

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:

Election Signs

Question – Can a corner lot at a single residence only have one sign per candidate?

Answer – For election signs on private property the Sign By-law states (bolding added for emphasis):

“(d) Election Signs on Private Property

- i. **Only one doubled-sided Election Sign per Candidate will be allowed per Private Property unless the Private Property consists of multiple residential properties,** then one double-sided Election Sign per Candidate per unit will be allowed, provided that the Signs are a minimum of 1 metre apart.
- ii. Only one Election Sign per Candidate per 500 metres of frontage is allowed for commercial/industrial properties.
- iii. No person shall affix, erect or otherwise display an Election Sign on private property or on the road allowance directly.”

This is regardless of whether a lot is a corner lot.

Fires, Heating and Unhoused Encampment

Question – What level and kinds of heating devices would be allowed at the Unhoused Encampment near the Transit Terminal. Specifically, would a central wood burning campfire be allowed, provided that it is prepared adequately with a fire cage, and with buckets of water and/or sand close by? What heating arrangements would be recommended or approved for use within camping tents?

Answer - The Stratford Fire Department is working closely with our municipal departments and social service partners to support the well being and safety of those experiencing homelessness in our community.

We are currently discussing the situation through our encampment response table to ensure that we take a coordinated approach and that the appropriate safety and support considerations are addressed.

With respect to the specific questions:

1. Central wood burning fire

There are several factors that would need to be considered before determining whether a communal wood burning fire could be permitted. These would include the location, construction and containment of the fire, separation from tents and other combustible materials, supervision, access for emergency responders, weather conditions, availability of extinguishing equipment, and the applicable fire safety requirements.

While the Fire Department understands the potential social and community benefits of a communal gathering space, the primary consideration from a Fire Department perspective must be life safety and the prevention of fire spread within an area where tents and other combustible materials may be in proximity.

2. Heating devices within tents

This is an area where the Fire Department would have significant safety concerns. Fuel burning appliances, including propane, gasoline or other combustion based heaters, should not be used inside tents or other poorly ventilated temporary structures because of the risks associated with carbon monoxide, oxygen depletion, and fire.

The Fire Department would therefore not recommend the use of fuel burning heating appliances inside individual tents. Any proposed heating solution would need to be carefully evaluated based on the type of device, the shelter or structure in which it would be used, ventilation and the associated fire and carbon monoxide risks.

This is an important issue, and I want to make sure we approach it thoughtfully and collaboratively, while balancing the need to protect people from the cold with our responsibility to minimize the risk associated with fire and carbon monoxide.

With the warming centre opening on November 1st, the Fire Department's goal is to encourage everyone to view it as a safe, welcoming space to stay during the evenings, particularly when temperatures create increased risk.

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](#).