



Municipality of Dysart et al

2022 Municipal and School Board Election Post-Election Accessibility Report

November 22, 2022

This document is available in alternate formats, upon request.

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Background

In accordance with section 12.1(3) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, the Clerk shall provide a report, within 90 days after voting day in a regular election, about the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with accessibility needs.

This report outlines the various initiatives undertaken for the 2022 Municipal and School Board Election to eliminate barriers for persons with disabilities.

Accessibility Reporting Requirements

This report will be available to the public and posted on the municipal website (dysartetal.ca).

In May 2022, staff prepared an Election Accessibility Plan which was provided to the County of Haliburton's Accessibility Advisory Committee for review and comment. In accordance with section 12.1(2) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, this plan was made available prior to and during the election.

2022 Accessibility Initiatives

Below is a summary of accessibility initiatives undertaken for the 2022 Municipal and School Board Election.

Voters' List Updates:

1. Electors were able to call, email or attend the Municipal Office in person to check if their information was correct on the Voters' List.
2. The Municipality also offered a remote online form for Voters' List revisions, deletions and corrections.
3. In the months leading up to the election, the Municipality advertised voterlookup.ca which was produced and managed by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) and allowed electors to search if they were on the Voters' List and to make corrections/revisions by contacting MPAC.

Voting Technology:

1. Electronic voting was implemented, which allowed electors to vote from anywhere, removing barriers for those with disabilities.
2. Using this voting method allowed electors to cast their electronic ballot using telephone, smartphone, tablet or laptop anytime from Friday, October 14 starting at 9:00 AM to Monday, October 24 at 8:00 PM.
3. All voting interfaces were developed taking into consideration accessibility standards and usability guidelines to facilitate the voting process for everyone.
4. Dysart's voting provider was Scyt! Canada Inc. Scyt!'s platform enabled voters to easily access the voting application without the need to install any software to use the system. The voting interfaces were highly user-friendly and intuitive and

could be run on any modern internet-connected device (PC, smartphone, and tablet) with a web browser.

5. The web interface was WCAG 2.0 AA compliant to assist visually impaired users and supported the use of screen-magnifiers, screen-readers, and other assistive devices. In addition, Scytll's online voting technology has been successfully integrated with computer aid devices for disabled or physically impaired voters such as sip and puff devices and head-controlled mouse.

Voter Help and Revision Centre:

1. The Help and Revision Centre, located at the Municipal Office, was open Monday to Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. On Voting Day, it was open from 8:30 AM to 8:00 PM.
2. The Help and Revision Centre has an accessible entrance.
3. The Help and Revision Centre has dedicated accessible parking.
4. Doors located at the Help and Revision Centre are hardware accessible and clearly marked.
5. There were staff stationed at the front desk and Election Officials were available to assist electors as needed.
6. All entranceways and voting areas at the Help and Revision Centre were able to accommodate mobility aids. Entrance corridors were level and clear of obstructions and tripping hazards.
7. An accessible washroom was available near the front entrance.
8. The Help and Revision Centre was equipped with voting kiosks for those who wished to vote at the office, required internet access and/or required assistance to vote.
9. The voting kiosk area was well lit with seating available. Chairs with and without arms were available for use.
10. Voting kiosks were low in height with a wide area to allow individuals using mobility aids to vote independently and confidentially.
11. Magnifying glasses were available at each voting kiosk.
12. Floor mats were present at all locations to prevent slipping.
13. The Help and Revision Centre was equipped with an iPad, which would allow an elector to remain in their vehicle to vote. Trained staff would take the iPad to the voter if requested.
14. The Help and Revision Centre staff were trained to assist electors if they required assistance to vote at the voting location. Additionally, in late September 2022, all Dysart staff were given a refresher course on the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). This training covered the main principles and requirements of AODA and provided relevant examples to municipal customer service.
15. Electors were permitted to be accompanied by a support person at the Voting Place and Help and Revision Centre.
16. Electors were permitted to be accompanied by the service animal at the Voting Place and Help and Revision Centre.

Communications and Outreach:

1. Election information was communicated through various channels including emails, the municipal website, the electronic sign, a tax bill insert, social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and TikTok), local radio PSA and the local newspapers. Various instructional videos with subtitles were produced and circulated to assist voters.
2. For election related inquiries or feedback, all residents were able to contact Election Officials via telephone, through email or in person at the Municipal Office.
3. All information could be made available to candidates and voters in alternate formats upon request. No requests were received.
4. Election staff coordinated voting days at local senior residences and long-term care homes. Staff attended during the advance vote period to offer voting support.

Conclusion

The Municipality of Dysart et al was committed to making the 2022 Municipal and School Board Election accessible to electors by identifying, removing and preventing barriers that affect electors with disabilities. The Election Accessibility Plan was fully implemented and adhered to during the course of the election.

Future Considerations

Election staff will continue to review existing policies and practices to ensure the municipal election is conducted in a manner that provides candidates and electors with disabilities with full and equal access to all election information and services. The review of accessibility considerations is an ongoing practice and accessibility plans and initiatives will be improved as best practices and new opportunities are identified.

Election Feedback

As outlined in the Municipality of Dysart et al Accessible Standards Customer Service Policy, should a member of the public wish to provide feedback regarding Election accessibility they can do so by contacting the Clerk by the following methods:

- In person: Mallory Bishop, Municipal Clerk/Returning Officer, or designate; or
- By telephone: (705) 457-1740 extension 631; or
- By fax: (705) 457-1964; or
- By mail: 135 Maple Avenue, P.O. Box 389, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0; or
- By email: mbishop@dysartetal.ca

Mallory Bishop
Municipal Clerk/Returning Officer
2022 Municipal and School Board Election
Dated this 22nd day of November, 2022