

Municipal Election Basics

Disclaimer

- These slides are provided by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for convenience only.
- The slides should not be relied on for legal or official purposes and are not meant to replace provincial legislation or regulations.
- As local facts and circumstances vary, users should consider obtaining their own legal advice when particular legal issues arise.
- For more specific information, please refer to the relevant legislation and regulations which can be found online at: www.ontario.ca/laws

Legislation/Regulations

- [Municipal Elections Act, 1996](#)
 - O.Reg. 101/97 – General
 - O.Reg. 4/00 – Transitional Matters Affecting a Regular Election Arising Out of Restructuring
 - O.Reg. 425/00 – Provincial Interest
 - O.Reg. 304/13 – Voter Identification
- [Municipal Act, 2001](#)
- [Education Act](#)
 - O.Reg.412/00 – Elections to and Representation on District School Boards

[e-Laws | ontario.ca](#)

[Welcome - Central Forms Repository \(CFR\)](#)

[AMCTO](#)

Language of Notices, Forms and Other Information

- All notices, forms and other information related to the election must be provided in English only, unless council has passed a by-law allowing the use of French or other languages, in addition to English
 - Council may pass a by-law allowing the use of French in prescribed forms
- For a French-language district school board or relevant school authority the notices, forms and other information related to the election must be provided in both English and French.
 - Council may pass a by-law allowing the use of other languages in addition to English and French, in notices, forms (other than prescribed forms) and other information

Election Principles



- Secrecy and confidentiality of individual votes



- Fair and non-biased



- Accessible



- Integrity of the process

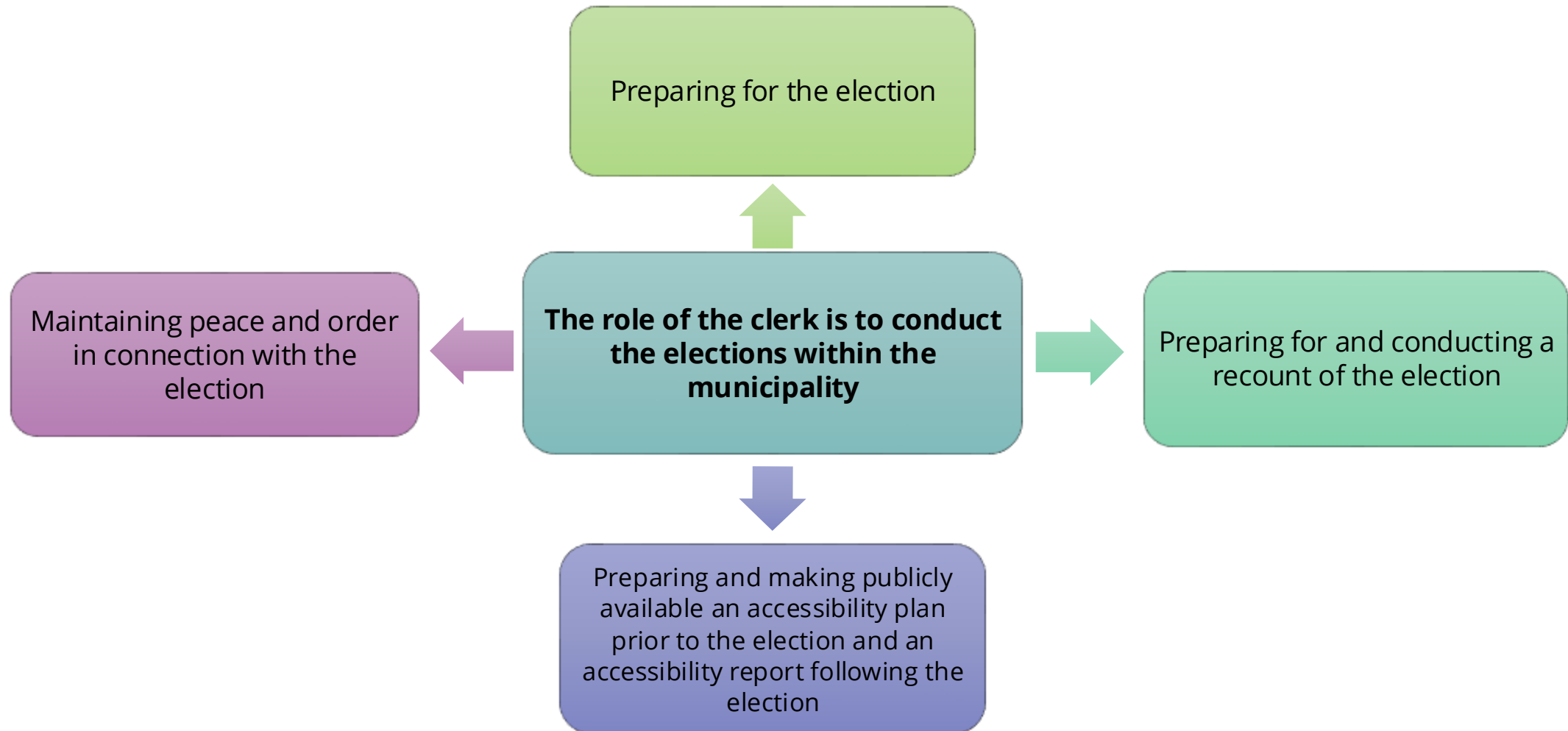


- Certainty of results



- Voters and candidates treated fairly and consistently

Role of the Clerk



Clerks' Duties



- Receive nominations from candidates



- Register third party advertisers



- Manage the voters' list



- Determine voting locations




- Establish advance voting dates and voting hours.



- Prepare accessibility plan and post publicly prior to voting day



- Prepare and make the post-election accessibility report available to public



- Provide advice to council on voting methods and other election related decisions, where applicable

Role of the Clerk – Campaign Finances

Calculate and provide spending limits to candidates and third party advertisers

Calculate and provide spending limits for candidates related to holding parties and expressions of appreciation

Calculate and provide contribution limits for contribution to candidate's own campaign

Receive and review financial statements from candidates and third party advertisers for compliance with filing date and contribution limits

Make public a list of which candidates and third party advertisers filed campaign financial statements and which did not

Review contributions and prepare reports for consideration by the compliance audit committee

Forward applications for audits of candidates and third party advertisers to compliance audit committee

Send reports regarding contributors to trustee candidates to secretary of the school board

Election Administration

- Municipalities and school boards are required to establish policies before **May 1, 2026**, regarding the use of municipal or board resources during a campaign.
- Councils and boards may establish policies by May 1, 2026, setting out additional conditions for an automatic recount.
- Clerks determine dates and times for advance voting, reduced voting hours in certain institutions, and early opening **before 10 a.m.** on voting day.
- Advance voting cannot begin more than 30 days before voting day.
- Clerks are given the authority to provide for electronic filing of candidate's and third-party advertiser's financial statements.

Election Administration – Personnel

- Where necessary, the clerk must appoint a deputy returning officer (DRO) for each voting place.
- Clerk may appoint other election officials.
- Clerk can delegate all or some election powers to election officials.

Deputy Returning Officer

- Delegation of powers to the DRO shall be in writing
- The clerk may wish to:
 - administer an oath of secrecy
 - ensure that the DRO and all election staff are trained and understand their duties and powers
- Commonly assigned duties of DROs include:
 - conduct of the vote at the assigned voting subdivision
 - checking and reading election materials
 - documenting receipt of ballots
 - checking and counting ballots for accuracy
 - preparing list(s) of voters who voted at the close of the advance vote and remitting them to the clerk with all election materials, ballot box, unused ballots and supplies.

Plans and Policies

Mandatory	Other Policies or Procedures to Consider
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accessibility plan and report<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accessibility plan must be made available to the public before voting day (October 26, 2026)• Accessibility report must be prepared within 90 days after voting day• Compliance audit• Use of municipal resources policy (before May 1, 2026)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Election signage (election sign by-law)• Voting places• Election staffing and training• Communications, including social media• Municipal procurement policies

Budget and Delegations

- There are some items the clerk may wish to consider as part of the 2026 budgeting process including (but not limited to)

Election Costs	Delegations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Materials (e.g. ballots, ballot boxes, privacy screens, etc.)• Election planning staff and voting day staff• Training costs and overtime• Post-election costs• Contingency reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potential for extended restricted period (e.g. restricted acts of council after nomination day)• Ensure budget is passed <u>prior</u> to nomination day to minimize the impact of a potentially restricted council.

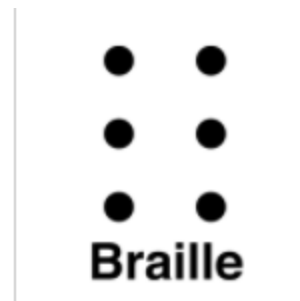
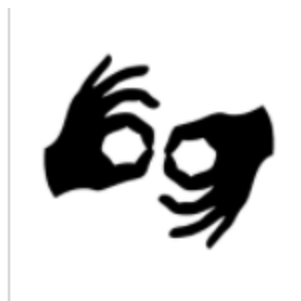
Accessible Elections

- Clerks must have regard to the needs of electors and candidates with disabilities.
- The Integrated Accessibility Standards regulation (O.Reg. 191/11) establishes the accessibility standards for information and communications, employment, transportation and the design of public spaces.
- Prior to voting day, the clerk shall prepare a plan regarding the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities.
- Within 90 days after voting day in a regular election, the clerk shall report to council about the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities.
- Both the plan and the report must be made available to the public.



Accessible Elections (cont'd)

- The Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) in partnership with the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario has developed:
 - Clerk's Guide to Conducting Accessible Elections
 - Voter's Guide to Accessible Elections



Nominations

- The clerk must provide public notice of all offices to be filled by election and of the nomination procedure.
- The clerk may want to consider preparing information packages for candidates that may include
 - applicable local by-laws and policies
 - important resources and information related to their obligations as candidates.
- The clerk might also consider creating a checklist for accepting nominations from candidates.
- A checklist or procedures list may help the clerk ensure that they have all the information needed from the candidate and provides an opportunity to share important information with the candidate.



Nominations (Continued)

- Nominations can be filed:
 - on or after May 1 until nomination day, at any time the clerk's office is open
 - electronically, if the clerk allows
- Nomination day is August 21, 2026.
- On nomination day, nominations can only be made between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
- The clerk must provide candidates with an estimate of general spending limit, self-funding limit, and spending limit on parties and expressions of appreciation

Filing Fee

- \$200 for head of council
- \$100 all other offices
- can be paid by cash, certified cheque, money order or any electronic means specified by the clerk

Nominations (Continued)

- A person can only be nominated for one office at a time.
- If a person files more than one nomination, then the most recent nomination is effective – prior nomination(s) is(are) deemed withdrawn.
- Withdrawn nominations may still be considered separate campaigns and require financial statements.
- A person's name can only appear on one ballot.
- Clerk to certify nominations by:
 - August 24, 2026 for initial nominations
 - August 27, 2026 for additional nominations when insufficient nominations have been filed for the offices to be filled
- If clerk rejects an individual's nomination, the clerk must notify all candidates for the office as soon as possible, but the clerk's decision is final.

Nominations – 25 Signatures



- Candidates running for municipal council in a municipality that has 4000 or more electors must submit endorsement signatures from 25 people who are eligible to vote in the municipality
- Candidates will be required to submit 25 endorsement signatures with their nomination form
- Those who endorse a candidate will also be declaring that they were eligible to vote when they provided the endorsement
- If a municipality is divided into wards, a person who is eligible to vote in the municipality can nominate a candidate for any ward in the municipality
- If a candidate chooses to run for a different office on the same municipal council, they do not have to resubmit another 25 signatures

Withdrawal of Nomination

- A withdrawal must be filed with the clerk's office in writing before 2:00 p.m. on nomination day – August 21, 2026
- If a nomination is withdrawn, the candidate is entitled to a refund of their nomination filing fee once they file their financial statement
- If a candidate withdraws a nomination, they are still required to file a campaign financial statement covering all of the financial transactions made in the campaign, even if the only financial transaction made was the nomination filing fee

Additional Nominations

- If there are fewer nominations than offices to fill by election at the close of nomination day, additional nominations may be filed.
- Additional nominations can be received on August 26, 2026 between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Acclamations

- Occurs when the number of certified candidates for an office is equal to or less than the number of candidates to be elected for that office

Following Nomination Day

- The clerk must declare all acclamations on the Monday following nomination day (August 24, 2026)

Additional Nominations

- If additional nominations are required, those acclamations are announced after 4:00 p.m. on the Thursday following nomination day (August 27, 2026)

Spending Limit

Head of Council Limit	Formula
Spending limit	\$7,500 + 0.85 per elector
Spending limit for expressions of appreciation	10% of spending limit

Other Office on Council Limit	Formula
Spending limit	\$5,000 + 0.85 per elector**
Spending limit for expressions of appreciation	10% of spending limit

**calculated by ward, where applicable

Third Party Advertiser – Registration

- A third-party advertiser registers in the local municipality with the clerk responsible for conducting the election
- Only the following persons and entities are eligible to register as third-party advertisers with the clerk:
 - an individual who is normally resident in Ontario
 - a corporation that carries on business in Ontario
 - a trade union that holds bargaining rights for employees in Ontario
- Registrations for third party advertisers can be filed on or after May 1, 2026, until the Friday before voting day (October 23, 2026), at a time when the clerk's office is open

Third Party Advertiser – Registration

(Continued)

- The clerk must provide third party advertisers with an estimate of their general spending limit and their spending limit on parties and expressions of appreciation
 - The formula to calculate the third-party advertiser spending limit is \$5,000 plus \$0.05 per eligible elector, to a maximum of \$25,000.
- A third-party advertiser's campaign automatically ends if they become a candidate in the election
- Third-party advertisers may withdraw their registration by filing a written withdrawal with the clerk

Restricted Acts

- *Municipal Act, 2001, section 275*
- Councils can be restricted during two separate time periods:
 1. after nomination day (certification of candidates) to start of new term (new council takes office)
 2. after voting day (declaration of results) to start of new term
- The three quarter ($\frac{3}{4}$) rule applies. Some examples:

5 Member Council	7 Member Council	9 Member Council
• $\frac{3}{4}$ of a 5-member council is 4	• $\frac{3}{4}$ of a 7-member council is 6	• $\frac{3}{4}$ of a 9-member council is 7

Restricted Acts (continued)

- *Municipal Act, 2001 s. 275* restrictions after nomination day:
 - appointment or removal of any officer
 - hiring or dismissal of any employee
 - disposition of municipal property which exceeds \$50,000
 - incurring expenditure or liability which exceeds \$50,000



- Exceptions:
 - The disposition of property and the disposition or liability exceeding \$50,000 does not apply if these items were included in the budget adopted prior to nomination day

Canvassing



- Access to a building for canvassing purposes / distribution of material:
 - Apartment building, condominium building, non-profit housing cooperative or gated community – section 88.1 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*
 - Apartments – section 28 of the *Residential Tenancies Act, 2006*
 - Condominiums – section 118 of the *Condominium Act, 1998*
 - Co-ops – section 171.24 of the *Co-operative Corporations Act*
- When canvassing, candidates should inform themselves about any municipal sign by-laws

The Voters' List

Voters' List: Clerk's Responsibilities



- The clerk:
 - may obtain a preliminary list of electors (PLE) before Sept 1 in the year of a regular election from Elections Ontario
 - In a by-election, must obtain a PLE at least 21 days before nomination day and must make corrections as soon as possible to the voters' list
 - Determines how and when individuals can apply to have their name and information corrected or added to or removed from the voters' list
 - Can remove a name from the list if the clerk becomes aware that the person has died
 - If an elector's information is redacted by Elections Ontario it cannot be included in voter's list that is made available to candidates or other persons or included in a copy made available for public inspection
- The preliminary list of electors provided by Elections Ontario, as corrected by the clerk, becomes the voters' list

Voters' List: Clerk's Responsibilities (Continued)

- Clerk shall provide copy of voters' list to certified candidates on or before September 1, 2026 who have made a written request
 - Only the part of the voters' list that contains the name of the electors who are entitled to vote for that office
 - Copies only to a person if that person provides a written acknowledgement that they will comply with the requirements of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*
- Clerk shall ensure that the voter's list:
 - Is not posted in a public place, and
 - Is not made available to the public on an internet website or via any other print or electronic medium of mass communication

Proxy Voting



- The proxy process provides an opportunity for an elector to appoint someone to vote on their behalf.
- The appointment must be made in writing using the prescribed form - these forms require original signatures.
- A person appointed as a voting proxy is also entitled to vote in his or her own right.
- A person wishing to appoint a proxy voter must complete the prescribed form and give the form to the person they are appointing (the proxy voter). The proxy voter then files the form with the municipal clerk.
- The person acting as a proxy must be a qualified voter in the municipality.
- The eligible proxy may exercise only one proxy vote, unless the proxy is acting on behalf of a spouse, sibling, parent, child, grandparent or grandchild.

Proxy Voting (Continued)

- A voting proxy cannot be appointed until the later of
 - the time for the withdrawal (2pm, Aug 21/26) of nominations has expired; and
 - when the clerk has certified all persons qualified to be nominated (no later than 4pm, Aug 24/26) (section 44(4))
- In a situation where a municipality is divided into wards, a voter acting as a proxy does not have to be from the same ward as the voter appointing the proxy holder
- The clerk shall certify the appointment on the prescribed form
- The clerk may designate the place and time for presentation of the proxy voting application and appointment documents for the clerk's certification
- The clerk is able to delegate the authority for the certification of proxies
- Clerk retains a copy of the appointment, and the voter files the original with the deputy returning officer (DRO) when voting
- Voter is required to take the prescribed oath before voting

Voting Places

- General rules:
 - deputy returning officer (DRO) is in charge of the voting place
 - clerk determines the specific location and boundaries of the voting place
 - some institutional locations are required to provide free space
 - when selecting voting places, the clerk must ensure that it is accessible to electors with disabilities
- The clerk may want to consider an information table in addition to the polling stations
- The clerk must determine the number and location of all voting locations for voting day, and ensure they are accessible
- You may want to conduct site visits to potential voting locations, and ensure it meets your needs for voting day

Voting Places (Continued)

- Clerks have responsibilities related to supplying voting locations with copies of the voters' list. A clerk must:
 - prepare and certify the voters' list for each voting place
 - determine which electors appear on the voters' list for each voting place
 - make appropriate changes to the voters' list for each voting place based upon approved revisions
- No campaign materials or campaigning at the voting place.
- No person shall:
 - interfere or attempt to interfere with an elector who is marking the ballot
 - obtain or attempt to obtain, at a voting place, information about how an elector intends to vote or has voted
 - communicate any information obtained at a voting place about how an elector intends to vote or has voted
 - take a photograph or video recording of his or her marked ballot
 - show his or her marked ballot to any person so as to reveal how he or she has voted, except in connection with obtaining assistance in voting

Voting Places (Continued)

- All persons present are to maintain the secrecy of the ballot
- In addition to any voting places designated by the clerk, no matter what voting method being used, a voting place needs to be established at each:
 - Institution for the reception, treatment or vocational training of members or former members of the Canadian Forces
 - Institution in which, on September 1, 20 or more beds are occupied by persons who are disabled, chronically ill or infirm
 - Retirement home in which, on September 1, 50 or more beds are occupied



Voting Day – Election Personnel

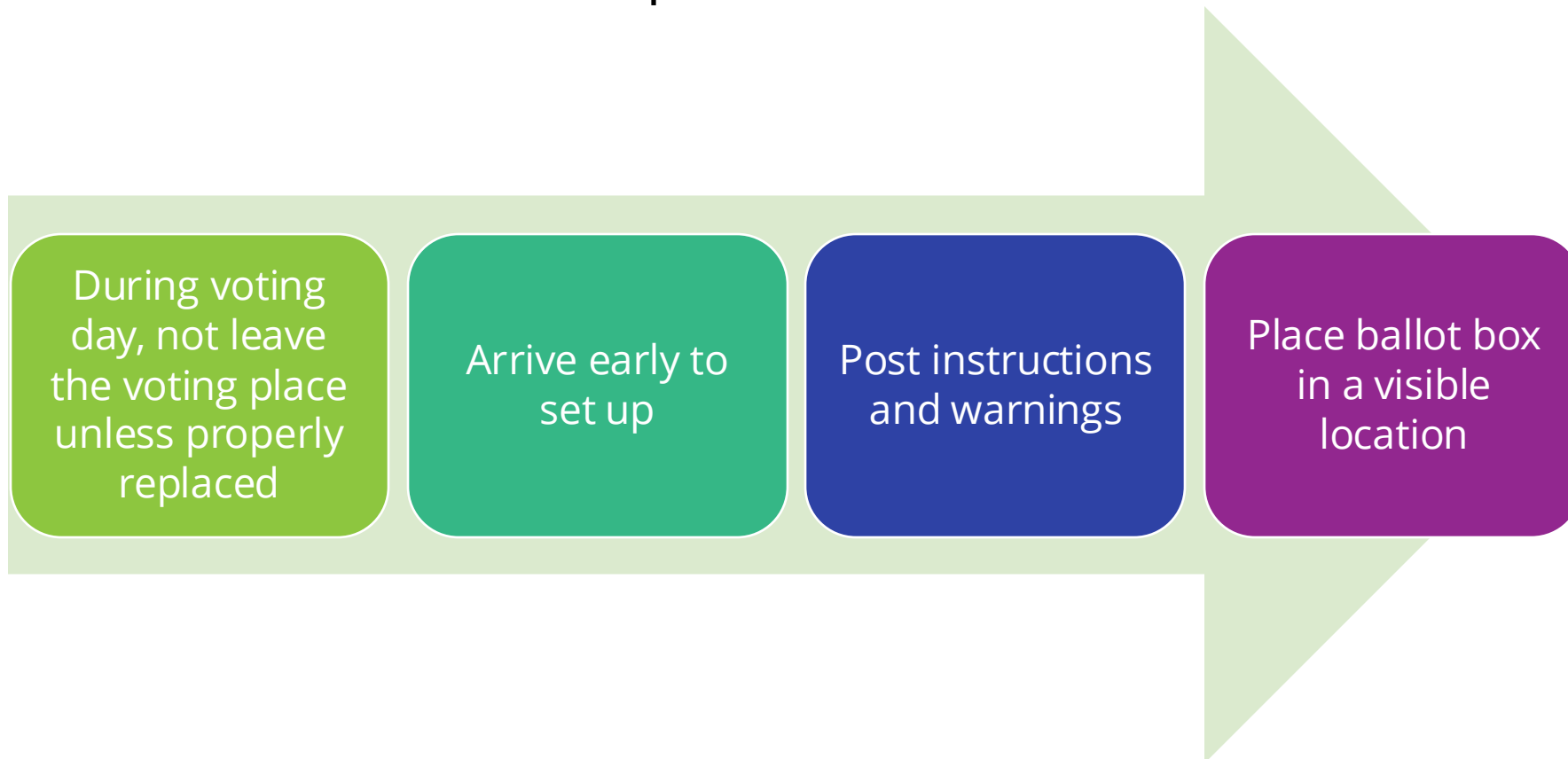
- The DRO and other election personnel shall:

- open on time – 10:00 a.m. (or earlier if a different opening time has been set by the clerk)
- close on time – 8:00 p.m.
- allow voters remaining in the voting place at closing time to vote
- ensure that voters leave after casting their ballot, unless they are a certified candidate or a scrutineer
- Permit scrutineers to inspection of materials related to the vote
- seal the ballot box

Voting Day – Election Personnel

(Continued)

- The DRO and other election personnel should:

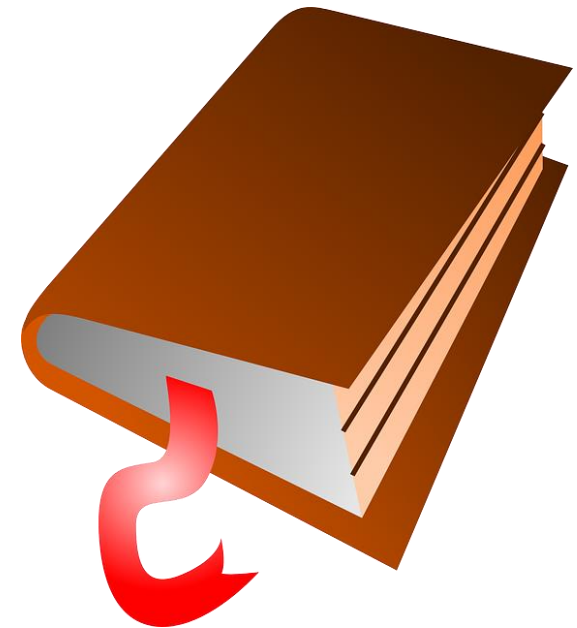


Campaign Period

- The campaign automatically closes December 31, 2026, unless:
 - the campaign has a deficit, and
 - the candidate notifies the clerk in writing of their intention to extend their campaign on or before December 31, 2026

Campaign period ends:

- a) On the day the nomination is withdrawn or is deemed to be withdrawn under subsection 29(2)
- b) On nomination day, if the nomination is rejected under section 35
- b) On the day the candidate files their financial statement between voting day and December 31



Compliance

- The clerk is required to make public a report of which candidates and third party advertisers filed a financial statement and which did not
- This report is to be made available as soon as possible after April 30, 2027
- The clerk is required to
 - review all financial filings to determine whether any contributor appears to have exceeded any of the contribution limits, and
 - as soon as possible following 30 days after the filing date prepare a report of any apparent violations and forward the report to the to the compliance audit committee



Compliance Audit Committee

- Every council and school board must establish a compliance audit committee by October 1, 2026.
- A member of a compliance audit committee cannot be a candidate or a member of the council/school board or employee of the municipality/school board or registered third party advertisers.
- A compliance audit committee must contain no fewer than three and no more than seven members.
- A compliance audit committee has a term of office that is the same as council – four years.

Recounts

- Declaration of election results – earliest date is October 27, 2026
- There are certain circumstances when a recount is held:
 1. automatic for tie votes (required by MEA)
 2. if council policy dictates
 3. if council passes resolution within 30 days
- A recount is held within 15 days after declaration of results for automatic recount or in accordance with a council policy
- A recount following a resolution from a council or board, must be held within 15 days of the passing of the resolution
- Recounts must be conducted in the same manner as the original count



Court-Ordered Recounts



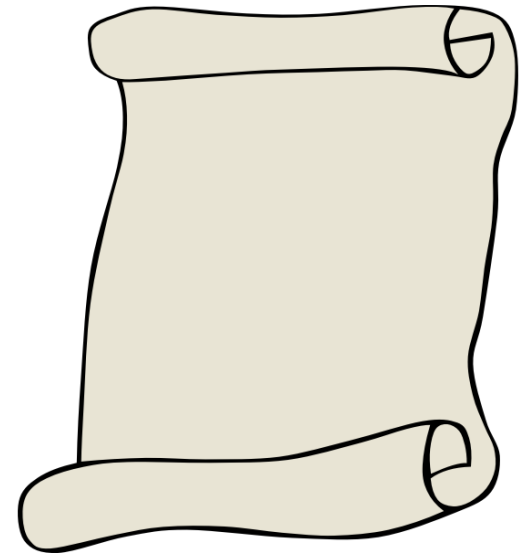
- An eligible elector can apply to the Superior Court of Justice for a recount
- Application must be commenced within 30 days after clerk declares the results of the election
- Recount to be held within 15 days after clerk receives court order
- Recount to be conducted in same manner as original count, unless ordered differently

Record Retention

The Clerk	Exceptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shall retain the ballots and all other documents and materials related to an election for 120 days after declaring the results• Shall destroy the ballots, in the presence of two witnesses unless the court orders that they be retained or a recount has started but not yet completed• May destroy any other documents and materials related to the election• Election records are public documents and may be inspected at any time during the 120-day retention period	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clerk shall not destroy records if<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) A court order that they be retained; orb) A recount has commenced and not finally disposed of.• Campaign finance documents are excluded• Inspection of records excludes:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• contents of ballot box or any applications made under S24 or S25 unless authorized to do so by a court order• Redacted information about a person under s4.7 of the Education Act

Declaration of Office

- The declaration of office is a form established by the Minister of Municipal Affairs under the *Municipal Act, 2001* and the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*. The wording cannot be changed
- The candidate must take the declaration on or before the day of the first meeting of council
- Failure to take the declaration of office on or before the day of first council meeting in the new term results in a vacancy
- Council can allow up to a 30-day extension to this requirement



After the Election

Tying Up Loose Ends

- paying election staff
- cleaning up election signs and materials
- thank you letters, etc.

Post-Mortem

- lessons learned
- data collected and analyzed
- council orientation
- contribution rebates

Resources

- [Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005](#)
 - [O.Reg. 191/11](#) – Integrated Accessibility Standards
- [Association of Municipal Managers Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario](#):
 - Clerk's Guide to Conducting Accessible Elections
 - The Voters' Guide to Accessible Candidate's Guide to Accessible Elections
 - e Voting
- [Municipal World Magazine](#)
- [Association of Municipalities of Ontario](#)
- Provincial Legislation
 - [Municipal Elections Act, 1996](#)
 - [Municipal Act, 2001](#)
 - [Education Act](#)



Resources (Continued)

- MMAH Municipal Election Guides
 - [Voters' Guide](#)
 - [Candidates Guide](#)
 - [Guide for Third Party Advertisers](#)



Candidate Training Sessions

- On request of municipal clerks, ministry staff can support with candidate information sessions



Appendix: Key Election Dates

Date	Action/Section
2025	
December 31, 2025	Last day for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A by-law to divide or re-divide the municipality into wards or to dissolve the existing wards (s. 222 MA), if it is intended to be effective for the 2026 municipal election• A by-law to change the composition of a local council (s. 217 MA), if it is intended to be effective for the 2026 municipal election
2026	
February 20, 2026	Last day to give notice of intention to pass a by-law for a question on the ballot (s. 8.1(3) MEA)
March 2, 2026	Last day to pass a by-law for a question on the ballot (s. 8.1(1) MEA) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 20 days after the clerk gives notice of the passing of the by-law is the last day to file an appeal of the passing of the by-law. S.8.1(6)• Within 15 days after receiving an appeal, the Clerk shall send the information pertaining to the appeal to the Chief Electoral Officer of Ontario

Key Election Dates (Continued)

Date	Action/Section
March 31, 2026	Last day to notify the Chief Electoral Officer of the boundaries of the voting subdivisions, if any (s. 18(2) MEA)
April 30, 2026	Last day to establish rules and procedures with respect to the use of municipal or board resources during the election campaign period (s. 88.18 MEA)
May 1, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clerk to provide notice of offices to be elected (s. 32 MEA)• Nominations for office may begin to be filed (s. 33(4) MEA)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clerk to provide initial estimate of spending limits to candidates as soon as practicable upon the filing of the person's nomination (s. 33.01(1) MEA) <p>Last day to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pass a by-law authorizing use of voting and vote-counting equipment and/or an alternative voting method (s. 42(2) MEA)• Pass a by-law to adopt a policy with respect to the circumstances in which the municipality requires the clerk to hold a recount of the votes cast in an election (s. 56(5) MEA) <p>Third party advertisers may file a notice of registration beginning on May 1 (s. 88.6(7) MEA).</p>

Key Election Dates (Continued)

Date	Action/Section
June 1, 2026	Last day for the clerk to establish procedures and forms with respect to use of voting and vote-counting equipment and/or an alternative voting method, if required (s. 42(4) MEA)
August 21, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nomination day (s. 31 MEA)• Last day for:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Candidates to file their nominations (ends at 2pm) (33(4) MEA)• Candidates to withdraw a nomination (before 2pm) (s. 36 MEA)• Revoking a question on the ballot, unless all offices are acclaimed (s. 8.1(1)(c) MEA)• Initial assessment can be made regarding whether restricted acts provisions apply to a council (s. 275 MA).

Key Election Dates (Continued)

Date	Action/Section
August 24, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clerks must certify nominations by 4pm (s.35(1) MEA)• Clerks must declare acclamations, if applicable (s. 37(1) MEA)
August 26, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional nominations may be filed if the number of nominations filed and certified for an office is less than the number of persons to be elected to the office (ends at 2pm) (s. 33(5) MEA)
August 27, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clerks must certify additional nominations filed under s.33(5), if any (before 4pm) (s. 35(1) MEA)
September 1, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clerk to determine which institutions and retirement homes require voting places based on information as of this date (s. 45(7) MEA)• On or before this date, Clerk's corrected preliminary list of electors is the voters' list and must be reproduced (s. 23(2) MEA)• Period to request changes to the voters' list begins (s. 24(1) MEA)

Key Election Dates (Continued)

Date	Action/Section
September 20-30, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clerk to prepare and distribute an interim list of the approved changes to the voters' list to each person who received a copy of the preliminary list (s. 27(1) MEA)
September 25, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Last day to revoke a by-law authorizing a question on the ballot if no offices are being elected (s. 8.1(1) MEA)
September 26, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First day on which an advance vote can be held (s. 43(3) MEA)
September 30, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On or before this date, final spending limits to be provided to candidates and third party advertisers (ss. 88.20(13) and 88.21 (14) MEA)• Final self-contribution limit to be provided to candidates (s. 88.9.1(4) MEA)• Last day to establish a Compliance Audit Committee (before October 1, 2026) (s. 88.37 MEA)
October 13, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Last day to request space for a voting place without charge (s. 45(4) MEA)

Key Election Dates (Continued)

Date	Action/Section
October 25, 2026	Last day to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• provide candidates notice of the penalties under subsections 88.23 (2) and 92 (1) related to election campaign finances and the circumstances under which a candidate may be entitled to receive a refund of the nomination filing fee (s. 33.1 MEA)• prepare a plan regarding the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect electors and candidates with disabilities and make the plan available to the public (s. 12.1(2) MEA)
October 26, 2026	Voting day <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Voting locations open at 10am and close at 8pm (unless earlier opening times have been established by the Clerk). (ss. 46(1) and (2) MEA)• Restricted acts period calculation if less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of existing council is re-elected (s. 275 Municipal Act)

Key Election Dates (Continued)

Date	Action/Section
October 27, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As soon as possible after voting day:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clerk to declare election results (s. 55(4) MEA)• Clerk shall make available on a website or in another electronic format:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the number of votes for each candidate• the number of declined and rejected ballots• the number of affirmative and negative votes on any question on the ballot (s. 55(4.1) MEA)
November 9, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First day of 180-day timeline in which the municipality is required to put a by-law or resolution (if needed) before council to implement the results of any question on the ballot that received an affirmative answer (s. 8.3(1) MEA)
November 15, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Term of new council begins (s. 6(1) MEA)
November 25, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Last day for clerk to prepare a final list of the approved changes to the voters' list and provide it to the Chief Electoral Officer (s. 27(2) MEA)
December 31, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subject to any extensions under the Act, campaign periods for candidates and third parties end (ss. 88.24(1), 88.28 MEA)

Key Election Dates (Continued)

Date	Action/Section
January 25, 2027	Last day: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> for an elected person to disclaim office (s. 84(1) MEA) for an elector to commence an application to determine if the election as a whole or the election of any person is valid (s. 83(2) MEA)
February 24, 2027 at the earliest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 120 days after clerk declares the election results - ballots shall be destroyed unless a court orders they be retained or a recount is not finally disposed of (s. 88(1) MEA)
February 24, 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last day for the clerk to provide notice of filing requirements and potential penalties to candidates and to registered third party advertisers (s. 88.25:(9), s.88.29(7)MEA)
March 25, 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last day for candidates and registered third party advertisers to apply to the Superior Court of Justice for an extension to the filing deadline (s. 88.23(6) and 88.27(3) MEA)
March 26, 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Candidates and registered third party financial statement and auditors report are due by 2pm (ss. 88.25 and 88.29 MEA) Clerk to provide notice to any candidates and registered third parties of specific defaults in their filings (ss. 88.23(3) and 88.27(2) MEA)

Key Election Dates (Continued)

Date	Action/Section
April 26-, 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Last day for candidates and registered third party advertisers to file their financial statements and auditor reports if they pay a \$500 fee to the clerk (ss. 88.23(9) and 88.27(6) MEA)
April 30, 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none">As soon as possible after this date, the clerk to make available to the public a report of any defaults in filings by candidates (s. 88.23(5) MEA)
June 24, 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Last day to file a request for a compliance audit of financial statements that were filed by March 26 (ss. 88.33(3) and 88.35(3) MEA)
August 25, 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Last day for Clerk to provide notice of filing requirements and potential penalties to candidates and registered third party advertisers having extended campaign periods (ss. 88.25(10) and 88.29(8) MEA)
September 23, 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Last day for a candidate or registered third party to apply to the court for an order extending the time for filing a supplementary financial report (ss. 88.23(6) MEA and 88.27(3) MEA)

Key Election Dates (Continued)

Date	Action/Section
September 24, 2027	• Supplementary financial filings are due (s. 88.30(2) MEA)
December 23, 2027	• Last day to file a request for a compliance audit of financial statements that were filed by September 24, 2027 (ss. 88.33(3) and 88.35(3) MEA)