



Township of Perth East - Internet/Telephone Voting

Frequently Asked Questions

When is the next municipal election?

The next municipal election will be held Monday, October 22, 2018.

Who is responsible for municipal elections?

Under the *Municipal Elections Act* clerks of local municipalities are responsible for preparing for and conducting elections and must ensure privacy and integrity of the vote. The clerk must ensure that all members of the electorate are given every opportunity to vote and that the voting process is as accessible and accountable as possible.

Council must authorize a by-law for alternative methods of voting such as voting by mail, optical vote tabulators and internet/telephone voting. Under the *Municipal Elections Act*, the last day to pass such a by-law was May 1, 2017.

Has Perth East Used Alternate Voting?

Yes. Vote by Mail was used in the 2010 and the 2014 Perth East Elections.

What Council approval is in place in regards to Internet/ Telephone Voting?

Council at their April 4th, 2017 regular meeting approved the following resolution;

THAT the Council of the Township of Perth East receive the Alternate Voting Methods – 2018 Municipal Election Report, prepared by the Clerk, dated April 4, 2017 for information;

AND THAT Council approve the use of Internet/Telephone as the alternative voting method for the 2018 Municipal Election being held on Monday October 22, 2018;

AND THAT a by-law be brought forward to authorize Internet/Telephone as the alternative voting method for the 2018 municipal election.

Council at their April 17th, 2017 regular meeting approved By-law 17-2017, being a By-law to authorize the use of Telephone and Internet voting as an alternative voting method for the 2018 Municipal Election for the Township of Perth East.

Budgeting for a Municipal Election

Funds are included annually in an election reserve to accommodate the municipal election which takes place every four (4) years. With the cost analysis / comparison completed there is a potential of reducing election costs in various areas, such as training, administration, staffing, and resources.

Is a public meeting required for the process of choosing an alternative form of voting?

No. The *Municipal Elections Act* has no requirement to hold a public meeting on alternative methods of voting, and there is no statutory public input period. The Township adheres to providing notice in accordance with the Notice Policy, legislative requirements and includes information and full reports within the public agendas.

The Township also provided the information regarding internet/telephone voting which was circulated in the Township of Perth East Community Guide, advertisements in local newspapers, media, posted on the website (Township of Perth East and Perth East Library), social media and available in printed form at municipal facilities.

How long have municipalities had the option to use electronic voting?

Electronic voting has been allowed and encouraged in the *Municipal Elections Act* since 1996. Electronic voting was first used in 2003.

Who are the partner municipalities collaborating on internet/telephone voting as an alternative voting method?

Locally, the Township of Perth East, the Municipality of West Perth and City of Stratford are utilizing internet/telephone voting for the 2018 municipal election and have collaborated.

The Township of Perth East and the City of Stratford collaborated regarding issuance and evaluation of a Joint Request for Proposal (RFP) for internet / telephone voting services.

The Township of Perth East participated in the Huron County internet/telephone municipal election working group. The Township of Perth East, City of Stratford and all Huron County member municipalities are utilizing the services of Simply Voting for their respective 2018 municipal elections.

What are the benefits of Internet/Telephone Voting?

- **Accessibility:** If you are away on travel for either business or personal, may be suffering from illness, shift work, have a disability, or may have difficulty travelling, you can cast your ballot from anywhere with an internet connection or working touchtone telephone.
- **Convenience:** Remotely cast your vote from anywhere using a computer, smart phone, tablet device, or touchtone phone, 24 hours a day over a 10-day period of time.
- **Environmentally Friendly:** Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions as voters no longer need to travel to polling locations. Additionally, the Township will no longer require the printing and subsequent shredding of paper ballots, and will be providing Voters' Lists to candidates in electronic format only.
- **Fast, Reliable, and Secure:** The voting process will be serviced by Simply Voting who have helped to safely and effectively service internet and telephone elections successfully and are currently working with 28 Ontario Municipalities for the upcoming 2018 election. Simply Voting support over 1800 organizations from 57 countries for their election needs.
- Electronic voting providers in Canada have not had a penetration into their system that resulted in a contravened election. The industry keeps an open communication between all the suppliers when it comes to attempts on their technology and shares this type of information.

Will the 2018 municipal election strictly be using the internet/ telephone voting method?

Yes. Internet/telephone voting complies with the *Municipal Elections Act* (MEA) by making the election accessible to all voters, therefore, no paper balloting is required.

The Clerks Department will provide assistance if required. The Township office will be open to assist voters on weekdays during business hours Monday – Friday. Additionally, eligible voters are able to check if they are on the voters list and register to vote online.

How are security issues addressed for internet/telephone voting in a municipal election?

Security issues have been addressed in the Request for Proposal (RFP). See the link below for Simply Voting Security.

What other municipalities use internet/telephone voting?

In 2018, close to 200 municipalities out of 440 municipalities will be using this alternative method of voting. In 2014, 97 Ontario municipalities used either internet voting only or a combination of internet telephone voting.

Examples of large municipalities using the process include Halifax, Honolulu, HI, Greater Sudbury, Chatham-Kent, Burlington, Brantford, Ajax, Stratford, Newmarket and all Huron County member municipalities.

The technology is regularly used by trade unions, professional associations, and political party leadership elections.

Reference Documents:

[Alternate Voting Methods – 2018 Election Report, April 4, 2017](#)
[Bylaw 17-2017 - Telephone and Internet Voting for the 2018 Election](#)
[Simply Voting Security](#)
[Simply Voting – Memorandum of Understanding](#)

**2018 Township of Perth East Municipal Election
YOUR VOTE / YOUR PARTICIPATION COUNT****Contact:**

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