

Candidate Q&A - 2026

The following questions have been submitted by candidates that have filed with the City of Stratford for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election. For the awareness of all candidates, the responses to these questions are shared below:

Campaigning and City Facilities

Question – How can residents report when campaigning is occurring within city owned facilities?

Answer – Concerns can be submitted in writing to the Elections Team by email at elections@stratford.ca for review.

Penalties

Question - Are there any repercussions for breaking by-laws and guidelines during an election?

Answer – The 2026 Candidates Guide prepared by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing provides information in response to this question:

- On Page 27: "Enforcement of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, is done through the courts.

There are three contraventions of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, where penalties apply automatically:

- if you fail to file a financial statement by the end of the 30-day grace period or fail to apply to the court before March 30, 2027, for an extension by the filing deadline
- if your financial statement shows that you exceeded your spending limit
- if you fail to turn over your surplus to the clerk when you file your financial statement

The penalty is that you forfeit your office (if you won the election) and you become ineligible to run or be appointed to fill a vacancy until after the 2030 election.

- On Page 28: If a candidate is convicted of an offence, they may be subject to the following penalties:
 - a fine of up to \$25,000
 - ineligibility to vote or run in the next general election
 - up to six months in prison
 - forfeiture of their elected office, if the judge finds that the candidate committed the offence knowingly
- If a candidate is convicted of exceeding the spending limit, they may also be fined the amount by which they exceeded the limit.

The City also works with candidates to come into compliance if there are contraventions of City by-laws and policies such as the Sign By-law or Use of Municipal Resources Policy during an election period.

Request for Copy of a Sidewalk Inspection Pilot Project Report

Question – Does the City have a report on the sidewalk inspection pilot project that ran a number of years ago?

Answer – No there is not a report.

Candidate Eligibility and the Ballot

Question - Will the ineligible candidates' name still appear on the ballot, with the notice provided separately, or will the City be taking any steps to remove the name from the ballot?

Answer – As the ballots have been configured the name will still appear and the ineligibility will be posted at voting locations, and a communication has been added to the City's website.



A copy of the [Sign By-law](#), [2026 Candidates Guide](#), [2026 Third Party Advertiser Guide](#) and the [2026 Voters' Guide](#) were placed in the Candidates Package and are available on the [City's website](#).



Office of the City Clerk
1 Wellington Street, Stratford, ON, N5A 6W1
Phone: 519-271-0250 extension 5237
stratford.ca/elections