



Elections Ontario

A QUICK GUIDE FOR CANDIDATES

You've decided you'd like to become a candidate in the next Provincial election. You've got great ideas, an interesting platform and supporters... what's next?

Confirming your eligibility

To qualify as a candidate in a provincial general election, you must:

- Be 18 years of age or older on polling day
- Be a Canadian citizen
- Be a resident in Ontario for the six months preceding polling day
- Not be disqualified by the *Legislative Assembly Act* or any other Act, including the *Election Finances Act*

Understanding the rules

You need to familiarize yourself with the rules that apply to all provincial candidates as set out in the *Election Finances Act* and *Election Act*, which are covered in the Candidate's Guide. These documents can be accessed through the Elections Ontario website.

In particular, you need to be aware of the rules relating to campaign finances:

- Your campaign cannot raise or spend money until the writ has been issued AND you are registered with Elections Ontario as a candidate. This includes a candidate using their own funds.
- Any loan must be arranged in the name of the campaign with a financial institution, registered political party or constituency association registered in Ontario.
- There is a spending limit on the total expenses that your campaign can incur.
- There are rules on the eligibility of contributors, the amounts that they can contribute and the ways they make the contribution.

Registering as a candidate

All candidates need to file a completed Candidate Registration and Change Notice (C-1) form with Elections Ontario. You can access this form on our website.

If you have been nominated by a registered political party or constituency association, you may file the (C-1) form in advance of an election being called, meaning that you will be ready to begin financial activity after the writ for the election is issued. If you are an independent candidate, you may register from the day the writ for the election is issued.

Assembling your team

You need to select and appoint people to assist you with managing your campaign. Under the *Election Finances Act*, you need to:

- Appoint a Chief Financial Officer (CFO), to be responsible for managing your campaign finances
- Select your financial institution and decide who will have signing authority
- Appoint people authorized to accept contributions
- Determine the location where your campaign records are to be kept
- Appoint an Auditor, your campaign financial statements will need to be audited prior to being filed with Elections Ontario

Filing your nomination papers

In addition to registering, all candidates need to file nomination papers. Once the nomination period opens, you (or a designate) must submit a Nomination Paper (F0400) form in person at the local returning office by 2pm on close of nominations in order for your name to appear on the ballot.

Your nomination paper MUST be signed by at least 25 electors who are residents of the electoral district in which you plan to be a candidate. When filing your nomination paper you must designate someone who will appoint scrutineers and be present at official tabulation after polling day.

If you are affiliated with a registered political party, the party leader must also file a statement with the Chief Electoral Officer endorsing your candidacy by the close of nominations.

Any form filed with Elections Ontario is a public document and certain information is posted on the web site.

Contact Information

If you have any questions related to becoming a candidate in a provincial election, please contact Elections Ontario's Candidate Support Information Network:

toll free: 1.866.771.6314

fax: 416.325.9466

e-mail: candidate@elections.on.ca