



2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

MUNICIPALITY: City of Elliot Lake

EFFECTIVE DATES: May 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY: *Municipal Elections Act, 1996; AODA, 2005*

ACCESSIBLE VOTING FACILITIES & LOGISTICS

The City will leverage a "Hub and Spoke" model for voting, focusing on established accessible sites.

- Primary Locations: City Hall and Collins Hall will serve as the central Voter Help Centres.
- Physical Standards:
 - Entrances: All locations must have power-assisted doors and level thresholds.
 - Parking: Designated accessible parking will be positioned at the closest possible point to the entrance.
 - Path of Travel: Minimum 3.5-foot wide aisles maintained at all times.
- The 12-Day Advance Window: To prevent long lines (a barrier for those with chronic pain or mobility issues), City Hall will offer 12 days of pre-election voting.

THE HYBRID VOTING MODEL (ONLINE & PAPER)

The 2026 election will offer both digital and traditional voting methods to maximize choice and accessibility.

A. Digital Voting (Tablets & Remote)

- On-Site Tablets: Dedicated voting kiosks will be equipped with height-adjustable stands and anti-glare screens.
- Built-in Accessibility: The voting interface must meet WCAG 2.1 Level AA standards, featuring:
 - Adjustable font sizes and high-contrast color themes.
 - Compatibility with screen-reading software and headphones for audio-guided voting.

- "How-To" Support: * Visual Guides: Laminated, large-print (18pt+) instruction cards with pictograms at every tablet station.
 - Video Support: QR codes on all materials linking to a 60-second tutorial with closed captioning.

B. Paper Ballot Provisions

- Tools: Every booth will be stocked with magnifying sheets and easy-grip, high-contrast black pens.

CANDIDATE ACCESSIBILITY & SUPPORT

We recognize that the democratic process starts with the ability to run for office.

- The Nomination Process: Candidates may request individual appointments for filing to ensure a quiet, accessible environment. All nomination forms will be provided in accessible, screen-reader-friendly PDFs.
- Campaigning Support: The Voters' List will be provided in a digital format (CSV) compatible with assistive tech.
 - Candidate Expense Exemption: Costs incurred specifically for a candidate's disability (e.g., ASL interpreters, specialized transit for canvassing) are exempt from campaign spending limits. (Section 88.20 (9) of the Ontario *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*)
- Accessible Forums: Encourage All-Candidates meetings to be held in venues that are accessible.

COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION STANDARDS

- Plain Language: All voter information letters, guides, and advertisements will be written at a basic literacy level to assist those with cognitive or linguistic barriers.
- Alternative Formats: Notice will be given that any election document—including candidate lists—is available in large print, or audio upon request.
- Transit Alerts: Information regarding accessible transit routes to City Hall and Collins Hall will be integrated into the "How to Vote" materials.

STAFF TRAINING & ASSISTANCE

- Role-Specific Training: All election workers will receive "Sensitivity & Tech" training, focusing on how to assist with tablet interfaces without compromising a voter's privacy.
- Technical Roamers: Staff will be stationed at Collins Hall and City Hall specifically to troubleshoot the "How-To" guides and tablet navigation for residents.

- Emergency Protocols: Every site will have a specific evacuation plan for persons with disabilities, ensuring staff know how to assist those with mobility or sensory needs during an alarm.

MONITORING AND FEEDBACK

- Real-Time Feedback: Accessible feedback kiosks (both paper and digital) will be present at every voting location.
- Public Accountability: The Clerk will submit a public report to Council by January 2027 outlining the success of these measures and any barriers identified during the 10-day voting period.