

Frequently Asked Questions – Candidates

(Updated July 16, 2026)

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

5. Does the City publish candidate profiles on the City's website?

No, but 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 and Contributions

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.

2. What is the maximum amount that an individual can contribute to someone's campaign?

There is a \$1,200 limit that applies to contributions from other individuals. If a person makes more than one contribution (for example, contributes money, contributes goods, and purchases a ticket to a fundraising event), the total value of all the contributions cannot exceed \$1,200.

3. Do I need to include the address for contributors?

You are required to list the names and addresses of every contributor who gives more than \$100 total (includes contribution of goods services) to your campaign in your financial statement. You should keep a record of the names and addresses of every contributor, regardless of the value of their contribution, because the same contributor may make multiple contributions that end up totalling more than \$100.

4. Do I need to issue a receipt to contributors?

Yes. You must issue a receipt for every contribution you receive. The receipt should show who made the contribution, the date, and the value. If the contribution was in goods or services, you must determine the value of the goods or services and issue a receipt for the full value. If you receive a contribution from a joint account, the contribution can only come from one person. You must determine who is making the contribution and issue the receipt to that person.

Voters' List

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

Candidates will receive an email with access to the Candidate Portal (which contains the voters' list) on or before September 1.

Voters and Voting

1. If an eligible elector owns multiple properties in St. Catharines, where do they vote?

Eligible electors that own multiple properties in St. Catharines are entitled to vote in the ward where they live. If they also own or rent property in another ward, they are not permitted to vote in that ward instead.