



## REPORT TO COUNCIL

Meeting Date: 24/01/2023

Report Number: 2023-CLK-001

Presented by: Jennifer Montreuil

Department: Corporate Services

### REPORT TITLE

2022 Post Municipal & School Board Elections Debrief

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Report Number 2023-CLK-001 entitled “**2022 Post Municipal & School Board Elections Debrief**” be received for information;

**AND THAT** any unutilized portion of funds that were transferred from the Election Reserve Fund to the election section of 2022 Administrative Operating Budget be recommitted to the Town’s Election Reserve Fund for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Elections;

**AND THAT** a Compliance Audit Reserve Fund Council be established to set aside money for that specified purpose;

**AND THAT** the Municipal Clerk bring forward a Report in Quarter 1 of 2023 presenting a proposed election sign by-law that excludes cost-prohibitive size limitations, clearer definitions (e.g. public/private property), timing of placement in line with statute and regulatory framework, enforcement (e.g. authority to enforce, obstructions, offences and penalties, and orders permissible under the *Provincial Offences Act*);

**AND THAT** a Public Meeting be scheduled at the Call of the Mayor in Quarter 1 of 2023 to allow the public to provide comments surrounding the said proposed election sign by-law;

**AND FINALLY THAT** the Municipal Clerk bring forward a Report in Quarter 1 of 2025 including remedial proposals surrounding the challenges outlined in the Report and to provide education and recommendations on the preferred method of vote for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Elections.

## INTRODUCTION

Although Section 12.1 of the *Municipal Elections Act*, 1996 identifies that a mandatory report be presented and made public only in addressing the removal of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities in an election year, Administration believe it is in the best interest of accountability and transparency in providing the community of Kirkland Lake with a formal debriefing of successes, challenges and statistics surrounding the 2022 Municipal and School Board Elections.

## DISCUSSION

The 2022 Municipal Election was a success. Upon the employment of a new Municipal Clerk in February 2022, the Clerk's Office immediately began creating strategies and initiatives aimed at voter and candidate information and engagement. The goals were to ensure:

- a) the procedural aspects of hosting an election were in place in keeping with legislated timelines;
- b) engage the public in the nomination process; and
- c) provide consistent information at the various stages of the election process.

There are opportunities for enhancement and lessons learned for consideration in the planning of the 2026 Municipal and School Board Elections.

All Election Notices, Plans, Reports and Resources are available for viewing on the [Town's 2022 Municipal and School Board Elections Landing Page](#)

The following is a list of topical updates which touched on the 2022 event's implementation and accomplishment.

### **Human Resources**

The Clerk's Office faced many challenges from a resources perspective in 2022.

Crucial election preparation was conducted in a span of two months ensuring that all the legislative requirements were in place for a successful and well-coordinated election event.

Given an early unforeseen staff shortage, administrative support was required for day-to-day operations and to assist in curbing the volume of legislative processes that materializes in the Clerk's Office. In the last week of April, the Records Management Clerk transitioned into an Election Assistant role four (4) days a week for the remainder of the year to assist with the logistics and planning of pre and post 2022 election events.

During the end of May, the Executive Assistant to the Chief Administrative Officer / Deputy Clerk returned to work for a few hours a week to assist in the preparations of Lottery Licensing pressures.

To avoid any breaks in service, the Clerk's Office developed a "by-appointment only" approach to general services such as Marriage Licencing, Death Registrations, Municipal Information Forms, Lottery Licencing and Taking Affidavits (Commissioning).

An Executive Assistant was hired to backfill the staff on leave on June 8<sup>th</sup>. The Executive Assistant remained in the position until November 4, 2022, and volunteered their time for the planning of the Inaugural Meeting of Council (November 15, 2022)

Despite our staffing roadblocks, the workplace culture in the Clerk's Office remained positive and supportive throughout the election year.

Members of the Town's Senior Management alleviated operational pressures from the Municipal Clerk by assisting with general inquiries, licencing/permitting, and providing educating on historical practices. As well, the Director of Public Works and Director of Economic Development shared in the management and operational oversight of By-Law Enforcement.

For the 2026 event, in its 2025 Operation Budget submission, Administration will be seeking to build-in the hiring of a designated Election Assistant to support the Clerk's Office staff in reviewing and updating the large volume of election precedents and forms. The rationale in entertaining this contract position is that this will ensure Clerk's Office staff continue to meet strict legislative timeframes, achieve sustainable work-life balance and adherence to the Town's Right to Disconnect Policy.

## **Communication**

The Town's Communication Coordinator was effective in the development and publication of timely public notices and creative marketing campaigns that were circulating in the community.

The Communications Coordinator organized the development of the Town's [2022 Election Landing Page](#).

The Clerk's Office supplied electors with election information accompanying the 2022 Taxes and Water Bills; drafted various advertising campaigns which were showcased as part of the TKL Daily Updates on the local radio station; shared through the Town's Weekly and Monthly publications; and marketing posts on our social media streams.

The Municipal Clerk joined all District of Timiskaming and Temagami in the drafting and cost-sharing of Statutory Notice publications pertaining to elections.

Prior to the opening of Nomination Period (May 1 – Aug 19), the Town's Corporate email disclaimer included a reminder of the date of the 2022 Municipal and School Board Elections.

The Clerk's Office Election Team actively disseminated information in a timely and consistent fashion, in keeping with regulations and legislation, and at the best of its abilities with limited resources.

## **Method of Vote**

The Town of Kirkland Lake has historically hosted elections inviting electors to attend in person (or by proxy) at established polling stations to cast their paper ballot; known as the traditional method of voting. In June 2006, Council passed a by-law authorizing the use of optical scanning vote tabulators to allow for automated ballot counting for results.

On November 16, 2021, Council directed for the continued voting method of traditional in-person ballot marking and the use of tabulators. They also directed that future information be provided to the public in possibly transitioning to internet/telephone voting in the 2026 election event.

In March, the Municipal Clerk reached out to three industry-known elections software companies to received quotes for 2 vote tabulators, an accessible alternative ballot marking device, training, onsite- election day support, and the coordination and printing of paper ballots.

Only one quote was received from Election Systems & Software ([ES&S](#)) who had been the vendor for the Town for the last three preceding election cycles (2010, 2014, and 2018).

In accordance with the Town's [Procurement By-Law](#), and in consultation with the Chief Administrative Officer, as per section 3.11, the Municipal Clerk engaged in the execution of a Services Agreement with ES&S to secure the Town's interest in tabulation equipment accessible tabulation equipment, onsite technical support, training, ballot and tabulator supplies, and the coordination and printing of paper ballots.

## **Voter Turn-Out**

The Town of Kirkland Lake Voter Turn-Out statistics are presented based on the Unofficial Results that were entered in on Election Night on [AMO's 2022 Election Website](#).

Factoring in all changes, additions and deletions, at the close of voting, there were 5,992 Electors; 1680 eligible electors casted a ballot; Voter Turnout was 28.03 %.

Attachment 1 provides a historical statistical reporting of Voter Turnout from 1980 to present.

Although in 2022 the turnout in Kirkland Lake was below the provincial average identified as 36.03%, the media and AMO also reported that [many Ontario municipalities](#) also experienced a decline in voter turnout compared to 2018.

**Scholar response to low-voter turnout**

The following scholars have noted a couple reasons that could be considered for the low-voter turnout in the 2022 municipal elections as follow:

*“Voters... may have been fatigued due to the provincial election in June that had historically low turnout, and a federal election last fall”* - **University of Windsor political scientist Lydia Miljan**

*“One possibility is that people feel less connected and engaged in their communities... Lack of engagement in democracy through voting can have a “corrosive effect” on future civic engagement and faith in government”* - **Director of the Democratic Engagement Exchange at Toronto Metropolitan University John Beebe**

It is identified that based on the 2022 Voters’ List, approximately 45% of the Voters’ are between the ages of 55 and older, however, the following statistics have been compiled to provide you the percentage of voting elector by age group who cast a ballot during the 2022 event:

<b>Voting Elector Age</b>	<b>No. of Electors who cast a Ballot in 2022</b>	<b>Percentage (Total Elector Ballots cast: 1680)</b>
18 to 24	43	0.03%
25 to 34	111	0.06%
35 to 44	136	0.07%
45 to 54	228	0.14
55 to 64	417	0.25
65 to 74	428	0.26
75 or order	317	0.19

**Proxy Voting**

The Municipal Clerk accepted Voting Proxy Applications as follows:

- Between September 1 and October 23 by appointment only at the Municipal Office during regular business hours.
- At the Royal Canadian Legion on October 5 from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.
- At the Royal Canadian Legion on October 8 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- At the Riverside Community Centre (Swastika) on October 11 from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.; and
- At the Royal Canadian Legion on October 24 during regular business hours up and until 5:00 p.m.

In the 2022 Municipal and School Board Elections, a total of 7 Appointments for Voting Proxy were issued; only 6 were exercised.

In accordance with the 2022 Municipal Election Procedures and the *Municipal Elections Act*, *Proxy Voting was advertised* through [formal public notice](#) in the Northern News, in circulation to local media contacts, recordings through the morning daily updates on the local radio station, the Town's Facebook page, and within the Municipal Update.

During the week leading up to Voting Day (October 24<sup>th</sup>), the Returning Officer Director of Long-Term Care and Senior Services were in discussions on how to undertake and facilitate mass Appointments for Voting Proxy due to one of the centres being impacted by an isolated outbreak. As this procedure was developed while the situation unfolded, it will now be included in the 2026 Procedures.

### **Long Term Care Facilities and Shut Ins**

In accordance with the recommendation from the Returning Officer and [Council's approval](#), Voting took place at three Long Term Care and Retirement Residences (TPR, Extencicare and the ALCs at the Blanche River Health Centre (KLDH). Designated Election Officials assisted eligible electors who also received assistance by onsite personnel.

The designated Election Team provided feedback post-polls and requested that additional time or additional team members be considered in the 2026 event to reduce the pressure in transition to other facilities. They also recommended that a few more aids be provided by the establishments to improve the flow in those voting locations.

As identified in the [2022 Municipal Elections Procedures](#), the Returning Officer established a program for shut-ins (homebound electors) for the 2022 event. The program was made available during Election Day by appointment only with up to two designated Election Official assigned to administer the program. The Shut-Ins program was utilized by one elector and the feedback on the experience was very positive. Staff consider the availability of the program to be of added value, of minimal costs, and will consider opportunities to enhance the promotion of this program for homebound electors next election.

## **Voters' List**

MPAC has the legislative responsibility of conducting enumeration and producing the Preliminary List of Electors (PLE) for each municipal election and by-election in Ontario.

The PLE is used by municipalities to create the final Voters' List and is delivered to the municipalities in August of an election year. MPAC refrained from identifying the gender of eligible electors, therefore, no statistical data will be provided in this regard.

From January to August 2022, residents across Ontario were encouraged to use the online [VoterLookUp](#) Tool to ensure their information was accurate and complete on the PLE prior to MPAC sending that information over to the municipality which would eventually be the Kirkland Lake Voters' List.

Once the PLE was delivered to the municipality, the Municipal Clerk corrected any obvious errors to create the Voters' List, including the removal of deceased persons from 2018 through to September 1, 2022 and then on a working basis through the advance polls and on Voting Day (October 24, 2022). The Municipal Clerk also verified long-term care/retirement home resident lists prior to September 1<sup>st</sup> and routinely thereafter as advance polls were conducted to ensure no duplicate elector information materialized.

A media campaign switching elector's attention from MPAC to the Town was made effective September 1<sup>st</sup> to through to Election Day on our media outlets, including through the dailies on the local radio station, in our local newspaper, in the Municipal Update, on the Town's 2022 Municipal Election Landing Page, the Town's Facebook Page and Instagram feed, posters at the local post-offices/corporate facilities, a remind on our corporate email signature disclaimers and posters, and available notices and pamphlets at Town Hall.

The Town's MPAC Representative provided the following statistics related to searches on VoterLookUp for Kirkland Lake during this period as follows:

- Searches: **232**
- Confirmations (on the List): **126**
- Name Additions: **27**
- Elector Updates: **14**
- Middle Name Updates: **8**
- Birth Date Updates: **0**
- Citizenship Updates: **3**
- Residency Change Updates (Resident/Non Resident): **0**
- School Board Support Updates: **4**

## **Concerns Raised about Voters' List during Polls**

The Municipal Clerk noticed a considerable number of suspect situations from the required changes to the Voters' List.

As Returning Officer, the Municipal Clerk took a leadership role at the Changes and Additions table as this is historically a controversial topic post-election surrounding wait times, voter list accuracy, etc. The Municipal Clerk realized after reviewing the 2022

Additions and Changes to the Voters' List, that there was something amiss with the integration of the Town's 2018 data; it didn't seem to have been captured in this PLE. The Municipal Clerk reached out to MPAC post-election to obtain a rationale. The Town's MPAC Representative advise of the following:

*"Below are also a few statistics that may [have] affected some of the accuracy of [the Town of Kirkland Lake's] PLE. [Below] is the post-election statistic for 2018, and Kirkland Lake did not provide a revision file. Unfortunately, this information was not captured if many tenants identified their residence."*

PHASE 3	
<b>POST-ELECTION REVISION PROCESSING</b>	
Added .....	0
Deleted .....	0
Updated .....	0
Moved .....	0
<b>Total changes to names data .....</b>	<b>0</b>

The 2022 Revision File was submitted to MPAC by the deadline date. The following statistics were compiled for your information:

- Additions to the Voters' List (includes 3 LTCs): **592**
- Name Changes: **62**
- Address Changes (includes 3 LTCs): **254**
- Deleted Electors not at address as noted on PLEs (includes 3 LTCs): **164**
- Deleted Electors due to incomplete Birthdays: **99**
- Date of Birth Changes: **18**
- Residency Status Changes: **15**
- School Board Support Changes: **20**
- Deleted Deceased Electors: **236**
- Corporations Removed: **2**
- Deleted Duplicate Electors: **92**
- Deleted Elector Not Eligible to Vote: **1**
- Deleted Electors who moved: **2**

As of January 1, 2024, MPAC will no longer prepare the PLE, and this responsibility is being distributed to the Chief Electoral Officer for Elections Ontario. In preparation for the 2026 event, the Clerk's Office will review options to implement the use of a digital voters' list, for convenient electronic measures for voters to check if they are on the list, request they be added, or that their information be updated.

## **Candidates**

Nominations were received from May 2 through to August 19, 2022. Nominations were received in-person by appointment only at Town Hall. Each nominee/candidate was provided with a Nomination Binder with information on key dates, campaign finance



information, various guides, copies of forms, policies and by-law, campaign launch requirements, and additional resources.

The Municipal Clerk received 17 nominations for council candidates and the offices of English Separate and English Public School Board Trustees.

The Clerk in Temiskaming Shores received one (1) nomination for French Separate School Board Trustee for the Zone representing Kirkland Lake electors.

The Clerk extended the Call or Nomination for the French Separate School Board; however, it generated no interest, and the position was filled by the Board post-election.

### **Election Sign By-Law**

The Municipal Clerk started receiving reports of unlawful elections signs approximately mid-June.

On July 15<sup>th</sup> the Municipal Clerk made a ruling based on the interpretation of the by-law that no elections signs should be placed anywhere on either public or private property until September 9<sup>th</sup>. After several internal and external communications, the Municipal Clerk obtained a legal opinion to remove any potential elections challenges over signage.

From the opinion, it was noted that that there appeared to be an inadvertent oversight in the drafting of the by-law, being the insertion of two different terms or ill described completely, and it is unclear if it was intentional or not. That in the spirit of fairness and past practices, the legal direction provided to nominees warranted to be amended as follows:

- Elections signs may be placed posted or erected on private property effective immediately.
- Elections signs may be placed on municipal property from September 9<sup>th</sup> onwards. That the definition of “Municipal Property” is defined as any property that is owned by the Town of Kirkland Lake or that of its’ agencies, boards and commissions, including road allowances and municipal utility poles.

As such, the Municipal Clerk amended the initial ruling and advised all candidates.

On September 9<sup>th</sup>, after receiving complaints in various formats without proof, the Municipal Clerk requested all complaints be made in writing moving forward to assist in the investigations of contravention. A series of formal sign complaints with photographic evidence materialized. By-Law Enforcement were tasked to investigate each complaint. Some signs were removed, some were picked up by candidates and others were left at Town Hall for pick-up. Inquiries on the vandalism of signs were redirected to file formal complaints with the OPP for mischief (personal property).

Despite directives supplied prior to the first day of Advanced Polls and the Friday prior to Voting Day, the Municipal Clerk had to message candidates to remove their sign on the in front of polling stations.

A recommendation is being requested for direction to update the Election Sign By-Law and to schedule a Public Meeting to allow public participation in the discussion of same.

From the concerns that were raised, and in keeping with the legal opinion received, clearer definitions of private and public property need to be established, the removal of cost-prohibitive language surrounding sign sizing; the establishment of clearer timing of the placement of signs; the creation of an enforceable enforcement section; the inclusion of clear notations whom is giving the delegated authority and under which authority; and the establishment of penalties for non-compliance which can be tried under the *Provincial Offences Act*.

### Election Officials

Garnering interest from the general public to participate in the 2022 events was a very challenging exercise. The Clerk's Office published a call in May and by mid-August, municipal staff were approached to assist.

There were 25 election officials (17 staff and 8 members of the public) that assisted in the administration of the 2022 event. Election Officials were required to attend one half-day of specialized training. They were provided with a Guide on their assigned roles and responsibilities; they received hands-on training on the Voters' List, the forms and the processes involved in assisting electors cast their ballots in the election. They also received a quick reference guide, and before the opening of all polls, received a refresher on the important key information from the Municipal Clerk onsite. One-on-One training was provided to those who missed group training. All Election Officials received accessible customer service standards training and participated in a Quiz.

Many Election Officials offered their feedback regarding their experience and suggestions in preparation of the next election. One of the most significant lessons learned relating to Elections Officials is providing them with a full day of training rather than a portion.

The Clerk's Office received expressions of concern from certain electors that they had received an incorrect ballot based on the data on the Voters' List. In the conduct of an investigation post-election, it appears that human error did occur; however, 1 error was found out of 10 requested searches. The Returning Officer did not identify a pattern of negligence.

Effective and comprehensive training of election workers is essential to the operation of each voting place and polling station. For the 2026 event, we are committed to enhancing our training program to host full day election training including a mock-election; and to again, pair public members with staff who have had past experience in the designated roles.

The training of Election Officials was conducted by intentional design; municipal staff were designated as Deputy Returning Officers, and as they attended the Advance Polls, they were able to garner 3 events of experience to be able to better assist the Polling Clerks, who were predominately comprised of public members during Voting Day (Election Day).

The Municipal Clerk has identified that certain Election Officials will not be re-invited to participate due to concerns over performance and conduct during the 2022 event.

### **Voting Day (Election Result Process)**

The Voting Place closed at 8 PM sharp. The Municipal Clerk assisted the Deputy Returning Officer with the tabulation of all Memory Cards associated with the election event, which also required to close the polls to obtain the results for all the Advance Voting Polls held.

Challenge: The Memory Card for the Advance Vote Poll of October 8<sup>th</sup> slid through the memory slot of Vote Tabulator 2 and remained “free floating” in between the slot and the interior housing of the Vote Tabulator. This caused a 28-minute delay in rendering the election results.

The remaining Advance Vote Poll Memory Card of October 11<sup>th</sup> was run through Vote Tabulator 1 to avoid any further tabulation procedure delays.

At the direction of the Returning Officer, the ES&S onsite representative was able troubleshoot for the successful extrication of Memory Card. The Advance Vote Poll Memory Card of October 8<sup>th</sup> was then entered into Vote Tabulator 1. The Municipal Clerk closed the poll, and then verified that the total number of ballots processed reconciled with the number which was taken when the machine was turned off on October 8<sup>th</sup>. All printed results were tallied in the final count that rendered the unofficial results of the 2022 Municipal and School Board Elections.

During this time, Deputy Returning Officers assisted Polling Station Clerks in the reconciliation of ballots at their respective polling stations and aided in securing all supplies for return transport to Town Hall, including polling supplies, tabulators and ballot boxes.

[Unofficial Results](#) were posted at the Voting Location and provided to all candidates who were signed-in and in attendance at the Legion.

The Town’s Communication Officer then shared the Unofficial Results on the Town’s website, with all requesting agencies, news outlets, the local MP and MPP Offices. The Municipal Clerk sent notices to the English Public School Board contact, updated the AMO Portal and pre-populated the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing worksheet.

The [Certificate of Election Results](#) and [Declaration of Elected Candidates](#) were published at Town Hall and circulated to all those noted above, including all the Candidates before 11 AM on Tuesday, October 25, 2022. The Results were also published on the Town’s

website, in October’s version of the Municipal Update and on the Town’s social media outlets. Local and regional news covered the unofficial and official results.

### **Preferred Method of Vote for 2026 Survey**

Once an elector cast their ballot, either at an Advanced Poll or at one of the Polls on Election Day (incl. Legion, TPR, KLDH, Extencicare, Shut-Ins), electors were provided with the opportunity to participate in a survey surrounding their preferred method of vote for the 2026 elections. The survey was completed with 1,285 respondents and consisted of the following question:

*“If the Town of Kirkland Lake entertained a telephone/internet voting method in 2026, which one would you be likely to use:*

*a) Telephone/Internet*

*OR*

*b) Traditional Method (in Person)”*

It was the first time a survey like this was conducted at [polling locations](#) in Kirkland Lake. This provided an opportunity for the Returning Officer to gather some baseline data and overall feedback from eligible electors, rather than polling the entire community which would be comprised of ineligible voters. The results of the survey are below:

<b>Location of Survey</b>	<b>Method of Vote A Telephone/Internet</b>	<b>Method of Vote B Traditional (in Person)</b>	<b>Weather/Factors</b>
<b>Advanced Poll 1</b> Legion October 5 (Wed)	53 electors	86 electors	Sun and Cloud in AM; Sunny afternoon 11 - 23 °C
<b>Advanced Poll 2</b> Legion October 8 (Sat)	79 electors	77 electors	Overcast, rain. 0 - 5 °C *Venue experienced heating challenges for approx. 2 hrs upon opening poll
<b>Advanced Poll 3</b> Riverside Community Centre (Swastika)	39 electors	14 electors	Sunny afternoon; Clear evening 17 - 8 °C

October 11 (Tue)			
<b>Location of Survey</b>	<b>Method of Vote A Telephone/Internet</b>	<b>Method of Vote B Traditional (in Person)</b>	<b>Weather/Factors</b>
<b>Voting Day Legion/LTC Facilities/Shut- Ins October 24 (Mon)</b>	541 electors	396 electors	Sunny morning and afternoon; cloudy overcast evening  18 - 15 °C
<b>TOTAL</b>	712 electors <b>42%</b>	573 electors <b>34%</b>	395 non- participants <b>24%</b>
*Percentages based on number of voters who cast a ballot in the 2022 elections (1,680)			

### Weather a Factor?

A common reoccurring note on polling days was that the weather could have impacted the results. As such, we provide you with a link to the climate during those hours of the polling station (source: [TimeandDate.com](http://TimeandDate.com)).

### Method of Vote Comments throughout the Election period

Other comments made or discussion points on the method of vote noted by the Municipal Clerk during the duration of the election period (May through to October):

- Offering internet/telephone could remove barrier for electors with physical ability challenges.
- Internet/telephone voting could allow for the working class, miners/out of Town workers/ Non-residential or seasonal electors to cast their vote from anywhere.
- Hybrid methods (employing both methods internet/telephone and traditional with vote tabulators) will increase the cost to the taxpayer.
- Non-trusting of technology and concerned for cyber-attacks\*.
- Offering Internet voting brings the Town that much closer to private sector service levels.
- Lack of connectivity at my residence that would not allow me to vote.
- Lack of knowledge or desire to learn how to use telephone/internet voting.
- The traditional method is “tried, tested and true”.

\* A reoccurring concern from the [survey results](#) presented in November 2021.

## **Clerk Recommendation on Method of Vote**

The recommendation sought surrounding the determination of an alternate method of vote for the Town of Kirkland Lake at this time is to allow the Returning Officer the opportunity to conduct fulsome research on the implementation of alternative voting methods, the opportunity to go out to tender or request information, the opportunity for the Town to make updates to its procurement processes, and to allow the Municipal Clerk to engage in a review of the Town's technological landscape prior to making a recommendation in the engagement of an alternative voting method for 2026.

All preparatory election related reports for the 2026 event will be forthcoming to Council commencing in Q1 of 2025. If it is Council's future direction to effect a change in the method of vote, a year of education and public engagement has been effective in bringing successful voter engagement and awareness to electors interested in exercising their democratic right.

## **OTHER ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

Not Applicable.

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

In 2022, through Administration's Election portion of the Operating Budget, a supplemental contribution of \$26,775.00 was requested and approved to complement the transfer of \$21,000.00 which was established in the Election Reserve Fund. In total, there was \$47,775.00 budgeted dollars for the 2022 Municipal and School Board Elections.

An overage was built-in to the budget due to the possibility of having to pay a premium (US funds conversion) to obtain tabulators due to the volatility of the market at the time of budget preparations and going out for quotations.

An overage was also built-in the budget for the integration of [VoterView](#), an electronic application designed in providing election officials with an electronic Voters' List (and all other electoral information) which integrates and removes almost all\* manual processes in correcting and updating the Voters' List, reports, non-election year tracking, and the automation of final reports to provincial authority (then MPAC). VoterView maximizes the time and resources between the period of August to October when the Clerk's Office is at its peak output levels. Given that Administration had no frame of reference on the electronic aptitude of past volunteers and knowing that the delivery of the Voters' List would be presented potentially in a different medium by the new provincial entity (Elections Ontario) in 2026, a pause was made in the digitization and streamlining of the Voters' List.

*\*except the completion of the Form EL15 – Application to Change the Voters' List*

Historically, a \$5,000.00 contribution is made to the Election Reserve Fund annually to offset the total funds required to deliver and administer the municipal and school board elections. In the year of the election, the balance forecasted is accounted for in Operating Budget under a series of Cost Centres associated with Administration's Election General Ledger.

Due to increasing costs related to inflation, supplies, materials, staffing resources, unknown resource requirements for the change in the delivery of the Voters' List, and factoring in the potential for a hybrid voting method, Administration will be requesting to increase the annual contribution to \$10,000.00 resulting in a total of \$30,000.00 earmarked in the Election Reserve Fund by December 31, 2025. Depending on the fiscal climate, Administration will likely prepare for the balance of a total of \$45,000.00 (\$15,000.00 as part of the 2026 Operating Budget) for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Elections.

As the 2022 expenses identified a surplus (approx. \$11,000.00) from the budget projections, it is being recommended that the surplus be recommitted to the Election Reserve fund for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Elections.

After consultations with the Treasurer, the Municipal Clerk is seeking direction to create a Compliance Audit Reserve Fund to allow budgeted dollars to be committed for future election events should they not be used in the election period they were saved for. This provides for potential future compliance audit activities and audit fees which are legislatively required.

**ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

**Strategic Priorities:** Transparency

**Goals:** Provide Outstanding Service

**Objectives:** Implement Sustainable Service Delivery, Develop Better Communications & Enhanced Openness and Transparency; Improving Health and Safety for Staff & the Public

**ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS**

The Town continues to make reasonable efforts to ensure that its policies, practices, and procedures are consistent in providing quality goods and services that are accessible to all persons. We will continue to promote an inclusive community that is dedicated to pursuing healthy and balanced lifestyles for everyone which speaks to the Town's commitments in delivering exceptional municipal customer service standards, including during municipal and school board elections.

## **CONCLUSION**

As noted in the Report, debriefs were conducted with Election Officials and the noted feedback in the 2022 event will be considered and addressed by the Returning Officer in preparation for the 2026 Kirkland Lake Municipal and School Board Elections.

## **CONSULTATIONS**

Chief Administrative Officer

Director of Corporate Services

Treasurer

2022 Candidates

2022 Kirkland Lake Election Team

Town of Kirkland Lake Electors

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 – Historical Breakdown of Election Results 1980 to Present



Town of Kirkland Lake Elections Results (1980 - Present)



Mayors			Councillors		
2022 Total Voters	1680		Broderick, Jamie	426	25.36%
Snow, Don	679	40.42%	Dikens, Dolly	990	58.93% 1st Term
Wight, Stacy	964	57.38% 1st Term	Duclos, William	160	9.52%
			Johnston, Bob	496	29.52%
			Kiely, Patrick	773	46.01% 2nd Term; 1 Term Mayor
			Mastrilli, Sebastian	659	39.23%
			Owen, Rick	921	54.82% 2nd Term
			Owens, Casey	1069	63.63% 2nd Term
			Ranger, Janice	1194	71.07% 1st Term
			Shaba, Lad	1175	69.94% 2nd Term (Partial)

Mayors			Councillors		
2018 Total Voters	2651		Adams, Patrick	1467	55.34% 1st Term
Kiely, Pat	1875	70.73% 1st Term	Belanger, Rheal	235	8.86%
Morgan, Todd	720	27.16%	Breault, Albert	838	31.61%
			Ivanov, Eugene	1543	58.20% 1st Term
			Monery, Bill	887	33.46%
			Owen, Rick	1500	56.58% 1st Term
			Owens, Casey	1089	41.08% 1st Term
			Perrier, Dennis	1202	45.34% 1st Term
			Romain, Michael	339	12.79%
			Roman, Jim	690	26.03%
			Shaba, Lad	1060	39.98% Filled vacancy held by Perrier Nov 17, 2020
			Snowdon, Andrew	779	29.39%
			Wight, Stacy	1487	56.09% 1st Term

2014 Total Voters	3229		Barker, Thomas	1506	47% 2nd and last
Antoniuzzi, Tony	1622	50% 1st Term	Breault, Albert	713	22%
McCann, Ken	1565	48%	Chamaillard, Jean-Guy	1314	41% 2nd and last
			Clark, Bryan	1172	36%
			Clarke, Kate	723	22%
			Del Villano O'Connor, Liana	444	14%
			Dudgeon, Bruce	555	17%
			Kiely, Patrick	1530	47% 1st then Mayor
			Lang, Kris	588	18%
			Levinski, Perry	656	20%
			Mino, Norm	1198	37% 5th and last
			Morgan, Todd	1360	42% 5th and last
			Ng, Eleanor	963	30%
			Perrier, Dennis	1027	32%
			Roman, Jim	1321	41% 1st and last
			Snowdon, Andrew	500	15%
			Yade, Bruce	496	15%

2010 Total Voters	2728		Adams, Sylvie	1458	53%
Enouy, William	2006	74% 4th Term	Antoniuzzi, Tony	2303	84% 3rd then Mayor
Suykens, Karen	644	24%	Barker, Thomas	1533	56% 1st Term
			Chamaillard, Jean-Guy	1658	61% 1st Term
			Clarke, Eric	811	30%
			Dybczak, Frank	181	7%
			French, Allan	1787	66% 5th and Last
			Mino, Norm	1927	71% 4th Term
			Morgan, Todd	1871	69% 4th Term
			Welch, Corey	269	10%

2006 Total Voters	2214		Antoniuzzi, Tony	1551	70% 2nd Term
Enouy, Willam	ACCLAIMED	3rd Term	Cunningham, Linda	1159	52% 4th and Last
			Emms, Richard	1083	49% 1st and Only
			Folusewych, John	505	23%
			French, Allan	1396	63% 4th Term
			Johnson, Janine	794	36%
			MacDonald, Robert	811	37%
			MacDonald, Russell	182	8%
			Mino, Norm	1127	51% 3rd Term
			Morgan, Todd	985	44% 3rd Term
			Taylor, Jim	846	38%
			Weisflock, Don	799	36%

2003 Total Voters	2730		Antoniuzzi, Tony	2070	76% 1st Term
Enouy, William	ACCLAIMED	2nd Term	Crema, Martin	1305	48%
			Cunningham, Linda	1538	56% 3rd Term
			French, Allan	1886	69% 3rd Term
			MacDonald, Robert	806	30%
			Mino, Norm	1401	51% 2nd Term
			Morgan, Todd	1440	53% 2nd Term
			Taylor, Jim	1356	50%
			Weisflock, Don	1369	50% 5th and Last



Mayors			Councillors		
2022 Total Voters	1680				
Snow, Don	679	40.42%	Broderick, Jamie	426	25.36%
Wight, Stacy	964	57.38% 1st Term	Dikens, Dolly	990	58.93% 1st Term
			Duclos, William	160	9.52%
			Johnston, Bob	496	29.52%
			Kiely, Patrick	773	46.01% 2nd Term; 1 Term Mayor
			Mastrilli, Sebastian	659	39.23%
			Owen, Rick	921	54.82% 2nd Term
			Owens, Casey	1069	63.63% 2nd Term
			Ranger, Janice	1194	71.07% 1st Term
			Shaba, Lad	1175	69.94% 2nd Term (Partial)

Mayors			Councillors		
2000 Total Voters	5090				
Denton, Richard	1805	35%	Beard	1714	34%
Enouy, William	3285	65% 1st Term	Boulley, Emile	1224	24%
			Breault, Albert	764	15%
			Bukowski	1161	23%
			Coghlan, Brian	2357	46% 4th and Last
			Colpitts	801	16%
			Cunningham, Linda	2361	46% 2nd Term
			Durocher	1572	31%
			Fortin Adams, Sylvie	579	11%
			French, Allan	3057	60% 2nd Term
			Gamble	1600	31%
			Irvine, Lorrie	1241	24%
			Menard	1008	20%
			Mino, Norm	1752	34% 1st Term
			Morgan, Todd	2316	46% 1st Term
			Munn, Eric	1588	31%
			Walters	262	5%
			Weisflock, Don	2851	56% 4th Term

1997 Total Voters	4227				
Coghlan, Brian	1497	35%	Cunningham, Linda	1842	44% 1st Term
Denton, Richard	2123	50% 1st Term	Doyon	1154	27%
Kasner, Robert Jr.	607	14%	Enouy, William	2504	59% 3rd then Mayor
			French, Allan	1989	47% 1st Term
			Goard	1715	41%
			MacDonald, Robert	1768	42% 1st and Only
			Miko	1706	40%
			Moreau	965	23%
			Morgan, Todd	1669	39%
			Taylor, William	1788	42% 8th and Last
			Van Ooyen, Peter	1650	39%
			Weisflock, Don	2010	48% 3rd Term

1994 Gamble, Sam	1241		Baird, Millie	1550	
Mavrincac, Joe	2593	6th and Last	Coghlan, Brian	2278	3rd Term
			Denton, Richard	2580	1st then Mayor
			Kasner, Robert Jr.	1922	1st and Only
			Pysklywec, Russ	1124	
			Taylor, William	2307	7th Term
			Van Ooyen, Peter	1957	1st and Only
			Weisflock, Don	2177	2nd Term
			Yee, Steve	1755	

1991 Epps, John	2113		Baird, Millie	2669	8th and Last
Mavrincac, Joe	2842	5th Term	Coghlan, Brian	2375	2nd Term
			Demarais, Luc	664	
			Forbes, Carl	1051	
			Gamble, Sam	2086	4th and Last
			Gamble, Susan	1984	1st and Only
			Hodgins, Joan	934	
			Louie, Dan	1607	
			Morin, J.J.	646	
			Novak, Frank	2908	3rd and Last
			Richards, Roger	821	
			Sorochan, Wally	751	
			Van Ooyen, Peter	1521	
			Weisflock, Don	1963	1st Term
			Yee, Steve	1594	

1988 Havrot, Ed	2003		Baird, Millie	2888	7th Term
Mavrincac, Joe	2440	4th Term	Ball, Linda	3237	2nd and Last
			Enouy, Bill	2978	2nd Term
			Gamble, Sam	2431	3rd Term
			Irvine, Ruth	1742	
			Mino, Jean	1368	
			Novak, Frank	2784	2nd Term
			Taylor, Bill	2934	6th Term

Mayors			Councillors		
2022 Total Voters	1680				
Snow, Don	679	40.42%	Broderick, Jamie	426	25.36%
Wight, Stacy	964	57.38% 1st Term	Dikens, Dolly	990	58.93% 1st Term
			Duclos, William	160	9.52%
			Johnston, Bob	496	29.52%
			Kiely, Patrick	773	46.01% 2nd Term; 1 Term Mayor
			Mastrilli, Sebastian	659	39.23%
			Owen, Rick	921	54.82% 2nd Term
			Owens, Casey	1069	63.63% 2nd Term
			Ranger, Janice	1194	71.07% 1st Term
			Shaba, Lad	1175	69.94% 2nd Term (Partial)

Mayors			Councillors		
1985 Mavrinac, Joe	2569	3rd Term	Baird, Millie	2015	6th Term
Pysklewec, Russ	1301		Ball, Linda	2562	1st Term
			Chouinard, Lou	540	
			Enouy, Bill	1919	1st Term
			Gamble, Sam	1515	2nd Term
			Goldstein, Myer	868	
			Klockers, Paul	938	
			Korhonen, June	923	
			Kramp, Mary	483	
			Majors, Ed	671	
			Novak, Frank	1426	1st Term
			Poloni, Tony	1239	
			Scott, Carole Ann	439	
			Taylor, Bill	2016	5th Term
			Wyatt, Dennis	690	

1982 Mavrinac, Joe		2nd Term	Ancell, R.		2nd Term
			Baird, Millie	All Positions	5th Term
			Coghlan, Brian	Acclaimed	1st Term
			Gamble, Sam		1st Term
			Poloni, Tony		1st and Only
			Taylor, Bill		4th Term

1980 Hamilton, Gordon	686		Ancell, R.	3406	1st Term
Mavrinac, Joe	3225	1st Term	Baird, Millie	2804	4th Term
O'Connor, Gerry	1381		Johnston, Stan	3029	2nd + 3 as Mayor
			Nelson, Harold	2276	
			Sokoloski, Wayne	2881	1 and Only
			St. Cyr, L.	2432	
			Taylor, Bill	3038	3rd Term
			Theberge, C.	3122	1st and Only