



Manage Your Campaign

2026 Municipal Election

Agenda



- Campaign Finances (presented by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing)
- Accessing the Voters' List
- MyCampaign & the Electronic Financial Filing System (EFFS)
- Contribution Rebate Program
- Election Signs (presented by Municipal Licensing & Standards)
- Ballots
- All-Candidate Debates
- Canvassing and Scrutineers
- Advance Vote and Election Day
- Question and Answer Period

Candidate and Third Party Advertiser Information Session 2026 Municipal Election

**City of Toronto
July 14, 2026**

Disclaimer

- These slides are provided by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for convenience only.
- The slides should not be considered legal advice. These slides are not meant to replace provincial legislation. For more specific information, please refer to the relevant legislation and regulations which can be found online at <https://www.ontario.ca/laws>.
- Since local facts and circumstances vary, users should obtain their own legal and professional advice when specific issues arise.
- Please note that some terms referred to on the following slides may not be terms from the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* but are terms that are commonly referred to in the context of municipal elections and are provided for general information and ease of understanding only.

Overview

- Roles and responsibilities of elected officials and staff
- Eligibility rules
- Nomination process
- Campaign finances
- Compliance audit
- Voters' list and voting proxy
- Scrutineers
- Recounts
- Resources



Campaign Finances

Contributions

- Candidates and third-party advertisers who accept contributions of money or incur expenses must open a bank account used exclusively for their election or advertising campaign
 - A contribution includes money, goods or services
 - Contributions to candidates from trade unions and corporations are prohibited in municipal elections
-
- Municipalities and local boards must establish rules and procedures regarding the use of municipal or board resources during the campaign period
 - Municipalities or local boards providing information to the public on a website or other electronic means is not a contribution



Contributions (Continued)

Candidates

Can accept contributions from:

- individuals who are normally resident in Ontario
- the candidate and their spouse

Third Party Advertisers

Can accept contributions from:

- individuals normally resident in Ontario
- trade unions that hold bargaining rights for employees in Ontario
- corporations that carry on business in Ontario.

- Corporations are deemed to be a single corporation if one of the corporations controls the others, directly or indirectly, or if all the corporations are owned or controlled by the same person or group of persons either directly or indirectly.

Contributions (Continued)

- Candidates and third party advertisers cannot accept contributions from:

- ✗ a federal political party, constituency association or registered candidate in a federal election
- ✗ a provincial political party, constituency association or registered candidate or leadership contestant
- ✗ federal or a provincial government
- ✗ a municipality
- ✗ a school board
- ✗ a business or group that is not a corporation



- Only third party advertisers can accept contributions from corporations and trade unions

Contributions (Continued)

- Contributions over \$25 may be by cheque or money order or by a method that clearly shows where the funds originated
- If goods sold to raise funds are sold for \$25 or less, that amount is considered campaign income, not a contribution
- Donations under \$25 at fundraising events are not contributions
- Ticket price of fundraiser is a contribution
- Receipts must be issued for each contribution and should include the name and address of the contributor and the amount and date of the contribution
- No anonymous contributions except for pass the hat collections (limited to \$25)

Contribution Limits



- Limit on contributions to any one candidate or third party advertiser is \$1,200
- Contributor limits:
 - An aggregate total of \$5,000 to any number of candidates for office on the same council
 - An aggregate total of \$5,000 to any number of third party advertisers registered in the same municipality
 - Applies to any size of contribution or combination of money, goods and services
- Candidates and third party advertisers must inform contributors of these limits

Self-Funding Limits

- There is a limit on the amount that a candidate for a municipal council can make to their own campaign
 - This limit also applies to contributions made by the candidate's spouse
- This limit is based on the number of electors voting for the office, to a maximum of \$25,000 per candidate:
 - \$7,500 + \$0.20 per elector for head of council
 - \$5,000 + \$0.20 per elector for other council offices
- These contributions must be deposited into the campaign account, a receipt provided, and the contributions reported on the financial statement



Borrowing



- Loans can only be borrowed from a bank or other recognized lending institution in Ontario and must be directed into the campaign account
- Loans may only be guaranteed by the candidate or their spouse
- Generally, the same borrowing rules apply to third-party advertisers

Campaign Expenses

- For the purposes of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, the following are considered campaign expenses:

Candidates

- costs incurred for goods or services by or under the direction of a candidate wholly or partly for use in their election campaign are expenses

Third Party Advertisers

- costs incurred by or under the direction of a registered third-party advertiser for goods or services for use wholly or partly in relation to third-party advertisements that appear during an election in a municipality are expenses

Campaign Expenses (Continued)



- A campaign expense includes:
 - ✓ any expense incurred for goods and services in relation to an election
 - ✓ the replacement value of any goods held in inventory from a previous election
 - ✓ the equivalent value of any contribution of goods and services for use in whole or in part

Spending Limits

- Ontario Regulation 101/97
- The clerk's calculation of the spending limit is final



General Spending Limit

- Head of council: \$7500 + 85 cents per elector
- All other offices: \$5000 + 85 cents per elector

Spending Limit After Voting Day for Parties, Expressions of Appreciation, Gifts, Etc.

- 10% of the general spending limit

Spending Limits (Continued)

- The clerk will provide both candidates and third-party advertisers with two certificates:

Preliminary Estimate	Final Amount
• Provided at the time of nomination (candidate) or registration (third party advertiser). • Based on the previous year's voters list	• Provided by the clerk on or before September 30 of the election year. • Based on the most current voters' list after corrections.

- The higher of the two amounts is the spending limit

Expenses Not Subject to The Spending Limits

- Expenses that are not subject to the general campaign spending limit include:

- holding a fundraising event or activity
- expenses related to a recount *
- expenses incurred by a candidate with a disability that are directly related to the disability and would not have been incurred if not for the election
- audit and accounting fees
- expenses related to a compliance audit
- expenses related to a court action for a controverted election *

* Expenses related to a recount and controverted elections do not apply to third party advertisers)

Third Party Advertiser Spending Limits

- General spending limit
 - Formula: \$5,000 plus \$0.05 per elector, to a maximum of \$25,000
 - Based on the number of electors entitled to vote in the election
- Separate spending limit for parties and other expressions of appreciation after voting day
 - Set at 10% of the general spending limit
 - Consistent with the spending limit in place for candidates



Campaign Finance Rules

- Campaign finance rules can be found in the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*

Candidates

- Sections 88.8 to 88.11 and 88.15 to 88.20

Third Party Advertisers

- Sections 88.12 to 88.19, 88.21

- Bank account must be opened for election campaign purposes prior to spending money or accepting contributions
 - The account must be exclusive to the election/advertising campaign
- All contributions of money must be deposited into the campaign account

Campaign Finance – Record Keeping

- Accurate record keeping is a legislated requirement.
- Candidates and third-party advertisers must keep records of:
 - receipts issued for every contribution
 - value of every contribution
 - whether contribution is in form of money, goods or services
 - contributor's name and address
 - every expense including the receipts obtained for each expense
- Campaign finance records for the 2026 election must be retained until the next elected council/local board (2030) board has been sworn in



Campaign Finance – Record Keeping (Continued)



- As a best practice, candidates and third-party advertisers should:
 - ensure that receipts are stored in a secure place
 - have a multi-part receipt (one for contributor, one for candidate to keep).
 - make sure that receipts are sequentially numbered
 - consider including contribution limits on the receipt
 - have the bank provide monthly statements and cancelled cheques for the account
 - produce duplicate deposit slips for every deposit
 - maintain a petty cash fund

Campaign Advertisements

- Candidates and third-party advertisers cannot cause an election campaign advertisement to appear unless they provide the following information to the broadcaster or publisher in writing:
 - the name of the candidate/registered third-party advertiser
 - the name, business address and telephone number of the individual who deals with the broadcaster or publisher under the direction of the candidate/registered third-party advertiser
 - the third-party advertiser must also include the name of the municipality where the third-party advertiser is registered.
- No broadcaster or publisher shall cause a campaign or third-party advertisement to appear unless this information has been provided
- The period during which third party advertisements can appear is May 1, 2026 until the close of voting on voting day on October 26 2026



Campaign Advertisements (Continued)



- The broadcaster or publisher of a third-party or candidate advertisement shall maintain records containing the following information for a period of four years after the date the advertisement appears and shall permit the public to inspect the records during normal business hours:
 - the name of the candidate/registered third-party advertiser
 - the name, business address and telephone number of the individual who deals with the broadcaster or publisher under the direction of the candidate/registered third-party advertiser
 - a copy of the advertisement, or the means of reproducing it for inspection.
 - a statement of the charge made for its appearance.

Financial Statement

- Candidates and third-party advertisers must file their financial statement on or before 2:00 pm Tuesday March 30, 2027
- If a candidate or third-party advertiser feels that they will not meet the deadline, they may apply to the courts for an extension prior to the March 30, 2027 deadline



Financial Statement (continued)

- Candidates can close their campaign and file their financial statement after voting day until December 31, 2026
- Third party advertisers can close their campaign and file their financial statement after early withdrawal or at any time after voting day up to December 31, 2026
- Clerks are required to make public by April 30, 2027 a report (on a website or in another electronic format) setting out all candidates and indicating whether each candidate complied with the filing requirements
- The clerk shall as soon as possible after April 30, 2027 make a list of all registered third party advertisers available to the public and the list must indicate whether each has filed the required financial statement and auditor's report.
- Clerks can determine conditions and limits regarding electronic filing of financial statements

Financial Statement (continued)



- All contributions must be reported.
- The names of contributors who contribute more than \$100 must be reported on the financial statement.
- The clerk is required to make financial statements available to the public for viewing on a website or in an electronic format free of charge.
- Financial statements must include an auditor's report if expenses or contributions exceed \$10,000.

Financial Statement (continued)

- The candidate's nomination fee is refundable only if the financial statement is filed on time
- A candidate or third-party advertiser who misses the filing deadline may file within the 30-day grace period, provided a \$500 late filing fee is paid to the municipality
- A candidate or third-party advertiser may resubmit a financial statement to correct an error up until the filing deadline



Campaign Surplus



- Entire amount of a campaign surplus must be paid to the clerk.
- A candidate or third-party advertiser is entitled to a refund of any contributions they (or their spouse, if an individual) made to the campaign before the filing of the financial statement and the payment of the surplus to the clerk.
- The clerk holds the surplus monies in trust for the candidate or third-party advertiser in the event of a compliance audit.
- If there is no compliance audit, the surplus becomes the property of the municipality or school board.

Compliance and Enforcement

Compliance Audit

- Every council and school board must establish a compliance audit committee
- Eligible elector may apply for a compliance audit of your campaign finances
 - Applications must be submitted to the clerk within 90 days of the campaign financial statement filing deadline
- Committee will
 - Consider the application
 - Decide whether to grant or reject the application
- A person may commence legal action on their own in court

Compliance Audit – If Granted

- Committee appoints an auditor if it grants the application
 - Auditor is entitled to have access to all of the financial records related to the campaign
 - Auditor will produce a report
- Committee meets to consider auditor's report and decide whether to commence legal action
- Only a court can decide if candidate contravened the Act and apply penalties

Automatic Penalties

Any of the following contraventions

1. Failing to file a financial statement by end of the 30-day grace period or fail to apply to the court for an extension before March 30, 2027
2. Exceeding spending limit
3. Fail to turn over a surplus to the clerk when you file financial statement

Results in



Automatic Penalties

1. Forfeiture of office if elected
2. Become ineligible to run or be appointed to fill a vacancy until after the 2030 election

Other Penalties

- If convicted of an offence under the *Municipal Elections Act*, you may be subject to following penalties:
 - A fine of up to \$25,000
 - Ineligibility to vote or run in next general election
 - Up to 6 months in prison
 - Forfeiture of elected office, if the judge finds that you committed the offence knowingly
- If convicted of exceeding the spending limit, you may also be fined the amount by which you exceeded the limit



Voters' List

Elections Ontario

- A non-partisan office responsible for administering provincial elections in Ontario
 - Administration for local elections continues to be the responsibility of municipal clerks
- On January 1, 2024, Elections Ontario became responsible for managing voter information for local elections
 - The permanent register of electors is a database of individuals eligible to vote in provincial and local elections in Ontario
 - Elections Ontario is responsible for maintaining the information stored on the permanent register of electors on an ongoing basis through data-sharing agreements with federal, provincial, and municipal sources and through updates made directly by electors
 - Elections Ontario is responsible for preparing the preliminary list of electors and providing it to municipal clerks

The Voters' List

- Becomes public document on September 1, 2026
- Candidates can request copy in writing from the clerk



- To receive the voters' list, candidates must acknowledge in writing that they:
 - Will only use the list for electoral purposes and not for commercial purposes
 - Are bound by restrictions set out in MEA related to the voters' list
 - Will only share the list with others after obtaining a similar written acknowledgement from them

The Voters' List – Candidate's Restrictions

- As a candidate, you
 - Are the only person who may share the list
 - If you give a copy to someone, they cannot share it further
 - Must keep track of who you have shared the list with
 - Physical copies must be returned to you
 - Electronic copies destroyed and a written acknowledgement to you that it was destroyed
 - On or before the day your campaign ends, must
 - Destroy copy you received from clerk
 - Ensure all print copies you shared are returned to you, then destroyed
 - Ensure you receive written acknowledgement from anyone you gave an electronic version to that they destroyed that electronic copy

The Voters' List – Written Acknowledgement

- Before sharing the list with someone, you must obtain a written acknowledgement that confirms they will:
 - ✓ Only use list for electoral purposes and not for commercial purposes
 - ✓ Not share or give copies to anyone else
 - ✓ Return physical copies to you
 - ✓ Destroy electronic copies and provide written acknowledgement that it was destroyed
- Written acknowledgement should set out dates for returning the list and/or confirming electronic copies were destroyed
- Keep the written acknowledgements until November 15, 2030 (when next council takes office)

Resources

Resources

- Legislation
 - [Municipal Elections Act, 1996](#)
 - [Municipal Act, 2001](#)
 - [Municipal Conflict of Interest Act](#)
 - [Education Act](#)
- Municipal Election Guides
 - [2026 Election guides](#)
 - [Municipal councillor's guide](#)
 - [Municipal World](#)



Questions



Contact Information

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Municipal Services Office – Central

Bridget Foster

Senior Municipal Advisor

bridget.foster@ontario.ca

Margaret Paul

Municipal Advisor

margaret.paul@ontario.ca



Voters' List – Getting on the List

From now until August 12th

- Electors can check, update or add themselves to the voters' list using Election Ontario's [Voter Registration Application](#). After this date, they will need to make any changes directly with their municipality.

From September 1st to election day:

- Electors can check if they are on the voters' list through the City's MyVote online registration tool (www.toronto.ca/elections/myvote)
- Electors can use the registration tool to add themselves to the voters' list, or correct their info, up until October 11rd at 7:00 p.m.
- After October 11, electors can add themselves to the list at their voting location on Election Day.

Voters' List – Getting your Copy



The Voters' List will be accessed through a secure application called CandidateAccess

- Candidates will receive an email with login credentials
- Login includes an acknowledgement of restrictions and obligations designed to protect the personal information of eligible electors
- Uploading the Voters' List to an artificial intelligence (AI) tool is prohibited

Candidates will have access to four types of voters' lists:

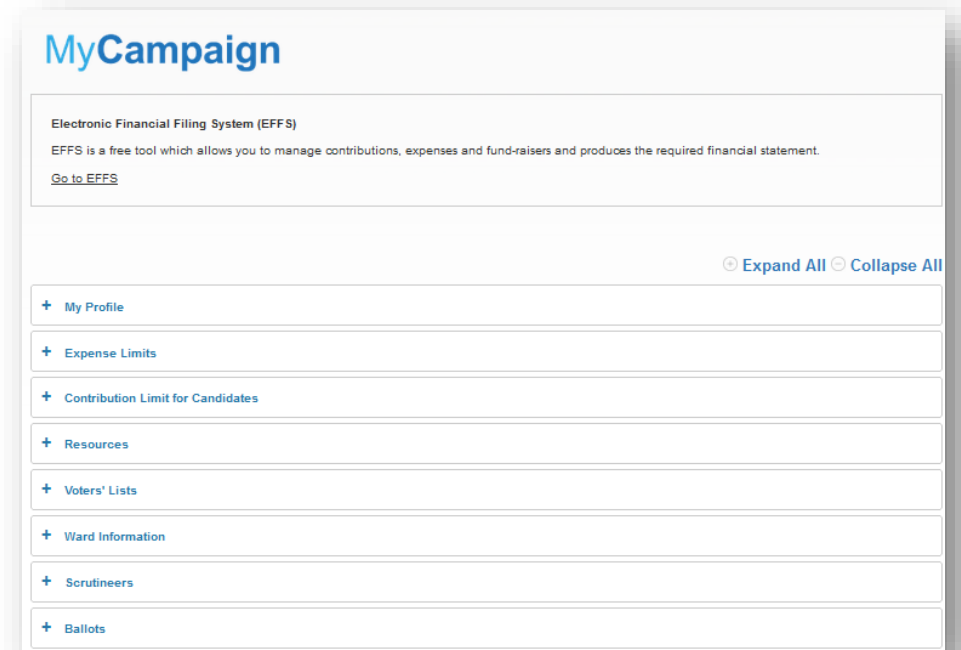
1. Preliminary list of electors (available Sept 1, 2026)
2. Interim list of changes (available Sept 23, 2026)
3. List of electors who voted at Advance Vote (available after each day of the Advance Vote period)
4. List of electors who voted by mail (October 15, 2026)

MyCampaign



Through MyCampaign, candidates can:

- Access spending and self-contribution limits
- Submit contact information to be displayed on the public List of Candidates webpage
- Download ward maps and list of voting places (beginning September 1st)
- View a sample ballot for their ward (beginning in October)
- Find the number of scrutineers allowed in each voting place (beginning in October)



Electronic Financial Filing System



The Electronic Financial Filing System (EFFS) is a free tool for candidates that is designed to make financial filing easier.

It allows candidates to:

- Record expenses and fundraising activities
- Add contributors and record their contributions
- Produce receipts for each contribution (including Contribution Rebate Receipt Applications)
- Produce a completed financial statement
- Submit the financial statement electronically
 - If a candidate has a surplus, the financial statement must be submitted in-person

Contribution Rebate Program

The Contribution Rebate Program allows contributors to receive a portion of their contribution back (based on a formula)

- Only applies to candidates running for mayor or councillor
- Only monetary contributions are eligible for a rebate (does not apply to contributions of goods or services)
- Total contributions of \$25 or less are not eligible for a rebate

Contributor's rebate amount is based on **all** contributions they made to **all** candidates participating in the rebate program

- Maximum amount a contributor can receive is \$1,000



Sample Rebate Calculations

Total contributions of \$25 or less

- Not eligible for a rebate

Total contributions between \$25.01 and \$300

- Formula: [total contribution amount] x 75%
- Sample calculation for \$200 total contribution: $200 \times 75\% = \$150$ rebate

Total contributions over \$300 but not more than \$1,000

- Formula: [total contribution amount - \$300] x 50% + \$225
- Sample calculation for \$650 total contribution: $[\$650 - \$300] \times 50\% + 225 = \400 rebate

Total contributions over \$1,000

- Formula: [total contribution amount - \$1,000] x 33 1/3% + \$575
- Sample calculation for \$1,200 total contribution: $[\$1,200 - \$1,000] \times 33 \frac{1}{3}\% + \$575 = \$641.67$ rebate

\$1,000 is the maximum rebate payable

Sample Rebate Calculations

Total Contributions	Rebate	Total Contributions	Rebate
\$25 or less	0.00	1,100.00	608.33
25.01	18.76	1,200.00	641.67
50.00	37.50	1,300.00	675.00
100.00	75.00	1,400.00	708.33
200.00	150.00	1,500.00	741.67
300.00	225.00	1,600.00	775.00
400.00	275.00	1,700.00	808.33
500.00	325.00	1,800.00	841.67
600.00	375.00	1,900.00	875.00
700.00	425.00	2,000.00	908.33
750.00	450.00	2,100.00	941.67
800.00	475.00	2,200.00	975.00
900.00	525.00	2,275.00	1,000.00
1,000.00	575.00	over 2,275	1,000.00

Contribution Rebate Overview



The Candidate:

- Issues a Contribution Rebate Receipt/Application form for every monetary contribution (even if it's not eligible for a rebate)
- Completes the 'Contribution Receipt' section of the form
- Sends the form to the contributor to complete

The Contributor:

- Submits their rebate claim by either:
 - Using the online rebate claim portal (starting in October)
 - Mailing the completed form to Toronto Elections, 89 Northline Rd

Deadline for submitting rebate applications is **December 30, 2027**

- Eligible contributors will receive their rebate cheque by mail in early 2028.



TORONTO		Receipt & Application Contribution Rebate	
Contribution Receipt (completed by candidate)			
Election	Date Accepted	Amount Accepted	Receipt No.
Contributor Last Name or Single Name			
Contributor First Name			
Contributor Mailing Address		Unit	City Postal Code
Candidate Name			Office/Ward
Candidate Signature			Date (yyyy/mm/dd)
Rebate Application (completed by contributor)			
Last Name or Single Name ☐ I have a legally registered single name			First Name
Mailing Address		Unit	City Postal Code
email			Daytime Phone
Contributor Signature			Date (yyyy/mm/dd)
Terms and Conditions			
• Contributor agrees to the terms and conditions on this form and acknowledges that the City Clerk has the authority to request additional information to accept or deny this application • Contributor shall complete all sections of this application and mail the original to Election Services: 89 Northline Rd., Toronto, ON M4B 3G1 • Election Services must receive this application by 4:30 p.m., December 30, 2019			
Information for Contributors			
• Rebates are based on all contributions made to all candidates up to a maximum of \$1,000 • Rebates will not be paid for contributions of \$25.00 or less, or donations of goods and services • A contributor cannot contribute \$5,000 or more to two or more candidates on the same council • Contributor's information is posted on the City's website for contributions totalling more than \$100 • Rebates are payable after the candidate has closed their campaign, filed an audited financial statement and complied with all requirements of the <i>Municipal Elections Act, 1996</i> and the Contribution Rebate By-law • Rebates cannot be paid until any proceeding in relation to a compliance audit is complete • Municipal campaign contributions are not eligible for federal income tax purposes • Keep a copy of this application for your records • For complete instructions visit our website: www.toronto.ca/elections			

Contribution Rebate Requirements



In order to participate, candidates must submit the following to the City Clerk:

- Audited financial statement
 - Auditor's Report is required, no matter how much money was raised or spent
 - Initial Financial statement must be received by the deadline date **(2 p.m. on March 30, 2027)**
- Copies of all campaign expense invoices/receipts at the time of submitting financial statement
- All contributor / contribution information submitted electronically, using the Electronic Financial Filing System (EFFS)



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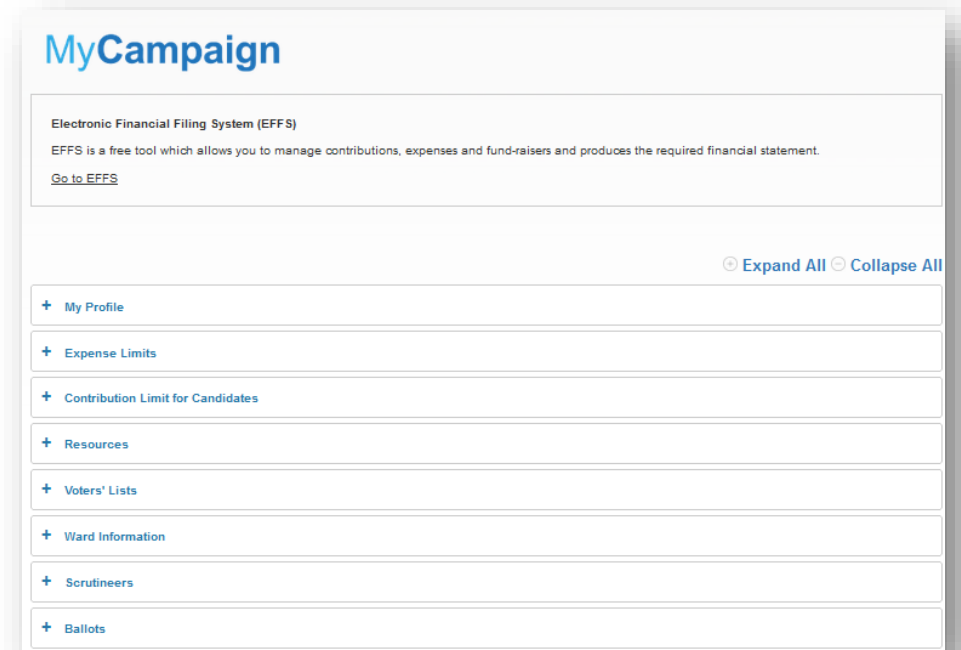
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Sample Rebate Calculations

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400.00	275.00	1,700.00	808.33
500.00	325.00	1,800.00	841.67
600.00	375.00	1,900.00	875.00
700.00	425.00	2,000.00	908.33
750.00	450.00	2,100.00	941.67
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1,000.00	575.00	over 2,275	1,000.00

Contribution Rebate Overview



The Candidate:

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- Completes the 'Contribution Receipt' section of the form
- Sends the form to the contributor to complete

The Contributor:

- Submits their rebate claim by either:
 - Using the online rebate claim portal (starting in October)
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Deadline for submitting rebate applications is **December 30, 2027**

- Eligible contributors will receive their rebate cheque by mail in early 2028.



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Contributor Last Name or Single Name			
Contributor First Name			
Contributor Mailing Address		Unit	City Postal Code
Candidate Name			Office/Ward
Candidate Signature			Date (yyyy/mm/dd)
Rebate Application (completed by contributor)			
Last Name or Single Name ☐ I have a legally registered single name			First Name
Mailing Address		Unit	City Postal Code
email			Daytime Phone
Contributor Signature			Date (yyyy/mm/dd)
Terms and Conditions			
• Contributor agrees to the terms and conditions on this form and acknowledges that the City Clerk has the authority to request additional information to accept or deny this application • Contributor shall complete all sections of this application and mail the original to Election Services: 89 Northline Rd., Toronto, ON M4B 3G1 • Election Services must receive this application by 4:30 p.m., December 30, 2019			
Information for Contributors			
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In order to participate, candidates must submit the following to the City Clerk:

- Audited financial statement
 - Auditor's Report is required, no matter how much money was raised or spent
 - Initial Financial statement must be received by the deadline date **(2 p.m. on March 30, 2027)**
- Copies of all campaign expense invoices/receipts at the time of submitting financial statement
- All contributor / contribution information submitted electronically, using the Electronic Financial Filing System (EFFS)

Election Signs

Municipal Election Candidates Information Session
Thursday July 14, 2026
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Presenters: Bylaw A/Supervisor Fherdy Olarte and BEO Lucas Georgieff





Presentation Purpose

We will cover the following:

- ML&S Role
- General Information
- Sign Placements: Public and Private
- Sign Storage and Disposal
- Top 10 Election Sign Complaint Types
- Set Fines under the Provincial Offences Act
- Resources

ML&S Role in the 2026 Municipal Election



INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS

Enforcement is reactive and not proactive (Complaint-based)
ML&S does not investigate stolen or damaged Election Signs



SIGN REMOVAL

Election Signs found in violation will be removed without notice



SUPPORT

Answer questions/concerns via email or by telephone

About TMC 693 – Election Signs



- Election Signs are regulated by Articles 2 and 3 of the Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 693 and stipulates when election signs can be erected or displayed during the election period
- Election & Campaign office signs can be erected **as of October 1, 2026**
- **Election day is October 26, 2026**
- All Election Signs **MUST** be removed **within 72 hours after Voting Day or by October 29, 2026**
- **There are no permit or sign retrieval fees**

What is an Election Sign?

A sign which has been displayed **with the authorization, direction or involvement** of a candidate that:

- Advertises or promotes a candidate in a federal, provincial or **municipal election**, including a by-election, and the election of a local board or commission member
- Is intended to influence persons to vote for or against any candidate or any question or bylaw submitted to the electors

General Restrictions

Election Signs **cannot** interfere with:

- the safe operation of vehicular traffic
- the safety of pedestrians
- the City's maintenance operations
- the City's underground utilities
- the sightlines on roadways



General Restrictions

Election Signs **cannot**:

- be illuminated, have flashing lights, emit sounds or simulate motion
- include/use the City logo, crest, seal in whole or in part
- be larger than 1.2 square metres in area, except election signs on campaign offices
- be higher than two metres above ground level, except on campaign offices or secured to windows or balconies

Placement on Public Property

Election Signs **cannot** be attached to:

- Utility poles or boxes
- Light poles or traffic lights
- Trees
- Fences
- TTC property or structures without a permit



Placement on Public Property

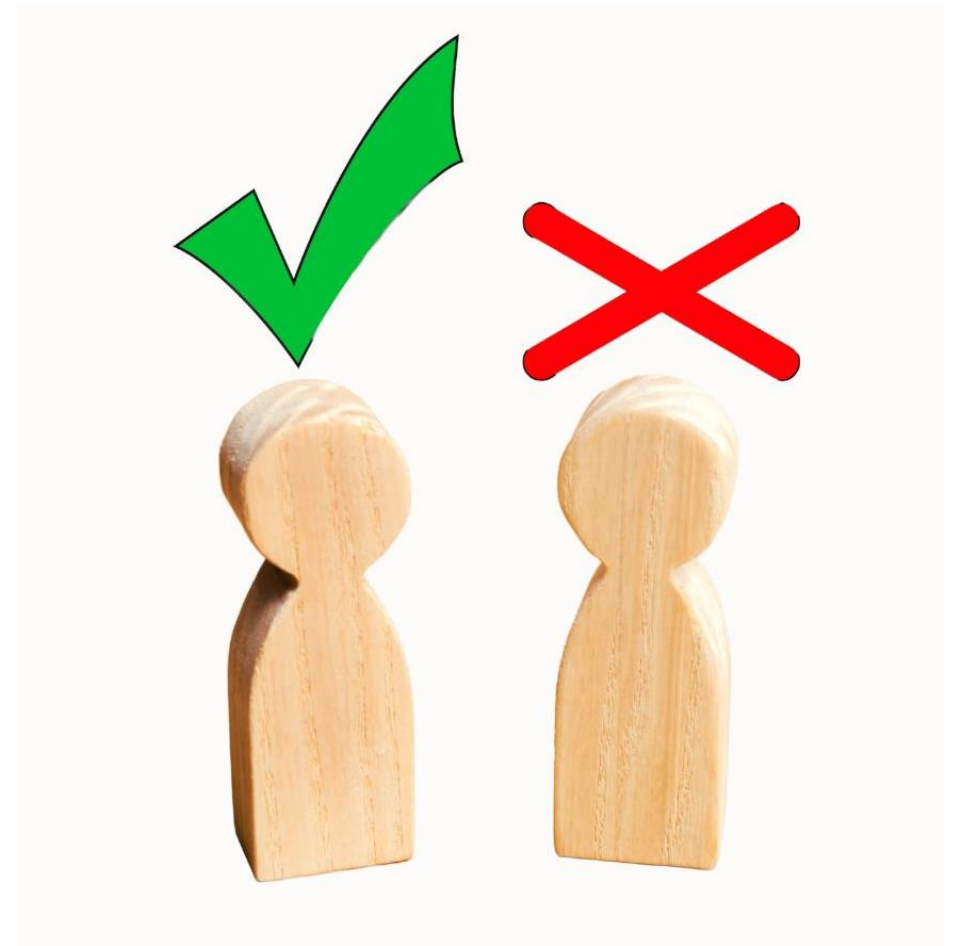
On streets, election signs **cannot** be displayed:

- within 1.5 metres of the curb
- within 0.6 metres of either side of a sidewalk
- within 15 metres of an intersection of a collector or arterial road
- within 3 metres of an intersection of a local road
- on a median or island
- adjacent to a voting place, City park or a facility owned or operated by the City; and
- without the consent of the owner/occupant of the property

Placement on Private Property

Election Signs may not be placed:

- Without **the consent of the owner or occupant** of the property
- Less than one metre from any other Election Sign on private property without the consent of the owner or occupant
- Within the 0.6 metres of the private side of a sidewalk



Placement Restriction Diagram



Permitted



Not Permitted



Campaign Office



- Must meet the permanent sign requirements under TMC Chapter 694, that would otherwise apply to the sign on the property or unit; or
- Grandfathered under a permit issued under the authority of a sign bylaw passed by the City or former area municipality
- Candidates for council and trustee may only display Election Signs in one campaign office while candidates for Mayor may display Election Signs in up to four campaign offices

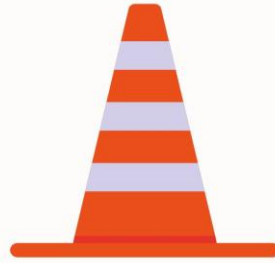
Size and Height Restrictions

Election signs **cannot** be larger than 1.2 square metres in area and higher than 2 metres above ground level, **except**:

- on campaign offices
- on TTC dedicated advertising spaces
- on street installation dedicated advertising spaces
- on third party advertising spaces (e.g. billboards)
- when displayed indoors



Safety Precautions



To any individuals who are tasked with placing the candidate's election signs, please take proper safety precautions to ensure your safety and the safety of the public including:

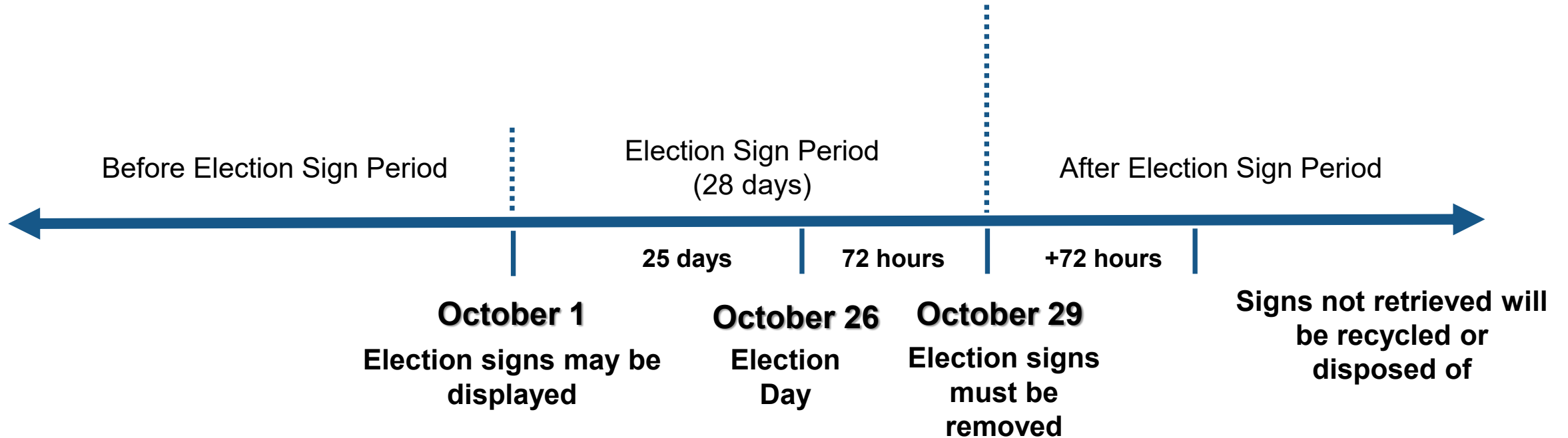
- All persons working near roadways should wear reflective clothing
- Signs should be installed and removed outside of peak travel times and not at night
- Vehicles should be parked to minimize impact to other motorists, pedestrians and cyclists
- Ensure signs are properly placed to avoid being damaged or removed

Storage and Disposal of Election Signs

- Election signs that have been removed by City Officials for being improperly displayed will be stored up to 72 hours after voting day
- Candidates may retrieve their election signs at designated locations after voting day
- Any signs not retrieved will be recycled or disposed of by the City



Timeframes: Display of Municipal Election Signs



TOP 10

Here is a list of the top 10 Election Sign complaint types:

- Placed on private property w/o consent
- Too close to an intersection (sightlines)
- Blocking driveway sightlines
- Being erected more than 25 Voting Day
- Uprooted and damaged signs
- Not removed within 72 hrs after the Voting Day
- On or around voting place or advance poll
- On public property
- Posted on fences
- Too close to sidewalks

Fines for violating the election sign bylaw

For example:

1. Display Election Sign on public property within 1.5 metres of a curb/pavement edge = \$500
2. Display Election Sign on public property within 15 metres of an intersection or crosswalk of a major road or 3 metres of an intersection or crosswalk of a local road = \$500
3. Display Election Sign/Sign/Campaign Office Sign for more than 25 days prior to voting day = \$500
4. Display Election Sign on public property on/adjacent to a voting place/City Park/City facility on the advanced voting days or voting day itself = \$500
5. Fail to remove Election Sign/Outsider Election Sign 72 hours after voting day = \$500

Note – A fine can be issued to the candidate for each sign violation.



Web Link to the City of Toronto Road Classification System:

<https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/streets-parking-transportation/traffic-management/road-classification-system/maps-and-indices/>



How to contact us. **We are here to** **help!**

Email address:

ElectionSigns@toronto.ca

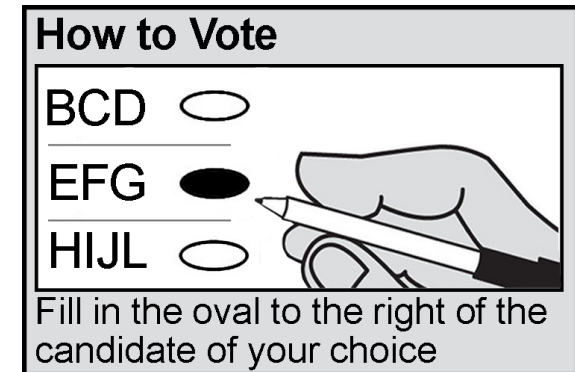
Telephone: 416-392-3082

Monday- Friday, 8:00am-4:00pm



Ballots

- Sample ballots will be available on approximately the first week of October
- Sample ballots can be viewed using:
 - MyCampaign (for candidates) or MyVote (for the public)
- Names on ballot are listed in alphabetical order and each candidate is numbered
- Vote by filing in the oval to the right of the candidate name





All-Candidate Debates

- The Municipal Elections Act, 1996 does not require all-candidates meetings to be held
- The City Clerk's Office is not responsible for organizing meetings or debates
 - Often organized by community groups, business improvement areas, candidates, media, or other interested individuals
- May take place on City property only if all candidates for an office have been invited to attend the event

Canvassing



Before voting day(s):

- Canvassing can start as soon as you register as a candidate
- Candidates (and representatives) are allowed access to apartments/condos from 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.
- Candidates cannot canvass on City-owned property
 - Exception: canvassing is permitted in public parks and some City-managed public squares

On voting day(s):

- Canvassing is allowed during advance vote and on election day
- Cannot canvass on the property where voting is held (including the parking lot)
 - Exception: apartments/condos being used as voting locations:
 - Canvassing is permitted on floors where people live
 - Canvassing is not permitted in common areas

Scrutineers



- Observe that voting and the generation of election results is happening in accordance with the relevant legislation and policies
 - Cannot communicate with electors
 - Cannot interfere with the voting process
- Candidates must complete a “Scrutineer Appointment Notice” for each scrutineer
- Candidates are allowed one scrutineer for each ballot issuer at a voting place, as well as for the vote tabulator
- Scrutineers or candidates will be removed from a voting place if they are interfering with the voting process or causing a disruption
- Questions or concerns about election policies and procedures should be directed to 416-395-0025 or candidateinfo@toronto.ca rather than voting place staff.

Advance Vote and Election Day



- **Advance Vote is 6 days**
 - October 6 – October 11, from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
 - Two advance vote locations in each ward
- **Election Day**
 - Monday, October 26, from 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
 - Electors must vote at their assigned voting location

Election Night Results



- **Unofficial results**
 - Available beginning after 9 p.m. on the City's website after polls close on election night
- **Advance vote results**
 - Results are generated after polls close on election night
 - Candidates/scrutineers may be present to observe the process at 89 Northline Rd
- **Mail-in voting results**
 - Results are generated after polls close on election night
 - Candidates/scrutineers may be present to observe the process at 89 Northline Rd
- **Official results**
 - Posted a few days after election day
 - Includes poll-by-poll results

Contact Us



Toronto Elections

- Elections Counter at City Hall, 100 Queen St W, 1st Floor (Mon-Fri, 8:30-4:30)
- Candidate info line: 416-395-0025
- Candidate email: candidateinfo@toronto.ca

Municipal Licensing and Standards (election signs)

- Election Signs email: ElectionSigns@toronto.ca
- Election Sign info line: 416-392-3082 (candidate questions about sign rules)
- Election Sign Complaints/Violations: 311

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

- Bridget Foster: bridget.foster@ontario.ca or Margaret Paul: Margaret.paul@ontario.ca

Staff do not provide interpretation of legislation or campaign advice



Question & Answer Period