



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

MODIFICATIONS TO THE COUNTING TIMES FOR SPECIAL BALLOT

WHEREAS a significant number of electors have voted from Day 28 to Day 1 by Special Ballot.

AND WHEREAS due to the significant number of votes cast by Special Ballot, the timely counting of Special Ballots and the reporting of results could be significantly delayed.

AND WHEREAS section 3.7 of the *Election Act*, R.S.O. 1990 c E.6 (the "**Act**") authorizes the Chief Electoral Officer to give directions in cases of mistake, miscalculation, emergency, unusual, or unforeseen circumstances.

AND WHEREAS in order for the timely counting of Special Ballots and reporting of results, I will invoke section 3.7 of the Act to permit election staff to commence counting Special Ballots cast in-person at the returning office or during home visits in accordance with the times set out for each electoral district in Schedule "A" hereto.

AND WHEREAS in order for the timely counting of Special Ballots and reporting of results, I will invoke section 3.7 of the Act to permit election staff to commence counting Special Ballots cast pursuant to the vote by mail program in accordance with the times set out for each electoral district in Schedule "B" hereto.

AND WHEREAS in order for the timely counting of Special Ballots and reporting of results, I will invoke section 3.7 of the Act to permit election staff to commence counting Special Ballots returned to Elections Ontario Headquarters in accordance with the time set out in Schedule "C" hereto.

NOW THEREFORE, I HEREBY DIRECT, pursuant to section 3.7 of the Act, that the Returning Officer commence counting Special Ballots cast in-person at the returning office or during home visits in accordance with the times set out for each electoral district in Schedule "A" hereto.

I HEREBY DIRECT, pursuant to section 3.7 of the Act, that the Returning Officer commence counting Special Ballots cast pursuant to the vote by mail program in accordance with the times set out in Schedule "B" hereto.

I HEREBY DIRECT, pursuant to section 3.7 of the Act, that election staff at Elections Ontario Headquarters commence counting Special Ballots returned to Elections Ontario Headquarters in accordance with the time set out in Schedule "C" hereto.

X A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Essensa', written over a horizontal line.

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
Applying To Vote by Mail Begins	Day 29	August 5, 2026
Returning Office In-person Voting by Special Ballot Begins	Day 28	August 6, 2026
Applying To Vote by Mail Ends	Day 6, 6:00 PM	August 28, 2026
Returning Office In-person Voting by Special Ballot Ends	Day 1, 6:00 PM	September 2, 2026
Election Day	Day 0	September 3, 2026

Schedule "A"

Time to Commence Counting Special Ballots Cast In-person at the Returning Office or during Home Visits

Number of Write-in Ballots Received	Start Time on Polling Day (Eastern Standard Time)	Number of Special Ballot Officer - Count Lead	Number of Special Ballot Officer - Count Assistant
Less 100	9:00 PM	1	1
101 -150	8:00 PM	1	1
151 - 350	8:00 PM	1	2
351 - 600	7:00 PM	1	2
601 -1,000	6:00 PM	1	3

Schedule "B"

Time to Commence Counting Special Ballots Cast pursuant to the Vote by Mail Program received at the Returning Office

Number of Voting Kits Received	Start Time on Polling Day (Eastern Standard Time)	Vote by Mail Ballot Counting Lead	Vote by Mail Ballot Counting Assistant
Less than 500	8:00 PM	1	1
501-1000	7:00 PM	1	1
1001-1500	5:00 PM	2	2
1501-2000	3:00 PM	2	2
2001-3000	3:00 PM	2	2
3001-4000	1:00 PM	2	2
4001-5000	1:00 PM	2	2
5001-6000	11:00 AM	2	2
6001-8000	11:00 AM	3	3
8001-10,000	11:00 AM	4	4
10,001+	11:00 AM	5	5

Schedule "C"

Time to Commence Counting Special Ballots Cast pursuant to the Vote by Mail Program received at EOHQ

Location	Time
26 Prince Andrew Place (EOHQ)	7:00 PM