

Frequently Asked Questions

This list may be updated periodically, please check back to see if anything new has been added.

1. Is it possible to file your nomination online?

No. Candidates must file their nomination papers in-person or by an agent, by appointment with the Clerk or Deputy Returning Officer

2. Do I have to open a separate bank account for election expenses?

Yes. Unless the only expense you have is your nomination fee.

3. Are municipal signs part of Expenses?

Yes, depending on the type of sign, the expense may be prorated.

4. Do my 25 signatures have to be from individuals within the Ward I am running for?

No, the 25 signatures can come from anyone within South Huron.

5. Do I have to live in the ward I am running for?

No, a candidate can run for office in the ward of their choice. You do not have to live in the same ward you are running in; however, you do have to vote from the address at which you reside. For example, if you live in Ward 2, but are running in Ward 3, you must vote in Ward 2.

6. Can a candidate let members of the public use their phone to add/update their information on the voters list (through elections Ontario)?

It is strongly recommended that candidates do not offer personal devices to members of the public to check/update their information. Candidates are prohibited from verifying whether an elector appears on the voters list (provided to candidates in September) or not to the elector or any other person.

Individuals can check/update their information on the voters list through Elections Ontario (registertovoteon.ca) until August 12th, following which they will need to reach out to Municipal Elections staff directly.

If individuals need assistance checking they are on the voters list, or to update their information, Election staff are happy to assist. Please advise the individual to drop into town hall or call 519-235-0310x0.

7. Can candidates campaign on their personal social media page or do they need a separate candidates page?

Candidates can use their personal social media, or a candidate social media account. Messages posted to the Municipal social media accounts may be shared on candidates social media accounts, using social media official channels. Municipal posts are not to be modified/partially reproduced in any way.

Further, campaign messages are not permitted to be posted on Municipal social media.

8. Can candidates distribute campaign materials at municipal events?

Candidates may not campaign or distribute election campaign materials at any event/function being hosted by the municipality, whether on municipal property or not. To clarify, this includes any event/function that is hosted by the Exeter BIA Board or any Committees of Council.

More information is available in the [Use of Municipal Resources during an Election Period Policy](#).

9. Can candidates campaign at the Library, or municipal facilities?

Campaigning is not permitted in/at municipal owned facilities/property (ie. parking lots, parks, community centres, arenas, etc). More information is available in the [Use of Municipal Resources during an Election Period Policy](#).

10. Can a candidate park a vehicle that has a campaign message in a municipal parking lot?

Campaign signs, including campaign signs/messages on vehicles, are not permitted on municipal property (includes parking lots, parks, community centres, arenas, etc). Further, no vehicle that display an election sign is permitted to be parked/placed within a one block radius of Town Hall on Voting day (October 26)

More information is available in the [Election Sign By-Law](#) and [Use of Municipal Resources during an Election Period Policy](#).

11. Can candidates appoint themselves as a scrutineer?

A scrutineer is an individual that is appointed by a Candidate to represent the candidate during voting and at the counting of votes. Each candidate may appoint in writing such number of persons who are at least sixteen years of age as they consider advisable as scrutineers to represent the candidate in a polling place and at the counting of votes under this Act. Not more than one scrutineer representing each candidate may be present for any of the purposes specified in the Municipal Elections Act. A Candidate, or their appointed scrutineer (not both) can be present during voting and at that counting of the votes.

12. Can a candidate set up a GoFundMe to raise funds for their campaign?

As set out in the Municipal Elections Act ("MEA"), contributions can only be made and accepted by a candidate or an individual acting under the candidate's direction. It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that contributions are collected, and records kept in accordance with the MEA. Prior to creating a GoFundMe campaign, a candidate should seek advice from a financial advisor or lawyer to ensure that proceeding with same would be in compliance with the MEA. Any costs associated with obtaining the advice are at the candidate's expense.

More information regarding campaign records, including contributions, receipting and what is considered a campaign expense is outlined in [MMAH's 2026 Candidates Guide](#).

13. Do unused contributions at the end of the campaign get returned to the individual that provided the contribution?

At the end of the campaign, if a candidate has a surplus of campaign funds, they can withdraw the value of contributions that they and their spouse made from that surplus. Any additional funds left following that withdrawal must be turned over to the Clerk. Candidates are not permitted to refund eligible contributions made by anyone other than their self or their spouse.

Note: any contribution made or accepted that is in contravention of the Municipal Elections Act must be returned to the contributor as soon as the candidate learns that it was an ineligible contribution. If the candidate is unable to return the contribution, it must be turned over to the Clerk.

14. Can individuals vote in multiple municipal elections?

To be eligible to vote in a municipal election, an individual must be a Canadian citizen, at least 18 years old, and qualify to vote in the municipality.

Individuals may qualify to vote in a multiple municipal elections, if:

- they are a resident elector of that municipality (ie. primary residence within the municipality), and
- they are a non-resident elector (personally own/rent property in a municipality/municipalities, other than where they primarily live), and/or
- they are a spouse of a non-resident elector (if their spouse personally owns/rents property in the municipality/municipalities other than the one where they primarily live).

Example: if the individual qualifies as a resident elector in one municipality, and a non-resident elector in three other municipalities, they can vote in all four of those municipal elections

For students living away from home while they attend school, if they consider their home to be the place where they live when not attending school (that is, they plan to return there), then they are eligible to vote in both their home municipality and the municipality where they live while attending school.

Note: Individuals can only vote once in each municipality they are eligible for. If an individual owns/rents multiple properties within the same municipality, they can only vote once in that municipal election.

15. Are shareholders of a Corporation that owns/rents land entitled to vote?

An individual that is a shareholder for a corporation is entitled to vote in the municipality where they, the individual, personally reside, as well in other municipalities if they or their spouse personally own or rent land.

Being a shareholder of a Corporation that owns/rents land does not qualify the shareholder as a non-resident elector. Further, if a property is owned/rented by a business or a trust, the individuals involved in the business/trust would not qualify as a non-resident elector. A non-resident elector is an individual who personally, or their spouse personally, own/rent property in a municipality/municipalities other than where they reside.

16. When can election signs start being posted?

The [Election Sign By-Law](#) provides that no person shall place or permit to be placed an election sign, except at a campaign office, prior to Nomination Day (August 21, 2026). A “Campaign Office” means a building or structure, or part of a building or structure, used by a Candidate to conduct an election campaign.

For clarification, a vehicle does not meet the definition of a campaign office. Election signs displayed on vehicles are not permitted until Nomination Day (August 21, 2026).

17. Can a credit card be used for election expenses?

As outlined in the [Candidates Guide](#) from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing election expenses must be paid from a campaign bank account. If a credit card is used to pay for election expenses, you should make sure that you keep clear records showing that the expense on the credit card was reimbursed from the campaign account. It is the candidate’s responsibility to ensure that they

comply with the Municipal Elections Act ("MEA"). If you have any other questions regarding use of a credit card for election expenses, you should seek advice from a financial advisor or lawyer to ensure that proceeding with same would be in compliance with the MEA. Any costs associated with obtaining the advice are at the candidate's expense.

18. Can Election Signed be posted near municipal roads, streets and boulevards?

Section 20 of the Municipal Election Sign By-Law speaks to election signs on public property and streets.

20.1 No person shall Place or permit to be Placed an Election Sign within any parks owned by the Municipality.

20.2 No person shall Place or permit to be Placed an Election Sign:

- (a) in a Roadway;
- (b) within 3 metres of a Roadway;
- (c) between a Roadway and a Sidewalk;
- (d) that impedes or obstructs the passage of pedestrians on a Sidewalk;
- (e) in a Median Strip;
- (f) less than 3 metres from a Crosswalk;
- (g) on a tree, or a fence, or a wall, or a gate, or a utility pole located on Public Property or a Street.

More information regarding use of election signs is outlined in the [Municipal Election Sign By-Law](#), and the [Huron County Election Sign info sheet](#)

19. Can candidates arrange for a candidates debate for candidates and the public to attend?

Debates can be organized by candidates, community groups, media outlets or any other interested persons. The [Use of Municipal Resource during an Election Period Policy](#) must be followed (ie. no campaigning at municipal facilities/property), and any candidates that arrange for a candidates debate must ensure their financial records are kept in accordance with the MEA. The Municipal Elections Act ("MEA") does not require candidate debates to be held, and the municipal clerk is not responsible for organizing meetings or debates. As such, any debates that are organized should be referred to as candidate debates, not municipal debates, to provide clarification that the Municipality is not involved with arranging same.

20. Can sign companies, who have been contracted to create an election sign for a candidate, share that sign on social media as a sample of their product?

Third-party advertising is separate from any candidate's campaign and must be done independently from a candidate. Any advertisements or materials that are made and distributed by a candidate, or under a candidate's direction, are part of the candidate's campaign and not third-party advertising.

Activities that do not involve incurring expenses are not considered to be third-party advertising. In this instance, it is the sign companies' business to create signs and they may share as an example, as they would their other products, and they are not incurring any costs (candidate is paying for the sign). As such, this would not be considered third party advertising. More information regarding third party advertising can be found in the [2026 third-party advertisers' guide](#) on the municipal elections page.

21. Can a candidate put a sign up in their front yard now, having it 3 metres from the curb, and any signs erected after August 21 have to be 9 meters from municipal roads/streets?

A sign can only be displayed earlier than August 21st if it is placed on a campaign office, otherwise no signs are to be placed prior to August 21st. When signs are installed they must be placed in accordance with the municipal sign by-law (Section 20, including but not limited to being 3 metres away from a road) or Huron County Election Sign info sheet. These resources are available on the [municipal elections page](#).

22. If a candidate attends an event on municipal property and someone asks "how is the campaign going" can a candidate reply?

Answering a question from an individual would not automatically imply a candidate is campaigning (promoting an idea/cause or candidate to achieve a particular goal), however, candidates should be aware that members of the public may interpret things a candidate says to be a candidate campaigning. Should a formal complaint be submitted then the Clerk will investigate to determine whether there's been a contravention to the [Use of Municipal Resource Policy](#) or the [Election Procedures](#). As a courtesy, if a concern (not formal) is received, the Clerk will reach out to the candidate to advise so they are aware.

23. There are events outside of the municipality that have a lot of campaigning going on in their parks with their candidates, some even exchanging business cards, can we do the same?

Under the Municipal Elections Act, the clerk of a local municipality is responsible for conducting elections within that municipality. Candidates in running for South Huron Council must follow the rules/policies in place for South Huron's Municipal

election. The [Use of Municipal Resource Policy](#) notes that Corporation resources including facilities, infrastructure, equipment, supplies, services, staff or any resource that belongs to or is funded by the municipality may not be used for the purposes of an election campaign or for any campaign-related activities (this would include municipal facilities, parks, parking lots and social media).