

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:

Social Services Related Stats

Question – Information was requested on stats related to Social Services.

Answer – The requested stats for 2026 are:

- 65 high needs clients being supported in the community with intensive case outreach workers;
- 62 municipally owned affordable housing units;
- 652 rent geared to income units - completion of 47 Railway, 9 Fulton and 398 Erie would change this number but so far this is not the case;
- 175 rent subsidies in the private market;
- 7 not for profit multi-unit dwellings.

To Date: 96 persons supported in emergency housing.

The CWELCC spaces for both the new 98-space childcare centre at Oak & Lorne and the licensed home child care agency that will be directly operated by the City are accounted for by the CWELCC directed growth targets established for our area by the Ministry under the terms of the current CWELCC agreement (2022-2026). The City has applied for a license for 15 homes for its licensed home agency. Each home may care for up to six (6) children at a time, which is a prospective licensed capacity of 90 spaces.

Question – What are the time requirements for a new mayor post-election?

Answer – The City is working to finalize the onboarding and orientation program for the new term of Council. The following dates have been confirmed:

- Term Starts – Sunday, November 15
- Preliminary Onboarding and Inaugural Council Meeting – Monday, November 16
- Perth Municipal Day and Joint Council Orientation Session – Wednesday, November 18
- Regular Council Meeting – Monday, November 23

- Regular Council Meeting – December 14

Campaign Bank Account

Question - Can a previous bank account be used for campaign purposes instead of opening a new account?

Answer – The 2026 Candidates Guide developed by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing provides the following information in relation to the question posed:

- On Page 16: "You must open a bank account exclusively for your campaign if you accept any contributions of money (including contributions from yourself or your spouse) or incur any expenses. You do not have to open a campaign bank account if you do not spend any money and do not receive any contributions of money. If you receive contributions of goods or services, but no contributions of money, you do not have to open a campaign bank account."
- On Page 17: "You cannot use your personal bank account for campaign finances, even if you are planning a very small campaign. All contributions — including contributions you make to yourself — must be deposited into the campaign bank account. All expenses must be paid from the campaign account."

Requests for Comments on Views

Question – I have been receiving emails from various organisations that are asking about my views. Is there any advice on how to respond.

Answer – The 2026 Candidates Guide developed by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing provides the following information in relation to the question posed:

- On Page 11: "It is up to candidates to provide voters with information about themselves and about their campaign."

Candidate Information Sessions and Events

Question – Can the skate park and other public parks be used for candidate information sessions/events (not fundraising events).

Answer – The City’s Use of Municipal Resources During an Election Period Policy C.3.14 provides the following information in relation to the question posed:

- Facilities and Municipal Property
 1. Campaigning and the distribution or display of campaign material is not permitted on municipal land, including the interior of City Hall, other Municipal facilities, and Municipally-provided facilities, or any such locations which have been designated for or are being used for voting purposes by the City.

If you are interested in holding an event or session on municipal property, please contact the Special Events Coordinator at KRiddell@stratford.ca who can review the request and provide direction on what approvals, if any, are required.

Campaign Expenses

Question - How do ‘DIY’ or homemade items count, such as a couple of signs or posters?

Answer – The 2026 Candidates Guide developed by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing provides the following information in relation to the question posed:

- On Page 17: “Campaign contributions are any money, goods or services that are given to you for use in your campaign, including money and goods that you contribute to yourself.”
- On Page 22: “Goods or services that are contributed to your campaign are also expenses. They should be treated as if the contributor gave you money and you went out and purchased the goods and services. You must record both the contribution and the expense.”

As a reminder, all of your campaign signs and other advertising must identify that you are responsible for the sign. This is so that people seeing the sign or advertisement can tell that it is from your campaign, rather than from a third-party advertiser.

Confidentiality and Closed Sessions

Question – Is there a standard response that should be given if asked about how a member of Council voted in closed session, especially in relation to litigation?

Answer – The Municipal Act, 2001, recognizes that there may be situations in which the privacy of an individual should be respected, or where open meetings would not serve the public interest or the interests of the municipality. If a subject fits within one of the exceptions, it can be discussed in a closed meeting, provided that the municipality follows all the procedural rules, including giving notice of the meeting, passing a resolution in public to close the meeting, and keeping minutes of the closed meeting ([Ombudsman Open Meeting Guide](#)).

Voting in a closed meeting is permitted if the closed meeting is otherwise authorized and the vote is for a procedural matter or for giving directions or instructions to officers, employees, agents of the municipality, or persons under contract. All votes should be taken formally, in accordance with the procedure by-law, and recorded in the closed meeting minutes ([Ombudsman Open Meeting Guide](#)).

The City's Code of Conduct states in section 18:

"No Member shall disclose, release or publish by any means to any person or to the public any Confidential Information acquired by virtue of their office, in any form, except when required or authorized by Council or otherwise required by law to do so. No Member shall use Confidential Information for personal or private gain or benefit, or for the personal or private gain or benefit of any other person or body."

Confidential Information includes but is not limited to:

"a matter, the substance of a matter, and information pertaining to a matter, that has been debated or discussed at a meeting closed to the public, unless the matter is subsequently discussed in open Council or it is authorized to be released by Council, a local board, committee or otherwise by law."

A copy of the [2026 Candidates Guide](#) was placed in the Candidates Package and is available on the [City's website](#). A copy of the City's Use of Municipal Resources during an Election Period Policy C.3.14 and Code of Conduct were also included in the Candidates Package.