



Municipality of Brockton

Election Accessibility Plan

2026 Municipal Election

This Plan is for use in the 2026 Municipal Election in conjunction with the Municipality of Brockton Accessibility Policies and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 standards.

This document is available in an alternative format upon request.

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Introduction

The Municipal Clerk is responsible for the proper legislative and administrative conduct of municipal elections in the Municipality of Brockton. In accordance with the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001*, as amended, and the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*, as amended, the Municipal Clerk is authorized to establish procedures and provide appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities have the opportunity to participate fully in the 2026 Municipal Election.

The 2026 Municipal Election will be conducted in such a manner to ensure that:

- 1) Candidates and electors with disabilities have full and equal access to all election information and services;
- 2) Persons with disabilities have full access to Voter Help Centres to vote using telephone or internet;
- 3) Persons with disabilities are able to independently and privately mark their electronic ballot and have access to alternative methods of voting assistance

Within ninety (90) days after Voting Day, the Municipal Clerk will submit a report to Council concerning the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affected electors and candidates with disabilities and shall make the report available to the public.

Disabilities can take many forms, both visible and invisible. The following criteria were considered in the development of this plan:

- Policies and procedures must be consistent with the principles of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* and must respect the dignity and independence of persons with disabilities;
- Access to electoral services must be integrated and equitable;
- Initiatives should address and accommodate a wide range of abilities;
- The Municipality of Brockton's Accessibility Standards for Customer Service Policy must be followed when conducting a municipal election.

The Municipality will continue to learn, develop and adjust our approach to meet the needs of persons with disabilities. The review of accessibility issues and initiatives and addressing barrier prevention or removal is an ongoing practice. The Municipality's Election Accessibility Plan will be improved and updated as new opportunities are identified or become available.

Accessibility Policies

The Municipality of Brockton is committed to accessibility in our communities. Accessibility is an important part of everything the Municipality does. We are doing as much as we can to make sure that everyone can access the information they need. We comply with the Integrated Accessibility Standards O. Reg. 191/11: Integrated Accessibility Standards under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*.

In fulfilling our mission, the Municipality of Brockton will always provide its services in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities. People with disabilities will be given the same opportunity to access our services in the same place and in a similar way to others.

The Municipality's Accessibility Standards for Customer Service Policy and the Integrated Accessibility Standards can be reviewed at www.Brockton.ca/Accessibility.

Staff Training and Election Assistance

All staff carrying out election duties will complete Accessible Customer Services Training and Integrated Accessible Standards Regulations Training as well as specific Election Training. They will comply with the Municipality's Accessible Customer Service Policy and Integrated Accessibility Standards Policy. They will be able to recognize and ensure that persons with disabilities are served in a way that accommodates their needs.

Training will include:

- How to interact/communicate with people with various types of disabilities;
- How to interact with persons with disabilities who use assistive devices and require the assistance of a support person or a service animal;
- How to clearly explain internet and telephone voting;
- What to do if a person is having difficulty accessing election information or services;
- How to provide voter assistance if requested.

Provision of Election Information

Candidates and electors with disabilities will be able to receive information and copies of election documents in a format that considers their disability. The format may be agreed upon between the requester and the Clerk and will be provided in the most feasible manner possible.

Notice of Temporary Service Disruption

If there is a temporary disruption in the delivery of election information or services, the Municipal Clerk will place a public notice on the municipal website, municipal social media accounts, at the physical site of the disruption and, when possible, in the local media. The notice shall include the reason for the disruption, anticipated duration and a description of alternative methods of delivering the information and/or service. Every effort shall be made to provide alternative methods of providing the information and/or service to persons with disabilities.

Staff Assistance and Feedback

Staff are available throughout the election to assist with any issues that may arise with respect to providing a barrier-free election. Feedback on the Election Accessibility Plan or any other election accessibility questions is encouraged and will be reviewed by the Clerk. Appropriate action will be taken to remove barriers or provide accommodation if necessary.

Contact Information:

Telephone 519-881-2223

Email: election@brockton.ca

In-Person or Mail: Municipality of Brockton
100 Scott Street, PO Box 68, Walkerton, ON N0G 2V0
Hours: Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Accessible Voting Technologies

In the 2026 Election, the Municipality of Brockton is offering Internet and Telephone Voting. This offers citizens with disabilities an opportunity to cast a ballot during the Voting Period from the comfort and convenience of a familiar setting, complete with the tools, equipment and/or software that they use in their day to day activities.

The Municipality approved By-Law 2024-063 being a By-Law to Authorize the Use of Internet and Telephone Voting as an Alternative Voting Method for the Year 2026 Municipal and School Board Election.

Internet Voting

Internet voting allows voters to vote through secured internet services. This method provides for easy voting for persons with a variety of disabilities to cast their vote with independence and privacy as voters have the option of using the assistive tools they have on their own computer.

This method of voting is designed to encourage voter participation as voters don't have to attend a physical location to cast their ballot and accessibility and privacy for persons with disabilities is maximized.

The internet election platform will include the capability to change the font size and colour scheme and audio.

Telephone Voting

Telephone voting allows voters to vote through secured telephone services which provides easy voting for people with a variety of disabilities to cast their vote with independence and privacy. Land lines or cell phones can be used to vote, the method is compatible with assistive devices they have on their own phones.

Voters can register their vote selection with the telephone keypad or voice commands, greatly increasing accessibility, privacy and independence for voters who do not have internet access.

Assistance to Electors

The 2026 Municipal Election will be conducted with Internet and Telephone Voting methods. Detailed information about each voting method is set out in the 2026 Clerk's Election Procedures, available at www.Brockton.ca/Election or from the Clerk's Department and can be provided in an alternative format upon request.

Please contact us at 519-881-2223 or email election@brockton.ca if you require your Voter Information Package in an accessible format.

Voting Assistance

People with disabilities may be accompanied by a support person at the Municipal Office or any Voter Help Centre to complete their voting.

An Election Official can assist the voter in casting their vote. Prior to assisting, the Election Official shall, in conjunction with the person with the disability, determine the extent to which they need assistance and the best way in which this assistance can be provided. This may include operating the computer to mark the ballot as directed by the person with the disability.

Where a voting kiosk may be in an institution or retirement home, the Election Official can attend to voters in their specific living areas or at their bedside to assist them to vote.

The Election Official shall require the voter making the request to take an Oral Oath to Vote with Assistance. In lieu of the Election Official providing assistance, the voter may request that a friend or support person to accompany and assist them at the Help Centre. Any friend or support person assisting shall be required to take the Oral Oath of Friend of Elector to assist and/or vote as directed by the voter.

The Deputy Returning Officer and Election Officials are sworn to an oath of secrecy.

Secrecy

Secrecy is an important aspect of a municipal election process and compromising that aspect may hinder voter confidence. All efforts will be made to ensure secrecy when assisting people with disabilities.

Parking

Designated or reserved parking for people with disabilities are provided as close to the entrance of the Municipal Office and Voter Help Centres as possible. Accessible parking spaces are clearly identified from the road and marked with the International Symbol of Accessibility.

Service Animals

Electors requiring service animals are permitted to be accompanied by a service animal at the Municipal Office and Voter Help Centre(s) when accessing information and services related to the election, or to vote.

Entrance to the Municipal Office (100 Scott Street, Walkerton)

The front entrance of the Municipal Office is a suitable entrance for people with disabilities and includes the International Symbol of Accessibility. On entry or exit, the power operated front entrance doors can be operated by push button. The front entrance door into the Municipal Office is wide enough for a wheelchair or scooter.

Entrance to the Cargill Community Centre (999 Greenock Brant Townline, Cargill)

The front entrance of the Cargill Community Centre is a level entrance and the front entrance doors are power operated. This location also has fully accessible washroom with power operated doors. The front entrance door into the Cargill Community Centre is wide enough for a wheelchair or scooter.

Voting Help Centres

The Municipal Office Voter Help Centre is located in the meeting room immediately following the front entrance.

The Cargill Community Centre Voter Help Centre is located in the meeting room adjacent to the coat area immediately following the front entrance.

Access to the voting areas are level to prevent tripping hazards. The voting areas are well lit. Tables available at the voting areas will be low in height and have a wide area to allow individuals using mobility aids to vote independently and secretively. Seating will also be made available.

Voting areas will have a touch screen computer for internet voting that will assist voters with disabilities in casting their votes with independence and privacy.

Staff are available to assist voters at the Voter Help Centres upon request.

Assistance to Candidates and Registered Third Party Advertisers

The 2026 Municipal Election will be conducted with Internet and Telephone Voting methods. Detailed information about each voting method is set out in the 2026 Clerk's Election Procedures, available at www.Brockton.ca/Election or from the Clerk's Department and can be provided in an alternative format upon request.

Please contact us at 519-881-2223 or email election@brockton.ca if you require your Candidate Package in an accessible format.

Service Animals/Support Persons

Service animals will be permitted in Voter Help Centres. Candidates and scrutineers are permitted to be accompanied by a service animal and/or support person in Voter Help Centres.

Campaign Expenses

In accordance with Section 88.19 (3.9) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, campaign expenses include those that are incurred by a candidate with a disability or a registered third-party advertiser with a disability, are directly related to the disability, and would not have been incurred but for the election to which the expenses relate.

Additional Information

Municipality of Brockton Election Webpage: www.Brockton.ca/Election

Municipality of Brockton Accessibility Webpage: www.Brockton.ca/Accessibility