



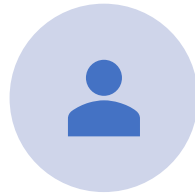
Becoming a Candidate

2026 Municipal Election

Session Outline



Election
Background



Becoming a
Candidate



What's Next
After Filing



Additional
Information &
Resources



Question &
Answer Period



Election Background

City Clerk's Responsibilities



- Conduct the election in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 and all other relevant legislation and by-laws
- Establish forms, policies and procedures
- Notify candidates of legislative requirements
- Set voting places
- Administer the City's Contribution Rebate Program
- Make the election accessible



Accessible Campaigning

- The City Clerk has the responsibility to ensure the 2026 Municipal Election is accessible for both candidates and electors.
- Our website, election resources, forms and documents are provided in accessible formats.
- We encourage all candidates to run accessible campaigns and review provided resources on best practices for promoting accessibility:
 - [AMCTO Candidates' Guide to Accessible Elections](#)

City of Toronto Ward Structure



The City Clerk administers the election for 55 offices:

- Mayor
- 25 Councillors
- School Board Trustees (29 across 4 school boards)
 - ❖ Toronto District School Board – 12 Trustees
 - ❖ Toronto Catholic District School Board – 12 Trustees
 - ❖ Conseil Scolaire Viamonde – 3 Trustees
 - ❖ Conseil Scolaire Catholique MonAvenir – 2 Trustees

Changes to School Board Trustees

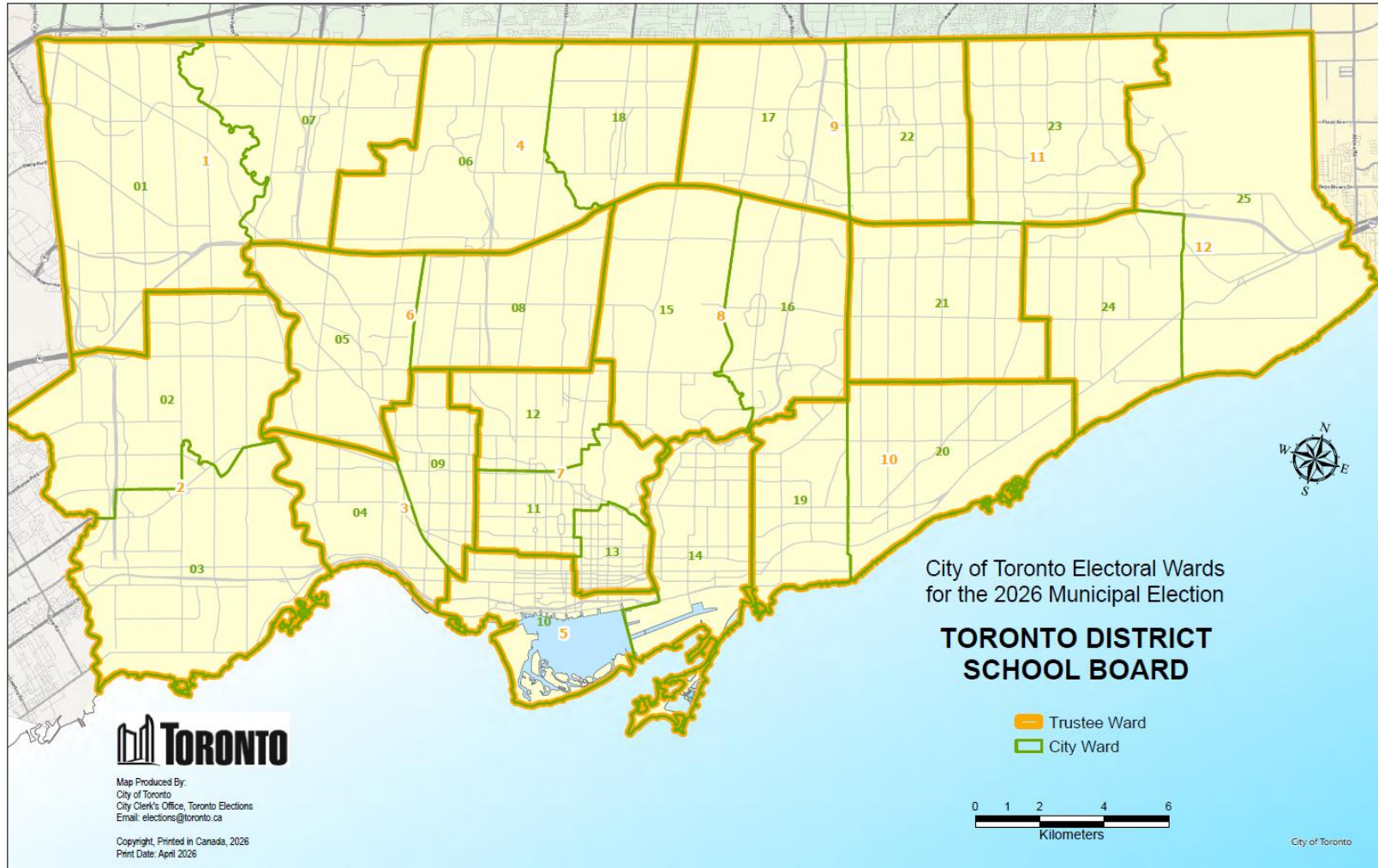


On April 13, 2026 [Ontario Regulation 100/26](#) amended [Ontario Regulation 4/12](#) related to elections to and representation on district school boards:

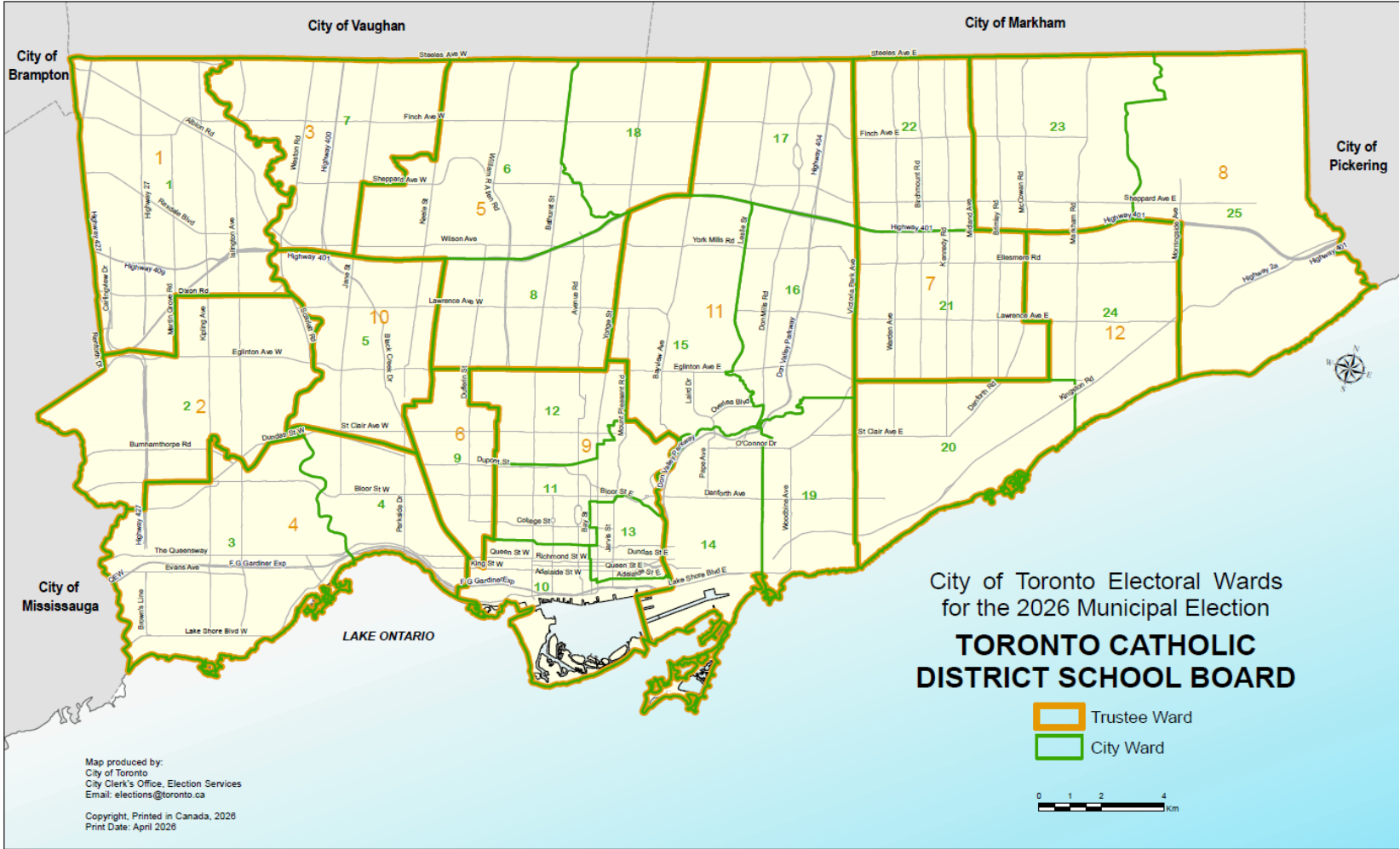
- Boards can now have a maximum of 12 trustees, which requires the Toronto District School Board to reduce their number of wards from 22 to a max of 12
- Reductions were also made to trustee discretionary spending and annual honoraria

Questions should be directed to the [Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing](#), the [Ministry of Education](#), or the [Toronto District School Board](#)

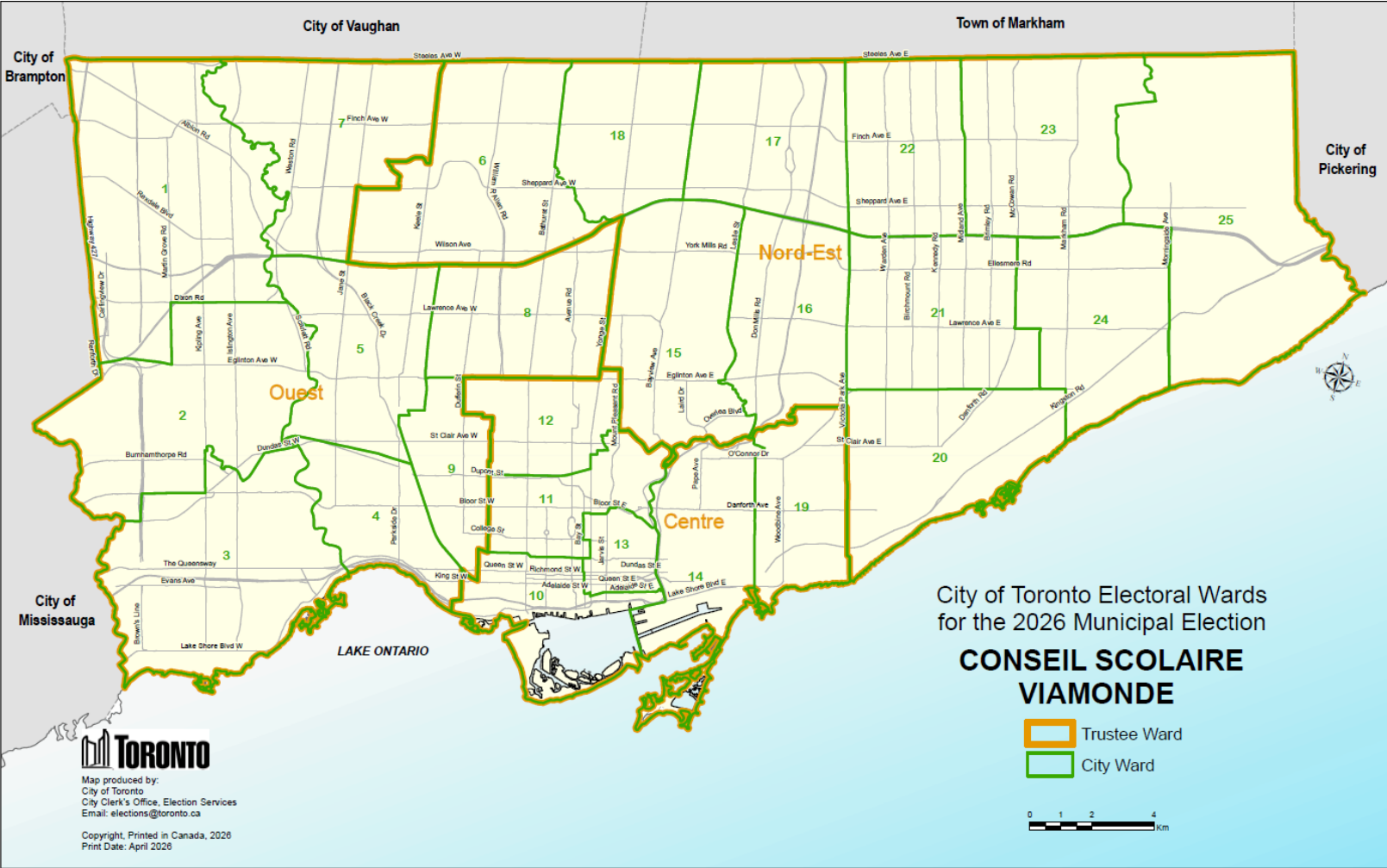
Toronto District School Board



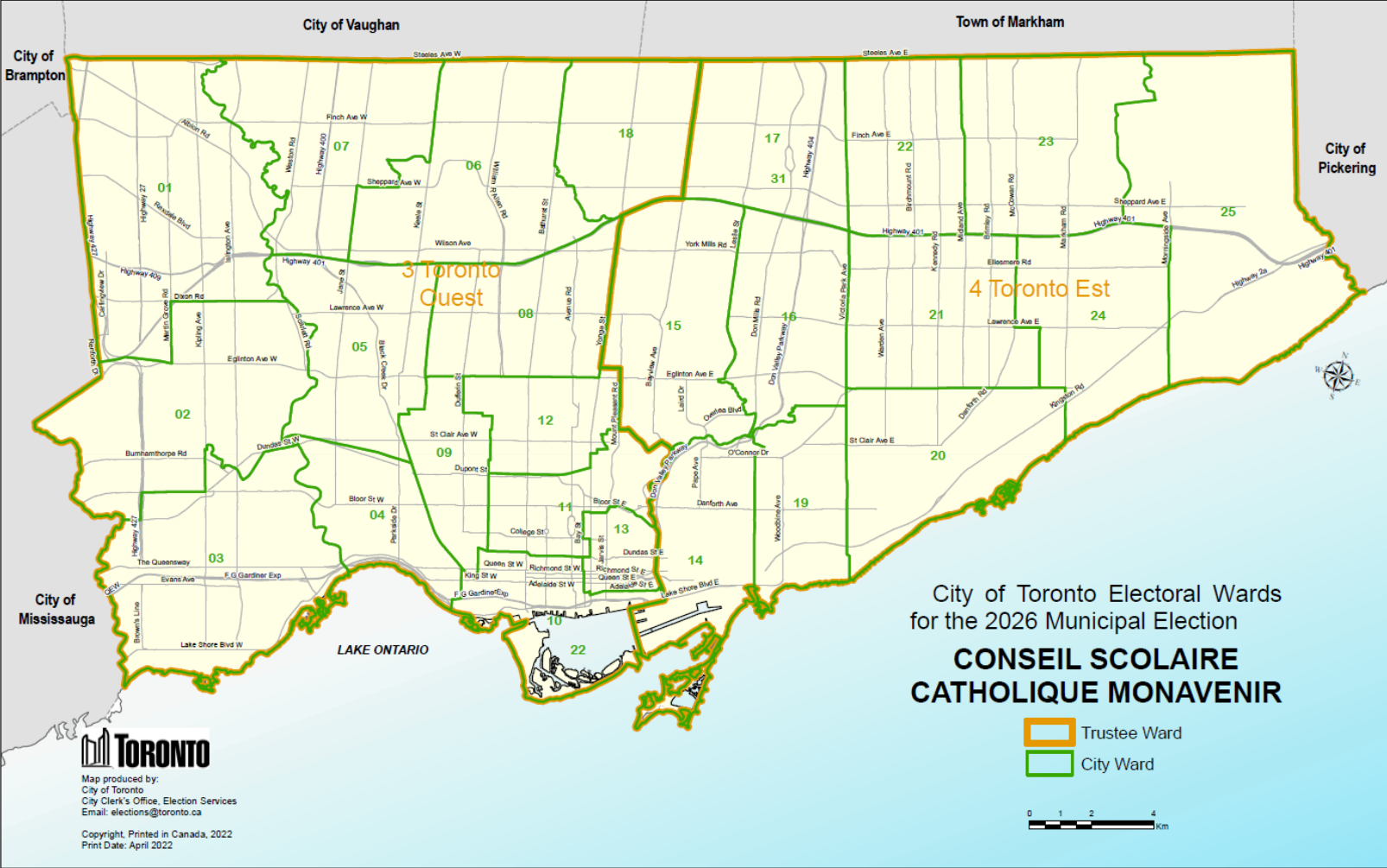
Toronto Catholic District School Board



Conseil Scolaire Viamonde



Conseil Scolaire Catholique MonAvenir





Key Dates

- **May 1 – August 21, 2026**
 - Candidates can file or withdraw nomination papers
- **September 1, 2026**
 - Voters' list, ward maps, and listing of voting places available to candidates
- **September 23, 2026**
 - Final spending and self-contribution limits available to candidates
- **October 6 – 11, 2026**
 - Advance voting days
- **October 26, 2026**
 - Election Day



Becoming a Candidate

Eligibility to Run



Qualifications

Mayor and Councillor:

- A Canadian citizen
- At least 18 years of age
- A resident of the City of Toronto, or
- An owner or tenant of land in the City of Toronto, or the spouse of the owner or tenant
- Not legally prohibited from voting
- Not disqualified by any legislation from holding municipal office
- Not a City employee, unless on an unpaid leave of absence

School Board Trustee:

- A Canadian citizen
- At least 18 years of age
- A resident in the area of jurisdiction of the board
- Not legally prohibited from voting
- Not disqualified by any legislation from holding municipal office
- Not a school board employee, unless on an unpaid leave of absence



Filing a Nomination

- To file a nomination, you must provide:
 - Completed [Nomination Paper](#)
 - 25 [Endorsements of Nomination](#) (Mayor and Councillor candidates only)
 - Current [acceptable identification](#) (showing name, qualifying address, signature)
 - Nomination filing fee
 - \$200 for Mayor, \$100 for Councillor or School Board Trustee
 - Can be paid via cash, credit, debit, bank draft, certified cheque, money order
 - Nomination fee is refunded if you file your financial statement by the deadline



Endorsements of Nomination

- All nominations filed for Mayor and Councillor must be accompanied by the endorsement of at least 25 eligible City of Toronto electors
 - Original signatures are required
- Endorsements must be submitted on the prescribed form
 - Endorsers do not need to live in the ward the candidate intends to run
 - Endorsers can endorse multiple candidates
- Double check that endorsements are complete before filing
 - Getting 30+ endorsements is recommended



Withdrawing a Nomination

- Candidates have until 2:00 p.m. on August 21, 2026 to withdraw their nomination such that their name will not appear on the ballot
 - A [Withdrawal of Nomination form](#) must be filed in-person at the Elections office
- Candidates who wish to change office must withdraw their existing campaign and file a new nomination paper
 - Contributions and expenses cannot be carried from a withdrawn campaign to a new campaign
- Candidates are required to submit a financial statement for each campaign
 - Even if the campaign was withdrawn
 - Even if no money was raised or spent on the campaign



Where to File

- All in-person candidate services are provided at:

Toronto City Hall
100 Queen St W
1st Floor West (Permit Alley)

- Nominations are accepted between May 1 and August 21, 2026
 - Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (excluding holidays)
 - On August 21, nominations are only accepted from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- [Online appointment booking](#) is available (walk-ins are also accepted)



What's Next After Filing



Immediate Tasks

1. Open a campaign bank account
 - All money raised or spent on your campaign (including your own) should go through your campaign bank account
2. Familiarize yourself with your campaign spending limits
 - You will receive a preliminary spending limit via email after filing your nomination
3. Review important campaign references and resources
 - [Toronto Elections website – Manage a Campaign](#)
 - [2026 Candidates' Guide – Ontario municipal council and school board elections](#)



Contribution Limits

- Candidates can only accept contributions from individuals normally residing in Ontario
 - Contributions cannot be accepted from corporations or trade unions
- There are limits on how much an individual can contribute to a candidate:
 - An individual can give a maximum of **\$2,500** to a candidate for Mayor
 - An individual can give a maximum of **\$1,200** to a candidate for Councillor/Trustee
 - An individual can give a maximum of **\$5,000** to multiple candidates running for the same office
- Candidates for Mayor and Councillor have separate limits on the amounts that they (and their spouses) can contribute to their own campaign

Contribution Rebate Program



- The Contribution Rebate Program allows contributors to receive a portion of their contribution back after the election
 - Only Mayor and Councillor candidates are eligible to participate
 - Only monetary contributions totalling over \$25 are eligible for a rebate
- Participating candidates must opt-in and fulfil extra requirements
 - Must submit an auditor's report with financial statement and all expense invoices
- Contributor rebates are based on all contributions they make to all candidates participating in the rebate program
 - Maximum rebate amount is \$1,000



Additional Information and Resources



Third Party Advertising

- If a person, corporation or trade union intends to spend money to promote or oppose a candidate, they must register as a third party advertiser
- The registration period for third party advertisers is May 1 to October 23, 2026
- To register, a third party must file a Notice of Registration with the City Clerk
 - If registering as a corporation or trade union, a board resolution is also required authorizing the individual filing to represent the corporation/trade union
- Candidates may not be affiliated with or direct a third party advertiser
- For more information on third party advertising, visit our website:
 - <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/elections/candidates-third-party-advertisers/>

Resources



- Toronto Elections website
 - www.toronto.ca/elections
- Official Candidates' Guide
 - [2026 Candidates' Guide – Ontario municipal council and school board elections](#)
- Election legislation
 - [Municipal Elections Act, 1996](#)

Future Information Sessions



Manage a Campaign

- July 14, 2026 – 6:30-8:30 p.m. (Council Chamber and via WebEx)
- August 24, 2026 – 6:30-8:30 p.m. (Council Chamber and via WebEx)

Contact Us



- Contact methods:
 - Elections Counter @ City Hall, 100 Queen St W, 1st Floor (Mon-Fri, 8:30-4:30)
 - Candidate info line: 416-395-0025
 - Candidate email inbox: candidateinfo@toronto.ca
- Staff will answer questions relating to becoming a candidate, campaign rules and requirements, assistance with MyCampaign and EFFS, etc
- Staff do not provide interpretation of legislation or campaign advice



Question & Answer Period