

2026 Municipal Election Webinar Jointly Hosted by the Town of Aurora, City of Markham, Town of Newmarket, Town of Stouffville and York Region

The below questions were asked during the webinar and are provided in a written response to supplement the live recording.

Nomination Questions

Do candidates running for school board trustee need 25 endorsement signatures as well?

No. Only candidates running for a seat on Municipal Council with more than 4,000 electors require endorsement signatures of 25 eligible electors.

The below is taken directly from the Endorsement of Nomination (Form 2):

- Candidates must obtain 25 original signatures.
- An individual providing an endorsement signature must be a Canadian citizen, aged 18 or older and have a qualifying address in the municipality. An individual may sign an endorsement for more than one person seeking nomination.
- The qualifying address provided must include the postal code.

Is it possible to become a candidate for both school board and councillor positions?

Subsection 29(2) stipulates that a candidate may only be nominated for one office at a time.

Should the 25 signatures come from potential voters living in the same city as the candidate?

Yes. The below is taken directly from the Endorsement of Nomination (Form 2):

- Candidates must obtain 25 original signatures.
- An individual providing an endorsement signature must be a Canadian citizen, aged 18 or older and have a qualifying address in the municipality. An individual may sign an endorsement for more than one person seeking nomination.
- The qualifying address provided must include the postal code.

What are the best documents to bring for candidate registration?

Refer to your municipality's website for the specific documentation you are required to provide to register as a candidate.

Campaign Finances Questions

What is the estimated cost of running a campaign?

This depends on many factors. Some candidates choose to raise funds to support their campaign expenses, and others self fund their campaigns. There are limits to how much you can spend on your campaign, whether or not you choose to raise funds. When you file your Nomination Paper with the clerk, they will provide you with a preliminary expense limit, and towards the end of September 2026, certified candidates will receive a final expense limit. These limits are prescribed based on a calculation found in the Municipal Elections Act, 1996.

How much is the maximum amount allowed for donations?

Section 88.8 of the Municipal Election Act prescribes the maximum allowable for donations. The below is taken directly from the legislation:

Maximum contributions to candidates

88.9 (1) A contributor shall not make contributions exceeding a total of \$1,200 to any one candidate in an election.

More than one office

(2) If a person is a candidate for more than one office, a contributor's total contributions to him or her in respect of all the offices shall not exceed \$1,200.

Exception, mayor of City of Toronto

(3) Despite subsections (1) and (2), for the purposes of those subsections the maximum total contribution that a contributor may make to a candidate for the office of mayor of the City of Toronto is \$2,500.

Multiple candidates

(4) A contributor shall not make contributions exceeding a total of \$5,000 to two or more candidates for office on the same council or local board.

Exception, candidates and spouses

(5) This section does not apply to contributions made to a candidate's own election campaign by the candidate or his or her spouse.

Do I need an accountant to do my campaign finances?

Refer to the Province's [2026 Candidates' Guide for Municipal and School Board Elections](#). It provides useful tips on how to complete your Financial Statement (Form 4) and when you need to have an audited statement accompany your Financial Statement.

What if an individual wants to donate their services (i.e Printing Services) to my campaign?

Refer to the Province's [2026 Candidates' Guide for Municipal and School Board Elections](#). It provides useful tips on how to complete your Financial Statement (Form 4) and how to account for different types of expenses, including donation of good and services.

Do donations of things, such as signs, have to be values and included in campaign expenses?

Refer to the Province's [2026 Candidates' Guide for Municipal and School Board Elections](#). It provides useful tips on how to complete your Financial Statement (Form 4) and how to account for different types of expenses, including donations of goods and services.

Election Signs

Once I register as a candidate on May 1st can I put signs up to show that I am candidate?

Each community, both at the local municipal level and at the regional level, has requirements before election signs can go up (e.g., application and permit fees). Additionally, each community sets the standards for when elections signs can go and where they may be placed. Refer directly to your municipality for more information on this.