

Candidate Registration, Contributions & Expenses

Candidates are strongly encouraged to read and understand Part 5.1 of the *Local Authorities Election Act* as it pertains to Municipal Election Finance and Contribution Disclosure

Candidate Registration

LAEA s. 147.21

Beginning in 2014, candidates **may not** accept campaign contributions, including their own funds, unless they are registered with the municipality in which they intend to run. It is very important that candidates check with their municipality to learn where to find the registration information and how to become registered prior to accepting any campaign contributions.

If a candidate has funded their campaign exclusively from their own funds, up to \$10,000, they are not required to register with the municipality.

For more information about registering as a candidate you are encouraged to speak with the returning officer or chief administrative officer in your municipality. The municipality will have the required forms that you will need to complete.

Contributions and Expenses

What are allowable campaign expenses?

LAEA s. 118

The payments of the following expenses, related to the election campaign, are not considered a contravention of the legislation:

- Your personal expenses;
- Cost of acquiring premises, accommodation, goods or services for proper election campaign expenses;
- Payments for the costs of printing and advertising;
- Reasonable payment to any person for the hire of transportation used by a candidate or speakers in travelling to and from public meetings or by any person in connection with and for the proper purposes of an election.

Candidate Self-funded Contributions

LAEA s. 147.1

A candidate may entirely self-fund their campaign up to and including \$10,000. If a candidate self-funds their campaign, there is no need for the candidate to open a bank account specifically for campaign contributions.

LAEA s. 147.2

Contributions to Candidates

Candidates may accept contributions from any person, corporation, trade union or employee organization up to \$5,000.

A candidate must open a bank account in the name of the candidate or in the name of the campaign as soon as possible after the amount of contributions exceeds \$5000 in the aggregate **or** the amount of contributions and any amount of the candidate's own funds exceeds \$5,000.

It is important to know that contributions of real property, personal property, goods and services have a value. Receipts must be issued for every contribution received and be obtained for every expense throughout the duration of the campaign.

All campaign records of contributions and expenses should be kept for a minimum of two (2) years following the general election.

Anonymous & Ineligible Contributions

If a candidate receives an anonymous contribution, the candidate must return the contribution to the contributor immediately (if the identity of the contributor is known) or pay the total contribution to the municipality.