

# Edmonton Catholic Separate School District #7

## 2013 Municipal Elections for Trustee

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### Running for Office

Edmonton Catholic Schools promotes and encourages its supporters to run for the office of elected school board trustee. The District is committed to providing an environment that will give all candidates—those seeking election for the first time, and those candidates who are seeking re-election—fair access to the electorate.

City Council and School District Trustee elections are held on the same day. The City of Edmonton runs school board elections in conjunction with councillor and mayor elections in accordance with the *Local Authorities Election Act*.

[http://www.qp.alberta.ca/1266.cfm?page=L21.cfm&leg\\_type=Acts&isbncln=9780779760480](http://www.qp.alberta.ca/1266.cfm?page=L21.cfm&leg_type=Acts&isbncln=9780779760480)

**Election Day is Monday, October 21, 2013.**

**Nomination Day will be held four weeks prior to Election Day on Monday, September 23, 2013.**

Nomination forms are obtained from the City of Edmonton Elections Office and must include \$100 cash and signed by at least 25 voters.

See [http://www.edmonton.ca/city\\_government/municipal\\_elections/running-for-office.aspx](http://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/municipal_elections/running-for-office.aspx).

### Eligibility

The *Local Authorities Election Act*, s22(1) states that a person is eligible to be nominated as a candidate:

- if the person is eligible to vote
- has been a resident of the local jurisdiction for 6 consecutive months immediately preceding nomination day, and
- is not otherwise ineligible or disqualified

### Wards

Seven trustees are elected for Edmonton Catholic Schools out of seven wards (Wards 71 to 77 inclusive) in accordance with s. 26 of the *School Act* (District Bylaw 2010–04). The candidate receiving the greatest number of votes in each ward shall be elected as trustee for that ward. While trustees are elected from wards, they represent all members of the Edmonton Catholic Schools electorate.

See [www.ecsd.net/trustees](http://www.ecsd.net/trustees) to access wards.

**Access to candidates to the Electorate** is facilitated by the District through the following methods:

1. On-line Video interviews
2. Link on the District and the City of Edmonton Elections websites to candidate websites
3. Distribution of pamphlets

### **1. On-Line Video Interviews**

Following Nomination Day, Edmonton Catholic Schools tapes on-line video interviews that can be accessed at any time during the election campaign by the electorate.

The format of the video interviews is similar to those used for Mayor and City Councillor forums. Trustee candidates will make a timed statement to introduce themselves and to say why they are running for office. Candidates will then answer a common set of questions that will be asked of all candidates. Each candidate will be given a set period of time to respond to each question.

These videos are posted online on the District website and organized by ward, by candidate and by question to provide the electorate quick and user friendly access to information on candidates. Contact information for every candidate will be provided along with the links to individual candidate campaign websites in the event that a constituent wishes to ask further questions of a candidate.

### **2. Link on District Website for Municipal/Trustee Elections**

Links to individual candidate contact information, campaign websites and/or PDF versions of their campaign brochures will be provided on the District website.

*Edmonton Catholic Schools is not responsible for the content or accuracy of any individual's web site. If there are any questions or concerns, please contact the candidate directly.*

Edmonton Catholic Schools links to the City of Edmonton website where candidate information and biography information may be accessed. Candidates are required to complete a "Contact Information Form" which is provided with nomination papers and on Nomination Day.

### **3. Distribution of Pamphlets**

Candidates are not permitted to hand out brochures at the school sites. To assist candidates in disseminating their campaign information to school communities following Nomination Day, the District will deliver pamphlets or brochures to all schools in a specific time frame for all candidates. Candidates must have their brochures packaged as follows: one package per school with the school name in large letters; each package is to contain brochures grouped in bundles of 30 allowing for easy dissemination to the classrooms. Details are provided to candidates on Nomination Day with respect to where and when to bring the campaign material to the District as well as a list of schools in each ward, and an approximate number of students in each school.

## **Political Activities on District Property**

Political activities of any kind are strictly prohibited at any time on District properties. This includes distribution of pamphlets in or outside of school sites. Distribution of pamphlets is facilitated by the District as noted above.

Regulations relating to this are contained in Administrative Regulation 408.1.

([http://www.ecsd.net/policies\\_forms/clpdf/clar408.pdf](http://www.ecsd.net/policies_forms/clpdf/clar408.pdf))

School property is identified as follows:

- schools and administrative buildings
- school grounds, including the parking lot
- the sidewalk leading to the entrance of buildings

## **School Council Meetings**

With respect to campaigning, candidates cannot ask to speak at a school advisory meeting nor can a school council invite an individual candidate to a school advisory council meeting to speak about their candidacy or the ensuing election.

Incumbents are allowed to continue their work as trustee in relation to school councils; however, discussions relating to the individual trustee's election campaign are prohibited.

## **Use of District Resources**

Candidates are prohibited from using District resources such as the internal mail service or distribution of campaign materials through the District e-mail system, staff, and printing services. Political campaigning of any sort is not compliant with the legislated purpose of school councils. The use of personal information in support of political activities could result in complaints that personal information was mishandled pursuant to the *Personal Information Protection Act*.

Incumbents who are seeking re-election are not permitted to use Edmonton Catholic School District resources including email, fax, or mail services for the purposes of campaigning.

## **Faith**

The *School Act* clarifies that a separate school candidate must be of the same faith of the District as it was established (s 256, 3.1(a)). Candidates for Edmonton Catholic Schools must be Roman Catholic as per the *School Act* s.74 (1, 2, 3, & 4) and the *Local Authorities Election Act*.

The definition of "Roman Catholic" for the Purposes of the election of trustee is an individual who recognizes the Pope as the head of the church, a baptized member of the Roman Catholic Church or one of the Eastern Catholic churches in communion with the Pope in Rome, including but not limited to, the Albanian, Armenian, Belarusian, Bulgarian, Chaldean, Coptic, Ethiopian, Eritrean, Georgina, Greek, Hungarian, Italo-Albanian, Maronite, Melkite, Romanian, Russian, Ruthenian, Byzantine, Ruthenian-Greek, Slovak, Syrian, Syro-Malabar, Syro-Malankara and Ukrainian Catholic churches.

## **Ineligibility of Employees**

Section 22(1)(b) of the *Local Authorities Election Act* states that a person is not eligible to be nominated as a candidate in any election if the person is an employee of a school jurisdiction for which the election is to be held unless the person is on a leave of absence.

Further, section 5.1 of the *Local Authorities Election Act* states that an employee who wishes to be nominated as a candidate for election as a trustee of a school board may apply to his or her employer for a leave of absence without pay on or after July 1 in the year of an election but before the employee's last working day prior to nomination day.

## **Campaign Disclosure Statements**

The *Local Authority Elections Act* Part 5.1 Municipal Election Finance and Contribution Disclosure, applies to individuals nominated as a candidate for election as mayor or councillor of a municipality.

Section 118(2) of the *Local Authorities Election Act* states that with respect to an election of a school board trustee, an elected authority may, by a bylaw, require that candidates prepare and disclose to the public statements of all their campaign contributions and campaign expenses and may prescribe how campaign contributions not used for campaign expenses must be used.

Edmonton Catholic Separate School District #7 believes that it is important for candidates to be accountable to their electorate and has enacted a Bylaw requiring public disclosure of campaign contributions and campaign expenses. The Bylaw was approved at the March 19, 2013 Public Board Meeting and will be enacted once the minutes of this meeting are approved on April 30, 2013. (insert bylaw link)

### **Once Elected**

On Nomination Day, candidates are given information about what is required of them immediately following Election Day, should they be elected. An orientation schedule and dates are given to allow candidates to prepare for these meetings.

If you are elected as a trustee, s. 81 of the *School Act* requires each trustee file with the board's secretary a statement showing:

- (a) the names and employment of the trustee and the trustee's spouse or adult interdependent partner and children,
- (b) the names of the corporations, partnerships, firms, governments or persons in which the trustee has a pecuniary interest, and
- (c) the names of the corporations, partnerships, firms, governments or persons in which the trustee's spouse or adult interdependent partner or children under 18 years of age have a pecuniary interest.

### **For more information:**

#### **Election & Census Services**

16304 - 114 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5M 3R8

Phone: 780 498 8008

#### **Board Office**

Edmonton Catholic Schools  
9807-106 Street  
Edmonton AB T5K 1C2

Phone: 780 441-6002

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#### References:

[http://www.edmonton.ca/city\\_government/edmonton-elections.aspx](http://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/edmonton-elections.aspx)

[http://www.asba.ab.ca/trustee\\_election13.asp](http://www.asba.ab.ca/trustee_election13.asp) Alberta School Boards Association

<http://www.acsta.ab.ca/> Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association

<http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/s03.pdf> (*School Act*)

<http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/L21.pdf> (*Local Authorities Election Act*)

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