

**From:** "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>  
**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"  
**CC:** "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"  
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Greetings Mayor and Council,

The election office will host two Candidate 101 sessions in July to help prospective candidates understand the duties of an elected official, and details of the 2018 election process. Staff from the Park Board and the BC School Trustees Association will be present to answer questions.

A media backgrounder is attached below to provide key information and dates relevant to the Vancouver nomination process and candidate campaigning. Information Bulletin is forthcoming.

Best,  
Sadhu

**Sadhu Aufochs Johnston** | City Manager  
City of Vancouver | 453 W 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver | BC V5Y 1V4  
604.873.7627 | [Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca)  
Twitter: sadhuajohnston



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## **Media Backgrounder: Candidates and nominations in the 2018 Election**

This backgrounder provides a general overview on running for office and campaigning to assist media with coverage of the 2018 election. Full details on becoming a candidate and running for office will be available at [vancouver.ca/vote](http://vancouver.ca/vote) when nomination packages are available in mid-July.

The City of Vancouver encourages all media to report on the municipal election at every stage. Balanced media coverage stimulates public debate, and will help increase voter turn-out.

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## Positions available in the 2018 Vancouver election

In the 2018 Vancouver municipal election, voters will elect:

- One mayor
- 10 councillors
- Seven Park Board commissioners
- Nine School Board trustees

All offices are held for a four-year term. Vancouver's election is one of two in BC that features the election of Park Board Commissioners.

## What's new for candidates in the 2018 election

- **New provincial campaign finance restrictions** will be in effect for the 2018 municipal election, limiting donation amounts to campaigns and establishing criteria for donors. A full list of the changes can be found [here](#). Campaign finance rules are administered by Elections BC, not the City of Vancouver.
- **Candidates in three races will be listed in random order on the ballot, not alphabetical.** Vancouver City Council voted to list mayoral, councillor, and Park Board commissioner candidates in random order instead of alphabetical order on Vancouver's municipal election ballots. The School Board will advise on whether their list should be randomized later this summer.

## Who can become a candidate?

To stand as a candidate for office, a person must be:

- 18 years of age or older as of general voting day for the election
- A Canadian citizen
- A resident of British Columbia, as determined in accordance with section 25 of the Vancouver Charter, for the past six months immediately preceding the date of nomination

- Not disqualified under the Vancouver Charter, or any other enactment from being nominated for, being elected to or holding the office, or is not otherwise disqualified by law
- Not subject to any of the disqualifications set out in [section 38\(2\)](#) of the Vancouver Charter

People disqualified by the Vancouver Charter from running for office include:

- A person who is a judge of the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court, or Provincial Court
- A person who is an employee of the City of Vancouver (unless they take a leave of absence and resign if elected)
- A person who is a member of the board of the regional district in which the City of Vancouver is located

## How does someone become a candidate?

To become a candidate, a person must submit a completed nomination package to the City of Vancouver's Election Office in the two-week September nomination period.

The Elections Office will receive nomination packages by appointment only during the nomination period: Tuesday September 4, 2018 at 9am to Friday September 14, 2018 at 4pm.

## Where do you get nomination packages?

Nomination packages can be downloaded at [vancouver.ca/vote](http://vancouver.ca/vote) in mid-July 2018.

Completed nomination packages will include:

- Signatures from a minimum of 25 qualified electors who endorse the candidate for office
- A \$100 deposit, which will be returned after campaign financing disclosure statements are filed with Elections BC
- A solemn declaration swearing that the candidate is eligible to run, will take office if elected, and is aware of all financial requirements required by Elections BC

Candidates can also submit an optional 150-word biography and photograph to be posted at [vancouver.ca/vote](http://vancouver.ca/vote) and shared in the printed voter guide.

## Can you run for office in more than one race?

Candidates can only run for one office at the City. However, candidates for City positions may also run for School Trustee, as the School Board is a separate institution. A separate nomination package is required for each race.

## When will the City announce the list of candidates?

After the nomination period closes at 4pm on September 14, 2018, the City will issue a news release with the names of all candidates who have successfully submitted a nomination package, and publish the names at [vancouver.ca/vote](http://vancouver.ca/vote).

Until 4pm on September 18, 2018, both nominations and elector endorsements can be challenged. The deadline for candidates to withdraw is September 21, 2018 at 4pm. After that, the remaining candidates are full candidates in the 2018 general local election.

The biographies and photos submitted by candidates will be published within the week after at [vancouver.ca/vote](http://vancouver.ca/vote), and will also be printed in the voter guide.

## **When will the City announce the official random order list of candidates?**

The random order list of candidates that will be displayed on the ballot will be selected on September 21, 2018 after 4pm. Details about the selection process will be available closer to the event.

The City will issue a news release and publicize the random order list of candidates after the order is selected.

## **Parties and how they can endorse candidates**

Candidates can be endorsed by parties, also known as elector organizations, and this endorsement can be included on the ballot.

The elector organization needs to submit a separate package to the Chief Election Officer during the nomination period that includes:

- the name of the candidates they would like to endorse
- the written consent of these candidates to be endorsed

Each elector organization must have a membership of at least 50 electors and understand the legal requirements that apply to their organization under the Local Elections Campaign Financing Act. An organization may not endorse more candidates for a particular office than there are positions to be filled for that office, and candidates may not consent to endorsement by more than one organization.

Endorsement packages will be found at [vancouver.ca/vote](http://vancouver.ca/vote) when nomination packages are available.

## **Who manages the nominations and campaigning rules for the Vancouver municipal election?**

Local government elections in B.C. are not run by one single entity.

- The City of Vancouver administers voting and the nominations in its municipal election, and also runs the school trustee election on behalf of the Vancouver School Board.
- Elections BC administers campaign financing and advertising rules for local elections and assent voting in B.C.

There are a few more authorities who play a role in local general elections. The following table from Elections BC outlines the areas of responsibility.

Area of administration	Who is responsible
Voting and ballots	Local Chief Election Officers
Nomination process	Local Chief Election Officers
Advertising rules	Elections BC
Campaign financing and disclosure rules	Elections BC
School trustees/school board elections	The Ministry of Education
Legislation for local elections	Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

## Campaigning, advertising, and campaign financing during the election

Elections BC administers rules about advertising and campaign financing for all local government elections in British Columbia.

Please contact them with any questions on the following areas:

- Rules about campaign materials
- Campaign financing rules
- Advertising rules (throughout the campaign and on election day)
- Third-party sponsors

Elections BC	Contact details
General contact	Suite 100 - 1112 Fort Street, Victoria, BC Email: <a href="mailto:electionsbc@elections.bc.ca">electionsbc@elections.bc.ca</a> Toll free phone: 1-800-661-8683
Local election campaign financing	Email: <a href="mailto:lecf@elections.bc.ca">lecf@elections.bc.ca</a> Toll free phone: 1-855-952-0280
Main election website	<a href="http://elections.bc.ca">elections.bc.ca</a>

Social media  
accounts

Twitter: [twitter.com/electionsbc](https://twitter.com/electionsbc)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/electionsbc](https://facebook.com/electionsbc)  
Instagram: [instagram.com/electionsbc](https://instagram.com/electionsbc)

## Election signage and City bylaws

Placement of election/political signage is regulated in the City of Vancouver through the Sign By-law and Street and Traffic By-law. Election/political signage is not allowed on City property including, but not limited to:

- The area between the sidewalk and the street
- Boulevards or street centre medians (including on Boundary Road)
- Poles
- Structures such as utility or post boxes
- Sidewalks and roadways

Exceptions:

- Election/political signage is acceptable on City property during an election only between the backs of sidewalks and an adjoining private property with permission of the property owner.
- Election/political material may be posted using the City's poster cylinders located on designated lamp standards throughout the city. [View the map online](#).

All improperly placed signs and posters on City property will be impounded and stored at Engineering Services, 5th Floor, 507 West Broadway at the expense of the party/candidate involved.

If a sign is removed, it can be recovered from this location from 9am-5pm on weekdays. Under the Impounding By-law, the City is authorized to charge for the removal of unlawfully placed signs on City streets. The impoundment charge ranges from \$100 to \$300 per sign or display based on the amount of staff and equipment required for removal.

Signs on private property are regulated by the Sign By-law. Election/political signs are allowed on private property and a sign that is less than three square metres and free-standing does not require a permit.

## Legislation governing City of Vancouver elections

Several pieces of legislation govern the City of Vancouver elections. The specific legislations are:

Provincial

- [Local Elections Campaign Financing Act](#)

- [School Act](#)
- [Vancouver Charter](#)

#### Municipal

- [City of Vancouver Election By-Law](#)

The provincial Election Act does not apply to the City of Vancouver's municipal election.