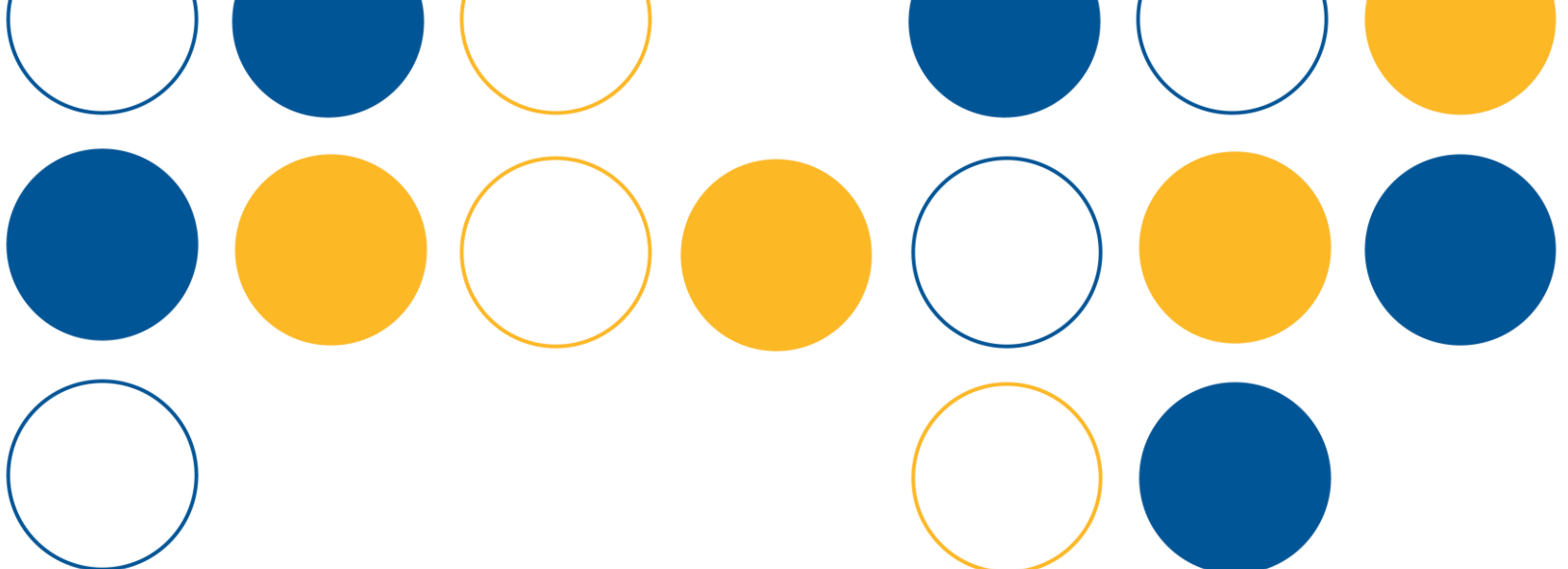
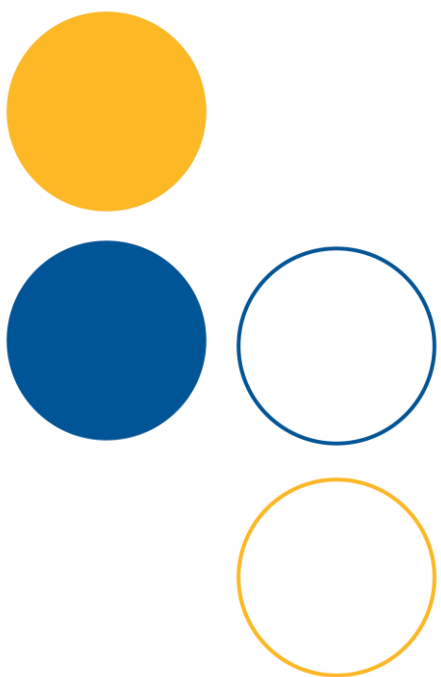




Accessibility Plan



E2650 | Accessibility Plan

Prepared by City of Brampton Election Office for the 2026 Municipal Election. This information is available in alternate formats upon request.

www.brampton.ca/BramptonVotes

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Background

The Clerk of a municipality is responsible for the administration of municipal elections and must ensure that legislative requirements in regard to accessibility are adhered to. The Clerk must meet requirements outlined in the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, (MEA) and the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* (AODA).

The MEA states the following:

- Section 12.1 (1) A clerk who is responsible for conducting an election shall have regard to the needs of electors and candidates with disabilities.
- Section 12.1 (2) 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.
- Section 12.1 (3) 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.
- Section 45 (2) In establishing the locations of voting places, the clerk shall ensure that each voting place is accessible to electors with disabilities.

Definition of Disability

The *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*, defines a disability as follows:

- Section 2 (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 appliance 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 for which benefits were claimed or received under the insurance plan established under the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997*; (“handicap”)

City’s Statement of Commitment

The City of Brampton’s 2022-2026 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan is a legislative requirement that illustrates how the City will continue to recognize, remove, reduce, and prevent accessibility barriers and includes a statement of commitment towards accessibility:

The City of Brampton is dedicated to continuously enhancing its municipal programs, services, information, web content, public spaces, and facilities to ensure that individuals of all abilities have equitable access to all aspects of the community.

The City of Brampton is committed to upholding and complying with the legislative requirements outlined in the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) S.O. 2005, c. 11* and achieving the goals established in the Multi-Year Municipal Accessibility Plan.

The Accessibility Office and the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) are committed to working together to reduce, remove, and prevent barriers while embodying AODA’s four core principles of: dignity, independence, integration, and equitable opportunities for all.

Purpose

This Accessibility Plan for the 2026 Municipal Election is a requirement under the MEA and outlines the steps to be taken by the City of Brampton Election Office to address accessibility requirements to ensure that the election is accessible to all electors and candidates, and is consistent with the core principles of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*.

This plan is intended to meet the above legislative requirements and the City's statement of commitment towards accessibility. This document will also serve as a reference to evaluate the implementation of the plan to develop the Accessibility Report as required in the MEA.

Development of the Plan

This plan will be improved and updated as best practices and new opportunities for improvements are identified. In order to develop the plan, several steps will be taken to ensure that statutory requirements are met, and a feasible and realistic implementation plan is in place. During the development of the 2026 Municipal Election, the following steps shall be implemented:

- Review and analyze previous documents and policies, Standard Operating Procedures and other supporting materials
- Review of election worker training standards and practices related to the Election to ensure that people with disabilities are able to vote in a positive customer service-oriented environment and ensure that all election workers recognize that a voter's needs shall be accommodated wherever possible.

Consultation and Review

Consultation occurred with the City of Brampton's Accessibility Office to confirm requirements are current and to align with the City of Brampton's accessibility policies. Communication with the Accessibility Office will continue throughout the duration of the election project for advice on new developments.

The plan will be presented to the City's Accessibility Advisory Committee for feedback and posted to the City's website for public review.

A review of the 2022 Accessibility Report and feedback from election workers and electors was considered to identify any concerns or opportunities for improvement with regards to accessibility for the 2026 Municipal Election and have been incorporated into the 2026 plan.

Communication and Information

The City of Brampton recognizes the importance of communication to electors and candidates for information and accommodation.

Information about the election will be available on the City's website where updates may be made quickly to reflect new details about the election. Electors may also make an inquiry and/or submit feedback via email or phone.

Specific actions to be taken include, but are not limited to:

- Providing, upon request, elector and candidate information in alternate formats
- Encouraging candidates to inform the Election Office of any specific accommodations regarding access to information
- Responding to candidate accommodation requests
- Providing translation services to electors and candidates as required
- Providing "how to vote" information for electors in multiple languages
- Responding to feedback and inquiries within service level timelines
- Indicating locations with accessible voting units on the voter notice and the City's website
- Using temporary notice of disruption signs as required – signs to indicate reason, how long and alternate locations to vote.

The City is providing informative and accessible content on election webpages by:

- Ensuring election information is available in clear and simple language
- Continuously updating content to reflect the most current information
- Ensuring all webpages are WCAG 2.0 Level AA compliant
- Ensuring the “Where Do I Vote?” web application includes information about the availability of accessible voting units at voting locations

Voting Locations

The MEA states that each voting place must be accessible to electors with disabilities. The City of Brampton has over 150 voting locations. Site inspections are conducted for each identified voting location to ensure compliance with defined accessibility requirements. For each inspection, a site inspection checklist is completed to record various accessibility considerations and requirements.

For those locations that have been identified as having accessibility concerns, plans will be in place to address any issues prior to Voting Day.

Specific actions to be taken include, but are not limited to:

- Updating the site inspection checklist based on accessibility requirements review with the Accessibility Office
- Completing site inspection checklist for each identified voting location to ensure a barrier free route of travel from the point of arrival to the voting place. The checklist will identify:
 - External path to entrance – accessible parking availability and location, level surface of ground, width of entrance doorways, door operators or accessible doors, proper lighting, etc.

- Internal path to voting place – free from protruding objects, level service of floor, width of internal doorways, proper lighting, clear signs
- Making locations accessible through the use of temporary remediation such as:
 - Adequate signage on the exterior and interior of the voting location to direct electors to the voting place
 - Signs and pylons to create/indicate accessible parking near the voting location entrance
 - Temporary ramps, in consultation with building owner, to ensure level access between parking area and entrance
 - Election worker to open doors at locations that do not have an accessible entrance, and to direct electors to voting place if required
- Providing voting place layout maps to ensure consistent set-up of voting places, and to ensure each voting place contains an accessible voting area
- Addressing the specific needs of election workers with disabilities
- Appointing election workers to mitigate voting location accessibility issues by performing the following roles when needed:
 - Help open doors without automated door openers
 - Direct voters to the accessible entrance if it is different from the main entrance
- Communicating service disruptions or last-minute changes that affect the accessibility of voting places during advance voting or on voting day in real time, by:
 - Providing notice on the City's website
 - Posts to all the City's social media channels
 - At the site of disruption

- When applicable, a Service and Information Update will be issued

Voting Methods

The City of Brampton will incorporate various voting methods to assist electors with accessibility requirements in voting independently.

Specific actions to be taken include, but are not limited, to providing:

- Exclusive use of accessible voting equipment at each advance voting location (ExpressVote units). Rather than using paper ballots, ballots will be printed on-demand and electors will use the touch screen on the ExpressVote to vote, allowing voters with disabilities to select the candidate(s) of their choice privately and independently. The features include a touch screen and zoom features to adjust the font sizes and colour contrast
- Additional accessibility tools such as a Braille keypad, headphones (audio ballot), Sip-N-Puff device and rocker paddles will be available on one ExpressVote unit at every advance voting location, and at one voting location per ward on Voting Day
- Magnifying sheets for use by electors with a visual impairment
- A pad of paper to assist in communicating with electors with hearing impairments
- Curbside voting for any electors unable to enter the voting location
- Assistance to vote for electors who require the assistance of a support person, interpreter, and/or election official
- Proxy voting for an elector who is unable to vote in person
- Home Voting Service for electors who are home-bound, due to illness, injury or disability. Home-bound electors may participate in the municipal election by voting independently in

their homes. Up to 100 appointments will be available for the Home Voting Service during the advanced voting period. Electors interested in this option will be required to meet the guidelines outlined by the Election Office.

- Providing voting opportunities in retirement homes that meet the requirements of the MEA

Candidate Information

The City is ensuring accessibility for candidates with disabilities by:

- Making the candidate's guide and/or other relevant publications available in accessible formats
- Making the City voters' list available in an electronic, accessible format, free of charge to all candidates, as required by legislation
- Holding hybrid candidate information sessions in accessible locations and virtually

Training

City of Brampton election workers will be equipped to assist all electors at the voting location.

Specific actions to be taken include, but are not limited to:

- Providing inclusive customer service training materials to all election workers
- Providing all election workers with reference materials highlighting how to effectively serve voters with disabilities
- Encouraging election workers to assist electors and candidates as required
- Requiring election workers to periodically check access doors and parking areas to ensure electors may enter the voting location with ease

- Hiring election workers to monitor the set-up and function of the accessible voting unit to service electors

Voting Opportunities

The City will create more accessible opportunities for electors to vote in the election.

Specific actions to be taken include:

- Offering advance voting – electors may vote at any advance voting location in the city during this period
- Offering Vote Anywhere in your Ward – on Voting Day, electors may cast their ballot at any voting location in their ward. Voting location details will be communicated through voter notices and the City's website
- Home Voting – electors who are home-bound due to illness, injury or disability may vote independently in their homes. The Home Voting Services is an appointment-based service

Updates

This Accessibility Plan may be updated, at the discretion of the City Clerk, as new opportunities for improvement in customer service become available. This plan, along with any updates will be made available on www.brampton.ca/bramptonvotes.

Feedback

The Election Office welcomes feedback to identify areas where changes may improve the delivery of an accessible election. Please provide us with your feedback on how we can make changes to this plan by emailing bramptonvotes@brampton.ca

Alternate Formats

Alternate formats are available upon request. Please email bramptonvotes@brampton.ca or accessibility@brampton.ca to request an alternate format. Requests may also be submitted through the online form at brampton.ca/alternativeformat.