

Get Informed. Get Involved. 2026 Municipal Election Webinar.

April 20, 2026



Agenda

1. Local Government - the York Region Context
2. Engaging in your Community
3. Voting Matters
4. Interested in Running for Office
5. Accessing Resources
6. Questions & Answers



Tell Us: Why are you here today?

Answer in the Zoom Poll!

Local Government

**4 Year Term of
Council**

Local Municipal

Animal Services
Building
Fire Services
Libraries
Licensing
Parks
Recreation
Heritage
Storm Water
Drainage and
Management

Regional

Children's Services
Forestry
Housing
Long-Term Care
Paramedic Services
Police Services
Court Services
Public Health
Social Assistance
Transit

Integrated

By-law Enforcement
Tax Collection
Economic
Development
Emergency Planning
Planning
Roads
Waste Management
Water
Snow Removal

Local Government – The York Region Context



Regional Government (Upper-Tier)

- The Regional Municipality of York is an upper-tier municipality
- Provides community services such as Policing, Social Services, Public Health



Municipal Government (Lower-Tier)

- 9 Lower-Tier municipalities in York Region
- Town of Aurora, Town of East Gwillimbury, Town of Georgina, King Township, City of Markham, Town of Newmarket, City of Richmond Hill, City of Vaughan and Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville



School Boards

- York Region District School Board, York Catholic District School Board, Conseil scolaire Viamonde (French public), and Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir (French Catholic)
- These school boards oversee local schools, budgets, staffing and education policies.



Ways to Get Involved in your Community

Volunteer Opportunities

- Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Business Improvement Area Boards of Management
- Heritage Advisory Committee
- Library Board
- Property Standards Committee

Committees provide advice to Council and can help shape municipal initiatives.



Additional Volunteer Opportunities



- Community or Special Events
- Recreation or Library Programs
- Volunteer Firefighting
- Environmental Initiatives

Tell Us: Are you a volunteer with your local government?

Answer in the Zoom Poll!

Participate in Public Consultation & Engagement

Municipalities seek public input through:

- Public information sessions
- Open houses
- Community forums
- Online surveys
- Feedback forms

Attending or participating in these is a great way to:

- Share your opinion
- Use your voice to help guide decisions before they're finalized
- Provide constructive feedback on matters that are important to you



Attend Council & Committee Meetings

Tuning into Council and Committee meetings can help you stay informed and engaged in your local community.

If you can't attend the live meeting, you can stay informed in other ways

- Watch the live stream or meeting recordings
- Review the agendas and minutes posted online
- Write to your local Councillor

Public planning meetings provide opportunities to hear from the public on development applications.

**Tell Us: Have you recently attended a Council
or Committee meeting?**

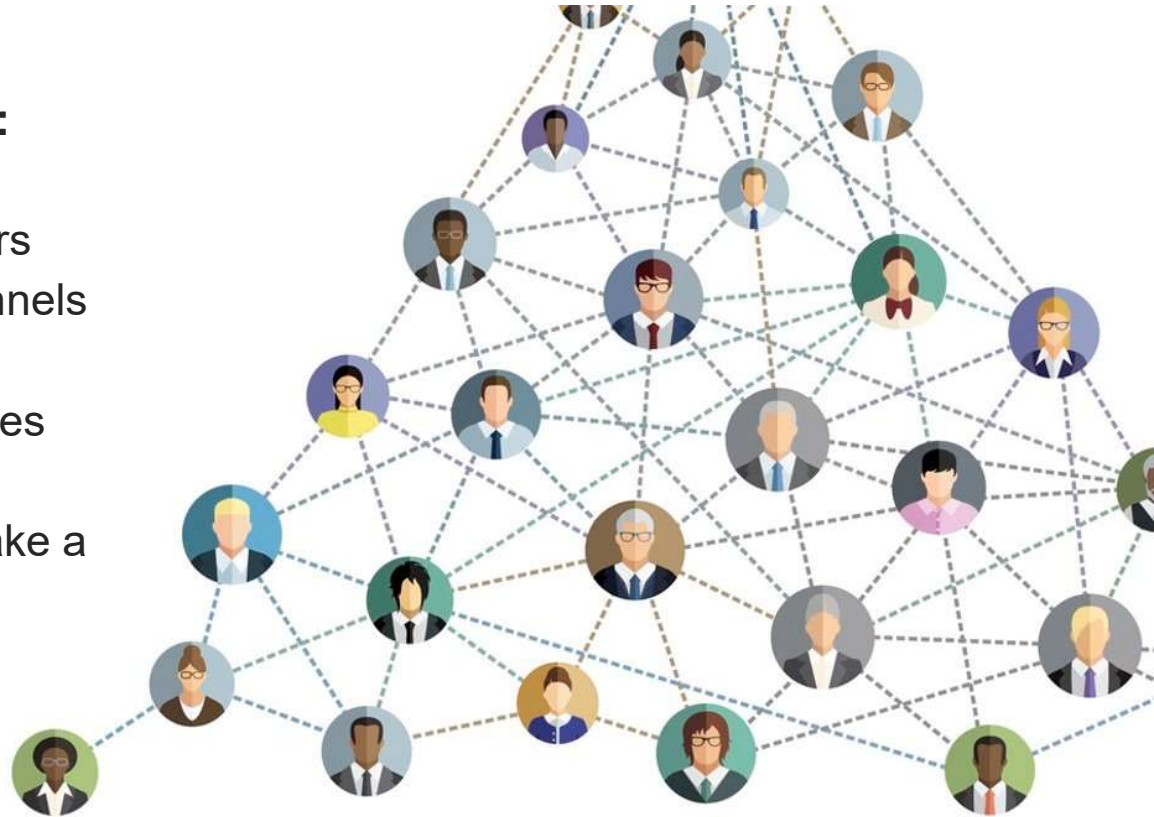
Answer in the Zoom Poll!

Stay Connected

You can stay engaged and informed by:

- Subscribing to municipal newsletters
- Following official social media channels
- Reviewing Council highlights
- Staying on top of upcoming initiatives

Serving on Council is only one way to make a difference.



Get Involved and Vote!



Who is eligible to vote in a Municipal Election?

- 18 years of age or older
- A Canadian Citizen
- A resident or property owner of the municipality (or the spouse of one)
- Not prohibited from voting by any other law

**Tell Us: Did you vote in the last Municipal
Election?**

Answer in the Zoom Poll!

Get on the Voters' List

Check, add or update your voters' list info at:

RegisterToVoteON.ca

Contact your municipal clerk's office for assistance



Get on the voters list today.

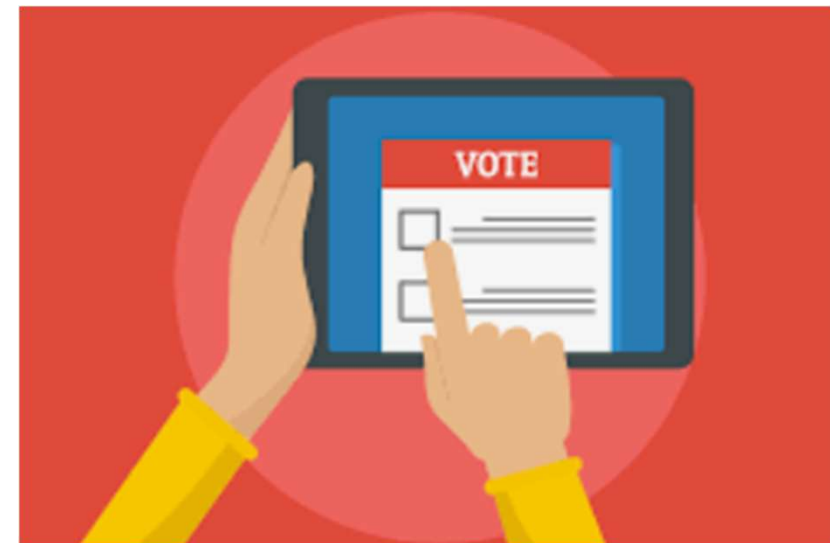
How to Vote

In 2026, Aurora, Markham, Newmarket and Stouffville will all be offering **online voting** as the primary method of casting a ballot.

Paper ballots will be available in each community as well.

Check your municipality's election website for details on how to vote, where to vote and when to vote:

- [Town of Aurora](#)
- [City of Markham](#)
- [Town of Newmarket](#)
- [Town of Stouffville](#)



Elected Offices & Key Dates

Elected Offices

Depending on which community you are running in you may run for any one of the following offices:

- Mayor*
- Regional Councillor*
- Local or Ward Councillor
- School Board Trustee

* In Markham and Newmarket, the Mayor and Regional Councillor positions serve on both local and regional level council.

* In Aurora and Stouffville, the Mayor serves on both local and regional council.



Candidate Eligibility



Who is eligible to run for office in a Municipal Election?

- 18 years of age or older
- A Canadian Citizen
- A resident or property owner of the municipality (or the spouse of one)
- Not prohibited from running under law.

Key Dates — Nomination Period



First Day Candidates Can Register to Run For Office



Last Day Candidates Can Register to Run For Office

Campaigning and Election Signs

Campaigning can only occur after you register as a candidate and within the prescribed rules.

Each municipality has rules governing when election signs can go up.



Key Dates — Voting Day

Monday, October 26, 2026 – Election Day is the last day electors can cast their ballots.

- Municipalities hold early voting opportunities to support voters who cannot vote on Voting Day.
- Visit your local municipality's website to learn more about early voting opportunities



Post Election

The post-election period includes some of the following activities:

- Council Inauguration
- Term of office November 15, 2026, to November 14, 2030
- Council orientation and training



Understanding Municipal Council's Role



The [Municipal Act, 2001](#) is the governing legislation that establishes municipalities as a responsible and accountable level of government.

Council's role includes:

- Setting policy and strategic direction
- Approving budgets
- Passing by-laws
- Representing constituents
- Ensuring accountability and transparency

Administration (municipal staff) implement Council's decisions

**Tell Us: Are you interested in running as a
Candidate in the 2026 Municipal Election?**

Answer in the Zoom Poll!

Resources: Legislation

Legislation Governing Municipal Officials and Elections:

- [Municipal Act, 2001](#)
- [Municipal Elections Act, 1996](#)
- [Education Act](#)



Resources: AMO

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

Election-related resources:

- [Lead Where You Live](#)
- [Local Democracy Solutions Bank Candidate Catalogue](#)
- [Leading with Respect Handguides](#)

Workshops for individuals considering running for municipal office:

- [If you believe, they believe](#)
- [Stronger Leaders, Stronger Communities series](#)
- [Everything You Need to Know as an Underrepresented Candidate](#)
- [Youth Considering Running for Municipal Office](#)
- [Urban Indigenous Peoples' Considering Running for Municipal Office](#)



Resources: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing



Every municipal election year, the Minister develops a Candidate Guide. Check it out here:

- [2026 Candidate's Guide](#)

Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing's Information Session:

- Thursday, April 23, 2026, at 7 PM
 - Attend in person Council Chambers at the East Gwillimbury Civic Centre, 19000 Leslie Street, Sharon; or
 - [Watch online!](#)

Resources: Municipal Websites



Question and Answers period

**Thank you for attending -
Please complete our short
survey!**

