



The Corporation of the Township of Fauquier-Strickland 2022 Municipal Elections Accessibility Report

SUMMARY

In compliance with section 12.1 of the *Municipal Elections Act*, this report serves to inform the public of the steps that were taken to identify, remove and prevent barriers affecting electors and candidates with disabilities as per the *Municipal Election Act 1996*, section 12.1 (1) & (2).

Section 12.1(1) Electors and candidates with disabilities

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) Plan re barrier

The clerk shall prepare a plan regarding the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affects electors and candidates with disabilities and shall make the plan available to the public before voting day in a regular election.

The Clerk, as Returning Officer, took every effort to reduce barriers throughout the planning and conduct of the 2022 Municipal Election.

All election staff received accessible customer service training in 2022 prior to the elections.

Identification of Barriers

The following steps were taken to identify barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities:

The voting equipment and material was reviewed to ensure that all barriers were removed. The voting locations were assessed and all barriers found were removed or resolved.

Removal and Prevention of Barriers

Communications and Information

All municipal elections staff were given accessibility training to ensure that all interaction with people with disabilities was done in a respectful manner and that every effort be given to provide information in a respectful and timely manner.

Information was provided in Large Print and Magnifying sheets were provided at every voting booth to assist the visually impaired.

The elections staff were instructed to assist electors when required.

Voting Locations

The voting locations were visited and evaluation to ensure full accessibility.

The advance polls and voting day location was the Fauquier Community Centre. Accessible parking was available. The Entrance to the Community Centre is now automated but a Greeter was present to assist individuals accessing the voting place should they require any additional assistance. The voting location is not ground level but a handicap ramp was available to further assist electors with mobility issues.

Voting Stations

All locations were set-up in a way to ensure maximum accessibility. Sufficient space was made available to provide easy access to voting booths. Staff were instructed to assist individuals with special needs to ensure that everyone who entered the voting location had the ability to vote. Large print information posters were posted at all voting stations and read out to individuals as required. Magnifying sheets were made available in the voting booths to assist individuals with visual impairments.

Staff Training

All election staff received accessibility training with reference material prior to the advance pool and the election.

The training ensured that the staff knew how to interact and how to assist persons with various types of disabilities. Election staff were trained on how to not assume an individuals needs but to offer assistance to an elector who appeared to have difficulty getting around the voting location. Elections staff were directed to maintain a friendly and approachable demeanor, at all times. Greeters were trained to check the access doors frequently to offer assistance and keep an eye out for electors unable to easily enter the building.

Considerations for 2026 Election

Internet voting could be considered as an alternate form of voting for the 2026 municipal election, which would provide people with disabilities with an additional method of voting.

Nathalie Vachon
Municipal Clerk