Election Year Policies

Presentation at
City Council
December 2013

Janet Leiper
Integrity Commissioner

Ulli S. Watkiss
City Clerk

Linda Gehrke
Lobbyist Registrar
2014 is an Election Year

Key Dates:

**January 2** – Candidates may start filing nomination papers

**August 1** – Key date in Constituency Services and Office Budget Policy

**August 27, 28** – Last Council meeting

**September 12** – Nomination Day

**October 27** – Election Day

**December 1** – New term of office commences
The Municipal Elections Act sets out the rules to be followed by both the City and candidates.
The Code of Conduct guides Member behaviour and includes specific provisions for election years.
Article VII – Election Campaign Work
• City resources are not to be used for election campaign or campaign-related activities
• No campaign activities on City Property during work hours unless permitted by City policy
• No services by persons receiving City compensation during hours of work

Article XII – Conduct Respecting Staff
• City staff are not to be compelled to engage in partisan political activities

Article XV – Adhering to Council Policy
• Donations to Member-Organized events
• Constituency Services and Office Budget Policy
City-funded materials may not reference name or photograph of a candidate

Source: Use of Corporate Resources During an Election; MEA, Code of Conduct
Councillors may not use their websites or newsletters to refer to any candidates.

Source: Code of Conduct
Councillors may not receive donations for their community events once they register to run.

Source: Donations to Council Member-Organized Events Policy

You are cordially invited to a community BBQ

Sponsored by Councillor Joe Mihevc

Free Hotdogs!
Free hamburgers!

Shallmar Parkette
Sunday September 8
4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Tichester Park
Thursday September 12
4:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Come by to chat with Councillor Joe Mihevc & neighbours!

councillor_mihevc@toronto.ca 416-392-0208
August 1, 2014 is the cut-off date for organizing any community events or printing and distributing newsletters.

Source: Constituency Services and Office Budget Policy
Social Media, Robocalls and Other Technologies

See Application of 4.7(b) – Constituency Services and Office Budget Policy on Election Years.
City Staff are Required to Follow Election Policies

Use of City resources during an Election
http://www1.toronto.ca/staticfiles/City%20Of%20Toronto/City%20Clerks/Councillors/Files/pdf/UseOfCityResourcesElection.pdf

Employee participation in Municipal Election Campaigns
http://wi.toronto.ca/intra/hr/policies.nsf/9fff29b7237299b385256729004b844b/65b7b2a823965ea085256944005b5a7c?OpenDocument

Employees Seeking Election to Political Office
http://wi.toronto.ca/intra/hr/policies.nsf/9fff29b7237299b385256729004b844b/16093429d6c1c208852573530064fbbb?OpenDocument
Lobbying Activities with Councillors During An Election Year

1. Members of Council continue to be bound by the Code of Conduct for Members of Council (Article XIII – Conduct Respecting Lobbyists)

2. Lobbyists must comply with Lobbying By-law (Municipal Code Chapter 140):
   http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/municode/1184_140.pdf
   
a) Lobbyists must register and report lobbying

b) Lobbyists must comply with the Lobbyists’ Code of Conduct.
   i. must not place members of Council in conflict of interest
   ii. must not exert improper influence
   iii. must not bestow improper benefit
Complaints against Members seeking re-election may not be filed as of Civic Monday
Advice is Available

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