



August 16, 2021

Sent via Email (No Original to Follow)

Members of Council
City of Toronto
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2

Dear Members of Council:

Re: September 20, 2021 Federal General Election

As writs have now been issued for a Federal General Election on September 20, 2021, I am writing to remind you of the requirements governing election-related activities in the Code of Conduct for Members of Council (“Code of Conduct”) that you and your staff will need to observe.

Article VII of the Code of Conduct and the City's [Policy on Use of City Resources during an Election](#) prohibit use of City resources for any municipal, provincial or federal campaign purpose. City resources include City employees (e.g., members' staff), City events, City facilities, City funds, City information and City infrastructure.

While members of Council and their staff can become involved in election campaigns, they must be sure to separate their work as elected officials and members' staff from their activities as campaign volunteers or supporters. The public must have confidence that the City's resources are not being used to support one political party or candidate over another. This separation of activities complies with the principle in the Code of Conduct that members “shall seek to serve the public interest by upholding both the letter and the spirit of the laws of the Federal Parliament and Ontario Legislature, and the laws and policies adopted by City Council.”

Social Media Use

Members should also review the Integrity Commissioner's [guidance about use of social media](#) and not post content that promotes any candidate or political party in the federal election on any social media account that:

- uses any toronto.ca email address as a point of contact for registration purposes;
- identifies the Councillor as a current member of Toronto City Council in the handle name, the user name or the profile description;

- is publicized on the member's constituency website or the City of Toronto's contact page for members of Council;
- is publicized on business cards, newsletters or other publications eligible to be paid for out of the Constituency Services and Office Budget for the duration of the currency of the publication;
- uses the logo or any other proprietary mark of the City of Toronto;
- contains contact information for the member at City Hall, a ward constituency office, or any other official contact information;
- is managed using City of Toronto resources including computers, smart phones, or tablets; or,
- is managed or maintained by City staff, the member's staff or volunteers, or using services eligible to be paid for out of the Constituency Services and Office Budget.

I hope these reminders are of assistance. If you have any questions or require assistance with specific questions about these requirements, please contact me.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Batty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jonathan" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Batty".

Jonathan Batty
Integrity Commissioner

c.c. Chris Murray, City Manager
John Elvidge, City Clerk
Wendy Walberg, City Solicitor