Committee of the Whole

Meeting Date: **April 28, 2026**

Submitted by: **Marci Ivanic, Director of Legislative Services / County Clerk**

Subject: **2026 Municipal Election – Joint Compliance Audit Committee**

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*.

ANALYSIS:

County Staff have provided the attached draft Middlesex Election Joint Compliance Audit Committee Terms of Reference and by-law template to local municipalities for local Council consideration and adoption. The Terms of Reference provide 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.

Middlesex County will also facilitate a mandatory orientation session for the Committee at the commencement of the new term of Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Costs associated with the recruitment process, including advertising expenses, will be incurred by Middlesex County as part of its coordination role. These costs are expected to be modest and will be managed within existing departmental budgets. There is no cost to the County with respect to the mandatory orientation session, with the exception of staff time. The cost of this session will be divided equally among the eight (8) member municipalities.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC FOCUS:

This report aligns with the following Strategic Focus, Goals, or Objectives:

Strategic Priority	Goal	Objectives
Collaboration & Partnerships	Strengthen collaboration with local municipalities and regional partners to improve economic efficiency, enhance service delivery, and support regional development in alignment with community priorities	• Optimize service delivery through inter-municipal collaboration and shared services to improve efficiency and seamless operations. • Build and enhance relationships with municipal, regional, First Nations, community, and private sector partners to align priorities, share resources, and implement joint initiatives that improve community well-being and economic growth. • Improve communication and transparency through open engagement, accessible information, and informed decision-making.
Adaptability and Agility	Modernize the County's administrative capabilities to strengthen decision-making, improve service delivery, and achieve better community outcomes	• Transform, modernize and continuously improve administrative systems and processes to increase efficiency and enhance the experience of residents and partners. • Strengthen internal administrative capabilities to ensure key support services have the necessary resources to meet community needs and support organizational growth.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the 2026 Municipal Election – Joint Compliance Audit Committee report be received for information.