

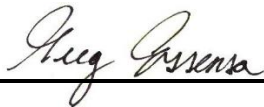


**DIRECTIVE FOR THE
SEPTEMBER 3, 2026, BY-ELECTIONS
FOR THE ELECTORAL DISTRICTS OF
HAMILTON EAST—STONE CREEK,
SCARBOROUGH SOUTHWEST and YORK—SIMCOE**

**MODIFICATIONS TO ADVANCE POLLS AT RETURNING OFFICES AND DESIGNATED OTHER
LOCATIONS**

I, GREG ESSENSA, CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, under the authority of subsection 4.4 of the Election Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.6 (as amended) (the “**Act**”) do hereby direct that for the by-elections:

- Advance polls at returning offices will no longer be held, as required by s. 44 (2) 1 of the Act.
- Area advance polls, as required by s. 44 (2) 2 shall now commence on Day 8 and continue until Day 6.
- Accessible voting equipment as described in s. 44.1 (3) and (4) will be made available in every returning office on the first day of advance polls, Day 8, until the last day before polling day, Day 1, as part of Special Ballot in-person voting.
- Area advance polls will be held in the electoral districts at the dates and locations specified on the Elections Ontario website as required by s. 44 (7) of the Act.

X 

Greg Essensa
Chief Electoral Officer

August 5, 2026

Date

KEY ELECTION DATES

The Key Election Dates are set out in the table below. These dates include the beginning and end of the writ period, and activities that are described in this directive.

Activity	Election Calendar Day	Date
Writ is Issued	Day 29	August 5, 2026
Area Advance Polls Begin	Day 8	August 26, 2026
Area Advance Polls End	Day 6	August 28, 2026
Election Day	Day 0	September 3, 2026

Excluded and Modified Sections of the Act

In order to facilitate the changes to the advance poll voting process set out in this Directive, the following specific sections of the Act will be modified: 44 (2) 1, 44 (2) 2, and 44.1 (3).

The modifications are as follows in the chart immediately below.

<i>Election Act</i>	Process Being Modified	Modified Voting Process
44 (2) 1.	Advance polls at returning offices	Advance polls will no longer be held at returning offices. Advance voting at returning offices will be accomplished by Special Ballot in-person voting, which will be available from Day 28 – Day 1. Special Ballot in-person voting at the returning office will switch from write-in ballots to regular ballots on Day 8, when regular ballots become available to electors at area advance polls. Regular ballots will continue to be used for Special Ballot in-person voting until Day 1.
44 (2) 2.	Advance polls at designated other locations	Area advance polls will still be offered for three days during this period. Those days are Day 8 – Day 6.
44.1 (3)	Accessible voting equipment at Returning Offices	Accessible voting equipment and related vote counting equipment shall be made available at returning offices in all electoral districts as part of the Special Ballot in-person voting process, from the first day of advance polls on the 8 th day before polling day, until the last day before polling day.