



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU RUN FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICE IN 2020

Better government. Stronger communities.



THINKING OF RUNNING
FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICE?

IN ORDER TO RUN, YOU MUST:

- Be a Canadian citizen
- Be 18 years of age
- Have resided in the municipality six months prior to nomination and continue to reside
- Ensure taxes & liens have been paid
- Not be an MP, MLA, Judge, member of village commission, councillor for another municipality, employee of municipality or municipal board, etc.





NOMINATION PROCESS

YOUR NOMINATION PAPER MUST:

- Be signed by five people on voters' list (*10 recommended*)
- Be filed by Tuesday, September 8
- Include certificate that taxes and liens are fully paid
- Include deposit (*if required*) of \$200 or less (depending on municipality)

• ***Any changes and/or withdrawal***

By Wednesday, September 9





ON THE
CAMPAIGN TRAIL

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Right to Campaign

- ❖ Signs can be placed by tenants, residents
- ❖ Signs can remain up on election day
- ❖ Signs can't be placed on crown land without permission
- ❖ Can't be placed on telephone poles





BEFORE YOU PUT UP THAT SIGN

Some municipalities in Nova Scotia have banned, or limited the use of, outdoor lawn signs.

Before procuring election signs, please check with your municipal office to learn about rules around signage and ensure they are permitted.

ON ELECTION DAY

- No campaigning at polling station
- No posters or devices (flags, banners or loud speakers) within 200 feet of station
- Returning Officer can remove offending devices and deduct cost from deposit



AT THE POLLING STATION

You can:

- attend to check with agents or walk through
- attend at the polling station to vote
- drive people to the polling station

You can't:

- stand at doorways or in the parking lot and greet people
- act as your own agent at the polls
- accompany person inside the polling station
- go from one polling station to another for the count



AFTER THE ELECTION

AFTER ELECTION DAY

Disclosure

- ❖ Within 60 days after the election, must fill out disclosure form for all contributions exceeding \$50
- ❖ Must have maintained records of all contributions separate from personal records – amounts are cumulative



RECOUNTS

- Automatic if there is a tie, filed by the Returning Officer
- Upon request of council or candidate within 10 days
- Filing fee of \$200 if not automatic



WITHIN SEVEN DAYS OF ELECTION

- Removal of posters, signs
- Return voters' list
- Destroy or delete electronic copy of list



POST ELECTION – FORMS REQUIRED

- Form 12 – removal of advertising materials and return of electors lists
- Forms 40 & 41 – campaign contributions (within 60 days)

POST ELECTION - RETURN OF DEPOSIT

- 100% of deposit returned if elected, or if you receive 50% or more of votes of winning candidate
- 50% returned if you receive less than 50% of votes of winning candidate
- 0% returned if candidate fails to file affidavit

OATH OF OFFICE

Successful candidates declared elected by the Clerk will be sworn in at the first regular or special session of council once the recount period has expired



WHERE TO GET
ASSISTANCE

LOOKING FOR INFORMATION?

- Returning Officer is the correct person to guide you through the process
 - Nomination papers can be picked up at the Office of the Returning Officer
- Talk to a former or current councillor
- Talk to municipal staff and/or check municipal website



ONLINE HELP

ONLINE RESOURCES

- <http://novascotia.ca/dma/government/elections.asp>
- Municipal Elections Act, Candidate's Guide, Calendar of Events
- www.equalvoice.ca
 - A national, bilingual, non-profit, multi-partisan organization dedicated to electing more women to all levels of political office in Canada.
- women.gov.ns.ca
 - NS Advisory Council on Status of Women - Provincial organization created to educate the public and advise the provincial government on issues of interest and concern to women
- <http://fcm.ca/home/programs/women-in-local-government.htm>
 - Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Women in Local Government Project aimed at having at least 30% of municipal councils represented by women by 2026





GOOD LUCK