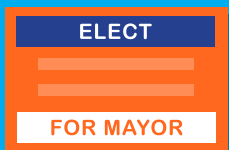


Supporting a Candidate for Local Elections in B.C. 2018

VOTE



This brochure answers some questions about how you can support candidates in local government elections in British Columbia. Local government is government at the community level – government that affects British Columbians, every day.

LOCAL ELECTIONS

What are local elections?

Local elections are the foundation of democratic local governments in British Columbia. The local elections process enables residents and property owners to determine the body of individuals who then make decisions and govern on your behalf following general voting day. Electors do this by voting – casting their ballots in favour of one or more candidates.

For general information about local elections and the key participants (e.g. candidates, financial agents, official agents, scrutineers, elector organizations and third party sponsors) in local elections, please refer to **General Local Elections 101**. The brochure is available from local governments throughout B.C. and online at: www.gov.bc.ca/localelections

What is a candidate?

A candidate is an individual seeking election as a mayor, councillor, electoral area director, Islands Trust local trustee, local community commissioner or specified parks board commissioner within a municipality, regional district electoral area, Trust area, community commission area or specified parks board jurisdiction.

Refer to the *Candidates Guide to Local Government Elections in B.C.* for more detailed information about candidates. The guide is available from local governments throughout B.C. and online at: www.gov.bc.ca/localelections

Refer to the **Foundational Principles of Responsible Conduct** brochure for information about responsible conduct and expectations for B.C.'s locally elected officials. The brochure is available online at: www.gov.bc.ca/localgov-elected-officials-conduct

What should you expect from people who run for elected office?

People who are able to lead with integrity, accountability, and respect and in collaboration with other locally elected officials and local government staff are essential to the effectiveness and success of a local government.

What is an election campaign?

An election campaign is a connected series of actions (e.g. advertising, meetings and speeches) for the purpose of electing a candidate or a group of candidates to a municipal council or regional district board. Typically, an election campaign involves candidates and/or elector organizations communicating with the electorate, through: public appearances and speeches; advertisements on television, radio, the Internet and social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, YouTube); in newspapers and magazines; brochures, signs, posters and billboards; mail inserts and newsletters; and, bumper stickers, buttons and displays and/or exhibitions.

General local elections will be held on Saturday October 20, 2018.

Contact Elections BC by phone at: 250 387-5305 or elsewhere in B.C. call: 1 855 952-0280 or by email at: lecf@elections.bc.ca for answers to questions you have about the election campaign finance and advertising rules under the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*.

SUPPORTING A CANDIDATE

Some of the ways you can support a candidate include: voting; making campaign contributions; nominating a candidate; promoting a candidate by advertising and/or posting signs; volunteering by canvassing door to door or participating on telephone banks, organizing an event or participating in an elector organization; and, becoming a candidate representative (e.g. financial agent, official agent, scrutineer).

BALLOT	
JOHN DOE	<input type="radio"/>
JANE SMITH	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
SUNNY ZOÛLS	<input type="radio"/>
JENS ROBSON	<input type="radio"/>
VON FORTIÈR	<input type="radio"/>

When can I vote?

Advance Voting

An advance voting opportunity must be held 10 days prior to general voting day. This required advance voting day allows eligible electors who may not otherwise be able to vote on general voting day to cast their ballot.

General Voting

General voting day is the primary opportunity for eligible electors to vote. Voting places are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. local time on general voting day.

Special Voting

Special voting opportunities may be held in any location – inside or outside the local government boundary – to provide eligible electors who may not otherwise be able to attend a voting place an opportunity to cast their ballots during local elections. Special voting opportunities are generally held in hospitals, long-term care facilities or other locations where electors' mobility may be impaired.

Mail Ballot Voting

Mail ballot voting provides those electors unable to attend a special, advance or general voting opportunity the ability to vote in local elections.

Supporting a candidate may trigger some campaign financing rules and/or requirements on your part.

Contact Elections BC by phone at: 250 387-5305 or elsewhere in B.C. call: 1 855 952-0280 or by email at: lecf@elections.bc.ca for more information.

Campaign Contributions

How do I donate to an election campaign?

You can support a candidate and/or an elector organization and help them finance their election campaign by making campaign contributions.

Every candidate, elector organization and third party sponsor now has limits on the amount of money they can spend during the campaign period. There are also restrictions that apply to campaign contributions made to candidates and elector organizations.

Contact Elections BC by phone at: 250 387-5305 or elsewhere in B.C. call: 1 855 952-0280 or by email at: lecf@elections.bc.ca for answers to questions you have about making campaign contributions to a candidate or elector organization.



Candidate Nomination

How do I nominate a candidate for local elections?

Nominating an individual for office is a meaningful way you can show support for a prospective candidate and their election platform in an election campaign. The individual being nominated must consent to the nomination.

Refer to the Candidates Guide to Local Elections in B.C. for more detailed information about nominating a candidate for mayor, councillor, or electoral area director.

The guide is available from local governments throughout B.C. and online at: www.gov.bc.ca/localelections

If you want to nominate a candidate for local office you must:

- be a Canadian citizen;
- be at least 18 years of age;
- have been a resident of B.C. for at least six months before registering to vote;
- have been a resident of, or owned property, in the jurisdiction for which the election is being held for at least 30 days before registering to vote; and,
- not be disqualified under the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment from voting in a local election, or be otherwise disqualified by law.

Prospective candidates generally approach possible nominators to support their candidacy. Two (or more) nominators must sign the candidate's nomination form. Signing candidate nomination documents will involve you providing your name and residential address and declaring that, to the best of your knowledge, the candidate is qualified to run for office. Nomination papers are available at your local government office and must be submitted during the nomination period.

The candidate's nomination documents are available for public inspection after the end of the nomination period until 30 days after the declaration of election results. Local governments must make the documents available for viewing during regular business hours, and they may also make the documents available by other means – including on the Internet.

You must be prepared for your name and address to be publicly available if you nominate a candidate.

PROMOTING A CANDIDATE

How can I promote a candidate?

You can promote a candidate by: advertising; posting signs; volunteering; canvassing; organizing events; and/or, participating in an elector organization.

Advertising

What are the rules around advertising?

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

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

What is third party advertising?

Third party advertising is election advertising independent from a candidate or elector organization campaign.

Candidates and their election campaigns must be independent from third party advertising sponsored by a third party sponsor. Third party sponsors and candidates must not coordinate their advertising.

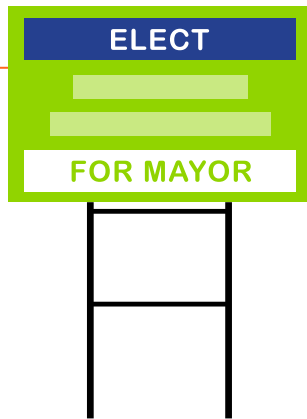
Third party activities may trigger rules under the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* – you must be aware of and follow these rules. If you fail to follow the requirements you may have committed an offence and may be subject to penalties.

Posting Signs

What are the rules around posting signs?

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

Local governments have the authority to regulate the size, placement, maintenance and removal of signs and other forms of public advertising – the rules may be quite different between local governments. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure regulates sign placement along Provincial highways, medians, bridges and along major roadways.



Contact your local government or local Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure office before placing election campaign signs on medians, bridges or along major roads.

SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION

There are rules with respect to sponsorship information on election advertising. Refer to Elections BC's *Guide to Local Elections Campaign Financing in B.C. for Candidates and their Financial Agents*, and *Guide for Local Elections Third Party Sponsors in B.C.* for more information about third party sponsors and election advertising requirements, available online at: www.elections.bc.ca/lecf

Volunteering

Can I volunteer for a candidate?

Yes. You can provide services, such as preparing and distributing flyers, calling eligible voters, handling logistics and taking on other election campaign-related activities for a candidate or an elector organization. Third party sponsors may also use volunteers to undertake their advertising activities independent of an election campaign. If you volunteer for an election campaign, you must not receive any payment or remuneration for your services.

Contact Elections BC by phone at: 250 387-5305 or elsewhere in B.C. call: 1 855 952-0280 or by email at: lecf@elections.bc.ca for answers to questions about being a volunteer for an election campaign.

Canvassing

As a campaign volunteer you may canvass door-to-door throughout the community in order to raise awareness of the candidate or elector organization and their election platform, identify issues of importance to electors and determine the level of elector support for a given candidate.

Contact Elections BC by phone at:
250 387-5305 or elsewhere in B.C. call:
1 855 952-0280 or by email at:
lecf@elections.bc.ca for detailed information
about campaign financing and advertising rules.

Organizing In-person Events

Can I organize an event where my candidate speaks?

Yes. Candidates may hold “meet and greet” events (e.g. luncheons or fundraising dinners) where the community can listen to the candidate’s platform or position on specific issues and ask questions. Local governments, community groups and local media often provide opportunities for candidates to communicate their platform or position on specific issues to the electorate at “all-candidate” forums.

Participating in an Elector Organization

Another way you can support a candidate is by joining, creating, or becoming one of the responsible principal officials for an elector organization. Elector organizations promote a candidate, group of candidates or a point of view during local elections in one or more jurisdictions.

If you are interested in creating or becoming one of the responsible principal officials for an elector organization, please refer to the *Elector Organization Guide to Local Elections in B.C.* available online at:

www.gov.bc.ca/localelections

BEING A CANDIDATE REPRESENTATIVE

What is a financial agent?

A financial agent is a representative that candidates and elector organizations are legally required to have during an election campaign. Financial agents have a number of obligations under the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*.

What is an official agent?

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

Refer to Elections BC’s [Guide to Local Elections Campaign Financing in B.C. for Candidates and their Financial Agents](#) for more information about the financial agent’s role and responsibilities, available online at: www.elections.bc.ca/lecf

What does a scrutineer do?

Scrutineers observe voting procedures and scrutinize the ballot-counting process during advance, special and general voting opportunities. A candidate and/or their official agent may appoint you as a scrutineer. Local governments, bylaw, and local chief election officers have the authority to establish specific rules governing scrutineer conduct and responsibilities.

How can I become a “candidate representative”?

You must be appointed as the financial agent or the official agent for an election campaign by the candidate. The official agent or the candidate may appoint you as a scrutineer.

The financial agent, official agent and scrutineer appointments must be made in writing, be signed by the candidate and submitted to the local chief election officer as soon as practicable after the appointment has been made.

If you are a candidate representative, you must carry copies of your appointment papers whenever you represent a candidate at an election proceeding. Each candidate representative who attends a voting place must have made a solemn declaration to preserve the secrecy of the ballot and not interfere with an elector marking a ballot. Official agents and scrutineers may attend a voting place once they have made their solemn declaration.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Governance and Structure Branch

PO Box 9839 Stn. Prov. Govt.

Victoria, BC V8W 9T1

Phone: 250 387-4020

Email: LGgovernance@gov.bc.ca

www.gov.bc.ca/localelections

Elections BC

Contact Elections BC for answers to questions about election advertising, third party sponsors and campaign financing.

Elections BC

In Victoria call: 250 387-5305

Elsewhere in B.C. call: 1 855 952-0280

Email: lecf@elections.bc.ca

www.elections.bc.ca/lecf

**GET OUT
AND VOTE**



Refer to the **General Local Elections 101** brochure for detailed information about general local elections in B.C. This brochure is available from local governments throughout B.C. and online at:

www.gov.bc.ca/localelections