

Candidate Information Sheet – Campaign Funding

Individuals Contribution to a Candidate’s Campaign

Who may contribute to a Candidate’s Campaign (88.8.3)

- Only an individual who is normally resident in Ontario.
- If not normally resident in Ontario, a candidate and his or her spouse may make contributions only to the candidate’s election campaign.

Who cannot contribute (88.8.4)

1. A federal political party registered under the *Canada Elections Act* (Canada) or any federal constituency association or registered candidate at a federal election endorsed by that party.
2. A provincial political party, constituency association, registered candidate or leadership contestant registered under the *Election Finances Act*.
3. A corporation that carries on business in Ontario.
4. A trade union that holds bargaining rights for employees in Ontario.
5. The Crown in right of Canada or Ontario, a municipality or a local board.

Contributions exceeding \$25 (88.8.8)

A contribution of money that exceeds \$25 shall not be contributed in the form of cash and shall be contributed in a manner that associates the contributor’s name and account with the payment or by a money order signed by the contributor.

Maximum contributions to candidates (88.8.9)

An individual contributor shall not make contributions exceeding a total of \$1,200 to any one candidate in an election.

Multiple candidates (88.9.4)

A contributor shall not make contributions exceeding a total of \$5,000 to two or more candidates for office on the same council or local board.

Contributions to candidates (88.8.1)

A contribution shall not be made to or accepted by a person or an individual acting under the person’s direction unless the person is a candidate.

Only during election campaign (88.8.2)

A contribution shall not be made to or accepted by a candidate or an individual acting under the candidate’s direction outside the candidate’s election campaign period. **Generally, the campaign*

period under section 88.24(1) describes the election campaign period to begin on the day on which the clerk receives the candidate's nomination for the office and ends on December 31 in the case of a regular election, unless otherwise identified in the MEA.

Maximum amount of campaign funding - O. Reg. 101/97

Candidates are subject to two spending limits: a general limit, and a separate limit for expenses relating to parties and expressions of appreciation after voting day.

General spending limit

The general spending limit for your campaign is calculated based on the number of electors who are eligible to vote for the office that you are running for. The formula to calculate the limit is:

- for Head of Council: \$7,500 plus \$0.85 per eligible elector
 - For the Town of Renfrew: 6397 eligible votes x \$0.85 = \$12,937.45
- for Council Member or Trustee: \$5,000 plus \$0.85 per eligible elector
 - For the Town of Renfrew: 6397 eligible voters x \$0.85 = \$10,437.45

When you file your nomination, the Clerk will give you an estimate of your general spending limit. This estimate will be based on the number of electors in the previous election.

On or before September 30, 2026, the Clerk must give you a final general spending limit which is based on the number of electors on the voters' list for the current election.

If the spending limit estimate that you received when you filed your nomination is higher than the final spending limit you receive in September, the estimate becomes your official spending limit.

Expenses that you incur between the day after voting day and the end of your campaign are not subject to the spending limit.

Spending limit for parties and expressions of appreciation

The spending limit for expenses related to holding parties and other expressions of appreciation after the close of voting is calculated as 10% of the amount of your general spending limit. Expenses related to parties and expressions of appreciation are subject to the specific spending limit regardless of whether they are incurred before or after voting day.

Contributions to a Candidate's Own Election Campaign

Maximum contributions to a candidate's own election campaign (88.9.1)

A candidate for an office on a council and their spouse shall not make contributions to the candidate's own election campaign that, combined, exceed an amount equal to the lesser of,

Mayor / Head of Council

- \$7,500 plus \$0.29 for each elector entitled to vote for the office
- Example: Based on 6397 eligible voters = \$7500 + \$1279.40 = \$8779.40

Councillor

- \$5,000 plus \$0.20 for each elector entitled to vote for the office
- Example: Based on 6397 eligible voters = \$5000 + \$1279.40 = \$6279.40

*Ontario Municipal Contribution maximum calculation can be \$25,000, however contribution amount is calculated based on the lesser for the calculated amount OR \$25,000. *Not applicable for the Town of Renfrew based number of eligible voters*

Candidates' Election Campaign Advertisements and Signage

What is election campaign advertisements? (88.3.1)

An advertisement in any broadcast, print, electronic or other medium that has the purpose of promoting or supporting the election of a candidate.

Mandatory information in advertisement (88.3.2)

An election campaign advertisement purchased by or under the direction of a candidate shall identify the candidate.

Campaign Expenses

What is an election campaign expense (88.19.1)

Costs incurred for goods or services by or under the direction of a person wholly or partly for use in their election campaign are expenses.

What constitutes an expense (88.19.3)

The following are expenses:

1. The replacement value of goods retained by the person, individual, corporation or trade union from any previous election in the municipality and used in the current election.
2. The value of contributions of goods and services.
3. Audit and accounting fees.
4. Interest on campaign loans.
5. The cost of holding fund-raising functions.
6. The cost of holding parties and making other expressions of appreciation after the close of voting.
7. For a candidate, expenses relating to a recount or a proceeding under section 83 (controverted elections).
8. Expenses relating to a compliance audit.
9. Expenses that are incurred by a candidate with a disability or a registered third party who is an individual with a disability, are directly related to the disability, and would not have been incurred but for the election to which the expenses relate.
10. The cost of election campaign advertisements (within the meaning of section 88.3) or third party advertisements, as the case may be.

Registered Third Party Advertisements

What is a Registered Third Party (1 – Definitions)

A registered third party is an individual, corporation, or trade union that is officially registered with the Clerk to spend money independently on advertising to support or oppose a candidate.

Under the MEA, a Third Party Advertisement does not include an advertisement by or under the direction of a candidate.

Eligibility for Third Party registration (88.6.4)

Only the following persons and entities are eligible to file a notice of registration:

1. An individual who is normally resident in Ontario.
2. A corporation that carries on business in Ontario.
3. A trade union that holds bargaining rights for employees in Ontario

What is a Third Party Advertisement? (88.3.1)

An advertisement in any broadcast, print, electronic or other medium that has the purpose of promoting, supporting or opposing, a candidate.

Mandatory information in third party advertisements

No registered third party shall cause a third party advertisement to appear during the restricted period unless the advertisement contains the following information:

1. The name of the registered third party.
2. The municipality where the registered third party is registered.
3. A telephone number, mailing address or email address at which the registered third party may be contacted regarding the advertisement.

Registered Third Parties' Expense Amount (7) (88.21.6)

During the restricted period for third party advertisements, the expenses of a registered third party in relation to third party advertisements that appear during an election in a municipality shall not exceed an amount calculated in accordance with the prescribed formula:

- \$5,000 plus 5 cents for each elector entitled to vote in a regular election
Example: Based on 6397 eligible voters = \$5000 + \$319.85 = \$5,319.85

*Ontario Municipal Contribution maximum calculation can be \$25,000, however contribution amount is calculated based on the lesser for the calculated amount OR \$25,000. *Not applicable for the Town of Renfrew based number of eligible voters*

Source Reference: **Municipal Elections Act, 1996, S.O. 1996, c. 32, Sched. Ontario.ca - Municipal Elections Act**