

Identification requirements for candidates	City Clerk's Office – Toronto Elections
	Policy No.: POL-CFPS-001

1. Policy

All persons filing a nomination for office, withdrawing a nomination or changing qualifying information on their Nomination Paper must present current identification to an election official that verifies their name, qualifying address and signature.

2. Application

This policy applies to candidates running for office in Toronto municipal elections or by-elections.

3. Authority/Legislative reference(s)

Section 12(3) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 authorizes the City Clerk to require a person to furnish proof that is satisfactory to the election official of the person's identity or qualifications.

Sections 33 and 36 of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 outline the requirements for a person filing and withdrawing their nomination as a candidate.

4. Acceptable forms of identification

A person may present one piece of identification showing name, qualifying address and signature. Alternatively, a person may present two pieces of identification, with one showing name and qualifying address and another showing name and signature.

The identification(s) presented may be an original, or a certified or notarized copy, of the document, or combination of documents. See Appendix "A" for acceptable identification.

5. Administration

(1) To establish the person's identity, the City Clerk requires that:

- a) All persons filing a nomination for office, withdrawing a nomination, or changing qualifying information on their Nomination Paper must provide current original identification that shows proof of their name, qualifying address within the city of Toronto or jurisdiction (as in the case of school trustees), and signature.

- b) Where an agent is filing a nomination for a candidate, the agent must provide their own original identification as well as an original piece, or a certified or notarized copy, of identification belonging to the person for whom the nomination is being filed.
 - c) The person's last name or single name on the nomination paper must match the name shown on the identification provided. The person's first name may be shortened or modified subject to agreement by the City Clerk (e.g., Mike for Michael).
 - Slogans, initials, occupations, degrees, titles, honours or decorations are not permitted to replace or to be added to the name when filing a nomination.
- (2) The name on the certified nomination paper will be the name displayed on the ballot.
- (3) Exceptions:
- a) Persons with no permanent lodging place

If a person is unable to provide identification because they do not have a permanent lodging place, a declaration regarding the places to which they returned to eat or sleep during the preceding five weeks may serve as proof of residency and qualification, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, for the purpose of filing a nomination as set out in section 2(3) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996.
 - b) "Known by" first names

If a person is commonly known by a first name that differs from their legal first name, they may use their "known by" first name if they can produce evidence satisfactory to the City Clerk that they are commonly known by that first name. They must also complete a Declaration of Nominee Form.
 - c) Middle names

If the person filing the nomination provides acceptable identification that shows their middle name(s), then their middle name(s) may replace their first name on the nomination paper.

6. Related policies and procedures

Retention of election records

Date Approved: April 2026

Appendix “A” – Acceptable identification for filing a nomination

Acceptable Identification

One piece of ID: showing Name, Toronto Address and Signature

- Ontario driver’s licence
- Ontario Health Card (photo card with address)
- Ontario motor vehicle permit (plate portion)
- Cancelled personalized cheque
- Mortgage, lease or rental agreement
- Insurance policy
- Loan or financial agreement with a financial institution
- Document issued or certified by a court in Ontario
- Any other document from the government of Canada, Ontario or a municipality in Ontario or from an agency of such a government.
- Any document from a Band Council in Ontario established under the Indian Act (Canada).

OR Two pieces of ID:

First piece of ID showing Name and Signature	Second piece of ID showing Name and Toronto Address
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ontario driver’s licence • Ontario Health Card • Ontario motor vehicle permit (plate portion) • Canadian passport • Certificate of Canadian Citizenship • Certificate of Indian Status • Veterans Affairs Canada Health Card • Social Insurance Number Card • Old Age Security Card • Credit card • Debit card • Employee Identification card • Student Identification card issued by a post-secondary institution • Union Identification card or professional licence card • Cancelled personalized cheque • Mortgage, lease or rental agreement for property in Ontario • Insurance policy • Document issued or certified by a court in Ontario • Any other document issued by the government of Canada, Ontario or a municipality in Ontario or from an agency of such a government • Any document from a Band Council in Ontario established under the Indian Act (Canada) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ontario motor vehicle permit (vehicle portion) • Income tax assessment notice • Child Tax Benefit Statement • Statement of Employment Insurance Benefits Paid T4E • Statement of Old Age Security T4A (OAS) • Statement of Canada Pension Plan Benefits T4A (P) • Canada Pension Plan Statement of Contributions • Statement of Direct Deposit for Ontario Works • Statement of Direct Deposit for Ontario Disability Support Program • Workplace Safety and Insurance Board Statement of Benefits T5007 • Property tax assessment • Insurance statement • Mortgage, lease or rental statement for property in Ontario • Credit card, bank account, RRSP, RRIF, RHOSP or T5 statement • CNIB Card or a card from another registered charitable organization which provides services to persons with disabilities • Hospital card or record • Document showing campus residence issued by the office or officials responsible for student residence at a post-secondary institution • Utility bill for hydro, water, gas, telephone or cable TV or a bill from a public utilities commission • Cheque stub, T4 or pay receipt issued by an employer • Transcript or report card from a post-secondary school • Document issued or certified by a court in Ontario • Any other document issued by the government of Canada, Ontario or a municipality in Ontario or from an agency of such a government • Any document from a Band Council in Ontario established under the Indian Act (Canada)