

Frequently Asked Questions – Candidates

Election Signs (and Billboards)

1. When can election signs go up?

Election signs may be posted as of September 26. For reference, this date is listed on the [key dates section](#) of the website.

2. Can election signs be purchased before September 26?

Yes, if a candidate has registered with the Clerk and opened a campaign bank account, they can purchase election signs. The signs can not be put up until September 26.

3. Is a billboard considered an election sign?

Yes, billboards are considered a sign and need to follow all the rules that apply to election signs, other than the exceptions indicated in the [Election Sign By-law](#).

4. Are election signs permitted on billboards on lands that are zoned Commercial, Industrial, Employment and Agricultural.

Yes, provided the election sign is in accordance with the [Election Sign By-law](#).

5. Can street furniture with ad space (e.g. benches, waste receptacles, bus shelters, etc.) be used for election signs if the street furniture is located on the road allowance or public boulevard?

No, election signs are not permitted on public land, including road allowances and boulevards.

6. When can campaign magnets be added to cars?

In accordance with the [Election Sign By-law](#), campaign magnets can be added to vehicles as of September 26; be sure to review all provisions of the Election Sign By-law.

Campaigning and Communications

1. When do candidates get access to the voters' list?

Candidates get access to the voters' list starting September 1 through an online Candidate Portal. Candidates will receive an email in late August with instructions for accessing the portal.

2. Can candidates wear St. Catharines 150 gear while campaigning?

The St. Catharines 150 gear is intended to unify our community in a year of celebration. All members of our community, including candidates while campaigning, are able to wear St. Catharines 150 gear.

This is different than the City logo. Candidates cannot wear clothing with the City logo while campaigning or in campaign material.

3. Can Members of Council who are candidates continue to provide resident updates?

Members of Council are responsible to serve their constituents and fulfill their responsibilities until the end of the term. Members of Council are allowed to communicate with the public, but cannot use city resources towards the creation or distribution of campaign materials / messages.

4. Can a candidate change the contact information on the City's website?

Yes, please email elections@stcatharines.ca with any updates. The City will include the following contact details:

- Name (as it appears on the ballot)
- Telephone number
- E-mail address
- Website (a second social media handle can be included in place of a website)
- Social media

Campaign Financials

1. Can candidates use a credit card for campaign expenses?

Yes. The Province's Candidate Guide notes: Expenses must be paid from your campaign bank account. If you use a credit card to pay for purchases, you should make sure that you keep clear records showing that the expense on the credit card was reimbursed from the campaign account.