



Meeting Date: September 17, 2025

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Report No: CLK-04-2025

Subject: 2026 Municipal and School Board Elections Voting Method and Vendor Agreement

Recommendation:

THAT Report CLK-04-2025 re: 2026 Municipal and School Board Elections Voting Method and Vendor Agreement be received;

AND THAT Council approve an alternative method of voting (telephone and internet) for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Elections;

AND THAT the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute an agreement for eVoting Services with Intelivote Systems Inc. for the 2026 Municipal & School Board Elections;

AND FURTHER THAT By-law 2025-68 and By-law 2025-69 be referred to the Consideration of By-laws section of the agenda for approval.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval of the use of alternative voting methods (internet and telephone) for the forthcoming 2026 Municipal and School Board Elections, and to seek authorization to enter into an agreement for e-voting services.

Background:

Section 42 (1) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* (the “Act”) provides that the council of a local municipality may pass by-laws authorizing alternative voting methods before each municipal election, including the use of vote counting equipment, vote by mail, telephone, and/or online/internet voting. The Municipality of Middlesex Centre has successfully conducted internet and telephone voting in three (3) previous elections,

being 2014, 2018, and 2022, and it is recommended that it once again be used for the 2026 election.

Analysis:

Middlesex County and Elgin County Clerks initiated a review of experienced voting vendors and invited presentations with the intention of entering into a cooperative purchasing agreement to secure preferred/bulk pricing. Following these presentations, Intelivote Systems Inc. remains the preferred vendor. Middlesex County municipalities worked with this vendor in each of the previous three election cycles utilizing internet and telephone voting, allowing for familiarity with the product and confidence in the services provided. Proceeding with internet and telephone voting as provided by Intelivote takes advantage of competitive pricing, shared resourcing, and the collaborative expertise of the Middlesex County area Clerks, and remains consistent with a municipal election process already familiar to voters in Middlesex Centre.

Similar to previous election cycles using internet and telephone voting, the Municipal Clerk is committed to voter education and outreach ahead of the election, and Voter Assistance Locations will again be established to support electors who may not be able to vote from home or another trusted location.

Should Council approve the recommendation, the voting period would be established as **October 19 - 25, 2026** and **October 26, 2026 (Voting Day)**. The consistent voting period and method of voting in local municipalities will help reduce confusion for residents across Middlesex County while allowing for shared promotional opportunities. Based on the success of the previous municipal elections, and the collaborative approach undertaken, staff are recommending that internet and telephone voting be approved for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Elections with Intelivote Systems Inc. as the provider.

Financial Implications:

The financial costs for the agreement between the Municipality of Middlesex Centre and Intelivote Systems Inc. are calculated to be \$44,137.50. In 2022, these costs amounted to \$35,632.71. The increase largely relates to an increase in postage fees and an increase in the number of electors in Middlesex Centre since the last election.

The overall administration of the 2026 Municipal and School Board Elections will be covered through the Election Reserve Fund. The total cost is tentatively estimated at \$65,000.00.

Strategic Plan:

This matter aligns with following strategic priorities:

- **Engaged Community:** Internet and telephone voting offers accessible and convenient ways for residents to participate in the formation of their next Municipal Council. Additionally, offering two remote voting channels over multiple days provides residents more flexibility and convenience in voting.
- **Responsive Municipal Government:** Internet and telephone voting is more cost-effective than traditional voting methods, and aligns with the priority of expanding the municipality's digital service options.

Attachments:

A1 Electronic Voting Services Agreement – Intelivote Services Inc.