

## 2018 General Election

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### Returning Officer's Report on Accessibility for Electors with Disabilities (F0247)

#### Electoral District: Markham—Stouffville, #056

Each question or statement will be followed by either yes, no, N/A (not applicable) or in a few places, comments.

##### 1. Accessibility Training

Were all returning office staff in your electoral district trained and certified to deliver services in an accessible manner (*Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* training)?

Yes.

Were all Special Ballot Officers (SBO) in your electoral district trained and certified to deliver services in an accessible manner, including during home and hospital visits?

Yes.

Were all poll officials in your electoral district trained and certified to deliver services in an accessible manner?

Yes.

Did poll official training include a video demonstrating how accessible customer service is provided to a variety of electors with disabilities, including the use of assistive devices, service animals and support persons?

Yes.

Did the manuals provided to poll officials include directions describing how to assist an elector who:

a) Needed a ballot box brought outside the voting location?

Yes.

b) Was accompanied by an interpreter?

Yes.

c) Required the assistance of a Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) or a friend to vote?

Yes.

d) Required the use of assistive voting materials?

Yes.

e) Comments:

None.

## **2. Materials**

Did your office make available the Braille templates provided by Elections Ontario?

Yes.

Were your staff instructed to inform electors of the availability of documents in alternative formats, as applicable through Elections Ontario?

Yes.

Were election officials provided with the following materials for use at voting locations?

a) Assistive voting devices (e.g. magnifiers, easy-grip pencils, braille ballot templates):

Yes.

b) Directional arrows:

Yes.

c) Customer service feedback kit:

Yes.

d) Notice of Disruption forms:

Yes.

e) Comments:

None.

### **3. Special Ballot Voting Options**

Total number of special ballots cast using the following services:

a) Hospital visits:

25

b) Home visits:

15

Did your Special Ballot Officer (SBO) provide any of the following five services for home and hospital visits?

a) Help the elector fill out special ballot applications?

- Hospital visits: Yes.
- Home visits: Yes.

b) Read candidates' names and/or instructions to the elector?

- Hospital visits: Yes.
- Home visits: Yes.

c) Assist in marking the ballot at the request of the elector?

- Hospital visits: Yes.
- Home visits: Yes.

d) Provide assistive devices such as magnifiers or braille ballot template?

- Hospital visits: Yes.
- Home visits: Yes.

e) Other assistance (provide details in the Additional Returning Officer Comments - Section 10):

- Hospital visits: No.
- Home visits: No.

#### **4. Other Voting Options**

Number of votes cast using the Assistive Voting Technology devices (e.g. audio tactile interface, paddles or sip and puff device.):

0

Number of requests from electors for Elections Ontario to pay for American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreters:

0

Number of electors transferring to other voting locations because of restricted mobility:

0

Please provide any comments on the way people with disabilities interacted with the Assistive Voting Technology (AVT) devices.

Special ballots team was asked by Elections Ontario headquarters to do 2 home visits for electors that were in the hospital within our electoral boundaries but belonged to another electoral district.

#### **5. Personnel**

Were persons with disabilities employed in the returning office?

Yes.

Were persons with disabilities appointed as poll officials?

Yes.

#### **6. Route of Travel at Each Voting Location**

Were Area Managers and/or Supervising Deputy Returning Officers instructed to use the prepared route of travel map at each voting location on polling day?

Yes.

Were there any changes to the make the route accessible to electors?

One site had to alter the entrance point and was remediated with an additional Information Assistant (IA) for assistance.

#### **7. Accessible Voting Locations**

Elections Ontario developed and adopted Site Accessibility Standards for the purpose of determining whether a voting location is accessible under the *Election Act*.

Please confirm that you ensured that the following locations were accessible to electors with disabilities in accordance with the Site Accessibility Standards.

a) Returning office:

Yes.

b) Satellite office(s) (if applicable):

Not applicable.

c) Polling locations:

Yes.

Please indicate the number of voting locations in each category and the percentage of the total for each type of voting location.

a) Voting locations in your electoral district that met the Site Accessibility Standards with no remediation.

- Advance Poll Voting Locations: 2, 50%;
- Election Day Mandatory Institutions: 9, 100%;
- Election Day Self-Contained Apartment Buildings: 5, 100%;
- Election Day Isolated Northern Communities: 0, 0%;
- Regular Poll Voting Locations (**Note:** Not including other categories of polls or advance polls used on election day): 3, 11%.

b) Voting locations in your electoral district that met the Site Accessibility Standards with remediation and/or customer service plan.

- Advance Poll Voting Locations: 2, 50%;
- Election Day Mandatory Institutions: 0, 0%;
- Election Day Self-Contained Apartment Buildings: 0, 0%;
- Election Day Isolated Northern Communities: 0, 0%;
- Regular Poll Voting Locations (**Note:** Not including other categories of polls or advance polls used on election day): 25, 89%.

c) Total voting locations.

- Advance Poll Voting Locations: 4, 100%;
- Election Day Mandatory Institutions: 9, 100%;
- Election Day Self-Contained Apartment Buildings: 5, 100%;
- Election Day Isolated Northern Communities: 0, 0%;
- Regular Poll Voting Locations (**Note:** Not including other categories of polls or advance polls used on election day): 28, 100%.

## **Voting Location Remediations**

For the locations included above, please indicate the number of voting locations in each category.

a) Used remediations to meet standards:

- Returning office: 0
- Satellite office(s) (if applicable): 0
- Advance poll voting locations: 2
- Election day mandatory institutions (e.g., nursing homes): 0
- Election day self-contained apartment buildings: 0
- Election day isolated northern communities: 0
- Regular poll voting locations (**Note:** Not including other categories of polls or advance polls used on election day): 22

b) Authorized to use a customer service plan in addition to remediations to meet standards:

- Returning office: 0
- Satellite office(s) (if applicable): 0
- Advance poll voting locations: 0
- Election day mandatory institutions (e.g., nursing homes): 0
- Election day self-contained apartment buildings: 0
- Election day isolated northern communities: 0
- Regular poll voting locations (**Note:** Not including other categories of polls or advance polls used on election day): 3

Please indicate the total number of remediations used:

- Ramps/sloped walkways: 3
- Beveled thresholds: 1
- Mats: 0
- Parking cones: 29
- Signage: 12
- Services of an Information Assistant for Accessibility: 28

## **Notice of Service Disruption at Voting Locations**

How many Notices of Disruption did you have to post as a result of any last-minute challenges, including construction, road closures, etc.?

- Returning office: 0
- Satellite office(s) (if applicable): 0
- Advance poll voting locations: 0
- Election day mandatory institutions (e.g., nursing homes): 0
- Election day self-contained apartment buildings: 0
- Election day isolated northern communities: 0

- Regular poll voting locations (**Note:** Not including other categories of polls or advance polls used on election day): 0

Please describe any situations where you posted a Notice of Disruption and how you resolved those situations:

Not applicable.

### **Other Accessible Voting Location Activities**

Please indicate if your staff took other measures to make voting locations accessible.

a) Customized remediations:

Yes. Mount Joy Community Centre required an additional mat to ensure there were no issues.

b) Special services to support accessible parking:

No.

c) Moving the ballot box to the entry door of the voting location:

Yes. One elector was serviced in his car due to difficulty in mobility.

d) Other supports for electors with difficulties walking, e.g. wheelchairs:

No.

e) Lighting, e.g. additional lighting, flashlights, car lights:

No.

f) Other assistance (provide details in section 10):

Not applicable.

### **8. Other Accessibility Measures**

Please indicate if your staff took other measures to provide accessibility for electors with disabilities.

a) Provided documents or information in accessible formats:

Yes. Italian was missing from the Language Guide, fortunately a family member of an elector was able to translate for them.

b) Read candidates' names to electors:

Yes.

c) Promoted Special Ballot home visits in buildings with targeted populations:

No.

d) Additional training for poll officials:

No.

e) Worked with local stakeholder groups:

No.

f) Other measures:

Not applicable.

## 9. Customer Service Feedback

Did you receive customer service feedback forms related to accessibility for electors with disabilities?

No.

Please indicate if you received positive or negative feedback for each issue.

**Note:** If you received negative feedback, please indicate the nature of your response.

a) Customer service

- Feedback: Positive.
- Negative feedback: None.

b) Assistive devices (e.g., magnifiers, braille ballot template, easy grip pencils)

- Feedback: None.

c) Assistive voting technology

- Feedback: None.

d) Special Ballots

- Feedback: Negative.
- Negative feedback response:
  - No acknowledgement required: Yes.



- e) Place of voting location
  - Feedback: Negative.
  - Negative feedback response:
    - Acknowledged: Yes.
    - Take into future consideration: Yes.
- f) Accessibility of voting location
  - Feedback: None.
- g) Walking distance at voting location
  - Feedback: Negative.
  - Negative feedback response:
    - Acknowledged: Yes.
    - Resolved: Yes.
- h) Accessible parking
  - Feedback: None.
- i) Voter Information Cards
  - Feedback: Negative.
  - Negative feedback response:
    - Take into future consideration: Yes.
- j) Documents
  - Feedback: None.
- k) Signage
  - Feedback: Negative.
  - Negative feedback response:
    - Acknowledged: Yes.
    - Resolved: Yes.
    - Take into future consideration: Yes.

## 10. Additional Returning Officer Comments

- a) Did the e-poll books and tabulator help serve electors with disabilities more effectively? Please explain.

Technology made the process easier for some, but others would like to see an express line for seniors and families with children.

Better clarity of information on voter information cards would be helpful, format caused confusion as to actual advance poll dates in the returning office.

Some concerns around Special Ballots had to do with the wait time once advance polls ended in returning office and the process became more manual, suggest continuing with epoll books in special ballots.

Parking continues to be an issue for electors at school voting locations during school hours and the distance to walk from street in some situations.

One elector did not like having to go vote in a church.

- b) Please describe any situation you observed where electors with disabilities used their mobile devices (e.g. phones, iPads and tablets) as an assistive device during the voting process. Were there any issues or concerns?

None.

- c) Please describe other measures that you took to provide accessibility for electors with disabilities in your electoral district.

Electors in general were very happy. There were a few complaints regarding the travel distance to voting locations.