



REPORT TO COUNCIL

REPORT NO. CAO.01.26
TO Mayor and Members of Council
FROM Delany Leitch, Clerk
SUBJECT 2026 Municipal Election – Establishment of Joint Compliance Audit Committee
DATE February 9, 2026

RECOMMENDATION

THAT By-law 2026-012, establishing an Election Joint Compliance Audit Committee for the 2026 Municipal Election in accordance with the Municipal elections Act, 1996, as amended, be adopted.

REPORT

Background

Section 88.37 of the *Municipal Elections Act*, 1996, as amended requires each municipal Council to establish a Compliance Audit Committee before October 1 in an election year to deal with matters regarding election campaign finances and contributions.

Historically, Member Municipalities within Elgin County have established a “Elgin Election Joint Compliance Audit Committee” to deal with matters provided for in Sections 88.33, 88.34, 88.35 and 88.36 of the *Municipal Elections Act*, 1996.

Discussion

The draft Elgin Election Joint Compliance Audit Committee Terms of Reference, attached as Schedule A to By-law 2026-012, provides for the Committee Term, Meeting Overview, Mandate, Composition, Appointment Process, Compensation, Role of Staff, Application Process, Roles and Responsibilities and Appeal overview.

Once all Elgin County Member Municipalities have established a Joint Compliance Audit Committee and approved a Committee Terms of Reference by By-Law, recruitment for committee members will begin. Advertising for prospective Committee Members will include the placement of ads in local newspapers, contacting previous members of the Joint Committee from 2022, and by posting ads on each respective municipal website.

More information about the Committee Member Appointment Process is outlined in Section 7 of the proposed Terms of Reference.

Financial Implications

None.

Summary and Recommendation(s)

In accordance with Section 88.37 of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 as amended, each municipal Council is required to establish a Compliance Audit Committee before October 1 in an election year. Staff recommend that Council establish an Elgin Election Joint Compliance Audit Committee in conjunction with the other Member Municipalities within Elgin County.

Respectfully submitted:

Delany Leitch

Delany Leitch
Clerk

Don MacLeod

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CAO