



**The Corporation of the City of Barrie**

# **Candidates' Information Guide**

**2026 Municipal Election  
October 26, 2026**

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## **Table of Contents**

<b>Part A: Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
1. Introduction Letter	4
2. Duties of the Clerk	5
3. Important Dates – 2026 and 2027	5
4. Elected Offices	6
5. Term of Office	7
6. Ward Boundary Changes	7
<b>Part B: Importance of Mayor, Councillor and School Trustee Roles</b>	<b>7</b>
1. Municipal Duties and Responsibilities	7
2. Deputy Mayor	8
3. Members of Council Appointments to Committees, Boards and Commissions	8
4. Other Time Commitments	9
5. Annual Remuneration for the 2026 – 2030 Term of Council	10
6. Remuneration for Member of a District School Board	10
<b>Part C: Becoming a Candidate</b>	<b>10</b>
1. When Can a Person Become a Candidate?	10
2. Qualifications of a Candidate	11
3. Who Cannot be a Candidate?	12
4. Candidates Information Sessions	13
<b>Part D: Nomination of a Candidate</b>	<b>13</b>
1. Nomination Form and Filing Fee	13
2. Endorsement of Nominations for Council	14
3. Acceptable Documents of Identification and Qualifying Address for Candidates	15
4. Freedom of Information Release Form	16
5. Reasons for Clerk to Reject a Nomination	16
6. How the Candidate’s Name will Appear on the Ballot	17
7. How a Candidate Can Change Office	17
8. Withdrawal of Nomination	17
9. Refund of Nomination Filing Fee	17
<b>Part E: Campaign Information</b>	<b>18</b>
1. Communicating with Election Staff for Candidate Information	18
2. Accessibility	18
3. Campaign Advertisements	18
4. Prohibition of Campaigning at Voter Assistance Centre	19

5.	Campaign Finances/Contributions _____	19
6.	Right of Entry for Candidates _____	19
7.	Corporate Logo, Crest and Images _____	20
8.	Corporate Resources Policy _____	20
9.	National Do Not Call List _____	21
10.	Media Advertising _____	21
11.	Election Signs _____	21
12.	Regulations and Procedures for Voting Days _____	25
13.	Campaign Staff _____	25
14.	Scrutineers _____	25
15.	Election Night _____	26
<b>Part F: Voters' List _____</b>		<b>27</b>
1.	Voters' List _____	27
2.	Revisions to the Voters' List _____	27
3.	Voter Notification _____	28
<b>Part G: Voter Information _____</b>		<b>28</b>
1.	Voter Eligibility _____	28
2.	Qualifications of Electors _____	29
3.	Identification Required for Electors _____	30
4.	Internet and Telephone Voting Method _____	31
5.	Voter Assistance Centres, Alternative Voting Days and Final Voting Day _____	31
6.	Prohibited from Voting _____	31
7.	Definition of Residence _____	32
8.	Language and Assistance to Vote _____	32
9.	Elector Absence from Work _____	33
10.	Maintaining Secrecy of Voting _____	33
<b>Part H: Offences Enforcement and Penalties _____</b>		<b>33</b>
1.	Offences Regarding Campaign Finances _____	33
2.	Enforcement and Penalties _____	34
<b>Part I: New Term of Council _____</b>		<b>35</b>
1.	Council Elect and Inaugural Meeting of City Council _____	35
2.	Inaugural Meeting of School Board _____	35
<b>Part J – Important Resources and Information _____</b>		<b>35</b>
1.	Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) – Municipal Elections and Governance _	35
2.	Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – Education / Workshop Opportunities ____	35

## **Part A: Introduction**

### **1. Introduction Letter**

Welcome to municipal politics! If you are a first-time candidate, you will find running for office to be an exciting, challenging, and worthwhile experience.

Serving the public as an elected official requires a considerable commitment of time and energy.

The *Municipal Elections Act* sets out in detail the requirements to be met by candidates for office. These requirements have been summarized for your convenience. We urge you to obtain your own updated copy of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, which can be downloaded from the ministry's website at [www.e-laws.gov.on.ca](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca) or purchased from the Ontario Government Bookstore.

The City of Barrie Candidates' Information Guide has been prepared for the purpose of supplying information that will be of assistance to persons intending to stand for elected office.

Candidates for School Board offices are encouraged to contact the appropriate School Board website to obtain information on the duties and responsibilities of a trustee.

It is most important to note that the contents of this document are intended only as a guide to certain provisions of relevant legislation and do not purport to recite all applicable statutory references. **Prospective candidates must satisfy themselves through their own determination that they have complied with the election financing regulations and that they are in fact qualified and not disqualified by law to seek elected office. Candidates also obtain the right to seek independent legal advice on matters.**

As this election year progresses, additional information will be available regarding the specifics of the election process. This information will be provided to as soon as it becomes available, or at the appropriate time in the process.

Weekly emails will be provided to candidates that summarize questions received and responses provided by the Legislative Services Office or with pertinent information that needs to be shared.

Please ensure that you read the enclosed material carefully, as it is important that you are aware of your responsibilities as a candidate.

Yours truly,



Wendy Cooke  
City Clerk and Director of Legislative and Court Services

## 2. Duties of the Clerk

The City Clerk, Wendy Cooke, is responsible for preparing and conducting the 2026 Municipal Election.

All inquiries should be directed to members of the City's Election Team:

Contact	Email	Telephone #
Wendy Cooke City Clerk / Director of Legislative and Court Services	<a href="mailto:wendy.cooke@barrie.ca">wendy.cooke@barrie.ca</a>	705-739-4220 Ext. 4560
Megan Williams Deputy City Clerk, Information Management, Privacy, and Elections	<a href="mailto:megan.williams@barrie.ca">megan.williams@barrie.ca</a>	705-739-4220 Ext. 4597
Tara McArthur, Coordinator of Elections and Special Projects	<a href="mailto:tara.mcarthur@barrie.ca">tara.mcarthur@barrie.ca</a>	705-739-4220 Ext. 4518

## 3. Important Dates – 2026 and 2027

Date	Activity
<b>2026</b>	
<b>May 1, 2026</b>	<p>First day for candidates to file a nomination paper for the office of mayor, councillor, or school board trustee.</p> <p>First day for an individual or entity to file a notice of registration as a third party advertiser.</p> <p>Preliminary Campaign Expense Limit is provided to candidates and third parties at the time of filing their nomination paper or registration.</p>
<b>August 21, 2026</b>	<p>Nomination Day. This is the last day a candidate can file their Nomination Paper (from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.).</p> <p>This is also the last day for a candidate to withdraw their nomination (deadline is 2:00 p.m.).</p>
<b>August 24, 2026</b>	<p>This is the final day for the City Clerk to certify candidate nominations. Acclamations are declared after 4:00 p.m.</p>
<b>September 1, 2026</b>	<p>The Voters' List becomes available to certified candidates.</p> <p>The Revision Period to the Voters' List begins on this date – Electors may update, delete, or add their name to the Voters' List from now until the end of Voting Day.</p>
<b>September 20 to September 30, 2026</b>	<p>Distribution of the Interim List of Changes to the Voters' List. Candidates will have access to these changes <i>via</i> the Candidates Portal.</p>

	Final Certificate of Maximum Campaign Spending Limits is provided by September 30, 2026, along with the Notice of Penalties issued to Candidates and Third Party Advertisers
<b>October 23, 2026</b>	Last day for an individual or entity to file a notice of registration as a Third Party Advertiser.
<b>October 16 to October 25, 2026</b>	Advance Voting Period
<b>October 26, 2026</b>	Final Voting Day – until 8:00 p.m.
<b>November 15, 2026</b>	New Term of Office commences
<b>November 18, 2026</b>	Inauguration of 2026 – 2030 Barrie City Council
<b>December 31, 2026</b>	Campaign period ends for candidates and registered third parties.  Last day for candidate or registered third parties to file an Extension of campaign period (Form 6).
<b>2027</b>	
<b>March 25, 2027</b>	Last day for candidate or registered third party to apply to Superior Court of Justice to extend the time to file the financial statement.
<b>March 30, 2027</b>	Last day to file a primary financial statement for reporting period ending December 31, 2026 – applies to all candidates and third party advertisers (deadline is 2:00 p.m.).  Last day for candidate or registered third party to notify City Clerk of filing extension received from the Superior Court of Justice.
<b>April 29, 2027</b>	Last day for candidate or registered third party to file a primary financial statement and pay \$500 late filing fee (deadline is 2:00 p.m., penalties take affect at 2:01 p.m.).
<b>June 28, 2027</b>	Last day to request a compliance audit on a primary financial statement.

#### 4. Elected Offices

**Mayor:** one to be elected at large.

**Councillor:** one to be elected in each of the ten (10) Wards, the elected Councillor will sit on City Council.

**Member - Simcoe County District School Board:** Ward 1 (City of Barrie Wards 1, 2 and 3).

**Member - Simcoe County District School Board:** Ward 2 (City of Barrie Wards 4, 5 and 6).

**Member - Simcoe County District School Board:** Ward 3 (City of Barrie Wards 7, 8, 9 and 10).

**Member - Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board:** Ward 1 (City of Barrie Wards 1, 2, 3, and 5)

**Member - Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board:** Ward 2 (City of Barrie Wards 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10)

**Member - Conseil scolaire Viamonde - Sector 5 – French Public #58 -** The municipalities within the Counties of Bruce, Grey, Simcoe and Dufferin.

**Member - Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir:** – The municipalities within the Counties of Simcoe and Muskoka.

## 5. Term of Office

November 15, 2026 – November 14, 2030

## 6. Ward Boundary Changes

In 2025, the City of Barrie underwent a comprehensive review of its ward boundaries. Barrie's population has been steadily increasing, with the 2021 census reporting approximately 153,000 residents, a nearly 12% increase since the last ward boundary review. This growth necessitated a review to ensure the ward boundaries continue to provide equitable representation.

The [Ward Boundary By-law](#) was passed on June 18, 2025 and the [notice of the passing of a by-law](#) was issued on June 19, 2025.

Please visit the City's engagement hub at [BuildingBarrie.ca/WardsReview](https://BuildingBarrie.ca/WardsReview) for full information on the Ward Boundary Review project.

# **Part B: Importance of Mayor, Councillor and School Trustee Roles**

## 1. Municipal Duties and Responsibilities

The *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O., c.25, Section 225, identifies the Mayor's responsibilities as follows:

- (a) to act as chief executive officer of the municipality;
- (b) to preside over council meetings so that its business can be carried out efficiently and effectively;
- (c) to provide leadership to the council;
- (c.1) without limiting clause (c), to provide information and recommendations to the council with respect to the role of council described in clauses 224 (d) and (d.1);
- (d) to represent the municipality at official functions; and
- (e) to carry out the duties of the head of council under this or any other act.

In accordance with the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. c.25, Section 224, it is the role of council:

- (a) to represent the public and to consider the well-being and interests of the municipality;
- (b) to develop and evaluate the policies and programs of the municipality;
- (c) to determine which services the municipality provides;
- (d) to ensure that administrative policies, practices and procedures and controllership policies, practices and procedures are in place to implement the decisions of council;

- (d.1) to ensure the accountability and transparency of the operations of the municipality, including the activities of the senior management of the municipality;
- (e) to maintain the financial integrity of the municipality; and
- (f) to carry out the duties of council under this or any other Act. 2001.

## **2. Deputy Mayor**

The Deputy Mayor is an appointed member of Council recommended by the Mayor and subject to the approval of Council. The appointment will take place at the beginning of the 2026 – 2030 Term of Council.

Members-elect can express their interest to the Mayor-elect of their interest in serving in this position. The Mayor-elect would consider those who have expressed an interest, and make a recommendation to Council. The Mayor-elect can either recommend one member for the entire term, or more than one to serve during specific time periods throughout the term of Council.

## **3. Members of Council Appointments to Committees, Boards and Commissions**

### Council and Standing Committees

The Mayor and members of Council are required to attend City Council, General Committee and Standing Committee. Generally, these meetings occur between September to July with a summer recess and special meetings called as required.

All members of Council (11) sit on the Standing Committee. Meetings are held Wednesdays at City Hall in the Council Chamber. These meetings can run between ½ hour to 4 hours depending on what items are on any given Agenda. Members of Council are required to be available from 4:00 p.m. onward on Wednesdays. This time commitment is in addition to the time you would need to review the agenda for each meeting.

### Reference Committees

Members of Council are appointed to Reference Committees. These Committee are comprised of a smaller number of Councillors to study and report to General Committee on specific items within their mandates. Reference Committee meetings generally occur in the evening on a monthly basis and can be ½ hour to 2 hours in length. During the current term, these meetings are held in advance of the Standing Committee on Wednesday to reduce the number of nights a member has to be available for meetings.

### Local Boards and Advisory Committees

Members of Council are appointed as representatives to various committees, boards for each term of office, subject to Council approval. Meetings of committees, and local boards are held during the day and after business hours, Monday to Friday. The meetings are typically held on a monthly basis. New appointments will take place at the beginning of the 2026 – 2030 Term of Council. Generally, these meetings are no longer than 2 hours. The dates and times for Advisory Committees are determined by the Committee at their first meeting, and are usually scheduled at the availability of Council members. External Boards have predetermined dates and times for the Committees.

Generally, the Mayor-elect will seek input from the Council-elect on which Committees and/or Boards each member would like to sit on, with consideration of external factors such as full-time jobs or other commitments of members.

The following are the 2022 – 2026 committees, and local boards members of Council were appointed as representatives and are subject to change with the new Term of Council:

<b>Advisory Committees</b>	
Active Transportation Sustainability Advisory Committee	International Relations Committee
Arts Advisory Committee	Order of the Spirit Catcher Committee
Communities in Bloom Committee	Seniors and Accessibility Advisory Committee
Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Committee	Town and Gown Committee
Heritage Barrie Committee	Youth Council
<b>Other Committees, Commission and Boards</b>	
Barrie Hydro Holdings Inc.	Lake Simcoe Regional Airport Corporation
Barrie Municipal Non-Profit Housing Corporation operating as Barrie Housing	Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
Barrie Police Services Board	MacLaren Art Centre
Barrie Public Library Board	Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
Barrie Sports Hall of Fame Board	Physician Recruitment Task Force
County of Simcoe - Affordable Housing Advisory Committee	Royal Victoria Hospital Foundation
County of Simcoe – Performance Management Committee	Royal Victoria Hospital Capital Expansion
County of Simcoe - Simcoe County Housing Corporation Board of Directors	Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
County of Simcoe – Human Services Committee	Sandbox
Downtown Barrie BIA Board	Tourism Barrie
Greater Barrie Chamber of Commerce	

#### 4. Other Time Commitments

In addition to the time commitments required to attend meetings, a member of Council needs to have time to respond to constituent inquiries, attend ward/city events, etc. Sometimes this can be approximately 10 hours a week depending on the number of inquiries and events.

Being a member of Council is a significant commitment, so this information is being provided to candidates, so they are aware and understand of the expectations of this important position.

## 5. Annual Remuneration for the 2026 – 2030 Term of Council

Effective November 15, 2026:

The base rate of compensation for Mayor will be 151,052.

The base rate of compensation for Councillors will be \$48,012.

The Deputy Mayor will receive additional compensation in the amount of \$10,000 per year.

The base rate for each subsequent year of the term of Council will be indexed annually in the month of December for each of the years 2026-2029, equal to the annual economic adjustment (cost of living) approved for the City of Barrie Non-Union staff.

The City of Barrie is committed to the reimbursement of its elected officials for all reasonable costs incurred when fulfilling their duties. A copy of the Reimbursement of Council Expense Policy is available at [barrie.ca](http://barrie.ca).

The annual expense account allocations for Mayor and Councillors are established on the basis of the forecasted population provided by the Development Services Department to provide up-to-date population figures. Any expenses incurred are to support the attainment of the organization's approved goals and objectives.

Members of Council are provided the following annual car allowance to compensate for costs associated with the use of their personal vehicle for City business:

Mayor	\$7,200 (\$600/month)
Deputy Mayor	\$4,200 (\$350/month)
Councillors	\$3,000 (\$250/month)

Members of Council who successfully complete the Municipal Administration Program (MAP) through the Association of Municipalities of Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) will be reimbursed 100% of the cost of the course. Members of Council are also provided with 100% reimbursement for the successful completion of courses offered through the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), up to a maximum of \$1,600 per year per member. AMO provides a wide range of continuing education courses that are Council member focused.

## 6. Remuneration for Member of a District School Board

Please contact the appropriate school board to obtain information concerning annual remuneration for the school board trustee position.

## Part C: Becoming a Candidate

### 1. When Can a Person Become a Candidate?

A person can only become a candidate during the nomination period.

The nomination period starts on Friday, May 1, 2026 and ends on Friday, August 21, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

From May 1 to August 21, 2026, nominations will be accepted Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Legislative Services Branch on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of City Hall at 70 Collier Street, Barrie.

The last day to file a nomination paper (Nomination Day) is on Friday, August 21, 2026 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. **Nomination papers will not be accepted after 2:00 p.m.**

**\*Electronic filing of nominations will not be accepted; all nominations must be filed in persons during the times noted above.**

**\*\*A person cannot raise or spend any money until they become a candidate and they cannot become a candidate until they have filed a nomination paper with the applicable nomination fee. Please note that the filing fee is not considered a campaign expense.**

## 2. Qualifications of a Candidate

To run for an Office on Council or a School Board, a candidate must be qualified on the day he or she files the nomination paper.

To run for **Council** (Mayor or Councillor) the person must be:

- A Canadian citizen;
- At least 18 years of age;
- 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;
- Not legally prohibited from voting; and
- Not disqualified by any legislation from holding municipal office.

To run for **School Board Trustee** the person must be:

- A Canadian citizen;
- At least 18 years of age;
- A resident within the jurisdiction of the board;
- Eligible to be an elector for the school board in which the person is a candidate;
- Not legally prohibited from voting; and
- Not disqualified by any legislation from holding municipal office.

To be a candidate in an **ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PUBLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**, a candidate must:

- Be a supporter of the English-language public district school board; or
- Not be a supporter of any board, nor have qualified himself or herself as an elector for a catholic or French-language school board in the election.

To be a candidate in an **ENGLISH-LANGUAGE CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**, a candidate must be a Roman Catholic who must:

- Qualify as an elector for the English-language catholic district school board; and
- Be a supporter (or be the spouse of a supporter) of the English-language catholic district school board.

To be a candidate in a **FRENCH-LANGUAGE PUBLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**, the candidate must be a French-language rights holder (see ss. 23(1) and (2) of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms for criteria) who must:

- Qualify as an elector for the French-language public district school board; and
- Be a supporter (or the spouse of a supporter) of the French-language public district school board.

To be a candidate in a **FRENCH-LANGUAGE CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**, a candidate must be a Roman Catholic and a French-language rights holder (see the Charter for criteria) who must:

- Qualify as an elector for the French-language catholic district school board; and
- Be a supporter (or the spouse of a supporter) of the French-language catholic district school board.

**\*\*An elected member of Council or School Board Trustee must maintain their qualifications throughout the entire term of office, or their seat will become vacant.**

### 3. Who Cannot be a Candidate?

The following are disqualified from being elected as a **member of Council** or holding office as a member of council:

- Employees of the City of Barrie except during a leave of absence. The employee must be on a leave of absence before filing their nomination paper. They must provide the Clerk with documentation showing that they have taken the leave of absence and the effective date and resign if elected to the office.
- Any person who is not eligible to vote in the municipality.

The following people are disqualified from being elected as a **School Board Trustee** or hold office on any school board:

- Employees of any school board (including supply teachers) except during a leave of absence. The employee must be on a leave of absence before filing their nomination paper. They must provide the Clerk with documentation showing that they have taken the leave of absence and the effective date and resign if elected to the office.
- 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 before being nominated.

In addition to the above, the following people **cannot run for either Council or School Board**:

- A member of the Provincial Legislature, the Federal House of Commons or Senate who has not resigned from their office by the close of nominations (2:00 p.m., Friday, August 21, 2026). Proof of resignation must be provided by the close of nominations or the Clerk will not certify the nomination; and

- A candidate who failed to file the necessary financial statement in the last municipal election.
- A judge of any court;
- An inmate of a penal or correctional institution under sentence of imprisonment.

#### 4. Candidates Information Sessions

The City of Barrie will be hosting two (2) candidate information sessions:

1. **Monday, May 11, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.** – The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) will be reviewing the *Municipal Elections Act* and providing information on becoming a candidate in the municipal election.
2. **Thursday, May 28, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.** – Becoming a candidate for municipal council and school board elections and City of Barrie policies, procedures, and by-law information.

Attendance at these sessions will be in-person and virtual. To register, visit [www.barrie.ca/elections](http://www.barrie.ca/elections) or contact the Legislative Services Branch at [be.counted@barrie.ca](mailto:be.counted@barrie.ca) or 705-728-VOTE (8683).

Copies of these presentations will be posted at [www.barrie.ca/elections](http://www.barrie.ca/elections) on the Candidate's page after each session.

## Part D: Nomination of a Candidate

### 1. Nomination Form and Filing Fee

Every person who proposes to be a candidate must file a nomination paper and declaration of qualification, along with the legislated fee.

Nomination papers must be filed **prior** to receiving any campaign contributions and **prior** to expending any funds on a campaign.

Nominations are to be filed in the following manner:

- In person or through an agent. **Nominations submitted by faxed or email will not be accepted;**
- Nominations can be submitted to the Legislative Services Branch at the City Hall, 70 Colliers Street, during normal office hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday from May 1, 2026 to August 20, 2026 and on Nomination Day, August 21, 2026 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. **Nomination papers will not be accepted after 2:00 p.m. on Nomination Day;**
- The nomination must be on the prescribed form, accompanied by the prescribed nomination filing fee of **\$200.00 (Mayor)** or **\$100.00 (Councillor/School Board Trustee)** payable by electronic transaction, cash, certified cheque or money order payable to the municipality and appropriate identification;

- The nomination and declaration of qualification for candidacy forms must be signed by the Barrie City Clerk or designate. This can be done at the time of filing the nomination paper in the Clerk's Office;
- Provide identification suitable to the City Clerk or designate;
- In the case of a nomination on Council, the nomination must be endorsed by at least 25 persons eligible to vote in the municipal election and suitable to the Clerk.

**\*\*It is important to note that the onus is on the person submitting nomination papers for election to an office to correctly file the nomination paper prior to 2:00 p.m. on August 21, 2026. No candidate may be nominated until the Clerk is in receipt of filing fee and the forms are completed by the candidate.**

**The person who wishes to become a candidate must provide the following information:**

- ✓ **Nomination paper**
- ✓ **Applicable filing fee**
- ✓ **25 signatures for endorsement of nomination for Council**
- ✓ **Identification suitable to the Clerk**

**If an appointed agent of the candidate is filing the nomination, the agent must provide all the documents listed above, as well as:**

- ✓ **Appointment of Agent by Candidate**
- ✓ **Provide identification suitable to the Clerk**

**\*\*If any of the documents are not complete, the nomination paper will not be accepted.**

## **2. Endorsement of Nominations for Council**

When a person files a nomination paper for Council, the nomination must be endorsed by at least 25 persons eligible to vote in the City of Barrie on the prescribed form and deemed suitable by the Clerk.

The endorsement of a nomination is subject to the following:

- The nomination of a person for an office on council must be endorsed by at least 25 persons;
- Persons endorsing a nomination must be eligible to vote in an election for an office within the municipality;
- For greater certainty, endorsements of a nomination shall be collected as original signatures; and
- The clerk is entitled to rely upon the information filed by the candidate, and a nomination certified by the Clerk under Section 35 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* is conclusive evidence that all conditions precedent has been complied with.

### 3. Acceptable Documents of Identification and Qualifying Address for Candidates

When a person files a nomination paper they must provide:

- Current identification (see list below), the declaration of qualification and the nomination filing fee (see nomination form and filing fee).
- Proof of identity and qualifying address must be provided when a candidate files their nomination paper. Candidates must provide an original, or a certified or notarial copy, of a document that is listed below and shows the person's name and qualifying address:
  1. An Ontario driver's licence.
  2. An Ontario Health Card (photo card) plus proof of qualifying address from documents noted below
  3. An Ontario Photo Card plus proof of qualifying address from documents noted below
  4. An Ontario motor vehicle permit (vehicle portion).
  5. A cancelled personalized cheque.
  6. A mortgage statement, lease or rental agreement relating to property in Ontario.
  7. An insurance policy or insurance statement.
  8. A loan agreement or other financial agreement with a financial institution.
  9. A document issued or certified by a court in Ontario.
  10. Any other document from the government of Canada, Ontario or a municipality in Ontario or from an agency of such a government.
  11. Any document from a Band Council in Ontario established under the *Indian Act* (Canada).
  12. An income tax assessment notice.
  13. A Child Tax Benefit Statement.
  14. A Statement of Employment Insurance Benefits Paid T4E.
  15. A Statement of Old Age Security T4A (OAS).
  16. A Statement of Canada Pension Plan Benefits T4A (P).
  17. A Canada Pension Plan Statement of Contributions.
  18. A Statement of Direct Deposit for Ontario Works.
  19. A Statement of Direct Deposit for Ontario Disability Support Program.
  20. A Workplace Safety and Insurance Board Statement of Benefits T5007.
  21. A property tax assessment.
  22. A credit card statement, bank account statement, or RRSP, RRIF, RHOSP or T5 statement.
  23. A CNIB Card or a card from another registered charitable organization that provides services to persons with disabilities.
  24. A hospital card or record.
  25. A document showing campus residence, issued by the office or officials responsible for student residence at a post-secondary institution.
  26. A document showing residence at a long-term care home under the *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007*, issued by the Administrator for the home.
  27. A utility bill for hydro, water, gas, telephone or cable TV or a bill from a public utilities commission.
  28. A cheque stub, T4 statement or pay receipt issued by an employer.
  29. A transcript or report card from a post-secondary school).

#### 4. Freedom of Information Release Form

A Freedom of Information release form must be signed to allow posting of candidate contact information on the City's website and for staff to release this information over the telephone and counter.

A signed Freedom of Information Release form must be provided to the Legislative Services Branch, each time a change is requested to the information on the City's webpage.

**\*\*Any changes to the candidates' information on the City's website will require the submission of a new Freedom of Information Release form to the Legislative Services Branch prior to any changes being made.**

#### 5. Reasons for Clerk to Reject a Nomination

The Clerk is required to reject or certify the nominations of candidates. All nominations filed on or before Nomination Day shall be examined before 4:00 p.m. on August 24, 2026, and if satisfied the person is qualified to be nominated and that the nomination complies with the Act, the Clerk shall certify the nomination paper.

The Clerk may consider the follow criteria in the decision to reject or certify individual nominations:

- The candidate has refused or declined to provide proof of qualification or identification suitable to the Clerk;
- The nomination from is not complete in its entirety or the prescribed filing fee has not been paid;
- The candidate's name does not appear on the Voters' List;
- The candidate has not submitted 25 signatures of those eligible to vote in the City of Barrie's municipal election for endorsement of nomination for Council;
- The necessary financial statement was not filed for any office in the previous regular election or any by-election in which the individual was a candidate; and
- Any other circumstances in which the candidate is disqualified from being nominated or elected other than those identified above.

**\*\*Note: It is the responsibility of each candidate to ensure that they are not disqualified from being nominated for office and to ensure all qualifications are met and proper filing of the nomination paper prior to 2:00 p.m. on August 21, 2026.**

The Clerk's decision to certify or reject a nomination is final.

Once the nomination is certified, the candidate's name will appear on the ballot unless the name is removed by a Court order.

## 6. How the Candidate's Name will Appear on the Ballot

The name that shows on the candidate's identification is what will appear on the ballot with the following exception:

- First names can be shortened, for example, Michael can be Mike; and
- If you normally go by a different name than your legal first name, you may use that name provided the Clerk agrees.

Nicknames are not allowed on the ballot and no reference to a candidate's occupation, degree, title, honour, or decoration is permitted on the ballot.

Only provide the given name(s) that you would like to appear on the ballot as not all given names are required to be on the ballot.

## 7. How a Candidate Can Change Office

If, after a nomination paper is filed, and a candidate wishes to file a nomination paper for a different office in the same election, the first nomination paper shall be deemed withdrawn at the time the second nomination paper is filed.

The filing fee is deemed to be paid with the latest filing if the two nomination papers are for the same Council or School Board office.

**\*\*Note: Financial reporting is required for each nomination paper filed.**

## 8. Withdrawal of Nomination

A candidate may withdraw their nomination by completing a written withdrawal of nomination form and filing with the Clerk before 2:00 p.m. on August 21, 2026, Nomination Day. A candidate must present identification with the proper form.

If a candidate who wishes to withdraw their nomination misses this deadline, their name will still appear on the ballot.

## 9. Refund of Nomination Filing Fee

A candidate is entitled to receive a refund of the nomination fee if the financial documents required under Section 88.25 of the *MEA* are filed on or before 2:00 p.m. on the filing date. In the case of the 2026 Municipal Election, the date would be Tuesday, March 30, 2027 at 2:00 p.m.

If a candidate withdraws their nomination, they must submit a financial statement showing all contributions and expenses from the day they filed the nomination paper until the day they withdrew from office. This requirement applies even if the candidate did not accept contributions or incur any expenses.

## Part E: Campaign Information

### 1. Communicating with Election Staff for Candidate Information

Candidates may access election related information on the City's website at [www.barrie.ca/election](http://www.barrie.ca/election).

Notices will be emailed to inform candidates of any upcoming events or any new information to be posted on the website. It is imperative that candidates provide election staff with a current email address and ensure that any emails received from the City of Barrie are not forwarded to their 'junk' mail folder.

Some election documents will be sent to candidates by way of registered mail, in accordance with the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*. Candidates should ensure the documents are picked up or accessed through the Candidates Access Portal when notification is received. The Legislative Services Branch will be sending documentation well into 2027 and documents sent to candidates by registered mail are considered received after the prescribed time period whether or not they have been collected.

It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure they fulfil all requirements of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*. If you move at any time before you have filed all required forms, notify the Legislative Services Branch at [Be.counted@barrie.ca](mailto:Be.counted@barrie.ca) or 705-728-VOTE (8683).

### 2. Accessibility

A Clerk who is responsible for conducting an election is required to have regard for the need of electors and candidates with differing abilities.

Resources:

- The [Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005](#) (AODA) is intended to reduce and remove barriers for people with disabilities so that Ontario can become more accessible and inclusive for everyone. Collaboration among businesses, organizations, communities and all levels of government is key to reaching this goal.
- Learn about Ontario's AODA laws and standards, action plan and progress in becoming accessible for people with disabilities by 2025: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/about-accessibility-laws>.
- The Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) Foundation – Accessible Elections: <https://www.cnib.ca/en/accessible-elections>.

### 3. Campaign Advertisements

An election campaign advertisement means an advertisement in any broadcast, print, electronic or other medium that has the purpose of promoting or supporting the election of a candidate.

An election campaign advertisement purchased by or under the direction of a candidate shall identify the candidate.

A candidate shall provide, in writing, the following information to the broadcaster or publisher:

- The name of the candidate; and
- The name, business address and telephone number of the individual who deals with the broadcaster or publisher under the direction of the candidate.

The broadcaster or publisher of an election campaign advertisement shall maintain records containing the following information for a period of four years after the date the advertisement appears and shall permit the public to inspect the records during normal business hours:

- The information provided above;
- A copy of the advertisement or the means of reproducing it for inspection; and
- A statement of the charge made for its appearance.

#### **4. Prohibition of Campaigning at Voter Assistance Centre**

No campaign material, literature, or advertising of any nature whatsoever of any candidate in the Election shall be displayed at, or within, Voter Assistance Centres.

The City Clerk is the lessee of the premises used as voting places. As the lessee of such premises, the Clerk will not permit electioneering of any nature in or on the premises used as a voting place on voting day or during alternate voting times. The premises are deemed to include the entire building and the property on which it is located. Election Staff are instructed to remove immediately from any voting place any material or literature of any nature which may be at the voting place.

The *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* provides that while an elector is in a voting place, no one shall attempt, directly or indirectly, to influence how the elector votes and that no one shall display a candidate's campaign material or literature in a voting place.

#### **5. Campaign Finances/Contributions**

Information regarding election finances such as financial responsibilities of candidates, campaign contributions/fundraising, campaign expenses and financial reporting is available in the [Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing's 2026 Municipal Election Guides](#) and the City's website [www.barrie.ca/elections](http://www.barrie.ca/elections).

#### **6. Right of Entry for Candidates**

##### **Access to rented premises**

Excerpt from the *Residential Tenancies Act, 2006*, Section 28:

"No landlord shall restrict reasonable access to a residential complex by candidates for election to any office at the federal, provincial or municipal level, or their authorized representatives, if they are seeking access for the purpose of canvassing or distributing election material."

If candidates are experiencing difficulty in gaining access to these premises, they should contact the landlord of the building.

### **Access to condominiums**

Excerpt from the *Condominium Act, 1998*, Section 118:

“No corporation or employee or agent of a corporation shall restrict reasonable access to the property by candidates, or their authorized representatives, for election to the House of Commons, the Legislative Assembly or an office in a municipal government or school board if access is necessary for the purpose of canvassing or distributing election material.”

If candidates are experiencing difficulty in gaining access to these premises, they should contact the board of directors of the condominium.

### **Access to co-operative housing units**

Excerpt from the *Co-operative Corporations Act, 1990*, Section 171.24:

“No non-profit housing co-operative or servant or agent of such a co-operative shall restrict reasonable access to the housing units of the co-operative by candidates, or their authorized representatives, for election to the House of Commons, the Legislative Assembly, any office in a municipal government or a school board for the purpose of canvassing or distributing election material.”

If candidates are experiencing difficulty in gaining access to these premises, they should contact the housing co-operative representative.

**\*\*Note: This does not permit canvassing in the building during voting hours if it is being used as a voter assistance centre.**

The City Clerk is not responsible for securing access to any buildings for the purpose of canvassing or distributing election material.

## **7. Corporate Logo, Crest and Images**

Candidates are prohibited from using the City of Barrie’s logo, crest, photos, graphics, or any other item of City intellectual property for any campaign-related purposes or materials including, but not limited to, signs, printed and electronic publications, flyers, brochures, e-mails, social media, websites, business cards, postcards, letterheads, leaflets, posters, fridge magnets and promotional items.

Any disregard of this prohibition will be acted upon by The Corporation and could result in legal action.

## **8. Corporate Resources Policy**

The City of Barrie adopted a policy prohibiting the use of corporate resources for election campaign purposes. The purpose of the policy to clarify that all election candidates, including members of City Council are required to follow the provisions of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* and that:

- No candidate shall use the facilities, equipment, supplies, services, staff or other resources of the City for any election campaign or campaign related activities;
- No candidate shall undertake campaign-related activities on City property; and
- No candidate shall use the services of persons during hours in which those persons receive any compensation from the City.

A copy of the policy is available at: <https://www.barrie.ca/Use-of-Corporate-Resources-for-Election-Purposes-Policy.pdf>

## 9. National Do Not Call List

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) has established a National Do Not Call List (DNCL). To understand telemarketing rules for compliance visit: <https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/phone/telemarketing/reg.htm>

## 10. Media Advertising

The *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* does not contain restrictions on when a candidate may or may not advertise. However, a candidate must have filed their nomination paper before spending any money and the amount they may spend on their campaign is regulated.

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) has guidelines that broadcasters must follow to ensure all candidates have equal access to coverage. Free political advertising by a broadcaster must be within the regulations and guidelines of the *Broadcasting Act (Canada)* and made available to all candidates. This advertising is not deemed to be a contribution.

For more information on guidelines for TV and read broadcasters during an election: [https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/industr/tvradio/quidelec.htm?\\_ga=2.94815962.718265301.1650475130-305306335.1650475130](https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/industr/tvradio/quidelec.htm?_ga=2.94815962.718265301.1650475130-305306335.1650475130)

## 11. Election Signs

The following is a summary of the City of Barrie's Election Sign By-law 2018-011. A full copy of the By-law is available on the City's website at <https://www.barrie.ca/Election-Sign-Bylaw.pdf> and is included in the Nomination Package.

**\*\*Note:** No candidate, his agent, registered third party or any other person may affix, erect or display an election sign until thirty (30) days before the municipal election date of October 26, 2026 and is to be removed within ninety-six (96) hours (4 days) immediately following 11:59 p.m. of the day of the election.

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 2.1.0.0.0 No candidate, his agent, registered third party or any other person shall affix, erect or otherwise display an election sign except as permitted by this By-law.
- 2.2.0.0.0 No candidate, his agent, registered third party or any other person shall affix, erect or otherwise display an election sign or permit an election sign to be affixed, erected or otherwise displayed:

- a) On or overhanging City property, including a City park or a facility that is owned or operated by the City;
- b) On a utility pole or light standard or other utility structure;
- c) Which includes electronic display that incorporates in any manner any flashing, moving illumination or animation which varies in intensity or which varies in colour and signs which have any visible moving parts or visible mechanical movement of any description;
- d) On any City official sign or City official sign structure;
- e) In a location that would, by reason of size, location, or illumination, obstruct the vision of drivers or pedestrians, or obstruct or detract from the visibility or effectiveness of any traffic sign or control device on public streets and roads or which are located in a sight triangle;
- f) Which make use of words such as “STOP”, “LOOK”, “ONE WAY”, “DANGER”, “YIELD”, or any similar words, phrases, symbols, lights or characters in such manner as to tend to interfere with, mislead, or confuse traffic;
- g) On a tree, stone or other natural object or on a boundary fence or safety rail;
- h) At a voting place;
- i) On or within a vehicle or trailer parked within 50 metres of a voting place;
- j) In a location where the election sign:
  - i. Obstructs or impedes any required fire escape, fire exit, fire route, door, window *etc.*, or so as to prevent or impede access of firefighters to any part of a building;
  - ii. Constitutes a danger or hazard to the general public.

2.3.0.0.0 The candidate to whom the election sign relates shall be responsible for the erection, maintenance or display of the election sign and shall ensure that all the requirements of this By-law have been met.

2.4.0.0.0 No person shall pull down or remove a lawfully erected election sign on private property without the consent of the candidate to whom the sign relates or the owner of the property on which the sign is erected.

2.5.0.0.0 No person shall deface or willfully cause damage to a lawfully erected election sign.

2.6.0.0.0 No person shall place an election sign in such a position that such sign would contravene any other applicable legislation.

2.7.0.0.0 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.

## **ELECTION SIGNS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY**

- 3.1.0.0.0 Election signs may be erected or displayed on private property if:
- a) The signs are no larger than 1.22 metres by 1.22 metres (4 feet by 4 feet) and the sign height is no higher than two metres above ground level, save and except signs on campaign offices, billboards and signs displayed indoors;
  - b) The signs do not interfere with the safe operation of vehicular traffic or with the safety of pedestrians; and
  - c) The signs are erected with the consent of the owner or tenant of the property.
- 3.2.0.0.0 No more than two (2) election signs per candidate are permitted on any one piece of land zoned residential.
- 3.3.0.0.0 No more than three (3) election signs per candidate are permitted on any one piece of land zoned other than residential.
- 3.4.0.0.0 An election sign may be displayed on an illuminated poster panel or mobile sign provided that each poster panel structure or mobile sign has been installed under the authority of a permit issued under the applicable City of Barrie by-law.
- 3.5.0.0.0 The use of any otherwise approved sign structure is governed by the Sign By-law.

## **TIMING**

- 4.1.0.0.0 No candidate, his agent, registered third party or any other person shall affix, erect or otherwise display an election sign or permit or cause an election sign to be erected, affixed, or otherwise displayed prior to the issuance of writs for a provincial or federal election or thirty (30) days immediately preceding the day of a municipal election or Nomination Day for a by-election.
- 4.2.0.0.0 Notwithstanding section 4.1.0.0.0, election signs may be erected on campaign offices up to 90 days prior to voting day provided that:
- a) In the case of a candidate for the position of Councillor or Trustee, that right shall extend to no more than one campaign office in the ward where the candidate is running for election;
  - b) In the case of a candidate for the position of Mayor, that right shall extend to no more than (4) campaign offices.
- 4.3.0.0.0 An election sign shall be removed within ninety-six (96) hours (4 days) immediately following 11:59 p.m. of the day of the election.

## **REMOVAL OF UNLAWFUL ELECTION SIGNS**

- 5.1.0.0.0 Where an election sign has been affixed, erected or otherwise displayed in contravention of any provision of this By-law, a Municipal Law Enforcement Officer or any other individual designated by the Clerk may cause the sign to be removed immediately without notice to the owner or apparent owner and/or take any further action as provided within this By-law.

## **NOTICE OF REMOVAL, STORAGE AND DISPOSAL**

- 6.1.0.0.0 Where the City removes an election sign, a Notice shall be forwarded by personal service or regular post, in which case the Notice shall be deemed to have been received on the seventh day following the date the Notice was mailed. Such notice to the candidate or registered third party will indicate that the illegal sign has been removed by the City and that said sign will be stored and disposed of by the City in accordance to the provisions of Section 6.3.0.0.0. The Notice shall further indicate that the sign may be reclaimed by the candidate or registered third party within the time period prescribed and upon payment to the City the cost of pulling down, removal and storage of the sign.
- 6.2.0.0.0 Where the City removes a sign and Notice has been provided as set out in Section 6.1.0.0.0, the candidate or registered third party shall submit payment of all fees associated with the removal, storage and disposal of each sign as set out on the Notice provided within 30 days of receipt. All costs and charges incurred by a municipality for the removal, care and storage of a sign that is erected or displayed in contravention of this by-law shall be considered a lien on the advertising device.
- 6.3.0.0.0 Where a sign has been removed by the City and stored for a period of thirty (30) days and the sign has not been redeemed, the sign may be forthwith destroyed or otherwise disposed of by the City with no further notification to the owner of such sign.

## **RECOVERY OF COSTS FOR REMOVAL, STORAGE AND DISPOSAL OF SIGNS**

- 7.1.0.0.0 If an election sign is removed in accordance with Section 5.1.0.0.0, any person responsible for erecting or displaying or causing the erection or display of the sign in contravention of this article shall, in addition to any fine or other penalty which may be imposed for an offence under this article, be required to pay to the City the cost of removing the sign. If an election sign is removed under Section 5.1.0.0.0, the candidate to whom the sign relates shall be responsible for payment of all fees established under the Fees By-law to cover the cost of removing the sign.
- 7.2.0.0.0 Where a sign is so large or so placed that the cost of taking it down and removing it exceeds the amount provided in the Fees By-law, the amount stated in the Fees By-law shall not apply and the amount shall be the City's actual cost for taking down, removing and disposing of the sign, plus an administrative fee of an additional fifteen (15%) percent.
- 7.3.0.0.0 Any applicable fees as set out in the Fees By-law may be recovered by legal action or in a like manner as municipal taxes. Outstanding amounts applied will be applied to a candidate's tax roll, if applicable, based on the qualifying address provided on the candidate's nomination paper or registered third party's registration form.

7.4.0.0.0 Signs that have been removed under Section 5.1.0.0.0 shall be stored by the City for a minimum of 30 days, during which time the candidate or registered third party, the candidates agent or registered third party may retrieve the sign by:

a) Paying any amounts owing to the City under the Fees By-law.

7.5.0.0.0 Notwithstanding Section 7.4.0.0.0 the candidate or registered third party may provide the City with a signed acknowledgement and release in a form acceptable to the City requesting a review of the Notice received as to the illegal placement of the election sign.

## 12. Regulations and Procedures for Voting Days

1. Persons who may be present at the Voter Assistance Centre:

- City Clerk or designate;
- Deputy Returning Officer;
- Election Supervisor;
- Election Assistant;
- Candidate or Scrutineer; and
- Voters (only while casting their vote).

2. The City Clerk, Deputy Returning Officers, Election Supervisors and Election Assistants are the only persons permitted to address the voter.

## 13. Campaign Staff

Candidates may recruit staff to work on their campaign and assign them duties. While a candidate may designate staff to perform certain duties, the ultimate responsibility for compliance with the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* and any City by-laws (including but not limited to the provisions of the Election Sign By-law), rests with the candidate.

## 14. Scrutineers

Each Candidate may appoint in writing on the prescribed form persons to act as Scrutineers to represent him/her in a voter assistance centre.

Not more than one scrutineer representing each Candidate may be present at any voting assistance centre. At voter assistance centres with multiple vote casting stations, one scrutineer per vote casting station is permitted. The number of scrutineers who may be present is reduced by one while the candidate who appointed them is present in the voting place.

Prior to being admitted to a voter assistance centre, a person appointed as a scrutineer shall produce and show his/her appointment in the prescribed form to the Deputy Returning Officer for the voter assistance centre. The scrutineer will be issued an identification badge which must be returned to the Deputy Returning Officer before leaving the voter assistance centre. All Scrutineers must take and subscribe to an Oath of Secrecy.

Note: In order to protect the secrecy of the vote, scrutineers will not be permitted to view the vote casting machines when a voter is casting their ballot.

Any candidate who has been acclaimed is prohibited from being in the voting place unless another candidate has appointed them as a scrutineer.

Forms for appointing a scrutineer are available from the Legislative Services Branch.

A scrutineer may be given the opportunity to:

1. Inspect all equipment and election documents 15 minutes prior to the opening of the voter assistance centre (but not so as to delay the opening of the voting place).
2. Object to any person voting.
3. Be seated close to the table at which the election personnel are working (but not at the same table).

Any candidate, scrutineer, agent or voter who by their actions creates a disturbance or interferes in any way with the proper conduct at the voter assistance centre may be instructed to leave the voter assistance centre for such actions. An agent, candidate or scrutineer who is dissatisfied with the actions of election personnel is invited to contact the Clerk to discuss the matter. Scrutineers will be requested to turn off their phones/electronic communication devices at the voter assistance centres.

Scrutineers and Candidates are prohibited from the following:

- Obtaining, or attempting to obtain, in a voting place any information about how an elector intends to vote or has voted;
- Communicating any information obtained at a voting place about how an elector intends to vote or has voted;
- Attempting, directly or indirectly, to interfere with how an elector votes, and from attempting to campaign or persuade an elector to vote for a particular candidate;
- Displaying a candidate's election campaign material in a voting place;
- Interfering, or attempting to interfere, with an elector who is marking a ballot; and
- Compromising the secrecy of voting.

## 15. Election Night

Information on the unofficial results may be viewed in the Council Chambers, 70 Collier Street, as soon as they are received and checked. Candidates and their election workers are welcome to attend.

The results displayed on Election Night are for information only. Election night results are unofficial results.

The Clerk is required under the *Municipal Elections Act* to provide official results as soon as possible after the Municipal Election.

## Part F: Voters' List

### 1. Voters' List

The Preliminary List of Electors (PLE) for the City of Barrie is now prepared by Elections Ontario (EO). The Voters' List is a list of individuals eligible to vote in provincial and local municipal elections in Ontario.

From now until August 12, 2026, electors can use the Elections Ontario's Voter Registration application to confirm, update or add their information: <https://www.registertovoteon.ca/>. This information is then provided to the City of Barrie as the PLE. The PLE, as corrected, constitutes the Voters' List.

The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) is legislatively responsible for collecting school support information. Electors are encouraged to review and update their school support designation with MPAC by **June 1, 2026**, to ensure accurate information is provided to Elections Ontario for the October 26, 2026 election. Updates can be made using [MPAC's Online School Support Tool](#).

On September 1, 2026, the Clerk will have the Voters' List reproduced. On written request, the Clerk will provide candidates with access to the list *via* a Candidate's Portal. This list will contain the names of the electors who are eligible to vote for the office for which the person has been nominated. A Council candidate who receives the Voters' List will receive a list of electors who are eligible to vote for the office. For example: if a candidate is running for Councillor in Ward 1, they will receive the list of eligible electors live in Ward 1.

**\*\*The Voters' List is to be used solely for the purposes of the 2026 Municipal Election and may not be utilized for any other purpose.**

### 2. Revisions to the Voters' List

Between September 1 and October 26, 2026, a person may make application in writing on the prescribed form to the Clerk requesting:

- To remove a deceased person's name from the Voters' List. If satisfied that the person to whom the application relates has died, the Clerk may remove the person's name from the Voters' List;
- To add a person to the Voters' List; or
- To amend information relating to a person on the Voters' List.

After September 1, 2026, there are five opportunities for electors to add or change their information on the Voters' List:

1. Complete the online revision form by visiting [www.barrie.ca/elections](http://www.barrie.ca/elections) and uploading acceptable identification.
2. Complete a revision form by visiting the Legislative Services Branch, 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the City Hall, 70 Collier Street, Barrie, during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday) and providing acceptable identification.

3. Call the Legislative Services Branch at 705-728-VOTE (8683) to have a form mailed to them. The applicant must complete, sign the declaration and mail, or drop off, the application to the City with acceptable identification.
4. Visit [www.barrie.ca/elections](http://www.barrie.ca/elections) to download the form and mail, email [be.counted@barrie.ca](mailto:be.counted@barrie.ca) or drop off the application to the City with the acceptable identification.
5. Complete a revision form at a Voter Assistance Centre on an alternative voting opportunity and/or on Voting Day.

The Clerk is required to provide an Interim List of Changes to the Voters' List that contains the names of the electors that have either added their name or corrected information on the Voters' List between September 1 to September 20, 2026. Given that candidate's will be provided access to a live Voters' List *via* the Candidates Portal, an interim list will not be required, as the candidates will have access to this information as it is updated.

The Clerk's decision concerning changes to the Voters' List is final.

### **3. Voter Notification**

The Clerk will mail to each eligible elector on the Voters' List, a Voter Information Letter (VIL) advising of the voting period for the 2026 Municipal Election and the necessary information for voters to cast their vote online or by telephone.

The VIL will also include the dates and times that Voter Assistance Centres and the Election Office/Voter Help Line will be open during the voting period. Additional notice will be provided through newspaper advertisements and postings on the City's website.

## **Part G: Voter Information**

### **1. Voter Eligibility**

It is the responsibility of every elector to make sure their information is up-to-date and accurately reflected for electoral purposes. Voters are strongly encouraged to log on to the Elections Ontario website (<https://www.registertovoteon.ca/>) prior to August 12, 2026 to:

- Confirm or update their electoral information;
- Add an elector name to an address; and
- Change school support for the purpose of voting in a school board election.

After September 1, 2026 to October 26, 2026 (final day of voting), if a voter is not on the Voters' List, or their information is incorrect (for example, you have moved and may be listed at a former address), you may apply to have your name added or your information corrected. For more information about getting on the Voters' List, call (705) 728-VOTE (8683) or visit the Legislative Services Branch located at City Hall, 70 Collier Street, first floor.

To ensure the correct school designation is provided to Elections Ontario in time for the next Municipal and School Board Elections on October 26, 2026, electors should review and, if needed, update their school support designation by June 1, 2026. Electors can

check their information by visiting the MPAC's webpage [MPAC's Online School Support Tool](#).

While Elections Ontario maintains the Permanent Register of Electors in Ontario for provincial, municipal and school board elections, Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) is legislatively responsible for collecting school support designation.

## 2. Qualifications of Electors

### **Eligible voters in an election for municipal office:**

A person is entitled to be an elector at an election held in a local municipality, if on voting day he or she is:

- A Canadian citizen;
- At least 18 years old;
- Residing in the local municipality or an owner or tenant of land there, or the spouse of such owner or tenant; and
- Not otherwise prohibited from voting.

### **Eligible voters in a school board election:**

A person is entitled to be an elector at an election held in a local municipality, or in territory without municipal organization within the area of jurisdiction of the district school board if, on voting day, he or she:

- Is a Canadian citizen;
- Is at least 18 years old;
- Has not already voted in the election for school trustees elsewhere in the school board's area of jurisdiction;
- Resides in the local municipality or territory or is the owner or tenant of a residential property, or is the spouse of such owner or tenant; and
- Is not otherwise prohibited from voting.

To vote in an **ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PUBLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**, an elector in addition to the above, must:

- Be a supporter of the English-language public district school board; or
- Not be a supporter of any board, nor have qualified him or herself as an elector for a catholic or French-language school board in the election.

To vote in an **ENGLISH-LANGUAGE CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**, an elector must be a Roman Catholic who must:

- Qualify as an elector for the English-language catholic district school board; and
- Be a supporter (or be the spouse of a supporter) of the English-language catholic district school board.

To vote in a **FRENCH-LANGUAGE PUBLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**, the elector must be a French-language rights holder (see ss. 23(1) and (2) of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms for criteria) who must:

- Qualify as an elector for the French-language public district school board; and

- Be a supporter (or the spouse of a supporter) of the French-language public district school board.

To vote in a **FRENCH-LANGUAGE CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**, an elector must be a Roman Catholic and a French-language rights holder (see the Charter for criteria ) who must:

- Qualify as an elector for the French-language catholic district school board; and
- Be a supporter (or the spouse of a supporter) of the French-language catholic district school board.

**\*\*Note: Non-Resident owners or tenants, or spouses of owners or tenants of commercially and industrially assessed lands are not eligible to vote for school board offices.**

### 3. Identification Required for Electors

All electors attending a Voting Assistance Centre to add or amend their information on the Voters' List must show proof of name and qualifying address before voting. If the elector does not have identification with them, they will be required to complete the prescribed form and take a statutory declaration stating that they are the elector who is showing on the Voters' List.

**If the elector refuses to show identification or take the declaration, they will not be able to vote.**

The following is the list of acceptable identification as prescribed in Ontario Regulation 304/13:

Electors must provide an original, or a certified or notarial copy, of a document that is listed below and shows the person's name and qualifying address:

1. An Ontario driver's licence.
2. An Ontario Health Card (photo card) plus proof of qualifying address from documents noted below
3. An Ontario Photo Card plus proof of qualifying address from documents noted below
4. An Ontario motor vehicle permit (vehicle portion).
5. A cancelled personalized cheque.
6. A mortgage statement, lease or rental agreement relating to property in Ontario.
7. An insurance policy or insurance statement.
8. A loan agreement or other financial agreement with a financial institution.
9. A document issued or certified by a court in Ontario.
10. Any other document from the government of Canada, Ontario or a municipality in Ontario or from an agency of such a government.
11. Any document from a Band Council in Ontario established under the *Indian Act* (Canada).
12. An income tax assessment notice.
13. A Child Tax Benefit Statement.
14. A Statement of Employment Insurance Benefits Paid T4E.
15. A Statement of Old Age Security T4A (OAS).
16. A Statement of Canada Pension Plan Benefits T4A (P).
17. A Canada Pension Plan Statement of Contributions.
18. A Statement of Direct Deposit for Ontario Works.

19. A Statement of Direct Deposit for Ontario Disability Support Program.
20. A Workplace Safety and Insurance Board Statement of Benefits T5007.
21. A property tax assessment.
22. A credit card statement, bank account statement, or RRSP, RRIF, RHOSP or T5 statement.
23. A CNIB Card or a card from another registered charitable organization that provides services to persons with disabilities.
24. A hospital card or record.
25. A document showing campus residence, issued by the office or officials responsible for student residence at a post-secondary institution.
26. A document showing residence at a long-term care home under the *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007*, issued by the Administrator for the home.
27. A utility bill for hydro, water, gas, telephone or cable TV or a bill from a public utilities commission.
28. A cheque stub, T4 statement or pay receipt issued by an employer.
29. A transcript or report card from a post-secondary school.

#### **4. Internet and Telephone Voting Method**

On October 28, 2019, Barrie City Council adopted motion 19-G-280 to authorize the use of internet and telephone as alternative voting methods. The City of Barrie voting method for the 2026 Municipal Election will be conducted by an internet and telephone voting system to provide emergency preparedness, efficiency, accessibility, accuracy, automatic tabulation, and convenience. This voting method was used by Ward 3 residents for the Ward 3 By-election in 2020 and all electors in the 2022 Municipal Election, both of which were very successful.

#### **5. Voter Assistance Centres, Alternative Voting Days and Final Voting Day**

Advanced Voting will begin on Friday, October 16 and will run for the 10 days prior to the final Voting Day on Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>.

In total, 5 Voter Assistance Centres are anticipated to be established for the 2026 Municipal Election. The location, dates and times for alternative voting opportunities will be provided to candidates on or before September 1, 2026 and will be posted [www.barrie.ca/election](http://www.barrie.ca/election).

#### **6. Prohibited from Voting**

The following persons are prohibited from voting:

- A person who is serving a sentence of imprisonment in a penal or correctional institution;
- A corporation;
- A person acting as executor or trustee or in any other representative capacity, except as a voting proxy in accordance with section 44 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*; and
- A person who was convicted of the corrupt practice described in subsection 90(3) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, until the next regular election has taken place after the election in respect of which he or she was convicted.

## 7. Definition of Residence

In determining the eligibility of electors, one must examine the meaning of residence. Section 2 and 3 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* reads as follows:

### “Residence

2. (1) For the purposes of this Act, a person’s residence is the permanent lodging place to which, whenever absent, he or she intends to return.
- (2) The following rules apply in determining a person's residence:
  1. A person may only have one residence at a time.
  2. The place where a person's family resides is also his or her residence, unless he or she moves elsewhere with the intention of changing his or her permanent lodging place.
  3. If a person has no other permanent lodging place, the place where he or she occupies a room or part of a room as a regular lodger or to which he or she habitually returns is his or her residence.

### Exception, students

- (2.1) Despite paragraph 1 of subsection (2), a person may have residences in two local municipalities at the same time if,
  - (a) the person lives in one of the local municipalities in order to attend an educational institution, but not with the intention of changing his or her permanent lodging place; and
  - (b) the person’s permanent lodging place is in the other local municipality.

### Rules if no permanent lodging place

- (3) If a person has no permanent lodging place as described in subsections (1) and (2), the following rules apply in determining his or her residence:
  1. The place to which the person most frequently returned to sleep or eat during the five weeks preceding the determination is his or her residence.
  2. If the person returns with equal frequency to one place to sleep and to another to eat, the place to which he or she returns to sleep is his or her residence.
  3. Multiple returns to the same place during a single day, whether to eat or to sleep, shall be considered one return.
  4. A person’s declaration regarding the places to which he or she returned to eat or sleep during a given time period is conclusive, in the absence of evidence to the contrary.”

## 8. Language and Assistance to Vote

Should an elector require the assistance of an interpreter, the elector can bring a friend to help them. The elector requiring assistance will be required to complete an oath declaring that he/she requires assistance and the friend/interpreter providing assistance will be required to complete an oath that he/she will mark the ballot as directed and maintain the secrecy of the elector’s vote.

If an elector requires assistance to vote for any reason other than language, the voting place staff or a friend of the elector may provide such assistance. In addition, voting stations will be provided to enable electors with disabilities to vote independently.

**\*\*Note: Candidates or their scrutineers are not permitted to interpret for or assist any electors.**

## 9. Elector Absence from Work

An elector is entitled to have three consecutive hours to vote on Voting Day (October 26, 2026).

If an elector's normal hours of employment are such that they would not have three consecutive hours to attend the voting station, the employer must allow them to be absent and the absence shall be timed to suit the employer's convenience as much as possible. The employer shall not make a deduction from the employee's pay or impose any other penalty for the absence from work.

## 10. Maintaining Secrecy of Voting

The *Municipal Elections Act* provides that every person who is present in a voting place or at the counting of the votes shall help to maintain the secrecy of the voting.

The following is prohibited:

- a) Taking a photograph or video recording of a marked ballot; or
- b) Showing a marked ballot to any person so as to reveal how a person has voted, except in connection with obtaining assistance in voting.

## Part H: Offences Enforcement and Penalties

### 1. Offences Regarding Campaign Finances

In accordance with the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, Section 92, the Clerk shall before Voting Day, notify all candidates of the penalties of the following related to election campaign finances:

Offences by candidate:

- (1) A candidate is guilty of an offence and, on conviction, in addition to any other penalty that may be imposed under this Act, is subject to the penalties described in subsection 88.23 (2),
  - (a) If the candidate incurs expenses that exceed the amount determined for the office under section 88.20; or
  - (b) If the candidate files a document under section 88.25 or 88.32 that is incorrect or otherwise does not comply with that section. 2016, c. 15, s. 68 (1).

### Additional penalty, candidates

- (3) If the expenses incurred by or under the direction of a candidate exceed the amount determined for the office under section 88.20, the candidate is liable to a fine equal to the excess, in addition to any other penalty provided for in the Act. 2016, c. 15, s. 68 (1).

### Offences by registered third party

- (4) A registered third party is guilty of an offence and, on conviction, in addition to any other penalty that may be imposed under this Act, is subject to the penalty described in subsection 88.27 (1),
- (a) If the registered third party incurs expenses that exceed the amount determined under section 88.21; or
- (b) If the registered third party files a document under section 88.29 or 88.32 that is incorrect or otherwise does not comply with that section. 2016, c. 15, s. 68 (2).

### Additional penalty, registered third parties

- (6) If the expenses incurred by or under the direction of a registered third party exceed the amount determined under section 88.21, the registered third party is liable to a fine equal to the excess, in addition to any other penalty provided for in the Act. 2016, c. 15, s. 68 (2).

## **2. Enforcement and Penalties**

There are penalty provisions in the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* that are applicable to candidates who fail to meet the disclosure and reporting requirements of the Act.

If a candidate fails to pay over a surplus to the Clerk or exceeds their election spending limit, they forfeit any office they have been elected to and are ineligible to run for or to be appointed to any office in Ontario until after the 2030 election.

Candidates may make an application to the Ontario Court of Justice **prior** to the filing deadline to extend the time for filing the financial statement. If the court is satisfied that the circumstances justify a later date for filing, an extension may be granted. The document from the court must be submitted to the Clerk on or before 2:00 p.m. on the filing due date. If a candidate fails to file the financial statement by the extended deadline, the above noted penalties apply.

A corporation or trade union that contravenes the campaign financing provisions of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, is liable to fines up to \$50,000.

An individual, including the candidate, who contravenes the provisions of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, is liable to fines up to \$25,000.

## Part I: New Term of Council

### 1. Council Elect and Inaugural Meeting of City Council

The Inaugural meeting of City Council will be held after the new Term of Office commences on November 15, 2026. This meeting date will be announced at a later date at which time a special agenda is prepared and the Mayor-Elect and Councillors-Elect will be sworn into office.

Orientation sessions for the Council-elect will be held the weeks of November 9, 16 and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 in the evening. Additional orientation sessions will be scheduled in advance of Standing and Reference Committee Meetings.

The City Clerk, CAO, and members of the Executive Management Team will meet with the Council elect either in a group setting or individually to provide information about your responsibilities as a member of Council, their divisions, etc. The Clerk will make these arrangements with the Council-elect once the official results have been published.

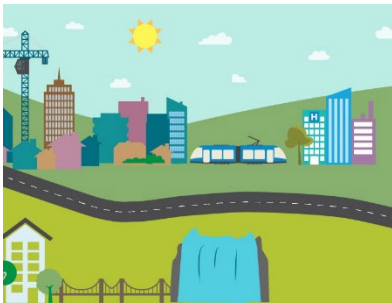
### 2. Inaugural Meeting of School Board

These meetings will be scheduled by the Boards and all members will be notified accordingly.

## Part J – Important Resources and Information

### 1. Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) – Municipal Elections and Governance

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/municipal-guides-and-programs>



The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing provides Ontario municipal guides and programs such as:

2026 Election Guide:

<https://www.ontario.ca/files/2026-03/mmah-2026-candidates-guide-en-2026-03-31.pdf>

Municipal Councillor's Guide:

<https://www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-municipal-councillors-guide>

### 2. Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – Education / Workshop Opportunities

<https://www.amo.on.ca>

#### Municipal 101:

How Local Government Works:

<https://www.amo.on.ca/about-us/municipal-101/how-local-government-works>

Municipal Elections:

<https://www.amo.on.ca/about-us/municipal-101/municipal-elections>

Ontario Municipalities:

<https://www.amo.on.ca/about-us/municipal-101/ontario-municipalities>



AMO Events & Training Opportunities:  
<https://www.amo.on.ca/amo-education-workshops/election-resources-supporting-your-run-municipal-office-2026>

Municipal Education.ca:  
<https://municipaleducation.skillbuilder.co/>



### **We All Win - Diversity on Council:**

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) has created resources to share more about municipal government as well as supports available for those interested in running for municipal office.

To learn about the campaign: <https://www.amo.on.ca/we->

### **3. Other Resources and Links – Helpful Information**

For further information regarding the Municipal Elections, please email [be.counted@barrie.ca](mailto:be.counted@barrie.ca) or call the Legislative Services Branch at 705-728-VOTE (8683).

To obtain more information, visit the following sites:

- The City of Barrie website ([www.barrie.ca](http://www.barrie.ca))
- Simcoe County District School Board ([www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca))
- Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board (<https://www.smcdsb.on.ca/>)
- Conseil scolaire Viamonde (<https://csviamonde.ca>)
- Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir (<https://www.cscmonavenir.ca/>)
- CPA Ontario <https://www.cpaontario.ca/protecting-the-public/directories>
- E-Laws ([www.e-laws.gov.on.ca](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca)) *Municipal Elections Act; Education Act; Municipal Act, 2001*
- Women in Local Government: <https://www.fcm.ca/en/programs/women-in-local-government>
- Learn about laws for Ontario municipalities and the agreements that guide the relationship between municipalities and the Province  
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/how-municipalities-and-ontario-work-together>
- AMCTO Elections Calendar 2025-2027- <https://www.amcto.com/media/2723>
- Elections Ontario Voter Registration - <https://www.registertovoteon.ca/>

- What's it Like to Serve on Municipal Council? (AMO):  
<https://www.amo.on.ca/sites/default/files/assets/DOCUMENTS/Elections/Municipal/AMOWatchFileOct16WhatsitLiketoServeonMunicipalCouncil.pdf>