

Powers of the Town Clerk for making Election Policies and Procedures

1. Policy

The Town Clerk shall create and implement any policies and procedures that are necessary to conduct an election in a manner that reflects the principles of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (MEA) and its Regulations. These principles are generally recognized as being that:

- a) the secrecy and confidentiality of the voting process is paramount;
- b) the election shall be fair and non-biased;
- c) the election shall be accessible to the voters;
- d) the integrity of the voting process shall be maintained throughout the election;
- e) there is to be certainty that the results of the election reflect the votes cast;
- f) voters and candidates shall be treated fairly and consistently; and
- g) the proper majority vote governs by ensuring that valid votes are counted and invalid votes are rejected so far as reasonably possible.

2. Application

This policy applies during Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Municipal and School Board elections.

3. Delegation of Authority

The Town Clerk shall appoint designated election officials for the purpose of implementing election procedures and shall designate their titles and duties in writing.

4. Authority/Legislative reference(s)

Section 12 of the MEA outlines the powers of the Town Clerk, including that they may provide for any matter or procedure that is not otherwise provided for in an Act or regulation and that, in the Town Clerk's opinion, is necessary or desirable for conducting the election.

Section 15(2) of the MEA allows the Town Clerk to delegate any of their powers and duties in relation to an election to any other election official, as they consider necessary.