



Election 2026 Voting Method

Corporate Services Committee

October 10, 2024

owen
sound
where you *want* to vote

Voting Method Options

- Internet & telephone
- Vote by mail
- Paper ballots
- Combination (internet & paper)

Internet & Telephone

Benefits

- Superior customer service
- Most accessible
- No proxies or advance polls
- Accurate ballot count
- Most manageable for staff
- Least expensive - \$88,000
- Voter familiarity
- Quickest results
- Greenest option

Internet & Telephone

Concerns

- Voter turnout
- Voter profile
- Access
- Security

Internet & Telephone – Increasing Use

- In 2018, 194 Ontario municipalities used internet & telephone voting
- In 2022, the use of internet voting increased by 16%.

Internet & Telephone - Comparators

- Voting method Clerk recommendations

Municipality	Voting Method
Brockville	Internet
Chatsworth	Internet & Telephone
Cobourg	Internet
Georgian Bluffs	Internet & Paper
Hanover	Internet & Telephone
Orangeville	Internet & Paper
Southgate	Internet
Stratford	Internet & Telephone
West Grey	Internet & Telephone

Vote by Mail

Benefits

- Accessibility
- No proxies or advance polls

Drawbacks

- Shortened voting window
- Voter education
- Climate Change
- Staffing and resources
- Accuracy of count
- Security
- Cost - \$133,000

Paper Ballots

Benefits

- Security

Drawbacks

- Voter education
- Climate change
- Staffing and resources
- Accuracy of count
- Customer service
- Accessibility
- Proxies and advance polls
- Cost - \$161,000

Combination (internet & paper)

Benefits

- Accessibility
- Customer Service

Drawbacks

- Voter education
- Climate change
- Staffing and resources
- Cost - \$142,000

Financial Implications

Method

- Internet & telephone
- Vote by mail
- Paper
- Combination (internet & paper)

Estimated Cost

- \$ 88,000
- \$133,000
- \$161,000
- \$142,000

Voting Method Recommendation

- Authorize internet & telephone voting as the voting method for the 2026 municipal and school board election.

Inaugural Meeting

Same Event

- Offsite
- Evening
- Ample seating capacity
- Procession onto stage
- Entertainment
- Justice of the peace performs declaration of office
- Councillor remarks
- Dignitary remarks
- Reception
- Cost \$5,000

Smaller Event

- Council Chambers
- Afternoon event
- Limited seating capacity
- Meet and greet with staff
- Light refreshments
- Cost \$1,500

Inaugural Meeting - Comparators

Council Chambers With Event	Council Chambers No Event	Offsite with Event
Chatsworth	Brockville	Orangeville
Cobourg	Orillia	
Georgian Bluffs	Stratford	
Grey County	Town of Blue Mountains	
Hanover		
Southgate		
West Grey		

Inaugural Meeting Recommendation

- Provide direction to staff on the amount to be allocated in the draft 2026 budget for the inaugural meeting.

Questions?