



CARIBOO REGIONAL DISTRICT 2026 GENERAL LOCAL ELECTION

NOMINATION PACKAGE

To assist all individuals either running for office or nominating an individual to run for Electoral Area Director of the Cariboo Regional District, please find enclosed the following Nomination Documents and Information:

1. General Information: (left pocket of package)

- Notice of Nomination
- Summary of Director Time Commitments
- Schedule of 2026 Board meetings
- Map of the Cariboo Regional District
- Schedule of 2025 Directors' Remuneration & Expenses
- Cariboo Regional District Remuneration Bylaw No. 5515
- What Every Candidate Needs to Know
- General Local Elections 101
- Candidate's Guide to Local Elections
- Thinking of Running for Local Office?
- Voter's Guide to Local Elections in BC
- Voter's Guide for Electors Living on Reserve
- Scrutineer's Guide to General Local Elections

2. Nomination Documents: (right pocket of package)

In accordance with the Notice of Nomination, the Nomination Documents listed below **MUST BE DELIVERED** to the Chief Election Officer/Deputy Election Officer at the CRD office at 180-D North Third Avenue, Williams Lake, between 9:00am September 1, 2026 and 4:00pm September 11, 2026. **Nomination Documents will not be received after 4:00 p.m. on September 11, 2026.**

Nomination Documents may be delivered by hand, mail, facsimile or other delivery service. A Nomination Deposit is not required. The Cariboo Regional District requires a minimum of two qualified nominators.

Forms to be Completed

1. C2 - Nomination Documents
2. C3 – Other Information Provided by Candidate
3. C4 – Appointment of Candidate Financial Agent (If Candidate is not acting as own Financial Agent)
4. C5 – Appointment of Candidate Official Agent (If applicable)
5. C6 – Appointment of Candidate Scrutineer (If applicable)
*NOTE: Each candidate may appoint one scrutineer for each ballot box in use.
Extra appointment forms are available on request.*
6. Statement of Disclosure
7. Candidate Information Release Authorization (optional)

Note: Forms are also available from the Chief Election Officer for **Elector Organizations** and **Campaign Organizers** (if applicable) as they are also required to complete campaign financing disclosure statements.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT it is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with all relevant and applicable legislation associated with the 2026 General Local Election. The Chief Election Officer is available to answer general enquiries only. The Chief Election Officer will not provide Candidates or their Representatives with legal opinions or legislative interpretations. Candidates should consult a solicitor in these regards.

Should you have any general enquiries regarding the 2026 General Local Election, please contact:

Alice Johnston, Chief Election Officer or
Lore Schick, Deputy Chief Election Officer
Cariboo Regional District
180-D North Third Avenue
Williams Lake, BC V2G 2A4
Telephone: 250-392-3351 or 1-800-665-1636 (toll free)
Email: mailbox@cariboord.ca
Fax: 250-392-2812
Website: www.cariboord.ca

Other references:

For Local Government Elections Information through the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs:
[General local elections - Province of British Columbia](#)

The *Financial Disclosure Act* can be accessed at:
[Financial Disclosure Act](#)

The *Local Government Act* can be accessed at:
[Full Multi - Local Government Act](#)
(See Part 3 regarding elections)

CANDIDATE NOMINATION PACKAGE

Use the Candidate Cover Sheet and Checklist Form C1 to ensure that the Candidate Nomination Package is complete and meets the legislative requirements of the *Local Government Act*, *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, *Financial Disclosure Act* and/or *Vancouver Charter*.

The Candidate Cover Sheet and Checklist Form C1 serve as a guide to the forms that must be submitted by a Candidate, their Official Agent and/or their Financial Agent to the Chief Election Officer as part of the nomination process.

Ensure that, for each item checked off on the Checklist Form C1 (Section B), the relevant form is completed and attached.

NOTE: Candidate Nomination documents can be submitted to the Chief Election Officer in-person, by mail, by fax or by email. Local government contact information is available online at:
<https://www/civicinfo.bc.ca/directories>

The Candidate Cover Sheet and Checklist Form C1 are for the Chief Election Officer's reference only and do not constitute part of the Candidate Nomination Package.

Completing only the Candidate Cover Sheet and Checklist Form C1 **does not** constitute completion of the Candidate Nomination Package, nor does it satisfy the legislative requirements set out in the *Local Government Act*, *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, *Financial Disclosure Act* and/or *Vancouver Charter*.

COMPLETION INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Record the Candidate's full name.
2. Record the office for which the Candidate is seeking election.
3. Use section B of the Candidate Cover Sheet and Checklist Form C1 to identify which forms have been completed and are included in the Candidate Nomination Package.
4. Return the completed package to the Chief Election Officer.

As per *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* requirements, the following forms will be forwarded to Elections BC by the Chief Election Officer:

C2 – Nomination Documents (only page 3);
C3 – Other Information Provided by Candidate; and,
C4 – Appointment of Candidate Financial Agent.

After election results have been declared, please send any changes to documents previously provided to Elections BC to:

Elections BC
PO Box 9275 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9J6
Toll-free fax: 1-866-466-0665
Email: electoral.finance@elections.bc.ca

C1 – Candidate Cover Sheet and Checklist Form

PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK LETTERS

SECTION A

CANDIDATE'S LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME(S)
NAME OF OFFICE FOR WHICH CANDIDATE IS SEEKING ELECTION (E.G., MAYOR, COUNCILLOR, ELECTORAL AREA DIRECTOR)		

SECTION B

This nomination package includes the following completed forms, appointments, consents and declarations:

- ☐ **C2 – Nomination Documents**
- ☐ **C3 – Other Information Provided by Candidate**
- ☐ **C4 – Appointment of Candidate Financial Agent** (if Candidate is not acting as own Financial Agent)
- ☐ **C5 – Appointment of Candidate Official Agent** (if applicable)
- ☐ **C6 – Appointment of Candidate Scrutineer** (if applicable)
- ☐ **Statement of Disclosure: *Financial Disclosure Act*** (required under the *Financial Disclosure Act*)

Disclaimer: All attempts have been made to ensure the accuracy of the forms contained in the Candidate Nomination Package; however, the forms are not a substitute for provincial legislation and/or regulations.

Please refer directly to the latest consolidation of provincial statutes at BC Laws (www.bclaws.ca) for applicable election-related provisions and requirements

C2 – Nomination Documents

PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK LETTERS

JURISDICTION (NAME OF MUNICIPALITY OR REGIONAL DISTRICT)		ELECTION AREA (NAME OF MUNICIPALITY, NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSTITUENCY, OR REGIONAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA)
We, the following electors of the above-named jurisdiction, hereby nominate:		
NOMINEE'S LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME(S)
USUAL NAME OF PERSON NOMINATED IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE AND PREFERRED BY THE PERSON NOMINATED TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT		
RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS (STREET ADDRESS)	CITY/TOWN	POSTAL CODE
MAILING ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT FROM RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS (STREET ADDRESS/PO BOX NUMBER)	CITY/TOWN	POSTAL CODE
As a Candidate for the office of:		
POSITION (E.G., MAYOR, COUNCILLOR, ELECTORAL AREA DIRECTOR)	JURISDICTION (NAME OF MUNICIPALITY OR REGIONAL DISTRICT)	

Each of us **affirms** that to the best of our knowledge, the above-named person nominated for office:

1. Is or will be on general voting day for the election, 18 years of age or older.
2. Is a Canadian citizen.
3. Has been a resident of British Columbia, as determined in accordance with section 67 of the *Local Government Act*, for the past six months immediately preceding today's date.
4. Is not disqualified under the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment from voting in an election in British Columbia or from being nominated for, being elected to or holding the office or be otherwise disqualified by law.

A Nominator MUST be a qualified elector of the municipality or electoral area (or neighbourhood constituency, if applicable) where the candidate is running. Elector qualifications are listed in section 65 & 66 of the *Local Government Act* and section 23 & 24 of the *Vancouver Charter*.

NOMINATOR'S NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE AND LAST NAMES)	NOMINATOR'S NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE AND LAST NAMES)
RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS (CITY/TOWN, STREET ADDRESS, POSTAL CODE) IF NOMINATING AS A RESIDENT ELECTOR	RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS (CITY/TOWN, STREET ADDRESS, POSTAL CODE) IF NOMINATING AS A RESIDENT ELECTOR
PROPERTY ADDRESS (CITY/TOWN, STREET ADDRESS, POSTAL CODE) IF NOMINATING AS A NON-RESIDENT PROPERTY ELECTOR	PROPERTY ADDRESS (CITY/TOWN, STREET ADDRESS, POSTAL CODE) IF NOMINATING AS A NON-RESIDENT PROPERTY ELECTOR
☐ BY CHECKING THIS BOX YOU CONFIRM THAT YOU ARE A QUALIFIED ELECTOR IN THE JURISDICTION THE CANDIDATE IS RUNNING FOR OFFICE	☐ BY CHECKING THIS BOX YOU CONFIRM THAT YOU ARE A QUALIFIED ELECTOR IN THE JURISDICTION THE CANDIDATE IS RUNNING FOR OFFICE
NOMINATOR'S SIGNATURE	NOMINATOR'S SIGNATURE

Please see over for additional space when more than two nominators are required. Copies can be made as needed.

I consent to the above nomination for office:

NOMINEE'S SIGNATURE	DATE: (YYYY/MM/DD)
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CANDIDATE NOMINATION PACKAGE

Each of us **affirms** that to the best of our knowledge, the above-named person nominated for office:

1. Is or will be on general voting day for the election, 18 years of age or older.
2. Is a Canadian citizen.
3. Has been a resident of British Columbia, as determined in accordance with section 67 of the *Local Government Act*, for the past six months immediately preceding today's date.
4. Is not disqualified under the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment from voting in an election in British Columbia or from being nominated for, being elected to or holding the office or be otherwise disqualified by law.

A Nominator MUST be a qualified elector of the municipality or electoral area (or neighbourhood constituency, if applicable) where the candidate is running. Elector qualifications are listed in section 65 & 66 of the *Local Government Act* and section 23 & 24 of the *Vancouver Charter*.

NOMINATOR'S NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE AND LAST NAMES)	NOMINATOR'S NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE AND LAST NAMES)
RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS (CITY/TOWN, STREET ADDRESS, POSTAL CODE) IF NOMINATING AS A RESIDENT ELECTOR	RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS (CITY/TOWN, STREET ADDRESS, POSTAL CODE) IF NOMINATING AS A RESIDENT ELECTOR
PROPERTY ADDRESS (CITY/TOWN, STREET ADDRESS, POSTAL CODE) IF NOMINATING AS A NON-RESIDENT PROPERTY ELECTOR	PROPERTY ADDRESS (CITY/TOWN, STREET ADDRESS, POSTAL CODE) IF NOMINATING AS A NON-RESIDENT PROPERTY ELECTOR
☐ BY CHECKING THIS BOX YOU CONFIRM THAT YOU ARE A QUALIFIED ELECTOR IN THE JURISDICTION THE CANDIDATE IS RUNNING FOR OFFICE	☐ BY CHECKING THIS BOX YOU CONFIRM THAT YOU ARE A QUALIFIED ELECTOR IN THE JURISDICTION THE CANDIDATE IS RUNNING FOR OFFICE
NOMINATOR'S SIGNATURE	NOMINATOR'S SIGNATURE

NOMINATOR'S NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE AND LAST NAMES)	NOMINATOR'S NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE AND LAST NAMES)
RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS (CITY/TOWN, STREET ADDRESS, POSTAL CODE) IF NOMINATING AS A RESIDENT ELECTOR	RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS (CITY/TOWN, STREET ADDRESS, POSTAL CODE) IF NOMINATING AS A RESIDENT ELECTOR
PROPERTY ADDRESS (CITY/TOWN, STREET ADDRESS, POSTAL CODE) IF NOMINATING AS A NON-RESIDENT PROPERTY ELECTOR	PROPERTY ADDRESS (CITY/TOWN, STREET ADDRESS, POSTAL CODE) IF NOMINATING AS A NON-RESIDENT PROPERTY ELECTOR
☐ BY CHECKING THIS BOX YOU CONFIRM THAT YOU ARE A QUALIFIED ELECTOR IN THE JURISDICTION THE CANDIDATE IS RUNNING FOR OFFICE	☐ BY CHECKING THIS BOX YOU CONFIRM THAT YOU ARE A QUALIFIED ELECTOR IN THE JURISDICTION THE CANDIDATE IS RUNNING FOR OFFICE
NOMINATOR'S SIGNATURE	NOMINATOR'S SIGNATURE

NOMINATOR'S NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE AND LAST NAMES)	NOMINATOR'S NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE AND LAST NAMES)
RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS (CITY/TOWN, STREET ADDRESS, POSTAL CODE) IF NOMINATING AS A RESIDENT ELECTOR	RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS (CITY/TOWN, STREET ADDRESS, POSTAL CODE) IF NOMINATING AS A RESIDENT ELECTOR
PROPERTY ADDRESS (CITY/TOWN, STREET ADDRESS, POSTAL CODE) IF NOMINATING AS A NON-RESIDENT PROPERTY ELECTOR	PROPERTY ADDRESS (CITY/TOWN, STREET ADDRESS, POSTAL CODE) IF NOMINATING AS A NON-RESIDENT PROPERTY ELECTOR
☐ BY CHECKING THIS BOX YOU CONFIRM THAT YOU ARE A QUALIFIED ELECTOR IN THE JURISDICTION THE CANDIDATE IS RUNNING FOR OFFICE	☐ BY CHECKING THIS BOX YOU CONFIRM THAT YOU ARE A QUALIFIED ELECTOR IN THE JURISDICTION THE CANDIDATE IS RUNNING FOR OFFICE
NOMINATOR'S SIGNATURE	NOMINATOR'S SIGNATURE

C2 – Nomination Documents

PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK LETTERS

I do solemnly declare as follows:

1. I am qualified under section 81 of the *Local Government Act* to be nominated, elected and to hold the office of:

POSITION (E.G., MAYOR, COUNCILLOR, ELECTORAL AREA DIRECTOR)

2. I am or will be on general voting day for the election, 18 years of age or older.
3. I am a Canadian citizen.
4. I have been a resident of British Columbia, as determined in accordance with section 67 of the *Local Government Act*, for the past six months immediately preceding today's date.
5. I am not disqualified by the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment from voting in an election in British Columbia or from being nominated for, being elected to or holding the office, or be otherwise disqualified by law.
6. To the best of my knowledge, the information provided in these nomination documents is true.
7. I fully intend to accept the office if elected.
8. I am aware of and understand the requirements and restrictions of the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* and I intend to fully comply with those requirements and restrictions.

NOMINEE'S SIGNATURE

DECLARED BEFORE ME: CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER OR COMMISSIONER FOR TAKING AFFIDAVITS FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

AT: (LOCATION)

DATE: (YYYY/MM/DD)



I am acting as my own Financial Agent

NOMINEE'S SIGNATURE



I have appointed as my Financial Agent

FINANCIAL AGENT'S NAME (IF APPLICABLE)

ELECTOR ORGANIZATION CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT AND CONSENT

NAME OF ELECTOR ORGANIZATION (AS REGISTERED WITH ELECTIONS BC):

PRINCIPLE OFFICIAL'S LAST NAME

FIRST NAME

MIDDLE NAME(S)

The above-named Elector Organization Agrees to Endorse:

CANDIDATE'S LAST NAME

FIRST NAME

MIDDLE NAME(S)

PRINCIPLE OFFICIAL'S SIGNATURE

DATE: (YYYY/MM/DD)

I consent to the endorsement by the above-named Elector Organization

CANDIDATE'S SIGNATURE

DATE: (YYYY/MM/DD)

C3 – Other Information Provided by Candidate

PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK LETTERS

Office for which the individual is a nominee:

POSITION (E.G., MAYOR, COUNCILLOR, ELECTORAL AREA DIRECTOR)	JURISDICTION (NAME OF MUNICIPALITY OR REGIONAL DISTRICT)	ELECTION AREA (NAME OF MUNICIPALITY, NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSTITUENCY, OR REGIONAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA)
NOMINEE'S LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME(S)
USUAL NAME OF PERSON NOMINATED IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE AND PREFERRED BY THE PERSON NOMINATED TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT		
MAILING ADDRESS (STREET ADDRESS/PO BOX NUMBER) AS PROVIDED IN THE NOMINATION DOCUMENTS	CITY/TOWN	POSTAL CODE
ADDRESS FOR SERVICE (STREET ADDRESS OR EMAIL ADDRESS)	CITY/TOWN	POSTAL CODE
TELEPHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS (IF AVAILABLE)	

Additional Addresses for Service Information
OPTIONAL

MAILING ADDRESS (STREET ADDRESS/PO BOX NUMBER) IF EMAIL WAS PROVIDED AS ADDRESS FOR SERVICE	CITY/TOWN	POSTAL CODE
FAX NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS IF MAILING ADDRESS WAS PROVIDED AS ADDRESS FOR SERVICE	

Please ensure that name and mailing address information is the same as that entered on FORM C2 – NOMINATION DOCUMENTS

C4 – Appointment of Candidate Financial Agent

PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK LETTERS

CANDIDATE'S LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME(S)
POSITION (E.G., MAYOR, COUNCILLOR, ELECTORAL AREA DIRECTOR)	JURISDICTION (NAME OF MUNICIPALITY OR REGIONAL DISTRICT)	ELECTION AREA (NAME OF MUNICIPALITY, NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSTITUENCY, OR REGIONAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA)
I hereby appoint as my Financial Agent for the:		
GENERAL VOTING DATE: (YYYY/MM/DD)	☐ General Local Election	☐ By-election
FINANCIAL AGENT'S LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME(S)
MAILING ADDRESS (STREET ADDRESS/PO BOX NUMBER)	CITY/TOWN	POSTAL CODE
TELEPHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS (IF AVAILABLE)	
EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPOINTMENT: (YYYY/MM/DD)		
CANDIDATE'S SIGNATURE	DATE: (YYYY/MM/DD)	

I hereby consent to act as the Financial Agent for the above-named Candidate for the:		
GENERAL VOTING DATE: (YYYY/MM/DD)	☐ General Local Election	☐ By-election
FINANCIAL AGENT ADDRESS FOR SERVICE (STREET ADDRESS OR EMAIL ADDRESS)	CITY/TOWN	POSTAL CODE
Additional Addresses for Service Information		OPTIONAL
MAILING ADDRESS (STREET ADDRESS/PO BOX NUMBER) IF EMAIL WAS PROVIDED AS ADDRESS FOR SERVICE	CITY/TOWN	POSTAL CODE
FAX NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS IF MAILING ADDRESS WAS PROVIDED AS ADDRESS FOR SERVICE	
FINANCIAL AGENT'S SIGNATURE	DATE: (YYYY/MM/DD)	

C5 – Appointment of Candidate Official Agent

PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK LETTERS

CANDIDATE'S LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME(S)
POSITION (E.G., MAYOR, COUNCILLOR, ELECTORAL AREA DIRECTOR)	JURISDICTION (NAME OF MUNICIPALITY OR REGIONAL DISTRICT)	ELECTION AREA (NAME OF MUNICIPALITY, NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSTITUENCY, OR REGIONAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA)
I hereby appoint as my Official Agent for the:		
GENERAL VOTING DATE: (YYYY/MM/DD)	☐ General Local Election	☐ By-election
OFFICIAL AGENT'S LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME(S)
MAILING ADDRESS (STREET ADDRESS/PO BOX NUMBER)	CITY/TOWN	POSTAL CODE
☐ I hereby delegate to the above-named official agent the authority to appoint scrutineers.		
CANDIDATE'S SIGNATURE	DATE: (YYYY/MM/DD)	

C6 – Appointment of Candidate Scrutineer

PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK LETTERS

CANDIDATE'S LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME(S)
POSITION (E.G., MAYOR, COUNCILLOR, ELECTORAL AREA DIRECTOR)	JURISDICTION (NAME OF MUNICIPALITY OR REGIONAL DISTRICT)	ELECTION AREA (NAME OF MUNICIPALITY, NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSTITUENCY, OR REGIONAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA)
I hereby appoint as my Scrutineer for the:		
GENERAL VOTING DATE: (YYYY/MM/DD)	☐ General Local Election	☐ By-election
SCRUTINEER'S LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME(S)
MAILING ADDRESS (STREET ADDRESS/PO BOX NUMBER)	CITY/TOWN	POSTAL CODE
CANDIDATE'S SIGNATURE	DATE: (YYYY/MM/DD)	

You must complete a Statement of Disclosure form if you are:

- a nominee for election to provincial or local government office*, as a school trustee or as a director of a francophone education authority
- an elected local government official
- an elected school trustee, or a director of a francophone education authority
- an employee designated by a local government, a francophone education authority or the board of a school district
- a public employee designated by the Lieutenant Governor in Council

*("local government" includes municipalities, regional districts and the Islands Trust)

Who has access to the information on this form?

The *Financial Disclosure Act* requires you to disclose assets, liabilities and sources of income. Under section 6 (1) of *the Act*, statements of disclosure filed by nominees or municipal officials are available for public inspection during normal business hours. Statements filed by designated employees are not routinely available for public inspection. If you have questions about this form, please contact your solicitor or your political party's legal counsel.

What is a trustee? – s. 5 (2)

In the following questions the term "trustee" does not mean school trustee or Islands Trust trustee. Under the *Financial Disclosure Act* a trustee:

- holds a share in a corporation or an interest in land for your benefit, or is liable under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) to pay income tax on income received on the share or land interest
- has an agreement entitling him or her to acquire an interest in land for your benefit

Person making disclosure:	 <i>last name</i>	 <i>first & middle name(s)</i>
Street, rural route, post office box:		
City:		Province:
		Postal Code:
Level of government that applies to you:	☐ provincial ☐ local government	
	☐ school board/francophone education authority	

If sections do not provide enough space, attach a separate sheet to continue.

Assets – s. 3 (a)

List the name of each corporation in which you hold one or more shares, including shares held by a trustee on your behalf:

Liabilities – s. 3 (e)

List all creditors to whom you owe a debt. Do not include residential property debt (mortgage, lease or agreement for sale), money borrowed for household or personal living expenses, or any assets you hold in trust for another person:

creditor's name(s)

creditor's address(es)

Income – s. 3 (b-d)

List each of the businesses and organizations from which you receive financial remuneration for your services and identify your capacity as owner, part-owner, employee, trustee, partner or other (e.g. director of a company or society).

- Provincial nominees and designated employees must list all sources of income in the province.
- Local government officials, school board officials, francophone education authority directors and designated employees must list only income sources within the regional district that includes the municipality, local trust area or school district for which the official is elected or nominated, or where the employee holds the designated position.

your capacity

name(s) of business(es)/organization(s)

Real Property – s. 3 (f)

List the legal description and address of all land in which you, or a trustee acting on your behalf, own an interest or have an agreement which entitles you to obtain an interest. Do not include your personal residence.

- Provincial nominees and designated employees must list all applicable land holdings in the province.
- Local government officials, school board officials, francophone education authority directors and designated employees must list only applicable land holdings within the regional district that includes the municipality, local trust area or school district for which the official is elected or nominated, or where the employee holds the designated position.

legal description(s)

address(es)

Corporate Assets – s. 5

Do you individually, or together with your spouse, child, brother, sister, mother or father, own shares in a corporation which total more than 30% of votes for electing directors? (Include shares held by a trustee on your behalf, but not shares you hold by way of security.)

☐ no ☐ yes

If yes, please list the following information below & continue on a separate sheet as necessary:

- the name of each corporation and all of its subsidiaries
- in general terms, the type of business the corporation and its subsidiaries normally conduct
- a description and address of land in which the corporation, its subsidiaries or a trustee acting for the corporation, own an interest, or have an agreement entitling any of them to acquire an interest
- a list of creditors of the corporation, including its subsidiaries. You need not include debts of less than \$5,000 payable in 90 days
- a list of any other corporations in which the corporation, including its subsidiaries or trustees acting for them, holds one or more shares.

signature of person making disclosure

date

Where to send this completed disclosure form:

Local government officials:

... to your local chief election officer

- with your nomination papers, and

... to the officer responsible for corporate administration

- between the 1st and 15th of January of each year you hold office, and
- by the 15th of the month after you leave office

School board trustees/Francophone Education Authority directors:

... to the secretary treasurer or chief executive officer of the authority

- with your nomination papers, and
- between the 1st and 15th of January of each year you hold office, and
- by the 15th of the month after you leave office

Nominees for provincial office:

- with your nomination papers. If elected you will be advised of further disclosure requirements under the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act*

Designated Employees:

... to the appropriate disclosure clerk (local government officer responsible for corporate administration, secretary treasurer, or Clerk of the Legislative Assembly)

- by the 15th of the month you become a designated employee, and
- between the 1st and 15th of January of each year you are employed, and
- by the 15th of the month after you leave your position

CARIBOO REGIONAL DISTRICT

CANDIDATE INFORMATION RELEASE AUTHORIZATION

Your nomination documents are available to the public to view as soon as they are submitted. Consent provided with this form allows your regional district to provide additional information, as appearing below, to the public and / or media. **All fields are optional.**

The information you choose to share will be posted on websites operated by CivicInfo BC. This is the primary source through which the media (television, newspapers, radio, and online sources), the public, provincial ministries, researchers, and others are able to obtain province-wide local election information.

I, _____
(please print name of person nominated)

having submitted nomination documents for election to the office of _____,
hereby give my consent to share the following information. This information may be shared by email, posting on a website, phone, or by any other means of electronic communication.

Address:	
Primary Phone:	Alternate Phone:
Email:	
Website:	Instagram:
Twitter (X) or BlueSky:	Facebook:

Gender (Self-identified):

☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ Non-binary ☐ Other / Undisclosed

Previous Elected Experience (Check one):

- ☐ Incumbent. Served as the Electoral Area Director between 2022 and 2026.
- ☐ Served as the Electoral Area Director in this area prior to 2022, but not during the past term.
- ☐ No experience as the Electoral Area Director for this area, but has been elected to office elsewhere (school, local, provincial, or federal).
- ☐ None.

(Signature of Candidate)

CARIBOO REGIONAL DISTRICT
2026 GENERAL LOCAL ELECTIONS
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN AS FOLLOWS:

NOTICE OF NOMINATION

Nominations for the offices of:

Director – Each of Electoral Areas A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L

(one person to be elected to each office]

will be received by the Chief Election Officer or a designated person, as follows:

By hand, mail or other delivery service: Cariboo Regional District Suite D, 180 North Third Ave. Williams Lake, BC V2G 2A4 By fax to: (250) 392-2812 By email to: mailbox@cariboord.ca	From 9:00 am Tuesday, September 1, 2026 To 4:00 pm Friday, September 11, 2026
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Interested persons can obtain information on the requirements and procedures for making nominations including nomination forms on the Cariboo Regional District website www.cariboord.ca as well as at Cariboo Regional District offices during regular office hours (shown below) from August 4, 2026 to the close of the nomination period at 4:00 pm September 11, 2026:

Suite D, 180 North 3rd Avenue
Williams Lake, BC V2G 2A4
8:00 am – 4:30 pm
Monday to Friday

#102-410 Kinchant St
Quesnel, BC V2J 7J5
8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Tues, Wed, Thurs
(Closed 12 – 1 for lunch)

Unit 3 – 170 Cedar Avenue
100 Mile House, BC V0K 2E0
8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Monday to Friday
(Closed 12 – 1 for lunch)

QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE

A person is qualified to be nominated, elected, and to hold office as a member of local government if they meet the following criteria:

- Canadian citizen;
- 18 years of age or older on general voting day (October 17, 2026);
- resident of British Columbia for at least 6 months immediately before the day nomination papers are filed; and
- not disqualified under the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment from voting in an election in British Columbia or being nominated for, being elected to or holding the office, or be otherwise disqualified by law.

CAMPAIGN PERIOD EXPENSE LIMITS

In accordance with the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, for the 2026 general local election, the following expense limits for candidates during the campaign period apply:

Cariboo Regional District Director \$6,161.89

THIRD PARTY ADVERTISING LIMITS

In accordance with the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, for the 2026 general local elections, the following third party advertising limits apply:

Third party advertising limit	\$924.28
Cumulative third party advertising limit	\$184,856.70

For further information on the **nomination process**, please contact:

Alice Johnston, Chief Election Officer or
Lore Schick, Deputy Chief Election Officer
Phone (250) 392-3351 or 1-800-663-1636
mailbox@cariboord.ca

For further information on **campaign period expense limits and third party advertising limits**, please contact Elections BC:

Toll-free phone: 1-855-952-0280

Email: lecf@elections.bc.ca

Website: www.elections.bc.ca/lecf

Cariboo Regional District Electoral Area Director Time Commitments

The time required to fulfill the duties of an Electoral Area Director is significant. The information below is intended to provide an estimate of the time commitment required.

- Attendance at Board meetings as per the schedule included in this package (one full day per meeting)
- Attendance at rural caucus meetings/joint committee meetings approx. 10 times per year (30 minutes – 3 hours per meeting)
- Attendance at Advisory Planning Commission (APC) meetings. Frequency depends on number of land use applications in your electoral area (length of meetings varies)
- Attendance at public hearings (varies, but generally a limited number – length of meetings varies)
- Attendance as CRD representative on committees as appointed by the Chair or Board (length of meetings varies)
- Attendance is encouraged at the following annual conferences:
 - Union of BC Municipalities (5 days including travel)
 - North Central Local Government Association (4 days including travel)
 - Local Government Leadership Association/Electoral Area Directors Forum (1 week)
- Attendance at community functions depending upon invitation and availability
- Ability to attend other conventions such as the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the BC Natural Resources Forum (multiple days plus travel)

General information on local governments, including regional districts, can be located at the following link:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/local-governments>

Cariboo Regional District 2026 Meeting Schedule

Meeting Date	Meeting Type	Time	Location
January 15, 2026	FIN	1:00 pm	WL
January 16, 2026	CCRHD/BOARD	9:30/9:45 am	WL
February 6, 2026	CCRHD/BOARD	9:30/9:45 am	WL
February 26, 2026	FIN	9:45 am*	WL
February 27, 2026	CCRHD/BOARD	9:30/9:45 am	WL
March 19, 2026	COW	1:00 pm	WL
March 20, 2026	CCRHD/BOARD	9:30/9:45 am	WL
April 10, 2026	CCRHD/BOARD	9:30/9:45 am	WL
May 1, 2026	CCRHD/BOARD	9:30/9:45 am	WL
May 29, 2026	CCRHD/BOARD	9:30/9:45 am	WL
June 18, 2026	COW	TBA	WL
June 19, 2026	CCRHD/BOARD	9:30/9:45 am	WL
July 10, 2026	CCRHD/BOARD	9:30/9:45 am	WL
August 14, 2026	CCRHD/BOARD	9:30/9:45 am	WL
September 10, 2026	COW	TBA	WL
September 11, 2026	CCRHD/BOARD	9:30/9:45 am	WL
October 2, 2026	CCRHD/BOARD	9:30/9:45 am	WL
November 13, 2026	CCRHD/BOARD	9:30/9:45 am	WL
December 3, 2026	COW/FIN	TBA	WL
December 4, 2026	CCRHD/BOARD	9:30/9:45 am	WL

Meeting Types:

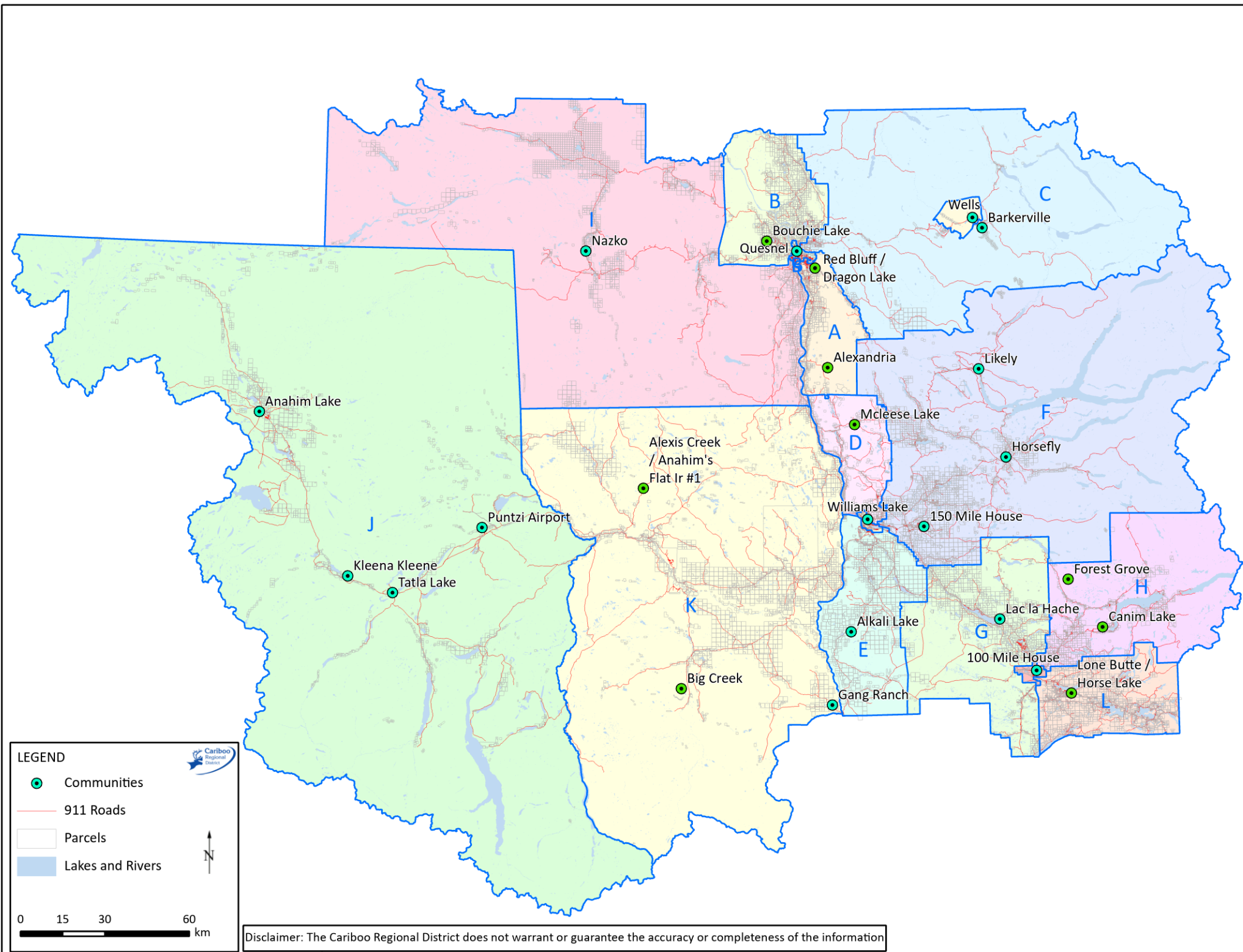
- BOARD – CRD Board of Directors
- FIN – Finance/Budget Committee
- CCRHD – Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District
- COW – Committee of the Whole

Abbreviations:

- TBA – To be announced
- WL – CRD Boardroom – CRD office, 180D North Third Ave., Williams Lake, BC

Other Conference Dates to Note:

- EA Directors Forum: March 10-11, 2026
- Local Government Leadership Academy Conference: March 11-13, 2026
- North Central Local Government Association Conference: May 20-22, 2026
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference: June 4-7, 2026
- Union of British Columbia Municipalities Conference: September 14-18, 2026



Cariboo Regional District
Statement of Financial Information
Schedule of Directors' Remuneration & Expenses
Financial Information Regulation, Schedule 1, Section 6
for the Year Ended December 31, 2025

Directors	Status	Remuneration	Expenses	Total
ANDERSON, BETTY	current	41,663.79	11,478.46	53,142.25
BACHMEIER, BARBARA	current	40,634.68	26,463.86	67,098.54
COLEMAN, EDWARD	current	15,315.10	3,081.79	18,396.89
DE VRIES, ERIC	current	42,978.08	28,060.45	71,038.53
FORSETH, STEVEN	current	38,098.41	12,442.05	50,540.46
GLASSFORD, JIM	current	46,006.31	9,299.30	55,305.61
LEBOURDAIS, MAUREEN	current	49,576.54	15,547.85	65,124.39
MASSIER, JOHN	current	53,036.90	25,791.94	78,828.84
NEUFELD, MELYNDA	current	71,932.95	21,452.31	93,385.26
PARE, TOLIN	current	48,922.72	21,502.70	70,425.42
PAULL, RON	current	11,791.60	0.00	11,791.60
PINKNEY, MAUREEN A	current	18,669.30	154.66	18,823.96
RATHOR, SURINDERPAL	current	18,457.10	0.00	18,457.10
RICHMOND, ALLAN	current	68,713.72	17,781.78	86,495.50
SJOSTROM, MARY	current	46,847.62	7,998.16	54,845.78
WAGNER, MARGO	current	93,092.55	26,707.22	119,799.77
Sub-Total		705,737.37	227,762.53	933,499.90
Alternate Directors	Status	Remuneration	Expenses	Total
BULLINGER, CARLA		332.19	0.00	332.19
KURTA, CHARLOTTE		4,316.34	185.59	4,501.93
NELSON, SCOTT		206.00	0.00	206.00
ROODENBURG, LAUREY-ANNE		4,796.18	0.00	4,796.18
SMITH, JAMES		3,997.22	0.00	3,997.22
Sub-Total		13,647.93	185.59	13,833.52
Grand Total		719,385.30	227,948.12	947,333.42



CARIBOO REGIONAL DISTRICT

BYLAW NO. 5515

A bylaw of the Cariboo Regional District, in the Province of British Columbia, to establish procedures, conditions and amounts for Directors' remuneration and expenses.

The Board of the Cariboo Regional District in open meeting assembled enacts as follows:

1. **TITLE:**

This bylaw shall be cited as "Cariboo Regional District Directors' Remuneration and Expenses Bylaw No. 5515, 2025".

2. **PRINCIPLES**

Directors' remuneration and reimbursement for expenses shall be guided by the following principles:

- (A) Directors' remuneration should be structured to recognize the importance of this publicly elected office and provide a reasonable incentive to attract and retain quality individuals to these positions.
- (B) Directors are expected to conduct their business in such a way as to optimize the value to the taxpayer.
- (C) Directors should be reimbursed for their reasonable expenses in carrying out their responsibilities.
- (D) Directors should not use expenses charged for Regional District business to subsidize their personal or business activities.

3. DEFINITIONS:

In this bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (A) **Board Day** means the day of the regular meeting of the Board for the purposes of conducting regional board business and includes both the public and, when necessary, in-camera portions of the meeting.
- (B) **Board Retreat/Strategic Planning Session** means the day(s) designated by the Board to deal with strategic planning issues, set long-term goals and objectives, or to attend to other business of a corporate nature.
- (C) **Special Board Meeting** means a Board meeting other than on a Board Day. If a special in-camera Board meeting is held in conjunction with a special Board meeting, they shall be deemed to be one meeting for the purposes of this bylaw. For clarity, a vote conducted under the authority of the *Regional District Special Voting Regulation*, does not constitute a Special Board meeting and is not eligible for meeting remuneration.
- (D) **Commission** means a body or group of people appointed by the Board, officially assigned the duty of carrying out a particular task or tasks.
- (E) **Committee** means a Committee to which a Director has been appointed by either the Board or the Chair of the Cariboo Regional District.
- (F) **Committee of the Whole Meeting** means the days on which the entire Board membership meets in a Committee format to discuss and make recommendations to the CRD Board on broad regional topics such as policy issues, etc.
- (G) **Delegate** means a Director authorized to attend a sanctioned meeting as defined in section 3(H).
- (H) **Sanctioned meeting** means a meeting which is identified in Schedule B as eligible for meeting remuneration.
- (I) **Meals** means food and non-alcoholic beverages consumed by individual Directors while attending a sanctioned meeting within the Region on such occasions when the meal service is not already provided.
- (J) **Miscellaneous Expenses** means reimbursable travel-related expenses not expressly dealt with elsewhere in this bylaw, such as: parking fees; hotel internet costs, fares for taxis, airport shuttle services, ferries, buses, toll booth fees, etc.

- (K) **Per Diem Rates** means the daily rate a Director may charge for meals and incidentals while on Regional District business outside of the District as per Section 8(E) (no receipt required).
- (L) **Sub-region** means the normal boundaries of the North (Electoral areas A, B, C, I, City of Quesnel & District of Wells), Central (Electoral areas D, E, F, J, K & City of Williams Lake) and South (Electoral areas G, H, L & District of 100 Mile House) regions of the Cariboo Regional District, as applicable.

4. INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION

- (A) The Cariboo Regional District Staff will be responsible for ensuring that Directors' Remuneration and Expense Reports are consistent with this Bylaw.
- (B) The Cariboo Regional District Chief Administrative Officer will be responsible for ensuring that the CRD Chair's Remuneration and Expense Reports are consistent with this Bylaw.
- (C) Disputes regarding Directors' Remuneration and Expense Reports shall be forwarded to the Cariboo Regional District Policy Committee for resolution. If the dispute is not resolved at the Policy Committee, the matter shall be forwarded to the Cariboo Regional District Board.

5. REMUNERATION

- (A) Subject to a suspension of remuneration under the Board's Code of Conduct, remuneration shall be paid to Directors for the discharge of the duties of office, and shall be comprised of the following:
 - (i) **Directors, Chair and Vice Chair, Standing Committee Chair Remuneration** -- to be determined and paid pursuant to Schedule A, attached to and forming part of this Bylaw; and,
 - (ii) **Remuneration for attendance at sanctioned meetings** -- to be determined in accordance with Schedule B, attached to and forming part of this Bylaw.
- (B) A Director shall not receive remuneration for wages lost through absence from work or income deemed lost due to attendance at any meeting or as a delegate representing the Regional Board.
- (C) Remuneration shall be paid on a bi-weekly basis, in conjunction with the established staff pay periods.

6. OTHER REMUNERATION

Travel time remuneration -- to be determined and paid pursuant to Schedule C, attached to and forming part of this Bylaw.

7. ALTERNATE DIRECTORS

- (A) When replacing a Director, an Alternate Director is eligible to receive business meeting remuneration in accordance with Schedule B, travel time remuneration in accordance with Schedule C and reimbursement of expenses in accordance with Clause 8.
- (B) As an exception to the above, Alternate Directors are not authorized to attend conventions/seminars or other non-business sessions on behalf of the Director.

8. EXPENSES

Directors shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred while discharging the duties of office in accordance with the following:

- (A) Transportation Costs
 - (i) Whenever practical, every Director is encouraged to travel by the most direct route and use the most economical means of transportation, taking into consideration the travel time involved as well as associated ground transportation costs.
 - (ii) A Director shall be paid a "personal vehicle allowance" per kilometre for the use of their personal vehicle as transportation for Cariboo Regional District business conducted:
 - a) within the Director's electoral area or sub-region;
 - b) for sanctioned meetings; and
 - c) other meetings/events authorized by the Board or by the Chair where time constraints preclude Board consideration.

The personal vehicle allowance rate for the above-noted approved travel shall be the amount concurrent with federal rates to the Public Service.

The District shall not reimburse the Director for stand-by charges of their personal vehicle while they are attending a meeting. Stand-by refers to the privately owned vehicle being situated at the point of departure or at the place of the meeting.

For the purpose of calculating distances travelled, the Director's normal place of residence, within the Regional District, shall be considered the starting

point and point of return of any trip.

For trips exceeding 600 kilometres, Directors shall be entitled to reasonable accommodation en route.

No additional allowances are payable for carrying passengers.

- (iii) Directors who choose to use commercial transportation shall be reimbursed the actual cost of such transportation based on economy class fares.

(B) Accommodation Costs

- (i) In general, Directors shall be reimbursed for the actual cost of commercial accommodation. For conventions, Board on the Road meetings, Board meetings, and Committee of the Whole meetings, commercial accommodation will typically be booked and paid for by the corporation. A Director may choose to stay at accommodation other than the designated accommodation provided by the corporation; however, they will be responsible for making their own arrangements and will be reimbursed a maximum of the amount charged for the corporate accommodation.
- (ii) A Director who utilizes non-commercial facilities for overnight accommodation shall be paid a private accommodation allowance, provided the period of accommodation would not exceed that required for the purpose of attending to Cariboo Regional District business. The private accommodation rate shall be the rate paid by the Federal Government to the Public Service.
- (iii) Where specific provisions are required to address disability or health issues that are not available in the designated accommodation, a Director may choose to stay at an alternative, comparable accommodation and in such a case, the Director may request that the Chair authorize additional reimbursement.

(C) Meal Expenses Within the CRD

While attending sanctioned meetings within the District, Directors are entitled to reimbursement for the actual cost of meals not to exceed the per diem rates, provided such meals have not been provided by the region or as part of a convention or other event. Where meals are provided, there is no reimbursement if the Director chooses to eat elsewhere. Exceptions would include where there are special dietary needs or the inability to take advantage of paid meals because of a timing conflict with other Cariboo Regional District business.

(D) Miscellaneous Expenses

- (i) While away from his/her residence on regional district business, Directors are entitled to reasonable reimbursement of other expenses necessarily incurred such as parking fees, taxis, hotel internet services, ferries, toll booths, etc. Receipts must be provided.
- (ii) Miscellaneous expenses as defined in section 3(J) shall be reimbursed at actual cost.

(E) Per Diem in Lieu of Actual Costs of Meals and Incidentals

In lieu of reimbursement of actual expenses for meals and incidentals while on authorized regional district business outside of the District, Directors may elect to utilize a per diem rate concurrent with the amount paid by the federal government to the Public Service.

If the period of travel includes partial days, the per diem shall be prorated.

(F) Authorization for Out-of-District Travel

- (i) In general, out of district travel will be authorized by the Board.
- (ii) In the absence of Board authorization, the Chair, or in his/her absence, the Vice-Chair, may authorize out-of-district travel where such travel is necessary to carry out the business of the Cariboo Regional District.
- (iii) No travel expenses or accommodation expenses for out-of-district travel shall be paid to any member of the Regional District Board unless the travel was first authorized by Board Resolution, or by the Chair/Vice-Chair.
- (iv) If requested, Directors may receive up to 75% of anticipated expenses for out-of-district travel in advance of the date of travel. The remaining balance, if any, will be paid upon the submission of an expense report and approval of the Chief Financial Officer. If the advance should exceed the total allowable expenses incurred, the overage shall be deducted from the next expense claim.

(G) Extraordinary Expenses

Extraordinary expenses which are more than the amounts available under this bylaw shall be accounted for on the Director's claim, accompanied by receipts and details of the circumstances. Such a claim will be paid following review and approval by both the Chair of the Board and the Policy Committee Chair.

(H) Attendance at Commission Meetings

Directors attending meetings of Commissions to which they are appointed by the Board of the Cariboo Regional District will be reimbursed for expenses in accordance with Schedule B.

(I) Newly Appointed Alternate Directors

Reimbursement for travel expenses is authorized for newly appointed Alternate Directors to attend their first Board meeting accompanied by the Director of the electoral area.

(J) Registration Fees

Registration at conventions, conferences and workshops will be booked and paid directly by staff on behalf of Directors in time to take advantage of reduced "early-bird" rates. Where increased registration costs are incurred as a result of a late request for registration by a Director, the Director shall be responsible for the additional cost. A Director who does not attend a convention, conference or workshop at which they have asked to be registered, shall be responsible for the cost of the unused registration, accommodation, and airfare. The Board Chair may waive these requirements where there are extenuating circumstances.

9. INSURANCE - USE OF PRIVATE VEHICLE

- (A) Directors shall be reimbursed for the cost of the deductible for one comprehensive claim per calendar year to a maximum of \$300 for damage to the vehicle or \$300 for windshield replacement, provided the damage to the vehicle was incurred while on regional district business and a receipt is provided.
- (B) Directors are required to ensure that the vehicle(s) they use for regional district business are insured for business class purposes. Upon submitting proof of coverage, the Director will be reimbursed for the difference in cost between insuring his/her vehicle for pleasure and business class purposes.
- (C) The Regional District does not accept any liability under any circumstances for claims arising from the use of privately owned vehicles, but will carry additional liability insurance over and above that which Directors carry on their personal

vehicles, for claims arising from use of the vehicle while on CRD business.

10. REVIEW

This bylaw shall be reviewed by the Board at least once in every election (4-year) term.

11. REPEAL

Cariboo Regional District Directors' Remuneration and Expenses Bylaw No. 5451, 2023 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

READ A FIRST TIME this 15th day of August, 2025

READ A SECOND TIME this 15th day of August, 2025

READ A THIRD TIME this 15th day of August, 2025

ADOPTED this 15th day of August, 2025 by at least 2/3rds of the votes cast.

Chair

Corporate Officer

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of Bylaw No. 5515 cited as "Cariboo Regional District Directors' Remuneration and Expenses Bylaw No. 5515, 2025", as adopted by the Regional District Board on the 15th day of August, 2025.

Corporate Officer

SCHEDULE A

Chair and Directors' Remuneration

1) Directors' Remuneration

A) Electoral Area Director Remuneration

Effective upon adoption of this bylaw, each Electoral Area Director of the Cariboo Regional District shall be paid \$1,189.49 bi-weekly thereafter, to be increased annually on January 1st, based on the previous year's consumer price index, as basic remuneration, for completion of their duties of office. In the event that there is no increase to the consumer price index, or if it were to decline, the basic remuneration rate would remain the same as in the previous year. For clarity, an alternate director is not entitled to receive the monthly stipend.

B) Municipal Director Remuneration

Effective upon adoption of this bylaw, each Municipal Director of the Cariboo Regional District shall be paid \$531.89 bi-weekly thereafter, to be increased annually on January 1st, based on the previous year's consumer price index, as basic remuneration, for completion of their duties of office. In the event that there is no increase to the consumer price index, or if it were to decline, the basic remuneration rate would remain the same as in the previous year. For clarity, an alternate director is not entitled to receive the monthly stipend.

2) Chair and Vice-Chair Remuneration

A) The Chair of the Cariboo Regional District Board shall receive the basic remuneration as a Director plus an amount equal to 1.5 times the basic remuneration.

B) The Vice-Chair of the Cariboo Regional District Board shall receive the basic remuneration as a Director plus an amount equal to 0.75 times the basic remuneration.

3) Standing Committee/Portfolio Chair Remuneration

A) The Chair of any of the Standing Committees or Portfolios appointed by the Board Chair shall receive the basic remuneration as a Director plus an amount equal to 0.25 times the basic remuneration.

B) There is no additional remuneration provided where a Director is Chair of more than one Standing Committee and/or Portfolio.

4) Acting Chair

In addition to his/her remuneration for attendance at a Board meeting as specified in this

schedule, any Board member who serves as Acting-Chair on Board Day due to the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, shall be compensated \$50 for their services in chairing the Board meeting.

5) Emergency Response Pay

Where the Province or Regional District has declared a State of Local Emergency, and where there is an active CRD response to the emergency, the Chair (or the Vice Chair in the Chair's absence) and any Director whose Electoral Area has an evacuation order(s) in place is eligible to claim remuneration in the amount of \$120.00 per week (or portion thereof) during the time the evacuation order is in effect. The claim for remuneration must be submitted to the Board for consideration of approval.

6) Technology/Office Allowance

Directors are entitled to a Technology/Office Allowance in the amount of \$57.69 bi-weekly to help pay for the costs of cellular (\$50) and internet services (\$50) as well as managing home offices (\$25). The CRD reserves the right to request receipts as proof of cellular and internet services from Directors receiving the allowance, for the Finance Chair's review from time to time.

SCHEDULE B

Meeting Remuneration

It must be noted that the following table is intended to provide examples of categories of meetings and the remuneration applicable to that category. It must be recognized that the Board may eliminate or establish committees from time to time, which may or may not be eligible for remuneration in accordance with the applicable category.

- (A) For attendance at meetings, Directors will be remunerated and expenses will be paid in accordance with the attached table.
- (B) Those meetings which receive remuneration as indicated in the attached table are deemed to be "Sanctioned Meetings" as referred to in 3(H).
- (C) Where more than one meeting is held on the same day, the meetings shall be deemed to be one meeting. As an exception, when one of the meetings is a regular Board meeting and the other meeting begins after 6:00 pm on the same day, the other meeting will be remunerated as a separate meeting.

In situations where the ½ day rate may apply, and there are two meetings on the same day which are therefor considered one meeting, for the purpose of Directors' remuneration, meeting time will be calculated from the start time of the first meeting to conclusion of the second meeting, including the time in between the end of the first meeting and commencement of the second.

- (D) Each of the joint municipal/regional district committees and each rural caucus is limited to twelve meetings per year for the purposes of remuneration. Directors are only eligible for remuneration where an agenda for the meeting is prepared and distributed in advance and minutes are recorded and submitted to the Board for consideration.
- (E) Where a Director attends a meeting by means of electronic communications, remuneration shall be at the normal rate for that meeting.
- (F) Remuneration for meetings not listed on the attached table must be approved by the Board. It is noted that Directors may choose to accept appointments to a wide variety of bodies; however, except as specifically provided for herein, those appointments shall be without remuneration.

Meeting Remuneration	Meeting Rate	Travel Time	Vehicle Allowance	Expenses	Comments
Category 1: Board Activities					
a) Sanctioned Business Meetings					
Board meeting	206/129	√	√	√	
Special Board meeting	206/129	√	√	√	
Committee of the Whole	206/129	√	√	√	
Budget Meeting	206/129	√	√	√	
Strategic planning / retreat	206/129	√	√	√	
Director orientation	206/129	√	√	√	
Notes:					
<i>*For sanctioned business meetings, the lower rate of \$129.00 shall apply to any meetings less than 4 hours duration</i>					
b) Sanctioned Non-Business Meetings*					
LGLA seminars	133/83	√	√	√	
Electoral area forum	133/83	√	√	√	
Community to Community Meetings	133/83	√	√	√	
Treaty Advisory Meetings	133/83	√	√	√	
NCLGA convention	133/83	√	√	√	
UBCM convention	133/83	√	√	√	
FCM convention	133/83	√	√	√	
Attendance at meetings hosted by Federal/Provincial Representatives where the issue discussed is a priority to the Board.	133/83	√	√	√	
Notes:					
<i>*For sanctioned non-business meetings, the lower rate of \$83.00 shall apply to any meetings less than 4 hours duration.</i>					
Category 2: External Appointments					
Fraser Basin Council	133/83	√	√	√	
Barkerville Heritage Trust	133/83	√	√	n/a	
Category 3: Sub-Regional Committees					
Rural Caucus/Joint Committee	133/83	√	√	√	
NC Airport Advisory Committee	n/a	n/a	√	n/a	
Category 4: Standing Committees					
As established and appointed by the Chair.	83	√	√	√	
Category 5: Commissions					
Advisory Planning Commission	83	n/a	√	n/a	

Category 6: Development Applications					
Public Hearing	83	n/a	√	n/a	
Public information meeting	83	n/a	√	n/a	(development applications)
Category 7: Miscellaneous Functions					
CRD Board Chair	133/83	√	√	√	For representing CRD at external meetings
CRD Board Vice-Chair	133/83	√	√	√	For representing CRD at external meetings
Treaty Table	133/83	√	√	√	For representing CRD at treaty table meetings

Schedule C

Travel Time Remuneration

1. Travel time remuneration shall apply to:
 - A) All travel by Board Chair or Vice-Chair when representing the CRD;
 - B) Travel by Directors to sanctioned meetings; and
 - C) Travel by Directors to meetings/events outside a Director's area authorized by the Board or by the Chair where time constraints preclude Board consideration.
2. Travel time remuneration shall be \$28.50 per 100 kilometres driven, with an annual adjustment based on the previous year's consumer price index.
3. For commercial travel, remuneration is \$28.50 per hour, with an annual adjustment based on the previous year's consumer price index, calculated from the time of departure (usually from home) to the time of arrival at the destination, and the reverse for the return trip. For clarity, travel by personal vehicle to the airport is calculated on a per hour basis rather than a per kilometre basis; furthermore, payment for commercial travel shall not exceed six hours total.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS IN
BRITISH COLUMBIA 2026:



What Every Candidate Needs to Know





General local elections will be held on **Saturday, October 17, 2026.**

This brochure provides candidates with basic information about general local election rules and answers questions about running for local office in British Columbia.

Refer to the *Candidates Guide to Local Government Elections in B.C.*

for more detailed information about being a candidate for mayor, councillor, or electoral area director.

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2026

There have been some notable changes since the 2022 general local elections:

- Candidates may submit their nomination documents to the Chief Election Officer in-person, by mail, or electronically, (e.g., by email or fax), so long as the documents are received by the end of the nomination period. Candidates are no longer required to deliver originals of nomination documents submitted by fax or email.

NEW

NEW

- Public notices and online publications of nomination documents will no longer include candidate personal information, such as personal telephone numbers and residential addresses. Electors will instead see the name of the jurisdiction in which the candidate is a resident (e.g., name of the municipality, electoral area, or treaty lands where the candidate resides) in public notices and online nomination documents.

NEW

- A candidate and the authorized principal official of an elector organization must work together to complete the endorsement section of the candidate's nomination documents in order for the candidate to be endorsed by the elector organization. Both parties must provide signed consent to the endorsement. Separate endorsement documents are no longer required (**Elector Organizations must be registered with Elections BC prior to endorsing a candidate(s)**).

NEW

- Members of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia are disqualified from holding local elected office under the *Eligibility to Hold Public Office Act*. If a mayor, councillor, electoral area director or any other local elected official becomes a Member of the Legislative Assembly, that individual is considered to have resigned their local elected office.

ROLE OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

What is the role of a local elected official?

Local elected officials are the stewards of their community's public assets and collectively responsible for making decisions.

In their role, elected officials are expected to learn about and comply with local government legislation and other Acts, as applicable, including conduct rules, privacy and employment laws and policies, and local government procedures.

Elected officials that develop positive trusted relationships with colleagues, local government staff, and the public, support councils and regional district boards to carry out their collective responsibilities. How elected officials conduct themselves in their role and in these relationships directly impacts successful community governance.

The roles and responsibilities of elected officials and local government staff are distinct and interdependent.

Local government staff provide the council/regional

district board with information and professional advice to support informed decision-making, implement the collective decisions, policies, and direction of the council/regional district board, and communicate those decisions to the public and other orders of government.

Clarity about the distinct roles and responsibilities of elected officials and local government staff can help create a healthy working relationship during the term of elected office.

Refer to the *[Thinking About Running for Local Office?](#)* brochure for more information on the roles and responsibilities of locally elected officials.

GENERAL LOCAL ELECTIONS

What are general local elections?

Through general local elections, residents and non-resident property electors determine the individuals who will collectively make decisions and govern on their behalf following general voting day. Electors do this by voting – casting their ballots in favour of a candidate(s).

How often are general local elections held?

General local elections are held every **four years on the third Saturday of October**.

ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

Who oversees local elections?

Unlike provincial elections, local elections are not managed by one organization. Each local government is responsible for running its own local elections, including voting, counting, reporting results, and accepting candidate nominations.

Elections BC is responsible for administering the campaign financing and election advertising rules in the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*. This includes providing information about



the rules, maintaining the register of elector organizations and advertising sponsors, receiving and publishing financial reports, assessing compliance through reviews and audits, and investigating non-compliance to determine appropriate enforcement.

CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

The Chief Election Officer is an individual appointed by a municipal council or regional district board to conduct a general local election or a by-election. The Chief Election Officer is responsible for overseeing all local election administration activities, including: issuing statutory public notices; receiving nomination documents; declaring candidates; administering voting opportunities; preparing ballots; reviewing ballot accounts; and, determining and declaring official election results.

HOW TO GET STARTED

Am I eligible to run for office?

To be eligible to run for office you must:

- be 18 years of age or older on general voting day;
- be a Canadian citizen;
- have been a resident of British Columbia for at least six months immediately before filing nomination documents; and,
- not be disqualified under the *Local Government Act*, or any other enactment from voting in an election in B.C. or from being nominated for, being elected to or holding the office, or be otherwise disqualified by law.

EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS

There are additional requirements and eligibility considerations that people who work or volunteer for a local government must follow. For more information, please visit the B.C. government webpage about [Employees and volunteers](#).

How do I get nominated?

You must be nominated by at least two eligible electors from the jurisdiction where you are seeking to be elected – some local governments may, by bylaw, require each candidate to have as many as 10 or 25 nominators. You may also be required to pay a refundable nomination deposit (up to a \$100 maximum) as part of the nomination process. You can confirm specific nomination requirements with the Chief Election Officer in your community.

You must have become a B.C. resident by March 10, 2026, or, if the nomination period is extended, by March 13, 2026 in order to meet the B.C. residency requirement to run for local office. Refer to [section 67 of the *Local Government Act*](#), for the rules for determining B.C. residency.

NOMINATORS

A nominator must be a qualified elector of the municipality or electoral area (or neighbourhood constituency, if applicable) where the candidate is running. Elector qualifications are listed in the *Local Government Act* and the *Vancouver Charter*.



Where can I find nomination forms?

Candidate nomination documents are available from your local government during regular business hours, generally, two to four weeks before the nomination period begins. Local government contact information is available online from CivicInfo BC at: www.civicinfo.bc.ca/directories

What are some key nomination requirements?

Nomination documents require you to provide detailed contact about yourself and the people who will work for you during the election (e.g. financial agent, official agent). Information provided on the nomination document also includes the office you are running for, your nominators, your consent to be nominated, any endorsement you are accepting from an elector organization, and the Statement of Financial Disclosure required under the *Financial Disclosure Act*.

You are also required to make a solemn declaration stating that you are qualified to be a candidate and you are aware of, understand, and will comply with the requirements of the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*.

Where do I file my nomination papers?

You must file your nomination documents with the Chief Election Officer where you intend to run for office. The nomination deadline is 4:00 p.m. local time on **Friday, September 11, 2026**. Candidates may submit their nomination documents to the Chief Election Officer by hand, by mail or other delivery service, by fax or by email so long as they are received by the end of the nomination period.

You are required to make a solemn declaration in order for your nomination documents to be accepted for filing. If you are not submitting your documents in-person to the Chief Election Officer, you may make your solemn declaration before a commissioner for taking affidavits for British Columbia, such as a lawyer or notary. The solemn declaration must be signed by you and the person that took the solemn declaration.

Who can help me run my election campaign?

You may appoint a financial agent, an official agent, and scrutineers to help with your election campaign and to take on campaign activities. Your election campaign may also be supported by volunteers.

You may also be endorsed by an elector organization that may undertake certain campaign activities on your behalf (e.g., advertising, canvassing) to help you get elected.

Financial Agents

A financial agent is a representative that a candidate is legally required to have during an election campaign. **You are your own financial agent unless you appoint another individual to the position.**

Financial agents are responsible for administering campaign finances in accordance with the *Local Elections Campaign Financing*

Act. This includes opening and depositing contributions to, and paying election-related expenses from, a candidate's campaign account; maintaining records for campaign contributions, election expenses and all other campaign transactions; and, filing the candidate's required campaign financing disclosure statement with Elections BC within 90 days following general voting day.

You must appoint your financial agent in writing and have their written consent to be your financial agent. The written appointment must be submitted to the Chief Election Officer as part of your nomination package and the Chief Election Officer will send all required information to Elections BC.

GUIDANCE FOR FINANCIAL AGENTS

Elections BC will send the financial agent the **Guide to Local Elections Campaign Financing in B.C. for Candidates and their Financial Agents** shortly after receiving the required candidate information and appointment of financial agent forms from the Chief Election Officer. The required disclosure statement will be sent by Elections BC to the candidate or their financial agent after general voting day. This information will assist you or your financial agent when it is time to disclose your campaign contributions and expenses.

Official Agents

Candidates may appoint an official agent to represent them during the election process. The official agent may act as your campaign manager or spokesperson or be the point of contact for the people helping on your election campaign. You must appoint your official agent in writing and deliver the appointment (including the name and address of the person) to the Chief Election Officer as soon as practicable after you have made the appointment.

Scrutineers

Candidates or their official agent may appoint scrutineers to observe voting procedures and the ballot-counting process. You or your official agent may appoint one scrutineer for each ballot box used at a voting place during general local elections. In some cases, the local government may allow you to have more than one scrutineer for each ballot box.

Further information about scrutineers is available in the [*Scrutineers Guide to General Local Elections in B.C.*](#)

Volunteers

Candidates may retain volunteers to take on election campaign-related activities (such as preparing and distributing flyers, canvassing, calling eligible voters and/or handling logistics).

A volunteer who works on your election campaign **must not receive any payment or remuneration for their services.**

CANVASSING

Authorized canvassers are entitled to access multi-residential buildings (i.e. housing cooperatives, strata corporations and rental properties) between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. local time during the campaign period. You must appoint your canvasser(s) in writing and provide them with written consent to act as your canvasser. A canvasser entering a multi-residential property must produce government-issued photo ID and their written appointment at the request of a resident or an individual acting on behalf of the multi-residential property (e.g., building or property manager).

Elector Organizations

An elector organization is an organization that endorses or intends to endorse a candidate(s) in general local elections. An elector organization may endorse you on the ballot by allowing its name, abbreviation or acronym to appear on the ballot beside your name.

Elector organizations and candidates may each direct their own separate election campaign or run complementary campaigns; you may also decide to rely solely on the elector organization to run campaign activities on your behalf.

An elector organization must provide a signed consent statement that is included in your nomination documents. You must also sign a statement consenting to the endorsement as part of your nomination documents submitted to the Chief Election Officer.

Elector organizations are required to register with Elections BC before endorsing a candidate.

What is a third party sponsor?

Third party sponsors are individuals or organizations that sponsor election advertising independently from candidates and elector organizations.

Third party advertising includes advertising for or against a candidate and/or an elector organization. Third party advertising also includes advertising on an issue with which a

THIRD PARTY ADVERTISING

Third party sponsors must register with Elections BC before conducting advertising during the pre-campaign and campaign periods. Refer to the Elections BC [***Guide for Local Third Party Advertising Sponsors in B.C.***](#) for more information about the responsibilities and legal obligations of third party sponsors.

candidate or elector organization is associated during the campaign period.

Third party sponsors must be independent from candidates and/or elector organizations and must not coordinate, or sponsor advertising together with, or on behalf of a candidate and/or an elector organization.

ELECTION CAMPAIGN FINANCING

What campaign financing and election advertising rules should I be aware of?

Election advertising, such as billboards or commercials, must include sponsorship information during the pre-campaign and campaign period.

Election advertising rules apply to advertising that promotes or opposes the election of a candidate or an elector organization that is endorsing a candidate (e.g., directed advertising) during the pre-campaign and campaign period.

CAMPAIGN PERIODS

The pre-campaign period begins on **Monday, July 20, 2026**, and ends on **Friday, September 18, 2026**.

The campaign period starts on **Saturday, September 19, 2026**, and ends when voting closes at 8:00 p.m. local time on **Saturday, October 17, 2026**.

Elections BC has investigative and enforcement tools to ensure compliance with the campaign financing and advertising rules in the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*. Elections BC can issue monetary penalties for a wide

Refer to Elections BC's [website](#) for detailed information regarding campaign financing and election advertising rules.



range of contraventions, including exceeding campaign contribution limits or expense limits for candidates.

ELECTION CAMPAIGNING

What can I do to get my message out to the voting public?

Election campaigns are generally a planned set of actions, events or initiatives designed to raise awareness about you or your election platform with voters.

Key campaign activities you could undertake include:

- making public speeches;
- canvassing by phone or door-to-door to raise awareness about your campaign and/or identifying issues important to voters;
- holding events where voters can listen to your election platform and ask questions;
- advertising in print, on radio, television or social media platforms; and/or,
- putting up signs as a way of “getting your name out there.”

VOTING DAY

Will voters be able to cast their ballots before general voting day?

Yes. Generally, at least two advance voting opportunities must be held in every local government before general voting day.

One voting opportunity must be held 10 days before general voting day (**Wednesday, October 7, 2026**), and in most cases, an additional one on a date established in the local government's bylaw. Local governments may set out in their election bylaw whether additional advance voting opportunities will be offered, or in communities of less than 5,000, whether the second additional advance voting opportunity will be waived.

Voting places are open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. local time **Saturday, October 17, 2026**, for general voting.

Can I campaign on general voting day?

You are allowed to campaign on general voting day by:

- advertising on the Internet, as long as the advertising was transmitted to the public before general voting day and was not changed before being transmitted on general voting day;
- advertising by means of signs, posters, or banners;
- canvassing and/or distributing pamphlets; and/or,
- advertising that exclusively encourages people to “get out and vote.”

It is an election offence to transmit new election advertising on general voting day. It is also an election offence to campaign within 100 metres of a voting place during voting proceedings.

Can I watch the ballot counting process?

Yes. Candidates can be present during the ballot count. The Chief Election Officer can tell you the time and location for the final vote count and when the election results will be declared. Ballot counting starts after 8:00 p.m. local time following the close of voting. Your official agent or a scrutineer may also attend at each location where ballot counting takes place.

When will the election results be announced?

The official election results must be declared by 4:00 p.m. local time on **Wednesday, October 21, 2026**. Candidates with the most votes will be declared elected.

The Chief Election Officer must refer the election for a judicial recount if there is a tie in the number of votes between one or more candidates.

Following a judicial recount, a tie between two or more candidates must be broken in accordance with the *Local Government Act* (or *Vancouver Charter* in the City of Vancouver) and the local government's election bylaw. The judicial recount must be completed by **Friday, October 30, 2026**.

AFTER THE ELECTION

What do I do if I am elected?

All candidates must file a campaign financing disclosure statement with Elections BC within 90 days of general voting day.

You must also make an oath of office or solemn affirmation within 45 days after the official election results are declared, or if you are declared elected by acclamation, within 50 days of general voting day.

Refer to Elections BC's *Guide to Local Elections Campaign Financing in B.C. for Candidates and their Financial Agents* or contact Elections BC directly for more detailed information about campaign financing disclosure requirements.

A candidate who has been declared elected by the Chief Election Officer may make the oath of office or a solemn affirmation as soon as the time period for making an application for judicial recount has ended. The period to apply for a judicial recount ends nine days after the close of general voting (**Monday, October 26, 2026**).

Elected candidates do not take office immediately after making their oath of office or solemn affirmation. Municipal council members (i.e., mayor and councillors) formally take office at the first regularly scheduled council meeting following general local elections – this meeting must take place before **Tuesday, November 10, 2026**.

The term of office for regional district electoral area directors begins on the first Monday after November 1 following the general local election or when the individual makes their oath or solemn affirmation, whichever is later. The term of office for a municipal council member appointed to a regional district board begins when the person has made an oath of office or solemn affirmation as a regional district director.

Are there things I need to do even if I am not elected?

Yes. You must file a campaign financing disclosure statement with Elections BC by **Tuesday, February 16, 2027**, at the latest – even if you received no campaign contributions and incurred no election expenses. Statements filed after **Friday, January 15, 2027**, are subject to a \$500 late filing penalty fee.

ELECTION OFFENCES AND PENALITIES

What happens if I don't comply with all of the election rules?

You could be disqualified from office if you fail to take the oath of office following local elections.

Candidates who fail to file a campaign financing disclosure statement are automatically disqualified from being nominated for, elected to or holding office anywhere in B.C. until after the next general local elections. A candidate declared elected also loses their seat and the seat then becomes vacant.

Additional monetary and disqualification penalties for contravening campaign financing and advertising rules are set out in the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*. Elections BC can be notified when a person believes someone has committed a campaign financing election offence.

You may also be subject to penalties of up to \$5,000 and/or imprisonment for up to one year for providing and/or distributing false information, campaigning near a voting place during voting proceedings, falsely withdrawing a candidate or an endorsement, fraudulently voting, interfering with ballots or ballot boxes, or otherwise contravening section 163 of the *Local Government Act*. These penalties could apply whether or not you were elected.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Local government mailing addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses and websites are available online from CivicInfo BC at:

www.civicinfo.bc.ca/directories

For answers to legislative **questions about municipal and regional district elections** please contact:

Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs

Governance and Structure Branch

Phone: 250 387-4020

Email: LGgovernance@gov.bc.ca

Website: www.gov.bc.ca/localelections

For answers to **questions about elector organization registration, election advertising, third party sponsors or campaign financing disclosure** please contact:

Elections BC

Phone: 250 387-5305

Toll-free: 1 800 661-8683

TTY 1 888 456-5448

Email: electoral.finance@elections.bc.ca

Website: <https://elections.bc.ca/local-elections/2026-general-local-elections/>

Full text of the *Local Government Act*, *Local Election Campaign Financing Act*, *Community Charter*, *Vancouver Charter*, *School Act*, and *Offence Act* can be found online at: www.bclaws.ca

DISCLAIMER

In the event that there is inconsistency between this brochure and *the Local Government Act*, the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, or any other Act, the legislation shall prevail.

Land Acknowledgment

The BC Public Service acknowledges the territories of First Nations around B.C. and is grateful to carry out its work on these lands – it acknowledges the rights, interests, priorities, and concerns of all Indigenous Peoples – First Nations, Métis, and Inuit – respecting and acknowledging their distinct cultures, histories, rights, laws, and governments.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS IN
BRITISH COLUMBIA 2026:



General Local Elections

101





This brochure answers a few of the basic questions about local government elections in British Columbia.

Local government is government at the community level – government that affects British Columbians, every day. Locally elected officials are charged with making decisions that affect the daily lives of citizens, families, the business community and others.

Municipal councils, regional district boards, specified parks boards, local community commissions, the Islands Trust local trust committees and other local bodies influence jobs, foster healthy, safe and sustainable communities for British Columbians and shape the long-term vision for their communities.

GENERAL LOCAL ELECTIONS

What are general local elections?

Through general local elections, residents and non-resident property electors determine the individuals who will collectively make decisions and govern on their behalf

General local elections will be held on **Saturday, October 17, 2026**

following general voting day. Electors do this by voting – casting their ballots in favour of a candidate(s).

What jurisdictions hold general local elections?

General local elections are held for: municipalities; regional districts; boards of education; specified parks boards; local community commissions; and, Islands Trust trust areas.

Further information about board of education (i.e., school trustee) elections can be found on the [Ministry of Education and Child Care website](#).

How often are general local elections held?

General local elections are held every **four years on the third Saturday of October**.

How many people run for elected office in general local elections?

Approximately 3,300 candidates run for 1,650 positions in over 250 jurisdictions across British Columbia.

Because British Columbia is made up of small and large communities, the scale of individual general local elections varies. Some communities may only have a handful of candidates running for office and one or two voting places, while others may have many candidates running for office and multiple voting places.

What should the public expect from people who run for elected office?

Locally elected officials are collectively responsible for making decisions that impact the daily lives of community residents. These decisions include, but are not limited to, establishing and operating services, such as water and sewer, fire protection, solid waste

management, land use and planning, and parks and recreation.

Elected officials are expected to learn about and comply with local government legislation and other Acts, as applicable, including conduct rules, privacy

and employment laws and policies, and local government procedures. This ensures elected officials are well-prepared when communicating with staff and the public and engaging in decision-making (e.g., passing bylaws and resolutions).

Refer to the *Foundational Principles of Responsible Conduct* brochure and the *Forging the Path to Responsible Conduct* guide for information about the key values that guide locally elected officials' conduct.

What is responsible conduct of locally elected officials?

How elected officials conduct themselves in their role and in relationships with each other, staff, and the public, directly impacts successful community governance. Effective governance requires dedicated, ethical and informed leaders who are committed to their communities. As part of that commitment, an effective elected official:

- holds themselves **accountable** in their decisions and conduct;
- is **respectful** of others as well as their role and the rules and responsibilities that come with holding local office;
- gives the time needed to become **knowledgeable** about local government roles, responsibilities, and legislative requirements;

- is **curious** about the perspectives and experiences of others to find solutions and inform decision-making; and,
- meaningfully **collaborates** with their colleagues, who share in the responsibility of representing the community interests.

How are general local elections for local governments administered?

Unlike provincial elections, local elections are not managed by one organization. Each local government is responsible for running its own local elections, including accepting candidate nominations, voting, counting ballots, and reporting results. [Elections BC](#) is responsible for administering the campaign financing and election advertising rules in the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*.

Local governments appoint Chief Election Officers to run the elections process. The Chief Election Officer may be a senior local government employee, such as a corporate officer, or a private contractor hired to conduct the election on the local government's behalf.

Chief Election Officers are responsible for overseeing all general local elections administration activities, including: receiving nomination documents; declaring candidates; administering voting opportunities; counting ballots; and, declaring election results.





Chief Election Officers also work with Elections BC to monitor compliance with election advertising regulations and may assist Elections BC to address incidents of election advertising non-compliance.

What legislation governs general local elections?

General local elections must be run in accordance with the *Local Government Act*, the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, the *Vancouver Charter*, the *Community Charter*, the *School Act*, and the local government or board of education's election bylaw, as applicable.

ELECTION BYLAWS

A local government election bylaw enables the local government to make decisions about election administration, including whether: voting machines will be used; mail ballot, additional or special voting opportunities will be offered; voter registration will be conducted both on voting day and in advance or on voting day only; and, nomination deposits will be required.

The elections legislation contains provisions that must be consistently applied to all general local elections; however, the legislation is also flexible enough that local jurisdictions are able to make choices about how to conduct some aspects of elections in a way that suits local circumstances.

Who are the key participants in local general local elections?

Electors, candidates, financial agents, official agents, scrutineers, volunteers, elector organizations and third party sponsors are the key participants in general local elections.

Electors

An elector is an individual who is a resident elector (i.e., lives in the municipality or regional district electoral area) or a non-resident property elector (registered owner of real property in a municipality or regional district electoral area) and who is qualified to vote in municipal, regional district, specified parks board, local community commission or Islands Trust elections.

Further information about voter eligibility can be found in the [*Voter's Guide to Local Elections in B.C.*](#) or the [*Voter's Guide for Electors Living on Reserve*](#)

Candidates

A candidate is an individual seeking election as a mayor, councillor, electoral area director, specified parks board commissioner, local community commissioner or Islands Trust local trustee. A candidate must be nominated by eligible electors and declared a candidate by the Chief Election Officer.

Candidate nominators **must be qualified** under the *Local Government Act* or *Vancouver Charter* to nominate a candidate for office.

Financial Agents

A financial agent is a representative that candidates and elector organizations are legally required to have during an election campaign.



A candidate is their own financial agent unless they appoint another individual to the position.

The financial agent is responsible for administering campaign finances in accordance with the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*.

This includes opening and depositing contributions to, and paying election-related expenses from, a candidate's campaign account; maintaining records for campaign contributions, election expenses and all other campaign transactions; and, filing the candidate's required disclosure statement with Elections BC within 90 days following general voting day.

Official Agents

Candidates may appoint an official agent to represent them during the election process. The official agent may act as the campaign manager or spokesperson or be the point of contact for the people helping on the candidate's election campaign.

Candidates must appoint their official agent in writing and deliver the appointment (including the name and address of the person) to the Chief Election Officer as soon as practicable after the appointment has been made.

Scrutineers

Candidates or their official agent may appoint scrutineers to observe voting procedures and the ballot-counting process.

Each candidate or their official agent may appoint one scrutineer for each ballot box used at a voting place during general local elections. In some cases, the local government's election bylaw may allow a candidate to have more than one scrutineer for each ballot box used at a voting place.

Candidates must appoint their scrutineers in writing and deliver the appointment (including the name and address

of the person) to the Chief Election Officer as soon as practicable after the appointment has been made. Scrutineers must carry a copy of their appointment documents while present at a voting place.

Further information about scrutineers is available in the [*Scrutineers Guide to General Local Elections in B.C.*](#)

Volunteers

Candidates and/or elector organizations may retain volunteers to take on election campaign-related activities – such as preparing and distributing flyers, canvassing, calling eligible voters and/or handling logistics. Third party sponsors may also use volunteers to undertake their advertising activities independent of an election campaign.

A volunteer who works on an election campaign **must not receive any payment or remuneration** for their services.

Elector Organizations

Elector organizations are organizations that endorse or intend to endorse a candidate(s) in general local elections.

An elector organization may endorse candidates on the ballot by allowing its name, abbreviation or acronym to appear on the ballot beside its endorsed candidate(s) name and/or promote the candidate(s) and the organization's viewpoints during an election campaign.

Elector organizations are required to register with Elections BC to endorse candidates in an election, receive campaign contributions or incur election expenses. Elector organization registration information and forms are available from [**Elections BC's website**](#).

Elector organizations must also file annual financial reports with Elections BC detailing their finances, including campaign contributions received and all expenditures incurred.

THIRD PARTY SPONSOR REGISTRATION

Third party sponsors must register with Elections BC before conducting advertising during the pre-campaign and campaign periods. Refer to Elections BC's [***Guide for Local Third Party Advertising Sponsors in B.C.***](#) for detailed information regarding third party sponsors.

Third Party Sponsors

Third party advertising includes advertising for or against a candidate and/or an elector organization. In the campaign period, it also includes advertising on an issue with which a candidate or elector organization is associated.

Third party sponsors must be independent from candidates and/or elector organizations and must not coordinate, or sponsor advertising together with or on behalf of a candidate and/or elector organization.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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Email: LGgovernance@gov.bc.ca

Website: www.gov.bc.ca/localelections

For answers to legislative **questions about school trustee elections** please contact:

Ministry of Education and Child Care

Governance and Legislation Branch

Email: EDUC.Governance.Legislation@gov.bc.ca

Website: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/legislation-policy/school-trustee-election-procedures>

For answers to **questions about elector organization registration, election advertising, third party sponsors or campaign financing disclosure** please contact:

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Toll-free: 1 800 661-8683

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The BC Public Service acknowledges the territories of First Nations around B.C. and is grateful to carry out its work on these lands – it acknowledges the rights, interests, priorities, and concerns of all Indigenous Peoples – First Nations, Métis, and Inuit – respecting and acknowledging their distinct cultures, histories, rights, laws, and governments.



CANDIDATE'S GUIDE

TO LOCAL ELECTIONS IN B.C.
2026



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Key Contacts

Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs

Contact the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs (Ministry) for answers to questions about the material contained in this guide. Ministry staff can also provide additional information about local elections legislation in British Columbia.

Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs

Governance and Structure Branch

Phone: 250 387-4020

Email: LGgovernance@gov.bc.ca

Website: www.gov.bc.ca/localelections

Elections BC

Contact Elections BC for answers to questions about elector organization registration, election advertising, third party sponsors or campaign financing (including campaign contribution and expense limits).

Elections BC

Phone: 250 387-5305

Toll-free: 1 800 661 8683 / TTY 1 888 456-5448

Fax: 250 387-3578

Toll-free Fax: 1 866 466-0665

Email: electoral.finance@elections.bc.ca

Website: <https://elections.bc.ca/local-elections/2026-general-local-elections/>

Ministry of Education and Child Care

Contact the Ministry of Education and Child Care for answers to questions about school trustee elections and the *School Act*.

Ministry of Education and Child Care

Governance and Legislation Branch

Email: EDUC.Governance.Legislation@gov.bc.ca

Website: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/legislation-policy/school-trustee-election-procedures>

Service BC Contact Centre (Enquiry BC)

Contact the Service BC Contact Centre for answers to questions about Provincial Government programs and services.

Service BC Contact Centre (Enquiry BC)

In Victoria call: 250 387-6121

In Vancouver call: 604 660-2421

Elsewhere in B.C. call: 1 800 663-7867

Outside B.C.: 604 660-2421

Email: EnquiryBC@gov.bc.ca

Website: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/home/get-help-with-government-services>

Municipal and Regional District Information

Contact CivicInfo BC for local elections statistics, election results and local government mailing addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses and websites.

CivicInfoBC

Phone: 250 383-4898

Email: info@civicinfo.bc.ca

Website: www.civicinfo.bc.ca/directories

Other Resources

BC Laws

BC Laws provides free public online access to the current laws of British Columbia. This unofficial current consolidation of B.C. Statutes and Regulations is updated continually as new and amended laws come into force.

Electronic versions of the *Local Government Act*, the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, the *Vancouver Charter*, the *Community Charter*, the *School Act* and the *Offence Act* are available online at: www.bclaws.ca

NOTE: The Province of British Columbia does not warrant the accuracy or the completeness of the electronic version of the B.C. Statutes and Regulations available online at BC Laws.

Elections Legislation

Printed versions of local elections legislation including the *Local Government Act*, the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, the *Vancouver Charter*, the *Community Charter*, the *School Act* and the *Offence Act* are available at public libraries in communities throughout British Columbia. Printed versions of the Acts are also available from Crown Publications, King's Printer for British Columbia at:

Crown Publications: King's Printer for British Columbia

563 Superior Street

Victoria, BC V8V 0C5

Phone: 250 387-6409

Toll Free: 1 800 663-6105

Fax: 250 387-1120

E-mail address: crownpub@gov.bc.ca

Website: www.crownpub.bc.ca/

Educational Materials

The Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs, Elections BC, the Local Government Management Association, the Ministry of Education and Child Care, and the BC School Trustees Association collaborated to produce educational materials and guides for the 2026 general local elections.

Candidates in elections conducted by the City of Vancouver must refer to the *Vancouver Charter* and its regulations for specific provisions regarding the City of Vancouver general local election.

The Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs' educational materials are available online at: www.gov.bc.ca/localelections

- Candidate's Guide to Local Elections in B.C.
- General Local Elections 101
- Scrutineer's Guide to General Local Elections in B.C.
- Supporting a Candidate for Local Elections in B.C.
- Thinking About Running for Local Office?
- Voter's Guide for Electors Living on Reserve
- Voter's Guide to Local Elections in B.C. (Available in: Chinese-Simplified; Chinese-Traditional; English; Farsi; French; Korean; and, Punjabi)
- What Every Candidate Needs to Know (Brochure)

Educational materials developed by Elections BC are available online at: <https://elections.bc.ca/local-elections/2026-general-local-elections/>

Local Guides

- Candidate Handbook
- Elector Organization Annual Financial Report Completion Guide
- Guide for Local Chief Election Officers
- Guide for Local Third Party Advertising Sponsors in B.C.
- Guide for Local Non-election Assent Voting Advertising Sponsors in B.C.
- Guide to Elector Organization Registration and Deregistration
- Guide to Local Elections Campaign Financing in B.C. for Candidates and their Financial Agents
- Guide to Local Elections Campaign Financing in B.C. for Elector Organizations and their Financial Agents
- Disclosure Statement Completion Guide for Local Candidates and their Financial Agents
- Disclosure Statement Completion Guide for Elector Organizations and their Financial Agents
- Disclosure Statement Completion Guide for Local Third Party Sponsors

Local Quick Reference Sheets

- Candidate campaign accounts
- Local campaign contributions
- Local election advertising
- Local election expense limits
- Self-funding rules
- Sponsorship contributions
- What to know before you start campaigning
- Fundraising functions

Online Learning

- Financial Agent Training for 2026 General Local Elections – Elector Organizations course
- Financial Agent Training for 2026 General Local Elections – Candidates course
- Online Learning for Third Party Sponsors

Educational materials developed by the Ministry of Education and Child Care are available online at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/legislation-policy/school-trustee-election-procedures>

- School Trustee Election Procedures in British Columbia

Information about running for the Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique is available online at:

- <https://www.csf.bc.ca/en/board-of-directors/school-trustee-elections-2026/>

Educational materials developed by the BC School Trustees Association are available online at: <https://bcsta.org/elections/>

- BC School Trustee Candidates Guide
- Guide à l'intention des candidats aux postes de conseillers scolaires de la Colombie-Britannique

Disclaimer

The information contained in the *Candidate's Guide to Local Elections in B.C.* (guide) is provided as general reference and all attempts have been made to ensure the accuracy of the material. In the event that there is inconsistency between the guide and the *Local Government Act*, the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, or any other Act, the legislation shall prevail.

Please refer directly to the latest consolidation of provincial statutes at BC Laws (www.bclaws.ca) for specific election-related provisions and requirements within the *Local Government Act*, the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, the *Vancouver Charter*, the *Community Charter*, the *School Act* and the *Offence Act*.

NOTE: The *Candidate's Guide to Local Elections in B.C.* was prepared to help candidates understand the electoral process and legislation regarding local elections in British Columbia. Each candidate must refer to the *Local Government Act*, the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, the *Vancouver Charter*, the *Community Charter*, the *School Act*, and the *Offence Act* for specific provisions related to local elections.

Terms in **boldface** font are further explained in the Glossary.

Notable Legislative Changes and Updates for 2026

The *Miscellaneous Statute Amendments Act, 2025* (Bill 13) changed some local elections rules for the *Local Government Act*, *Local Election Campaign Financing Act*, *Vancouver Charter*, *School Act*, and the *Islands Trust Act* in 2025.

Key changes include:

- Candidates may submit their nomination documents to the Chief Election Officer in-person, by mail, or electronically, such as by email or fax, so long as they are received by the end of the nomination period.
 - There is no longer a requirement for nomination document “originals” to be submitted if the nomination documents were initially submitted to the Chief Election Officer electronically.
- Candidate personal information, such as a residential address and phone number, can no longer be published online or in public notices. The name of the jurisdiction where the candidates reside will be included in public notices and in online nomination documents.
 - Unredacted nomination documents are still viewable by electors at local government offices; however, electors must first sign a declaration that they will not use the information for purposes other than those permitted under the *Local Government Act*.
- Elector organizations are no longer required to submit separate candidate endorsement documents. Candidates and the authorized principal official for the elector organization must now work together and complete the endorsement section of the nomination documents if a candidate plans on accepting the endorsement.
 - **NOTE:** As part of this process, both parties will also need to provide signed consent statements for the endorsement.
- Chief Election Officers may choose to identify **authorized drop-off locations** where electors may return their mail ballot packages if mail ballot voting has been authorized in the local government election bylaw. Chief Election Officers must include the location and office hours for each drop-off location in the notice of an opportunity to vote by mail Issued by the local government.

The [*Local Government Elections Regulation*](#) was also amended to expand the list of acceptable identity documents to be more inclusive of Indigenous voters and adds certainty that the following documents can be used as forms of identification when registering to vote in local elections, a:

- document, issued by the government of Canada, that certifies that the applicant is registered as an Indian under the *Indian Act* (Canada), such as a status card;
- citizenship or membership card issued by a First Nation; and,
- citizenship card issued by Métis Nation British Columbia.

Additionally, the [Eligibility to Hold Public Office Act](#) came into force in 2025 and prevents elected officials from simultaneously holding an elected position with the provincial government and an elected position in a local government or as a trustee on a board of education.

Introduction

Local elections are the foundation of democratic local governments in British Columbia (B.C.).

Locally elected officials are charged with making decisions that affect the daily lives of citizens, families, and the business community – **municipal councils, regional district boards, boards of education, Islands Trust, local community commissions, specified parks boards** and other local bodies influence jobs, create safe communities for British Columbians and shape the long-term vision for their community.

Local elections enable residents and property owners to determine the body of individuals who will make decisions and govern on their behalf following **general voting day**.

Local governments (**municipalities** and **regional districts**) have roles that include:

- acting as a political forum through which citizens, families and business owners within the local community express their collective vision; and,
- providing services and programs to the community.

General local elections for **mayors, councillors, electoral area directors, school trustees, Islands Trust local trustees, local community commissioners** and **specified parks board commissioners** in B.C. are held every four years.

Local governments hold **by-elections** to fill council and regional district board vacancies that occur between **general local elections**.

This guide provides those considering running for elected office, **candidates**, election officials, **financial agents** and the general public with comprehensive, detailed information about the local elections process. Including:

- the key participants in local elections (e.g., electors, candidates, candidate representatives, **third party sponsors** and **elector organizations**);
- the key administrators in local elections (e.g., local government election officials and **Elections BC**);
- elected officials' responsibilities;
- qualifications for office;
- the nomination process;
- election campaigns and candidate representatives;

General local elections will be held on **Saturday, October 17, 2026**.

The [*School Trustee Election Procedures in British Columbia, for School Trustees*](#) has been published by the Ministry of Education and Child Care and is available online.

- general voting day; and,
- taking office.

The guide focuses primarily on candidates for **municipal councils** and **regional district boards**; however, the information in the guide may also be applicable to candidates for the **Islands Trust Council**, **local community commissions** and **specified parks boards**.

Candidates must be familiar with the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* and its requirements. The *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* is available online at BC Laws www.bclaws.ca.

Elections BC has published several guides to support candidates, financial agents, elector organizations and third party sponsors. The guides are available online at: <https://elections.bc.ca/local-elections/local-guides/>

Local Elections Generally

Local Government Act – sections 59, 65, 66, 92 and 104–110
Local Elections Campaign Financing Act – sections 17, 31–41 and 73–79

Each local government (**municipality** and **regional district**) is responsible for running its own **local election**. Local governments may also run school trustee elections on behalf of **boards of education**.

Municipal councils and regional district boards appoint a **Chief Election Officer** to run the local election in accordance with the *Local Government Act*, the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, the *Vancouver Charter*, the *Community Charter*, the *School Act*, the *Offence Act* and the local government's **election bylaw**.

An election bylaw enables a municipal council or regional district board to make decisions about election administration, such as whether: voting machines will be used; mail ballot voting will be available; additional advance voting opportunities will be offered; voter registration will be conducted in advance or on voting day only; and/or, nomination deposits will be required.

Elections BC administers, investigates and enforces the campaign financing disclosure requirements including elector organization registration, candidate expense limits, campaign contribution limits and the election advertising rules under the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*.

[See Appendix A](#) for more information about local election partner roles and responsibilities

The elections legislation contains provisions that must be consistently applied to all local elections; however, the legislation is also flexible enough that local governments are able to make choices about how to conduct elections in a manner that suits local circumstances (e.g., using the Provincial Voters List, and/or drawing by lot to break a tie between two or more candidates).

Voting Opportunities

General voting day is usually the most publicized or widely known voting opportunity **resident electors** and **non-resident property electors** have to cast their ballot in local elections.

Generally, at least two **advance voting opportunities** must be available whereby eligible **electors** may cast their ballot in local elections. Local

	governments have the authority to increase elector access to the voting process by offering mail ballot voting (to all electors) and holding additional voting opportunities for their citizens, including special voting opportunities.
General voting day for the 2026 general local elections is Saturday, October 17 .	General Voting Day General voting day is the primary opportunity for candidates seeking office as mayor, councillor, electoral area director, Islands Trust local trustee, local community commissioner or specified parks board commissioner to be elected to office by eligible electors. Voting places are open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. local time on general voting day.
	Advance Voting An advance voting opportunity must be held 10 days prior to general voting day.
The required advance voting opportunity for the 2026 general local election is Wednesday, October 7 .	This required advance voting day allows eligible electors who may not otherwise be able to vote on general voting day to cast their ballot. Local governments with populations greater than 5,000 are required to hold at least two advance voting opportunities.
	Local governments may set out in their election bylaws whether additional advance voting opportunities will be offered, or in communities of less than 5,000, whether the required additional advance voting opportunity will be waived.
Electors may not cast their ballot on the Internet or by telephone.	See Appendix B for other key dates in the 2026 general local elections.
	Special Voting Special voting opportunities may be held in any location – inside or outside the local government boundary – to provide eligible electors who may not otherwise be able to attend a voting place an opportunity to cast their ballots during local elections.
New or amended election bylaws must be adopted by Monday, July 6 in order to be in effect for the 2026 general local elections.	Special voting opportunities are generally held in hospitals, long-term care facilities or other locations where electors' mobility may be impaired. Only designated electors are eligible to vote at special voting opportunities – for example, a local government may decide only patients and staff would be entitled to vote during a special voting opportunity held at a hospital.
	Mail Ballot Voting Mail ballot voting provides <i>all</i> electors who are unable to attend a special, advance or general voting opportunity the ability to vote in local elections. Local governments must have provided for mail ballot voting in their election bylaw.
	If mail ballot voting has been authorized in the election bylaw, Chief Election Officers may now identify authorized drop-off locations for mail ballots.

Key Participants

Electors, candidates, financial agents, official agents, scrutineers, **volunteers**, **third party sponsors** and **elector organizations** are the key participants in the local elections process.

Electors

The right to vote in local elections is conferred on **resident electors** and **non-resident property electors**.

Resident electors are those people that may be eligible to vote in local elections based on where they reside. Non-resident property electors are those people that reside in one **jurisdiction** and own property in a different jurisdiction where they can also vote if they are eligible.

A resident elector must:

- be 18 years of age or older when registering to vote or will be 18 years of age on general voting day;
- be a Canadian citizen;
- have been a resident of British Columbia for at least six months immediately before registering to vote;
- be a resident of the **jurisdiction** when registering to vote; and,
- not be disqualified under the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment from voting in a local election or be otherwise disqualified by law.

A non-resident property elector must:

- be 18 years of age or older when registering to vote or will be 18 years of age on general voting day;
- be a Canadian citizen;
- have been a resident of British Columbia for at least six months immediately before registering to vote;
- have owned real property in the **jurisdiction** for at least 30 days before registering to vote; and,
- not be disqualified under the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment from voting in a local election or be otherwise disqualified by law.

Refer to the [*Local Government Act, s.67*](#) or [*Vancouver Charter, s.25*](#) (if you live in Vancouver) for the rules for determining B.C. residency.

An elector must have been a B.C. resident prior to **Thursday, April 16** to register to vote on general voting day for the 2026 general local elections.

ELECTORS LIVING ON RESERVE

Eligible Indigenous and non-Indigenous electors living on Reserve are entitled to vote in local government elections. Where they vote will depend on whether the Reserve they live on is included in the Letters Patent of a municipality or regional district. Letters Patent establish the legal boundaries of local governments. Contact the nearest municipality or regional district to determine where to vote.

Refer to the [Voter's Guide for Electors Living on Reserve](#) brochure for more information about voter eligibility when living on Reserve.

Candidates

A candidate in the context of this guide is an individual seeking election as **mayor, councillor, electoral area director, Islands Trust local trustee, local community commissioner or specified parks board commissioner**. School trustee candidates should refer to guidance materials produced by the Ministry of Education and Child Care and the BC School Trustees Association.

A candidate must have been nominated by eligible electors and have been declared a candidate by the **Chief Election Officer** in order to run for elected office.

A nominator **MUST** be a qualified elector of the municipality or electoral area (or neighbourhood constituency, if applicable) where the candidate is running. Elector qualifications are listed in sections 65 and 66 of the *Local Government Act* and sections 23 and 24 of the *Vancouver Charter*.

Financial Agents

A financial agent is legally responsible for administering the candidate's campaign finances in accordance with the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*. It is the financial agent's responsibility to know, understand and follow the rules under the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* to avoid penalties such as disqualifications, administrative monetary penalties, or offences.

Financial agents have several obligations under the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, including:

- opening and depositing contributions to, and paying election-related expenses from, a candidate's campaign account;
- keeping complete and accurate campaign financing records of all transfers, campaign contributions, election expenses, and other financial transactions;

- filing the candidate's required disclosure statement with Elections BC within 90 days following general voting day; and,
- ensuring the campaign is in compliance with contribution rules and campaign period expense limits.

A candidate **must** have a financial agent. *A candidate is their own financial agent unless they appoint another individual* to the position. The appointment of a financial agent by a candidate must be made in writing and the person must consent to the appointment.

Official Agents

Candidates may appoint an official agent to represent them during the election process. The official agent may act as a campaign manager or spokesperson or be the point of contact for the people helping on a candidate's election campaign.

Scrutineers

Scrutineers represent candidates at advance, special and general voting opportunities and observe voting procedures and scrutinize the ballot-counting process after the close of voting on general voting day. Scrutineers are also known as "candidate representatives" in provincial legislation.

Further information about scrutineers is available in the [Scrutineers Guide to General Local Elections in B.C.](#)

Volunteers

Volunteers are individuals who provide services, such as preparing and distributing flyers, canvassing, phoning eligible voters, handling logistics and taking on other election campaign-related activities. Candidates and elector organizations may enlist volunteer services. A volunteer must not receive any payment or remuneration for their services.

Contact Elections BC by phone at: 250 387-5305 or elsewhere in B.C. call: 1 800 661-8683 (Toll-free) or by email at: electoral.finance@elections.bc.ca for answers to questions about being a volunteer for an election campaign.

Third Party Sponsors

A third party sponsor is an individual or organization that sponsors election advertising independently from candidates and elector organizations.

In general, third party election advertising includes any transmission of a communication to the public by anyone other than a candidate or elector organization that directly or indirectly promotes or opposes a candidate or an elector organization during the pre-campaign and campaign periods. In the **campaign period**, it also includes advertising on an issue with which a candidate or elector organization is associated.

Third party sponsors must be independent from candidates and/or elector organizations and must not coordinate, or sponsor advertising

together with, or on behalf of a candidate and/or elector organization. Third party sponsors must register with Elections BC before conducting advertising during the **pre-campaign** and campaign periods.

Refer to Elections BC's [Sponsorship Contributions – Quick Reference Sheet](#) for more information about third party sponsors.

Elector Organizations

Elector organizations are organizations that endorse or intend to endorse a candidate(s) in local elections. Elector organizations may be referred to as “civic political parties.”

Elector organizations may have their name, abbreviation or acronym shown on the ballot beside their endorsed candidate(s) name and generally promote their endorsed candidate(s) or the organization’s viewpoints during an election campaign.

Elector organizations must register with Elections BC prior to endorsing candidates or conducting any financial activity, including accepting contributions or incurring election expenses. The elector organization’s financial agent is responsible for ensuring compliance with the contribution and expense limits as well as the campaign financing disclosure requirements under the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*. Elector organizations must also file annual financial reports about their financial activities outside of elections years with Elections BC.

Refer to the [Guide to Elector Organization Registration and Deregistration](#) and the [Guide to Campaign Financing for Elector Organizations and their Financial Agents in B.C.](#) for more information about elector organizations.

Key Election Administrators

Unlike provincial elections, local elections are not managed by one organization. Each local government is responsible for running its own local elections, including voting, counting, reporting results, and accepting candidate nominations. Elections BC is responsible for administering the campaign financing and election advertising rules in the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*.

Election Officials

Municipal councils and **regional district boards** appoint a **Chief Election Officer** to administer local elections. The Chief Election Officer may be a senior local government employee (e.g., **Corporate Officer**) or a private contractor hired to conduct the election on the local government’s behalf.

Generally, Chief Election Officers are responsible for overseeing all local election administration activities, including: receiving nomination documents; declaring candidates; administering voting opportunities; counting ballots; and, declaring election results. The Chief Election Officer

The *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* refers to local Chief Election Officers as “local election officers.”

is also responsible for training the Deputy Chief Election Officer and Presiding Election Officials.

The Chief Election Officer must conduct the election in accordance with the *Local Government Act*, the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, the *Vancouver Charter*, the *Community Charter*, the *School Act*, the *Offence Act* and the local government's **election bylaw**.

Elections BC

Elections BC is the non-partisan and independent Office of the Legislature responsible for the administration of the provincial electoral process in B.C. and the campaign financing and advertising rules for local elections and non-election assent voting events under the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*.

Elections BC administers, investigates and enforces the campaign financing disclosure requirements including expense limits, campaign contribution limits and election advertising rules under the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*.

Elections BC also has the authority to conduct investigations of any matter that might contravene the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* and levy administrative monetary penalties for non-compliance with the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*.

For more information about campaign financing and third party advertising rules, please visit Elections BC's homepage for local elections: <https://elections.bc.ca/local-elections/2026-general-local-elections/>

B.C. CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

The B.C. Chief Electoral Officer's role is different from the Chief Election Officer's role. The *B.C. Chief Electoral Officer* is an independent officer of the Legislature who oversees the provincial electoral process in B.C. The *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* gives the B.C. Chief Electoral Officer the additional role of overseeing campaign financing and election advertising in local elections and ensuring compliance with the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*.

About Being an Elected Official

Local Government Act – sections 198-199, 204 and 207
Community Charter – sections 81, 119, 123 and 125
Vancouver Charter – sections 9, 139 and 145.1

Regional districts are a federation of municipalities, electoral areas, and in some cases, Treaty First Nations, each of which have representation on the regional district board.

Candidates elected as **electoral area directors** and municipal council members who are appointed as **municipal directors** serve together on the regional district board. In some instances, they may also serve with Treaty First Nation directors appointed from the governing body of the Treaty First Nation.

There are responsibilities and restrictions prospective **candidates** may wish to consider before they decide to run for elected office – these include the term of office, time commitment, remuneration, voting, financial disclosure, privacy, ethics, responsible conduct and the respective roles of elected officials and local government staff.

Term of Office

Candidates elected in **general local elections** serve a four-year term. This term begins at the first **municipal council** or **regional district board** meeting following general local elections. The term for sitting councillors ends immediately before the first council meeting following the general local elections four years later. Regional district electoral area director terms end when their successor takes office following a general local election.

Time Commitment

Holding local office can represent a significant time commitment. Councils usually hold one meeting every week or two and regional district boards generally hold one meeting each month. A municipal council appoints members to the regional district board based on who they believe best represents the municipality's regional interests.

Councillors and regional district board members may also sit on special committees, boards or commissions that may require additional meetings and time commitment, along with attending public hearings and community engagement activities.

Elected officials are expected to be prepared for meetings so they can participate in an informed way and contribute to collective decision-making.

Absences from Meetings (Disqualification)

An elected official who is absent from meetings for 60 consecutive days or four consecutive regularly scheduled council or board meetings (whichever is longer) may be disqualified from office. This does not apply when the elected official is:

- absent because of illness or injury;
- provided permission by the municipal council or regional district board to be absent;
- on parental leave;

- on mandatory leave of absence; or,
- temporarily suspended as a result of a sanction imposed after a code of conduct investigation.

Attending a council or board meeting remotely is not considered an absence where the local government has electronic meeting provisions in its meeting procedure bylaw.

Remuneration

Elected officials generally receive honouraria or other financial compensation while in elected office. Remuneration varies from community to community – in some communities, elected officials may be compensated for part-time hours and find they sometimes work full-time hours. Local governments have the legislative authority and are responsible for setting the remuneration for elected officials.

Prospective candidates may wish to contact the local government to determine the remuneration elected officials receive in a given community.

Obligation to Vote

Every elected official present at a municipal council and regional district board meeting must vote “*for*” or “*against*” a motion. Those councillors or board members that did not expressly vote “*yes*” or “*no*” on a particular matter are deemed to have voted in favour of the motion.

The only exceptions to the obligation to vote would be when an elected official has declared a conflict of interest related to the matter being voted upon or an elected official is a respondent or complainant in a code of conduct investigation and the matter to be voted on is whether to impose recommended sanctions – the elected official would then be prohibited from voting and must leave the meeting until after the vote is taken.

Ongoing Financial Disclosure

Elected officials are required under the *Financial Disclosure Act* to file a **financial disclosure statement** at the time they submit nomination documents, each year while holding office and shortly after leaving office.

The *Financial Disclosure Act* disclosure statement details an elected official’s corporate and personal holdings and must be available for public inspection.

The *Financial Disclosure Act* is administered by the Ministry of Attorney General. Refer to [Municipal officials – financial disclosure](#) for more information about ongoing financial disclosure.

Prospective candidates are required to file a financial disclosure statement at the time they submit nomination documents to the Chief Election Officer. An elected official must file a financial disclosure statement annually with the local government **Corporate Officer** while in office. Failure to file a financial disclosure statement carries a penalty of up to \$10,000.

The *Financial Disclosure Act* disclosure statement is not the same as the candidate campaign financing disclosure statement required under the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* that each candidate must file after general local elections.

Privacy

Elected officials perform many of their duties in the public eye and as such are subject to increased public interest and exposure – while campaigning for elected office, in the course of conducting their official duties on council or a regional district board, or while simply engaging in personal activities.

Election Campaigns

Legislative changes implemented for the 2026 general local elections have been made to better safeguard candidates' personal information while still providing electors with necessary information about candidate(s).

Public notices and the online publication of nomination documents will no longer include candidate personal information, such as personal telephone numbers and their residential addresses. Electors will instead see the name of the jurisdiction in which the candidate is a resident in public notices and online nomination documents – for example, the name of the municipality, electoral area, or treaty lands where the candidate resides.

Unredacted copies of the nomination documents for a candidate can still be viewed at the local government office. Prior to viewing nomination documents a person must sign a statement that they will only use the information included in them for the purposes authorized by the *Local Government Act* or the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*.

If a candidate, acting as their own financial agent, or an appointed financial agent has concerns about privacy, they can create an election campaign-specific email address or temporarily rent a P.O. Box for the duration of the local election to engage with electors, receive notices, and complete post-election reporting.

Social Media

Social media has increased the amount of exposure and feedback elected officials receive in the course of their duties. As such, aspects of an elected official's life may become a matter of public interest and may result in a loss of privacy to a lesser or greater degree.

Some steps a candidate could take to protect their privacy before starting an election campaign, include:

- familiarizing themselves with the privacy settings and moderation tools available on the social media platforms they are using;
- making social media accounts that provide a clear separation between public communications and private life optimized using each platform's settings; or,
- making a plan for responding to different kinds of behaviour or messages from users of those platforms.

If you believe you are experiencing what could be considered [criminal harassment](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/criminal-justice/victims-of-crime/victimlinkbc) contact your local police department or VictimlinkBC for information and support: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/criminal-justice/victims-of-crime/victimlinkbc>

The Ethics of Elected Office

Elected officials are entrusted with significant decision-making authority. Mayors, councillors and regional district board members are the stewards of their community's public assets and have a great deal of influence over, and responsibility for, the services and programs that citizens receive.

In their role, elected officials are expected to learn about and comply with local government legislation and other Acts, as applicable, including conduct rules, privacy and employment laws and policies, and local government procedures.

Elected officials must also conduct themselves in an open, transparent and accountable manner and avoid situations that may bring their integrity or the integrity of the municipal council or the regional district board into question.

Responsible Conduct

Responsible conduct is how locally elected officials conduct themselves in their relationships with elected colleagues, local government staff and the public – and is directly connected to how a community is governed. An elected official's relationships with their colleagues, local government staff and the public play a significant role in helping carry out their responsibilities.

Further information about [responsible conduct](#) and expectations for B.C.'s locally elected officials is available online.

Responsible conduct involves locally elected officials acting with integrity, accountability, respect, leadership and collaboration. Many local governments across B.C. utilize various tools to support responsible conduct including procedure bylaws and local government harassment and anti-bullying policies.

FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES OF RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT

- **Integrity** means being honest and demonstrating strong ethical principles.
 - Upholding the public interest, serving citizens diligently to make decisions in the best interests of the community, and behaving in a manner that promotes public confidence in local government.
- **Accountability** means an obligation and willingness to accept responsibility or to account for one's actions.
 - Being transparent in how an elected official individually, and a council/ board collectively, conducts business and carries out their duties; listening to and considering the opinions and needs of the community in all decision-making; and, allowing for discourse and feedback.
- **Respect** means having due regard for others' perspectives, wishes, and rights; displaying deference to the offices of local government, and the role of local government in community decision-making.
 - Treating every person, including other members of the council/ board, staff and the public, with dignity, understanding and respect, and valuing the role of diverse perspectives and debate in decision-making.
- **Leadership and Collaboration** means an ability to lead, listen to and positively influence others; coming together to pursue a common goal through collective efforts.
 - Calmly facing challenges and providing considered direction on the issues of the day, while empowering colleagues and staff to do the same; creating space for open expression by others; taking responsibility for one's own actions and reactions; and, accepting the decisions of the majority.

Codes of Conduct

Responsible conduct is grounded in local government practices that include strong orientation on roles and responsibilities, local government policies and procedures and information on local government legislation. Many local governments have created codes of conduct to assist locally elected officials to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner.

A code of conduct is a set of rules outlining how locally elected officials must behave when carrying out their elected duties. Codes of conduct can also promote a positive, ethics-focused organizational culture and create a shared understanding about the roles and responsibilities of locally elected officials and local government staff, and what they can and cannot do.

It is anticipated that a new provincial code of conduct framework will be in place after the 2026 general local elections that will replace existing local codes of conduct. This framework will set a standard of behaviour for locally elected officials to follow that supports good community governance and a standard code of conduct complaint, investigation, and sanction process for all local governments to follow.

The guide [*Forging the Path to Responsible Conduct in Your Local Government*](#) provides further information about responsible conduct and codes of conduct.

Conflict of Interest and Other Ethical Standards

Disclosure of Conflict

The *Community Charter* conflict of interest rules set out that local elected officials who have a financial (pecuniary) interest in a matter that will be discussed or voted upon at a municipal council or regional district board meeting must declare a conflict of interest. Following their declaration, they may not participate in discussions, vote or exercise influence on that matter.

Elected officials must not vote on, or participate in discussions about, any matters where they have a direct or indirect financial interest that is not shared with the broader community.

Municipal councils or regional district board members who believe they have a financial interest in a matter under discussion, must:

- declare their interest in the matter;
- withdraw from the meeting;
- not participate in the discussion or vote; and,
- not attempt to influence, in any way, the voting of other elected officials on the matter.

An elected official who has a direct or indirect financial interest in a matter and has participated in discussions or attempted to influence the vote or votes on the matter, may be disqualified from office.

Given that conflict of interest is complex and dependent on the particular facts in a given circumstance, conflict of interest can only be decided by the courts; ultimately the courts have the expertise to apply the law to the facts of a specific situation.

Locally elected officials are expected to comply with their local code of conduct and related policies and procedures.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Local Government Act,
section 205

Community Charter,
sections 100-109

Vancouver Charter,
sections 145.2-145.92

It would be best for that elected official to seek independent legal advice if they were unsure about whether they were in a conflict of interest.

SCENARIO – CONTRACTUAL CONFLICT?

Aaron Michaels owns Arrow Landscaping, a local gardening and landscaping company – they are also a municipal councillor.

Arrow Landscaping holds a contract with a nearby municipality and does not currently have a contract with the municipality where Aaron is a councillor – although the company did submit a bid the last time there was a request for tenders.

The current municipal landscaping contract is about to expire, and council is considering whether to extend the current contract or put the contract out to tender.

Councillor Michaels has a *direct and/or indirect financial interest* in this matter and is likely to be in a conflict of interest if they participate in any discussions or votes related to the landscaping contract.

Councillor Michaels would have a *direct financial interest* if Arrow Landscaping submitted a bid for the municipal landscaping contract. If only a small number of landscaping companies operate in the region, Councillor Michaels also has an *indirect financial interest* in decisions that affect the companies that compete with Arrow Landscaping for business – even if Arrow Landscaping did not submit a bid to provide services to the municipality.

Councillor Michaels must inform council about their connection to the contract and excuse themselves from further debate and discussion by leaving the room until the council moves on to another topic, to avoid any perception of influencing or affecting council's decision.

Inside Influence

An elected official who has a monetary interest in a matter must not use their office to attempt to influence a decision, recommendation, or action to be made or taken on a matter at a council or committee meeting, or by officers and employees of the local government. For example, a councillor would likely be in contravention of the inside influence restriction if they lobbied the municipal approving officer regarding an application to subdivide land owned by that councillor.

Outside Influence

An elected official who has a monetary interest in a matter must not use their office to attempt to influence a decision, recommendation, or other action to be made or taken on a matter by any other person or body. For example, a councillor would likely be in contravention of the outside

influence restriction if they lobbied a provincial regulator on behalf of a business partner using the municipality's letterhead in correspondence with the provincial regulator.

Accepting Gifts

Elected officials must not accept a fee, gift or other personal benefit that is directly connected to the performance of their duties as a municipal council or regional district board member. Elected officials may, however, accept gifts or other personal benefits received as a matter of social obligations or protocol related to their position (such as a gift from a visiting delegation from another government) and compensation authorized by law.

An elected official who received such a gift must file a disclosure statement with the local government **Corporate Officer**. The statement must include: the nature of the gift; its source; when it was received; and, the circumstances under which it was given and received. The statement must be filed as soon as possible after the gift was received.

Disclosure of Contracts

Elected officials must publicly disclose any contract in which they have a monetary interest. This requirement applies to contracts between the local government and elected official, as well as to contracts between the local government and persons or companies with whom the elected official is connected. For example, this would include contracts with a company in which the elected official is a director, officer, significant shareholder or senior employee.

Use of Insider Information

An elected official must not use information that is not otherwise available to the general public for gaining or furthering a monetary interest. The *Community Charter* does not specify a time limit for this restriction. As such, the restriction applies indefinitely – or until the information is made available by the municipal council or regional district board to the general public.

Voting for an Illegal Expenditure

Elected officials must not vote for a bylaw or resolution authorizing the expenditure, investment, or other use of money contrary to the *Community Charter*, *Local Government Act*, or the *Vancouver Charter*.

Consequences

Elected officials who contravene any of the conflict-of-interest provisions may be disqualified from holding office and may be required to pay the local government for any financial gain as a result of the contravention.

Elected officials are not authorized to fulfill local government staff roles or duties.

Confidentiality

Past and present elected officials are required to keep confidential information private until such time as that information is made publicly available by the municipal council or regional district board.

Information discussed in closed meetings and information contained in records that have not been released to the public must be kept confidential until that information is released in an open meeting.

A local government may recover any damages that result from an elected official, or former elected official, who intentionally disclosed confidential information.

Elected Officials and Local Government Staff

Elected officials perform a role that is distinct from the role of the Chief Administrative Officer, or **Corporate Officer**, and other local government staff.

Role of Elected Officials

Elected officials are decision-makers and set strategic policies and priorities for the municipality or regional district – they do not implement policies and decisions or otherwise administer the local government.

Elected officials do not have regular contact with local government staff, nor do elected officials perform, or supervise, the roles or duties assigned to local government staff. An elected official must not interfere with, hinder, or obstruct the work of local government officers or employees.

Role of the Mayor or Board Chair

In addition to the responsibilities of a councillor or board member, the mayor and regional district board chair provides leadership by:

- recommending bylaws and resolutions that may assist in good governance;
- chairing meetings and maintaining the order and conduct of debate;
- attending ceremonies and meetings on behalf of the council/board;
- communicating information from the Chief Administrative Officer or outside meetings to council/board;
- establishing standing committees; and,
- communicating council or board decisions to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and/or City Manager so staff may implement policies, programs and other decisions.

Role of Local Government Staff

Local government staff (e.g., Chief Administrative Officer and Corporate Officer) are responsible for implementing municipal council or regional district board decisions and providing advice to elected officials.

The Chief Administrative Officer or Corporate Officer is the primary point of contact between elected officials and local government staff (e.g., bylaw enforcement officers, public works staff) employed by the municipality or regional district.

Prospective candidates must have been a B.C. resident prior to **Tuesday, March 10** to be eligible to run in the 2026 general local elections.

Local government employees must take a leave of absence to run for elected office and must resign from their position if elected.

Who May Run For Office

To run for local office (e.g. **mayor, councillor, or electoral area director**), **you** must:

- be 18 years of age or older on general voting day;
- be a Canadian citizen;
- have been a resident of British Columbia for at least six months immediately before filing nomination documents; and,
- not be disqualified under the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment from voting in an election in British Columbia or from being nominated for, being elected to or holding the office, or be otherwise disqualified by law.

Prospective candidates for local office must be nominated by at least two eligible electors from the jurisdiction where the person is seeking election. Local governments may require up to 10 or 25 nominators for each prospective candidate. Specific details about local nomination requirements are available by contacting the Chief Election Officer.

Local Government Employees

Local government staff (e.g., officers and employees), who wish to run for office in the local government where they work must take a leave of absence in order to run and they must resign if elected.

The requirement for a salaried employee to take a leave of absence and resign if successfully elected may apply in the following circumstances, a:

- municipal employee running for elected office in the municipality in which they are employed;
- municipal employee seeking to be elected as an electoral area director for the regional district of which their municipal employer is a member;
- regional district employee seeking to be elected as a member of the board of the regional district in which they are employed; and,
- regional district employee seeking to be elected as the mayor or councillor of a municipality that is a member of the regional district.

An employee who was not successful in their bid for local elected office would then return to the job from which they took the required leave of absence.

Local Government Volunteers

Generally, volunteers who do not receive monetary compensation for services provided to a local government are not “employees” for election purposes and would not be required to take a leave of absence or resign if elected.

A person may still be considered a volunteer if they are compensated for the requirements set out in the [Volunteer Eligibility for Office Regulation](#).

If a volunteer receives monetary compensation from the local government (e.g., some volunteer firefighters) and their role is not covered by the *Volunteer Eligibility for Office Regulation*, they may be considered an ‘employee’ and would need to take a leave of absence and resign if successfully elected to office.

B.C. Public Service Employees

B.C. Public Service employees may seek nomination as a candidate in local elections. The duties of elected office must not affect the employee’s normal working hours and there must not be a conflict of interest between the employee’s duties as an elected official and their duties as a B.C. Public Service employee.

Federal Employees

Federal public service employees may seek nomination as a candidate in local elections after they obtain permission from the Public Service Commission of Canada (PSC).

Federal employees must not be declared as candidates or undertake any candidacy-related activities unless they have first obtained permission from the PSC. The PSC may grant permission, with or without conditions, when it is satisfied that seeking nomination as, or being, a candidate will not impair or be perceived as impairing an employee’s ability to perform their job-related duties in a politically impartial manner.

Visit: [Political Activities - Canada.ca](https://politicalactivities-canada.ca), or contact the PSC at 1 866 707-7152 (Toll-free), or by e-mail at cfp.activitespolitiques-politicalactivities.psc@canada.ca for further information.

Members of the B.C Legislative Assembly

Members of the Legislative Assembly of B.C. may not hold office both provincially and locally at the same time and will be deemed to have resigned from any elected local office when accepting provincial office.

Further information about local government employees, local government volunteers, B.C. Public Service employees and Federal Government employees eligibility to run for office is [available online](#).

Who May Not Run for Office

A person is not eligible to run as a candidate for any local government office if they:

- have been convicted of an indictable offence and are disqualified from the date of the conviction until the date on which they are sentenced;
- have been convicted of and sentenced for an indictable offence and are in custody;
- have been found guilty of an election offence, such as intimidation or vote- buying or other election offence, and are prohibited from holding office;
- are judges of the Provincial Court, Supreme Court or Court of Appeal;
- are involuntarily confined to a psychiatric facility or other institution;
- have been disqualified for specified reasons such as, failing to:
 - file a campaign financing disclosure statement in a previous election;
 - make an oath of office; or,
 - attend local government meetings in the manner and frequency required by legislation; or,
- have been disqualified under the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment from voting in an election in British Columbia or from being nominated for, being elected to or holding the office, or be otherwise disqualified by law.

Nomination Period and Declaration of Candidates

The nomination period is the only time during which the **Chief Election Officer** is permitted to accept nomination documents and deposits (where applicable) from nominees for office. The nomination period begins at 9:00 a.m. local time on the 46th day before general voting day and ends at 4:00 p.m. local time on the 36th day before general voting day.

The Chief Election Officer is required to publish notice about the nomination period that includes: the offices for which candidates are to be elected; the dates, times and places at which nominations will be received; and, how interested individuals can obtain information about the requirements and procedures for making a nomination.

It is the nominee's responsibility to ensure all the required information in the nomination documents are submitted to the Chief Election Officer (or designate) by the deadline and that the information is accurate and complete. A nominee officially becomes a **candidate** when they have submitted all the required information in the nomination documents and have been subsequently declared a candidate by the Chief Election Officer.

The Chief Election Officer officially declares the nominees who have met the candidacy requirements and have become candidates for the local government election immediately following the end of the nomination period.

The Chief Election Officer may extend the nomination period until 4:00 p.m. local time on the third day after the end of the nomination period when there are fewer candidates than positions to be elected. Any subsequent nominees would be declared candidates at that time.

Who May Nominate

Prospective candidates for local office must be nominated by at least two eligible electors from the municipality or electoral area where the person is seeking election. Local governments have the ability in their election bylaw to require two, 10, or, in **jurisdictions** with populations greater than 5,000, 25 nominators for each prospective candidate.

A nominator must be eligible to vote in the jurisdiction as a **resident elector** or as a **non-resident property elector**. To nominate a candidate for local office, the nominator must:

- be 18 years of age or older when they register to vote or will be 18 years of age or older on general voting day;

The nomination period for the 2026 general local elections begins at 9:00 a.m. local time on **Tuesday, September 1** and ends at 4:00 p.m. local time on **Friday, September 11**.

The declaration of candidates for the 2026 general local elections takes place at 4:00 p.m. local time on **Friday, September 11**.

The nomination period for the 2026 general local elections may be extended until 4:00 p.m. local time on **Monday, September 14** if there are insufficient candidates.

Contact the Chief Election Officer to determine the number of nominators required by the local government. Local government contact information is available from [CivicInfo BC](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov2/civinfo/)

A nominator **MUST** be an elector of the municipality or electoral area (or neighbourhood constituency, if applicable). Elector qualifications are listed in sections 65 and 66 of the *Local Government Act* and sections 23 and 24 of the *Vancouver Charter*.

- be a Canadian citizen;
- have been a resident of B.C. for at least six months before registering to vote;
- be a resident in the municipality or electoral area for which the nomination is being made, or in the case of a non-resident property elector, own real property in the municipality or electoral area, for 30 days immediately before the day of registration; and,
- not be disqualified under the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment from voting in an election or be otherwise disqualified by law.

Endorsement by an Elector Organization

Only elector organizations registered with Elections BC can complete the endorsement section of the candidate's nomination documents, receive campaign contributions, and incur election expenses. The elector organization must have a membership of at least 50 eligible electors (either resident electors or non-resident property electors) at the time it submits registration information to Elections BC.

An **elector organization** endorses a candidate on the ballot by working with the candidate to complete the endorsement section of the candidate's nomination documents. Candidates endorsed by elector organizations must indicate their consent to the endorsement by providing their signature as part of the nomination documents submitted to the Chief Election Officer.

An elector organization cannot endorse more candidates in an election than there are offices to be filled, and a candidate can only be endorsed by one elector organization.

Refer to the [Guide to Elector Organization Registration and Deregistration](#) and the [Guide to Local Elections Campaign Financing in B.C. for Elector Organizations and their Financial Agents](#) for more information about elector organization endorsements.

Nomination Documents

Nomination documents are generally available from local government offices during regular business hours – two to four weeks before the nomination period begins and remain available until the nomination period ends.

Nomination documents must include the following:

- the person's full name (first, middle, last);

Elections BC's deadline for elector organizations to register to endorse candidates in the 2026 general local elections is **Sunday, July 31**.

- the person's usual name, if it is different from their full name and they would rather have that name appear on the ballot – e.g., Cathy instead of Catherine;
- the office for which the person is nominated (e.g., mayor, councillor, or electoral area director);
- the person's residential address;
- the person's mailing address, if different from their residential address;
- the names and residential addresses of nominators, and, if one or more of the nominators is a non-resident property elector, the address of the property owned by the nominator(s) in the jurisdiction;
- a statement signed by each nominator that, to the best of their knowledge, the person is qualified to hold local government office in British Columbia; and,
- signed statements by the candidate and the authorized principal official of an elector organization agreeing to an endorsement, if applicable.

The nomination documents must also include supporting information that demonstrates the person's consent and preparedness to run in general local elections, including:

- the person's written consent to the nomination;
- the person's financial disclosure statement, as required by section 2(1) of the *Financial Disclosure Act*;
- a signed declaration that either the person is acting as their own financial agent, or identifying the individual they have appointed as their financial agent;
- the person's **solemn declaration** that:
 - they are qualified to be nominated for office;
 - the information provided in the nomination documents is true;
 - they fully intend to accept the office if elected; and,
 - they are aware of the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, understand the requirements and restrictions under that Act and intend to comply with those requirements.

An individual that is not submitting nomination documents in-person to the Chief Election Officer must make arrangements for completing the solemn declaration prior to the close of the nomination period.

Nomination documents can be submitted to the Chief Election Officer, or other person designated for that purpose, in-person, by mail, fax or email before 4:00 p.m. local time at the end of the nomination period.

Do not include additional information on nomination documents that is not required by legislation (e.g., personal telephone number).

Prospective candidates must be aware of, understand and intend to comply with the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*.

The nomination is not valid if all nomination documents are not received by the end of the nomination period.

Any changes to the nomination document information that takes place after the election results have been declared must be sent directly to Elections BC.

Standardized nomination forms are available from local governments across B.C.

SOLEMN DECLARATIONS

Candidates must make a “solemn declaration” as part of the nomination process. **Solemn declarations** require the person making the declaration to attest to the truthfulness of a given statement – such as that a candidate is aware of certain legislative requirements or intends to take office if elected.

Solemn declarations are legal statements and the person making the declaration is responsible for ensuring that they are making true and accurate solemn declarations. A person who made a false or misleading solemn declaration has committed an election offence and is subject to penalties including fines of up to \$5,000 and/or imprisonment for up to one year.

Prospective candidates can make the required solemn declarations with a Commissioner for Taking Affidavits for B.C. (e.g., lawyer, notary public) or make a declaration before the Chief Election Officer when the prospective candidate submits their nomination documents.

Nomination Deposits

Local governments may require prospective candidates to pay a refundable nomination deposit of up to \$100 when they submit their nomination documents – the deposits are fully refunded when candidates file their campaign financing disclosure statement with Elections BC within 90 days following local elections.

The nomination deposit is refunded by the local government when a nominee withdraws their candidacy before the nomination period ends.

Contact the Chief Election Officer to determine if a nomination deposit is required by the local government.

Challenge of Nomination

Nomination documents are available for public inspection in local government offices during regular office hours from the time they have been submitted until 30 days after the election results have

been declared. A person must sign a statement that they will only use the information included in nomination documents for the purposes authorized by the *Local Government Act* or the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* prior to viewing the nomination documents.

Local governments may, by bylaw, choose to make all or part of the documents publicly available (e.g. on the Internet or by other electronic means) during all or part of the public inspection period. A candidate's residential address cannot be included in nomination documents available outside the local government office to enhance candidate privacy.

A person who inspects or accesses nomination documents must only use the information they contain for purposes related to:

- local election activities;
- the conflict-of-interest provisions in the *Community Charter*, *Vancouver Charter*, and/or *School Act*;
- the disqualification provisions in the *Local Government Act*, *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, *Community Charter* and/or *Vancouver Charter*; and/or,
- provisions in the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

An eligible **elector**, another nominee for office or the Chief Election Officer can challenge a prospective candidate's nomination when they believe the nomination documents are incorrect or the person is not eligible to be nominated for office. Nomination challenges must be made through an application to the Provincial Court.

The Provincial Court accepts challenges to nominations from the time the nomination documents were submitted to the Chief Election Officer until 4:00 p.m. local time on the fourth day after the nomination period ends. The application must briefly set out the facts upon which the challenge is based and be supported by an affidavit signed by the challenger. The Provincial Court is required to hear the challenge and make a ruling within 72 hours of the challenge period ending.

A prospective candidate whose nomination has been challenged is entitled to immediate notification of the challenge. They must receive a copy of the challenge of nomination application and the date and time of the Provincial Court hearing within 24 hours of the application being submitted to the Provincial Court. The prospective candidate is also entitled to an opportunity to prove their eligibility to be nominated for elected office. The Provincial Court decision on the challenge of nomination is final and may not be appealed.

Nomination documents for the 2026 general local elections are available for public inspection until **Friday, November 20** if the official election results were declared on **Wednesday, October 21**.

Challenges to nominations for the 2026 general local elections can be submitted until 4:00 p.m. local time on **Tuesday, September 15**. The Provincial Court is required to hear the challenge and make a ruling by 4:00 p.m. local time on **Friday, September 18**.

Nominees for the 2026 general local elections may withdraw their candidacy until 4:00 p.m. local time on Friday, September 18.	Withdrawing a Nomination Prospective candidates may reconsider and withdraw their candidacy during the nomination period and for seven days following the close of nominations. The prospective candidate must provide written notice of their withdrawal to the Chief Election Officer, and the Chief Election Officer must then remove the prospective candidate's name from the ballot. In some situations, a prospective candidate may still withdraw their candidacy after the deadline by giving written notice to the Chief Election Officer. The Minister responsible for local government must approve the withdrawal before the Chief Election Officer can remove the prospective candidate's name from the ballot. It is unlikely a candidate withdrawal will be approved by the Minister if the withdrawal request is received after ballots are printed. <i>The Minister is not obligated to approve a prospective candidate's withdrawal.</i> Candidates no longer wishing to be elected are responsible for communicating this to electors. Any candidates who have withdrawn from general local elections after candidates have been declared by the Chief Election Officer at the end of the nomination period are required to file a campaign financing disclosure statement with Elections BC – even if they received no campaign contributions and incurred no election expenses. Candidates who fail to file a campaign financing disclosure statement, or do not obtain a Supreme Court order for relief from the obligation to file, forfeit their nomination deposit to the local government, are automatically disqualified from being nominated for, elected to or holding office anywhere in B.C. until after the next general local elections and potentially face additional penalties. A candidate declared elected also loses their seat and the seat then becomes vacant. Campaign financing disclosure statements are not required when a prospective candidate withdraws before the declaration of candidates. Any nomination deposit paid by the prospective candidate is returned after the nomination period ends. Refer to Elections BC's Guide to Local Elections Campaign Financing in B.C. for Candidates and their Financial Agents for more information about campaign financing disclosure.
Prospective candidates are not required to file candidate campaign financing disclosure documents for the 2026 general local elections if they withdraw before candidates are declared.	

What are Election Campaigns?

An **election campaign** is a connected series of actions (e.g., advertising, canvassing, meetings and speeches) for the purpose of electing a **candidate** or a group of candidates.

Typically, an election campaign involves candidates and/or elector organizations communicating with the electorate, through:

- public appearances and speeches;
- advertisements on television, radio, the Internet and social media (e.g., Instagram, Bluesky, YouTube), in newspapers and in magazines;
- brochures, signs, posters and billboards;
- mail inserts and newsletters; and,
- bumper stickers, buttons and displays and/or exhibitions.

An election campaign may be undertaken by a candidate or an elector organization during local elections. In some cases, candidates and elector organizations may work together on an election campaign where the elector organization has endorsed the candidate; in other cases, a group of candidates who are not endorsed by an elector organization may choose to work together to share costs.

ELECTION PERIOD, PRE-CAMPAIGN PERIOD AND CAMPAIGN PERIOD

The **election period** for general local elections begins at the start of the calendar year (January 1) in which the general local elections will be held and ends at the start of the campaign period (28 days before general voting day).

The **pre-campaign period** for general local elections begins on the 89th day before general voting and ends on the 29th day before general voting day.

The **campaign period** for general local elections begins on the 28th day before general voting day and ends on the close of general voting day.

There are a number of election financing rules, including recording and disclosure requirements that apply to candidates, elector organizations and third party sponsors during the election, pre-campaign and campaign periods.

The election period for the 2026 general local elections begins on **Thursday, January 1** and ends at midnight on **Friday, September 18**.

The pre-campaign period for the 2026 general local elections begins on **Monday, July 20** and ends on **Friday, September 18**.

The campaign period for the 2026 general local elections begins on **Saturday, September 19** and ends on **Saturday, October 17**.

Elector Organizations Must be Registered

Only elector organizations registered with Elections BC can endorse candidates on their nomination documents, receive campaign contributions and incur election expenses.

Candidate Election Campaigns

Candidates generally direct their own election campaigns during local elections. Candidates may retain an election campaign manager and campaign **volunteers** to prepare and distribute flyers, call eligible voters, handle logistics and take on other election campaign-related activities. Candidates have considerable flexibility in organizing their election campaigns, provided they avoid committing election and/or campaign financing offences.

Refer to Elections BC's [Candidate Information webpage](#) for more information about the campaign financing and election advertising rules that apply to candidates.

Elector Organization Election Campaigns

Fundamentally, elector organizations endorse candidates. Elector organizations may have their name, abbreviation or acronym shown on the ballot beside their endorsed candidate(s) name and generally promote their endorsed candidate(s) or the organization's viewpoints during an election campaign.

Elector organizations and candidates each direct their own separate election campaign; however, an endorsed candidate may decide not to run their own election campaign and instead rely solely on the elector organization to run campaign activities on the candidate's behalf.

Alternatively, a candidate and an elector organization may agree to run complementary campaigns in which both the candidate and the elector organization undertake election campaign activities designed to elect that candidate within a specific jurisdiction.

Campaign financing and election advertising rules apply to elector organization election campaigns. Every elector organization must appoint a **financial agent** to ensure the financial aspects of the election campaign are run in accordance with the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*.

All candidates endorsed by an elector organization must include the endorsement on their nomination documents and have a written campaign financing arrangement with the elector organization.

Refer to Elections BC's [Elector Organizations webpage](#) for more information about the campaign financing and election advertising rules that apply to elector organizations.

Third Party Sponsor Advertising

A **third party sponsor** is an individual or organization that conducts election advertising independently from a candidate or elector organization campaign. Third party sponsors must be independent from

candidates and/or elector organizations and must not coordinate, or sponsor advertising together with, or on behalf of a candidate and/or elector organization.

Third party sponsors are required to register with Elections BC before undertaking election advertising during the **pre-campaign** and **campaign periods**.

Refer to Elections BC's [Local Third Party Advertising Sponsors webpage](#) for more information about contribution and expense limits and election advertising rules that apply to third party sponsors.

Key Election Campaign Activities

Key campaign activities may include canvassing, telephone banks, events and advertising designed to promote a candidate or a group of candidates and communicate their election platform to the electorate during an election campaign.

Campaign activities usually trigger campaign financing rules and candidates must ensure they are aware of and follow the rules. A candidate that has failed to follow campaign financing requirements may have committed an offence and may be subject to penalties.

Visit Elections BC's [website](#) or contact Elections BC staff by phone at: 250 387-5305, or elsewhere in B.C. call: 1 800 661-8683 (Toll-free), or by email at: electoral.finance@elections.bc.ca for detailed information about campaign financing rules.

Advertising Rules

There are limits placed on sponsorship contributions made by eligible individuals to third party sponsors.

LIST OF REGISTERED ELECTORS (VOTER'S LIST)

Each candidate is entitled to one free copy of a list of registered electors (voter's list) if one is used by the local government to register electors in advance. Additional copies may be available to candidates at a cost determined by the local government. A list of registered electors is not available if the local government only permits registration on voting day (same day registration).

The list of registered electors must only be used by candidates for election campaign- related purposes – such as door-knocking, canvassing voters, flyer distribution, and/or calling eligible voters to remind them to “get out and vote.”

A candidate must agree, in writing, that the information provided on the list of registered electors will only be used for election purposes before receiving a copy of the list. Contact the local government for more information about how to obtain a copy of the list of registered electors, if it is available.

A candidate using the list of registered electors must treat the personal information it contains carefully. The list must be returned to the local government or otherwise destroyed following the local elections.

It is an election offence to transmit election advertising on general voting day.

Canvassing

Candidates and campaign **volunteers** may canvass door-to-door throughout the community in order to raise awareness about the candidate or elector organization and their election platform, identify which issues are important to electors and determine elector support for a given candidate.

Candidates and their canvassers must have reasonable access to distribute candidate information at cooperative, strata and rental properties from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. local time during the **campaign period**.

Government-issued photo ID and proof of candidacy, or written authorization to canvass on behalf of a candidate, must be made available upon request when a candidate and/or their canvassers are canvassing in a cooperative, strata or rental property.

Telephone Banks

Candidates may establish telephone banks as one aspect of their election campaign. Campaign volunteers may use the telephone bank to contact eligible **electors** to raise awareness about the candidate or elector organization, determine the level of support for their candidate and identify which issues are important to electors.

In-person telephone banks (as opposed to autodialing robocalls) may also be used by candidates or their representatives during advance and general voting opportunities to contact and remind eligible electors to “get out and vote.” Election advertising, including phone calls, encouraging electors to vote for a particular candidate is not permitted on general voting day.

In-person Events

Candidates may hold “meet and greet” events (e.g., luncheons or fundraising dinners) where the electorate can listen to their platform or position on specific issues and ask questions.

Local governments, community groups and local media often provide opportunities for candidates to communicate their platform or position on specific issues to the electorate at “all-candidate forums.” Local governments are not obligated to organize, supervise or inform candidates of these events.

Advertising

Advertising is a key component in most local election campaigns. Subject to the campaign financing and election advertising rules in the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, candidates, registered elector organizations and registered **third party sponsors** may use print, radio, television, the Internet and/or social media advertising to promote or oppose candidates, elector organizations or points of view during an election campaign.

Election advertising and campaigning of any sort is prohibited within 100 metres of a voting place during voting proceedings. This includes displaying signs, posters, flyers, bumper stickers on vehicles parked outside the voting place, badges worn by supporters, canvassing or soliciting votes, or otherwise trying to influence electors to vote for a particular candidate.

Refer to Elections BC's [*Guide to Local Elections Campaign Financing in B.C. for Elector Organizations and their Financial Agents*](#) for more information about election advertising.

Signs

Signs play a significant role in election advertising. Candidates may have supporters display signs on their behalf in windows, on lawns, or post signs in other public places throughout the **jurisdiction**.

Local governments have the authority to regulate the size, placement, maintenance and removal of signs and other forms of public advertising – the rules may be quite different between local governments.

The Ministry of Transportation and Transit regulates sign placement along Provincial highways, medians, bridges and along major roadways. Contact the local government or local [*Ministry of Transportation and Transit office*](#) before placing election campaign signs on medians, bridges or along major roads.

Sponsorship Information

Sponsorship information, also known as an authorization statement, is required on most election advertising during the pre-campaign and campaign periods. Sponsorship information must include: the name of the financial agent, an indication that it was authorized by the identified financial agent, a B.C. phone number, or B.C. mailing address or email address at which the financial agent can be contacted.

Refer to Election BC's [*Guide to Campaign Financing for Local Candidates and Financial Agents in B.C.*](#) for more details about sponsorship information.

Local government contact information is available from CivicInfo BC online at: <https://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/directories>.

Local Election Offences and Penalties

Local Government Act – sections 161-166

Candidates and campaign workers convicted of vote-buying, intimidation, campaigning near a voting place during voting proceedings, providing or distributing false information, or conducting other activities contrary to the *Local Government Act* or *Vancouver Charter* may be subject to penalties.

Election Offences

Vote-buying

It is an election offence to offer inducements to an elector to vote or not to vote, or to vote or not vote for a particular candidate. Inducements include money, gifts, valuable consideration, refreshments, entertainment, office, placement, employment and any other benefit of any kind. It is also an offence for an elector to accept inducements for refraining from voting or voting in a particular way.

Examples of vote-buying include buying coffee for an elector or volunteering to drive an elector to a voting place in exchange for their vote for a particular candidate. These activities would be permitted provided there is no subjective intent to influence another person's voting behaviour.

Intimidation

It is an election offence to intimidate an elector, by action or threat, to compel the elector to vote, to vote for a particular candidate, or to refrain from voting. It is also an election offence to punish an elector for voting or refraining from voting generally, or for voting for a particular candidate(s).

Intimidation means to use force, violence or restraint against a person; inflict injury, harm, damage or loss on a person or property; or to threaten to do any of those actions.

Other Election Offences

Other election offences under the *Local Government Act* and *Vancouver Charter* include, and are not limited to:

- falsely withdrawing a candidate from an election, distributing a false statement that a candidate has withdrawn or falsely withdrawing an elector organization's candidate endorsement, or consenting to nomination knowing they are not qualified to be nominated;
- participating in fraudulently voting, including voting when not entitled to do so, voting more than once in an election, obtaining a ballot in the name of another person, or failing to preserve the secrecy of a ballot;

- interfering with the secrecy of the ballot, tampering with ballots or ballot boxes, or printing, reproducing, giving out or destroying ballots without authorization;
- campaigning and engaging in other activities that show support for one candidate over another, or for an elector organization, within 100 metres of a voting place during voting proceedings;
- providing false or misleading information or statements/declarations when the *Local Government Act* or *Vancouver Charter* requires or authorizes individuals to provide it;
- inspecting or accessing election materials or using the information for purposes not authorized under the *Local Government Act* or *Vancouver Charter*; and,
- interfering, hindering or obstructing an election official or other person in the performance of their duties under the *Local Government Act*, *Vancouver Charter*, or *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*.

Election Offences Under the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*

Under the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* an individual or organization must not transmit election advertising to the public on General Voting Day except advertising:

- on the internet for the sole purpose of encouraging voters to vote;
- on the internet that was not changed during general voting day; and/or,
- by means of signs, posters, banners, distributing pamphlets.

In addition, individuals and organizations could be penalized for:

- failing to file a disclosure statement or financial report;
- filing a false or misleading disclosure statement;
- exceeding the expense limit;
- failing to return prohibited campaign / sponsorship contributions;
- failing to include sponsorship information on election advertising; and/or,
- making or accepting prohibited loans.

Election offences are generally dealt with by the Supreme Court of B.C. Generally, local election offences are prosecuted if Crown counsel chooses to proceed with laying charges after the police have undertaken an investigation and made a recommendation to Crown counsel.

Reporting and Enforcement of Local Election Offences

The police are responsible for conducting an investigation and recommending to Crown counsel whether charges could be laid for serious election offences such as vote buying or intimidation. Crown counsel makes the determination as to whether to proceed with a prosecution. Election offences are prosecuted through the courts.

An individual can contact their local Chief Election Officer and/or police if they believe someone has committed an election offence. In some cases, the local Chief Election Officer will be able to deal with the offence immediately (e.g. covering up a sign placed within 100 metres of a voting location), and in others the police may need to be involved.

The Chief Election Officer may refer matters to the police and may also submit an application to the court about the validity of the election if the Chief Election Officer becomes aware that vote buying, intimidation or voting when not entitled occurred during the election.

An officer, director, employee or agent who authorizes, permits, or acquiesces in the offence commits the same offence when an organization commits an offence.

The time limit for initiating the prosecution of an offence under Part 3 of the *Local Government Act* or Part 1 of the *Vancouver Charter* is one year after the date on which the act or omission that is alleged to constitute the offence occurred.

Prosecution of an offence under the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* may only commence with the approval of the BC Chief Electoral Officer. If the BC Chief Electoral Officer believes there are reasonable grounds that an individual or organization has contravened the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* or its regulations, the BC Chief Electoral Officer may refer the matter to the Criminal Justice Branch of the Ministry of Attorney General for a determination of whether to approve a prosecution.

Contraventions of campaign financing rules that result in an offence are determined by the Supreme Court of B.C. A person that believes that a person or organization has committed a campaign financing election offence can notify Elections BC.

Local Election Penalties

A person who commits vote buying or intimidation is liable to a fine of up to \$10,000, imprisonment of up to two years, and/or disqualification from holding office for up to seven years, in addition to any other penalty under legislation.

A person or unincorporated organization that commits any other election offence under the *Local Government Act* or the *Vancouver Charter* is liable to a fine of up to \$5,000 and/or imprisonment of up to one year.

The *Local Government Act* and *Vancouver Charter* provide that a person or unincorporated organization is not guilty of an offence if the person or organization exercised due diligence to prevent the commission of the offence.

Offences in the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* are separated into higher penalty offences and lower penalty offences. Higher penalty offences include offences for failure to file by compliance deadline and general offence in relation to false or misleading information. An individual who commits a higher penalty offence may face a fine of up to \$10,000 and/or imprisonment of up to two years. An organization that commits a higher penalty offence may face a fine of up to \$20,000.

Lower penalty offences apply to all other offences under the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*. A person who commits a lower penalty offence may face a fine of up to \$5,000 and/or imprisonment of up to one year. An organization that commits a lower penalty offence may face a fine of up to \$10,000.

Role of Local Election Officials

The Chief Election Officer and Presiding Election Officials are responsible for maintaining the integrity and secrecy of the voting process. This includes: restricting or regulating the number of people admitted to a voting place; removing or covering election advertising within 100 metres of a voting place during voting proceedings; requiring a person to show identification when they believe the person is at a voting place when not permitted to be present, disturbing the peace and order of voting, interfering with voting proceedings or contravening elections legislation.

The Chief Election Officer or Presiding Election Officials may order anyone engaged in these activities, including **scrutineers**, to leave a voting place and remove, or have a peace officer remove, the person. Election officials also have the authority to challenge an elector's ability to vote on the basis that they are not entitled to vote or that they accepted an inducement to vote.

In extreme cases the Chief Election Officer or Presiding Election Official may adjourn voting proceedings when they believe people's health or safety at the voting place or the integrity of the vote is at risk.

Elections BC can delegate authority to Chief Election Officers during the **campaign period** to enter onto property and remove, cover or destroy election advertising that contravenes the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*.

[See Appendix A](#) for information about local elections partner roles and responsibilities.

[See Appendix C](#) for questions and answers about the Chief Election Officer's role and responsibilities.

Candidate Representatives

Local Government Act – sections 102 and 103
Vancouver Charter – sections 53 and 54
Local Elections Campaign Financing Act – section 17

Contact the local government for information about how candidate representatives make their **solemn declaration**.

A **candidate** may appoint an individual or individuals to assist running an **election campaign** and to otherwise represent the candidate when the candidate is unable to appear in person. Each candidate may choose to appoint an official agent and/or **scrutineers**. Every candidate must have a **financial agent** – they are their own financial agent unless they appoint another individual to the position.

Each candidate representative who attends a voting place must have made a solemn declaration to preserve the secrecy of the ballot and not interfere with an elector marking a ballot. Official agents and scrutineers may attend a voting place once they have made their solemn declaration – financial agents must have permission from the Presiding Election Official to be present at a voting place. A candidate representative present at election proceedings must carry a copy of their appointment document.

Financial Agent

A financial agent is a representative that candidates and elector organizations are legally required to have during an election campaign. Financial agents are responsible for administering campaign finances in accordance with the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*. This includes:

- opening and depositing contributions to, and paying election-related expenses from, a candidate's campaign account;
- maintaining records for campaign contributions, election expenses and all other campaign transactions; and,
- filing the candidate's required disclosure statement with Elections BC within 90 days following general voting day.

A candidate is their own financial agent unless they appoint another individual to the position. A candidate who chooses to appoint another person to act as their financial agent must make that appointment in writing. The appointment must include the:

- person's full name;
- effective date of the appointment;
- mailing address, **address for service**, telephone number and email address (if available) for the person appointed; and,
- person's signed consent to act as the financial agent.

A candidate is their own financial agent unless they appoint another individual to be their financial agent.

The appointment must be signed by the candidate and submitted to the Chief Election Officer as part of the nomination package. The financial agent appointment information is then forwarded by the Chief Election Officer to Elections BC as soon as practicable.

A person may act as a financial agent for more than one election campaign. A person may act as the financial agent for an elector organization and all candidates the elector organization has endorsed. However, each election campaign may have only one financial agent at a time.

Refer to Elections BC's [Guide to Local Elections Campaign Financing in B.C. for Candidates and their Financial Agents](#) for information about the financial agent's role and responsibilities.

Official Agent

Candidates may appoint an official agent to represent them during the election process. The official agent can act as the campaign manager or spokesperson or be the point of contact for the people helping on the candidate's election campaign. Official agents can appoint scrutineers to represent the candidate during voting proceedings.

A candidate must appoint their official agent in writing and deliver the appointment (including name and address) to the Chief Election Officer as soon as practicable after the appointment has been made.

Scrutineers

Scrutineers represent candidates at voting opportunities by observing voting procedures and scrutinizing the ballot-counting process at the close of voting on general voting day. A candidate and/or their official agent may appoint scrutineers.

Each candidate is permitted under the *Local Government Act* or *Vancouver Charter* to appoint one scrutineer for each ballot box used at a voting place. A local government may pass a bylaw to permit each candidate to have more than one scrutineer present for each ballot box used at a voting place and establish specific restrictions and conditions in the bylaw as deemed necessary.

The scrutineer appointment must be made in writing and must include the person's full name and mailing address. The appointment must be signed by the candidate and submitted to the Chief Election Officer as soon as practicable after the appointment has been made.

Refer to the [Scrutineer's Guide to Local Elections in B.C.](#) for further information about scrutineers.

Candidate representatives (e.g., scrutineers) must carry copies of their appointment documents whenever they represent the candidate at an election proceeding.

Voting places must be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. local time on general voting day and the required advance voting opportunities.

Voting Times

Voting places must be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. local time on **general voting day**, the required **advance voting opportunity** and another advance voting opportunity (date can be determined by the local government) for local governments with populations greater than 5,000.

Local governments may set specific hours for any special voting opportunities or additional advance voting opportunities held during local elections.

All voting places must close by 8:00 p.m. local time on general voting day.

Conduct at Voting Places

The Chief Election Officer has the authority to establish the process and standards of conduct that voters, candidates and candidate representatives (e.g., scrutineers) must abide by at voting places during advance, special and general voting day opportunities.

Candidate Conduct

Candidates must not be present at a voting place during an advance or special voting opportunity or on general voting day except to cast their ballot. Candidates must not campaign within 100 metres of a voting place on general voting day – it is an election offence to do so. Candidates may wish to cast their ballot at an advance voting opportunity to avoid the appearance of campaigning on general voting day.

Scrutineer Conduct

Candidates (and/or their official agent) may appoint scrutineers to observe the voting and ballot counting process at voting places during advance, special and general voting opportunities.

Scrutineers must follow the legislation, the local government's election bylaw and the direction of the Chief Election Officer and Presiding Election Official at the voting place and during voting proceedings and the ballot counting process. Scrutineers must not interfere with the voting place routines and/or the election officials' duties. Scrutineers are not permitted to handle election documents.

While scrutineers are appointed to represent candidates at a voting opportunity, they are not there to campaign for the candidates. Scrutineers are there to neutrally observe the voting process and are not permitted to wear anything that shows support for a particular candidate (e.g., shirt, hat, button) while they are in or near the voting place.

Local governments, by bylaw, and Chief Election Officers have the authority to establish specific rules governing scrutineer conduct and responsibilities.

Scrutineers and election officials generally only communicate during times when no voters are present at the voting place – unless the scrutineer has challenged a voter’s eligibility to receive a ballot. A scrutineer may challenge a voter’s right to receive a ballot based on their belief that the elector is not entitled to vote or has accepted an inducement to vote. Challenges to a voter’s eligibility to receive a ballot must be raised before the ballot is issued to the elector.

Counting Ballots

Ballot counting begins after voting places close at 8:00 p.m. local time on general voting day. No one is permitted to enter or leave a voting place while the ballot count is in progress.

Candidates are entitled to be present during the ballot count and may assign one representative (e.g. scrutineer or official agent) to each location where ballot counting takes place. Candidates or candidate representatives must not touch the ballots or ballot boxes or otherwise interfere with election officials during the counting process – except to object to a ballot’s acceptance or rejection by an election official.

Candidates or candidate representatives must raise their objection to a ballot’s acceptance or rejection with the Presiding Election Official supervising the ballot counting process. Objections to a ballot’s acceptance or rejection must be raised while the ballot is being considered during the count.

The Presiding Election Official’s decision to reject or accept a ballot can only be overturned by the Chief Election Officer – or by the Provincial Court following a judicial recount.

Ballot accounts, that outline individual voting place results and reconcile the number of ballots distributed with the number of ballots cast in the local government election, are prepared at each voting place. Ballots are then packaged and returned to the Chief Election Officer at the local government office, where the official election results are then determined. Objections to the Presiding Election Official’s decision relative to the ballot in question are recorded and submitted with the ballot account for that voting place to the Chief Election Officer.

Each candidate is notified by the Chief Election Officer as to the time and location for the final ballot count and when the official election results will be declared. The official election results may not necessarily be announced on general voting day.

Ballot counting for the 2026 general local elections begins after 8:00 p.m. local time on **Saturday, October 17.**

After General Voting Day

Local Government Act – sections 144–157 and 202
Community Charter – sections 120 and 124
Vancouver Charter – sections 140 and 143

Official election results for the 2026 general local elections must be declared by 4:00 p.m. local time on **Wednesday, October 21.**

The *Local Government Act*, *Community Charter* and *Vancouver Charter* provide for several legislated procedures (e.g., breaking tie votes, taking the oath of office) that may or must be completed following **general voting day**.

Announcing Results

The official election results may not immediately be announced after the close of voting on general voting day – the **Chief Election Officer** may announce preliminary results after the ballot count on general voting day and announce the official results at a later date.

The official election results must be declared within four days after the close of voting on general voting day. The Chief Election Officer must state the number of ballots cast in favour of each **candidate** for each position. Those candidates with the most votes would then be declared elected.

Judicial Recount

A Chief Election Officer must refer an election for judicial recount if two or more candidates have the same number of votes following the determination of official election results.

An eligible elector, candidate, candidate representative (e.g., scrutineer or official agent), or the Chief Election Officer may apply to the Provincial Court for a judicial recount. An application for a judicial recount can only be made on the basis that the:

- ballots were incorrectly accepted or rejected;
- ballot account does not accurately record the number of valid votes for a candidate; or,
- final determination of results did not correctly calculate the total number of valid votes for a candidate.

The period to apply for a judicial recount begins as soon as the official election results have been declared and ends nine days after the close of general voting.

The applicant must notify candidates and the Chief Election Officer about the judicial recount application. The applicant, the Chief Election Officer, candidates and their official agents and legal counsel are entitled to be present during a judicial recount. The Provincial Court has the authority to determine any other people permitted to attend the recount.

The period to apply for a judicial recount for the 2026 general local elections ends on **Monday, October 26.**

A judicial recount for the 2026 general local elections must be completed by **Friday, October 30.**

Judicial recounts are based on the ballots and ballot boxes used in the local elections. The Provincial Court declares the election results at the completion of the ballot recount.

A tie between two or more candidates must be broken in accordance with the *Local Government Act* or *Vancouver Charter* and the local government **election bylaw**. The judicial recount must be completed within 13 days after the close of general voting.

Breaking Ties

There are two methods for breaking ties in a local election when two or more candidates have an equal number of votes after a judicial recount – drawing by lot (a random draw) or by runoff election.

A local government must have passed an **election bylaw** that specifies that drawing by lot will be used as the method for breaking a tie. Otherwise, a runoff election must be held to break the tie.

A local government election bylaw that states ties will be broken by lot means that the names of the *tied candidates* are written on pieces of paper, placed into a container, and one name is drawn by a Provincial Court-appointed person. The Provincial Court then declares the candidate whose name was drawn to be elected to office.

A runoff election means that *all unsuccessful candidates* from the original election may run in a second election.

The **Chief Election Officer** is required to notify candidates that a runoff election has been called to break the tie. Candidates then have three days to notify the Chief Election Officer if they do not intend to run in the runoff election.

The Chief Election Officer must set a date for the runoff election for a Saturday no later than 50 days after the judicial recount was completed. Generally, runoff elections are conducted under the same rules as the original local election.

Invalid Election

A candidate, the Chief Election Officer or at least four eligible electors of the jurisdiction, may petition the Supreme Court to invalidate a local election.

A petition to invalidate a local government election may only be made on the basis that:

- an elected candidate was not qualified to hold office or has ceased to be qualified (e.g. no longer a resident of B.C.);
- the election was not conducted in accordance with elections legislation; or,

A petition to invalidate a 2026 general local election must be made by **Friday, November 20** if the official election results were declared on **Wednesday, October 21**.

Candidates elected in the 2026 general local elections must make an oath or solemn affirmation by **Saturday, December 5** if the official election results were declared on **Wednesday, October 21**.

- the rules around vote-buying, intimidation or voting when not entitled were contravened.

A petition to invalidate a local election must be made within 30 days after the official election results were declared. The Supreme Court must set a date for the petition to be heard between 10 and 21 days after the petition was filed. The petitioner(s) must serve the local government with notice of the petition to declare the election invalid.

Oath of Office

Every **municipal councillor** must make an oath of office or solemn affirmation before they can assume their position on **municipal council**. Every **electoral area director** must also make an oath of office or solemn affirmation before they can assume their position on the **regional district board**.

The [default oath of office](#) requires elected officials to affirm:

- I am qualified to hold the office of[*office*]..... for the [*jurisdiction*]... to which I have been [elected] [appointed];
- I have complied with the provisions of the[*applicable Act*]...in relation to my election to this office; [*omit this point for persons who have been appointed*];
- I will abide by all rules related to conflicts of interest under the.... [*applicable Act*]....;
- I will carry out my duties with integrity;
- I will be accountable for the decisions that I make, and the actions that I take, in the course of my duties;
- I will be respectful of others;
- I will demonstrate leadership and collaboration; and,
- I will perform the duties of my office in accordance with the law.

Municipal councillors appointed to the regional district board must make a second oath of office or solemn affirmation in addition to the oath of office or solemn affirmation they made before they assumed their position on the municipal council.

Candidates elected in general local elections must make their oath of office or solemn affirmation within 45 days after the official election results were declared. Acclaimed candidates must make an oath of office or solemn affirmation within 50 days of the date set for general voting – had voting been required.

The oath of office or solemn affirmation may be made before a judge, justice of the peace, Commissioner for Taking Affidavits for B.C. or the local government **Corporate Officer**. Candidates who fail to

make an oath or affirmation of office within the legislated timeframe are disqualified from holding office until after the next general local elections.

Taking Office

A candidate may take the oath of office or make a solemn affirmation as soon as they are declared elected by the Chief Election Officer; however, elected candidates do not take office immediately.

The inaugural municipal council meeting after the 2026 general local elections must be held by **Tuesday, November 10**.

Municipal council members formally take office at the first regularly scheduled council meeting following general local elections as long as they have completed their oath of office.

The term of office for a municipal council member appointed to a regional district board begins when the person has made an oath of office or solemn affirmation as a regional district director.

The term of office for regional district **electoral area directors** begins on the first Monday after November 1 following the general local election – or when the person has made their oath of office, whichever is later.

The inaugural municipal council meeting after the 2026 general local elections must be held by **Tuesday, November 10**.

The term of office for regional district electoral area directors elected in the 2026 general local elections begins on **Monday, November 2** – or when the director has made their oath of office or solemn affirmation – whichever is later.

The campaign period for the 2026 general local elections begins on **Saturday, September 19** and ends on **Saturday, October 17**.

Campaign financing rules under the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* were established to create accountability and transparency around campaign financing.

Campaign Period Expense Limits

All candidates have expense limits that apply during the campaign period. Expense limits are determined using a consistent formula for all candidates and are generally based on the population of the election area where the elections are being held.

Campaign Contribution Limits

Individuals who wish to contribute to a local elections candidate or elector organization are legally obligated to follow the rules outlined in the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*.

Refer to Elections BC's [Guide to Local Elections Campaign Financing in B.C. for Candidates and their Financial Agents](#) and [Guide to Local Elections Campaign Financing in B.C. for Elector Organizations and their Financial Agents](#) for detailed information regarding campaign financing rules.

Elections BC's Authority

Elections BC administers, investigates and enforces campaign financing, **third party sponsor** and election advertising rules under the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*.

Elections BC is responsible for reviewing candidate, elector organization and third party sponsor campaign financing disclosure statements to ensure compliance with the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*. Elections BC also publishes campaign contribution data and the campaign financing disclosure statements and the lists of disqualified candidates and third party sponsors [online](#).

Elections BC has the authority to conduct audits and investigations related to non-compliance with campaign financing, election advertising and third party sponsor provisions – it can also delegate certain powers (e.g., removing non-compliant advertising) to other individuals, such as Chief Election Officers to act on its behalf. Elections BC works with Chief Election Officers to determine the most effective approach to dealing with non-compliant election advertising.

Elections BC also has the authority to impose administrative monetary penalties on candidates, elector organizations (and their authorized principal officials) and third party sponsors for failing to comply with the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*.

[See Appendix A](#) for information about local election partner roles and responsibilities.

[See Appendix C](#) for questions and answers about Elections BC's role and responsibilities.

Glossary

Section 96 of the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*

address for service

A mailing address or email address provided by an individual or organization at which notices and other communications are accepted as served on or otherwise delivered to the individual or organization.

Sections 107-108 of the *Local Government Act*

Sections 69-70 of the *Vancouver Charter*

advance voting opportunity

A voting day, prior to general voting day, for electors who choose to vote on that day for any reason. Typically, electors who vote at that time do so because they:

- expect to be absent on general voting day from the jurisdiction for which the election is to be held;
- will be unable to vote on general voting day for reasons of conscience;
- will not be able to attend a voting place on general voting day for reasons beyond the elector's control;
- have a physical disability or are mobility impaired which would make it difficult to reach or navigate within a busy voting place on general voting day;
- are candidates or candidate representatives; or,
- are election officials.

Sections 169-171 of the *Local Government Act*

Sections 129-131 of the *Vancouver Charter*

assent voting

Voting on a bylaw or other matter for which a local government is required to obtain elector assent under Part 4 of the *Local Government Act* or Part 2 of the *Vancouver Charter*. Elector assent is obtained when a majority of the votes counted are in favour of the bylaw or question. Assent voting events were formerly referred to as a "referendum."

Section 110 of the *Local Government Act*

authorized drop-off location

A location specified by the Chief Election Officer that electors can return mail ballot packages (other than the address printed on the outer envelope of the mail ballot package).

B.C. Chief Electoral Officer (Elections BC)

The B.C. Chief Electoral Officer is an independent officer of the Legislature who oversees the provincial electoral process in B.C. The *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* provides the B.C. Chief Electoral Officer the additional role of overseeing campaign financing and election advertising in local elections and assent voting and ensuring compliance with the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*.

board

See entry for “regional district board.”

board of education

A school district’s governing body as constituted under the *School Act*. A board of education is comprised of three, five, seven or nine trustees, or as otherwise determined by the Minister of Education and Child Care.

by-election

An election held between general local elections to fill a vacancy that occurred due to the death, disqualification or resignation of a municipal council or regional district board member, school trustee, specified parks board commissioner or Islands Trust local trustee.

Municipal councils are not required to hold a by-election when the vacancy occurs in the same calendar year as a general local election as long as the vacancy is not in an office representing a neighbourhood constituency and council can maintain quorum. Regional district boards and the Islands Trust Council are not required to hold a by-election to fill a vacancy that occurs after June 1 in the same calendar year as general local elections.

campaign account

An account opened at a financial institution by a financial agent to be used exclusively for a candidate or elector organization’s election campaign purposes. The account must be opened in the candidate or elector organization’s name and be separate and distinct from any personal or business accounts.

campaign contribution limit

The total amount an eligible individual may contribute to a candidate or elector organization and its endorsed candidates for each calendar year as established under the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*.

campaign period

During the campaign period, election advertising, such as billboards or commercials must include sponsorship information. The campaign period starts on the 28th day before general voting day and ends when voting closes at 8:00 p.m. local time on general voting day. Expenses used in this period are subject to an expense limit and must be reported on the campaign financing disclosure statement.

candidate

A candidate is a person seeking election as a mayor, councillor, electoral area director, school trustee, Islands Trust local trustee, local community commissioner or specified parks board commissioner within

Section 1 of the *School Act*

Section 30(2) of the *School Act*

Section 54 of the *Local Government Act*

Section 10 of the *Vancouver Charter*

Sections 18 and 20 of the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*

Section 30.01 of the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*

Section 10(2) of the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*

Section 47 of the *Local Government Act*

Section 7 of the *Vancouver Charter*

- carry out other duties assigned by the council; and,
- carry out other duties assigned under the *Community Charter* or any other Act.

election bylaw

A bylaw that enables a municipal council or regional district board to make decisions about election administration, including whether:

- voting machines will be used, and if so, the procedures that will govern their use;
- mail ballot voting will be used, and if so, what procedures will govern its use;
- additional advance voting opportunities will be offered, or, in communities of less than 5,000, whether the required additional advance voting opportunity will be waived;
- voter registration will be conducted both on voting day and in advance or on voting day only; and/or,
- nomination deposits (not to exceed \$100) will be required.

An election bylaw must be adopted at least 56 days before the first day of the nomination period in a general local election or 42 days before the first day of the nomination period in a by-election.

election campaign

An election campaign is a connected series of actions (e.g., advertising, meetings and speeches) for the purpose of electing a candidate or a group of candidates to a municipal council or regional district board.

Typically, an election campaign involves candidates and/or elector organizations communicating with the electorate, through:

- public appearances and speeches;
- advertisements on television, radio, the Internet and social media;
- in newspapers and magazines;
- brochures, signs, posters and billboards;
- mail inserts and newsletters; and/or,
- bumper stickers, buttons and displays and/or exhibitions.

election period

The election period for general local elections begins at the start of the calendar year (January 1) in which the election is held and ends at the beginning of the campaign period for general local elections.

Section 56 of the
Local Government Act

Sections 12 of the
Vancouver Charter

Section 10(1) of the
*Local Elections Campaign
Financing Act*

Sections 64-66 of the <i>Local Government Act</i> Sections 22-24 of the <i>Vancouver Charter</i> Section 92 of the <i>Local Government Act</i> Section 45.3 of the <i>Vancouver Charter</i> Sections 19-23 and 25 of the <i>Local Elections Campaign Financing Act</i> Section 199(2) of the <i>Local Government Act</i> Section 87(1)(g) and 92 of the <i>Local Government Act</i> Section 44(1)(g) & 45.3 of the <i>Vancouver Charter</i> Section 63.05 of the <i>Local Elections Campaign Financing Act</i>	<i>Elections BC</i> The non-partisan and independent Office of the Legislature responsible for the administration and enforcement of the provincial electoral process in B.C. and the campaign financing and advertising rules for local elections and non-election assent voting events under the <i>Local Elections Campaign Financing Act</i>. <i>elector</i> An individual who is a resident elector or non-resident property elector and who is qualified to vote in municipal, regional district, board of education, Islands Trust, community commission or specified parks board elections <i>elector organization</i> An elector organization is an organization that endorses or intends to endorse a candidate(s) in local elections and that endorses a candidate on their nomination documents. Elector organizations are required to register with Elections BC to endorse a candidate in an election, receive a campaign contribution or incur an election expense. Only those elector organizations registered with Elections BC can endorse candidates, receive campaign contributions and incur election expenses. <i>electoral area director</i> A regional district board member who has been elected to that position by electoral area electors. <i>endorsement</i> The process by which an elector organization can formalize its relationship with one or more candidates running in local elections. Elector organizations must work with a candidate to complete the endorsement section of the candidate's nomination documents in order to endorse that candidate. An endorsement allows the elector organization's name, abbreviation or acronym to appear on the ballot beside the candidate's name. An elector organization may endorse more than one candidate – a candidate may only be endorsed by one elector organization at a given time. <i>expense limits</i> The maximum value of campaign period expenses that a candidate may use in a campaign period as established under the <i>Local Elections Campaign Financing Act</i>.
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financial agent

A financial agent is legally responsible for administering the candidate's campaign finances in accordance with the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*. It is the financial agent's responsibility to know, understand and follow the rules under the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* to avoid penalties such as disqualifications, administrative monetary penalties, or offences.

A candidate must have a financial agent. A candidate is their own financial agent unless they appoint another individual to that position.

Financial agents have several obligations under the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, including opening and depositing contributions to, and paying election-related expenses from, a candidate's campaign account; keeping complete and accurate campaign financing records of all transfers, campaign contributions, election expenses, and other financial transactions; filing the candidate's required disclosure statement with Elections BC within 90 days following general voting day; and ensuring the campaign is in compliance with contribution rules and campaign period expense limits.

financial disclosure statement

A corporate and personal holdings statement made public by all nominated, elected and appointed public officials required under the *Financial Disclosure Act*.

The financial disclosure statement is intended to help public officials avoid conflict-of-interest situations by identifying their financial interests. Financial disclosure statements must be filed with the designated local government officer at the time of nomination, annually while holding elected office, and shortly after leaving elected office.

general local elections

A collective reference to the elections conducted throughout the province every four years for the:

- mayor and councillors of a municipality;
- electoral area directors of each regional district;
- school trustees of each board of education;
- commissioners of each specified parks board;
- commissioners of each local community commission that uses a four-year term; and,
- local trustees of each area in the Islands Trust.

Sections 17 and 19 of the
*Local Elections Campaign
Financing Act*

Section 2(1) of the
Financial Disclosure Act

Section 52(2) and 54(5) of
the *Local Government Act*

Section 9(2) and 10(5) of
the *Vancouver Charter*

Section 5 of the <i>Islands Trust Act</i> Section 6 of the <i>Islands Trust Act</i> Section 1(2) of the <i>Local Elections Campaign Financing Act</i> Section 243 of the <i>Local Government Act</i>	<i>general voting day</i> The final voting day in general local elections or a by-election. General voting day is held on the third Saturday in October for general local elections, and a Saturday chosen by the Chief Election Officer for a by-election. <i>Islands Trust</i> A federation of local island governments with a mandate to make land use decisions that preserve and protect the Islands Trust area. <i>Islands Trust Council</i> The Islands Trust governing body composed of two elected trustees (local trustees) from each local Trust area and two appointed trustees from each municipal council in the Trust area (municipal trustees). <i>Islands Trust local trustee</i> An individual elected to serve on a Local Trust Committee for each local Trust area within the Islands Trust. Two candidates are elected from each local Trust area. The local trustees are also members of the Islands Trust Council. <i>jurisdiction</i> The applicable municipality, regional district, board of education or Trust council in which general local elections, by-elections or assent voting is being held. <i>local community commission</i> A body established by regional district bylaw in an electoral area to provide advice in relation to, or management of, one or more regional district services provided within the “local community.” Between four and six elected commissioners and the electoral area director generally comprise a local community commission. Commissioners may be elected for a four-year term during general local elections or for a one-year term, as specified in the regional district establishing bylaw. <i>local community commissioner</i> See entry for “local community commission.”
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local elections

A collective term referring to general local elections or by-elections that may be conducted by municipalities, regional districts, boards of education, specified parks boards, local community commissions, or the Islands Trust.

mayor

An individual elected to head the municipal council. The mayor has responsibilities under the *Community Charter* (Charter) in addition to their councillor responsibilities, including to:

- provide leadership to the council, including recommending bylaws, resolutions and other measures that, in the mayor's opinion, may assist the peace, order and good government of the municipality;
- communicate information to the council;
- preside at council meetings when in attendance;
- provide, on behalf of the council, general direction to municipal officers respecting implementation of municipal policies, programs and other directions of the council;
- establish standing committees in accordance with section 141 of the Charter;
- reflect the will of council and to carry out other duties on behalf of the council; and,
- carry out other duties assigned by or under the Charter or any other Act.

municipal council

The governing body of a municipality composed of a mayor and several councillors.

A municipal council may consist of between five and 11 members – the number of councillors depends on the population of the municipality. All municipal council members are elected during general local elections unless elected in a by-election held to fill a council vacancy between general local elections.

The municipal council is a decision-making body and is responsible for setting the strategic policies and priorities for the local government – municipal councils do not implement policies and decisions.

municipal director

A council member appointed to the regional district board from a municipality within the regional district jurisdiction. A municipal director may be a mayor or councillor.

Section 116 of the
Community Charter

Sections 114-121 of the
Community Charter

Section 198(2) of the
Local Government Act

Sections 3-40 of the *Local Government Act*

Section 66 of the *Local Government Act*

Section 24 of the *Vancouver Charter*

Section 10(1.1) of the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*

Sections 193-194 of the *Local Government Act*

Sections 194-205 of the *Local Government Act*

The municipal director serves on the regional district board until the municipal council appoints a replacement or until the municipal director ceases to be a council member.

municipality

A local government area represented by a mayor and councillors elected to serve on a municipal council. A municipality provides services within a defined geographic area.

non-resident property elector

An individual that does not live in a jurisdiction and who is entitled to vote in local elections by virtue of owning property in that jurisdiction. A non-resident property elector must:

- be 18 years of age or older when registering to vote or will be 18 years of age or older on general voting day;
- be a Canadian citizen;
- have been a resident of British Columbia for at least six months immediately before registering to vote;
- have owned real property in the jurisdiction for at least 30 days before registering to vote; and,
- not be disqualified under the *Local Government Act*, or any other enactment from voting in a local election or be otherwise disqualified by law.

pre-campaign period

Election advertising, such as billboards or commercials, must include sponsorship information during the pre-campaign period. The pre-campaign period starts on the 89th day before general voting day and ends on the 29th day before general voting day.

referenda

See entry for “assent voting.”

regional district

A local government area represented by elected and appointed representatives serving on a regional district board. A regional district provides services within a defined geographic area which may consist of municipalities, Treaty First Nations and/or unincorporated electoral areas.

regional district board

The regional district governing body composed of electoral area elected representatives and appointed representatives from municipal councils and/or Treaty First Nations within the regional district boundary.

resident elector

An individual qualified to vote in an election by virtue of living in the jurisdiction.

On the day of registration, a resident elector must:

- be 18 years of age or older when registering to vote or will be 18 years of age or older on general voting day;
- be a Canadian citizen;
- have been a resident of British Columbia for at least six months immediately before registering to vote;
- be a resident of the municipality or electoral area on the day of registration; and,
- not be disqualified under the *Local Government Act*, or any other enactment from voting in a local election or be otherwise disqualified by law.

school board

See entry for “board of education.”

school trustee

A member of the board of education for a school district.

scrutineer

An individual appointed in writing by a candidate (and/or their official agent) who may observe voting procedures at voting places during advance, special and general voting opportunities and the ballot-counting process.

specified parks board

A board of commissioners having responsibility for the governance of a public park system and its attendant services, such as recreational operations. Commissioners of specified parks boards are elected to a four-year term during general local elections.

specified parks board commissioners

See entry for “specified parks board.”

solemn declaration

A written oath or solemn affirmation of a signed statement witnessed by the Chief Election Officer or their delegate, or a Commissioner for Taking Affidavits for B.C. (e.g., lawyer or notary public).

Sections 65 and 67 of the
Local Government Act

Section 23 of the
Vancouver Charter

Section 1 of the *School Act*

Section 102(1)(b) of the
Local Government Act

Section 53(1)(b) of the
Vancouver Charter

Sections 485-497A of the
Vancouver Charter

Sections 3, 7 and 14 of
the *Cultus Lake Park Act*

Section 97 of the *Local
Elections Campaign
Financing Act*

Section 11 of the *Local
Elections Campaign
Financing Act*

third party advertising

In general, third party election advertising includes any transmission of a communication to the public by anyone other than a candidate or elector organization that directly or indirectly promotes or opposes a candidate or an elector organization during the pre-campaign and campaign periods. In the campaign period, it also includes advertising on an issue with which a candidate or elector organization is associated.

third party sponsor

A third party sponsor is an individual or organization that sponsors election advertising independently from candidates and elector organizations. Third party sponsors must register with Elections BC before conducting election advertising during the pre-campaign and campaign periods.

Third party sponsors must be independent from candidates and/or elector organizations and must not coordinate, or sponsor advertising together with, or on behalf of a candidate and/or elector organization.

volunteer

An individual who provides services, such as canvassing, preparing and distributing flyers, calling eligible voters, handling logistics and taking on other election campaign-related activities. A volunteer must not receive any remuneration or material benefit for their services.

A self-employed individual who provides services they normally sell or charge for is not a volunteer. Likewise, an individual whose employer continues to pay them while they are working on a campaign is not considered to be a volunteer.

Section 9 of the *Local
Elections Campaign
Financing Act*

Appendix A: Local Election Partner Roles and Responsibilities

LOCAL ELECTION PARTNER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	
WHO	ROLES / RESPONSIBILITIES
BC School Trustees Association	Produce and distribute elections educational material about school trustee elections and boards of education roles and responsibilities.
Chief Election Officers	Provide and receive candidate nomination packages.
	Collect nomination deposits (if applicable).
	Oversee all local elections administration activities (e.g., declare candidates, set up voting opportunities, count votes and declare the election results).
	The Chief Election Officer is responsible for maintaining the integrity and secrecy of the voting process and peace and order at election proceedings along with Presiding Election Officials.
Elections BC	Provide local elections campaign financing and election advertising-related educational guides, online resources and presentations to local government staff, candidates, elector organizations, and third party sponsors.
	Provide information and support by telephone and email to candidates, elector organizations, third party sponsors, local government staff, other local elections participants and the general public about the campaign financing (including election expense limits and campaign contribution limits) and election advertising rules.
	Receive nomination and candidate representative documents from local election officials.
	Receive updates to information in nomination and candidate representative documents.
	Register elector organizations and third party sponsors.
	Investigate non-compliant local elections advertising.
	Enforce local elections campaign financing and election advertising rules, including election expense limits, campaign contribution limits and third party advertising rules.

Appendix A: Local Election Partner Roles and Responsibilities

LOCAL ELECTION PARTNER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	
WHO	ROLES / RESPONSIBILITIES
Elections BC	Review and publish disclosure statements, annual financial reports and supplementary reports.
	Collect \$500 late filing fee.
	Investigate local elections campaign financing irregularities.
	Maintain disqualification lists.
	Report on the administration of compliance with the <i>Local Elections Campaign Financing Act</i> .
Local Government Management Association	Provide election education manuals and workshops to local government election officials.
	Provide information and support by telephone and email to local government election officials about local elections administration.
Ministry of Attorney General	Is responsible for the <i>Financial Disclosure Act</i> and provides guidance related to the disclosure of assets, debts and sources of income by candidates and elected officials (who must file a disclosure statement annually).
Ministry of Education and Child Care	Prepare school trustee election procedures guide for boards of education, school district administrators, and election officials.
	Provide information about provisions in the <i>School Act</i> regarding board of education elections.
Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs	Prepare election education guides, webpages, videos and presentations for candidates, local government staff, other election participants, and the general public.
	Provide information and support by telephone or email to candidates, local government staff, other election participants and the general public about provisions in the <i>Local Government Act</i> and <i>Vancouver Charter</i> regarding local elections.
Union of B.C. Municipalities	Develop election educational material for locally elected officials.

Appendix B: 2026 General Local Elections Key Dates

2022 GENERAL LOCAL ELECTIONS KEY DATES		
ACTION OR DEADLINE	DATE	ACT/S.#
Start of Election Period	January 1, 2026	LECFA: s.10(1)(a)(i)
Candidate B.C. Residency Deadline	March 10, 2026	LGA: s.81(1)(c)
Candidate B.C. Residency Deadline (extended nomination period)	March 13, 2026	LGA: s. 81(1)(c) & s. 97(2)
Election Bylaw Adoption Deadline	July 6, 2026	LGA: s.56
Start of Pre-Campaign Period	July 20, 2026	LECFA: s. 10
Start of Nomination Period	September 1, 2026	LGA: s.84(1)
End of Nomination Period	September 11, 2026	LGA: s.84(1) & s.89(5)
Declaration of Candidates (after close of nomination period)	September 11, 2026	LGA: s.97(1) & s.97(2)
End of Extended Nomination Period and Declaration of Candidates	September 14, 2026	LGA: s.97(2)
End of Challenge to Nomination and Endorsement Period	September 15, 2026	LGA: s.91 & s.96
Court Decision on Challenge of Nomination	September 18, 2026	LGA: s. 91(9)
Candidate Nomination Withdrawal Deadline	September 18, 2026	LGA: s.101(1)
End of Pre-Campaign Period	September 18, 2026	LECFA: s.10
Start of Campaign Period (12:01 am)	September 19, 2026	LECFA: s.10(2)
Required Advance Voting Opportunity	October 7, 2026	LGA: s.107(1)
General Voting Day	October 17, 2026	LGA: s.52
End of Campaign Period	October 17, 2026	LECFA: s.10(2)
Last Day for Declaration of Official Election Results by Voting	October 21, 2026	LGA: s.146(1)
End of Period to Apply for Judicial Recount	October 26, 2026	LGA: s.148(3)
Deadline for Completion of Judicial Recount	October 30, 2026	LGA: s.149(1)
End of Period for Public Inspection of Nomination Documents*	November 20, 2026	LGA: s.89(7)

Appendix B: 2026 General Local Elections Key Dates

2022 GENERAL LOCAL ELECTIONS KEY DATES		
ACTION OR DEADLINE	DATE	ACT/S.#
End of Period for Application to the Supreme Court to Invalidate Election*	November 20, 2026	LGA: s.153(3)
End of Period to Make Oath of Office (by Voting)*	December 5, 2026 (if election results declared on October 21, 2026)	LGA: s.202(1)(a) & s.202(1)(b); CC: s.120(1)(a) & s.120(1)(b)
End of Period to Make Oath of Office (by Acclamation)	December 7, 2026	LGA: s.202(1)(a) CC: s.120(1)(a) SA: s.50(1)(a)
End of Period to File Campaign Financing Disclosure Statement with Elections BC	January 15, 2027	LECFA: s.47(1), s.56 & s.90
End of Period for Late Filing of Campaign Financing Disclosure Statement with Elections BC (with late filing fee)	February 16, 2027	LECFA: s.47(2) & s.56

*This date will vary depending on when official election results declared

Definitions:

CC – means *Community Charter*

LGA – means *Local Government Act*

LECFA – means *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*

SA – means *School Act*

Appendix C: Chief Election Officer and Elections BC Questions and Answers

CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER AND ELECTIONS BC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS	
QUESTION	ANSWER
Who do I get nomination documents from?	Chief Election Officer
Who do I give my completed nomination documents to?	Chief Election Officer
Who do I pay my nomination deposit to (if required)?	Chief Election Officer
Who do I make my solemn declaration to?	Chief Election Officer or Commissioner for Taking Affidavits (e.g., Lawyer, Notary)
Who declares candidates?	Chief Election Officer
Who oversees the administration of local elections (e.g., designing ballots, setting up voting opportunities, counting votes)?	Chief Election Officer
Who declares the election results?	Chief Election Officer
Who do I contact about election expense limits and campaign contribution limits?	Elections BC
Who do I contact for information about campaign financing?	Elections BC
Who do I contact for information about election advertising rules?	Elections BC
Who do elector organizations register with?	Elections BC
Who do I register with as a third party sponsor?	Elections BC
Who do I send updates to any information in my nomination package?	Elections BC and Chief Election Officer
Who do I file campaign financing disclosure statements and supplementary reports with?	Elections BC
Who do I pay the \$500 campaign financing disclosure statement late filing fee to?	Elections BC
Who maintains the disqualification lists?	Elections BC
Who do I submit prohibited contributions to?	Elections BC
Who addresses instances of non-compliant advertising?	Elections BC and/or Chief Election Officer



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA 2026:



Thinking About Running for Local Office?





This brochure is to help prospective candidates answer questions they may have before deciding to run for local government office (municipality or regional district).

This brochure provides information about:

- eligibility for local office;
- what local governments do;
- how local governments are governed;
- roles and responsibilities of locally elected officials; and,
- preparing to be a candidate.

WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR LOCAL OFFICE?

To run for local office, a prospective candidate must be:

- at least 18 years of age or older on general voting day;
- a Canadian citizen;
- have been a resident of British Columbia for at least six months immediately before filing nomination documents; and,

- not be disqualified under the *Local Government Act*, or any other enactment from voting in an election in B.C. or from being nominated for, being elected to, or holding the office or be otherwise disqualified by law.

EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS

There are additional requirements and eligibility considerations that people who work or volunteer for a local government must also follow.

For more information, please visit the B.C. government webpage about [Employees and Volunteers](#).

WHAT DO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS DO?

Decision-making

Local government is where community decisions happen – and affects the lives of British Columbians, every day.

As collective decision-making bodies, municipal councils and regional district boards influence jobs, foster healthy, safe and sustainable communities, and have the ability to plan and shape the long-term vision for their communities. Councils and boards make decisions through the adoption of bylaws, policies, and resolutions.

Relationship-building

Municipal councils and regional district boards govern effectively and create benefits for their communities by working together and building relationships with other local governments, the provincial government, First Nations and the federal government.

Engagement by local governments, at both the local and regional levels, with neighbouring First Nation governments is common and can help

achieve matters of mutual interest. Engagement can happen on a broad range of mutual interests including land use, economic development, services and infrastructure, or to simply bring community leaders together for the first time or to renew an existing relationship.

FIRST NATIONS ENGAGEMENT

Engagement is a method of exploring opportunities for cooperation and collaboration between local governments and First Nations – building positive relationships and furthering the goal of reconciliation.

For examples of Local Government-First Nation Governments working together, visit:

[CivicInfo BC | First Nations Relationships & Protocol Agreements](#)

This engagement can also help councils and boards to better understand and serve the members in the community that also identify as Indigenous. Many local governments and First Nations have developed service agreements, protocol agreements and memorandums of understanding to identify opportunities to build relationships, collaborate, and further reconciliation.

Service Provision

Local governments provide a wide range of services to their communities. Locally elected officials may find that much of their time at the council/board table is spent on setting strategic direction and making decisions related to service provision, land use planning, and development for the community. There are a wide range of services that are within local government' scope of responsibility, and these services are different from the services provided by other levels of government:

WHO DOES WHAT?

A Services Snapshot for Candidates

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT – Municipalities (Cities, Towns, Districts, Villages)

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES	WHY IT MATTERS FOR CANDIDATES
• Water quality and supply • Liquid waste (local) • Solid waste (local) • Fire protection • Road maintenance and transit • Zoning and permits • Parks and recreation • Local laws (e.g., bylaws) • Policing/community safety	• Directly shapes neighborhoods, local services, and daily quality of life.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT – Regional Districts (Made up of Electoral areas, member municipalities and Treaty First Nations (if applicable))

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES	WHY IT MATTERS FOR CANDIDATES
• Solid waste (regional) • Regional water and liquid waste services • Regional parks • Emergency management • Rural land use and planning • Local laws (e.g., bylaws) • Policing/community safety	• Provides local governance to the rural areas of the province. • Balances local priorities with region-wide collaboration.

WHO DOES WHAT?

A Services Snapshot for Candidates

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT – First Nations

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES	WHY IT MATTERS FOR CANDIDATES
• First Nation governments may have a treaty, self-government agreement, or operate under federal legislation. As such the authorities and responsibilities of First Nation government can vary. • Some examples of key responsibilities can include: - Community services (e.g., education, health, childcare) - Land management - Cultural preservation - Service provision (direct or by agreement)	• Many local governments and First Nations are geographic neighbours and as such are increasingly discussing common interests, challenges and identifying mutual opportunities for their respective communities. • Local governments and First Nations build and enhance relations by developing partnerships through protocols, service agreements and memorandums of understanding.



WHO DOES WHAT?

A Services Snapshot for Candidates

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT – (British Columbia)

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES	WHY IT MATTERS FOR CANDIDATES
• Health care • Education • Highways • Justice • Provincial laws, including legislation that establishes the local government framework in B.C.	• Provincial laws, grants, and approval processes can influence the scope and process of local decision-making.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT – (Canada)

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES	WHY IT MATTERS FOR CANDIDATES
• Income tax • Banking • Immigration • Military • Federal laws (e.g., <i>Species at Risk Act</i>; <i>Criminal Code</i>; <i>Constitution Act</i>)	• Federal laws and programs can apply to local governments. • Grant contribution programs support local governments to meet their objectives, such as infrastructure and climate change adaptation.

HOW ARE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS GOVERNED?

Municipal councils and regional district boards set the direction for their respective local governments.

The role of a council board is to:

- consider the well-being and interests of the entire community;
- set strategic direction, including the development and evaluation of policies and programs of the local government;
- adopt the local government's financial plan;
- broadly allocate resources to services, capital projects, programs and other priorities;
- engage with the community; and,
- make policies and adopt bylaws.

Collective Decision-making

Council and board powers are collective, not individual, with each member entitled to one vote on matters (unless otherwise set out in legislation) that come before them for decision.

While council and boards may sometimes reach unanimous agreement on a matter, at other times members may disagree with the majority decision of a council or board. Candidates need to be prepared for situations where they may not be aligned with the collective will of the council or board.

Elected officials ability to work together and resolve conflict respectfully are keys to council and board effectiveness and good governance for the community.

Role of Staff

The roles and responsibilities of elected officials and local government staff are interdependent, but distinct. Local government staff provide the council board with information and professional advice to support informed decision-making, implement the collective decisions, policies, and direction of the council board, and communicate those decisions to the public and other orders of government.

All local governments in British Columbia are required to have a corporate officer and financial officer. Local governments also often establish a Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) position – although this position is not required by legislation. In many local governments the CAO is the only member of staff directly hired by the council or board. This structure separates political policymaking from administrative implementation, with the CAO responsible for hiring and supervising all other staff.

WHAT ARE THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF LOCALLY ELECTED OFFICIALS?

Legislative Requirements

Locally elected officials are required to comply with the *Community Charter* and *Local Government Act* as well as other provincial legislation, including conduct rules, privacy and employment laws and policies, and local government procedures.

The *Community Charter* and *Local Government Act* set out the roles and responsibilities for municipal councillors and regional district board members. An elected official's responsibilities include:

- considering the well-being and interests of the entire community;
- contributing to the development and evaluation of the policies and programs with respect to local government services;
- participating in council/regional district board and committee meetings; and,
- carrying out other duties assigned (such as chairing committees).

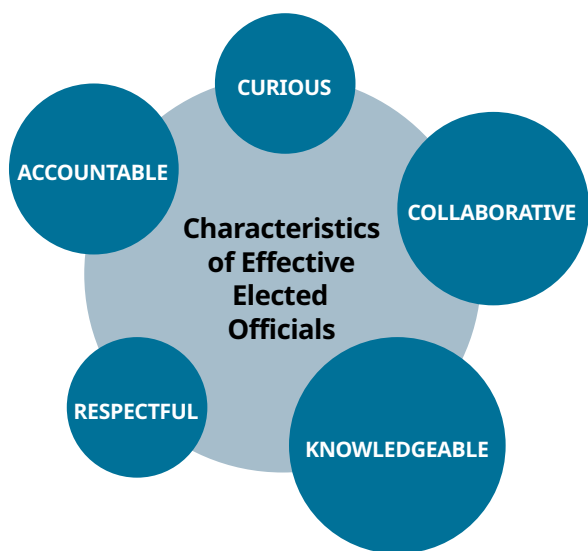
The mayor and regional district board chair have all the same responsibilities as a municipal councillor or regional district board member plus a few additional responsibilities, these include:

- chairing meetings, maintaining the order and conduct of debate, ensuring meeting rules are followed, and encouraging the expression of differing viewpoints;
- creating standing committees, appointing people to these committees, and deciding the committees' mandates;
- communicating council or board decisions to the CAO so staff may implement policies, programs and other decisions; and,
- acting as the spokesperson and communicating the collective decisions of the council or regional district board.

Characteristics of Effective Elected Officials

Effective elected officials are dedicated, ethical, and informed. In practice, this means an effective elected official that is:

- **accountable** in their decisions and conduct;
- **respectful** of others (even when they don't agree) and understands the responsibilities that come with holding local office;
- **knowledgeable** about local government roles and legislative requirements;
- **curious** about the perspectives and experiences of others in order to find solutions and inform decision-making; and,
- **collaborative** with their colleagues, who share the responsibility of representing the interests of their community.



Mayors, councillors and board members work alongside each other to meet the needs of communities across B.C. and uphold local democracy, the law, and the principles of good officials.

Watch the video series "[Being an Effective Elected Official](#)" for direct insights into the role of a locally elected official.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Locally elected officials are subject to conflict-of-interest rules under the *Community Charter* and common law.

As a locally elected official, there may be times where you must not participate or vote on a particular matter due to your personal circumstances. It is your responsibility to determine when you may be in a conflict of interest and recuse yourself from discussing or voting on a matter.

You may be liable to penalties and/or disqualification from holding office until the next general local election if you do not adhere to the conflict-of-interest rules.

Demands of the Job

Being in elected office can be a very rewarding experience. It can also be quite demanding.

Potential candidates do not need to be an expert in governance or finance to run for local office, however, they need to be open minded and willing to learn.

Elected officials can expect a high volume of reading and learning across a variety of topics during their term in office. They will also need to become familiar with the local government's policies and procedures, as well as the legislation that applies to local governments.

Local government orientation sessions, educational resources and opportunities through local government associations or other relevant organizations, and the expertise of staff can support elected officials in fulfilling their duties.

Potential candidates must be prepared for the realities of local office and how their day-to-day life may change if elected to office – whether that is managing time commitments or adjusting to increased public and media scrutiny. Many local governments have policies (such as internal information-sharing protocols and social media policies) in place to support elected officials with this aspect of their role.

The **Local Government Leadership Academy** (LGLA) serves locally elected officials throughout British Columbia by offering training, resources, and a Certificate program. The LGLA aims to improve the competencies needed to effectively manage and lead B.C.'s communities. Visit: <https://lgla.ca/> for more information.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR ELECTED OFFICE?

Contributing as an elected official to the long-term success of the community begins the moment an elected official takes office. Some ways to prepare include:

- reading the local government's key planning documents (e.g., strategic and financial plan), policies (e.g., social media), and the code of conduct (if any) and the procedure bylaws;
- attending council or board meetings to observe meeting procedures and learn about priority issues and projects in your community;
- reviewing the local government's website, meeting agendas, and minutes to understand its key priorities and initiatives;
- attending neighbourhood association meetings or getting to know key groups in the community, such as the Chamber of Commerce, service groups, social agencies or environmental stewardship groups, to better understand the diversity of interests;
- becoming familiar with neighbouring First Nation governments and reviewing any local government policies and agreements that support collaboration and partnerships;
- reading the *Local Government Act* and *Community Charter* to gain an understanding of the legislative requirements that local governments must follow; and,
- researching provincial government webpages to learn more about the local government system generally.

Refer to the **What Every Candidate Needs to Know** brochure for more information about running as a candidate in general local elections.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Local government mailing addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses and websites are available online from CivicInfo BC at:

www.civicinfo.bc.ca/directories

For answers to legislative **questions about municipal and regional district elections** please contact:

Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs

Governance and Structure Branch

Phone: 250 387-4020

Email: LGgovernance@gov.bc.ca

Website: www.gov.bc.ca/localelections

For answers to **questions about elector organization registration, election advertising, third party sponsors or campaign financing disclosure** please contact:

Elections BC

Phone: 250 387-5305

Toll-free: 1 800 661-8683

TTY 1 888 456-5448

Email: electoral.finance@elections.bc.ca

Website: <https://elections.bc.ca/local-elections/2026-general-local-elections/>

Full text of the *Local Government Act*, *Local Election Campaign Financing Act*, *Community Charter*, *Vancouver Charter*, *School Act*, and *Offence Act* can be found online at: www.bclaws.ca

DISCLAIMER

In the event that there is inconsistency between this brochure and *the Local Government Act*, the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, or any other Act, the legislation shall prevail.



**Scan the QR code to find
information and guidance
materials about the upcoming
general local elections**



www.gov.bc.ca/localelections

Land Acknowledgment

The BC Public Service acknowledges the territories of First Nations around B.C. and is grateful to carry out its work on these lands – it acknowledges the rights, interests, priorities, and concerns of all Indigenous Peoples – First Nations, Métis, and Inuit – respecting and acknowledging their distinct cultures, histories, rights, laws, and governments.



VOTER'S GUIDE

TO LOCAL ELECTIONS IN B.C.

2026



This guide answers a few of the basic questions about local government elections in British Columbia.

Locally elected officials are collectively responsible for making decisions that impact the daily lives of community residents.

These decisions include, and are not limited to, establishing and operating services, such as water and sewer, fire protection, solid waste management, land use and planning, and parks and recreation.

When are general local elections held?

General local elections are held every four years on the third Saturday of October. The next general voting day is **Saturday, October 17, 2026**. Voting places are open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. local time on general voting day.

Refer to the [General Local Elections 101 brochure](#) for general information about local elections in B.C.

Further information about board of education (i.e., school trustee) elections can be found at [Ministry of Education and Child Care website](#).

Local elections are held for the following jurisdictions:

- municipalities;
- regional districts;
- boards of education;
- specified parks boards;
- local community commissions; and,
- trust areas (Islands Trust).

VOTER ELIGIBILITY

Am I eligible to vote?

You are eligible to vote in local elections as a resident elector when you:

- are 18 years of age or older when you register to vote or will be 18 years of age or older on general voting day;
- are a Canadian citizen;
- have been a resident of British Columbia for at least six months immediately before you register to vote;
- are a resident of the municipality or electoral area on the day you register to vote; and,
- are not disqualified under the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment from voting in an election or be otherwise disqualified by law.

Refer to [section 67 of the *Local Government Act*](#) for the rules that determine B.C. residency.

You are eligible to vote as a non-resident property elector when you:

- are 18 years of age or older when you register to vote or will be 18 years of age or older on general voting day;
- are a Canadian citizen;
- have been a resident of British Columbia for at least six months immediately before you register to vote;
- are the registered owner of real property in the jurisdiction where you intend to vote for at least 30 days immediately before you register to vote; and,
- are not disqualified under the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment from voting in an election or be otherwise disqualified by law.

I live in one jurisdiction and attend school in a different one – can I vote in both places?

No. You can only vote in one jurisdiction when you live away from your usual place of residence to attend an educational institution. You may choose to vote either where you attend school or your usual place of residence.

I live in one jurisdiction and work for extended periods of time in a different one – can I vote in both places?

No. You can only vote in one jurisdiction when you live away from your usual place of residence and work for extended periods of time in another jurisdiction. You must vote in the jurisdiction where you maintain your usual place of residence.

I live on Reserve – can I vote?

Yes. Eligible Indigenous and non-Indigenous electors living on Reserve are entitled to vote in local government elections. Where you vote will depend on whether the Reserve you live on is included in the Letters Patent of a municipality or regional district. Letters Patent establish the legal boundaries of local governments.

Contact the appropriate municipality or regional district to determine where you can vote.

Refer to the [Voter's Guide for Electors Living on Reserve brochure](#) for more information about voter eligibility when living on Reserve.

Who cannot vote in local elections?

You cannot vote in local elections (as either a resident elector or a non-resident property elector) when you:

- have been convicted and sentenced for an indictable offence and are in custody; or,
- have been found guilty of an election offence, such as intimidation or vote-buying; or,
- do not otherwise meet voter eligibility requirements.

FOR PROPERTY OWNERS

I live in one jurisdiction and I own property in another – can I vote in both jurisdictions?

Yes. You may vote in the municipality or regional district electoral area where you live when you qualify as a resident elector. You are also eligible to vote as a non-resident property elector in a different municipality or electoral area when you have owned property in that jurisdiction for at least 30 days immediately before registering to vote. You may not vote as a resident and a non-resident property elector in the same jurisdiction.

I own property in British Columbia and I live in a different province or country – can I vote as a non-resident property elector?

No. You must be a resident of British Columbia for at least six months and have owned property in the jurisdiction where you intend to vote for at least 30 days immediately before you register to vote.

I own more than one property in the same jurisdiction – can I vote more than once?

No. You may only vote once in the same local election even if you own more than one property in that jurisdiction.

I own a property in a jurisdiction with someone else, and neither of us lives in that jurisdiction – can both of us vote?

No. Only one non-resident property elector may vote per property. The majority of owners must designate – in writing – that one owner is authorized to vote as the non-resident property elector for that property when you own a property with another person(s). No one is eligible to vote in relation to property owned through or in conjunction with a business or a corporation.

I own a property in a jurisdiction with someone else and that person is living in the house – can both of us vote?

Possibly. The person living in the house may vote as a resident elector because they live within the jurisdiction. You may also be eligible to vote as a non-resident property elector if you are not eligible to vote as a resident elector in the same jurisdiction and you have owned the property for at least 30 days immediately before registering to vote.

The other owner must designate – in writing – you as the non-resident property elector for that property. You must both meet all the eligibility requirements set out for resident electors or non-resident property electors.

I own a business – do I get an extra vote in a local election?

No. There is no business or corporate vote in local elections. Voting rights are granted to citizens based on residency or property ownership. You cannot vote on behalf of a corporation, or as a non-resident property elector based on a property owned wholly or in part by a business or a corporation.

VOTER REGISTRATION

How do I register to vote as a resident elector?

You may already be registered to vote in local elections if the jurisdiction where you are eligible to vote uses the Provincial Voters List or maintains its own list of registered electors for voter registration. You will not be required to show identification to receive a ballot if your name appears on the list of registered electors.

Advance voter registration must be available in those jurisdictions that maintain their own list of registered electors. Some local governments limit registration to same day only, and, in this case, all voters register at the time of voting. You may also register at the time of voting in any case (even if advance registration is offered).

You must provide two separate pieces of identification to register at the time of voting. See question about identification 'On Voting Day' on page 9 for more information

Contact your local government for more information about voter registration procedures.

How do non-resident property owners register to vote?

You may register to vote in the jurisdiction where you own property when advance registration is offered. You may also register at the time of voting.

You must provide two separate pieces of identification to register at the time of voting. The identification must satisfy the election official of your identity and where you live – one piece of identification must include your signature. You must also provide additional information about the property you own. See question about identification ‘On Voting Day’ on page 9 for more information.

Contact the local government where you own property for more information about voter registration procedures.

ON VOTING DAY

General voting day is the most publicized or widely known voting opportunity resident electors and non-resident property electors have to cast their ballot in local elections.

Can I vote before general voting day?

Yes. At least one advance voting opportunity must be held in every jurisdiction 10 days before general voting day. Many jurisdictions hold more than one advance voting opportunity. The required advance voting opportunity for the upcoming general local elections is **Wednesday, October 7, 2026.**

Jurisdictions may also hold special voting opportunities for eligible electors who may not otherwise be able to attend an advance voting opportunity or cast a ballot on general voting day.

Special voting opportunities are most often held in hospitals, long-term care facilities, or other places where an elector's mobility may be impaired. Only designated electors are eligible to vote at special voting opportunities.

You may also vote by mail ballot if your local government permits mail ballot voting in its election bylaw.

Contact your local government to find out how you can vote before general voting day.

How can I vote if I am absent from my community on advance and general voting day?

You are eligible to vote by mail ballot if your local government has authorized mail ballot voting in its election bylaw. Contact your local government for information about mail ballot voting or other advance voting opportunities in the jurisdiction where you intend to vote.

Do I need identification in order to vote?

Identification is not required when a jurisdiction uses a list of registered electors (voters list) and your name is on the list. You will be required to provide identification if your name is not on the list of registered electors at the time of voting, or if the jurisdiction limits to same-day voter registration only.

You **must** provide two separate pieces of identification when registering to vote as a resident elector on voting day. The identification

must satisfy the election official of who you are and where you live - and one piece of identification must include your signature. You can make a solemn declaration about where you live if none of your identification documents contain an address.

Contact the [Land Title Survey Authority](#) for information about the property you own or to order a land title record.

You **must** provide proof of who you are and where you live, as well as the address or legal description and title certificate (or other proof of ownership) of the property you own when you are voting as a non-resident property elector.

Only one owner can vote when you own property with one or more people and you must have the written consent of the majority of the other owners in order to vote in relation to that property.

Acceptable identification documents include, a:

- Driver's Licence;
- British Columbia Identification (BCID) card (note: the BC Services Card when combined with a Driver's Licence is considered **one** piece of identification);
- Certificate of Indian Status;
- Citizenship and/or membership card issued by an Indigenous governing body;
- Utility bill (that contains your residential address); or,
- Credit or Debit Card.

A full list of accepted identification can be found online in the [Local Government Elections Regulation \(BC Reg 380/93\)](#).

Contact your local government if you believe you are eligible to vote in your jurisdiction and cannot satisfy the identification requirements or have questions about what identification will be accepted.

What if I need assistance to vote?

All local governments are required to make voting places as accessible as reasonably possible. You may:

- ask an election official to bring you a ballot if you are able to travel to a voting place and find it difficult to get into the building or room where voting is taking place (this is called “curb-side” voting);
- ask an election official, friend or relative to accompany you to the ballot box and help you if you are unable to mark your own ballot; or,
- bring someone to assist you if you need a translator. The translator must be capable of making a solemn declaration that they can and will make the translation to the best of their ability.

The person assisting you to vote must make a solemn declaration that they will preserve the secrecy of the ballot, mark the ballot in the manner they are directed to, and in no way attempt to influence how you choose to vote. Candidates, candidate representatives, and candidate financial agents may not assist an elector to cast their ballot.

Can I vote on the Internet or by phone?

No. You may not cast your ballot over the Internet or by phone.

ELECTION OFFENCES

What is an election offence?

Specific election offences are outlined in the *Local Government Act* and *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*. They include activities, such as intimidation, providing or distributing false information, fraudulently voting, interfering with ballots or ballot boxes, and hindering or obstructing an election official.

What can I do if I believe someone has committed an election offence?

Contact your Chief Election Officer and/or local law enforcement if you believe someone has committed an election offence. The local Chief Election Officer may be able to deal with certain elections offences immediately (e.g., removing campaign signs within 100 metres of a voting place) and in other circumstances the police may need to be involved.

The police are responsible for conducting an investigation and recommending to Crown counsel whether charges could be laid for election offences such as vote-buying or voter intimidation. Crown counsel makes the determination to proceed with a prosecution. Election offences are prosecuted through the courts.

Notify Elections BC if you believe someone has committed an advertising-related election offence – such as publishing advertisements without sponsorship information – or a campaign financing and/or election advertising offence. Elections BC is responsible for administering and enforcing local election advertising and campaign financing rules under the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Local government mailing addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses and websites are available online from CivicInfo BC at:

www.civicinfo.bc.ca/directories

For answers to legislative **questions about municipal and regional district elections** please contact:

Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs

Governance and Structure Branch

Phone: 250 387-4020

Email: LGgovernance@gov.bc.ca

Website: www.gov.bc.ca/localelections

For answers to **questions about election advertising, third party sponsors and campaign financing disclosure** please contact:

Elections BC

Phone: 250 387-5305

Toll-free: 1 800 661-8683 / TTY 1 888 456-5448

Email: electoral.finance@elections.bc.ca

Website: <https://elections.bc.ca/local-elections/2026-general-local-elections/>

Full text of the *Local Government Act*, *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, *Community Charter*, *Vancouver Charter*, *School Act*, and *Offence Act* can be found online at www.bclaws.ca

Disclaimer

In the event that there is inconsistency between this brochure and the *Local Government Act*, the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, or any other Act, the legislation shall prevail.

Land Acknowledgment

The BC Public Service acknowledges the territories of First Nations around B.C. and is grateful to carry out its work on these lands – it acknowledges the rights, interests, priorities, and concerns of all Indigenous Peoples – First Nations, Métis, and Inuit – respecting and acknowledging their distinct cultures, histories, rights, laws, and governments.

Translations



Chinese Simplified
(Translated)



French
(Translated)



Chinese Traditional
(Translated)



Korean
(Translated)



Farsi
(Translated)



Punjabi
(Translated)



VOTER'S GUIDE FOR ELECTORS LIVING ON **RESERVE**

2026



This guide answers a few of the basic questions about local government elections in British Columbia for Indigenous and non-Indigenous electors living on Reserve.

Locally elected officials are collectively responsible for making decisions that impact the daily lives of community residents. These decisions include, and are not limited to, establishing and operating services, such as water and sewer, fire protection, solid waste management, land use and planning, and parks and recreation.

Refer to the [General Local Elections 101 brochure](#) for general information about local elections in B.C.

Local elections are held for the following jurisdictions:

- municipalities;
- regional districts;
- boards of education;
- specified parks boards;
- local community commissions; and,
- trust areas (Islands Trust).

When are general local elections held?

General local elections are held every four years on the third Saturday of October. The next general voting day is **Saturday, October 17, 2026**. Voting places are open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. local time on general voting day.

VOTER ELIGIBILITY

I live on Reserve – can I vote?

Yes. Eligible Indigenous and non-Indigenous electors living on Reserve are entitled to vote in local government elections. Where you vote will depend on whether the lands you live upon are included within a municipal boundary in Letters Patent.

You may be eligible to vote in a regional district electoral area election if you live in an area not included inside a municipal boundary. Contact the appropriate municipality or regional district to determine where you can vote.

What are Letters Patent?

Letters Patent are a legal document created by the B.C. government that set out the boundaries, name, and other specific matters of a municipality or regional district. Letters Patent are issued when a local government is created (incorporated) or when something included in Letters Patent is amended, such as the boundary.

Am I eligible to vote?

You are eligible to vote as an Indigenous or non-Indigenous person living on Reserve (i.e., a resident elector) when you:

- are 18 years of age or older when you register to vote, or will be 18 years of age or older on general voting day;
- are a Canadian citizen;
- have been a resident of British Columbia for at least six months immediately before you register to vote;

- are a resident of the Reserve on the day you register to vote; and,
- are not disqualified under the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment from voting in an election or be otherwise disqualified by law.

Refer to the [*Local Government Act, s.67*](#) for the rules that determine B.C. residency.

Who cannot vote in local government elections?

You cannot vote in local government elections when you:

- do not meet voter eligibility requirements; or,
- have been found guilty of an election offence, such as intimidation or vote-buying; or,
- have been convicted and sentenced for an indictable offence and are in custody.

I live on a Reserve in an electoral area. Where do I vote?

If you live on a Reserve that is geographically located within a regional district electoral area you are eligible to vote for the director of that electoral area (Figure 1 - A). Contact your regional district for information about voting opportunities.

I live on a Reserve inside a municipality. Do I vote for municipal council?

You are eligible to vote for the mayor and council if the Reserve is geographically located within that municipality *and* the Reserve is **included** within the municipality's Letters Patent (Figure 1 - B).

You are not eligible to vote for the mayor and council of that municipality if the Letters Patent specifically **exclude** the Reserve from being within

the municipal boundary. In this case, you are eligible to vote for the electoral area director of the regional district (Figure 1 - C). Contact your regional district to determine which electoral area you are in.

I live on a Reserve that is in an electoral area of a regional district, and the Reserve extends across a municipal boundary. Where do I vote?

You are eligible to vote for mayor and council of the municipality if the Reserve is **included** within the municipality's Letters Patent, and you reside in the portion of the Reserve in the municipality (Figure 1 - D).

If the municipality's Letters Patent exclude the Reserve or you live in the area located in the electoral area, you can vote for the director of the regional district electoral area where the Reserve is partly located.

I live on a Reserve that extends across two electoral areas of a regional district. Where do I vote?

Where you vote will depend on which of the two electoral areas you live in. Depending on where the two electoral areas meet – you may be voting for the director of one electoral area of the regional district while your neighbours are voting for the director of the other electoral area (Figure 1 - E).

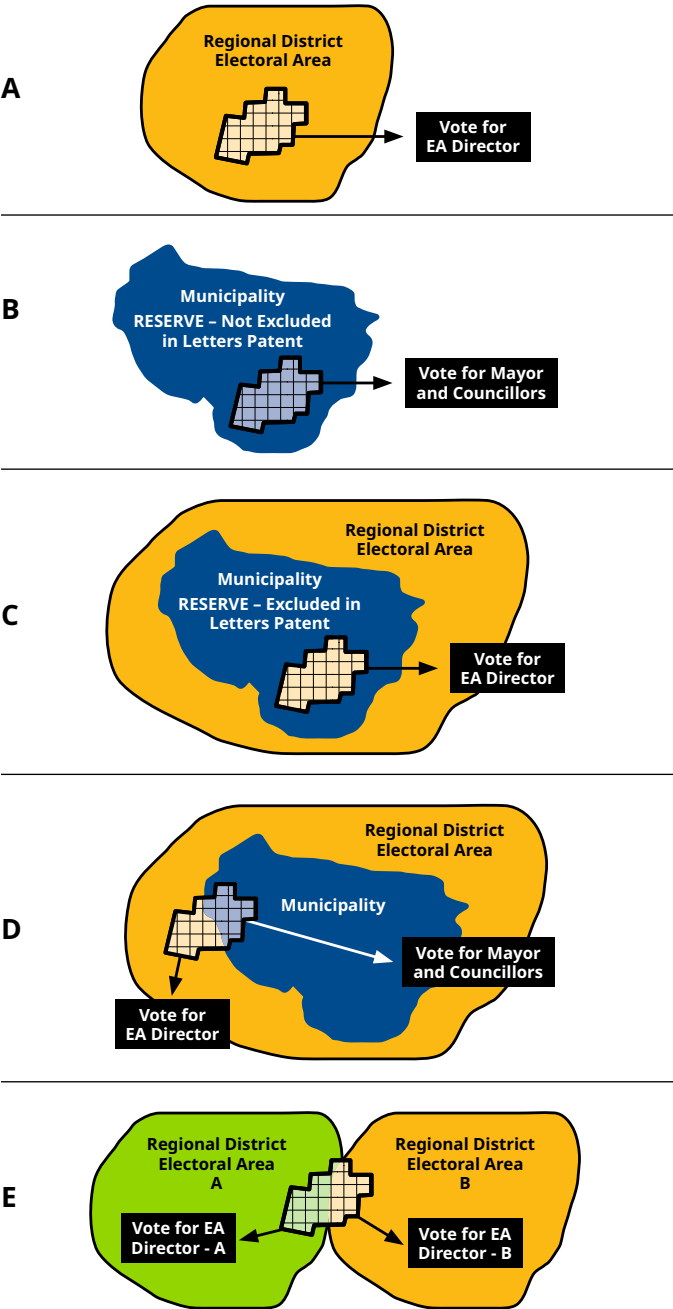
Electoral area boundaries can be confirmed with the regional district. Contact information for all local governments in British Columbia is available from CivicInfo BC at: <https://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/directories>.

I live on a Reserve and attend school elsewhere – can I vote in both places?

No. You can only vote in one jurisdiction when you live away from your usual place of residence to

attend an educational institution. You may choose to vote either where you attend school or your usual place of residence (i.e., on Reserve).

FIGURE 1 - Different Boundary and Voting Scenarios



I live on a Reserve and work for extended periods of time elsewhere – can I vote in both places?

No. You can only vote in one jurisdiction when you live away from your usual place of residence (i.e., on Reserve) and work for extended periods of time elsewhere. You may only vote where you maintain your usual place of residence.

FOR OWNERS OF PROPERTY OFF-RESERVE

I own property in British Columbia and I live in a different province or country – can I vote?

No. You must be a resident of British Columbia for at least six months and have owned property in the jurisdiction where you intend to vote for at least 30 days immediately before you register to vote.

I live on Reserve and I own property elsewhere – can I vote in both places?

Yes. You may vote in the municipality or regional district electoral area where you live as a resident elector. You are also eligible to vote as a non-resident property elector in a different municipality or electoral area when you have owned property in that jurisdiction for at least 30 days immediately before registering to vote.

I own more than one property in the same jurisdiction – can I vote more than once?

No. You may only vote once in the same local election even if you own more than one property in that jurisdiction.

I own a property in a jurisdiction with someone else, and neither of us lives on the property – can both of us vote?

No. Only one non-resident property elector may vote per property. The majority of owners must designate – in writing – that one owner is authorized to vote as the non-resident property elector for that property when you own a property with another person(s). No one is eligible to vote in relation to property owned through or in conjunction with a business or corporation.

I own a property in a jurisdiction with someone else and that person is living in the house – can both of us vote?

Possibly. The person living in the house may vote as a resident elector because they live within the jurisdiction. You may also be eligible to vote as a non-resident property elector if you are not eligible to vote as a resident elector in the same jurisdiction and you have owned the property for least 30 days immediately before registering to vote.

The other owner must designate – in writing – you as the non-resident property elector for that property. You must both meet the eligibility requirements set out for resident electors or non-resident property electors.

I own a business – do I get an extra vote in a local election?

No. There is no business or corporate vote in local elections. Voting rights are granted to citizens based on residency or property ownership. You cannot vote on behalf of a corporation, or as a non-resident property elector based on a property owned wholly or in part by a corporation.

VOTER REGISTRATION

How do I register to vote as a resident elector?

You may already be registered to vote in local elections if the jurisdiction where you are eligible to vote uses the Provincial Voters List or maintains its own list of registered electors for voter registration. You will not be required to show identification to receive a ballot if your name appears on the list of registered electors.

Advance voter registration must be available in those jurisdictions that maintain their own list of registered electors. Some local governments limit registration to same day only, and, in this case, all voters register at the time of voting. You may also register at a voting place at the time of voting in any case (even if advance registration is offered).

You must provide two separate pieces of identification to register at the time of voting. The identification must satisfy the election official of your identity and where you live – one piece of identification must include your signature.

Contact your local government for more information about voter registration procedures.

How do non-resident property owners register to vote?

You may register to vote with the jurisdiction where you own property when advance registration is offered. You may also register at the time of voting.

You must provide two separate pieces of identification to register at the time of voting. The identification must satisfy the election official of your identity and where you live – one piece of identification must include your signature. You must also provide the address or legal description and the title certificate (or other proof

of ownership) for the property you own and demonstrate that you have the written consent of the majority of all owners to vote as the non-resident property elector when you own a property with another person(s).

Contact the local government where you own property for more information about voter registration procedures.



ON VOTING DAY

General voting day is usually the most publicized or widely known voting opportunity resident electors and non-resident property electors have to cast their ballot in local elections.

Can I vote before general voting day?

Yes. At least one advance voting opportunity must be held in every jurisdiction 10 days before general voting day. Many jurisdictions hold more than one advance voting opportunity. The required advance voting opportunity for the upcoming general local elections is **Wednesday, October 7, 2026.**

Jurisdictions may also hold special voting opportunities for eligible electors who may not otherwise be able to attend an advance voting opportunity or cast a ballot on general voting day.

Special voting opportunities are most often held in hospitals, long-term care facilities, or other places where an elector's mobility may be impaired. Only designated electors are eligible to vote at special voting opportunities.

You may also vote by mail ballot if your local government permits mail ballot voting in its election bylaw.

Contact your local government to find out how you can vote before general voting day.

How can I vote if I am absent from my community on advance and general voting day?

You are eligible to vote by mail ballot if the local government has authorized it in its election bylaw. Contact your local government or Chief Election Officer for information about mail ballot voting or other advance voting opportunities in the jurisdiction where you intend to vote.

Do I need identification in order to vote?

Identification is not required when a jurisdiction uses a list of registered electors (voters list) and your name is on the list. You will be required to provide identification if your name is not on the list of registered electors at the time of voting, or if the jurisdiction limits to same-day voter registration only.

You **must** provide two separate pieces of identification when registering to vote as a resident elector on voting day. The identification **must** satisfy the election official of who you are and where you live - and one piece of identification must include your signature. You can make a solemn declaration about where you live if none of your identification documents contain an address.

You **must** provide proof of who you are and where you live, as well as the address or legal description and title certificate (or other proof of ownership) of the property you own when you are voting as a non-resident property elector.

Contact the [Land Title Survey Authority](#) for information about the property you own or to order a land title record.

Only one owner can vote when you own property with one or more people, and you must have the written consent of the majority of the other owners in order to vote in relation to that property.

Acceptable identification documents include, a:

- Driver's Licence;
- British Columbia Identification (BCID) card (note: the BC Services Card when combined with a Driver's Licence is considered **one** piece of identification);
- Certificate of Indian Status;
- Citizenship and/or membership card issued by an Indigenous governing body;
- Utility bill (that contains your residential address); or,
- Credit or Debit Card.

A full list of accepted identification can be found online in the [Local Government Elections Regulation \(BC Reg 380/93\)](#).

The Regulation provides clarity that a citizenship or membership card issued by a First Nation and a citizenship card issued by the Métis Nation British Columbia, are eligible identification options.

Contact your local government if you believe you are eligible to vote in your jurisdiction and cannot satisfy the identification requirements or have questions about what identification will be accepted.

What if I need assistance to vote?

All local governments are required to make voting places as accessible as reasonably possible. You may:

- ask an election official to bring you a ballot if you are able to travel to a voting place and find it difficult to get into the building or room where voting is taking place (this is called “curb-side” voting);
- ask an election official, friend or relative to accompany you to the ballot box and help you if you are unable to mark your own ballot; or,
- bring someone to assist you if you need a translator. The translator must be capable of making a solemn declaration that they can and will make the translation to the best of their ability.

The person assisting you to vote must make a solemn declaration that they will preserve the secrecy of the ballot, mark the ballot in the manner they are directed to, and in no way attempt to influence how you choose to vote.

Candidates, candidate representatives, and candidate financial agents may not assist an elector to cast their ballot.

Can I vote on the Internet or by phone?

No. You may not cast your ballot over the Internet or by phone.

ELECTION OFFENCES

What is an election offence?

Specific election offences are outlined in the *Local Government Act* and *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*. They include activities, such as intimidation, providing or distributing false information, fraudulently voting, interfering with ballots or ballot boxes, and hindering or obstructing an election official.

What can I do if I believe someone has committed an election offence?

Contact your Chief Election Officer and/or local law enforcement if you believe someone has committed an election offence. The local Chief Election Officer may be able to deal with certain elections offences immediately (e.g., removing campaign signs within 100 metres of a voting place) and in other circumstances the police may need to be involved.

The police are responsible for conducting an investigation and recommending to Crown counsel whether charges could be laid for election offences such as vote-buying or voter intimidation. Crown counsel makes the determination to proceed with a prosecution. Election offences are prosecuted through the courts.

Notify Elections BC if you believe someone has committed an advertising-related election offence – such as publishing advertisements without sponsorship information – or a campaign financing and/or election advertising offence. Elections BC is responsible for administering and enforcing local election advertising and campaign financing rules under the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Local government mailing addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses and websites are available online from CivicInfo BC at:

www.civicinfo.bc.ca/directories

For answers to legislative **questions about municipal and regional district elections** please contact:

Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs

Governance and Structure Branch

Phone: 250 387-4020

Email: LGgovernance@gov.bc.ca

Website: www.gov.bc.ca/localelections

For answers to **questions about election advertising, third party sponsors and campaign financing disclosure** please contact:

Elections BC

Phone: 250 387-5305

Toll-free: 1 800 661-8683 / TTY 1 888 456-5448

Email: electoral.finance@elections.bc.ca

Website: <https://elections.bc.ca/local-elections/2026-general-local-elections/>

Full text of the *Local Government Act*, *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, *Community Charter*, *Vancouver Charter*, *School Act*, and *Offence Act* can be found online at www.bclaws.ca

Disclaimer

In the event that there is inconsistency between this brochure and the *Local Government Act*, the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, or any other Act, the legislation shall prevail.

Land Acknowledgment

The BC Public Service acknowledges the territories of First Nations around B.C. and is grateful to carry out its work on these lands – it acknowledges the rights, interests, priorities, and concerns of all Indigenous Peoples – First Nations, Métis, and Inuit – respecting and acknowledging their distinct cultures, histories, rights, laws, and governments.





SCRUTINEER'S GUIDE

TO GENERAL LOCAL ELECTIONS IN B.C.

2026



Getting Started

This brochure answers questions and provides best practices about scrutineers and their role in general local elections in British Columbia.

Scrutineers are also known as "*candidate representatives*" in provincial legislation.

General local elections in B.C. are held every four years on the third Saturday in October. The next general local elections will be held on **Saturday, October 17, 2026.**

Through general local elections residents and non-resident property electors determine the individuals who will collectively govern and make decisions on their behalf. Electors do this by voting – casting their ballots in favour of one or more candidate(s).

General local elections (and any by-elections held to fill vacancies between general local elections) must be run in accordance with the *Local Government Act*, the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, the *Community Charter*, the *Vancouver Charter* (in the City of Vancouver), the *School Act*, the *Offence Act* and the local government's or board of education's election bylaw, as applicable.

The local government's election bylaw enables the local government to make decisions about some aspects of local elections administration (e.g., use of voting machines).

Unlike provincial elections, local elections are not managed by one organization. Each local government is responsible for running its own local elections, including voting, counting, reporting results, and accepting candidate nominations. [Elections BC](#) is responsible for administering the campaign financing and election advertising rules in the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*.

Responsibility for school trustee elections is determined in accordance with the *School Act*. Further information about school trustee elections can be found on the [Ministry of Education and Child Care website](#).

Local governments appoint a Chief Election Officer to run local elections. Chief Election Officers are responsible for overseeing all election administration, including: receiving nomination documents; declaring candidates; administering voting opportunities; counting ballots; and, declaring election results.

Chief Election Officers also work with Elections BC to monitor compliance with election advertising regulations and may assist Elections BC to address incidents of election advertising non-compliance.

Chief Election Officer

The Chief Election Officer may be a senior local government employee, such as a corporate officer, or a private contractor hired to conduct the election on the local government's behalf.

The Presiding Election Official is appointed by the Chief Election Officer to conduct the election at a voting place.

Being a Scrutineer

Why consider being a scrutineer?

Volunteering to be a scrutineer is one way to be involved in local elections. Scrutineers play a role in helping protect the integrity of the voting process for their community and the candidate they represent.

What is the role of a scrutineer?

Scrutineers represent candidates at advance, special and general voting opportunities to:

- observe the opening of the mail ballots, if applicable;
- observe the voting procedures; and,
- scrutinize the ballot-counting process after the close of voting at the end of general voting day.

Scrutineers must follow the legislation, the local government's election bylaw and the direction of the Chief Election Officer and Presiding Election Official at the voting place during voting proceedings and the ballot counting process.

Who can be a scrutineer?

Candidates can choose whom to appoint as a scrutineer. For example, a candidate may appoint a relative or friend to scrutineer for them during local elections. A candidate's official agent may also act as a scrutineer on voting day.

What is an Official Agent?

The official agent may act as the campaign manager or spokesperson or be the point of contact for the people helping on the candidate's election campaign.

A candidate may appoint an official agent to represent them during the election process.

How are scrutineers appointed?

Candidates or their official agent may appoint a scrutineer. Scrutineer appointments must be made in writing (including the name and address of the person) and delivered to the Chief Election Officer as soon as practicable after the appointment has been made.

There is no set period in the legislation within which a candidate or their official agent must appoint a scrutineer. However, the Chief Election Officer may establish a deadline for scrutineers to be appointed by to simplify election administration.



A person interested in being a scrutineer can contact a candidate or the Chief Election Officer for more information about the local government's process and to better understand what their time commitment would be during the election.

The *Local Government Act* and Scrutineers

Provincial legislation requires that each scrutineer appointment must:

- be written and signed by the person making the appointment (e.g. candidate or official agent);
- include the full name and address of the person appointed; and,
- be submitted to the Chief Election Officer as soon as practicable after the appointment is made.

The appointment of a scrutineer may only be cancelled in the same manner as the appointment was made.

Number of scrutineers at a voting place

Each candidate or their official agent may appoint one scrutineer for each ballot box used at a voting place during general local elections.

In some cases, the local government's election bylaw may allow a candidate to have more than one scrutineer for each ballot box used at a voting place. The absence of a scrutineer at the voting place does not invalidate a local election.

Special Voting Opportunities

Special voting opportunities are generally held in hospitals, long-term care facilities or other places where an elector's mobility may be impaired. Scrutineers for special voting opportunities are chosen by agreement of the candidates or failing agreement by the candidates, by the Chief Election Officer.

A local government's election bylaw may limit, or authorize the Chief Election Officer to limit, the number of scrutineers at special voting opportunities.

Preparing to scrutineer

There are several actions scrutineers can take to prepare for their role. Scrutineers can:

- ensure their availability for training sessions (if applicable) and voting opportunities;
- consider the length of time they are available to observe the voting or ballot counting process;
- take the required solemn declaration to preserve the secrecy of the vote (usually made at the local government office);
- clarify any questions they may have with the Chief Election Officer prior to scrutineering at a voting opportunity;
- review the local government's election bylaw and local government guidelines for scrutineers (if any); and,
- understand the role of the Presiding Election Official at the voting place.

Voting Opportunities

On voting day

Local governments, by bylaw, and the Chief Election Officer have the authority to establish specific rules governing scrutineer conduct and responsibilities. Scrutineers must follow these rules, or they may be ordered to leave the voting place by the Chief Election Officer, Presiding Election Official or local law enforcement.

While scrutineers are appointed to represent candidates at a voting opportunity, they are not there to campaign for the candidates. They are there to neutrally observe the voting process. Scrutineers are not permitted to wear anything that shows support for a particular candidate (e.g., shirt, hat, button) while they are in or near the voting place.

Scrutineers may work part of the voting day and then be replaced by another appointed scrutineer. The Chief Election Officer may place requirements around the timing of shifts to minimize disruption at the voting place and/or require that scrutineers only serve one shift during voting.

Scrutineers may be asked to inform the Presiding Election Official if they leave the voting place and/or are being replaced by a new scrutineer.

At the voting place **scrutineers must:**

- carry a copy of their appointment documents and, before beginning duties at the voting place, show them to the Presiding Election Official;

- make the required declaration to preserve the secrecy of the vote (if not previously completed);
- follow the direction of the Presiding Election Official; and,
- remain in the designated area for scrutineers to observe the vote, if one has been designated.

Challenging an Elector's Eligibility to Receive a Ballot

A scrutineer may challenge an elector's right to receive a ballot based on their belief that the elector is not entitled to vote or has accepted an inducement to vote. Challenges must be raised before the ballot is issued to the elector.

The Presiding Election Official will discuss the matter with the elector and decide whether or not the elector is eligible. The Presiding Election Official must keep a record indicating the elector was challenged and record the name of the scrutineer who made the challenge.

During voting **scrutineers may:**

- generally, only communicate with election officials during times when no electors are present at the voting place – unless they are challenging an elector's eligibility to receive a ballot;
- ask to look at the voting books and write down the names of people who have voted, provided it does not interfere with the voting process;
- be asked to witness the sealing of a ballot box by the Presiding Election Official;

- add their initials during the sealing of a ballot box; or,
- privately communicate with the candidate or official agent provided it is outside the voting place and not in the presence of electors or election officials.

During voting **scrutineers must not:**

- interfere with the duties of the Presiding Election Official or handle election documents;
- handle or touch the voting books, or make a copy (such as taking a photo or asking for a photocopy);
- view, interfere with, or assist a person marking a ballot;
- attempt to discover how someone voted or marked their ballot;
- communicate information about how someone voted;
- canvass or solicit votes or otherwise attempt to influence an elector's vote;
- display, distribute, post or openly leave a representation of a ballot marked for a particular result in the voting place or elsewhere;
- display, distribute, or post any election advertising within 100 metres of a voting place on voting day that identifies a candidate or elector organization;
- carry, wear or supply a flag, badge or other item indicating support for a candidate, elector organization; or,
- make telephone calls or take photos inside the voting place.

Mail Ballot Voting

Local governments that offer mail ballot voting may have a separate process for opening external envelopes and checking elector registration documents prior to the ballot count. Candidates are entitled to have a representative present during this process.

Conflict between scrutineers or with other persons present at the voting place can raise concerns about the procedures and safety at a voting place. If conflict does arise, due to a concern about procedures or otherwise, this should be brought to the attention of the Presiding Election Official to address in a manner that does not disturb voting.

The Presiding Election Official has authority to order a person to leave if they are disturbing the peace and order of proceedings.



After the Close of Voting

Observing the ballot count

Ballot counting begins after voting places close at 8:00 p.m. local time and is generally conducted at the voting place where the ballot boxes are located unless the Chief Election Officer has directed that the counting is to take place at another location.

Acceptance or Rejection of a Ballot

Ballots must be accepted if the elector's intent is clear. Ballots must be rejected if:

- the ballot is physically different from the ballots provided;
- there are no marks on the ballot;
- the ballot is uniquely marked such that an elector could be identified; or,
- the ballot has more marks than the number of candidates to be elected.

Scrutineers must be in the voting place before the end of voting to observe the ballot count and must not leave the voting place until after the count is complete.

Only one candidate representative (scrutineer or official agent) for each candidate may be present to observe the count at each location where ballot counting takes place, unless another representative is also permitted by the Presiding Election Official.

Candidates are entitled to be present during the ballot count as well. The Presiding Election Official may explain the ballot counting process and outline what scrutineers may and may not do while the count is being conducted prior to starting the ballot count.

Use of Voting Machines

Local governments may establish different: procedures for how to vote, the form of ballot, and, requirements for counting of votes for voting machines.

During the ballot count **scrutineers must:**

- be able to see how the ballot is marked as it is being considered for acceptance by the Presiding Election Official or other election officials under the supervision of the Presiding Election Official;
- raise their objection (if they have one) to a ballot's acceptance or rejection with the Presiding Election Official at the time the ballot is being considered;
- not participate in the physical counting of the ballots;
- not touch the ballot boxes or the ballots during the counting process; and,
- not leave during the ballot counting process.

At the ballot count **scrutineers may:**

- be asked to witness the opening of the ballot box(es) for counting;
- be asked to witness the opening of the certification envelopes for mail ballots

either at the ballot count or at another designated time; and/or,

- look at the ballot packages after the count to make sure they are properly re-sealed and may add their own seal to the ballot package.

Objections to the Acceptance or Rejection of a Ballot

The Presiding Election Official must record an objection to accept or reject a ballot made by a candidate or scrutineer.

Objections to the Presiding Election Official's decision relative to the ballot in question are recorded and submitted with the ballot account for that voting place to the Chief Election Officer. The Presiding Election Official's decision to accept or reject a ballot can only be overturned by the Chief Election Officer or by the Provincial Court following a judicial recount.

Judicial recounts

Scrutineers may make an application to the Courts for a judicial recount.

An application for judicial recount may only be made in the time between the declaration of the official election results and nine days after the close of general voting.

An application for judicial recount can only be made on the basis that the:

- ballots were incorrectly accepted or rejected;

- ballot account does not accurately record the number of valid votes for a candidate; or,
- final determination of results did not correctly calculate the total number of valid votes for a candidate.

Local guidelines for scrutineers

Some local governments and Chief Election Officers have developed guidelines for scrutineers to assist with election day administration and to clarify scrutineer roles and responsibilities on voting day and at the ballot count.

These guidelines assist the Chief Election Officer and Presiding Election Official to manage scrutineers during voting and help the voting proceedings and the ballot counting process to run smoothly.

Local government best practices for scrutineers may:

- require that the solemn declaration to preserve the secrecy of the vote be made prior to voting day to help ease voting day administration;
- outline whether a scrutineer may be replaced by another scrutineer during voting, return for a second shift or when scrutineer shift changes may occur;
- require scrutineers to wear a name tag at the voting place to identify them as a scrutineer;
- state whether a scrutineer may be asked by the Presiding Election Official to witness ballot box inspection prior to voting (the

final decision of who the witness will be is made by the Presiding Election Official);

- clarify when it is appropriate for scrutineers to ask to view the voting books and record the names of those electors that have voted (usually when the voting place is quiet and providing it does not interfere with voting proceedings);
- outline that scrutineers may give the candidate's official agent the record of electors who have voted;
- require scrutineers to keep questions to election staff to a minimum unless it is vital to the integrity of the election process;
- recommend scrutineers provide their own food, beverages, folding chair and blanket or coats at the voting place and to clean up their area at the close of voting;
- state whether the use of electronic devices is permitted in the voting place;
- require scrutineers to keep activities quiet and to a minimum while observing the vote;
- require that scrutineers refrain from visiting with each other unless outside the voting place;
- state that scrutineers must not discuss the election with electors, election staff or other scrutineers inside or outside the voting place;
- include specific rules for scrutineers if voting machines are used instead of manual counting procedures; and,
- include specific roles for scrutineers with respect to mail ballot voting if mail ballot voting is provided for in the local government's election bylaw.

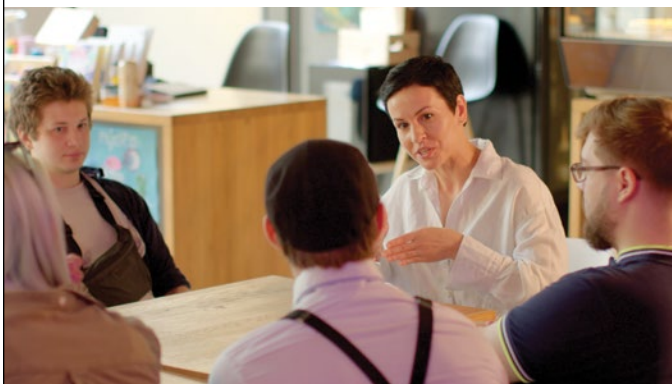
Scrutineers for Assent Voting

There are specific rules set out for a scrutineer during assent voting (formerly referendum) that are different than for an election. For example, a person who wishes to volunteer as a scrutineer either in favour or against the assent voting question must submit an application directly to the Chief Election Officer in order to be appointed as a scrutineer.

The application to be a scrutineer must be signed by the applicant and contain:

- the applicant's full name, address and phone number (if required by the Chief Election Officer);
- a statement that they are entitled to vote as an elector and to act as scrutineer in the assent voting; and,
- a statement as to whether they are in favour or opposed to the question.

For more information about rules for scrutineers during assent voting refer to the [Assent Voting: Processes & Considerations for Local Governments in British Columbia](#)



Further Information

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