



2026 Municipal Election Candidate Package

When filing Nomination please bring the following completed forms:

- [Nomination Form](#) – Form 1 (DO NOT SIGN – must be signed in front of official)
- [Endorsement of Nomination](#) – Form 2 (complete with 25 signatures)
- Consent to Release Personal Information - WE02 (DO NOT SIGN – must be signed in front of official)
- Declaration of Qualifications – EL18A (DO NOT SIGN – must be signed in front of official)
- Notice of Penalties – EL42A (to be filled out at the Municipal Office)
- Estimated Maximum Campaign Expenses – (to be filled out at the Municipal Office)
 - EL37A – Maximum Campaign Expenses
 - EL37B - Maximum Campaign Expenses, Own Funds
- Declaration of proper use of the voters' list – EL14 (can be submitted later)

If you decide to withdrawal your nomination, you must complete the following:

- Withdrawal of Nomination – EL19 (DO NOT SIGN – To be completed in the presence of the Clerk)

Forms to be filed after election

- [Financial Statement](#) – Auditor's Report – Form 4

Additional Information Included in the Package

- [2026 Candidates Guide](#) – Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing (MMAH)
- Letter to Financial Institution
- [Municipal Conflict of Interests Act](#)
- Use of Corporate Resources During an Election Policy (By-law 2026-22)
- Campaign Finance Information ([O.Reg 101/97](#))
- Map of West Elgin

Instructions

It is the responsibility of the person being nominated to file a complete and accurate nomination paper. Please print or type information (except signatures).

Nomination paper of a person to be a candidate at an election to be held in the following municipality

Nominated for the Office of	Ward Name or Number (if any)
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Nominee's name as it is to appear on the ballot paper (subject to agreement of the municipal clerk)

Last Name or Single Name	Given Name(s)
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Nominee's full qualifying address

Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name
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Municipality	Province	Postal Code
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Mailing Address Same as qualifying address

Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name
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Municipality	Province	Postal Code
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Email Address	Telephone Number	Telephone Number 2
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Declaration of Qualification

I, _____, declare that I am presently legally qualified (or would be presently legally qualified if I were not a member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario or the Senate or House of Commons of Canada) to be elected and to hold the office for which I am nominated.

Signature of Nominee

Date (yyyy/mm/dd)

Date Received (yyyy/mm/dd)	Time Received	Initial of Nominee or Agent (if filed in person)	Signature of Clerk or Designate
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Certification by Clerk or Designate

I, the undersigned clerk of this municipality, do hereby certify that I have examined the nomination paper of the aforesaid nominee filed with me and am satisfied that the nominee is qualified to be nominated and that the nomination complies with the Act.

Signature

Date Certified (yyyy/mm/dd)

Instructions

- Candidates must obtain a minimum of 25 original signatures.
- An individual providing an endorsement signature must be a Canadian citizen, aged 18 or older and have a qualifying address in the municipality. An individual may sign an endorsement for more than one person seeking nomination.
- The qualifying address provided must include the postal code.

Personal information collected on this form is obtained under the authority of sections 33 and 95 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*. Under section 88 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* (and despite anything in the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*) documents and materials filed with or prepared by the clerk or any other election official under the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* are public records and, until their destruction, may be inspected by any person at the clerk's office at a time when the office is open.

Name of person seeking nomination

Last Name or Single Name	Given Name(s)
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Endorsement signatures for the nomination of a person for an office in the municipality of _____
in the year _____.

Name of person providing endorsement – 1			
Last Name or Single Name		Given Name(s)	
Qualifying Address			
Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name	
Municipality	Province	Postal Code	
I endorse _____ as a candidate and declare that I am qualified to be an elector in this municipality.			
_____		_____	
Signature		Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	

Name of person providing endorsement – 2			
Last Name or Single Name		Given Name(s)	
Qualifying Address			
Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name	
Municipality	Province	Postal Code	
I endorse _____ as a candidate and declare that I am qualified to be an elector in this municipality.			
_____		_____	
Signature		Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	

Name of person providing endorsement – 3			
Last Name or Single Name		Given Name(s)	
Qualifying Address			
Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name	
Municipality		Province	Postal Code
I endorse _____ as a candidate and declare that I am qualified to be an elector in this municipality.			
_____		_____	
Signature		Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	

Name of person providing endorsement – 4			
Last Name or Single Name		Given Name(s)	
Qualifying Address			
Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name	
Municipality		Province	Postal Code
I endorse _____ as a candidate and declare that I am qualified to be an elector in this municipality.			
_____		_____	
Signature		Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	

Name of person providing endorsement – 5			
Last Name or Single Name		Given Name(s)	
Qualifying Address			
Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name	
Municipality		Province	Postal Code
I endorse _____ as a candidate and declare that I am qualified to be an elector in this municipality.			
_____		_____	
Signature		Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	

Name of person providing endorsement – 6			
Last Name or Single Name		Given Name(s)	
Qualifying Address			
Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name	
Municipality		Province	Postal Code
I endorse _____ as a candidate and declare that I am qualified to be an elector in this municipality.			
_____		_____	
Signature		Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	

Name of person providing endorsement – 7			
Last Name or Single Name		Given Name(s)	
Qualifying Address			
Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name	
Municipality		Province	Postal Code
I endorse _____ as a candidate and declare that I am qualified to be an elector in this municipality.			
_____		_____	
Signature		Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	

Name of person providing endorsement – 8			
Last Name or Single Name		Given Name(s)	
Qualifying Address			
Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name	
Municipality		Province	Postal Code
I endorse _____ as a candidate and declare that I am qualified to be an elector in this municipality.			
_____		_____	
Signature		Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	

Name of person providing endorsement – 9			
Last Name or Single Name		Given Name(s)	
Qualifying Address			
Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name	
Municipality		Province	Postal Code
I endorse _____ as a candidate and declare that I am qualified to be an elector in this municipality.			
_____		_____	
Signature		Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	

Name of person providing endorsement – 10			
Last Name or Single Name		Given Name(s)	
Qualifying Address			
Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name	
Municipality		Province	Postal Code
I endorse _____ as a candidate and declare that I am qualified to be an elector in this municipality.			
_____		_____	
Signature		Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	

Name of person providing endorsement – 11			
Last Name or Single Name		Given Name(s)	
Qualifying Address			
Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name	
Municipality		Province	Postal Code
I endorse _____ as a candidate and declare that I am qualified to be an elector in this municipality.			
_____		_____	
Signature		Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	

Name of person providing endorsement – 12			
Last Name or Single Name		Given Name(s)	
Qualifying Address			
Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name	
Municipality		Province	Postal Code
I endorse _____ as a candidate and declare that I am qualified to be an elector in this municipality.			
_____		_____	
Signature		Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	

Name of person providing endorsement – 13			
Last Name or Single Name		Given Name(s)	
Qualifying Address			
Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name	
Municipality		Province	Postal Code
I endorse _____ as a candidate and declare that I am qualified to be an elector in this municipality.			
_____		_____	
Signature		Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	

Name of person providing endorsement – 14			
Last Name or Single Name		Given Name(s)	
Qualifying Address			
Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name	
Municipality		Province	Postal Code
I endorse _____ as a candidate and declare that I am qualified to be an elector in this municipality.			
_____		_____	
Signature		Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	

Name of person providing endorsement – 15			
Last Name or Single Name		Given Name(s)	
Qualifying Address			
Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name	
Municipality		Province	Postal Code
I endorse _____ as a candidate and declare that I am qualified to be an elector in this municipality.			
_____		_____	
Signature		Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	

Name of person providing endorsement – 16			
Last Name or Single Name		Given Name(s)	
Qualifying Address			
Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name	
Municipality		Province	Postal Code
I endorse _____ as a candidate and declare that I am qualified to be an elector in this municipality.			
_____		_____	
Signature		Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	

Name of person providing endorsement – 17			
Last Name or Single Name		Given Name(s)	
Qualifying Address			
Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name	
Municipality		Province	Postal Code
I endorse _____ as a candidate and declare that I am qualified to be an elector in this municipality.			
_____		_____	
Signature		Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	

Name of person providing endorsement – 18			
Last Name or Single Name		Given Name(s)	
Qualifying Address			
Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name	
Municipality		Province	Postal Code
I endorse _____ as a candidate and declare that I am qualified to be an elector in this municipality.			
_____		_____	
Signature		Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	

Name of person providing endorsement – 19			
Last Name or Single Name		Given Name(s)	
Qualifying Address			
Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name	
Municipality		Province	Postal Code
I endorse _____ as a candidate and declare that I am qualified to be an elector in this municipality.			
_____		_____	
Signature		Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	

Name of person providing endorsement – 20			
Last Name or Single Name		Given Name(s)	
Qualifying Address			
Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name	
Municipality		Province	Postal Code
I endorse _____ as a candidate and declare that I am qualified to be an elector in this municipality.			
_____		_____	
Signature		Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	

Name of person providing endorsement – 21			
Last Name or Single Name		Given Name(s)	
Qualifying Address			
Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name	
Municipality		Province	Postal Code
I endorse _____ as a candidate and declare that I am qualified to be an elector in this municipality.			
_____		_____	
Signature		Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	

Name of person providing endorsement – 22			
Last Name or Single Name		Given Name(s)	
Qualifying Address			
Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name	
Municipality		Province	Postal Code
I endorse _____ as a candidate and declare that I am qualified to be an elector in this municipality.			
_____		_____	
Signature		Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	

Name of person providing endorsement – 23			
Last Name or Single Name		Given Name(s)	
Qualifying Address			
Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name	
Municipality		Province	Postal Code
I endorse _____ as a candidate and declare that I am qualified to be an elector in this municipality.			
_____		_____	
Signature		Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	

Name of person providing endorsement – 24

Last Name or Single Name

Given Name(s)

Qualifying Address

Suite/Unit Number

Street Number

Street Name

Municipality

Province

Postal Code

I endorse _____ as a candidate and declare that I am qualified to be an elector in this municipality.

Signature

Date (yyyy/mm/dd)

Name of person providing endorsement – 25

Last Name or Single Name

Given Name(s)

Qualifying Address

Suite/Unit Number

Street Number

Street Name

Municipality

Province

Postal Code

I endorse _____ as a candidate and declare that I am qualified to be an elector in this municipality.

Signature

Date (yyyy/mm/dd)



Consent To Release Personal Information

(Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act)

Personal information on the Nomination Paper is collected under the authority of the *Municipal Elections Act* and will be used to assist the Clerk in the administration of the 2026 Municipal Election. Questions regarding this collection should be forwarded to the Clerk, 22413 Hoskins Line, Rodney, ON N0L 2C0, 519-785-0560 ext. 222 or clerk@westelgin.net.

Name of Candidate: _____

Candidate for the office of:

- Mayor
- Deputy Mayor
- Councillor
- Trustee English Public
- Trustee English Separate
- Trustee French Public
- Trustee French Separate

I acknowledge that the Nomination Form filed by me contains personal information and I am aware that the Clerk will disclose all or part of it to the general public.

Candidate Signature: _____
(Signature must be witnessed by Municipal Official)

Municipal Clerk Or Designate: _____

Dated at _____, this _____ day of _____, 2026



**DECLARATION OF QUALIFICATIONS
FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF WEST ELGIN 2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION
MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES**

I, _____, a nominated candidate for the office of:

- Mayor
- Deputy Mayor
- Councillor

Do Solemnly Declare That:

1. I am qualified pursuant to the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* and the *Municipal Act, 2001* to be elected to and to hold office of:
 - Mayor
 - Deputy Mayor
 - Councillor
2. Without limiting the generality of paragraph 1, I am at least eighteen (18) years of age, am a Canadian citizen, a resident of the Municipality of West Elgin or the owner or tenant of land in the Municipality of West Elgin or the spouse or same sex partner of such owner or tenant.
3. I am not ineligible or disqualified under the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, the *Municipal Act, 2001*, the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* or any other *Act* to be elected to or hold the above-mentioned office.
4. Without limiting the generality of paragraph 3,
 - I am not an employee of the Municipality of West Elgin, or if I am an employee of the Municipality of West Elgin, I am on an unpaid leave of absence as provided for by section 30 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.
 - I am not a judge of any court.
 - I am not a member of the Assembly as provided in the *Legislative Assembly Act* or of the Senate or House of Commons of Canada, if I am such a person, I will provide proof of my resignation in a form satisfactory to the Clerk of the Municipality of West Elgin **prior to 2:00 p.m. on nomination day, August 21, 2026**. I understand that the Clerk of the Municipality of West Elgin will reject my nomination for the above-mentioned office if I fail to provide proof of resignation by this deadline.

- I am not a member of the Executive Council of Ontario or a federal Minister of the Crown.
 - I am not a Crown employee within the meaning of the *Public Service Act*, or if I am a Crown employee, I have followed and will continue to follow all the relevant provisions of Part III of such *Act*.
 - I am not a person who is who is the Clerk, Treasurer, Integrity Commissioner, Auditor General, Ombudsman or registrar referred to in section 223.11 of the *Municipal Act*, 2001 or an investigator referred to in subsection 239.2 (1) of the Municipality of West Elgin, or a person who is not an employee of the Municipality of West Elgin, but who holds an administrative position of the Municipality of West Elgin.
5. I am not prohibited from voting at the municipal election under subsection 17(3) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.
- I am not a person who is serving a sentence of imprisonment in a penal or correctional institution.
 - I am not a corporation.
 - I am not a person acting as executor or trustee or in any other representative capacity, except as a voting proxy in accordance with section 44.
 - I am not prohibited because of a conviction of a corrupt practice described in subsection 90 (3), if voting day in the current election is less than five years after voting day in the election in respect of which I was convicted
7. I am not a candidate who was convicted of a corrupt practice under the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* or of an offence under the *Criminal Code* (Canada), in connection with an act or omission with respect to a municipal election if the Voting Day in that election is less than six years prior to Monday, October 26, 2026.
8. I am not ineligible from being elected to or holding office by reason of any violations of the election campaign financial requirements, violations for not filing the financial statement or any other violations pursuant to the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*. (Section 88.23)

AND I make this solemn Declaration conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the *Canada Evidence Act*.

Declared before me at the Municipality of West Elgin

This _____ day of _____, 2026

(Signature of candidate)

(Signature of Clerk or designate)

Personal information on this form is collected under the authority of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* and will be used for the nomination process for office in the municipal election and will be available for public inspection in the office of the Clerk, (name of municipality) until the next municipal election. Questions about this collection of personal information should be directed to (insert municipal information).



NOTICE TO CANDIDATE OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT FILING REQUIREMENTS

Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (s.88.25)

TO:

_____ / _____	
(Name of Candidate)	(Office)
_____	_____
(Address)	(Postal Code)

FROM:

The Clerk or designated election official of
The Corporation of the Municipality of West Elgin

(Name of Municipality)

TAKE NOTICE EVERY CANDIDATE SHALL FILE by March 30, 2027, with the Clerk with whom their nomination was filed a financial statement and auditor's report in accordance with s.88.25 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.

- 88.25 (1) On or before 2:00 p.m. on the filing date, a candidate shall file with the Clerk with whom the nomination was filed a financial statement and auditor's report, each in the prescribed form, reflecting the candidate's election campaign finances,
 - (a) in the case of a regular election, as of December 31 in the year of the election;
 - (b) in the case of a by-election, as of the 45th day after Voting Day.
- (2) If a candidate's election campaign ends as described in paragraph 3 of subsection 88.24(1), the financial statement and auditor's report must reflect the candidate's election campaign finances as of the day the election campaign period ended.
- (3) If an error is identified in a filed financial statement, the candidate may withdraw the statement and, at the same time, file a corrected financial statement and auditor's report on or before the applicable filing date under section 88.30.
- (4) If the candidate's election campaign period continues during all or part of the supplementary filing period, the candidate shall, before 2:00 pm on the supplementary filing date, file a supplementary financial statement and auditor's report for the supplementary reporting period.
- (5) If a candidate's election campaign period ends as described in paragraph 3 of subsection 88.24(1) and the election campaign period continued during all or part of the supplementary filing period, the candidate shall, before 2:00 pm on the supplementary filing date, file a supplementary financial statement and auditor's report for the period commencing on the day the candidate's election campaign period ends and including the six-month period following the year of the election.
- (6) A supplementary financial statement or auditor's report shall include all the information contained in the initial statement or report filed under subsection (1) updated to reflect the changes to the candidate's campaign finances during the supplementary reporting period.
- (7) An auditor's report shall be prepared by an auditor licensed under the *Public Accounting Act, 2004*.
- (8) No auditor's report is required if the total contributions received and total expenses incurred in the election campaign up to the end of the relevant period are each equal to or less than \$10,000.

Date

Municipal Clerk or designate

Note: At least 30 days before the filing date, the Clerk shall give notice to candidates of all the filing requirements under MEA, s.88.25, along with the candidate's entitlement to receive a refund of the nomination filing fee if the candidate meets the requirements of MEA, s.34 and the penalties set out in MEA, s.88.23(2) and s.92(1)

Notice to be given in accordance with MEA, s.13.

NOTICE OF PENALTIES

- 88.23 (1) A candidate is subject to the penalties listed in subsection (2), in addition to any other penalty that may be imposed under this Act,
- (a) if the candidate fails to file a document as required under section 88.25 or 88.32 by the relevant date;
 - (b) if a document filed under section 88.25 shows on its face a surplus, as described in section 88.31, and the candidate fails to pay the amount required by subsection 88.31 (4) to the clerk by the relevant date;
 - (c) if a document filed under section 88.25 shows on its face that the candidate has incurred expenses exceeding what is permitted under section 88.20; or
 - (d) if a document filed under section 88.32 shows on its face a surplus and the candidate fails to pay the amount required by that section by the relevant date.
- 88.23(2) Subject to subsection (7), in the case of a default described in subsection (1),
- (a) the candidate forfeits any office to which he or she was elected and the office is deemed to be vacant, and
 - (b) until the next regular election has taken place, the candidate is ineligible to be elected or appointed to any office to which this Act applies.
- 92(1) A candidate is guilty of an offence and, on conviction, in addition to any other penalty that may be imposed under this Act, is subject to the penalties described in subsection 88.23(2),
- (a) if the candidate incurs expenses that exceed the amount determined for the office under section 88.20; or
 - (b) if the candidate files a document under section 88.25 or 88.32 that is incorrect or otherwise does not comply with that section.



MUNICIPALITY OF West Elgin

Estimated Candidate Expenses

(Total number of Electors, as of September 14, 2022, captured on VoterView)

Maximum Amount of Own Contributions (Form 37(A))

Position	Total Number of Electors	Base Amount	No. of Electors multiplied by \$0.20 (MEA S. 88.9.1)	Total Estimated Expenses
Mayor	4,837	\$7,500	\$967.40	\$8,467.40
Deputy Mayor	4,837	\$5,000	\$967.40	\$5,967.40
Councillor	4,837	\$5,000	\$967.40	\$5,967.40

Formula pursuant to S. 88.9.1 of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 as amended.

88.9.1 (1) A candidate for an office on a council and his or her spouse shall not make contributions to the candidate's own election campaign that, combined, exceed an amount equal to the lesser of,

(a) the amount calculated by adding,

(i) in the case of a candidate for the office of head of council of a municipality, \$7,500 plus 20 cents for each elector entitled to vote for the office, or

(ii) in the case of a candidate for an office on a council of a municipality other than the office of head of council, \$5,000 plus 20 cents for each elector entitled to vote for the office; and

(b) \$25,000. 2017, c. 10, Sched. 4, s. 8 (10).

Maximum Amount of Total Contributions (Form EL37(B))

Position	Total Number of Electors	Base Amount	No. of Electors multiplied by \$0.85 (O. Reg 101-97)	Total Estimated Expenses
Mayor	4,837	\$7,500	\$4,111.45	\$11,611.45
Deputy Mayor	4,837	\$5,000	\$4,111.45	\$9,111.45
Councillor	4,837	\$5,000	\$4,111.45	\$9,111.45

Formula pursuant to Ont. Regulation 101-97 as it related S. 88.20(6) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 as amended.

The following formulas are prescribed for the purpose of subsection 88.20 (6) of the Act (maximum amount):

1. In the case of a candidate for the office of head of council of a municipality, the amount shall be calculated by adding together \$7,500 plus 85 cents for each elector entitled to vote for the office.
2. In the case of a candidate for another office, the amount shall be calculated by adding together \$5,000 plus 85 cents for each elector entitled to vote for the office.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAXIMUM CAMPAIGN EXPENSES - CANDIDATE***Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (s.88.20(13))***TO:**

_____	_____
(Name of Candidate)	(Office)
_____	_____
(Address)	(Postal Code)

FROM:

The Clerk, or designated election official, of The Corporation of the Municipality of West Elgin

(Name of Municipality)

I hereby certify that the maximum campaign expenses that a candidate is permitted to incur for the office of _____ in the Municipal Election to be held October 26, 2026, is _____.¹

_____ Date _____ Municipal Clerk or designate

In accordance with MEA, s.88.20(12)(13), the Clerk shall give candidates a preliminary calculation of the maximum campaign expenses at the time of filing the nomination paper, based upon the number of electors on the Voters' List as September 15 in the 2022 municipal election, including changes made that day.

On or before September 30, 2026², the Clerk shall give a "final" certificate of the applicable maximum campaign expenses to each candidate. The number of electors to be used in this final calculation is to be the greater of the number of electors from the September 15, 2022 Voters' List, including changes made on that day, or the 2026 Voters' List as of September 15, including changes made on that day.

Certificate to be given to candidate in accordance with Section 13.

¹ Formula for calculation provided in Section 88.20(6) (15).

² The National Day of Truth and Reconciliation falls on September 30. If it is recognized as a statutory holiday by your municipality, this date can be moved to October 1, 2026.



CANDIDATE'S DECLARATION- PROPER USE OF VOTERS' LIST

Municipal Elections Act, 1996, s.23(4) (5);

I, _____, being a candidate for the office of _____, hereby request the Clerk to provide me with the following information when it becomes available:

a paper copy of the Voters' List. Please note that a copy of all revisions made to the Voters' List will be provided on or before Wednesday, September 30, 2026.

OR

an electronic copy of the Voters' List. Please note that a copy of all revisions made to the Voters' List will be provided on or before Wednesday, September 30, 2026.

I, the undersigned, do hereby agree to use the Voters' List for election purposes only and I understand that I am prohibited by the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 from using the Voters' List for commercial purposes.

Signature:

Date

Name: _____
(please print)



WITHDRAWAL OF NOMINATION^{1,2}

Municipal Elections Act, 1996, s.36

I, _____, hereby withdraw my name as a candidate
(Name of Candidate)

for the office of _____.
(Name of Elected Office)

Date

Signature of Candidate

THIS WITHDRAWAL DELIVERED TO ME AT _____ (time)
THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2026.
Municipal Clerk or designate _____

1 A person who has been nominated may withdraw his or her nomination by filing a written withdrawal in the Clerk's office by 2 pm on Nomination Day (August 21, 2026) if the nomination was filed on or before Nomination Day and by 2 p.m. on August 26, 2026, if the nomination was filed under subsection 33(5).

2 Clerk may want to require a candidate to appear in person, with identification in order to withdraw their nomination. If not, then anytime that a nomination withdrawal is submitted by someone other than the nominee, the Clerk should follow up to ensure that the withdrawal was submitted with the nominee's permission.

Instructions

All candidates must complete Boxes A and B. Candidates who receive contributions or incur expenses must complete Boxes C, D, Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 as appropriate. Candidates who use a broadcaster or publisher for an election campaign advertisement must complete Schedule 3. Candidates who receive contributions or incur expenses in excess of \$10,000 must also attach an Auditor's Report.

All surplus funds (after any refund to the candidate or their spouse) shall be immediately paid to the clerk who is responsible for the conduct of the election.

For the campaign period from (day clerk received nomination)

YYYY	MM	DD
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 to

YYYY	MM	DD
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Initial filing reflecting finances from start of campaign to December 31 (or 45 days after voting day in a by-election)

Supplementary filing reflecting finances from start of campaign to end of extended campaign period

Box A: Name of Candidate and Office

Candidate's name as shown on the ballot

Last Name or Single Name	Given Name(s)
Office for Which the Candidate Sought Election	Ward Name or Number (if any)

Municipality

Spending Limit General \$	Parties and Other Expressions of Appreciation \$	Contribution Limit Contributions from Candidate and Spouse \$
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I did not accept any contributions or incur any expenses. (Complete Boxes A and B only)

Box B: Declaration

I, _____, declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief that these financial statements and attached supporting schedules are true and correct.

Signature of Candidate _____
Date (yyyy/mm/dd)

Date Filed (yyyy/mm/dd)	Time Filed	Initial of Candidate or Agent (if filed in person)	Signature of Clerk or Designate
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Box C: Statement of Campaign Income and Expenses

LOAN

Name of bank or recognized lending institution	Amount borrowed \$
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INCOME

Total amount of all contributions (from line 1A in Schedule 1)	+ \$		
Revenue from items \$25 or less	+ \$		
Sign deposit refund	+ \$		
Revenue from fundraising events not deemed a contribution (from Part III of Schedule 2)	+ \$		
Interest earned by campaign bank account	+ \$		
Other (provide full details)			
1. _____	+ \$		
2. _____	+ \$		
3. _____	+ \$		
4. _____	+ \$		
5. _____	+ \$		
6. _____	+ \$		
Total Campaign Income (Do not include loan)			= \$ _____ C1

EXPENSES (Note: Include the value of contributions of goods and services)

1. Expenses subject to general spending limit

Inventory from previous campaign used in this campaign (list details in Table 2 of Schedule 1)	+ \$		
Advertising	+ \$		
Brochures/flyers	+ \$		
Signs (including sign deposit)	+ \$		
Meetings hosted	+ \$		
Office expenses incurred until voting day	+ \$		
Phone and/or internet expenses incurred until voting day	+ \$		
Salaries, benefits, honoraria, professional fees incurred until voting day	+ \$		
Bank charges incurred until voting day	+ \$		
Interest charged on loan until voting day	+ \$		
Other (provide full details)			
1. _____	+ \$		
2. _____	+ \$		
3. _____	+ \$		
4. _____	+ \$		
5. _____	+ \$		
6. _____	+ \$		
Total Expenses subject to general spending limit			= \$ _____ C2

2. Expenses subject to spending limit for parties and other expressions of appreciation

1. _____	+ \$		
----------	------	--	--

2.	_____	+ \$	_____
3.	_____	+ \$	_____
4.	_____	+ \$	_____
5.	_____	+ \$	_____
Total Expenses subject to spending limit for parties and other expressions of appreciation		= \$	C3

3. Expenses not subject to spending limits

Accounting and audit	_____	+ \$	_____
Cost of fundraising events/activities (list details in Part IV of Schedule 2)	_____	+ \$	_____
Office expenses incurred after voting day	_____	+ \$	_____
Phone and/or internet expenses incurred after voting day	_____	+ \$	_____
Salaries, benefits, honoraria, professional fees incurred after voting day	_____	+ \$	_____
Bank charges incurred after voting day	_____	+ \$	_____
Interest charged on loan after voting day	_____	+ \$	_____
Expenses related to recount	_____	+ \$	_____
Expenses related to controverted election	_____	+ \$	_____
Expenses related to compliance audit	_____	+ \$	_____
Expenses related to candidate's disability (provide full details)			
1.	_____	+ \$	_____
2.	_____	+ \$	_____
3.	_____	+ \$	_____
4.	_____	+ \$	_____
5.	_____	+ \$	_____
Other (provide full details)			
1.	_____	+ \$	_____
2.	_____	+ \$	_____
3.	_____	+ \$	_____
4.	_____	+ \$	_____
5.	_____	+ \$	_____
Total Expenses not subject to spending limits		= \$	C4

Total Campaign Expenses (C2 + C3 + C4) = \$ _____ **C5**

Box D: Calculation of Surplus or Deficit

Excess (deficiency) of income over expenses (Income minus Total Expenses) (C1 – C5)	_____	+ \$	D1
If there is a surplus, deduct any refund of candidate's or spouse's contributions to the campaign	_____	- \$	
Surplus (or deficit) for the campaign		= \$	D2

If line D2 shows a surplus, the amount must be paid in trust, at the time the financial statements are filed, to the municipal clerk who is responsible for the conduct of the election.

Schedule 1 – Contributions

Part I – Summary of Contributions

Contributions in money from candidate and spouse	+	\$	
Contributions in goods and services from candidate and spouse (include value listed in Table 1 and Table 2)	+	\$	
Total value of contributions not exceeding \$100 per contributor • Include ticket revenue, contributions in money, goods and services where the total contribution from a contributor is \$100 or less (do not include contributions from candidate or spouse).	+	\$	
Total value of contributions exceeding \$100 per contributor (from line 1B; list details in Table 3 and Table 4) • Include ticket revenue, contributions in money, goods and services where the total contribution from a contributor exceeds \$100 (do not include contributions from candidate or spouse).	+	\$	
Less: Ineligible contributions paid or payable to the contributor	–	\$	
Contributions paid or payable to the clerk, including contributions from anonymous sources exceeding \$25	–	\$	
Total Amount of Contributions (record under Income in Box C)	=	\$	1A

Part II – Contributions from candidate or spouse

Table 1: Contributions in goods or services
(Note: Must also be recorded as Expenses in Box C.)

Description of Goods or Services	Date Received (yyyy/mm/dd)	Value (\$)
Total		

Additional information is listed on separate supplementary attachment, if completed manually.

Table 2: Inventory of campaign goods and materials from previous municipal campaign used in this campaign
(Note: Value must be recorded as a contribution from the candidate and as an expense.)

Description	Date Acquired (yyyy/mm/dd)	Supplier	Quantity	Current Market Value (\$)
Total				

Additional information is listed on separate supplementary attachment, if completed manually.

Part III – Contributions exceeding \$100 per contributor – individuals other than candidate or spouse

Table 3: Monetary contributions from individuals other than candidate or spouse

Name	Full Address	Date Received (yyyy/mm/dd)	Amount Received (\$)	Amount Returned to Contributor or Paid to Clerk (\$)
Total				

Additional information is listed on separate supplementary attachment, if completed manually.

Table 4: Contributions in goods or services from individuals other than candidate or spouse

(Note: Must also be recorded as Expenses in Box C.)

Name	Full Address	Description of Goods or Services	Date Received (yyyy/mm/dd)	Value (\$)
Total				

Additional information is listed on separate supplementary attachment, if completed manually.

Total for Part III – Contributions exceeding \$100 per contributor
(Add totals from Table 3 and Table 4 and record the total in Part 1 – Summary of Contributions) \$ _____ **1B**

Schedule 2 – Fundraising Events and Activities

Complete a separate schedule for each event or activity held.

 Additional schedule(s) attached, if completed manually.**Fundraising Event/Activity 1**

Description of fundraising event/activity _____

Date of event/activity (yyyy/mm/dd) _____

Part I – Ticket revenue

Admission charge (per person) \$ _____ 2A

(If there are a range of ticket prices, attach complete breakdown of all ticket sales)

Number of tickets sold x _____ 2B

Total Part I (2A X 2B) (include in Part I of Schedule 1) = \$ _____**Part II – Other revenue deemed a contribution**

Provide details (e.g., revenue from goods sold in excess of fair market value)

1.	_____	+ \$	_____
2.	_____	+ \$	_____
3.	_____	+ \$	_____
4.	_____	+ \$	_____
5.	_____	+ \$	_____

Total Part II (include in Part I of Schedule 1) = \$ _____**Part III – Other revenue not deemed a contribution**

Provide details (e.g., contribution of \$25 or less; goods or services sold for \$25 or less)

1.	_____	+ \$	_____
2.	_____	+ \$	_____
3.	_____	+ \$	_____
4.	_____	+ \$	_____
5.	_____	+ \$	_____

Total Part III (include under Income in Box C) = \$ _____**Part IV – Expenses related to fundraising event or activity**

Provide details

1.	_____	+ \$	_____
2.	_____	+ \$	_____
3.	_____	+ \$	_____
4.	_____	+ \$	_____
5.	_____	+ \$	_____

Total Part IV Expenses (include under Expenses in Box C) = \$ _____

Schedule 3 – Broadcasters and Publishers

Complete if candidate used a broadcaster or publisher for an election campaign advertisement.

Table 5: Contact information for broadcasters and publishers used during the election campaign

Name	Type of Advertisement (e.g. print, television, radio etc)	Contact Information

Additional information is listed on separate supplementary attachment, if completed manually.

Auditor's Report – *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* (Section 88.25)

A candidate who has received contributions or incurred expenses in excess of \$10,000 must attach an auditor's report.

Professional Designation of Auditor

Municipality	Date (yyyy/mm/dd)
--------------	-------------------

Contact Information

Last Name or Single Name	Given Name(s)	Licence Number
--------------------------	---------------	----------------

Address

Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name
-------------------	---------------	-------------

Municipality	Province	Postal Code
--------------	----------	-------------

Telephone Number	Email Address
------------------	---------------

The report must be done in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and must:

- set out the scope of the examination
- provide an opinion as to the completeness and accuracy of the financial statement and whether it is free of material misstatement

Report is attached

Personal information, if any, collected on this form is obtained under the authority of sections 88.25 and 95 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*. Under section 88 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* (and despite anything in the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*) documents and materials filed with or prepared by the clerk or any other election official under the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* are public records and, until their destruction, may be inspected by any person at the clerk's office at a time when the office is open. Campaign financial statements shall also be made available by the clerk in an electronic format free of charge upon request.

2026 candidates' guide

Ontario municipal council and
school board elections

2026 candidates' guide – Ontario municipal council and school board elections

Find out how to run as a candidate in Ontario municipal council and school board elections.

This guide provides information to candidates for the 2026 municipal and school board elections. The information also applies to any by-elections that may be held during the 2026–2030 council and school board term.

This guide is not meant to replace provincial legislation. It provides general information about the rules contained in the [Municipal Elections Act, 1996](#), and other legislation and regulations, such as:

- [Municipal Act, 2001](#)
- [City of Toronto Act, 2006](#)
- [Education Act](#)

New election rules for 2026

There are new requirements regarding how copies of the voters' list are to be handled. These include:

- written acknowledgements to receive a copy of the voters' list
- limits to sharing copies
- requirements to destroy copies after the campaign has ended

For more information regarding these requirements please see [the voters' list](#).

Contact us

If you have further questions or would like to give feedback on this guide, please contact us at mea.info@ontario.ca.

You can also contact your regional [Municipal Services Office](#) at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

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General information

Every four years, voters across Ontario elect municipal councillors and school board trustees.

The Province of Ontario sets out common rules that all candidates and voters must follow. However, municipalities are responsible for conducting elections to their council and for conducting the election of school trustees to Ontario's school boards. This guide contains information about the rules that are the same for all municipal elections, such as who is eligible to run for office, and rules about campaign spending.

Your municipality may have specific rules on issues such as:

- where and when election signs may be displayed
- whether campaign activities may occur on municipal property
- whether those who make contributions to candidates may receive a rebate

Contact your municipal clerk if you have questions about the election in your municipality.

To learn more about the duties of municipal councillors and the role of council, please see the [Ontario municipal councillor's guide](#).

The municipal clerk

Every municipality has a municipal clerk who is in charge of running the election.

Contact the municipal clerk if you are interested in becoming a candidate. You must file any election forms, such as the nomination form and campaign financial statements, with your municipal clerk. The clerk is also responsible for providing information about spending limits and filing deadlines to candidates.

If your municipality does not have a website, you could visit or contact your municipality's offices for more information.

Emergency declaration by the clerk

If the municipal clerk believes that circumstances have arisen that prevent the election from being conducted in accordance with the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, they may declare an emergency. This declaration is specific to the election and separate from an emergency that may be declared by the municipality or the province.

Once the clerk has declared an emergency, they can decide what arrangements to make to allow the election to appropriately proceed. The arrangements that the clerk makes will depend on the nature of the emergency.

If your municipal clerk has declared an emergency in relation to an election or by-election in your municipality, you should contact the clerk for information about the arrangements that they have put in place and how those arrangements may affect voting and campaigning.

Eligibility to run for election

Running for municipal council

To run for a position on council, you must be eligible to vote in that municipality. On the day you file your nomination, you must be a Canadian citizen aged 18 or older, and qualify as a resident or non-resident elector. For more information about eligibility to vote, please see the [2026 voters' guide](#).

You must be eligible to hold office on the day you file your nomination. For example, a person who is 17 years old but will turn 18 before nomination day must wait until they have turned 18 to file their nomination.

If your municipality has wards, you can run in any ward — you do not have to live in a particular ward to be its councillor. However, if you run in a ward where you do not live, you will not be able to vote for yourself. Having a campaign office or a business in a ward where you would not otherwise be eligible to vote does not make you eligible to vote in that ward.

Municipal employees

You cannot work for a municipality and be on its council at the same time. If you are an employee of a municipality and you want to run for office on that municipality's council, you must take a leave of absence that begins the day you are nominated. If you are elected, you must resign from your job.

If you are an employee of a municipality and you want to run for office in a different municipality, you do not have to take a leave of absence or resign. However, you should check with your employer to see if there are any policies in place that could affect you.

If you are an employee of an upper-tier municipality, you can run for office in a lower-tier municipality without taking a leave of absence or resigning unless being elected to the lower-tier council means that you would also be a member of the upper-tier council.

Who is not eligible?

The following people are not eligible to be elected to municipal office:

- any person who is not eligible to vote in the municipality
- an employee of a municipality who has not taken an unpaid leave of absence and resigned (see above)
- a judge of any court
- an MP, an MPP or a senator
- an inmate serving a sentence in a penal or correctional institution

Running for school board trustee

To run for a trustee position on a school board, you must be a resident within the jurisdiction of the board and you must be eligible to vote in a school board election. On the day you file your nomination, you must be a Canadian citizen aged 18 or older and you must meet any other qualifications to vote for the school board (for example, being a Roman Catholic, or holding French language rights). For more information about eligibility to vote, please see the [2026 voters' guide](#).

Additional information about [French-language rights](#) is available from the Ministry of Education.

School board employees

You cannot work for a school board and be a trustee in Ontario at the same time.

If you are an employee of any Ontario school board and you want to run for a trustee position on any school board in the province, you must take an unpaid leave of absence that begins the day you are nominated. If you are elected, you must resign from your job.

Municipal officials

If you are a clerk, deputy clerk, treasurer or deputy treasurer of a municipality within the jurisdiction of a school board, you are not permitted to run for office as a trustee of that board unless you take a leave of absence. If you are elected, you must resign from your job.

Who is not eligible?

The following people are not eligible to be elected as a school trustee:

- any person who is not eligible to vote in the school board election
- an employee of a school board or a municipal official who has not taken an unpaid leave of absence and resigned (see above)

- a judge of any court
- an MP, an MPP or a senator
- an inmate serving a sentence in a penal or correctional institution

Note for MPs, MPPs and senators

If you are an MP, MPP or senator, you may file your nomination for municipal or school board office without resigning your current seat in parliament, the legislature or the senate. However, you must resign your seat by the close of nominations (2 p.m. on Friday, August 21, 2026). If you are a federal or provincial cabinet minister, you must step down from cabinet prior to filing your nomination and must resign your seat by the close of nominations.

If you have not resigned by nomination day, your nomination will be rejected and your name will not appear on the ballot.

Nominations

Filing your nomination

To file your nomination, you must give the following to your municipal clerk:

- a [nomination form \(Form 1\)](#)
- the nomination fee
- completed [endorsement of nomination forms \(Form 2\)](#)

Note: Candidates for municipal council in municipalities with fewer than 4,000 electors and candidates for school board trustee do not have to submit endorsement signatures. Your municipal clerk will be able to tell you if you need to submit endorsement signatures.

When you fill out the nomination form, write down your name as you want it to appear on the ballot. If you normally go by a different name than your legal first name, you may use that name provided that the clerk agrees.

You do not have to provide all of your names under the box entitled “Given Name(s)” on the form. Only provide the one(s) that you want to appear on the ballot. If your legal name is a single name, you do not have to provide any given names.

Clerks can decide to allow nominations to be filed electronically. If your municipality allows electronic filing, contact the clerk for more information about how to file your nomination.

If electronic filing is not allowed in your municipality, you must file the nomination form that you have signed — the form may not be a copy and may not be scanned and submitted electronically. You must file the nomination form in person or have an agent file it on your behalf.

The clerk may require you to show identification or fill in an additional form to prove that you are eligible to be nominated. If an agent is going to file the form on your behalf, you should check with the clerk to see if you are required to provide identification or additional paperwork.

Your campaign period begins when the clerk has received your nomination. If you file your nomination electronically at a time when the clerk's office is not open, you may have to wait to begin your campaign. You should contact the clerk for more information.

The nomination fee

The fee to file a nomination is \$200 to run for head of council and \$100 for all other positions. This fee must be paid to the clerk at the time you submit your nomination form.

Your nomination fee will be refunded if you file your campaign financial statement by the deadline.

Endorsement signatures

If you are running for municipal council in a municipality that has 4,000 or more electors, you must submit 25 original signatures endorsing your nomination.

You do not have to submit endorsement signatures if you are running for:

- municipal council in a municipality that has fewer than 4,000 electors
- school trustee

You must use [Form 2](#) to collect the endorsement signatures.

Anyone providing an endorsement signature must also fill in their name and address, including the postal code.

Anyone providing an endorsement signature must be eligible to vote in the municipality on the day that they signed the endorsement. In addition to their endorsement, they will also be required to sign a declaration that they are eligible to vote in the municipality.

A person who is eligible to vote in the municipality may provide endorsements to as many candidates as they would like and may endorse candidates for any office on the municipal

council. A person who is running for a ward councillor office may submit signatures from voters who do not live in that ward.

If you submit 25 original endorsement signatures and find out later that a person (or persons) was not eligible to vote on the day that they signed the endorsement, you will not lose your nomination. The person who supplied false information (by declaring that they were eligible to endorse your nomination when they were not eligible) could be subject to prosecution.

If the clerk has allowed electronic filing, you must still collect original endorsement signatures. You can submit an electronic copy of the forms when you file your nomination. You must keep the forms with the original signatures as part of your campaign records.

The [Endorsement of Nomination Form \(Form 2\)](#) is a public document. Endorsements of candidates cannot be revoked if the document has already been filed with the clerk.

Deadline to file your nomination

The nomination period begins on May 1, 2026. The last day to file a nomination is Friday, August 21, 2026, by 2 p.m.

The clerk has until 4 p.m. on Monday, August 24, 2026, to certify or reject your nomination. The clerk must be satisfied that you are eligible to run in order to certify your nomination. If your nomination is not certified, your name will not appear on the ballot.

Where to file

If you are running for council office in a single-tier or lower-tier municipality (city, town, township, village, etc.), you must file your nomination with the clerk of that municipality.

If you are running for an office in an upper-tier municipality that does not also sit on a lower-tier council, you must file your nomination with the clerk of the upper-tier municipality. For example, a person running for county councillor in Wellington County would file their nomination with the clerk of Wellington County rather than the clerk of a lower-tier municipality such as the Town of Minto.

If you are running for a school trustee position that represents more than one municipality, contact your municipal clerk for information about where to file your nomination.

Changing your mind – withdrawal

If you decide to withdraw your nomination, you must notify the clerk in writing by the close of nominations (2 p.m. August 21, 2026).

If you withdraw your nomination, you are still required to file a campaign financial statement covering all the financial transactions you made in your campaign.

If your campaign did not have any financial transactions, you must file a financial statement reporting this. Your nomination fee will be refunded by the clerk if you file your financial statement by the deadline.

Changing your mind – running for a different office

You can only run for one office at a time. If you decide to run for a different office, your first nomination is deemed to be withdrawn when you file your second nomination.

If you decide to run for a different office on the same council or school board, and both offices are elected at large (for example, an office such as the mayor, which everyone in the municipality may vote for), everything (contributions, expenses, etc.) from your first campaign is simply transferred to your second campaign.

Example:

You file your nomination to run for deputy mayor on May 12, 2026. During the summer you decide to run for mayor instead, and file your second nomination form on June 29, 2026.

- Your first nomination for deputy mayor is deemed to be withdrawn.
- The nomination fee you paid on May 12 is transferred to your second nomination (in this case, you would have to pay an additional \$100 to make up the \$200 fee to run for head of council).
- You do not have to submit new endorsement signatures. Your initial 25 original endorsement signatures still qualify since you withdrew and filed a nomination for a different office on the same municipal council.
- Your campaign for mayor is deemed to have started on May 12.
- Any campaign contributions or expenses that occurred prior to June 29 are transferred to your mayoral campaign.
- You must file one campaign financial statement covering your campaign finances from May 12 until December 31, 2026.
- Your nomination fee will be refunded if you file your campaign financial statement by the filing deadline.

If you decide to run for a different office on the same council or school board, and one or both of the offices is elected by ward, then you must keep the two campaigns separate.

Example:

You file your nomination to run for mayor on May 12, 2026. During the summer you decide to run for councillor in ward 1 instead and file your second nomination form on June 29, 2026.

Your first nomination for mayor is deemed to be withdrawn, and your campaign for mayor ends. You may not transfer any contributions or expenses from your mayoral campaign to your ward councillor campaign.

- You must pay a separate nomination fee when you file your nomination for ward councillor.
- You do not have to submit new endorsement signatures. Your initial 25 original endorsement signatures still qualify since you withdrew and filed a nomination for a different office on the same municipal council.
- You must file a campaign financial statement covering your campaign for mayor (May 12 to June 29) – your first nomination fee will be refunded if you file this financial statement by the filing deadline.
- You must file a separate campaign financial statement covering your campaign forward councillor (June 29 to December 31) — your second nomination fee will be refunded if you file this financial statement by the filing deadline.

If you decide to run for office on a different council or school board, then you must keep the two campaigns separate. If you decide to run for council in a municipality that has more than 4,000 electors, you will need to submit original endorsement signatures from electors eligible to vote in that municipality. If you are unsure if the municipality has more than 4,000 electors, you should contact the municipal clerk.

Example:

You file your nomination to run for school board trustee on May 12. During the summer you decide to run for councillor instead, and file your second nomination form on June 29, 2026.

- Your first nomination for school board trustee is deemed to be withdrawn.
- You are required to pay a nomination fee when you file your nomination for ward councillor.
- If the municipality where you are running for ward councillor has 4,000 or more electors, you must submit 25 endorsement signatures.
- Your campaign for school board trustee ends. You may not transfer any contributions or expenses from your trustee campaign to your ward councillor campaign.

- You must file a campaign financial statement covering your campaign for schoolboard trustee (May 12 to June 29) — your first nomination fee will be refunded if you file this financial statement by the filing deadline.
- You must file a separate campaign financial statement covering your campaign forward councillor (June 29 to December 31) — your second nomination fee will be refunded if you file this financial statement by the filing deadline.

Acclamations

If there is only one certified candidate running for an office at 4 p.m. on Monday, August 24, that candidate will be declared elected by acclamation. Similarly, in a municipality where multiple candidates are elected at large, if the number of certified candidates is the same as or less than the number of offices, those candidates will be declared elected by acclamation.

If you are elected by acclamation, you must still file a campaign financial statement.

Additional nominations

If there are positions with no candidates or positions that are still vacant after the candidates who did run have been acclaimed, the clerk will call for additional nominations.

Additional nominations for the remaining vacant seats must be filed between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Wednesday, August 26, 2026. The clerk must either certify or reject each nomination by 4 p.m. on Thursday, August 27, 2026.

The voters' list

The voters' list becomes a public document on September 1, 2026. As a candidate, you can request that the municipal clerk give you the part of the voters' list that relates to the office that you are running for. This request must be in writing.

To receive the voters' list from the municipal clerk, you must give the clerk a written acknowledgement confirming that you will:

- only use the list for electoral purposes, not for commercial purposes
- follow the restrictions set out in the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, for handling the voters' list
- only share the list with others (such as campaign workers) after obtaining a similar written acknowledgement from them

Restrictions on handling the voters' list

You are the only person who may share the voters' list. If you have given someone a copy, they are not allowed to share it further.

You must keep track of who you have shared the voters' list with. If you give someone a physical copy of the list, they must return that copy to you. If you share an electronic copy, they must destroy the copy and provide you with a written acknowledgement that the copy has been destroyed.

You cannot keep copies of the voters' list after your campaign had ended. On or before the day your campaign ends, you must:

- destroy the copy of the voters' list that you received from the clerk
- have any print copies that you shared with others returned to you and destroy them
- ensure you have received written acknowledgements from anyone who received an electronic copy confirming that the electronic copy has been destroyed

Written acknowledgements

Before you share the voters' list with someone, you must obtain a written acknowledgement from that person. That written acknowledgement must confirm that:

- they will only use the list for electoral purposes, not for commercial purposes
- they will not share or give copies to anyone else
- if they receive a physical copy, they will return it to you
- if they receive an electronic copy, they will destroy the copy and give you written confirmation that the electronic copy has been destroyed

The written acknowledgement should include the dates by which physical copies must be returned and written confirmations of destroyed electronic copies must be provided.

You must keep all written acknowledgements you have received until November 15, 2030, when the next council or school board takes office. You must also keep any written confirmations that electronic copies of the list have been destroyed.

Campaigning

Signs

Your municipality may have rules about when you can put up campaign signs and how signs may be displayed on both private and public property.

All of your campaign signs and other advertising must identify that you are responsible for the sign. This is so that people seeing the sign or advertisement can tell that it is from your campaign, rather than from a third-party advertiser.

Please see [leftover campaign inventory](#) if you plan to reuse signs from the last election.

You are responsible for ensuring that your campaign signs are removed after voting day in accordance with municipal by-laws. Your municipality may require a sign deposit or have penalties for failing to remove your signs. Contact your local clerk for more information.

You are entitled to have your nomination fee refunded if you file your campaign financial statement by the filing deadline. The clerk cannot make removing your signs a condition for receiving your refund.

Getting information out

It is up to you to provide voters with information about you as a candidate and about your campaign. The municipal clerk is not responsible for providing your contact information to voters.

All candidates' debates

The *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, does not require candidate debates to be held, and the municipal clerk is not responsible for organizing meetings or debates. Debates can be organized by community groups, media outlets, candidates or any other interested persons.

Joint campaigns / running on a slate

There is nothing in the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, that would prevent like-minded candidates from campaigning on the same platform or identifying themselves as a group or slate. However, each candidate must keep their campaign finances separate and any joint expenses (for example, signs with two candidates' names on them) must be divided between the campaigns.

For information on campaign finance rules please see [campaign finance](#).

Third-party advertising

General information

There are rules for third-party advertising in Ontario's municipal council and school board elections.

A third-party advertisement is an ad that supports, promotes or opposes a candidate or a “yes” or “no” answer to a question on the ballot.

The meaning of “third-party” in this context means a person or entity who is not a candidate. Eligible individuals, corporations and trade unions can register to be third-party advertisers. Third-party advertising is separate from any candidate’s campaign and must be done independently from a candidate.

Third-party advertisers who want to spend money on advertisements during the election must register with the municipal clerk and must file a financial statement.

For more information about third-party advertising rules, including eligibility, spending limits and enforcement, see the [2026 third-party advertisers’ guide](#).

On voting day

Campaigning on voting day

The [Municipal Elections Act, 1996](#), does not prohibit campaigning on voting day. While there are restrictions on advertising for federal and provincial elections on voting day, these “blackouts” do not exist for municipal council and school board elections.

The Act prohibits the display of campaign material inside a voting place. The “voting place” could include the entire property of a building that has a voting place inside it, including the parking lot. You are not allowed to have campaign brochures, campaign buttons, signs or any other material inside the voting place.

Remaining in a voting place

As a candidate, you are allowed to stay in a voting place to observe, but you are not allowed to interfere with voters, attempt to influence how they vote, or ask a voter how they voted. Scrutineers may also stay in the voting place.

You and your scrutineers are entitled to be in the voting place 15 minutes before it opens and to inspect the ballot boxes, the ballots and any other papers or forms relating to the vote. However, you may not delay the opening of the voting place.

You and your scrutineers are entitled to place a seal on the ballot box so that ballots put in the box cannot be removed without breaking your seal.

Note: If you have been acclaimed, you are not allowed to be in the voting place or to appoint scrutineers.

Scrutineers

You may appoint a scrutineer for each ballot box in a voting place. You do not have to appoint that many scrutineers, or any scrutineers at all. If you have appointed one scrutineer for each ballot box, a scrutineer must leave while you are in the voting place.

Scrutineers may observe but they are not allowed to interfere with voters, attempt to influence how they vote, or ask a voter how they voted.

You must provide each of your scrutineers with an appointment in writing. Scrutineers may be required to show their appointment document to election officials at the voting place.

Scrutineers may be required to take an oath of secrecy.

There are no general restrictions on who you can appoint as a scrutineer (for example, a scrutineer can be any age and does not have to be a citizen). However, an acclaimed candidate cannot be appointed as a scrutineer for another candidate.

Counting votes

If your municipality is using voting machines or vote counting equipment, the clerk must have the processes and procedures for use of this equipment in place by June 1, 2026. If vote counting equipment is used, the clerk will be able to provide you with information on how the votes will be counted and how many scrutineers may be present.

The vote count begins immediately after the close of voting at 8 p.m. on October 26, 2026.

If the votes are counted manually, you and your scrutineers are entitled to view the ballots as they are counted, but you cannot touch the ballots. You and your scrutineers may object to a ballot or how it is counted (for example, if it is unclear who the vote is for or if the ballot has extra markings on it). The deputy returning officer is responsible for deciding whether to accept the objection and must keep a list of all the objections raised.

Results

After the votes have been counted, the deputy returning officer will prepare a statement showing the results and seal all the other election documents, including the ballots, inside the ballot box. You and your scrutineers are entitled to put your or their own seal on the ballot box at this time and are entitled to sign the statement showing the results.

The sealed ballot box and the statement of the results will then be delivered to the municipal clerk, who will compile the results and declare who has been elected.

Note: results announced on voting night are unofficial. It may take the clerk a few days or more to make the official declaration.

After voting day

Recounts

The [*Municipal Elections Act, 1996*](#), requires an automatic recount only if the votes are tied.

Your municipal council or school board may have a policy in place that sets out other specific circumstances under which the clerk must conduct an automatic recount. For example, a council may decide that if two candidates are within 10 votes of each other, an automatic recount will be held. The policy must be adopted on or before May 1, 2026.

A municipal council or school board may also order a recount within 30 days after the clerk has officially declared the results of the election. If you feel there should be a recount, you must either persuade council (or the school board) to order one or you may apply to the Superior Court of Justice to request that a judge order a recount. This application may be made by any eligible elector, and must be made within 30 days of the clerk declaring the results of the election.

Recounts must be conducted in the same way that the votes were originally counted, unless the recount is ordered by the court. For example, if the votes were counted by a vote tabulator, they may not be counted by hand during the recount.

If the recount is ordered by the court, the judge may order that the votes be counted in a different manner if the judge believes that the way the votes were counted the first time was an issue.

Tied votes

If two or more candidates get the same number of votes and they cannot all be elected, there is an automatic recount. The recount must be held within 15 days of the clerk declaring the results of the election. If you are one of the candidates in the tie, you are entitled to be present at the recount.

If the recount shows that there is still a tie, then the legislation states that the clerk will choose the winner by lot. This means putting the names of the tied candidates into a hat (or other suitable container) and drawing the name of the winner.

Wrapping up your campaign

After voting day, remove any election signs that have been put up and take down your campaign website, if you have one. If you would like to keep using your website, remove any references to the campaign. Websites that say “Vote for me” which are left up for years after the election can make it look like you are attempting to campaign for the next election early.

Your campaign must end on December 31, 2026, unless you have a deficit and inform the clerk in writing that you are going to extend your campaign. Once your campaign has ended, you should close your campaign bank account and prepare your campaign financial statement.

The deadline to file financial statements is the last Friday in March. Since March 26, 2027, falls on Good Friday, and March 29 is Easter Monday, financial statements **may be filed with the clerk until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, March 30, 2027.**

Term of office

The council and school board term of office will run from November 15, 2026, to November 14, 2030.

Campaign finance

General information

Record keeping

You are responsible for keeping records of the financial activities related to your campaign. The *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, does not require you to use any specific accounting system. You may want to consult with an auditor or an accountant early in your campaign to make sure that you are using a bookkeeping and accounting system that will suit your needs.

You should also look through the [campaign financial statement \(Form 4\)](#) that you will be required to file to make sure that you are keeping records of all the information that must be included on the statement.

You are required to keep all of your campaign financial records until November 15, 2030, when the next council or school board takes office.

You must keep the following campaign records:

- receipts issued for every contribution including when you accepted the contribution and the date you issued the receipt (remember to issue receipts to yourself for any contributions you make)
- the value of every contribution, whether it is in the form of money or goods or services, and the contributor's name and address
- all expenses, including the receipts obtained for each expense
- any claim for payment of an expense that the campaign disputes or refuses to pay
- the funds raised and expenses incurred from each separate fundraising event or activity
- the terms of any loan received from a bank or other recognized lending institution

Campaign period

You may accept contributions or incur campaign expenses during your campaign period only.

Your campaign period begins on the day the clerk receives your nomination.

In most cases, your campaign will end on December 31, 2026. Exceptions are if you:

- withdrew your nomination, your campaign ends on the date you informed the clerk in writing that you wanted to withdraw
- were not certified as a candidate and your name did not appear on the ballot, your campaign ends on nomination day (August 21, 2026)
- know you will not have any more financial activity, you can end your campaign at anytime after voting day and before December 31, 2026

If you have extended your campaign to pay down a deficit, the end date for the extended campaign period will be the earliest of:

- the day you notify the clerk in writing that you will be ending your campaign and not accepting any more contributions
- June 30, 2027

Bank account

You must open a bank account exclusively for your campaign if you accept any contributions of money (including contributions from yourself or your spouse) or incur any expenses. You do not have to open a campaign bank account if you do not spend any money and do not receive any contributions of money. If you receive contributions of goods or services, but no contributions of money, you do not have to open a campaign bank account.

You cannot use your personal bank account for campaign finances, even if you are planning a very small campaign.

All contributions — including contributions you make to yourself — must be deposited into the campaign bank account. All expenses must be paid from the campaign account.

The nomination fee is considered to be a personal expense, not a campaign expense. You do not need to have a campaign bank account in order to pay the nomination fee.

Contributions and campaign income

Contributions

Campaign contributions are any money, goods or services that are given to you for use in your campaign, including money and goods that you contribute to yourself.

If you are given a special discount on a good or service that you are purchasing for your campaign, the difference between what you were charged and what the market value would be is considered to be a contribution.

Corporations and other businesses are not permitted to make contributions to candidates. If you are being offered a discount, you should make sure that whoever is offering the discount is entitled to make a personal contribution to your campaign.

If a professional who would normally charge for a service gives you that service for free, the market value of the service is considered to be a contribution.

If you sell tickets to a fundraising event, the cost of the ticket is considered to be a contribution. If you sell goods at a fundraising event for more than their market value, the difference between what the person attending the fundraising event paid you and what they would have normally paid for the item is considered to be a contribution.

If you have inventory such as signs left over from a previous campaign and you use them again, the current market value of the signs (what it would cost you to buy those signs today) is considered to be a contribution that you make to your campaign.

If you or your spouse guarantees your campaign loan and the campaign is unable to repay the full amount, any unpaid balance is considered to be a contribution by the guarantor.

Things that are not contributions

If you have volunteers working for your campaign, the value of their volunteer labour is not considered to be a contribution.

A cash donation of \$25 or less received at a fundraising event is not considered to be a contribution, and you may accept such donations without keeping track of who gave them to you. You will have to report the total amount of money that you received from these donations on your financial statement.

The value of free political advertising, provided that such advertising is made available to all candidates and is in accordance with the *Broadcasting Act (Canada)* is not considered to be a contribution.

If you obtain a campaign loan from a bank or a recognized lending institution, the amount of the loan is not considered to be a contribution.

Who can make a contribution

You can accept contributions only from individuals who are residents of Ontario. Corporations and trade unions are not permitted to make contributions to candidates.

If your spouse is not a resident of Ontario, they can still make contributions to your campaign. They may not make contributions to any other candidate.

Groups such as clubs, associations or ratepayer's groups are not eligible to make contributions. The members of these groups may make individual contributions from their personal funds (as long as they are residents of Ontario).

Who cannot make a contribution

The following individuals and organizations are not permitted to make contributions to municipal council and school board campaigns:

- a corporation
- a trade union
- an individual who is not normally a resident in Ontario
- a federal political party, constituency association, or a registered candidate in a federal election
- a provincial political party, constituency association, or a registered candidate or leadership contestant
- a federal or provincial government, a municipality or a school board

When you can receive contributions

You can only accept contributions after the clerk has received your nomination, and you cannot accept contributions after your campaign period has finished. Any contributions received outside the campaign period must be returned to the contributor. If you cannot return the contribution to the contributor, you must turn it over to the clerk.

Contribution limits – contributions from yourself and your spouse

If you are running for municipal council, there is a limit on the total amount that you and your spouse may collectively contribute to your own campaign. The contribution limit is calculated based on the number of electors who are eligible to vote for the office that you are running for. The formula to calculate the limit is:

- for head of council: \$7,500 plus \$0.20 per eligible elector
- for council member: \$5,000 plus \$0.20 per eligible elector

There is a cap of \$25,000. If the formula results in a number greater than \$25,000, the limit will still be \$25,000.

The clerk will tell you what your self-funding limit is.

All of the contributions that you and your spouse make to your own campaign count towards this limit, including:

- contributions of money
- the value of goods or services that you or your spouse donate to the campaign
- the value of any inventory from the previous election that you use again in this campaign

This limit does not apply to school board trustee candidates.

Contribution limits – contributions from other people

There is a \$1,200 limit that applies to contributions from other individuals. If a person makes more than one contribution (for example, contributes money, contributes goods, and purchases a ticket to a fundraising event), the total value of all the contributions cannot exceed \$1,200.

If you are running for mayor in the City of Toronto, the limit is \$2,500.

The maximum total amount that a contributor can give to candidates in the same jurisdiction (for example, running for the same council or for the same school board) is \$5,000.

You are required to inform every contributor of the contribution limits. An easy way to ensure compliance is to include the contribution limits on the receipt that you provide for each contribution.

Only a contribution that is \$25 or less can be made in cash. All contributions above \$25 must be made by cheque, money order, or by a method that clearly shows where the funds came from (such as certain debit, credit or electronic transfer transactions).

Contribution receipts

You must issue a receipt for every contribution you receive. The receipt should show who made the contribution, the date, and the value. If the contribution was in goods or services, you must determine the value of the goods or services and issue a receipt for the full value.

If you receive a contribution from a joint account, the contribution can only come from one person. You must determine who is making the contribution and issue the receipt to that person.

You are required to list the names and addresses of every contributor who gives more than \$100 total to your campaign in your financial statement. You should keep a record of the names and addresses of every contributor, regardless of the value of their contribution, because the same contributor may make multiple contributions that end up totalling more than \$100.

Note: Contribution receipts are not tax receipts. Contributions to municipal council and school board campaigns cannot be credited against provincial or federal income taxes.

Returning ineligible contributions

You are required to return any contribution that was made or accepted in contravention of the [Municipal Elections Act, 1996](#), as soon as you learn that it was an ineligible contribution. If you cannot return the contribution, you must turn it over to the clerk.

Contributions should be returned or paid to the clerk if the contribution is:

- made outside your campaign period
- from an anonymous source (except for donations of \$25 or less at a fundraising event)
- from an ineligible source (someone who doesn't live in Ontario, a corporation, etc.)
- greater than the individual \$1,200 limit or the \$5,000 total limit per jurisdiction
- a cash contribution greater than \$25
- from funds that do not belong to the contributor who gave them to you

Unused contributions

If your campaign ends with a surplus, you can withdraw the value of contributions that you and your spouse made from the surplus. If you still have a surplus once you have withdrawn your contributions, the remaining surplus must be turned over to the clerk.

You are not permitted to refund eligible contributions made by anyone other than yourself or your spouse.

Contribution rebates

Your municipality may have a contribution rebate program. Contact your clerk for more information.

Contributions to municipal council and school board campaigns are not tax deductible.

Fundraising

Fundraising functions are events or activities held by you, or on your behalf, for the primary purpose of raising money for your campaign. If you hold an event to promote your campaign and you happen to receive some contributions or ask people to consider contributing to your campaign, this would not qualify as a fundraising event.

Similarly, if you have a sentence in your campaign brochure asking people to make a contribution or giving them information about how to contribute, this would not make the production of the brochure a fundraising expense since its primary purpose is to promote your campaign, not to raise money. Fundraisers can only be held during your campaign period. You must record the gross income (including ticket revenue and other revenue) and the expenses related to each event and activity on your campaign financial statement.

If you sell tickets to an event, the ticket price is considered to be a contribution to your campaign and you must issue a receipt to each person who purchases tickets. If the ticket price is higher than \$25, tickets cannot be paid for in cash.

Campaign income

If you raise funds by selling goods or services for more than fair market value, the difference between the fair market value and the amount paid is considered to be a contribution. If the good or service is sold for \$25 or less, the amount paid is considered to be campaign income that is not a contribution.

Campaign expenses

Expenses

Campaign expenses are the costs that you incur (or that a person such as your campaign manager incurs under your direction) during your campaign.

Reminder: the nomination fee is a personal expense rather than a campaign expense. It should not be reported on your campaign financial statement.

Expenses must be paid from your campaign bank account. If you use a credit card to pay for purchases, you should make sure that you keep clear records showing that the expense on the credit card was reimbursed from the campaign account.

Any taxes such as HST paid on purchases should be included in the amount of the expense.

You can incur expenses only during your campaign period, except for expenses related to the preparation of an auditor's report. If you are required to include an auditor's report with your financial statement, you may incur these expenses after the campaign period has ended. These expenses must also be reported on your financial statement.

Goods and services

Goods or services that are contributed to your campaign are also expenses. They should be treated as if the contributor gave you money and you went out and purchased the goods and services. You must record both the contribution and the expense.

Spending limits

Candidates are subject to two spending limits — a general limit, and a separate limit for expenses relating to parties and expressions of appreciation after voting day.

General spending limit

The general spending limit for your campaign is calculated based on the number of electors who are eligible to vote for the office that you are running for. The formula to calculate the limit is:

- for head of council: \$7,500 plus \$0.85 per eligible elector
- for council member or trustee: \$5,000 plus \$0.85 per eligible elector

When you file your nomination, the clerk will give you an estimate of your general spending limit. This estimate will be based on the number of electors in the previous election.

On or before September 30, 2026, the clerk must give you a final general spending limit which is based on the number of electors on the voters' list for the current election.

If the spending limit estimate that you received when you filed your nomination is higher than the final spending limit you receive in September, the estimate becomes your official spending limit.

While most of your expenses will be subject to the general spending limit, the following expenses are not:

- expenses related to holding a fundraising event or activity

- expenses relating to a recount
- expenses relating to a court action for a controverted election
- expenses relating to a compliance audit
- expenses incurred by a candidate with a disability that are directly related to the candidate's disability and would not have been incurred if not for the election
- audit and accounting fees

Note: Any materials, events or activities must have fundraising as the primary purpose in order to be exempt from the spending limit. An incidental mention of contributions is not enough to qualify as fundraising.

When the general spending limit applies

Your spending limit covers expenses that you incur between the beginning of your campaign and voting day. Expenses that you incur between the day after voting day and the end of your campaign are not subject to the spending limit.

Note: If you incur an expense before voting day, but don't get around to paying for it until after voting day, it would still be subject to the spending limit.

Spending limit for parties and expressions of appreciation

The spending limit for expenses related to holding parties and other expressions of appreciation after the close of voting is calculated as 10% of the amount of your general spending limit.

Expenses related to parties and expressions of appreciation are subject to the specific spending limit regardless of whether they are incurred before or after voting day.

Leftover campaign inventory

If you ran in the last municipal council or school board election and you want to reuse leftover goods such as signs or office supplies, you must establish the current market value of the goods – what it would cost you to purchase them today. You must record the current market value as an expense.

If you have inventory left at the end of your campaign it becomes your personal property. If you want to store materials such as signs for use in another election, any costs related to storage are personal costs, not campaign expenses.

Note to accountants: The value of all goods must be recorded as an expense regardless of whether the campaign ends with used or unused goods in inventory. Do not deduct the

value of unused goods from the campaign expenses, as this will result in the campaign having a surplus on paper that the candidate does not actually have.

Surplus and deficit

If your campaign has a surplus after you have refunded contributions made by yourself or your spouse, you must pay the surplus over to the clerk when you file your financial statement. The surplus will be held in trust, and you can use it if you incur expenses related to a compliance audit. If the surplus is not needed for these expenses, it becomes the property of the municipality or the school board.

If your campaign expenses are greater than your campaign income, your campaign will be in deficit.

Note: Ending your campaign with a deficit may result in questions being raised about how expenses were paid for, and whether you contributed more than your self-funding limit by paying outstanding expenses with personal funds.

Campaign advertisements

When campaign advertising appears in broadcast, print, electronic or other media, the broadcaster or publisher of the advertising must keep certain records:

- a written copy of the candidate's name, as well as the name, business address and telephone number of the individual who deals with the broadcaster or publisher under the direction of the candidate (this could be the candidate themselves)
- a copy of the advertisement (or the means of reproducing the advertisement for inspection)
- a statement of the charge made for its appearance

These records will be kept for four years after the date the advertisement appears.

Broadcasters and publishers must allow the public to inspect the records during this time.

If your campaign includes advertising that is broadcast or published, you must record the name of the broadcaster or publisher as well as their contact information in Schedule 3 of the campaign financial statement (Form 4).

Campaign financial statement

It is your responsibility as a candidate to file a **complete and accurate financial statement on time**.

The filing deadline is 2 p.m. on the last Friday in March following the election. Since March 26, 2027, falls on Good Friday and March 29, 2027, is Easter Monday, financial statements may be filed with the clerk until **2 p.m. on Tuesday, March 30, 2027**.

If you have a bookkeeper or accountant complete the financial statement for you, you are still responsible for ensuring that it is complete and accurate and filed on time.

Financial statements are not required to have original signatures. You should contact your clerk for information about whether you can file your financial statement electronically if you are not able to file your statement in person.

If you filed a nomination form, you must file a financial statement. This includes candidates who withdrew their nomination, candidates who were not certified and did not appear on the ballot, and candidates who were acclaimed.

If you did not receive any contributions (including contributions from yourself) or incur any expenses, you are only required to fill out the first page of the financial statement and sign it.

If you received contributions or incurred any expenses you must complete the relevant parts of the financial statement.

If your campaign contributions (including contributions from yourself) or campaign expenses are greater than \$10,000, you must have your financial statement audited and include the auditor's report when you submit your financial statement to the clerk.

Filing early

You can file your campaign financial statement after you have ended your campaign. If you file your statement early and then discover an error, you can submit a corrected statement at any time before the filing deadline on March 30, 2027. Your original statement is deemed to be withdrawn when you file the corrected statement. You cannot withdraw a financial statement without submitting a corrected one.

Applying for an extension

If you think that you will be unable to file your financial statement by the deadline, you may apply **before March 30, 2027**, to the Superior Court of Justice for an extension. If the court grants the extension, you will receive the refund of your nomination fee if you file by the deadline given to you by the court.

Grace period for filing

If you have not filed your financial statement by the deadline, you may file your financial statement within 30 days after the deadline if you pay the municipality a \$500 late filing fee. This grace period ends at 2 p.m. on Thursday, April 29, 2027. You will not receive a refund of your nomination fee if you file during the 30-day grace period.

If you have not filed your financial statement by the end of the 30-day grace period and you did not apply to the court for an extension prior to the deadline, automatic penalties apply:

- you will forfeit your elected office (if you won the election)
- you will be ineligible to run for office or be appointed to fill a vacancy until after the 2030 election

If you did not file your financial statement by the end of the grace period, you may still file it for the purposes of having your finances on the record. The clerk will accept the financial statement and make it available to the public. The penalties will still apply.

Separate statement for each office

If you filed a nomination and then changed your mind and filed a nomination for a different office, you may be required to file a separate financial statement for each campaign.

Extended campaigns

Your campaign period ends on December 31, 2026. However, if your campaign has a deficit, you can extend your campaign in order to do some additional fundraising. If you want to extend your campaign, you must notify the clerk on or before December 31, 2026, using the [Notice of Extension of Campaign Period form \(Form 6\)](#).

Your campaign may be extended until June 30, 2027.

If you extend your campaign, you must file two financial statements:

- a financial statement reflecting your campaign until December 31, 2026, (due March 30, 2027)
- a supplementary financial statement that includes the information from your initial statement and adds financial information from your extended campaign

The supplementary financial statement must be filed with the clerk by 2 p.m. on Friday, September 24, 2027.

Auditor's report

You must have an auditor review your financial statement and provide a report if any of the following are true:

- your campaign expenses exceed \$10,000
- the contributions you received (including contributions from yourself) exceed a total of \$10,000
- both your expenses and your contributions exceed \$10,000 each

The auditor's report must be prepared by an auditor licensed under the [Public Accounting Act, 2004](#). Before you hire someone to prepare the report, ensure that they are properly qualified.

You can incur expenses relating to the auditor's report after December 31, 2026. These expenses do not count toward your spending limit. Include these expenses on the financial statement that you are filing.

Compliance and enforcement

Enforcement of the [Municipal Elections Act, 1996](#), is done through the courts. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing does not have a role in investigating elections or in determining penalties.

Automatic penalties

There are three contraventions of the [Municipal Elections Act, 1996](#), where penalties apply automatically:

1. if you fail to file a financial statement by the end of the 30-day grace period or fail to apply to the court before March 30, 2027, for an extension by the filing deadline
2. if your financial statement shows that you exceeded your spending limit
3. if you fail to turn over your surplus to the clerk when you file your financial statement

The penalty is that you forfeit your office (if you won the election) and you become ineligible to run or be appointed to fill a vacancy until after the 2030 election.

Compliance audits

Each municipality and school board must establish a compliance audit committee.

If an eligible elector believes that you have contravened the election finance rules, they may apply for a compliance audit of your campaign finances. The application must be in writing and must set out the reasons why they believe you contravened the rules.

An application for a compliance audit must be submitted to the municipal clerk who conducted the election within 90 days of the deadline to file the campaign financial statement.

The compliance audit committee will consider the application and decide whether to grant or reject the application. You may appeal the committee's decision to the Superior Court of Justice within 15 days after the decision is made.

If the committee grants the application, it will appoint an auditor to conduct a compliance audit of your campaign finances. The auditor is entitled to have access to all of the financial records related to your campaign. The auditor will produce a report, which you are entitled to receive.

The compliance audit committee will meet to consider the auditor's report. If the report concludes that there is an apparent contravention of the [Municipal Elections Act, 1996](#), the committee will decide whether to commence legal action.

The compliance audit committee does not have any authority to set penalties. Only the court can decide if you contravened the Act and, if so, which penalties should apply.

A person who does not want or who is not able to apply for a compliance audit may decide to commence legal action on their own. A prosecution related to the 2026 election must be commenced by November 15, 2030.

Penalties

If you are convicted of an offence, you may be subject to the following penalties:

- a fine of up to \$25,000
- ineligibility to vote or run in the next general election
- up to six months in prison
- forfeiture of your elected office, if the judge finds that you committed the offence knowingly

If you are convicted of exceeding the spending limit, you may also be fined the amount by which you exceeded the limit.

Completing the financial statement

General information

All candidates must file a financial statement. This includes candidates who withdrew their nomination, candidates who were not certified and did not appear on the ballot, and candidates who were acclaimed.

Candidates must use [Form 4](#).

All candidates must complete Box A: Name of Candidate and Office and Box B: Declaration.

- **If you did not receive any contributions** (including contributions from yourself) or incur any expenses, check the box indicating this, and complete the Declaration in Box B. No further information is required.
- **If you did receive contributions** (including contributions from yourself) or incur expenses, you must fill in the information in Box C, Box D, Schedule 1 and Schedule 2, as appropriate. You may find it easier to fill out the form if you start with the more detailed sections such as the tables in Schedule 1 before filling in Box C (Statement of Campaign Income and Expenses).

If you received contributions or incurred expenses in excess of \$10,000, you must include an auditor's report with your financial statement.

Your completed financial statement must be submitted to the clerk by **2 p.m. on Tuesday, March 30, 2027**.

Supplementary financial statements must be submitted to the clerk by **2 p.m. on September 24, 2027**.

Tips for completing Form 4

Learn more about how to correctly fill out the campaign financial statement.

Box A: Name of candidate and office

Record your general spending limit and your spending limit for parties and other expressions of appreciation.

Note: automatic penalties will apply if the form reports that either of the spending limits have been exceeded.

If you are running for a council position, record your self-funding limit.

Box B: Declaration

By signing the form, you are declaring that the information recorded in the financial statement is true and accurate. If your financial statement was prepared by someone else, you as the candidate are still responsible for its accuracy.

Box C: Statement of campaign income and expenses

Loan

If you obtained a loan for your campaign, you must record the name of the bank or recognized lending institution and the amount borrowed.

You are permitted to get a loan only from a bank or other recognized lending institution in Ontario, and it must be paid directly into your campaign bank account. You may not receive a loan from family members or from any corporate accounts that you may have access to.

The loan is not considered to be campaign income, and paying it back is not a campaign expense. However, if you or your spouse guarantee the loan and the campaign does not repay all of it, the remaining balance is considered to be a contribution (since the guarantor is basically providing the campaign the means to repay the loan). This amount counts towards your self-funding limit.

Any interest that the campaign pays on the loan is a campaign expense.

Income

Your campaign income includes all contributions received from yourself, your spouse and other eligible contributors. This includes the value of contributions of goods and services. Income also includes any refunds of deposits, interest earned by your campaign bank account, and revenue from fundraising events or activities that is not deemed a contribution (for example, if you sold refreshments at market value).

Example

You have 100 t-shirts printed to sell at a fundraiser. The cost to the campaign is \$10 per shirt, and you sell them for \$25 each.

The \$25 is not a contribution. You do not have to collect names and contact information, or issue a contribution receipt to anyone who buys a shirt.

The \$1,000 that you spent on the shirts must be recorded as a campaign expense.

The \$2,500 that you raised by selling the shirts must be recorded as revenue from fundraising events not deemed a contribution.

If you sell goods (such as food and drink) at market value, the revenue is not considered to be a contribution and must be recorded as revenue from fundraising events not deemed a contribution.

Sign deposit

If your municipality requires a deposit for election signs, this should be recorded as a campaign expense and paid for using campaign funds. If your deposit is refunded, record the amount under Income.

Expenses

Your campaign expenses include the value of any goods or services that have been contributed to your campaign (it is as if the contributor gave money to the campaign, which the campaign then spent on acquiring the goods or services).

The general spending limit applies only to expenses incurred until the end of voting day. Expenses incurred after voting day are not subject to the spending limit.

Note: An expense subject to the general spending limit that was incurred prior to voting day but not paid for until after voting day is still subject to the limit.

Some types of expenses are not subject to the general spending limit even if they are incurred prior to voting day.

Expenses related to parties and expressions of appreciation after voting day are subject to that spending limit regardless of when they are incurred.

Box D: Calculation of surplus or deficit

Campaign deficit

At the top of Box D, you must subtract the total amount of your campaign expenses from the total amount of your campaign income. If your expenses are greater than your income, your campaign is in deficit.

If you have extended your campaign in order to fundraise, you must still file a financial statement reflecting your campaign finances to December 31, 2026.

Campaign surplus

At the top of Box D, you must subtract the total amount of your campaign expenses from the total amount of your campaign income. If your income is greater than your expenses, your campaign has a surplus.

You are entitled to reimburse contributions made by yourself or your spouse out of the surplus. For example, if the surplus was \$500 and you contributed \$400 to your campaign, you may deduct that \$400, leaving your campaign with a surplus of \$100. If the surplus was \$500 and you contributed \$600, you may deduct \$500 of your contribution, leaving your campaign with \$0. You may not deduct more than the value of the surplus.

If, after deducting contributions made by yourself or your spouse, the campaign still has a surplus, these funds must be turned over to the clerk.

Schedule 1: Contributions

Schedule 1 includes a summary of contributions from your campaign.

The following tables are included in Schedule 1 and need to be filled in, if applicable:

- Table 1: Contributions in goods or services from candidate or spouse
- Table 2: Inventory of campaign goods and materials from previous municipal campaign used in this campaign
- Table 3: Monetary contributions from individuals other than candidate or spouse where contributions exceed \$100 per contributor
- Table 4: Contributions in goods or services from individuals other than candidate or spouse where contributions exceed \$100 per contributor

Contributions from yourself and/or your spouse

If you are running for municipal council, you and your spouse are subject to limits on how much you can contribute to your campaign. This limit applies to contributions of money, goods and services, as well as the value of any inventory from a previous campaign that you have used in your current campaign.

Record these amounts on the lines provided in Schedule 1. Do not include them in the tables of contributions (Table 1 or Table 2). The other reason to identify the contributions from you and your spouse is because those contributions can be reimbursed by you and your spouse if the campaign ends with a surplus.

Note: you must report the full amount of the contributions made by you and your spouse, including any amounts that have been reimbursed from a surplus.

Contributions totalling \$100 or less

If the total amount contributed (including the value of goods and services) from a single contributor is \$100 or less, you do not need to provide details on the form. Simply indicate the total value of all such contributions on the line provided at the top of Schedule 1.

If an anonymous contribution is \$100 or less, include it in the total value of contributions not exceeding \$100 per contributor. Any anonymous contribution that is greater than \$25 must be turned over to the clerk.

Goods and services from candidate or spouse

If you or your spouse contribute goods and services to your campaign, this must be recorded as a contribution. Record any contributions in Table 1 of Schedule 1.

Inventory from previous campaign

Any inventory from a previous campaign that you are using again is a contribution in goods that you make to your campaign and counts towards your self-funding limit. You must calculate the current market value (for example, if you have 100 signs left over from 2022 and use them again, you must calculate how much it would cost to purchase those same signs in 2026) and record it in Table 2. This inventory must also be recorded as a campaign expense.

Contributions totalling more than \$100

If a contributor makes 1 or more contributions totalling more than \$100 (including the value of goods and services and the cost of tickets to fundraising events), you must record all of these contributions in the tables provided in Schedule 1 (Tables 3 and 4).

If an anonymous contribution is more than \$100, include it in the total value of contributions exceeding \$100 per contributor, and include it in Table 3 (listing “anonymous” as the name of the contributor). Any anonymous contribution that is greater than \$25 must be turned over to the clerk.

Note: it is the total amount contributed that matters — if an individual buys a ticket to a fundraising event for \$50, and then later in the campaign contributes \$75, each of these contributions must be recorded in Table 3 because the total exceeds \$100.

Goods and services from individuals other than candidate or spouse

Eligible contributors may donate goods and services to the campaign. These must be recorded as a contribution and as an expense (as if the contributor donated money, which the campaign then spent on the goods and services).

Corporations and trade unions are not permitted to make contributions to candidates. This includes contributions of goods and services.

Example:

Your friend spends \$150 on coffee and baked goods which they donate for a campaign event. You should record a contribution of \$150 in goods or services from your friend and record an expense of \$150.

If you are given a special discount on a good or service that you are purchasing for your campaign, you should record the expense as if you were not given the discount (since the value of the discount is considered to be a contribution of the good or service to your campaign).

Example:

Your order for campaign signs would normally cost \$500, but the vendor lets you have them for \$300 because he wants to help your campaign. You should record an expense of \$500 for the signs and record a contribution of \$200 in goods or services from the vendor.

Note: As businesses are not permitted to make contributions, the contribution would have to be a personal contribution from the vendor.

Contributions in goods or services from individuals other than the candidate or spouse must be recorded in Table 4 of Schedule 1.

Schedule 2: Fundraising events and activities

The cost of holding fundraising events or activities is not subject to the spending limit. However, in order to be considered a fundraising cost, the primary purpose for the expense must be related to fundraising rather than promoting the candidate. Incidental fundraising that happens to occur during a promotional event is not sufficient to make it a fundraising event. Similarly, a line at the bottom of a campaign brochure asking people to donate does not make the production of the brochure a fundraising expense.

If you have included costs of fundraising events/activities as an expense in Box C, you must provide details of these events and activities in Schedule 2.

Contributions received at a fundraising event may include:

- the price of the ticket
- if goods or services are offered for sale, any amount of money paid that exceeds their market value (for example, if a \$100 item is sold for \$175, the purchaser has made a \$75 contribution to the campaign)
- personal cheques collected from contributors at the event

If contributors have donated goods or services for the fundraising event, these must be recorded as contributions and as expenses.

These contributions must be recorded in Schedule 1, and where the total from a contributor exceeds \$100, be detailed in the appropriate tables. Refer to the section above [Schedule 1: Contributions](#) for more information.

The fundraising event may also generate revenue that is not considered to be a contribution:

- donations of \$25 or less
- if goods or services are offered for sale, the market value of those goods and services sold (for example, if a \$100 item is sold for \$175, \$100 is revenue)
- the amount paid for goods or services offered for sale for \$25 or less

Anonymous contributions

You may keep anonymous contributions that do not exceed \$25 each that are received at a fundraiser (such as those collected by passing the hat or having a tip jar). Report the total amount of money received from these donations in Schedule 2 for that fundraiser.

All other anonymous contributions must be turned over to the clerk.

You will then subtract the contribution as paid or payable to the clerk to arrive at the Total for Part II Contributions in Schedule 2.

Schedule 3: Broadcasters and publishers

If your campaign had any advertising that was broadcast or published, you must record the name of each broadcaster and publisher, along with their contact information.

Auditor's report

If your campaign expenses or the contributions you received total more than \$10,000, you must have an auditor review your financial statement and provide a report.

The auditor's report must be prepared by an auditor licensed under the [Public Accounting Act, 2004](#). Before you hire someone to prepare the report, you should ensure that they are properly qualified.

Forms referred to in this guide

You can get copies of forms from your municipal clerk, or you can download them from the [Government of Ontario's Central Form Repository](#).

[Nomination Paper \(Form 1\)](#)

[Endorsement of Nomination \(Form 2\)](#)

[Financial Statement – Auditor’s Report – Candidate \(Form 4\)](#)

[Financial Statement – Subsequent Expenses \(Form 5\)](#)

[Notice of Extension of Campaign Period \(Form 6\)](#)



The Municipality of West Elgin

22413 Hoskins Line, Rodney, Ontario N0L 2C0

May 1, 2026

To: Financial Institution

Re: Municipal Election Campaign Account

A candidate, running in the 2026 Municipal Election, is required under the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* to open an account in the name of their campaign (for example: "Campaign for John Doe" or "John Doe's Campaign").

The Act does not contain any prohibition against a municipal candidate being a signing officer on the campaign account, nor does it require the candidate to have a chief financial officer, as is the case with provincial and federal candidates.

Section 88.22(1) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* states:

"A candidate shall ensure that:

(a) no contributions of money are accepted or expenses are incurred unless one or more campaign accounts are first opened at a financial institution exclusively for the purposes of the election campaign;

(b) all contributions of money are deposited into the campaign accounts;

(c) all funds in the campaign accounts are used exclusively for the purposes of the election campaign;

(d) all payments for expenses are made from the campaign accounts;"

Should you have any questions on this matter, please contact me directly at 519-785-0560, ext. 222.

Sincerely,

Terri Towstiu
Manager of Community Services/Clerk

Municipal Conflict of Interest Act

R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER M.50

Consolidation Period: From April 1, 2024 to the [e-Laws currency date](#).

Last amendment: 2022, c. 18, Sched. 3.

Legislative History: 1994, c. 23, s. 2; 1996, c. 32, s. 76; 1997, c. 25, Sched. E, s. 7; 1997, c. 31, s. 156; 1999, c. 6, s. 41; 2002, c. 17, Sched. F, Table; 2005, c. 5, s. 45; 2006, c. 19, Sched. C, s. 1 (1); 2006, c. 32, Sched. C, s. 33; 2006, c. 32, Sched. D, s. 10; 2007, c. 7, Sched. 27; 2007, c. 8, s. 219; 2009, c. 33, Sched. 21, s. 7; 2016, c. 23, s. 58; 2017, c. 10, Sched. 3; 2018, c. 3, Sched. 5, s. 37 (see: 2019, c. 1, Sched. 3, s. 5); 2019, c. 1, Sched. 4, s. 35; 2021, c. 4, Sched. 11, s. 23; 2022, c. 18, Sched. 3.

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Definitions

1 In this Act,

“child” means a child born within or outside marriage and includes an adopted child and a person whom a parent has demonstrated a settled intention to treat as a child of his or her family; (“enfant”)

“controlling interest” means the interest that a person has in a corporation when the person beneficially owns, directly or indirectly, or exercises control or direction over, equity shares of the corporation carrying more than 10 per cent of the voting rights attached to all equity shares of the corporation for the time being outstanding; (“intérêts majoritaires”)

“council” means the council of a municipality; (“conseil”)

“elector” means,

- (a) in respect of a municipality, or a local board thereof, other than a school board, a person entitled to vote at a municipal election in the municipality, and

(b) in respect of a school board, a person entitled to vote at the election of members of the school board; (“électeur”)

“interest in common with electors generally” means a pecuniary interest in common with the electors within the area of jurisdiction and, where the matter under consideration affects only part of the area of jurisdiction, means a pecuniary interest in common with the electors within that part; (“intérêt commun à tous les électeurs”)

“judge” means a judge of the Superior Court of Justice; (“juge”)

“local board” means a school board, board of directors of a children’s aid society, committee of adjustment, conservation authority, court of revision, land division committee, municipal service board, public library board, board of management of an improvement area, board of health, police service board, planning board, district social services administration board, trustees of a police village, board of trustees of a police village, board or committee of management of a long-term care home, or any other board, commission, committee, body or local authority established or exercising any power or authority under any general or special Act in respect of any of the affairs or purposes, including school purposes, of one or more municipalities or parts thereof, but does not include a committee of management of a community recreation centre appointed by a school board or a local roads board; (“conseil local”)

“meeting” includes any regular, special, committee or other meeting of a council or local board, as the case may be; (“réunion”)

“member” means a member of a council or of a local board; (“membre”)

“municipality” includes a board, commission or other local authority exercising any power in respect of municipal affairs or purposes, including school purposes, in territory without municipal organization, but does not include a committee of management of a community recreation centre appointed by a school board, a local roads board or a local services board; (“municipalité”)

“parent” means a person who has demonstrated a settled intention to treat a child as a member of his or her family; (“parent”)

“school board” means a board as defined in subsection 1 (1) of the *Education Act*, and, where the context requires, includes an old board within the meaning of subsection 1 (1) of the *Education Act*; (“conseil scolaire”)

“senior officer” means the chair or any vice-chair of the board of directors, the president, any vice-president, the secretary, the treasurer or the general manager of a corporation or any other person who performs functions for the corporation similar to those normally performed by a person occupying any such office; (“dirigeant”)

“spouse” means a person to whom the person is married or with whom the person is living in a conjugal relationship outside marriage. (“conjoint”) R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50, s. 1; 1997, c. 25, Sched. E, s. 7; 1997, c. 31, s. 156 (1); 1999, c. 6, s. 41 (1); 2002, c. 17, Sched. F, Table; 2005, c. 5, s. 45 (1, 2); 2006, c. 19, Sched. C, s. 1 (1); 2006, c. 32, Sched. D, s. 10; 2007, c. 8, s. 219; 2016, c. 23, s. 58; 2019, c. 1, Sched. 4, s. 35; 2021, c. 4, Sched. 11, s. 23 (1-3).

Section Amendments with date in force (d/m/y)

1997, c. 31, s. 156 (1) - 01/01/1998; 1999, c. 6, s. 41 (1) - 01/03/2000

2002, c. 17, Sched. F, Table - 01/01/2003

2005, c. 5, s. 45 (1, 2) - 13/06/2005

2006, c. 19, Sched. C, s. 1 (1) - 22/06/2006; 2006, c. 32, Sched. D, s. 10 - 01/01/2007

2007, c. 8, s. 219 - 01/07/2010

2016, c. 23, s. 58 - 01/01/2017

2018, c. 3, Sched. 5, s. 37 - no effect - see 2019, c. 1, Sched. 3, s. 5 - 26/03/2019

2019, c. 1, Sched. 4, s. 35 - 01/04/2024

2021, c. 4, Sched. 11, s. 23 (1-3) - 19/04/2021

Principles

1.1 The Province of Ontario endorses the following principles in relation to the duties of members of councils and of local boards under this Act:

1. The importance of integrity, independence and accountability in local government decision-making.
2. The importance of certainty in reconciling the public duties and pecuniary interests of members.

3. Members are expected to perform their duties of office with integrity and impartiality in a manner that will bear the closest scrutiny.
4. There is a benefit to municipalities and local boards when members have a broad range of knowledge and continue to be active in their own communities, whether in business, in the practice of a profession, in community associations, and otherwise. 2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 1.

Section Amendments with date in force (d/m/y)

2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 1 - 01/03/2019

Indirect pecuniary interest

2 For the purposes of this Act, a member has an indirect pecuniary interest in any matter in which the council or local board, as the case may be, is concerned, if,

- (a) the member or his or her nominee,
 - (i) is a shareholder in, or a director or senior officer of, a corporation that does not offer its securities to the public,
 - (ii) has a controlling interest in or is a director or senior officer of, a corporation that offers its securities to the public,
or
 - (iii) is a member of a body,

that has a pecuniary interest in the matter; or

- (b) the member is a partner of a person or is in the employment of a person or body that has a pecuniary interest in the matter. R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50, s. 2.

Interest of certain persons deemed that of member

3 For the purposes of this Act, the pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, of a parent or the spouse or any child of the member shall, if known to the member, be deemed to be also the pecuniary interest of the member. R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50, s. 3; 1999, c. 6, s. 41 (2); 2005, c. 5, s. 45 (3); 2021, c. 4, Sched. 11, s. 23 (4).

Section Amendments with date in force (d/m/y)

1999, c. 6, s. 41 (2) - 01/03/2000

2005, c. 5, s. 45 (3) - 13/06/2005

2021, c. 4, Sched. 11, s. 23 (4) - 19/04/2021

EXCEPTIONS

Where ss. 5, 5.2 and 5.3 do not apply

4 Sections 5, 5.2 and 5.3 do not apply to a pecuniary interest in any matter that a member may have,

- (a) as a user of any public utility service supplied to the member by the municipality or local board in like manner and subject to the like conditions as are applicable in the case of persons who are not members;
- (b) by reason of the member being entitled to receive on terms common to other persons any service or commodity or any subsidy, loan or other such benefit offered by the municipality or local board;
- (c) by reason of the member purchasing or owning a debenture of the municipality or local board;
- (d) by reason of the member having made a deposit with the municipality or local board, the whole or part of which is or may be returnable to the member in like manner as such a deposit is or may be returnable to all other electors;
- (e) by reason of having an interest in any property affected by a work under the *Drainage Act* or by a work under a regulation made under Part XII of the *Municipal Act, 2001* or Part IX of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*, as the case may be, relating to local improvements;
- (f) by reason of having an interest in farm lands that are exempted from taxation for certain expenditures under the *Assessment Act*;
- (g) by reason of the member being eligible for election or appointment to fill a vacancy, office or position in the council or local board when the council or local board is empowered or required by any general or special Act to fill such vacancy, office or position;

- (h) by reason only of the member being a director or senior officer of a corporation incorporated for the purpose of carrying on business for and on behalf of the municipality or local board or by reason only of the member being a member of a board, commission, or other body as an appointee of a council or local board;
- (i) in respect of an allowance for attendance at meetings, or any other allowance, honorarium, remuneration, salary or benefit to which the member may be entitled by reason of being a member or as a member of a volunteer fire brigade, as the case may be;
- (j) by reason of the member having a pecuniary interest which is an interest in common with electors generally; or
- (k) by reason only of an interest of the member which is so remote or insignificant in its nature that it cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to influence the member. R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50, s. 4; 2002, c. 17, Sched. F, Table; 2006, c. 32, Sched. C, s. 33 (1); 2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 2; 2022, c. 18, Sched. 3, s. 1.

Section Amendments with date in force (d/m/y)

2002, c. 17, Sched. F, Table - 01/01/2003

2006, c. 32, Sched. C, s. 33 (1) - 01/01/2007

2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 2 - 01/03/2019

2022, c. 18, Sched. 3, s. 1 - 23/11/2022

DUTY OF MEMBER

When present at meeting at which matter considered

5 (1) Where a member, either on his or her own behalf or while acting for, by, with or through another, has any pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in any matter and is present at a meeting of the council or local board at which the matter is the subject of consideration, the member,

- (a) shall, prior to any consideration of the matter at the meeting, disclose the interest and the general nature thereof;
- (b) shall not take part in the discussion of, or vote on any question in respect of the matter; and
- (c) shall not attempt in any way whether before, during or after the meeting to influence the voting on any such question. R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50, s. 5 (1).

Where member to leave closed meeting

(2) Where the meeting referred to in subsection (1) is not open to the public, in addition to complying with the requirements of that subsection, the member shall forthwith leave the meeting or the part of the meeting during which the matter is under consideration. R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50, s. 5 (2).

Exception, consideration of penalty

(2.1) The following rules apply if the matter under consideration at a meeting or a part of a meeting is to consider whether to suspend the remuneration paid to the member under subsection 223.4 (5) or (6) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* or under subsection 160 (5) or (6) of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*:

1. Despite clauses (1) (b) and (c), the member may take part in the discussion of the matter, including making submissions to council or the local board, as the case may be, and may attempt to influence the voting on any question in respect of the matter, whether before, during or after the meeting. However, the member is not permitted to vote on any question in respect of the matter.
2. Despite subsection (2), in the case of a meeting that is not open to the public, the member may attend the meeting or part of the meeting during which the matter is under consideration. 2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 3.

When absent from meeting at which matter considered

(3) Where the interest of a member has not been disclosed as required by subsection (1) by reason of the member's absence from the meeting referred to therein, the member shall disclose the interest and otherwise comply with subsection (1) at the first meeting of the council or local board, as the case may be, attended by the member after the meeting referred to in subsection (1). R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50, s. 5 (3).

Section Amendments with date in force (d/m/y)

2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 3 - 01/03/2019

Written statement re disclosure

5.1 At a meeting at which a member discloses an interest under section 5, or as soon as possible afterwards, the member shall file a written statement of the interest and its general nature with the clerk of the municipality or the secretary of the committee or local board, as the case may be. 2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 4.

Section Amendments with date in force (d/m/y)

2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 4 - 01/03/2019

Influence

5.2 (1) Where a member, either on his or her own behalf or while acting for, by, with or through another, has any pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in any matter that is being considered by an officer or employee of the municipality or local board, or by a person or body to which the municipality or local board has delegated a power or duty, the member shall not use his or her office in any way to attempt to influence any decision or recommendation that results from consideration of the matter. 2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 4.

Exception

(2) However, if a municipality delegates a power to suspend the remuneration paid to a member under subsection 223.4 (5) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* or subsection 160 (5) of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* to a person or body, and the person or body is considering exercising that power with respect to a member, subsection (1) of this section does not prevent the member from attempting to influence any decision or recommendation of the person or body that results from consideration of the matter. 2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 4.

Section Amendments with date in force (d/m/y)

2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 4 - 01/03/2019

Head of council

5.3 (1) Where a head of council of a municipality either on their own behalf or while acting for, by, with or through another, has any pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in any matter of the municipality and has a power or duty listed in subsection (2) with respect to the matter, the head of council,

- (a) shall, upon becoming aware of the interest in the matter, disclose the interest by filing a written statement of the interest and its general nature with the clerk of the municipality;
- (b) shall not use the power or exercise the duty with respect to the matter; and
- (c) shall not use their office in any way to attempt to influence any decision or recommendation of the municipality that results from consideration of the matter. 2022, c. 18, Sched. 3, s. 2.

Same

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the powers and duties are the powers and duties of a head of council in Part VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* and Part VI.1 of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* but do not include the power to delegate in section 284.13 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* and section 226.11 of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*. 2022, c. 18, Sched. 3, s. 2.

Section Amendments with date in force (d/m/y)

2022, c. 18, Sched. 3, s. 2 - 23/11/2022

RECORD OF DISCLOSURE

Disclosure to be recorded in minutes

6 (1) Every declaration of interest and the general nature thereof made under section 5 shall, where the meeting is open to the public, be recorded in the minutes of the meeting by the clerk of the municipality or secretary of the committee or local board, as the case may be. R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50, s. 6 (1).

Idem

(2) Every declaration of interest made under section 5, but not the general nature of that interest, shall, where the meeting is not open to the public, be recorded in the minutes of the next meeting that is open to the public. R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50, s. 6 (2).

REGISTRY

Requirement to establish registry

- 6.1** (1) Every municipality and local board shall establish and maintain a registry in which shall be kept,
- (a) a copy of each statement filed under section 5.1 or 5.3; and
 - (b) a copy of each declaration recorded under section 6. 2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 5; 2022, c. 18, Sched. 3, s. 3.

Access to registry

- (2) The registry shall be available for public inspection in the manner and during the time that the municipality or local board, as the case may be, may determine. 2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 5.

Section Amendments with date in force (d/m/y)

2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 5 - 01/03/2019

2022, c. 18, Sched. 3, s. 3 - 23/11/2022

REMEDY FOR LACK OF QUORUM

Quorum deemed constituted

- 7** (1) Where the number of members who, by reason of the provisions of this Act, are disabled from participating in a meeting is such that at that meeting the remaining members are not of sufficient number to constitute a quorum, then, despite any other general or special Act, the remaining number of members shall be deemed to constitute a quorum, provided such number is not less than two. R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50, s. 7 (1).

Application to judge

- (2) Where in the circumstances mentioned in subsection (1), the remaining number of members who are not disabled from participating in the meeting is less than two, the council or local board may apply to a judge without notice for an order authorizing the council or local board, as the case may be, to give consideration to, discuss and vote on the matter out of which the interest arises. R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50, s. 7 (2).

Power of judge to declare s. 5, 5.1 or 5.2 not to apply

- (3) The judge may, on an application brought under subsection (2), by order, declare that section 5, 5.1 or 5.2 does not apply to the council or local board, as the case may be, in respect of the matter in relation to which the application is brought, and the council or local board thereupon may give consideration to, discuss and vote on the matter in the same manner as though none of the members had any interest therein, subject only to such conditions and directions as the judge may consider appropriate and so order. R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50, s. 7 (3); 2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 6.

Section Amendments with date in force (d/m/y)

2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 6 - 01/03/2019

ACTION WHERE CONTRAVENTION ALLEGED

Application

- 8** (1) An elector, an Integrity Commissioner of a municipality or a person demonstrably acting in the public interest may apply to a judge for a determination of the question of whether,
- (a) a member has contravened section 5, 5.1, 5.2 or 5.3; or
 - (b) a former member contravened section 5, 5.1, 5.2 or 5.3 while he or she was a member. 2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 7; 2022, c. 18, Sched. 3, s. 4.

Six-week period

- (2) An application may only be made within six weeks after the applicant became aware of the alleged contravention. 2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 7.

Exception

- (3) Despite subsection (2), an application may be made more than six weeks after the applicant became aware of the alleged contravention if all of the following conditions are satisfied:
1. The applicant applied to an Integrity Commissioner for an inquiry under section 223.4.1 of the Municipal Act, 2001 or under section 160.1 of the City of Toronto Act, 2006 in accordance with those sections.

2. The Integrity Commissioner conducted an inquiry under section 223.4.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* or under section 160.1 of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* and the Commissioner,
 - i. has advised the applicant under subsection 223.4.1 (16) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* or under subsection 160.1 (16) of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* that the Commissioner will not be making an application to a judge,
 - ii. has not completed the inquiry within the time limit set out in subsection 223.4.1 (14) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* or subsection 160.1 (14) of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*, or
 - iii. has terminated the inquiry under subsection 223.4.1 (12) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* or subsection 160.1 (12) of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*.
3. The application under this section includes a copy of the applicant's statutory declaration made under subsection 223.4.1 (6) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* or under subsection 160.1 (6) of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*.
4. The application under this section is made within six weeks after the earlier of the following,
 - i. the day the Commissioner advised the applicant under subsection 223.4.1 (16) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* or under subsection 160.1 (16) of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* that the Commissioner will not be making an application to a judge,
 - ii. the last day on which the Commissioner is required under subsection 223.4.1 (14) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* or subsection 160.1 (14) of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* to complete the inquiry referred to in paragraph 2 of this subsection, and
 - iii. the day the inquiry was terminated under subsection 223.4.1 (12) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* or subsection 160.1 (12) of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*. 2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 7.

Same, application by Integrity Commissioner

(4) Despite subsection (2), an application may be made more than six weeks after the applicant became aware of the alleged contravention if the applicant is an Integrity Commissioner and if the application relates to an inquiry conducted by the Commissioner under section 223.4.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* or under section 160.1 of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*. 2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 7.

No application by Integrity Commissioner during regular election

(5) No application shall be made by an Integrity Commissioner of a municipality during the period of time starting on nomination day for a regular election, as set out in section 31 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, and ending on voting day in a regular election, as set out in section 5 of that Act. 2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 7.

Limitation

(6) Despite subsections (2), (3) and (4), no application shall be made after the sixth anniversary of the alleged contravention. 2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 7.

Contents of notice of application

(7) The notice of application shall state the grounds for finding that the member or former member contravened section 5, 5.1, 5.2 or 5.3. 2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 7; 2022, c. 18, Sched. 3, s. 4.

Section Amendments with date in force (d/m/y)

2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 7 - 01/03/2019

2022, c. 18, Sched. 3, s. 4 - 23/11/2022

Power of judge

9 (1) If the judge determines that the member or former member contravened section 5, 5.1, 5.2 or 5.3, the judge may do any or all of the following:

1. Reprimand the member or former member.
2. Suspend the remuneration paid to the member for a period of up to 90 days.
3. Declare the member's seat vacant.
4. Disqualify the member or former member from being a member during a period of not more than seven years after the date of the order.

5. If the contravention has resulted in personal financial gain, require the member or former member to make restitution to the party suffering the loss, or, if the party's identity is not readily ascertainable, to the municipality or local board, as the case may be. 2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 7; 2022, c. 18, Sched. 3, s. 4.

Same

(2) In exercising his or her discretion under subsection (1) the judge may consider, among other matters, whether the member or former member,

- (a) took reasonable measures to prevent the contravention;
- (b) disclosed the pecuniary interest and all relevant facts known to him or her to an Integrity Commissioner in a request for advice from the Commissioner under the *Municipal Act, 2001* or the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* and acted in accordance with the advice, if any, provided to the member by the Commissioner; or
- (c) committed the contravention through inadvertence or by reason of an error in judgment made in good faith. 2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 7.

Section Amendments with date in force (d/m/y)

2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 7 - 01/03/2019

2022, c. 18, Sched. 3, s. 4 - 23/11/2022

10 REPEALED: 2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 7.

Section Amendments with date in force (d/m/y)

1997, c. 31, s. 156 (2) - 01/01/1998

2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 7 - 01/03/2019

Appeal to Divisional Court

11 (1) An appeal lies from any order made under section 9 to the Divisional Court in accordance with the rules of court. R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50, s. 11 (1); 2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 8.

Judgment or new trial

(2) The Divisional Court may give any judgment that ought to have been pronounced, in which case its decision is final, or the Divisional Court may grant a new trial for the purpose of taking evidence or additional evidence and may remit the case to the trial judge or another judge and, subject to any directions of the Divisional Court, the case shall be proceeded with as if there had been no appeal. R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50, s. 11 (2).

Appeal from order or new trial

(3) Where the case is remitted to a judge under subsection (2), an appeal lies from the order of the judge to the Divisional Court in accordance with the provisions of this section. R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50, s. 11 (3).

Section Amendments with date in force (d/m/y)

2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 8 - 01/03/2019

Proceedings not invalidated but voidable

12 (1) A member's failure to comply with section 5, 5.1, 5.2 or 5.3 does not invalidate any proceedings in respect of a matter referred to in those sections, but those proceedings are voidable in the circumstances described in subsection (2). 2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 9; 2022, c. 18, Sched. 3, s. 4.

Declaring proceedings void

(2) Subject to subsection (3), if a member has failed to comply with section 5, 5.1, 5.2 or 5.3 in respect of a matter referred to in those sections, the municipality or local board, as the case may be, may declare the proceedings to be void before the second anniversary of the date of the passing of the by-law or resolution authorizing the matter. 2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 9; 2022, c. 18, Sched. 3, s. 4.

Exception

(3) Subsection (2) does not apply if declaring the proceedings to be void would adversely affect the rights that any person who acted in good faith and without actual notice of the failure to comply with section 5, 5.1, 5.2 or 5.3 acquired under or by virtue of the proceedings. 2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 9; 2022, c. 18, Sched. 3, s. 4.

Section Amendments with date in force (d/m/y)

2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 9 - 01/03/2019

2022, c. 18, Sched. 3, s. 4 - 23/11/2022

Other proceedings prohibited

13 (1) A proceeding that relates to a member's or former member's alleged conflict of interest and seeks a remedy described in subsection 9 (1) shall be brought only under this Act. 2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 9.

Same

(2) Subsection (1) does not affect the power of a municipality or a local board to reprimand a member or suspend a member's remuneration under subsection 223.4 (5) or (6) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* or under subsection 160 (5) or (6) of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*. 2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 9.

Section Amendments with date in force (d/m/y)

2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 9 - 01/03/2019

GENERAL

Insurance

14 (1) Despite section 279 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* or section 218 of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*, as the case may be, the council of every municipality may at any time pass by-laws,

- (a) for contracting for insurance;
- (b) despite the *Insurance Act*, to enable the municipality to act as an insurer; and
- (c) for exchanging with other municipalities in Ontario reciprocal contracts of indemnity or inter-insurance in accordance with Part XIII of the *Insurance Act*,

to protect a member of the council or of any local board thereof who has been found not to have contravened section 5, 5.1, 5.2 or 5.3 against any costs or expenses incurred by the member as a result of a proceeding brought under this Act, and for paying on behalf of or reimbursing the member for any such costs or expenses. R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50, s. 14 (1); 2002, c. 17, Sched. F, Table; 2006, c. 32, Sched. C, s. 33 (2); 2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 10 (1); 2022, c. 18, Sched. 3, s. 4.

Insurance Act does not apply

(2) The *Insurance Act* does not apply to a municipality acting as an insurer for the purposes of subsection (1). R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50, s. 14 (2).

Surplus funds

(3) Despite section 387 of the *Insurance Act*, any surplus funds and the reserve fund of a municipal reciprocal exchange may be invested only in accordance with subsection 279 (2) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* or subsection 218 (3) of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*, as the case may be. 2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 10 (2).

Reserve funds

(4) The money raised for a reserve fund of a municipal reciprocal exchange may be expended or pledged for, or applied to, a purpose other than that for which the fund was established if two-thirds of the municipalities that are members of the exchange together with two-thirds of the municipalities that previously were members of the exchange and that may be subject to claims arising while they were members of the exchange agree in writing and if section 386 of the *Insurance Act* is complied with. R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50, s. 14 (4); 2009, c. 33, Sched. 21, s. 7.

Local boards

(5) A local board has the same powers to provide insurance for or to make payments to or on behalf of its members as are conferred upon the council of a municipality under this section in respect of its members. R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50, s. 14 (5).

Former members

(6) A by-law passed under this section may provide that it applies to a person who was a member at the time the circumstances giving rise to the proceeding occurred but who, prior to the judgment in the proceeding, has ceased to be a member. R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50, s. 14 (6).

Section Amendments with date in force (d/m/y)

1996, c. 32, s. 76 (1) - 06/03/1997

2002, c. 17, Sched. F, Table - 01/01/2003

2006, c. 32, Sched. C, s. 33 (2, 3) - 01/01/2007

2007, c. 7, Sched. 27, s. 1 - 05/05/2008

2009, c. 33, Sched. 21, s. 7 - 15/12/2009

2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 10 (1) - 01/03/2019; 2017, c. 10, Sched. 3, s. 10 (2) - 01/03/2018

2022, c. 18, Sched. 3, s. 4 - 23/11/2022

Conflict with other Acts

15 In the event of conflict between any provision of this Act and any provision of any general or special Act, the provision of this Act prevails. R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50, s. 15.

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USE OF CORPORATE RESOURCES FOR ELECTION PURPOSES

Schedule A to By-law 2026-22

1.0 POLICY STATEMENT

- 1.1 Corporate resources, assets, and funding shall not be used for election-related purposes except where expressly permitted. The Municipality will maintain neutrality, ensure equal access to information, prevent promotion or opposition of any candidate, and apply restrictions consistently to municipal, provincial, and federal elections where applicable.

2.0 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- 2.1. This policy ensures the impartial and appropriate use of municipal resources and assets by prohibiting their use for any election-related activities, in accordance with the *Municipal Elections Act*, 1996. It reinforces that municipal resources, funds, operations, events, and facilities must remain non-partisan and cannot be used to support or oppose any candidate, campaign, or ballot question at the municipal, school board, provincial, or federal level.
- 2.2 This policy is in effect for the duration of any election or by-election campaign period.

3.0 DEFINITIONS

- 3.1 **Acclaimed:** means a Candidate elected by acclamation pursuant to section 37 of the Act.
- 3.2 **Act:** means the *Municipal Elections Act*, 1996, S.O. 1996, c. 32, as amended.
- 3.3 **Campaign Contribution:** Means anything of value (money, goods, or services) given to influence an election.
- 3.4 **Campaign Materials:** Any materials used to solicit votes or promote/oppose candidates (print, digital, signage, clothing, social media, etc.)
- 3.5 **Campaign-Related Activities:** Any activity meant to elicit support for a candidate or ballot question during an election period.

- 3.6 **Candidate:** means a person who has filed a nomination for an office pursuant to section 33 of the Act and includes a person who has filed a nomination for election to a school board pursuant to the Education Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2, as amended.
- 3.7 **Clerk:** means the Clerk of the Municipality or his/her designate.
- 3.8 **Corporate Resources:** Means real property, goods and/or services owned, controlled, leased, acquired, or operated by the Municipality including but not limited to facilities, parks, materials, equipment, monetary funds, technology, Municipality IT systems and resources, databases, intellectual property, and supplies
- 3.9 **Corporate Brand/Identifiers:** Municipality logo, crest, coat of arms, slogan, chain of office, or other official identifiers.
- 3.10 **Council:** means the Council of the Municipality of West Elgin.
- 3.11 **Election Period:** This begins when nomination papers are filed and ends December 31st (regular election) or 45 days after voting day (by-election).
- 3.12 **Member:** means a member of the Council of the Municipality of West Elgin and includes the Mayor of the Municipality.
- 3.13 **Municipality:** means the Municipality of West Elgin
- 3.14 **Municipal resources:** means real property, goods and/or services owned, controlled, leased, acquired, or operated by the Municipality including but not limited to: facilities, parks, materials, equipment, monetary funds, technology, Municipal IT systems and resources, databases, social media, intellectual property, and supplies.
- 3.15 **Nomination Day:** means the deadline to file a nomination pursuant to section 31 of the Act.
- 3.16 **Policy:** means this Use of Corporate Resources for Election Campaign Purposes
- 3.17 **Staff:** means all full-time and part-time persons hired by the Municipality, including but not limited to the Chief Administrative Officer, Managers, Supervisors, salaried employees, hourly employees, administrative staff, and contract, temporary, student, secondment, and co-operative placement staff.
- 3.18 **Voting Day:** means, in the case of a regular election, the fourth Monday in October in the year of the election -or- in the case of a by-election, the 45th day after Nomination Day, as noted in section 5 and subsection 65(4) of the Act.

4.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.1. Members of Council/Candidates
 - a) Understand, support, and comply with this policy, Council Code of Conduct, and related procedures.
 - b) Seek clarification of any aspect of this policy, as required, and seek independent legal advice, where appropriate.

4.2. Municipal Employees

- a) Ensure relevant requirements of this policy are fulfilled in any duties and activities undertaken in their official position as a Municipality employee
- b) Understand and support this policy and ensure accountability for their actions.
- c) Seek clarification of any aspect of this policy, as required.

4.3. Municipal Clerk

- a) Ensure the administration, communication, and interpretation of this policy.
- b) Receive and respond to any complaints, concerns, and inquiries/requests for guidance related to this policy.
- c) Delegate in writing any designate(s) assigned to administer any or all of this policy.
- d) Review this policy every term of Council through the Municipality's established policy review process and as required by changes to legislation. The Municipal Clerk is authorized to make minor administrative updates as may be necessary to maintain compliance with legislation, while respecting and preserving the intent of the policy.
- e) Provide guidance with respect to election-related matters in relation to this policy, and to issue in writing any interpretation on the application of this policy and any related approvals or prohibitions. Such guidance, interpretation, approvals, and prohibitions shall be based on the overarching legislative requirement for public funds and resources not to be used for any election-related purposes, including the promotion of or opposition to the candidacy of a person for elected office.

5.0 PROCEDURE

Corporate resources, assets or funding may not be used for any election-related purposes, except as identified in this policy.

5.1. Election Campaigning

- a) No person shall use Municipality resources for campaigning.
- b) Election campaign activities are not permitted at the Municipal Office (located at 22413 Hoskins Line, Rodney, ON, N0L 2C0).

- c) Candidates and Registered Third Parties may not rent any Municipal facilities for campaigning purposes, with the following exclusions for all facilities but the Municipal Office:
 - i. Use of Municipality facilities for all-candidates meetings or debates is permitted, provided that the rental fee is paid and all candidates for an office are invited to attend and participate.
- d) The Municipality will not host, organize, or advertise all-candidates meetings or debates.
- e) Election campaign signs or material may not be displayed in any Municipality owned or operated facilities, including on a road allowance.
- f) Registered candidates and registered third parties may attend municipal organized or funded events during a campaign period, but may not display or distribute any campaign materials, or engage in any election related activities.
- g) In any material printed, distributed, or paid for by the municipality, a candidate is not permitted to:
 - i. Be identified as a candidate or prospective candidate;
 - ii. Be featured in a manner that could reasonably be interpreted as promoting or opposing their candidacy;
 - iii. Include campaign-related messaging, slogans, or imagery; or
 - iv. Be referenced by name in a manner that provides them with an advantage over other candidates.

5.2 Use of Corporate Identifiers

- a) The Municipality's corporate logo, corporate branding, crest, chain of office, coat of arms, slogan, or other corporate identifiers or that of its affiliates, shall not be used by registered candidates or registered third parties for any election campaign-related purposes.
- b) Registered candidates and registered third parties may not use photographs, videos, electronic images, or graphics, produced by the municipality or its affiliates for any election campaign-related purposes.
- c) Corporate resources shall not be used for the development, creation, design, printing, or distribution (electronic or print) of:
 - i. Any material that illustrates that a member of Council or any other individual is registered or intends to run for office; or
 - ii. Any campaign material that makes reference to, or contains the name or photographs, or identifies registered candidates.
 - iii. Any material that is linked in any way to an election campaign (i.e. campaign messaging, a campaign logo, or a social media handle or

hashtag which links to campaign social media channels, websites and/or materials).

- d) Municipal records, lists, and files produced using Municipal resources, with the exception of those specifically made for the use of candidates and registered third party advertisers for election purposes in accordance with the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, may not be used by any candidates or registered third party advertisers, unless the database has already been released for public use.
- e) The Municipality will not publish any material used to promote individual campaigns

5.3 Municipal Staff

- a) In accordance with the Employee Code of Conduct, municipal staff and individuals employed by the offices of the elected officials, including any contractor providing services to the Municipality, shall not canvass or actively work for any registered candidate or registered third party during hours in which the staff/contractor is receiving compensation from the Municipality.

5.4 Municipal Services

- a) During a municipal election period, the following Municipal-based services shall be discontinued for Members of Council as of nomination day:
 - i. All development, creation, design, printing, or distribution of members' flyers, newsletters, advertisements, mail outs, publications, etc., whether electronic or print.
 - ii. Use of municipally owned or run assets and facilities, unless rented in accordance with municipal agreements and current rates and fees (as identified in Section 5.1.(c) of this Procedure).
 - iii. The prohibitions set out in Section 5.4.(a) of this procedure do not apply to a Member who is acclaimed, or who is retiring from office and, therefore, is not a candidate in the election.
- b) Corporate resources (such as municipally-issued laptops and email addresses) shall be provided to current Members of Council for Council related purposes and to serve their constituents and shall not be used to support an election campaign.
- c) Through the nomination period for Members of Council, and through the municipal election period for Members of Council who are registered candidates, any references made to the Member of Council in municipal communication materials or at the events itself shall be to the "Mayor", "Councillor", or "Chair of the Committee," etc., rather than by name.

5.5 Technology-related Provisions

- a) Websites, domain names, emails, or other corporate systems that are funded by the Municipality shall not include any election-related campaign material or links to sites that feature election-related campaign material. The exception being the official Municipality of West Elgin election website where links to external election campaign websites will be posted during the election period.
- b) Registered candidates and registered third parties, and Members of Council may not use the Municipal website, domain names, and other corporate systems, for campaigning or display of any election-related materials. Links to the Municipality's website are permitted from a campaign election website for the purpose of obtaining information about the election or sharing program/service information.

5.6 Social Media

- a) If a Member of Council uses any social media account for campaigning, such account must not be or have been created or supported by Municipal resources. Social media accounts used for campaign purposes must utilize personal tablets and/or computers.
- b) Members of Council who choose to create or use social media accounts for campaigning must include, for the duration of the election period, a clear statement on each campaign website or social media account's home page (or profile) indicating that the account is being used for election campaign purposes and is not related to their duties as a Member of Council.

5.7 Municipality Organized/Hosted Events

- a) Members of Council and other elected officials may attend Municipal-organized events and act as participants in their capacity as elected officials, including speaking at the event and partaking in ceremonial activities, but shall not campaign while in attendance or distribute campaign-related materials and they shall not promote or oppose the candidacy of a person for elected office or party.
- b) Where a current Member of Council or elected official is invited to an event, whether a Municipal event or community event, in the capacity of their elected position, they are not to speak of their candidacy, their intention to run, or any campaign-related matters.
- c) Elected officials must adhere to bi-partisan commitments by not including campaign materials (including, but not limited to, uniforms, tents, signage,

images, or messaging) that is indicative of their candidacy or associated political party. Materials may make reference to the office they hold/represent.

- d) Candidates, registered third party advertisers, ballot question campaigns and their representatives may attend Municipal events in their capacity as private citizens, but shall not campaign while in attendance or distribute campaign-related materials and they shall not promote or oppose the candidacy of a person for elected office or party.
- e) Candidates, registered third party advertisers and representatives of ballot question campaigns shall not be invited to deliver formal remarks at a Municipality event in their capacity as a candidate, registered third party advertiser or ballot question campaign representative.

6.0 ACCESS TO INFORMATION

- 6.1. All registered candidate and registered third party requests for information must adhere with a standard request for information, as set by the Clerk.
- 6.2. Information provided to one candidate or registered third party that is of a general nature and may provide valuable guidance to all others will be provided to all registered candidates and registered third parties through the Municipality's website to ensure equal access to information.

7.0 LIMITATION

- 7.1 Nothing in this Policy shall prohibit a Member of Council from performing their job as a Member of Council, nor impede them from representing the interests of his/her constituents.
- 7.2 Nothing in this Policy shall preclude a Municipal employee from exercising their civic right and duty to participate in the municipal election process as a private citizen.
- 7.3 Nothing in this Policy shall prevent a Municipal employee from conducting an election in accordance with the Act or providing non-partisan election information material on behalf of the Municipality so as to inform the public about the election and the election process.

Municipal Elections Act, 1996

ONTARIO REGULATION 101/97

GENERAL

Consolidation Period: From April 1, 2026 to the [e-Laws currency date](#).

Last amendment: 92/26.

Legislative History: 426/00, 383/02, 431/02, 341/03, 499/09, 303/13, 326/16, 150/18, 341/18, 57/22, 92/26.

This is the English version of a bilingual regulation.

1. For the purposes of subsection 33 (1.4) of the Act, the prescribed number of electors is 4,000. O. Reg. 150/18, s. 1.
2. (1) For the purpose of clause 33 (2) (c) of the Act, the prescribed nomination filing fee is \$100 except for the office of head of council of a municipality, in which case the filing fee is \$200. O. Reg. 150/18, s. 1.
 - (2) The nomination filing fee shall be paid,
 - (a) in cash;
 - (b) by certified cheque or money order made payable to the municipality; or
 - (c) by an electronic method of payment that the clerk specifies. O. Reg. 150/18, s. 1.
3. (1) The rules set out in subsection (2) are prescribed for the purpose of section 54 of the Act (rejection of ballots). O. Reg. 326/16, s. 2.
 - (2) The deputy returning officer shall reject from the count,
 - (a) all votes in a ballot, if the ballot,
 - (i) was not supplied by the deputy returning officer, or
 - (ii) contains writing or marks that may identify the elector, or is torn, defaced or otherwise dealt with by the elector in a way that may identify him or her;
 - (b) all votes in a ballot for an office, if votes have been cast for more candidates for the office than are to be elected;
 - (c) all votes in a ballot on a by-law, if votes have been cast for both the affirmative and negative on the by-law;
 - (d) all votes in a ballot on a question, if votes have been cast for more than one answer on the question;
 - (e) any vote in a ballot, if the vote is not marked inside the space provided for marking the ballot. O. Reg. 101/97, s. 3.
4. The following rules are prescribed for the purpose of subsection 60 (2) of the Act:
 1. The clerk shall give notice of the recount to:
 - i. every certified candidate for an office that is the subject of the recount,
 - ii. in the case of a recount requested under subsection 57 (1) of the Act, the council, local board or Minister, as the case may be,
 - iii. in the case of a recount ordered under section 58 of the Act, the applicant, and
 - iv. in the case of a recount concerning an office, question or by-law in respect of which electors of another municipality are entitled to vote, the clerk who was responsible for the conduct of the vote in that other municipality.
 2. The clerk shall open the ballot boxes and count,
 - i. in the case of a recount in an election for an office, the number of votes for each candidate who is subject to the recount under section 56, 57, 58 or 59 of the Act,
 - ii. in the case of a recount in an election to obtain the assent of the electors to a by-law, the number of votes in favour of the by-law and the number opposed, and
 - iii. in the case of a recount in an election to obtain the opinion of the electors on a question, the number of votes for each possible answer to the question.
 3. The clerk shall reject from the count all ballots and votes in a ballot that do not comply with the rules set out in subsection 3 (2).

4. The clerk may conduct the recount by adding the votes from the statements of results prepared by the deputy returning officers under subsection 55 (1) of the Act, rather than by following rules 2 and 3, if a recount under those rules is waived by,
 - i. each candidate subject to the recount under section 56, 57, 58 or 59 of the Act who is present, in the case of a recount in an election for office,
 - ii. the council that submitted the by-law, in the case of a recount in an election to obtain the assent of the electors to a by-law,
 - iii. the Minister, council or local board that submitted the question, in the case of a recount in an election to obtain the opinion of the electors on a question, and
 - iv. the applicant, if he or she is present, in the case of a recount ordered under section 58 of the Act. O. Reg. 101/97, s. 4.

5. The following formulas are prescribed for the purpose of subsection 88.20 (6) of the Act (maximum amount):

1. In the case of a candidate for the office of head of council of a municipality, the amount shall be calculated by adding together \$7,500 plus 85 cents for each elector entitled to vote for the office.
2. In the case of a candidate for another office, the amount shall be calculated by adding together \$5,000 plus 85 cents for each elector entitled to vote for the office.
3. REVOKED: O. Reg. 326/16, s. 3 (2).

O. Reg. 101/97, s. 5; O. Reg. 426/00, s. 1; O. Reg. 383/02, s. 2; O. Reg. 499/09, s. 1; O. Reg. 326/16, s. 3.

5.1 REVOKED: O. Reg. 150/18, s. 2.

6. The following formulas are prescribed for the purpose of subsection 88.20 (9) of the Act (maximum amount for parties, etc., after voting day):

1. In the case of a candidate for the office of head of council of a municipality, the amount shall be calculated as 10 per cent of the amount calculated under paragraph 1 of section 5.
2. In the case of a candidate for another office, the amount shall be calculated as 10 per cent of the amount calculated under paragraph 2 of section 5. O. Reg. 150/18, s. 2.

7. The formula prescribed for the purpose of subsection 88.21 (6) of the Act (registered third parties' expenses — maximum amount) is the amount that is calculated by adding together \$5,000 plus five cents for each elector entitled to vote in a regular election or by-election, as the case may be, in the municipality, to a maximum of \$25,000. O. Reg. 341/18, s. 1.

8. The formula prescribed for the purpose of subsection 88.21 (9) of the Act (registered third parties' expenses — maximum amount for parties, etc., after voting day) is the amount that is calculated as ten per cent of the amount calculated under section 7, to a maximum of \$2,500. O. Reg. 150/18, s. 2.

9. For the purpose of clause 88 (11) (b) of the Act, the following methods of making a voters' list prepared under the Act available to the public are prescribed:

1. Posting on an Internet website.
2. Any other print or electronic medium of mass communication. O. Reg. 150/18, s. 2.

10. (1) The forms set out in Table 1 are prescribed as required forms for the purposes indicated in that Table. O. Reg. 150/18, s. 2.

(2) The forms prescribed by subsection (1) are the forms that are available on the website of the Government of Ontario Central Forms Repository under the listing for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. O. Reg. 150/18, s. 2.

TABLE 1
FORMS

Column 1 Form	Column 2 Title	Column 3 Date	Column 4 Purpose for which form is used
1	Nomination Paper	2026/04	a nomination under sections 33 and 35 of the Act
2	Endorsement of Nomination	2026/04	an endorsement of a nomination under section 33 of the Act
3	Appointment for Voting Proxy	2026/04	an appointment of a voting proxy, declaration of voting proxy, clerk's certificate and oath of voting proxy under section 44 of the Act
4	Financial Statement — Auditor's Report — Candidate	2026/04	a consolidated financial statement and auditor's report under section 88.25 of the Act
5	Financial Statement — Subsequent Expenses	2026/04	a financial statement under section 88.32 of the Act for subsequent expenses after the return of a surplus
6	Notice of Extension of Campaign Period	2026/04	a notice of extension of campaign period under sections 88.24 and 88.28 of the Act
7	Notice of Registration — Third Party	2026/04	a notice of registration filed under section 88.6 of the Act by a third

			party advertiser
8	Financial Statement — Auditor's Report — Third Party	2026/04	a consolidated financial statement and auditor's report under section 88.29 of the Act
9	Declaration of Identity	2026/04	an application and statutory declaration under paragraph 1 of subsection 52 (1) of the Act

O. Reg. 150/18, s. 2; O. Reg. 57/22, s. 1; O. Reg. 92/26, s. 1.

11. REVOKED: O. Reg. 499/09, s. 2.

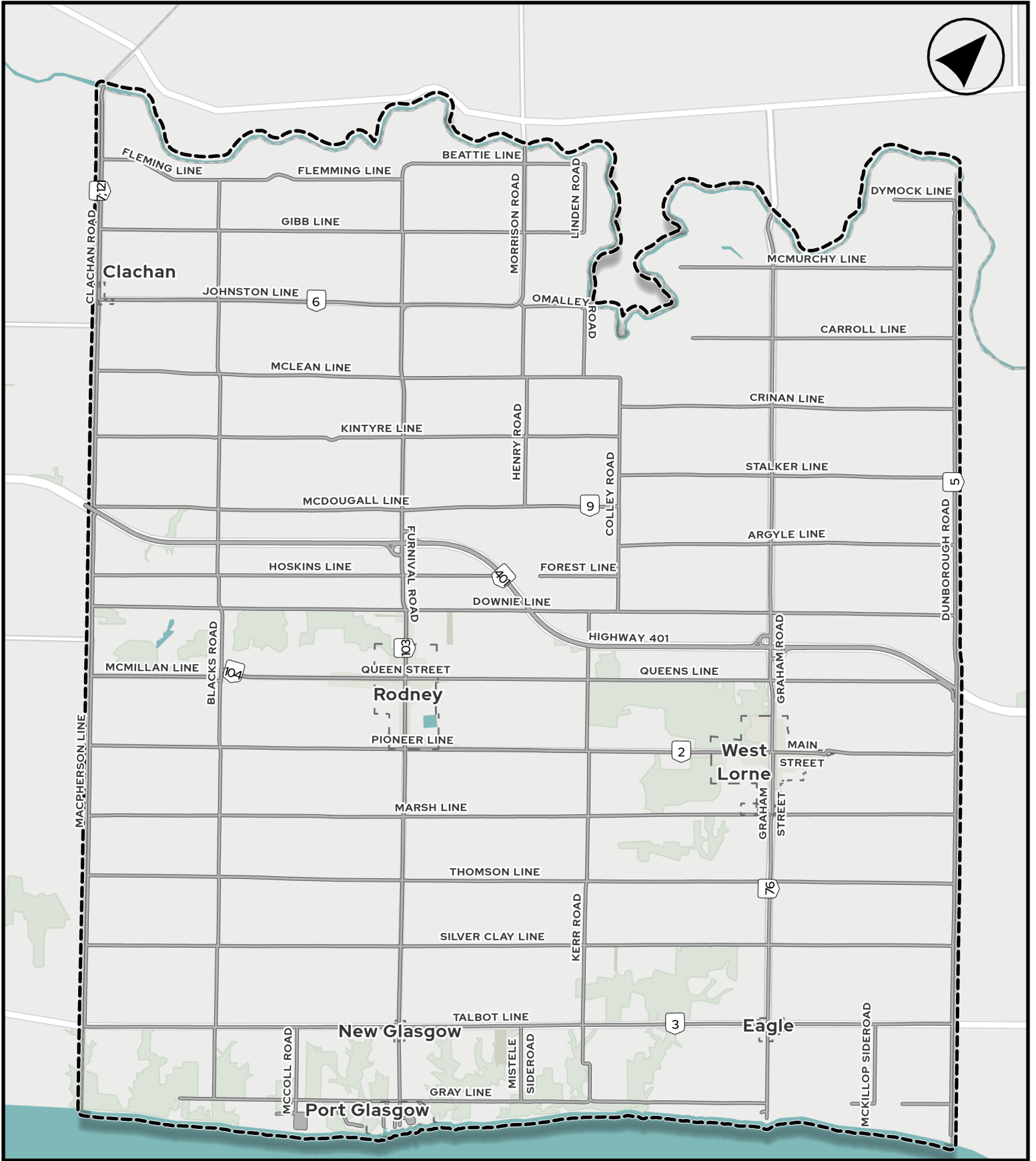
11.1-11.4 REVOKED: O. Reg. 341/03, s. 1.

12.-15. REVOKED: O. Reg. 499/09, s. 2.

FORMS 1-9 REVOKED: O. Reg. 341/03, s. 2.

Français

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1 centimeter equals 1 Km



Scale: 1:100,000



Municipality of West Elgin

Election Boundary Map

- Roads
- Settlement Areas
- Election Boundary