

Frequently Asked Questions

Election candidates (or potential candidates) frequently pose questions with specific queries that may inform their campaigns or their understanding of the local jurisdiction. The Returning Officer, to ensure equitable sharing of information to candidates, responds to routinely releasable election information requests and ensures that candidates receive the response provided.

For election related questions that are not answered on the website or in the candidate inquiries document, please contact the Returning Officer by emailing elections@airdrie.ca

Candidacy Questions

Can someone run as a candidate if the person does not own property in the City of Airdrie?

Yes. Land ownership is not an eligibility requirement to be a candidate.

Can someone with a criminal record run in a local election?

Yes; however, if that person has been convicted of an election offence (federal, provincial or local) within the past 10 years, they are not allowed to run in the election. Ineligibility to run in a local election is outlined in section 22 of the *Local Authorities Election Act*.

Campaigning

Where and when can I put up signs?

Advertising should be confined to private property and always with the concurrence of the owner. There are specific public lands that a candidate may put up signs. Candidate's election signs may be posted 60 days prior to election day (August 19, 2021) and must be removed 72 hours after election day) prior to a municipal election.

Refer to the [Candidates Information Package](#) for more detailed information on where and when to put up signs.

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Does the City of Airdrie have a Voter's List? / How would somebody go about accessing the voter list for the city? (Question submitted July 3, 2021)

No. The City of Airdrie does not compile a list of voters. Under the *Local Authorities Election Act*, municipalities may pass a bylaw to prepare a list of electors who are entitled to vote in an election, but are not required to do so. The City of Airdrie did not pass a bylaw to prepare a voter's list (list of electors) who are entitled to vote in an election.

Are incumbents allowed to use City resources for campaign purposes? / While campaigning, are incumbents allowed to use the city email (____@airdrie.ca), as their contact email on campaign literature? (Question submitted July 3, 2021)

City resources which are not available for all candidates cannot be used for campaigning purposes. This includes using City assigned email address or access to spaces not available to the public. Candidates cannot use the City logo in campaign materials. [Section 5.6 of the Code of Conduct Bylaw](#) states that Elected Officials and Board Members may not use any other City resources, property, equipment, services, information or supplies to pursue their private interest or the interest of someone they know.

Can a candidate campaign in City facilities?

Yes, candidates can campaign in City facilities that are accessible to the public. However, candidates will be prohibited as per section 152.1 of the *Local Authorities Election Act* from campaigning inside the property boundaries, inside and on the buildings of Town and Country Centre and Genesis Place on any days voting is occurring.

- Town and County Centre Voting Days (October 9, 13, 18)
- Genesis Place Voting Days (October 2, 6, 18)

Can candidates do giveaways? / Are there any rules to campaign giveaways during a political campaign leading up to an election? (Question submitted July 4, 2021)

There are no "standard" or legislative requirements for campaigning when it comes to municipal elections. A candidate's campaign style will want to match the uniqueness of the municipality to the candidate's personality and available resources.

Each candidate should be mindful of section 116 (bribery) of the *Local Authorities Election Act* when considering giveaways. [An interesting case study can be found here that occurred last election at an Alberta municipality.](#)

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Does the City have results per voting station from the 2017 municipal election? / How would somebody go about accessing the poll by poll results from the 2017 election? (Question submitted July 3, 2021)

Yes. The 2017 voter turnout per voting station on election day were:

Genesis Place - 2810

Town and County Centre - 3803

Rocky View Schools Administration Building – 3378

It is important to note that the voting stations for this municipal election have changed. Voters will be required to vote at their designated voting station on election day. Voting Stations used on election day for the 2021 election include:

- Genesis Place - 800 East Lake Blvd NE
- Town and County Centre - 275 Jensen Drive NE
- Ralph McCall School - 1505 1 Avenue SW
- Coopers Crossing School - 1050 Coopers Drive SW

Does city facilities include outdoor public areas, such as parks, dog parks, etc. Can a candidate campaign at any of these locations, at any time (outside of Election Day)? (Question submitted August 18, 2021)

City Facilities include any property owned by the City.

Candidate campaigning may occur anywhere (subject to any legislative and legal provisions) at any time with the exception of when the voting station locations are being used for voting. No campaigning may occur at voting station locations when being used for voting. Voting station locations means the property in its entirety including all physical buildings and lands within the property lines of the voting station property.

Can signs go out on private property following Aug. 19th, and public property starting September 20th, or Is signage prohibited everywhere until September 20th? There are discrepancies within your content (Question submitted August 18, 2021)

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In regard to when campaign election signage requirements, we have corrected the discrepancies on our website. Subject to the Land Use Bylaw, campaign signage on public lands can be put up starting August 19, 2021 (60 days prior to election day) and campaign signage on private lands may occur at any time. The criteria of what constitutes an election signs follows the Land Use Bylaw.

Will there be any adjustments to the date signage can go out for the municipal campaign now that the federal election has been called? It may be extremely confusing for voters with signs for both levels of government. (Question Submitted August 18, 2021)

No. Any amendments to election signage criteria will require a Land Use Bylaw amendment.

Is it okay to use City of Airdrie online images such as city buildings, on Candidates webpages / social media pages? (Question Submitted August 30, 2021)

Candidates may take and use their own photos from around the City, but may not use the photos on the City of Airdrie's website or social media accounts as those images have been purchased from local photographers.

[The City's Flickr page](#) has photos that candidates may use for their own purposes.

I had a question I was hoping you could help clear up for me. In reading through the Candidate Information Package for the upcoming Municipal Election I noticed on page 18 it states, "Signs cannot be placed between the curb and the sidewalk, or if there is no sidewalk, signs cannot be placed within 1.0 metres of the curb or edge of the pavement." Driving around in preparation to place my City Council signs I noticed that almost 100% of the currently placed Federal signs are not adhering to this rule and are placed between the sidewalk and the curb. Most, but not all of them are however conforming to the 1 metre from the roadway part of this particular rule. I was unable to find a bylaw related to the placement of Federal signs, and the Provincial rules don't address this level of granularity. Before placing my signs I wanted to get some clarification to ensure I was complying with all applicable rules and regulations. (Question submitted August 29, 2021)

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All election signage (federal, provincial or municipal) must adhere to the [Land Use Bylaw](#). Sign Complaints can be sent to elections@airdrie.ca and will be forward to Development Compliance.

Self-Funded Candidates

Do self-funded candidates need to file a disclosure statement?

Yes. Section 147.4 of the *Local Authorities Election Act* requires that candidates file campaign disclosure statements. All candidates are required to file disclosure statements regardless of whether or not they were self-funded.

If self-funded candidates are spending zero dollars on campaigning, what is the trigger for filing nomination papers early?

Candidates must be nominated before incurring any campaign expenses or accepting contributions. However, a person may accept up to \$5,000 in the aggregate or contribute up to \$10,000, per year, outside of the campaign period.

Candidates must be aware that section 147.1(1)(a) of the *Local Authorities Election Act* defines campaign expenses as any expense incurred (including a non-monetary contribution received) by a candidate to the extent that the property or service is use to directly promote or oppose a candidate during a campaign period.

If an individual does not intend to spend any money, or accept contributions (either monetary or in-kind), the decision to file nomination papers is the choice of the candidate.

Do self-funded candidates need to open a bank account?

Yes. Section 147.3(1)(a) of the *Local Authorities Election Act* requires that a campaign account in the name of the candidate or the candidate's election campaign is opened at a financial institution for the purposes of the election campaign at the time of nomination or as soon as possible after the total amount of contributions first exceeds \$1000 in the aggregate.

Surplus Funds

Can surplus funds be donated to a society or does it have to be a registered charity?

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Section 147.5 of the *Local Authorities Election Act* states that campaign surpluses greater than \$1,000 must be donated to a registered charity (or a portion must be donated to result in the surplus being less than \$1,000).

Registered charity is defined under section 1(t.4) of the *Local Authorities Election Act* and means a registered charity within the meaning of subsection 248(1) of the *Income Tax Act* (Canada).

Would a candidate personally get the tax receipt from the charity if surplus funds were required to be donated?

The *Local Authorities Election Act* does not provide details regarding tax receipts from donating a campaign surplus to a registered charity. Candidates can contact their accountant or the Canadian Revenue Agency to obtain more information.

Can a campaign surplus be donated to the municipality?

Section 147.5 of the *Local Authorities Election Act* states that surplus funds are to be donated to a registered charity as defined by the *Income Tax Act*. The only instances where a surplus may become the property of the local jurisdiction is for surplus funds currently held in-trust and if the candidate does not dispose of those funds or provide instructions prior to January 1, 2022 (section 147.51).

Can surplus funds, currently held in-trust from previous elections, be returned to contributors?

Section 147.5 of the *Local Authorities Election Act* requires surplus funds to be donated to a registered charity as defined under the *Income Tax Act*. If, on September 1, 2020, an amount is held in trust with the City of Airdrie is greater than \$1,000, you must donate an amount to a registered charity that will result in the surplus being less than \$1,000 prior to January 1, 2022. If you show a surplus of less than \$1,000, you may retain the surplus or donate it to a registered charity.

If the City of Airdrie does not receive direction on or before January 1, 2022, the money will become the property of the City.

Contributions

Note: The information on this website is provided for the convenience of reference only. Candidates are subject to further requirements in the *Local Authorities Election Act*. Candidates are advised to refer to the LAEA and obtain legal advice regarding the full extent of their obligations.

Do contributors who donate to a candidate eligible for a tax receipt?

There is no provision under the *Local Authorities Election Act* for a candidate to provide a tax receipt to a contributor.

How are receipts issued for silent auction contributions?

The following scenario is an example of how to report the revenue and contributions from silent auctions, often held alongside fund-raising events.

An individual donates a new tablet to a silent auction at a fund-raising function. The tablet, along with the donor's purchase receipt, is provided to the candidate. The candidate determines the fair market value of the tablet to be \$300, which is easily arrived at using the submitted receipt.

The candidate issues the donor of the tablet a "valued" contribution receipt for \$300.

The purchaser of the tablet (successful bidder), pays the bid amount, and

- if the successful bid was equal to or less than the fair market value, no contribution receipt is issued to the bidder, or
- if the successful bid was more than the fair market value, for example the bid was \$400, a \$100 "money" contribution receipt is issued to the purchaser.

Does each person who bids on a silent auction item needs to be issued a receipt? / Can candidates do silent auctions or raffles as a form of fundraising, provided that they acquire all applicable AGLC Licenses? And if so, would everyone who bid on an item over \$50 have to be listed as a donor with their personal information? (Question submitted June 29, 2021)

Bidders may not be successful in their bid thus no contribution has been made. If the bidder if successful, two options could occur:

Option 1 - No contribution receipt is issued to the bidder if the successful bid was equal to or less than the fair market value of the item, OR

Option 2 - Yes, a contribution receipt is issued to the bidder if the successful bid was more than the fair market value of the item. The receipt amount would be the successful bid amount minus the fair market value of item.

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Are in kind contributions allowed from businesses as long as no money changes hands? / In the last election, I had \$1500 of in kind contributions for services, from businesses (design work, a DJ, etc). Are in kind contributions allowed from businesses as long as no money changes hands? (Question submitted June 29, 2021)

As per section 147.1(1) of the *Local Authorities Election Act*, a campaign expense means any expense incurred by a candidate, or non-monetary contribution received by a candidate that is used to directly promote or oppose a candidate during a campaign period and as per section 147.2(1) of the *Local Authorities Election Act* states only an individual ordinarily resident in Alberta may make a contribution to a candidate.

For fundraising events.... I did read that you must allocate a portion of the ticket sale from a fundraiser to expenses and campaign contributions, depending on the price of the ticket. For example, if I was selling tickets for \$75/ ticket, I would need to allocate \$25 for expenses and \$50 could go to the campaign. Do I need to submit the names, addresses, etc for every person who purchases a ticket then, as they would be contributing \$50 or more? (Question submitted June 29, 2021)

Yes, if the event was an expense incurred by a candidate that is used to directly promote or oppose a candidate during a campaign period

I know that you cannot get any donations from corporate donors. At the end of the day, almost everyone, if they run or work for a business can be tied to a corporation, and it would be hard to distinguish if someone was donating personally or on behalf of a business. Do you think it would be safe to have a disclaimer on a website that people had to check off prior to donating, that they were not donating on behalf of any business or interest group? I don't totally know how to separate that. (Question Submitted June 29, 2021)

As per Section 147.2(1) of the *Local Authorities Election Act* states only an individual ordinarily resident in Alberta may make a contribution to a candidate.

Candidates must issue receipts for every contribution. A receipt must include:

- Date of contribution
- Name of individual contributor
- Address of individual contributor
- Amount contributed

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Does section 147.22(3) mean a candidate can accept funds outside a Campaign Period?

(Question Submitted July 20, 2021)

Yes. Aspiring candidates can accept no more than \$5,000 in the aggregate per year in contributions outside the Campaign Period, which for this general election is from January 1 to December 31, 2021. (LAEA s.147.22(3) and s.147.1(1)(b))

Every candidate or person acting on behalf of the candidate shall issue a receipt for every contribution accepted in a form acceptable to the local jurisdiction. At a minimum, receipts should include the date of the contribution, name and address of the contributor, and the amount contributed. (LAEA s. 147.32)

Can a candidate accept money from a developer? (Question Submitted July 20, 2021)

No. Only individuals who live in Alberta can contribute to a candidate's campaign. Corporations, unincorporated organizations, employee organizations and trade unions are prohibited from making contributions. (LAEA s. 147.2 and 147.1(1)(f))

Can a person incur Campaign Expenses before filing nomination papers?

(Question Submitted July 20, 2021)

A Campaign Expense is a cost incurred by a candidate's campaign for something that is used to directly promote a candidate. Expenses are paid for by contributions. (LAEA s.147.1(1)(s))
No person should incur Campaign Expenses unless the person has been nominated as a candidate (LAEA s. 147.22(1))

Voting

When will we have access to the advance voting dates/ times/ locations as well as the institutional voting information? (Question submitted July 3, 2021)

Advance Vote Information

Genesis Place Advance Vote

- Saturday October 2 - 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday October 6 - Noon to 8:00 p.m.

Town and County Centre Advance Vote

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- Saturday October 9 - 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday October 13 - Noon to 8:00 p.m.

Institutional Votes are still yet to be confirmed

Please provide the most current dwelling count by Community (Question submitted August 19, 2021)

[Link to the 2019 City of Airdrie Census Results](#)

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