The Municipal Corporation of the Township of Armour

ACCESSIBILITY REPORT
2026 ELECTION

as required under section 12.1(3) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended

1. Purpose of Report

Section 12.1(3) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, requires the Clerk to submit a report to Council within 90 days after voting day in a regular election. The report shall address the identification, removal, and prevention of barriers that may affect electors and candidates with disabilities.

This report fulfills the requirements of Section 12.1(3) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* in respect of the regular Municipal and School Board Election held on **October 26, 2026**.

The Township of Armour is committed to ensuring that all eligible electors, candidates, and third-party advertisers have equitable access to participate in the municipal election process. Accessibility was considered throughout the planning, administration, communication, and delivery of the 2026 Municipal Election to promote dignity, independence, integration, and equal opportunity.

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2. Analysis

The *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* (AODA) establishes accessibility standards with the objective of identifying, removing, and preventing barriers for persons with disabilities throughout Ontario.

The *Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation* (Ontario Regulation 191/11) establishes accessibility requirements in the following areas:

- Employment;
- Information and Communications;
- Transportation; and
- Design of Public Spaces.

These standards require municipalities to provide accessible customer service, accessible information and communications, and to continually improve accessibility for members of the public.

The *Ontario Human Rights Code* provides that every individual has the right to equal treatment without discrimination because of disability and requires accommodation to the point of undue hardship.

Section 12.1 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, requires the Clerk to have regard for the needs of electors and candidates with disabilities throughout the election process. The Act also requires the Clerk to prepare an Election Accessibility Plan before voting day and, following the election, prepare a report outlining the identification, removal, and prevention of barriers experienced by electors and candidates with disabilities.

The Township of Armour recognizes that accessibility extends beyond physical access. The Township considered accessibility in election communications, customer service, election administration, voting procedures, and public engagement to help ensure every eligible elector had the opportunity to participate in the democratic process as independently as possible.

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3. Municipal Staff Training

The Corporation of the Township of Armour provided accessibility training to employees who interact with members of the public and to Election Officials appointed to administer the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election.

Training included:

- Accessible Customer Service requirements under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005;
- Communicating with persons with various types of disabilities;
- Assisting individuals who use assistive devices, service animals, or support persons;
- Providing accessible election services and responding to accommodation requests;
- Accessible information and communication requirements; and
- Township policies and procedures respecting accessibility.

The training provided Election Officials with the knowledge and tools necessary to effectively assist electors throughout the election process while maintaining the integrity, confidentiality, and independence of the vote.

All Election Officials appointed by the Clerk received accessibility training appropriate to their election responsibilities.

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4. Election Website, Notices and Related Materials

Township Website

Election information produced by the Township was made available on the municipal website in accessible formats wherever practicable. Alternative formats and communication supports were available upon request.

Election information used clear, concise language and was updated throughout the election period to ensure residents had access to current information regarding nominations, voter eligibility, key dates, voting procedures, and election results.

The Township website was designed to meet applicable accessibility requirements under the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation and was compatible with commonly used assistive technologies, including screen readers.

Public Awareness

Ten Central Almaguin Highlands municipalities jointly participated in radio advertising on two local radio stations encouraging electors who required assistance with voting to contact their respective municipal office.

Although no specific number of requests for assistance could be directly attributed to this initiative, sharing advertising costs among participating municipalities provided significant financial savings while ensuring broad public awareness throughout the region.

The Township also benefited from the collaborative efforts of the Almaguin Area Clerks Group, which continued to share election resources, accessibility best practices, and communication strategies.

Election Communications

Election information was communicated using multiple methods, including:

- Township website;
- Social media;
- Newspaper advertisements;
- Telephone;
- Email;
- In-person assistance at the municipal office; and
- Regular communication with candidates throughout the election period.

Residents were encouraged to contact the municipal office should they require accommodations or accessible formats to participate in the election.

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5. Vote by Mail Process and Accessibility Measures

The Township of Armour was committed to ensuring that the Vote by Mail election process was accessible to all eligible electors.

The 2026 Municipal and School Board Election was conducted using a **Vote by Mail** voting method.

Accessibility measures included:

- A wheelchair-accessible municipal office;

- Accessible parking available at the municipal office;
- Election Officials available to answer questions regarding the Vote by Mail process;
- Assistance provided to electors requesting accommodations, where reasonably possible;
- Alternative formats and communication supports available upon request;
- Accessible election information available online, by telephone, by email, and in person;
- Permission for support persons and service animals when accessing municipal facilities; and
- Private assistance available for electors requiring help while maintaining ballot secrecy to the greatest extent possible.

Electors requiring assistance completing or returning their ballot package were encouraged to contact the municipal office. Election staff worked with electors to identify appropriate accommodations while ensuring compliance with the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.

The Township continually reviewed election procedures throughout the election period to identify and remove barriers wherever reasonably possible.

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6. Accessibility Feedback and Requests

Electors, candidates and third-party advertisers were encouraged to provide feedback regarding the accessibility of the election process before, during and after the election.

No accessibility-related feedback, complaints or accommodation requests were received by the Township of Armour in connection with the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election.

The following summarizes the feedback and requests received:

Accessibility Item	Number Received
Accessibility accommodation requests	0
Accessibility-related complaints	0
Accessibility feedback or concerns from electors or candidates	0
Accessibility requests from candidates or third-party advertisers	0

As no accessibility requests or complaints were received, no individual accommodation requests required assessment or response, and no accessibility-related complaints required investigation or resolution.

The absence of feedback, complaints or accommodation requests does not necessarily mean that no barriers existed. It indicates that no accessibility concerns were brought to the Township's attention during the election period.

The Township will continue to welcome accessibility feedback and review its election procedures to identify opportunities to improve accessibility and prevent potential barriers in future municipal elections.

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7. Summary

The Township of Armour is committed to administering municipal elections that are accessible, inclusive, and compliant with the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*, the *Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (Ontario Regulation 191/11)*, and the *Ontario Human Rights Code*.

Throughout the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election, the Township considered accessibility in its election communications, customer service, administration and Vote by Mail procedures. Measures were in place to provide accessible information, respond to accommodation needs and assist electors who required support.

Election information was communicated through multiple channels, including the municipal website, telephone, email, newspaper advertisements, social media, radio advertising and in-person service at the municipal office.

The collaborative efforts of the Almaguin Area Clerks Group continued to provide valuable opportunities for sharing best practices, coordinating regional communication initiatives, improving accessibility and achieving cost efficiencies through shared resources.

No accessibility-related feedback, complaints or accommodation requests were received during the 2026 election. Consequently, no specific accessibility barriers were reported to the Township through these channels, and no individual accommodation requests required action.

Although no concerns were brought forward, the Township recognizes the importance of continuing to identify, remove and prevent barriers that may affect electors and candidates with disabilities. The Township will continue to review its election procedures, consider accessibility when planning future elections, and incorporate applicable legislative updates and accessibility best practices into future Election Accessibility Plans and reports.

The goal of the Township of Armour is to ensure that all eligible electors, candidates and third-party advertisers have an equitable opportunity to participate in the municipal election process with dignity, independence and as few barriers as reasonably possible.

8. Voters' List Accuracy and Election Administration

Following the 2026 Municipal Election, concerns reported in several Almaguin municipalities regarding the accuracy and completeness of elector information highlighted potential challenges associated with the Elections Ontario Permanent Register of Electors.

Issues identified included outdated records, former residents remaining on voters' lists, and potentially eligible electors being omitted.

Although these concerns relate primarily to election administration rather than accessibility, the accuracy and completeness of the voters' list are important considerations in ensuring that all eligible electors have an opportunity to participate in municipal elections.

The Township of Armour did not receive any accessibility-related feedback, complaints or accommodation requests arising from the voters' list during the 2026 Municipal Election.

The Township will continue to review its election administration procedures and use the available processes to address voters' list inaccuracies and assist eligible electors in confirming their registration information in advance of future municipal elections. The Township will also continue to work with Elections Ontario, as appropriate, to support the accuracy and completeness of elector information.

Election Statistics

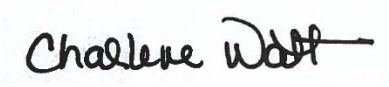
Election Day: **October 26, 2026**

Voting Method: **Vote by Mail**

Total Eligible Electors: **2,431**

Total Ballots Issued: **858**

Voter Turnout: **35.29%**



Municipal Clerk
Township of Armour