



# Virtual Information Session for Aspiring Candidates

## *#2 - Campaign Financing*



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# Welcome

- Introductions
- Land acknowledgement
- Agenda overview
- Staying updated

# Recap and updates



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# Key dates

**Nomination period:** January 4, 2021 to noon, September 20, 2021

**Campaign period:** January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

**Final day to withdraw nominations:** Noon, September 21, 2021

**Election Day:** October 18, 2021

**Campaign disclosure statement deadline:** March 1, 2022

# Edmonton Elections

- Plans and executes the 2021 Edmonton General Election
- Focuses on three themes:
  - Vote
  - Run
  - Work
- Follows four principles:
  - Accessible
  - Inclusive
  - Equitable
  - Ethical

# Ward boundaries update

- The new City of Edmonton ward boundaries will change **effective Election Day**: October 18, 2021.
- The changes include new geographical boundaries and indigenous ward names.
- Candidates must collect signatures from residents who live in the ward they seek to represent.
- School division boundaries have also changed.

**Maps available on [edmonton.ca/elections](https://edmonton.ca/elections)**

# Nomination process update

- Nomination papers and deposits can be submitted in City Hall starting January 4, 2021.

**Request an appointment starting Monday, December 14, 2020.**

- Appointments will be available from Monday to Friday between 9am and 3pm

**Visit [edmonton.ca/elections](https://edmonton.ca/elections) for updates**

# Outstanding questions

- **What is the process for special (mail-in) ballots?**  
Special (mail-in) ballot applications begin August 1, 2021.
- **I received contributions in 2020. Can I spend them before campaign period?**  
You must be a candidate in order to incur campaign expenses. You can not file nomination papers and pay your deposit until January 4, 2021.
- **I need to take a leave of absence. Can this begin after I submit my nomination paper and deposit?**  
No, to be eligible as a candidate, certain individuals must take a leave of absence before they register as a candidate.



# Campaign financing



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# Overview

- Regulations for Finances and Disclosures are set out in Part 5.1 of the *Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA)*.
- Regulations have recently changed.

# Definitions

**Campaign expense:** A cost incurred by a candidate's campaign for something that is used to directly promote a candidate

**Contribution:** Something provided to a candidate to support their campaign

**Prohibited organization:** An organization prevented by legislation from making contributions

**Surplus:** When the total contributions received exceed total expenses

**Deficit:** When total expenses exceed total contributions

# Contributions and expenses



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# Campaign bank accounts

- All contributions must be deposited to a campaign account
- Money from expenses must be drawn from a campaign account
- Account must be opened:
  - When you submit nomination papers
  - or**
  - As soon as possible after contributions reach over \$1,000

**Details must be provided to Edmonton Elections in Form 5**

# Contribution limits

- **Only candidates** can accept contributions in an election year.
- **Candidates** can self-fund up to **\$10,000**.
- **Individuals:**
  - Must be eligible to make a contribution.
  - Cannot contribute more than **\$5,000** to a candidate, in a campaign period.
  - Can contribute to as many candidates as they choose.

# Campaign expenses limits

- The Government of Alberta can set campaign expense limits.
- Candidates must not exceed the expense limits.
- As of December 2020, limits have not been set.

# Candidate key responsibilities

- **Know your contributors.** Candidates must make *every reasonable effort* to advise prospective contributors of the financing regulations described in the *LAEA*.
- Only accept contributions from individuals. You **may not** accept:
  - Anonymous contributions.
  - Contributions made by individuals who are not residents of Alberta.
  - Contributions from prohibited organizations.



# Candidate key responsibilities

- **Provide** receipts to all contributors.
- **Keep** receipts of all expenses.
- Ensure campaign staff are aware of regulations and requirements regarding campaign financing.



# Campaign disclosure statement

- A statement of a campaign's contributions and expenses.
- **Contributions** must include:
  - Name and address of contributors of more than \$50
  - Amount received outside of campaign period
  - Amount received from fundraising events
- **Expenses** must include an itemized list of total expenses.
- **Deadline:** March 1, 2022.

# Surplus

Within 60 days of filing the campaign disclosure statement:

If the surplus is **less than \$1,000**, candidates can:

- Retain the surplus
- Donate all or a portion to a registered charity

If the surplus is **more than \$1,000**, candidates must:

- Donate all or a portion to a registered charity
- The remaining surplus must total less than \$1,000

Candidates who donate all or a portion of their surplus must file an amended disclosure.

**Municipalities can no longer keep surplus in trust**

# Deficit

- Candidates, within 60 days of filing the campaign disclosure statement:
  - must eliminate the deficit
  - may accept contributions in order to do this
- Regulations regarding these contributions apply
- Candidates must file an amended disclosure following elimination of the deficit.

# Who to contact

## Edmonton Elections

- Nomination process
- Campaigning regulations
- Election Day and post election services
- Contact: [elections@edmonton.ca](mailto:elections@edmonton.ca)

## Municipal Affairs

- Candidate and voter eligibility
- Contact: [lgsmail@gov.ab.ca](mailto:lgsmail@gov.ab.ca)

## Elections Alberta

- Financing and contributions
- Contact: [complaints@elections.ab.ca](mailto:complaints@elections.ab.ca)

# Questions



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# Stay updated

- [Edmonton.ca/elections](https://Edmonton.ca/elections)
- Twitter **@edmelections**
- E-newsletter
- Upcoming virtual information sessions for aspiring candidates:
  - Campaigning: **January 20, 2021**
  - Election day and Post-Election: **Spring 2021**



# Thank you



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