

Appendix 1 - CS-2021-27 – 2022 Municipal and School Board Elections Method of Voting

Alternative Voting Methods

Vote by Mail

Vote by Mail is an alternative voting method that delivers an election ballot kit directly to the electorate on the Voters' List. The ballot kit includes an information sheet on the Vote by Mail ballot process, a declaration form, the ballot, together with a white secrecy envelope in which the electorate places their marked ballot. The declaration form is completed affirming that the person named on the form is on the Voters' List, and has not already voted in the election. The secrecy envelope and declaration can then be mailed to the municipality in the prepaid postage yellow envelope provided in the ballot kit or delivered directly to the Town Hall anytime during regular business hours up to and including Election Day.

Upon receipt of the ballot kit from the elector, municipal staff then mark that person's name off the Voters' List and place the sealed secrecy envelope in the ballot box secured in the Town's vault.

Telephone Voting

Telephone voting is an alternative method with which qualified electors on the Voters' List receive a voter information package containing instructions on how to access and complete their ballot, along with a Personal Identification Number (PIN). Most interactive telephone voting systems rely on the voter to process an audio ballot by way of dialling on the key pad. After voting selections have been made for each office the voter will be prompted to review their decisions. Once confirmed by the voter, the final ballot data is transferred to a secure server which is tabulated at the end of voting day and transferred to a results reporting system.

Telephone voting is most commonly employed in combination with Internet voting.

A telephone-based system assists in the proper completion of a ballot by disallowing over-votes and to fully qualifying voter intent. Once the voter has completed their telephone ballot, they are electronically marked off the Voters' List.

Internet Voting

A typical Internet voting process is one where a voter information package is mailed to qualified electors on the Voters' List, including a PIN. The PIN and elector's date of birth are then used to access the online ballot during the Internet voting period. Electors may access the online ballot from any computer, laptop, cell phone or tablet if both it, and the browser, meet the minimum technical requirements. A voter will have an opportunity to review their completed ballot and make changes prior to submission. Controls are in place to warn the voter of any over-votes or blank offices. Voting data is stored in a

secure database and tabulated at the end of voting day. The system is designed to ensure there is no way to link a voter with his/her ballot.

Internet voting has been made available to provide for convenience, to accommodate changing lifestyles and demanding work schedules and to enhance accessibility for persons who may not be available or able to vote in person. For rural areas, Internet voting offers enhanced accessibility to reach electors who are geographically disconnected. For others, it offers a potential means to further engage those who may be more inclined to vote from the comfort of their own home or office rather than travelling to a physical voting place.

Several concerns have been expressed with respect to the security of Internet voting, however, technical measures are established to decrease the potential of these threats which all pose a risk to the confidentiality and overall integrity of the voting process. Most Internet voting platforms utilize the same access methodologies and level of encryption used for major Internet banking sites. Although attempts can be made to compromise the system, these security measures are typically able to obstruct them.