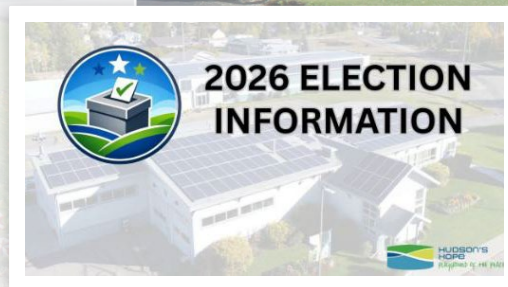




2026 Local Government Election Candidate Information Session

General Voting Day: October 17, 2026



Purpose of Tonight's Session

- Provide a neutral overview of the candidate process
- Explain key election dates and filing requirements
- Clarify the role of elected officials
- Identify where candidates can find official guidance
- ***General information only — not campaign, legal, or financial advice.***

What This Session Will Cover

- Is local office right for you?
- How local elections work
- Candidate eligibility and nominations
- Campaign financing and advertising
- Public service, responsible conduct, and governance
- Candidate readiness and next steps

Is Local Office Right for You?

- Why do I want to serve the community?
- Am I prepared to consider the whole community?
- Can I work respectfully with different viewpoints?
- Am I ready for public visibility and scrutiny?
- Can I commit the time needed to serve effectively?

Campaigning vs. Governing

- Campaigns are about ideas, priorities, and public engagement
- Governing requires collective decision-making
- Individual Council members cannot promise outcomes on their own
- Decisions may depend on budget, legislation, staff capacity, and public process

Public Service in a Small Community

- Elected officials are highly visible
- Residents may raise concerns informally
- Council members should listen respectfully
- Operational concerns should be directed through proper staff channels
- Boundaries and respectful communication are important

Common Misunderstandings

Misunderstanding	Reality
"If elected, I can direct staff."	Council sets direction collectively; staff report through administration.
"I can fix operational issues myself."	Operational matters go through the appropriate staff process.
"Campaign promises automatically become action."	Decisions require discussion, budget, authority, and majority support.
"I only need to attend Council meetings."	The role includes preparation, committees, public hearings, and engagement.
"Social media is separate from public office."	Public comments online can affect trust, reputation, and relationships.

Local Office May Be a Good Fit if You...

- Care about the whole community, not only one issue or one neighbourhood.
- Can listen to different perspectives and weigh competing priorities.
- Are willing to read complex material and prepare for meetings.
- Can make decisions under public scrutiny.
- Respect process, confidentiality, legislation, and staff roles.

Local Office May Be Challenging if You...

- Want to manage day-to-day operations directly.
- Expect quick individual authority to make decisions alone.
- Are uncomfortable with compromise or collective decision-making.
- Are not prepared for criticism, public feedback, or public visibility.
- Cannot commit time to agenda review, meetings, committees, public hearings, regional work, and community engagement.

Role of Elected Officials

- **Set direction:** Establish community priorities, adopt bylaws and policies, and provide overall direction for municipal services and long-term planning.
- **Make collective decisions:** Read agenda materials, ask informed questions, consider public input and staff advice, debate respectfully, and vote on matters before Council.
- **Provide financial stewardship:** Consider service levels, taxation, fees, capital projects, grants, reserves, asset management, and long-term financial sustainability.

Role of Elected Officials

- **Represent the community:** Listen to residents, consider diverse perspectives, and communicate Council decisions accurately and respectfully.
- **Support transparent governance:** Participate in open meetings, public hearings, committee work, and community engagement processes.
- **Provide oversight, not administration:** Ensure policies and decisions are in place.

Role of Elected Officials

- **Work with partners:** Collaborate with neighbouring local governments, the regional district, Indigenous governments, provincial and federal agencies, and community partners on shared priorities and services.
- **Meet legal and ethical obligations:** Follow meeting procedures, conflict of interest rules, confidentiality requirements, responsible conduct expectations, financial disclosure obligations, and other legal responsibilities.

Council-Staff Roles and Boundaries

- Council provides governance, policy direction, and collective decision-making
- The CAO and staff provide professional advice, implement Council decisions, and manage day-to-day administration.
- Individual elected officials are not authorized to direct staff, assign work, interfere with operational decisions, or perform staff duties.
- Operational concerns should be brought forward through the CAO.

Role of the Mayor

- In addition to the responsibilities of a councillor, the Mayor provides leadership by:
- recommending bylaws and resolutions that may assist in good governance;
- chairing meetings and maintaining the order and conduct of debate;
- attending ceremonies and meetings on behalf of Council;
- communicating information from the Chief Administrative Officer or outside meetings to Council; and
- establishing standing committees

Responsible Conduct

- Act with integrity and respect
- Maintain confidentiality
- Avoid conflicts of interest
- Participate in respectful debate
- Support effective collective decision-making
- Respect the roles of Council, staff, and the public

Conflict of Interest

- Conflicts may arise when private interests intersect with public duties
- Elected officials must declare the conflict and state its general nature
- They must leave the meeting while the matter is considered
- They must not discuss, debate, vote, or attempt to influence the decision
- Legal advice should be sought when unsure

Confidentiality

- Closed meeting information must remain confidential
- Confidential records must not be disclosed unless authorized
- Confidentiality obligations may continue after leaving office
- Unauthorized disclosure can damage trust and create legal risk

Obligation to Vote

- Every elected official present at a municipal council meeting must vote either “for” or “against” a motion.
- Councillors who do not expressly vote “yes” or “no” on a matter are deemed to have voted in favour of the motion.
- The obligation to vote does not apply where an elected official has declared a conflict of interest or where the elected official is a respondent or complainant in a code of conduct investigation. In those circumstances, the elected official is prohibited from voting and must leave the meeting until after the vote is taken.

Time Commitment and Term of Office

- Elected officials serve a four-year term
- The role includes Council meetings, agenda review, committees, public hearings, and community events
- Regional district and partner meetings may also require time
- Preparation is essential for informed decision-making
- Extended absences may have consequences under legislation

Remuneration

Council is in the process of adopting Council Remuneration Bylaw No. 984, 2026.

Council would receive a lower annual base remuneration for carrying out the general duties of Council, while also receiving per diem compensation when they attend Eligible Meetings or approved Municipal Business.

The proposed model is intended to support attendance and accountability while remaining generally consistent with the existing overall compensation level for members who attend all anticipated Council meetings.

Mayor Base Remuneration \$22,050

Councillor Base Remuneration \$9,775

Meeting fees for attending Council Meetings and other approved Meetings \$125+

Remuneration and Financial Disclosure

- Elected officials generally receive remuneration or honouraria
- Remuneration varies by community
- Candidates should confirm local remuneration with the District
- Financial disclosure is required at nomination
- Elected officials must file annual financial disclosure statements while in office

How Elections Work

- General local elections in British Columbia are held every four years on the third Saturday in October.
- Local governments administer their own elections, including receiving nominations, arranging voting opportunities, counting ballots, and declaring results.
- Elections BC is responsible for administering campaign financing, election advertising, and third-party sponsor rules.

Key Election Dates

Milestone	Date
Election period began	January 1, 2026
Nomination period opens	9:00 a.m., September 1, 2026
Nomination period closes	4:00 p.m., September 11, 2026
Candidate withdrawal deadline	September 18, 2026
Campaign period begins	September 19, 2026
Advance voting day	October 7, 2026
General Voting Day	October 17, 2026
Official results determined	October 21, 2026
Disclosure statement filing deadline	January 15, 2027

Additional Key Dates

Milestone	Date
Elected Official Training – how to access email and agendas, etc	November 4, 2026, 1-4:30 pm
Inaugural Meeting and Picture Day	November 4, 2026, 6 pm
DOHH Elected Official Training	
PRRD Regional Elected Official Training – Dawson Creek	November 16 -17, 2026
Council Meeting	November 25, 2026, 6 pm
Council Meeting	December 16, 2026, 6 pm
Strategic Planning	February - TBD
2027 Council Meeting Schedule	TBD

Key Participants in the Election

Participant	Role
Chief Election Officer	Administers the election locally, receives nomination documents, oversees voting opportunities, and declares candidates and results.
Candidate	An individual seeking election who has been nominated by eligible electors and declared by the Chief Election Officer.
Financial Agent	Responsible for campaign financial administration and disclosure requirements. Candidates may act as their own financial agent unless another person is appointed.
Official Agent	May represent the candidate in election-related matters if appointed by the candidate.
Scrutineer	May observe voting and counting proceedings on behalf of a candidate when properly appointed.
Campaign Volunteer	May assist with canvassing, signs, events, communications, and other campaign activities, subject to election rules.
Third Party Sponsor	A person or organization that conducts election advertising independently of candidates and must follow Elections BC rules.

Candidate Eligibility

To be nominated, elected, and hold local office, a person must generally:

- Be 18 years of age or older on General Voting Day
- Be a Canadian citizen
- Have been a resident of British Columbia for at least six months before filing nomination documents
- Not be disqualified under the Local Government Act or another enactment
- Candidates are responsible for ensuring they meet the legal requirements to run for office.

Nominating Process

- Nomination packages are available beginning July 31, 2026, from the District of Hudson's Hope and District website.
- Completed nomination documents must be submitted to the Chief Election Officer or Deputy Chief Election Officer during the nomination period.
- The nomination deadline is firm: documents must be received by 4:00 p.m. on September 11, 2026.
- Prospective candidates should confirm that all required forms are complete, signed, and submitted in accordance with the instructions in the nomination package.

Nominating Candidates

- Candidates must be nominated by two eligible electors
- Nominators must be qualified electors in the municipality
- Nominators must be Canadian citizens and at least 18 years old
- Nominators must meet B.C. residency requirements
- Nominators must not be disqualified from voting

Completing Nomination Documents

- Candidate cover sheet and checklist
- Candidate Cover Sheet and Checklist Form (C1) - mandatory
- Nomination Documents (C2) - mandatory
- Other Information Provided by Candidate (C3) - mandatory
- Appointment of Candidate Financial Agent (C4) - if applicable
- Appointment of Candidate Official Agent (C5) - if applicable
- Appointment of Candidate Scrutineer (C6) - if applicable
- Statement of Disclosure - Financial Disclosure Act - mandatory
- Candidate Information Authorization Release Form - optional

Completing Nomination Documents

Important: You must sign the declaration on page 3 of Form C2 in front of the Chief Election Officer or designate at the time of filing the nomination documents, or a lawyer, notary or Commissioner for Taking Affidavits for British Columbia.

Hard copies of the District of Hudson's Hope nomination package are available from the District Office. Candidates should confirm office hours, filing arrangements, and submission requirements with the Chief Election Officer or Deputy Chief Election Officer before the nomination deadline.

Filing Nomination Documents

- Nomination period opens at 9:00 a.m. on September 1, 2026
- Nomination period closes at 4:00 p.m. on September 11, 2026
- Completed documents must be submitted to the Chief Election Officer or Deputy Chief Election Officer
- Filing in person is strongly recommended
- If applying in person, candidates are encouraged to pre-book a time to submit their completed documents.

After Nomination Papers Are Filed

- The Chief Election Officer reviews nomination documents
- Nomination documents are posted on the District website (redacted), sent to BC Elections
- Full election documents are available for public inspection at the District office
- Candidates are declared after the nomination period closes
- Candidates may withdraw only within the time permitted by legislation
- If there are more candidates than offices, voting proceeds
- If there are equal or fewer candidates than offices, candidates may be elected by acclamation

Campaign Financing and Advertising

- Elections BC administers campaign financing and advertising rules
- Candidates must follow contribution, expense, advertising, and disclosure requirements
- Campaign contributions must be reported
- Campaign transactions must go through a separate campaign account
- A disclosure statement must be filed even if a candidate withdraws, is acclaimed, or has no financial activity

Campaign Activities

- Public appearances and speeches
- Door-knocking and canvassing
- Phone calls and mailouts
- Signs, brochures, and advertising
- Social media and campaign websites
- Volunteer coordination and events

Social Media and Privacy

- Public visibility often increases during a campaign
- Consider separating campaign communications from private accounts
- Review privacy settings, comments, messages, tags, and notifications
- Prepare a plan for criticism, misinformation, abusive comments, and inappropriate messages
- Keep campaign communications respectful and accurate
- Endorsement statement required when a position is taken on a matter

Changes for the 2026 Election

- Submitting nomination papers by email
- Redacting personnel information
- Using a check mark or x on the ballot
- Ability for CEO to shorten name on ballot, if required

Candidate Readiness Checklist

Before filing, confirm that you:

- Understand the role of Mayor or Councillor
- Meet eligibility requirements
- Understand campaign financing and advertising obligations
- Are prepared for the time commitment, confidentiality, conflict of interest, and public visibility that comes with the position.
- Know where to direct questions

Recommended Resources

- District of Hudson's Hope election information and nomination package
- Province of British Columbia Candidate's Guide to Local Elections in B.C.
- Elections BC Candidate Handbook
- Elections BC campaign financing guide
- Elections BC local forms, quick reference sheets, online training, and information sessions
- Independent legal or financial advice, where needed

Questions and Next Steps

- Confirm nomination filing arrangements with the District Office
- Review the nomination package carefully
- Contact Elections BC for campaign financing and advertising questions
- Submit documents before the deadline
- Keep organized campaign records from the start