



Vote By Mail

**A Presentation and Information Session
for Candidates**

Thursday, August 21, 2014

Why Explore Alternative Voting?

- Council has the authority under MEA
- Used by municipalities for many years
- Voter engagement
- Voter expectations
- Accessibility

Why Vote By Mail?

- Decentralized population in Guelph/Eramosa
- Opportunities to partner with neighbouring municipalities
- Previous experience with this voting method
- Voter turnout

What is Vote By Mail?

- Ballots mailed to electors within voting kits
- Voters can vote anywhere, 24/7 during the voting period
- Voters can mail their completed voting kit or drop it off to Ballot Return Stations
- Central location for vote counting
- Used as a voting method by over 43 municipalities in 2010

How to Vote by Mail (VBM)



The VBM Process

- Voters' List established through the Preliminary List of Electors (PLE) from MPAC
- Voting kits are mailed to eligible voters on the List
- Eligible voters who did not receive a kit can complete an application to amend the Voters' List, have their name added and receive a kit

The VBM Process

- As completed kits are received by elections staff, declarations are barcode scanned to strike voters off of the Voters' List
- Sealed white secrecy envelopes containing completed ballots remain sealed and stored until Voting Day, when they are counted by elections staff
- Central count on Voting Day



Key Dates for VBM

September 26, 2014	Voting kits mailed by service provider
September 29 to October 3, 2014	Voting kits received in mail by electors
October 13 to 27, 2014	Daily processing of returned kits
October 18, 2014	Last day to mail completed voting kits
October 27, 2014	Voting Day – last day to drop off or obtain and complete a voting kit (by 8:00 p.m.)



Ballot Return Stations

Municipal Office

8348 Wellington Road 124

Mon, Sep 28 to Fri, Oct 17
(8:30am – 4:30pm)

Mon, Oct 20 to Fri, Oct 24
(8:30am – 8:00pm)

Election Day – Mon, Oct 27
(8:30am – 8:00pm)

Marden Community Centre

7368 Wellington Road 30

Thurs, Oct 23 and Sat, Oct 25
(2pm – 8pm)

Rockmosa Community Centre

74 Christie Street, Rockwood

Thurs, Oct 23 and Sat, Oct 25
(2pm – 8pm)

After hours drop box at Municipal
Office

24/7 until October 27, 2014 at
8:00 p.m.

Common VBM Questions

- Is my vote secure and confidential?
 - Double envelope system protects the confidentiality of the voter
 - Uses Canada Post mail delivery network
 - Using declarations to strike voters off of the Voters' List prevents duplicate voting
 - Sweeps will be conducted at communal mail areas
- Is VBM more costly than traditional polls?
 - Approx. \$4/voter
 - Guelph/Eramosa has an election reserve fund

Communicating with Voters

- The following tools are being used to communicate with voters about VBM:
 - getvoting.ca
 - vote@get.on.ca
 - Local newspapers
 - Upcoming fall/winter community guide
 - Township e-newsletter
 - Mobile signs
 - Posters
 - Mail inserts (tax bills and water bills)
 - Community outreach – events
 - Candidates

Considerations for Candidates

- Earlier election process
- Information for voters
- Scrutineer/candidate observation
- No campaign information on municipal property or at Ballot Return Stations

Thank you!

Questions?