Municipal Election Q&A – July Edition

Campaign Finances

Q. Can people e-transfer donations directly to a campaign account (which shows the name of the donor and amount)?

A: Only a contribution that is $25 or less can be made in cash. All contributions above $25 must be made by cheque, money order, or by a method that clearly shows where the funds came from (such as certain debit, credit or electronic transfer transactions) as noted on page 19 of the Candidates Guide.

Candidates must issue a receipt for every contribution received. The receipt should show who made the contribution, the date, and the value. If you receive a contribution from a joint account, the contribution can only come from one person. You must determine who is making the contribution and issue the receipt to that person.

You are required to list the names and addresses of every contributor who gives more than $100 total to your campaign in your financial statement. You should keep a record of the names and addresses of every contributor, regardless of the value of their contribution, because the same contributor may make multiple contributions that end up totaling more than $100.

Note: Contribution receipts are not tax receipts. Contributions to municipal council and school board campaigns cannot be credited against provincial or federal income taxes.

Q. What qualifies as a campaign expense?

A: Section 88.19 of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 outlines the rules for expenses:

> **88.19 (1)** For the purposes of this Act, costs incurred for goods or services by or under the direction of a person wholly or partly for use in his or her election campaign are expenses. 2016, c. 15, s. 57 (1).
>
> **88.19 (3)** Without restricting the generality of subsections (1) and (2), the following amounts are expenses:

1. The replacement value of goods retained by the person, individual, corporation or trade union from any previous election in the municipality and used in the current election.

2. The value of contributions of goods and services.

3. Audit and accounting fees.

4. Interest on loans under section 88.17.

5. The cost of holding fund-raising functions.

6. The cost of holding parties and making other expressions of appreciation after the close of voting.

7. For a candidate, expenses relating to a recount or a proceeding under section 83 (controverted elections).

8. Expenses relating to a compliance audit.

9. Expenses that are incurred by a candidate with a disability or a registered third party who is an individual with a disability, are directly related to the disability, and would not have been incurred but for the election to which the expenses relate.

10. The cost of election campaign advertisements (within the meaning of section 88.3) or third-party advertisements, as the case may be. 2016, c. 15, s. 57 (3).

Q: Do I need to open a bank account for my campaign?

A: If you plan on accepting contributions or spending personal money (spouses included) towards your campaign, you *must* open a bank account exclusively for the purposes of the election campaign. Financial expenses shall not be incurred until this has been done. The *Municipal Elections Act* Section, 88.22 (1) Duties of Candidates, explains this in greater detail.

Q: How do I properly disclose discounted services on my financial statement?

A: You must disclose both the actual expense incurred by the service, as well as the difference between the price paid and market value. For example, if you pay $100 for a service that would ordinarily cost $150, you must describe the service and list the value of $50 as a campaign contribution under Part II, Table 2 of Form 4, your Financial Statement Form.

Q: Is it necessary to file a Form 4 – Financial Statement, even if I didn't spend/accept financial contributions?

A: Regardless of how much money you spend or contributions you accept, it is necessary to submit your Financial Forms after the election. Failure to submit the completed forms would prohibit someone from qualifying as a candidate in the next election cycle and would make an elected candidate ineligible for office. (Municipal Elections Act, 1996, s. 88.23.)

Campaign Materials

Q. What information is required on campaign materials?

A: The only requirement is for the candidate's name and the position they are running for. In accordance with the City's Use of Corporate Resources During an Election Period Policy, the City logo, colours and crest cannot be used on any campaign material. There are additional requirements for Third Party Advertisers. Refer to the Third Party Advertisers' Guide for more information.

Q: Are candidates permitted to put a campaign magnet on their vehicle?

A: Yes, so long as the candidate does not do so while parked or attending a Voter Help Centre or e-Voting location.

General

Q: Does the City use wards?

A: No – each candidate is running "at large" in the City.

Q: Will the names on the ballot be randomized or in alphabetical order by last name?

A: The names on the ballot will be in alphabetical order by last name for each office.

Q: Will there be events for Candidates and who organizes these?

A: The municipality does not facilitate, nor participate in the planning of any events for candidates. Outside organizations may chose to contact

candidates for debates, meet and greets, etc. but the Elections Office is not always explicitly notified of these events.

Voter Assistance

Q: Can voting-age students vote in Brockville if they are away at school?

A: Yes, students whose permanent residence is still in Brockville but who are currently living out of town for school can vote in both Brockville *and* the municipality in which they are attending school.

Q: Is Brockville using *only* internet and telephone voting?

A: Yes, the City has used solely electronic voting for the past four elections and will be using this method for 2026 as well. Voters will receive a letter in the mail by the end of September with instructions on how to vote via telephone or internet, and we will have Voter Help Centres available throughout the voting period to help people who do not have telephone or internet access, or who need help casting their votes. The locations and dates that these Help Centres are listed below, shared on our website and will also be included in the Voter Letter that people will receive in the mail. There will also be a Help Desk telephone number for any voters experiencing difficulties with the voting process.

2026 Voter Help Centres/e-Voting Locations

City Hall, 1 King Street W., Brockville
October 19-23 from 8:30am to 4:00pm
October 24 from 10:00am to 4:00pm
October 26 from 10:00am to 8:00pm

Brockville Memorial Centre Hall, 1 Magedoma Dr.
October 20-21 from 5:00pm to 8:00pm
October26 from 10:00am to 8:00pm

Help Line: 613-342-8772 X 4444 Email: elections@brockville.com

Q: Will there be an advance poll for people who, for whatever reason, can't vote on Election Day?

A: Voting will be available from Monday, October 19th at 10:00 am until Monday, October 26th at 8:00 pm. Voters can log in to the electronic voting system at any time during this period and will be able to access the system from anywhere.

Q: How will residents of long term care homes vote on Election Day?

A: City staff members will be attending area long-term care homes and BGH in advance of Voting Day and again on Voting Day to assist the residents of these facilities in casting their vote.

Q: How do I change my school board support?

A: Whether you own or rent your home, your property is linked to a school board – even if you don't have children or your children aren't currently attending school. While you're not required to make a designation, if you are eligible, you have the option to choose which school board you support. If you don't make a choice, your support will default to the English-Public school board.

MPAC will update school support designation revisions received from your municipality. However, to ensure your preference is also reflected in the direction of your tax dollars, property owners and tenants are encouraged to update their information through MPAC AboutMyProperty™ or MPAC's online tenant portal. A paper Application for Direction of School Support (and Attestation of Unit Support, if applicable) is also available.
Still have questions about school support? Contact MPAC mpac.ca/contact | Toll Free 1 866 296-6722

Note: You cannot change your school support when you go to vote on voting