

2022 Municipal Elections



Information for Prospective
Candidates



Running for Council

- What do I need to know about councils?
 - What a council is
 - What councils and municipalities do
 - Council member responsibilities
 - The role of administration
- How do I get on council?
 - Election – campaign finance rules
 - Election – nominations and the election

What Is a Council?

- A deliberative body that governs the municipality

Deliberative: make sound decisions

- Understand the commitment – 4 year term
- Regularly meet – be well-prepared, be a representative
- Discuss – be respectful – stay relevant and efficient

What Is a Council?

- A deliberative body that governs the municipality

Body: council only has authority as a group

- Voting – majority rules
- Individual members have no authority
- You need council support for your agenda
- Respect council decisions
 - While I did not support this during the council debate, I respect council's decision that...

What Is a Council?

- A deliberative body that governs the municipality

Govern: direction, and control

- Leadership and goal-setting
- Decisions, policies and systems of control
- Relationship with one employee – CAO
- Stewardship – plan, monitor, report

What Does Council Do?

- Exercises government and corporate powers
- Makes decisions in public meetings by by-law or resolution
- Big picture – steer the boat

What do Municipalities do?

Required services:

- Administration
- Roads
- Waste management
- Fire and police
- Land use planning
- Emergency management
- Building inspection
- Weed control

Other services:

- Water and sewer
- Recreation
- Economic development
- Drainage
- Animal control
- Transit
- More

What are a Council Member's Responsibilities?

- Represent – the public
- Consider – the municipality as a whole
- Participate – in council meetings
- Comply – with legislation, code of conduct, conflict of interest rules
- Keep confidential matters confidential

How Will Conflict of Interest Rules Affect Me?

- Purpose – impartial decision-making
- Direct or indirect financial interests
- Public disclosure of assets and liabilities
- Cannot be involved in decisions that affect your financial interests
- Restricts use of insider information

How Will the Council Code of Conduct Apply to Me?

- Purpose – uphold public confidence
- Values – respect, accountability, professionalism
- Mandatory training
- Annual review

What are the Head of Council's Responsibilities?

- The Head of Council has additional responsibilities:
 - Provide leadership – preside at meetings
 - Regular participation
 - Spokesperson
 - Signing authority
 - Duties under *The Emergency Measures Act*

What is Administration's Role?

- Through the CAO:
 - Reports to council
 - Provides advice to council
 - Implements decisions – Rowing the boat
 - Record-keeping
- The CAO is council's only employee

Recap

- Council is a deliberative body that governs the affairs of the municipality
- Understand your commitment
- Act by resolution or by-law
- Big picture – steer the boat, don't row it
- Comply with legislation, including conflict of interest and code of conduct rules
- Work effectively with administration

Election – Campaign Finance

- Campaign finance rules
 - Register with the SEO
 - Record-keeping
 - Donations from MB residents only
 - Limited to: wards (\$750), at-large (\$1,500)
 - Limits on spending
 - Election finance statement filing deadline
- **File your election finance statement!**

Election – Eligibility

- 18 years old on election day
- Canadian citizen & Manitoba resident
- Municipal resident or property owner for 6 months
- Not subject to any other disqualification:
 - Campaign finance, job
- Rules for municipal employees

Election – Nominations

- Nomination period – Sept. 14 - 20
- Number of signatures needed:
 - Lesser of 25, or 1% of eligible voters (to a minimum of 2)
- Get your papers in early!
- Acclamation or election

Election – The Election

- Ordering names on the ballot
- Appointing scrutineers
- Advance poll and election day
- The count

Resources

- Your municipality and the SEO
- The Municipal Candidate's Guidebook:
 - <https://www.gov.mb.ca/mr/mfas/elections.html>
- The AMM Election Hub
 - <http://www.amm.mb.ca/issues/2022elections/>
- Municipal Relations
 - mrmaas@gov.mb.ca
 - 204-945-2572