

## **Newmarket goes paperless for the 2018 Municipal Election**

**NEWMARKET, Ontario, April 5, 2017** – Town of Newmarket Council approved the use of internet and telephone voting for the 2018 Municipal Election, in place of the traditional paper ballot system. Newmarket will be the first municipality in York Region to adopt a fully electronic ballot system for the 2018 Municipal Election.

“Newmarket is a community that has been recognized for its leadership, technology and innovation, and we are looking forward to providing residents with a more accessible form of voting in the upcoming election,” said Lisa Lyons, Director of Legislative Service and Town Clerk.

Newmarket voters will be able to cast their ballots online or by telephone from anywhere they have an internet or telephone connection. Residents will be able to vote remotely from various devices and will also have the option of attending in-person locations equipped with electronic voting stations available on set dates and times throughout the voting period. Special voting locations at long-term care facilities, retirement homes and the hospital will also be provided.

The benefits of internet voting include: enhancing service delivery, making the voting process more accessible by eliminating the need for travel to a voting location, increasing flexibility for voters and better addressing accessibility issues for persons with disabilities, or people who are ill or away from home.

In December 2016, Newmarket residents were encouraged to participate in an online survey on internet voting and ranked ballots. This survey was also conducted via telephone across Newmarket through random sample. Town staff then presented the results in a report to Council in January 2017, and following a Special Committee of the Whole meeting held in March, Council authorized staff to proceed with internet and telephone voting for the 2018 Municipal Election.

For more information on internet and telephone voting, visit [newmarket.ca/internetvoting](http://newmarket.ca/internetvoting)

### **Background:**

The Town of Newmarket is located in southern Ontario and is home to over 85,000 residents. Newmarket has consistently been named one of the Best Places to Live in Canada by *MoneySense Magazine* and has garnered an international reputation for being one of the country’s most dynamic, diverse and desirable towns to live and work in. Newmarket is also widely considered a progressive place with a reputation for collaboration, creativity and innovation. For more information on The Town of Newmarket, visit [newmarket.ca](http://newmarket.ca)

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### **Media Contact:**

Name: Philip Zambito  
Communications Assistant  
Email: [pzambito@newmarket.ca](mailto:pzambito@newmarket.ca)  
Tel.: 905-953-5300 ext. 2044



@TownOfNewmarket

