

2026 Election: Alternative Voting Methods and Accessible Service Enhancements

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Agenda / Overview

1. 2023 AAC Engagement Road Map
 2. Comparator municipalities
 3. Types of voting methods
 - Engagement results
 4. Types of voting enhancements
 - Engagement results
 5. Stakeholders engaged
 6. Decision-making criteria
 7. AAC Feedback and Recommended Motion
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2023 AAC Engagement Road Map

April 2023: We met with you to hear about the voting methods and service enhancements for the Clerk's Office to investigate

August 2023: We are touching base today to present the research findings and decision-making criteria for voting methods and accessible service enhancement

Late September or Early October 2023: Workshop with the AAC to engage and receive feedback on all voting methods and accessible voting service enhancement options

October 2023: Presentation of findings and feedback received from the AAC following the workshop. Staff will request a collective AAC motion with final recommendations to Staff and Council

Comparator Municipalities

- Oakville
- Chatham-Kent
- Hamilton
- Kingston
- Kitchener
- Mississauga
- Greater Sudbury
- Cambridge
- Barrie
- Burlington
- Ottawa
- Vaughan
- Toronto

Voting methods, we asked about:

- Internet voting
- Vote from home
- Vote by mail
- Vote by phone
- Remote Accessible Vote by Mail (RAVBM)

What we heard – Voting Methods

- Internet Voting – Six (6) municipalities
- Vote from Home – Four (4) municipalities
- Vote by Mail – Three (3) municipalities
- Vote by Phone – Two (2) municipalities
- Remote Accessible Vote by Mail – Zero (0) municipalities



Voting enhancements, we asked about:

- Accessible voting equipment
 - Sip and puff
 - Paddles
 - Audio Tactile Interface
 - Magnifying sheets
 - Braille sleeves
 - ASL interpretation
 - Masked location
 - Scent-free location
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What we heard – voting enhancements:


- Accessible Voting Equipment – Thirteen (13) municipalities
- Magnifying Sheets – Thirteen (13) municipalities
- Braille Sleeves – Three (3) municipalities
- ASL Interpretation – Two (2) municipalities
- Masked Locations – Three (3) municipalities
- Scent-Free Location – Zero (0) municipalities

**Additional
options
noted during
engagement**

- Mobile voting location “Vote Van”
- Curbside Voting
- Voter Assist Terminals
- ExpressVote Machines

Community Stakeholders Engaged

We have reached out to:

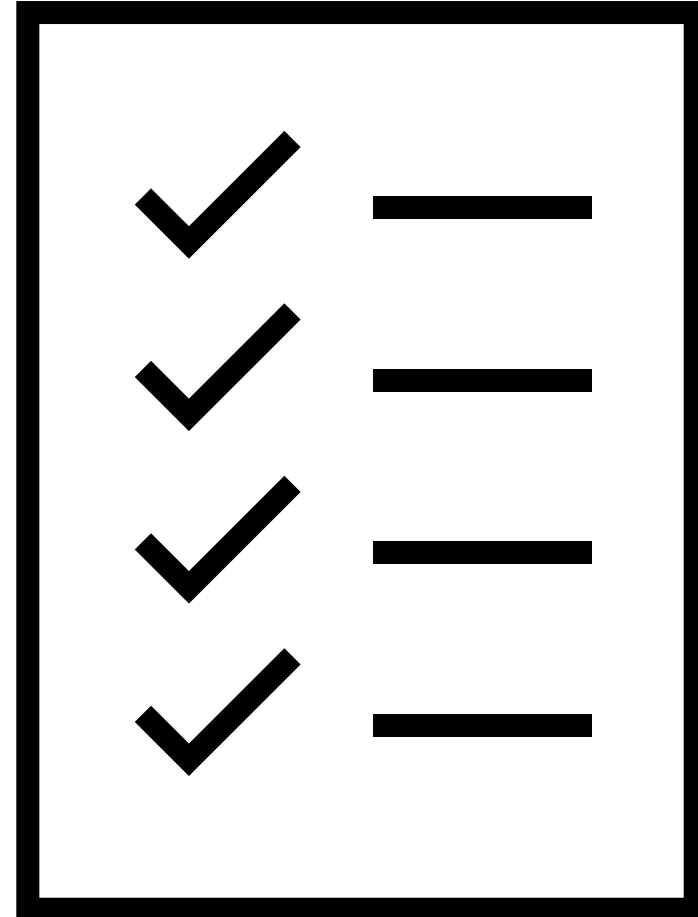
- Guelph Independent Living
 - GW Senior Association
 - Community Living
 - Immigrant Services
 - Disability Justice Network of Ontario
 - Assembly of First Nations
 - Canadian Abilities Foundation
 - Canadian Hearing Services
 - CNIB
 - Kerry's Place
 - ADHD and Spectrum Center
 - Transitions to Adulthood Community of Interest (T2ACOI)
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Clerk's Office Decision-Making Criteria (1 of 2):

- Does it meet the principles of the Municipal Elections Act (MEA)?
- Is the option secure?
 - Have there been any enhancements or improvements in the technology since past elections?
- What have we heard during our engagement?
- Are there administrative considerations to be aware of? For example:
 - Do current resources support this option?
 - How many alternative voting methods can we support with the resources we have?
 - Are there system integration or privacy considerations?
 - Are there workload or capacity levels needed for different options?

Clerk's Office Decision-Making Criteria (2 of 2):

- Has there been any challenges experienced by other Ontario municipalities that have used the option in past general election events?
 - If so, which municipalities and how do they compare to Guelph in terms of complexity of election, size, number of electors, etc.?
- Does the option support accessibility/barrier reduction?



Your thoughts on decision-making criteria:

We would like to create a scorecard that we can all use at the fall workshop to be able to rate or evaluate the various methods and enhancements.

- What have we missed?
- How do we assess the accessibility of options?
- What other thoughts or comments do you have?

Today's Recommended Motions

- That the members of the AAC receive the information provided by the City Clerk's Office relating to alternative voting methods and accessible voting service enhancements.
- That the members of the AAC recommend _____ to the City Clerk's Office regarding the decision-marking criteria to evaluate the voting methods and enhancements.

Or;

- That the members of the AAC will provide feedback to the City Clerk's Office regarding the decision-marking criteria to evaluate the voting methods and enhancements, by August 21st, 2023.

Thank you for your time today!

We will see you again in the Fall for a workshop!

Proposed dates for the Fall AAC Workshop are:

Thursday, September 28

Tuesday, October 3

Liaison to follow up with Committee members.

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