



TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL ACTION ITEM

Committee: Committee of the Whole – Administration & Operations

Date: April 13, 2026

Department: Administration

Topic: Update Use of Corporate Resources During Election Purposes Policy

Purpose: To update the Use of Corporate Resources for Election Purposes policy for the 2026 Municipal Election.

Background: During the 2018 election cycle, requirements to establish rules with respect to the use of municipal or local board resources during the election campaign period were implemented. In 2022 during and after the election it was identified that additional clauses were needed to clarify the display of signage and the restriction of using municipal funds to print or distribute election campaign material.

It is best practice for the Clerk's department to review this policy each election cycle to address and bring forward any possible changes to improve the policy and the election cycle for all council, candidates, 3rd party advertisers and staff that may be affected by this policy.

Summary of proposed changes to the policy are as follows and included in the tracked changes document:

- Expand on campaign material restriction for candidates/council that attend events
- Restrictions for cameras in voting locations
- Restriction of use of Township IT
- Restriction of use of Township websites and social media
- Detailed restrictions and regulations regarding election signage

Policy Implications: Pursuant to Section 88.18 of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, municipalities and local boards are required to establish rules and procedures with respect to the use of municipal or board resources during the election campaign period. Since contributions may take the form of money, goods, or services, any use of the Township's corporate resources for an election campaign is considered as a contribution and therefore contravenes the Municipal Elections Act.

Strategic Plan Implications: N/A

Financial Considerations: There are no costs associated with updating the policy or the policy in general. However, if a community group as outlined within the policy wishes to rent the Johnstown Community Centre, the group will be required to pay the facility rental fee as per the associated Fees bylaws currently in effect.

Recommendation: The Committee recommends that Council adopt the updated Use of Corporate Resources for Election Purposes Policy as attached.



Clerk



CAO