

Document 1 - By-law to Authorize the Use of an Alternative Voting Method

BY-LAW NO. 2026-XX

A by-law of the City of Ottawa to authorize the City Clerk to implement the use of an alternative voting method for the 2026 Municipal Elections and any by-elections that may occur during the 2026-2030 Term of Council.

WHEREAS Subsection 42(1)(b) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, provides that the Council of a local municipality may pass by-laws authorizing the use of an alternative voting method, such as voting by mail, that does not require electors to attend a voting place in order to vote; and

WHEREAS Subsection 42(5) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, provides that when a by-law authorizing the use of an alternative voting method is in effect, Section 43 (advance vote) and Section 44 (voting proxies) shall only apply if the by-law so specifies; and

WHEREAS Subsection 11(2) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, provides that the City Clerk is responsible for conducting the elections within the municipality including preparing the election, and Section 12 further provides that the City Clerk is responsible for conducting the election and may provide for any matter or procedure that is not otherwise provided for in an Act or regulation and in the Clerk's opinion is necessary or desirable for conducting the election; and

WHEREAS Subsection 42(3) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, provides that in the event of the use of an alternative voting method, the City Clerk shall establish procedures and forms for the use such method authorized by by-law; and

WHEREAS Council authorizes the City Clerk to implement as appropriate an alternative voting method, which may provide for an additional voting option for electors without requiring that they attend a voting place in order to vote;

THEREFORE the Council of the City of Ottawa enacts as follows:

1. The Council hereby authorizes the City Clerk to implement, as appropriate, an alternative voting method for the 2026 Municipal Elections and any by-elections that may occur during the 2026-2030 Term of Council, being a special mail-in ballot established by the City Clerk, provided that such option remains available and feasible as determined by the City Clerk.
2. The City Clerk shall determine the dates, times, and locations at which the special mail-in ballot must be received in order to be counted in accordance with the Vote Counting Procedures established for the 2026 Municipal Elections and any by-elections that may occur during the 2026-2030 Term of Council.
3. The City Clerk shall determine the dates, hours, and locations during which the advance vote is held.

4. The City Clerk shall establish the process for the certification of voting proxies to allow for proxy voting in person but not proxy voting by special mail-in ballot.

ENACTED AND PASSED this 11th day of March, 2026.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

BY-LAW NO. 2026 -

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

A by-law of the City of Ottawa to authorize the City Clerk to implement the use of an alternative voting method for the 2026 Municipal Elections and any by-elections that may occur during the 2026-2030 Term of Council.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

Enacted by City Council at its meeting of
March 11, 2026

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

COUNCIL AUTHORITY:
City Council March 11, 2026