

Attachment 1

Recommendation from AAC elections sub-committee

April 6, 2021

The AAC elections sub-committee is encouraged by the Clerk's office in their request to understand the barriers to voting methods for municipal elections. The following recommendation is from the AAC Elections Sub-committee and addressed to the AAC.

Motion: The AAC sub-committee recommend that the AAC recommend to the City that they offer mail in voting with an electronic ballot marking option as the first and foremost to accommodate people with disabilities to participate in the 2022 municipal election. Which could include:

- Increase operating hours of local libraries during election for use of computers to mark their ballots; and
- Make printing from local libraries available and free of charge to print ballots completing the voting process.

Further, supplementary options that may accommodate some people who cannot use an electronic ballot marking system should include, vote from home and traditional vote by mail.

These options should be implemented so that there is respect for the reality that accessibility needs vary and take into account that:

- COVID-19/post-pandemic concerns related to physical distancing need to be respected,
- City employees/volunteers receive prior training by Accessibility Services for communicating with those that have communication difficulties,
- Translation can be promoted and available by request (including Braille, ASL and ESL),
- Scheduled contact-less drop off of voter's packages (in mailbox, front steps, front door):
 - By appointment only,
 - Hand sanitizer and personal protective equipment required,
 - Coordinate pick up and drop off over the phone (ballot drop off and completed ballot pick up),
 - Make phone assistance available so voters can receive step-by-step instructions without person to person contact, while the ballot is in front of them:
 - Such as but not limited to: Read ballot options to voter over the phone.
- Prepare step-by-step visual video to be emailed as a tool for voters using vote from home to maintain contact-less communication; and
- Ballot pick up option (contactless pick up).

Motion by: Lorelei

Seconded: Brooke and Ted

Carried