
2026 Election Memo

To:	2026 Municipal Council & School Board Candidates
From:	Renée Ainsworth, Clerk
Date:	September 3, 2026
Re:	2026 Municipal Election - Voter Eligibility and Amendments to Voters List

Additions, deletions or amendments to the Voters' List.

Application for additions, deletions or amendments to the Voters' List will be accepted as follows:

In-Person:

- Township Administration Centre, 2231 Nursery Rd from Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 5:30 pm.
- Identity Verification Assistance Centres at the Township Administration Centre on October 7th, 2026, and October 14th, 2026, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- At any Advance Voting Location
- At all 3 voting locations on October 26, 2026.

Electronically:

- Applications may be filed electronically by visiting www.springwater.ca/elections and select the green banner at the top of the page labelled "Are You on the Voters List?"

Eligible voters are encouraged to confirm that their name is on the Voters' List by visiting springwater.voterservices.ca. This is especially important for individuals who are new to the Township, renters or boarders, and those who have recently moved.

Application for additions, deletions or amendments to the Voters' List may be submitted online or in-person, as outlined in this memo. Applicants applying in person must provide acceptable proof of identification showing their name and qualifying address. [acceptable proof of identification](#).

The Voters' List will be updated in real-time as electors are added, deleted or their information is amended. Candidates may access these changes via the Candidate Portal.

Who Can Vote?

A person is entitled to vote in a municipal election if, on Voting Day, they:

- Reside in the local municipality, or are the owner or tenant of land in the municipality, or are the spouse of such owner or tenant;
- Are a Canadian citizen;
- Are at least 18 years old; and
- Are not prohibited from voting under the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* or otherwise prohibited by law.

Resident Elector

A resident elector is a person who lives in the municipality and is eligible to vote in that municipality's election. A person is only permitted to vote once in a municipality, however, may qualify to vote in another municipality if they meet the requirements.

A person's residence is the permanent lodging place to which, whenever absent, they intend to return.

The following rules apply in determining a person's residence:

1. A person may only have one permanent residence at a time;
2. The place where a person's family resides is also their residence, unless they move elsewhere with the intention of changing their permanent lodging place;
3. If a person has no other permanent lodging place, the place where they occupy a room or part of a room as a regular lodger to which they habitually return, is their residence.

Non-Resident Elector

If a person lives in one municipality but owns or rents property in another municipality, they are a non-resident elector and able to vote in that municipality's election.

Spouse of Non-Resident Elector

If a person lives in one municipality and qualifies as a spouse of a non-resident elector, they may be eligible to vote in the municipality where their spouse owns or rents property.

Persons Without a Permanent Residence

Persons without a permanent residence may qualify to be added to the Voters' List during the revision period by submitting an application to the Clerk.

If a person has no permanent residence or lodging place, the following rules apply when determining their residence:

1. The place to which the person most frequently returned to sleep or eat during the five weeks preceding the determination is their residence.
2. If the person returns with equal frequency to one place to sleep and to another to eat, the place to which they return to sleep is their 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 affidavit 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.

For the 2026 Municipal and School Board election, Elections Ontario is not required to include on the Preliminary List of Electors the name of a person whose residence is determined under the *Municipal Elections Act*, 1996 provisions relating to persons without housing. However, persons without housing may still be eligible electors and, if they meet the citizenship, age and other legal requirements, may also be eligible to run as candidates.

Students

A person may have residences in two local municipalities at the same time if they live in one municipality to attend an educational institution, but do not intend to change their permanent lodging place, and their permanent lodging place is in another municipality.

As a result, students may be eligible to vote in the municipality where they attend school and, in the municipality where they permanently live.

Trailer Owners – Campgrounds

Trailer owners in campgrounds are considered tenants of the campground and may be eligible electors.

Under a timeshare contract, to be eligible, the person must be entitled to use the land on Voting Day and for a period of six weeks or more during the calendar year in which the election is held.

Who Cannot Vote?

The following persons or entities cannot vote:

- A person who is serving a sentence of imprisonment in 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*.
- A person who was convicted of the corrupt practice described in subsection 90(3) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, if Voting Day in the current election is less than five years after voting day in the election in respect of which they were convicted.

Identification Required to Vote

In accordance with the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, eligible electors are required to provide acceptable identification in order to be able to cast a vote. To vote, you should bring your Voter Information Letter, which residents will receive in the mail, along with one piece of acceptable identification showing your name and qualifying address.

Your Voter Information Letter cannot be used as identification; however, bringing it with you will help speed up the voting process.

Acceptable identification must show your name and qualifying address. For example, an Ontario Driver's Licence may be used. Photo identification is not required.

A full list of acceptable identification can be found on the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing [website](#).

Renée Ainsworth
Clerk

cc. Elections Team