

ELECTION INFORMATION

Candidate Registration Period	
Head of Council	May 1, 2026 to September 22, 2026
Councillors	June 30, 2026 to September 22, 2026
Nomination Period	September 16, 2026 to September 22, 2026
Campaign Period	
Head of Council	May 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027
Councillors	June 30, 2026 to March 31, 2027
Candidate Withdrawal Deadline	September 23, 2026
Election Day	October 28, 2026
Filing Date - Election Finance Statements	No later than May 26, 2027

Pre-Election

- Prospective candidates **must register** before they can begin to accept campaign contributions or incur campaign expenses; only after registering may a candidate begin fundraising and spend money on their campaign.
- **To become a candidate** in the municipal election, **a registered candidate must file nomination papers**. For clarity, while registration is a part of the election process if you are going to accept contributions and send money on a campaign...it is the filing of the nomination papers that actually make you a candidate in the election).
- Candidate registration is filed with the SEO. Registrants who will be receiving campaign contributions from others must also include the name and address of the financial institution and the number of the bank account they will be using for the purposes of their election campaign. Once registered, candidates must notify the SEO in writing of any changes in the information provided in their registration form.
- The **campaign account** is to be used **only** for the purpose of the election campaign, and all payments are to be made by cheque drawn on the account (i.e., a separate account for the sole purposes of the campaign).
- A campaign account is **not required** if the candidate is only making a donation to themselves and is not accepting any other monetary contributions.

Campaign Contributions

- Registrants will be provided with a “2026 Candidates Guidebook” which outlines detailed information regarding campaign contributions.
- Not all candidates will receive contributions, but for those that do, there are rules:

- o Only residents of Manitoba are allowed to contribute.
- o Unions, corporations or any other organization (ex. Chamber of Commerce or Rotary Club) cannot contribute to a registered candidate's campaign.
- o Anonymous donations are prohibited. If anonymous donations are received, they must be turned over to the SEO and the contribution becomes part of the general funds of the municipality.
- o Limit of \$1,500 per contributor...including a candidate and their spouse.
- o Gifts in kind are considered donations and their value must be considered in the contribution limit and recorded as part of the allowable limit.
- As per By-Law No. 3082 of the Town of Neepawa, the **maximum amount that a candidate can spend on their campaign is \$2,000.00**. The by-law further sets out requirements and guidelines for campaign expenses and contributions and speaks to the filing of election financial statements. Individuals registering as a candidate will be provided a copy of the by-law.
- Candidates must keep track of any contributions they receive, or expenses they incur, as this information will be required to file the Election Financial Statement. Information on record keeping is included in the "2026 Candidates Guidebook". As soon as contributions are accepted or expenses are incurred, record keeping must begin.
- **Once an individual registers, regardless of whether they are nominated or elected, they must file an Election Finance Statement.**

Fundraising Events

- Candidates must record and apportion the revenue and expenses associated with the event in accordance with the Campaign Expenses and Contribution By-Law No. 3082.
- Net income as well as revenue and expenses must be recorded and reported in the Election Finance Statement.
- Net income is considered a campaign contribution and expenses incurred to hold the event are excluded from the campaign expense limitation of the candidate.

Non-Monetary Contributions

- Candidates can receive non-monetary donations. However, **when the good or service is provided by a person who earns a living providing that good or service**, the value of the good or service must be recorded as a non-monetary contribution.

Example 1:

The owner of a butcher shop wants to donate 100 hotdogs for a BBQ for a candidate's campaign workers. The value of those 100 hotdogs must be recorded as a non-monetary contribution.

Example 2:

A self-employed graphic designer wants to help a candidate by designing a campaign pamphlet. The rate the designer would normally charge a customer must be recorded as a non-monetary contribution.

Note: Not every good or service is considered a contribution. For example, it is not a contribution if a neighbor bakes muffins, or a friend designs a pamphlet.

Campaign Expenses

- Cannot exceed \$2000.00 and may include space rentals, advertising, signs, notices, hiring or vehicles and drivers, food, refreshments, travel expenses such as gas, etc.
- Campaign expenses also include those incurred by volunteers.
- Record keeping should be detailed, easily reconcilable to the bank account and auditable.

Note: As per The Municipal Act & By-Law 3082...Campaign Financing Offences carry penalties.

By-Law 3212-22 Use of Municipal Resources in an Election

- Restricts the use of municipal resources by registered candidates, in the 42 days before a general election (i.e., when the nomination period begins). The purpose of which will promote a level playing field between all election candidates and assist the municipal organization in maintaining political neutrality.

Nominations

- All candidates must file nomination papers and declaration forms, available from the SEO.
- File early, in case they are incomplete and require corrections or more signatures.
- The obligation to ensure that nomination papers are received on time rests solely with the person nominated. Late papers will be rejected.
- A person officially becomes a candidate when the SEO accepts their nomination papers.
- ***New for the 2026 election:*** At the time of filing nomination papers, candidates **are required to disclose** any offenses that they have pleaded guilty to, or been found guilty of, under:
 - o *The Criminal Code (Canada);*
 - o *The Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (Canada);*
 - o *The Income Tax Act (Canada); or*
 - o *The Income Tax Act (Manitoba).*
- The SEO **must** post all candidates' disclosures on the elected authority's website.

- Candidates **do not** have to declare offences under:
 - o *The Youth Criminal Justice Act (Canada);*
 - o *The Young Offenders Act (Canada); or*
 - o An offence for which they were granted a pardon under *The Criminal Code*.

*This document is intended for general informational and summary purposes only.
For complete information regarding the election process and related activities,
please refer to the 2026 Candidate Handbook or contact the SEO.*