

To: David Creery, Chief Administrative Officer

From: Matthew Vucic, Election Coordinator

Re: Waiving Transit Fares during the 2026 Election

AIM

To seek Council's approval to waive transit fares on Voting Day for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Elections in order to improve accessibility and support voter participation.

BACKGROUND

The City has previously offered free transit on municipal Voting Days as part of its commitment to delivering accessible elections. This approach aligns with the City's broader goal of reducing barriers for electors, including those with mobility challenges, financial constraints, or limited access to transportation options.

For the 2026 Municipal and School Board Elections, the City Engineer has estimated that waiving fares for the full day would result in an approximate revenue loss of \$5 000, consistent with past elections.

COMMENTS

Waiving transit fares on Voting Day aligns with the accessibility obligations outlined in s.12.1 and s.45(2) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* and supports the Clerk's duty to provide an election free of barriers for all electors. This initiative is also consistent with the City's responsibilities under the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR), O. Reg. 191/11, including sections 38, 41, and 44, which promote accessible public transportation and reduced barriers for people with disabilities and their support persons.

Operational impacts are expected to be minimal; regular transit schedules will be maintained, and operators will be instructed not to collect fares on Voting Day. Public communications will be issued in advance of Voting Day to ensure that residents are aware of the free service.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

That Woodstock City Council approve waiving all transit fares on Voting Day for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Elections, at an estimated cost of approximately \$5 000, to support accessible and inclusive voter participation.

Authored by: Matthew Vucic, M.A., Election Coordinator

Approved by: Jeff Bunn, Manager of Legislative Services/Deputy City Clerk

Approved by: Amy Humphries, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/City Clerk

Approved by: David Creery, P. Eng, MBA, Chief Administrative Officer