

Appendix A

Overview of Changes to the Municipal Elections Act, 1996**Key Date Changes**

	New Deadline	Old Deadline
By-law authorizing use of voting equipment and alternative voting methods	May 1 prior to election year (May 1, 2017)	June 1 of election year
By-law authorizing Ranked Ballot Elections only after public education and consultation process	May 1 prior to election year (May 1, 2017)	New under MEA
Clerk's policies and procedures	December 31 prior to election (Dec 1, 2017)	June 1 of election year
By-law to authorize Question on Ballot	March 1 of election year (March 1, 2018)	June 1 of election year
Voting subdivision boundaries to MPAC	March 31 of election year (Mar 31, 2018)	Set by Minister prior to election
By-law authorizing recount policy	May 1 of election year (May 1, 2018)	New under MEA
Use of City resource policy	May 1 of election year (May 1, 2018)	New under MEA
Opening of nomination period	May 1 of election year (May 1, 2018)	January 1 of election year
Close of nomination period	4th Friday in July	2nd Friday in September
Availability of the voters' list	September 1st	First Tuesday in September

Nominations & Eligibility Requirement

- First day to file nomination paper is May 1
- Final day to file nomination paper is 4th Friday in July
- Candidates for council office will be required to submit, with their nomination paper, endorsement signatures from 25 eligible electors in the municipality
- Endorsers will have to sign a declaration confirming their eligibility to vote when they signed the endorsement

Campaign Finances

- Contributions to candidates from unions and corporations are prohibited, but corporations and unions will be able to participate as third party advertisers and contribute to third party advertisers
- Anonymous and cash contributions cannot exceed \$25
- Contributions over \$25 must be made in a way that links the contributor's name and account with the payment
- Candidates are required to inform contributors of contribution limits
- Nomination fee is not a campaign expense
- After the 2018 election, campaign deficits will not be carried over from the previous campaign
- Expenses related to preparation of the auditor's report that accompanies the financial statement can be incurred after December 31
- Introduction of spending limit for parties and expressions of appreciation after the close of voting – amount set at 10% of candidate's final maximum spending limit

Compliance and Enforcement

- Nomination fee is only refundable if the financial statement is filed on time
- A candidate who misses the filing deadline may file within a 30-day grace period, provided a \$500 late filing fee is paid to the municipality
- A candidate may resubmit a financial statement to correct an error up until the filing deadline
- The Clerk is required to make public a report of which candidates filed financial statements and which did not
- It is an offence to offer a person money or other valuables in order to convince them to run for office or refrain from running for office
- The Compliance Audit Committee is required to provide brief written reasons for their decisions
- Electors will be able to apply for a compliance audit of a third party advertiser's campaign finances

Third Party Advertising

- Definition: an advertisement in any broadcast, print, electronic or other medium that has the purpose of promoting, supporting or opposing a candidate or "yes" or "no" answer to a question on the ballot.
- Does not include an advertisement:
 - by or under the direction of a candidate
 - if the person or entity incurs no expenses in relation to the advertisement, or
 - when it is given or transmitted by an individual to his or her employees by a corporation to its shareholders, directors, members or employees or by a trade union to its members or employees.

- Individuals, corporations and trade unions may register to be third party advertisers and will be required to identify themselves and provide mandatory information on all advertising
- A person who is registered as a candidate may not register as a third party and third party advertisements may not be directed by any person who is registered as a candidate
- There is no registration fee for third party advertisers
- Third party advertisers must register with the Clerk of the municipality
- Registration can be filed between May 1 of an election year and up to the Friday before voting day.
- Third party advertiser may register in multiple municipalities, but each registration is a separate campaign with its own spending limits
- Third party advertisers are required to follow similar campaign finance rules as candidates
- Maximum contribution from a single contributor is \$750 to a registered third party and \$5,000 to two or more registered third parties in a municipality
- The prescribed formula used for calculating the spending limit is based on the number of electors entitled to vote in an election in the municipality (amount will be prescribed by regulation)

Election Advertisements

- Includes advertisement in any broadcast, print electronic or other medium that promotes, supports or opposes a candidate or a "yes" or "no" answer to a question on the ballot
- Advertisements purchased by a candidate must identify the candidate
- Third Party advertisements must contain the name of the registered third party, the municipality where the third party is registered and contact information for the third party (telephone number, mailing address or email address)
- Candidate and registered third party advertisers must provide broadcasters or publishers with the following information in writing:
 - Name of candidate or registered third party
 - Name, business address and telephone number of the person dealing with the broadcaster or publisher on behalf of the candidate/registered third party
 - In the case of a third party, the municipality where they are registered
- Broadcasters or publishers must retain the records for four years after the advertisement appears and allow the public to inspect the records
- Municipality has the authority to request the removal or discontinuance of the advertisement

Greater Authority and Responsibility for Clerk

- Determine dates and voting hours for advance voting, reduced voting hours in certain institutions (e.g. long term care), and earlier opening on voting day

- Provide for electronic filing of candidate's financial statement, including setting conditions and limits
- Register third party advertisers
- Calculate and provide spending limits to third party advertisers
- Calculate and provide spending limits for parties and expressions of appreciation
- Make public a list of which candidates and third party advertisers filed campaign financial statements and which did not
- Review all financial statements and identify all contributions made to candidates and third party advertisers in excess of the prescribed limits. Submit report to Compliance Audit Committee for their consideration and determination of whether to commence proceedings against the contributor
- Submit reports regarding contributors to trustee candidates who contributed in excess of the prescribed limits to the secretary of the school board(s)
- Prepare accessibility plan and post publicly prior to voting day; then 90 days after the election, prepare a post-election accessibility report and make it available to the public

New Council Authority

- Pass by-law authorizing Ranked Ballot Elections (deadline May 1 of year prior to the general election)
- Pass a by-law outlining additional conditions for automatic recount (deadline May 1 of an election year)

Other

- Voter's list is available to certified candidates as of September 1 of an election year
- The Clerk is able to determine additional formats for applications to change information of the voters' list (e.g. electronic format)
- Applications for changes to the voters' list can be submitted from September 1 until the close of voting on voting day
- Request to delete another person's name is only allowed in the case of deceased person
- The Clerk has the authority to remove the names of persons that they know to be deceased
- Removed requirement for original signatures except for the nomination paper, notice of registration for third party and proxy form
- Clarification about:
 - An elector is entitled to vote only in the ward where he or she resides
 - An elector is prohibited from photographing their marked ballot or showing their marked ballot to anyone
 - A candidate is able to run in any ward in the municipality – not limited to where they live