employees with familiarity and training to assist voters

Vote-by-mail required fewer election staff than a traditional voting polls. Election officials were comprised of existing staff which have training in accessibility matters

In accordance with Section 12.1(2) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 as amended, this report will be made available publicly on the Township Website and provided in alternative formats upon request.

Jeff Carswell
Clerk
Township of Southwold