



2026 Municipal Election FAQ

When is Voting Day?

Voting Day is October 26, 2026.

When can a candidate file their nomination papers?

The nomination period for candidates begins May 1, 2026.

What is the deadline for filing nomination papers?

The deadline for filing of nominations is Nomination Day, **August 21, 2026** by **2 p.m.**

What are the eligibility requirements for Council candidates (including Mayor and Councillor)?

Candidates for the Office of Mayor and Councillor must, by the day on which the nomination paper is filed, be:

- a Canadian citizen
- at least 18 years of age
- a resident of the Municipality of Huron Shores, or an owner or tenant of land in the Municipality of Huron Shores, or the spouse of the owner or tenant
- not legally prohibited from voting
- not disqualified by any legislation from holding municipal office

The following are disqualified for office on Huron Shores Council:

- a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario or the Senate or House of Commons of Canada who has not resigned from such office as of the close of nominations. If, at the close of nominations, proof of resignation has not been provided, the



- nomination shall be rejected by the Clerk
- a judge of any court
- a candidate who failed to file the necessary financial statement in the last municipal election or by-election

Municipality of Huron Shores employees who wish to seek office on Huron Shores Council must take an unpaid leave of absence prior to filing nomination papers. Proof of leave must be provided to the Office of the Clerk at the time their nomination is submitted.

What are the eligibility requirements for candidates for School Board Trustee?

To run for office as a School Board Trustee with any of the four school boards, a candidate must as of the date they file their nomination, be:

- a Canadian citizen
- at least 18 years of age
- a resident in the area of jurisdiction of the board
- not legally prohibited from voting
- not disqualified by any legislation from holding municipal office

The following are disqualified from seeking office as a School Board Trustee:

- a clerk, treasurer, deputy-clerk or deputy-treasurer of any municipality within the area of jurisdiction of the school board except those on an unpaid leave of absence
- a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario or the Senate or House of Commons of Canada who has not resigned from such office as of the close of nominations. If, at the close of nominations, proof of resignation has not been provided, the nomination shall be rejected by the Clerk
- a candidate who failed to file the necessary financial statement in the



last municipal election or by-election

Employees of any school board are disqualified from being elected as School Board Trustee or from holding office on any school board, except during a leave of absence. The employee must be on a leave of absence before filing their nomination papers and must provide proof of their leave of absence to the Office of the Clerk at the time their nomination is submitted.

When can I begin my election campaign?

Campaigning that involves incurring expenses or accepting contributions may only begin once a candidate has filed their nomination papers with the Clerk.

Can I use my Huron Shores email address as a method of contact during my campaign?

NO. If you are a current member of council seeking re-election, you are not permitted to use any corporate resources provided to you for your term. This includes municipally issued laptop and email address, municipal staff time, facilities, equipment, and branding. A copy of the Use of Corporate Resources Policy is provided in the Candidates Package.

What if I want to change the office/position I am running for?

You may file new nomination papers by **August 21, 2026 at 2 p.m.** to switch the office you are running for.

What if I want to withdraw my nomination?

Candidates may withdraw their nomination in writing to the Clerk no later than **2 p.m. on August 21, 2026.**

What are the expense limits for my campaign?

Expense limits are based on the office you campaign for. The formula for



calculating expense limits are as follows:

- Head of Council (Mayor): \$7,500 plus \$0.85 per eligible elector
- Councillor or School Board Trustee: \$5,000 plus \$0.85 per eligible elector

What are the expense limits on parties and other events after voting day?

The limit placed on the amount of expenses that may be incurred for parties and other events which occur after voting day is set at **10%** of the general spending limit for candidates.

What are the filing fees for the 2026 Municipal Election?

The refundable filing fee, paid to the Clerk at the time of nomination, are as follows:

- \$200 for the Head of Council (Mayor)
- \$100 for Councillor and School Board Trustee

The filing fee will be refunded if your campaign financial statement has been received by the filing deadline (March 31, 2027).

Who may contribute to my campaign, and what limits are imposed on those contributions?

As of 2018, contributions to candidates may only be received from individuals. Corporations and trade unions may no longer contribute to candidates for municipal or school board offices. Legislation has provided for registered third parties, which will permit corporations and trade unions to raise and spend funds in respect to elections. Please see below for details on registered third parties and associated advertising.

Individual Contributions

The following contribution limits are imposed on individual contributions to



candidates:

- An individual shall not contribute more than \$1,200 to any one candidate; and
- A contributor shall not make contributions exceeding \$5,000 to two or more candidates for office on the same council or local board.

Candidate and Spousal Contributions

A candidate and their spouse may not contribute an amount which exceeds the lesser of the following:

The amount calculated by adding:

- For a candidate for the office of Mayor, \$7,500 plus \$0.20 for each elector entitled to vote for the office, or
- For a candidate for office other than Mayor, \$5,000 plus \$0.20 for each elector entitled to vote for the office

What are the rules governing fundraising?

Fundraising shall not take place for a person who is not a candidate (this means that an individual must submit their nomination before raising funds to support a campaign for office). Fundraising may only take place within the candidate's campaign period (beginning on the date nomination is filed and ending December 31).

The following also applies to fundraising:

- An amount charged for admission to a fundraising function is considered a contribution.
- If goods and services are sold for more than their market value at a fundraising function, the difference between the amount paid and the market value is considered a contribution. However, if the amount received for the goods or services is \$25 or less, the amount is not a contribution.
- An amount of \$25 or less that is donated at a fundraising function is NOT considered a contribution.



- The amount received for goods and services sold at a fundraising function, if the amount is \$25 or less, is NOT considered a contribution.

Can I reuse my election signs from the previous election?

YES. However, you will need to account for their current day cost for this campaign period on your financial statement as an expense.

What if I have no campaign expenses, do I still need to file a financial report?

YES.

What if I miss the deadline to submit my financial statements?

If you have been elected and you fail to submit your campaign financial statements you will forfeit your seat and are unable to run or be appointed to Council until the next regular election (October 2030). This will result in the candidate being ineligible to receive their nomination fee refund.

What are registered third parties?

Registered third parties are individuals, corporations or trade unions which register with the Clerk for the purposes of conducting advertising promoting, supporting or opposing a candidate (or candidates) for office at the municipal or school board level.

See the 2026 Third Party Advertisers' Guide in your Candidate Package.

What are the rules for campaign signage?

The Municipality of Huron Shores Sign By-law provides for the regulation of election signage within the Municipality of Huron Shores. A copy of the by-law is included in your candidate's package.



What if I mistakenly place an election sign on municipal property?

Any election signs found to be on municipal property will be removed by Municipal Staff and returned to the Municipal Office. Candidates will be notified and are to attend the Municipal Office to collect their signs.

Can more than one candidate place a sign on a resident's lawn?

All candidates are to seek permission from the property owner before placing any signage.

What are the rules for campaign headquarters signage?

The permissible size of signs at a campaign headquarters will depend on the content of the sign as well as the type of sign. Candidates should consult with the Municipality's Planning and Building department and Sign By-law to determine which regulations apply. The submission of a sketch with all relevant dimensions and locations noted will assist the Planning and Building Department in providing advice.

The external identification signage associated with the campaign offices are business premises signs that require sign permits. These signs must comply with all relevant sections of the Municipality's Sign By-law.

When can candidates get a copy of the electors list?

Certified candidates may obtain the Voters' List in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act, 1996. Distribution and use are subject to legislative restrictions.