

continued from Disclosure, Reporting and Surplus

- Any personal property brought forward from previous elections;
- Statement of Campaign Surplus; Any surplus funds can be donated to a non-profit organization or held in trust by the municipality on behalf of the Candidate for their use in a future election.

Campaign Finance Offences

- A Candidate who spends more than the amount set by this by-law is guilty of an offence.
- A Candidate who fails to file a Statement of Campaign Contributions and Expenditures and a Statement of Campaign Surplus within sixty (60) calendar days after the ordinary polling day, or files a false statement, is guilty of an offence.
- A person, including a Corporation, Trade Union, Partnership or Non-Profit Organization who makes a Contribution in contravention of Section 5 of this by-law is guilty of an offence.
- Every person who contravenes any of the provisions of by-law C-1100 is guilty of an offence and is liable, upon summary conviction, to a penalty of not less than \$500 and more than \$10,000.



It is important for all Candidates and their Official Agents to understand the rules of campaign finance for municipal elections. For more information on By-law C-1100 visit www.halifax.ca/elections



Office of the Municipal Clerk

Contact Information:

City Hall
1841 Argyle Street, Main Floor
PO Box 1749
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5
Tel: 902.490.4210
Fax: 902.490.4208
Email: election@halifax.ca

Hours of Operation:

Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

HALIFAX

Municipal Elections Campaign Financing

An introduction to the Halifax Regional Municipality's Campaign Financing By-law

July 23, 2019

HALIFAX

About By-Law C-1100

Municipal By-law C-1100 complements the Municipal Elections Act in providing more rigor on how campaign finances are administered. This By-law acts in concert with the campaign finance provisions in Sections 49A and 49B of the Municipal Elections Act, and balances best practices as well as the realities of the municipality and municipal election campaigns. Conseil scolaire acadien provincial Candidates are exempt from By-law C-1100.

Contributions

- Definitions:
 - “Contribution” means services, money or other property donated to an Association or a person to support the political purposes of an Association or Candidate but does not include personal services or the use of a vehicle volunteered by a person and not provided as part of that person’s work in the service of an employer.
 - “In-kind Contribution” means a non-monetary Contribution in the form of services or other property.
- Contributions may only be accepted once an Official Agent has been appointed.
- Only Individuals, Candidates, or a Spouse of a Candidate may contribute to a campaign, which excludes corporations, trade unions, non-profit groups, associations, and partnerships.
- An Individual may contribute up to \$1,000 per Councillor Candidate and \$2,500 per Mayoral Candidate not to exceed \$5,000 in total contributions per Individual during an election.
- A Candidate and their Spouse may contribute no more than \$15,000 combined to their campaign.

When is the ‘Contribution Period’?

General Elections:

The ‘Contribution Period’ begins on March 1 of an Election year and ends thirty (30) calendar days after ordinary polling day.

Special Elections:

Contribution Period begins the day immediately after the Council or Minister has named the date of a special election and ends thirty (30) calendar days after the ordinary polling day. Candidates must submit Form 17 to the Clerk or designate to start the process, and this information will be made public. A separate bank account must be created for campaign contributions.

Spending Limits & Expenditures

- A Candidate in an Election cannot spend more than:
 - a) thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) per Councillor Candidate; and
 - b) three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) per Mayoral Candidate.
- Only a Candidate or an Official Agent shall expend Contributions.
- Contributions shall only be spent on permitted expenditures during the Contribution Period. These items include:
 - a) the nomination deposit;
 - b) advertising and printing costs, including costs associated with online advertising;
 - c) office and facility rental costs;
 - d) office administrative costs, including office supplies, software, computer programs and any other thing on which information is created, recorded or stored by electronic or

other means, and equipment costs such as telephones and other utilities;

- e) insurance costs;
- f) remuneration or salaries;
- g) the costs of printed electoral materials, including maps, list of electors, signs, sign posts, sign holders, and distribution costs such as postage and couriers;
- h) storage costs for electoral materials;
- i) food, beverage, and entertainment costs;
- j) transportation costs; and
- k) In-kind contributions.

Disclosure, Reporting and Surplus

Within sixty (60) calendar days after the ordinary polling day in an Election, every Candidate who had an official agent must file a Statement of Campaign Contributions and Expenditures, and a Statement of Campaign Surplus with the Clerk. Reporting statements are provided to Candidates by the Returning Officer and are made public and available online.

- Statement of Campaign Contributions & Expenditures includes:
 - Candidate information;
 - Full name and address of everyone who made a contribution exceeding \$50, and the date the contribution was made;
 - The amount a Candidate and the Candidate’s Spouse has contributed to the campaign;
 - In-kind contributions;
 - Any other revenue;

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