

# Accessible Voting

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Elections Ontario strives to make voting accessible. We provide different options so that voting can be an inclusive experience. This document provides information on:

- Voting Days
- Voting Locations
- What Accessible Tools are at the Polls
- Phones in the Polls (new for 2018)
- More About Assistive Voting Technology
- Vote by Mail
- Vote While Temporarily in Hospital
- Vote by Home Visit
- Are you Registered to Vote?

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## Voting Days

Election Day is **June 7, 2018**. On that day, you can vote from **9:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. Eastern Time** or from **8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. Central Time**.

You can also:

- vote in person at your returning office from **May 10 to June 6**,
- vote in person at your returning office from **May 26 to June 6** with Assistive Voting Technology,
- vote in person during advance voting from **May 26 to May 30 from 10:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. Eastern Time**, or
- vote by mail. Applications may be submitted from May 10 until 6:00 P.M. Eastern Time on June 1. If you are voting by mail, your marked ballot **must be received** by Elections Ontario's head office **no later than 6:00 P.M. Eastern Time on election day, June 7, 2018**.

Starting May 12, find out where and when you can vote using Elections Ontario's online Voter Information Service at [elections.on.ca](http://elections.on.ca).

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## **Voting Locations**

Elections Ontario's voting locations meet the Ontario Building Code and Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). Service animals are allowed.

You may bring a family member, friend, or support person, or ask an election official to help you vote. You will both be asked to declare that assistance is needed and that your vote will be kept secret.

Election officials at the voting location can provide accessible customer service, and can even bring the ballot box outside to you. You can also apply at the returning office to transfer to another voting location that better meets your accessibility needs.

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## **What Accessible Tools are at the Polls?**

When casting your ballot, you can get tools and services such as:

- voting instructions in over 30 languages,
- magnifying sheets,
- a Braille template for your ballot, and
- Assistive Voting Technology at your local returning office from May 26 to June 6.

You can also arrange for a registered sign language interpreter or intervenor to help and have the company invoice Elections Ontario.

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## **Phones in the Polls (new for 2018)**

In addition to your usual personal assistive tools, you can now use your mobile phone as an assistive device. However, it remains illegal to take or share videos of completed ballots.

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## **More about Assistive Voting Technology**

Assistive Voting Technology (AVT) allows people with disabilities to cast their ballot secretly and independently. AVT is available in all returning offices from May 26 to 6:00 P.M. Eastern Time on June 6. This technology offers three options:

- Audio Tactile Interface (ATI),
- paddles, and
- Sip and Puff Technology.

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## Vote by Mail

You can apply to vote by mail once an election has been called. You need to **submit an application no later than 6:00 PM Eastern Time on June 1, 2018 with ID** proving your name and Ontario residential address. For a complete list of acceptable ID, please visit [elections.on.ca/id-requirements](http://elections.on.ca/id-requirements).

Vote by Mail Process:

1. Obtain or request an application form by:
  - downloading at [elections.on.ca](http://elections.on.ca),
  - emailing at [sb@elections.on.ca](mailto:sb@elections.on.ca),
  - visiting your returning office,
  - calling toll free in Canada and USA at 1-855-523-5932,
  - calling collect at 1-416-649-1046, or
  - calling TTY toll free at 1-888-292-2312
  - faxing toll free in Canada and USA at 1-888-483-4448 or
  - faxing outside of Canada and USA at 1-416-212-8723.
2. Complete the application form, scan or photocopy your ID and submit by:
  - email to [sb@elections.on.ca](mailto:sb@elections.on.ca), or
  - mail to: Elections Ontario, Special Ballot, 51 Rolark Drive, Toronto, ON M1R 3B1, or
  - fax to 1-416-212-8723, or fax toll free in Canada and USA at 1-888-483-4448.

If your application is approved, Elections Ontario will send a special ballot kit to the mailing address on the application. Complete this kit and mail back to Elections Ontario. Once the kit has been mailed, you will be unable to choose another voting option, such as voting at an advance poll or in person on election day.

Elections Ontario uses both a courier service and Canada Post's Express Post service so your mailing address must be a physical address for you to receive your ballot within two to three days. If you use a Post Office Box, your ballot may be delayed by up to three weeks.

**Your marked ballot must be received by Elections Ontario's head office no later than 6:00 PM Eastern Time on election day, June 7, 2018.**

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## **Vote while in Hospital**

If you are staying at a participating hospital to receive care during a general election, you may be able to vote from May 21 to May 23, 2018. To find out if your hospital participates, please check with your returning office, check [elections.on.ca](http://elections.on.ca), email [info@elections.on.ca](mailto:info@elections.on.ca) or call **1.888.668.8683** (TTY: 1.888.292.2312).

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## **Vote by Home Visit**

You can request a home visit from May 10 to June 6 if you are:

- unable to go to the returning office because of a disability,
- unable to complete an application form, and/or
- someone who requires assistance to vote.

To request a home visit, contact your returning office. You can find your returning office on your Voter Information Card, at [elections.on.ca](http://elections.on.ca) or by calling **1-888-668-8683** (TTY: 1-888-292-2312).

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## **Are you Registered to Vote?**

Make sure you are registered to vote. Go to [e-registration.elections.on.ca](http://e-registration.elections.on.ca) where you can confirm, update or add your information to the voters list.

For more information on Accessible Voting, visit [elections.on.ca](http://elections.on.ca), email [info@elections.on.ca](mailto:info@elections.on.ca) or call **1-888-668-8683** (TTY: 1-888-292-2312).