

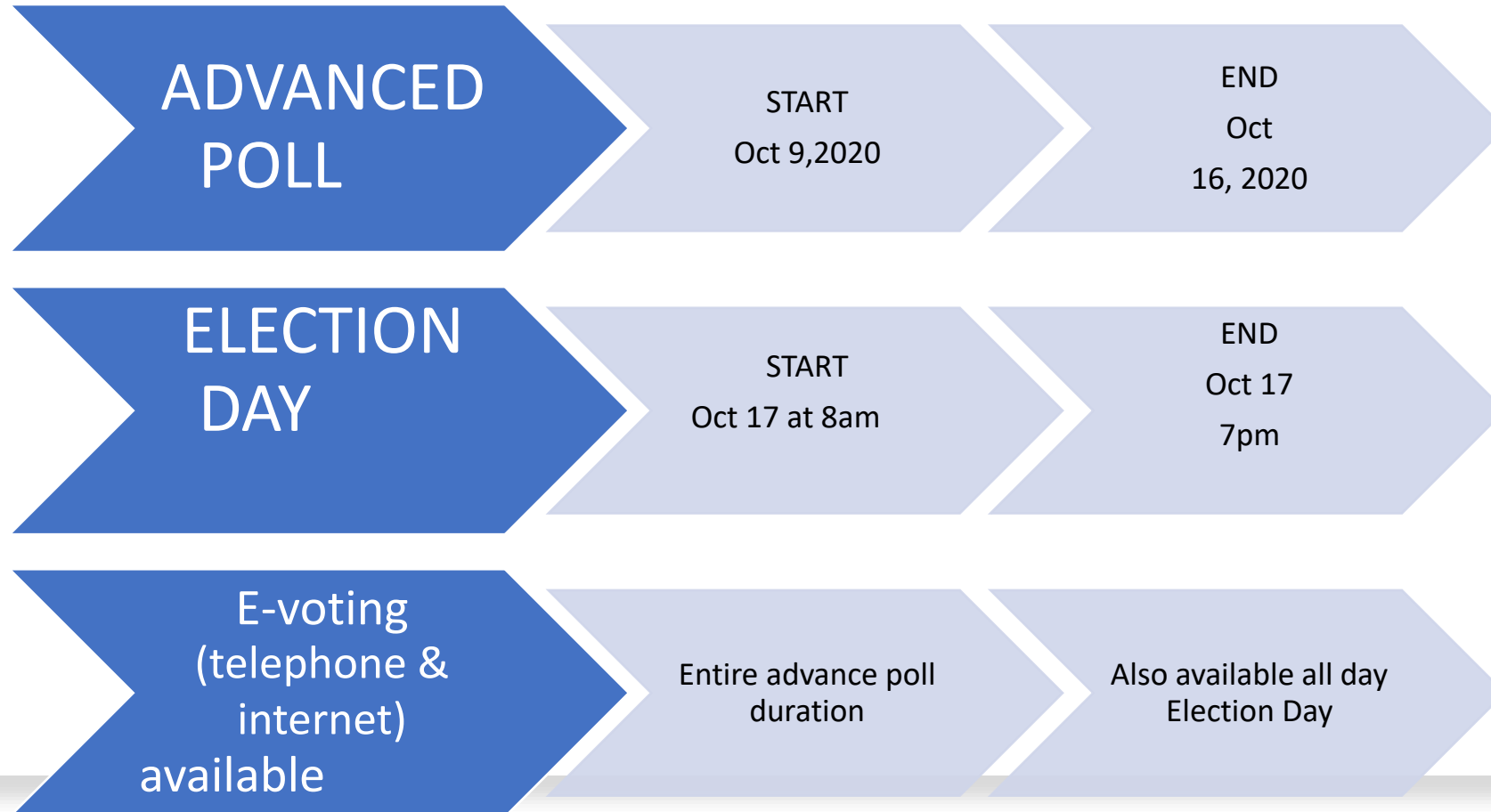
ELECTION 2020

Municipal and School Board Elections

October 17th, 2020

Pam Doucet, Returning Officer
Municipality of Clare
July 8, 2020

Election dates



Reminder: Council and CSAP elections

- CSAP is the ONLY school board in NS for first time

Council and CSAP candidates

- Campaigning can begin anytime
- “Officially” a candidate once nomination papers are filed
- Nomination Day is **September 8, 2020** 9am-5pm) (nomination can also be filed by appointment with the returning officer in the **seven*** business days prior to nomination day) August 27, 28, 31 September, 1,2,3,4 (please note Monday September 7th is Labor Day- no filing)
- Candidate’s Guide available at nomination or beforehand upon request (in FR & ENG)
- Virtual Candidate schools by Dalhousie ContEd to be held beginning of August
 - *new in 2020 (5 days in 2016)

CSAP
3
candidates
for our
region

- Our region is all of Digby County
- I am the CSAP Returning Officer for the entire region

8 Council positions

1 councillor elected for
each of our 8 districts

New Election tool

- New map on our website to replace written descriptions
- <https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=10tpcXdLghN6pq9o67emEcgV3zcCln3p4&ll=44.22106391721902%2C-65.9751984504128&z=12>
- Enter any civic address to determine in which district resident resides

Election format

- 2016 Hybrid type election
 - eVoting (telephone and internet) advanced poll and Election day
 - Paper ballots at physical polling locations where elections took place for councillor (acclaimed districts saw electors vote for CSAP at other designated polls)

2016 MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

Municipality of the District of Clare

Voter Turnout- statistics

Overall Participation Rate (both municipal and school board elections combined including all districts)

47.50%

* 2012 Overall participation rate was 37.3%

Total eligible voters 6634

Total evotes (includes telephone and internet votes) 2102

Total manual votes (using paper ballots) 1047

Total participation Per district with an election for councillor (acclamations in Districts 1,3,5,7 not included)

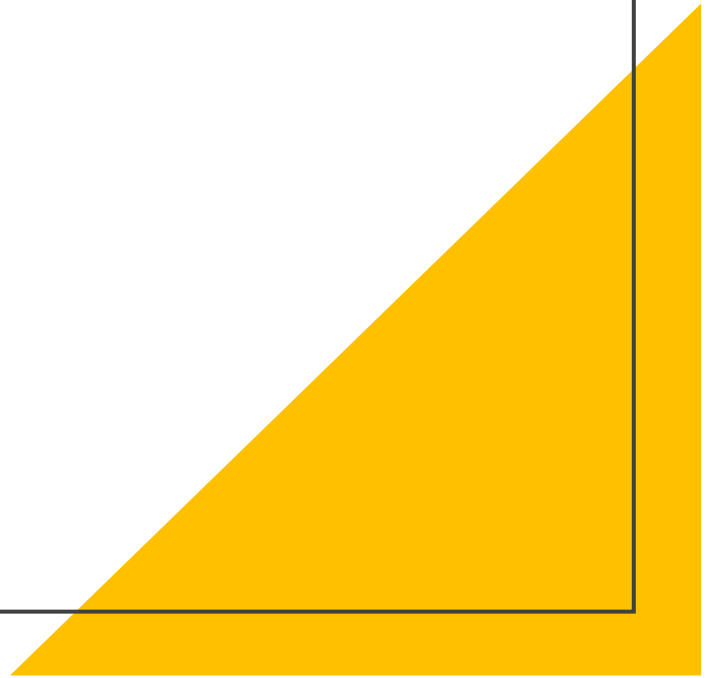
DISTRICT 2 44.50%

DISTRICT 4 73.30%

DISTRICT 6 69.00%

DISTRICT 8 69.50%

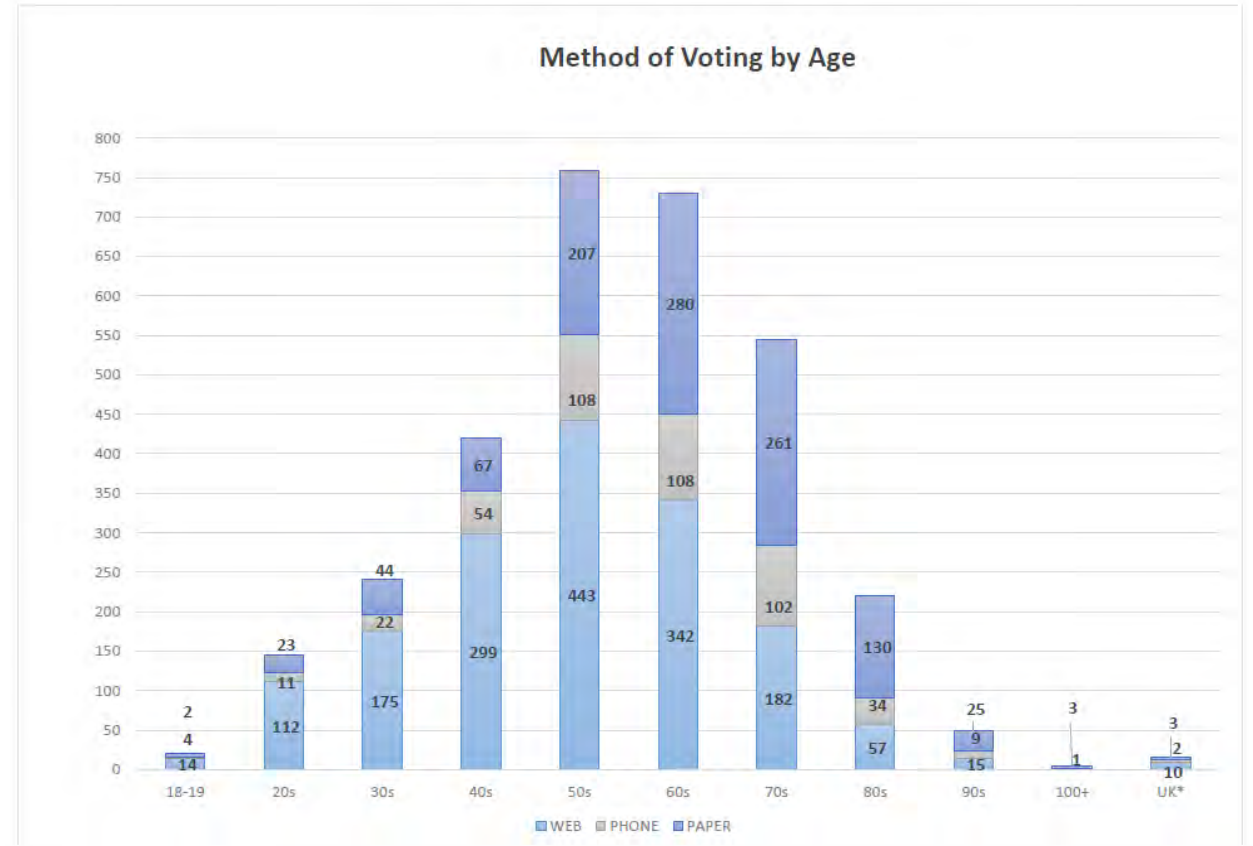
AVERAGE 64%



Voting method statistics



2016 Nova Scotia Municipal and School Board Elections Municipality of the District of Clare - Election Statistics



Safe elections

Provincial committee struck last week

- NS government committee (NS Health & Wellness and NS Municipal Affairs & Housing) with AMANS & NSFM advisors

COVID-19 Guidelines for Municipalities to Administer an In-Person Election will be released soon

Health & Safety Guidance for In-Person Elections



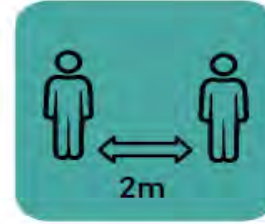
Place a protective screen between poll workers and voters



Provide a safe place to throw out wipes, gloves and masks



Supply hand sanitizer for residents and workers while at the poll location



Maintain a physical distance of 2 meters between voters, workers and polling stations



Encourage those who are not feeling well to consider proxy voting



Clean commonly touched surfaces frequently



Post rules and signage for workers, citizens, candidates, and agents to follow



Consider providing swag pencils to voters



Provide a mechanism for people to wash their hands



Communicate to residents the precautions your municipality is taking to ensure their safety

Many considerations

- Spacing requirements (social distancing)
 - Installation of screens
- Venue size
- Venue availability
- Exits
- Signage (doors, walls, floors)
- Disinfection/Infection control measures
 - Provide access to handwashing or sanitization
 - Provide additional supplies (tissues, lined containers, gloves, masks)
 - Frequently clean all high touch surfaces
 - Do not share computers/equipment
 - Clean ballot box area after each voter

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Here are two frequently asked questions that may come from residents in your community surrounding the election. Municipalities are encouraged to communicate these answers to people in their community prior to election day.

- **What does alternative voting methods mean?**
- Alternative voting methods are alternative ways to vote other than in person. These alternative voting methods can include voting electronically or by telephone. Municipalities providing alternative voting methods ensures those who are immunocompromised do not have to leave their house and can still vote in the comfort of their own homes.
- **Are municipalities required to have a paper ballot (in-person voting) on election day?**
- There is nothing in the *Municipal Elections Act* that requires municipalities to have a paper ballot (in- person voting) on election day. However, municipalities may by by-law require that on election day there be the option for in-person voting.

**MUNICIPALITY OF
THE DISTRICT OF
CLARE
BY-LAW NUMBER 30
RESPECTING VOTING
FOR MUNICIPAL
ELECTIONS**

- **Alternative Voting Permitted**

- 3. Subject to this by-law, alternative voting shall be permitted on advance polling days and on the ordinary polling day.
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- 4. The municipality may elect to use alternative voting on the ordinary polling day and/or make available the equipment to use alternative voting at any poll.
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- 5. In the event the municipality elects to use alternative voting on the ordinary polling day, the municipality shall ensure that the equipment to use alternative voting is available at any poll. In the event the equipment is so available, there shall be no requirement for the Returning Officer to have paper ballots available to electors at any poll, and the provisions of the Act with respect to the provisions of a paper ballot at a poll do not apply.

Municipal election types in NS

- FYI: As it currently stands of the 48 municipalities doing an election this Fall:
 - 21 have chosen to go fully electronic
 - 3 are paper only
 - 7 are doing a hybrid of paper and e-voting
 - 17 are still to be determined (councils in the process of deciding, ex: CBRM)

COUNTY ADOPTS ELECTRONIC VOTING FOR FALL 2020 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The Municipality of Pictou County has decided only electronic votes will be cast in its fall municipal elections.

Municipal elections in Nova Scotia are scheduled to take place on October 17, 2020 and with the uncertainties surrounding COVID-19 and the likelihood that social distancing restrictions will still be in place, councillors voted 11-1 in favour of doing away with paper and to have a completely electronic voting system.

Electronic voting was done in the 2016 municipal election combined with paper ballot voting on election day. About half of the votes received in that election were cast electronically which can be online or over the telephone.

Some councillors expressed concern that people will not vote if they cannot mark an X on a piece of paper at a polling station while the lack of internet service in Pictou County might prevent others from voting electronically.

However, staff said voting can be done over the telephone, so internet service is not needed, and a help desk will be set up for people who need assistance. Eliminating paper ballots reduces the number of election workers and polling stations as well as the need for people to come together in large crowds under social distancing restrictions.

<https://county.pictou.ns.ca/council/2020-municipal-election/>

2020 Election format and discussion on polls

A vertical line is positioned to the right of the text. In the bottom right corner of the slide, there is a yellow triangle pointing upwards and to the left, partially overlapping a grey border element.

Possible scenarios

eVoting only (internet & telephone)

- Help Desk and eVoting capacity at Municipal Building
- Help desk open during normal business hours AND all day election day
- Considerations for mobile polls

eVoting & paper ballots

- Reduce polls to manageable amount and locations
 - 2 polls (ex: Saint Bernard Fire Hall & Meteghan Fire Hall)
 - 1 central poll (CVC where we have control of building)
 - Could still be impacted by a 2nd wave &/or further restrictions by Public Health
 - Considerations for mobile polls

Considerations:

- Availability of halls if Public Health directives change (these locations (firehalls) could be closed)
- Acclamations (given the possibility of acclamations, these locations could potentially be in districts without an election for councilor(s) but would still be a poll for CSAP)
- Past experience: Redirected CSAP voting in districts where councilor was acclaimed has been done in the past

Other
scenarios ?





Questions/Comments/Discussion

THANK YOU /
MERCI

