

Changes to Municipal Elections Act

The following changes are of particular interest to candidates for the 2018 Municipal Election:

- Nominations will be accepted beginning on May 1st, 2018, until 2:00 pm on July 27th, 2018.
- Candidates must supply proof of endorsement from 25 electors at the time of submitting their nominations to be a candidate in the election. Further information and forms will be made available by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs closer to the opening of the nomination period.
- Corporations and trade unions are no longer permitted to make contributions to municipal elections campaigns. See Section 88.8 of the MEA.
- Individuals, corporations, and trade unions may register as Third Party Advertisers during the campaign period. Registered Third Party Advertisers may collect contributions and make expenditures in support of or in opposition to a candidate or a yes or no answer to a question on the ballot. Further information regarding rules and regulations for Third Party Advertisers will be made available by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs closer to the opening of nominations.
- Campaign Finance:
 - Candidates and their spouses may only contribute a pre-determined amount of money to their own campaigns, which is calculated using the number of electors in each race. See Section 88.9.1 of the MEA.
 - Contribution limits for individuals have been increased to \$1,200 per candidate, to a maximum of \$5,000 for all candidates on the same Council. See Section 88.9 of the MEA.
 - Candidates may only spend a maximum of 10% of their total expense limit on post-election parties and celebrations. See Section 88.20 (9) of the MEA and Section 5.1 of Ontario Regulation 101/07.