Questions and Answers

Question 1:
How long do you have to live in a ward to be a candidate for Council?

Answer 1:
To run for an Office on Council, a candidate must be a resident of the City of Barrie; or own or lease property (or be the spouse of the owner or lessee) in the City of Barrie as of the day the candidates Nomination Paper is filed. The Municipal Election Act does not specify the duration a candidate must have resided in the municipality or ward to qualify as a candidate. A candidate does not have to reside in the ward they are running for Office, only that they are a resident of the City.

Question 2:
Can ward election signs be put in different wards?

Answer 2:
The City’s Election Sign By-law does not specify which ward election signs must be placed in. However, it is not recommended to place a different ward sign in a different ward area (i.e., Ward 7 sign in the Ward 8 area) to limit confusion to voters and any complainants of election signs.

Question 3:
Can a Councillor donate their salary instead of remuneration?

Answer 3:
A member of Council is welcomed to make their own arrangements to donate their remuneration to charity. The City does not make the arrangements to redirect the remuneration.

Question 4:
Do the 25 endorsements need to reside within the ward you are running for, or can they be municipal wide?

Answer 4:
The 25 persons endorsing a nomination must be eligible to vote in an election for an office within the municipality. The persons are not required to reside in the ward you are running for, they are only required to be a resident of Barrie and be eligible to vote. School Board Trustee candidates do not need to provide the endorsements.
Question 5:
Can a councillor hire an assistant to help them?

Answer 5:
This would depend on the circumstances in which the Councillor requires assistance. Barrie City staff are available for assistance, as well as Service Barrie, the City’s Customer Service Centre.

Question 6:
If a candidate has a disability, what support exists for candidates?

Answer 6:
The Clerk is responsible for conducting an election and is required to have regard to the need of electors and candidates with differing abilities. If you require information and/or assistance contact the Director of Legislative and Court Services/City Clerk, Wendy Cooke at wendy.cooke@barrie.ca or the Deputy City Clerk, Megan Williams at megan.williams@barrie.ca.

Question 7:
What supports exist for candidates experiencing any kind of harassment or discrimination on the campaign trail?

Answer 7:
If a complaint is received against a candidate, the candidate will be advised, and the matter will be discussed.

The Legislative Services Department will not be addressing comments made by members of the public on social media as this is not within our authority to do so. If you as a candidate feel personally threatened, you should contact the police.

Question 8:
If people have concerns over sign use, etc., who can they contact?

Answer 8:
Any concerns associated to use of election signs can contact the Enforcement Services Department at enforcement.services@barrie.ca or 705-739-4241.
Question 9:
Can a candidate send their election sign to staff to confirm it complies with the City’s Sign By-law?*

Answer 9:
City staff do not review the content that is placed on the election signs.

The City’s Election Sign By-law does not prescribe the content placed on an election sign. The By-law does state that no person shall place an election sign in such a position that such sign would contravene any other applicable legislation and no person shall display on any election sign a logo, trademark, or official mark, in whole or in part, owned or licensed by the City.

Question 10:
Can the purchase of fuel for campaigning purposes be identified as an expense?

Answer 10:
The scope of what is deemed a campaign expense is broad in the Municipal Elections Act and the Provincial Candidate’s Guide. The Act identifies those expenses are to promote/oppose a candidate. These expenses can include monetary, goods and services which generally are rent for campaign office space, advertising, etc. A candidate would need to be able to support fuel as an expense as defined under the Act if challenged.

Candidates can seek independent legal advice on any matters.