

Candidate Information Session

April 23, 2026, 6:00 PM



Overview

- Key Dates
- Nomination Process
- The Campaign
- Campaign Financial Rules
- Third Party Advertisers
- After Voting Day
- What to Expect if Elected
- Resources
- Questions

Key Dates for Candidates

- **May 1, 2026:** Nomination and campaign period begins
- **August 21, 2026,** at 2:00 pm: Nomination Day (last day to file or withdraw nomination)
- **October 23, 2026:** Last day to register or withdraw registration for Third Party Advertisers
- **September 28, 2026:** Advance Voting period begins
- **October 26, 2026:** Election Day
- **December 31, 2026:** Campaign period ends
- **March 30, 2027:** Financial filing deadline

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Nomination Process



Eligibility

Eligible

- A resident, owner or tenant of land in the municipality or the spouse of such owner or tenant;
- A Canadian citizen;
- 18 years of age or older;
- Not legally prohibited from voting;
- Not disqualified by any legislation from holding municipal office or being a trustee on a school board.

Candidates can only be nominated for **one** office of a municipal council or school board in Ontario at a time. If a person is nominated for a second office, the first nomination is deemed withdrawn.

Ineligible

- Any person not eligible to vote in the municipal and school board election;
- An employee of the municipality or school board (unless a leave of absence is taken before nomination and the employee resigns if elected);
- A judge of any court;
- A member of the Ontario Legislature, Senate or House of Commons;
- A person who was a candidate in the previous election and did not file a campaign financial statement by the deadline;
- An inmate serving a sentence in a penal or correctional institution.

Nomination Process: How to File

- **Interested Candidates Must:**

- ✓ File the Nomination Paper – Form 1
 - ✓ Available on the “Information for Candidates” portion of the Tecumseh Votes 2026 page of the Town website or in person at Town Hall, 917 Lesperance Road.
- ✓ File the Endorsement of Nomination – Form 2
 - ✓ Available on the “Information for Candidates” portion of the Tecumseh Votes 2026 page of the Town website or in person at Town Hall, 917 Lesperance Road.
- ✓ Provide identification showing name, qualifying address, and signature.
- ✓ Pay nomination fee to the Clerk at the time of nomination
 - ✓ \$200 for head of council, \$100 for deputy mayor and councillor.
- ✓ **Comply with all additional filing requirements set by the Tecumseh Municipal Clerk**

Nomination Process: How to File

- **CANDIDATES** must file their **NOMINATION PAPERS** in person with the Municipal Clerk who will review and certify your nomination. Your nomination and campaign does not begin until **CERTIFICATION** by the Municipal Clerk.
- Call 519-735-2184 or email: elections@tecumseh.ca to make an appointment to file your nomination.

Form 2 Endorsement Requirement

- The nomination for an office on council must be endorsed by at least 25 persons using Form 2 - Endorsement of Nomination Form.
- Persons endorsing a nomination must be eligible to vote in an election for an office within the municipality if a regular election was held on the day that the person endorses the nomination.
- Individuals may endorse more than one nomination.
- The Clerk is entitled to rely upon the information filed by the candidate.

Positions to be Elected

- Mayor (1 position)
- Deputy Mayor (1 position)
- Councillors: Ward 1, Ward 2, Ward 3, Ward 4, Ward 5
- School Board Trustee (4 positions)

Changing your mind or running for a different position?

- Occasionally, a candidate changes their mind and decides to run for a different office.
- A candidate may run for only one office at a time.
- If a candidate files a second nomination, the first nomination is deemed to be withdrawn.
- If a candidate decides to run for a different office on the same council or as a school board trustee and both are elected at large (i.e. Mayor to Deputy Mayor), everything from the first campaign is transferred to the second campaign.
- If one or both offices is/are elected by ward, the two campaigns must be kept separate and a separate nomination filing fee would be required . If you decide to withdraw your candidacy you can only do so before August 21 at 2pm. After that date your name will remain on the ballot even if you are no longer running.

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The Campaign



Campaigning and Prohibition on use of any Town resources

- **Please review Town Policy:** *Prohibition on the Use of Corporate Resources during Elections Policy 69 (included in Candidate nomination package and listed on Town website).*
 - Town facilities may not be used by candidates during the Election. This means and includes a prohibition on all Town buildings, structures, gateway signs, and Town vehicles from being used in any way whatsoever for campaign purposes.
 - Prohibited access to and use of any Town information and resources for campaign purposes. This includes photos, video, print or digital material used by Town, and includes reference or links to any material from Town websites, domain names and social media handles.
 - Prohibited from using Town logos, crests, slogans or other items or variations thereof which may identify the Town.
 - Prohibition on the display or distribution of campaign materials or undertake campaign activities on any Town Facilities or during any Town organized event.

Campaigning and Candidate Social Media

- **Prohibited Uses of Social Media for Campaign Purposes:**

- Photos or videos that feature Town resources or Town Facilities, reference a Town of Tecumseh event or Town employee(s) who are wearing a Town of Tecumseh uniform or identifier (e.g. name badge, lanyard, hat, etc.);
- Photos or videos that include the Town logo, branding, and landmarks;
- Re-sharing, or linking to any Town-generated Social Media post or Town communications document;
- Consult with the Town

Please note current members of Council must:

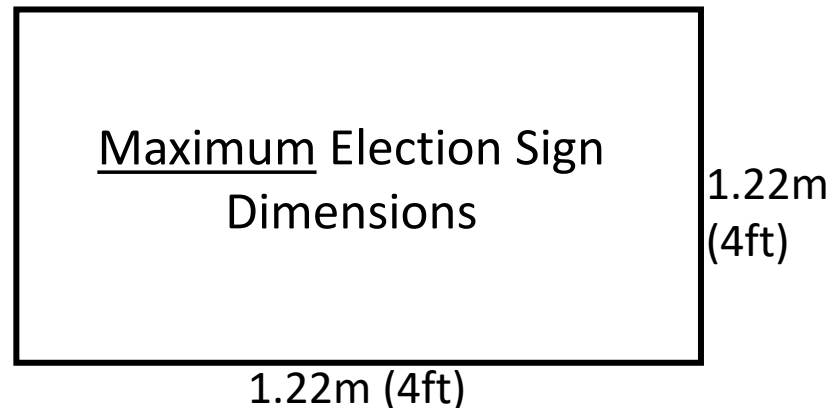
- Differentiate their social media accounts between Council member and candidate
- Utilize personal cell phones, tablets and computers for the purpose of campaigning

Campaigning and Candidate Social Media

- **Social Media Handles to be reviewed by Municipal Clerk**
- **Acceptable Uses of Social Media for Campaign Purposes**
 - Photographs or videos that feature non-Town sponsored events;
 - Candidate biographies including any previous Town Council positions, if applicable;
 - Photos or videos that feature candidate events taking place at a facility not rented by the Candidate or Third-Party Advertiser;
 - Photos or videos of a Candidate campaigning in public, if campaigning is in accordance with all laws including municipal by-laws;
 - Identification that a Candidate is running for office;
 - Any Election Material or photos from all candidate meetings facilitated by another individual, community group or candidate from inside the facility.

Election Signs and Permits

- **By-Law 2026-19 Regulating Election Signs**
- Prior to ordering or putting up any Election Signs, Candidates and Registered Third Party Advertisers must apply for an Election Sign Permit for approval from the Clerk and/or designate. Once their signs are approved, Candidates can put up campaign signs starting **Saturday, August 22, 2026.**
- No more than four (4) Election Signs are permitted on any piece of residential land.
- If a candidate fails to comply with the Election Sign By-Law, they may be required to pay an administrative penalty.



Election Complaints

Elections Complaints Policy 140

- The purpose of this policy is to create a framework of responsibilities for responding to and resolving all election-related complaints that are directed at the Town by members of the public, Town staff, candidates, registered third party advertisers and electors.
- Municipal Clerk under the Towns Elections Complaints Policy has the authority to address any election complaints about candidates or refer same to the appropriate authorities.
- Clerk's authority under Section 12 of the Municipal Elections Act:
 - *12 (1) A clerk who is responsible for conducting an election may provide for any matter or procedure that,*
 - *(a) is not otherwise provided for in an Act or regulation; and*
 - *(b) in the clerk's opinion, is necessary or desirable for conducting the election.*

Candidate Questions and Municipal Clerk Election Advisories during the Campaign

- If have any questions at any time about the Election, please contact the Municipal Clerk's office at 519-735-2184.
- Please see the FAQ section of the Town's Election Website.
- Any questions and answers provided will be shared with all Candidates.
- If any issues that need clarification or any reminders concerning the Election that need to be further communicated as determined by the Municipal Clerk, then the Clerk will issue an advisory to the Candidates and post same to the Town's Election Website.
- The Municipal Clerk's decision or answer concerning any Election questions or issues to be clarified shall be considered as final and binding.

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Campaign Financial Rules

Campaign Contributions

- Candidates and Third-Party Advertisers who accept contributions of money or incur expenses must open a bank account used exclusively for their election or advertising campaign. All contributions of money must be deposited into the campaign account.
- A contribution includes money, goods or services.
- Contributions to candidates from trade unions and corporations are prohibited in municipal elections.
- **Candidates** can accept contributions from:
 - individuals who are normally residents in Ontario;
 - the candidate and their spouse.
- **Third Party Advertisers** can accept contributions from:
 - individuals normally residents in Ontario;
 - trade unions that hold bargaining rights for employees in Ontario;
 - corporations that carry on business in Ontario.

Campaign Contributions

- Contributions in cash cannot be larger than \$25. Contributions over \$25 must be by cheque or money order or by a method that clearly shows where the funds originated.
- Contribution receipts must be issued for every contribution that you receive
- You are required to list the names and addresses of every contributor who gives more than \$100 in total to your campaign in your financial statement
- However, You should keep a record of the names and addresses of every contributor, regardless of the value of their contribution.
- Ineligible Contributions :
 - Those made outside your campaign period
 - From an anonymous source
 - From an ineligible source (e.g. someone who is not a resident of Ontario, is a corporation or trade union etc.)
 - A contribution greater than the \$1,200 limit or the \$5,000 total limit
 - A cash donation greater than \$25

Campaign Contribution Limits

- Limit on contributions to any one Candidate or Third-Party Advertiser is \$1,200.
- Contributor limits: An aggregate total of \$5,000 to any number of candidates for office on the same council.
- An aggregate total of \$5,000 to any number of Third-Party Advertisers registered in the same municipality.
- Applies to any size of contribution or combination of money, goods and services.
- Candidates and Third-Party advertisers must inform contributors of these limits.

Campaign Self Funding Limits

- There is a limit on the amount that a candidate for a municipal council can make to their own campaign. This limit also applies to contributions made by the candidate's spouse.
- This limit is based on the number of electors voting for the office, to a maximum of \$25,000 per candidate:
 - \$7,500 + \$0.20 per elector for head of council;
 - \$5,000 + \$0.20 per elector for other council offices (Deputy Mayor and Councillor).
- These contributions must be deposited into the campaign account, a receipt provided, and the contributions reported on the financial statement.

Campaign Expenses

- **What are they?**
- For Candidates: Any costs incurred for goods or services by or under the direction of a Candidate wholly or partly for use in their election campaign are expenses.
- For Third-Party Advertisers: Any costs incurred by or under the direction of a registered Third-Party Advertiser for goods or services for use wholly or partly in relation to third-party advertisements that appear during an election in a municipality.

Campaign Expenses

- **A campaign expense includes:** any expense incurred for goods and services in relation to an election, the replacement value of any goods held in inventory from a previous election and the equivalent value of any contribution of goods and services for use in whole or in part .
- **General Spending Limits: (Amounts will be provided by the Municipal Clerk when you file your nomination papers)**
 - Head of council: \$7500 + 85 cents per elector
 - All other offices: \$5000 + 85 cents per elector
- Spending limit after Voting Day for Campaign parties, expressions of appreciation, gifts etc. limited to 10% of the General Spending limit.

Municipal Clerk Certificates on Self funding limits and Campaign Expense limits

- Preliminary estimate: provided at time of Nomination filing.
- Final Amount: Provided on or before Sept. 30.
- The higher of the two amounts is the spending limit.

Campaign Finance: Recordkeeping

- Accurate record keeping is a legislated requirement.
- Candidates and Third-Party Advertisers must keep records of receipts issued for every contribution including:
 - value of every contribution;
 - whether contribution is in form of money, goods or services;
 - contributor's name and address.
- Every expense including the receipts obtained for each expense.
- Campaign finance records for the 2026 Election must be retained until the next elected council/local board (2030) board has been sworn in.

Campaign Finance: Recordkeeping

As a best practice, Candidates and Third-Party Advertisers should:

- Ensure that receipts are stored in a secure place;
- Have a multi-part receipt (one for contributor, one for candidate to keep);
- Make sure that receipts are sequentially numbered;
- Consider including contribution limits on the receipt;
- Have the bank provide monthly statements and cancelled cheques for the account;
- Produce duplicate deposit slips for every deposit;
- Maintain a petty cash fund.

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Third Party Advertising



Third Party Advertising

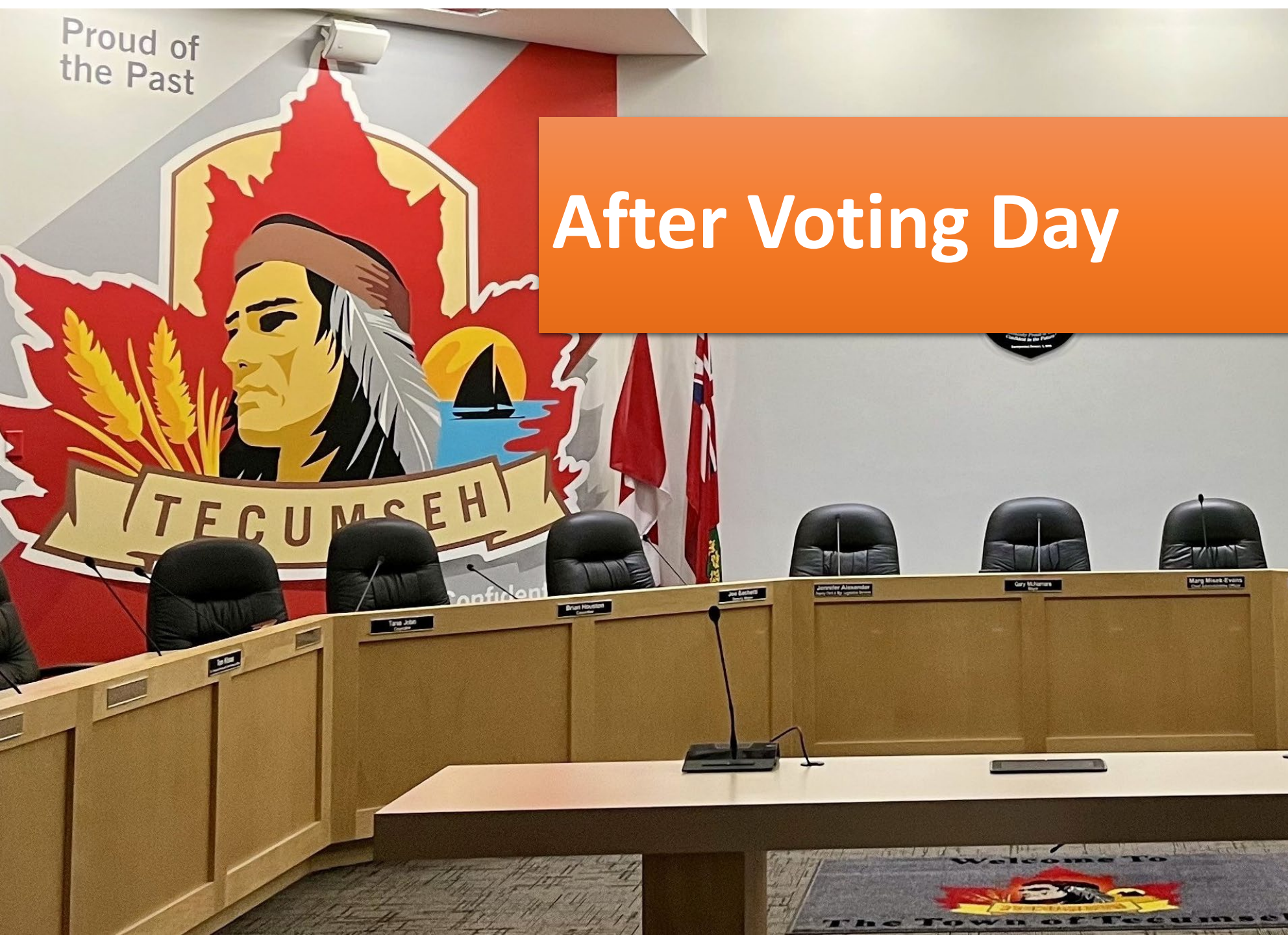
- Third-Party advertising refers to advertisements that support, promote or oppose a candidate, or support, promote or oppose a “yes” or “no” answer to a question on the ballot. **The meaning of “third party” in this context means a person or entity who is not a candidate.**
- **Third-Party advertising is separate from any candidate’s campaign and must be done independently from a candidate.** Any advertisements or materials that are made and distributed by a candidate, or under a candidate’s direction, are part of the candidate’s campaign.

Third Party Advertising

- Third-Party advertising is a way for those outside of the candidate's campaign to express support of or opposition to candidates (or a "yes" or "no" answer to a question on the ballot) and to try to persuade voters to vote a certain way.
- A third-Party advertisement is an advertisement in any broadcast, print, electronic or other medium that promotes, supports or opposes a candidate, or a "yes" or "no" answer to a question on the ballot. Advertisements can include traditional ads as well as materials such as brochures or signs.
- **No Advertising can be done by a Third-Party UNLESS registration is firstly done with the Municipal Clerk (May 1 to Oct. 23).**
- Registered Third-Party Advertisers will be subject to similar finance, record keeping and campaign rules as those of the candidates.
- For more information about Third-Party Advertisers please see the *2026 Third-Party Advertisers' Guide* and/or contact the Municipal Clerk.

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After Voting Day



After Voting Day

- **Voting Day starts at 10 a.m. and ends at 8 p.m. on October 26**
- The Municipal Clerk as soon as possible after Voting Day shall declare and certify the results and provide information to the public on a website or in another electronic format on the number of votes.
- If applicable within 15 days after declaration of the results , the Clerk shall hold a recount in the event of a tie or if the number of votes separating Candidates from winning an office is a variance of 25 votes or less in accordance with the Town recount policies.
- Within 30 days after declaration of results, Council may pass a motion requiring a recount or a person who is entitled to vote and has reasonable grounds for believing the election results to be in doubt, may apply to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice for an order that the Clerk hold a recount.
- With 90 days after declaration of results, an elector may make application to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice regarding a controverted election (contest or challenge the results of the election).

After Voting Day: Filing of Financial Statement

- **Candidates and Third-Party advertisers must file their financial statement on or before 2:00 pm on Tuesday, March 30, 2027**
- If a Candidate feels that they will not meet the deadline, they may apply to the courts for an extension prior to the March 30, 2027, deadline.
- Candidates can close their campaign period at anytime after voting day until December 31, 2026.
- Clerks are required to make public by April 30, 2027, a report (on a website or in another electronic format) setting out all Candidates and indicating whether each Candidate complied with the filing requirements.
- June 28, 2027, last day for an elector to apply for a compliance audit of a Candidate (or Third-Party Advertiser) financial statement.

After Voting Day: Filing of Financial Statement

- **All contributions must be reported.**
- The names of contributors who contribute more than \$100 must be reported on the financial statement.
- The Clerk is required to make financial statements available to the public for viewing on a website or in an electronic format free of charge.
- Financial statements must include an auditor's report if expenses or contributions exceed \$10,000.

After Voting Day: Filing of Financial Statement

- The Candidate's nomination fee is refundable only if the financial statement is filed on time.
- A Candidate or Third-Party Advertiser who misses the filing deadline may file within the 30-day grace period, provided a \$500 late filing fee is paid to the municipality.
- A Candidate or Third-Party Advertiser may resubmit a financial statement to correct an error up until the filing deadline.
- Failure to file a Financial Statement may disqualify you from holding office during the current term of Council and you may be disqualified from running for office during next term of Council

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What to Expect if Elected



Town of Tecumseh: Roles and Responsibilities

Key Dates if Elected for Council

- **November 6, 2026:** Social Media Training
- **November 15, 2026:** Term of Council begins
- **November 17, 2026:** First meeting of Council – Inauguration
 - Council-Elect Members officially become a member of Council upon Declaration of Office
- **November 18, 2026:** All day Council Orientation Training
- Council meetings take place on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month with the expectation to be available generally from 4:00 pm until approx. 10:00 pm.
- If employed talk to your employer as soon as possible. While many employers are supportive of public service, specific arrangements for leave are usually made on a case-by-case basis through unpaid leave or flexible scheduling to allow Council members to attend meetings and other Council related events.

Roles and Duties - Mayor

- **Role of the Head of Council (*s. 225 Municipal Act*)**
 - a) To act as chief executive officer of the municipality;
 - b) To preside over council meetings so that its business can be carried out efficiently and effectively;
 - c) To provide leadership to Council;
 - d) To represent the municipality at official functions.

Roles and Duties – Mayor, Continued

- **Role of the Head of Council (*s. 226 Municipal Act*)**
 - a) Uphold and promote the purposes of the municipality;
 - b) Promote public involvement in the municipality's activities;
 - c) Act as the representative of the municipality both within and outside the municipality, and promote the municipality locally, nationally and internationally; and
 - d) Participate in and foster activities that enhance the economic, social and environmental well-being of the municipality and its residents.

Roles and Duties – Council Members

- **Role of Council (s. 224 *Municipal Act*)**

- a) Represent the public and consider the best interests of the municipality;
- b) Develop programs/policies of the municipality;
- c) Determine which services the municipality provides;
- d) Ensure administrative and controllership policies, practices, and procedures are in place to implement decisions of Council ;
- e) Ensure the accountability and transparency of the operations of the municipality; and
- f) Maintain the financial integrity of the municipality

Help develop the Town's Strategic Plan for the 2026-2030 Term of Council

As a Member of Council, you are:

- A Representative
- A Policy-Maker
- A Steward

Roles and Duties – School Board Trustee

- **Role of the School Board Trustee (s. 169.1 *Education Act*)**

- a) Promote student achievement and well-being;
- b) Promote a positive school climate that is inclusive and accepting;
- c) Promote prevention of bullying;
- d) Ensure effective stewardship of the board's resources;
- e) Deliver and maintain policies that promote the board's goals;
- f) Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of policies developed by the board;
- g) Develop a multi year plan aimed at achieving the board's goals;
- h) Annually review the multi-year plan with the board's director of education;
- i) Monitor and evaluate performance of the board's director of education.

Preparing for Council Meetings



- Review Agendas, Minutes, Reports and Communications
- Talk to constituents by phone, email and in person.
- Contact Town staff with any questions on agenda items or resident inquiries.

Resources

- [MMAH \(Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing\) Election Resources](#)
- [Ontario Municipal Councillor's Guide](#)
- Legislation
 - [*Municipal Elections Act, 1996*](#)
 - [*Municipal Act, 2001*](#)
 - [*Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*](#)
 - [*Education Act, 1990*](#)

Questions

- **Reminder:** The Nomination period opens on **May 1, 2026**, and the deadline to file and submit documentation is **August 21, 2026, by 2:00 p.m. Filing of Nomination must be in person with the Clerk.**
- Nomination forms are available on the Tecumseh Votes 2026 page of the Town website at www.tecumseh.ca or in person at Town Hall, 917 Lesperance Road.