



The Corporation of the Municipality of  
**Central Elgin**

**Municipality of Central Elgin**  
**2018 Municipal Election**  
**Accessibility Plan**

## Introduction

The Clerk is responsible for the appropriate legislative and administrative conduct of the municipal election in the Municipality of Central Elgin.

The Municipal Elections Act state that the Clerk shall have regard for the need of the electors and candidates with disabilities. It further states that the Clerk shall prepare a plan regarding the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities and shall make the plan available to the public before Voting Day in a regular election.

The municipal election will be conducted in a manner that ensures that candidates and electors with disabilities have full and equal access to election information and services. The election shall be conducted in a manner that ensures that person with disabilities have every opportunity to vote independently and privately with access to voting assistance if required.

The Municipal Elections Act requires that within ninety days after Voting Day the Clerk shall prepare a report about the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities.

## Definition of Disability

The Accessibility of Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 defines “disability” as follows:

- a) any degree of physical disability, infirmity, malformation, or disfigurement that is caused by bodily injury, birth defect or illness and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, includes diabetes mellitus, epilepsy, a brain injury, any degree of paralysis, amputation, lack of physical co-ordination, blindness or visual impediment, deafness or hearing impediment, muteness or speech impediment, or physical reliance on a guide dog or other animal or on a wheelchair or other remedial appliances or device,
- b) a condition of mental impairment or a developmental disability,
- c) a learning disability, or a dysfunction in one or more of the processes involved in understanding or using symbols or spoken language,
- d) a mental disorder, or
- e) an injury or disability of which benefits were claimed or received under the insurance plan established under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997.

Disabilities can take on 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; and
- The Municipality of Central Elgin’s Policy: 2016 – 2021 Accessibility Plan must be followed throughout the election process. This policy can be found on the Municipality of Central Elgin website at <https://www.centralelgin.org/en/municipal-office/accessibility.aspx?mid=20090>.

### **Provision of Election Information**

Election information will be provided to electors and candidates with disabilities on the Municipality of Central Elgin website and in print upon request.

### **Service Animals/Support Persons**

Voters and candidates with disabilities are permitted to be accompanied by a service animal at the voting place. The Deputy Returning Officer shall permit a voter who needs assistance in voting to have such assistance as the Deputy Returning Officer considers necessary.

### **Staff Training**

All staff carrying out election duties will complete specific election training in order to recognize and ensure that persons with disabilities are served in a way that accommodate their individual needs.

### **Voting**

The Municipality of Central Elgin will be offering accessible voting equipment at all **Advance Poll** Locations to assist voters who are unable to negotiate a paper ballot. **All Advance Poll locations are accessible.**

A Deputy Returning Officer will assist a voter anywhere within a voting place in order to allow a voter with a disability to vote.

### **Notice of Temporary Service Disruption**

Public notice shall be provided on the Municipality of Central Elgin's website and in the local media if there is a temporary disruption in the delivery of election services. The notice shall include the reason for the disruption, the expected duration and an explanation of alternative methods of delivering the service.

### **Staff Assistance/Feedback**

Staff are available throughout the election to assist with any issues that may arise with respect to providing a barrier-free election.

The Deputy Clerk welcomes feedback to identify areas where changes should be considered and ways in which the Municipality of Central Elgin can improve the delivery of an accessible election.

Contact information for assistance and feedback is as follows:

Email: [dwilson@centralelgin.org](mailto:dwilson@centralelgin.org)

Phone: 519- 631- 4860 press Ext. 286

In person/By Mail: Municipality of Central Elgin

450 Sunset Drive, St. Thomas Ontario N5R 5V1

Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### **Additional Information**

Municipality of Central Elgin Website Accessibility Page: <https://www.centralelgin.org/en/municipal-office/accessibility.aspx?mid=20090>.

Municipality of Central Elgin Website Election Page: <https://www.centralelgin.org/en/municipal-office/elections.aspx>.