



Regular Council Meeting

To:	Mayor and Council
Date:	May 5, 2025
From:	Cindy Page, Clerk
Report Number:	Corporate Services 2025-09
Subject:	Telephone and Internet Voting in the 2026 Municipal Election

Recommendations:

1. That Council authorize the use of telephone and internet voting as the only means of casting a ballot in the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election; and
 2. That Council adopt By-law No. 2025-25 being a by-law to provide for the alternative voting methods for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election.
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Overview:

The next Municipal and School Board Election will be held on October 26, 2026, and as part of the preparation Staff are seeking direction as outlined in the Municipal Elections Act, Section 42, for alternative voting methods to be used in the 2026 Municipal Election and the passing of the required By-law. (Attachment No.1)

In the 2014, 2018 and 2022 Municipal Elections, Council authorized the use of telephone and internet voting as the sole means of casting a ballot.

Election statistics for the 2014, 2018 and 2022 Municipal and School Board Elections:

Year	2014	2018	2022
Eligible Electors	7400	7098	8117
Voter Turnout	47.2%	47.9%	43.9%
Total Cost	\$28,757.35	\$26,296.17	\$25,899.56

Based on the data from previous elections, total costs, and voter feedback, telephone and internet voting have proven to be effective alternative options for voting that align with other key considerations when preparing for a Municipal Election. These other considerations include improving accessibility and convenience of the voting process, attempting to increase voter participation, ensuring the security and accuracy of the vote, and reducing environmental footprints. As the population of the Township continues to grow, there will be a similar growth in the costs for conducting elections. Furthermore, electors are increasingly used to accessing key government services in their day-to-day lives through electronic means. Telephone and internet voting will allow

for better management of the costs for running an election while meeting the growing demand for accessibility from electors. Staff are anticipating the increase in costs will be minimal, mostly pertaining to the rise in postage rates and potential of expanding the voter Help Centers during voting period to be set up in each ward. Therefore, staff are recommending the Township continue to use the alternative voting methods of internet and telephone voting for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election.

Staff are holding preliminary discussions with the other Peterborough County Townships to follow the same process that was used in the 2022 elections for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election and are collaborating on an RFP to retain a service provider for the internet and telephone voting method. Staff will provide a subsequent report to Council to select a provider.

Financial Impact:

There is no financial impact at this time. Staff will report back to Council with a recommended service provider and the associated costs later in 2025.

Attachment:

By-law No. 2025-25 being a by-law to provide for alternative voting methods for the 2026 municipal election.

Respectfully submitted by,

Reviewed by,

Cindy Page
Clerk

Yvette Hurley
Chief Administrative
Officer

The Township of Cavan Monaghan

By-law No. 2025-25

Being a by-law to authorize the use of the alternative voting methods for the 2026 Municipal Election

Whereas Section 42(1)(a) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended provides that a council of a municipality may pass by-laws authorizing the use of voting and vote-counting equipment for Municipal Elections;

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

And Whereas 42(2) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended, provides that a by-law passed related to vote and vote-counting equipment and alternative voting methods applies to a regular election if the by-law is passed on or before May 1 in the year of the election;

And Whereas 42(5) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended, provides when a by-law authorizing the use of an alternative voting method is in effect, section 43 and 44 apply only if the by-law so specifies; and

And Whereas the Council of the Township of Cavan Monaghan deems it desirable and in the public interest to conduct the 2026 municipal election using telephone and internet voting as an alternative voting method;

Now Therefore the Council of the Township of Cavan Monaghan hereby enacts as follows:

1. That the use of voting and vote-counting equipment shall be authorized for the 2026 Municipal election and for any by-election required thereafter.
2. The use of telephone and internet voting shall be authorized for the 2026 municipal election and for any by-election required thereafter.
3. That in accordance with section 43(2) for the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended, the Clerk shall determine the dates, times and locations at which the advance vote is held.
4. That this By-law shall come into force and effect on the date it is passed.

Read a first, second and third time and passed this 5th day of May, 2025

Matthew Graham
Mayor

Cindy Page
Clerk