



**TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG  
COUNCIL MEETING  
SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

**Monday, January 14, 2019**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Council Chambers**

**271 Sandwich Street South, Amherstburg**

**For information pertaining to this agenda or to arrange for any additional accessibility needs please contact Tammy Fowkes, Deputy Clerk at [tfowkes@amherstburg.ca](mailto:tfowkes@amherstburg.ca)**

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**18. INFORMATION REPORTS**

**18.2 Accessible 2018 Election**

It is recommended that:

1. The report from the Municipal Clerk dated January 10, 2019, regarding Accessible 2018 Election **BE RECEIVED for information.**

**26. SPECIAL IN-CAMERA COUNCIL MEETING**

**ITEM D – Section 239(2)(b)** - Personal matters about identifiable individuals, including municipal or local board employees; and, **Section 239(2)(i)** - A trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information, supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position, or interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, group of persons, or organization.



# THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG

## OFFICE OF THE CAO

### MISSION STATEMENT:

Author's Name: Paula Parker	Report Date: January 10, 2019
Author's Phone: 519 736-0012 ext. 2238	Date to Council: January 14, 2019
Author's E-mail: <a href="mailto:pparker@amherstburg.ca">pparker@amherstburg.ca</a>	Classification #: N/A

To: Mayor and Members of Town Council

Subject: Accessible 2018 Election

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### 1. RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that:

1. The report from the Municipal Clerk dated January 10, 2019, regarding Accessible 2018 Election **BE RECEIVED for information.**

### 2. BACKGROUND:

The *Municipal Elections Act (MEA)* provides that the Clerk responsible for conducting an election shall have regard to the needs of electors and candidates with disabilities.

Section 12.1 (3) of the Act provides that within 90 days after voting day in a regular election, the clerk shall submit a report to Council about the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities.

Council, at its meeting of April 24, 2017, passed the following motion:

*"That:*

*The report from the Municipal Clerk/Returning Officer dated March 20, 2017 regarding 2018 Municipal Election – Voting Method BE RECEIVED;*

*The traditional voting method with the use of electronic tabulators BE APPROVED for advanced polls;*

*The traditional voting method with the use of electronic tabulators BE APPROVED as the method of voting on Election Day;*

*By-law 2017-22 being a by-law to authorize the use of optical scanning vote tabulators as an alternative voting method for advance voting in the 2018 Municipal Election be taken as having been read three times and finally passed and the Mayor and Clerk BE AUTHORIZED to sign same; and,*

*The Clerk BE AUTHORIZED to secure a vendor(s) for the 2018 Municipal Election.”*

### **3. DISCUSSION:**

As a result of the above adopted motion, Administration proceeded to prepare for the traditional voting method and electronic tabulators in the 2018 Municipal Election.

Feedback was received in 2014 from the community, post-election, with respect to polling locations they found less than adequate. This feedback was acknowledged and improvements were made to the selection of polling locations in 2018. Polling locations were reduced from 11 in the 2014 Election, to 3 in the 2018 Election. The 3 polling locations used in the 2018 Election were chosen to reduce barriers for electors.

In addition to considering the feedback received from the 2014 Election, the Clerk also met with the Amherstburg Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAAC) to review the plan for Election Accessibility and the equipment to be used in the 2018 Election. The Committee was overly impressed with the equipment selected by Administration.

The 2018 Municipal Election was successful; the following provisions were made with regard to removal and prevention of barriers that may have affected electors with disabilities:

- On-line voter lookup was provided on the Town's website to allow electors to check if they were on the Voters' List from the convenience of their own home.
- The Clerk ensured communication and information for candidates and electors were available in alternate formats, if requested.
- All pertinent information was posted to the Town website.
- Proxy appointment forms were available on-line and at Town Hall for those that would prefer to have someone vote for them.
- Election staff attended retirement homes and long term care facilities at reduced hours to provide assistance to electors with voting.
- Election staff provided in-home assistance to those electors who were not able to attend their polling station on advanced or voting days.
- Advance Poll locations were chosen with accessibility as first priority and were available for those unable to attend their assigned polling station for any reason.

- Two Advance Poll Days, as well as polling stations located within the Libro Centre on voting day were equipped with an Accessible AutoMark Voting Ballot Marker Device, including headset, hand-held controller and ballot printer (for those that could not negotiate a paper ballot), and Paddles Assistive Device/Sip-and-Puff Assistive Device (for those electors who could not use a hand-held controller).
- On Advanced Voting Days and Election Day, optical scanners were also used in conjunction with Express Voterview Software to scan voter notification cards to reduce wait times at all locations.

#### **4. RISK ANALYSIS:**

MEA, Section 12.1(3) calls for a report to Council to ensure the prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities. The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) states that the “*Act applies to every person or organization in the public and private sectors of the Province of Ontario.....*” When the Municipality observes and complies with legislation, it ensures standards are met with respect to accessibility and remains inclusive for all residents.

#### **5. FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

N/A

#### **6. CONSULTATIONS:**

N/A

#### **7. CONCLUSION:**

The 2018 Municipal Election was successful. The accessible equipment was on hand and available for those that needed it and was used by one elector in the 2018 Election. Eleven electors took advantage of the in-home option that was offered and were impressed that the option was available for them. There were also seven electors that appointed proxies in the 2018 Election.

Administration plans to continue to collect input from the AAAC for future elections to continue the identification, removal and prevention of barriers.



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Paula Parker  
**Municipal Clerk**