



BY-LAW NO 2026-19

BEING A BY-LAW TO REGULATE THE USE OF MUNICIPAL RESOURCES DURING
AN ELECTION PERIOD

WHEREAS section 88.18 of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 requires municipalities and local boards to establish rules and procedures with respect to the use of municipal or board resources during the election campaign period;

AND WHEREAS the Council of The Corporation of the Township OF BILLINGS is committed to ensuring that municipal resources are used in a manner that is fair, transparent, and equitable, and not for election-related purposes;

AND WHEREAS the Council recognizes the importance of maintaining public confidence in the integrity of the municipal election process by ensuring that no candidate or Member of Council receives an advantage through the use of municipal resources;

AND WHEREAS the Council further recognizes the need to clearly distinguish between the official duties of Members of Council and election campaign activities;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Corporation of the Township of Billings enacts as follows:

1. The purpose of this By-law is to:

- Ensure compliance with section 88.18 of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996
- Maintain fairness and neutrality in municipal operations during an election
- Prevent the use of municipal resources for election-related purposes

2. Definitions

In this By-law:

“Municipal resources” includes:

- Staff time and services
- Municipal funds
- Property, equipment, and vehicles
- IT systems, email, internet, and social media
- Printed materials, postage, and distribution systems
- Municipal branding, logos, and official titles

“Election-related purposes” means:

- Any activity intended to support or oppose a candidate or campaign

3. General Prohibition

No person shall use, or permit the use of, municipal resources for election-related purposes during the campaign period.

4. Specific Restrictions

a. Staff

- i. Staff shall not engage in campaign activities during working hours;
- ii. Staff shall not use municipal resources for campaign purposes;
- iii. Staff shall not be directed by any Member of Council or candidate to assist in campaign activities.

b. Members of Council / Candidates

- i. Shall not use municipal resources for campaign purposes
 - ii. Shall not request or direct staff to support campaign activities
 - iii. Shall not use their official title, municipal logo, or branding in campaign materials in a way that implies municipal endorsement
- c. **Municipal Property & Facilities**
Municipal facilities shall not be used for campaign purposes unless:
 - i. Available to all candidates equally
 - ii. Booked at standard rates and conditions
- d. **Communications**
 - i. No municipal communication shall promote or oppose a candidate;
 - ii. Municipal communications shall be limited to routine, operational, or legislated matters;
 - iii. During the campaign period, the following shall be restricted:
 - 1. Council newsletters or similar publications;
 - 2. New or expanded advertising initiatives;
 - 3. Use of municipal social media for personal promotion.
- e. **Information Technology**
Municipal IT systems, including email and devices, shall not be used for campaign purposes.

5. Incumbent Conduct

Nothing in this By-law prevents Members of Council from:

- Performing their normal duties
- Attending official municipal events

Such activities shall not be used, directly or indirectly, for election-related purposes.

6. Administration

- a. The Clerk shall administer and interpret this By-law.
- b. The Clerk may issue procedures, guidelines, and interpretations to support implementation.

7. Compliance

- a. Any alleged misuse of municipal resources may be reviewed by the Clerk
- b. This By-law does not limit rights under the compliance audit provisions of the Act

8. Severability

If any section of this By-law is found invalid, the remaining sections remain in force.

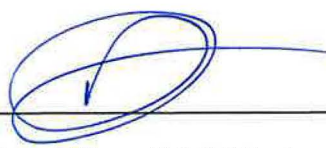
9. Effective Date

This By-law shall come into force on the date of passage.

READ a FIRST and SECOND TIME this 21st day of April, 2026

READ a THIRD TIME and FINALLY PASSED this 21st day of April, 2026



Bryan Barker, Mayor

Véronique Dion, CAO/Clerk