

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:

Voting System

Question – What is to prevent someone from taking Voter Information Letters from mailboxes and impersonating voters?

Answer – The voting system requires an elector to enter a unique PIN and their date of birth to access the voting system. Should a letter be stolen, the person would need to know the date of birth of the elector in order to access the voting system and cast a vote.

[Sections 89 - 91 of the Municipal Elections Act](#) outline offences and corrupt practices under the Act. Any suspicion of offences or corrupt practices are to be referred to Stratford Police Service for review and investigation.

Question - Is there any tracking verification such as tracing votes to actual voters IP addresses? How secure is electronic voting?

Answer – There is an audit trail of all significant activity related to the election. Simply Voting's [Integrated Electronic Voting Solutions for Municipal Voting Events Simply Voting Security & Reliability Information](#) is available on the City's website.

Election Signs

Question – Are election signs permitted at the Woodland Towers and the Britannia Street apartments?

Answer –The Board of Directors of Spruce Lodge Non-Profit Housing Corporation is responsible for the governance of the Non-Profit Housing Corporation. The Corporation operates the units at Woodland Towers and Spruce Lodge. 200/230 Britannia Street is an affordable housing build owned by the City of Stratford and managed by the Housing Division of its Social Services Department.

In reviewing whether election signs are permitted at these locations, we note section 21.1.(3) of the City's sign by-law states that election signs are not permitted at or in municipal property.

Section 88.2 (1) of the Municipal Elections Act states that no landlord or person acting on a landlord's behalf may prohibit a tenant from displaying signs in relation to an election on the premises to which the lease relates. Section 88.2 (3) states that despite subsections (1) and (2), a landlord, person, condominium corporation or agent may set reasonable conditions relating to the size or type of signs in relation to an election that may be displayed on the premises and may prohibit the display of signs in relation to an election in common areas of the building in which the premises are found.

Election Results

Question – How will results be finalized and announced?

Answer – The 2026 Clerk's Election Procedures provide the following information in response to this question:

"The unofficial results of each candidate shall be made available by the Clerk as soon as practical after 8:00 p.m. on Monday, October 26, 2026, Voting Day, at the Municipal Office and the Clerk shall post the Unofficial Results on the City's official website.

As soon as possible after Voting Day, the Clerk shall declare the Official Results using "Declaration of Election Candidate" Form EL32 and then post the results at the Municipal Office and on the City's official website and/or Voting System website."

Question - Will there be any results/data shared on voting participation between Oct 16 - Oct 26?

Answer – The City typically posts the voter turnout each day during the voting period.

Question – How will successful candidates be notified? Are there any guidelines of sharing results?

Answer – The results will be posted to the City's website. Successful candidates will be contacted by the Clerk's Office to begin the onboarding process for Council-elect.

Election Night

Question – Can you share what the election day and evening schedule will be, and specifically the announcement of results? Is there an event planned?

Answer – Information about the publishing of unofficial results has been provided in a question above.

On the evening of Monday, October 26, the City of Stratford will provide an opportunity for candidates, supporters, members of the public and the media to see the unofficial results of Stratford's 2026 municipal and school board election, once they're available.

This will take place in the Auditorium at Stratford City Hall located on the main floor, 1 Wellington Street, starting at 7:30 p.m.

While voting ends at 8 p.m., electors still in the voting system will be given an opportunity to finish casting their ballots, and then a number of steps must be completed by election officials before the unofficial results can be released. Once all steps have been completed, the unofficial election results will be posted to the City's website at www.stratford.ca, and then projected in the Auditorium.

The unlocking of the results will occur in Council Chambers as outlined in the Clerk's Election Procedures.

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](#).