



Township of Oro-Medonte

2026 Accessible Election Plan

A. Purpose

The Township of Oro-Medonte is committed to ensuring that all voters can participate fully, independently and with dignity in the electoral process by making every aspect of the election process accessible to all electors in accordance with the Township's Accessibility Plan and the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (AODA).

B. Definitions

Accessible formats means any format that enables a person with a disability to access election information; such as, large print, electronic text, audio, or other formats agreed upon between the requester and the election official.

Assistive device means any device used by a person with a disability to aid in communication, mobility or other functions.

Barrier-Free Election means an election in which all electors, candidates and staff, including those with disabilities can access election information and services independently and without barriers.

Candidate means an individual who has filed their nomination papers and are registered to run for office in the municipal election.

Clerk means the municipal official responsible for the legislative and administrative conduct of the election.

Communications means the interaction between two or more persons or entities, or any combination of them, where information is provided, sent or received.

Council means the Council for The Corporation of The Township of Oro-Medonte.

Customer Service means the manner in which goods or services are provided both internally and externally by the Township; i.e. responsiveness, professionalism, attention to detail, effective communication, removal of barriers, required assistance, etc.

Disability means any physical, sensory, intellectual, mental health or other condition that may affect a person's ability to access election information or services independently and privately.

Elector means any person who is eligible to vote in an election.

Election means the process of a public vote to select a person(s) for municipal or school board office.

Employees means every person who deals with members of the public or other third parties on behalf of the Township, whether the person is authorized to do so as an employee, agent, volunteer or otherwise.

Voter Help Centre means a designated location that provides in-person assistance and accessible voting services throughout the election process.

Information means inclusion of data, facts and knowledge that exists in any format, including text, audio, digital or images, and that conveys meaning.

Internet Voting means a voting method allowing electors to cast their ballot online using a secure platform, compatible with personal assistive devices and accessibility settings.

Personal assistive device means an assistive device that those with a disability may bring with them, such as a walker or a personal oxygen tank, which aid in their day-to-day functions.

Service Animal means an animal trained to assist a person with a disability in performing daily tasks.

Support person means an individual accompanying a person with a disability to provide assistance during the election process.

Township means The Corporation of The Township of Oro-Medonte.

Temporary Service Disruption means an unplanned interruption to the delivery of election information or services for which the Clerk must provide public notice and alternative access methods.

Telephone Voting means a voting method allowing electors to cast their ballot using a secure telephone system, compatible with assistive devices and offering keypad or voice-command voting options.

Voting Assistance means support provided by Voter Help Centre staff or a support person to enable a person with a disability to vote independently and privately.

C. Clerk Responsibilities and Legislative Requirements

The Clerk is responsible for ensuring the proper legislative and administrative conduct for the municipal election.

Under Section 12.1 of the Municipal Elections Act (MEA):

Subsection (1): The Clerk must consider the needs of electors and candidates with disabilities.

Subsection (2): The Clerk must prepare a plan to identify, remove, and prevent barriers affecting electors and candidates with disabilities and make the plan publicly available before voting day (or voting period).

Subsection (3): Within 90 days after voting day, the Clerk must submit a report to Council outlining measures taken to identify, remove, and prevent such barriers.

The Township of Oro-Medonte 2026 election will be conducted in a manner that ensures that all candidates and electors with disabilities have full and equal access to election information and services, including Voter Help Centres, the ability to vote independently and privately, with assistance available, if requested.

D. Authority of the Clerk

The Clerk has the authority to amend all election plans, policies and procedures as required.

E. Voting Methods

Intelivote Systems Inc. will work with the Township to provide eVoting services to eligible voters for the 2026 Township of Oro-Medonte Municipal and School Board Election. eVoting provides Voter's with the convenience and independence of voting from anywhere, including the comfort of their own home, via internet or telephone making this a fully accessible election.

Everyday tools like computers, telephones and other devices present accessible opportunities for persons with disabilities to accomplish more, while being consistent with the principles of independence, dignity, integration and equal opportunity.

Voting from any location and via a selection of methods, provides persons with disabilities the same independence and privacy in participating in the election as other voters. If persons with disabilities do require assistance in the voting process, trained Election Officials will be present at the two Voter Help Centres located within the Township of Oro-Medonte, throughout the voting period.

Internet Voting:

Eligible voters may vote online, using a smart phone, tablet, gaming device or computer and any accompanying assistive devices or software, along with their date of birth, PIN and qualifying information to access the internet address provided in their Voter Information Letter.

- The Internet Voting System has been created to meet the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG-2 Level AA), so that all persons can perceive, understand, navigate, and interact with the online voting system.
- It is compliant with the guidelines of the World Wide Web Consortium website principles, which include organization, functionality and readability of information provided, as well as alternative ways of representing information, such as with an audio option.
- Provides options to adjust font size and colour scheme to improve accessibility.

Telephone Voting:

Eligible voters may vote using a touch-tone telephone, and the toll-free telephone number, date of birth, and PIN number contained in their Voter Information Letter to access an audio ballot.

The Intelivote telephone voting application provides the following:

- Secure voting via all touch tone phones, including landline or cell phones, compatible with assistive devices.
- Uses clear, plain language
- Voters can use keypad or voice commands to submit selections provided through menu options that are easy to follow, advising electors when to select options and provision of confirmation of the voter's selections confirmed back to the elector.
- Standard volume is used to allow for adjustment dependent on the telephone or device being utilized.

- Maximizes privacy, independence, and accessibility for electors that do not have internet access, a computer, or who are unfamiliar and/or uncomfortable with computer technology.

Internet and Telephone voting provides eligible electors with the ability to vote anytime during the thirteen (13) day voting period which will run from Wednesday, October 14, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. to Monday, October 26, 2026 at 8:00 p.m.

Voter Help Centres

Electors who do not have access to voting via telephone or internet, or who may require assistance may visit the Voter Help Centres available to provide in-person internet and telephone voting opportunities via a touch screen tablet, laptop computer or telephone.

Eligible voters who have not received a Voter Information Letter and are **not** on the Voters' List may attend one of the Voter Help Centres and be added to the Voters' List by completing an "Application to Amend Voters' List". Please note: Proof of identity and residence as prescribed in O. Reg. 304/13 will be required. Once the form is complete the elector's names will be added to the Voters' List, and the elector will be assigned and provided with voter information and credentials to cast their ballot.

While we encourage Voter's to take full advantage of the ability to vote from anywhere. Voter Help Centres will be open during the voting period for those eligible electors who may require assistance or wish to cast their electronic vote in-person via the provided technology. The Voter Help Centres dates and times of operation are as follows:

Township Administration Centre (148 Line 7 S.)

- Weekdays from October 14 to 23, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Thursday, October 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, October 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Monday, October 26, 2026 Election Day from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Simcoe Woods Community Centre (737 Horseshoe Valley Rd W.)

- Weekdays from October 14 to 23, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Saturday, October 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Thursday, October 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Monday, October 26, 2026 Election Day from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Voter Help Centre locations, dates and times, are also provided on the Township's election webpage and social media platforms.

Accessibility features for both Voter Help Centres include:

- Parking: Accessible parking spaces clearly marked.
- Entrance: Barrier free entrances that allow those with a mobile assistive device to enter freely and provide the ability to clearly navigate to the entrance point from the parking area.
- Interior: One level access to a well-lit voting area that is easily accessible via wheelchair or other mobile assistive device.
- Resting Area: Seating available.
- Voting Booths: Accessible booths that are low and wide enough to enable wheelchair or other mobile assistive device to move freely.
- Voting Equipment: Touch screen tablet, and/or laptop computer; ability to enlarge the print on the device for independent use.
- Exterior: Voter Help Centre location(s) shall be clearly marked, well-lit and visible.

Voter Help Centre Assistance for Electors:

- Electors may be accompanied by a support person.
- Election officials will be available at the Voter Help Centre to assist as needed or requested, determining the level and method of support required in concert with the elector.
- There is currently one institution that meets the requirements under section 45.7(2) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended and as per the requirements, staff will attend this institution during the voting period, ensuring that all residents at the institution have an opportunity to vote.
- All election officials are sworn to maintain voter secrecy.

Voting Method Procedures

Detailed Internet and Telephone Voting procedures are available and accessible on the election webpage or from the Clerk's Office by request. Alternative formats shall also be available upon request.

Electors may contact election staff for:

- Accessible versions of Voter Information Letters.

- Assistance with voting or accessing election services.

Election Assistance for Candidates

- Candidates requiring accessible election information or services may contact the Clerk's Office.
- Detailed election procedures are available in alternative formats upon request.
- Dedicated election staff are available to support barrier-free participation.

Election Staff Accessibility Training

All election officials will have completed:

1. Accessible Customer Service Training
2. Election-specific training on accommodating electors and candidates with disabilities.

Training Topics Include:

- Effective communication with persons with various disabilities.
- Interaction with persons using assistive devices, support persons, or service animals.
- Clear instructions for internet and telephone voting.
- Procedures for addressing difficulties accessing election information or services.
- How to provide voter assistance when requested.

Provision of Election Information in Accessible Formats

- Election information will be provided in alternative formats, as agreed upon between the requester and the Clerk.
- Notices regarding the availability of alternative formats will be posted on the Township's election webpage www.oro-medonte.ca/elections and communicated via the social media pages.

Communication of Temporary Service Disruptions

If election information or services are temporarily disrupted, the Clerk will:

- Notify the public via the Township's election webpage and local/social media.
- Include the reason, expected duration, and alternative methods for accessing information or services.
- Make every effort to ensure persons with disabilities can access election information and services during the disruption.

To Request Election Assistance

- Election staff are available throughout the election year and during the voting period to provide assistance. Options to request assistance are outlined below:
 - Telephone: 705-487-4029
 - Email: elections@oro-medonte.ca
 - In Person: Township Administration Centre, 148 Line 7 South, Oro-Medonte, ON L0L 2E0 any time or Simcoe Woods Community Centre when open during the voting period.
 - Regular Mail: Clerk, Township of Oro-Medonte, 148 Line 7 South, Oro-Medonte, ON, L0L 2E0

Feedback on Accessible Election Improvements

Feedback is encouraged to enhance accessible election services. This plan is a living document and will be updated as required.

Feedback may be submitted via:

- Telephone: 705-487-4029
- Email: elections@oro-medonte.ca
- [Accessibility Feedback Form](#) on the Township's Accessibility Webpage
- In Person: Township Administration Centre, 148 Line 7 South, Oro-Medonte, ON L0L 2E0
- Regular Mail: Clerk, Township of Oro-Medonte, 148 Line 7 South, Oro-Medonte, ON, L0L 2E0

Additional Resources

[Township of Oro-Medonte Accessibility Webpage](#)

[Township of Oro-Medonte Election Webpage](#)

Candidates

Each candidate shall be provided with the Province of Ontario's Candidates Guide to Accessible Elections.

The use of service animals and support persons shall be accepted at both Voter Help Centre locations.

If requested, the elector shall be permitted to vote with assistance as provided in the Municipal Elections Act by having the person to assist swear an Affidavit of Secrecy.

To allow an eligible elector to vote, a Deputy Returning Officer shall attend to the elector anywhere within the area designated as the election Voter Help Centre, if required.

Feedback from our electors gives the Clerk opportunities to learn and improve the voting process with regard to accessibility. The Township recognizes the right of our electors to make a complaint, compliment or suggestion on ways to improve our election services.

To assist the Township of Oro-Medonte in ensuring that the delivery of goods and services to those with disabilities is provided in an effective and timely manner, the elector is invited to provide their feedback in writing in accordance with the Township's Accessibility Policy's [Accessible Customer Service Feedback Comment Form](#), which is available on the Township's website or available upon request through a staff member.

The municipal election process shall be conducted in accordance with the Multi-year Accessibility Plan and AODA Standards.