

Municipality of Meaford

2026 Accessibility Pre-Election Plan



The following highlights the Accessibility Pre-Election Plan for the 2026 Municipal & School Board Election:

1. Alternative Voting Procedure

Initiative: Provide an accessible voting method for all Municipality of Meaford eligible voters

Action:

1. The use of the internet and telephone voting system was designed to meet the needs of electors to ensure independence, dignity, integration and equal opportunity.
2. Eligible voters are able to vote from home without having to travel using one of the following methods and associated accessibility features:
 - a. Internet: menu options are clear and easy to follow, font size can be enlarged, colour contrast can be adjusted, a screen reader can be used
 - b. Telephone: volume can be adjusted, TTY (teletypewriter) can be used, language and prompts are clear and easy to follow
3. Ensure Voter Information Letters are designed with appropriate accessible font styles and sizes, appropriate case usage and colour contrast where possible.

2. Information & Communications

Information and communication initiatives will help ensure election information is accessible and available in alternative formats.

Initiative: Provide an informative and accessible election website at www.meafordvotes.ca

Actions:

1. Ensure language is available in clear and simple language.
2. Update election information on the meafordvotes.ca website to ensure it is recent and accurate.
3. Ensure the election web pages are WCAG 2.0 Level AA compliant.
4. Remind residents that a screen reader is available the Meaford Public Library's dedicated accessible public computer.
5. Provide a free webpage reader and colour contrasting tool to assist individuals who have difficulty reading online (following launch of new Municipal website in July 2026).

Initiative: Provide election information in alternative formats and through multiple channels**Action:**

1. Produce and distribute election related material prior to the election.
2. Post the step-by-step process on how to vote on the municipal election website.
3. Post a video (provided by Simply Voting) on how to vote on the municipal election website.

3. Help Centres**Initiative: Ensure all help centres are accessible****Action:**

1. Use an accessibility checklist for election staff in determining municipal help centres, helping to ensure each has:
 - a. A barrier free path of travel from the parking lot/sidewalk
 - b. Barrier free parking, where parking is provided
 - b. Door openers or accessible doors
 - c. Adequate lighting
2. Inspect help centres during the voting period, making modifications where possible to increase accessibility.

3. Provide adequate signage at help centres.
4. Ensure that elections staff are aware of the municipal Notice of Accessible Service disruption procedure in the event that disruptions to service or unforeseen circumstances may affect the accessibility of help centres during the voting period.
5. Ensure accessible customer service training is provided to election staff.
6. Ensure election official are available in the help centre to assist a voter in casting their ballot when requested.
7. Establish a 'roving' help centre to visit certain institutional buildings during the Voting Period, according to a schedule to be determined and advertised in advance.

4. Assistance to Candidates

Initiative: Provide candidates with information on how to make their campaigns more accessible

Action:

1. Provide candidates links through our municipal election website to accessible election information produced by the provincial and federal governments and other organizations where available.

Initiative: Provide candidates with access to information in alternative formats

Action:

1. Ensure information provided to candidates is available in an accessible format upon request.
2. Making the Municipality of Meaford voters list available in an electronic format, free of charge, to candidates.

5. Feedback

The Accessibility Pre-Election Plan was reviewed by The Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee on May 27, 2026 and feedback was provided to staff. The Municipality of Meaford welcomes additional feedback

to identify areas where changes need to be considered and ways in which the Municipality can improve the delivery of an accessible election. As this Plan is a working document, it will continue to undergo changes. Feedback on this plan can be submitted online at meaford.ca/accessibility under the 'feedback' section or directly to:

Clerk, clerk@meaford.ca
519-538-1060 ext. 1100

Post-Election Report

Section 12.1 (2) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 as amended states the following:

“Within 90 days after voting day in a regular election, the clerk shall submit a report to council about the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities”.

The post-election report will be posted on the municipal website and provided to individuals as requested.