

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 – Are candidate's signs permitted at Spruce Lodge?

Answer – Section 21.1(c) City's [Sign By-law](#) provides the following regarding election signs on public property:

"(c) Election Signs on Public Property

- i. No person shall affix, erect or otherwise display an election sign or permit an election sign to be affixed, erected or otherwise displayed:
 - 1. on property owned by the Province of Ontario, the Crown or Federal Government;
 - 2. on any property designated park or road allowance abutting property designated park;
 - 3. on land where a municipal facility is situated, including the interior of municipal facilities, and municipally-provided facilities;
 - 4. on any property designated a Voting Place or being used for voting purposes by the City;
 - 5. if in or on a vehicle, park or stop said vehicle in a way that violates the City's Policy C.3.14 – Use of Municipal Resources During an Election Period."

Scrutineers

Question – Will candidate's scrutineers be allowed at the Rotary Complex on October 26? How many per candidate are allowed? Will scrutineers be able to object to any perceived impropriety with the voting process, and will their objections be recorded as part of the public record? (Similar to provincial and federal elections)

Answer - Information about scrutineers is outlined in Section 12 of the 2026 Clerk's Election Procedures. A copy of which has been included in the Candidate's Package prepared by the City.

The Procedures provide:

Appointment - by candidate – qualification

A candidate may appoint scrutineers in writing to represent them at the Voter Help Centre. The appointment shall be made using the "Appointment of Scrutineer by Candidate" Form EL12(A). The forms to appoint scrutineers must be signed by the candidate in person at the Municipal Office. The candidate may be asked for proof of identity. The candidate shall provide this signed form to their scrutineer.

Appointment - entitled to

If appointed, scrutineers will be entitled to the following:

1. upon request and after producing the properly signed "Appointment of Scrutineer" and prescribing to the oath(s) of secrecy, they will be provided access to a Candidate module. The module will show the elector names who are entitled to vote for their designated office, allowing them to identify, observe, and list all electors that have participated. Scrutineers may log in to the system any time after the election has started and voters have cast ballots and determine who has voted.
2. to be present at the designated time and location to observe the Close of Voting Procedures, including to sign the Election Results.

Number - per candidate - in Voter Help Centre – one only

Not more than one scrutineer representing each candidate may be in the Voter Help Centre at any time. Only one candidate or their appointed scrutineer may be in attendance at a Voter Help Centre at one time. The scrutineer/candidate must take an "Oral Oath of Secrecy" Form CS25 at the Voter Help Centre.

Appointment - by elector - recount (Section 61 (1))

An elector who applies for a recount may appoint one scrutineer. The "Appointment of Scrutineer by Elector" Form CS45 must be signed by the Applicant. Forms are available at the Municipal Office. The scrutineer/candidate must take an "Oral Oath of Secrecy" Form CS25 at the recount.

Appointment - evidence of

A person appointed as a Scrutineer, before being admitted to the Voter Help Centre, shall show their applicable appointment form and provide proof of identity and residence as prescribed in O. Reg. 304/13 to the election official.

Voting System

Question - Is there any verification processes done for computer online voting and for telephone voting? (Recorded online keystroke history or recorded audio telephone voting?)

Answer – The system does not record online keystroke history or audio telephone voting. There is an audit trail of all significant activity related to the election.

Question - I have heard the telephone voting process is rather overly time consuming. After voter connection via telephone, all the 26 names for Councillor candidates are said slowly and carefully, then voter may choose one via number given, then all the 26 names are said again (even votes already selected), then voter chooses another number given, such that it could take 45 minutes to complete via telephone. Is this true? Are there any time saving adjustments that could be made?

Answer – A [Municipal Voter Experience video](#) is available on the City's website which walks electors through the online voting process for both internet and telephone voting. The system does not repeat candidate's names that have been chosen. Voters also do not need to wait for the entire list to be completed before making their next selection.

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](#).