



2026 Municipal Election

Detailed Scrutineer Guidelines

The Deputy Returning Officer is responsible for the conduct at a Voter Help Centre and no Candidate or Scrutineer has the right to interfere with the Deputy Returning Officer in the discharge of their duties. The integrity of the election will be upheld by each Deputy Returning Officer/Election Officials. Candidates are also subject to all guidelines for the scrutineers while attending the Voter Help Centre location(s).

Appointment of Scrutineer

1. A certified candidate may appoint scrutineers to represent them during voting at the Voter Help Centre(s) and at the counting of the votes, including a recount.
2. The appointment shall be in writing on the prescribed **Form EL12(A)** provided below.
3. There are **no** age restrictions to be a scrutineer, nor any provision that a scrutineer cannot be related to the candidate who makes the appointment.

Acclaimed Candidates are not entitled to attend a Voter Help Centre unless appointed as a Scrutineer by another candidate.

Attendance at Voter Help Centre(s)

1. Before being admitted to a Voter Help Centre, a person appointed as a scrutineer shall produce and show his/her appointment on the prescribed **Form EL12(A)** the Deputy Returning Officer for the Voter Help Centre and take the oral Oath of Secrecy - **Form EL12(B)** before the Deputy Returning Officer before being permitted to remain in the Voting Location.
2. During the fifteen minutes before the opening of the Voter Help Centre, the candidate or scrutineers who are entitled to be present in a Voter Help Centre during voting hours, are entitled to **visually** inspect the Voter Help Center, election equipment, forms and documents, but not so as to delay the timely opening of the Voter Help Centre.

3. Scrutineers/candidates are permitted to listen to discussions between the Election Officials and the elector but they are NOT permitted to observe how an elector votes. Scrutineers/candidates are NOT allowed to speak to electors, touch the voting equipment or interfere with the voting process. Scrutineers are simply in attendance to observe.
4. Only ONE scrutineer per candidate is allowed at any given time at the Voter Help Centre location. The candidate and his/her scrutineer ARE NOT permitted to be present at the Voter Help Centre Location at the same time. If a candidate or scrutineer wishes to have a discussion with another scrutineer or candidate, they must leave the Voter Help Centre and carry on their discussion outside of the Voter Help Centre. **Scrutineers/Candidates may NOT wander about – they must remain where assigned.**
5. Scrutineers/candidates will have real time access to the Voters' List to determine who has voted or to count how many electors have voted through the real time portal provided in VoterView by the Clerk. Therefore, manual examinations of the Voters' List will not be provided at the Voting Locations.
6. A scrutineer/candidate may object to a person voting and the Deputy Returning Officer shall record the fact of the objection on the Voters' List next to the person's name. If the person takes an oath or affirmation stating that he/she is entitled to be an elector and has not already voted in the election, the Deputy Returning Officer shall provide the individual with a Voter Information Letter giving them the right to vote.

Tabulation of Ballots

1. Scrutineers/candidates wishing to observe the tabulation of the ballots MUST be at the Voter Help Centre located at Township of Oro-Medonte Administration Centre prior to 8:00 p.m.. No one will be admitted to the Voter Help Centre after that time.
2. After the close of the Voting/Voter Help Centre:
 - Scrutineers/candidates may be present at the time and place where results are received by the clerk, including signing the results report indicating the final results and votes cast.
 - Scrutineers cannot handle any of the equipment or paperwork involved.
 - The total votes cast for each candidate is final and the Clerk is not required to do a second count.

General Guidelines

- Scrutineers/candidates will be required to wear a button/name tag identifying their status in the Voter Help Centre.
- No campaign material or literature of any nature whatsoever shall be displayed within the Voter Help Centre Location. The boundaries of the Voter Help Centre are the boundaries of the property where the Voter Help Centre is located along with 150 feet parameters to the location and **includes** the parking lot.
- Candidates may not “linger” outside a Voter Help Centre Location. If they are not participating in observing the voting process, they must leave the property immediately.
- Candidates, supporters and scrutineers are NOT permitted to wear campaign material, hand out campaign material or park a vehicle displaying campaign material in the parking lot or within 150 feet of the Voting Location.
- Use of cell phones is NOT permitted inside the Voter Help Centre Location. Scrutineers/candidates are encouraged to step outside the location if cell phone use is required.

Anyone not adhering to the conduct expected at the Voter Help Centre location or tabulation of results may be requested to leave immediately by the Deputy Returning Officer or the Clerk.



Form EL12(A)

Appointment of Scrutineer - By Candidate
Municipal Elections Act, 1996

This appointment applies to all Voter Help Centre locations within the Municipality.

Take Notice that I, _____ a candidate for the office
of (Name of Candidate)

_____ hereby appoint
(office to which election is being sought)

_____ to attend at the Voter Help Centre

for **Ward No.(s)** _____ in the Municipality of the Corporation of the Township of Oro-Medonte to represent me in such

Voter Help Centre(s) during

_____ the entire voting period

_____ Election Day and at the counting of votes

under *The Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.

Date

Signature of Candidate



Form EL12B

Oral Oath of Secrecy

I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm):
(state name)

That I will maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of the voting; and

That I will not, nor attempt to:

- interfere with an elector when he/she is casting their vote;
- obtain or communicate any information as to how an elector is about to vote or has voted; or
- directly or indirectly induce an elector to show his/her marked ballot to any person.

**To be declared by any scrutineer or candidate wishing to be present
at the Voter Help Centre(s)**

Conduct of Scrutineers

- 1) It is no longer mandatory that scrutineers be 16 years of age or older to work at an election, however, ANYONE who is creating a disturbance at a Voter Help Centre will be removed by the DRO.
- 2) Before being admitted to a Voter Help Centre, a person Appointed as scrutineer shall produce and show their Appointment (the "Scrutineer Form 12(A)") to the Deputy Returning Officer for the Voter Help Centre and take the oral Oath of Secrecy (Form EL12 (B)) from the Deputy Returning Officer before being permitted to remain in the Voter Help Centre.
- 3) The Deputy Returning Officer is responsible for the conduct of the Voter Help Centre and no candidate or scrutineer has the right to interfere with the Deputy Returning Officer in the discharge of his or her duties.
- 4) During the fifteen minutes before the opening of the Voter Help Centre, the candidate or scrutineers who are entitled to be present in a Voter Help Centre during voting hours, are entitled to **visually** inspect the Voter Help Center, election equipment, forms and documents, but not so as to delay the timely opening of the Voter Help Centre. Scrutineers/candidates are permitted to listen to discussions between the DRO/Voter Help Centre Clerk and the Elector but they are NOT permitted to observe how an Elector votes. Scrutineers/candidates are NOT allowed to speak to Electors, touch the voting equipment or interfere with the voting process. They are simply there to observe.
- 5) Only one scrutineer per candidate is allowed at any given time at each Voter Help Centre. The candidate and their scrutineer ARE NOT permitted to be present at the Voter Help Centre at the same time. If a candidate or scrutineer wishes to have a discussion with another scrutineer or candidate, they must leave the Voter Help Centre and carry on their discussion outside of the Voter Help Centre location.
- 6) No campaign material or literature of any nature whatsoever shall be displayed within the Voter Help Centre location. The boundaries of the Voter Help Centre are the boundaries of the property where the Voter Help Centre is located and **includes** the parking lot. Candidates, supporters and scrutineers are NOT permitted to wear campaign material, handout campaign material, or park a vehicle displaying campaign material in the parking lot of the Voter Help Centre. Anyone breaking these rules will be asked to remove the campaign material immediately.

- 7) Scrutineers are reminded to bring a clipboard for their use, as sitting at the table, which is provided for the Deputy Returning Officer and Voter Help Centre Clerk, IS NOT permitted.
- 8) Scrutineers/candidates will have real time access to the Voters' List to determine who has voted or to count how many electors have voted through the real time portal provided in VoterView by the Clerk. Therefore, manual examinations will not be provided at the Voter Help Centre(s).
- 9) Scrutineers/candidates wishing to observe the tabulation of results MUST be at the Voter Help Centre prior to 8:00 p.m. No one will be admitted to the Voter Help Centre after 8:00 p.m. Please refer to the Internet/Telephone Voting Procedures for the election results processing time.
- 10) The total votes cast for each candidate is final and the Clerk is not required to do a second count.
- 11) All scrutineers shall be required to adhere to any and all additional guidelines as set out by the Clerk of the Corporation of the Township of Oro-Medonte.