



2026 Municipal Election

CANDIDATE AND THIRD PARTY ADVERTISER INFORMATION SESSION

Presented By: City of Barrie Election Team

Date: May 28, 2026



The Election Team:



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Candidates' Information Session

Agenda

1. 2026 Municipal Election Overview

2. Voting Method & Voter Information

3. Role of Mayor and Council

4. Eligibility and Nominations of a Candidate

5. Third Party Advertising

6. Campaign Finance Information

7. Resources and Contact Information

- ☑ The City of Barrie will hold its regular municipal election on **October 26, 2026**

Voters Will Elect Representatives For:



Mayor — 1 position



City Councillors — 10 Wards



School Board Trustees — Multiple boards

⚠ **Boundary Change**

On **January 1, 2026**, portions of Oro-Medonte and Springwater (approx. **1,673 hectares**) were annexed to Barrie under **Bill 76**. Residents of the annexed lands are now part of the City of Barrie and eligible to vote in the 2026 election.

✓ In **2025**, the City of Barrie completed a comprehensive ward boundary review.

▶ **New ward boundaries** were approved on **June 18, 2025**, and will be in effect for this election and the **2026–2030** Term of Office.

⚙️ **Key Changes**

- ✓ Barrie shifts from **5 northern / 5 southern** wards to **4 northern / 6 southern** wards.
- ✓ Updated boundaries accommodate population growth (**153,000+** residents, projected **210,000** by 2031).

🏛️ City Council consists of the **Mayor** and **10 members** of Council, one representing each ward.

2026 Municipal Election Overview

Check your ward online using the City of Barrie's interactive map:

Barrie 2026 Municipal Election Ward Boundaries

2026 Municipal Election Discover Barrie GeoHub

Search for your address below

Find address or place

No address selected

Voter Assistance Centres

- Allandale Recreation Centre
- Barrie City Hall
- East Bayfield Community Centre
- Parkview Centre for Seniors
- Peggy Hill Team Community Centre

Ward 1, Ward 2, Ward 3, Ward 4, Ward 5, Ward 6, Ward 7, Ward 8, Ward 9, Ward 10

Midhurst, Angus, Borden, Innisfil, Alcona, Kempenfelt Bay

Duties of the Clerk

A municipal clerk is the **chief election official** and is responsible for running the election in accordance with the *Municipal Elections Act*.

These duties include:

- ✓ Managing nominations
- ✓ Preparing the voters' list
- ✓ Setting up voting locations and methods
- ✓ Training election workers
- ✓ Ensuring accessibility
- ✓ Communicating official information
- ✓ Issuing notices
- ✓ Certifying results
- ✓ Maintaining all election records

Key Dates and Timeline



Date	Activity
1 May 2026	Nomination period opens (8:30 a.m.)
11 May 2026	Information session — MMAH
28 May 2026	Information session — City of Barrie Election Team
21 Aug. 2026	Nomination deadline (9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)
24 Aug. 2026	Clerk certifies candidates (after 4:00 p.m.)
1 Sept. 2026	Amendments to Voters' List begins
23 Oct. 2026	Third-party advertiser registration deadline
26 Oct. 2026	Election Day
15 Nov. 2026	New term of Council begins
31 Dec. 2026	Campaign period ends

Key Dates — 2027 Post-Election



Date	Activity
30 Mar. 2027	Financial statement filing deadline (2:00 p.m.)
29 Apr. 2027	Late filing grace period ends (\$500 fee)
28 Jun. 2027	Compliance audit application deadline
30 Jun. 2027	Extended campaign period ends (deficit fundraising)
24 Sep. 2027	Supplementary financial statement deadline (2:00 p.m.)

Voting Method & Voter Information

The 2026 Municipal Election will use **Internet and Telephone Voting**, provided by Voatz.

✓ *Successfully used for the 2020 Ward 4 By-Election and 2022 Municipal Election.*

How It Works

- Eligible voters receive a **Voter Information Letter** in the mail with instructions and a personal PIN.
- Vote **online** using a web browser on any device (computer, tablet, or smartphone).
- Vote by **telephone** using an automated phone system.
- Available **24 hours a day** during advance and election day voting periods.

Advance Voting: October 16 – 26, 2026



Voting Method & Voter Information

Security

The 2026 Municipal Election will use **Internet and Telephone Voting**, provided by Voatz.

How it Works:

- Uses industry-standard **encryption protocols** to ensure that all voting data is **protected** both in transit and at rest.
- Multiple **firewall** systems, **Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS)**, and verbose **access logging**.
- Joint **3rd party security testing** with other municipal Voatz users to ensure the **integrity of the voting process and voting results**.



Voters' List

- **Elections Ontario** is responsible for the Voters' List.
- **Now until August 12**, voters can check their info or register to vote on the Elections Ontario website.
 - *Link available at barrie.ca/elections*
- **After September 1** through to Election Day, the City of Barrie processes registrations and changes to the Voters' List.
- MPAC is responsible for school support designations — **June 1 deadline**.
 - *MPAC online form at barrie.ca/elections*

 **Register to Vote**

 **Elections Ontario**

Voters' List

- On September 1, 2026, the City Clerk will have the Voters' List reproduced. On written request, the City Clerk will provide candidates with access to the Voters' List *via* the Candidate 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 that office. For example: if a candidate is running for Councillor in Ward 1, they will receive the list of eligible electors the reside in Ward 1.
- The City Clerk is required to provide an Interim List of Changes to the Voters' List containing 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.
- **Note: The Interim List of Changes to the Voters' List will be provided to Candidates through the Candidate Access Portal.**

Voters' List

- There are five (4) opportunities for electors to add or change their information on the Voters' List:
 1. Visit www.barrie.ca/elections to use the **Voter Registration Portal** to make an application to be **added to the Voters' List** or to **update their information** on the Voters' List. An upload of a copy of acceptable identification is required.
 2. Visit www.barrie.ca/elections to **download the form** and mail, email be.counted@barrie.ca or **drop off the application** to the City **with the acceptable identification**.
 3. Attend **in-person** to the Legislative Services Branch, 1st floor of the City Hall, 70 Collier Street, during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, **with the acceptable identification**.
 4. Complete a revision form at a **Voter Assistance Centre** on an alternative voting opportunity and/or on Voting Day.

Outreach to Service Providers – Access to Voting, Homeless Population

- The City of Barrie will be conducting **outreach to service providers** to ensure that the City's homeless population is aware of how they can be added to the Voters' List and when/how they can cast their vote.
- In accordance with the MEA, if a person has no permanent lodging place, the following will apply in determining an elector's residence:
 - 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;
 - 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;
 - Multiple returns to the same place during a single day, whether to eat or to sleep, shall be considered one return; and/or
 - A person's declaration regarding the places to which they returned to eat or sleep during a given time period is conclusive, in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

Voting Method & Voter Information



Voter Supports - Voting Assistance Centres

- **5 in-person locations** available for voters who need help or do not have internet or telephone access

Dates	Times
Thursday, October 22, 2026	10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Friday, October 23, 2026	10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 24, 2026	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Monday, October 26, 2026 - Voting Day	10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location	Address
City Hall	70 Collier Street
Parkview Centre for Seniors	189 Blake Street
East Bayfield Community Centre	80 Livingstone Street East
Peggy Hill Team Community Centre	171 Mapleton Avenue
Allandale Recreation Centre	190 Bayview Avenue

Voting Method & Voter Information






Voter Supports - Election Help Desk

- In order to ensure adequate voter support, the City has scheduled Call Centres **during regular business hours**, throughout the duration of each Voter Assistance Centre, **and on the two weekends** during the voting period and on Voting Day:

Date:	Time:
Saturday, October 17, 2026	10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 18, 2026	10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 24, 2026	10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 25, 2026	10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday, October 26, 2026 – Voting Day	8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Contact Us

-  **Email** Be.Counted@barrie.ca
-  **Phone** (705) 728-VOTE (8683)
-  **Website** barrie.ca/elections

Offices that Voters will see on the ballot:

City Council

- Mayor (1 position)
- Councillors — Wards 1 through 10 (1 per ward)

School Board Trustees

- Members - Simcoe County District School Board
 - Ward 1 - City of Barrie Wards 1, 2, and 3
 - Ward 2 - City of Barrie Wards 4, 5, and 6
 - Ward 3 - City of Barrie Wards 7, 8, 9, and 10
- Members - Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board
 - Ward 1 - City of Barrie Wards 1, 2, 3, and 5
 - Ward 2 - City of Barrie Wards 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10
- Member - Conseil scolaire Viamonde
- Member - Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir

Subject to any acclamations and final review of School Board Trustee allocations.

Roles of the Mayor and Council

Mayor:

- Serves as head of Council and chief executive officer of the municipality.
- Presides over Council meetings and ensures procedures are followed.
- Acts as the representative of the municipality at official functions.
- Promotes the well-being of the municipality and its residents.
- May declare an emergency under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*.

Members of Council:

- Represent the interests of residents in their ward and the municipality as a whole.
- Participate in Council and Committee meetings to make decisions on municipal matters.
- Approve the municipal budget, by-laws, and policies.
- Ensure accountability and transparency in the stewardship of public resources.
- Maintain the financial integrity of the municipality.



Roles of the Mayor and Council

Deputy Mayor

- The Deputy Mayor is appointed by Council at the start of the new term, based on a recommendation from the Mayor-elect.
- The Mayor-elect may recommend one member for the full term or different members for set periods.

Council Appointments

- Council members attend **Council, General Committee, and Reference Committee meetings** generally from September to June, typically on Wednesday evenings.
- They are also appointed to various **Advisory Committees, boards, and commissions**, which generally meet monthly during or after business hours.



Other Time Commitments

- Being a member of Council is a **significant commitment**; potential candidates should be aware and understand the expectations of this important position.
- In addition to the time commitments required to **attend meetings**, a member of Council needs to have time to deal with **constituent inquiries**, attend **ward/city events**, etc.
- Approximately **10 hours a week** depending on the number of inquiries and events.



Annual Remuneration for 2026 – 2030 Term of Council

Effective December 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.
- Indexed annually (December) during term, equal to the **annual economic adjustment (cost of living)** approved for the City of Barrie Non-Union staff.
- A copy of the Reimbursement of Council Expense Policy is available at barrie.ca.

Car Allowance:

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

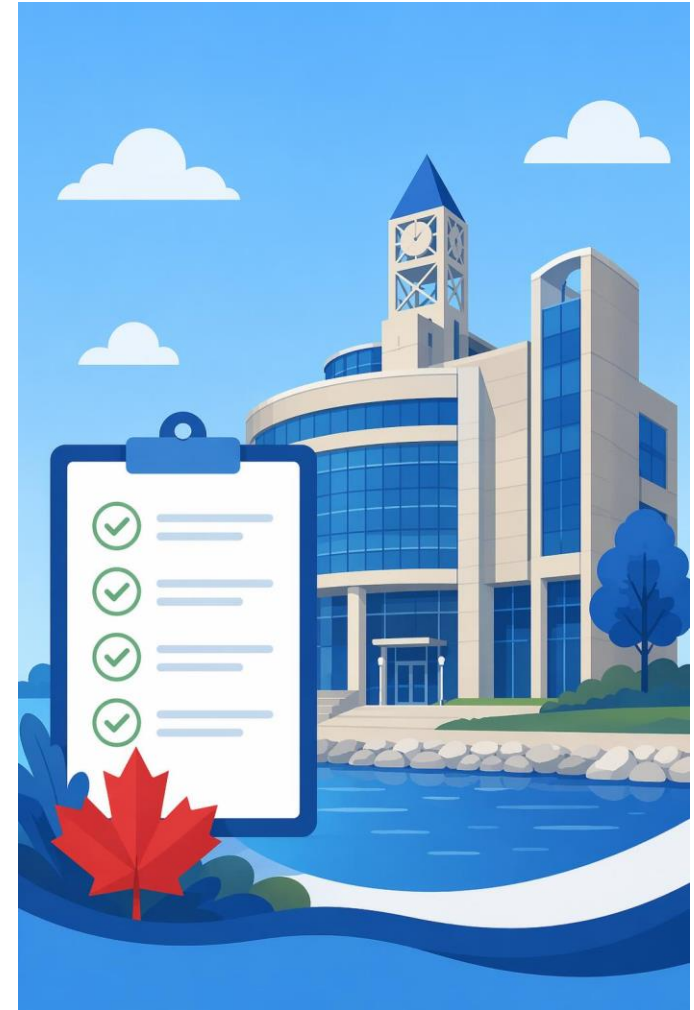
Eligibility — Municipal Council

To run for Mayor or City Councillor, you must be:

- A Canadian citizen;
- At least 18 years of age;
- A resident of Barrie, OR a non-resident elector who owns or rents property in the municipality (or is the spouse of an owner/tenant);
- Eligible to hold office as of the date the nomination is filed

Note: Candidates do not need to live in the ward they wish to represent.

You must provide **photo identification and proof of residency** in Barrie when filing your nomination. Acceptable ID includes an Ontario driver's licence, Ontario photo card, or other government-issued photo ID.



Eligibility — School Board Trustees

To run for School Board Trustee, you must be:

- A Canadian citizen;
- At least 18 years of age;
- A resident of the municipality where the nomination is filed;
- Eligible to hold office as of the date the nomination is filed.

Additional qualifications apply relating to school board support (e.g., English public, French separate). Refer to the *Education Act* for details.

You must provide **photo identification and proof of residency** when filing your nomination. Acceptable ID includes an Ontario driver's licence, Ontario photo card, or other government-issued photo ID.



Who Cannot Run?

The *Municipal Elections Act* **disqualifies** certain individuals:

- Municipal employees (unless they take an unpaid leave of absence before being nominated);
- Members of Parliament, Provincial Parliament, or Senators (unless they resign before the close of nominations);
- Persons convicted of corrupt practices (bribery);
- Incarcerated persons;
- Corporations.

Eligibility is assessed at the time of nomination and must be maintained throughout the campaign and into office.



Required Nomination Documents



To file your nomination, you must submit:

- ✓ **Nomination Form (Form 1);**
The name you write on the form will appear on the ballot
- ✓ **Endorsement of Nomination Forms (Form 2);**
25 original signatures or more from eligible Barrie electors (Mayor and Council candidates, not required for School Board Trustees)
- ✓ **Declaration of Qualification;**
- ✓ **FOI Release Form;**
- ✓ **Nomination Fee (paid at time of filing);**
- ✓ **Photo Identification;**
- ✓ **Proof of Residency in Barrie.**

Nomination Fees

Head of Council (Mayor)

- \$200

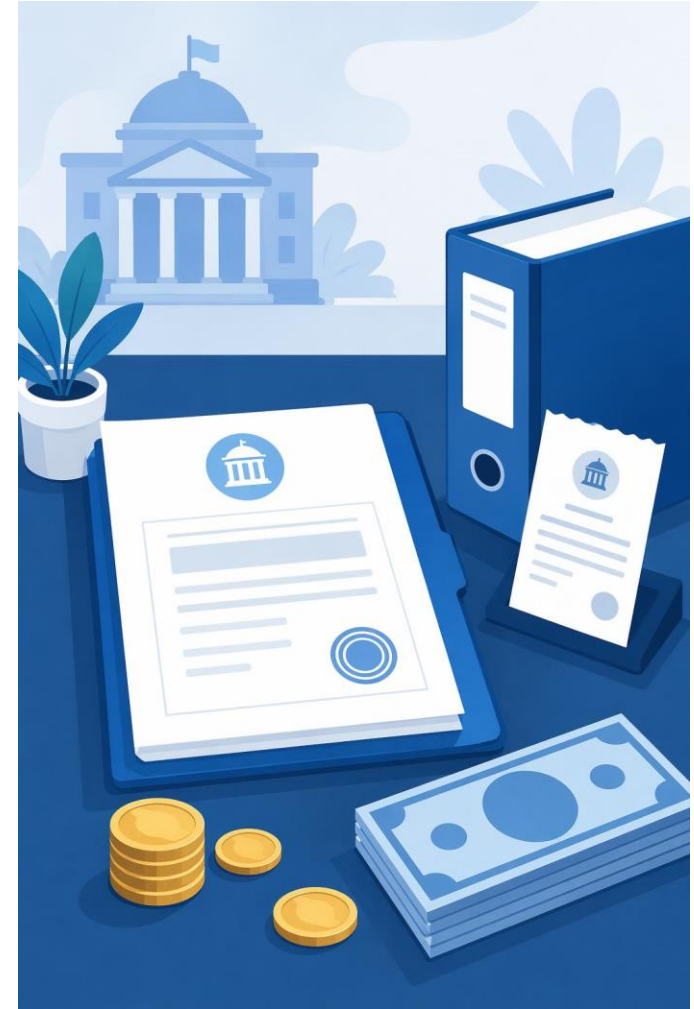
All Other Positions (Councillor, School Board Trustee)

- \$100

Payment Methods:

- Cash;
- Certified cheque or money order payable to the City of Barrie;
- Electronic method of payment as specified by the Clerk.

Your nomination fee will be **refunded** if you file your campaign financial statement by the deadline.



Location:

Legislative and Court Services
1st Floor, City Hall
70 Collier Street, Barrie

Filing Hours:

- May 1 – August 20: Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- **August 21 (Nomination Day): 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Nominations must be filed **in person** or by an agent on your behalf.

What Happens After You File



Your campaign period begins when the Clerk has received your nomination.

The Clerk will:

- Review your nomination to confirm eligibility and **certify**;
- Issue a **preliminary certificate** of your permitted campaign spending limit and self-contribution limit;
- Issue a **final certificate of expenses** to candidates on or before September 30, 2026.

After the nomination deadline (August 21), the Clerk will certify each nomination by **August 24, 2026, after 4:00 p.m.**

A certified list of candidates will be published on the City's website.

Withdrawals and Changes



- **Withdrawal:** You may withdraw your nomination by filing a written notice with the Clerk before **August 21, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.** If you miss the deadline, your name will still appear on the ballot.
- **Running for a Different Office:** You may withdraw from one office and file for another before the nomination deadline. If either office is elected by ward, campaigns must remain separate and a new nomination fee is required.
- **Refund of Nomination Fee:** You will receive a refund if you file your financial documents by **2:00 p.m. on March 30, 2027.** If you withdraw, you must still file a financial statement covering all contributions and expenses from the date you filed until the date you withdrew.

Note: You must also file the Financial Statement even if you did not incur any expenses or did not accept any contributions.

Once the Clerk certifies your nomination (August 24, 2026), you are an official candidate on the ballot.

As a certified candidate, you will:

- Receive your **official spending limits** from the Clerk;
- Have access to the **Voters' List** (available September 2026);
- Be entitled to appoint **scrutineers**;
- Have your **name appear on the ballot**.

Your campaign period continues until December 31, 2026, unless you end it earlier after Voting Day.

Candidates may appoint in writing persons to act as Scrutineers to represent them at Voter Assistance Centres.

Scrutineers are subject to the following:

- May attend the **opening of the continuous voting** period at City Hall;
- Are entitled to **sign the Zero Total Report** verifying no votes have yet been cast;
- Not more than may be present at any Voting Assistance Centre; **one scrutineer representing each Candidate**
- The appointed scrutineer, prior to entering a Voter Assistance Centre must produce the **prescribed form** illustrating their appointment to the Deputy Returning;
- An **identification badge** will be issued to the scrutineer and 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** administered by the Deputy Returning Officer at the Voter Assistance Centre.

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

Third Party Advertising (TPA)



Individuals, corporations, and trade unions may register as third party advertisers to support, promote, or oppose a candidate.

Third party advertisers must file all required election forms—including registration and financial statements—with the municipal clerk.

Key Rules:

- Must operate **independently** from any candidate's campaign;
- Registration runs **May 1 to October 23, 2026**;
- Advertisers follow their own **contribution and spending limits**;
- All ads must clearly identify **who is responsible**;
- Candidates cannot direct or coordinate with third party advertisers. Family or campaign staff may register but must act independently;
- Third party packages are available at the Legislative Services Office or at **barrie.ca/government-news/2026-municipal-election**.

The Clerk will provide your 3 specific limits self when you file your nomination:

1. **Personal Contribution Limit - Formula:**

- Head of Council: **lesser** of $\$7,500 + \0.20 per elector, or $\$25,000$.
- Councillor: **lesser** of $\$5,000 + \0.20 per elector, or $\$25,000$.

2. **Campaign Expense Limit - Formula:**

- Head of Council: base amount $\$7,500 + \0.85 per elector.
- Councillor/Trustee: base amount $\$5,000 + \0.85 per elector.

3. **Parties and Expressions of Appreciation:**

- A separate limit of 10% of your general spending limit applies to post-election events and thank-you expenses.

Contributions:

- Only Ontario residents who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents may contribute.
- Maximum \$1,200 per contributor per candidate.
- Maximum \$5,000 per contributor to multiple campaigns.
- Corporations and trade unions cannot contribute to candidates.
- You are required to inform every contributor of the contribution limits.

Tip: include this information on every receipt!

Ineligible Contributions:

- Made outside your campaign period.
- From an anonymous source (except for donations of \$25 or less at a fundraising event).
- From an ineligible source (someone who doesn't live in Ontario, a corporation, etc.).
- Greater than the individual \$1,200 limit or the \$5,000 total limit per jurisdiction.
- A cash contribution greater than \$25.
- From funds that do not belong to the contributor who gave them to you.

You are required to return any contribution that was made or accepted in contravention of the MEA as soon as you learn that it was ineligible. If you cannot return the contribution, you must turn it over to the Clerk

Expenses:

- Campaign expenses are the costs that you incur (or that a person such as your campaign manager incurs under your direction) during your campaign.
- You must **open a bank account exclusively for your campaign** if you accept any contributions of money (including contributions from yourself or your spouse) or incur any expenses.
- You **cannot use your personal bank account** for campaign finances, even if you are planning a very small campaign.
- All expenses **must be paid from the campaign account**.
- The nomination fee is considered to be a personal expense, not a campaign expense.

Preliminary and Final Certificates:

- A **preliminary Certificate** of Maximum Campaign Contribution and Expenses Limits for the 2026 Municipal Election will be included in your Nomination Package, based on elector numbers in 2022.
- A **final certificate** of Maximum Campaign Contribution and Expense Limits, using 2026 elector counts, will be issued on September 20, 2026.
- Your spending limit is whichever certificate shows **the higher amount**.

Do not exceed spending and contribution limits! Automatic penalties apply if your financial statement reports that either spending limit has been exceeded.

Campaign Advertisements

- A campaign advertisement is any **paid message—broadcast, print, electronic, or otherwise—that promotes a candidate**. Ads must be purchased or directed by the candidate and must identify them.

Media Advertising

- The *Municipal Elections Act* does not restrict when candidates may advertise, but no money can be spent before filing nomination papers.
- Broadcasters must give all candidates equal access under CRTC rules.
- Free political airtime must follow the *Broadcasting Act* and be offered to all candidates; it is **not** considered a contribution.
- More guidelines: <https://crtc.gc.ca>

An election sign is any sign that promotes a candidate or tries to influence voters in any federal, provincial, or municipal election or question.

- **No election signs are allowed on public property in Barrie.**
- **Private property signs require the owner's or occupant's consent.**
- Signs may be displayed **only within 30 days before** a municipal election, **September 27, 2026.**
- All signs must be removed **within 96 hours (4 days) after Election Day.**
- Candidates are responsible for removing all signs after voting day.
- The full by-law is available at **barrie.ca** and in the Nomination Package.

Enforcement Services oversees the Election Sign By-law. Questions or concerns can be directed to enforcement.services@barrie.ca or [705-739-4241](tel:705-739-4241).

The use of any corporate resources for election campaigns is prohibited. All candidates—including sitting Council members—must follow the *Municipal Elections Act*, 1996 and the City's Use of Corporate Resources Policy.

Candidates may NOT:

- Use City facilities, equipment, supplies, services, staff, or other resources for campaign activity;
- Conduct campaign activities on City property;
- Use anyone's services during hours they are being paid by the City.

Corporate Logo, Crest & Images

- Candidates may not use the City's:
 - Logo;
 - Crest;
 - Photos;
 - Graphics or renderings;
 - Any other City intellectual property.

Appointing Scrutineers:

- Certified candidates may appoint scrutineers to observe voting at each Voter Assistance Centre.
- Scrutineers must take an oath of secrecy before being admitted.

At the Polls:

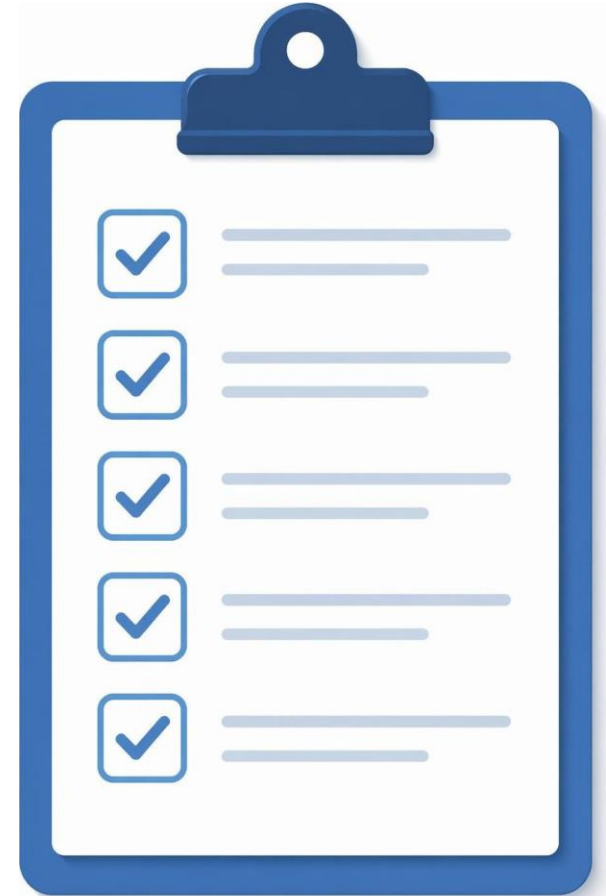
- Candidates or their scrutineer are entitled to be present during voting.
- Campaign material is not permitted inside or near voting locations.

After Polls Close:

- Votes are counted and unofficial results are issued by the Clerk.
- Unofficial results are available on election night and will be posted to the City website Election page and in the Council Chamber.
- The Clerk will officially declare the results after any required reviews.

Wrapping Up Your Campaign:

- **Remove all election signs** promptly after voting day.
- Take down or depoliticize your **campaign website**.
- Close your **campaign bank account** and prepare your **financial statement**.
- **Keep your records!** You are required to keep all of your campaign financial records **until November 15, 2030**, when the next council or school board takes office.



All candidates must file a financial statement — including those who withdrew, were not certified, were acclaimed, or did not incur any expenses.

Filing Deadline: 2:00 p.m. on March 30, 2027

Key Details:

- Use the prescribed Financial Statement - Form 4.
- If contributions or expenses exceed \$10,000, an auditor's report is required.
- A 30-day late filing grace period is available with a \$500 fee.
- Campaign records must be kept until November 15, 2030.

Penalties for Non-Filing:

- Forfeiture of office (if elected).
- Ineligibility to run until the next regular election.
- Filing on time also ensures your nomination fee is refunded.

Tip: Review the campaign financial statement (Form 4) that you will be required to file at the beginning of your campaign to make sure that you are keeping records of all the information that must be included on the statement.

Term of Office:

- The new Council term begins **November 15, 2026** and ends November 14, 2030.

Declaration of Office:

- Elected members must take the **Declaration of Office** before assuming their duties.
- You will declare to exercise your office faithfully and impartially, disclose pecuniary interests, and bear allegiance to the Crown.

Code of Conduct:

- All Council members must adhere to the City of Barrie's **Code of Conduct**, covering gifts, respectful conduct, confidentiality, and use of municipal property.

The Ontario Municipal Councillor's Guide (ontario.ca) is an essential resource for understanding your responsibilities as an elected official.

Information Sessions:

- ✓ May 11, 2026 — Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (City Hall)
- ✓ May 28, 2026 — City of Barrie Election Team (City Hall, 6–8 p.m.)

Recommended Resources:

- [Ontario 2026 Candidates' Guide](#) (ontario.ca)
- [Ontario Municipal Councillor's Guide](#) (ontario.ca)
- [School Board Trustee Elections](#) (ontario.ca)
- [Municipal Elections](#) — Association of Municipalities of Ontario (amo.on.ca)

Contact the Election Office



✉ **Email:** Be.Counted@barrie.ca

☎ **Phone:** (705) 728-VOTE (8683)

📍 **In-Person:** City Hall, 70 Collier Street, Barrie

🌐 **Website:** barrie.ca/election

Nomination forms, candidate guides, and ward maps are available online and in person at the Clerk's Office.

Questions & Answers

Thank you for your attention