

BECOMING A Local Government Election Candidate¹



WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS TO BE A CANDIDATE?

In a local government election a candidate must be:

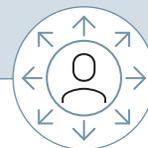
- 18 years of age on or before Election Day;
- a Canadian citizen;
- a resident of the province and the local government or rural district for at least 6 months immediately preceding election day; and
- In a local government or rural district that is divided into wards for election purposes, a candidate for a ward must be a resident of that ward when they are nominated.



WHO CANNOT BE A LOCAL GOVERNMENT CANDIDATE?

- A local government official or a full-time employee of a local government cannot be a candidate in that local government.
- A council member is not eligible for appointment as an officer of the local government or for employment with the local government, at any time while the person holds office.
- Before filing nomination papers it is the responsibility of a candidate to consult with their employer to determine if they must seek approval to become a candidate.

Note: Check the Elections New Brunswick website for a complete list of individuals that are ineligible to run.



HOW DO I BEGIN?

Each candidate must complete a nomination paper. You can download a blank nomination paper from the forms page at electionsnb.ca or pick one up from the Municipal Returning Officer after an election has begun.

Nomination papers must be returned to the Municipal Returning Officer for the local government or rural district where the candidate will be running (and not to your local government office) no later than 2 p.m. on the date fixed for the close of nominations.



HOW DO I FILL OUT A NOMINATION PAPER?

Each candidate must fill out the nomination paper with their name, address and position they are running for. You may also include a phone number, e-mail and/or website address that will be included along with your name and address in a List of Candidates shown on Elections New Brunswick's website during the election.

Next, the candidate, or an agent, must collect the signatures of at least ten (10) nominators, who each must be qualified electors living in the local government or rural district, and ward if applicable, where the candidate is running. (We recommend obtaining a few additional signatures in case a nominator is not eligible to vote for the candidate.)

- The candidate, or a family member of a candidate, or any other person, may collect and be the witness to each nominator signature.
- The person collecting the nominators' signatures must be present and witness each eligible elector sign the form.
- A nominator cannot be their own witness.
- The person who obtained the nominators' signatures must complete the included declaration. (If more than one person collected nominator signatures, each person must complete a separate declaration.)

Note: Incomplete or late nomination papers cannot be accepted.



HOW MUCH WILL I GET PAID?

Each local government sets the salary that is paid to council members and some local governments may also offer an annual spending allowance to its elected officials.

Members elected to Rural District Advisory Committees will be paid a stipend established by the Department of Environment and Local Government.



DO I NEED AN AGENT OR CAMPAIGN MANAGER?

Unlike federal or provincial elections, you are not required to appoint an agent. You may decide to appoint a scrutineer, or candidate representative, who can enter polling stations and observe voting procedures and/or counting of the ballots on your behalf.



HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?

To find out more about becoming a candidate, visit electionsnb.ca and review the information for local government candidates. During an election you can also contact the Municipal Returning Officer for your area.

Note 1: This information is summarized for educational purposes and should not be used as legal advice. Please refer to the Elections NB website, the Municipal Elections Act and Local Governance Act for additional details.