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Post-Election Accessibility Report

2026 Municipal Election

Background

In accordance with section 12.1(3) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, the Clerk shall provide a report, within 90 days after voting day in a regular election, about the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with accessibility needs.

This report outlines the various initiatives undertaken during the 2026 Municipal Election regarding the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities.

Accessibility Reporting Requirements

This report will be available to the public and posted on the Township's website.

Staff prepared an Election Accessibility Plan which was provided to the County of Haliburton's Accessibility Advisory Committee for review and comment. In accordance with section 12.1(2) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, this plan was available prior to and during the election.

Accessible Election Initiatives

Voting Technology:

- Electronic Voting was implemented as the voting method which allowed for electors to vote, from October 16 starting at 9:00 AM to Monday, October 26 at 8:00 PM, using the Internet or telephone from the comfort of their own resolving barriers for those with disabilities. VOATZ was the Township's voting provider.
- Voatz voting platform (the Internet and telephone voting service provider) provided for voters to easily access the voting application without the need to install any software to use the system. The voting interfaces were highly user-friendly and intuitive solution that could be utilized on any modern Internet-connected device (PC, laptop, smartphone, and tablet) with a web browser.
- All Voatz voting interfaces were developed taking into consideration accessibility standards and usability guidelines to facilitate the voting process for everyone.
- Voatz web interface was WCAG 2.0 AA compliant to assist visually impaired users and supports the use of screen-magnifiers, screen-readers, and other assistive devices.

Voter Help and Revision Centres

- A Help/Revision Center was open Monday to Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Township's Administration Office.
- A Help/Revision Centre was also available at the Dorset Recreation Centre
- The Help/Revisions Centres were accessible with an accessible ramp and entrance way.
- An accessible washroom was available near the front entrance of both locations.
- The Help/Revision Centres were equipped with a voting kiosk for those who wished to vote at the office, required internet access, and/or required assistance to vote.
- The Help/Revision Centres were equipped with a tablet which was to provide a voting method for an elector that wished to remain in their vehicle to vote or preferred to use a tablet. Trained staff would take the tablet to the voter if requested.
- Staff were trained to assist electors if they required assistance to vote at the Help and Revision Centres and trained in accessible customer service.
- Help/Revision Centers were open on Saturdays in the Council Chambers on October 17, and at the Dorset Recreation Centre on October 24, 2026 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM and from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM on Voting Day.
- There were designated accessible parking spaces available at the Help and Revision Centres.
- Doors to the Help and Revision Centres are hardware accessible and were clearly marked.
- Trained staff were available to assist electors with mobility issues or required assistance.
- All entrance ways and voting areas at the Help and Revision Centres were able to accommodate mobility aids.
- The Help and Revision Centre was well lit.
- Floor mats were present at all locations to prevent slipping.
- Seating was available at the Help and Revision Centres for electors to sit during waiting times. Chairs with and without arms were also available.

Communications and Outreach

- The Clerk prepared a communications Plan commencing January 2026 to October 26, 2026. Election information was communicated through various channels including two tax bill inserts, emails,

Township website, social media (Facebook, twitter, Instagram), local radio stations, the local newspapers, election information postings at the Township Office and Dorset Recreation Centre
- Instructional videos were placed on the Township's website to assist voters.
- For election related inquiries or feedback, all residents were able to contact the Clerk's Department via telephone, in person or through email.
- All information could be made available to candidates and voters in alternate formats upon request.

Voters' List Revisions:

- Electors were able to call, email, utilize an online portal or attend the Municipal Office to confirm their information was correct on the Voter's List.
- The Township offered electronic submission of forms for Voter's List revisions (email and online voter registration).
- The Township advertised from January 2026 to August 12. 2026 Elections Ontario voter registry which was produced and managed by Elections Ontario which allowed electors to search if they were on the voters' list and to make corrections/revisions and add themselves to the list.
- The Township advertised from August to October 26, 2026 a voter registry that was produced by Datafix and managed by the Clerk which allowed electors to search if they were on the voters' list and to make an application to add themselves to the list or request corrections/revisions to their information.

Conclusion

The Township of Algonquin Highlands was committed to making the 2026 Municipal Election accessible to electors by identifying, removing, and preventing barriers that affect electors with disabilities.

The Township is committed to making Municipal Elections accessible and will continue to review existing policies and practices to identify, remove and prevent barriers that affect electors and candidates with accessibility needs.

Election Feedback

Should a member of the public wish to provide feedback regarding Election accessibility they can do so by contacting the Clerk by the following methods:

- In person to Clerk/Returning Officer, or designate, at the Municipal Office Building 1123 North Shore Road, Algonquin Highlands; or
- By telephone: 705-489-2379; or
- By Fax: 705-489-3491; or
- By mail at 1123 North Shore Road, Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0; or
- By E-mail: info@algonquinhighlands.ca

Dawn Newhook,
Clerk/Deputy CAO/Returning Officer 2026 Municipal Election Dated this 19th day of November, 2026.