

Frequently Asked Questions

This list may be updated periodically; please check back to see if anything new has been added.

1. Is it possible to file your nomination online?

No. Candidates must file their nomination papers in-person or by an agent, by appointment with the Clerk or Deputy Returning Officer

2. Do I have to open a separate bank account for election expenses?

Yes. Unless the only expense you have is your nomination fee.

3. Are municipal signs part of Expenses?

Yes, depending on the type of sign, the expense may be prorated.

4. Do my 25 signatures have to be from individuals within the Ward I am running for?

No, the 25 signatures can come from anyone within South Huron.

5. Do I have to live in the ward I am running for?

No, a candidate can run for office in the ward of their choice. You do not have to live in the same ward you are running in; however, you do have to vote from the address at which you reside. For example, if you live in Ward 2, but are running in Ward 3, you must vote in Ward 2.

6. Can a candidate let members of the public use their phone to add/update their information on the voters list (through elections Ontario)?

It is strongly recommended that candidates do not offer personal devices to members of the public to check/update their information. Candidates are prohibited from verifying whether an elector appears on the voters list (provided to candidates in September) or not to the elector or any other person.

Individuals can check/update their information on the voters list through Elections Ontario (registertovoteon.ca) until August 12th, following which they will need to reach out to Municipal Elections staff directly.

If individuals need assistance checking they are on the voters list, or to update their information, Election staff are happy to assist. Please advise the individual to drop into town hall or call 519-235-0310x0.

7. Can candidates campaign on their personal social media page or do they need a separate candidates page?

Candidates can use their personal social media, or a candidate social media account. Messages posted to the Municipal social media accounts may be shared on candidates social media accounts, using social media official channels. Municipal posts are not to be modified/partially reproduced in any way.

Further, campaign messages are not permitted to be posted on Municipal social media.

8. Can candidates distribute campaign materials at municipal events?

Candidates may not campaign or distribute election campaign materials at any event/function being hosted by the municipality, whether on municipal property or not. To clarify, this includes any event/function that is hosted by the Exeter BIA Board or any Committees of Council.

More information is available in the [Use of Municipal Resources during an Election Period Policy](#).

9. Can candidates campaign at the Library, or municipal facilities?

Campaigning is not permitted in/at municipal owned facilities/property (ie. parking lots, parks, community centres, arenas, etc). More information is available in the [Use of Municipal Resources during an Election Period Policy](#).

10. Can a candidate park a vehicle that has a campaign message in a municipal parking lot?

Campaign signs, including campaign signs/messages on vehicles, are not permitted on municipal property (includes parking lots, parks, community centres, arenas, etc). Further, no vehicle that display an election sign is permitted to be parked/placed within a one block radius of Town Hall on Voting day (October 26)

More information is available in the [Election Sign By-Law](#) and [Use of Municipal Resources during an Election Period Policy](#).

11. Can candidates appoint themselves as a scrutineer?

A scrutineer is an individual that is appointed by a Candidate to represent the candidate during voting and at the counting of votes. Each candidate may appoint in writing such number of persons who are at least sixteen years of age as they consider advisable as scrutineers to represent the candidate in a polling place and at the counting of votes under this Act. Not more than one scrutineer representing each candidate may be present for any of the purposes specified in the Municipal Elections Act. A Candidate, or their appointed scrutineer (not both) can be present during voting and at that counting of the votes.

12. Can a candidate set up a GoFundMe to raise funds for their campaign?

As set out in the Municipal Elections Act ("MEA"), contributions can only be made and accepted by a candidate or an individual acting under the candidate's direction. It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that contributions are collected, and records kept in accordance with the MEA. Prior to creating a GoFundMe campaign, a candidate should seek advice from a financial advisor or lawyer to ensure that proceeding with same would be in compliance with the MEA. Any costs associated with obtaining the advice are at the candidate's expense.

More information regarding campaign records, including contributions, receipting and what is considered a campaign expense is outlined in [MMAH's 2026 Candidates Guide](#).

13. Do unused contributions at the end of the campaign get returned to the individual that provided the contribution?

At the end of the campaign, if a candidate has a surplus of campaign funds, they can withdraw the value of contributions that they and their spouse made from that surplus. Any additional funds left following that withdrawal must be turned over to the Clerk. Candidates are not permitted to refund eligible contributions made by anyone other than their self or their spouse.

Note: any contribution made or accepted that is in contravention of the Municipal Elections Act must be returned to the contributor as soon as the candidate learns that it was an ineligible contribution. If the candidate is unable to return the contribution, it must be turned over to the Clerk.

14. Can individuals vote in multiple municipal elections?

To be eligible to vote in a municipal election, an individual must be a Canadian citizen, at least 18 years old, and qualify to vote in the municipality.

Individuals may qualify to vote in a multiple municipal elections, if:

- they are a resident elector of that municipality (ie. primary residence within the municipality), and
- they are a non-resident elector (personally own/rent property in a municipality/municipalities, other than where they primarily live), and/or
- they are a spouse of a non-resident elector (if their spouse personally owns/rents property in the municipality/municipalities other than the one where they primarily live).

Example: if the individual qualifies as a resident elector in one municipality, and a non-resident elector in three other municipalities, they can vote in all four of those municipal elections

For students living away from home while they attend school, if they consider their home to be the place where they live when not attending school (that is, they plan to return there), then they are eligible to vote in both their home municipality and the municipality where they live while attending school.

Note: Individuals can only vote once in each municipality they are eligible for. If an individual owns/rents multiple properties within the same municipality, they can only vote once in that municipal election.

15. Are shareholders of a Corporation that owns/rents land entitled to vote?

An individual that is a shareholder for a corporation is entitled to vote in the municipality where they, the individual, personally reside, as well in other municipalities if they or their spouse personally own or rent land.

Being a shareholder of a Corporation that owns/rents land does not qualify the shareholder as a non-resident elector. Further, if a property is owned/rented by a business or a trust, the individuals involved in the business/trust would not qualify as a non-resident elector. A non-resident elector is an individual who personally, or their spouse personally, own/rent property in a municipality/municipalities other than where they reside.

16. When can election signs start being posted?

The [Election Sign By-Law](#) provides that no person shall place or permit to be placed an election sign, except at a campaign office, prior to Nomination Day (August 21, 2026). A “Campaign Office” means a building or structure, or part of a building or structure, used by a Candidate to conduct an election campaign.

For clarification, a vehicle does not meet the definition of a campaign office. Election signs displayed on vehicles are not permitted until Nomination Day (August 21, 2026).

17. Can a credit card be used for election expenses?

As outlined in the [Candidates Guide](#) from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing election expenses must be paid from a campaign bank account. If a credit card is used to pay for election expenses, you should make sure that you keep clear records showing that the expense on the credit card was reimbursed from the campaign account. It is the candidate’s responsibility to ensure that they

comply with the Municipal Elections Act ("MEA"). If you have any other questions regarding use of a credit card for election expenses, you should seek advice from a financial advisor or lawyer to ensure that proceeding with same would be in compliance with the MEA. Any costs associated with obtaining the advice are at the candidate's expense.

18. Can Election Signed be posted near municipal roads, streets and boulevards?

Section 20 of the Municipal Election Sign By-Law speaks to election signs on public property and streets.

20.1 No person shall Place or permit to be Placed an Election Sign within any parks owned by the Municipality.

20.2 No person shall Place or permit to be Placed an Election Sign:

- (a) in a Roadway;
- (b) within 3 metres of a Roadway;
- (c) between a Roadway and a Sidewalk;
- (d) that impedes or obstructs the passage of pedestrians on a Sidewalk;
- (e) in a Median Strip;
- (f) less than 3 metres from a Crosswalk;
- (g) on a tree, or a fence, or a wall, or a gate, or a utility pole located on Public Property or a Street.

More information regarding use of election signs is outlined in the [Municipal Election Sign By-Law](#), and the [Huron County Election Sign info sheet](#)

19. Can candidates arrange for a candidates debate for candidates and the public to attend?

Debates can be organized by candidates, community groups, media outlets or any other interested persons. The [Use of Municipal Resource during an Election Period Policy](#) must be followed (ie. no campaigning at municipal facilities/property), and any candidates that arrange for a candidates debate must ensure their financial records are kept in accordance with the MEA. The Municipal Elections Act ("MEA") does not require candidate debates to be held, and the municipal clerk is not responsible for organizing meetings or debates. As such, any debates that are organized should be referred to as candidate debates, not municipal debates, to provide clarification that the Municipality is not involved with arranging same.

20. Can sign companies, who have been contracted to create an election sign for a candidate, share that sign on social media as a sample of their product?

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 and not third-party advertising.

Activities that do not involve incurring expenses are not considered to be third-party advertising. In this instance, it is the sign companies' business to create signs and they may share as an example, as they would their other products, and they are not incurring any costs (candidate is paying for the sign). As such, this would not be considered third party advertising. More information regarding third party advertising can be found in the [2026 third-party advertisers' guide](#) on the municipal elections page.

21. Can a candidate put a sign up in their front yard now, having it 3 metres from the curb, and any signs erected after August 21 have to be 9 meters from municipal roads/streets?

A sign can only be displayed earlier than August 21st if it is placed on a campaign office, otherwise no signs are to be placed prior to August 21st. When signs are installed they must be placed in accordance with the municipal sign by-law (Section 20, including but not limited to being 3 metres away from a road) or Huron County Election Sign info sheet. These resources are available on the [municipal elections page](#).

22. If a candidate attends an event on municipal property and someone asks "how is the campaign going" can a candidate reply?

Answering a question from an individual would not automatically imply a candidate is campaigning (promoting an idea/cause or candidate to achieve a particular goal), however, candidates should be aware that members of the public may interpret things a candidate says to be a candidate campaigning. Should a formal complaint be submitted then the Clerk will investigate to determine whether there's been a contravention to the [Use of Municipal Resource Policy](#) or the [Election Procedures](#). As a courtesy, if a concern (not formal) is received, the Clerk will reach out to the candidate to advise so they are aware.

23. There are events outside of the municipality that have a lot of campaigning going on in their parks with their candidates, some even exchanging business cards, can we do the same?

Under the Municipal Elections Act, the clerk of a local municipality is responsible for conducting elections within that municipality. Candidates in running for South Huron Council must follow the rules/policies in place for South Huron's Municipal

election. The [Use of Municipal Resource Policy](#) notes that Corporation resources including facilities, infrastructure, equipment, supplies, services, staff or any resource that belongs to or is funded by the municipality may not be used for the purposes of an election campaign or for any campaign-related activities (this would include municipal facilities, parks, parking lots and social media).

24. Is early voting taking place for the election?

Voting will open at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 13th and can occur at any time until Monday, October 26th at 8:00 p.m. Voting will occur by internet and telephone options.

25. How will the vote be conducted?

Information regarding the voting procedure is outlined in the Elections Manual (page 32-37), located under [Election Resources](#) on the website.

26. When will the Voting Information Letters (VIL) be mailed out to electors?

Voter Information Letters (VIL) are mailed out at the end of September. Individuals should receive them within a week or two of mailing. If anyone doesn't receive them, they are to contact the municipal office.

27. Access to Voters List

The voters list will be shared with Candidates who provided a written request to receive a copy on September 1st. Ward Councillors are only eligible to see the list of electors for their ward.

Candidate Access to the Simply Voting Portal will be available September 16th. This date has been updated in the 2026 Election Procedure Manual published on the website.

28. What are the election rules about the use of photos of municipal property, logos or other assets for campaign materials?

The [Use of Municipal Resources Policy](#) notes that Municipal corporate identifiers (i.e. the municipal logo, coat of arms, chain of office and its slogans) may not be printed or distributed in election campaign material or included on an election campaign website. Photos of municipal property/facilities used in campaign materials should not include the municipal logo.

29. Financial Reporting

Candidates are required to maintain campaign finances in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act. The earliest the financial report can be filed with the

Clerk is January 4, 2027. The deadline to file is March 30, 2027 (this date has been updated in the 2026 Election Procedure Manual published on the website). Further Notice will be provided to all candidates at least 30 days prior to the deadline.

30. Voters list – Candidates responsibilities

Copies of the voters list were provided on September 1st to candidates that signed a candidates declaration – proper use of voters list. Candidates running for Councillor are only eligible to view the voters list for the Ward in which they are running. Elections Ontario was the authority for compiling the information for the voters list for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election.

The Municipal Elections Act states that the voters' list cannot be made public and can be used only for election purposes. All Voter information obtained by the candidate during the election period shall be destroyed by the candidate after the election period, either by returning same to the Clerk for destruction with other election material or by deleting it completely from candidate computer hardware. If the voters list is shared by the Candidates with others (for printing/photocopying, campaign workers/scrutineers), an "Appointment of Scrutineer By Candidate" Form EL12(A) shall be completed by the candidate, noting under Scrutineer Appointment what purpose they provided the individual the voters list for, as well the individual receiving the list will sign the Declaration – proper use of voters list – non-candidates (this form has been updated in the 2026 Election Procedure Manual published on the website). Each candidate is responsible for keeping these with their records and produce same if requested. All records shared or otherwise shall be protected and destroyed within 60 days of the Election.

More information is available in the Election Procedurals Manual as well as Candidates Guide published on the [Municipal Elections page](#).

31. How do electors confirm where their voter information letter is going to be mailed to?

Individuals can confirm the mailing address by contacting the municipal office, or dropping in at one of the voters helpdesk pop up locations to confirm their mailing address. Staff are available to assist individuals in updating their mailing address if needed. Elections Ontario was the authority for compiling the information (names, property address, dates of birth, mailing address) for the voters list for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election.

32. How are changes made to the voters list?

If any changes are needed to the voters list (ie. updating name, address, mailing address, get added if not already on the list, or remove someone from the list who has moved/passed) individuals will need to attend the municipal office, or drop in at one of the voters helpdesk pop up locations to complete a form and provide appropriate identification.

33. Can individuals vote in multiple wards if they own property?

No. Individuals can only vote once in the municipal election. If they are a resident elector of south huron, they are to vote in the ward where they reside (even if they own/rent land in a different ward in south huron). If they are a non-resident elector (ie. own/rent land personally, but do not reside there, or are the spouse of a non-resident elector), they would vote in the ward where the property they own/rent is. If a non-resident elector owns/rents land in several wards, they can choose which ward they want to vote in. They should contact the Municipal office to confirm, and update that ward if necessary.

Individuals do not qualify as a non-resident elector if they or their spouse) do not personally own or rent the property. Ex. if the property is owned by a business or corporation, or a cottage is owned by a trust, the individual would not qualify as a non-resident elector.

34. What if someone owns/rents property but has left for the season and unable to attend town hall or one of the helpdesk popups to get added to the voters list?

To add an individual to the list, election staff must physically see the individual, their identification and have a form completed. Individuals who are not in South Huron but are eligible to vote can contact the municipal office (519-235-0310x0 or vote@southhuron.ca) to get added to the voters list. Staff will set up a virtual meeting with the individuals to get them added.

35. Elections Signs placed along County and MTO Roads

Election signs placed along County Roads should comply with the information included in the [Huron County Election Sign Info Sheet](#), and signs placed along MTO Highways should comply with the [MTO Election Sign Guidelines](#). The County and MTO have jurisdiction over any election signs placed along their roads.

36. Who is eligible to vote?

To be eligible to vote in the election, individuals must be Canadian citizens, 18+, and qualify to vote in the municipality.

To qualify to vote in South Huron's election, an individual must:

- Reside in South Huron (resident elector); or

- Personally own or rent property in South Huron but reside elsewhere (non-resident elector); or
- Be the spouse of someone who personally owns or rents property in South Huron but resides elsewhere (spouse of a non-resident elector)

Individuals do not qualify as a non-resident elector if they, or their spouse do not personally own land or rent in South Huron. Example: if the property is owned or rented by 12345 Ontario Inc. (a business/or corporation), and John Doe is the owner of 12345 Ontario Inc., John Doe does not qualify to vote as the property is owned/rented by his business/corporation, not him personally. To qualify as a non-resident elector, John Doe must personally own or rent property, or his wife, Jane Doe must personally own or rent property.