

Candidate Information Session #1: How to submit your nomination papers

Thank you for attending our information session. Below are questions and answers from the four online sessions.

Please note that similar questions have been themed and your question may not appear exactly as it was asked. Additional information (e.g. legislative references and clarifications) have been included in responses.

Dates for future sessions will be posted online. Please contact candidates@calgary.ca for any other questions.

Candidate forms

Is Form 5 required if you are self-funding your campaign? Or how do you indicate you are self-funding?	Form 5 is required for all candidates. Candidates must provide where their records are maintained and the financial institution for campaign contributions over \$1,000. Self-funds are considered contributions to one-self. All candidates must file disclosure statements by March 1, 2022 which list all contributions, including self-funded contributions, and expenses. Please reference the LAEA section 147.4(1)(h).
I own a house in Edgemont, it is a rental, but I do rent a room in Marlborough where I reside, which address do I put for my Form 4?	The address in which you reside is the address that should appear on your nomination form. Please reference the LAEA section 48(1)(b).
The \$100 fee for nomination paper submission used to be collected on nomination day. Is that still the case or has that changed?	That has changed. Candidates for mayor must provide a \$500 deposit. Candidates for councillor and school board trustee must provide a \$100 deposit. Deposit must be in the form of cash, certified cheque or money order. Personal cheques are not accepted. Do not send cash deposits in the mail. The deposit is due when you file your nomination papers, which can be anytime between January 4 and noon on September 20, 2021.
How many signatures should one collect to ensure acceptance? 120?	For mayor and councillor candidates, a minimum of 100 signatures is required. For school board trustee candidates, a minimum of 25 signatures is required. It is advisable to have more than the minimum required number of electors sign the form in the event that one or more signatures are not eligible to nominate.
Can one use a preferred name on the ballot? Or it must be first and last?	On Form 4, you will print your name as it should appear on the ballot. This should be your surname and a given name. The use of a nickname is permitted but not titles (e.g., Mr., Ms., Dr.).
Do the 100 electors refer to the people who support you within the ward you are running in?	Yes, that is correct. Electors signing your Form 4 must reside in the ward you plan to represent if you are a councillor or school board trustee candidate.
Does the nomination form for electors filling it out do you need to include province and city for the full address? Or just full address and postal code?	Please collect an elector's full address which includes the street address, city, province and postal code.
Are forms 4 and 5 available today?	Yes. Forms 4 and 5 are available on the Elections Calgary website: https://www.calgary.ca/election/information-for-candidates/become-a-candidate/nomination-checklist-and-forms.html
Can the list of electors be submitted as an attachment, viz., spreadsheet or pdf?	The list of electors must be collected and included on Form 4. You are also permitted to use the supplemental Form 4 to collect signatures.
Is elector information on the nomination papers protected, i.e., under FOIP?	The information collected in Form 4 is authorized by sections 21 and 27 of the Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA) and section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. A notice of collection of personal information is provided on Form 4, including a statement that "the personal information will be managed in compliance with the privacy provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. If you have any questions concerning the collection of this personal information, please contact the Deputy City Clerk, Elections at (403) 476-4100 or candidates@calgary.ca ". Section 28 (6) of the LAEA provides "at any time after the commencement of the nomination period until the term of office to which the filed nomination papers relate has expired, a person may request to examine the filed nomination papers during regular business hours and in the presence of the returning officer, deputy or secretary".
Does it matter if the signature form is printed off double-sided or single-sided?	No, it does not matter.
Did you mention earlier that one should not use Mr., Ms., Dr. before their names.	Correct. Form 4 does not permit the use of a title such as Mr., Ms. or Dr. on the ballot.

I read that Calgary council requires a \$1,000 deposit, not a \$100 one. Can you clarify? I read it was based on population.	The deposit required is \$500 for mayoral candidate and \$100 for councillor or School Board Trustee.
Just remind me do we book our submission appointments online? When can we start booking?	Appointments are available now. Visit https://www.calgary.ca/election/information-for-candidates/become-a-candidate/submit-your-nomination-papers.html
Can the electors be the eligible family members as well?	Yes.
Can the nomination form be auto filled in reference to the candidate and the office they are running for?	Form 4, supplemental Form 4 and Form 5 are fillable PDFs. Candidates can enter their information and distribute to supporters for the purpose of collecting signatures. However, signatures must be original. Digital or email signatures are not permitted.
What does it mean by Address of Place where candidate records are maintained?	The Address of Place where records are maintained refers to where you will store paperwork related to your campaign including receipts for contributions and expenses, copies of the nomination forms, etc. This may be your home address if you are storing records at home.

Candidate Forms – Signatures

Given the growing rate of COVID19 infection, can we collect individual nomination signatures online?	Digital signatures are not permitted. Original signatures are required. You may consider leaving nomination papers to be signed and then picking them up at a later time. Elections Calgary has made available a supplement Form 4 which is a single page that can be distributed to supports for the purpose of collecting signatures. You would then collect the supplemental Form 4 once signed (e.g. from a mailbox) and submit any supplemental Form 4 papers with your nomination papers. The supplement Form 4 is available on ElectionsCalgary.ca
Do the signatories have to be citizens?	Yes, they do. Nominating signatures must be from eligible electors. Please reference LAEA section 47 Eligibility to vote for a list of criteria for who can vote.
Can you be one of the 100 signatures on your own nomination papers?	Provided the candidate resides in the ward they wish to represent, yes.
Can all the voting members of a family including candidates that reside in the ward candidate run for, be the nominators in the list of 100?	Yes, that is an option.
Can I come on Jan. 4th. to register and complete the signature form later?	No. Candidates must provide completed Form 4 and Form 5 when they file their nomination papers with Elections Calgary. This includes the required number of signatures and the deposit.
When collecting signatures, what's the best way to verify that 100 people meet the definition of "elector"?	Please view the definition of an elector here: www.calgary.ca/election/information-for-candidates/become-a-candidate/nomination-checklist-and-forms.html
Considering the COVID-19 situation can we have the 100 electors' information and signatures on multiple pages? If I want to keep it safe I would use one page for one "bubble".	One page per bubble is allowed to collect signatures. Elections Calgary has provided a supplemental Form 4 for this purpose. Elections Calgary has made available a supplement Form 4 which is a single page that can be distributed to supports for the purpose of collecting signatures. You would then collect the supplemental Form 4 once signed (e.g. from a mailbox) and submit any supplemental Form 4 papers with your nomination papers. The supplement Form 4 is available on ElectionsCalgary.ca
To be clear, any resident can sign nomination forms? They do not need to live in the candidate's ward?	No. If you are a candidate for councillor or school board trustee, nominating signatures must be from electors from the ward you are running in.
Could you email the form to supporters and then pick up?	Yes, Form 4 or the supplemental Form 4 can be emailed and printed by supporters for the purpose of collecting signatures. However, please note that the signatures collected must be original. Digital or email signatures are not accepted. Elections Calgary has provided a supplemental form 4 for the purpose of collecting signatures. The form can be dropped off to households to collect signatures and then picked up by candidates.
My understanding of the nomination form is that the signatures are only valid if they are signed with the full understanding that the form they are signing has the details of the candidate on it prior to signing.	Yes. The elector should see the candidate's information so they aware of who the form is for and for which ward and office.
What disqualifies a nomination signature?	Nominating signatures must be from eligible electors. A list of criteria for an eligible elector is posted on ElectionsCalgary.ca. Also, if you are running as a councillor or school board trustee, signatures must be from electors within the ward you are running in.

Campaign Finances

Can you start taking donations before you hand in your nomination papers?	Please refer to LAEA section 147.22 subsection (3) (a) a person who accepts not more than \$5000 in the aggregate per year in contributions outside the campaign period; (b) a candidate who makes a contribution of not more than \$10 000 in the aggregate per year to the candidate's own campaign from the candidate's own funds.
Can you open the account before your file your forms?	Yes, bank accounts can be opened in advance.
Campaign account when issuing receipts for donations are they municipal tax receipts. Can people donating claim a % of their donation back through tax?	Donations to a municipal campaign are not eligible for tax credits.
Is there a maximum amount that you can receive in donations for school trustee?	No, there is no limit on total donations a campaign can receive. However, candidates with contributions or expenses of \$50 000 or more are required to file a review engagement with their financial disclosures, as per LAEA section 147.4(2) (2) A candidate who has incurred campaign expenses or received contributions of \$50,000 or more shall file a review engagement with the disclosure statement referred to in subsection (1).
Who can I contact about deficits from previous campaigns?	Please email candidates@calgary.ca .
What is the total amount allowed for self-funding a campaign for councillor? It used to be \$10,000 - is it still the same?	It is still the same. \$10,000 per year. Please reference LAEA 147.22(3) (b) a candidate who makes a contribution of not more than \$10,000 in the aggregate per year to the candidate's own campaign from the candidate's own funds.
If I withdraw from the race, do I get \$500 deposit back?	Yes, that is correct. Please reference LAEA section 30 (c) if the candidate withdraws as a candidate in accordance with section 32.
What is the average cost of a campaign?	Campaign costs vary per campaign.
Have individuals historically funded their own campaigns?	Campaigns funding sources can vary. They can be entirely self-funded. They can be entirely funded by contribution from supports. Campaigns funds can also be a combination of contributions from oneself (self-funds) and donors.
Please clarify - nomination papers need to be filed before raising or spending money? How can candidates raise \$5,000 this year before they can file their papers in January?	Please reference LAEA section 147.22 Acceptance of contributions. In particular, subsection (3) (a) a person who accepts not more than \$5,000 in the aggregate per year in contributions outside the campaign period. Also, the LAEA defines the campaign period as January 1 to December 31 in a year in which a general election is held. LAEA 147.1(1)(b).
Are there limits to how much candidates can spend before January?	The LAEA does not appear to address expenses outside of the campaign period. Please seek your own legal counsel on this matter.
Can a person outside the province donate to your campaign?	No. Please reference LAEA section 147.2 (1) Only an individual ordinarily resident in Alberta may make a contribution to a candidate.
Personal contribution from the candidate of \$10,000, is per calendar year? That is \$10,000, - for 2020 and \$10,000 for 2021?	Yes, that is correct.
You just said that you need to be a candidate to incur expenses. The province has told me otherwise. Can you kindly clarify?	There are two timeframes to consider. 1) during the campaign period and 2) outside the campaign period. Sec. 147.22 (1) of the LAEA provides that no candidate and no person acting for a candidate shall accept a contribution or incur an expense except during the campaign period (January 1 – December 31, 2021). One cannot become a candidate until the nomination period (January 1 – December 31, 2021), so <i>expenses during the campaign period</i> cannot be incurred until a person is nominated as a candidate. Outside the campaign period, the LAEA permits a person to accept up to \$5,000 in the aggregate per year in contributions outside the campaign period and self-fund up to \$10,000 in the aggregate per year. While the LAEA doesn't appear to specifically address <i>expenses outside the campaign period</i> , the Ministry of Municipal Affairs has indicated expenses outside the campaign period are permitted (see page 6: Implementation Fact Sheet Campaign Finance and Contribution Disclosure Amendments (alberta.ca)).
How are funds raised in prior years by a declared candidate (existing councillor) be treated for all periods prior to the change in legislation. i.e. funds raised in 2018?	Surplus funds from previous elections are governed by LAEA 147.51 Transitional - campaign surplus. All individuals with a surplus being held by The City of Calgary will have received a letter in the mail regarding the disposition of the funds. If you have not received a letter and have surplus funds held by The City, please contact Elections Calgary.

	Any new funds collected between 2018 and 2020 are consider contributions <i>outside the campaign period</i> . This funds cannot exceed \$5000 per year. Please reference LAEA section 147.22.
Is the total amount able to be raised in 2020, before Jan 1, 2021 \$15,000? (\$5,000 from all others, and \$10,000 self?)	Yes, that is correct.
Is a candidate able to fund living expenses while campaigning full time?	All campaign related expenses must be reported on financial disclosure statements. The LAEA does not appear to address living expenses specifically. Please note that all disclosure statements are available for the public to view.
Will you have a list of what campaign donations can be used for?	No. Candidates are encouraged to fully review Part 5.1 of the LAEA with regard to candidate campaign finance obligations.
If you self-fund, do you need a bank account?	Previously, the LAEA required that a candidate open a bank account once total contributions received reach \$5,000. Self-funded candidates were not required to open a bank account. Section 147.3(1) of the LAEA now provides that a candidate shall ensure that (a) 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 \$1,000 in the aggregate. (c) money in the campaign account shall only be used for the payment of campaign expenses, (e) receipts are issued for every contribution and obtained for every expense,
How is the campaign bank account to be identified? (i.e.: personal name?)	Section 147.3(1) of the LAEA provides that the candidate shall ensure that a campaign account in the name of the candidate <i>or</i> the candidate's election campaign.

Voting

Do you know when the advance poll date is?	These dates are still to be confirmed.
Sorry if someone asked this already but when will polling areas and polling station locations be announced? Thank you.	Voting subdivisions and voting stations will be posted online at a later date. Please check ElectionsCalgary.ca for updates.
What time will the polls be open? Last time they opened at 10am which is late. Thanks	On Election Day, October 18, 2021, voting stations will be open from 8 am to 8 pm. Hours for Advance voting will vary. Please check ElectionsCalgary.ca for updates on voting options, dates and times.

Legislation

Can a person run for a certain ward and not reside in that particular ward- for example, I reside in ward 8 can I run for ward 2?	Yes, that is correct. Please reference LAEA section 21 (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), in the case of a city, a candidate for councillor is not required to be a resident of the ward in either a general election or a by-election, but must be a resident of the city. (3) Notwithstanding subsection (1), a candidate for trustee of a board of a school division that is wholly or partly within the boundaries of a city is not required to be a resident of the ward in either a general election or a by-election, but must be a resident of the school division.
Is Calgary different from other cities, i.e. Edmonton, Toronto, Vancouver, in terms of elections?	Each municipality runs their elections differently. Please check the LAEA which governs elections in Alberta. Also, there are City of Calgary bylaws related to elections. Links to relevant election legislation is posted on the Candidates resources page of ElectionsCalgary.ca
Oct 18 is the election day, and campaign period is Jan 1 to Dec 31. Please provide clarification. Thank you.	That is correct. The LAEA section 147.1 (1) (b) defines "campaign period" as "in the case of a general election, the period of time from January 1 to December 31 in a year in which a general election is held."
Is there any limit to the number of candidates that are allowed per ward?	There is no limit.
Can your campaign volunteers live outside the province?	Yes. The LAEA does not appear to address campaign volunteers or their residency.

Official Agents

Does a Candidate HAVE to have an official agent?	No, they do not. An official agent is optional.
So, one can file nomination papers without an official agent, but there is an option to appoint one at a later date.	Yes, that is an option. You must notify Elections Calgary in written if you have appointed an official agent (where previously you had none) or if you appoint a new official agent.
Why does my official agent need to be an elector?	This is required by legislation.
Can there be only one Agent at a time?	The LAEA refers to the appointment of "an Official Agent," implying only one.
Why would someone need an official agent?	Official Agents can be used in any capacity to manage your campaign.
If you have someone run your Social Media campaign/accounts would they be considered an official agent?	An Official Agent is optional. If you do have an official agent, their duties are assigned by the candidate. You can have a campaign volunteer run your social media and they do not have to be your official agent.

Campaign Advertising

When can yard signs be displayed, and when can candidates display signs?	Campaign signs can be placed on the side of roads or on City of Calgary boulevards starting from the close of nominations and ending after the close of polls. This means you can place signs AFTER 12pm on September 21 until 8pm on October 18, 2021. This does not apply to signs on private lawns.
Can you begin to campaign (during non-working hours) prior to filing your nomination, if you are a City employee?	If you are a City of Calgary employee, please check The City's "Conflict of Interest Policy" Section 6 – Political Activity available on www.calgary.ca/conflictinterest
Once you file your papers does your name appear publicly online?	Names will be posted online once the forms are accepted and signed by Elections Calgary.
Can we ask you withhold posting our name for 3 months once we file nomination?	Candidates cannot request their names be left off the candidate list on Elections Calgary's website. Names will be posted online once the forms are accepted and signed by Elections Calgary. All candidates will be processed in the same manner.
Once you're a candidate when can you go around your ward promoting your intentions?	Yes, you can campaign once your nomination forms are accepted.
Can the city logo (or variation thereof) be used for campaign purposes? If there are any restrictions, what are they?	The City of Calgary logo is reserved for usage by Administration for official City of Calgary business only and the logo cannot be altered from its original format.
Who do I contact to verify that graphics used for campaigning are acceptable?	Please email elections@calgary.ca .
When can we start the campaign? After nomination or even before?	Individuals are not considered candidates until they file their completed nomination forms. However, you can share your intent to run prior to filing your nomination papers.
Can nominees provide a link to a video that will be posted on the Elections website? Can they use font styles (e.g. bold) and emojis in their description?	Candidate profile videos on the Elections Calgary website will be an unedited video recorded by Elections Calgary. Various font styles and emojis will not be able to be accommodated.
Just to verify: can one put up a web site that indicates intention to run as candidate before January 4?	Individuals are not considered candidates until they file their completed nomination forms. However, you can share your intent to run prior to filing your nomination papers.
In the past, campaign signs could only be put up after nomination day in September. If I file my signatures before September, can I put up lawn signs?	Campaign signs can be placed on the side of roads or on City of Calgary boulevards starting from the close of nominations and ending after the close of polls. This means you can place signs AFTER 12pm on September 21 until 8pm on October 18, 2021. This does not apply to signs on private lawns.
Are there any regulations regarding the use of online social media advertisements?	The LAEA does not appear to address this topic specifically. Please obtain legal advice regarding the full extent of your obligations.
Is there a way to see who else has registered to be a candidate for your ward?	Elections Calgary will post the names of candidates who have filed nomination papers on ElectionsCalgary.ca.
Can we make podcasts prior to January 4 and share on the social media?	The LAEA does not appear to address this topic specifically. Please obtain legal advice regarding the full extent of your obligations.
Are candidates able to declare or advertise their support for political parties within their advertising material?	The LAEA does not appear to address this topic specifically. Please obtain legal advice regarding the full extent of your obligations.
Can you define "campaign material" or "advertising" and confirm what the date limits around those are?	Campaign or advertising material indicating that you are a candidate can be shared after your nomination papers have been accepted.

Leave of Absence

How much leave of absence are employees entitled to by law during campaign period?	The LAEA only addresses candidates who are employed by the local jurisdiction (in this case, The City of Calgary) and employees of the school division, charter school or private school. Please reference LAEA section 22 (1.1). The LAEA does not address other types of employers. Please check with your employer's HR department regarding political activities. If you are a City of Calgary employee, please check The City's "Conflict of Interest Policy" Section 6 – Political Activity available on www.calgary.ca/conflictinterest
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Can one continue to work for an employer until election results are out?	<p>The LAEA only addresses candidates who are employed by the local jurisdiction (in this case, The City of Calgary) and employees of the school division, charter school or private school. Please reference LAEA section 22 (1.1).</p> <p>The LAEA does not address other types of employers. Please check with your employer's HR department regarding political involvement.</p>
How soon do you need to take a leave of absence if you are an employee of the CBE?	<p>An employee of a school division must be on a leave of absence on nomination day as for Section 22(1.1) of the LAEA: A person is not eligible to be nominated as a candidate for election as a trustee of a board of a school division if on nomination day the person is employed by (a) a school division, (b) a charter school, or (c) a private school, in Alberta unless the person takes a leave of absence under this section.</p> <p>Also, a candidate employed by a school division can notify their employer on or after July 1, as per section 22 (5.1) (5.1) A person employed by an entity referred to in subsection (1.1) who wishes to be nominated as a candidate for election as a trustee of a board of a school division may notify that person's employer on or after July 1 in the year of an election but before the person's last working day prior to nomination day that the person is taking a leave of absence without pay under this section.</p>
If a City employee chooses to run, are they able to continue working until nomination day (Sept. 20) or would they have to take a LOA when they submit their candidate papers?	<p>City of Calgary employees must take a leave of absence as of nomination day as per LAEA section 22(1)(b).</p> <p>A person is not eligible to be nominated as a candidate in any election under this Act if on nomination day, the person is an employee of the local jurisdiction for which the election is to be held unless the person takes a leave of absence under this section.</p> <p>Also, as a City of Calgary employee, you can notify your employer of a leave of absence on or after July 1 as per LAEA section 22(5): A person who is an employee of a municipality and who wishes to be nominated as a candidate in an election to be held for that municipality may notify that person's employer on or after July 1 in the year of a general election or on or after the day the council passes a resolution to hold a by-election but before the person's last working day prior to nomination day that the person is taking a leave of absence without pay under this section.</p> <p>Also, if you are a City of Calgary employee, please check The City's "Conflict of Interest Policy" Section 6 – Political Activity available on www.calgary.ca/conflictinterest</p>

School Board Trustee

Are voters who are not in the separate school eligible to nominate someone for a separate school board position?	<p>The LAEA in sec. 27(1) (b) be signed by "persons who are electors eligible to vote in that election and resident in the local jurisdiction on the date of signing the nomination".</p> <p>Therefore, electors signing Form 4 should also be separate school electors residing in the ward.</p>
Does a school board trustee need to be a resident of the School Division in which they plan to run?	Section 21(3) of the LAEA provides that a candidate for trustee of a board of a school division that is wholly or partly within the boundaries of a city is not required to be a resident of the ward in either a general election or a by-election but <u>must be a resident of the school division</u> .
<p>In LAEA section 21- "have been a resident of the local jurisdiction and the ward for the six consecutive months immediately preceding nomination day..."</p> <p>Do we have to be a resident of the ward for school board trustee?</p>	<p>A candidate for school board trustee, does not have to be a resident of the ward but must be a resident of the school division.</p> <p>Please refer to LAEA section 21 (3) (3) Notwithstanding subsection (1), a candidate for trustee of a board of a school division that is wholly or partly within the boundaries of a city is not required to be a resident of the ward in either a general election or a by-election but must be a resident of the school division.</p>
Do school board trustees represent two wards?	Yes. The specific wards are still being confirmed with the school divisions. Please check ElectionsCalgary.ca for updates.

Process

How long after filing nomination papers on January 4 will one know that the papers are accepted: i.e. one KNOW that he/she is a candidate?	<p>If you have booked an appointment, your nomination papers will be reviewed by Elections Calgary staff with you and will be accepted or rejected at the time of the appointment.</p> <p>If you have mailed or dropped off your nomination papers, Elections Calgary will notify candidates if their nomination papers are accepted or rejected the next business day.</p>
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Is there a difference between registering to be a candidate, i.e., submit form 4 and 5 and submitting the nomination form that contains the 100 signatures? We have until September 2021 to submit the nomination form that has the 100 signatures, correct?	When you file your nomination papers, you must submit Form 4, Form 5, the required number of signatures and the required deposit at the same time. You can file your nomination papers anytime between January 4 and noon on September 20, 2021. Consider using the nomination checklist provided on Elections Calgary's website.
Can I come to your office to pick up the candidate form, and when?	Yes, you can email candidates@calgary.ca to set up a time to pick up the forms or find them www.electionscalgary.ca
Can candidates change their ward they are running in after filing their nominations?	Candidates are permitted to withdraw at any time before noon on September 21, 2021. You may then file new nomination papers for a new ward or office. You will be required to submit a financial statement for each of the campaigns – the one you withdrew from and the subsequent campaign. The form to withdraw is available on www.electionscalgary.ca
How many candidates sign up and are accepted?	The number of candidates is unknown until this occurs. If the forms are completed as required, all candidates will be accepted.
Does applying early give any benefit to the candidate?	Filing nomination papers early in the campaign period means that candidates can begin to accept campaign contributions.
Does the candidate need to submit Security Clearance Letter from CPS? If so, what level of security clearance is required, viz., Vulnerability Sector Clearance (VSC), etc.?	A security clearance is not required.
How are signatures verified?	Elections Calgary does not validate or authenticate nominating signatures. It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that electors signing Form 4 are eligible. The LAEA provides that the person nominated as a candidate is responsible for ensuring that the nomination papers meet all statutory requirements (sec. 28(2)) and their nomination papers are accompanied with a written acceptance sworn or affirmed in the prescribed form by the person nominated, stating that the persons who have signed the nomination are electors who are eligible to vote in that election and resident in the local jurisdiction on the date of signing the nomination (sec. 27(1)(c)(v)).
When is the election period, I thought it was just 6 weeks?	There are various timeframes referred to in the LAEA (nomination period and campaign period) but it does not refer to an “election period”. There is an “election advertising period” that is related to Third Party Advertising. Please refer to the LAEA Section 162. (e) “election advertising period” means (i) in the case of a general election, the period commencing May 1 in the year in which a general election is held and ending at the end of the election day,

Third Party Advertisers

Can you explain what a third-party advertiser is? Can they help any candidates? How do candidates report these expenses?	A third party advertiser is an individual, group or corporation (but does not include a candidate) who supports or opposes a candidate. The LAEA provides for a number of activities which are not considered third party advertising. Third parties that intend to engage in election advertising are required to register with Elections Calgary. Third party advertisers will be covered in greater detail in a future information session, but more information can be found here https://www.calgary.ca/election/information-for-third-party-advertisers/third-party-advertising.html
There is a takebackcityhall.org that is raising money in ward. I believe they would be considered 3rd party advertiser? I am just wondering how they are raising money.	The requirements of third party advertisers are set out in Part 8 of the LAEA. Enforcement of third party advertiser campaign finance activities is the responsibility of the Election Commissioner (visit Complaints Elections Alberta).
Is a third party advertiser the same as a PAC?	A third party advertiser is sometimes referred to as a Political Action Committee (PAC). PAC is more commonly used in the United States. Elections Calgary will only use the term “third party advertisers” and “third party advertising” in keeping with activities regulated in Part 8 of the LAEA.

Ward Boundaries

You mentioned you have ward maps available, but do you also have or sell detailed maps with full street addresses?	Please visit the Ward Boundary Lookup Map https://thecityofcalgary.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/lookup/index.html?appid=b0ca20479c52427196adbdf101264cd7 for more details on the new ward boundaries.
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Do nominators for councillors need to be from the Ward as it will exist on election day or as the boundaries exist now (as some ward boundaries are changing)?	All wards have been updated as part of the Ward Boundary Review process. The new boundaries take effect for the 2021 General Election. Nominating signatures must be from electors in the updated ward boundaries for the election. Updated ward boundary maps are available on www.ElectionsCalgary.ca
Where can I find the maps for the new boundaries?	You can find ward boundary maps on the Candidate Resource section: https://www.calgary.ca/election/information-for-candidates/candidate-resources.html

Eligibility

Can people who do business with The City (say as a contractor) run as a candidate?	Candidate ineligibility provisions are set out in Section 22(1) of the LAEA.
How long does a Canadian citizen need to be living in Alberta (Calgary/ward) in order to qualify as a resident and be allowed to vote?	In order to vote you must be (as of Election Day): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least 18 years old - A Canadian citizen - A resident of Alberta - A <u>resident on Election Day</u>; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o of the city of Calgary, to vote for mayor; o of the ward, to vote for councillor; and o of the Calgary Board of Education, for public school trustee; or o of the Calgary Roman Catholic Separate School District No. 1, for separate school trustee.

Roles and Responsibilities

Will there be an online debate for School Board nominees?	Elections Calgary does not organize candidate debates.
The Canadian Charter of Rights starts out by stating: Whereas Canada is founded upon the principles that recognize the supremacy of God: are atheist allowed to run for public office?	Candidate qualification provisions are set out in sec. 21 of the LAEA. Ineligibility provisions are set out in sec. 22 of the LAEA.
When can we obtain a list of electors? And how do we do that?	Subject to required verification of technical, security and approval of legal requirements, the list of electors will be made available on the day following the withdrawal of candidates (September 22, 2021) in keeping with sec. 50(2) of the LAEA. Candidates will be advised of further details when available.
In the last municipal election there was a school board trustee candidate who had submitted their nomination papers but it was proven months later that she wasn't a Canadian citizen, thus not eligible. What policy changes has Elections Calgary implemented so that this does not happen again?	Elections Calgary does not have authority to develop these kinds of policy changes. These concerns should be addressed to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, accountable for amendments to the LAEA: https://www.alberta.ca/municipal-affairs.aspx .
Is a volunteer board member of a private school, considered an 'employee' of a school?	The LAEA provides that a person is not eligible to be nominated as a candidate in any election if on nomination day the person is <i>an employee</i> of the local jurisdiction for which the election is to be held, unless the person takes a leave of absence (sec. 22 (1)(b)). In addition, the LAEA provides that a person is not eligible to be nominated as a candidate for election as a trustee of a board of a school division if on nomination day the person is employed by (a) a school division, (b) a charter school, or (c) a private school, in Alberta unless the person takes a leave of absence (sec. 22 (1.1)). The volunteer board member of a private school is encouraged to seek a legal opinion regarding their eligibility to be nominated as a candidate.

Miscellaneous

Is there a tax-free component to the salary earned by a councillor?	No portion of a councillor's salary is tax free.
If an incumbent adds their name and takes nomination papers in January, are they still able to do their work as an elected official?	Incumbents can continue to work as an elected official but must follow the Council Code of Conduct. Please contact the Ethics Advisor for any questions of clarification (https://www.calgary.ca/citycouncil/integrity-ethics.html).
Do we have any statistics and financial statements from previous years?	Election results and disclosure statements from previous years are available online at https://www.calgary.ca/election/results/default.html
Are there more information sessions after this one covering different topics?	More information sessions will be available in 2021. Please check www.ElectionsCalgary.ca often for updates.