



The Corporation of the Municipality of
Central Elgin

Report

DATE: January 4 , 2019

REPORT: CAO 1-19

TO: Mayor Sally Martyn and Council

PREPARED BY: Dianne Wilson, Deputy Clerk/Records Management
Coordinator

SUBJECT: 2018 Municipal Election - Accessibility

TO COUNCIL: January 14, 2019

RECOMMENDATION: THAT: Report CAO 1-19 "2018 Municipal Election – Accessibility" be received as information; AND FURTHER THAT: Staff be directed to make said report available to the public.

REPORT: In accordance with Section 12.1(3) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 "Within 90 days after voting day in a regular election, the clerk shall prepare a report about the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities and shall make the report available to the public".

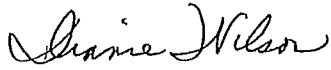
Since the Municipal Election in 2010, staff have been proactive to retain polling locations that are fully accessible to the public. Where possible, municipal facilities such as, Belmont Arena, Port Stanley Arena and Administration Office became our first choice as there is no cost and they provided fully accessible venues for the candidates and electors.

In addition to the above, in 2018, staff acquired accessible voting equipment through our service provider, Dominion Voting, which was set up and available at all five (5) Advance Poll locations. This equipment was provided to assist those voters who were not able to negotiate a paper ballot. It featured a "ballot marking device" (BMD) which allowed electors to create their ballot using an audio and visual interface and an Audio Tactile Interface (ATI). The ATI was identified as the main tool for electors with partial or no vision, or limited dexterity and; the Sip and Puff and Paddle Button Input Interface options were also available. These (3) three options provided electors the ability to complete their ballot individually and cast it through the Tabulator thus creating an inclusive voting experience.

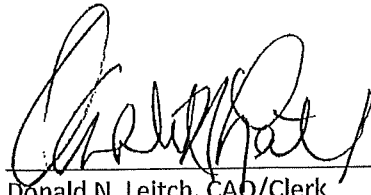
Staff advertised and promoted that accessible voting equipment would be available at all Advance Poll locations through the use of the local radio MyFM, our municipal website, CE BUZZ, social media (Facebook) and Voter Notification Cards which were mailed to every person on the Voters' List. While the accessible voting equipment was not used, staff felt that implementing accessible voting equipment for the 2018 Municipal Election was a positive initiative to identifying, removing and preventing barriers that affect voters and candidates with disabilities.



Respectfully Submitted:



Dianne Wilson
Dianne Wilson, Deputy Clerk/
Records Management Coordinator



Donald N. Leitch
Donald N. Leitch, CAD/Clerk