

Municipal Elections 101

The Municipal Elections Act provides all the statutory requirements for a Municipal Election. For those thinking of running for a Municipal Election, you need to determine if you can run.

You must be a Canadian citizen and 18 years of age at the time of nomination.

Canadian flag

You must be a resident in the municipality at least 6 months prior to nomination day.

You must have a certificate from the municipal clerk stating that your municipal taxes have been fully paid.

You are not a municipal employee unless you are willing to take a leave of absence.



You cannot run for municipal council if you are a:

Member of Parliament (Federal)

Member of the Legislature (Provincial)

Member of the Council of another municipality

Judge

Municipal Employee (unless you take a leave of absence or are a volunteer fireperson)

Person convicted of any corrupt practice or bribery within 5 years of nomination day

Campaigning during Covid-19

The global health pandemic will require a different approach to campaigning in the 2020 election. Restrictions and recommendations from the provincial health authority must be adhered to. However, candidates will be able to take advantage of existing and emerging forms of social media and electronic communications to reach their audience.

The following are some things to consider during the 2020 election:

Candidates who choose to speak with individual community members by 'door-knocking' should respect social distancing and other health precautions such as wearing a non-medical face mask

Explore available webinar and video conference platforms to hear from residents in your community as well as to express your position on local issues

Prepare for several smaller gatherings to organize, fundraise, and celebrate your campaign as opposed to large one-off events

Strategize ways to safely reach out to those affected by the digital divide or health compromises so they can also participate in the process.

For more information, check out the www.electionspictoucounty.ca where you find a candidate's guide and nomination forms. The last day to file nomination papers is Sept. 8, 2020.