



2026 MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

CANDIDATE INFORMATION AND NOMINATION PACKAGE

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The purpose of this candidate information and nomination package is to provide a brief overview for candidates in the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election. Additional information is available from the County of Brant Clerk's Office, the County of Brant's elections page, and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

The 2026 Municipal and School Board Election is scheduled for Monday October 26, 2026. The 2022-2026 term of office will end on November 14, 2026, with the 2026-2030 term of office commencing on November 15, 2026.

This information and nomination package contains general information for candidates of the By-Election. It is the candidates' responsibility to be informed of relevant legislation and regulations. A list of resources has been compiled and provided below:

Useful Resources

Relevant Legislation and Regulations

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws>

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/municipal-elections>

<https://www.ontario.ca/files/2026-03/mmah-2026-candidates-guide-en-2026-03-31.pdf>

<https://www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-municipal-councillors-guide>

E-mail Contact: mea.info@ontario.ca

Association of Municipalities in Ontario (AMO)

<https://www.amo.on.ca/about-us/municipal-101/municipal-elections>

County of Brant Elections

<https://brant.ca/elections>

Key Dates

May 1, 2026 to August 21, 2026 (Nomination Day)	Nominations may be filed in person by appointment with the clerk at the Clerk's Office at 66 Grand River St. N. Paris. They will be accepted from May 1, 2026 through Nomination Day on August 21, 2026. By 2:00 p.m. The last day for a candidate to withdraw their nomination by filing a written notice with the Clerk is 2:00 p.m. on Nomination Day.
August 24, 2026	By 4:00 p.m. on the Monday following Nomination Day the Clerk is to examine candidate nominations and if satisfied, certify the nomination. By 4:00 p.m. on the Monday following Nomination Day the Clerk is to declare candidate(s) elected by acclamation.

<p>August 26, 2026</p>	<p>Additional candidate nominations may be filed between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. if the number of nominations filed for an office is less than the number of persons to be elected to the office.</p> <p>A candidate who submits a nomination on this date and later wishes to withdraw their additional nomination must notify the clerk in writing before 2:00 p.m.</p>
<p>August 27, 2026</p>	<p>By 4:00 p.m. the Clerk is to examine any additional candidate nominations filed on August 26, and, if satisfied, certify the nomination.</p> <p>The Clerk is to declare any candidate(s) elected by acclamation by 4:00 p.m.</p>
<p>October 19, 2026 to October 25, 2026</p>	<p>Eligible electors may vote during this period in advance of Voting Day. Votes may be cast online and by telephone. Each ward will have a minimum of two voter assistance centers available to them for in-person voting and support. County libraries will also offer access to computers and wi-fi during their regular business hours to cast votes.</p>
<p>October 26, 2026 from 10:00am to 8:00pm</p>	<p>Voting Day is the fourth Monday in October. Voting places are open from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. unless an earlier voting or reduced voting hours have been established by the Clerk.</p> <p>A physical voter assistance center will be open to allow for in-person voting assistance. Eligible voters may also vote online or by telephone during this period.</p>
<p>October 26, 2026</p>	<p>Unofficial election results to be declared at end of day.</p>
<p>October 27, 2026</p>	<p>The Clerk shall, as soon as possible after Voting Day, declare the results and provide information to the public on a website or in another electronic format on the number of votes and declined and rejected ballots.</p>

	The Clerk will certify the results, making them the official election results for the 2026-2030 term of office.
November 14, 2026	End of the 2022-2026 term of office.
November 15, 2026	Beginning of the 2026-2030 term of office.
December 7, 2026	Inaugural Meeting of Council (tentative).
December 31, 2026	Deadline for persons provided with a copy of the Voters List under section 23(3)(a) to (c) shall destroy list. Election campaign period ends. Last day for candidates and registered third party advertisers to provide written notice of a deficit and the continuation of their campaign period.
March 1, 2027	Last day of the 30-day period before the initial filing date to provide candidates and registered third party advertisers with notice of filing requirements for initial financial statements and auditors reports. Notice to candidates should also refer to their entitlement to receive a refund of the nomination filing fee if they meet the requirements of section 24 and the penalties set out in s.88.23(2) and 92(1). s.88.25(9) Notice to registered third party advertisers should refer to penalties set out in s.88.27(1) and 92(4). s.88.27(1), s.92(4)
March 30, 2027	By 2:00 p.m., last day for candidates and registered third party advertisers to file initial financial statements and auditors reports on the last Friday in March in the year following the election. Clerk to make documents filed under s.88.25, 88.29 (financial statements and auditors reports) and 88.32 (subsequent expenses) available to the public on a website or in another electronic format as soon as possible after the documents are filed. If an error is identified in a filed financial statement, the candidate may withdraw the statement and at the same time file a

	<p>corrected financial statement and auditor's report on or before the 2:00 p.m. deadline.</p> <p>By 2 p.m., last day for candidates and registered third party advertisers to notify the clerk in writing that an application has been made to Superior Court of Justice to extend the time for filing their initial financial statement and auditor's report. s.88.23(7), s.88.27(4)</p> <p>Note: Candidates who file financial statements and auditor's reports in accordance with s.88.25(1) by 2:00 p.m. deadline are entitled to receive a refund of nomination filing fee.</p>
<p>June 30, 2027</p>	<p>Last day of the extended campaign period for candidates and registered third party advertisers that extended their campaign due to a deficit, or that recommenced their campaign due to a recount, controverted election, or compliance audit.</p> <p>Note: The last day of the extended campaign period may be earlier if the deficit is eliminated in accordance with s.88.24(4).</p>
<p>October 25, 2027</p>	<p>By 2:00 p.m., last day of the 30-day grace period for candidates and registered third party advertisers to file a supplementary financial statement and auditor's report provided they pay the \$500 late filing fee. s.88.23(9)</p> <p>Documents submitted after this deadline are to be accepted only for the purpose of making them available to the public.</p> <p>If applicable, notices of default should be issued by the Clerk as soon as practicable after this filing deadline.</p> <p>Report identifying each contributor who appears to have contravened any of the contribution limits to be made available as soon as possible after this date.</p> <p>Clerk shall prepare a separate report in respect of each contributor who appears to have contravened any of the contribution limits and</p>

	<p>forward those reports to the compliance audit committee.</p> <p>Within 30 days after receiving a report, the CAC must consider it and decide whether to commence a legal proceeding against a contributor for an apparent contravention.</p>
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Role of Council

S.224 of the Municipal Act states that it is the role of council,

- a. to represent the public and to consider the well-being and interests of the municipality;
- b. to develop and evaluate the policies and programs of the municipality;
- c. to determine which services the municipality provides;
- d. to ensure that administrative policies, practices and procedures and controllership policies, practices and procedures are in place to implement the decisions of council;
 - (d.1) to ensure the accountability and transparency of the operation so the municipality, including the activities of the senior management of the municipality;
- e. to maintain the financial integrity of the municipality; and
- f. to carry out the duties of council under this or any other Act.

Role of Head of Council

S.225 of the Municipal Act states that it is the role of the head of council,

- a. to act as chief executive officer of the municipality;
- b. to preside over council meetings so that its business can be carried out efficiently and effectively;
- c. to provide leadership to the council;
 - (c.1) without limiting clause (c), to provide information and recommendations to the council with respect to the role of council described in clauses 224 (d) and (d.1);
- d. to represent the municipality at official functions; and
- e. to carry out the duties of the head of council under this or any other Act.

Elected Offices and Available Vacancies

The County of Brant will elect candidates to the following offices for the period commencing November 15, 2026:

Positions	Vacancies
Mayor	One (1) seat vacant. To be elected by all eligible electors of the County.
Ward 1 Councillors	Two (2) seats vacant. To be elected by eligible electors of Ward 1.
Ward 2 Councillors	Two (2) seats vacant. To be elected by eligible electors of Ward 2.

Ward 3 Councillors	Two (2) seats vacant. To be elected by eligible electors of Ward 3.
Ward 4 Councillors	Two (2) seats vacant. To be elected by eligible electors of Ward 4.
Ward 5 Councillors	Two (2) seats vacant. To be elected by eligible electors of Ward 5.
Public School Board Trustee (Grand Erie District School Board Trustee)	Two (2) seats vacant. To be elected by eligible electors of the County of Brant, as well as eligible electors of Wards 3 and 7 of the County of Norfolk.
Separate School Board Trustee (Brant Haldimand Norfolk District Catholic School Board Trustee)	One (1) seat vacant. To be elected by eligible electors of the County of Brant.
French Public School Board Trustee (Conseil Scolaire Viamonde)	One (1) seat vacant. Nominations received by the City of Hamilton. *Please contact the City of Hamilton's Clerk's Department for more information.
French Separate School Board Trustee (Conseil Scolaire Catholique Mon Avenir)	One (1) seat vacant. Nominations received by the City of Kitchener. *Please contact the City of Kitchener's Clerk's Department for more information.

PART 2: BY-ELECTION INFORMATION

On April 28, 2026, the County of Brant Council passed By-law 49-26, a by-law to authorize the use of internet voting for the purposes of casting and counting votes for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election, including the advance vote.

Online (Internet) Voting Procedures

The County of Brant will employ the exclusive use of internet-based voting, which includes telephone voting. The procedure for the use of internet-based voting is provided below. Be advised that these procedures may be amended as deemed necessary by the Returning Officer (Clerk). Copies of the revised or amended procedures shall be provided to all candidates electronically via email.

The principles of the Municipal Act are:

1. The secrecy and confidentiality of the vote is paramount
2. The election should be fair and non-biased
3. The election should be accessible to all voters
4. The integrity of the process should be maintained throughout the election
5. There is to be certainty that the results of the election reflect the votes cast
6. Voters and candidates should be treated fairly and consistently
7. A proper majority vote decides the election by ensuring, so far as reasonably possible, that valid votes be counted and invalid votes be rejected.

Ballot Form

The ballots for online voting are composite and electronic in form, accessed by a voter using the internet voting system that shall include the names of each candidate of each Office to be elected. The ballot displayed to the voter accessing it shall only display the offices for which they are eligible to vote as determined from the voters list.

The ballot will include a designated voting space next to each candidate name.

There shall appear on the ballot instructions that direct the voter on how to mark their ballot.

Secrecy and Interference

The Returning Officer and Internet Voting Provider, Simply Voting, shall maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of voting.

Simply Voting shall ensure that the Internet Voting System (IVS) maintains and aids in maintaining the secrecy of voting.

No person shall interfere or attempt to interfere in the Municipal and School Board Election by obtaining or attempting to obtain:

- (a) a Voter PIN that belongs to another Voter
- (b) a Voter PIN when not eligible to do so because they are not a Voter or they have already voted.

No person shall interfere or attempt to interfere with a Voter while in the process of accessing the IVS or attempt to interfere in the voting process while using the IVS unless expressly requested and authorized by the Voter.

No person shall obtain or attempt to obtain information about how a Voter intends to vote or has voted.

Any Designated Election Official requested by a Voter to assist them with voting is required to maintain the secrecy of the vote cast by the Voter and shall vote according to the instructions and wishes of the Voter.

Voter Information Letter (VIL)

The Voters' List Management Provider will provide the Voters' List data to Simply Voting for the preparation of the Voter Information Letter (VIL) to send to all voters on the Voters' List.

Simply Voting will prepare the VIL under the direction of the Returning Officer.

Simply Voting will include all the information voters will require to cast their vote using the IVS, including the URL (Uniform Resource Locator) for the Voting Site, a Voting PIN for use by a voter to access the IVS, and any other information deemed relevant by the Returning Officer.

Prior to the Voting Period, Simply Voting will mail the VILs via Canada Post to each voter whose name appears on the Voters' List as of the date that the VIL is printed.

Any undeliverable VILs will be returned to the Returning Officer's attention by Canada Post and will be stored within a County facility.

Where a voter notifies a Designated Election Official concerning a lost VIL, or a VIL that was never received, the Designated Election Official shall determine whether a VIL was mailed to the Voter.

Where a VIL was mailed to the Voter but was not received or received but subsequently lost:

- (a) the Designated Election Official shall confirm the qualifying and mailing address of the Voter
- (b) the Voter shall satisfy the Designated Election Official that they did not receive a VIL or did receive it and subsequently lost it
- (c) The Designated Election Official shall disable the Voting PIN that was not received/lost and electronically mark the Voting PIN as not being received/lost by the voter
- (d) The voter shall be required to answer questions or otherwise verify their identity to the satisfaction of the Designated Election Official prior to the issuance of a new VIL.
- (e) After verifying their identity to the satisfaction of the Designated Election Official, the Voter will be issued a new VIL

Where a voter's date of birth, or part of their date of birth, is missing on the Voters' List, they will have the option of either updating the Voters' List online or by telephoning a Designated Election Official. If the Designated Election Official is satisfied by the voter's identity, in accordance with the procedures listed above, the Designated Election Official will update the date of birth in the Voters' List Management System to allow the voter to access the IVS to cast their vote.

With respect to the aforementioned procedures, a Designated Election Official may require a Voter to take an oral, written, or electronic Oath of Declaration to satisfy the Designated Election Official.

Internet Voting Process (IVP)

Voters will be able to cast their votes using the IVS at any time during the Voting Period.

The Voting Site is hosted by Simply Voting and is accessible through the URL provided to voters in the VIL.

At the start of the Voting Period, the Returning Officer or a member of the Election Management Team shall, using the administrative site, 'Zero' the Internet Voting System (i.e. ensure that the total votes for all Candidates are zero) and Open the vote.

Voters will enter the Voting Site and will be required to:

- (a) enter their Voting PIN;
- (b) enter their Date of Birth in the format determined by the Returning Officer;
- (c) complete their ballot by following the instructions provided by the Internet Voting System;
- (d) review their votes and/or change their selection as many times as desired before casting their ballot; and,
- (e) cast their ballot (A success message will be displayed).

A voter will not be able to over-vote. A voter may choose not to vote for any candidate by not selecting any candidate on the ballot and casting the vote. A voter may under-vote on any ballot.

If a voter has not cast a vote within a certain period of time of successfully logging in to the IVS, they will receive a System Time Out message and will not be able to proceed with the IVS until they have successfully logged in again.

Once a voter has submitted their ballot according to the IVS instructions, no further changes to the vote shall be possible. All ballots, once cast, shall be encrypted and stored according to Simply Voting's design and protocols. The IVS will notify the voter that voting is complete, and their ballot has been successfully cast.

Once a voter has cast a ballot, they will not be able to re-enter the IVS. Once a ballot is cast, the Voting PIN is disabled, and the voter will be marked as having voted on the Voters' List.

Voting Period

Advance voting period will commence on Monday October 19, 2026, and conclude on Sunday October 25, 2026. There shall be a continuous voting period beginning 10:00am on Monday October 19, 2026, and ending at 8:00pm on Monday October 26, 2026 (Voting Day).

Voters will have up to five (5) minutes to complete their vote, even if the five (5) minutes extend beyond the close of voting at 8:00pm on Voting Day. Any Voter who arrives at a queue or check-in at a vote assistance center for the purpose of voting before the close of voting at 8:00pm on Voting Day will be given an opportunity to vote as soon as possible under the circumstances, even if that opportunity occurs after the close of voting at 8:00pm on Voting Day.

Voters' List

The Voters' List will be web-based and hosted by the Voters' List Management Provider. The Voters' List Management System and the IVS shall be linked by such systems and processes as determined by the Voters' List Management Provider and Simply Voting as is necessary for the integration of the Voters' List and IVS.

The Voters' List Management System will automatically be updated by the Internet Voting System to note when a ballot has been cast by a voter.

Consistent with the requirements of Section 55(1)(b) of the Act, following the close of voting on Voting Day, the Voters' List (including the list of Voters having voted) is deemed to be sealed in the ballot box and may only be accessed by the Returning Officer in accordance with the requirements of Section 55(5) of the Act.

Testing and Auditing of the Internet Voting System

Prior to the start of the Voting Period, the Returning Officer will conduct comprehensive testing of the Internet Voting System.

The test(s) shall include:

- (a) Creating Test Voters in the Voters' List Management System.
- (b) Creating Voting PINs for the Test Voters;
- (c) Checking the system which is used for activating Voting PINs throughout the revision process;
- (d) Zeroing the Application (i.e. ensure that the vote totals for all candidates are zero) using the administrative site;
- (e) Open the Voting Period using the administrative site;
- (f) Attempting to vote with invalid voting credentials, including the Voting PIN, and incomplete or incorrect date of birth;
- (g) Attempting to use a Voter ID and Voting PIN more than once;
- (h) Voting a predetermined number of voters;
- (i) Close the Voting and tabulate the votes using the administrative site;
- (j) Create and run reports using the administrative site;
- (k) Test, if applicable, the loading of the results in the Reports Tally System;
- (l) Balancing a predetermined number of votes with those cast;
- (m) Any other functions as determined appropriate by the Returning Officer.

The test shall include at least one "mock election" using mock candidate names. The Returning Officer will verify the results of the mock election using a pre-determined test file.

Storage of Voting Results

Results from the Voting Period will be securely stored and encrypted by Simply Voting until release by the Returning Officer or Election Management Team after the close of voting on Voting Day.

Voting Results

Following the close of voting on Voting Day, the Returning Officer, witnessed by at least one other member of the Election Management Team, shall use the IVS to decrypt the voting results according to the processes and procedures of the system established by Simply Voting.

Unofficial and Official Vote Results Reporting

The vote totals from the Voting Period will not be made available until after the close of voting on Voting Day.

The Returning Officer will review, validate and publish unofficial vote results to the County's website.

Official vote results will be made available to the public and candidates by the Returning Officer as early as the next day, in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Recounts

In accordance with the Act, a recount of ballots cast by Internet Voting shall be conducted in the same manner outlined in 'Voting Results' section of these procedures.

Voting Assistance Centers

The Returning Officer will establish a minimum of two voting assistance centers per ward for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election for the duration of the voting period. Information with regards to locations and timings will be communicated publicly in the future.

Voters can obtain support at centers with the following election activities:

- (a) Amending the Voters' List (including any additions, amendments or deletions)
- (b) Obtaining a VIL
- (c) Assistance with accessing one's ballot

Accessibility

The Internet Voting System conforms to the WCAG 2.0 Level AA standard which meets the current requirements for the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

Candidate Prohibited Activities

Candidates, and any other person under the direction of a candidate, are not permitted to assist voters in casting their vote or using the IVS. This includes providing the use of any devices to voters for Internet Voting.

Candidates, and any other person under the direction of a candidate, are not permitted to ask voters for their VIL or Voting PIN.

Candidates, and any other person under the direction of a candidate, are not permitted to directly or indirectly ascertain how a voter has voted.

Emergency

In accordance with Section 53 of the Act, the Returning Officer may declare an emergency if they are of the opinion that circumstances have arisen that are likely to prevent the elections from being conducted in accordance with the principles of the Act.

Upon declaring an emergency, the Returning Officer is authorized to make any arrangements they consider advisable for the conduct of the elections.

The arrangements made by the Returning Officer, if they are consistent with the principles of the Act, prevail over anything in the Act and the regulations made under it.

If made in good faith, the Returning Officer's declaration of emergency and arrangements shall not be reviewed or set aside on account of unreasonableness or supposed unreasonableness.

The emergency continues until the Returning Officer declares that it has ended.

Offences and Penalties

In accordance with the Act, a person is guilty of an offence and liable, upon conviction, to a financial penalty or imprisonment if they:

- (a) Vote by internet without being entitled to do so
- (b) Vote more than once in an election
- (c) Induce or procure a person to vote by internet when that person is not entitled to do so
- (d) Provide false or misleading information to a person whom this Act authorizes to obtain information
- (e) Without authority, supply their Internet Voting information to anyone for the purpose of allowing them to vote
- (f) Take, open or otherwise deal with Internet Voting information without having authority to do so
- (g) Attempt to do any of those things referred to in paragraphs (h) to (f)
- (h) Directly or indirectly,
 - i. offer, give, lend, or promise or agree to give or lend any valuable consideration, in connection with the exercise or non-exercise of a Voter's vote
 - ii. advance, pay or cause to be paid money intending that it be used to commit an offence referred to in clause (i), or knowing that it will be used to repay money used in that way
 - iii. give, procure or promise or agree to procure an office or employment in connection with the exercise or non-exercise of a Voter's vote;
 - iv. apply for, accept or agree to accept any valuable consideration or office or employment in connection with the exercise or non-exercise of a Voter's vote.

The Criminal Code of Canada states that tampering with the mail of an individual is a criminal offence and a person(s) found guilty is liable to a term of imprisonment not exceeding ten (10) years.

To ensure the integrity and confidence of the internet voting process, the Returning Officer will investigate or cause to be investigated all complaints about possible mail tampering as it relates to election-related documents provided to Voters by the Returning Officer.

Voters' List and Revisions

The Preliminary List of Electors (PLE) for the County of Brant is prepared and provided by Elections Ontario. This list contains the names, addresses, and school support of each eligible voter who is listed in Elections Ontario's data.

If eligible voters are not provided for on the PLE, amendments can be made. More information on how and when amendments can begin will be communicated publicly in the future. Amendments will end on Voting Day (October 26, 2026) at 8:00pm. Revisions may include:

- confirm or update electoral information
- add an elector name to an address
- change school support

As per the Municipal Elections Act, the Voters' List cannot be posted publicly. Voters may, however, inquire as to whether their name is on the Voters' List at the Clerk's Office or through the County's website. Electors can request revisions to their information on the voters' list on Election Day at the polling location.

This information is provided to members of the public through the County's social media platforms and other channels of communication. Candidates may encourage eligible voters to visit the County's website to confirm that they are on the list and that the information is accurate.

Voting Location (Voter Assistance Centers)

Advance Voting Period locations and times will be determined shortly.

Roving Polls will visit nursing homes and retirement homes within the County. Arrangements will be made with staff at these facilities in advance.

Voting Day is scheduled for October 26, 2026. During this time, voters may vote online or in person at the voter assistance center. The centers will be open from 9:00am to 8:00pm. Both online voting and in-person voting will close at 8:00pm.

PART 3: NOMINATION PACKAGE

Nomination Procedure

As per the MEA s.65(4)(2) and s.65(4)(1)(ii), nominations will be accepted from May 1, 2026, through to Nomination Day on August 21, 2026.

Nominations forms may be filed in person by appointment with the Clerk from Mondays to Fridays between 9:00am and 4:00pm. On Nomination Day itself, nomination forms may only be filed between 9:00am and 2:00pm.

As per MEA s.33(5), if the number of nominations filed for an office and certified under s.35 is less than the number of persons to be elected to the office, additional nominations may be filed between 9:00am and 2:00pm on the Wednesday following Nomination Day.

Becoming a Candidate

Candidates must satisfy themselves, through their own determination or with the assistance of their own legal counsel, of the various statutory provisions relating to their candidacy. In addition, candidates must ensure they are complying with all the requirements relating to election campaign finances.

It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that he or she fulfills all the requirements of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, s.29(1) a person may be nominated for an office only if, as of the day the person is nominated,

- a. he or she is qualified to hold that office under the Act that creates it; and
- b. he or she is not ineligible under this or any other Act or otherwise prohibited by law to be nominated for or to hold the office.

For more information on becoming a candidate, see Appendix K - 2026 Candidates' Guide – Ontario Municipal Council and School Board Elections.

Filing Nomination Papers

Appointments to file nomination papers can be made by contacting the Clerk by phone or email. Please be advised that each appointment will be approximately half an hour long.

The following forms are required at the time of filing a nomination:

- 1. Form 1 – Nomination Paper, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing**

This form must be signed in front of a Commissioner of Oaths for the County of Brant. The Clerk may act within this capacity.

- 2. Form 2 – Endorsement of Nomination, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing**

For nominations of Municipal Council positions, the nomination of a person must be endorsed by twenty-five (25) persons. The persons endorsing must be eligible to vote on the day that they endorsed the nomination. The endorsements must be in writing through this form. This is not required for Schoolboard Trustee candidates.

3. Declaration of Qualifications – Municipal Council Candidate

This form must be signed in front of a Commissioner of Oaths for the County of Brant. The Clerk may act within this capacity.

4. Freedom of Information Release

A Freedom of Information release must be completed and signed by the candidate and filed with the Nomination package. This document outlines what information about the candidate will be provided on the County of Brant website and election publications.

5. Voters' List Request Form

Candidates wishing to obtain a copy of the part of the Voters' List that contains the names of eligible voters for the office for which they are nominated must request a copy using this form. This list may only be used for election related purposes.

6. Election Campaign Bank Account

Candidates are no longer required to open a separate bank account if there are no contributions or expenses related to their campaign aside from the filing fee. For all others, a separate bank account is needed and receipts should be issued for every contribution and expense. Goods and services provided in lieu of contributions must be valued and accounted for on the financial statement. Any good retained from a previous election must be valued (based on replacement) and accounted for.

7. Notice of Filing Requirements and Penalties Related to Campaign Finances

The Clerk is required to provide notice of the filing requirements and penalties related to campaign finances, as per Section 33.1 and 88.25 (9) of the MEA, 1996.

8. Certificate of Maximum Expenses and Maximum Contributions to a Candidate's Own Election Campaign

This form notifies candidates of the maximum expenses they can incur and maximum contributions they receive for their election campaign.

Other items required at the time of filing include:

1. Proof of identification

Valid identification will be required when oaths are administered during the filing process. It must show the person's name and qualifying address at the time the person files their nomination. The identification may be an original, a certified copy, or a notarized copy of the document. A copy of the identification will be made by the Clerk and kept within the file until the nomination is reviewed and certified by the Clerk. Alternatively, a candidate may complete a Declaration of Identity in the prescribed form.

2. Nomination filing fee of \$100.00

This fee will be refunded to all candidates who file the required financial statements by the deadline. Accepted forms of payment include cash, debit, money order, and certified

cheque payable to the County of Brant. The original receipt will be provided to the candidate, and a copy of the receipt will be retained by the Clerk for filing.

When identification and all forms have been verified, and the filing fee has been paid, the Clerk will sign, date, and timestamp the Nomination Form (Form 1) and will ask the candidate to initial the same.

Certification of Nomination

The Clerk is required to examine each nomination that has been filed. If the Clerk is satisfied that a person is qualified to be nominated, the Clerk will certify the nomination. If the Clerk is not satisfied that a person is qualified to be nominated, the Clerk will reject the nomination. The candidate will be notified if their nomination is rejected. The Clerk's decision to certify or reject a nomination is final.

All nominations filed on or before Nomination Day shall be examined and certified before 4:00pm on August 21, 2026. The Clerk will certify all nominations on a rolling basis, i.e., as they are received and examined. Once certified, the candidates' names and relevant information will be added to the list of candidates at brant.ca/elections.

The Clerk is permitted to rely on information filed by the candidate under Form 2.

All candidates certified by the Clerk will have their names appear on the ballot.

Withdrawal of Nomination

Candidates wishing to withdraw their nomination must submit a Withdrawal of Nomination form to the Clerk before 2:00pm on Nomination Day.

Candidates may not withdraw after the Nomination Period has closed.

Candidates who have withdrawn their nomination are still required to file a financial statement.

Acclamation

If only the minimum number of candidates in an office have been certified by 4:00pm on August 21, 2026, those candidates will be declared elected by acclamation.

If a candidate is acclaimed, they must still file a campaign financial statement.

PART 4: CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

The link to the 2026 Candidates' Guide for Ontario Municipal and School Board Elections is provided in this package (see Appendix K). It is recommended that candidates review this document as the remainder of this information package will assume that candidates are familiar with its contents.

Supplemental campaign information is provided below.

Campaigning

It is the candidate's responsibility to provide voters with information about the candidate and their campaign. Only the contact information provided in the Freedom of Information Release form submitted with nominations will be placed on the candidate page of the County's website.

1. Debates:

The MEA does not require candidate debates to be held, and the County is not responsible for organizing meetings or debates. However, meetings or debates may be organized by community groups, media outlets, candidates, or any other interested person.

2. Canvassing in Voting Places:

S. 48(2) and 48(3) of the MEA states that canvassing is prohibited at voting locations. The Clerk is the lessee of the premises used as a poll. As the lessee of such premises, the Clerk does not permit electioneering of any nature in, on, or in the immediate vicinity of the premises used as a voting place on Voting Day. The premises are deemed to include the entire building and the property on which it is located. Deputy Returning Officers may remove any material or literature of any nature in, or in the immediate vicinity, of any voting place.

3. Apartment Buildings and Condominiums:

As of 2016, the MEA allows for landlords and condominium corporations to permit tenants and owners to display election signs on their premises. This includes the ability to display election signs in common areas of the building. Additionally, no person who is in control of an apartment building, condominium building, non-profit housing cooperative or gated community may prevent a candidate or his or her representative from campaigning between 9:00am and 9:00pm at the doors to the apartments, units, or houses. Following the close of nominations, the Clerk will provide all certified candidates with a letter confirming their ability to campaign at these locations in order to assist candidates with gaining access.

Municipal Resources

To maintain the neutrality of the Corporation of the County of Brant during the by-election, and to prohibit contributions by the municipality during campaign periods, municipal resources cannot be used for campaigning purposes.

The MEA requires municipalities to establish rules for using municipal resources for campaigning purposes.

See Appendix J - County of Brant Use of Municipal Resources Policy.

Election Signs and Other Election Advertising

In addition to the above noted Municipal Resource Policy, no election signs or any other election advertising materials are permitted in the areas described in the County of Brant Sign By-law 121-08, as amended by By-law 60-25 (currently under review).

All election signage and advertising materials must identify that you are responsible for the sign/advertisement. This is to distinguish your campaign materials from those of third party advertisers.

Elections signs may not incorporate flashing lights or animation.

Any signs or advertising materials that do not adhere to the requirements, are deemed to cause visibility problems in any area, impede or obstruct the County's maintenance operations, or are deemed to constitute a hazard or safety concern will be removed. The candidate may then be invoiced for the cost of the removal. Any signs that are removed may be picked up at a County facility. Locations are available by request.

Note that all election signs on public property must be removed no later than March 17, 2026.

See Appendix I – County of Brant Sign By-Law. Note that this by-law is currently under review. Once updated, it will be included in this package.

Campaign Finances

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing's 2026 Candidates' Guide for Ontario Municipal and School Board Elections contains a comprehensive review of campaign finances and the rules that pertain to it.

A candidate's campaign begins the day a nomination is filed. Candidates are responsible for maintaining records of financial activities related to their campaign.

The MEA does not require the use of any specific accounting system. Candidates may choose to consult with an auditor or accountant early in their campaign to ensure they are using a bookkeeping and accounting system that suits their needs.

Candidates are required to open a separate bank account for their campaign if they plan to accept contributions or incur any expenses. If they do not accept contributions or incur any expenses, they are not required to open a separate bank account for just their Nomination filing.

Candidates may not use their personal bank account for campaign finances. All contributions, including contributions candidates made to themselves, must be deposited into the campaign bank account. All expenses must be paid from the campaign account, except for the filing fee,

which is considered a personal expense. If a financial institution will not open a campaign bank account until proof of candidacy is provided, the Clerk can provide the candidate with a declaration that nomination papers have been filed.

Candidates are required to inform each person who contributed to their campaign that a contributor cannot make contributions exceeding,

- (i) A total of \$1,200 to any one candidate in an election, and
- (ii) A total of \$5,000 to two or more candidates for offices on the same council or local board.

To assist candidates with this requirement, copies of sample leaflets which can be provided to contributors will be given to all candidates upon filing a nomination. Any contributor who exceeds the contribution limits will have their name automatically sent to the Compliance Audit Committee for a decision on whether to commence legal proceedings against the contributor.

All candidates are required to file a Form 4 – Financial Statement – Auditor’s Report Candidate (see Appendix L – Form 4 – Financial Statement – Auditor’s Report - Candidate). Candidates should review the form to ensure they are keeping records of all the information that must be included on the statement.

Other duties of candidates under the MEA include:

88.22 (1) 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;
- e. contributions of goods or services are valued;
- f. receipts are issued for every contribution and obtained for every expense;
- g. records are kept of,
 - i. the receipts issued for every contribution,
 - ii. the value of every contribution,
 - iii. whether a contribution is in the form of money, goods or services, and
 - iv. the contributor’s name and address;
- h. records are kept of every expense including the receipts obtained for each expense;
- i. records are kept of any claim for payment of an expense that the candidate disputes or refuses to pay;
- j. records are kept of the gross income from a fund-raising function and the gross amount of money received at a fund-raising function by donations of \$25 or less or by the sale of goods or services for \$25 or less;
- k. records are kept of any loan and its terms under section 88.17;

- l. the records described in clauses (g), (h), (i), (j) and (k) are retained by the candidate for the term of office of the members of the council or local board and until their successors are elected and the newly elected council or local board is organized;
- m. financial filings are made in accordance with sections 88.25 and 88.32;
- n. proper direction is given to the persons who are authorized to incur expenses and accept or solicit contributions under the direction of the candidate;
- o. a contribution of money made or received in contravention of this Act or a by-law passed under this Act is returned to the contributor as soon as possible after the candidate becomes aware of the contravention;
- p. a contribution not returned to the contributor under clause (o) is paid to the clerk with whom the candidate's nomination was filed;
- q. an anonymous contribution is paid to the clerk with whom the candidate's nomination was filed; and
- r. each contributor is informed that a contributor shall not make contributions exceeding,
 - i. subject to subsection (2), a total of \$1,200 to any one candidate in an election, and
 - ii. a total of \$5,000 to two or more candidates for offices on the same council or local board.

Compliance Audits

An elector who is entitled to vote in an election and believes on reasonable grounds that a candidate has contravened a provision of the MEA in relation to election campaign finances, may apply for a compliance audit of the candidate's campaign finances. The application will be forwarded to the Compliance Audit Committee. The committee will determine whether to grant or reject the application.

If the application is granted, it will be forwarded to an auditor. The auditor will conduct an audit of the candidate's election campaign finances to determine whether he or she has complied with the provisions of the MEA relating to campaign finances and shall prepare a report outlining any apparent contravention(s) by the candidate. If the report concludes that the candidate appears to have contravened an election campaign finance provision, the committee shall decide whether to commence legal proceeding against the candidate.

Further, any contributor who has exceeded the contribution limits will have their name automatically sent to the Compliance Audit Committee for a decision on whether to commence legal proceedings against the contributor.

Given the consequences, candidates are strongly encouraged to inform each contributor of the contribution rules as outlined above.

PART 5: APPENDICES

The following resources have been compiled and included in this package:

Appendix A – Form 1 – Nomination Paper

Appendix B – Form 2 – Endorsement of Nomination

Appendix C – Declaration of Qualifications – Municipal Council Candidate

Appendix D – Freedom of Information Release

Appendix E – Voters’ List Request Form

Appendix F – Election Campaign Bank Account

Appendix G1 – Notice of Filing Requirements and Penalties Related to Campaign Finances

Appendix G2 – Notice of Filing Requirements and Penalties Related to Campaign Finances -
Acknowledgement

Appendix H – Initial Estimate of Maximum Campaign Expenses and Maximum Contributions to a
Candidate’s Own Election Campaign

Appendix I – County of Brant Sign By-law

Appendix J – County of Brant Use of Municipal Resources Policy

Appendix K – Voting Proxy – Form 3

Appendix L – Financial Statement – Auditor’s Report – Candidate – Form 4

Appendix M - 2026 Candidates’ Guide – Ontario Municipal Council and School Board Elections



**APPENDIX A - NOMINATION PAPER - FORM 1
2026 MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION**

Please see here:

<https://forms.mgcs.gov.on.ca/en/dataset/017-9499p>

(or)

[Brant.ca/elections](https://brant.ca/elections)

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)
-----------------------------	------------------------------

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)
--------------------------	---------------

Nominee's full qualifying address within municipality

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

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

Mailing Address Same as qualifying address

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

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

If nominated for school board, full address of residence within its jurisdiction

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

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

Email Address	Telephone Number	Telephone Number 2
---------------	------------------	--------------------

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)
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**APPENDIX B - ENDORSEMENT OF NOMINATION - FORM 2
2026 MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION**

Please see here:

<https://forms.mgcs.gov.on.ca/en/dataset/017-2233>

(or)

[Brant.ca/elections](https://brant.ca/elections)

Instructions

- Candidates must obtain 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)
--------------------------	---------------

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)	<input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> Delete

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)	<input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> Delete

Instructions

- Candidates must obtain 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.

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.			
_____		_____	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>
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.			
_____		_____	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>
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.			
_____		_____	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>
Signature		Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	

Instructions

- Candidates must obtain 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.

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.			
_____		_____	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>
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.			
_____		_____	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>
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.			
_____		_____	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>
Signature		Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	

Instructions

- Candidates must obtain 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.

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)	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>

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)	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>

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)	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>

Instructions

- Candidates must obtain 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.

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.			
_____		_____	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>
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.			
_____		_____	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>
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.			
_____		_____	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>
Signature		Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	

Instructions

- Candidates must obtain 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.

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.			
_____		_____	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>
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.			
_____		_____	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>
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.			
_____		_____	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>
Signature		Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	

Instructions

- Candidates must obtain 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.

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.			
_____		_____	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>
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.			
_____		_____	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>
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.			
_____		_____	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>
Signature		Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	

Instructions

- Candidates must obtain 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.

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.			
_____		_____	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>
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.			
_____		_____	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>
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.			
_____		_____	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>
Signature		Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	

Instructions

- Candidates must obtain 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.

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)	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>

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)	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>



APPENDIX C - DECLARATION OF QUALIFICATIONS - MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE
2026 MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

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

- Mayor
- Councillor, Ward ____
- Grand Erie District (Public) School Board Trustee
- Brant Haldimand Norfolk District Catholic (Separate) School Board Trustee

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 the office of:
 - Mayor
 - Councillor, Ward ____
 - Grand Erie District Public School Board Trustee
 - Brant Haldimand Norfolk District Catholic Separate School Board Trustee
2. Without limiting the generality of paragraph 1, I am at least eighteen years of age, a Canadian citizen, a resident of the County of Brant or the owner or tenant of land in the County of Brant 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 County of Brant, or if I am an employee of the County of Brant, 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 or, if I am such a person, I will provide proof of my resignation in a form satisfactory to the Clerk of the County of Brant prior to 2:00 p.m. on Nomination Day, August 19, 2022. I understand that the Clerk of the County of Brant 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*.
5. I am not prohibited from voting at the municipal election under subsection 17(3) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.
6. Without limiting the generality of paragraph 5,
- I am not a person who is serving a sentence of imprisonment in a penal or correctional institution.
 - I am not a person who was convicted of a corrupt practice described in subsection 90(3) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, during an election that occurred less than four years prior to Monday, October 24, 2022.
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 eight years prior to Monday, October 24, 2022.
8. I am not disqualified from being elected to or holding office by reason of any violations of the election campaign financial requirements or violations for not filing the financial statement pursuant to the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.

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 County of Brant:

Date

Candidate Signature

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, County of Brant until the next municipal election.



**APPENDIX D - FREEDOM OF INFORMATION RELEASE FORM
2026 MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION**

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mayor
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ward 1 Councillor
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ward 2 Councillor
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ward 3 Councillor
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ward 4 Councillor
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ward 5 Councillor
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public School Board Trustee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Separate School Board Trustee

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, as amended, I hereby authorize election staff to include on the County of Brant's website and make available to any person the following information with respect to my candidacy for elected office (include only information you would like to make public):

Address: _____

Telephone Number(s): _____

Home: _____ Mobile: _____

Other: _____

Campaign Office: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Website: _____

Candidate Signature



**APPENDIX E - VOTER'S LIST REQUEST FORM
2026 MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION**

As per Section 23(4) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended, "on the written request of a certified candidate for an office, the clerk shall provide him or her with the part of the voters' list that contains the names of the electors who are entitled to vote for that office."

I hereby declare that:

1. I am a candidate for the office of:

	Mayor
	Ward 1 Councillor
	Ward 2 Councillor
	Ward 3 Councillor
	Ward 4 Councillor
	Ward 5 Councillor
	Public School Board Trustee
	Separate School Board Trustee

2. I understand that, according to the provisions of the Municipal Elections Act, myself, or any other person acting on my behalf, shall only use the voters' list for election purposes and that the voters' list cannot be published, posted, or made available to the public in any manner. As such (select one),

- I do not wish to receive a copy of the voters' list containing the names of the electors who are entitled to vote for the office for which I am a candidate.
- I request a copy of the voters' list containing the names of the electors who are entitled to vote for the office which I am a candidate. I would like the list to be provided in the following format:

- Electronic Format
- Paper Format

3. I understand that as per Section 23(8)(3) of the MEA, a person who has been provided with a copy of the voters' list must destroy it forty-five (45) days after voting day in a by-election.

Candidate Name

Candidate Signature



APPENDIX F - ELECTION CAMPAIGN BANK ACCOUNT 2026 MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BOARD

As per Section 88.22 of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 as amended:

Duties of candidate

(1) 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.

Candidates must open a bank account if they accept any contributions (including contributions of money from yourself) or incur any expenses. All contributions (including contributions you make yourself) must be deposited into the campaign bank account. All expenses must be paid from the campaign account.

Be advised that corporations and trade unions may not make contributions to candidates. This includes contributions of money, goods and services, or any special discounts on goods and services.

A candidate's nomination fee is considered a personal expense, not a campaign expense, and should not be reported on your campaign financial statement. If, after you pay the nomination fee, you do not spend any money on your campaign, and do not accept any contributions, you do not have to open a bank account.

As such (select one):

- In accordance with the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended, I understand that I must have an election campaign bank account open if I accept contributions or incur expenses and will provide the Clerk with written proof of the existence of such bank account prior to the close of Nomination Day at 2:00pm on January 30, 2026. I understand that failure to provide the Clerk with sufficient written proof of the existence of an election bank account, prior to 2:00pm on January 30, 2026, may result in my nomination being rejected. Sufficient written proof shall include the bank account number and opening balance or documentation provided by the financial institution.

- I will not accept contributions of money or incur expenses in accordance with the Municipal elections Act, 1996, as amended, and, as a result, will not be opening an election campaign bank account. If this changes, I will provide the Clerk with written proof of the existence of such bank account prior to the close of Nomination Day at 2:00pm on January 30, 2026.

Candidate Name

Candidate Signature



**APPENDIX G1 - NOTICE OF FILING REQUIREMENTS AND PENALTIES RELATED TO
CAMPAIGN FINANCES
2026 MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION**

The Municipal Elections Act, 1996 as amended, requires every candidate to file a financial statement.

Section 33.1 of the Municipal Elections Act states that the clerk shall, before voting day, give to each person nominated for an office notice of

- (a) The penalties under subsection 88.23(2) and 92(1) related to election campaign finances; and
- (b) The refund of the nomination filing fee that the candidate is entitled to receive in the circumstances described in section 34.

Section 88.25(9) of the Municipal Elections Act states that at least 30 days before the filing date, the clerk shall give notice of the following matters to every candidate whose nomination was filed with him or her:

- 1. All the filing requirements of this section.
- 2. The candidate's entitlement to receive a refund of the nomination filing fee if he or she meets the requirements of section 34.
- 3. The penalties set out in subsections 88.23(2) and 92(1).

Penalties

88.23 (1) Effect of default by candidate

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 the 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) Penalties

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) Offences by candidate

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.

Compliance Audit of Candidate's Campaign Finances

88.33(1) Application by elector

An elector who is entitled to vote in an election and believes on reasonable grounds that a candidate has contravened a provision of this Act relating to election campaign finances may apply for a compliance audit of the candidate's election campaign finances, even if the candidate has not filed a financial statement under section 88.25.

88.33 (10) Appointment of auditor

If the committee decides under subsection (7) to grant the application, it shall appoint an auditor to conduct a compliance audit of the candidate's election campaign finances.

88.33 (12) Duty of auditor

The auditor shall promptly conduct an audit of the candidate's election campaign finances to determine whether he or she has complied with the provisions of this Act relating to election campaign finances and shall prepare a report outlining any apparent contravention by the candidate.

88.33 (15) Powers of auditor

For the purpose of the audit, the auditor,

- (a) is entitled to have access, at all reasonable hours, to all relevant books, papers, documents or things of the candidate and of the municipality or local board; and
- (b) has the powers set out in section 33 of the Public Inquiries Act, 2009 and section 33 applies to the audit.

88.33 (17) Decision

The committee shall consider the report within 30 days after receiving it and, if the report concludes that the candidate appears to have contravened a provision of the Act relating to election campaign finances, the committee shall decide whether to commence a legal proceeding against the candidate for the apparent contravention.

Refund

34 Refund

A candidate is entitled to receive a refund of the nomination filing fee if the documents required under subsection 88.25 (1) are filed on or before 2 p.m. on the filing date in accordance with that subsection.

88.25 (5) Same

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 reporting period, the candidate shall, before 2 p.m. 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.

88.25 (6) Supplementary report

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.

88.25 (7) Auditor

An auditor's report shall be prepared by an auditor licensed under the Public Accounting Act, 2004.

88.25 (8) Exception re auditor's report

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.

88.25 (11) Electronic filing

The clerk may provide for electronic filing under this section and may establish conditions and limits with respect to electronic filing.

88.25 (12) Documents filed after filing date

If the documents required to be filed under this section are not filed by 2 p.m. on the day that is 30 days after the applicable day for filing the documents, the clerk shall accept the documents only for the purpose of making the documents available under subsection 88 (9.1).

A Message from the Clerk:

Be advised that notice has hereby been given in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996. An acknowledgement form for the Notice of Filing Requirements and Penalties Related to Campaign Finance must be signed by the candidate. The prescribed Form 4 – Financial Statement – Auditor's Report Candidate is provided in this package for review.

Sincerely,



Sunayana Katikapalli
Director of Council Services, Clerk



**APPENDIX G2 - NOTICE OF FILING REQUIREMENTS AND PENALTIES RELATED TO CAMPAIGN
FINANCES - ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM
2026 MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION**

In accordance with the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 as amended, every candidate is required to file a financial statement.

Section 33.1 of the Municipal Election Act states that the clerk shall, before voting day, give to each person nominated for an office notice of:

- (a) the penalties under subsection 88.23 (2) and 92 (1) related to election campaign finances; and
- (b) the refund of the nomination filing fee that the candidate is entitled to receive in the circumstances described in section 34.

Section 88.25 (9) of the Municipal Election Act states that at least 30 days before the filing date, the clerk shall give notice of the following matters to every candidate whose nomination was filed with him or her:

- 1. All the filing requirements of this section.
- 2. The candidate's entitlement to receive a refund of the nomination filing fee if he or she meets the requirements of section 34.
- 3. The penalties set out in subsections 88.23 (2) and 92 (1).

-
- I hereby acknowledge receipt of this notice of filing requirements and penalties related to campaign finances in accordance with section 33.1 and 88.25(9) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended.

Candidate Name

Candidate Signature

Date



**APPENDIX H - INITIAL ESTIMATE OF MAXIMUM CAMPAIGN EXPENSES AND MAXIMUM CONTRIBUTIONS TO A CANDIDATE'S OWN ELECTION CAMPAIGN
2026 MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION**

In accordance with the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended.

The estimated maximum campaign expenses that a candidate is permitted to incur for their respective offices in the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election to be held on October 26, 2026, are provided below:

Formula:

1. Maximum Campaign Expenses = \$5,000 + (# of electors as of September 15, 2022 x \$0.85)
2. Maximum Own/Spousal Contributions = \$5,000 + (# of electors as of September 15, 2022 x \$0.20)

Calculations:

The amounts will be provided by the Clerk at the time of filing.

Office	Maximum Campaign Expense	Maximum Own/Spousal Contributions
Mayor		
Ward 1		
Ward 2		
Ward 3		
Ward 4		
Ward 5		
School Board Trustee, Grand Erie District School Board (public)		
School Board Trustee, Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board (separate)		

Be advised that this amount will be recalculated after September 15, 2026, based on the updated voters' list. A certificate of maximum expenses will be issued based on the higher of the two values.



**APPENDIX I - COUNTY OF BRANT SIGN BY-LAW
2026 MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION**

Please see here:

[Brant.ca/elections](https://brant.ca/elections)

Note: The Sign By-law is currently under review. An updated version will be added to the website shortly.



**APPENDIX J - COUNTY OF BRANT USE OF MUNICIPAL RESOURCES POLICY
2026 MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION**

Please see here:

[Brant.ca/elections](https://brant.ca/elections)

SUBJECT:
County of Brant - Municipal Use of Corporate Resources

Policy #:	COU-2022-01
Effective date:	March 2022
Amendment date:	New
Replaces:	New

1. Procedure Statement and Scope:

The purpose of this procedure is to clarify that all election candidates, including the members of the County of Brant Council, and County of Brant staff are required to follow the provisions of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 during a *municipal elections campaign period*.

All references to candidates in this document refers to municipal election candidates, school board elections candidates and third party advertisers.

2. Principles:

2.1 Corporate resources, assets and funding shall not be used for any campaign-related purposes.

This includes:

- Corporate facilities/properties *can only be* used for election related purpose if there is a rental fee established corporately and the rental is available to all candidates and third parties. No preference will be given to any candidate and bookings are subject to scheduling and availability. No facility/property shall be rented or used for any municipal election related purpose during any day that voting is taking place on the property including set-up, hosting or take-down activities.
- Candidates shall not use County owned or leased equipment, supplies, technology and resources for campaign purposes, including but not limited to:
 - Any County owned or leased vehicle, technology, cell phone, email address, and County supported personal websites or social media accounts.
- Photographs produced for and owned by the County of Brant shall not be used for any campaign purposes.
- Distribution lists or contact lists developed utilizing corporate resources or through contact in a member of Council’s role shall not be utilized for election purposes.
- The municipality’s voice mail systems shall not be used to record election related messages or the computer network (including the County’s e-mail system) to distribute election related correspondence.
- Candidates shall not use County registered trademarks and branding such as the logo, crest and slogan etc. for any campaign purposes.

- Candidates shall not use a uniform, badge, crest or other elements that identifies them as County Council or Advisory Committee members for any campaign purposes, except to say that they served in the role.
- Advertising will be at the council member's/candidate's cost and not advertised in the County operated facilities.
- Candidates shall not engage staff for any campaign related activities. This includes:
 - Candidates shall not engage the services of persons during hours in which those persons receive any compensation from the County for election related purposes.
- Staff shall not canvass or actively work in support of a candidate during normal working hours unless they are on a leave of absence without pay, flex time or vacation.
- All candidates in the municipal election and County staff shall ensure that their activities do not create a real or perceived conflict of interest.

2.2 Expectations of County Staff from May 1 of a municipal election year until Election Day inclusive:

- Staff are expected to take extra care to ensure that they behave in a manner that residents, members of the existing County Council and potential candidates for election see as impartial, fair and unbiased.
- To avoid any perceived conflict of interest, staff are discouraged from assisting with municipal election campaigns in the County of Brant such as posting election signs on their property, phone and e-mail solicitation, distribution of brochures and wearing candidate buttons.
- Staff shall not engage in campaign activities while wearing a uniform, badge, crest or other element that identifies them as County staff.
- Staff shall not engage in campaign activities while using any resource (vehicle, technology, email, cell phone etc.) owned or leased by the County.
- County staff are encouraged to consult with managerial staff before engaging in campaign activities to assess how their political activities may impact their professional duties.
- Assistants to the Mayor and/or Councillors will not attend campaign events, prepare campaign materials or resources or assist with campaign activities in any manner.
- If staff are hosting a public meeting of any kind, all municipal council members and candidates (who have submitted nomination forms for that municipal election) present at the meeting will be introduced. All candidates must advise the organizer/host of the event of their presence in order to ensure they are recognized.

2.3 County Website:

- The 'Meet Council' webpage on the County's website will display only the name and photo of the elected representative, their contact information and their ward map. Biographies and any other links will be removed during the campaign period

- On the 'Election Candidates' webpage on the County's website, each candidate will be permitted one photo, their name, contact information and one link to a candidate's campaign website or social media, based on the approval of the Clerk.

2.4 Public Information:

- Election information will be available through the local media and on the County's website at www.brant.ca. The names of candidates and contact information will be posted as soon as possible following receipt in the Clerk's office of the required fees and paperwork.

2.5 Special Events:

- Staff will continue to invite all members of Council to the County's special events throughout an election year. The County Clerk will ensure that the dates, locations and times of major public special events known to the County Clerk are also communicated to all registered candidates.

2.6 Sign Bylaw:

- All candidates are required to abide by the Sign Bylaw 121-08 in terms of campaign signage and placement.



**APPENDIX K – VOTING PROXY – FORM 3
2026 MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION**

Please see here for Form 3:

brant.ca/elections

Instructions

Complete two copies of this form.

Person Appointing a Proxy

1. You must be eligible to vote in the municipality.
2. The person you are appointing must be eligible to vote in the municipality.
3. You must know the person who you are appointing and be able to fill in their information.

To complete the form:

1. Provide your information in Box A.
2. Provide the information of the person you are appointing in Box B.
3. Sign and date the form in Box C.

Note: You must fill in the information of the person you are appointing before signing the form in Box C.

After completing two copies of the form, give them to the person who you are appointing as your proxy.

This form is a public record and the copy on file with the clerk may be inspected by any person.

Person Being Appointed

1. You must be eligible to vote in the municipality.
2. You may be appointed as the proxy of one or more family members (parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, sibling or spouse) **or** as the proxy of one person who is not a family member.

To certify the appointment:

Once the person appointing you has given you two copies of the completed form, take them to the municipal clerk (or a person designated by the municipal clerk).

You can present the two copies of the form at the clerk's office (or another location designated by the clerk) during normal office hours, or during the hours of 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. on any day of an advance vote.

The clerk may require you to provide proof of identity or eligibility to vote before certifying the proxy.

You must sign the form in Box D in front of the clerk.

After certifying the proxy (Box E), the clerk will keep one copy of the form and give the other copy back to you.

This form is a public record and the copy on file with the clerk may be inspected by any person.

To vote as a proxy:

Take the completed and certified form to the voting place.

When you present the form, you will be required to take the oath in Box F.

After taking the oath, you can vote on behalf of the person who appointed you.

Box A: Elector Making Appointment	For Office Use (Initial after voters' list has been checked)
--	---

Municipality		
Ward Name or Number (if any)	Voting Subdivision Number (if known)	
Elector Making Appointment		
Last Name or Single Name	Given Name(s)	
Full address within this municipality		
Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name
Municipality	Province	Postal Code

Box B: Elector Appointed	For Office Use (initial after voters' list has been checked)
---------------------------------	---

Municipality		
Ward Name or Number (if any)	Voting Subdivision Number (if known)	
Elector Appointed		
Last Name or Single Name	Given Name(s)	
Full address within this municipality		
Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name
Municipality	Province	Postal Code

Relationship of Elector Appointed to Elector Making the Appointment (check one only)

Related (parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, sibling or spouse) Not related

Box C: Statement of Elector Making Appointment

I, the undersigned, a qualified elector in the above municipality, do hereby appoint

(person named in Box B), to vote on my behalf and, if related, do attest to their relationship to me.

Signature of the Elector Making Appointment	Date (yyyy/mm/dd)
---	-------------------

Note: It is unlawful to sign this proxy form until Box B is completed.
The name of the elector appointed **must** be filled in at the time the elector making the appointment signs the statement.

Box D: Declaration By Elector Appointed (to be completed in the presence of the clerk or designate at the clerk's office or other designated location)

I, the undersigned, a qualified elector in the above municipality, affirm that I have been appointed to vote in good faith and have been instructed to do so on behalf of the elector who made the appointment and that I have not been previously appointed to vote on behalf of any other non-related person.

Declared before Clerk or Commissioner

in the _____

on (yyyy/mm/dd) _____



Signature of Clerk or Commissioner, etc.

Signature of Elector Appointed

Box E: Certification by Clerk

Signature of Clerk or Designate

Date of Certification (yyyy/mm/dd)

I hereby certify that the elector making the appointment is qualified to vote in this municipality and that the elector appointed is a qualified elector in this municipality and is authorized to vote on behalf of the elector making the appointment.

Note: Clerk may require proof of identity of elector appointed before certifying proxy. This form is a public record and the copy on file with the clerk may be inspected by any person.

Box F: Oral Oath

I swear or solemnly affirm:

- that I am the elector appointed; and
- that I am voting in good faith on behalf of the elector who made the appointment; and
- I have not been previously appointed to vote on behalf of any other non-related person.

[Save Form](#)

[Print Form](#)

[Clear Form](#)



**APPENDIX L – FINANCIAL STATEMENT – AUDITOR’S REPORT – CANDIDATE – FORM 4
2026 MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION**

Please see here for Form 4:

brant.ca/elections

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 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
------	----	----

 to

yyyy	MM	DD
------	----	----

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

\$

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

Box C: Statement of Campaign Income and Expenses

LOAN

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

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) = \$ _____ **CS**

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 18 ; 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

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 111- Contributions exceeding \$100 per contributor
 (Add totals from Table 3 and Table 4 and record the total in Part 1 - Summary of Contributions) \$ _____ 18

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) = \$ _____

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		Licence Number
Given Name(s)		
Address		
Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name
Municipality		Postal Code
Province		
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.



**APPENDIX M – 2026 CANDIDATES’ GUIDE – ONTARIO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AND SCHOOL BOARD
ELECTIONS
2026 MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION**

Please see here:

<https://www.ontario.ca/document/2026-candidates-guide-ontario-municipal-council-and-school-board-elections>

(or)

[brant.ca/elections](https://www.ontario.ca/document/2026-candidates-guide-ontario-municipal-council-and-school-board-elections)

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 \(Form 6\)](#)