

## Clerks department conducting regular review of the 2022 City of Welland municipal election

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Welland, ON** – The City of Welland clerks department is continuing its review of this year’s municipal election. With polls closing at 8 p.m. on October 24, city staff continue to review the process, feedback, and results days later.

As polls opened across the province, some municipalities, including Welland, experienced delays with the Voter View system used across Ontario on election day. As a result, some polling locations were slower than others to start the day, but by 11 a.m., all systems were up and running.

This year, the Ward 6 results were extremely close, with the second and third-place finishers – there are two elected councillors per ward – finishing with a difference of only one vote. As per *the Municipal Elections Act*, the clerk would automatically call for a recount if candidates received the same number of votes. In this case, despite it only being a one-vote differential, an automatic recount will not occur. The sitting Council, however, can pass a resolution requiring a recount within 30 days of the election.

Also in Ward 6, the city clerk was advised that some residents of 439 King Street (Grand Canal Retirement Residence) were issued and subsequently cast incorrect ballots.

“As soon as I was made aware of the issue, I reached out to the election workers at that polling location to confirm what had occurred and advised them to refrain from issuing any further ballots to residents at 439 King Street,” said Tara Stephens, city clerk. “Upon reviewing the property information, residents of this address should have received Ward 6 ballots.”

As per the *Municipal Elections Act*, an elector can only vote once, even if the ballot they cast was for the incorrect ward candidates. Staff continue to look into what resulted in the incorrect ballots being cast.

Overall, 11,056 votes were cast, resulting in a 25 per cent voter turnout. There are 42,769 registered voters in the city. In addition, for the first time, the city provided open polls, which meant voters could vote at any polling station across the city.

City staff continue to review this year’s election and will prepare a final report to be presented later this year.

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