

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHISHOLM
BY-LAW 2025-31
Being a By-law to Authorize the Use of Vote-by-Mail for Requested Voters for the
2026 Municipal Election

WHEREAS Section 42(1)(b) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended (“the Act”), provides that a municipal council may pass a by-law authorizing an alternative voting method;

AND WHEREAS Section 42(1)(b) of the Act permits the use of voting methods that do not require electors to attend a voting place in order to vote;

AND WHEREAS Council for the Corporation of the Township of Chisholm deems it desirable to provide electors with an optional vote-by-mail method, available only upon request, in addition to traditional in-person voting for the 2026 Municipal Election;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Chisholm enacts as follows:

1. DEFINITIONS

1.1 “Act” means the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended.

1.2 “Clerk” means the Clerk of the Township of Chisholm, or their designate, appointed under Section 15 of the Act.

1.3 “Vote-by-Mail” means a voting method in which a voter may cast a ballot by mail through a prescribed mail-in voting kit issued by the Clerk.

1.4 “Requested Voter” means an eligible elector who has submitted a completed application for a mail-in voting kit in accordance with the process established by the Clerk.

2. AUTHORIZATION OF VOTE-BY-MAIL METHOD

2.1 The Township of Chisholm hereby authorizes the use of Vote-by-Mail as an alternative voting method for the 2026 Municipal Election and any required recounts.

2.2 Vote-by-Mail shall be available only to Requested Voters, who apply in the manner and within the timeframes established by the Clerk.

2.3 The Clerk is authorized to establish procedures, forms, deadlines, identification requirements, and security measures to administer Vote-by-Mail in accordance with the Act.

2. IN-PERSON VOTING

3.1 Traditional in-person voting, including advance voting and voting on Election Day, shall continue to be offered in accordance with the Act.

3.2 Nothing in this by-law removes or restricts the option for electors to vote in person.

4. MAIL-IN VOTING KITS

4.1 The Clerk shall prepare and issue mail-in voting kits to Requested Voters. Kits shall include:

- (a) a ballot;
- (b) a voter declaration form;
- (c) a secrecy envelope;
- (d) a return envelope; and

(e) instructions for completion and return.

4.2 The Clerk shall determine acceptable methods of returning completed mail-in voting kits, including secure drop box locations and deadlines.

4.3 The Clerk shall ensure the secure handling, storage, and counting of Vote-by-Mail ballots.

5. PROCEDURES

5.1 In accordance with Section 42(3) of the Act, the Clerk shall establish and publish Election Procedures consistent with this by-law, including but not limited to:

- (a) application process for becoming a Requested Voter;
- (b) timelines for mailing or issuing kits;
- (c) verification of voter declarations;
- (d) security protocols to protect the integrity of the vote;
- (e) counting procedures for mail-in ballots; and
- (f) procedures for spoiled, lost, or replacement mail-in voting kits.

5.2 The Clerk's procedures shall prevail to the extent of any inconsistency with this by-law, in accordance with the Act.

6. SEVERABILITY

If any section or part of this by-law is found to be invalid, such section or part shall be severed, and the remainder of the by-law shall continue in full force and effect.

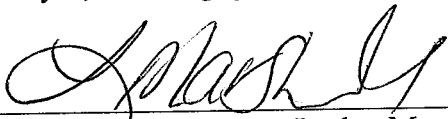
7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This by-law shall come into force and take effect on the date of its passing.

READ a first, second and third time and passed this 9th, day of December 2025.



Mayor, Gail Degagne



CAO Clerk-Treasurer, Lesley Marshall