



2026 Municipal and School Board Elections
October 26, 2026

Midland Candidate Information Handout

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CANDIDATE INFORMATION HANDOUT
Table of Contents

Key Contacts..... 4

Accessibility..... 5

Qualifications of a Candidate – Council..... 5

Disqualification..... 6

Town of Midland Employees..... 6

Qualifications of a Candidate – School Board 6

Additional Qualifications for School Board Trustee Candidate 6

Disqualification..... 7

School Board Employees 7

Election Voting Timeframe 7

Offices To Be Elected..... 8

Term Of Office..... 8

Annual Remuneration..... 8

Nomination Period..... 8

Nomination Day..... 8

Nomination Procedures..... 9

Nomination Paper and Endorsement of Nomination..... 9

Filing Fee..... 10

Refund of Filing Fee 10

Change of Office or Withdrawal..... 10

Clerk’s Certification..... 10

Reasons for Rejection of Nomination by the Clerk 10

Acclamations 11

Exception for Additional Nominations 11

Public Information..... 11

Voters’ List 11

Revision Period..... 12

Campaign Information 12

Campaign Period 12

Access to Apartment Buildings, Condominiums, etc..... 12

Scrutineers 13

Election Signs..... 13

Use of Logos and Municipal Resources 14

General Voting Information 14

Voting at Large	14
Voting Method – Internet and Telephone.....	14
Proxy Voting and Advance Vote Not Required	14
Voting Period	15
Voter Instruction Letters.....	15
Voter Assistance Centre	15
Election Contributions and Expenses.....	15
Campaign Expense Limits – Formula	16
Maximum Expenses for After Parties.....	16
Campaign Contributions	17
Contributions From Self or Spouse.....	18
Third Party Advertisers expenses	18
Notice of Penalties.....	19
Filing Financial Statements.....	19
Joint Compliance Audit Committee.....	20
Election Results	20
Inaugural Council Meeting and First Regular Meeting	20
Municipal Council – General Information.....	20
Council Responsibilities	20
Strong Mayor Powers	21
Time Commitment	21
Schedule Of Key Dates.....	22
Reminders To Candidates.....	24
Resources	25

Introduction

This guide has been prepared for the purpose of supplying general information to persons intending to run for elected office in the 2026 Municipal and School Board elections. This guide is available electronically on the Town of Midland website – www.midland.ca/election.

It is important to note that the contents of this document are intended only as a guide. Prospective candidates must satisfy themselves through their own determination that they have complied with all legislated requirements to run for election and hold office.

Candidates are responsible for ensuring they are familiar with the requirements of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (MEA)* and should consult the *MEA* for complete information and legislative requirements. A copy of the *MEA* can be obtained from Publications Ontario at 1-800-668-9938 or online at www.e-laws.gov.on.ca.

Municipal Elections are conducted in accordance with the provisions of the *MEA*, the *Municipal Act, 2001*, the *Assessment Act* and the *Education Act*. The Clerk is the Returning Officer and is responsible for coordinating all facets of the election.

Candidates must comply with all the requirements relating to election campaign financing. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing produces a *Candidates' Guide* that also includes financial reporting requirements. The 2026 *Guide* has been uploaded to the Town of Midland website. See also the [Resources](#) section of this guide.

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.

This guide will be updated periodically. Please check back during the campaign period.

Key Contacts

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Accessibility

The Town of Midland is dedicated to providing a barrier-free election for those with disabilities.

This will be the second election conducted by internet and telephone voting. The previous Council considered the need to fully comply with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)* when it decided to make this change in 2022.

MEA, section 12.1, requires the Clerk to prepare a plan prior to Voting Day regarding the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that affect voters and candidates with disabilities. Please see the [Resources](#) section to view the *2026 Midland Elections Accessibility Plan*. The Plan is also available on the Town website. The Clerk is also mandated to prepare a follow-up report within 90 days after Voting Day, and this report will also be made available as soon as it is available.

Voter Assistance Centres, both at the Municipal Office and at the five long-term care and retirement homes, will be fully accessible and municipal elections staff will be available to provide additional assistance to voters if needed.

Candidates should also have regard to the needs of electors with disabilities. Campaign offices, election materials and canvassing should all be reviewed in order to ensure that they are accessible to all electors. The Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) provides a *Candidate's Guide to Accessible Elections*. Please see the [Resources](#) section.

Qualifications of a Candidate – Council

It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that they are qualified to seek the office for which they are being nominated.

Qualifications for members of Council are set out in Section 256 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* and Sections 17 and 29 of the *MEA*.

A person who is qualified to be a voter in the Town of Midland 2026 Municipal Elections is also eligible to be a candidate for office.

To be eligible, you must be:

- a resident of the Town of Midland, a non-resident owner or tenant of land in the Town, or the spouse of such non-resident owner or tenant;
- a Canadian citizen;
- at least 18 years old;
- not legally prohibited from voting.

A candidate and an elected member of Council must maintain his or her qualifications throughout the entire term of nomination/office.

Disqualification

The following people are disqualified from being elected as a member of Council, or from holding office as a Member of Council:

- an employee of the municipality, unless they take an unpaid leave of absence beginning the day they are nominated and resign if elected to the office
- a judge of any court
- a member of the Provincial Legislature, the Federal House of Commons or Senate who has not resigned from their office by the close of nominations. Proof of resignation must be provided by the close of nominations, or the Clerk will not certify the nomination
- an inmate of a penal or correctional institution
- a candidate who failed to file the necessary financial statement(s) in the 2022 elections
- Crown employees who are deputy ministers or in designated classifications under the *Public Service Act*
- one who is prohibited from voting in an election according to the *MEA*, the *Municipal Act, 2001* or the *Education Act*
- one who has violated financial requirements for filing financial information in the previous election.

An employee of a school board may run for Council without a leave of absence.

Town of Midland Employees

Employees of the Town who wish to run for Council must take an unpaid leave of absence before filing their nomination papers. The employee must provide the Clerk with a copy of the documentation showing that they have taken the leave of absence and the effective date. If they are elected, they must resign from their job. They cannot work for a municipality and be on its Council at the same time.

Qualifications of a Candidate – School Board

Additional Qualifications for School Board Trustee Candidate

In addition to being a qualified elector, a candidate for school board trustee must also reside within the district school board's area of jurisdiction and be qualified to vote for members of that district school board:

- In the case of the Simcoe County District School Board (**English Public**), the candidate must be a public school elector;
- In the case of the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board (**English Separate**) the candidate must be a Roman Catholic and a separate school elector;
- In the case of the Conseil scolaire Viamonde (**French Public**) the candidate must be a public school elector who fits into one of the following French language rights criteria:

- First learned and still understands French;
 - Received their elementary school instruction in Canada in French (this does not include French immersion or French as a second language); or
 - Whose children received, or are now receiving, elementary or secondary school instruction in Canada in French (this does not include French immersion or French as a second language).
- In the case of the Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud (**French Separate**) the candidate must be a separate school elector and fit into one of the above criteria for French-language rights.

Disqualification

The following people are disqualified from being elected as a school board trustee or from holding office on any school board:

- An employee of the school board unless they take an unpaid leave of absence beginning the day they are nominated and resign if elected to the office
- A clerk, treasurer, deputy-clerk or deputy-treasurer of any municipality within the area of jurisdiction of the school board except those on an unpaid leave of absence
- A judge of any court
- A member of the Provincial Legislature, the Federal House of Commons or Senate who has not resigned from their office by the close of nominations. Proof of resignation must be provided by the close of nominations, or the Clerk will not certify the nomination
- An inmate of a penal or correctional institution
- A candidate who failed to file the necessary financial statement(s) in the 2022 election
- Crown employees who are deputy ministers or in designated classifications under the *Public Service Act*
- One who is prohibited from voting in an election according to the *MEA*, the *Municipal Act, 2001* or the *Education Act*
- One who has violated financial requirements for filing financial information in the previous election.

School Board Employees

Employees of any school boards (including supply teachers) are disqualified from being elected as a school board trustee or from holding office on any school boards, except during a leave of absence. The employee must take an unpaid leave of absence before filing nomination papers. If they are elected, they must resign from their job. They cannot work for a school board and be a trustee in Ontario at the same time.

Election Voting Timeframe

The 2026 Municipal and School Board Elections date is Monday, October 26, 2026. This is the second time the Town will employ internet/telephone voting as the

voting format. Voting will commence online or via telephone on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, through to 8:00 p.m. on voting day. Electors are able to vote 24 hours a day for the entire time period.

Offices To Be Elected

This will be the second election where the Town of Midland will be voting at large, meaning voters can vote for all positions of Council. Voting wards have been dissolved.

Eligible individuals may consider running for one of the following offices:

- Mayor – one (1) to be elected at large
- Deputy Mayor – one (1) to be elected at large
- Councillor – seven (7) to be elected at large
- School Board Trustees:
 - (1) School Board Trustee – English Language Public
 - (1) School Board Trustee – English Language Separate
 - (1) School Board Trustee – French Language Public
 - (1) School Board Trustee – French Language Separate

Term Of Office

November 15, 2026 – November 14, 2030

Annual Remuneration

Currently, the annual remuneration is:

Mayor	\$49,118.42
Deputy Mayor	\$32,219.46
Councillor	\$26,254.80

Effective January 1, 2027, the remuneration will increase to:

Mayor	\$58,222
Deputy Mayor	\$37,344
Councillor	\$30,548

Elected officials shall receive an annual cost-of-living adjustment similar to the settlements of the Managerial and Non-Union employees in future years.

Nomination Period

Friday, May 1, 2026, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., until Friday, August 21, 2026, between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Nomination Day

Friday, August 21, 2026 - 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Nomination Procedures

MEA, s.33

Nomination Paper and Endorsement of Nomination

Nomination forms, along with the filing fee, may be filed at the Office of the Clerk, **by appointment only**, from Monday to Friday between 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. during the nomination period (Friday, May 1 – Thursday, August 20, 2026). On Nomination Day, Friday, August 21, 2026, papers may be filed between 9:00 am and 2:00 p.m. Any candidate in the Town of Midland Municipal Office at 2:00 p.m. will be permitted to file their nomination.

Persons who propose to be candidates in the Municipal Elections must submit the following to the Office of the Clerk:

- *Nomination Paper* in the prescribed form
- *Endorsement of Nomination* in the prescribed form
- *Declaration of Qualifications*
- Filing fee
- Signed *Freedom of Information Release* form
- Signed *Candidate's Declaration – Proper Use of Voters' List* form

Blank forms are available from the Clerk's Department and posted on the Town website. The prescribed Nomination Paper – Form 1 and Endorsement of Nominations – Form 2 forms are also available on the Government of Ontario Central Forms Repository at <https://forms.mgcs.gov.on.ca>.

The nomination must be endorsed by at least 25 persons. The person endorsing the nomination must be eligible to vote in Midland on the day that they signed the endorsement.

****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.**

The requirement to submit 25 nomination signatures does not apply to candidates running for School Board Trustee positions.

If a candidate files a nomination and then changes his/her mind and decides to run for a different office on the same Council, he/she is not required to submit new signatures.

The candidate will be required to provide proof of identity and residence as prescribed in *Ontario Regulation 304/13*.

A Commissioner of Oaths is on site to administer the candidate's *Declaration of Qualification*.

If an agent is filing the *Nomination Paper* on behalf of a candidate, the candidate's *Declaration of Qualification* must be commissioned prior to the agent filing the paper with the Town. The agent must provide the candidate's identification as well as providing their own identification.

Faxed or emailed nominations will not be accepted.

Filing Fee

All registered candidates are required to pay a filing fee of either \$200.00 (Head of Council) or \$100.00 (all others). The fee must be paid in cash, debit, certified cheque or money order, Visa or MasterCard.

Refund of Filing Fee

A candidate is entitled to receive a refund of the nomination filing fee if he or she files financial statements on time after the election. In the case of the 2026 regular election, the date is March 30, 2027, for the campaign ending December 31, 2026.

Change of Office or Withdrawal

A person may withdraw his or her nomination by filing a written *Withdrawal of Nomination* in the Clerk's Office before 2:00 p.m. on Friday, August 21, 2026. If you wish to run for a different position, you must re-file your nomination paperwork in the Clerk's Office before 2:00 p.m. on that date, which will trigger your original nomination to be withdrawn. You do not need to submit different signatures from the ones you submitted with your initial nomination. The filing fee is deemed to have been paid with the latest filing, if the two nominations are for the same council or local board.

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

Clerk's Certification

Prior to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, August 24, 2026, the Clerk will examine each nomination filed and, if satisfied the person is qualified and that the nomination complies with the *MEA*, the Clerk will certify the nomination paper. If not satisfied, the Clerk will reject the nomination and, as soon as possible, give notice to the person nominated and to the other candidates for the office.

It is the responsibility of each candidate to ensure he or she is qualified to run for the office for which the nomination is filed. The Clerk's decision to certify or reject a nomination is final.

Reasons for Rejection of Nomination by the Clerk

Under the *MEA* the Clerk is required to reject or certify nominations of candidates. The following criteria may be used by the Clerk to reject a nomination:

- Candidate has refused or declined to provide proof of qualification
- Candidate has failed to provide a completed *Form 2* – endorsement of 25 qualified electors

- Candidate does not satisfy Section 29(1) of the *MEA* regarding who may be nominated
- The *Nomination Paper* is not complete in its entirety
- The prescribed filing fee has not been paid
- The necessary financial disclosure was not filed for the previous regular election or any new election in which the individual may have been a candidate
- There may also be other circumstances in which a candidate is disqualified - it is the responsibility of each candidate to ensure he/she is not disqualified

Acclamations

If, at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, August 24, 2026, the number of certified candidates for an office is the same as or less than the number to be elected, the Clerk shall immediately declare the candidate or candidates as elected by acclamation.

Exception for Additional Nominations

If the number of nominations certified for an office is less than the number of persons to be elected to an office, additional nominations may be filed between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on the Wednesday following Nomination Day – August 26, 2026.

Public Information

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 Municipal Office during regular office hours.

Nominated candidates will be asked to identify themselves and to sign a *Consent Form* regarding what information they want posted with the list of candidates on the Town 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

Voters' List

Elections Ontario now prepares the Permanent Register of Electors (the Voters' List) for both Provincial and Municipal elections.

Voters may access the Elections Ontario voter lookup portal at RegisterToVoteON.ca to check and see if they are on the voters' list, to update their information or to add their name to the list. A link to this portal is also currently available on the Town website. After the Voters' List is produced in September, the lookup icon will redirect the voter to a Town portal that will tell the elector how to file an application to the Clerk to be added

to the list. Eligible voters without computer access, or who would prefer assistance, are invited to call or attend at the Clerk's Office to determine if they are on the Voters' List.

Register to Vote >

The Preliminary List of Electors (PLE) is delivered to the Clerk in August. The Clerk will make corrections to obvious errors, and the PLE then becomes the official Voters' List. Each candidate will be provided with a copy, either in hard copy or electronically, on September 1, 2026. An interim list of changes up to September 20, 2026, is provided to each candidate by September 30, 2026.

Candidates must sign a Candidates' Declaration – Proper Use of Voters' List stating that they will use the Voters' List only for election purposes. The list cannot be used for commercial purposes and must be returned/destroyed after Voting Day.

The Town is encouraging all eligible voters to ensure they are on the Voters' List before Voting Day.

Candidates will be provided with Elections Ontario Voter Lookup information sheets to hand out to electors.

Revision Period

The Revision Period gives voters a chance to make corrections, additions or deletions to any of the information on the Voters' List. Voters may make these changes to personal information relating to them between Tuesday, September 1 and Monday, October 26, 2026 (Voting Day).

Campaign Information

Candidates are advised to refer to the Province of Ontario's [Candidate's Guide](#) for information regarding campaign contributions, fund raising and campaign expenses. A copy of the Provincial *Guide* is posted on the Town website.

Campaign Period

The election campaign period begins the day the nomination form is filed and ends on Thursday, December 31, 2026. A candidate cannot accept campaign contributions until he/she has filed the nomination paper.

Access to Apartment Buildings, Condominiums, etc.

The *MEA* provides that candidates may 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.

Scrutineers

Each candidate may appoint, in writing, any number of persons necessary to act as scrutineers to represent them during the opening and testing of the voting system, at the Voter Assistance Centre, and during the counting of the votes, including during a recount.

Scrutineers must show proof of their written appointment to Election Officials upon request.

Only one scrutineer per candidate may be in the Voter Assistance Centre during voting. If a candidate enters the Voter Assistance Centre, the scrutineer must leave.

Candidates and scrutineers have the right to:

- Enter the Voter Assistance Centre; 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; Forms are available on the Town website and at the Office of the Clerk;
- Scrutineers must take an *Oral Oath of Secrecy* (available at the Voter Assistance Centre);
- Scrutineers may not interfere with the activity of the vote or the counting process;
- Scrutineers may not obtain or attempt to obtain, in a Voter Assistance Centre, any information about how an elector intends to vote or has voted;
- Candidates are entitled to be represented at the Voter Assistance Centre, either personally or by a scrutineer. It should be noted that acclaimed candidates are not entitled to be at the Voter Assistance Centre unless appointed as a scrutineer by another candidate;
- Campaigning is not permitted within the Voter Assistance Centre.

Each scrutineer shall be responsible for his/her conduct, rights and prohibitions as set out on the appointment form.

Election Signs

By-law 2026-12, being a By-law to regulate election signs, is included in the Nomination Package for your review and can also be viewed on the Town website. Should you have any questions, please contact Robert Kennedy, MLEO, Manager, Municipal Law Enforcement, at 705-526-4275, extension 2203; rkennedy@midland.ca.

Election signs cannot be erected prior to Nomination Day (August 21, 2026).

Election signs must be removed no later than one week after October 26, 2026 (Voting Day).

Use of Logos and Municipal Resources

The use of any Municipal logo, crest or image by candidates on signs, brochures, websites or any other election related material is strictly prohibited.

Candidates may provide a link to the Town's election website on their material. Candidates may re-tweet/share a municipal social media post or share a link from the Town of Midland website on their own websites including social media. Candidates wishing to share information/pages from the Town of Midland official sites must do so by providing links rather than screen captures.

The Town of Midland *Use of Corporate [Resources](#) during Municipal Election Campaign Period Policy* prohibits the use of the Town's resources by a candidate. A full copy of this policy is included in this package for your review and can also be viewed on the Town's election website.

General Voting Information

Voting at Large

This is the second regular election in which the seven Midland Councillors will be elected through an at-large election process, meaning each Council Member represents all electors of Midland and not a specific ward or area within Midland.

By way of background, Council received a report from the Clerk on June 17, 2020, respecting voting by ward versus voting at large. Council discussed this matter at its September 16, 2020, meeting and held a public meeting on October 21, 2020. At that meeting Council passed By-law Number 2020-58 to dissolve the voting by ward electoral system and to institute voting at large.

Voting Method – Internet and Telephone

The Town of Midland will be employing both internet (online) and telephone voting in the 2026 Municipal Elections. Mail-in and paper ballots will not be used.

By way of background, Council adopted a report from the Clerk on December 8, 2021, respecting alternative voting methods. Subsequently, on January 20, 2022, Council passed By-law Number 2022-6 to implement the new Internet and telephone method.

Electors will have the opportunity to cast their ballots wherever internet or telephone service is available. The Town will offer a Voter Assistance Centre throughout the voting period to ensure all voters have the opportunity to participate.

Voting procedures will be available on the Town's election website and will also be provided to candidates upon filing *Nomination Papers*.

Proxy Voting and Advance Vote Not Required

Proxy voting is not required when using internet and telephone voting. Electors are able to vote from anywhere and at any time for almost two weeks prior to the election. For

the same reason, designated advance vote days are not required as early voting is available for the full two weeks.

Voting Period

Internet and telephone voting will be available 24 hours a day during the voting period, from Tuesday, October 13, 2026, through to 8:00 p.m. on Voting Day, Monday October 26, 2026.

Voter Instruction Letters

A Voter Instruction Letter (VIL) will be mailed to each voter, advising of the dates and times of the voting period, locations and operating times of the Voter Assistance Centre and the methods of voting. The VIL will contain information specific to each voter to allow the voter to cast their vote online or by telephone.

The VIL will be mailed seven (7) to fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of voting on October 13, 2026. Please call the Clerk's Office at (705) 526-4275, ext. 2208 or email elections@midland.ca If you do not receive your VIL.

Voter Assistance Centre

For the purpose of this election, voting places are not required. A Voter Assistance Centre will be located at the Municipal Office, 575 Dominion Avenue, Midland. Electors can be added to the Voters' List, apply for corrections or deletions, and receive assistance and clarification on the election process. Electors will have access to internet and telephone if they wish to vote at the Voter Assistance Centre.

The Voter Assistance Centre hours will be as follows:

Tuesday, October 13	10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, October 14 – Friday, October 16	8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 17	12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Monday, October 19 – Friday, October 23	8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 24	12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Monday, October 26	8:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Individual Voter Assistance Centres will be set up at nursing/retirement residences on specific days during the voting period to assist the residents.

Candidates or their agents and scrutineers must not engage electors in conversations at the Voter Assistance Centre. They may not wear campaign buttons or distribute material of any kind in and around the Voter Assistance Centre.

Election Contributions and Expenses

The *MEA* places limitations on contributions and expenses for candidates and also sets out candidate reporting responsibilities.

Campaign Expense Limits – Formula

There are limits on the amount a candidate may spend during the campaign period. The formula is based on the number of electors entitled to vote for the office:

- Mayor: \$7,500 + .85 cents per elector
- Deputy Mayor, Councillor: \$5,000 + .85 cents per elector
- School Board: \$5,000 + .85 cents per elector entitled to vote for that office

The Clerk will provide each candidate, at the time of filing *Nomination Papers*, with a preliminary certificate of the maximum amount of the campaign expenses they may incur. This will be based upon the number of electors on the Voters' List for the office on September 15 in the previous (2022) election.

The Clerk will then determine the number of electors eligible to vote for each office as of September 20, in this (2026) election. The **higher** of the two calculations shall be the final spending limit for the office.

A copy of this final certificate will be delivered to each candidate by September 30, 2026.

Preliminary estimated spending limits for Council, based on the 2022 Voters' List, are as follows:

Office	Electors as of Sept. 15, 2022	Base Amount	Amount per Elector	Maximum Amount
Mayor	14,618	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 0.85	\$19,925.30
Deputy Mayor	14,618	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 0.85	\$17,425.30
Councillor	14,618	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 0.85	\$17,425.30

Maximum Expenses for After Parties

There is a separate spending limit for expenses related to the holding of parties and other expressions of appreciation after the close of voting. This spending limit is calculated as ten percent (10%) of the amount of the spending limit. For specifics, see the Ministry's **Candidates' Guide**.

As a candidate:

- You must file a *Nomination Paper* before you collect or spend any funds;
- You should open a separate bank account immediately upon filing your nomination paper. All contributions and expenses should go through this account – if you do not spend any funds, or incur any expenses, you do not need to open a separate bank account;

- Receipts shall be issued for every contribution and obtained for every expense;
- Proper direction shall be given to the persons who are authorized to incur expenses and accept or solicit contributions on your behalf;
- Any contribution of money in contravention of the *MEA* shall be returned to the contributor as soon as possible after you become aware of the contravention;
- Any such contribution not returned shall be paid to the Clerk;
- All contributions shall be valued;
- Any anonymous contribution shall be paid to the Clerk;
- Records shall be kept of the following:
 - Receipts issued for contributions, the value of every contribution, whether a contribution was in the form of money, goods or services, and the contributor's name and address;
 - Every expense including the receipts obtained for each expense;
 - Any claim for payment of expenses that you as the candidate dispute or refuse 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.
 - Your campaign period runs from the day you file your *Nomination Paper* until December 31, 2026. (some exceptions may apply); and
 - You must file a Financial Statement prior to March 30, 2027.

The records described above must be retained until after the next election is completed (2030).

Campaign Contributions

Contributions can only be made to candidates who are nominated. It is illegal to contribute to a candidate who is not nominated.

You can accept contributions only from individuals who are residents of Ontario. Corporations and trade unions are not permitted to make contributions to candidates. If your spouse is not a resident of Ontario, they can still make contributions to your campaign. They may not make contributions to any other candidate. Groups such as clubs, associations or ratepayer's groups are not eligible to make contributions. The members of these groups may make individual contributions from their personal funds (as long as they are residents of Ontario).

The following individuals and organizations are not permitted to make contributions to municipal council and school board campaigns:

- A corporation
- A trade union
- An individual who is not normally a resident in Ontario
- A federal political party, constituency association, or a registered candidate in a federal election
- A provincial political party, constituency association, or a registered candidate or leadership contestant
- A federal or provincial government, a municipality or a school board

Contributions under \$25 may be made in cash. Any contribution over that amount must not be made in cash. No contributor may contribute more than \$1,200.00 to any one candidate in an election regardless of the number of offices for which the candidate has been nominated. A contributor shall not make contributions exceeding a total of \$5,000 to two or more candidates for office on the same council or board.

Contributions From Self or Spouse

There is a limit on how much you and your spouse can contribute to your campaign. Contributions include goods and the replacement value of any inventory from a previous campaign that you are using in your current campaign.

The contribution limit, again, is based on the number of electors entitled to vote for the office:

- Mayor: \$7,500 + .20 cents per Elector
- Deputy Mayor, Councillor: \$5,000 + .20 cents per Elector
- School Board: \$5,000 + .20 cents per Elector entitled to vote for that office

Similar to the *Certificate of Maximum Campaign Expenses* process, a preliminary estimate, based on the elector count as of September 15, 2022, and a secondary, final certificate based on the elector count as of September 20, 2026, will be provided. Again, the higher of the two calculations shall be the final spending limit for self or spouse.

Third Party Advertisers expenses

New in 2018, was the requirement that individuals, corporations or trade unions who wish to advertise on behalf of a candidate must register with the Clerk. During the restricted advertising period (Friday, May 1 – Monday, October 26, 2026) third party advertisers are required to comply with legislation regarding advertising and promotion. Registrations to become a third party advertiser may be filed between May 1, 2026, and October 23, 2026.

Third party advertising is a message in any medium (billboard, newspaper, radio, pamphlet etc.) that supports or opposes a candidate or series of candidates or a “yes” or “no” answer for a referendum question. Third party advertising must be done independently of candidates, who would not be able to direct a third party advertiser on where they should focus their efforts, or what the advertisement(s) should say.

Please refer to the *Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Third Party Advertisers' Guide* (see Resources section) for further information on Third Party Advertisers.

Notice of Penalties

Before Voting Day, the Clerk will provide each person nominated for an office a *Notice of Offence/Corrupt Practice* setting out the penalties related to election campaign finances.

A person who contravenes any provision of the *MEA* or a regulation under the *Act* or a by-law under the *Act* is guilty of an offence. If an individual is convicted of an offence, they may be subject to the following penalties (in addition to any other penalties provided for in the *Act*):

1. A fine of up to \$25,000
2. Ineligibility to vote, run or register in the next general election
3. Up to six months in prison
4. Forfeiture of elected office if the judge finds that the offence was committed knowingly. If a candidate is convicted of exceeding the spending limit, they may also be fined the amount by which they exceeded the limit. A corporation or trade union that is convicted of an offence under the *Act* is liable to a fine of not more than \$50,000 in addition to any other penalty provided for in the *Act*

Filing Financial Statements

All nominated candidates, including those not elected, those who withdrew their nominations and those whose nominations were rejected by the Clerk, must file a *Financial Statement* on or before March 30, 2027, by 2:00 p.m. The *Financial Statement* details all contributions and expenses incurred during their campaign (date of filing nomination paper to December 31, 2026)

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 \$10,000.00.

Financial Statements are public documents and will be available on the Town website. The Clerk will advise at least 30 days prior to the March 30, 2027, filing deadline of all the filing requirements of the *MEA*, and the penalties for not complying with those requirements.

It is the responsibility of the candidate to file a complete and accurate financial statement by the filing date.

A candidate may apply to the Clerk to extend his/her campaign in order to eliminate a deficit. Please contact the Clerk for further information.

Please refer to the MMAH *Candidates' Guide* (see [Resources](#) section) for further information on filing of Financial Statements.

Joint Compliance Audit Committee

MEA, s.88.33 - .37

A Council or Local Board must establish a Compliance Audit Committee before October 1st of an election year.

The County of Simcoe formed a Joint Election Compliance Audit Committee. The role Committee is to receive and make decisions on applications for compliance audits of candidates and registered third party election campaign finances. The Committee is also responsible for reviewing reports submitted by the Clerk with respect to any contributor who appears to have contravened any of the contribution limits.

An elector who believes that a candidate has contravened a provision of the *MEA* relating to election campaign finances may apply for a compliance audit of the candidate's election campaign finances, even if the candidate has not filed a financial statement.

Election Results

The unofficial results of each candidate shall be made available by the Clerk after the close of voting at 8:00 p.m., on Voting Day at the Municipal Office, 575 Dominion Avenue, Midland. The Clerk shall post the unofficial results on the Town website.

As soon as possible after Voting Day, the Clerk shall declare the official results and post them at the Municipal Office and on the Town website.

Inaugural Council Meeting and First Regular Meeting

The Inaugural Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 575 Dominion Avenue, Midland. Each member present will make his/her *Declaration of Office*.

The first Regular Meeting of the Council shall be held on Wednesday, December 9, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

Council Members will approve a regular schedule of meetings for each year.

Municipal Council – General Information

Council Responsibilities

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*.

The Mayor is responsible to provide leadership and act as a spokesperson for the Town of Midland to the public and to work with other levels of government. Council is made up of nine (9) individuals who act as the primary decision-making body for the Municipality. Council relies on reports and recommendations from its administration and the help of its various committees to make decisions. The role of Council is to develop policies and adopt by-laws or resolutions based on these recommendations.

Strong Mayor Powers

In addition to the responsibilities of the Mayor listed above, 'Strong Mayor Powers' in Ontario grant Heads of Council significant authority, including the ability to set budgets, veto bylaws, and pass legislation with minimal council support, aimed at expediting local governance and housing development.

Part VI.1 of *the Municipal Act, 2001* details these special powers and duties.

Time Commitment

As a Councillor, you have representative, policy making, and stewardship roles to play. Often these roles will overlap. You will be called on to consider and make decisions on issues that will sometimes be complex and controversial. Many of those decisions will have long-term consequences for the municipality that extend beyond your four-year term of office and should be made in the context of the Municipality's directions for the long-term health and welfare of Midland.

The Midland Council current time commitment consists of (but is not limited to):

- Council meetings held every three weeks on Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m.;
- If closed Council meetings are required, they will generally occur prior to the regularly scheduled 2:00 p.m. meeting;
- Special and Public meetings as required;
- Budget Meetings;
- Attendance at extra committee meetings that a Councillor can be expected to be appointed to by Council;
- Telephone calls, emails, texts and contact with constituents; and
- Reading agendas and research time (agendas generally provided to Council one week in advance of the Council meeting).

The Mayor also sits on Simcoe County Council, which requires additional meetings and research time. County Council meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month starting at 9:00 a.m.

Members of Council are required to attend various monthly committee/board meetings.

The Midland committee structure consists of a variety of standing, statutory, advisory, Ad Hoc and external Boards and Committees.

Individual Council members are appointed annually to committees/boards. They generally meet monthly. Please note the frequency and dates of meetings can

occasionally fluctuate based on various factors such as holidays, availability of members, as well as staff.

A copy of the 2026 Council and draft (not yet approved) 2027 Council Calendar is provided in the Nomination Package for information purposes.

Schedule Of Key Dates

May 1, 2026 to August 21, 2026	NOMINATION/REGISTRATION PERIOD Nominations may be filed by candidates prior to Nomination Day at any time during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Nomination Day, Friday, August 21, 2026.
May 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026	CAMPAIGN PERIOD The campaign period begins on Friday, May 1, 2026, or whenever a candidate files a nomination paper, and ends on Tuesday, December 31, 2026, unless a candidate withdraws the nomination, the Clerk rejects the nomination, or the candidate is continuing his or her campaign to erase a deficit.
August 14, 2026	DATE OF RECEIPT OF PRELIMINARY LIST OF ELECTORS Deadline for Elections Ontario to provide Preliminary List of Electors to the Clerk. The Clerk shall check the list for obvious errors and make necessary corrections.
September 1, 2026	POST VOTERS' LIST The Clerk shall post the Voters' List for revision.
September 1, 2026 To October 26, 2026	REVISION PERIOD Eligible electors, whose names are not on the Voters' List or whose names were shown incorrectly on the list may file an application with the Clerk's Office. An elector may also delete his/her own name from the list by filing the application with the Clerk.
September 1, 2026 To October 26, 2026	REVISION - Application to remove a deceased person's name. Clerk may, on his/her own initiative, remove name if satisfied person has died.
August 21, 2026	NOMINATION DAY Deadline for filing nominations. Nominations may be filed between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
August 21, 2026	WITHDRAWAL OF NOMINATION Deadline to withdraw nomination in writing before 2:00 p.m.

August 24, 2026

CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION PAPERS

Deadline for the Clerk to certify nomination papers before 4:00 p.m.

August 24, 2026

ACCLAMATION

The Clerk shall, after 4:00 p.m., declare the eligible candidate(s) to be duly elected.

September 30, 2026

CERTIFICATE OF MAXIMUM CAMPAIGN SPENDING LIMITS

The Clerk must provide the final certificate to all certified candidates.

September 20, 2026

INTERIM LIST

The Clerk shall prepare an interim list of changes made to the preliminary Voters' List as of September 20 and give a copy to each person who received a Voters' List and to each certified candidate by September 30, 2026.

October 2026

VOTER INSTRUCTION LETTERS (VIL)

Voter Instruction letters will be mailed seven (7) to fourteen (14) days prior to the opening of voting to all electors that appear on the Voters' List.

**October 2026 to
October 26, 2026**

Internet and telephone voting occurs. Electors may vote via internet and telephone 24 hours a day. Electors may attend at the Voter Assistance Centre, located at the Municipal Office, to vote.

October 26, 2026

VOTING DAY

October 27, 2026

As soon as possible after Voting Day, the Clerk shall declare the results and provide information to the public on a website or in another electronic format on the number of votes declined and rejected ballots.

November 15, 2026

THE NEW TERM OF OFFICE BEGINS

November 18, 2026

INAUGURAL COUNCIL MEETING at 6:00 p.m.

December 31, 2026

NOTIFICATION TO THE CLERK OF A DEFICIT AND CONTINUATION OF CAMPAIGN PERIOD

If a candidate has a deficit as of December 31, 2026, and wishes to continue fundraising to eliminate the deficit, the candidate must notify the Clerk in the prescribed form on or before December 31, 2026. Failure to do so will mean that the campaign period automatically ends on December 31, 2026.

March 30, 2027

DEADLINE FOR FILING OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

All nominated candidates must file their financial statements by 2:00 p.m. on Friday, March 30, 2027.

Reminders To Candidates

- You must be an eligible elector for the office being sought.
- You must file your *Nomination Paper* in person or with an agent.
- You cannot be nominated for more than one office.
- You must pay a filing fee of \$100 or \$200 by cash, debit, credit card, certified cheque, or money order at the Municipal 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 should open a separate bank account immediately upon filing your nomination paper. All contributions and expenses should go through this account – if you do not spend any funds, or incur any expenses, you do not need to open a separate bank account.
- 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 (i.e., 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 *MEA*.

Resources

1. [Town of Midland Election Website](#)
2. Town of Midland 2026 Elections Accessibility Plan – *on its way!*
3. [AMCTO - Candidate's Guide to Accessible Elections](#)
4. [Town of Midland By-law 2026-12 being a by-law to regulate election signs](#)
5. Town of Midland – [Use of Corporate Resources during Municipal Election Campaign Period](#)
6. [Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – 2026 Candidates' Guide](#)
7. [Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing MMAH - Voters' Guide](#)
8. [Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing MMAH Third-Party Advertisers' Guide](#)
9. [Government of Ontario - Central Forms Repository \(CFR\) -Municipal Election Forms](#)
10. [Service Ontario - e-laws](#)
 - [Municipal Act, 2001](#)
 - [Municipal Elections Act, 1996](#)
 - [Education Act](#)
11. Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) – information on checking/changing school support - <https://school-support.mpac.ca/>
12. Elections Ontario – Voter Lookup Tool [RegisterToVoteON.ca](https://register-to-vote.on.ca/)
13. [Association of Municipalities of Ontario \(AMO\)](#)
<https://www.amo.on.ca/about-us/municipal-101/municipal-elections>

AMO represents the 444 elected municipal and regional governments in Ontario. Its mandate is to support and enhance strong and effective municipal government in Ontario.
14. [Municipal World - Municipal Government Books - Municipal World](#)

Municipal World provides a number of publications to assist Candidates with their Election activities.