



Mail Tampering / Corrupt Election Practices

Municipal Election Clerk's Procedure 07-26

Municipal Elections Act, 1996

May 29, 2026

The Act provides that a person who contravenes any provision of the Act or a regulation under the Act or a by-law passed by a municipality under the Act, is guilty of an offence. Although the City will be using an alternative-voting method, being Telephone/Internet Voting, and the use of Vote Tabulators prior to Election Day, the principles and the integrity of the election process shall remain and are enforceable.

An individual who is convicted of an offence under the Act is liable to the following penalties in addition to any other penalty provided for in the Act:

- for any offence, a fine of not more than \$25,000;
- for any offence other than a corrupt practice, the penalties described in Sections 88.23(2) and 88.27(1);
- for an offence under Section 90, imprisonment for a term of not more than 6 months;
- for any offence that the judge finds the individual committed knowingly, imprisonment for a term of not more than 6 months.

A corporation or trade union that is convicted of an offence under the Act is liable to a fine of not more than \$50,000 in addition to any other penalty provided for in this Act.

The Criminal Code of Canada outlines offences pertaining to mail theft and states that a person who commits such an offence is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for a term of not more than 10 years, or is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction.

The 2026 City of Belleville Election will rely on the delivery of VILs to Electors in order to allow those Electors to exercise their right to vote, and any instance or substantiated account of mail tampering will be taken seriously and reported to the appropriate authorities.