



ONTARIO PUBLIC
SCHOOL BOARDS'
ASSOCIATION

Leading Education's Advocates

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2022 Municipal and School Board Elections –Important Dates and Reminders

School board trustees are elected every four years during Ontario's Municipal and School board Elections. Where trustees are elected, the process is governed by the [Education Act](#) and the [Municipal Elections Act, 1996](#) (MEA).

Before the 2018 election, there were 2 pieces of legislation that included changes:

- Bill 181, Municipal Elections Modernization Act
- Bill 68, Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act

Here is an overview of the changes for both municipalities and school boards: [OPSBA Overview of Municipal and School Board Election significant amendments from Bill 181, Municipal Elections Modernization Act and Bill 68, Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act](#)

The election-related changes since 2018 have been minor with the most significant included in November 2021's Bill 13, Supporting People and Businesses Act, 2021. The legislation contained in Schedule 8 *Education Act* reflects changes regarding the date for the conduct of elections for board chair, the day of first board meetings (often referred to as an inaugural board meeting) after an election or organizational board meeting each year thereafter, the date for the Director of Education to submit their annual report, and confirmation and duties of supervisory officers.

The next term of office (2022 to 2026) begins for publicly elected school board trustees on November 15, 2022. The proposed change now reflects the new term start date (by deleting the reference to December) and the first meeting after the election during which school boards conduct elections for the chair position and other organizational committees.

A newly elected trustee does not officially take office until the board's inaugural/organizational meeting (within seven days of November 15, 2022) and a trustee swears a declaration as prescribed in the *Education Act*.

Key Dates — 2022 School Board Elections

Nomination and Campaign Period Begins	May 2, 2022*
Nomination Day (Last Day to be Nominated)	August 19, 2022 (before 2 p.m.)
Final Day for Withdrawal of Candidacy	August 19, 2022 (before 2 p.m.)
Voting Day	October 24, 2022
School Board Term of Office Begins	November 15, 2022
Campaign Period Ends	January 3, 2023**
Financial Filing Deadline	March 31, 2023
School Board Term of Office Ends	November 14, 2026

*As May 1 is a Sunday, May 2 may be the first date that the clerk's office is open. Nomination papers may be filed in the office of the municipal clerk from May 2, 2022 until 2 p.m. on nomination day, August 19, 2022.

Candidates should contact their municipal clerk to find out if nominations can be filed electronically or in person, and for any other information about how to file their nomination papers.

**As December 31 falls on the weekend, the deadline moves to the first day that is not a holiday.

School Board Reminders

- **School boards must pass relevant motions regarding Trustee Determination and Distribution (D&D) by March 31, 2022, and send to the Ministry of Education, election clerks in their jurisdiction and other Directors of Education with shared jurisdictions by April 4, 2022.**

OPSBA Comments: Many boards have already passed their D&D decisions and are encouraged to share (and post on their web site) soon after doing so.

Reference: [2022 Trustee Distribution and Determination Guide](#)

- **Municipalities and school boards are required to establish policies before May 1, 2022 regarding the use of municipal or board resources during a campaign.**

OPSBA Comments: There is no express requirement to reaffirm but school boards should review this policy before May 1 to ensure it reflects what they want to do and then ensure they bring it the attention of the all candidates for trustee as well as the public.

Reference: [Municipal Elections Act](#): Section 88.18

- **Councils and boards may establish policies before May 1, 2022 setting out additional conditions for an automatic recount.**

OPSBA Comments: School boards do not have to reaffirm an existing policy. Whatever they have in place before May 1, 2022 is in effect so again it should be reviewed to ensure they still want such a policy and that it reflects their intent and practice.

Reference: [Municipal Elections Act](#): Section. 56(4) and (5).

- **Every council and school board must establish a compliance audit committee by October 1, 2022.**

OPSBA Comments: Compliance Audit Committees are not required to meet unless there is a formal request to audit a school board candidate's finances. Members must not be trustees, or employees of the board.

Reference: [Municipal Elections Act](#) Section 88.37

- **School boards are responsible for running trustee elections in territories without municipal organization (TWOMO) – i.e., areas where there is no municipality to run the election. This is primarily found in northern and rural Ontario. The Grants for Student Needs regulation includes provisions that allow boards to be reimbursed for the expense of running elections in TWOMO.**

OPSBA Comments: School boards may wish to connect with their financial contact in the ministry to discuss the provisions in more detail.

Reference: [Ontario Regulation 616/21: Grants For Student Needs - Legislative Grants For The 2021-2022 School Board Fiscal Year](#)

- **For the Trustee Term of Office commencing in 2022, every school board must establish an honorarium policy for Board members before October 15, 2022.**

OPSBA Comments: School boards should ensure they review their current honorarium policy for any possible or required changes and make sure to pass the revised/reviewed policy to the current Board of Trustees before the deadline of October 15. Most boards include this in their September meetings.

Reference: [Ontario Regulation 357/06 Honoraria For Board Members](#)

Resources:

- [OPSBA Draft Template Re: Use of School Board Resources During the Municipal and School Board Election Campaign](#)
- [Bill-181-and-68-amendment-overview-March-2018.pdf \(opsba.org\)](#)
- [AMCTO Elections Calendar](#)
- [MMAH Slide Deck](#)

Note: This document will be updated, as required, based on trustee enquires or legislative changes.

The information contained in this publication is not intended to be legal advice. It is general information only. You should take appropriate professional advice on your particular circumstances.