

Memo

To: Mayor Burton and Members of Council
From: Andrea Coyne, Manager, Elections Policy, Print Services, Clerk's Department
CC: Vicki Tytaneck, Town Clerk
Date: May 3, 2024
Subject: Advocacy Update: Modernizing the Municipal Elections Act

The Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) is the largest voluntary municipal association in Ontario. It is their position that local governments are the most transparent order of government with openness at the core of their operations as the level of government closest to the people, and that through modernized legislation, municipalities continuously improve on transparency and accountability.

AMCTO has released their [formal submission](#) on modernizing the Municipal Elections Act (MEA), an area for legislative reform in need of improvement ahead of the 2026 and 2030 municipal elections.

In its [submission](#), AMCTO states that Municipal administrators need legislation that:

- Strengthens public trust and electoral integrity;
- Enhances accountability and transparency while making compliance and enforcement easier; and
- Ensures permissive legislation that reduces administrative complexity.

The goal of the submission is to have the Province make priority updates to the Act in consultation with the sector. Recommendation is for a full review and rewrite of the MEA, including the adoption of some longer-term submission recommendations. AMCTO's [Issue at a Glance](#) summarizes key issues within the submission.

AMCTO will be engaging the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing in the coming weeks and months to urge the ministry to update the Act. This includes continuing to look for opportunities to collaborate, co-design and share promising practices and lessons learned, to inform legislation, policies, programs, and services.

(continued on next page)

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Should any Member of Council have questions regarding the legislation, or the submission, please contact me.

Members of Council may also put forward a notice of motion or council resolution to support this advocacy work, call for the Province to update the MEA with priority amendments as outlined by AMCTO, and help advocate for changes within our community.

Thank you,

Andrea Coyne
Manager, Elections, Policy, Print Services
Clerk's Department