



Attachment 1: Benefits and drawback of each voting method

In-person Voting

Benefits	Drawbacks
Offers registered voters a secure and monitored location to cast their vote. The polling stations would be monitored by municipal staff, volunteers, and scrutineers who would be able to ensure all votes were cast in a secure environment, and that all ballots were accounted for in a controlled process.	Voters have to attend a physical location in order to cast their ballot.
Considered the simplest and most familiar method of voting for many.	Additional staff and resources will be required to support the voting locations. This could also include a number of external elections staff, which would require time to put out postings, review applications, and train hired individuals
This system would require a communications plan as it would be a departure from the system used in the last three elections. Registered voters would be required to attend a designated polling station on Election Day to cast their ballot. Information on what to bring and where to go would be required.	Voting strictly in-person also introduces additional difficulties for seasonal residents and property owners. Those who will not be able to attend a designated polling station to vote in-person on Election Day or during advanced polls could therefore be at a disadvantage with this method.
	There would be a greater environmental impact with the use of ballot cards.

Vote by Mail

Benefits	Drawbacks
Offers an option for voters to cast a ballot without attending a physical voting location.	Will not help voters who realize they are unable to vote in-person after the deadline to register for a mail in ballot.
Convenience for voters who know they will be unable to attend a voting location well in advance of Election Day.	Mail processing timelines impact how long it takes a voter to receive and return a ballot.
May be familiar as this method is available for use in Federal and Provincial elections.	Ballots may be lost or damaged in the mail.
	Ballots received after Election Day or without a signed voter declaration card could not be counted.
	Higher chance of unintentional ballot marking errors or a spoiled ballot that could not be counted as there are no prompts for a voter if a ballot or race is blank, over-voted or under-voted like with in-person voting locations or other remote working methods.
	Additional costs to support mail out and return of ballots.
	Environmental impact of paper-based ballots.
	Challenging to access for voters who are moving addresses, who do not have a consistent residence or are homeless.
	Increased manual administrative processes to send, track, receive and verify only one ballot is cast per voter.
	Potential for fraudulent interference of vote by mail kits.
	Potential impact if a postal strike occurs during mail-in voting.

Vote by Phone

Benefits	Drawbacks
Offers an option for voters to cast a ballot without attending a physical voting location.	Potentially frustrating voter experience when stuck in a long phone automation script reading out all contests, all candidates and then verifying all selections.
Flexible voting times with an automated system.	Potential for fraudulent interference with ID on voter notification cards sent in the mail.
Decreased chance of a ballot being marked in error or spoiled unintentionally as the system flags ballot marking errors, such as blank, over, and under-voted races and allows the voter to correct before casting the ballot just like in-person voting locations.	Operates on the same platform as internet voting system so any security considerations with that system would apply to this method as well.
Environmentally friendly as no paper ballot printing	Potential for technical difficulties to pause or delay voting.
Efficient automated administration of voter identity verification, ballot receipt and striking voter off the voters' list and counting.	No manual recount possible because there is no paper ballot.
Fast and accurate results tabulation.	
Cost effective based on flat rate per voter that uses the system.	

Internet voting

Benefits	Drawbacks
Offers an option for voters to cast a ballot without attending a physical voting location.	Internet access may be less available to some voters.
Flexible voting time (24/7)	Potential for technical difficulties to pause or delay voting.
Supports accessible voting with options to adjust colour contrast, screen size, font size and ability to use a screen reader on a personal device.	Potential for fraudulent interference with ID on voter notification cards sent in the mail, requiring a two-step registration process to enhance security with personal information verification and a PIN.

Benefits	Drawbacks
Environmentally friendly as no paper ballot printing.	Security of voting online and potential for fraudulent activity has been raised, based on use of personal devices or potential to interfere with the internet voting system.
Decreased chance of a ballot being marked in error or spoiled unintentionally as the system flags ballot marking errors, such as blank, over and under-voted races, and allows the voter to correct before casting the ballot just like in-person voting locations.	No manual recount is possible because there is no paper ballot.
Efficient automated administration of voter identify verification, ballot receipt and striking voter off the voters list and counting.	
Fast and accurate results tabulation.	
Cost effective based on flat rate per voter that uses the system.	
Digital audit trail for audit, investigation or recount.	