



2026 Municipal Election Accessibility Plan

Township of Macdonald, Meredith & Aberdeen Additional

Effective Dates: May 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026

Legislative Authority: *Municipal Elections Act, 1996; AODA, 2005*

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This plan is developed in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005.

1. Commitment to Accessibility

The Township is committed to ensuring that all eligible electors and candidates have equal access to participate in the municipal election process.

The Clerk will identify, remove, and prevent barriers to participation and will ensure that accessibility considerations are incorporated into all stages of the election.

2. Voting Method & Access

The 2026 Municipal Election will be conducted using online voting.

Vote Help Centre

A Vote Help Centre will be available at the Municipal Office to assist electors.

Accessibility measures will include:

- Barrier-free access to the building
- Accessible parking near the entrance
- A private area to vote independently and confidentially
- Access to a computer or tablet for voting
- Staff assistance upon request

Electors may be accompanied by a support person if required.

3. Accessible Voting Technology

The Township will utilize an online voting system that:

- Meets recognized accessibility standards, including WCAG 2.1 Level AA
- Has undergone accessibility validation and testing prior to deployment
- Supports compatibility with assistive technologies such as screen readers
- Provides a clear, user-friendly interface to reduce barriers for all users

The system will be tested in advance through user acceptance testing and mock election exercises to ensure accessibility and usability.

4. Support During Voting Period

To ensure electors can successfully vote:

- The voting system will be supported through:
 - Live support hours during the voting period
 - 24/7 system monitoring and escalation support
- The Township will provide:
 - In-person assistance at the Vote Help Centre
 - Telephone and email support for electors requiring help

This support model ensures that electors experiencing accessibility barriers can receive timely assistance.

5. Communication & Information

The Township will provide election information in accessible formats by:

- Using plain language in all communications
 - Providing clear “How to Vote” instructions
 - Making documents available in alternative formats upon request (e.g., large print)
 - Ensuring website content is accessible and compatible with assistive technologies
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6. Candidate Accessibility

The Township will support accessibility for candidates by:

- Offering flexible appointment-based nomination filing

- Providing forms and materials in accessible formats upon request
- Making the Voters' List available in a digital format compatible with assistive technologies

Candidates may incur expenses related to a disability, which are exempt from campaign spending limits under the Municipal Elections Act, 1996.

7. Training of Election Staff

Election staff will receive training on:

- Accessible customer service
- Assisting electors without compromising privacy
- Use of the online voting system and support tools

Staff will also participate in training and preparation activities, including mock election exercises, to ensure readiness to assist electors.

8. Feedback & Reporting

The Township will provide opportunities for feedback regarding accessibility during the election.

Following the election, in January 2027, the Clerk will report to Council on:

- Accessibility measures implemented
- Any barriers identified
- Recommendations for future improvements