

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:

Requests for Comments on Views

Question – Is it normal to be getting all these different organizations reaching out to me asking for my opinion on surveys? Is this something we should be taking part in?

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."

Moving to a New Address

Question – What would a candidate need to do if they are moving during the election? Both starting and ending addresses are within the municipal boundaries?

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 2: "To run for a position on council, you must be eligible to vote in that municipality. On the day you file your nomination, you must be a Canadian citizen aged 18 or older, and qualify as a resident or non-resident elector."

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

- On Page 1: "There are three ways that you can qualify to vote in a municipality:

1. As a **resident elector** if you live in the municipality. You may own, rent, live in shared accommodation where you do not pay rent or live in the municipality but do not have a fixed address. Being a resident elector is the most common type of eligibility.
2. As a **non-resident elector** if you own or rent property in a municipality, but it's not the one where you live. While you can be a resident elector in only one municipality (with the exception of students), you can be a non-resident elector in any other municipality (or municipalities) where you own or rent property.
3. As the **spouse of a non-resident elector** if your spouse owns or rents property in the municipality or municipalities other than the one where you live."

Where a candidate moves from one address in the municipality to another address in the same municipality, the information above indicates that they may continue to qualify as a resident elector, provided they continue to meet all applicable eligibility requirements under the [Municipal Elections Act, 1996](#).

Candidates should notify the Clerk's Office promptly of any change to their address or contact information so that the City's candidate records and communications can be kept current. Where applicable, candidates may also wish to update their voter registration information.

Voters' List and Candidate Portal Access

Question – When will the Voter's List be issued and when will we get the Login and password?

Answer – In accordance with Sections 10 and 23 of the [Municipal Elections Act, 1996](#), access to the on-line portal will be provided on September 1, 2026. Registered candidates will be provided with their individual credentials to access the on-line portal via the email address supplied by the candidate at the time of filing their nomination. Login credentials were circulated on August 31, 2026.

If you experience any issues accessing the portal, please contact elections@stratford.ca.

Submitting Your Financial Statement

Question – When do you need to submit your financial statement?

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 29: "Your completed financial statement must be submitted to the clerk by 2 p.m. on Tuesday, March 30, 2027."

A list of key dates in the 2026 Municipal Election is also available here:

<https://www.stratford.ca/inside-city-hall/municipal-elections/key-dates/>. Candidates are responsible for ensuring that they adhere to the deadlines set out under the [Municipal Elections Act, 1996](#).

Campaign Contributions

Question – Is an e-transfer considered cash or not? If someone wanted to e-transfer me \$400 for instance is that okay?

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 19: "Only a contribution that is \$25 or less can be made in cash. All contributions above \$25 must be made by cheque, money order, or by a method that clearly shows where the funds came from (such as certain debit, credit or electronic transfer transactions)."

Contribution Receipts

Question – Can receipts for campaign contributions be emailed?

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 20: "You must issue a receipt for every contribution you receive. The receipt should show who made the contribution, the date, and the value. If the contribution was in goods or services, you must determine the value of the goods or services and issue a receipt for the full value."

If you receive a contribution from a joint account, the contribution can only come from one person. You must determine who is making the contribution and issue the receipt to that person.”

- On Pages 15-16: “You are responsible for keeping records of the financial activities related to your campaign. The Municipal Elections Act, 1996, does not require you to use any specific accounting system. You may want to consult with an auditor or an accountant early in your campaign to make sure that you are using a bookkeeping and accounting system that will suit your needs.

You should also look through the campaign financial statement (Form 4) that you will be required to file to make sure that you are keeping records of all the information that must be included on the statement.

You are required to keep all of your campaign financial records until November 15, 2030, when the next council or school board takes office.

You must keep the following campaign records:

- receipts issued for every contribution including when you accepted the contribution and the date you issued the receipt (remember to issue receipts to yourself for any contributions you make).”

The Guide notes that candidates are required to issue and retain records of contribution receipts. However, it does not specify that receipts must be issued or delivered in paper format. Candidates may wish to retain copies of any receipts issued as part of their campaign financial records.

Campaign Headquarters Sign

Question – Can headquarter signs be installed before September 11, 2026? Is a municipal sign permit required?

Answer – The Sign By-law 159-2004 provides the following information in relation to the question posed:

- Section 4.1 Signs Not Requiring a Permit
Notwithstanding Section 4.0 (a) and (b), a sign permit is not required for the following signs and all such signs shall comply with all other requirements of this By-law:
(ii) election signs, erected in accordance with Section 21.1.
- Section 21.1 Election Signs:
(h) Timing of Placement of Election Signs and Removal
 - i. No person shall affix, erect or otherwise display an election sign or permit an election sign to be erected, affixed, or otherwise displayed prior to the issuance of writs for a provincial or federal election.
 - ii. No person shall affix, erect or otherwise display an Election Sign for a municipal election earlier than the day that the Candidate has been nominated or appointed or the third party advertiser has registered with the City Clerk and no earlier than:
 - 1. 45 days prior to Election Day in the year of a regular election; or
 - 2. Nomination Day for a by-election.
 - iii. Notwithstanding section (h) ii of this By-law, Campaign Headquarters Election Signs may be placed once a Candidate has filed their nomination papers with the City Clerk and paid the required filing fee or a Registered Third Party has registered with the City Clerk.
- (i) Campaign Office Exemptions
An election sign which is a fascia sign may be affixed to the face of the building or building unit which is used as a candidate's campaign headquarters provided such fascia sign complies with the provisions of this By-law for a fascia sign.

Question – What are the requirements to identify who is responsible for the messaging on election signs?

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 20: "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."

A copy of the [2026 Candidates Guide](#) and the [2026 Voters' Guide](#) were placed in the Candidates Package and are available on the [City's website](#).