



2026 CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACKAGE

Corporation of the Town of Goderich

57 West Street

Goderich, ON N7A 2K5

519-524-8344

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Disclaimer

The information in this package is general in nature and candidates should refer to the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 for specific provisions and additional information. A copy of the Act can be obtained from Publications Ontario (telephone 1-800-668-9938), or online at www.e-laws.gov.on.ca.

Introduction

This guide has been prepared for the purpose of supplying information to persons intending to stand for elected office. This guide is available electronically on the Town of Goderich website at www.goderich.ca.

This Guide is only intended to provide candidates with information on running for office. Candidates are responsible for ensuring they are familiar with the requirements of the Municipal Elections Act and should consult the Act for complete information and legislative requirements. A copy of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 is available on line at www.e-laws.gov.on.ca

Candidates must comply with all the requirements relating to election campaign financing. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs produces a guide for candidates that outlines the financial reporting requirements under the Act. It is included in this package.

It is the responsibility of prospective candidates to ensure through their own determination that they have complied with the election financing regulations and that they are in fact qualified and not disqualified by law. In all cases of filing times (i.e.:2:00 pm) the time displayed by the Clerks Department shall prevail.

Key Contacts

Returning Officer

Andrea Fisher

519-524-8344 ext. 210

vote@goderich.ca

Deputy Returning officer

Amanda Banting

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Important Dates, 2026 Municipal Election

May 1, 2026

- Nomination and registration periods begin

June 24, 2026

- Candidate Information Session at the Libro Hall in Clinton, ON at 6:30 p.m.

August 21, 2026

- Nomination Day – last day to file nomination papers
- 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. – nominations or withdrawals cannot be accepted beyond 2:00 p.m.

August 24, 2026

- All nominations to be examined and certified by 4:00 p.m.
- Declaration of acclamation provided after 4:00 p.m.

August 27, 2026

- The Final List of Certified Candidates will be posted at the Municipal Office and on the Township's website

September 1, 2026

- Voters' List available to certified candidates by written request

September 20th – 30th, 2026

- Interim list of changes to the Voters' List will be available

October 13, 2026

- Telephone and Internet voting opens

October 23, 2026

- Last day for an individual or entity to file a notice of registration as a third party advertiser

October 26, 2026

- Voting day, to 8:00 p.m.

October 27, 2026

- Clerk to declare Official Results as soon as possible after Voting Day

November 17, 2026

- Inaugural Council Meeting will be held

December 31, 2026

- End of Election Campaign Period

March 30, 2027

- Deadline for Candidates and Third-Party Advertisers to File Financial Statements, by 2:00 p.m.

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 \(Form 6\)](#)

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			
Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name	
Municipality		Province	Postal Code
Mailing Address <input type="checkbox"/> Same as qualifying address			
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
----------------------------	---------------	--	---------------------------------

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)

Save Form

Print Form

Clear Form

Instructions

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

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

Name of person seeking nomination

Last Name or Single Name

Given Name(s)

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)

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)

Delete

Name of person providing endorsement – 3

Last Name or Single Name

Given Name(s)

Qualifying Address

Suite/Unit Number

Street Number

Street Name

Municipality

Province

Postal Code

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

Signature

Date (yyyy/mm/dd)

[Delete](#)**Name of person providing endorsement – 4**

Last Name or Single Name

Given Name(s)

Qualifying Address

Suite/Unit Number

Street Number

Street Name

Municipality

Province

Postal Code

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

Signature

Date (yyyy/mm/dd)

[Delete](#)**Name of person providing endorsement – 5**

Last Name or Single Name

Given Name(s)

Qualifying Address

Suite/Unit Number

Street Number

Street Name

Municipality

Province

Postal Code

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

Signature

Date (yyyy/mm/dd)

[Delete](#)[Add Person \(+\)](#)

Name of person providing endorsement - 6

Last Name or Single Name

Given Name(s)

Qualifying Address

Suite/Unit Number

Street Number

Street Name

Municipality

Province

Postal Code

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

Signature

Date (yyyy/mm/dd)

Name of person providing endorsement - 7

Last Name or Single Name

Given Name(s)

Qualifying Address

Suite/Unit Number

Street Number

Street Name

Municipality

Province

Postal Code

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

Signature

Date (yyyy/mm/dd)

Name of person providing endorsement - 8

Last Name or Single Name

Given Name(s)

Qualifying Address

Suite/Unit Number

Street Number

Street Name

Municipality

Province

Postal Code

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

Signature

Date (yyyy/mm/dd)

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

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

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

Name of person providing endorsement - 12

Last Name or Single Name

Given Name(s)

Qualifying Address

Suite/Unit Number

Street Number

Street Name

Municipality

Province

Postal Code

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

Signature

Date (yyyy/mm/dd)

Name of person providing endorsement - 13

Last Name or Single Name

Given Name(s)

Qualifying Address

Suite/Unit Number

Street Number

Street Name

Municipality

Province

Postal Code

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

Signature

Date (yyyy/mm/dd)

Name of person providing endorsement -14

Last Name or Single Name

Given Name(s)

Qualifying Address

Suite/Unit Number

Street Number

Street Name

Municipality

Province

Postal Code

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

Signature

Date (yyyy/mm/dd)

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

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

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

Name of person providing endorsement - 18

Last Name or Single Name

Given Name(s)

Qualifying Address

Suite/Unit Number

Street Number

Street Name

Municipality

Province

Postal Code

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

Signature

Date (yyyy/mm/dd)

Name of person providing endorsement - 19

Last Name or Single Name

Given Name(s)

Qualifying Address

Suite/Unit Number

Street Number

Street Name

Municipality

Province

Postal Code

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

Signature

Date (yyyy/mm/dd)

Name of person providing endorsement - 20

Last Name or Single Name

Given Name(s)

Qualifying Address

Suite/Unit Number

Street Number

Street Name

Municipality

Province

Postal Code

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

Signature

Date (yyyy/mm/dd)

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

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

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

Name of person providing endorsement - 24

Last Name or Single Name

Given Name(s)

Qualifying Address

Suite/Unit Number

Street Number

Street Name

Municipality

Province

Postal Code

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

Signature

Date (yyyy/mm/dd)

Name of person providing endorsement - 25

Last Name or Single Name

Given Name(s)

Qualifying Address

Suite/Unit Number

Street Number

Street Name

Municipality

Province

Postal Code

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

Signature

Date (yyyy/mm/dd)

[Save Form](#)[Print Form](#)[Clear Form](#)

FORM 3 - NOTICE OF COLLECTION / CONSENT TO RELEASE PERSONAL INFORMATION

Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

Personal information on the Nomination Paper is collected under the authority of the Municipal Elections Act and will be used to assist the Clerk in the administration of the 2026 Municipal Election. Questions regarding this collection should be directed to the Clerk, 57 West Street., Goderich 519-524-8344.

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

- Mayor
- Deputy Mayor
- Councillor
- Trustee, Avon Maitland District School Board
- Trustee, Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board
- Conseiller, Le Conseil scolaire public de district du Centre-Sud-Ouest
- Conseiller, Le Conseil scolaire de district des écoles Catholique du Sud-Ouest

I acknowledge that the Nomination Form filed by me contains personal information and I hereby authorize the Clerk to disclose it to the general public.

This _____ day of _____, 2026

Signature of Candidate

Signature of the Clerk, or designate

Instructions

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

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

For the campaign period from (day clerk received nomination)

YYYY	MM	DD
------	----	----

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	Parties and Other Expressions of Appreciation	Contribution Limit
General		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

* Note – No entry is required. Values will auto-populated once the applicable details are calculated.

LOAN

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

INCOME

Total amount of all contributions (from line 1A in Schedule 1)	+ \$	see Note *
Revenue from items \$25 or less	+ \$	
Sign deposit refund	+ \$	
Revenue from fundraising events not deemed a contribution (from Part III of Schedule 2)	+ \$	see Note *
Interest earned by campaign bank account	+ \$	
Other (provide full details)		
1. _____	+ \$	-
2. _____	+ \$	-
3. _____	+ \$	-
4. _____	+ \$	-
5. _____	+ \$	-
6. _____	+ \$	-
<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #e0ffff; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Add Item (+)</div>		
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)	+ \$	see Note *
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. _____	+ \$	-
<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #e0ffff; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Add Item (+)</div>		
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.	_____	+ \$	_____	-

Add Item (+)

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)		+ \$	_____	see Note *
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.	_____	+ \$	_____	-

Add Item (+)

Other (provide full details)				
1.	_____	+ \$	_____	-
2.	_____	+ \$	_____	-
3.	_____	+ \$	_____	-
4.	_____	+ \$	_____	-
5.	_____	+ \$	_____	-

Add Item (+)

Total Expenses not subject to spending limits = \$ _____ **C4**

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

Box D: Calculation of Surplus or Deficit

Excess (deficiency) of income over expenses
(Income minus Total Expenses) (C1 – C5) + \$ _____ **D1**

If there is a surplus, deduct any refund of candidate's or spouse's contributions to the campaign - \$ _____

Surplus (or deficit) for the campaign = \$ _____ **D2**

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

Schedule 1 – Contributions

Part I – Summary of Contributions

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

Part II – Contributions from candidate or spouse

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

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

Add Item (+)

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					

Add Item (+)

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				

Add Item (+)

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				

Add Item (+)

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

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

Schedule 2 – Fundraising Events and Activities

Complete a separate schedule for each event or activity held.

Additional schedule(s) attached, if completed manually.

Fundraising Event/Activity 1

Description of fundraising event/activity _____

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

Part I – Ticket revenue

Admission charge (per person)	\$		2A
(If there are a range of ticket prices, attach complete breakdown of all ticket sales)			
Number of tickets sold	x		2B
Total Part I (2A X 2B) (include in Part I of Schedule 1)			= \$

Part II – Other revenue deemed a contribution

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

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

Add Item (+)

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.		+ \$		-

Add Item (+)

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.		+ \$		-

Add Item (+)

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

Remove Event (-)

Add Event (+)

Schedule 3 – Broadcasters and Publishers

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

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

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

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

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

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

Professional Designation of Auditor

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

Contact Information

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

Address		
Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name

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

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

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

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

Report is attached

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

Save Form

Print Form

Clear Form

FORM 5 - WITHDRAWAL OF NOMINATION

Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (s. 36)

A person who has been nominated may withdraw his or her nomination by filing a written withdrawal in the Clerk's office by 2:00 p.m. on Nomination Day, August 21, 2026 if the nomination was filed on or before Nomination Day and by 2:00 p.m. on August 26, 2026 if the nomination was filed under subsection 33(5).

The Candidate is required to appear in person with identification.

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

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

Date

Signature of Candidate

This withdrawal delivered to me at _____ this _____ day of _____, 2026.
(time)

Municipal Clerk or designate

FORM 23- ESTIMATED MAXIMUM CAMPAIGN EXPENSES
BASED ON 2022 ELIGIBLE ELECTORS AS OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2022
Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (s. 33.0.1(1) and 88.20(6))

1. There is a limit of \$1200 per individual contribution.
2. A contributor shall not make contributions exceeding a total of \$5,000 to candidates running for office on the same Council.
3. Limits are placed on expenses based on a formula related to the number of electors.(O.Reg 101/97). For the office of Mayor, it is \$7,500 plus \$0.85 per elector. For all other offices, it is \$5,000 plus \$0.85 per elector.

Spending Limit Estimate – Council Offices				
Office	Base Rate	Number of Electors	Rate Per Elector (\$0.85)	Total Spending Limit
Mayor	\$7,500	6622	\$5,628.70	\$13,128.70
Deputy Mayor	\$5,000	6622	\$5,628.70	\$10,628.70
Councillor	\$5,000	6622	\$5,628.70	\$10,628.70

Spending Limit Estimate – School Board Trustee				
Office	Base Rate	Number of Electors	Rate Per Elector (\$0.85)	Total Spending Limit
Avon Maitland District School Board	\$5,000	10,055	\$8,546.75	\$13,546.75
Huron Perth Catholic District School Board	\$5,000	2346	\$1,994.10	\$6,694.10
Le Conseil scolaire public de district du Centre-Sud-Ouest	\$5,000			
Le Conseil scolaire de district des écoles Catholique du Sud-Ouest	\$5,000			

4. On or before September 30, 2026, each candidate will receive a Final Certificate of Maximum Permitted Expenses pursuant to Section 88.20(6) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996.
5. The Clerk’s calculation is final.

Dated this 1st day of May 2026.

Municipal Clerk or designate

**FORM 23 B - ESTIMATED MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTIONS OWN
CAMPAIGN**

Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (s. 33.0.2, and 88.9.1)

BASED ON 2022 ELIGIBLE ELECTORS AS OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

1. A candidate for an office on a council and his or her spouse shall not make contributions to the candidate's own election campaign that, combined, exceed the following: For the office of Reeve, it is \$7,500 plus \$0.20 per elector. For all other offices, it is \$5,000 plus \$0.20 per elector entitled to vote for that office. (Municipal Elections Act, 1996, 88.9.1(1))

Spending Limit Estimate – Council Offices				
Office	Base Rate	Number of Electors	Rate Per Elector (\$0.20)	Total Spending Limit
Mayor	\$7,500	6622	\$1,324.40	\$8,824.40
Deputy Mayor	\$5,000	6622	\$1,324.40	\$6,324.40
Councillor	\$5,000	6622	\$1,324.40	\$6,324.40

Spending Limit Estimate – School Board Trustee				
Office	Base Rate	Number of Electors	Rate Per Elector (\$0.20)	Total Spending Limit
Avon Maitland District School Board	\$5,000	10,055	\$2,011	\$7,011
Huron Perth Catholic District School Board	\$5,000	2346	\$469.20	\$5,469.20
Le Conseil scolaire public de district du Centre-Sud-Ouest	\$5,000			
Le Conseil scolaire de district des écoles Catholique du Sud-Ouest	\$5,000			

2. On or before September 30, 2026, each candidate will receive a Final Certificate of Maximum Permitted Expenses pursuant to Section 88.20(6) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996.
3. The Clerk's calculation is final.

Dated this 1st day of May 2026.

Municipal Clerk or designate

FORM 23 C - ESTIMATED MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF EXPENSES FOR PARTIES ETC.
AFTER VOTING DAY

Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (s. 33.0.2, and 88.9.1)

BASED ON 2022 ELIGIBLE ELECTORS AS OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

1. The maximum amount of expenses for holding parties and making other expressions of appreciation after the close of voting is (calculated as 10% of the Estimated Maximum Campaign Expenses – Candidates – Form 23, (O. Reg, 101/97, s. 6 (1)):

Office	Total Spending Limit
Mayor	
Deputy Mayor	
Councillor	

Office	Total Spending Limit
Avon Maitland District School Board	
Huron Perth Catholic District School Board	
Le Conseil scolaire public de district du Centre-Sud-Ouest	
Le Conseil scolaire de district des écoles Catholique du Sud-Ouest	

2. On or before September 30, 2026, each candidate will receive a Certificate of Maximum Amount of Expenses for Parties Etc. After Voting Day – Candidates” pursuant to Section 88.20 (9) (13) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.
3. The Clerk’s calculation is final.

Dated this 1st day of May 2026.

Municipal Clerk or designate

FORM 38 - DECLARATION OF PROPER USE OF THE VOTERS' LIST

Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (Section 23 (3), (4), and (5))

I, _____, being a:

Candidate for the office of _____

OR

A person entitled to a copy of the Voters' List pursuant to Section 23 of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, namely _____

Hereby request the Clerk to provide me with the following information when it becomes available:

- A copy of the Voters' List;
- A copy of the revisions made to the Voters' List (Interim List of Changes);
- Candidates module to view the list of electors

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

Signature

Date



Policy on the use of Corporate Resources for Election Purposes

Purpose:

This policy provides guidance on the appropriate use of corporate resources during municipal, school board, provincial and federal elections, and campaigns on a question on a ballot.

Legislative Authority:

The following legislative provisions are highlighted as they relate to this policy:

The Municipal Elections Act, 1996 s. 88.8 (4) states that municipalities cannot make a contribution (including money, goods and services) to a candidate. The Election Finances Act and the Canada Elections Act impose similar restrictions for provincial and federal election campaigns.

The Municipal Elections Act, 1996 also prohibits a candidate, or someone acting on the candidate's behalf, from accepting a contribution from a person who is not entitled to make a contribution. As a contribution may take the form of money, goods and services, any use of the Corporation's resources for an election campaign could be viewed as a contribution by the Town, which is a violation of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996.

Principles

This policy clarifies that all candidates, including members of Council, are required to follow the provisions of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996. The policy is also to ensure that all candidates are treated fairly and consistently.

In compliance with the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, public funds are not to be used for election campaigns, including the promotion of or opposition to the candidacy of a person for an elected office, or in support of or opposition to a question on a ballot.

Corporation resources including facilities, infrastructure, equipment, supplies, services, staff or any resource that belongs to or is funded by the Town may not be used for the purposes of an election campaign or for any campaign-related activities.

There shall be no campaign-related activities by candidates in any Town workplace or in any Town owned or operated buildings.

This policy recognizes that the business of the Town must continue to be carried out throughout the term of Council and that Members of Council are holders of their office until the end of their term, and supports Members of Council in continuing to fulfill their responsibilities as Members of Council. This

policy does not preclude Members of Council from representing the interests of the constituents who elected them.

The following guidelines apply to all Members of Council and also apply to an acclaimed Member of a Member not seeking re-election.

Guidelines

1. A candidate may not use Town facilities for election campaign purposes or for any campaign-related activities. Campaign signs and materials that identify a candidate may not be displayed in/at any Town facilities. Election campaign materials means those materials that promote or oppose the candidacy of a person for elected office, or that support or oppose a question on a ballot.
2. A candidate may not campaign or distribute election campaign materials at any event/function being hosted by the Town, whether on Town property or not.
3. A candidate may not use any Town infrastructure and equipment for election campaign purposes or for any campaign-related activities. This includes any physical or technology systems that support the operation of the Town's programs and services including but not limited to computer and telephone networks and applications, photocopiers, fax machines, email system, voicemail, wireless equipment, internet, smart phones, tablets and Town provided electronic devices.
4. A candidate may not use the services of staff during those hours in which staff receive any compensation from the Town.
5. A candidate may not use Town supplies for election campaign purposes.
6. A candidate may not print or distribute election campaign materials using Town funds.
7. Website, domain names and social media sites that are funded by the Town shall not include any campaign material, make reference to and/or identify an individual as a candidate or profile any slogan or symbol associated with a candidate.
8. The Town's communication materials, whether for internal or public distribution, cannot:
 - a) Profile (name or photograph), make reference to and/or identify any individual as a candidate.
 - b) Advocate for or against a particular candidate.
9. (Communication materials include but are not limited to: news releases, media advisories, invitations for special events, flyers, posters, banners, brochures, newsletters, e-newsletter and social media accounts.)
10. Photographs and videos produced for and owned by the Town cannot be used for election campaign purposes.

11. The Town corporate identifiers (i.e. the Town logo, coat-of-arms, Mayors' chain of office and its slogans) may not be printed or distributed in election campaign material or included on an election campaign website. Links to the Town's website are permitted from a candidate's election website for the purpose of obtaining information about the municipal election or sharing Town program/service information.
12. Candidates are prohibited from verifying whether an elector appears on the voters list or not, to the elector or any other person. Questions should be directed to Election Staff.
13. The Town's email addresses, telephone numbers and facility addresses are not to be used by a candidate as his/her election campaign contact information.

Exemptions to this policy:

- Municipal election information prepared, posted and maintained by Town Administration.
- Names and photographs of Members of Council, their contact information, and a list of their current representation on committees that is prepared, posted and maintained by Town Administration.
- Agendas and minutes of Committee and Council meetings.

Administration:

In accordance with the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 the Clerk and authorized designate(s) are responsible for the administration of this policy.



Corporation of the Town of Goderich

Election Accessibility Plan

2026 Municipal Elections

This Plan is for use in the 2026 Municipal Election in conjunction with the Municipality's current Accessibility Plan and IASR Standards.

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1. **Introduction**

The Municipal Clerk is responsible for the appropriate legislative and administrative conduct of the municipal elections in the Town of Goderich.

The Municipal Elections Act, (MEA), Section 12.1 (1) places responsibility on the Clerk to have regard to the needs of the electors and candidates with disabilities. Accessible Customer Service Standards must be followed when conducting municipal elections.

Section 12.1 (2) of the MEA requires that the clerk shall prepare a plan regarding the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities and shall make the plan available to the public before voting day in a regular election.

Town of Goderich municipal elections will be conducted in a manner that shall ensure that candidates and electors with disabilities have full and equal access to all election information and services, including the voting kiosk at the municipal office. The election shall be conducted in a manner that ensures that persons with disabilities are able to vote independently and privately with access to voting assistance if required.

Section 12.1 (2) of the MEA requires that within ninety (90) days of voting day the Clerk who is responsible for conducting the election shall submit a report to Council regarding the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities.

2. **Staff Training and Election Assistance**

Staff Training

All staff carrying out election duties will complete the Town of Goderich Accessible Customer Services Training and specific Election Training to comply with the municipal Accessibility Plan and to recognize and ensure that persons with disabilities are served in a way that accommodates their individual needs.

Training will include:

- How to interact/communicate with persons with various types of disability;
- How to interact with persons with disabilities who use assistive devices, require the assistance of a support person or a service animal.
- How to clearly explain internet and telephone voting, as well as the touch-screen voting kiosk option.
- What to do if a person is having difficulty accessing election information or services.
- How to provide voter assistance if requested.

Provision of Election Information

Election information will be provided to electors and candidates with disabilities in an alternative format, agreed upon between the requester and the Clerk.

Notice of the provision of information in an alternative format will be provided on the municipal website, www.goderich.ca and included in the election notices in the local media.

Notice of Temporary Service Disruption

The Clerk shall provide public notice on the municipal website and in the local media if there is a temporary disruption in the delivery of election information or services. The Notice shall include the reason for the disruption, the expected duration and an explanation of alternative methods of delivering the information or service. Every effort shall be made to provide alternative methods of providing the information or service to persons with disabilities.

Staff Assistance

The Election Staff are available throughout the election to assist with any issues that may arise with respect to providing a barrier-free election.

Contact information for assistance:

Telephone:	519-524-8344
Email:	vote@goderich.ca
Fax:	519-524-7209
In Person:	Town of Goderich 57 West St. Goderich, ON
Mail:	Town of Goderich 57 West St. Goderich, ON N7A 2K5

3. Assistance to Electors

General

The 2026 Town of Goderich Municipal Elections will be conducted with Internet and Telephone Voting methods. Detailed information about each voting method is set out in

the 2026 Election Procedures Manual, available on the municipal website or from the Clerk's Office and can be provided in an alternative format upon request.

Please contact us at 519-524-8344 or vote@goderich.ca if you require your Voter Information Package in an accessible format.

The Election Staff are available throughout the election to assist with any issues that may arise with respect to providing a barrier-free election.

Accessible Voting Kiosk

Section 45(2) of the MEA requires that the clerk shall ensure that each voting place is accessible to electors with disabilities.

An accessible voting kiosk located at the municipal office, 57 West St, Goderich will be available to voters throughout the voting period during regular office hours and on Election Day until 8:00 p.m. The location, accessible parking and entrance information will be posted on the election page of the municipal website, www.goderich.ca.

Parking

There is designated parking for individuals with disabilities that are clearly posted and located close to the entrance to the Voting Kiosk.

Interior

Access to the interior voting area and voting booth is level. Carpeting and doormats are level with the floor to prevent potential tripping hazards. The voting area is well lit and seating shall be made available.

Accessible Voting Booth

The Voting Kiosk will be low in height and have a wide area to allow individuals using mobility aids to vote independently and secretively.

Voting Assistance

Persons with disabilities may be accompanied by a support person within the Voting Kiosk or the Voting Kiosk Staff can assist the voter in casting their vote. The Voting Kiosk Supervisor shall, in conjunction with the person with the disability, determine the extent to which they need assistance and the best way to provide the assistance.

Persons may use a magnifying lens, mobile phone and/or electronic device as an accessibility tool.

Persons with disabilities may be accompanied by a support person and/or guide dog or service animal.

A mobile voting kiosk and Election Staff will be on-site at Southbridge, Harbour Hills, and Goderich Place during one day in the voting period to increase accessibility to residents of the home. Election officials can attend on voters in their specific living

areas or at their bedside to assist them to vote. All Election Officials are sworn to an oath of secrecy.

Accessible Voting Technologies

Voting Kiosks will have a touch screen computer for internet voting that will assist voters with disabilities in casting their votes with independence and privacy. Staff will be available at all times to assist voters at the kiosk upon request. Support persons and service animals will be accommodated.

Offering Voting Opportunities in Institutions and Retirement Homes

Voting places are established at any institution where 20 or more beds are occupied by persons who are disabled, chronically ill or infirmed and at a retirement home where 50 or more beds are occupied.

Administering bedside voting is available where required.

4. Internet Voting

Internet voting allows voters to vote from their home through secured internet services. This method provides for easy voting for persons with a variety of disabilities to cast their vote with independence and privacy as voters have the option of using the assistive tools they have on their own computer such as a thumb switch or sip and puff technology.

This method of voting is designed to encourage voter participation as voters don't have to attend a physical location to cast their ballot and accessibility and privacy for persons with disabilities is maximized.

5. Telephone Voting

Telephone voting allows voters to vote from their home through secured telephone services which provides for easy voting for persons with a variety of disabilities to cast their vote with independence and privacy. Land lines or cell phone can be used to vote, the method is compatible with assistive devices.

Voters can register their vote selections with the telephone keypad or voice commands, greatly increasing accessibility, privacy and independence for voters who do not have internet access.

6. Assistance to Candidates

General

The 2026 Town of Goderich Municipal Elections will be conducted with Internet and Telephone Voting methods. Detailed information about each voting method is set out in the 2026 Election Procedures Manual, available on the municipal website or from the

Clerk's Office and can be made available in an alternative format upon request.

Please contact us at 519-524-8344 or vote@goderich.ca if you require your Candidate Package in an accessible format.

The Election Staff are available throughout the election to assist with any issues that may arise with respect to providing a barrier-free election.

Accessibility measures for candidates to consider in regards to their campaign messaging are included in the Candidate Package.

Service Animals/Support Persons

Candidates are permitted to be accompanied by a service animal and/or support person at all designated elections locations.

ASL Interpretator services can be booked at chs.ca.

Campaign Expenses

Expenses that are incurred by a candidate with a disability that are directly related to the disability, and would not have been incurred but for the election to which the expenses relate, are excluded from the permitted spending limit for the candidate.



**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GODERICH
BY-LAW NO. 66 OF 2026**

**BEING A BY-LAW TO MANAGE AND REGULATE THE USE AND ERECTION OF ELECTION SIGNS
AND CAMPAIGN ADVERTISEMENTS INCLUDING THIRD PARTY ADVERTISING WITHIN THE
CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GODERICH AND TO REPEAL BY-LAW 58 OF 2022**

WHEREAS subsection 5(3) of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended, provides that a municipal power shall be exercised by by-law;

AND WHEREAS subsection 10(1) of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended, provides that a municipality may provide any service or thing that the municipality considers necessary or desirable for the public;

AND WHEREAS subsection 10(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended, provides that a municipality may pass by-laws respecting among other items structures, including fences and signs;

AND WHEREAS section 23.2 of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended, permits a municipality to delegate certain legislative and quasi-judicial powers;

AND WHEREAS Council for The Corporation of the Town of Goderich is of the opinion that the delegation of legislative powers under this by-law to the Clerk, including without limitation the power to prescribe procedures for the retrieval and/or destruction of Election Signs removed under this by-law are powers of a minor nature having regard to the number of people, the size of geographic area and the time period affected by the exercise of the power in accordance with subsection 23.2(4) of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended;

AND WHEREAS section 63 of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended provides that a by-law may prohibit or regulate the placing or standing of an object on or near a highway, and may provide for the removal and impounding or restraining and immobilizing of any object placed or standing on or near a highway;

AND WHEREAS section 425 of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended, establishes that any person who contravenes any by-law of The Corporation of the Town of Goderich is guilty of an offence;

AND WHEREAS section 445 of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended, provides that a municipality may make an order requiring a person who has contravened a by-law or who caused or permitted the contravention, or the owner or occupier of land on which the contravention occurred to do work to correct the contravention;

AND WHEREAS section 446 of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended, provides that where a municipality has the authority to direct or require a person to do a matter or thing, the municipality may also provide that, in default of it being done by the person directed or required to do it, the matter or thing shall be done at the person's expense, and that the municipality may recover the costs of doing a matter or thing by action or by adding the costs to the tax roll and collecting them in the same manner as property taxes;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Goderich enacts as follows:

1. Definitions

In this By-law:

- 1.1 **"Billboard"** means an outdoor sign erected and maintained by a person, firm, corporation, or business engaged in the sale or rental of the space on the sign to a clientele, upon which space is a displayed copy that advertises goods, products, or services not necessarily sold or offered on the property where the sign is located, and the sign is either single faced or double faced.
- 1.2 **"Boulevard"** means that portion of every Street which is not used as a Sidewalk, driveway access, travelled Roadway or shoulder.
- 1.3 **"Campaign Office"** means a building or structure, or part of a building or structure, used by a Candidate to conduct an election campaign.
- 1.4 **"Candidate"** means
 - (i) a Candidate within the meaning of the Canada Elections Act, the Election Act (Ontario) or the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 as amended; and
 - (ii) shall be deemed to include a person seeking to influence other persons to vote for or against any question or by-law to the electors under section 8 of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 as amended.
- 1.5 **"Clerk"** means the Clerk of the municipality or a person delegated by them for the purpose of this By-law.
- 1.6 **"Crosswalk"** means
 - (i) that part of a Street at an intersection that is included within the connections of the lateral lines of the Sidewalks on opposite sides of the Street measured from the curbs, or in the absence of curbs from the edges of the Roadway; or
 - (ii) any portion of a Roadway at an intersection or elsewhere distinctly indicated for pedestrian crossing by signs, school crossing signs (as per the Ontario Traffic Manual – Book 5 Regulatory Signs) or by lines or other markings on the surface thereof; and
 - (iii) shall include pedestrian crossovers.
- 1.7 **"Election Sign"** means any sign, poster, banner, or device that promotes, opposes, or takes a position with respect to a candidate, political party, by-law question, or election related issue and shall include, but is not necessarily limited to:
 - (i) any Candidate or political party in an election under the Canada Elections Act, the Election Act (Ontario) or the Municipal Elections Act, 1996;
 - (ii) an issue associated with a person or political party in an election under the Canada Elections Act, the Election Act (Ontario) or the Municipal Elections Act, 1996; or
 - (iii) a question, law or by-law submitted to the electors under the Canada Elections Act, the Election Act (Ontario) or the Municipal Elections Act, 1996.
- 1.8 **"Electoral District"** means a geographic area represented by a Member of Municipal Council, Member of School Board, Member of Provincial Parliament in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, and Member of Federal Parliament in the House of Commons.
- 1.9 **"Enforcement Officer"** means a By-law Enforcement Officer appointed by the Municipal Council of the Municipality.

- 1.10 **“Median Strip”** means the reserved area that separates opposing lanes of traffic on divided roadways.
- 1.11 **“Municipality”** means The Corporation of the Town of Goderich.
- 1.12 **“Nomination Day”** means the deadline to file a nomination with the Clerk under the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 as amended.
- 1.13 **“Owner”** means any candidate, registered third party, campaign, or individual responsible for placing or permitting the placement of an Election Sign for the purposes of this By-law there may be more than one Owner of an Election Sign.
- 1.14 **“Place”** means attach, install, erect, build, construct, reconstruct, move, display or affix.
- 1.15 **“Public Property”** (or **“Municipal Property”**) means all lands, buildings, parks, facilities, parking lots, boulevards, road allowances, and any other real property owned, leased, or controlled by the Municipality, excluding Streets unless otherwise specified.
- 1.16 **“Roadway”** means the part of a street improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular traffic, including the traveled portion and shoulder.
- 1.17 **“Sidewalk”** means any municipal walkway, or that portion of a Street between the Roadway and the adjacent property line, primarily intended for the use of pedestrians.
- 1.18 **“Sign Area”** means the area of one side of a sign where a copy can be placed.
- 1.19 **“Sign Height”** means the vertical height of a sign from the lowest point of finished grade to the highest part of the sign.
- 1.20 **“Street”** means a highway, road allowance, street, avenue, parkway, driveway, lane, square, place, bridge, viaduct, trestle or other public way under the jurisdiction of the Town of Goderich and this term includes all road works and appurtenant to municipal land.
- 1.21 **“Utility”** means water, sewer, artificial or natural gas, petrochemical, electrical power or energy, steam or hot/chilled water, and telecommunication networks, and includes the works, structures, buildings and appurtenances necessarily incidental to the supplying of such services.
- 1.22 **“Voting Place”** means any location designated by the Clerk for voting, including any property on which the voting location is situated and any abutting roadway.
- 1.23 **“Writ of Election”** means the date as defined in the Canada Elections Act and the Elections Act (Ontario).

2. Short Title

- 2.1 This by-law may be referred to as the “Elections Signs By-law”.

3. General Prohibitions

- 3.1 All candidate signs shall include:

- (i) the name of candidate

- 3.2 All registered third party advertisement signs shall include:

- (i) name of registered third party;
- (ii) the municipality where the registered third party is registered; and
- (iii) telephone number, mailing address or email address at which the registered third

party may be contacted regarding the advertisement.

3.3 No person shall display on any Election Sign a logo, trademark, or official mark, in whole or in part, owned or licensed by the Municipality.

3.4 No person shall cause an election campaign advertisement to appear which contravenes sections 88.3, 88.4, or 88.5 of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996.

3.5 No election sign shall contain any word, image, symbol, or representation that:

- (i) Is obscene, profane or vulgar;
- (ii) Threatens, intimidates, or promotes or incites violence against any person or identifiable group;
- (iii) Expresses or promotes hatred, discrimination, or harassment against a person or identifiable group based on a prohibited ground under the Ontario Human Rights Code, including race, ancestry place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, family status, or disability;
- (iv) Promotes racism or other forms of discrimination contrary to law; or
- (v) Otherwise contravenes applicable federal or provincial legislation.

4. Locations, Size, and Distance

4.1 No person shall Place or permit to be Placed an Election Sign that:

- (i) is illuminated;
- (ii) has a Sign Area of more than 6 square metres;
- (iii) interferes with the safe operation of vehicular traffic or the safety of pedestrians; or
- (iv) impedes or obstructs the municipality's maintenance operations.

4.2 Notwithstanding paragraphs 4.1 (i) and 4.1 (ii) of this By-law, an Election Sign promoting a Candidate on a Campaign Office or on a Billboard will be regulated by applicable law and the Town of Goderich Sign By-law, as amended from time to time. Should there be a conflict between the Town of Goderich Sign By-law and this By-law, the Town of Goderich Sign By-law shall prevail.

4.3 No person shall Place or permit to be placed an Election Sign outside of the Electoral District where the Candidate is running for office.

4.4 Subsection 4.3 does not apply to an Election Sign within fifty (50) metres of any Electoral District that is adjacent to the Electoral District where the Candidate is running for office.

4.5 No person shall Place or permit to be Placed an Election sign on or within fifty (50) metres of the property boundary of a Voting Place, unless otherwise permitted by law.

4.6 No person shall display an election sign on private property,

- (i) where it obstructs or interferes with a door or fire escape of a building; or
- (ii) without the consent of the owner or occupant of such property.

4.7 Notwithstanding clause 4.6(ii), a lease or tenant of property may display an election sign as such conditions to reasonable size or type a landlord, building manager, condominium corporation deems appropriate.

4.8 No person shall park or place any vehicle displaying a vehicle election sign within a one block radius of the Town Hall at 57 West Street, Goderich, on the voting day of a Municipal election.

4.9 Election Signs on Public Property and Streets:

- (i) No person shall Place or permit to be Placed an Election Sign on Public Property as defined in Subsection 1.15 of this By-law;
- (ii) No person shall place or permit to be Placed an election Sign:
 - a. in a Roadway;
 - b. within 3 metres of a Roadway;
 - c. between a Roadway and a Sidewalk;
 - d. in a way that impedes or obstructs the passage of pedestrians on a Sidewalk;
 - e. in a Median Strip;
 - f. less than 3 metres from a Crosswalk;
 - g. on a tree, or a fence, or a wall, or a gate, or a utility pole located on Public Property or a Street;
 - h. to a permanent or an official sign or to the guide rail or other highway structure or facility;
 - i. in a way that interferes with an official sign or with traffic lights or other safety devices.

4.10 No person shall Place or permit to be Placed an Election Sign that has a Sign Height:

- (i) of more than 1.8 metres when Placed within 3 to 8 metres of the Roadway;
- (ii) of more than 4 metres when Placed beyond 8 metres of the Roadway.

5. Timing and Sign Removal

5.1 No person shall Place or permit to be Placed an Election Sign for a federal or provincial election or by-election earlier than the day the Writ of Election or by-election is issued.

5.2 No person shall Place or permit to be Placed an Election Sign for a municipal election, except an Election Sign which is Placed on a Campaign Office:

- (i) earlier than Nomination Day in the year of a regular election; or
- (ii) earlier than Nomination Day for a by-election.

Nominations will be certified by the Clerk before 4:00 p.m. on the Monday following Nomination Day, or in the case where the number of nominations filed is less than the number to be elected, additional nominations may be filed between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 26, 2026.

5.3 Despite subsections 5.1. and 5.2. of this By-law, signs identifying the candidate's campaign offices may be displayed once the candidate has filed his or her nomination papers and paid all required fees and been registered as a candidate.

5.4 No person shall Place or permit to be Placed an Election Sign for a municipal election on a Campaign Office earlier than the day that Candidate has filed their nomination with the Clerk and paid all required fees and been registered as a candidate.

5.5 Removal of Election Signs

- (i) No person shall display an election sign later than seventy-two (72) hours after the polls close on election Day
- (ii) All candidates and third-party advertisers shall remove their election signs from display on public and private property within seventy-two (72) hours after the polls close on Election Day.

5.6 Where an Election Sign is erected or displayed in contravention of this by-law, the Municipality may remove the sign without notice.

- (i) All election signs removed by the Municipality shall be retained for a minimum
- (ii) period of fourteen (14) days from the date of removal to permit retrieval by the candidate or third-party advertiser.

- (iii) During the retrieval period, the candidate or third-party advertiser may reclaim the sign during regular municipal business hours.
- (iv) Any election sign not retrieved within the prescribed retention period may be destroyed or otherwise disposed of by the Municipality without further notice and without compensation.
- (v) Notwithstanding the foregoing, where an election sign poses an immediate risk to public safety or interferes with emergency access, traffic control devices, or municipal operations, the Municipality may remove and dispose of the sign immediately.

6. Vandalism

6.1 The investigation or prosecution for any acts of vandalism to election signs or campaign material of the candidates should be referred to the Ontario Provincial Police by the complainant.

7. Other Approval Authorities

7.1 Election signs or similar campaign material that will be installed or affixed to the Ministry of Transportation road system or the County of Huron road system will require the permission of these respective approval authorities.

8. Administration and Enforcement

8.1 The administration of this by-law is delegated to the Clerk.

8.2 This by-law may be enforced by the Clerk or designate or a By-law Enforcement Officer of the Town of Goderich

8.3 In accordance with the process established in subsection 5.6 of this By-law, if an Election Sign is erected or displayed in contravention of this By-law, or is not removed within the required time, the Municipality may remove and store the sign at the risk of the responsible party. All costs of removal, handling, storage, and disposal (if applicable), including labour, equipment, and administrative fees, are payable by the sign owner and/or the Candidate, registered third party advertiser, or person who caused or permitted the sign to be placed. The Municipality may require payment before releasing the sign and may recover unpaid costs by invoicing and/or by any other means authorized by law, including adding the costs to the tax roll where permitted.

8.4 Every person who contravenes any provision of this By-law is guilty of an offence and on conviction is liable to a fine as provided for in the Provincial Offences Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P. 33.

9. Severability

9.1 In the event that a section or sections of this By-law thereof are found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or ultra vires, such section, sections or parts thereof shall be deemed to be severable, with all other sections or parts of this By-law remaining in full force and effect.

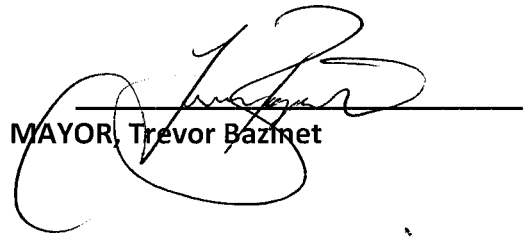
10. Repeal of By-law

10.1 By-Law No. 58-2022 is hereby repealed.

10.2 This by-law shall come into force and takes effect on the day of the final passing thereof.

READ A FIRST AND SECOND TIME THIS 4TH DAY OF MAY, 2026.

READ A THIRD TIME AND FINALLY PASSED THIS 4TH DAY OF MAY, 2026.



MAYOR, Trevor Bazinet



CLERK, Andrea Fisher

Link to Clerks Procedures:


<https://www.goderich.ca/media/hennl4lw/2026-town-of-goderich-election-procedures.pdf>


QR Code:




Are you interested in local government?

Huron County Candidate Information Session

 Wednesday, June 24, 2026

 6:30 p.m.

 Libro Community Hall, 239 Bill Fleming Drive, Clinton ON

Session Agenda:

- **Welcome:** Susan Cronin County Clerk
- **Land Acknowledgment**
- **Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Presentation:** Jodi Morrison and Sebastien Haley, Municipal Advisors providing an overview of the 2026 Municipal Election for Candidates.
- **Huron County Clerks – Are you on the Voters List?** Presentation by Caitlin Gillis, Clerk for the Howick Township discussing voting methods
- **How to cast a ballot?** Presentation by Meaghan McCallum, Clerk for the Municipality of Huron East
- **Huron County Council:** Presentation by Susan Cronin, County Clerk providing an overview of Huron County Council.
- **Questions**

