



100 John West Way
Aurora, Ontario
L4G 6J1
(905) 727-3123
aurora.ca

Town of Aurora
Information Report
No. CS26-016

Subject: 2026 Municipal Elections

Prepared by: Anne Kantharajah

Department: Corporate Services

Date: June 2, 2026

In accordance with the Procedure By-law, any Member of Council may request that this Information Report be placed on an upcoming Committee of the Whole or Council meeting agenda for discussion.

Executive Summary

To provide an overview of the 2026 municipal elections, including legislative authority, the Preliminary List of Electors (PLE) and Voters' List, voting methods, periods and locations.

- Municipal and school board elections must be held every four years and are administered by the Clerk as the Returning Officer, pursuant to the Municipal Elections Act, 1996.
- For the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election, there are seven members to Town of Aurora Council and four Trustees to the local school boards to be elected.
- Preparing for the municipal election is underway, including elector information management, voter communication initiatives, and the selection of voting methods, periods, and locations.
- The Clerk will recruit, train and appointment election officials to assist in conducting the Election.

Background

Municipal and school board elections must be held every four years and are administered by the Clerk as the Returning Officer, pursuant to the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (the Act).

The next Municipal Election is Monday, October 26, 2026.

Council is responsible for meeting the following requirements under the Act:

- Approving voting methods (e.g., internet or the use of vote counting equipment)
- Reviewing and approving election sign by-laws
- Approving policies such as the Use of Corporate Resources Policy or if desired, a recount policy
- Approving the budget
- Approving members to the Compliance Audit Committee

Council has already approved voting methods for the 2026 Municipal Elections, the updated election sign by-law, election budget (through the budget process), and the Use of Corporate Resources for Election Campaign Purposes Policy. The by-law to appoint members of the compliance audit committee will be brought to the June 23, 2026 Council meeting for enactment.

The Clerk/Returning Officer (RO) has statutory and independent authority as stipulated in the Act, including but not limited to:

- Setting dates, times and locations for the Advance Vote period
- Determining Voting Day locations, earlier opening times for select locations and hours for institutional voting places
- Preparation of forms and procedures not otherwise prescribed
- Establishing procedures for alternate voting methods including internet and tabulators
- Recruitment, training and appointment of election officials.

Analysis

For the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election, there are seven members to Town of Aurora Council and four Trustees to the local school boards to be elected.

- **Mayor** One to be elected at-large within the Town and will also serve as a Member of York Regional Council.
- **Councillor(s)** Six to be elected by Ward as follows:
 - One Ward 1 Councillor to be elected by electors in Ward 1

- One Ward 2 Councillor to be elected by electors in Ward 2
- One Ward 3 Councillor to be elected by electors in Ward 3
- One Ward 4 Councillor to be elected by electors in Ward 4
- One Ward 5 Councillor to be elected by electors in Ward 5
- One Ward 6 Councillor to be elected by electors in Ward 6
- One **English Public School Board Trustee** to be elected by voters in Aurora and Whitchurch-Stouffville
- One **English Catholic School Board Trustee** to be elected by voters in Aurora, King and Whitchurch-Stouffville
- One **French Public School Board Trustee** to be elected by voters in York Region (Conseil scolaire Viamonde Trustee)
- One **French Catholic School Board Trustee** to be elected by voters in York Region (Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir)

Preparing for the municipal election is underway, including elector information management, voter communication initiatives, and the selection of voting methods, periods, and locations.

Preliminary List of Electors

Section 19 of the Act requires the Chief Electoral Officer of Elections Ontario to prepare and maintain a preliminary list for each local municipality and make it available to the Clerk. Beginning in January 2024, the responsibility of preparing and maintaining the list was assigned to Elections Ontario.

Electors need to be on the Voters' List to vote in a municipal council or school board election. Electors can confirm, add, or update their personal information for provincial, municipal, district social services administration board, and school board elections in Ontario by August 12, 2026 at [RegisterToVoteOn.ca](https://www.registertovote.ca). School support changes are managed through the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) at school-support.mpac.ca until June 1, 2026.

Elections Ontario will provide the Preliminary List of Electors to the Clerk by August 14, 2026 to reproduce the Voters' List. After this date, electors must add, remove, or change their listed information through the Clerk/Returning Officer.

Voter Information Letters

The Voter Information Letters will be provided to each elector on the Voters' List. Voter Information Letters will be delivered to Canada Post and distributed by letter mail to all eligible voters on a date to be determined, in advance of the Voting Period. In the event

of a postal strike, the Clerk/RO will determine the method of distribution of the Voter Information Letters in accordance with the principles of accessibility, privacy, security, and election integrity, and will provide notice to the public.

The Voter Information Letter may contain some or all of the following information:

- the Elector's PIN and the designated internet address (URL) to access the voting system of the voter's choice
- instructions on how to vote
- information on how to amend the Voters' List
- dates and hours of the voting period
- contact information for the Administration Office and Voting Location
- voter eligibility criteria
- office and Candidate information
- information on illegal and corrupt practices under the Act

If the information on the Voter Information Letter is not accurate, electors can request changes until the close of voting prior to casting their ballot up until 8 p.m. on Voting Day.

A person cannot give his/her Voter Information Letter to another eligible Elector for the purpose of voting. Acceptance of another person's Voter Information Letter including the actual voting thereof will be considered an illegal and corrupt practice and therefore subject to the penalty provisions under the Act, specifically sections 89 and 90.

Voting Methods, Period and Locations

Electors in the Town of Aurora will have two options to vote:

1. Internet Voting - Internet Voting will be available from October 16 at 10 a.m. to October 25 at 12 p.m. Internet voting will not be available on Voting Day.
2. Paper ballots - Paper ballot voting counted by tabulators will be available on Voting Day, Monday October 26, 2026 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at designated locations, as well as at the Senior's Centre during Advance Voting.
 - a) Regular voting locations are the standard polling places established to allow eligible electors to cast a paper ballot requiring electors to attend the location assigned to them. Regular voting locations are open to the public and would be open either during the Advance Voting Period or on Voting Day as described below:
 - Saturday, October 17, 2026 – 12 p.m. – 6 p.m. – Aurora Senior's Centre

- Sunday, October 18, 2026 12 p.m. – 6 p.m. – Aurora Senior’s Centre
- Monday, October 19, 2026 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. – Aurora Senior’s Centre
- Tuesday, October 20, 2026 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. – Aurora Senior’s Centre
- Wednesday, October 21, 2026 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. – Aurora Senior’s Centre
- Monday, October 26, 2026 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. – various polling stations throughout the Town to be established by the Clerk.

- b) Special voting locations are designated places that meet the parameters listed under subsection 45(7) of the Act such as long-term care homes, retirement homes, or institutions, created to ensure that electors who live in or are temporarily residing at those facilities can vote conveniently and accessibly. The hours of voting is at the discretion of the Clerk in consultation with building administrators. Notices of the date and time for voting will be posted in the residence, and sufficient notice will be provided so that voting information can be added to calendars that may be maintained by the home for residents. These Special Voting Locations are provided only for residents of the respective facilities.

In addition to regular and special voting locations, this year, staff are introducing voter help centres which are flexible service locations established to help electors in correcting voters’ list information and to answer questions. These locations will not have voting capacity, and electors will be encouraged to vote remotely. Voter help centres will be established during advanced voting only to ensure electors can swiftly and conveniently make changes to their voter information or obtain their Voter Information Letters.

This information is summarized in Attachment 1.

The Clerk will recruit, train and appointment election officials to assist in conducting the Election.

Election Officials will be a combination of Town staff and members of the public. Recruitment will begin in the summer, and a comprehensive communication plan has been developed to notify members of the public at the commencement of recruitment including those who have already indicated an interest in assisting. Elections Officials must be available for mandatory training and for the entirety of the assigned workday. Elections Officials compensation will include training, mileage and rate of pay for the position they worked.

Advisory Committee Review

None.

Legal Considerations

The 2026 Municipal and School Board Election will be conducted in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, applicable regulations, Town policies, procedures and by-laws. The Clerk, as Returning Officer, has statutory responsibility for the administration and conduct of the election, including voting procedures, voting locations, election officials, voting methods, notices and election records.

Legal and operational risks include voters' list inaccuracies, disruption in the delivery of Voter Information Letters, confusion regarding voting methods or voting periods, technology or tabulator issues, accessibility concerns, cybersecurity/privacy risks, election neutrality, use of corporate resources, and public concern regarding election integrity.

These risks are being mitigated through established election procedures, public communications, staff training, contingency planning, voter help centres, and compliance with the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 and Town policies and procedures. Any complaints, recounts, compliance audit matters, or allegations of illegal or corrupt practices will be addressed in accordance with the applicable statutory process.

Financial Implications

Financial implications were already addressed by Report No. CS25-006.

Communications Considerations

A comprehensive communication plan has been developed. In all cases, where notice is required to be given to the public under a provision of the Act, such notice would be placed in a Town's local newspaper having general circulation within the Town of Aurora, on the Town's website, and posted at the Administration Office, unless otherwise specified. Notices will also be posted on both official Town social media accounts, if possible. Accommodations or alternative formats may be provided, upon request.

Candidates will be notified via their chosen method of communication.

Notices, forms and other information provided for the 2026 Municipal Election will be made available in English only except as otherwise provided in the Act.

Climate Change Considerations

The information in this report does not impact greenhouse gas emissions or impact climate change adaptation.

Link to Strategic Plan

Providing this information publicly contributes to achieving the Strategic Plan goal of 'Supporting an exceptional quality of life for all' through improving community outreach to electors.

Alternative(s) to the Recommendation

None.

Conclusions

This report provides Council and the public with an update on the planning and preparation of the upcoming Municipal and School Board Election.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Voting Period and Voting Locations

Previous Reports

Report No. CS25-006, 2026 Municipal Election – Methods of Voting, April 8, 2025

Approvals

Approved by Patricia De Sario, Director, Corporate Services/Town Solicitor

Approved by Doug Nadorozny, Chief Administrative Officer



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Town of Aurora
Voting Period and Voting Locations
Legislative Services

Please note this is subject to change. Electors in the Town of Aurora will have two options:

1. Internet Voting - Internet voting will be available from October 16 at 10 a.m. to October 25 at 12 p.m. Internet voting will not be available on Voting Day.
2. Paper ballots - Paper ballot voting will be available as described in the table below:
 - a) **Regular voting locations** are the standard polling places established to allow eligible electors to cast a paper ballot requiring electors to attend the location assigned to them. Regular voting locations are open to the public and would be open either during Advanced Voting Period or on Voting Day.
 - b) **Special voting locations** are designated places that meet the parameters listed under s 45(7) of the Act—long-term care homes, retirement homes, or institutions—created to ensure that electors who live in or are temporarily residing at those facilities can vote conveniently and accessibly. The hours of voting at the above locations shall be held at the discretion of the Clerk in consultation with building administrators. Notices of the date and time for voting will be posted in the residence, and sufficient notice will be provided so that voting information can be added to calendars that may be maintained by the home for residents. These Special Voting Locations are provided only for residents of the respective facilities.
 - c) **Voter help centres** are flexible service locations established to help electors in correcting voters' list information and to answer questions. These locations will not have voting capacity, and electors will be encouraged to vote remotely. Voter help centres will be established closer to the Voting Day.

Location No.	Location	Poll Number(s)	No. of Polls	Open to the Public
Regular Voting Locations – Ward 1				
1.	Aurora Town Square 50 Victoria Street, L4G 1R2	106	1	YES
2.	Lester B. Pearson Public School 15 Odin Crescent, L4G 3T3	101, 102, 103, 104, 105	5	YES
Regular Voting Locations – Ward 2				
3.	Aurora High School 155 Wellington Street West, L4G 2P4	201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206	6	YES



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Location No.	Location	Poll Number(s)	No. of Polls	Open to the Public
Regular Voting Locations – Ward 3				
4.	Regency Acres Public School 123 Murray Drive, L4G 2C7	301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306	6	YES
Regular Voting Locations – Ward 4				
5.	Cardinal Carter CHS 210 Bloomington Road West, L4G 0P9	404, 405, 406	3	YES
6.	Aurora Cornerstone Church 390 Industrial Pkwy S, L4G 3V7	402, 403	2	YES
Regular Voting Locations – Ward 5				
7.	Aurora Seniors’ Centre 90 John West Way, L4G 8A2	502, 503, 506	3	YES
8.	Rick Hansen Public School 490 Mavrinac Blvd, L4G 0J6	501, 504, 505 601, 602	5	YES
Regular Voting Locations– Ward 6				
9.	Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex- Gym 1400 Wellington St E, L4G 7B6	401 603, 604, 605, 606	5	YES
Advance In-Person Voting Location				
11.	Aurora Seniors’ Centre 90 John West Way, L4G 8A2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday Oct 17 - 12 - 6 pm • Sunday Oct 18 - 12 - 6 pm Monday Oct 19 – 4 - 8 pm • Tuesday October 20 – 4 - 8 pm • Wednesday Oct 21 – 4 - 8 pm 	101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507	45	YES



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		601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607		
<p>Special Voting Locations</p> <p>Special Voting Locations are subject to change in accordance with Section 45(7) of the Act and may have reduced voting hours on Voting Day. Special Voting Locations are only for the use of residents of the institution or retirement home.</p>				
12.	Chartwell Park Place Retirement Residence 15055 Yonge Street, L4G 6T4	107	1	NO
13.	Cobblestone Lodge Retirement Home 15029 Yonge St	108	1	NO
14.	Amica Senior Lifestyles 15190 Yonge St	206	1	NO
15.	Traditions Seniors Housing 15520 Yonge Street	206	1	NO
16.	Chartwell Aurora Long-Term Care Residence 32 Mill Street, L4G 2R9	207	1	NO
17.	Kingsway Place Retirement Residence 145 Murray Drive, L4G 2C7	307	1	NO
18.	Sunrise of Aurora (Seniors Assisted Living) 3 Golf Links Drive, L4G 7Y4	308	1	NO
19.	Delmanor Aurora 25 Butternut Ridge Trail	408	1	NO
20.	Willows Estate Long-Term Care Home 13837 Yonge Street, L4G 0N9	407	1	NO
21.	Hollandview Trail Retirement Residence 200 John West Way	507	1	NO
22.	Meadows of Aurora 400 William Graham Drive, L4G 1L7	607	1	No