

**2026 MUNICIPAL & SCHOOL
BOARD ELECTION**

CANDIDATE NOMINATION PACKAGE



VOTE
Georgian Bluffs

Introduction

This guide has been prepared for the purpose of supplying information to people intending to run for elected office. This guide is available in paper copy at the Township Office or electronically on the Township of Georgian Bluffs website –

<http://www.georgianbluffs.ca/election>

This guide is only intended to provide candidates with information regarding running for office. Candidates are responsible for ensuring they are familiar with the requirements of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* and should consult the Act for complete information and legislative requirements. The *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* is available online at www.e-laws.gov.on.ca.

Candidates must comply with all the requirements relating to election campaign financing. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs produces a guide for candidates that outlines the financial reporting requirements under the Act. A copy has been uploaded to the Township of Georgian Bluffs website and is also available in hardcopy from the Clerk's Department.

It is the responsibility of prospective candidates to ensure through their own determination that they have complied with the election financing regulations and that they are in fact qualified and not disqualified by law. In all cases of filing times (i.e. 2:00 p.m. nomination cut-off), the time displayed by the Clerk's Department shall prevail.

Candidates for School Board offices are encouraged to contact the office of the Director of Education of the appropriate School Board to obtain information on the duties and responsibilities of a trustee. Candidates for the position of representative on the French language section of a School Board should contact the Clerk of the municipality responsible for the election of persons to that office.

This guide will be updated periodically. Please notify the Clerk's Department of any changes to your mailing and/or email address.

Key Contacts

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Important Dates

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Friday, May 1	<p>First day for candidates to file a Nomination paper for the office of mayor, councillor or school board trustee. Nomination papers must be filed at the Township Administration Office.</p> <p>First day for an individual, corporation or trade union to file a notice of registration as a third party advertiser. Registration papers must be filed at the Township Administration Office.</p> <p>Your campaign begins once a Nomination paper or notice of registration is filed.</p> <p>Preliminary expense limit and other legislative documentation will be provided to candidates and third party advertisers on the day they file.</p>
Friday, August 21	Nomination Day – last day to file nominations from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please note that Nominations or withdrawal cannot be accepted after 2 p.m.
Monday, August 24	<p>Nominations to be certified or rejected by the Clerk by 4 p.m.</p> <p>Acclamations provided after 4 p.m.</p>
Tuesday, September 1	Voters' List available to certified candidates. Revision period begins for electors.
Wednesday, September 30	Final expense limits provided to candidates and third party advertisers.
Friday, October 16 – 26	Voting Period – begins at 10 a.m. October 16 th and ends at 8 p.m. on Monday, October 26 th
Monday, October 26	Election Day
Sunday, November 15	2026-2030 Council term begins.
Wednesday, November 18	Inaugural Meeting at 5:00 p.m.
Monday, November 23	Council Orientation (Full Day)
Tuesday, November 24	All Grey County Municipalities Orientation – Day 1 (Full Day)
Wednesday, November 25	All Grey County Municipalities Orientation – Day 2 (Full Day)
Thursday, November 26	Council Orientation (Full Day)
Friday, November 27	Council Orientation (Full Day)
Friday, December 4	Grey County Council Orientation (Mayor and Deputy Mayor only)

Thursday, December 31 Campaign period ends for candidates and registered third parties.

Last day for candidate or register third parties to file an extension of campaign period.

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Monday, March 1 Last day for Clerk to provide notice of financial filing requirements and penalties to candidates and registered third parties.

Thursday, March 25 Last day for candidate or registered third party to apply to Superior Court of Justice to extend the time to file the financial statement.

Tuesday, March 30 Financial filing deadline.
After 2:00 p.m. the 90-day compliance audit period begins.
Start of 30-day grace period in which a candidate or registered third party may file the primary financial statement and pay a \$500 late filing fee.

Friday, April 30 Clerk to make a report on compliance with campaign rules by candidates and registered third party advertisers.

Wednesday, June 30 End of supplementary campaign period for candidates and registered third party advertisers who extended their campaign due to a deficit, or that recommended their campaign due to a recount, controverted election or a compliance audit.

Wednesday, August 25 Last day for Clerk to provide notice of supplementary filing requirements and penalties to candidates or registered third parties.

Thursday, September 23 Last day for candidate or registered third party with extended campaign period to apply to Superior Court of Justice to extend the time to file the financial statement.

Friday, September 24 Last day to file financial statement (by 2:00 p.m.) for reporting period ending June 30, 2023 – only applies to those who filed to extend the campaign period.

Last day for candidate or registered third party to notify the Clerk of filing extension (for supplementary campaign period) received from the Superior Court of Justice.

After 2:00 p.m.:

90-day compliance audit period begins.

Start of 30-day grace period in which a candidate or

registered third party may file the supplementary financial statement and pay a \$500 late filing fee.

Monday, October 25

Last day by (2:00 p.m.) for candidate or registered third party to file a supplementary financial statement and pay \$500 late filing fee.

Penalties take effect at 2:01 p.m.

Thursday, December 23

Last day to request a compliance audit on a supplementary financial statement.

Offices to Be Elected

On Monday, October 26, 2026, voters in the Township of Georgian Bluffs will elect candidates to the following municipal offices and school boards:

Mayor - 1 to be elected

Deputy Mayor - 1 to be elected

Councillors - 5 to be elected

The role of Council and the role of the Head of Council can be found and defined in sections 224 to 226 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

English-language Separate School Board Trustee - 1 to be elected (Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board).

English-language Public School Board Trustee - 1 to be elected (Bluewater District School Board).

French-language Public School Board Trustee - 1 to be elected (Conseil Scolaire Viamonde).

French-language Separate School Board Trustee – 1 to be elected (Conseil Scolaire Catholique Providence).

Sections 169.1 and 170 of the *Education Act, 1990* establish the duties and powers of school boards.

Qualification of Candidates

Member of Council – Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillor

Qualifications for members of Council are set out in Section 256 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* and Section 17 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.

In order to run for office in the Township of Georgian Bluffs, a person must be:

1. A Canadian citizen;
2. At least 18 years old;
3. A resident of the Township of Georgian Bluffs or the owner or tenant of land in the Township, or the spouse of such owner or tenant; and
4. Not disqualified by any legislation from holding office.

Ineligibility

The following are ineligible to be elected as members of Council:

1. An employee of the Township of Georgian Bluffs, except during an authorized leave of absence (the leave of absence must begin upon filing the Nomination Form);
2. A person who is not an employee of the municipality, but who is the Clerk, Treasurer, Integrity Commissioner, Auditor General, Ombudsman or registrar, or who holds any administrative position of the municipality;
3. A judge of any court;
4. A member of the Assembly as provided in the Legislative Assembly Act, 1990 of the Senate or House of Commons of Canada ;
5. A person who is serving a sentence of imprisonment in a penal or correctional institution; and
6. A person who was convicted of the corrupt practice described in subsection 90 (3) of the Municipal Elections Act, if voting day in the current election is less than five years after voting day in the election in respect of which he or she was convicted.

School Board Trustee

Be Informed! Consult the *Education Act, 1990* for additional information.

A person is eligible to run for office as a School Board Trustee if that person:

1. Is qualified to vote for members of that district school board or that school authority and is resident in its area of jurisdiction; or
2. Is qualified under 1. above, may be elected as a member of a district school board or school authority for any geographic area in the district school board's area of jurisdiction, regardless of which positions on that district school board or school authority the person may be qualified to vote for.

Ineligibility

A person is ineligible to be elected or to act as a member of a district school board or school authority if the person is:

1. An employee of any district school board or school authority;

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2. The Clerk or Treasurer or Deputy Clerk or Deputy Treasurer of a municipality or an upper-tier municipality, all or part of which is included in the area of jurisdiction of the district school board or school authority;
3. A member of the Assembly or of the Senate or House of Commons of Canada; or
4. Otherwise, ineligible or disqualified under the *Education Act, 1990* or any other Act.

The Township of Georgian Bluffs will be receiving Nominations for the Office of School Board Trustee for the **Bluewater District School Board**, which Trustee will represent the Townships of Georgian Bluffs and Chatsworth.

- For the **Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board**, the responsible municipality is the Town of Saugeen Shores.
- For the French Public-School Board (**Conseil scolaire Viamonde**) the responsible municipality is the City of Barrie.
- For the French Separate School Board (**Conseil scolaire Catholique Providence**) the responsible municipality is the City of Sarnia.

Role of Public Officials

As a member of Council, you will have the opportunity to influence and shape the future of the Township. The *Municipal Act, 2001* defines the roles of Council and the Head of Council (Mayor) as follows:

Council	Head of Council (Mayor)
To represent the public and to consider the well-being and interests of the municipality.	To act as chief executive officer of the municipality.
To govern the policies and programs of the municipality.	To preside over council meetings so that its business can be carried out efficiently and effectively.
To determine which services and levels of service the municipality provides.	To provide leadership to the council without limiting clause (c), to provide information and recommendations to the council with respect to the role of council described in clauses 224 (d) and (d.1).
To ensure that governance policies, practices and procedures and controllership policies, practices and procedures are in place to implement the decisions of council; to ensure the accountability and transparency of the operations of the municipality, including the activities of the senior management of the municipality.	To represent the municipality at official functions.
To maintain the financial integrity of the municipality.	To carry out the duties of the head of council under the <i>Municipal Act, 2001</i> or any Act.
To carry out the duties of council under the <i>Municipal Act, 2001</i> or any other Act.	Powers delegated to the Head of Council under Part V1.1 (Special Powers and Duties of Head of Council) of the <i>Municipal Act, 2001</i> .

Mayor and Deputy Mayor – Grey County Council Role

Grey County Council consists of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor from each of the nine member municipalities. As a result, the elected Mayor and Deputy Mayor will sit on Grey County Council by virtue of their office.

The Warden of County Council is elected by their council peers each year to serve as the Head of Council. County Council meets on the second and fourth Thursday of the month immediately followed by a Committee of the Whole meeting.

Grey County Council orientation is tentatively scheduled for December 4, 2026.

Time Commitments

As a member of Council, you will sit on various standing and local committees and boards and attend Council and community events throughout the Township. The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and remaining five Councillors form Council and Committee of the Whole. In 2025, Council adopted a combined Council and Committee structure for meeting efficiency.

All regularly scheduled meetings of Council and Committee of the Whole commence at 5:00 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, subject to statutory holidays and office closures.

Members of Council can expect to dedicate approximately 10-20 hours per month* to attend meetings of Council, Committee of the Whole and local and standing committees, in addition to time spent preparing for meetings and communicating with constituents.

Additional availability may be required for Special Council meetings. Based on prior years, it is estimated that 5-10 Special meetings could be called per year. Special meetings can be expected to be a combination of all-day commitments to 1 hour or less.

**Based on responses gathered by the 2026-2030 Council Remuneration Committee of current sitting Members.*

2026 Meeting Schedule

A copy of the 2026 Council Schedule is attached to this reference guide.

2027 Meeting Schedule

A copy of the 2027 Council Schedule is attached to this reference guide.

Nomination Procedures

Filing Nomination Papers

Every person who proposes to be a candidate must file a Nomination prior to receiving any campaign contributions and/or spending any funds on a campaign. A candidate may file their Nomination as of May 1, 2026, at the Township Administration Office during regular business hours (9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). Blank Nomination Papers (Form 1) are available at the Township Administration Office or online at www.georgianbluffs.ca/election.

Nominations must be submitted **in person** to the Township Clerk at the Township of Georgian Bluffs Administrative Office – 177964 Grey Road 18, Owen Sound.

Candidates are required to complete their Nomination forms, including a Declaration of Qualification which must be taken before a Commissioner of Oaths. Commissioners of Oaths in the Clerk's Department can administer this Declaration. The candidate will be required to show photo identification, including the candidate's signature. Please note that Nominations submitted electronically or by fax or mail will not be considered valid and therefore not be accepted.

The Nomination of a candidate for an office of Council (Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillor) must be endorsed by at least 25 persons. The person endorsing the Nomination must be eligible to vote in an election for an office within the Township if a regular election was held on the day that the person endorses the Nomination. **To mitigate the consequences of a challenge to the qualification of a person endorsing your candidacy, we would suggest you obtain a few extra endorsements beyond the required 25.**

Nominations for School Board Candidates do not need to be endorsed.

At filing, a Nomination must include:

1. A completed Form 1 – Nomination Paper
2. Completed Form 2 - Endorsement of Nomination with at least 25 signatures of persons eligible to vote for the office
3. The prescribed Nomination Fee (cash, debit or certified cheque are accepted). The prescribed fee is \$200 for Mayor, \$100 for Deputy Mayor and \$100 for Councillors and School Board Trustees
4. Proof of identity and residence as prescribed in O. Reg. 304/13 and proof of citizenship satisfactory to the Clerk.

The final day for filing a Nomination for the 2026 Municipal Election is Nomination Day, August 21, 2026 – 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Any candidate in the Township Administration Office at 2:00 p.m. will be permitted to file their Nomination.

If an agent is filing the Nomination on behalf of a candidate, the candidate's Declaration of Qualification must be witnessed by a Commissioner for taking affidavits, before the agent files the Nomination with the Township. The agent must provide a copy of the candidate's identification as well as providing their own identification.

Candidates are responsible for ensuring that they meet all the qualifications and have followed the procedures with respect to the filing of Nominations.

Appointments for Filing

Candidates are encouraged to make an appointment with a member of the Clerks Department to submit nomination papers. Due to the continuation of other services, the Township cannot guarantee a member of staff will be available for walk-ins. Appointments can be made by emailing elections@georgianbluffs.ca or calling 519-376-2729 ext. 946.

At the time of nomination filing, candidates will be required to complete the following forms:

- Consent to Publish – Form EL16
- Declaration of Qualification – Form EL13 (Council) or Form EL14 (School Board)
- Candidates Declaration – Proper Use of the Voters’ List – Form EL21
- Nomination Checklist – Confirming submission of nomination materials and receipt of additional materials listed below
- Any other information required at the time of filing

Additional Materials Provided to Candidate at Time of Filing

The nomination process will include the candidate receiving the following:

- Blank Financial Statement – Auditor’s Report Candidate - Form 4
- Preliminary Certificate of Maximum Campaign Expenses
- Preliminary Certificate of Maximum Contributions – Own Campaign - (Council candidates only)
- Blank Withdrawal of Nomination - Form EL19
- Blank Appointment of Scrutineer by Candidate - Form EL12(A)
- A copy of 2026 Municipal Election Procedures
- A copy of the Election Accessibility Plan
- A copy of Use of Municipal Resources for Elections Policy

Public Information and information on the Township’s Website

Nomination forms and the information contained on them are public information. Any person wishing to look at a candidate’s nomination may do so in person at the Township Administration Office during regular office hours.

Nominated candidates will be asked to identify, and sign a consent form, regarding what information they want posted with the list of candidates on the Township website. At the least, the candidate’s name, and office they are running for, will be posted. Other possible information:

- Address
- Telephone (contact) number
- Email address
- Website

Unofficial List of Candidates

The Clerk shall provide notice of the unofficial list of Candidates by posting it on the notice board at the Administration Building and at <http://www.georgianbluffs.ca/election>. This posting will serve as the unofficial list of candidates and will be updated as each Nomination Paper is filed.

Withdrawal of Nominations

A candidate may withdraw their nomination by filing a written withdrawal with the Clerk's Department before 2:00 p.m. on August 21, 2026. The candidate will be asked for identification when filing their withdrawal.

If your nomination has not been withdrawn by 2:00 p.m. on August 21, 2026, your name will appear on the ballot.

Examination and Certification of Nominations by Clerk

Before 4:00 p.m. on the Monday following Nomination Day – August 21, 2026 – the Clerk shall examine each nomination that has been filed to accept (certify) or reject the nomination.

If the Clerk rejects a nomination, notice will be provided as soon as possible to the individual seeking nomination and to all candidates. The Clerk's decision to certify or reject a nomination is final. Notice of rejected nominations will be provided as follows:

- A Notice of Rejection of Nomination or Registration - will be sent to the person being nominated by email; and
- Notice will be provided to all Candidates by email.

Official List of Candidates

The final list of Certified Candidates will be posted on the 2026 Municipal Election Bulletin at the Township Administration Building and online at www.georgianbluffs.ca/election on or before Wednesday, August 26, 2026.

Declaration and Notice of Election

If after 4:00 pm on Monday, August 24, 2026, the number of certified nominations filed for an office is more than the number of persons to be elected to the office, the Clerk will declare an election to be conducted and provide notice.

Acclamations

If **after** 4:00 pm on Monday, August 24, 2026, the number of Certified Candidates for an office is the same as or fewer than the number to be elected, the Clerk will declare the Candidate(s) elected by acclamation and post a Declaration of Acclamation to Office on the notice board at the Administration Building and online at www.georgianbluffs.ca/election. There is no election for any offices that have been acclaimed.

Exception for Additional Nominations

If at 4:00 pm on Monday, August 26, 2026, the number of certified nominations filed for an office is fewer than the number of persons to be elected, the Clerk will post a notice of additional nominations online and take further nominations between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm on Wednesday, August 26, 2026. Withdrawal of additional nominations must take place prior to 2:00 pm on Wednesday, August 26, 2026, following the Withdrawal of Nomination procedure above. At 2:00 pm on Wednesday, August 26, 2026, the Clerk will certify or reject any additional Nomination Papers that have been filed. After 4:00 pm on Thursday, August 27, 2026, the Clerk will:

- Conduct an election with Certified Candidates who are not acclaimed
- Declare the Certified Candidate(s) elected by acclamation and post a Declaration of Acclamation to Office online, if there is a sufficient number of certified nomination papers for an office; or
- Hold a by-election, if the number of nomination papers filed is insufficient to form a quorum of the Municipal Council. If the number of nominations filed is less than the number of positions for an office of Municipal Council, but forms a quorum, the vacancy or vacancies will be filled by appointing a person as set out in section 263(1)(a) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

Death or Ineligibility of a Candidate

If a Certified Candidate passes away or becomes ineligible before the close of voting resulting in an acclamation for an office, the election to such office is void and a by-election for the office will be held. If it results in one fewer Candidate and no acclamation, the Candidate's name will be removed from the ballot where possible and notice of their ineligibility will be provided on the election website.

Campaign Finances

Campaign Expense Limits

There are limits on the amount that a candidate may spend on their campaign. The campaign period begins the day the candidate files Nomination Papers and ends on December 31, 2026. A candidate cannot spend funds or start campaigning until they have filed appropriately. The limit on campaign expenses is based on a formula related to the number of electors entitled to vote for the office.

Once a candidate files their Nomination, they will be given a Preliminary Certificate of Maximum Campaign Expenses based on the Voters' List from the 2022 election. Each certified candidate will be provided with a final Certificate on or before September 30, 2026. The final maximum expense limit is calculated using the number of electors on the Voter's List as of the 2026 municipal election or September 20, 2026, whichever provides the highest maximum limit.

The following is the formula used to calculate the limits:

Head of Council (Mayor)	\$7500 plus 85 cents for each elector entitled to vote for the office
Candidate for another office (Deputy Mayor, Councillors, School Board Trustees)	\$5000 plus 85 cents for each elector entitled to vote for the office

Candidates must ensure that a campaign bank account is opened at a financial institution exclusively for the purposes of the election campaign and in the name of the Candidate's election campaign, if the Candidate accepts contributions or incurs expenses.

It is the responsibility of Candidates to ensure that:

- Any contributions and expenses are deposited into and made from the campaign accounts, with the exception of the filing fee.
- All contributions, including goods or services, are valued at fair market value
- Receipts are issued for every contribution, including the value of the contribution, whether a contribution was in the form of money, goods or services, and the contributor's name and address;
- Receipts are obtained and records kept for every expense;
- Financial filings are complete and filed by the statutory deadline;
- Proper direction is given to the persons who are authorized to incur expenses and accept or solicit contributions of behalf of the Candidate
- Any contribution of money in contravention of this Act is returned to the contributor as soon as possible after the Candidate becomes aware of the contravention
- Any such contribution not returned is paid to the Clerk
- Any anonymous contribution is paid to the Clerk
- Records are kept for:
 - Any claim for payment of expenses that the Candidate disputes or refuses to pay
 - the gross income from a fund-raising function and gross amount of money received at a fund-raising function by donations of \$10 or less; and

- any loan and its terms.
- All campaign records are kept for the entire term of office

It is recommended that Candidates engage a professional accountant to advise on the requirements of campaign finances. The Clerk does not provide financial advice.

Campaign Contributions

Contributions can only be made to Candidates who have properly filed a Nomination.

Contributions may only be accepted from:

- An individual who is normally a resident in Ontario;
- A corporation that carries on business in Ontario;
- A trade union that holds bargaining rights for employees in Ontario; and
- The Candidate and his or her spouse.

Contributions cannot be accepted from:

- A federal political party, a federal constituency association or a Candidate at a federal election endorsed by a party;
- A provincial political party, constituency association, registered Candidate or leadership contestant, registered under the Elections Finances Act; and
- The Crown in Right of Canada or Ontario, a municipality or local Board.

Contributions under \$25 may be made in cash. Contributions over \$25 cannot be made in cash and cannot exceed a contribution of \$1,200 to any one Candidate in an election regardless of the number of offices for which the Candidate has been nominated. A contributor is prohibited from making contributions exceeding a total of \$5,000 to two or more candidates for office on the same council or board.

Candidates should ensure that campaign contributors are aware that their personal information will be publicly disclosed when the candidate submits their financial statements.

Contributions to Self or from a Spouse

The Candidate or his or her spouse may borrow money for the Candidate's campaign from any bank or other recognized lending institution in Ontario. The money must go through the Candidate's campaign account. No person, other than the Candidate or his or her spouse may guarantee the loan.

The contribution limit applies to the total amount of contributions made by yourself and/or your spouse to your campaign. This includes any contributions of goods and the replacement value of any inventory from a previous campaign that you are using in your current campaign. The contribution limit is calculated based on the number of electors who are eligible to vote for the office that you are running for. The formula for calculating the limit is:

- Mayor: \$7,500 plus 20 cents per elector to a maximum of \$25,000;
- Deputy Mayor, Councillor: \$5,000 plus 20 cents per elector to a maximum of \$25,000.

When you file your nomination, the Clerk will give you an estimate of your contribution limit as outlined above.

Filing Financial Statements

All nominated candidates, including those not elected, those who withdrew their Nominations and those whose Nominations were rejected by the Clerk, file their Form 4 - Financial Statement on or before March 30, 2027, by 2:00 p.m., which details their contributions and expenses as of December 31, 2026, in accordance with the following:

- All candidates are required to file a Financial Statement on the prescribed form, even if they neither received nor spent any funds.
- Candidates must have their Financial Statement audited and submit the auditor's report to the Clerk along with their Financial Statement if their income or expenses exceed \$10,000.

Please refer to the Provincial Municipal Elections Guide of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* for detailed information with respect to:

- Extending a campaign in order to eliminate a deficit;
- Supplementary financial statement information;
- Surplus and deficit information; and
- Enforcement and penalties.

The financial statement is a public document and will be posted on the Township's website. It is the responsibility Candidates to file a complete and accurate financial statement by the filing date. The Clerk is not responsible for and will not provide any financial advice.

If a candidate doesn't file a financial statement on time and is willing to pay a \$500 late filing fee, the candidate will be provided an additional 30-day period to file the financial statement. In this instance, the candidate will not be refunded the nomination filing fee.

Following the election, the Clerk is required to publicly report on compliance with election finance rules. The report identifies Candidates and Third Party Advertisers who have failed to comply with the requirement to file a financial statement or exceeded spending limits.

Candidates who fail to file a financial statement are automatically prohibited from being elected or appointed to any office to which the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* applies until after the next regular election.

The Clerk will review all financial statements received to identify whether any contributor appears to have exceeded any of the contribution limits. If any contributor has exceeded the contribution limits, the Clerk is required to report this to the Compliance Audit Committee as soon as possible after the filing deadline. Within 30 days of receiving the Clerk's report, the Compliance Audit Committee must meet and decide whether to commence legal proceedings against a contributor, including removal from their seat.

Refund of Nomination Filing Fee

A candidate is entitled to receive a refund of the nomination filing fee if they file their financial statements with the Township Clerk by 2:00 p.m. on March 30, 2027.

Scrutineers (Candidates' Agents)

Each candidate may appoint, in writing, any number of persons necessary to act as scrutineers to represent them at Election Centres, and to be present during the counting of the votes.

Scrutineers must show proof of their appointment to election officials upon request.

Only one scrutineer per candidate may be in the Election Centres. If a candidate enters the Election Centre, they are considered to be a scrutineer.

Candidates and scrutineers have the right to:

- Enter the Help Centre / Polling Station; and
- Object to an elector if they believe the elector is not qualified.
- If you are appointing scrutineers, please note the following:
 - The appointment must be made in writing;
 - Scrutineers must take an Oath of Secrecy (available at the help centre);
 - Scrutineers may not interfere with the activity of the vote or the counting process
- Candidates are entitled to be represented at an Election Centre, either personally or by scrutineer. It should be noted that acclaimed candidates are not entitled to be at a voting place unless appointed as a scrutineer by another candidate; and
- Campaigning is not permitted within the Election Centres.

Scrutineers and candidates are prohibited from the following:

- Campaigning at the Election Centre
- Attempting, directly or indirectly, to interfere with an elector,
- Displaying a candidate's election material (including buttons, pins, etc.) in an Election Centre
- Compromising the secrecy of voting,
- Obtain or attempt to obtain, in an Election Centre, any information about how an elector intends to vote or has voted,
- Park a vehicle displaying campaign material in the parking lot of an Election Centre.

Election Signs

The Township of Georgian Bluffs has an Election Signs By-Law that regulates the placement of campaign signage.

Election signs cannot be placed until you have filed a complete Nomination and your campaign has begun.

Election signs on private property require the permission of the property owner. Certain restrictions are placed on Township property, including that election signage cannot be placed at any designated Voting Place. For the purposes of the 2026 Municipal Election, signs cannot be placed on lands encompassing the Administration Building, Shallow Lake Community Centre or Kemble Community Centre. Election signage must not obstruct view of traffic or impede access to fire hydrants.

Election signs must be removed no later than 3 days following Election Day.

Candidates should read the Election Sign By-Law in full and familiarize themselves with the requirements.

Use of Corporate Resources

No candidate shall use or display the Township's logo or election logo on any campaign materials or signage.

Candidates are prohibited from campaigning or distributing campaign literature inside the Township's administrative offices, Township owned property, or facilities unless facilities are rented through the standard rental procedures. Candidates are prohibited from renting a space that is being used as a Voting Location (Election Centre).

Candidates are not permitted to campaign or distribute campaign literature at any Township hosted event.

Current serving Council members seeking re-election shall not use any corporate issued technology or assets for campaign purposes.

The Township will not promote any campaign-related materials. Township employees are prohibited from providing candidates with administrative or technical support. Township employees must ensure their conduct does not create a perceived or actual conflict of interest in their day-to-day work.

Prohibition of Canvassing in Voting Places

The Election Centres are considered voting places.

Section 48 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* states:

“While an elector is in a voting place, no person shall attempt, directly or indirectly, to influence how the elector votes. No person shall display a candidate's election campaign material or literature in a voting place. For the purpose of this section,

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‘Voting Place’ includes any place in the immediate vicinity of the voting place designated by the Clerk.”

Election Officials are instructed to immediately remove from any Election Centre any material or literature of any nature which may be deposited in and around an Election Centre.

Candidates or their agents and scrutineers must not engage electors in conversations at Election Centres and they may not wear campaign buttons or distribute material of any kind in and around a Help Centre.

Access to Apartment Buildings, Condominiums, etc. by Candidates (or their authorized representative)

Campaign provisions have been clarified through recent amendments to the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* to allow candidates to campaign in apartment buildings, condominiums and non-profit housing co-ops or gated communities from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Landlords and condominium corporations may not prohibit tenants or owners from displaying campaign signs in their windows.

General Voter Information

Voter Qualifications

A person is qualified to be a voter in the Township of Georgian Bluffs if on Voting Day, the person:

1. Resides in the Township of Georgian Bluffs or is the owner or tenant of land in the Township, or the spouse of such owner or tenant;
2. Is a Canadian citizen;
3. Is at least 18 years old; and
4. Is not prohibited from voting as outlined in the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* or any other act.

Persons Prohibited from Voting

The following are prohibited from voting:

1. A person who is serving a sentence of imprisonment in a penal correctional institution;
2. A corporation;
3. A person acting as executor or trustee in any other representative capacity, except as a voting proxy in accordance with section 44; and
4. A person who was convicted of the corrupt practice described in subsection 90 (3), if voting day in the current election is less than five years after voting day in the election in respect of which he or she was convicted.

For additional information, reference the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.

Definition of Residence

For the purpose of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, a person's residence is the permanent lodging place to which, whenever absent, they intend to return. These provisions exist to allow for the homeless to be enumerated and to vote. The following rules apply in determining a person's residence:

1. A person may only have one residence at a time;
2. The place where a person's family resides is also their residence, unless they move elsewhere with the intention of changing their permanent lodging place;
3. If a person has no other permanent lodging place, the place where they habitually return is their residence.

Despite paragraph 1 subsection (2), a person may have residence in two local municipalities at the same time, if:

1. The person lives in one of the local municipalities in order to attend an educational institution but not with the intention of changing their permanent lodging place; and
2. The person's permanent lodging place is in the other local municipality.

Voters' List

The 2026 Voters' List for the Township of Georgian Bluffs is initially prepared by Elections Ontario. The Voters' List contains the names, addresses and school support of each person who meets the qualifications of a voter.

The information contained on the Voters' List is to be used for election purposes only. The use and sale of the Voters' List for commercial purposes is prohibited.

Candidates are entitled to receive one copy of the Voters' List, either electronic or hardcopy, free of charge. The Clerk will correspond with nominated candidates regarding when and how the Voters' List will be made available.

Revisions to the Voters' List

The Voters' List will be available by Tuesday, September 1, 2026. Applications for amendments to the list will be accepted by the Clerk from Thursday, September 1, 2026, to the close of voting of Voting Day – October 26, 2026.

Voter Information Notices

A notice will be mailed by the Clerk to each voter, advertising the dates and time of the voting period, locations and operating times of the Election Centres and the methods of voting. The Voter Information Notices (also referred to as Voter Information Letters) will contain information specific to each voter to allow the voter to cast their vote.

Voting Methods – Internet and Telephone

Council has approved internet and telephone voting for the 2026 Municipal Election. Voting will commence on October 16th. Voters will have the opportunity to cast their votes online or by telephone, 24 hours a day, continuously through to Voting Day, October 26th.

There will be no paper ballots in this election.

Election Centres

The Township will be establishing Election Centres to assist voters with the voting process. At the Election Centres, voters will have the ability to have their names added to the Voters' List, receive a new Voter Information Letter, and vote, if they wish. For more information regarding Election Centres and Voting Procedures, please consult the Clerk's Department.

Date	Election Centre Location	Hours of Operation
October 16, 2026	Township Administration Building	12:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
October 18, 2026	Kemble Community Centre	10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
October 19-23, 2026	Township Administration Building	10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
October 24, 2026	Shallow Lake Community Centre	10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
October 26, 2026	Township Administration Building	10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Reminders to Candidates

- You must be an eligible elector for the office being sought
- You must file your Nomination forms in person or by agent
- You cannot be nominated for more than one office
- You must pay a filing fee of \$100 or \$200 by cash, debit, or certified cheque at the Township Administration Office
- You cannot accept donations or spend any funds on a campaign until such time as you have filed a Nomination Paper with the Clerk
- You are responsible for keeping records of the financial activities related to your campaign. Remember to issue receipts for all donations, including donations of goods or services; obtain receipts for expenses incurred; keep copies of all receipts.
- Keep receipts for all expenditures and a record of the value of all contributions which are not money (ie. Sign stakes, paper, printing services, etc.)
- It is the responsibility of the candidate to file a complete and accurate Financial Statement on time. Candidates should completely familiarize themselves with the appropriate sections of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.

Useful Resources

Municipal Act, 2001 – <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/01m25>

Municipal Elections Act, 1996 – <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/96m32>

Education Act, 1990 – <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90e02>

Ministry of Municipal Affairs Candidates Guide – [2026 candidates' guide — Ontario municipal council and school board elections | ontario.ca](#)

Ministry of Municipal Affairs Third Party Advertisers Guide - [2026 third-party advertisers' guide | ontario.ca](#)

Election Policies and Procedures

Election Sign By-Law

The Election Sign By-Law is posted on the Township's website at:
www.georgianbluffs.ca/election

Use of Corporate Resources Policy

The Use of Corporate Resources Policy is posted on the Township's website at:
www.georgianbluffs.ca/election

Election Forms

All forms required for the 2026 Municipal Election are posted at
www.georgianbluffs.ca/election or are available at the Township Administration Office.