

Staff Report CAO 21-92: Alternative Voting and Vote Counting Methods

2022 Municipal Election

October 24, 2022



The Municipal Clerk is responsible for the administration and conducting of a municipal election.

Council's role in the election includes:

- Placing a question on the ballot
- Language of forms to be used, if other than English
- Authorizing the use of vote-counting equipment
- Authorizing electors to use an alternative voting method that does not require electors to attend at a voting location in order to vote
- Authorizing the need for a by-election for municipal office
- Establishing rules and procedures with respect to the use of municipal resources during an election campaign (Norfolk County Policy CAO-09)
- Establishing a Compliance Audit Committee by October 1 of an election year

Voting Methods

1. Traditional Paper Ballots – Hand Counting
2. Traditional Paper Ballots – Vote Tabulators
3. Mail-in Ballots
4. Telephone Voting
5. Internet Voting

Norfolk County 2022 Election

Staff recommend traditional paper ballot voting with Vote Tabulation Counting.

- Advanced Polling stations will be set-up
- Ward polling locations to be established in each Ward
- COVID-19 screening and distancing requirements to be implemented if required

Alternative Voting Considerations

- **Home Voting Service:** staff would recommend bringing a report forward to implement in 2022 to address accessibility requirements and to assist individuals who are home-bound
- **Special mail-in ballots:** staff recognize there will be an additional financial cost and increased staffing resources required to implement. Should an additional alternative voting method be required, staff recommend investigating this option further.
- **Internet Voting:** staff would recommend deferring the use of internet voting to the 20226 municipal election due to financials and staffing limitations in the Clerk's and IT departments at this time.

Decision-making

- Approve the use of voting and vote tabulating equipment for the 2022 municipal election
- Directing staff to further explore a Home Voting Service and Special Mail-In ballots as alternative voting options for 2022
- Staff to bring back a report to establish a Compliance Audit Committee in the new year
- Staff to consider internet voting options for the 2026 municipal election

THANK YOU!



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