



## 2018 Municipal Election FAQ

1. When is Voting Day?

Voting Day is **October 22, 2018**.

2. **\*NEW FOR 2018\*** When can a candidate file their nomination papers?

The nomination period for candidates begins **May 1, 2018**.

3. **\*NEW FOR 2018\*** What is the deadline for filing nomination papers?

The deadline for filing of nominations is Nomination Day, **July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018** between the hours of **9 a.m.** and **2 p.m.**

4. What are the eligibility requirements for Council candidates (including Mayor, and Councillor)?

Candidates for the Office of Mayor and Councillor must as of the day on which the nomination paper is filed, be:

- a Canadian citizen
- at least 18 years of age
- a resident of the Town of Blind River, or
- an owner or tenant of land in the Town of Blind River, or the spouse of the owner or tenant
- not legally prohibited from voting
- not disqualified by any legislation from holding municipal office

The following are disqualified for office on Blind River Council:



- a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario or the Senate or House of Commons of Canada who has not resigned from such office as of the close of nominations. If at the close of nominations, proof of resignation has not been provided, the nomination shall be rejected by the Clerk
- a judge of any court
- a candidate who failed to file the necessary financial statement in the last municipal election or by-election

Town of Blind River employees who wish to seek office on Blind River Council must take an unpaid leave of absence prior to filing a nomination paper. Proof of leave must be provided to the Office of the Clerk at the time their nomination is submitted.

5. What are the eligibility requirements for candidates for School Board Trustee?

To run for office as a School Board Trustee with any of the four school boards, a candidate must as of the date they file their nomination, be:

- a Canadian citizen
- at least 18 years of age
- a resident in the area of jurisdiction of the board
- not legally prohibited from voting
- not disqualified by any legislation from holding municipal office

The following are disqualified from seeking office as a School Board Trustee:

- a clerk, treasurer, deputy-clerk or deputy-treasurer of any



municipality within the area of jurisdiction of the school board except those on an unpaid leave of absence

- a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario or the Senate or House of Commons of Canada who has not resigned from such office as of the close of nominations. If at the close of nominations, proof of resignation has not been provided, the nomination shall be rejected by the Clerk
- a candidate who failed to file the necessary financial statement in the last municipal election or by-election

Employees of any school board are disqualified from being elected as School Board Trustee or from holding office on any school board, except during a leave of absence. The employee must be on a leave of absence before filing their nomination paper and must provide proof of their leave of absence to the Office of the Clerk at the time their nomination is submitted.

6. **\*NEW FOR 2018\*** How many persons are required to endorse my nomination?

A candidate for Mayor or Councillor requires the endorsement of a minimum of 25 persons. These persons must be eligible electors in the Town of Blind River and it is incumbent upon the candidate to verify that they meet this requirement.

7. What if I want to change the office/position I am running for?

You may file a new nomination paper between **May 1<sup>st</sup>** and **July 27<sup>th</sup>**, **2018 at 2 p.m.** to switch the office you are running for.

8. What if I want to withdraw my nomination?



Candidates may withdraw their nomination no later than **2 p.m. on July 27, 2018**.

9. What are the expense limits for my campaign?

Expense limits are based on the office you campaign for. The formula for calculating expense limits are as follows:

- Head of Council (Mayor): \$7,500 plus \$0.85 per eligible elector
- Councillor or School Board Trustee: \$5,000 plus \$0.85 per eligible elector

10. What are the expense limits on parties and other events after voting day?

Please note that there is a limit placed on the amount of expenses that may be incurred for parties and other events which occur after voting day, which is set at **10%** of the general spending limit for candidates.

11. What are the filing fees for the 2018 Municipal Election?

The refundable filing fee, paid to the Clerk at the time of nomination are as follows:

- \$200 for the Head of Council (Mayor)
- \$100 for Councillor and School Board Trustee

The filing fee will be refunded if your campaign financial statement has been received by the filing deadline.

12. **\*NEW FOR 2018\*** Who may contribute to my campaign, and what limits are imposed on those contributions?

As of 2018, contributions to candidates may only be received from



individuals. Corporations and trade unions may no longer contribute to candidates for municipal or school board offices. Legislation has provided for registered third parties, which will permit corporations and trade unions to raise and spend funds in respect to elections. Please see below for details on registered third parties and associated advertising.

### Individual Contributions

The following contribution limits are imposed on individual contributions to candidates:

- An individual shall not contribute more than \$1,200 to any one candidate; and
- A contributor shall not make contributions exceeding \$5,000 to two or more candidates for office on the same council or local board.

### Candidate and Spousal Contributions

A candidate and their spouse may not contribute an amount which exceeds the lesser of the following:

- The amount calculated by adding:
  - For a candidate for the office of Mayor, \$7,500 plus 20 cents for each elector entitled to vote for the office, or
  - For a candidate for office **other then** Mayor, \$5,000 plus 20 cents for each elector entitled to vote for the office; and \$25,000

### 13. What are the rules governing fundraising?

Fundraising shall not take place for a person who is not a candidate (this means that an individual must submit their nomination before raising funds to support a campaign for office). Fundraising may not take place outside of the campaign period (May 1 to December 31 in an election year).



The following also applies to fundraising:

- An amount charged for admission to a fundraising function are considered a contribution.
- If goods and services are sold for more than their market value at a fund-raising function, the difference between the amount paid and the market value is considered a contribution. However, if the amount received for the goods or services is \$25 or less, the amount is not a contribution.
- An amount of \$25 or less that is donated at a fund-raising function is NOT considered a contribution.
- The amount received for goods and services sold at a fund-raising function, if the amount is \$25 or less, is NOT considered a contribution.

14. **\*NEW FOR 2018\*** What are registered third parties?

Registered third parties are individuals, corporations or trade unions which register with the Clerk for the purposes of conducting advertising promoting, supporting or opposing a candidate (or candidates) for office at the municipal or school board level.

15. **\*NEW FOR 2018\*** What is a third party advertisement?

A third party advertisement is an advertisement in any broadcast, print, electronic or other medium that has the purpose of supporting, opposing or promoting a candidate (or candidates) for office at the municipal or school board level.

16. **\*NEW FOR 2018\*** What are the eligibility requirements for third parties? Only the following persons and entities are eligible to file a notice

of registration:

1. An individual who is normally a resident in Ontario.
2. A corporation that carries on business in Ontario.
3. A trade union that holds bargaining rights for employees in Ontario.

The following persons and entities are not eligible to file a notice of registration:

1. A candidate whose nomination has been filed under section 33.
2. A federal political party registered under the Canada Elections Act or any federal constituency association or registered candidate at a federal election endorsed by that party.
3. A provincial political party, constituency association, registered candidate or leadership contestant registered under the Election Finances Act.
4. The Crown in right of Canada or Ontario, a municipality or local board.

17. **\*NEW FOR 2018\*** When may a third party register with the municipality?

Registration as a third party for the 2018 Municipal Election will be accepted by the Office of the Clerk from May 1, 2018 until end of business on October 19, 2018.

18. **\*NEW FOR 2018\*** What are the expense limits for third parties?

The expense limit for third parties is set by the Province and will not be available until **April 1, 2018** at the earliest.



The Province of Ontario has proposed the following expense limits for third parties:

- \$5,000 plus \$0.05 per elector, to a maximum of \$25,000.

19. **\*NEW FOR 2018\*** When may contributions be made to third parties?

Contributions to third parties registered for a municipal election may only be made during a campaign period (May 1, until December 31 in an election year).

20. **\*NEW FOR 2018\*** Who may contribute to a registered third party?

Contributions to third parties may only be made by the following:

- An individual who is normally resident in Ontario;
- A corporation that carries on business in Ontario;
- A trade union that holds bargaining rights for employees in Ontario;
- The third party, and if they are an individual, their spouse (if the spouse of a third party is not a resident of Ontario, they may contribute to their third party only)

The following may not make contributions to registered third parties:

- A federal political party registered under the *Canada Elections Act* (Canada) or any federal constituency association or registered candidate at a federal election endorsed by that party.
- A provincial political party, constituency association, registered candidate or leadership contestant registered under the *Election Finances Act*.
- The Crown in right of Canada or Ontario, a municipality or local board.





21. **\*NEW FOR 2018\*** What are the limits on contributions to third parties?

The following limits apply to contributions to a third party registered for an election:

- A contributor shall not make contributions exceeding a total of \$1,200 to a third party registered in a municipality;
- A contributor shall not make contributions exceeding a total of \$5,000 to two or more third parties registered in the same municipality

Please note that these rules do not apply to contributions to a third party that are made by the third party itself, and if the registered third party is an individual, their spouse.

22. What are the rules for campaign signage?

The Town's Sign By-law outlines the regulations for election signage on private property and is administered by the Town's Planning and By-laws Department. The Town of Blind River Sign By-law provides for the regulation of election signage within the Town of Blind River. Further clarification regarding signage can be obtained from Blind River Town Hall, at 705-356- 2251.

23. What are the rules for campaign headquarters signage?

The permissible size of signs at a campaign headquarters will depend on the content of the sign as well as the type of sign. Candidates should consult with the Town's Planning and Building department and sign by-law 1740, as amended, to determine which regulations apply. The submission of a sketch with all relevant dimensions and locations noted will assist the Planning and Building Department in providing advice.

The external identification signage associated with the campaign offices



are business premises signs that require sign permits. These signs must comply with all relevant sections of the Town's sign by-law. Before erecting signage, please contact the Town's Planning and Building Department for restrictions and application requirements.

Election inquiries may be directed to:

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