

2026 General Local Election: Eligibility, Nomination, and Campaign Rules



Canada's Tournament Capital

Eligibility to Run

- ✓ 18 years of age or older on general voting day
- ✓ Canadian citizenship
- ✓ Lived in British Columbia for at least six months immediately before filing nomination documents
- ✓ Not be disqualified from voting in an election in British Columbia or from being nominated for, being elected to, or holding office under the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment or be otherwise disqualified by law.

Prospective candidates for City Council do not need to live in or own property in Kamloops, but they **must be nominated by at least 10 eligible voters who live in Kamloops** (or live in British Columbia and own property within Kamloops' municipal boundaries). A candidate cannot run for both Mayor and Councillor in the same election.





Not Eligible to Run



- × Have been convicted of an indictable offence and are disqualified from the date of the conviction until the date on which they are sentenced
- × Have been convicted of and sentenced for an indictable offence and are in custody
- × Have been found guilty of an election offence, such as intimidation or vote-buying or other election offence, and are prohibited from holding office
- × Are judges of the Provincial Court, Supreme Court or Court of Appeal
- × Are involuntarily confined to a psychiatric facility or other institution
- × Have been disqualified for specified reasons such as, failing to file a campaign financing disclosure statement in a previous election, making an oath of office or, attending local government meetings in the manner and frequency required by the *Community Charter*

Who Does What?

Election Officers in the local jurisdiction

- Administering voting and ballots
- Nomination process
- Results

Elections BC

- Advertising rules
- Campaign financing and disclosure rules
- Registration of elector organizations and third-party sponsors

Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs

- Legislation for local elections



Key Dates

Election period begins – Jan. 1, 2026

- Candidates must appoint a financial agent and open a campaign account
- Follow rules for campaign contributions
- Record all income and expenses and keep receipts

Pre-campaign period – July 20, 2026, to Sept. 18, 2026

- Follow rules for election advertising, including requirement for an authorization statement on all advertising
- Record all income and expenses and keep receipts

A candidate is automatically their own financial agent if they do not appoint anyone.

Key Dates (Continued)

Nomination period – Sept. 1, 2026, to Sept. 11, 2026

- Candidates must file their nomination packages, including elector organization endorsements, directly with the local Election Officers

Campaign period begins – Sept. 19, 2026

- Follow rules for election advertising, including rules about advertising which takes a position on an election issue
- Record all income and expenses and keep receipts

General Voting Day – Oct. 17, 2026

- Election advertising cannot be transmitted to the public
- During voting, candidates are **not permitted** to post, display, or distribute any election advertising within 100 metres of a voting place.

See the *Elections BC Candidate Handbook* for more info.

Nominations

To run for office, prospective candidates must:

1. be nominated, consent to the nomination, submit nomination documents, and submit a financial disclosure statement
2. be nominated by 10 nominators (per s. 3 of *City of Kamloops Election Procedure Bylaw No. 7-1-44, 2017*), all of whom must be eligible to vote in Kamloops
3. make a solemn declaration that:
 - They are qualified to be nominated, elected and to hold office
 - They are or will be on general voting day for the election, 18 years of age or older
 - They are a Canadian citizen
 - They are not disqualified by the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment from voting in an election in British Columbia or from being nominated for, being elected to or holding the office, or be otherwise disqualified by law
 - The information in the nomination package is true
 - They fully intend to accept office if elected
 - They are aware of, understand and intend to comply with the requirements and restrictions under the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*



A prospective candidate officially becomes a candidate when they have submitted all the required information in the nomination package, including the solemn declaration, and have been declared a candidate by the Chief Election Officer.

The Team

Financial Agent (required) – candidates and elector organizations are legally required to have a Financial Agent during an election campaign, who is responsible for administering campaign finances in accordance with the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*

- Candidates can be their own Financial Agent

Official Agent (optional) – represents the candidate during the election process

Scrutineers (optional) – represent the candidate at voting opportunities by observing the voting procedures and counting process at the close of voting



Campaigning

- Candidates generally direct their own election campaigns but may retain an election campaign manager and campaign **volunteers** to prepare and distribute campaign material
- Campaigning usually triggers campaign financing rules – adhere to legislation, including the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* and the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Regulation*
- Elector organizations can support candidates but must be registered with Elections BC to file endorsement documents, receive campaign contributions, and incur election expenses
- Expense limits during the campaign period:
 - Mayor – \$82,059.31
 - Councillor – \$41,607.60

Campaign Contributions

Who can contribute?

- Individuals living in B.C. who are either a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident

What is the contribution limit?

- \$1,429.70 for 2026

What is considered a contribution?

- Cash, cheques, credit card payments, and EFTs; non-monetary contributions, such as use of property or services, which would normally cost money but are provided for free; and discounts, forgiven loans, or unpaid debts
- Contributions over \$100 are reported publicly

What needs to be recorded when accepting contributions?

- Contributor's full name, mailing address, contribution amount, date received, and how eligibility was confirmed



Contact Elections BC for more information on campaign contributions.



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For more information, visit Kamloops.ca, Elections BC, and Government of BC sites.

Stay Connected @CityofKamloops       



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