

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF STRONG**  
**2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION CANDIDATE GUIDE**



**Municipal Election**  
**October 26, 2026**



## Municipal Election October 26, 2026

# Candidates Information

Before beginning a campaign, candidates should familiarize themselves with the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* and its Regulations. Candidates are obliged to satisfy themselves either through their own determination or through the assistance of their own legal counsel as to the legal requirements relating to their candidacy. Further, candidates are required to comply with the provisions relating to election campaign finances as set out in the *Municipal Elections Act*.

Candidates should ensure they are using the most current version of any legislation and its regulations. An updated *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* can be found online at e-laws website at [www.e-laws.gov.on.ca](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca)

### Key Dates

There are many key dates that candidates should be aware of such as:

Description	Date
Nomination begins	May 1, 2026
Nomination day (last day to be nominated)	August 21, 2026 by 2:00 p.m.
Final day for withdrawal of candidacy	August 21, 2026 by 2:00 p.m.
Acclamations declared (if applicable)	August 24, 2026 by 4:00 p.m.
Voting Period Opens (internet/phone)	October 13, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
Voting Day	October 26, 2022 8:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Council term begins	November 15, 2026
Campaign period ends	December 31, 2026
Financial filing deadline	March 30, 2027

### Election Positions

The term of office for all elected positions is four years and starts November 15, 2026, with the inaugural meeting taking place on November 24, 2026.

#### MAYOR

One Mayor candidate is elected

#### COUNCILLORS

Four Councillors are elected



Municipal Election  
October 26, 2026

## The Corporation of the Township of Strong General Information from the Clerk

This guide has been prepared by the Clerk to provide information to candidates that will assist them during the election process. Candidates are encouraged to visit: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/get-know-your-municipality> to access the Ministry prescribed forms and Candidate Guide.

Municipal elections are held every four (4) years in Ontario. The next election will be Monday October 26, 2026 by Internet and Telephone Voting (pursuant to By-law 2025-023). You can become involved in your community by casting your vote or submitting nomination papers and running for a seat on council. Members will be elected for a term of office commencing November 15, 2026 and ending November 14, 2030, for the following offices:

- Mayor: One (1) to be elected by general vote of the electors of the Township of Strong
- Councillors: Four (4) to be elected by general vote of the electors of the Township of Strong
- District School Board (English): One (1) to be elected
- District Separate School Board (English): One (1) to be elected
- District School Board (French): One (1) to be elected
- District Separate School Board (French): One (1) to be elected

### Nominations

Nominations may be filed by candidates at the Clerk's office prior to Nomination Day at by scheduling an appointment, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., excluding statutory holidays, from Friday, May 1, 2026 to Friday, August 21, 2026. On Nomination Closing Day (Friday, August 21, 2026) nominations may only be filed using the prescribed form by appointment only at the Clerk's office between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Acceptable Photo Identification for the filing of Nomination papers include: a valid Canadian Passport, Ontario Driver's License or an Ontario HealthCard. The prescribed fee must also be included: \$200.00 for the office of Mayor or \$100.00 for the office of Councillor, in the form of cash, certified cheque, money order, e-transfer or debit. **Candidates are NOT REQUIRED to submit 25 endorsement signatures since there are under 4000 electors in the Township of Strong.**

### To make an appointment:

Call 705-384-5819 ext. 207 or 202, or email [clerk@strongtownship.com](mailto:clerk@strongtownship.com) or [deputyclerk@strongtownship.com](mailto:deputyclerk@strongtownship.com)

Township of Strong By-law 2025-023 authorizes Vote by Internet/Telephone for the 2026 Election.

To be an eligible candidate you must live in the municipality, be an owner or tenant of land there, or the spouse of an owner or tenant; be a Canadian citizen; and at least 18 years old on Voting Day. Campaign periods commence when a candidate files nomination papers and ends on December 31, 2026, unless the candidate withdraws the nomination, the Clerk rejects the nomination or the candidate is continuing their campaign to erase a deficit.

If sufficient nominations are not received by 2:00 p.m. on August 21, 2026, the Clerk shall extend the nomination period and additional nominations may be filed by appointment only from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on August 26, 2026.

### **Preliminary List and Voter's List**

Residents are encouraged to determine whether they are on the Voters' List and to confirm their information and school board support prior to the Municipal Election. Anyone can view or change this information using <https://www.registertovoteon.ca/>

The Preliminary List of Electors is to be provided to the municipality on or before September 1, 2026. On or before September 17, 2026, the Clerk shall reproduce the Voters' List upon written request and completion of the prescribed form.

Revisions to the Voters' List: The period for revisions to the Voters' List is from September 1, 2026 until the close of voting at 8:00 p.m. on October 26, 2026, and will be conducted at the Municipal Office, 28 Municipal Lane during regular office hours and on voting day until 8:00 p.m. Revisions must be completed on the prescribed form.

Applications to remove another person's name from the Voters' List are now only permitted if that person is deceased and the Clerk will require a copy of the death certificate to accompany the prescribed form. The period to submit request to remove a deceased person's name is during regular office hours from September 1, 2026 to close of voting at 8:00 p.m. on October 26, 2026.

### **Proxy Voting**

Proxy Voting is not required for Vote Internet/Telephone.

For further information or clarification, please contact the Clerk's office at 705-384-5819 or [clerk@strongtownship.com](mailto:clerk@strongtownship.com)



## Municipal Election October 26, 2026

### The Corporation of the Township of Strong

#### **Read before Filing Nomination Papers**

To file your nomination papers, please make an appointment with Caitlin Haggart, Clerk Administrator, at [clerk@strongtownship.com](mailto:clerk@strongtownship.com) or 705-384-5819 ext. 207; or Kim Dunnett, Deputy Clerk, at [deputyclerk@strongtownship.com](mailto:deputyclerk@strongtownship.com) or 705-384-5819 ext. 202; or Jennifer Martin, at [info@strongtownship.com](mailto:info@strongtownship.com) or 705-384-5819 ext. 214.

#### **Please do not sign any forms before filing your papers – all forms must be signed in front of the Clerk or designate.**

Filing Fee of \$100 (Councillor) or \$200 (Mayor) shall only be paid by certified cheque, cash, debit, e-transfer or money order, and must accompany the filing of the nomination paper.

Nomination Form – your name will be printed on the ballot as the form has been completed. If you go by a short form (i.e. Jim instead of James) or your middle name, rather than your given name, etc., please use this or voters may not recognize you on the ballot.

Proof of identification (drivers license, etc.) and proof of citizenship (birth certificate or passport) must be presented to the Clerk Administrator or Deputy Clerk at time of filing papers.

If planning to post election signs, must complete form and submit \$200 deposit (paid by certified cheque, cash, debit or money order) before posting.

Please refer any questions to the Clerk Administrator or Deputy Clerk – any questions raised (anonymous) and their answers will be provided to all candidates who have filed papers each week.



**Municipal Election  
October 26, 2026**

## **Council Remuneration & Meeting Schedule**

As per By-Law 2018-037

**Councillor - \$1,166.29 per month (\$13,995.48 per year)**

**Mayor - \$1,304.58 per month (\$15,654.96 per year)**

Regular Council Meetings are held the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Currently we have the following committees and/or boards that council members are appointed to which typically meet once a month (subject to change):

<b>Boards/Committee</b>	<b>Current Meeting Schedule</b>
Provincial Offences	Quarterly – Daytime
District of Parry Sound Municipal Assoc.	Bi-Annual (spring/fall) - Daytime
Tri/Bi Council Meetings (Sundridge/Strong/Joly)	Quarterly – or as required - Evening
Sundridge & District Medical Centre Committee	Monthly – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday – Evening
Sundridge – Strong Fire Joint Board of Mgt. Com.	Quarterly - 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday – Evening
Sundridge – Strong Recreation Committee	Monthly – 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday – Evening
High Rock Lookout Committee	Bi-Annual (Additional as required) - Evening
Sundridge-Strong-Joly Arena Committee	Monthly – 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday – Evening
Sundridge-Strong Library Board	Monthly – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday – Evening
Central Almaguin Planning Board	Monthly – 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday – Evening
Emergency Management Program Committee	Quarterly (Additional as required) - Daytime
ARI/Hazardous Waste Committee	Bi – annually (spring/fall) - Evening
Almaguin Community Economic Development	Monthly – 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday - Evening
Joint Building Committee	Monthly – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday – Evening
SSJ Restructuring Committee	Monthly – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday – Evening

Most committee/boards require 2 members of Council to attend and an alternate to be appointed.

There are a few committees that represent multiple municipalities, which a Member could nominate themselves for: District of Parry Sound Administration Board; North Bay-Parry Sound Board of Health; Eastholme Home for the Aged Administration Board; Almaguin Highlands OPP Detachment Board.



# Lead Where You Live

A guide to running for  
municipal council

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The Association of Municipalities of Ontario aims to make municipal governments stronger and more effective through advocacy, training and events, and business services. Through AMO, Ontario's 444 municipalities work together to achieve shared goals and meet common challenges

# Introduction



From clean drinking water, affordable housing and childcare, to good roads and safe streets, Ontario's 444 municipal governments provide the services that people rely on most, every day. Collectively, they own more infrastructure than the provincial and federal governments combined, and each year they manage budgets totalling more than \$65 billion.

Municipal government is important. Well-run governments are led by strong councils, and municipal councils are more effective when good, qualified candidates step forward to serve on them.

Elected municipal leaders play a vital role in making sure that communities are healthy and successful, socially and economically. Councils shape priorities, ensure accountability to the public, and represent the people who elect them. They provide a democratic forum for diverse perspectives and experiences to be heard, so that better decisions are made and good governance is maintained. Having people with a variety of backgrounds and lived experiences on council helps the municipality better meet the needs of all residents and businesses.

If you are thinking of running for election in 2026, this guide will introduce you to some of the key steps in that process. It will also give you a sense of what life is like as an elected member of a municipal council.

## Municipal Councils



Councils represent the best interests of the public and the municipal government. They develop policies and programs. They determine what services are provided. And they ensure that the municipality is well run by qualified municipal staff.

That last point is key. Elected officials provide strategic direction and oversight. The day-to-day work of municipal governments is provided by municipal employees. That means you do not have to be a municipal expert before you run for office. Councils are supported by a Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) or City Manager, clerk, and other senior municipal staff who work with elected representatives to ensure that responsibilities are met.

Diversity is important to municipal government. Councils benefit when people with different life experiences and skills come together to make a positive impact on their community. AMO created the *We All Win* campaign in 2021 to encourage more candidates from diverse communities to participate in Ontario municipal elections. Since then, AMO has expanded its work through the Healthy Democracy Project to support democracy on a number of fronts. The project [homepage](#) provides more information, links to helpful organizations and resources.

Once elected, councillors are expected to learn and adhere to municipal policies and procedures, as well as provincial legislations such as the *Municipal Act*. Municipal staff often assist with that education, and organizations like the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) offer training programs for elected representatives.

## Service on Council

You will be expected to dedicate four years to the position, with the understanding that it involves more than attending meetings and reviewing agenda packages.

The role of an elected municipal official includes:

- Being a community ambassador, advocating for the needs of your community and your municipal government.
- Developing a working relationship with your fellow councillors and municipal staff that's built on mutual trust and respect.
- Serving on committees related to areas such as planning, policing, or economic development.
- Helping to set the municipal budget, priorities and policies.
- Listening and learning from your residents, so you may best represent their interests.
- Attending conferences, educational sessions and community events.
- Reviewing documents and participating in meaningful discussions.

Service on council can change other aspects of your life, positively and negatively. Most councillors look back on it as an honour and a rewarding experience. However, it can present challenges.

- It may change your relationships with your friends, family and colleagues. You or your council may make decisions they do not like.
- You will attend several meetings a month and be expected to review a lot of information.
- People will want to engage with you in person, on the phone, by text and email, and through a wide range of social media platforms. It can feel overwhelming.
- The public can have high expectations and you may be asked to address matters that are well beyond your authority, influence or control.
- You may face harsh criticism or behaviour from people at meetings, in public, or on social media.
- There are significant legal liabilities. Failing to perform your duties can have consequences.
- You will be involved in matters that require you to keep certain kinds of information private and confidential.

You may want to find out how much councillors and mayors earn in your municipality as part of your decision-making process. But, also consider there are perks of the job that money can't buy, like opportunities for learning, skill-building, networking, and having the opportunity to participate in municipal decision-making on behalf of your community.



“You have to work with your council colleagues and not everything will go your way, or things you worked for may get overturned. It can be hard, but it is all part of the democratic process. The important thing is that it's an open and respectful debate.”

– MP Arielle Kayabaga, London West, Former City of London Councillor

# Responsibility by Level of Government

It is important to know which level of government is responsible for which areas of service. Candidates and elected officials get a lot of questions and requests about topic areas that are not under municipal jurisdiction. It is helpful to share with residents who is responsible for what.

## Who Does What?

### RESPONSIBILITY BY LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT

#### Federal

Services affecting the **whole country**:

- Citizenship
- Immigration
- International Relations
- Currency & Banking
- Income Tax & Sales Tax
- Census
- Defense
- International Trade
- Postal Service
- Transportation

#### Provincial

Services affecting the **province of Ontario**:

- Agriculture
- Employment
- Education
- Health Care
- Highways
- Planning & Development Framework
- Social Services
- Sales Tax
- Mental Health
- Income Tax

#### Municipal

Services affecting a local **municipality, region, or county**:

- Housing Support & Homelessness
- Emergency Services
- Libraries
- Parks, Trails & Playgrounds
- Planning & Development Decisions
- Roads, Bridges, Sidewalks
- Waste Management
- Drinking Water
- Sewers & Wastewater
- Snow Clearing
- Animal Services



# The Structure of Municipal Government

The head of a local or municipal council is normally called a mayor or the reeve, and the members of council are normally called councillors or aldermen. The head of council serves as the voice of their council, reflecting consensus.

Council sets the strategic direction for the corporation. Municipal staff carry out those decisions and provide services to taxpayers. The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) or City Manager is the most senior staff member.

It's also a common misconception that a single councillor can bring change forth for taxpayers. It's council as a body that makes decisions and sets policy, not individual councillors.



## Managing Your Campaign

Once you have made the decision to run for an elected position, there's work to be done. **May 1, 2026**, is the first day to file nomination papers.

Everyone running for council must meet the same criteria:

- A resident, a non-resident owner, or tenant of land in the municipality, or the spouse of a non-resident owner or tenant
- A Canadian citizen
- At least 18 years old
- Legally eligible to vote
- Not disqualified by any legislation from holding municipal office

Candidates must **not** be:

- An inmate of a penal or correctional institution under sentence of imprisonment
- Any person not eligible to vote in the municipality
- A staff member of the municipality, UNLESS he or she takes an unpaid leave of absence during the campaign period and resigns once elected to office
- A judge of any court
- A member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, a Senator, or a member of the House of Commons

If your municipality has more than 4,000 electors, your nomination must be endorsed by 25 eligible electors (voters) in the municipality, and you must pay a nomination fee of \$100 for councillors and \$200 for heads of council (mayor or reeve). You cannot begin campaigning until the municipal clerk accepts your paperwork as complete.



“The highlight of working in municipal government is the public interaction and meeting so many people throughout the city. I continue to learn and grow because of it.”

– Kristin Murray, City of Timmins Councillor

# 2026 Municipal Election: Key Dates

**MAY 1, 2026**

## FIRST DAY TO FILE A NOMINATION

You will require:

- A signed nomination paper delivered to the clerk
- ID proving that you meet local eligibility criteria
- A form showing that 25 voters endorse your candidacy if your municipality has more than 4,000 electors
- The nomination filing fee of either \$100 or \$200



**AUGUST 21, 2026**

## FINAL NOMINATION DAY

- All candidates must file paperwork by 2 p.m.
- This is the last day for candidates to withdraw their nomination by providing written correspondence to the clerk by no later than 2 p.m.



**SEPTEMBER 1, 2026**

## VOTERS' LIST IS FINALIZED

- Candidates now have access to the [Voters' List](#). Members of the public can access the list, but only to confirm they are on it, and that their information is correct
- From now until election day, requests can be made to the clerk to amend the list to add or remove voters or amend voter information



**AUGUST 2026**

## ELECTIONS ONTARIO TO DELIVER THE VOTERS' LIST

- [Elections Ontario](#) provides the municipality with the Voters' List
- The clerk reviews this list to add and remove names and/or adjust voter information

**AUGUST 24, 2026**

## CANDIDATES ARE CERTIFIED

- All candidates will be certified by the clerk by 4 p.m.
- Acclamations are announced

**OCTOBER 26, 2026**

## VOTING DAY

- While some municipalities may have already held advance polls since September 26, 2026, this is the official election day
- Voting places are open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. unless otherwise established by the clerk



“The most important thing for candidates is to understand the job. Many people get drawn into local politics over a single issue. The role is bigger than that. It is really about what you want growth to look like and thinking strategically about the future, not about micromanaging services.”

– Former AMO President,  
Mayor Lynn Dollin, Town of Innisfil

# Welcome to the Spotlight

Municipal candidates attract attention. In fact, it is hard to get elected without it. You may have to give speeches, participate in debates, or give media interviews.

Increasingly, there is pressure to engage with audiences using social media platforms like LinkedIn, Facebook or Instagram. Campaign styles vary, but here are some approaches that many seasoned election winners follow.

## Social media:

- Simple ideas and information tend to build confidence and trust more than complicated ideas. Find ways to explain complicated things simply, fairly and accurately in your posts.
- Memorable messages are often simple, colourful and credible. To gain traction on social media, you will want to use compelling photos or videos to tell your story.
- You do not need to create a lot of social media content or be an expert on every topic. Often, the most practical approach is to lead people to useful, credible information that others have created.
- Focus on being helpful. Remember that the person you are at odds with today could be someone you work with tomorrow. This is important when tackling challenges or looking for the right words on social media. How do you want to be remembered?
- Create a social media plan for yourself. Why are you on it? What platforms will you use? What issues will you focus on? How much of your personal life will you share? Who will manage the account?
- Always think about your online audience before you choose your words. Think about how you can connect with your audience quickly, give them something useful, and make what you're explaining interesting.
- Remember it's rare to win a debate on social media and keep in mind your audience is potential voters. Rather than responding emotionally, listen to what the person is saying, focus on valid concerns, and respond in a way that inspires confidence and trust in the larger audience that is watching.

## Media relations:

- No matter how urgent the request is, carve out some time to gather your thoughts, plan your response and focus your message.
- If you expect media at an event, try to think ahead of time about what message you most want to get across.
- You will not have the answers to every question. No one does and you should be comfortable with that. Focus on what you do know, and the story that you want to tell.
- If you have a lot to explain, or the topic is complicated, make sure you can start with a simple sentence or two that captures what is happening, or what you want, and *why*.
- End the interview with a strong summary of your message. This will help shape the final story.

# Campaign Finance

Campaign finance rules ensure a fair election for everyone. Under the Municipal Elections Act, a candidate should open a bank account for the campaign if they accept any contributions of money or incur any expenses.

The candidate and/or the person managing their campaign is responsible for keeping financial records, and there are rules to follow during an election campaign, as well as when the campaign is over. Candidates can't use a personal bank account to operate their campaign, even if they have very few expenses. It's important to keep good records.

These expectations are simple, and important. If you are subject to an Election Compliance Audit, failure to meet spending limits and campaign rules can cost you your seat on council.

Receipts and dates issued for campaign contributions, as well as the contributor's name and address. Any one candidate can receive a maximum campaign contribution up to \$1,200. If an individual is supporting more than one candidate, their contribution total can't be more than \$5,000. It's important you keep records for any contributions you receive – even cash contributions under \$100.

The terms and conditions of loans received at a bank or lending institution (the loan itself is not considered a campaign contribution).

Receipts for your own campaign contributions / expenses.

The funds raised and expenses incurred at fundraising events.

The value of contributions, if you receive support in the form of goods instead of money, along with the contributor's name and address.

Also keep in mind:

- Businesses cannot contribute to a campaign. However, business owners can donate as individuals.
- There are limits on campaign expenses. The Clerk's Office can provide this information to candidates.
- Candidates must provide their campaign financial statements to the municipal clerk by the last Friday in March of year following the election (for October 2026, this would be March 2027). Failure to do so could result in penalties, or an inability to run in subsequent elections.

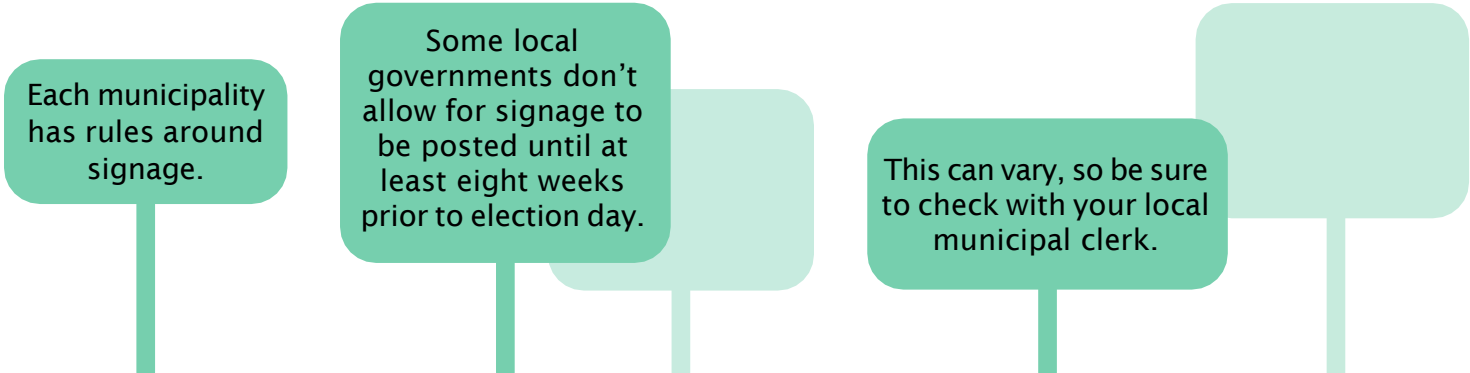


"Campaigning successfully is hard work. You have to put yourself out there and just outwork everyone else. You have to start early and just keep knocking on doors, so people get to know you."

– Jasvinder Sandhu, Healthy Democracy Project Chair,  
Former Town of Oakville Councillor

## Campaign Rules

The campaign period begins as soon as nomination forms have been filed by the municipal clerk.



Each municipality has rules around signage.

Some local governments don't allow for signage to be posted until at least eight weeks prior to election day.

This can vary, so be sure to check with your local municipal clerk.

There are some campaign rules that all candidates must follow:

- Candidates cannot use a municipal property to support events, activities or meetings related to their campaign. This includes municipally owned phones, computers, supplies or staff time.
- Municipal staff should not participate in partisan political activities for candidates while on municipal time or while being paid for by the municipality.
- In most municipalities, campaign signs are required to be on private property and usually are not allowed on municipal or provincial property, including provincial highways. Municipal staff have the right to remove signs that break this rule. It's best to check with your respective municipality to confirm where signs can go.
- Candidates have the right to access apartment buildings, condominiums, non-profit housing units and gated communities, between the hours of 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and tenants are allowed to place campaign signs in windows.
- Candidates and advertisers must identify themselves on all signs.

Sometimes campaign expenses exceed contributions and candidates are left with a deficit. It is possible to extend a campaign past election day to try and raise money to offset expenses by submitting appropriate paperwork to the municipal clerk.

## Election Day and Alternative Voting

Election day is **October 26, 2026**. Voting will be available on this day. Locations and times vary between municipalities.

Your municipality may use traditional paper ballots, vote by phone, internet, mail, or a combination of voting methods. Check with your municipality.

Election staff are sworn to confidentiality and professionalism and are not allowed to tamper with anyone's vote, as outlined in the [Municipal Elections Act](#). The Act says The election should be accessible to voters, and that secrecy and confidentiality of the individual is paramount.

Candidates have a right to be at the voting station on election day, provided they are not campaigning in any way. They are not allowed to pressure, influence or intimidate voters or staff working at the election poll. They can only observe. Alternatively, candidates may have what is called a "scrutineer" present on election day. This person must come to the polls with written authority, signed by the candidate, to observe the polls in place of a candidate.

On election day, the candidate or the scrutineer can:

- View the Voters' List to see who has voted, as long as this doesn't interfere with the act of voting.
- Ask for clarification on why a voter is getting assistance.
- Examine ballots when they are being counted and object to any that are marked incorrectly or unclear.

Vote counts begin immediately after the polls close. This may be done manually, if the municipality is using paper ballots, or electronically. The clerk will have already established the count method at least 60 days prior to election or advance voting day.

During this time, candidates and appointed scrutineers may be present and can watch the ballot count. If a candidate or scrutineer objects to a ballot, the deputy returning officer will note the objection and make the final decision about counting the ballot.

Once a ballot box has been counted, it will be sealed by the deputy returning officer and delivered, along with the statement of results, to the clerk.

## **Alternative Voting – Why?**

- Allows eligible electors to vote from anywhere around the world
- Allows for advance voting ahead of election day
- Can be more cost effective for municipalities
- Allows staff to take equipment to places like long-term care homes
- Is more accessible for everyone with options other than paper and pencil

## After the Election

Win or lose, candidates have some responsibilities to perform after the election.

Financial statements have to be filed with the clerk. If needed, you can ask for a campaign extension to address the financial deficit.

Candidates must remove all campaign signs, or the municipality may remove them and bill you for the expense.

### Resources

Although this document doesn't get into the ins and outs of council and council meetings, there are a few things you may want to get familiar with during your campaign, so you are prepared should you be elected. After the election, AMO will be providing a range of training and resources to help incoming councillors navigate the ins and outs of council meetings, legislation, staff-council relationships, conflict of interest and so much more.

### AMO's New Councillor Education

In partnership with the Institute on Governance (IOG), AMO is developing its new, bold and forward-focused education series for new councillors. Available following this year's municipal elections, our workshops will address the municipal leadership demands of today. Recognizing the breadth of knowledge required for decision making and planning, the AMO/IOG new council education will challenge our members to think strategically, communicate powerfully and act with knowledge, insight and understanding. Participants will leave our workshops with sharper insight, stronger influence and practical strategies that can be applied to their leadership and to serve their organizations and communities. From legislation to leadership skills in municipal government-these workshops will cover it all.

### The Municipal Act

All municipalities follow the [Municipal Act](#), which identifies the powers and jurisdiction of municipal governments. It defines how municipal governments function in terms of open and closed meetings, procedure, policy, accountability and transparency. It helps municipalities establish a Code of Conduct for elected officials, and very clearly identifies what authority municipalities have.

The *Municipal Act* is a long document. Councillors are not expected to memorize or understand every section. Knowing the *Municipal Act* well is mainly the role of the clerk, CAO or city manager.

You may want to take note of Section 239(2), which relates to closed meetings. Municipalities are the most open and the transparent order of government. Information can only be kept private under limited and specific circumstances. Just as there are rules to demand that government is open and transparent, there are legal responsibilities to keep some kinds of information private and confidential. It is important that everyone understands these rules.

Here are some links:

- [Conflict of Interest Act](#)
- [Council Transparency and the Role of the Integrity Commissioner](#)
- [Municipal Elections Act](#)
- [Accessibility for Ontarians With Disabilities Act](#)
- [Planning Act](#)
- [AMO's Municipal 101 resource](#)
- [AMO's Leading with Respect Handguides](#)

## Candidate support organizations

There are local and national candidate support organizations that can help candidates navigate the election process and experience. These organizations support candidates in different ways based on geographies and demographics. Candidates don't have to run without support.

If you would like to see the various types of resources provided by these groups, please take a look at the candidate supports catalogue in AMO's [Local Democracy Solutions Bank](#).

Organization	Link
electHER NOW	<a href="http://electhernow.ca">electhernow.ca</a>
Equal Voice	<a href="http://equalvoice.ca">equalvoice.ca</a>
Guelph Campaign School	<a href="http://municipalcampaignschool.ca/Guelph">municipalcampaignschool.ca/Guelph</a>
Leadership féminin Prescott-Russell	<a href="http://leadershipfemininpr.ca">leadershipfemininpr.ca</a>
Nominee	<a href="http://gonominee.com">gonominee.com</a>
Operation Black Vote Canada	<a href="http://obvc.ca">obvc.ca</a>
Oxford Campaign School	<a href="http://municipalcampaignschool.ca/oxford">municipalcampaignschool.ca/oxford</a>
PoliticsNOW	<a href="http://polinow.org">polinow.org</a>
ProudPolitics	<a href="http://proudpolitics.org">proudpolitics.org</a>
The Canadian-Muslim Vote	<a href="http://canadianmuslimvote.ca">canadianmuslimvote.ca</a>
The Jean Collective	<a href="http://thejeancollective.ca">thejeancollective.ca</a>
Waterloo Region Women's Campaign School	<a href="http://wrwomenrun.wordpress.com">wrwomenrun.wordpress.com</a>
Wellington Campaign School	<a href="http://municipalcampaignschool.ca/wellington">municipalcampaignschool.ca/wellington</a>



“Municipal elections are about the future of our communities, the places that we call home. Win or lose, every candidate makes a difference by respectfully debating priorities. We congratulate all who choose to run for demonstrating their commitment to their municipality.”

– Former AMO President,  
Mayor Jamie McGarvey, Town of Parry Sound



**Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)**

155 University Ave., Suite 800, Toronto, ON M5H 3C6

Telephone direct: 416-971-9856  
Fax: 416-971-6191  
Toll-free in Ontario: 1-877-4-AMO-LAS (1-877-426-6527)  
E-mail: [amo@amo.on.ca](mailto:amo@amo.on.ca)  
Websites: [www.amo.on.ca](http://www.amo.on.ca)

**Instructions**

It is the responsibility of the person being nominated to file a complete and accurate nomination paper. Please print or type information (except signatures).

Nomination paper of a person to be a candidate at an election to be held in the following municipality

Nominated for the Office of		Ward Name or Number (if any)	
Nominee's name as it is to appear on the ballot paper (subject to agreement of the municipal clerk)			
Last Name or Single Name		Given Name(s)	
Nominee's full qualifying address			
Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name	
Municipality		Province	Postal Code
Mailing Address <input type="checkbox"/> Same as qualifying address			
Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name	
Municipality		Province	Postal Code
Email Address		Telephone Number	Telephone Number 2

**Declaration of Qualification**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, declare that I am presently legally qualified  
(or would be presently legally qualified if I were not a member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario or the Senate or House of Commons of Canada) to be elected and to hold the office for which I am nominated.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Nominee \_\_\_\_\_  
Date (yyyy/mm/dd)

Date Received (yyyy/mm/dd)	Time Received	Initial of Nominee or Agent (if filed in person)	Signature of Clerk or Designate
----------------------------	---------------	---	---------------------------------

**Certification by Clerk or Designate**

I, the undersigned clerk of this municipality, do hereby certify that I have examined the nomination paper of the aforesaid nominee filed with me and am satisfied that the nominee is qualified to be nominated and that the nomination complies with the Act.

Signature Date Certified (yyyy/mm/dd)



Municipal Election  
October 26, 2026

Form EL 19

## THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF STRONG

### WITHDRAWAL OF NOMINATION

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*Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (s. 36)*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby withdraw my name as a candidate  
*[full name]*

for the office of \_\_\_\_\_.  
*[name of elected office]*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Note: Candidate must appear in person, with identification in order to withdraw their nomination.**

THIS WITHDRAWAL DELIVERED TO ME AT \_\_\_\_\_  
*[time]*

THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

Municipal Clerk or designate \_\_\_\_\_  
*[signature]*



## Municipal Election October 26, 2026

Form EL 18

### THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF STRONG

### DECLARATION OF QUALIFICATIONS – COUNCIL

*Municipal Elections Act, 1996*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, a nominated candidate for the office of:  
*[full name]*

Mayor

Councillor

Do Solemnly Declare That:

1. I am qualified pursuant to the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* and the *Municipal Act, 2001* to be elected and to hold the office of:

Mayor

Councillor

2. Without limited the generality of paragraph 1, I am at least eighteen (18) years of age, a Canadian citizen, a resident of the Township of Strong or the owner or tenant of land in the Township of Strong or the spouse of such owner or tenant.

3. I am not ineligible or disqualified under the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, the *Municipal Act, 2001*, the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* or any other Act to be elected to or hold the above-mentioned office.

4. Without limiting the generality of paragraph 3;

- I am not an employee of the Township of Strong, or if I am an employee of the Township of Strong, I am on an unpaid leave of absence as provided for by Section 30(1) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.
- I am not judge of any court.
- I am not a member of the Assembly as provided in the *Legislative Assembly Act* or of the Senate or House of Commons of Canada or, if I am such a person, I will provide proof of my resignation in a form of satisfactory to the Clerk of the Township of Strong prior to 2:00 p.m. on Nomination Day, July 27, 2018. I understand that the Clerk of the Township of Strong will reject my nomination for the above-mentioned office if I fail to provide proof of resignation by this deadline.

- I am not a member of the Executive Council of Ontario or a federal Minister of the Crown.
  - I am not a public servant within the meaning of the *Public Service Employment Act*, or if I am a Federal employee, I have followed and will continue to follow all the relevant provisions of Part V of such Act.
  - I am not a Federal employee within the meaning of the *Public Service Employment Act*, or if I am a Federal employee, I have followed and will continue to follow all the relevant provisions of Part 7 of such Act.
5. I am not prohibited from voting at the municipal election under subsection 17(3) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.
  6. Without limiting the generality of paragraph 5;
    - I am not a person who is serving a sentence of imprisonment in a penal or correctional institution.
  7. I am not prohibited because of convictions of a corrupt practice described in section 90(1) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* from voting in a municipal election.
  8. I am not a person who was convicted of a corrupt practice under the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, or of an offence under the *Criminal Code* (Canada, in connection with an act or omission with respect to a municipal election during the last two (2) regular elections prior to October 26, 2026.)
  9. I am not disqualified from being elected to or holding office by reason of any violations of the election campaign financial requirements or violations for not filing the financial statement pursuant to the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.

AND I make this solemn Declaration conscientiously believing it to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the *Canada Evidence Act*.

Declared before me at the Township of Strong

This \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Clerk or designate

Personal information on this form is collected under the authority of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* and will be used for the nomination process for office in the municipal election and will be available for public inspection in the office of the Clerk, Township of Strong until the next municipal election. Questions about this collection of personal information should be directed to Caitlin Haggart, Clerk Administrator, 28 Municipal Lane, PO Box 1120, Sundridge, ON P0A 1Z0. (705)-384-5819



**Municipal Election  
October 26, 2026**

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOI) RELEASE FORM  
*Municipal Elections Act, 1996***

Name of Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate for the Office of:

- Mayor
- Councillor
- Trustee, School Board \_\_\_\_\_

**Background**

After a candidate files a Nomination Form, the news and the public frequently wish to make contact with him/her. In accordance with the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, the information contained in the Nomination Form is deemed to be a public record and may be inspected by any person at the Office of the Clerk during regular business hours, however, this is not always practical for non-resident voters. Accordingly, we are seeking your permission to publish your personal information in other manners.

**Consent to Release of Personal Information**

In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA), 1990*, the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, and any other applicable legislation, I \_\_\_\_\_, Candidate in the 2026 Municipal Election, in the Township of Strong, hereby authorize the Township of Strong, to publish and/or post on the Municipality's website and/or social media accounts, and/or make available to any person, the following personal information with respect to my candidacy for elected office:

1. Name as it is to appear on the ballot;
2. Qualifying address within the Municipality;
3. Telephone numbers;
4. E-Mail address;
5. If you have a campaign website (Facebook page, Twitter, etc.) and would like that listed, please provide the full URL: \_\_\_\_\_

I acknowledge that the Municipality is publishing and/or posting this information as a public service and is no way endorsing me, my candidacy or any position on any issue that I may take.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk or designate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Candidate Signature

**NOTICE OF COLLECTION**  
Personal information, as defined by the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA), is collected on this form under the authority of the Municipal Elections Act and in accordance with MFIPPA. The personal information will be used for the nomination process for office in the municipal election and will be available for public inspection in the office of the Clerk, Township of Strong until the next municipal election.

# THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF STRONG

## BY-LAW # 2025-023

Being a By-law to authorize the use of alternative voting methods (Internet and Telephone) for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election

**WHEREAS** Section 42(1) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, (the Act) provides that the Council of a local municipality may pass by-laws authorizing the use of voting and vote-counting equipment such as voting machines, voting recorders or optical scanning vote tabulators, and authorizing electors to use alternative voting methods; and

**AND WHEREAS** Section 42(2) of the Act provides that a by-law passed under Section 42(1) or under a predecessor of it, applies to a regular election if the by-law is passed on or before May 1 in the year of the election, and applies to a by-election if the by-law is passed more than 60 days before voting day;

**AND WHEREAS** the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Strong was presented a report at its meeting held on September 23, 2025, recommending internet and telephone voting methods for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election;

**AND WHEREAS** the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Strong deems it desirable and appropriate to utilize vote by internet and telephone as the methods for conducting the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election;

**NOW THEREFORE** the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Strong hereby enacts as follows:

1. The alternate voting method of Internet and Telephone Voting is hereby authorized for the Municipal and School Board Elections to be held in 2026.
2. A Voting Kit will be provided to every person who qualifies to be an elector. The kit will either be mailed or directly provided to each qualified elector.
3. A Voting Station shall be established at the Municipal Office on the dates and times to be designated in the procedures and rules for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election.
4. Voting Station means a voting place under the supervision of a Deputy Returning Officer where electors who prefer to vote at the voting place, may do so.
5. No proxy voting provisions or advance voting provisions other than the Voting Station are applicable at Municipal and School Board Elections conducted in accordance with this By-Law.
6. Every elector has the responsibility of voting in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended, and the procedures authorized by this By-Law and submitting ballots per the Internet and Telephone Voting procedures during the designated voting period which shall not exceed 8:00 p.m. on Voting Day.
7. The Municipal Clerk shall prepare procedures and rules for the vote by Internet and Telephone Municipal and School Board Election and provide these procedures and rules to each candidate on the day they file their candidacy.
8. Any person, corporation or trade union guilty of corrupt practices or contravening the provisions of the Municipal Elections Act 1996, as amended, or the procedures and rules established in paragraph 7 of this by-law may be prosecuted pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended.
9. The Municipal Clerk is hereby authorized to sign the necessary agreements required to provide Vote By Internet and Telephone services.

10. The Clerk of the Township of Strong is hereby authorized to make any minor modifications or corrections of an administrative, numeric, grammatic, semantic or descriptive nature or kind to the by-law and schedule(s) as may be deemed necessary after the passage of this by-law, where such modifications or corrections do not alter the intent of the by-law.
11. This By-Law shall take effect on the date of final passing thereof.

Read in its entirety, approved, signed and the seal of the Corporation affixed thereto and finally passed in open Council this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2025.

Original Copy Signed

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Mayor Tim Bryson

Original Copy Signed

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Clerk Administrator Caitlin Haggart

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF STRONG**

**BY-LAW #2026-017**

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Being a by-law to adopt a Use of Corporate Resources for  
Election Purposes Policy.

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**WHEREAS** the Province of Ontario passed the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 88.18 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, requires that before May 1 in the year of a regular election, municipalities establish rules and procedures with respect to the use of municipal resources during the election campaign period;

**NOW THEREFORE** the Council of The Corporation of the Township of Strong hereby enacts as follows:

1. That the “Use of Corporate Resources for Election Purposes” policy, attached as Schedule “A” to this by-law and forming part of this by-law, be hereby adopted.
2. That this by-law shall take effect on the date of final passing thereof.
3. That by-law 2022-021 is hereby repealed.

READ A FIRST AND SECOND TIME on the 14th day of APRIL 2026.

READ A THIRD TIME and finally passed this 14th day of APRIL 2026.

Original Copy Signed

Original Copy Signed

---

Mayor Tim Bryson

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Clerk Administrator Caitlin Haggart

**Schedule "A" to  
By-law #2026-017**

**Use of Corporate resources for Election Purposes Policy**

**1. PURPOSE**

1.1 As leaders in this community, Members of Council are held to the highest standards of conduct and ethical behavior. In practical terms, this obligation requires that, during a Municipal Election Year, members of Council that are also candidates must avoid any conflict between personal interest and official duties, and that any potential conflict be resolved in favour of public interest. While the business of the Township of Strong must continue to be carried out during the entire term of Council. Members of Council are responsible to ensure that corporate resources are not used for any election-related purposes. For these reasons, it is necessary to establish guidelines on the appropriate use of corporate resources during an election period to protect the interests of both the members of Council and the Township of Strong.

**2. APPLICATION**

2.1 This policy is applicable to all Members of Municipal Council including a Member of Council who is acclaimed or a retiring Member.

**3. AUTHORITY**

3.1 The Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended, permits candidates to file nominations in a Municipal Election year as early as the first day of May that the Clerk's Office is open. Once a candidate has filed a nomination paper, he/she can begin to raise campaign funds or incur campaign expenses in accordance with the provisions of the Act. The Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended, prohibits a municipality from making a contribution to a candidate. The Act also prohibits the candidate, or someone acting on the candidate's behalf, from accepting a contribution from a person who is not entitled to make a contribution. Since contributions may take the form of money, goods or services, any use by a member of Council of the municipality's resources for his/her election campaign would be viewed as a contribution and, therefore, a violation of the Act.

**4. GUIDELINES**

- 4.1 It shall be the Policy of The Municipal Corporation of the Township of Strong that, from the commencement of the Nomination Day until the end of the Campaign Period, members of Council shall not:
- use the facilities, equipment, supplies, services, staff or other resources of The Municipal Corporation of the Township of Strong for any election campaign or campaign related activities. Such resources would include newsletters, desktop publishing and graphic services, postage, voicemail use of fax machines, or laptops;
  - use municipally funded expense allowances for electoral purposes or electoral gain;
  - use municipally funded services such as mobile phones or laptops for electoral purposes or electoral gain. Where it is impractical for Council members to discontinue their use of these during the election campaign, Council members shall reimburse the Township for usage of those services that exceeds the normal usage levels;
  - undertake any campaign-related activities on any municipal property unless full market value rent is paid. No campaign-related activities shall be allowed at Township Office at any time;
  - use business cards, envelopes or letterhead imprinted with municipal logos for election purposes;

- enlist the use of Township staff to work in support of a municipal candidate during working hours unless they are on a leave of absence without pay, lieu time, or vacation leave;
- print or distribute any material paid for by the municipality that illustrates that a member of Council or any other individual is registered in any election or where they will be running for office;
- profile, or make reference to, in any material paid for by the municipality, any individual who is registered as a candidate in any election;
- print or distribute any material using municipal funds that makes reference to, or contains the names or photographs, or identifies registered candidates for municipal elections; minutes of Council and/or Committee Meetings being exempt;
- use the municipality's voicemail system to record election-related messages.
- use the municipality's Township web page or social media to promote election-related messages and material;
- use any website or domain names that are funded by the municipality for the dissemination of election-related messages and material; and
- use the municipality's website for election-related campaign material, inclusive of establishing links on the municipality's website to a registered candidate's website, email or blog.

4.2 The following shall be discontinued for the members of Council from the day prior to Nomination Day in a Municipal Election Year until the end of Election Day:

- all forms of advertising, including municipal publications, paid for by the municipality;
- all printing, photocopying and distribution, including printing and general distribution of newsletters unless so directed and approved by Council;
- the ordering of business cards and other like stationery; and
- the ordering of office furniture and furnishings, except those of an emergency nature.

## **5. LIMITATIONS**

5.1 Nothing in this Policy shall preclude members of Council from performing their jobs, nor inhibit them from representing the interests of the constituents who elected them.

## **6. ENFORCEMENT**

6.1 Should any written complaint arise regarding the alleged use of corporate resources in contravention of this policy, the Administrator or designate, shall have the delegated authority to investigate it and resolve any issues. If a breach of this policy is confirmed, the member will be required to personally repay any of the costs associated with the breach.

## **7. IMPLEMENTATION**

7.1 This policy shall become effective immediately upon approval by the Council for The Corporation of the Township of Strong.



Municipal Election  
October 26, 2026

## The Corporation of the Township of Strong

### VOTING ASSISTANCE CENTRE

The following location shall be the “Voting Assistance Centre” for the 2026 Municipal Election for the Township of Strong:

**TOWNSHIP OF STRONG MUNICIPAL OFFICE**  
**28 Municipal Lane, Sundridge, Ontario**

#### For Voting Day

Under Section 48(2) and 48(3) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, the whole property at 28 Municipal Lane is hereby designated as part of the “Voting Place” and “Voting Assistance Centre” therefore the posting of signs or any other type of campaign material is strictly prohibited.

**Voting Period – Tuesday, October 13 to Friday, October 23, 2026:** During regular office hours from Tuesday, October 13 to Friday, October 23, 2026, the Voting Assistance Centre (Council Chambers) will be open 8:30a.m. to 4:00p.m. for those eligible electors who require assistance with casting a vote, being added to the voter’s list or being assigned a PIN number for voting.

**Voting Day, Monday October 26, 2026:** During regular office hours on Voting Day (8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), the Clerk’s office and municipal office will be open to the public. After 4:00 p.m. on Voting Day, the Voting Assistance Centre (Council Chambers) will remain open for election purposes only. At 8:00p.m., only those members of the public who are inside the municipal office before the door locks will be permitted to cast their ballot to vote at the Voting Assistance Centre. Once voting is completed, Council Chambers will be used for counting ballots and is closed to anyone with the exception of election staff as designated, candidates or their scrutineer.

Members of the public are permitted to wait for election results in the parking lot. Once counting of the ballots is completed, the Clerk will compile a statement of results from the Deputy Returning Officer. The statement of results on voting day (October 26, 2026) are unofficial and will be officially declared by the Clerk on October 27, 2026 once verified.

**Recounts:** See attached policy.

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF STRONG**

**BY-LAW #2026-016**

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Being a by-law to adopt an Automatic Recount Policy for  
the 2026 Municipal Election

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**WHEREAS** pursuant to Section 56(3) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, a municipality may, by-law, adopt a policy with respect to the circumstances in which the municipality requires the Clerk to hold a recount of the votes in an election;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 5(3) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, provides that a municipal power shall be exercised by by-law;

**NOW THEREFORE** the Council of The Corporation of the Township of Strong hereby enacts as follows:

1. That the “Automatic Recount Policy for the 2026 Municipal Election” policy, attached as Schedule “A” to this by-law and forming part of this by-law, be hereby adopted; and
2. That this by-law shall take effect on the date of final passing thereof.
3. That by-law 2022-022 is hereby repealed.

READ A FIRST AND SECOND TIME on the 14th day of APRIL 2026.

READ A THIRD TIME and finally passed this 14th day of APRIL 2026.

Original Copy Signed

Original Copy Signed

---

Mayor Tim Bryson

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Clerk Administrator Caitlin Haggart

**Schedule "A" to  
By-law #2026-016**

**Municipal Election Automatic Recount Policy**

**Purpose:**

To establish criteria that will require the completion of an automatic recount for elected positions in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act.

**Authority:**

A recount under sections 56, 57, or 58 shall be conducted in the same manner as the original count as per s.60 (1) unless ordered otherwise by a judge as per Section 60 (3).

A recount is required when:

There is a tie vote where both or all candidates cannot be declared elected (Automatic);

1. by resolution of Council (for Council offices);
2. by resolution of local board (for offices on a local board);
3. by order of the Minister (for questions submitted by the Minister); or
4. by order of the Superior Court of Justice.

The Municipal Elections Modernization Act now provides the Clerk with the authority to adopt a policy by May 1 of the election year to define circumstances under which a recount would be conducted other than those listed above. The Clerk now has the authority to hold a recount in accordance with the new recount policy.

**Policy:**

If the number of votes separating candidates from winning an office is a variance of one of the following:

1. four (4) votes or less; or
2. 1% of voters who have cast their votes for the office, whichever is the lesser amount.

The Clerk shall conduct a recount of the votes for the candidate(s) / position(s) in question.

**Legislative Requirements for Recounts:**

A recount under sections 56, 57, or 58 shall be conducted in the same manner as the original count as per s.60 (1) unless ordered otherwise by a judge under s.60 (3).

A recount would be required when:

1. there is a tie vote where both or all candidates cannot be declared elected (Automatic);
2. by resolution of Council (for Council offices);
3. by resolution of local board (for offices on a local board);
4. by order of the Minister (for questions submitted by the Minister);
5. by order of the Superior Court of Justice.

**Costs of Recount (s.7(3), 7(4))**

The costs incurred by the Clerk to conduct a recount are to be paid by the Municipality. Any expenses incurred by a candidate will be the responsibility of

the candidate i.e.: legal counsel in attendance on behalf of the candidate.

### **Who Conducts Recount (s.56)**

The Clerk conducts all recounts for elections for which he or she is responsible except recounts conducted by the Superior Court of Justice upon appeal.

### **Tied Vote Recount (s.56)**

Where there is a tied vote for the election of a candidate to an office and both or all of the candidates cannot be declared elected, the Clerk must hold a recount **within 15 days after the declaration** required by s.55(4)a)b) of the results of the election.

### **Council, Local/School Board or Minister Request for Recount (s.57)**

Within 30 days after the Clerk's declaration of the results under s.55(4), a Council, local/school board may pass a resolution or, the Minister may make an order requiring a recount.

The recount is to be held within 15 days **after the resolution is passed or the order is made**. The resolution for a recount must be passed no later than Wednesday November 23, 2022. An order of the Minister must be made within the same time frame. The incoming council or local board is no longer able to make a decision on a recount.

### **Application to Superior Court of Justice (s.58)**

A person who is entitled to vote in an election and who has reasonable grounds for believing the election results to be in doubt may apply to the Superior Court of Justice for an order directing the Clerk to hold a recount.

The application must be commenced within 30 days after the Clerk's official declaration of the results under s.55(4). The court, if satisfied there are sufficient grounds, shall make an order requiring the Clerk to hold a recount.

The recount is to be held within 15 days after the Clerk receives a copy of the order.

### **Votes for Candidates to be included in a Recount (s.56, 59)**

The votes to be included in the recount are as follows:

- In a recount for a tied vote, the votes cast for candidates who are tied.
- In a recount being conducted under the authority of a council or local board resolution, the votes cast for candidates named in the resolution (all or specified candidates).
- In a recount being conducted under the authority of a court order, the votes cast for candidates named in the order (all or specified candidates).

The Clerk may include the votes for any other candidate for the same office. The practical application of this provision would be for the Clerk to include any candidate whose vote total was, in the Clerk's opinion, close enough to possibly be affected by the recount.

### **Persons entitled to be Present at a Recount (s.61)**

- the Clerk and any other election official appointed for the recount;
- every certified candidate for the office involved;
- the applicant, if any, who applied for the recount under s.58;
- legal counsel for any of the above;
- each certified candidate for the office involved or an applicant may appoint a scrutineer for the recount.

### **Notification of Recount (s.56, 57, 58 and O.Reg. 101/97)**

The Clerk shall give notice of the recount date, time and place on "Notice of

Recount" Form to the following:

- all certified candidates for the office which is the subject of the recount;
- where a resolution is involved, the Council or local/school board which passed the resolution;
- the Minister when an order has been made;
- the applicant in the case of a court order;
- notice of recount will be given by registered mail or personal service.

### **Process at Recount (s.61, 62)**

Once the recount process has commenced, it must continue to completion. Upon completion of the recount, the Clerk will announce the results of the recount. Persons authorized to be in attendance at the recount may also be at the announcement of the results of the recount.

Unless an application has been made for a judicial recount, the Clerk, on the 16th day after the recount is completed, will declare the successful candidate or candidates elected or will declare the result of the vote.

### **Continuing Tie Vote - After Recount Procedures**

Pursuant to s.62(3) in a case of a tied vote following the recount, the Clerk shall determine the result by conducting a lot as follows:

- a. The Clerk shall determine the texture and quality of the paper used for this process and each candidate or the candidates' lawyer and/or scrutineer will have an opportunity to examine the paper to be used to inscribe the names of the candidates;
- b. The Clerk shall inscribe the name of each candidate on a similar size paper and the candidates, the candidates' lawyer and/or scrutineer, without touching the paper, examine the same. In addition, all persons present will have an opportunity to examine the container which will be used for conducting the lot;
- c. Upon acceptance by the all candidates, the candidates' lawyer and/or scrutineer, that the processes outlined in paragraphs a) and b) have been adhered to, the Clerk shall fold the papers bearing each candidate's name twice in two (2) equal parts and shall deposit these papers, in full view of all persons present and authorized to attend, in an open-end container that will be acceptable to all persons present. The Clerk shall determine the container to be used for this process.
- d. Upon completion of this process, the Clerk shall hold the container and, without looking into the container, ensure that the contents have been displaced sufficiently, and request the Election Official to draw only one (1) or the required number for the purpose of determining the successful candidate(s).
- e. The Election Official shall hand directly to the Clerk the selected and required number of papers and the Clerk shall read aloud the name of the candidate or candidates and proceed to declare this or these individuals elected.
- f. Once completed, the Clerk shall remove the remaining contents from the container and provide an opportunity for all persons present to examine these slips of papers including the container.

### **Declaration by Clerk and Notice of Final Certified Results - s.62(4)**

Unless an application has been made for a judicial recount, the Clerk on the 16th day after the recount is completed will declare the successful candidate or candidates elected by posting the "Declaration of Recount Results" form at the Municipal Office and on the website. Such Declaration shall be sent to everyone previously given notice of the recount.

**Implementation:**

This policy shall become effective immediately upon approval by the Council for The Corporation of the Township of Strong.



**Municipal Election  
October 26, 2026**

Form EL 14

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF STRONG  
CANDIDATES DECLARATION – PROPER USE OF VOTER’S LIST**

*Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (s. 23(4)(5))*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, being a candidate for the office of  
[full name]

\_\_\_\_\_, hereby request the Clerk to provide me  
with the following information when it becomes available:

a paper copy of the Voters’ List. Please note that a copy of all revisions made to the Voters’ List will be provided on or before Monday, September 30, 2026.

OR

an electronic copy of the Voters’ List. Please note that a copy of all revisions made to the Voters’ List will be provided on or before Monday, September 30, 2026.

AND

a copy of the Lists showing the name of each person who has voted at each Advance Vote.

**I, the undersigned, do hereby agree to use the Voters’ List for election purposes only and I understand that I am prohibited by the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, from using the Voters’ List for commercial purposes.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)



Municipal Election  
October 26, 2026

Form EL 12A

## THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF STRONG

### APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEER BY CANDIDATE

*Municipal Elections Act, 1996*

#### **Candidate:**

Name of Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_  
*[please print]*

Candidate for the Office of:

Mayor

Councillor

Trustee, School Board \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Scrutineer:**

Name of Scrutineer Appointed: \_\_\_\_\_  
*[please print]*

**I hereby appoint the individual noted above as a scrutineer to represent me in the Township of Strong 2026 Municipal Election**

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Candidate

#### **Instructions to Scrutineer:**

- Scrutineers arriving at a Voting Assistance Centre must show this form and personal identification to the election officials and take an oath of secrecy.
- Candidates arriving at a Voting Assistance Centre must show this form and personal information to the election officials and take an oath of secrecy. A candidate who enters the Voting Assistance Centre is considered to be a scrutineer.
- Only one scrutineer per candidate may be at the Voting Assistance Centre during the vote count.

## **Rights and Prohibitions:**

### **Scrutineers and Candidates CAN:**

- Enter the Voting Assistance Centre fifteen (15) minutes before it opens and inspect the Auditor statements and all other papers, forms and documents relating to the vote (but not so as to delay the timely opening).
- Take the Oath of Secrecy.
- Wear the Scrutineer Identification Badge
- Monitor the voting process and procedures at the Voting Assistance Centre.
- Sign the statement of results of the election prepared by the deputy returning officer (DRO).
- Examine the Voters' List periodically to determine who has voted or to count how many Electors have voted but may not interfere with the conduct of the voting process.
- Leave the Voting Assistance Centre while voting is occurring.

### **Scrutineers and Candidates CANNOT:**

- Be near enough to the voting station to see how a voter has marked their ballot.
- Campaign at the Voting Assistance Centre.
- Attempt, directly or indirectly, to interfere with how an elector votes.
- Display a candidate's election material (including buttons, pics, etc.) at the Voting Assistance Centre (including parking lot).
- Compromise the secrecy of voting.
- Obtain or attempt to obtain any information about how an elector intends to vote or has voted.
- Communicate any information obtained at a voting place about how an elector intends to vote or has voted.
- Park a vehicle displaying campaign material in the parking lot of the Voting Place.
- Leave the Voting Assistance Centre once polls have closed.
- Use a mobile device to take calls or send texts while inside the Voting Assistance Centre.

### **Note:**

- It is no longer mandatory for scrutineers to be sixteen (16) years of age or older to work at an election.
- The DRO is responsible for the conduct of the Voting Assistance Centre and no candidate or scrutineer has the right to interfere with the DRO in the discharge of his or her duties.
- Anyone who is creating a disturbance at a Voting Assistance Centre will be removed by the DRO.
- Scrutineers/Candidates who wish to have discussion with another candidate or scrutineer must leave the Voting Assistance Centre to carry on their discussion outside.
- No campaign material or literature of any nature whatsoever shall be displayed within the Voting Assistance Centre. The boundaries of the Voting Place are the boundaries of the property where the Voting Place is located and **includes** the parking lot.
- Scrutineers/Candidates wishing to observe the transmission of results **must** be at the Voting Place prior to the closing of the Voting Assistance Centre at 8:00 p.m. No one will be admitted after 8:00 p.m.
- The total of votes cast for each candidate as counted is final.

**Instructions**

- To be completed and filed with the clerk by a candidate or registered third party requesting an extension of the campaign period due to a deficit.
- This notice must be filed on or before December 31 in the year of a regular election and 45 days after voting day in the case of a by-election.

**Box A: Name of Candidate and Office**

Name of Candidate	
Last Name or Single Name	Given Name(s)
Office for Which the Candidate Sought Election	Ward Name or Number (if any)
Municipality	

**Box B: Name of Registered Third Party**

Name of Registered Third Party	Municipality
Official Representative (if trade union or corporation)	
Last Name or Single Name	Given Name(s)

**Box C: Declaration**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby give notice and declare to the clerk that I (or the registered third party that I represent) have a deficit and wish the campaign period to be extended in accordance with section 88.24.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Candidate or Registered Third Party (or Official Representative)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date (yyyy/mm/dd)

Time Filed	Date Filed (yyyy/mm/dd)	Signature of Clerk or Designate
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Municipal Election  
October 26, 2026

## **The Corporation of the Township of Strong Financial Expenses – General Information**

The certificate of campaign expenses will be hand delivered by the candidate, if acknowledgment of receipt of the certificate is signed by the candidates who are in the office before the deadline for providing this document will receive their nomination fee. If the certificate is not hand delivered it will be mailed by first class pre-paid mail.

**Each candidate is required to open and maintain a separate bank account for campaign expenses through which all expenses are to be paid.**

**Nomination fees are not considered a campaign expense so a separate bank account is not required if this is the only expense incurred during the nomination period.**

**Should a candidate use material from a previous campaign (i.e. signage, flyers, website), the current market value of those materials must be shown on the financial statement as an expense, and a bank account must be opened and maintained.**

**IT IS THE CANDIDATE'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THE FINANCIAL REPORT IS COMPLETED ACCURATELY.**



Municipal Election  
October 26, 2026

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF STRONG**  
**PRELIMINARY MAXIMUM CAMPAIGN EXPENSES**

According to the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended the following are the preliminary calculations of the estimated maximum campaign expenses based upon the number of electors on the Voters' List as September 15 in the 2022 municipal election, including changes made that day:

**General Spending Limit (Candidates and Third Party Advertisers)**

Select	Position	Formula	Electors*	Spending Limit
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mayor	\$7,500.00 + \$0.85/elector	2134	\$9,313.90
<input type="checkbox"/>	Councillor	\$5,000.00 + \$0.85/elector	2134	\$6,813.90

*\*Based on the September 2022 Preliminary List of Electors*

**Spending Limit (Expression of Appreciation & Parties)**

Select	Position	Formula	General Spending Limit*	Spending Limit
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mayor	10% of general spending limit	\$9,313.90	\$931.39
<input type="checkbox"/>	Councillor	10% of general spending limit	\$6,813.90	\$681.39

*\*Based on the calculation using September 2022 Preliminary List of Electors*

**Self-Funding Limit (Candidates and their Spouses)**

Select	Position	Formula	Electors*	Spending Limit
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mayor	\$7,500.00 + \$0.20/elector	2134	\$7,926.80
<input type="checkbox"/>	Councillor	\$5,000.00 + \$0.20/elector	2134	\$5,426.80

*\*Based on the September 2022 Preliminary List of Electors*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Caitlin Haggart, Clerk Administrator

***Final spending limits will be supplied on or before October 1, 2026. Whatever figure is highest becomes the maximum expense limit.***

# THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF STRONG



## MUNICIPAL ELECTION 2026 SIGNS/ADVERTISING POLICY

**NO** posters or similar campaign material may contain the Township logo or in any way infer an official Township status.

**NO** campaign material or posters shall be permitted on any municipal property with the only exception being along municipal road allowances. This includes the following, which is not meant to be a complete and exhaustive list:

**NO campaign material, posters, etc will be permitted in municipal parks, vacant land, municipal buildings or structures.**

Posters or similar campaign material shall be permitted along municipal road allowances providing the following conditions are met to the satisfaction of the Clerk and/or Public Works Department:

1. NO poster of similar campaign materials will be permitted on road allowances fronting voting places including the entire building, parking lot and road allowance fronting 28 Municipal Lane.
2. That the visibility of intersections or private entrances is not obstructed and that an unsafe condition is not created.
3. That the poster or similar campaign material is of sufficient texture and of proper installation that weather conditions will not displace the material and create a safety hazard on municipal roads.
4. NO campaign materials on the road allowances will be permitted to obstruct municipal road operations, including roadside mowing, grading and construction operations.

Posters or similar campaign material that will be installed on provincial roads (Highway 124, Highway 11) will require the permission of the Ministry of Transportation (MTO).

Posters or similar campaign material that will be installed or affixed to poles belonging to Hydro One Network, Bell Canada or other public utilities will require the permission of these respective approving authorities. Election signs shall not be placed on a utility pole that has traffic control attached thereto.

The Township of Strong or any of its municipal employees or agents will not be responsible for investigating or prosecuting for any acts of vandalism or theft to the poster or campaign material of the candidates. Please report to the Ontario Provincial Police 1-888-310-1122

Should any posters or campaign material be located on municipally owned property or be located on municipally owned road allowances which do not comply to the provisions of this section, the same shall be removed forthwith and stored at the Municipal Office and Garage located at 64 Municipal Lane until November 2, 2026.

Should any material be removed pursuant to above paragraph, the candidate will be contacted immediately to pick up any such posters or campaign material so removed. The candidate to whom the Election Sign relates shall be responsible for the erection or display of the Election sign.

All candidates will be required to completed an application form and to pay a **\$200.00 deposit** (cash, debit, e-transfer or certified cheque) before the erection or display of Election signs.

All candidates will be required to remove all posters and campaign material along municipally owned road allowances prior to November 2, 2026. Should such material continue to be located, it will consider to be a refuse and the candidate will forfeit the \$200.00 deposit fee.

Candidates who are considering future campaigns are encouraged to retain their signs for reuse.

Section 88.3 of the *Municipal Election Act* outlines requirements of the candidates' election campaign advertisements. Please note: Candidates are now required to include a state of "This advertisement is endorsed by "Candidate Name" or "Third Party Advertiser Name". This can be printed on new signs or added to reused signs by stickers. If using stickers, ensure they comply with requirements outlined in Section 3 above.

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF STRONG**

**ELECTION SIGNS DEPOSIT AND RETURN**

Deposit required for erection of municipal election signs  
within the Township of Strong

Deposit will be returned upon removal of the signs within the required  
seven (7) days after the Election (November 2, 2026)

Please complete the form below and return it with your payment of \$200.00 to the  
Township of Strong Administration Office at 28 Municipal Lane, Sundridge, Ontario.

CANDIDATE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

I, the undersigned, do hereby acknowledge that I have received and read a copy of the  
Township of Strong Election Sign Policy and agree to the conditions contained therein.  
I understand that any contravention to the Policy may result in the waiver of this  
deposit.

Upon satisfactory removal of all municipal elections signs by a candidate from public  
and private property before November 2, 2026, this deposit will be returned to the  
candidate in a timely manner.

Candidate's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Date signs removed: \_\_\_\_\_ Refund Returned: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Default and Waiver of Deposit Due To: (please explain):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Municipal Election  
October 26, 2026

## THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF STRONG

### NOTICE OF PENALTIES RELATED TO CAMPAIGN EXPENSES

Municipal Elections Act, 1996, S.O. 1996, c. 32, Sched. S. 33.1, as amended

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Section 33.1 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, of the penalties under subsections 88.23(2) and 92(3) related to election campaign finances.

#### Filing Requirements:

Section 88.25 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, provides in part as follows:

- (1) On or before 2 p.m. on the filing date **March 30, 2027**, a candidate shall file with the clerk with whom the nomination was filed a financial statement and auditor's report, each in the prescribed form, reflecting the candidate's election campaign finances,
  - (a) in the case of a regular election, as of December 31 in the year of the election (for the 2029 election, this falls on December 31, 2026);
  - (b) in the case of a by-election, as of the 45<sup>th</sup> day after voting day.
- (2) If the candidate's election campaign period continues during all or part of a supplementary reporting period, he or she shall, before 2 p.m. on the supplementary filing date, file a supplementary financial statement and auditor's report for the supplementary reporting period.
- (3) A supplementary financial statement or auditor's report shall include all information contained in the initial statement or report filed under subsection (1) and in any previous supplementary statement or report under subsection (2) as the case may be, updated to reflect the changes to the candidate's election campaign finances during the supplementary reporting period.
- (4) An auditor's report shall be prepared by an auditor licensed under the *Public Accounting Act, 2004*.
- (5) No auditor's report is required if the total contributions received and total expenses incurred in the election campaign up to the end of the relevant period are each equal to or less than \$10,000.
- (6) At least 30 days before the filing date, the clerk shall give notice of the following matters to every candidate whose nomination was filed with him or her:
  - (a) of all filing requirements of this section; and
  - (b) the candidate's entitlement to receive a refund of the nomination filing fee if he or she meets the requirements of section 34.
  - (c) of the penalties set out in subsections 88.23(2) and 92(1).

## **Expense Limits:**

Section 88.20 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, provides in part as follows:

(6) During the period that begins on the day a candidate is nominated under section 33 and ends on voting day, his or her expenses shall not exceed an amount calculated in accordance with the prescribed formula.

## **Penalty Provisions:**

Section 88.23 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* provides in part as follows:

- (1) A candidate is subject to the penalties listed in subsection (2), in addition to any other penalty that may be imposed under this Act,
  - (a) if he or she fails to file a document as required under section 88.25 or 88.32 by the relevant date;
  - (b) if a document filed under section 88.25 shows on its face a surplus, as described in section 88.31, and the candidate fails to pay the amount required by subsection 88.31(4) to the clerk by the relevant date;
  - (c) if a document filed under section 88.25 shows on its face that the candidate has incurred expenses exceeding what is permitted under section 88.20; or
  - (d) If a document filed under section 88.32 shows on its face a surplus and the candidate fails to pay the amount required by that section by the relevant date.
- (2) In the case of a default described in subsection (1),
  - (a) the candidate forfeits any office to which he or she was elected and the office is deemed to be vacant; and
  - (b) until the next regular election has taken place, the candidate is ineligible to be elected or appointed to any office to which this Act applies.
- (3) Default – cessation of penalty – late filing fee,
  - (a) the penalties set out in subsection (2) for a default prescribed in clause (1)(a) do not take effect if, no later than 2 p.m. on the day that is 30 days after the applicable day for filing the document, the candidate files the relevant document as required under section 88.25 or 88.32 and pays the clerk a late filing fee of \$500.

## **Election Campaign Finance Offence – by Candidate**

Section 92 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* provides, in part, as follows:

- (1) A candidate is guilty of an offence and, on conviction, in addition to any other penalty that may be imposed under this Act, is subject to the penalties described in subsection 88.23(2), if he or she,
  - (a) Incurs expenses that exceed the amount determined for the office under section 88.20; or
  - (b) Files a document under section 88.25 or 88.32 that is incorrect or otherwise does not comply with that section.
- (2) If the expenses incurred by or under the direction of a candidate exceed the amount determined for the office under section 88.20, the candidate is liable to a fine equal to the excess, in addition to any other penalty provided for in the Act.

**Instructions**

All candidates must complete Boxes A and B. Candidates who receive contributions or incur expenses must complete Boxes C, D, Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 as appropriate. Candidates who use a broadcaster or publisher for an election campaign advertisement must complete Schedule 3. Candidates who receive contributions or incur expenses in excess of \$10,000 must also attach an Auditor's Report.

All surplus funds (after any refund to the candidate or their spouse) shall be immediately paid to the clerk who is responsible for the conduct of the election.

For the campaign period from (day clerk received nomination) 

YYYY	MM	DD
------	----	----

 to 

YYYY	MM	DD
------	----	----

- Initial filing reflecting finances from start of campaign to December 31 (or 45 days after voting day in a by-election)
- Supplementary filing reflecting finances from start of campaign to end of extended campaign period

**Box A: Name of Candidate and Office**

Candidate's name as shown on the ballot

Last Name or Single Name	Given Name(s)
Office for Which the Candidate Sought Election	Ward Name or Number (if any)

Municipality

Spending Limit General \$	Parties and Other Expressions of Appreciation \$	Contribution Limit Contributions from Candidate and Spouse \$
---------------------------------	---	---

- I did not accept any contributions or incur any expenses. (Complete Boxes A and B only)

**Box B: Declaration**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief that these financial statements and attached supporting schedules are true and correct.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date (yyyy/mm/dd)

Date Filed (yyyy/mm/dd)	Time Filed	Initial of Candidate or Agent (if filed in person)	Signature of Clerk or Designate
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**Box C: Statement of Campaign Income and Expenses**

**LOAN**

Name of bank or recognized lending institution \_\_\_\_\_ Amount borrowed  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**INCOME**

Total amount of all contributions (from line 1A in Schedule 1) \_\_\_\_\_ + \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Revenue from items \$25 or less \_\_\_\_\_ + \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sign deposit refund \_\_\_\_\_ + \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Revenue from fundraising events not deemed a contribution  
 (from Part III of Schedule 2) \_\_\_\_\_ + \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Interest earned by campaign bank account \_\_\_\_\_ + \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other (provide full details)  
 1. \_\_\_\_\_ + \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. \_\_\_\_\_ + \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. \_\_\_\_\_ + \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 4. \_\_\_\_\_ + \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 5. \_\_\_\_\_ + \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 6. \_\_\_\_\_ + \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Campaign Income (Do not include loan)** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **C1**

**EXPENSES** (Note: Include the value of contributions of goods and services)

**1. Expenses subject to general spending limit**

Inventory from previous campaign used in this campaign  
 (list details in Table 2 of Schedule 1) \_\_\_\_\_ + \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Advertising \_\_\_\_\_ + \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Brochures/flyers \_\_\_\_\_ + \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signs (including sign deposit) \_\_\_\_\_ + \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Meetings hosted \_\_\_\_\_ + \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Office expenses incurred until voting day \_\_\_\_\_ + \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone and/or internet expenses incurred until voting day \_\_\_\_\_ + \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Salaries, benefits, honoraria, professional fees incurred until voting day \_\_\_\_\_ + \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bank charges incurred until voting day \_\_\_\_\_ + \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Interest charged on loan until voting day \_\_\_\_\_ + \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other (provide full details)  
 1. \_\_\_\_\_ + \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. \_\_\_\_\_ + \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. \_\_\_\_\_ + \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 4. \_\_\_\_\_ + \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 5. \_\_\_\_\_ + \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 6. \_\_\_\_\_ + \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Expenses subject to general spending limit** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **C2**

**2. Expenses subject to spending limit for parties and other expressions of appreciation**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ + \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2.	_____	+ \$	_____
3.	_____	+ \$	_____
4.	_____	+ \$	_____
5.	_____	+ \$	_____
<b>Total Expenses subject to spending limit for parties and other expressions of appreciation</b>		<b>= \$</b>	<b>_____ C3</b>

**3. Expenses not subject to spending limits**

Accounting and audit	_____	+ \$	_____
Cost of fundraising events/activities (list details in Part IV of Schedule 2)	_____	+ \$	_____
Office expenses incurred after voting day	_____	+ \$	_____
Phone and/or internet expenses incurred after voting day	_____	+ \$	_____
Salaries, benefits, honoraria, professional fees incurred after voting day	_____	+ \$	_____
Bank charges incurred after voting day	_____	+ \$	_____
Interest charged on loan after voting day	_____	+ \$	_____
Expenses related to recount	_____	+ \$	_____
Expenses related to controverted election	_____	+ \$	_____
Expenses related to compliance audit	_____	+ \$	_____
Expenses related to candidate's disability (provide full details)			
1.	_____	+ \$	_____
2.	_____	+ \$	_____
3.	_____	+ \$	_____
4.	_____	+ \$	_____
5.	_____	+ \$	_____
Other (provide full details)			
1.	_____	+ \$	_____
2.	_____	+ \$	_____
3.	_____	+ \$	_____
4.	_____	+ \$	_____
5.	_____	+ \$	_____
<b>Total Expenses not subject to spending limits</b>		<b>= \$</b>	<b>_____ C4</b>

**Total Campaign Expenses (C2 + C3 + C4)** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **C5**

**Box D: Calculation of Surplus or Deficit**

Excess (deficiency) of income over expenses (Income minus Total Expenses) (C1 – C5)	_____	+ \$	_____ <b>D1</b>
If there is a surplus, deduct any refund of candidate's or spouse's contributions to the campaign	_____	- \$	_____
Surplus (or deficit) for the campaign			<b>= \$ _____ D2</b>

If line D2 shows a surplus, the amount must be paid in trust, at the time the financial statements are filed, to the municipal clerk who is responsible for the conduct of the election.

# Schedule 1 – Contributions

## Part I – Summary of Contributions

Contributions in money from candidate and spouse	+ \$	
Contributions in goods and services from candidate and spouse (include value listed in Table 1 and Table 2)	+ \$	
Total value of contributions not exceeding \$100 per contributor • Include ticket revenue, contributions in money, goods and services where the total contribution from a contributor is \$100 or less (do not include contributions from candidate or spouse).	+ \$	
Total value of contributions exceeding \$100 per contributor (from line 1B; list details in Table 3 and Table 4) • Include ticket revenue, contributions in money, goods and services where the total contribution from a contributor exceeds \$100 (do not include contributions from candidate or spouse).	+ \$	
<b>Less:</b> Ineligible contributions paid or payable to the contributor	– \$	
Contributions paid or payable to the clerk, including contributions from anonymous sources exceeding \$25	– \$	
<b>Total Amount of Contributions (record under Income in Box C)</b>	<b>= \$</b>	<b>1A</b>

## Part II – Contributions from candidate or spouse

**Table 1: Contributions in goods or services**  
(Note: Must also be recorded as Expenses in Box C.)

Description of Goods or Services	Date Received (yyyy/mm/dd)	Value (\$)
<b>Total</b>		

Additional information is listed on separate supplementary attachment, if completed manually.

**Table 2: Inventory of campaign goods and materials from previous municipal campaign used in this campaign**  
(Note: Value must be recorded as a contribution from the candidate and as an expense.)

Description	Date Acquired (yyyy/mm/dd)	Supplier	Quantity	Current Market Value (\$)
<b>Total</b>				

Additional information is listed on separate supplementary attachment, if completed manually.

**Part III – Contributions exceeding \$100 per contributor – individuals other than candidate or spouse**

**Table 3: Monetary contributions from individuals other than candidate or spouse**

Name	Full Address	Date Received (yyyy/mm/dd)	Amount Received (\$)	Amount Returned to Contributor or Paid to Clerk (\$)
<b>Total</b>				

Additional information is listed on separate supplementary attachment, if completed manually.

**Table 4: Contributions in goods or services from individuals other than candidate or spouse  
(Note: Must also be recorded as Expenses in Box C.)**

Name	Full Address	Description of Goods or Services	Date Received (yyyy/mm/dd)	Value (\$)
<b>Total</b>				

Additional information is listed on separate supplementary attachment, if completed manually.

**Total for Part III – Contributions exceeding \$100 per contributor  
(Add totals from Table 3 and Table 4 and record the total in Part 1 – Summary of Contributions)**      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **1B**

## Schedule 2 – Fundraising Events and Activities

Complete a separate schedule for each event or activity held.

Additional schedule(s) attached, if completed manually.

### Fundraising Event/Activity 1

Description of fundraising event/activity \_\_\_\_\_

Date of event/activity (yyyy/mm/dd) \_\_\_\_\_

#### Part I – Ticket revenue

Admission charge (per person) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 2A

(If there are a range of ticket prices, attach complete breakdown of all ticket sales)

Number of tickets sold x \_\_\_\_\_ 2B

**Total Part I (2A X 2B) (include in Part I of Schedule 1)** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Part II – Other revenue deemed a contribution

Provide details (e.g., revenue from goods sold in excess of fair market value)

1.	_____	+ \$
2.	_____	+ \$
3.	_____	+ \$
4.	_____	+ \$
5.	_____	+ \$

**Total Part II (include in Part I of Schedule 1)** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Part III – Other revenue not deemed a contribution

Provide details (e.g., contribution of \$25 or less; goods or services sold for \$25 or less)

1.	_____	+ \$
2.	_____	+ \$
3.	_____	+ \$
4.	_____	+ \$
5.	_____	+ \$

**Total Part III (include under Income in Box C)** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Part IV – Expenses related to fundraising event or activity

Provide details

1.	_____	+ \$
2.	_____	+ \$
3.	_____	+ \$
4.	_____	+ \$
5.	_____	+ \$

**Total Part IV Expenses (include under Expenses in Box C)** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Schedule 3 – Broadcasters and Publishers**

Complete if candidate used a broadcaster or publisher for an election campaign advertisement.

**Table 5: Contact information for broadcasters and publishers used during the election campaign**

Name	Type of Advertisement (e.g. print, television, radio etc)	Contact Information

Additional information is listed on separate supplementary attachment, if completed manually.

**Auditor's Report – Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (Section 88.25)**

A candidate who has received contributions or incurred expenses in excess of \$10,000 must attach an auditor's report.

Professional Designation of Auditor

Municipality		Date (yyyy/mm/dd)
<b>Contact Information</b>		
Last Name or Single Name		Given Name(s)
Licence Number		
<b>Address</b>		
Suite/Unit Number	Street Number	Street Name
Municipality		Province
Postal Code		
Telephone Number	Email Address	

The report must be done in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and must:

- set out the scope of the examination
- provide an opinion as to the completeness and accuracy of the financial statement and whether it is free of material misstatement

Report is attached

Personal information, if any, collected on this form is obtained under the authority of sections 88.25 and 95 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*. Under section 88 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* (and despite anything in the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*) documents and materials filed with or prepared by the clerk or any other election official under the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* are public records and, until their destruction, may be inspected by any person at the clerk's office at a time when the office is open. Campaign financial statements shall also be made available by the clerk in an electronic format free of charge upon request.



Municipal Election  
October 26, 2026

Form EL 42B

## THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF STRONG

### NOTICE TO REGISTERED THIRD PARTY OF FILING REQUIREMENTS

*Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (s. 88.29)*

TO:
_____
[Name of Registered Third Party]
_____
[Address] <span style="float: right;">[Postal Code]</span>

FROM:
The Clerk or designated election official of The Corporation of the Township of Strong.

TAKE NOTICE THAT EVERY REGISTERED THIRD PARTY SHALL FILE by March 30, 2026, with the Clerk with whom they registered a financial statement and auditor's report in accordance with s.88.29 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.

- 88.29 (1) On or before 2:00 p.m., on the filing date, a registered third party shall file with the Clerk of the municipality in which he, she or it registered a financial statement and auditor's report, each in the prescribed form, reflecting the registered third party's campaign finances in relation to third party advertisements,
- (a) in the case of a regular election, as of December 31 in the year of the election;
  - (b) in the case of a by-election, as of the 45<sup>th</sup> day after Voting Day.
- (2) If an error is identified in a filed financial statement, the registered third party may withdraw the statement and, at the same time, file a corrected financial statement and auditor's report on or before the applicable filing date under section 88.30.
- (3) If the campaign period for the registered third party in relation to an election in the municipality continues during all or part of the supplementary reporting period, the registered third party shall, before 2:00 p.m. on the supplementary reporting period, file a supplementary financial statement and auditor's report for the supplementary reporting period.
- (4) A supplementary financial statement or auditor's report shall include all the information contained in the initial statement or report filed under subsection (1), updated to reflect the changes to the registered third party's campaign finances during the supplementary reporting period.
- (5) An auditor's report shall be prepared by an auditor licensed under the *Public Accounting Act, 2004*.
- (6) No auditor's report is required if the total contributions received and total expenses incurred in the registered third party's campaign in relation to third party advertisements during an election in the municipality up to the end of the relevant period are each equal or less than \$10,000.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk or Designate



**Municipal Election  
October 26, 2026**

## **The Corporation of the Township of Strong**

The Municipal Elections Voter's List is now maintained by Elections Ontario. For more information, visit their website:

<https://vreg.registertovoteon.ca/en/home>

**Get on the  
voters list  
today.**

**RegisterToVoteON.ca  
1.866.242.3025**



**Municipal Election  
October 26, 2026**

## **The Corporation of the Township of Strong**

The following Power Point Presentation slides were prepared by the Almaguin Area Clerk's group and presented at the Candidates Information Session held on Thursday April 16, 2026 at the Burk's Falls, Armour, Ryerson Arena.

These slides are for informational purposes only.

Candidate  
Information  
Session

2026

*Reasons Some  
Run for Office,  
But Beware*

**“I have one issue I want to see resolved.”**

- Passion is a great starting point
- Council decisions are made collectively
- Single-issue focus can limit influence
- Success comes from collaboration and broad perspective

*Reasons Some  
Run for Office,  
But Beware*

**“Common Misconceptions to Consider**

- “It only takes a few hours a week”
- “I can advance my own property or business interests”
- “My professional skills can help staff do their jobs”



## *The Authority of Municipal Government*

- Municipalities are governed by **provincial and federal legislation**
- Councils can only act within the powers granted to them
- Some issues (e.g. airport flight paths, railway noise) are **not municipal responsibilities**
- In these cases, the municipal role is **advocacy and support**
- Key legislation for candidates:
  - **Municipal Act**
  - **Planning Act**

# *The Authority of Municipal Government*

## **Municipal Authority in Ontario**

- Municipal powers are set out primarily in the **Municipal Act, 2001**
    - Powers are **broad** (e.g. contracts, property acquisition and disposition)
    - Powers are also **limited** (e.g. taxation authority, revenue tools)
  - The Municipal Act defines authority using:
    - “**The municipality may...**” (permissive powers)
    - “**The municipality shall...**” (mandatory duties)
  - Municipal authority is further shaped by the **Planning Act**
    - Establishes a **provincial policy–led land use planning system**
    - Sets out **required processes**, including public notice and meetings
- Municipal powers are delegated, conditional, and exercised within a provincially defined framework.***

# *What You Should Know Before You Run for Office*

Serving as a councillor is a significant time commitment, often in addition to a full-time job.

- Councillors spend substantial time on council duties, often alongside another career
- Preparation is essential: agendas, reports, bylaws, and legislation must be reviewed
- Decisions affect policy, services, and budgets
- Councillors must listen to fellow councillors, staff, and residents
- The role does not have an “on/off” switch





*What You  
Should Know  
Before You  
Run for  
Office*

Council service involves frequent meetings and constant public visibility.

- Attendance at council, committee, and board meetings is mandatory
- Meetings may occur during business hours and evenings
- Councillors are often appointed to external boards and committees
- Serving on boards requires additional reading, meetings, and preparation
- Councillors are always in the public eye



*What You  
Should Know  
Before You  
Run for  
Office*

Council service requires careful personal planning and adherence to strong ethical standards.

- Council schedules should be considered before making personal commitments
- Vacations and personal time are best planned when council is not in session
- Councils operate within integrity and accountability frameworks
- Procedural bylaws govern council operations
- Rules apply to both open and closed meetings
- Councillors are expected to act with respect toward colleagues, staff, and the public

# *Council Members and the Media*



## **Life in the Fishbowl**

- Public scrutiny begins the moment you announce you're running
- Everything you say can be noted, shared, and remembered
- Formal comments *and* casual conversations count
- Media records past statements and will revisit them
- Consistency, accuracy, and judgment matter at all times



## *Council Members and the Media*

### **Who Speaks — and When?**

- Two key questions:
  - When does the **municipality** speak?
  - When does the **elected official** speak?
- Often, the Mayor or Reeve is designated to speak on council decisions
- Committee Chairs may speak on matters within their mandate
- Individual councillors may be asked for their views
- Council decisions represent the **policy of the municipality**

## *Tips for Dealing with the Media*

It is important to remember that the media are there to get a story. They want information and the better the information, the better the news report.

Nothing you say is ever "off the record" when speaking with the media – even when you have agreed that you are off the record!

Consistent messaging is critical – keep your message the same every time. If you must change your message, be sure to say why.

# *Decision-making process*



- In municipal governments, there are no political parties. Each council member sits as an independently elected representative of his or her constituency.
- Council members must form their own opinions and be prepared to argue their case and persuade other members to see their point of view.
- Decisions passed by council are **group** decisions. They are made by resolution or by by-law and require a majority vote. Councils will also have rules about how to review or revisit a decision.

*Techniques  
for Working  
with Others*

Council members work with other councillors, staff members and members of the public. It's not always easy to get along with everyone, but there are some techniques that will make things easier.

## *Techniques for Working with Others*

- **Humility counts** – be humble and give credit where credit is due;
- **Mutual respect is important** – Keep discussions professional and don't let things become personal;
- **Promote the positive** – this helps create positive relationships with other members, staff and rate payers;
- **The municipality is a corporation** – the council is the board of directors;
- **Staff implement the decisions that Council makes** – council needs to make clear decisions so that staff can get the job done;
- A council and its workforce that is working together well, often means higher employee retention rates and usually results in better candidates when positions open up;
- Being a **good listener** is one of the most important aspects of interpersonal communication. It is especially important for elected officials to always listen and to listen effectively.

Section 1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* defines a municipality as a "geographic area whose inhabitants are incorporated".

Section 2 of the Act states that "municipalities are created by the Province of Ontario to be responsible and accountable governments with respect to matters within their jurisdiction, and each municipality is given powers and duties under the act and many other acts for the purpose of providing good government with respect to those matters".

Municipal governments derive their power from legislation set by the provincial government and sometimes by the federal government.

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## *The Power and Influence of Municipal Government*

# *The Power and Influence of Municipal Government*

Even though there is a "power hierarchy" in the governmental structure (Federal, Provincial, Municipal) most municipalities see themselves as an order of government that is the closest to the public.

Because Municipal Council is so close to the public, constituents will often see their municipal government as the first place to take their concerns, even if those concerns fall outside of the municipal government's jurisdiction.

For municipal governments, a fundamental consideration is their constitutional position. The *Constitution Act, 1982* states that provincial governments have the exclusive right to pass laws respecting municipal institutions.

A number of general consequences follow from this:

# *The Power and Influence of Municipal Government*

01

A provincial government would give a municipality only those powers that it may exercise itself within the division of federal and provincial powers under the Constitution.

02

A municipal bylaw may not override or conflict with a provincial statute.

03

If a municipality takes action for which it does not have statutory authority, or that exceeds the limits of its authority, the courts could quash the action as being "*ultra vires*".

# *Meetings are Public*

Meetings take up a lot of municipal council member's time and can happen at any time of day and require some degree of preparation.

The types of meetings include:

- **Council Meetings:** which are open and some municipalities broadcast publicly on various platforms.
- **Committee Meetings:** where public delegations are often taken.
- **Closed Meetings** (in camera): Section 239 (2 through 6) of the *Municipal Act* describes the circumstances and requirements around when a municipal council may meet in a closed session.
- **Other Public Meetings:** public consultation meetings, changes to a bylaw related to licensing, local improvements, municipal budget/fee consultations, or as directed by legislation such as the *Planning Act*.

# *Public Meetings – What Are the Rules?*

All meetings that municipal council members attend are governed by rules.

Each Council must have a Procedural By-law in place to guide its meeting from start to finish. It will set out:

- When and how notice of the Meeting occurs;
- When Agendas are distributed;
- Procedure for disclosing pecuniary interests;
- Role of Mayor and Council.

Everyone has the right to participate in discussion if they wish, before anyone may speak a second time. The most common set of rules used is Robert's Rules of Order.

Councillors must be aware of and know the rules before entering a meeting.



# *Public Meetings – Things to Consider*

For members of municipal council or council committee, a public meeting is the place to listen to the ideas and concerns of ratepayers. It is not the place to campaign, speak on the issue, or to make promises.

In public meetings, council members are in the Representative Role – listening to what is being said so that they can make a decision that is best for all ratepayers.



# *The Municipal Act*

The purpose of the *Municipal Act* is as follows:

Municipalities are created by the Province of Ontario to be responsible and accountable governments with respect to matters within their jurisdiction and each municipality is given powers and duties under this Act and many other Acts for the purpose of providing good government with respect to those matters.

The Act sets out the powers of municipal council, which are derived from various provincial statutes. It also describes what powers shall be exercised by council.

# *The Authority of Municipal Government*

The *Municipal Act* is a key piece of legislation that governs what a municipal government may and may not do. It describes three "tier" of municipalities:

- **Upper tier municipality** (region or county): means a municipality of which two or more lower tier municipalities form part for municipal purposes.
- **Lower tier municipality:** means a municipality that forms part of an upper tier municipality for municipal purposes.
- **Single tier municipality:** means a municipality other than an upper tier municipality, that does not form part of an upper tier municipality for municipal purposes.

It is normal that the head of council of a lower tier municipality sits on the regional or county (upper tier) municipality.

# *Transparency of the decision-making process*

The majority of council business is discussed in public open meetings:

- Council meetings
- Committee meetings
- Meetings of municipal agencies, boards and commissions

Closed meetings (in camera) are permitted only under special circumstances. There may be an item on the agenda that closes that portion of the meeting to allow it to be discussed. You can only discuss that item and can only give direction to staff in these meetings – you cannot make a decision. A decision must be made in public.

Section 239 (2) of the *Municipal Act* provides for the exceptions to the requirement for open public meetings.

## *The Councillor as an Individual*

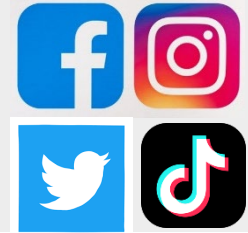
Every municipal council member is a public figure and so, almost everything they do is public knowledge.

Under the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Privacy Act*, the public has a right to access correspondence of council members. This includes all municipal records and all types of correspondence including email.

The word "institution" is important as a municipality is an institution and is in custody of all information produced in its workings, including the correspondence of council members.

The key message to council members is, "Don't say or write anything that you would not say out loud in public." This is also a good rule to keep in mind when using social media.

# *The Use of Social Media*



## **Maintain Confidentiality and Privacy**

*Do not post private or confidential information.*

## **More Isn't More**

*Resist the urge to post everything. Be authentic, respectful, and use your own voice.*

## **Refer Service Questions to Staff**

*Acknowledge the question and refer to the Municipality.*

**Definition:** Social Media means the various online, accessible communication channels or technologies that enable individuals to join/participate in online communities for the purpose of publicly sharing information.

The best way to approach the online world is by using sound judgment and common sense.

When in doubt – **DO NOT POST**

## *The Councillor as an Individual and the Criminal Code of Canada*

The behaviour of council members can also be subject to criminal prosecution.

In other words, it is illegal for a person to try to buy their way into municipal office. The penalty for this indictable offence is a prison term not exceeding five years.

Every member of municipal council is sworn into office by a Declaration of Office, which reads:

1. "I will truly, faithfully and impartially exercise this office to the best of my knowledge and ability."
2. I have not received and will not receive any payment or reward, or promise thereof, for the exercise of this office in a biased, corrupt or in any other improper manner.
3. I will disclose any pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in accordance with the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.

**Remember – you are swearing this Declaration.**

All of it is important. However, the phrase, "pecuniary interest, direct or indirect" is key to identifying whether a Council member has a conflict of interest.

*Declaration of Office*

## *The Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*

The *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* provides direction on the personal obligations of Council members regarding instances of conflict of interest and governs their conduct in meetings.

The Act does not apply to staff members.

The Act also describes the Statutory Duties of Council members regarding pecuniary interest. Members must:

1. Disclose the interest and its general nature
2. Not discuss or vote
3. Not influence the vote
4. Leave a closed meeting

The fifth statutory duty sets out the obligations of a Council member who is absent from a meeting where an issue in which he or she has pecuniary interest is considered by Council.

# *Council Code of Conduct & Integrity Commissioner*

## **Council Code of Conduct**

- A set of rules and standards for councillors' behavior.
- Ensures **ethical, fair, and transparent** decision-making.
- Covers:
  - Conflicts of interest
  - Respectful communication
  - Accountability to the public

## **Integrity Commissioner**

- An independent official who:
  - Provides advice on the Code of Conduct
  - Investigates complaints about councillor behavior
  - Reports findings to the council
- Helps maintain **trust and integrity** in local government

## **Key Takeaway:**

- The Code of Conduct sets expectations; the Integrity Commissioner ensures they are **upheld**.

# *Integrity Commissioner: Role & Responsibilities*

- **Independent Advisor:** Provides guidance to council members on ethical conduct and conflicts of interest.
- **Conflict of Interest Oversight:** Helps ensure members follow rules on **pecuniary interests** and ethical behavior.
- **Complaint Handling:** Receives and investigates complaints about councillor conduct.
- **Reports & Recommendations:** Advises council and, when necessary, makes **formal recommendations**.
- **Promotes Transparency & Accountability:** Supports trust between council and the public.
- The Integrity Commissioner **advises members directly**, not the Clerk.

If a member has a pecuniary interest in a matter that is before Council, that member has 5 specific duties:

1. Declare the pecuniary interest
2. State the general nature of the interest
3. Do not influence other members before, during or after the meeting
4. Do not participate in the discussion
5. Do not vote

## *Statutory Duties of Council Members – Summary*

# *Pecuniary Interest – The Roles of Others*

We've spent some time discussing your role in avoiding conflict of interest. Now, let's examine the role that others play in ensuring that Council members are acting in good faith.

## **Other Councillors**

- Check with other councillors to ensure that they know and understand what issues are on the meeting agenda – "have you looked at this"?

## **Head of Council**

- The Head of Council should be made aware of any potential conflict of interest (pecuniary interests) prior to the meeting.

## **Courts**

- Court action can be brought against a council member by an elector.





# ELECT RESPECT

DEMOCRACY DEPENDS ON IT

## Why It Matters

Harassment is increasing

Online abuse is rising

Fewer people feel safe running

## 💛 The Commitment

Respect others — online and in person

No harassment or personal attacks

Focus on issues, not individuals

Lead with integrity

## 💬 Key Message

**Disagree respectfully.**

**Democracy depends on it.**

## 👉 Take the Pledge

[electrespect.ca](http://electrespect.ca)

**“Our democracy depends on respectful, safe participation for everyone.”**

# STRONG MAYOR POWERS

WHAT ARE THEY?

SHOULD I CARE?

Special authorities granted by the Province under the *Municipal Act, 2001* to support provincial priorities (e.g., housing, infrastructure).

## Key Powers May Include

- Appointing and dismissing the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
- Proposing and amending the municipal budget
- Vetoing certain by-laws (with Council override)
- Directing municipal staff on priority matters

## Where Do They Apply?

- Only in municipalities designated by the Province outlined within Schedule 1 designated municipalities within Ontario Regulation 530/22
- Primarily larger cities in Ontario

## MAYOR'S ROLE: COMPARISON UNDER THE STRONG MAYOR POWERS

### **STRONG MAYOR SYSTEM**

*Mayor has enhanced executive powers*

*Can veto certain by-laws*

*Leads and can amend the budget*

*Can direct certain municipal staff*

*Greater individual decision-making*

### **TRADITIONAL (ALMAGUIN REGION)**

*Mayor has no additional legal authority*

*No veto power*

*Budget developed collaboratively*

*Staff direction flows through Council/CAO*

*Decisions made by majority of Council*

### **Almaguin municipalities follow the traditional model**

There are no municipalities in the Almaguin region that currently have 'Strong Mayor Powers'.

All local Councils operate under the traditional system, where decisions are made collectively by Council.

**The Mayor is “first among equals” — one vote, working with Council to make decisions.**

# What do property taxes pay for?

## Direct Municipal Services

- Road maintenance & snow removal
- Garbage & recycling services
- Recreational programming & events
- Parks, Beaches & Outdoor Rinks
- Public Library
- Fire Department

## Non-Direct Services

- Ontario Provincial Police
- District of Parry Sound Social Services
- Eastholme Home for the Aged
- Parry Sound Land Ambulance
- Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC)
- North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit

Approximately 25% of the budgeted property taxes go to these non-direct services. A 5% cost increase means a 1.25% tax increase. Costs have increased by almost 20% during the current term of Council (2022-2026).



## *Things to Know and Practice*



- Keep balance in your life particularly with your family.
- Be prepared to earn much less than in the private sector.
- Be prepared to deal with many more complex issues with no simple answers.
- Working in municipal government requires resilience and the ability to handle criticism
- Be patient as the pace of decision-making is much slower.
- Understand that to give good customer service you must learn to make many more small decisions than big ones.
- Form good relationships with staff to get good things done – even letting them introduce your ideas.

# *Conclusion*

You have been provided with an overview of what you need to know to begin your candidacy and what you should know before you decide to run for municipal office.

Serving on municipal council can be challenging—but it's also **incredibly rewarding**.

**Time and effort invested** bring opportunities to:

- Make a **real difference** in your community.
- Develop **leadership and problem-solving skills**.
- Build **strong connections** with residents and other leaders.
- Every challenge is a chance to **grow, learn, and create positive impact**.



*On behalf of  
the Almaguin  
Highlands  
Clerks Group*

Thank You  
for attending  
this session