



2026 Municipal Election Accessibility Plan

Version 1: May 1, 2026



Introduction

The Town of Kingsville is committed to making the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election (“2026 Election”) and any subsequent by-elections accessible to all candidates, electors and election workers. The Town of Kingsville understands the importance of accessibility for persons with disabilities and will work to identify, remove and prevent barriers to participation in the 2026 Election.

Town staff are available throughout the election period to assist with any accessibility-related concerns and to help ensure a barrier-free election process.

Contact information for assistance:

Telephone: (519) 733-2305 ext. 248

Email: clerks@kingsville.ca

In Person: Clerk's Office
Kingsville Municipal Offices
2021 Division Road North
Kingsville, ON N9Y 2Y9

Please contact us if you require this information in an accessible format.

Authority

In accordance with the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (“MEA”), all municipalities are required to adhere to the following provisions:

Electors and candidates with disabilities

12.1 (1) A clerk who is responsible for conducting an election shall have regard to the needs of electors and candidates with disabilities.

Plan re barriers

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.

Report

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. 2016, c. 15, s. 11



Accessibility

45 (2) In establishing the locations of voting places, the clerk shall ensure that each voting place is accessible to electors with disabilities.

Objectives

This Plan outlines the Town of Kingsville’s commitment to ensuring that the 2026 Election and any subsequent by-elections are accessible and inclusive. It focuses on giving electors and candidates with disabilities equal access to voting, election information, and participation. This Plan also emphasizes independence in voting and access to information about voting and candidates, opportunities to participate in all election roles, and effective communication to ensure voters are aware of available accessibility measures.

Communications

Election information will be provided to electors and candidates with disabilities in an alternative format agreed upon between the requester and the Clerk.

Printed material generated by the Town of Kingsville will be provided in an Arial font, minimum 12 point, and can be made available in a font (print) size that is 16 to 20 points or larger.

Information on the Town’s website in relation to the 2026 Election will be compliant with WCAG 2.0 Level AA, and allow for assistive software to be utilized.

If, during the 2026 Election, there is a disruption to a service, the Clerk will let the public know as soon as possible. The notice will explain what the disruption is, how long it is expected to last, and what other options are available to access the information or service. The Town will make every reasonable effort to ensure that people with disabilities can still access the information or service in another way.

Accessible Voting

An in-person voting method will be used for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election. The Town of Kingsville will implement a “vote anywhere” model, which allows any eligible Kingsville elector to vote at any designated voting location. Every effort has been made to ensure each voting location is accessible. Accessible Voting Assistive Devices will be available during Advance Voting and on Voting Day. Accessible voting will be made available on the following dates, times, and locations:



Advance Voting:

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Accessible location: Grovedale Arts and Culture Centre, 103 Park Street, Kingsville

Saturday, October 17, 2026

12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Accessible location: Gosfield Communications Community Centre, 124 Fox Street, Cottam

Saturday, October 24, 2026

12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Accessible location: Grovedale Arts and Culture Centre, 103 Park Street, Kingsville

Voting Day:

Monday, October 26, 2026

10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Accessible location: Grovedale Arts and Culture Centre, 103 Park Street, Kingsville

Voter Assist Terminal

All of the above-listed dates and locations will be equipped with the AutoMARK™ Voter Assist Terminal, which is an accessible ballot-marking device used to help voters independently and privately mark a paper ballot. The device does not count or tabulate votes. Instead, it marks the voter's selections onto a standard paper ballot, which the voter then places into a tabulator for counting in the same way as all other ballots. It is intended to support voter independence and privacy, particularly for voters who may face physical, visual, or other accessibility barriers. Election staff are responsible for setting up the device, but are not involved in a voter's ballot choices.

The AutoMARK™ provides multiple accessibility features that allow voters to choose the method of interaction that best meets their needs. Voters may navigate and complete their ballot using one or more of the following options:

- Touch screen
- Keypad with Braille
- Audio instructions through headphones
- Rocker Paddle device
- Sip-and-Puff device

For voters who are blind or have low vision, the AutoMARK™ offers:



- Full audio voting with spoken instructions, contest details, and selections via headphones
- Adjustable audio volume and speech speed
- A Braille-marked keypad for navigation without viewing the screen
- An option to turn the screen on or off while voting to enhance privacy Visual Display Adjustments

For voters who benefit from visual enhancements, the touch screen includes:

- Adjustable font size with zoom in/out functionality
 - A high-contrast display mode with white text on a black background
 - Simple navigation buttons to move forward, backward, and review selections
- Accessible Controls for Mobility and Dexterity Needs

The AutoMARK™ supports alternative input devices for voters who may have limited hand movement or motor control. These devices enable voters to complete the entire ballot process without touching the screen or keypad:

- Sip-and-Puff device, which allows voters to navigate and make selections using controlled breaths through a straw
- Rocker Paddle device, which allows voting through simple yes/no selections using hands or feet
- Language selection where multiple languages are available
- Alerts for over-votes or under-votes to help voters understand and correct selections
- A final summary screen that allows voters to review all choices before marking the ballot

Election officials are available to assist any voter with a disability who is unable to mark a ballot or may have difficulty with reading or writing. All individuals working in the capacity of an election official are formally appointed and take an oath of secrecy.

Staff Training and Election Assistance Staff Training

All staff carrying out election duties will complete specific Election Training to comply with the Accessibility Plan and to recognize and ensure that persons with disabilities are served in a way that accommodates their individual needs. This training will include:

- How to interact/communicate with persons with various types of disability;
- How to interact with persons with disabilities who use assistive devices, require the assistance of a support person or a service animal;



- What to do if a person is having difficulty accessing election information or services;
- How to provide voter assistance if requested.

Reporting

In accordance with Section 12.1 of the MEA, within 90 days after voting day, the Clerk will prepare a report about the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities and will make the report available to the public. This report will be available on the Town of Kingsville's election website www.kingsville.ca/election, and in alternative formats upon request.

Election Feedback & Updates

The Clerk welcomes feedback to identify areas where changes need to be considered and ways in which the municipality can improve the delivery of an accessible election. This Plan is a living document and will continue to undergo changes. The feedback received on the Election Accessibility Plan will be reviewed by the Clerk and any necessary action taken in a timely manner.