

To: Corporate and Finance Services Committee

From: Mary Medeiros, Director, Legislative Services/City Clerk
Office of the C.A.O.

Report Number: CF-23-07

Date of Report: January 4, 2023

Date of Meeting: January 9, 2023

Subject: 2022 Municipal and School Board Elections - Identification,
Removal and Prevention of Barriers Affecting Electors and
Candidates with Disabilities

Ward: All Wards

File: 03-05

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update concerning the identification, removal and prevention of barriers affecting electors and candidates with disabilities from the 2022 Municipal and School Board Elections in accordance with Section 12.1 (3) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, S.O. 1996, c. 32, Sched. ("Municipal Elections Act").

Attachment 1 is a copy of the Post-Election Survey Responses – Accessibility.

2.0 Recommendation

That the Corporate and Finance Services Committee recommend to City Council:

That pursuant to Report CF-23-07, dated January 4, 2023, concerning 2022 Municipal and School Board Elections – Identification, Removal and Prevention of Barriers Affecting Electors and Candidates with Disabilities, the City Clerk consider the received feedback and where appropriate incorporate into the 2026 Municipal and School Board Elections.

3.0 Executive Summary

Not applicable

4.0 Input From Other Sources

- Oshawa Accessibility Advisory Committee (reviewed the Election Accessibility Plan)
- Comment forms from Election Officials
- ConnectOshawa public consultation
- Feedback submitted directly to Legislative Services by Electors

5.0 Analysis

5.1 Collection of Accessibility Comments

At the end of Voting Day, each Managing Deputy Returning Officer (M.D.R.O.) was required to complete an accessibility comment form outlining any accessibility concerns or issues that arose at their Voting Place on Voting Day. M.D.R.O.s were also asked to identify the specific actions taken to resolve issues that arose on Voting Day. For example, where a power-assisted door was not operating as expected, an Election Official was specifically stationed at the entrance to assist voters. In addition to comment forms completed by Election Officials, Oshawa residents were invited to complete a survey after the election regarding their voting experience.

The City hosted an eight-week consultation on the municipal voting experience and accessibility, which included accessibility questions on vote-by-mail, advanced voting and voting day. The public consultation resulted in 224 responses. The consultation was promoted to the community through various communications tools and mediums, including the City website; Connect Oshawa; signage at City facility voting locations; social media; public notices emailed to subscribers and stakeholders; e-newsletters; and on the City Page in the newspaper.

Staff reviewed the comment forms, Connect Oshawa feedback responses as well as feedback received by Legislative Services directly via email and telephone. Attachment 1 provides an overview of the survey questions and responses related to accessibility. Opportunities for improvement based on this information regarding the election process will be taken into consideration when planning for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Elections to contribute to further improvements for electors and candidates with disabilities.

5.2 Election Accessibility Plan

During the preparations for the 2022 Municipal and School Board Elections, an Election Accessibility Plan was prepared in accordance with Section 12.1 (2) of the Municipal Elections Act. This plan addressed the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities.

This plan was reviewed by the City's Accessibility Program Coordinator who provided advice regarding how to improve accessibility for the municipal elections for inclusion in the plan. In addition, the Plan was presented to the Oshawa Accessibility Advisory Committee (O.A.A.C.) at its meeting of May 17, 2022. The Committee did not make any further recommendations concerning the plan. The final Elections Accessibility Plan is available on the City's [website](#).

5.3 Information

General election information for voters and candidates as well as information regarding accessible voting technologies and other options for persons with disabilities was available through the various communications used during the election including:

- Emails – through enewsletter subscriptions
- Newspaper advertisements
- Bus shelter signage
- Cineplex theatre lobby messaging
- Advertising in the Oshawa Centre
- Tax bill insert
- Posters and messaging at City facilities including indoor and outdoor signage
- Radio and television advertisements
- Social Media messages and advertising
- Voter notification card mailed to resident homes
- Websites – City of Oshawa corporate website www.oshawa.ca and community engagement connectoshawa.ca

All election information was available on the City's website which is in compliance with WCAG 2.0 Level AA. Information was largely communicated electronically using the City's website and electronic communications, and staff ensured the documents were accessible using the City's Accessible Document and Website Standards prior to distribution. Information and copies of election documents were also available to candidates and electors in print versions and alternative formats upon request.

Legislative Services also made available the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario's Candidate Guide to Accessible Elections for further information.

5.4 Training

All Election Officials were required to attend mandatory training prior to working during the Election. A portion of this training focused on accessibility, including recognizing and accommodating the needs of electors and candidates with disabilities on Voting Day. This training was consistent with the City's Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation Training Guide, a document that was provided to officials as a reference. The training and standards in the Guide outline, among other things, how to respectfully communicate with a person with a disability, how to interact with persons using assistive devices or requiring the assistance of a service animal or support worker and general guidelines for providing assistance to electors.

5.5 Voting Places

5.5.1 Selection and Inspection

Prior to Voting Day, Legislative Services staff visited all regular voting locations to identify and remove, where possible, any barriers that could serve as an obstacle to any individual.

Where the barriers could not be removed, strategies were developed to ensure all voters could access the facility and cast their ballot. Legislative Services developed a checklist to assess the accessibility of Voting Places, including standards established by the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (I.A.S.R.). The checklist contained a number of criteria, including but not limited to requirements for:

- Power-assisted door operators
- Adequate lighting
- Accessible entrances/exits (i.e. ramps)
- Barrier-free paths of travel
- Adequate accessible parking

In many instances, the voting locations selected were the same facilities used as in the Provincial election, however it is important to note that the Province's and City's voting subdivisions differ. This may result in the City directing a voter to a different location than the one they used during the Provincial election. In order to ensure flexible opportunities for voting places, Voters on Voting Day could vote at any regular voting location in their Ward.

Where a voting location required special instructions, this information was recorded and provided to the Election Officials working at that location. For example, where an Election Official was required to run an elevator or lift, additional staff were scheduled for the location and the Managing Deputy Returning Officer was made aware of the requirements.

As noted in the Accessibility Plan, there were 14 special voting locations established at the City's registered retirement residences, long-term care facilities and at Lakeridge Health Oshawa; an increase of 2 additional special voting locations from 2018. In accordance with the Municipal Elections Act, these locations are either retirement homes where 50 or more beds are occupied or institutions (hospitals, long term care homes, etc.) where 20 or more beds are occupied by persons with disabilities or chronic illness and only those residents or occupants of the facility are permitted to cast their vote at that location.

5.5.1.1 Use of Schools as Voting Places

Election feedback from 2018 recommended the provision of more voting places in 2022. As such, Legislative Services increased the number of regular voting locations from 35 in 2018 to 49, including City Hall, in 2022. To accommodate this number of voting locations, it was necessary to use a variety of different venues for voting places including City facilities and rented spaces, however the majority of locations selected were schools.

Schools are chosen for use for two reasons. First, in accordance with Section 45 (6) of the Municipal Elections Act, school boards are required to provide space for use as a voting place at no cost to the municipality. Second, schools are generally located in well-populated neighbourhoods and are often centrally located making it easier for voters to access as in many voting subdivisions there are a limited number of venues that have adequate space to accommodate a voting place. In 2018, the City along with neighbouring municipalities successfully petitioned the Durham District School Board and Durham Catholic District School Board to schedule a professional development day on October 24,

2022. This not only improves student safety but also improves access to parking and school facilities for voters.

With respect to accessibility, district school boards follow similar accessibility standards under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, S.O. 2005, c. 11*, (“AODA”) as municipalities, however where there was more than one school in a voting subdivision, the more accessible school was selected as the voting place following evaluations using the selection checklist.

Some of the feedback received following the 2022 election related to accessibility concerns with schools, such as the distance some voters had to travel from parking lots to the rooms, usually the gymnasium, where voting activities were taking place. It is important to note that school boards often face the same challenges as municipalities in terms of funding and resources to ensure full accessibility, especially in buildings of varied age or original design. In addition, upon arrival on Voting Day, the administration of some schools required Election Officials to use only specific entrances, which may not have been the most convenient entry point from the accessible parking spaces.

5.5.2 Advance Voting Period

During the Advance Voting period, voting activities took place at 11 locations throughout the City. All in-person Advance Voting took place inside City Facilities, namely City Hall, the Northview Community Centre, the Donevan Recreation Complex, the Civic Recreation Complex, the Delpark Homes Centre and the South Oshawa Community Centre.

All Advance Voting locations featured accessible voting technologies allowing individuals requiring the use of this technology to cast a ballot independently and in secret, regardless of their abilities. The accessible voting technologies consisted of a ballot marker device that printed markings in the defined area for the candidate(s) chosen by the Voter. The Voter would use headphones to listen to a list of candidates for each race and using one of the devices would move through the voting process and make their selections. The controller could also be operated by other assistive devices such as a sip and puff and paddle devices. The audio was controllable to adjust volume and speed and to allow the Voter to move between contests. In addition, the audio presentation confirmed the voter’s selection(s) prior to printing the ballot. The ballots produced by the accessible technologies are completely indistinguishable from any paper ballot marked by hand. To utilize these technologies, an accessible Voting Booth was set up at each Advance Voting place.

In addition, all voting places during the Advance Voting period and on Voting Day were equipped with screen magnifiers to assist voters if requested.

5.5.2.1 Vote by Mail on Request

Between August 12, 2022 and September 12, 2022, any qualified elector in the City could register to receive a Vote-by-Mail on Request (VbM) package to be completed and returned before Voting Day. These packages allowed an elector to receive a ballot and voting instruction package delivered directly to their mailing address of choice. The package included a postage-paid return envelope to send the completed ballot back to Legislative Services, or voters could drop their ballot package off at one of six established

drop box locations located at City Facilities. The locations of the drop boxes were established in accordance with the City's Accessibility Design Standards to ensure appropriate height and reach standards to allow any voter to access these boxes to return their ballot.

5.6 Voting Day

On Voting Day, voting activities took place at 48 regular voting locations throughout the City. In addition, a voting location was established at City Hall with the same assistive voting technologies available during the Advance Voting opportunities.

All Voting Places were arranged to ensure the voting area was well lit, voting booths could accommodate an individual requiring the use of a wheelchair or scooter and seating was available to electors and candidates. For voters requesting assistance, prior to entering a voting booth, an Election Official, in conjunction with the voter, would determine the extent to which assistance was required and how best it could be provided. This could include assistance by a support worker, family member or Election Official in marking the ballot as directed by the voter, where requested.

Signs were provided for exterior Voting Place entrances, and doors into the Voting Place were wide enough for a wheelchair or scooter to pass through easily. Elections staff were also provided with signage to clearly mark the room entrance and provide direction to voters making their way to the voting area within the building. Throughout the day, additional signage was dispatched to a number of locations to improve wayfinding based on voter comments on Voting Day.

With respect to the special voting places, for those unable to attend the Voting Place established in the facility (e.g. main lobby, meeting room etc.), Election Officials were able to attend to the voter within their specific living area or at their bedside. Assistance from an Election Official was available at these facilities upon request by the elector; all Election Officials are sworn to an oath of secrecy. On Voting Day, these facilities required our Election Officials to undergo screening and provide a negative Covid-19 test. In addition, access to these facilities was restricted to our Election Officials only; candidates and their scrutineers were not permitted entry by the management of the facility. Furthermore, two of the special voting locations were under quarantine due to illness outbreak and City staff were not permitted to enter these facilities. To accommodate voting, special ballots were provided similar to the Vote-by-Mail on Request packages to allow these residents to vote. These packages were dropped off on Voting Day to institutions by Election Officials and were distributed and collected by the institution staff. Election Officials returned on the same day to collect the materials and completed ballots to be returned to City Hall for tabulation.

5.7 Additional Information

5.7.1 Proxy Voting

Section 44 of the Municipal Elections Act states that a person who is entitled to be an elector in a local municipality may appoint another person who is also so entitled as their voting proxy, using the prescribed form. Voting proxies are not considered an alternative

voting method, they are a legislated process under the Act and allow individuals, for any reason including those related to accessibility accommodations, to appoint another qualified elector to vote on their behalf. Where a by-law authorizing the use of alternative voting methods is in effect however, voting proxies are only authorized if the alternative vote method specifies that they are permitted.

In order to appoint a proxy, a prescribed form must be completed by the voter. The person they have appointed as their proxy must file the form in person to the City Clerk or their designate for certification. For the 2022 Municipal Elections, nine individuals appointed voting proxies.

5.7.2 Online/Telephone Voting

Although not specifically part of the survey, a number of respondents referenced the use of online or telephone voting with respect to improving accessibility. Of the 97 respondents who provided comment on survey questions related to accessibility, 42 indicated they would prefer to vote online or via telephone, noting that this would also improve access for themselves or their families and friends. In addition, 4 of the 42 respondents who indicated they did not vote also stated that the lack of online voting options was a contributing factor in choosing not to vote

6.0 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

7.0 Relationship to the Oshawa Strategic Plan

This report supports the Strategic Goals of Social Equity and Accountable Leadership.



Mary Medeiros, Director, Legislative Services/City Clerk,
Legislative Services

Post-Election Survey Responses - Accessibility

The following information is taken directly from the responses to the survey questions surrounding accessibility specifically. Where text responses have been provided, they are reproduced below exactly as submitted except where identifying information was provided, in which case such information has been redacted.

Vote by Mail on Request

How satisfied were you with the Vote-by-Mail Process?

Satisfied – 10

Somewhat Satisfied - 1

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement “My needs were met when voting by mail”. Please use an accessibility lens.

Agree – 9

Somewhat Agree - 2

How could the process be improved should this voting method be offered in future elections?

- Option to opt out of school board elections as I have no family members involved in education and cannot relate to the board’s responsibilities
- Ability to vote online
- Ward Councillor information would be nice to have. I was aware of where some of the candidates stood on issue prior to voting as you had to vote early to make sure your vote counted.
- Sending proper ID to register on-line for voting by mail may be challenging for some people. Telephone may be easier (sorry, can’t recall if this was an option)
- I was fine with the way the mail in vote was done, I had enough time to fill out my voter card and return it via mail.
- It might have been good to get the mail-in ballot sooner. There was time to mail it (only 2 days) but it was the Thanksgiving weekend so I dropped it off at [redacted] to be sure it was received on time. Which was fine.
- Delete the requirement for any “Special” pens or pencils. Just make it clear that a black one is to be used.
- I registered online for the mail in voting because I was away for the advance polls as well as Election Day. I made a correction to my information on the school board designation but it did not translate in the received ballot.

- The package should include a point form information on each party on past accomplishments and or what they intend to try to do if elected, to help a person make an informed decision on the person or parties they are voting for.
- More accuracy transcribing what I entered into the actual ballot.

Voting In Person at an Advance Voting Opportunity

How satisfied were you with your voting experience?

Satisfied – 50

Somewhat Satisfied – 10

Neutral – 5

Somewhat Dissatisfied – 4

Dissatisfied – 1

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement: “Voting Places were free of physical barriers”. Please use an accessibility lens.

Agree – 53

Somewhat Agree – 8

Neutral – 2

Somewhat Disagree – 1

Disagree – 1

Not applicable – 3

Prefer not to Answer – 1

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement: “Voting Places were free of attitudinal barriers”. Please use an accessibility lens.

Agree – 55

Somewhat Agree – 5

Neutral – 4

Not applicable – 3

Prefer not to Answer – 1

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement: "Election staff were familiar with accessible voting equipment options and their set up". Please use an accessibility lens.

Agree – 41

Somewhat Agree – 4

Neutral – 7

Not applicable – 16

Prefer not to Answer – 1

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement: "My needs were met when voting in person". Please use an accessibility lens.

Agree – 56

Somewhat Agree – 3

Neutral – 3

Somewhat Disagree – 3

Disagree – 3

Not applicable – 1

How could the process be improved in future elections?

- Online Voting
- Electronic ID Scan
- More signage. Don't be in the back of buildings or have greeters at building entrance to guide to rooms in the back around corners
- Voted at advanced polling station and there was a lot of walking
- On line voting. My wife didn't have a chance to vote
- Not sure. I felt everything worked well at my Advance poll
- The pandemic was and is very much an issue in Oshawa. Advanced voting for me was at Northview Senior Centre. I feel with the Pandemic still with us it should not have been held at a Senior Centre. Very few in the lineup wore masks and in a senior centre should have been required. I wore mine and so should all of them. The election workers did have them on which was good. It is time for us to be able to vote at home!
- I always use Advance voting due to no lines and convenience to my schedule. I can understand why more people do not.

- My advance poll was at City Hall. However signage as to where at City Hall was poor. I only found the location from a voter just leaving
- The voting place could have been closer to home, on the actual day of Oct. 24th. We decided to go to the advanced polling station, at Donevan Community Centre, as it was closer to our home on [redacted].
- I needed a wheelchair and the one provided me would not go in a straight line. It's was like one on those horrible grocery carts you get in the grocery store! The wheelchair also did not have a place to put my feet. I had to hold my feet up to avoid them touching the ground which could have caused injury to myself. I was fortunate that I had the leg strength to do this. Anyone needing a wheelchair and could not lift their legs would be injured
- No improvement needed
- There was no voting information in the local This Week until the week of the full vote date. It would have helped to have the voting information on all the candidates running in Oshawa as the month of October started so could make a good choice who to vote for
- Had no difficulties with the voting process.
- Online voting
- Offer on-line voting like other Durham Municipalities.
- Lack of voter turnout is not solely a lack of apathy on the general public. It is also very much so with the actual candidates. Candidates would have a strong campaign presence in the neighbourhoods, speaking with the public, dropping off flyers etc. I had 1 person visit and speak to me, and one drop off a flyer! No wonder no one is voting!! Voting for the sake of voting isn't right. We have to know what the candidates are about.
- I would love to see internet voting put in place, and I think it would seriously increase the "turnout" over the pathetic 18% that voted in the recent election. The city talks about "accessibility" but it's not really walking the talk. Leap into the current century! If I can safely shop, pay my bills and send money on the internet, why not vote?
- More training for staff working the polls on the processes and equipment.
- It should be advertised more, more mail out candidate literature, many people didn't read the back of their polling cards, more emphasis on advanced polls!
- No issues.
- IMHO...All voters should have advance summary of all the candidates who are up for election, with a small explanation of their qualifications. I stared at a list of strangers.

- I was able to find the pre voting times easily. There also was lots of repeated information on how to vote and when to vote options. I was able to locate the ward panel debate/discussion time and place to meet the candidates (a first time to attend one).
- I would like the city to try phone voting
- It was well run and very easy to vote, either by mail or in person.
- Shorter walk into buildings for elderly people
- I was given the wrong ward card. Next time I will speak up before my ballot is put through the machine.
- Implement on-line voting.
- worked out very well
- Everything was great. I didn't like seeing a poll person smoking near the doors, but I'm a non-smoker so that's just a personal beef.
- My experience was excellent. No need to improve.
- Offer online voting hopefully it will increase the participation
- Online voting. Candidates' profiles and work history available from a City of Oshawa website. Information regarding candidates' meetings and debates. Municipal property tax credit for participating voters.
- It was pretty straight forward as it is.
- Quite satisfied with the process, lots of time to vote, there is no excuse for people who did not get out to vote
- Voting in person was very good, however, we are late seventies and I get quite lightheaded. Let's now consider on-line voting. My daughter lives in [redacted] and they voted on-line this time. It would hopefully improve voter participation too.
- I always get 'allocated' to facilities good distances away, while, two blocks north of me is the University Rec Centre, often used for voting. I suppose people there were sent from Whitby to vote? I am finding in all three levels of government voting processes, by requesting people to vote at inconvenient locations while, as I mention, a voting centre is walking distance from me. You know when I got to vote at that Rec Centre? When I lived very close to downtown. This is a very well-known method of discouraging voters that don't own houses, or, cars, and never will in this town. Wal-Mart and Tim Hortons are not vehicles to opportunity and that is Oshawa's employment 'opportunities'...just like the 'housing opportunities'. UnInclusive, prejudiced, privileged and thoroughly disgusting divisions. You may talk Economics and I will teach you about the Humanities.

- Online voting would save both time and money. Also, it might improve voter turnout out.
- There was essentially very little information in our community newspaper. In the past there was continual coverage of issues in the community and profiles of candidates. I had to research the candidates online to learn who was running and what they stood for. In the past, issues at council were reported in the news and you were able to get a sense of how the members performed and their approach. Journalism has utterly failed. Now there is barely a mention of the candidates let alone any other information. Where were the public candidate forums? Interested citizens could listen and meet the candidates. Often there were several opportunities to do so. Now we are faced with a barrage of signs with no context. I feel that is why, to a large degree, people are not engaged.
- Information regarding who is running is needed. Leaving it to the candidates to outreach to the public is not ideal and it should be part of the job of City Clerk's election office to at least make available opportunities for the public to meet the candidates running as was done in Whitby and other municipalities. This can be done in a non-partisan way.
- Electronic ballots
- Half the residents on my street and many other residents throughout the city complained of never receiving their voter's card in the mail.
- The publicity and information for the school board candidates was truly shocking. I ended up not voting for the school boards because I was not able to find enough information about the candidates.
- On-line voting

Voting In-Person on Voting Day

How satisfied were you with your voting experience in person on Voting Day?

Satisfied – 65

Somewhat Satisfied – 16

Neutral – 8

Somewhat Dissatisfied –6

Dissatisfied – 6

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement: “Voting Places were free of physical barriers”. Please use an accessibility lens.

Agree – 79

Somewhat Agree – 8

Neutral – 3

Somewhat Disagree – 3

Disagree – 6

Not applicable – 2

Prefer not to Answer – 1

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement: “Voting Places were free of attitudinal barriers”. Please use an accessibility lens.

Agree – 84

Somewhat Agree – 4

Neutral – 5

Somewhat Disagree – 1

Disagree - 2

Not applicable – 3

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement: "Election staff were familiar with accessible voting equipment options and their set up". Please use an accessibility lens.

Agree – 48

Somewhat Agree – 3

Neutral – 16

Somewhat Disagree – 1

Disagree - 3

Not applicable – 28

Prefer not to Answer – 1

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement: "My needs were met when voting in person". Please use an accessibility lens.

Agree – 84

Somewhat Agree – 6

Somewhat Disagree – 3

Disagree – 5

Not applicable – 1

How could the process be improved in future elections?

- Increase access to information on who is running.
- The greeter in the lobby made a huge deal out of us not having our voter cards and we need to remember those, as if we were going to go home and turn the house over looking for them again, at dinner time with our young daughter.
- Online polling, earlier poll locations for commuters i.e. 7 a.m. advance polling
- I voted at the Rundle Community Centre. The wheelchair buttons for the doors did not work.
- To get a higher turnout you may want to explore online voting. It would also really be helpful if someone sponsored all candidate forums so that more electors had an opportunity to meet the candidates. I have voted in every election in the last 40 years; however something is causing voter apathy so perhaps something more can be done. I make it my business to ensure that I find out about who those candidates are so I can make an informed vote.
- Online app is the way to go. And mandatory requirement if possible!
- Access to information on candidates (their positions and platforms) is the primary barrier. Easy access to previous voting record/any disciplinary measures of

incumbents would make it easier to judge if their campaign statements matched their actions.

- I agree with the option to be able to vote online
- Don't use Dominion Voting machines, I've heard they are hackable. Every ballot should be hand counted.
- My voting location was far away and I always like to walk. In the past we have always voted to the west of the Oshawa Creek, there are lots of schools, churches, 420 wing that would have been more convenient than Sunset heights school.
- My in-person experience at the voting station was excellent. I have many concerns about the lead up to the actual election, and hopefully will have the ability to share that in this survey.
- Mary St School voting site has NO parking.
- Internet Voting would be beneficial in improving turnout. Additionally, I have tried twice to take my 2 daughters off the voting list as they left home years ago but they keep receiving voters cards. It would be great to update your voters list as my household reported a 50% voting rate, instead of reality which was 100% with both my wife and I voting.
- Voting over the Internet
- Continue to allow people to vote anywhere in the ward
- The process works as far as i'm concerned - no need for improvement.
- Would love to do online voting
- If it was virtual and information on candidates were clearly available
- I have no suggestions; I feel it's clearly communicated and well in advance.
Thank you for your time!
- It should be a requirement of each candidate to have online materials indicating their platform. Some candidates had nothing, or a website that had little to no details on where they stand. Comparing candidates was made easier with those who had a clear and concise website.
- Internet voting
- Online voting and a voting office should be open the whole time from beginning to end of each election in each city , so people can whenever they want
- Online voting
- Allow for online voting as they did in Clarington. They saw a higher percentage of voter response, even if it was only 28%

- The ballot reader malfunction when reading my spouse's ballot. The returning officer thought it could be because the ballot was signed improperly (in the top corner).
- My wife & I are both seniors in our upper 80's. This is probably the last time we will be able to vote in person; therefore in future we will need to vote by internet, if available.
- Everything worked efficiently. No improvements required.
- I am a property owner in [redacted] and I voted electronically (from my phone) with the PIN that was mailed to me the first week of October. I also voted the same way in 2018 with that municipality. Fabulous system in place in [redacted]. Might be something to consider and look at the voter turnout in each municipality etc.
- The voting apathy in this city is horrendous. Look at your co-workers, neighbors and friends. At least 8 out of 10 of them didn't vote. That's pathetic. I saw NOTHING out there about getting citizens out to vote. We need a wholesale change in mentality regarding obligations and civic duty. The city should PUSH harder.
- I did not know that an elevator was available at the Harmony Creek Golf Course. This was not clearly marked only those dreaded stairs. Ugh.
- My location required to climb multiple stairs and I felt bad for elderly. This was not clearly noted prior to entry of building and a notice with another location where access was agreeable to all levels of ability should have been highlighted.
- Voting should be made easier by e-vote.
- Online elections would be ideal if internet security could be validated.
- At the last minute I had to take a toddler in a stroller to vote. The location was at a Boys and Girls club. The access to the voting area was up stairs. The small elevator was available with key entry. All went well in the end but wonder how it worked with a line-up. The door greeter had to take us upstairs and wait while I voted to take us back down.
- On-line voting.
- I voted at R S McLaughlin and parking was in front of the school but the voting entrance was at the back of the school. Many people with walkers, canes, or had difficulty walking were left to maneuver the distance which was also a bit of a hill. Maybe assign temporary handicapped parking spots closer to the entrance.
- Ranked choice ballots
- Provide internet voting so I can use my own screen reader to mark my own ballot

- I hope I voted for the right people, and that it does us all some good! I think Developers should pay the cost for new Police Substations and new Fire Stations, what about you?
- Make it mandatory
- No voting by mail!! Picture ID must be shown. No internet voting for the same reason, without a doctors letter stating the Person is physically and capable of going in. That Lester and a photo of ID Would somehow be required to be turning ahead of time to get set up for Internet voting
- Secure Elections Ontario approved internet voting.
- No changes necessary. Voting was quick and easy, and everyone was very pleasant.
- Have polls in senior residences and the 5 Senior Citizens Centers
- Don't disrupt the school day and offer alternatives like online voting.
- Paper ballots with tabulators are efficient, but need to look at internet voting
- Make voting online
- I think that more ways of voting should be offered. I was working out of town and had to make my best assessment and try to get back into oshawa so I could vote. Not everyone has the luxury to be around home all the time
- Bigger, coloured signs for direction from roadside
- Requirement for candidate websites with information, not just email addresses
- No sign posted by the road to indicate where to go, what driveway to go into. I heard several elderly people voicing concern about the 2-3 stairs needed to access the gym in the school.
- I live at Conlin/Simcoe yet my form told me to vote at queen Elizabeth School south of Taunton on Simcoe while a polling station was two blocks away on Bridal. I went to Bridal and was told I could not vote there and that they'd been turning away people all day. After I strongly protested and showed them the statement on the voters card indicating I could vote at any poll in my ward I was finally allowed to vote. Horrible experience
- Voting by phone or on line. If you vote you get a rebate on your city tax.
- Better directions to the actual door that was used to enter O'Neill CVI
- The location in the building had changed, signage was pathetic and not obvious.
- Masks should have been required at polling stations for safety of disabled and immunocompromised voters and staff. Online option to vote should have been offered if no mask guidelines are in place.

- Poll worker tried to tell me to go vote in a different ward, after presenting my ID with current address in the correct ward. Poll workers should be trained on roll updating.
- Voting was fine, the campaign needs to be improved. We need candidate debates for all positions. These should be as close to mandatory as possible for candidates. We also need a more independent and active media covering regional, city council, and school board meetings. Journalists / publishers must be willing to be more critical of the status quo.
- The voter turnout was dismal and embarrassing. We need to go to online voting.
- Workers should be familiar with where/how results are posted afterward

Were you aware that accessible voting equipment was available at every Advance Voting Event and at City Hall on Voting Day?

Yes – 74

No – 99

Prefer not to answer - 6

Do you have any comments or concerns in relation to the accessible voting equipment or your accessible voting experience during Oshawa's 2022 Elections?

- The wheelchair buttons at Rundle Community Centre did not work
- SHOULD USE ONLINE VOTING
- Facial ID should be taken at voting machine
- The fact that Dominion Voting Machines were used
- Time to vote on line at home!
- I needed a wheelchair and the one provided me would not go in a straight line. It's was like one on those horrible grocery carts you get in the grocery store! The wheelchair also did not have a place to put my feet. I had to hold my feet up to avoid them touching the ground which could have caused injury to myself. I was fortunate that I had the leg strength to do this. Anyone needing a wheelchair and could not lift their legs would been injured
- No, it was all fine
- Did not require accessible voting equipment so never investigated.
- Accessible voting equipment at only one location in the entire City of Oshawa on voting day seems to be a failure to meet AODA.
- This was my main concern as I passed 3 elderly people gripping the railing and moving slow. I felt very bad for them and thought a better solution was required.

- That my husband should be sworn in to mark my ballot and when we made them aware they could not find the page to read to my husband and the supervisor waved us on without him being sworn to mark accurately, I trust my husband however they did not follow the election rules
- Glad it was available!
- Satisfied
- No, everything went well for me.
- Yes...how about considering the ability to access the voting stations, themselves, in a logic manner where voting sites and residential area coincide. Never mind postal codes. Those are being used to create this disadvantage and voter discouragement by a very particular method and means. It stinks of a common favoritism for the wealthy, Surprise, Surprise!!
- We should consider online voting! It will make it more accessible to people with disabilities.
- I have neighbors next to me and they did not get out to vote because they did not know that that it was possible they could not afford to get a vehicle to get them out due to being in a position of unaffordable and handicapped barrier
- I don't think about it. I don't have a disability.
- Please move to rank voting
- I did not need the special equipment, but it's good that it allows more people to vote without assistance.

If you or someone you know experienced an accessibility barrier during the 2022 Municipal and School Board Elections, please tell us about the barrier and recommendations for the experience.

- There should be publication of where accessible poles are taking place i.e. some retirement homes and senior living places had them however you couldn't find that information online. People should not be left guessing where these are being held.
- Entrance had a step in making it difficult for some
- Don't know of any barriers
- Doors at schools are not accessible, no button to push to open them
- I was tempted to turn around and leave without voting as the wheelchair provided was unsafe.
- Better advanced notice and highlight any concern and solution at the beginning of entry to vote.
- Neighbour with accessibility issues voted advanced.
- I use a screen reader to access information and hoped the voting process would be on line so I could use my screen reader to mark my own ballot rather than making a special trip to city hall to use the screen reader there my husband has always marked my ballot
- They were on a fixed income my neighbors beside me and do to other disabilities they were unable to take part in vote and they did not know but could not get a vehicle out they could afford to get out vote
- Lack of online/phone voting forces disabled/immunocompromised voters to travel to in-person polling station or post carrier and risk exposure to covid due to lack of masking guidelines.
- Some people did not have the proper school support designated on the voter's list, the ability to change school support was discontinued on the city website without notice or instruction on how to do so at the polls and not all staff at the polling stations knew how to do it, so some voters just gave up.