



Report Presented To:	Township of Southgate Council Meeting
Meeting Date:	2025-03-05
Report Number	CL2025-007
Title:	2026 Municipal Election – Electronic Voting Vendor
Open/Closed Session:	Open Session
Prepared By:	Lindsey Green Clerk
Approved By:	Jim Ellis Interim Chief Administrative Officer

Executive Summary:

This report is being provided to Council as information to inform of the selected vendor who will provide Internet and Telephone Voting Services for the 2026 Municipal Election.

Recommendation:

Be it resolved that Staff Report CL2025-007 be received for information.

Background:

At the December 18, 2024, Council meeting, [Staff Report CL2024-039](#) was presented to Council to recommend that Council authorize internet and telephone voting as the voting method for the 2026 Municipal and School Board elections. The following was approved:

No. 2024-614

Moved By Councillor Ferguson

Seconded By Mayor Milne

Be it resolved that Staff Report CL2024-039 be received for information; and

That Council authorize internet and telephone voting as the voting method for the 2026 municipal and school board election by enactment of By-law 2024-154.

Yay (6): Mayor Milne, Deputy Mayor Dobreen, Councillor Rice, Councillor Ferguson, Councillor Shipston, and Councillor John 12

Nay (1): Councillor Singh Soares

Carried (6 to 1)

Following approval of the method of voting, a Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued, closing on February 11th at 2:00 PM. The Township had a total of four complete submissions received in accordance with the RFP.

Analysis

Staff evaluated the received submissions based on the following criteria (as outlined in the RFP):

- Proponent Overview, Qualifications & Project Team
- Project Approach, Implementation Plan & Support
- Technology, Functionality and Security
- Value Added
- Pricing

[Simply Voting](#) is the vendor who ranked highest through staff's evaluation of the proposals received and has been chosen as the Township of Southgate's internet and telephone voting vendor for the 2026 Municipal and School Board elections.

Simply Voting has been providing internet and telephone voting services for municipal and school board elections since 2014. Many of our neighbouring municipalities have utilized Simply Voting in the most recent 2022 municipal election including, Municipality of West Grey, City of Owen Sound, Municipality of Arran-Elderslie, Municipality of Brockton and the Municipality of Kincardine.

Staff have had positive conversations with the staff in some of these municipalities that worked directly with Simply Voting's team about their experiences and are looking forward to working with Simply Voting for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Elections.

Internal Policy and Legislated Requirements:

Section 42(1)(b) of the Municipal Elections Act, provides that the Council of a local municipality may pass by-laws to authorize electors to use an alternative voting method, that does not require electors to attend a voting place in order to vote.

At the December 18, 2024 Council meeting, Council approved [By-law 2024-154](#) to authorize internet and telephone voting as the voting method for the 2026 Municipal and School Board elections.

Financial and Resource Implications:

With the 2025 reserve contribution of \$15,000.00, the election reserve will sit at \$39,525.95. The total cost of the 2022 Election was \$37,544.00. Simply Voting's proposal totalled \$24,090.60 (subject to change depending on postage rates at the time of the election).

Staff anticipate that the total cost of the 2026 election will be similar or less than the 2022 Election following the addition of materials, advertising, training, etc. and foresee at this time, we will be under budget.

Strategic Priorities:

None.

Attachments:

None.