

## The Corporation of the Municipality of West Grey Bylaw No. 2024-105

A bylaw to authorize alternative voting methods for municipal and school board elections and by-elections.

WHEREAS Section 42(1)(b) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, S.O. 1996, c. 32, Sched. provides that the council of a local municipality may pass bylaws authorizing electors to use an alternative voting method, such as voting by internet or by telephone, that does not require electors to attend at a voting place in order to vote; and

WHEREAS Section 42(5) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, S.O. 1996, c. 32, Sched. provides that when a bylaw authorizing the use of an alternative voting method is in effect, sections 43 (advance vote) and 44 (voting proxies) apply only if the bylaw so specifies; and

WHEREAS on December 13, 2024, Council directed staff to bring forward a bylaw to authorize internet and telephone voting as the voting method for the 2026 municipal and school board election; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of West Grey deems it desirable to provide electors with a secure and accessible alternative method for voting in municipal and school board elections;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of West Grey hereby enacts as follows:

- That the use of internet and telephone voting be authorized for municipal and school board elections and by-elections within the Municipality of West Grey in accordance with section 42(1)(b) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, S.O. 1996, c. 32, Sched.
- 2. That the use of internet and telephone voting shall apply during the advance vote, in accordance with section 42(5) and section 43 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, S.O. 1996, c.32, Sched.
- 3. That the Clerk is hereby authorized to execute all documents necessary to enter into an agreement with a service provider for the provision of internet and telephone voting.
- 4. That this bylaw shall come into force and take effect upon being passed by council.

Read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2024.

Mayor Kevin Eccles