



CANDIDATE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Answers to questions posed by candidates will be shared with all registered candidates without identifying the questioner and posted on the municipal website generally within one week.

QUESTION
<p>1. Could you please let me know if I can open a bank account for campaign funds prior to the closing of nominations?</p>
ANSWER
<p>Section 88.22(1) of the Municipal Elections Act outlines the duties of a candidate regarding campaign finances. This section was included in your candidate package as a separate form. Please refer to the attached as reference.</p> <p>Yes, you must open a separate bank account for all campaign funds. This account should encompass both expenses and revenues associated with your campaign.</p> <p>Finally, your campaign officially starts the day you file your nominations.</p>
QUESTION
<p>2. What are the Ward 1 boundaries?</p>
ANSWER
<p>The boundaries of Ward 1, in relation to Falcon Road, Highway 572, and Highway 101 East, are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Falcon Road: There are no eligible voters on Falcon Road within Ward 1. • Highway 572: Ward 1 electors reside between Highway 572 and Robin Road. • Highway 101 East: There are no electors within Ward 1 along Highway 101 East. <p>This information is based on the 2022 voters list. Once the Certified Candidates receive or gain access to the official voters list for the 2024 by-election, they will be able to review any changes regarding the highlighted roads mentioned above.</p>
QUESTION
<p>3. You stated that our campaign starts after we file our nomination papers. Can people who file papers begin advertising our candidacy on social media and websites before the nominations officially are closed?</p>
ANSWER
<p>Yes, once you file your nominations you are able to start your campaign. The campaign period is from the date your nomination form 1 is filed up to September 26, 2024.</p>
QUESTION
<p>4. September 26, 2024? The campaign period extends 6 weeks after the election?</p>

ANSWER

Yes, see section 88.24 (1) 2 of the Municipal Elections Act,:

...The campaign period ends on December 31 in the case of a regular election and 45 days after voting day in the case of a by-election.

One reason for this is that if your campaign's financial position is in deficit, the candidate has time to raise additional funds. Audit and accounting fees are allowable campaign expenses that can be claimed, and these only become relevant after the election when preparing your financial statements.

I strongly recommend that candidates read sections 88.19 to 88.32 of the Municipal Elections Act, as well as the entire act.

QUESTION

5. Would you please send me any of the previous questions and answers.

ANSWER

All questions and answers in relation to emails received by unofficial candidates can be found and viewed on the municipal website at www.twpbrm.ca > your township government> By-Elections 2024 > Unofficial Nominations > Questions and Answers

QUESTION

6. I have been trying to figure out what type of account needs to be open at the bank? Some research online shows it should be a business account or not-for-profit account, but that may be for federal not municipal. Can you please clarify if a separate personal account works?

ANSWER

Yes, a separate personal account is acceptable. The legislation does not specify the type of account required, only that a separate campaign account must be opened before any financial transactions related to the election campaign occur.

QUESTION

7. Would you please tell me if the following are on the voters list; (four names were provided but for confidentiality purposes they are not being repeated)

ANSWER

Effective July 8th, candidates will be able to request a copy of the voters list.

At that time, should the below names be part of the ward you are running for, you will be able to determine if they are on the voters list.

QUESTION

8. If not on the list or errors in spelling of name will the "in person" voting station allow a constituent to register or correct name with ID?

ANSWER

Yes, the help stations will be able to assist in this regard. The voter simply needs to identify the error on the VIL (voter information letter) as compared to their ID and an election official will complete the proper paperwork to correct the error.

And yes again, if a voter does not receive a voter information letter because their name is not on the voters' list, they can go to a help station where one will be provided. The voter must present identification or be prepared to swear an oath by completing the Declaration of ID form.

QUESTION

9. I'm just looking to see if I'm allowed renting the Val Gagne community hall, to have a meet and greet for my campaign to allow the residents to meet me.

ANSWER

The Val Gagne community hall is a municipal owned building and campaigning is not permitted in any municipal owned building. Please refer to your candidate package starting on page 6 to page 8 and continued on page 14 under Schedule A By-law 2018-10.

As a candidate you can hold a "meet and greet" but it cannot be held in any municipal owned hall or on any municipal owned property. The municipality must remain neutral.

QUESTION

10. I went to my bank in Timmins last Thursday to open a campaign bank account. I was informed that I would require a letter from the township on letterhead verifying my nomination. Can you provide me with said document or provide more info on this matter?

ANSWER

This is the first time I've heard of this. Yes, I can provide the document you need. I am currently working on this type of document and was hoping to deliver it to the candidates today. However, I am waiting on one final piece of information.

QUESTION

11. I know it is important the township be non-partisan. Is the Floyd Hembruff Civic Centre a venue that is allowed to be used since it is not owned by the township?

ANSWER

The Floyd Hembruff Civic Centre is not owned by the township and therefore can be considered a location for a meet the candidates night.

QUESTION

12. Can you still register to vote after July 12th and how does it affect getting a pin?

ANSWER

If someone is not on the list as of today, they will not receive their voter information letter with their PIN to vote.

Therefore, they will need to present themselves to a Help Centre with one piece of ID between August 1st and August 12th to be added to the voters list and for the Election Official to generate their VIL with their PIN.

QUESTION

13. So the meet and greet is costing \$32.55. If I put money in my campaign account I won't be able to take out that exact amount, but I will be taking \$40 to pay for it. I just want to make sure I'm doing the account properly. So how should I proceed with putting the money in and taking it out so it's all above board?

ANSWER

Regarding campaign expenses, I find myself in conflict to offer guidance or advice due to my role as Clerk under the Municipal Elections Act. My responsibility includes receiving and reviewing financial statements under section 88 at the end of the campaign term from candidates to ensure compliance with the Act and to decide if these statements need further review by the audit committee.

Therefore, I must maintain neutrality in this matter. If you need assistance, I recommend consulting an accountant, financial advisor, or legal counsel.

QUESTION

14. I had a quick question about the campaign signs.

I was reading through the Ontario elections rules and found this.

"Elections Ontario rules for political advertising - all political advertising must include information about who authorized the advertising. For example, an advertising must include a spoken or written line such as "authorized by the XYZ campaign" or "this advertisement was paid for by the XYZ political party". "

Could you clarify if this is in fact applicable to municipal elections?

Looking forward to your response.

ANSWER

The rules set by Election Ontario differ from those for municipal elections. For municipal elections, regulations can vary by topic and are tailored to each municipality at the discretion of the Clerk.

Regarding campaign signs in Black River-Matheson, the specific rules are included in the candidate package you received when you filed your nomination papers.