

Good Morning City Clerk,

This message follows my first message of May 2nd on this topic.

My strong preference remains against internet voting including advanced poll voting.

Since then in the course of my usual contact with several friends, neighbours and family in Wards 2, 4, 5, 6, there is a strong preference to not proceed to internet voting as their comments are mentioned below while respecting their privacy. Ages of the women and men ranged from early 50's to early 90's. Several will choose to contact the members of council in their wards.

Reasons against include election integrity is vulnerable at several potential points starting with infiltrating the voter list, unauthorized access to misinform voters on the voters lists, continuing efforts to threaten election integrity at several steps until official vote count. This would not be spontaneous or opportunistic cyber threats but one or more that might be creative and planned between now and 2026.

Without question, increasing voter turnout and provisions for advanced poll and election day voting by residents including members of the disabled community are important whether for a local or provincial or federal election.

I understand voters including members of the disabled community are offered several options when they vote during provincial or federal elections.

It seems reasonable for the City of Guelph to continue with similar federal or provincial established options. Without federal or provincial introduction of internet voting, we might best conclude 2026 is too soon.

After the 2011 Robocall scandal, if internet voting proceeded in 2026 with vote tampering, that would be a second local embarrassment and expense to overcome. This was mentioned by one of the younger adults I spoke with who thinks 2026 is too soon for secure internet voting.

One recently retired person I talked with after working in banking would not do banking by electronic methods or internet voting.

Another stated as soon as a secure feature is introduced, someone has a method to breach this.

The 90+ year old spends her days in her wheelchair and receives scams. She would not vote on the internet.

Another adult stated she thinks final decisions about internet voting should be made by the professional, experienced city staff who work with elections, after the members of council discuss and consider available information.

As a mature member of the public, I am likely in the mid range among my peers. Mature adults do usually vote. With respect to internet, on-line banking, social media and other digital offerings, I avoid all except internet and email and was new to Zoom during the pandemic and used rarely. A small number of mature adults I know do not use a computer and while others play bridge, use Facebook, on-line shopping and much more.

Yesterday in Guelph Today, the Public School Board feature stated they are against internet voting and was not consulted.

Without a daily newspaper or the weekly Tribune featuring City of Guelph news and information, residents are limited in sources of information they might have access to with respect to this current and important topic. Some may not be aware this topic is under discussion and decision to be made. The consequence results in less feedback to their Ward councillors or to the City of Guelph Clerk's Office.

Thank you for considering these concerns as decisions are being made now about an election in fall of 2026 and as cyber interference is a reality now and going forward.

Respectfully,
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Ward 6