



**RED ROCK**  
A Superior Treasure

# **The Corporation of the Township of Red Rock**

## **2026 Municipal Election Information for Candidates**

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# SECTION A: Introduction

Thank you for your interest in serving the community of the Township of Red Rock. Serving on Municipal Council is a rewarding opportunity to contribute to local decision-making and community leadership. Members of Council serve a four-year term and are expected to dedicate time, preparation, and commitment to their role.

This Candidate Information Package provides an overview of the municipal election process, candidate responsibilities, and key legislative requirements. It is intended as a reference guide only.

The **Municipal Elections Act, 1996** is the governing legislation for municipal elections in Ontario. Candidates are responsible for reviewing the Act and ensuring they understand and comply with all legal and financial requirements. The most current version of the legislation is available through the Province of Ontario's e-Laws website.

As additional election information becomes available, updates will be provided to candidates. If you have questions at any time, please contact the Municipal Office.

We wish all candidates a positive and successful campaign experience.

## **Important Notice/Disclaimer to Candidates**

This package summarizes key information related to the 2026 Municipal Election. It does not replace provincial legislation. Candidates are solely responsible for ensuring they:

- Meet all eligibility requirements
- Follow nomination procedures correctly
- Comply with campaign finance rules
- File complete and accurate financial statements by the deadline

Failure to meet legislated requirements may result in penalties or disqualification.

# Important Dates

The following are legislative dates as set out in the Municipal Elections Act, 1996.

## 2026

### Friday, May 1

- First day for candidates to file a nomination paper for the office of Mayor, Councillor or school board trustee
- First day for an individual or entity to file a notice of registration as a third party advertiser
- Campaign period begins once a nomination paper or notice of registration is filed

### Friday, August 21

- Nominations Day - last day to file nomination papers
- 9:00 am to 2:00 pm - nominations or withdrawal cannot be accepted beyond 2:00 pm

### Monday, August 24

- Certification of nomination papers to be completed by 4:00 pm
- Declaration of acclamation provided after 4:00 pm

### Tuesday, September 1

- Voters' List available to certified candidates

### Monday, October 26

- Voting Day, 10:00 am to 8:00 pm

### Sunday, November 15

- Term of Office commences

## 2027

### Tuesday, March 30

- Last day for candidate or registered third party to apply to Superior Court of Justice to extend the time to file the financial statement
- By 2:00 pm:
  - o Last day to file financial statement for reporting period ending December 31, 2026
- applies to all candidates and registered third parties
- After 2:00 pm;
  - o 90 day compliance audit period begins
  - o Start of 30 day period in which a candidate or registered third party may file the primary financial statement and pay a \$500 late filing fee

**Thursday, April 29**

- Last day (by 2:00 pm) for candidate or registered third party to file a primary financial statement and pay \$500 late filing fee
- Penalties take affect at 2:01 pm

# SECTION B: Frequently Asked Questions

## What is the Term of Office?

The term of the Township of Red Rock Municipal Council will be four years, resulting in a term from November 15, 2026 and ending November 14, 2030.

## Who can be a candidate?

Candidates for the offices of Mayor and Councillor must be:

- A resident or an owner or tenant of land in Red Rock, or the spouse or same sex partner of such an owner or tenant
- A Canadian citizen
- At least 18 years old
- Not prohibited from voting by law

A candidate for School Board Trustee must reside within the Board area and be a supporter of that Board.

Please note that if you were a candidate in the 2022 Municipal Election and failed to file a financial statement, you are ineligible to be elected or appointed to any office, until the 2030 Municipal Election.

## What Municipal Offices are to be elected?

On Monday, October 26, 2026, voters in the Township of Red Rock will elect members for the following offices:

- **Mayor** (1 to be elected by all electors of the municipality)
- **Councillor** (4 to be elected at large by all electors in the municipality)
- **School Board Trustee**
  - Superior Greenstone District School Board
  - Superior North Catholic District School Board
  - Conseil Scolaire De District Catholique Des Aurores Boreales
  - Conseil Scolaire du District du Grand Nord de L'Ontario

## When can interested candidates file their nomination paperwork?

Individuals can file their nomination paperwork beginning on Friday, May 1, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. and up

until Friday, August 21, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. by appointment.

## Is it possible to file your nomination online?

No. Candidates must file their nomination papers in-person or by an agent, by appointment.

## What do I need to file my nomination paperwork?

The nomination must be completed in full and filed in person by the candidate or agent and include:

- Identification suitable to the Clerk
- Nomination Paper (Form 1)
- Application Filing Fee
  - \$200 for Mayor/Head of Council
  - \$100 for Councillor

## What are the responsibilities of these offices?

The Mayor is responsible to provide leadership and act as a spokesperson to the public and work with other levels of government as well as holding a seat on Council.

Each Councillor is responsible for representing the community on Council while also, with the Mayor, working together as a whole as the primary decision-making body for the Township.

Council is the municipality's primary decision-making body. Under the **Municipal Act, 2001**, Council is responsible for:

- Representing the interests and well-being of the community
- Developing and evaluating municipal policies and programs
- Determining municipal services
- Ensuring accountability and transparency
- Maintaining the municipality's financial integrity

**The Mayor** serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the municipality and:

- Provides leadership to Council
- Presides over meetings
- Represents the municipality at official functions
- Works with other levels of government

**Councillors:**

- Represent the community
- Participate in Council and committee meetings
- Contribute to policy development and decision-making

## **What is the time commitment if I am elected?**

A Councillor can expect to devote time for a minimum of one meeting per month as appointed by Council.

Meetings are held generally during the evening with some day time meetings. Council members should expect to dedicate time to:

- Regular Council meetings (typically 1st and 3rd Mondays)
- Committee meetings
- Community events and functions
- Reviewing agendas and municipal materials
- Responding to residents and stakeholders

Meeting schedules may change to accommodate conferences and holidays.

In addition to attending regular Council meetings, members are required to attend meetings of other committees to which they are appointed. These committees are established for a specific purpose and currently include the following:

- Red Rock Public Library Board

## **How do I find out what is currently going on at Council Meetings? How do I get my Agendas?**

You can access our Council meetings online or watch them on our YouTube channel.

The Township of Red Rock provides all meeting materials electronically via a secure digital platform called Diligent and members are expected to use their Township login to access meeting agendas. Further, all members are expected to check their Township email regularly as it is the primary means of communication.

# **SECTION C: General Election Information**

## **Nomination Procedures**

If an agent is filing the nomination on behalf of a candidate, the Candidate's Nomination paper must be commissioned before the agent files the nomination form with the Town and the agent must provide a copy of the Candidate's identification as well as providing their own identification. Candidates are responsible for ensuring that they meet all the qualifications and have followed the procedures with respect to the filing of Nomination Papers.

## **Exception for Additional Nominations**

If the number of nominations filed for an office is less than the number of persons to be elected to an office, additional nominations may be filed between 9am and 2pm on the Wednesday following Nomination Day – August 26, 2026.

## **Refund of Nomination Deposit**

A candidate is entitled to receive a refund of the nomination filing fee if he or she files their financial statements with the Clerk by the filing date. For the 2026 municipal election, the filing date is before 2pm on March 30, 2027.

## **Examination and Certification of Nominations by Clerk**

The Clerk shall examine each nomination that has been filed before 4pm on the Monday following Nomination Day – August 24, 2026. Any additional Nominations filed under MEA, s.33 (5) shall be examined before 4pm on the Thursday following Nomination Day – August 27, 2026.

If the Clerk rejects a nomination, he or she will provide notice as soon as possible to the individual seeking nomination and to all candidates. The Clerk's decision to certify or reject a nomination is final.

## **Withdrawal of Nominations**

A person may withdraw his or her nomination by filing a written withdrawal at/with the Municipal Office before 2pm on August 21, 2026.

## **Acclamations**

If, at 4pm on August 24, 2026 the number of certified candidates for an office is the same or less than the number to be elected, the Clerk shall immediately declare the candidate or candidates elected by acclamation.

# SECTION D: Election Financial Responsibilities

The Municipal Elections Act, 1996 imposes limitations on the expenses for candidates in municipal elections and also imposes requirements on the candidate to report the contributions received and the funds expended.

Detailed information on campaign finances, reporting, contributions, and expenses may be found within the Province of Ontario Candidate Information Guide (expected release in April 2022). Candidates are encouraged to reference the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 for the exact details.

## When may a candidate conduct fundraising and incur campaign expenses?

The candidate may incur campaign expenses and may accept donations starting on the day they file their Nomination Form.

## Campaign Expense Limits

There are limits on the amount that a registered candidate may spend on their campaign. The campaign period begins the day the candidate files a Nomination Paper and ends on December 31, 2026. The limit on campaign expenses is based on a formula related to the number of electors entitled to vote for the office.

A preliminary maximum campaign expense limit will be provided to the candidate when the nomination is filed. A final certificate of maximum expenses can be received on or before October 1, 2026 which is calculated using the greatest number of electors on the Voters' List as of the 2022 municipal election or September 15, 2022, whichever provides the highest maximum limit.

The following is the formula used to calculate the limits:

Head of Council: \$7,500 plus 85 cents for each elector entitled to vote for the office

Councillor: \$5,000 plus 85 cents for each elector entitled to vote for the office

## Filing Financial Statements

All nominated candidates, including those not elected, those who withdrew their nomination and whose nomination was rejected by the Clerk, must disclose and report on or before March 30, 2027 by 2pm their contributions and expenses as of December 31, 2026 in accordance with the following:

- All candidates are required to file a detailed financial statement on the prescribed form – Form 4
- Candidates with expenses exceeding \$10,000 must submit an auditor’s report.

A candidate must file a separate financial statement for each office he or she was nominated during the election period, unless the offices are all on the same council and are elected by a general vote of all electors of a municipality.

The financial statement must be filed by March 30, 2027. Candidates’ financial statements are filed with the Clerk and are public documents which are to be available at no charge for viewing by the public on the Township of Red Rock website. The Clerk will advise at least 30 days prior to March 30, 2027 filing deadline of all the filing requirements of the Act. The Clerk is not required to give additional notice for each supplementary filing date.

It is the responsibility of the candidate to file a complete and accurate financial statement by the filing date.

# SECTION E: Candidate Information

## Use of Township Logo and Corporate Resources

Use of any corporate Township logo, crest, or images by candidates on signs, brochures, social media, websites, or any other election-related material is strictly prohibited.

## Scrutineers (Candidates' Agents)

Each candidate may appoint, in writing, any number of persons necessary to act as scrutineers to represent them at the polls, and to be present during the counting of the votes.

Scrutineers must show proof of his or her appointment to the election upon request.

Only one scrutineer per candidate may be in the voting place for each ballot box. If a candidate enters the voting place they are considered to be a scrutineer.

Candidates and scrutineers have the following rights:

- to be present when ballot boxes, materials related to the advance polls and the ballot boxes, and statement of the results are being delivered to the Clerk;
- to enter the voting place 15 minutes before it opens and to inspect the ballot boxes and the ballots, and all other election documents but not to delay the opening of the voting place;
- to place their own seal on the ballot box before the opening of the voting place;
- to sign the statement of the results of an election;
- to place their own seal on the ballot box after the counting of the votes so that ballots cannot be taken out or deposited.

If you are appointing scrutineers, please note the following:

- the appointment must be made in writing;
- limit of one scrutineer per ballot box;
- scrutineers must take an oath of secrecy;
- scrutineers may not interfere with the activity of the vote or the counting of the ballots (may look but cannot touch)
- Candidates are entitled to be represented at the voting places either personally or by a scrutineer. It should be noted that acclaimed candidates are not entitled to be at a voting place unless appointed by a scrutineer by another candidate;
- campaigning is not permitted within the voting location

Scrutineers and candidates are prohibited from the following:

- engaging electors in conversation while in a voting place or location;
- attempting directly or indirectly, to interfere with how an elector votes;
- attempting to campaign or persuade an elector to vote for a particular candidate;
- displaying a candidate’s election campaign material in a voting place;
- compromising the secrecy of the voting;
- interfering or attempting to interfere with an elector who is marking a ballot;
- obtaining or attempting to obtain, in a voting place, any information about how an elector intends to vote or has voted;
- communicating any information obtained at a voting place about how an elector intends to vote or has voted

## **Election Signs**

The Township of Red Rock regulates the placement of election signs on municipal property, roads and intersections and all candidates are prohibited from placing any signage on Township property.

## **Prohibition of Canvassing in Voting Places**

The Clerk, as the Returning Officer, is the lessee of the premises used as voting locations. As the lessee, the Returning Officer does not permit campaigning of any nature in or on the premises used as a voting location on Voting Day. The premises are deemed to include the entire building and the property on which it is located.

Section 48 of the Act provides as follows

“While an elector is in a voting place, no person shall attempt, directly or indirectly, to influence how the electors votes. No person shall display a candidate’s election campaign material or literature in a voting place. For the purpose of this section, ‘Voting Place’ includes any place in the immediate vicinity of the voting place designated by the Clerk.”

Election Officials are instructed to immediately remove from any voting place material or literature of any nature which may be deposited in and around a voting place. Candidates or their agents and scrutineers must not engage electors in conversations at voting places and they may not wear campaign buttons or distribute material of any kind in and around a voting place.

**We ask for your cooperation in this regard.**

In view of the number of school buildings used for voting purposes, the attention of candidates is also drawn to the policies of the School Boards and provisions of the Education Act as follows:

1. No agent or representative may canvass in the schools, nor exhibit advertising

material in the schools or on the school property, without the approval in writing of the Director of Education.

2. All visitors to a school must report to the office.
3. It is the duty of a principal of a school, in addition to his/her duties as a teacher, to maintain a visitor's book in the school when so determined by the Board.

Therefore, in connection with municipal elections, only persons attending a school building for the purpose of casting their ballot, duly qualified election officials, candidates for their authorized agents in, or going to or from the voting place, may be present at the school premises.

### **Access to Apartment Buildings, Condominiums, etc. by Candidates (or their Authorized Representative)**

Campaign provisions have been clarified through recent amendments to the Act to allow candidates to campaign in apartment buildings, condominiums, non-profit housing co-ops or gated communities from 9am until 9pm. Landlords and condominium corporations may not prohibit tenants or owners from displaying campaign signs in their windows.

When the building is being used as a voting location, canvassing in the building during voting hours is not permitted.

# SECTION F: General Voter Information

## 2026 Election Method

The Township of Red Rock is utilizing a hybrid voting method which will allow electors to vote in person or online.

Additional information on the voting method, including detailed election procedures, will be made available for electors and candidates throughout 2026.

## Form of Ballots

The municipality uses a fully composite ballot. Each elector received one ballot, which contains all ballots for every office for which they are entitled to vote.

## Voter Qualifications

A person is qualified to be a voter in the Township of Red Rock if on Voting Day, he or she,

- a) Resides in the Township of Red Rock or is the owner or tenant of land in the Township of Red Rock, or the spouse of such owner or tenant
- b) Is a Canadian citizen;
- c) Is at least 18 years old; and
- d) Is not prohibited from voting as outlined in the *Municipal Elections Act* or any other law

## Persons Prohibited from Voting

The following persons are prohibited from voting:

- a) A person who is serving a sentence of imprisonment in a penal or correctional institution;
- b) A corporation;
- c) A person acting as executor or trustee in or any other representative capacity, except as a voting proxy (see section on Voting Proxies);
- d) A person who was convicted of the corrupt practice described in subsection 90(3) of the *Municipal Elections Act*, if voting day in the current election is less than five years after voting day in the election in respect of which he or she was convicted.

## Definition of Residence

For the purpose of the *Municipal Elections Act*, a person's residence is the permanent lodging place to which, whenever absent, he or she intends to return. These provisions exist to allow for the homeless to be enumerated and to vote. The following rules apply in determining a person's residence:

1. A person may only have one residence at a time;
2. The place where a person's family resides is also his or her residence, unless he or she moves elsewhere with the intention of changing his or her permanent lodging place;
3. If a person has no other permanent lodging place, the place where he or she occupies a room or part of a room as a regular lodger or to which he or she habitually returns is his or her residence.

Despite above, a person may have residences in two local municipalities at the same time if,

a) the person lives in one of the local municipalities in order to attend an educational institution but not with the intention of changing his or her permanent lodging place; and

b) the person's permanent lodging place is in the other local municipality.

## **Voters' List**

The 2026 Voters' List for the Township of Red Rock is initially prepared by Elections Ontario. The Voters' List contains the names and addresses of each person who meets the qualifications of a voter.

The information contained on the Voters' List is to be used for election purposes only. The use and sale of the Voters' List for commercial purposes is prohibited.

Candidates are entitled to receive a copy of the list for their use and candidates may request either an electric or paper copy of the list by completing Form EL14 – Candidate's Declaration – Proper Use of Voters' List.

## **Revision of the Voters' List**

The Voters' List will be available by Tuesday September 1, 2026. Applications for amendments to the list will be accepted by the Clerk from Tuesday September 1, 2026 to the close of voting on Voting Day – October 26, 2026.

Individuals will be able to confirm if their information on the Voters' List at the Municipal Office during regular operating hours.

## **Proxy Voting**

A person who is unable to attend the voting place may appoint another person as a voting proxy to vote on their behalf. The person acting as a proxy must also be an eligible elector. No person shall appoint more than one voting proxy and no person can act as a proxy for more than one person, unless the persons they are voting on behalf of is their spouse, sibling, parent, child, grandparent or grandchild.

Proxies can only be appointed after it is no longer possible for candidates to withdraw their nominations (withdrawals can take place up to 2pm on August 21, 2026 or 2pm on August 24, 2026 – see Section 36 of the Act). Voters acting as a proxy must attend the Clerks Department in person and present the prescribed appointment form signed by the person appointing them. The Clerk (or designate) will approve the appointment.

A person appointed as a proxy must attend the voting place designated to the voter for whom they are voting and present the appointment form at the voting place upon arrival.

## **Advance Voting Days**

All eligible electors are encouraged to vote at one of the advance voting days. The schedule for advance voting will be available closer to Voting Day.

Candidates may request a copy of the names of the electors who voted on the advance voting days when filling out Form EL14, Candidates Declaration – Proper Use of Voters' List.

## **Voter Notification and Voting Places**

A notice will be mailed by the Clerk to each voter advising him or her of the date and time of Voting Day, the Advance Voting days and locations and methods of voting (options on where and how to vote).

The Clerk will provide the candidates with an up-to-date copy of a list of voting places for the area in which they are standing for elected office. In the event that any location is subsequently changed, a notice of such change will be mailed to the candidates concerned.

## **Voting Method**

Voting procedures will be available on May 1, 2026 and provided to a candidate when filing a nomination paper.

## **Voter's Absence from Work**

A voter is entitled to have three consecutive hours to vote on Voting Day (October 26, 2026). If a voter's normal hours of employment are such that he or she would not have three consecutive hours to vote, the employer must allow the voter to be absent to attend the polls. The absence shall be timed to suit the employer's convenience as much as possible.

## Key Reminders to Candidates

1. Must be an eligible elector for the office being sought.
2. Must file their Nomination Paper in person or by an agent.
3. Cannot be nominated for more than one office.
4. Must pay a filing fee of \$100 or \$200 cash or certified cheque payable to the Township of Red Rock.
5. Cannot accept donations or spend any funds on a campaign until such time as you have filed a Nomination Paper with the Clerk.
6. You are responsible for keeping records of the financial activities related to your campaign. Remember to issue receipts for all donations, including donations of goods or services; obtain receipts for expenses incurred; keep copies of all receipts.
7. Keep receipts for all expenditures and a record of the value of all contributions which are not money (i.e. sign stakes, paper, printing services, etc.)
8. It is the responsibility of the candidate to file a complete and accurate financial statement on time. Candidates should completely familiarize themselves with the appropriate sections of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.