

The Corporation of The Municipality of Hastings Highlands

Bylaw 2025-021

**To Authorize the Use of Internet and Telephone Voting as an Alternative Voting Method
for the 2026 Municipal Election and Subsequent Municipal Elections**

Whereas Section 42(1) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, provides that the council of a local municipality may pass by-laws authorizing electors to use an alternative voting method that does not require electors to attend at a voting place in order to vote; and

Whereas Section 42(2) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, provides that a by-law passed under Section 42(1) applies to a regular election if the by-law is passed on or before May 1 in the year of the election, and applies to a by-election if the by-law is passed more than 60 days before voting day; and

Whereas Section 12 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, provides that a Clerk who is responsible for conducting an election may provide for any matter or procedure necessary or desirable for conducting the election; and

Whereas Section 43 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, provides that the Clerk shall establish the dates, location and hours of the voting period; and

Whereas The Hastings County Clerks and Treasurers' Association (HCCTA) promotes and supports the use of internet and telephone voting across the County of Hastings; and

Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Hastings Highlands deems it appropriate and in the public interest to conduct the 2026 municipal election and subsequent municipal elections (hereinafter referred to as 'Municipal Elections').

Now Therefore the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Hastings Highlands enacts as follows:

1. That the alternative voting method of internet and telephone voting is hereby authorized for Municipal Elections.
2. That the Municipal Clerk is hereby authorized to participate in a joint Request for Proposal for internet and telephone voting services with HCCTA.
3. That the Municipality's Delegation of Authority Policy, in conjunction with the Procurement Policy, authorizes the Municipal Clerk to purchase any goods, services and equipment (including technology) necessary to carry out Municipal Elections, and to execute any required documents, agreements or contracts in support thereof.
4. That the Municipal Clerk shall establish the dates, location and hours of the voting period.
5. That no proxy voting provisions are applicable for the Municipal Elections conducted in accordance with this bylaw.
6. That Bylaw 2021-028 is hereby repealed;
7. That this Bylaw shall come into force and effect upon final passing.

Enacted and Passed on this 19th day of March 2025.



Tony Fitzgerald, Mayor



Suzanne Huschilt, Municipal Clerk