



City of  
**Peterborough**

---

**To:** Members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

**From:** Sadie Norrad, Accessibility and Communication Specialist

**Meeting Date:** June 6, 2018

**Subject:** Report AAC18-027  
Accessibility at the 2018 Municipal Election

---

## **Purpose**

A report to introduce a presentation by the City of Peterborough's Elections Coordinator on the accessible voting equipment of the 2018 Municipal Election.

## **Recommendation**

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report AAC18-027 dated June 6, 2018, of the Accessibility and Communication Specialist as follows:

That the presentation by the Peterborough's Elections Coordinator be received for information.

## **Budget and Financial Implications**

There are no budget or financial implications in receiving this report. The implementation of accessibility provisions for the 2018 election has been considered in the budget.

---

## **Background**

### **City Hall Accessible Voting**

In 2014 the City introduced a low-volume voting option for any elector wishing to cast a ballot in advance of Election Day. Accessible voting technology was also available for anyone wishing to use it. During the last election 520 people took advantage of the option and cast a ballot at City Hall. The City will offer the same service for the 2018 election. City Hall Accessible Voting will run weekdays from Monday October 15, 2018 to Friday October 19, 2018, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

### **Accessible Voting Technology at City Hall**

The City Hall Accessible voting location will feature accessible voting equipment, allowing electors the opportunity to cast a ballot independently. The accessible voting technology to be employed in the 2018 election is the same technology that was used in 2014. With this technology, the voter uses headphones to hear the ballot choices for each contest and a handheld controller device allows them to control the voting session and choose their preferred candidate. The controller can also be operated by other assistive devices such as sip and puff and paddles, for voters who are unable to use their hands to press the selection buttons. Once selections are made, a marked paper ballot is printed from a blank sheet of paper, and is completely indistinguishable from a paper ballot marked by hand.

## **Summary**

The City of Peterborough is committed to ensuring the 2018 Municipal Election is accessible. The election team encourages and welcomes ongoing input from the Accessibility Advisory Committee to ensure that everyone in the City of Peterborough has an equal opportunity to vote independently.

Submitted by,

Ryan Matheson  
Election Coordinator

Contact Name:  
Ryan Matheson  
Election Coordinator  
Phone: 705-742-7777 Extension 1838  
Toll Free: 1-855-738-3755  
Fax: 705-748-8824  
E-mail: [rmatheson@peterborough.ca](mailto:rmatheson@peterborough.ca)