



Meeting Date: May 4, 2026
Department: Legal and Legislative Services
Report No.: LLS-2026-03
Submitted by: Jennifer Pereira, Director of Legal and Legislative Services/Clerk
Approved by: Rob Browning, Chief Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: 2026 Municipal Election – Establishment of Joint Compliance Audit Committee

RECOMMENDATION: THAT: Council approve the establishment of a Joint Compliance Audit Committee for the 2026 Municipal Election, and further;

THAT: By-law No. 40-26 to establish a Joint Middlesex County 2026 Election Compliance Audit Committee in accordance with the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, be referred to the Consideration of By-laws Section of the agenda for approval.

BACKGROUND:

Section 88.37 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended requires each municipal Council to establish a Compliance Audit Committee before October 1st in an election year to deal with matters regarding election campaign finances and contributions.

Historically, Member Municipalities within Middlesex County have established a “Middlesex Election Joint Compliance Audit Committee” to deal with matters provided for in Sections 88.33, 88.34, 88.35 and 88.36 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.

COMMENTS:

The attached draft Middlesex Election Joint Compliance Audit Committee Terms of Reference provides for the Committee Term, Meeting Overview, Mandate, Composition, Appointment Process, Compensation, Role of Staff, Application Process, Roles and Responsibilities and Appeal overview.

Once all Middlesex County Member Municipalities have established a Joint Compliance Audit Committee and approved a Committee Terms of Reference by By-Law, recruitment for committee members will begin. Middlesex County will facilitate the recruitment process on behalf of member municipalities. Advertising for prospective Committee Members will include the placement of ads in local newspapers, job posting sites, and by posting ads on each respective municipal website. More information about the Committee Member Appointment Process is outlined in Section 7 of the attached Terms of Reference.

CONSULTATION:

Middlesex County

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Costs associated with the recruitment process, including advertising expenses, will be incurred by Middlesex County as part of its coordination role.

Members of the Committee shall be paid an honorarium of \$200.00 per meeting, plus mileage at the current mileage rate established by the host municipality. The host municipality shall pay all costs relative to the respective application.

The cost of a mandatory orientation session will be divided equally among the eight (8) member municipalities.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This matter is in accord with the following strategic priorities:

Municipal Customer Service - The Municipality offers seamless, responsive service and an exceptional experience for every customer.

ATTACHMENTS:

By-law No. 40-26

2026 Municipal Election Joint Compliance Audit Committee Terms of Reference