

# Municipality of *Bluewater*

Dear Candidate,

Congratulations on your decision to run for elected office in the Municipality of Bluewater.

All forms and information required to file your Nomination can be found in this package and/or with the Clerk.

Nomination for the following offices may be made by completing and filing the prescribed forms accompanied by the prescribed nomination filing fee in the Office of the Clerk, at 14 Mill Ave, Zurich:

- Mayor (voted at-large)
- Deputy Mayor (voted at-large)
- Councillor – Bayfield (voted by eligible electors in the Ward of Bayfield)
- Councillor – Hensall (voted by eligible electors in the Ward of Hensall)
- Councillor – Hay East (voted by eligible electors in the Ward of Hay East)
- Councillor – Hay West (voted by eligible electors in the Ward of Hay West)
- Councillor – Stanley East (voted by eligible electors in the Ward of Stanley East)
- Councillor – Stanley West (voted by eligible electors in the Ward of Stanley West)
- Councillor – Zurich (voted by eligible electors in the Ward of Zurich)

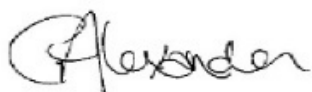
The filing fee of \$100 for Deputy Mayor or Councillor and \$200 for Mayor is payable by cash, certified cheque, money order or debit. A nomination form must be signed by the candidate and filed in person or by agent during regular business hours between May 1, 2026 to August 20, 2026 or on Nomination Day –August 21, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Voting will be conducted by phone or internet only, commencing on October 13, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. and closing on October 26, 2026 at 8:00 p.m.

### **Being a member of Council in the Municipality of Bluewater**

The Municipality of Bluewater meets regularly on the first and third Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Councillors are expected to attend all meetings for the duration of their four-year term. The Municipality of Bluewater operates on a paperless basis where possible. Council agendas are electronic, with no paper copies provided. Council members will be provided with an electronic device paid for by the Municipality. Email is the primary form of communication.

Council members are expected to perform the duties as outlined Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25, Section 224, and abide by the Code of Conduct for the Municipality of Bluewater.



Chandra Alexander, Clerk

# Municipality of *Bluewater*

## 2026 Municipal Election Nomination Checklist

Nomination Period: May 1, 2026 to August 21, 2026 at 2:00 pm

Nomination Papers and Forms to be filed with the Clerk (all forms must be signed in front of the Clerk):

- Nomination Paper – Form 1
- Endorsement of Nomination – Form 2 (25 original signatures required)
- Declaration of Qualifications – Form BW65
- Consent to Release Personal Information – Form BW02
- Declaration of Proper Use of the Voters List – Form BW10
- Notice of Penalties – Form BW31

**When you are ready to file your Nomination Papers, please contact the Clerk's Office to schedule an appointment:**

519-236-4351 ext. 223 or [clerk@municipalityofbluewater.ca](mailto:clerk@municipalityofbluewater.ca)

Or

519-236-4351 ext. 229 or [joverholt@municipalityofbluewater.ca](mailto:joverholt@municipalityofbluewater.ca)

Nominations must be filed in person at the municipal office – electronic filing is not permitted.

There will be additional paperwork to review and sign when filing your nomination. Each appointment will take approximately 30 minutes.

In addition to these items, please also bring:

- Identification (see Identification Requirements)
- Filing Fee: \$200 for Office of Mayor  
\$100 for Office of Deputy Mayor or Councillor  
(cash, debit, certified cheque or money order payable to the Municipality of Bluewater are accepted)

**Instructions**

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

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

Nominated for the Office of	Ward Name or Number (if any)
-----------------------------	------------------------------

Nominee's name as it is to appear on the ballot paper (subject to agreement of the municipal clerk)

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

Nominee's full qualifying address within municipality

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

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

Mailing Address  Same as qualifying address

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Declaration of Qualification**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Nominee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date (yyyy/mm/dd)

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

**Certification by Clerk or Designate**

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

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Certified (yyyy/mm/dd)

**Instructions**

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

**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)
-----------------	-------------------------

## Instructions

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

<b>Name of person providing endorsement – 3</b>			
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)	

<b>Name of person providing endorsement – 4</b>			
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)	

<b>Name of person providing endorsement – 5</b>			
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)	

## Instructions

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

<b>Name of person providing endorsement – 6</b>			
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)	

<b>Name of person providing endorsement – 7</b>			
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)	

<b>Name of person providing endorsement – 8</b>			
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)	

## Instructions

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

<b>Name of person providing endorsement – 9</b>			
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)	

<b>Name of person providing endorsement – 10</b>			
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)	

<b>Name of person providing endorsement – 11</b>			
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)	

## Instructions

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

<b>Name of person providing endorsement – 12</b>			
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)	

<b>Name of person providing endorsement – 13</b>			
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)	

<b>Name of person providing endorsement – 14</b>			
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)	

### Instructions

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

<b>Name of person providing endorsement – 15</b>			
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)	

<b>Name of person providing endorsement – 16</b>			
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)	

<b>Name of person providing endorsement – 17</b>			
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)	

### Instructions

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

<b>Name of person providing endorsement – 18</b>			
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)	

<b>Name of person providing endorsement – 19</b>			
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)	

<b>Name of person providing endorsement – 20</b>			
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)	

## Instructions

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

### Name of person providing endorsement – 21

Last Name or Single Name		Given Name(s)	
Qualifying Address			
Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name	
Municipality		Province	Postal Code
I endorse _____ as a candidate and declare that I am qualified to be an elector in this municipality.			
_____		_____	
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)	

## Instructions

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

<b>Name of person providing endorsement – 24</b>			
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)	

<b>Name of person providing endorsement – 25</b>			
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)	

**MUNICIPALITY OF BLUEWATER  
2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION  
IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

*In accordance with the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 and Ontario Regulation 304/13*

Proof of identity and residence is required in the following instances:

- When adding or deleting one's name from the Voter's List
- When deactivating and re-issuing a PIN
- When issuing an oath

**One of the following is required:**

1. An Ontario driver's licence.
2. An Ontario Health Card (photo card).
3. An Ontario Photo Card.
4. An Ontario motor vehicle permit (vehicle portion).
5. A cancelled personalized cheque.
6. A mortgage statement, lease or rental agreement relating to property in Ontario.
7. An insurance policy or insurance statement.
8. A loan agreement or other financial agreement with a financial institution.
9. A document issued or certified by a court in Ontario.
10. Any other document from the government of Canada, Ontario or a municipality in Ontario or from an agency of such a government.
11. Any document from a Band Council in Ontario established under the *Indian Act* (Canada).
12. An income tax assessment notice.
13. A Child Tax Benefit Statement.
14. A Statement of Employment Insurance Benefits Paid T4E.
15. A Statement of Old Age Security T4A (OAS).
16. A Statement of Canada Pension Plan Benefits T4A (P).
17. A Canada Pension Plan Statement of Contributions.
18. A Statement of Direct Deposit for Ontario Works.
19. A Statement of Direct Deposit for Ontario Disability Support Program.
20. A Workplace Safety and Insurance Board Statement of Benefits T5007.
21. A property tax assessment.
22. A credit card statement, bank account statement, or RRSP, RRIF, RHOSP or T5 statement.
23. A CNIB Card or a card from another registered charitable organization that provides services to persons with disabilities.
24. A hospital card or record.
25. A document showing campus residence, issued by the office or officials responsible for student residence at a post-secondary institution.
26. A document showing residence at a long-term care home under the *Fixing Long Term Care Act, 2021*, issued by the Administrator for the home.
27. A utility bill for hydro, water, gas, telephone or cable TV or a bill from a public utilities commission.
28. A cheque stub, T4 statement or pay receipt issued by an employer.
29. A transcript or report card from a post-secondary school.

## MUNICIPALITY OF BLUEWATER

# DECLARATION OF QUALIFICATIONS—COUNCIL

Municipal Election Act, 1996

### Municipal Candidates

I, \_\_\_\_\_, a nominated candidate for the office of:

- Mayor
- Deputy Mayor
- Councillor

Do solemnly declare that:

1. I am qualified pursuant to the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, and the *Municipal Act, 2001*, to be elected to and to hold the office of:

- Mayor
- Deputy Mayor
- Councillor

2. Without limiting the generality of paragraph 1, I am at least eighteen years of age, am a Canadian citizen, a resident of the Municipality of Bluewater or the owner or tenant of land in the Municipality of Bluewater or the spouse of such owner or tenant.

3. I am not ineligible or disqualified under the *Municipal Election Act, 1996*, the *Municipal Act, 2001*, the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* or any other Act to be elected to or hold the above-mentioned office.

4. Without limiting the generality of paragraph 3:

- I am not an employee of the Municipality of Bluewater, or if I am an employee of the Municipality of Bluewater, I am on an unpaid leave of absence as provided for by section 30 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.
- I am not a judge of any court.
- I am not a member of the Assembly as provided in the Legislative Assembly Act or of the Senate or House of Commons of Canada or, if I am such a person, I will provide proof of my resignation in a form satisfactory to the Clerk of the Municipality of Bluewater prior to 2:00 p.m. on Nomination Day, August 21, 2026. I understand that the Clerk of the Municipality of Bluewater will reject my nomination for the above-mentioned office if I fail to provide proof of resignation by this deadline.
- I am not a member of the Executive Council of Ontario or a federal Minister of the Crown.

- I am not a Crown employee within the meaning of the *Public Service Act*, or if I am a Crown employee, I have followed and will continue to follow all the relevant provisions of Part III of such Act.

5. I am not prohibited from voting at the municipal election under subsection 17(3) of the *Municipal Election Act, 1996*.

6. Without limiting the generality of paragraph 5:

- I am not a person who is serving a sentence of imprisonment in a penal or correctional institution.
- I am not a person who was convicted of a corrupt practice described in subsection 90(3) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, during an election that occurred less than four years prior to Monday, October 26, 2026.

7. I am not a candidate who was convicted of a corrupt practice under the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* or of an offence under the *Criminal Code (Canada)*, in connection with an act or omission that relates to an election to which this Act applies and I am not a person who is ineligible to be nominated for, or elected or appointed to any office until the next two regular elections have taken place after the election to which the offence relates (Section 91 (1)).

8. I am not disqualified from being elected to or holding office by reason of any violations of the election campaign financial requirements or violations for not filing the financial statement pursuant to the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.

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

Declared before me at the Municipality of Bluewater

This \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Clerk or Designate

MUNICIPALITY OF BLUEWATER

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 Elections.

Questions regarding this collection should be forwarded to the Chandra Alexander, Clerk by calling 519-236-4351 ext. 223 or emailing [clerk@municipalityofbluewater.ca](mailto:clerk@municipalityofbluewater.ca)

---

Name of Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate for the office of:

- Mayor
- Deputy Mayor
- Councillor, \_\_\_\_\_ Ward

Complete the below with information to be released. If no information is provided, only the name will be released online. Note that only one phone number, email address, and web address are to be provided.

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby authorize the Clerk to include the information above respecting my candidacy for elected office on the Municipality of Bluewater website and make it available to any person.

I acknowledge that the Nomination Form (Form 1) filed by me contains personal information and I am aware that the Clerk will disclose all or part of it to the general public.

---

Signature of Candidate

---

Signature of Clerk or Designate

Dated at \_\_\_\_\_, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

MUNICIPALITY OF BLUEWATER

**DECLARATION OF PROPER USE OF THE VOTERS' LIST**

*Municipal Elections Act, 1996 [s. 23 (3), (4) and (5)]*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, being a:  
*(Name)*

Candidate for the office of \_\_\_\_\_

OR

a person entitled to a copy of the Voters' List pursuant to section 23(3) of the *Municipal Elections Act*, namely

\_\_\_\_\_

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

- electronic copy of the Voters' List (September 1, 2026)
- electronic access to the interim list of changes (on or before October 1, 2026)
- electronic access to view the Voters' List and which electors have voted

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

**MUNICIPALITY OF BLUEWATER**  
**POLICY FOR USE OF THE VOTERS' LIST**

The Voters' List has been compiled for election purposes only. All electors should ensure that their names and relevant information are correct on the Voters' List.

Eligible persons who request a copy of the Voters' List must sign a declaration **Form BW10** prior to receiving a copy of all or any part of the Voters' List.

Where the Voters' List can be provided electronically to an eligible person, who has signed a declaration **Form BW10** provided by the Clerk stating the list shall be used for Election purposes only, the Clerk may choose to provide it in this format.

Eligible persons who obtain additional copies of the Voters' List or any part thereof shall pay to the Clerk a fee prescribed by the Clerk for photocopies which must be the lowest fee charged by the municipality for copies.

**Copies for local boards – municipalities - Minister**

On **written request**, the Clerk shall provide a copy of the Voters' List to, [Section 23 (3)]

- the secretary of a local board any of whose members are required to be elected at an election conducted by the Clerk, or that has submitted a question to the electors;
- the Clerk of the local municipality responsible for conducting the elections in any combined area for school board purposes;
- the Clerk of an upper-tier municipality any of whose members are required to be elected at an election conducted by the Clerk, or that has submitted a by-law or question to the electors;
- the Minister, if he or she has submitted a question to the electors.

**Copies – for candidates**

On the written request of a certified candidate for an office, the Clerk shall provide him or her with the part of the Voters' List that contains the names of the electors who are entitled to vote for that office.

The Candidate or their campaign worker cannot confirm or deny if a person is on the Voters' List. The person must contact or visit the municipal office where they are entitled to vote, with proper identification and proof of residence during normal office hours beginning September 1 up to and including the close of voting on October 26 at 8 p.m.

Use of online, electronic and paper versions of the Voters' List, Interim and Final List of Changes to the List and all other information containing personal voter information shall be protected by the Candidate and shall not be used for any purpose other than the 2026 Municipal Election. All Voter information obtained by the Candidate during the 2026 Municipal Election shall be destroyed by the Candidate after the election, either by returning same to the Clerk for destruction with other election material or by deleting it completely from Candidate computer hardware. If records are shared by the Candidates with others (campaign workers) an oath administered by the Candidate, similar to the one taken by the Candidate shall be administered and all shared records shall also be protected and destroyed.

**MUNICIPALITY OF BLUEWATER**

**ESTIMATED MAXIMUM CAMPAIGN EXPENSES**

BASED ON 2022 ELIGIBLE ELECTORS AS OF SEPTEMBER 15, 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 in each ward.
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.

OFFICE	NUMBER OF ELECTORS	RATE PER ELECTOR	BASE RATE	TOTAL SPENDING
Mayor	8810	\$0.85	\$7500	\$14,988.50
Deputy Mayor	8810	\$0.85	\$5000	\$12,488.50
Councillor - Bayfield	1652	\$0.85	\$5000	\$6,404.20
Councillor - Hensall	853	\$0.85	\$5000	\$5,725.05
Councillor - Hay East	1245	\$0.85	\$5000	\$6,058.25
Councillor - Hay West	1639	\$0.85	\$5000	\$6,393.15
Councillor - Stanley East	1274	\$0.85	\$5000	\$6,082.90
Councillor - Stanley West	1405	\$0.85	\$5000	\$6,194.25
Councillor - Zurich	742	\$0.85	\$5000	\$5,630.70



Signature of Clerk or Designate

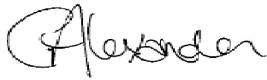
**MUNICIPALITY OF BLUEWATER**

**ESTIMATED PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION LIMIT**

BASED ON 2022 ELIGIBLE ELECTORS AS OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2022  
Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (s. 33.0.2) and (88.9.1)

1. In accordance with Section 88.9.1 of the MEA, the Clerk will determine the maximum amount a candidate and his or her spouse (in combination) can contribute to his or her own campaign using the prescribed formula.
2. 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 the office of Mayor, it is \$7,500 plus \$0.20 per elector. For all other offices, it is \$5,000 plus \$0.20 per elector in each ward. There is a cap of \$25,000.
3. On or before September 30, 2026 each candidate will receive a Final Certificate of Maximum Contributions to Candidates Own Campaign.
4. The Clerk's calculation is final.

OFFICE	NUMBER OF ELECTORS	RATE PER ELECTOR	BASE RATE	TOTAL SPENDING
Mayor	8810	\$0.20	\$7500	\$9,262.00
Deputy Mayor	8810	\$0.20	\$5000	\$6,762.00
Councillor - Bayfield	1652	\$0.20	\$5000	\$5,330.40
Councillor - Hensall	853	\$0.20	\$5000	\$5,170.60
Councillor - Hay East	1245	\$0.20	\$5000	\$5,249.00
Councillor - Hay West	1639	\$0.20	\$5000	\$5,327.80
Councillor - Stanley East	1274	\$0.20	\$5000	\$5,254.80
Councillor - Stanley West	1405	\$0.20	\$5000	\$5,281.00
Councillor - Zurich	742	\$0.20	\$5000	\$5,148.40



Signature of Clerk or Designate

MUNICIPALITY OF BLUEWATER

NOTICE OF PENALTIES

Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (s. 33.1)

TO:

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

**EFFECT OF DEFAULT BY CANDIDATE [88.23 (1)]**

**TAKE NOTICE THAT A CANDIDATE SHALL** be subject to the penalties listed below, in addition to any other penalty that may be imposed under the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*:

- a) if he or she fails to file documents with the Municipal Clerk as required under section 88.25 or 88.32 by the relevant date;
- b) if a document filed under section 88.25 shows on its face a surplus, as described in section 88.31, and the candidate fails to pay the amount required by subsection 88.31 (4) to the Municipal Clerk by the relevant date;
- c) if a document filed under section 88.25 shows on its face that the candidate has incurred expenses exceeding what is permitted under section 88.20; or
- d) if a document filed under section 88.32 shows on its face a surplus and the candidate fails to pay the amount required by subsection 88.32 by the relevant date.

**OFFENCES [92 (1)]**

**TAKE NOTICE THAT A CANDIDATE SHALL** be guilty of an offence and, on conviction, is subject to the penalties listed below, in addition to any other penalty that may be imposed under the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*:

- a) incurs expenses that exceed what is permitted under section 88.20; or
- b) files a document under section 88.25 or 88.32 that is incorrect or otherwise does not comply with that section.

**PENALTIES [88.23 (2)]**

In the case of a default described above:

- (a) the candidate forfeits any office to which he or she was elected and the office is deemed to be vacant; and
- (b) until the next regular election has taken place, the candidate is ineligible to be elected or appointed to any office to which the *Municipal Elections Act* applies.

**REFUND (34)**

A candidate is entitled to receive a refund of the nomination filing fee if the documents (financial statement and auditor's report) required under subsection 88.25 (1) are filed on or before 2:00 p.m. on the filing date in accordance with that subsection.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Municipal Clerk or designate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Candidate

The Clerk shall, before voting day, give to each person nominated for an office notice of the penalties under subsections 88.23 (2) and 92 (1) related to election campaign finances and the refund of the nomination filing fee that the candidate is entitled to receive in the circumstances described in section 34.

## MUNICIPALITY OF BLUEWATER

# CONTRIBUTIONS TO REGISTERED CANDIDATES

*Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (Section 88.8 and 88.9)*

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO REGISTERED CANDIDATES [SECTION 88.8 (1) – (5)]

A contribution shall not be made to or accepted by a person or an individual acting under the person's direction unless the person is a candidate.

A contribution made to or accepted by a candidate, or to an individual acting under the candidate's direction, shall only be made during the candidate's election campaign period.

Contributions shall only be made by the following:

- An individual who is normally resident in Ontario;
- The candidate and his or her spouse, subject to if the spouse of a candidate is not normally resident in Ontario, a candidate and his or her spouse may make contributions only to the candidate's election campaign.

The following shall not make a contribution:

- A federal political party registered under the *Canada Elections Act* or any federal constituency association or registered candidate at a federal election endorsed by that party.
- A provincial political party, constituency association, registered candidate or leadership contestant registered under the *Election Finances Act*.
- A corporation that carries on business in Ontario;
- A trade union that holds bargaining rights for employees in Ontario;
- The Crown in right of Canada or Ontario, a municipality or local board.

### ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRIBUTIONS [SECTION 88.8 (6) – (10)]

A contribution may be accepted only by a candidate or an individual acting under the direction of the candidate.

A contribution may be accepted only from a person or entity that is entitled to make a contribution.

A contribution of money that exceeds \$25 shall not be contributed in the form of cash and shall be contributed in a manner that associates the contributor's name and account with the payment or by money order signed by the contributor.

The listing of the phone number and email address and/or hyperlink to the candidate's website by the municipality or local board does not constitute a contribution to a candidate.

## MAXIMUM CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANDIDATES (SECTION 88.9)

A contributor shall not make contributions exceeding a total of:

- \$1,200 to any one candidate in an election;
- Except if a person is a candidate for more than one office a contributor's total contributions to that candidate in respect of all the offices shall not exceed \$1,200;
- \$5,000 to two or more candidates for office on the same council or local board;
- Except if the candidate is contributing to the candidate's own election campaign, then the maximum contributions do not apply;
- Except if the contributor is the spouse of the candidate, then the maximum contributions do not apply.

## MUNICIPALITY OF BLUEWATER DUTIES OF CANDIDATES

*Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (Section 88.22)*

**A candidate shall ensure that,**

- (a) no contributions of money are accepted or expenses are incurred unless one or more campaign accounts are first opened at a financial institution exclusively for the purposes of the election campaign;
- (b) all contributions of money are deposited into the campaign accounts;
- (c) all funds in the campaign accounts are used exclusively for the purposes of the election campaign;
- (d) all payments for expenses are made from the campaign accounts;
- (e) contributions of goods or services are valued;
- (f) receipts are issued for every contribution and obtained for every expense;
- (g) records are kept of,
  - (i) the receipts issued for every contribution,
  - (ii) the value of every contribution,
  - (iii) whether a contribution is in the form of money, goods or services, and
  - (i) the contributor's name and address;
- (h) records are kept of every expense including the receipts obtained for each expense;
- (i) records are kept of any claim for payment of an expense that the candidate disputes or refuses to pay;
- (j) records are kept of the gross income from a fund-raising function and the gross amount of money received at a fund-raising function by donations of \$25 or less, or by the sale of goods or services for \$25 or less;
- (k) records are kept of any loan and its terms under section 88.17 (Campaign Account Loans);
- (l) the records described in clauses (g), (h), (i), (j) and (k) are retained by the candidate for the term of office of the members of the council or local board and until their successors are elected and the newly elected council or local board is organized;
- (m) financial filings are made in accordance with sections 88.25 (Candidates' Financial Statements, etc.) and 88.32 (Return of Surplus for Subsequent Expenses);
- (n) proper direction is given to the persons who are authorized to incur expenses and accept or solicit contributions under the direction of the candidate;

- (o) a contribution of money made or received in contravention of this Act or a by-law passed under this Act is returned to the contributor as soon as possible after the candidate becomes aware of the contravention;
- (p) a contribution not returned to the contributor under clause (o) is paid to the clerk with whom the candidate's nomination was filed;
- (q) an anonymous contribution is paid to the clerk with whom the candidate's nomination was filed;  
and
- (r) each contributor is informed that a contributor shall not make contributions exceeding,
  - (i) subject to subsection (2), a total of \$1,200 to any one candidate in an election, and
  - (ii) a total of \$5,000 to two or more candidates for offices on the same council or local board.

**Exclusion of certain expenses**

Expenses described in paragraph 2 of subsection 88.19 (3) (Audit and Accounting Fees) are not expenses for the purpose of clause (a) above.

**Contributions paid to Clerk**

Contributions paid to the Clerk under clause (p) or (q) above become the property of the local municipality.

Municipality of  
*Bluewater*

## 2026 Municipal Election

### Important Dates:

**Now until August 12, 2026** - voters can register or update their information online at [registertovoteon.ca](http://registertovoteon.ca)

### **May 1, 2026- Nomination and Registration Periods Begin**

#### **June 24, 2026- Candidate Information Session**

The Clerks of Huron County are organizing a joint Candidate Information Session at 6:30 p.m. at the Libro Hall in Clinton, ON.

#### **August 21, 2026 - Nomination Day**

On Nomination Day, nominations may only be filed between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm.

#### **August 21, 2026 - Withdrawal Deadline**

A candidate who wishes to withdraw their nomination must notify the clerk in writing before 2:00 pm.

#### **August 24, 2026 - Clerk Certifies List of Candidates**

All nominations to be examined and certified by 4:00 pm and declare the candidate(s) elected by acclamation.

#### **September 1, 2026 – Voters’ List Reproduction and Revision Period Begins**

The Clerk shall make the voters’ list available to eligible individuals upon written request. S.23(2),(3),(4).

From September 1 until the close of voting on voting day (October 26), a person may submit an application to the Clerk’s Office to have their name added to or removed from the voters’ list, or to have their information on the voters’ list amended.

#### **October 13, 2026- Voting Open**

Telephone and Internet voting will open.

#### **October 26, 2026 - Voting Day**

The municipal office will remain open to voters to use the voting kiosk from 8:30 am till 8 pm. The results of the election will be calculated and released to the public as soon as possible after 8:00 pm.

#### **November 16, 2026 - Inaugural Council Meeting**

The Inaugural Council Meeting will be held. The incumbent council will take their oath of office, and be sworn in.

#### **December 31, 2026**

End of campaign period.

#### **March 30, 2027**

Deadline is 2 pm for candidates and third-party advertisers to file the initial financial statement.

# Municipality of *Bluewater*

## Policy and Procedure

Policy:	Use of Corporate Resources During an Election
Effective Date:	April 7, 2026
Approved By:	By-law 27-2026
Supersedes:	By-law 44-2022

---

### **Purpose:**

The Corporation of Municipality of Bluewater recognizes that it is responsible to ensure fair treatment of all candidates running for office and to clarify the use of corporate resources during an election.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a consistent approach and clear direction regarding the use of corporate resources during a campaign period. This Policy should be interpreted as a general prohibition against the use of corporate resources for any election-related purpose.

### **Scope and Applicability:**

This policy applies to all Members of Council (including those not seeking re-election), members of local boards, Candidates, Registered Third Parties in a municipal and school board trustee election or by-election, and all Staff during a Campaign Period.

Where applicable, this Policy also applies to all registered Candidates and Registered Third Parties for a provincial or federal election or by-election.

### **Definitions:**

**“Acclaimed”** means a Candidate elected by acclamation pursuant to Section 37 of the Act.

**“Act”** means the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, S.O. 1996, c. 32, as amended.

**“Campaigning”** means a municipal election-related activity for the purpose of supporting or opposing the election of a Candidate or a question on the ballot, and includes, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the distribution of materials, advertising, display of signage, etc.

**“Campaign Period”** for candidates, the date on which the Nomination Form is filed until December 31 in the year of an election (unless a request for extension of campaign period has been filed).

**For Registered Third Parties, “Campaign Period”** is the date on which the Notice of Registration as a third party advertiser is filed until December 31 in the year of an election (unless a request for extension or campaign period has been filed).

**“Candidate”** means a person who has filed a nomination for an office pursuant to Section 33 of the Act and includes a person who has filed a nomination for election to a school board pursuant to the Education Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2, as amended.

**“Clerk”** means the Clerk of the Municipality or his/her designate.

**“Corporate Resources”** means real property, goods and/or services owned, controlled, leased, acquired, or operated by the Municipality including but not limited to: facilities, parks, materials, equipment, monetary funds, technology, Municipal IT system and resources, databases, websites, social media, intellectual property, and supplies.

**“Council”** means the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Bluewater.

**“Election”** means an election or by-election at the Municipal, School Board, Regional, Provincial, Federal level of government, political party election or the submission of a question or by-law to electors.

**“Member”** means a member of the Council of the Municipality, and includes the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the Municipality.

**“Municipality”** means The Corporation of the Municipality of Bluewater.

**“Municipal resources”** means real property, goods and/or services owned, controlled, leased, acquired, or operated by the Municipality including but not limited to: facilities, parks, materials, equipment, monetary funds, technology, Municipal IT systems and resources, databases, social media, intellectual property, and supplies.

**“Nomination Day”** means the deadline to file a nomination, for the 2026 election will be August 21, 2026.

**“Policy”** means this Use of Corporate Resources for Election Campaign Purposes.

**“Registered Third Party”** means an individual, corporation or trade union that has filed a Notice of Registration as a third party advertiser in the municipal election.

**“Staff”** means all full-time and part-time persons hired by the Municipality, including but not limited to the Chief Administrative Officer, Managers, Supervisors, Coordinators, administrative staff, and contract, temporary, students, and co-operative placement staff.

**“Voting Day”** means, in the case of a regular election, the fourth Monday in October in the year of the election -or- in the case of a by-election, the 45th day after Nomination Day, as noted in section 5 and subsection 65(4) of the Act.

## **Policy:**

### **General Provisions:**

In accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended:

- a) Corporate resources and funding may not be used for any election-related purposes;
- b) Staff may not canvass or actively work in support of a municipal candidate or third party during normal working hours unless they are on a leave of absence without pay, lieu time, float day or vacation leave;
- c) Municipal facilities/property may not be used for any election related purposes, which includes displaying of any campaign related signs or materials on such premises unless all candidates are afforded the same opportunity.
- d) Pursuant to the Act, the municipality shall not make a contribution, including money, goods and services, to any Candidate, Registered Third Party or a supporter of a question on the ballot during an Election.

### **Specific Regulations:**

The following, if supplied by the Municipality, shall be discontinued for all members of Council throughout the period from May 1st of the municipal election year until Voting Day, inclusive or in the case of a municipal by-election, for the period 60 days prior to and inclusive of Voting Day, for any members running as candidates in the by-election:

- All forms of advertising, including advertising in municipal publications;
- All printing, photocopying and distribution, including printing and general distribution and display of newsletters unless so directed and approved by Council;
- The ordering of any stationery or office supplies or furnishings unless approved by the Municipal Clerk;
- Links to Council member-related web sites or social media links;
- The posting of information relating the activities of Council or any member of Council on the Municipality's website, excluding the minutes of Council and committee meetings. Only the photos and contact phone and/or email posted for each member of Council at the commencement of each term shall remain on the corporate website.

To avoid any confusion with any website or social media accounts used for Council work, members of Council who choose to create or use their own websites or social media accounts shall throughout the period from May 1st of the municipal election year until Voting Day, inclusive or in the case of a municipal by-election, for the period 60 days prior to and inclusive of Voting Day, for any members running as candidates in the by-election:

- a) Include a clear statement, easily found and readable, on each website or social media account's home page indicating that the account is being used either solely for Council work, for both Council work and election campaign purposes, or solely for election campaign purposes;
- b) Include the statement in clause a) for as long as the website or account is accessible by the public.

Members of Council/Candidates shall not:

- a. Print or distribute any material paid for by municipal funds that illustrates that a member of Council or any other individual is registered in any election or where they will be running for office;
- b. Profile (name or photograph), or make reference to, in any material paid for by municipal funds, any individual who is registered as a candidate in any election;
- c. Print or distribute any material using municipal funds that makes reference to, or contains the names, photographs, or identifies registered candidates for municipal elections;
- d. Use the corporate website, domain names, other corporate systems, the Municipality crest or logo for campaigning/advertising or as a substitute to distributing newsletters or flyers throughout the period from May 1st of the municipal election year until Voting Day, inclusive or in the case of a municipal by-election, for the period 60 days prior to and inclusive of Voting Day;
- e. Use the municipality's voicemail system to record election-related messages;
- f. Use the Municipality's computer network (including the Municipality email system) for election-related correspondence;
- g. Use any photographs/graphics produced for and owned by the Municipality of Bluewater or any photos taken utilizing municipal equipment or sent through Municipality email accounts for any election-related purposes;
- h. Use municipal property or staff in any campaign photos or images unless all candidates are afforded the same opportunity. Photos/images of external Municipal facilities are permitted. Photos/images of internal Municipal facilities are not permitted;
- i. Use any corporate facility/property for any election-related purpose unless a market value rental fee has been established corporately and the rental of such is available to all candidates and third parties. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no facility/property shall be rented or used for any municipal election-related purpose by members of Council, candidates, third parties, or the public during any day that voting is taking place on the property, including set-up, hosting, or take-down activities;
- j. Benefit from the use of any corporate pricing established under the Municipality's purchasing policy;
- k. Use any Council budgets for election-related purposes or to advertise, promote or support any candidate, third party or any position related to any questions which may be authorized to be placed on the ballot.
- l. Undertake any election related activities or campaigning on any municipal property unless a valid rental agreement has been entered into.
- m. In the event of a public debate hosted by a community service group, a facility on municipal property may be booked through the Facilities Department (valid rental agreement must be entered into), provided that:
  - a. All registered candidates (within the specified office of election for the debate) are invited.
  - b. Distribution of campaign literature (such as flyers, brochures, etc) at the event is kept at a modest, controlled manner.
  - c. Larger posters, banners, election signs, giveaways, and campaign clothing and merchandise sales are not permitted.

- d. Campaign literature shall be permitted only for the candidates within the office which the debate is being held (eg. A Mayoral candidate may not distribute literature at a debate for Bayfield Ward candidates)
- e. The above limitations apply only where a debate is being held at a facility on municipal property; debates held at other venues will be subject to any rules and requirements which may be established by the host.

Clauses d) g) h) i) above shall also apply to registered candidates, third parties and the public.

### **Staff Involvement**

Staff are discouraged from assisting with or any involvement in municipal election campaigns, including posting election signs on their property, phone and e-mail solicitations, signing endorsement papers, distribution of brochures and wearing candidate buttons; due to a perceived conflict of interest.

Staff, including full time, part time and contract employees shall:

- a. Behave in a manner that is impartial, fair and unbiased toward all registered candidates and third parties;
- b. Staff that are regularly on call and require a municipal branded vehicle to be parked at their place of residence shall avoid placing election signs on the property of their residence, while the municipal branded vehicle is present.
- c. Staff may not display any election related material, clothing, pins or other election related merchandise on any municipal property during normal working hours, or display it visibly (to other staff or members of the public) during electronic meetings while working remotely.
- d. Consult with their direct Supervisor prior to agreeing to perform any task requested by a member of Council, registered candidate, or third party that exceeds their normal duties or could be construed as contributing to an election campaign;
- e. Not rent any corporate facility/property for any municipal election-related purpose to members of Council, candidates, third parties, or the public during any day that voting is taking place anywhere on the property, including set-up, hosting, or take-down activities;
- f. Take care to separate personal activities from their official positions and shall not canvass or actively work in support of a municipal candidate or third party during normal working hours unless on a leave of absence without pay, lieu time, float day or vacation leave;
- g. Request and obtain a leave of absence without pay should they wish to run for federal, provincial or municipal office and abide by the respective legislation governing such elections.

Staff may be involved in provincial and federal campaigns as long as this involvement does not affect the objectivity with which they must discharge their duties as a representative of the Municipality.

### **Policy Management**

Staff are authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect to this policy.

Nothing in this policy shall preclude a member of Council from performing their duties as a Councillor, nor inhibit them from representing their constituents.

The Clerk is delegated the authority to make administrative changes to this policy that may be required from time to time due to legislative changes or if, in the opinion of the Clerk, the amendments do not change the intent of the policy during an election period.

**Instructions**

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

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

For the campaign period from (day clerk received nomination) 

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

 to 

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

- Initial filing reflecting finances from start of campaign to December 31 (or 45 days after voting day in a by-election)
- Supplementary filing reflecting finances from start of campaign to end of extended campaign period

**Box A: Name of Candidate and Office**

Candidate's name as shown on the ballot

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

Office for Which the Candidate Sought Election	Ward Name or Number (if any)
--	------------------------------

Municipality

Spending Limit General \$	Parties and Other Expressions of Appreciation \$	Contribution Limit Contributions from Candidate and Spouse \$
---------------------------------	---	---

I did not accept any contributions or incur any expenses. (Complete Boxes A and B only)

**Box B: Declaration**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date (yyyy/mm/dd)

Date Filed (yyyy/mm/dd)	Time Filed	Initial of Candidate or Agent (if filed in person)	Signature of Clerk or Designate
-------------------------	------------	--	---------------------------------

## Box C: Statement of Campaign Income and Expenses

### LOAN

Name of bank or recognized lending institution

Amount borrowed  
\$

### INCOME

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

**Total Campaign Income (Do not include loan)**

= \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **C1**

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

#### 1. Expenses subject to general spending limit

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

**Total Expenses subject to general spending limit**

= \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **C2**

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

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

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

**3. Expenses not subject to spending limits**

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

**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)	+ \$	_____	<b>D1</b>
If there is a surplus, deduct any refund of candidate's or spouse's contributions to the campaign	- \$	_____	
Surplus (or deficit) for the campaign	= \$	_____	<b>D2</b>

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

## Schedule 1 – Contributions

### Part I – Summary of Contributions

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

### Part II – Contributions from candidate or spouse

**Table 1: Contributions in goods or services**

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

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 (\$)
<b>Total</b>				

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 (\$)
<b>Total</b>				

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 (\$)
<b>Total</b>				

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

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

## Schedule 2 – Fundraising Events and Activities

Complete a separate schedule for each event or activity held.

Additional schedule(s) attached, if completed manually.

### Fundraising Event/Activity 1

Description of fundraising event/activity \_\_\_\_\_

Date of event/activity (yyyy/mm/dd) \_\_\_\_\_

#### Part I – Ticket revenue

Admission charge (per person)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ 2A

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

Number of tickets sold

x \_\_\_\_\_ 2B

**Total Part I (2A X 2B) (include in Part I of Schedule 1)**

= \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Part II – Other revenue deemed a contribution

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

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

**Total Part II (include in Part I of Schedule 1)**

= \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Part III – Other revenue not deemed a contribution

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

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

**Total Part III (include under Income in Box C)**

= \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Part IV – Expenses related to fundraising event or activity

Provide details

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

**Total Part IV Expenses (include under Expenses in Box C)**

= \$ \_\_\_\_\_

---

**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.



## **PUBLIC WORKS**

1 Court House Square, Goderich, Ontario N7A 1M2 CANADA

**Phone:** 519.524.8394 **Fax:** 519.524.9291 **Toll Free:** 1.888.524.8394 Ext. 3504

[www.huroncounty.ca](http://www.huroncounty.ca)

To: All Municipal Candidates and Municipal Candidate Offices

FROM: Imran Khalid, County Engineer/Director of Public Works

SUBJECT: **Erection of Election Signs along County of Huron Road Allowances**

=====

The Municipal Elections Act, 1996 or Municipal Act, 2001 does not regulate the municipal candidate election signage. The County of Huron regulates erection of Municipal Election Signage on County Road allowances in accordance with County of Huron Bylaw 53-1989 - A bylaw of the Corporation of the County of Huron to Regulate the Erection of Signs or Overhanging County Road Allowances.

In reference to the upcoming Municipal Election, election signage shall be placed in accordance with the following:

- 1) Small election signs placed by, or on behalf of, a candidate or a political party and signs designated to encourage citizens to vote, may be placed on the right-of-way of a county road, but must not be placed closer than the outer edge of the gravel shoulder for roadside maintenance purposes. Larger signs (e.g. greater than 1.2m X 2.4m) generally requiring two posts for support shall be placed at the outer limits of the right -of-way, generally 15m from the centreline of the paved roadway. Any signs interfering with maintenance operations will be removed.
- 2) An election sign must not be affixed to a permanent or an official sign or to the guide rail or other highway structure or facility and must not be placed where it may interfere with an official sign or with traffic signals or other safety devices. If the above occurs, the election signs will be removed.
- 3) Locate information must be obtained by the candidate to ensure that no damage occurs to any underground utility.
- 4) All Municipal, Provincial and Federal Laws, Acts, Regulations and Standards must be obeyed, including, but not limited to the most current versions of the Ontario Health and Safety Act and Regulations and the Ontario Traffic Manual Temporary Conditions (Book 7).
- 5) Portable read-o-graph sign trailers are prohibited on the right-of-way of a highway. Such read-o-graph sign trailers may be utilized providing they are erected on private property and meet the requirements of the Ministry of Transportation for portable read-o-graph signing. No lights are permitted with these signs.
- 6) Candidate committees, or workers shall be allowed three (3) working days after Election Day in order to remove candidate advertising (election signs)

from the right-of-way. Signs not retrieved by this time shall be picked up by the County patrol forces.

The County Public Works Department has some concerns related to potential driver distraction, visibility, roadway safety, and the ability to carry out routine roadside maintenance activities such as grass cutting and shouldering. The County of Huron Public Works respectfully asks that all candidates be mindful of these considerations and follow the applicable election signage requirements.

To help support public safety and reduce risk during the election period, Public Works staff may remove any signs that do not comply with County requirements or that may interfere with visibility, roadway safety, or maintenance operations. These signs can be picked up at the local County Yards in Auburn, Wroxeter and Zurich.

Please contact County Public Works at 519-524-8394 ext. 3504 should you have any questions or require further information.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation and making our County Road network safer for all.

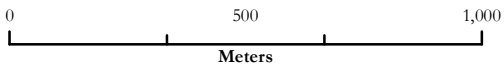
cc: Meighan Wark, CAO  
Susan Cronin, County Clerk  
Municipal Clerks

# MUNICIPALITY OF BLUEWATER WARD BOUNDARIES

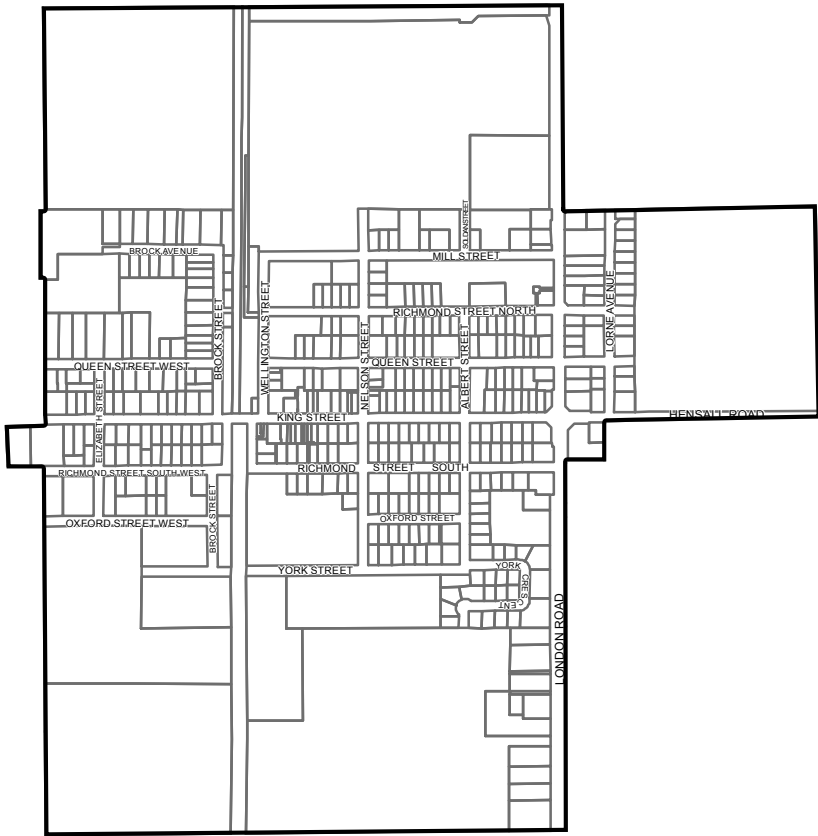
## BAYFIELD



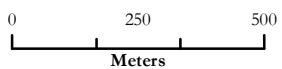
1:16,000



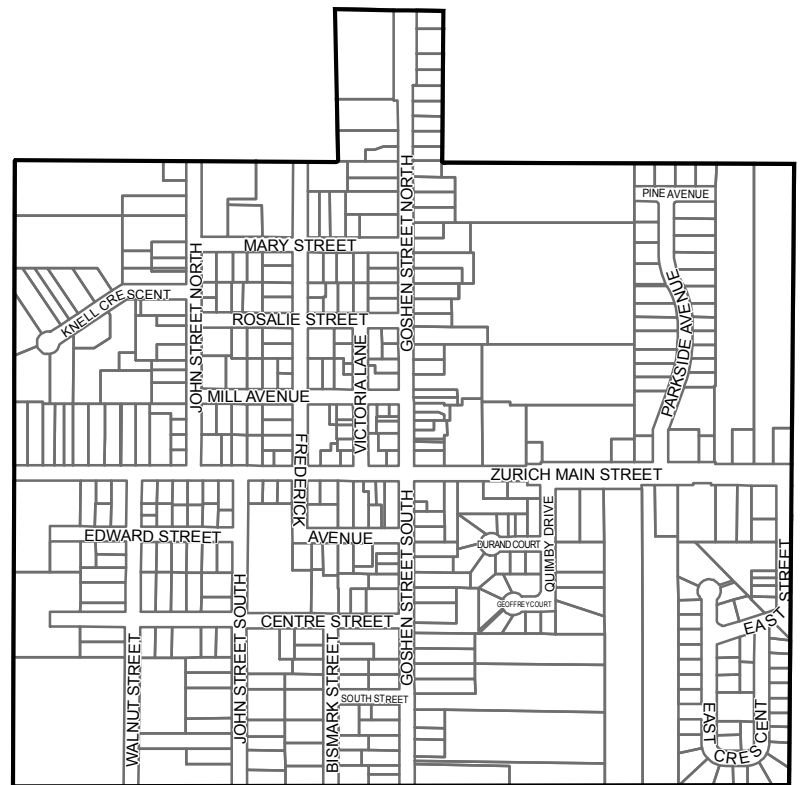
## HENSALL



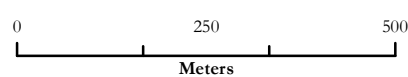
1:15,000



## ZURICH

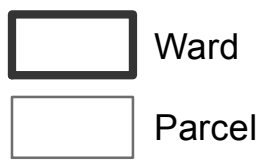


1:10,000

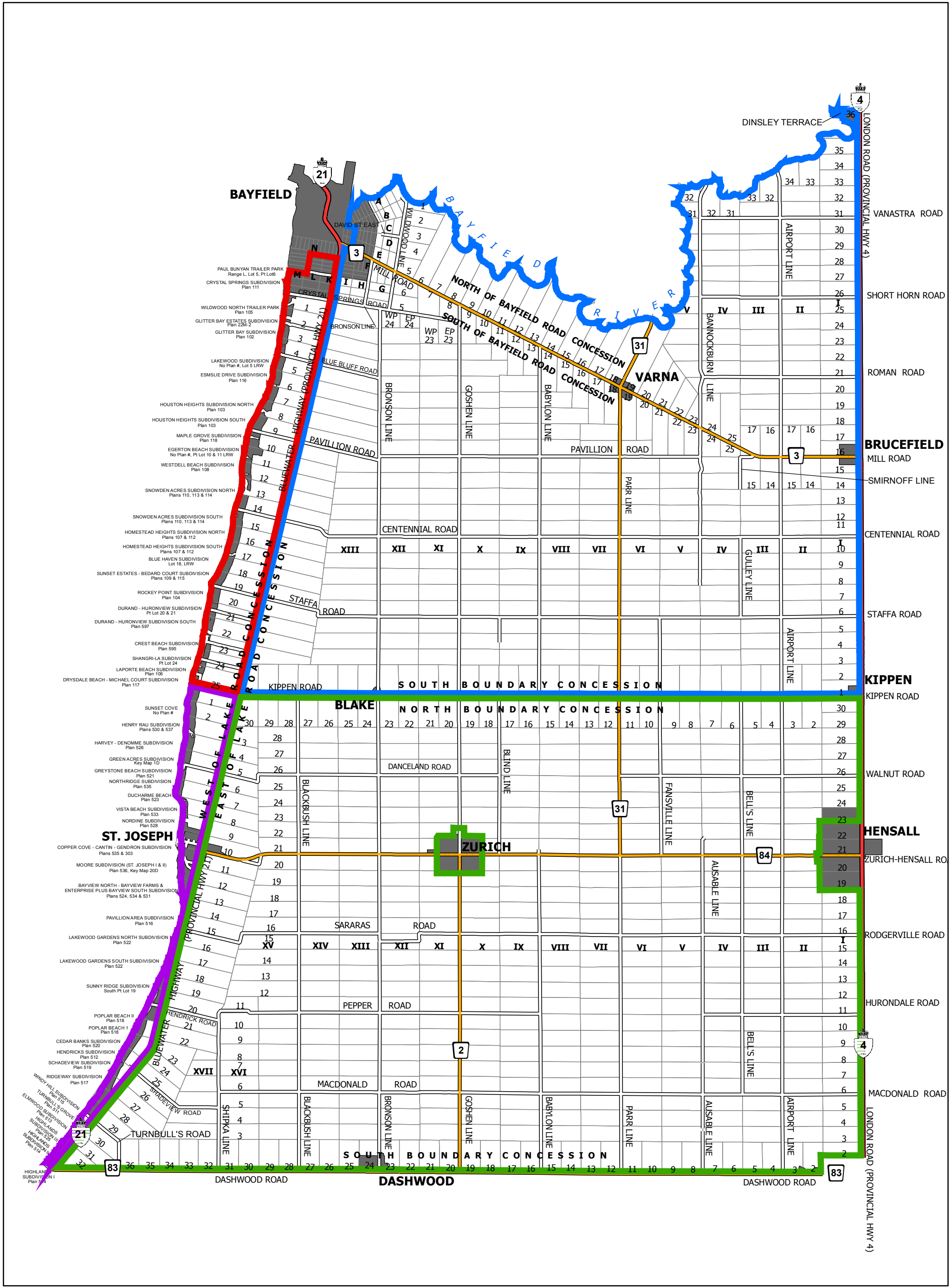


Produced by the County of Huron Planning and Development Department GIS Services with data supplied under License by Members of the Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange, MVCA, ABCA and MNA&M. This map is illustrative only. Do not rely on it as a precise indicator of routes, feature locations, nor as a guide to navigation. Copyright © Queen's Printer 2018. July, 2018

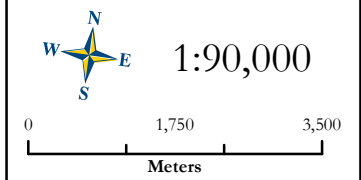
Last Modified: 7/20/2018



# MUNICIPALITY OF BLUEWATER WARD BOUNDARIES



Produced by the County of Huron Planning and Development Department GIS Services with data supplied under License by Members of the Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange, MVCA, ABCA and MNA&M. This map is illustrative only. Do not rely on it as a precise indicator of routes, feature locations, nor as a guide to navigation. Copyright © Queen's Printer 2018. July, 2018 Last Modified: 7/20/2018



Ward		PROVINCIAL HIGHWAY
Hay East	Hay West	COUNTY ROAD
Stanley East	Stanley West	MUNICIPAL ROAD
		LOT BOUNDARY
		SETTLEMENT AREA

# 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](mailto:mea.info@ontario.ca).

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

# Table of Contents

General information .....	1
Eligibility to run for election.....	2
Nominations.....	4
The voters' list.....	9
Campaigning .....	10
Third-party advertising.....	11
On voting day .....	12
After voting day .....	14
Campaign finance.....	15
Compliance and enforcement .....	27
Completing the financial statement .....	29
Forms referred to in this guide.....	35

## General information

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

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

Your municipality may have specific rules on issues such as:

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

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

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

### The municipal clerk

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

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

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

### Emergency declaration by the clerk

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

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

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

## Eligibility to run for election

### Running for municipal council

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

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

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

### Municipal employees

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

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

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

## Who is not eligible?

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

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

## Running for school board trustee

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

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

## School board employees

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

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

## Municipal officials

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

## Who is not eligible?

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

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

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

## Note for MPs, MPPs and senators

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

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

# Nominations

## Filing your nomination

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## The nomination fee

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

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

## Endorsement signatures

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Deadline to file your nomination

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

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

## Where to file

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

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

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

## Changing your mind – withdrawal

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

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

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

## Changing your mind – running for a different office

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

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

### **Example:**

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

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

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

### **Example:**

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

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

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

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

**Example:**

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

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

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

## Acclamations

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

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

## Additional nominations

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

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

## The voters' list

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

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

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

## Restrictions on handling the voters' list

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

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

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

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

## Written acknowledgements

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

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

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

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

## Campaigning

### Signs

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

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

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

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

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

## Getting information out

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

## All candidates' debates

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

## Joint campaigns / running on a slate

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

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

## Third-party advertising

### General information

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

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

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

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

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

## On voting day

### Campaigning on voting day

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

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

### Remaining in a voting place

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

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

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

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

## Scrutineers

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

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

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

Scrutineers may be required to take an oath of secrecy.

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

## Counting votes

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

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

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

## Results

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

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

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

## After voting day

### Recounts

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

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

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

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

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

### Tied votes

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

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

## Wrapping up your campaign

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

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

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

## Term of office

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

# Campaign finance

## General information

### Record keeping

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

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

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

You must keep the following campaign records:

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

## Campaign period

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Bank account

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

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

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

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

## Contributions and campaign income

### Contributions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Things that are not contributions

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

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

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

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

### Who can make a contribution

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

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

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

### Who cannot make a contribution

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

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

### When you can receive contributions

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

## Contribution limits – contributions from yourself and your spouse

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

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

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

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

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

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

This limit does not apply to school board trustee candidates.

## Contribution limits – contributions from other people

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

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

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

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

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

## Contribution receipts

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

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

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

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

## Returning ineligible contributions

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

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

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

## Unused contributions

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

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

## Contribution rebates

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

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

## Fundraising

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

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

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

## Campaign income

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

## Campaign expenses

### Expenses

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

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

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

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

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

## Goods and services

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

## Spending limits

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

### General spending limit

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

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

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

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

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

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

- expenses related to holding a fundraising event or activity

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

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

### When the general spending limit applies

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

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

### Spending limit for parties and expressions of appreciation

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

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

### Leftover campaign inventory

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

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

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

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

## Surplus and deficit

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

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

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

## Campaign advertisements

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

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

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

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

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

## Campaign financial statement

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Filing early

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

### Applying for an extension

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

## Grace period for filing

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

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

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

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

## Separate statement for each office

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

## Extended campaigns

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

Your campaign may be extended until June 30, 2027.

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

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

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

## Auditor's report

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

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

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

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

## Compliance and enforcement

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

### Automatic penalties

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

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

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

### Compliance audits

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Penalties

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

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

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

# Completing the financial statement

## General information

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

Candidates must use [Form 4](#).

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

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

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

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

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

## Tips for completing Form 4

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

### Box A: Name of candidate and office

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

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

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

## Box B: Declaration

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

## Box C: Statement of campaign income and expenses

### Loan

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

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

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

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

### Income

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

### Example

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

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

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

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

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

## Sign deposit

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

## Expenses

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

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

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

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

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

## Box D: Calculation of surplus or deficit

### Campaign deficit

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

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

### Campaign surplus

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

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

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

## Schedule 1: Contributions

Schedule 1 includes a summary of contributions from your campaign.

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

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

### Contributions from yourself and/or your spouse

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

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

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

### Contributions totalling \$100 or less

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

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

### Goods and services from candidate or spouse

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

### Inventory from previous campaign

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

### Contributions totalling more than \$100

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

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

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

### Goods and services from individuals other than candidate or spouse

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

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

### Example:

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

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

**Example:**

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

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

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

## Schedule 2: Fundraising events and activities

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

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

Contributions received at a fundraising event may include:

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

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

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

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

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

### Anonymous contributions

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

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

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

### Schedule 3: Broadcasters and publishers

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

### Auditor's report

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

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

## Forms referred to in this guide

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

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

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

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

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

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

## The Corporation of the Municipality of Bluewater

### By-Law Number 49 – 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 Municipality of Bluewater

**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** sections 88.3 and 88.4 of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, S.O. 1996, c. 32, as amended, sets out requirements for Candidate's election campaign advertisements and Third Party advertisements;

**And Whereas** the Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of Bluewater 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 Municipality of Bluewater 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 Municipality of Bluewater enacts as follows:

## 1. Definitions

In this By-law:

- a) "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.
- b) "Boulevard" means that portion of every Street which is not used as a Sidewalk, driveway access, travelled Roadway or shoulder.
- c) "Campaign Office" means a building or structure, or part of a building or structure, used by a Candidate to conduct an election campaign.
- d) "Candidate" means:
  - a. a Candidate within the meaning of the Canada Elections Act, the Election Act (Ontario) or the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 as amended; and
  - b. 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.
- e) "Clerk" means the Clerk of the municipality or a person delegated by them for the purpose of this By-law.
- f) "Crosswalk" means:
  - a. 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

- b. 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
  - c. shall include pedestrian crossovers.
- g) “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:
- a. any Candidate or political party in an election under the Canada Elections Act, the Election Act (Ontario) or the Municipal Elections Act, 1996;
  - b. 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
  - c. 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.
- h) “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.
- i) “Enforcement Officer” means the Clerk or delegate, or a By-law Enforcement Officer appointed by the Municipal Council of the Municipality.
- j) “Median Strip” means the reserved area that separates opposing lanes of traffic on divided roadways.
- k) “Municipality” means The Corporation of the Municipality of Bluewater.
- l) “Nomination Day” means the deadline to file a nomination with the Clerk under the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 as amended.

- m) "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.
- n) "Place" means attach, install, erect, build, construct, reconstruct, move, display or affix.
- o) "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.
- p) "Roadway" means the part of a Street improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular traffic, including the traveled portion and shoulder.
- q) "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.
- r) "Sign Area" means the area of one side of a sign where a copy can be placed.
- s) "Sign Height" means the vertical height of a sign from the lowest point of finished grade to the highest part of the sign.
- t) "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 municipality of Bluewater and this term includes all road works and appurtenant to municipal land.
- u) "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.

- v) "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.
  
- w) "Writ of Election" means the date as defined in the Canada Elections Act and the Elections Act (Ontario).

## 2. Short Title

- a) This by-law may be referred to as the "Election Signs By-law".

## 3. General

- a) All candidate signs shall include:
  - a. name of candidate.
- b) All registered third-party advertisement signs shall include:
  - a. name of registered third party;
  - b. the municipality where the registered third party is registered; and
  - c. telephone number, mailing address or email address at which the registered third party may be contacted regarding the advertisement.
- c) 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.
- d) 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.
- e) No election sign shall contain any word, image, symbol, or representation that:
  - a. Is obscene, profane or vulgar;
  - b. Threatens, intimidates, or promotes or incites violence against any person or identifiable group;
  - c. 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;

- d. Promotes racism or other forms of discrimination contrary to law; or
- e. Otherwise contravenes applicable federal or provincial legislation.

#### 4. Locations, Size, and Distance

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

- a. has a Sign Area of more than 6 square metres;
- b. interferes with the safe operation of vehicular traffic or the safety of pedestrians;
- c. impedes or obstructs the municipality's maintenance operations; or.
- d. conflicts with provisions of the current Bluewater Sign By-law.

b) Notwithstanding paragraph 4.a.(a) 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 Bluewater Sign By-law, as amended from time to time. Should there be a conflict between the Bluewater Sign By-law and this By-law, the Bluewater Sign By-law shall prevail.

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

d) Subsection 4.c 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.

e) 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.

f) No person shall display an election sign on private property,

- a. where it obstructs or interferes with a door or fire escape of a building; or
  - b. without the consent of the owner or occupant of such property.
  
- g) No person shall park or place any vehicle displaying a vehicle election sign within a one block radius of the Municipal Office located at 14 Mill Ave., Zurich on the voting day of a Municipal election.
  
- h) Election Signs on Public Property and Streets:
  - a. No person shall Place or permit to be Placed an Election Sign on Public Property as defined in Subsection 1.0 of this By-law.
  - b. 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.
  - k) No person shall Place or permit to be Placed an Election Sign that has a Sign Height:
    - a. of more than 1.8 metres when Placed within 3 to 8 metres of the Roadway;
    - b. of more than 4 metres when Placed beyond 8 metres of the Roadway.

## 5. Timing and Sign Removal

- a) 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.

- b) 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:
  - a. earlier than the day all nominations have been certified by the Clerk of the Municipality in the year of a regular election; or
  - b. earlier than the day all nominations have been certified by the Clerk of the Municipality for a by-election. Nominations will be certified by the Clerk before 4:00 p.m. on the Monday following Nomination Day or, if the number of nominations filed for an office and certified is less than the number of persons to be elected to the office, those additional nominations will be certified before 4:00p.m. on the Thursday following Nomination Day.
  
- c) Despite subsections 5a). and 5b) 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.
  
- d) 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.
  
- e) Removal of Election Signs:
  - a. No person shall display an election sign later than seventy-two (72) hours after the polls close on Election Day.
  - b. 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.
  
- f) Where an Election Sign is erected or displayed in contravention of this by-law, the Enforcement Officer may remove the sign without notice.
  - a. All election signs removed by the Municipality shall be retained for a minimum period of fourteen (14) days from the date of removal to permit retrieval by the candidate or third-party advertiser.
  - b. During the retrieval period, the candidate or third-party advertiser may reclaim the sign during regular municipal business hours.

- c. 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.
- d. 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

- a) 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

- a) 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

- a) The administration of this by-law is delegated to the Clerk.
- b) This by-law may be enforced by the Clerk or designate or a By-law Enforcement Officer of the Municipality of Bluewater.
- c) In accordance with the process established in subsection 5.f) 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 Enforcement Officer 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.
- d) 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

- a) 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. Force and Effect

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

By-law read a first and second time this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026.

By-law read a third time and finally passed this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026.

"original signed"

---

Paul Klopp, Mayor

"original signed"

---

Chandra Alexander, Clerk