



## Staff Report

**Report Title: Accessible Election 2022**

**Prepared By: Kelly Lush, Deputy Clerk**

**Department: Legislative Services**

**Date: Jan. 16, 2023**

**Report Number: CLK-2023-01-2**

**File Number: C11 CLK23**

### **Attachments:**

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### **Recommendation:**

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report Number CLK-2023-01-2 prepared by Kelly Lush, Deputy Clerk.

### **Background:**

In accordance with Section 12.1 (3) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended, the Clerk is required within 90 days after voting to submit a report to Council about the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities.

### **Discussion:**

The Township offered internet/telephone voting for the 2022 election. This is the fourth election that Huron-Kinloss has offered electronic voting. Electronic voting allows for accessible options for electors to vote. This year the Township had 40.9 % voter participation which was up from 39% during the 2018 election.

The Voter Help Center was an accessible option for electors to seek assistance or vote during the election. The Voter Help centre provided a large touch screen monitor, speaker phone, election officials available to assist voters and extended Help Centre hours. Persons that required assistance were permitted to be accompanied by a support person at the Municipal office in order to complete their voting. In addition, election officials were able to assist the voter in casting his/her vote. This service was appreciated by people with disabilities as well people without access to the internet or who may have experienced difficulties with the internet/telephone system.

Staff visited the local nursing homes to ensure residents were on the Voters' List and to assist with electronic voting. The Township received thanks from the management of the nursing homes and were pleased with the assistance received.

Designated parking space was provided at the main entrance of the municipal office that was marked with clear signage.

Communication efforts included attending events including the Ripley and Lucknow Fall Fairs, Beach Association meetings and All Candidate Nights. Information was also provided on the Township website, newsletters, social media, newspapers and posters.

For the 2022 Municipal Election all staff carrying out election duties were trained to recognize and ensure that persons with disabilities were able to be accommodated.

Providing accessible service is a priority for the Township as we continue to meet the needs of persons with disabilities.

**Financial Impacts:**

All associated expenses are included in the 2022 Election Budget.

**Strategic Alignment / Link:**

We are an accessible community by being open and transparent.

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

Kelly Lush, Deputy Clerk

**Report Approved By:**

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer