



2026 Candidate Information Session



Land Acknowledgement Statement

The Town of Innisfil acknowledges that Innisfil is situated on Treaty land that is steeped in rich Indigenous history. The Town also acknowledges that this land is the Traditional Territories of the First Peoples of Turtle Island. It is shared between the Anishinaabe peoples of Beausoleil First Nation, Chippewas of Rama First Nation, and Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation, and we thank them for generations of stewardship.

This meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people, and (as settlers) we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

The Town acknowledges the forced sacrifices that are the foundation of Canadian society today. We are dedicated to honouring Indigenous history and culture and committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation and respect with all First Nation, Métis, and Inuit.

Agenda

Local Government 101

Role of Council and School Trustee

Nominations

The Campaign



Local Government 101



Municipal Responsibilities

- Responsible for local services, policies, programs, and by-laws, including:
 - Emergency Services (Innisfil Fire and Rescue Services / SSSPS)
 - Infrastructure (municipal roads and sidewalks, water and wastewater)
 - Culture and Recreation (Parks, Libraries, Community Centers and Arenas)
 - Land Use Planning and Development
 - Property Tax Collection
 - Economic Development

Services Outside Town Control



County of Simcoe

- Paramedics, long-term care, waste management, social housing, aspects of social services, and certain regional roads and infrastructure.



Province of Ontario

- Healthcare, hospitals, education, highways, policing standards, energy, and overall municipal legislation.



Government of Canada

- Immigration, postal services, banking.

Open Meetings, Transparency, and Accountability

- Meetings of Council open to the public
- Closed Session ([Section 239 of the Municipal Act](#))
- Public participation: delegations, written submissions, statutory public consultation meetings (e.g., Planning, Development Charges)
- [Town of Innisfil's Procedural by-law No. 011-24](#)
- [Accountability and Conduct](#)
 - [Code of conduct](#)
 - Integrity Commissioner / Ombudsman / closed meeting investigator

Municipal Election Details

- ✓ Held every 4 years on the 4th Monday in October.
- ✓ Administered by the Town Clerk
- ✓ Vote using internet or telephone
- ✓ Voting Period October 16-26, 2026
- ✓ Election Service Centers
- ✓ Voters List





Questions?





Role of Council and School Trustee



What Council Does (and Doesn't)

- **Council's core responsibilities**

- Set **strategic direction** (municipal services, priorities, plans, policies)
- Ensure the municipality's **long-term** financial sustainability (reviewing budgets, monitoring expenditures and making decisions that support responsible fiscal management)
- Participate in Council meetings (review and consider **reports, by-laws** and **policies**)
- Oversee **risk** and accountability (audit, performance, integrity framework)
- Represent constituents and the broader municipal interest

- **What Council should not do**

- Directly instruct staff outside proper channels
- Interfere in procurement, hiring, enforcement, or individual operational decisions
- Attempt “constituent service” that becomes preferential treatment (service channels, service standards)

**“Council sets direction; staff deliver services”
(governance vs administration)**

Committees and Boards

- Through committees, members of Council work alongside members of the public to review items within the committee's terms of reference and to develop recommendations for Council's consideration.
- Council appointments to Committees are typically done at the beginning of each term.
- In addition, there are several external appointments or liaison positions, a member of Council may wish to serve, including: Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Board, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board, South Simcoe Streams Network and Museum on the Boyne Board.

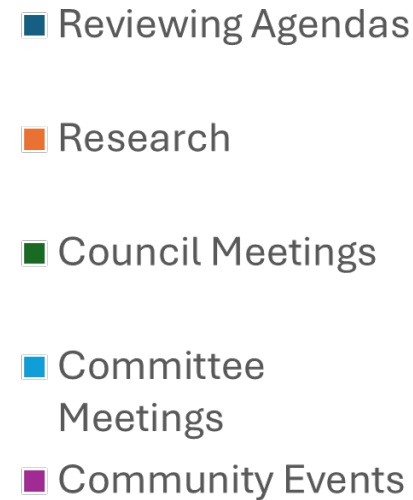
Topics Council Helps to Shape

- [Our Place – Innisfil’s Official Plan](#)
- [Planning and Growth](#)
- [Budgeting and Finance](#)
- [Town of Innisfil Strategic Plan](#)
- [Asset Management Plan](#)
- [Civic \(Town\) Campus Master Plan](#)
- [Transportation Master Plan](#)
- [Parks and Recreation Master Plan](#)
- [Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan](#)



A Day in the Life

- Attending meetings – Council, Special Council, Closed Session, Public Consultation, Open Houses, Committees
- Read and review material
- Correspond with constituents
- Ask questions of clarification from Staff
- Community Outreach and events
- Conferences and Training



Other Considerations

- Public scrutiny, social media, privacy considerations
- Employer / family considerations (schedule, conflicts, leave)
- Accessibility and inclusion: serving diverse communities
- Skills that help: collaboration, respectful debate, reading budgets/plans, community engagement
- Conflict of Interest

Meeting Schedule

- Council Meeting schedules are approved by Council.
 - Council meeting generally held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month (1 meeting in August/December. No meetings in July)
 - Special Meetings (Public Planning, Council Training, Closed Sessions)
- Committee and Board Meetings are scheduled pursuant to their Terms of Reference or applicable legislation.

Important Dates

Members of Council will be required for orientation and training on the following dates and times:

November 2, 2026 – 4:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

November 9, 2026 – 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

November 14, 2026 – 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

November 16, 2026 – 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

November 25, 2026 – 4:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

January 6, 2027 – 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

January 13, 2027 – 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

2026-2030 Council Inaugural Meeting

November 18, 2026

- Council Photos – 3:00 p.m.
- Inaugural Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

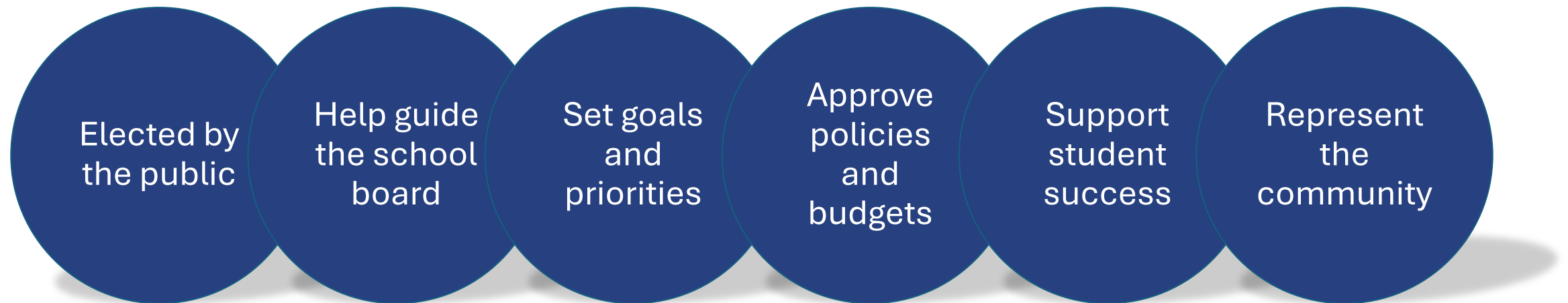


Compensation for Council Members

The base salaries for the 2026-2030 term of Council:

- Mayor - \$52,726.84
 - Deputy Mayor - \$34,287.95
 - Councillor - \$29,412.84
 - Annual COLA applied January 1 of every year of Council term.
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- Council members are also entitled to enroll in a prescribed benefits plan, provided with a corporate laptop and smartphone for the term, per diems for special and committee meetings, access to conferences and training, including reimbursement for travel, and support for participation in municipal associations.
 - [Remuneration By-law 05-26](#) adopted January 28, 2026, for the 2026-2030 term.

What do School Board Trustees Do?





Questions?





Council and Trustee Nomination



Key Election Dates

Nomination Period: May 1, 2026 (8:30 a.m.) to August 21, 2026 (2:00 p.m.)

Nominations Close: August 21, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

Deadline for Withdrawal of Nominations: August 21, 2026 (2:00 p.m.)

Certification Day: August 24, 2026

Voters List – September 1, 2026

Election Signs – September 1, 2026

Voting Period – October 16, 2026 (9:00 a.m.) to October 26, 2026 (ends at 8:00 p.m.)

New Term of Office Commences: November 15, 2026

Filing Date for initial financial statements/auditors report: March 30, 2027 (2:00 p.m.)

Municipal Office Eligibility/Ineligibility

Eligible

- A resident, owner or tenant of land in the municipality or the spouse of such owner or tenant
- A Canadian citizen
- 18 years of age or older
- Not legally prohibited from voting
- Not disqualified by any legislation from holding municipal office

Ineligible

- any person not eligible to vote in the municipality
- an employee of the municipality (unless a leave of absence is taken before nomination and the employee resigns if elected)
- a judge of any court a member of the Ontario Legislature, Senate or House of Commons
- a person who was a candidate in the previous election and did not file a campaign financial statement by the deadline

School Board Trustee Eligibility/Ineligibility

Eligible

- A resident within the jurisdiction of the board
- eligible to vote for school board election
- A Canadian citizen aged 18 or older
- meet any other qualifications to vote for the school board (for example being a Roman Catholic, or hold French language rights)

Ineligible

- any person not eligible to vote in the municipality
- an employee of the school board (unless a leave of absence is taken before nomination and the employee resigns if elected)
- a judge of any court a member of the Ontario Legislature, Senate or House of Commons
- a person who was a candidate in the previous election and did not file a campaign financial statement by the deadline

Choose the Office You Want to Run For

- You may run for the following positions:
 - Mayor
 - Deputy Mayor
 - Ward Councillor (one Ward)
- You **may not** run for more than one position.
- You **do not** have to live in the Ward you choose to run for.

Nomination Requirements

- Nomination Period **May 1, 2026**, at **8:30 a.m.** to **August 21, 2026**, at **2:00 p.m.**
- When you file, you **must complete** the following forms:
 - Nomination Form – Form 1
 - Endorsement of Nomination Form – Form 2 (25 signatures of eligible Innisfil electors supporting your nomination)
 - Proof of Identification
 - Name on Ballot Form
 - Declaration of Qualifications for Municipal Candidates form or Declaration of Qualifications for School Board form.
 - Consent to Release Personal Information
 - Declaration of Proper Use of Voters' List
 - Notice of Office / Notice of Corrupt Practice
 - Election Sign Deposit Form (if required)
 - Appointment of Scrutineer by Candidate Form (if required)

Nomination Fees

- Nomination Fee:
 - \$200 for Mayor
 - \$100 for Deputy Mayor, Councillor, or School Board Trustee
 - Payable by cash, debit or cheque
 - Nomination fees **will be refunded** upon submission of your completed Form 4 - Financial Statement and Auditor's Report to the Town Clerk by the submission deadline (**March 31, 2027**)
- Election Sign Deposit
 - Only required if using campaign signs.
 - \$200
 - Payable by cash, debit or cheque
 - Deposits will be refunded pursuant to Section 3.2(c) of the Town of Innisfil's Election Sign By-law No. 037-18.
 - **Signs can not be placed until September 1, 2026**

Nomination Filing Appointment

When filing nomination papers, each candidate will be asked to provide identification (i.e. driver's licence) that will provide proof of identity and qualifying address.



[Book an appointment](#)



Questions?





The Campaign



Building Your Campaign

- Door-door canvassing
- Website/social media presence
- Flyers/hand outs
- Elections signs
- Participating in candidate debates



Campaign Finances

- Individuals must not accept contributions for election campaign purposes, or incur expenses, until their nomination papers have been filed.
- Candidates will receive a [Preliminary Maximum Campaign Expenses Spending Limit](#).
- **All** candidates are required to file a financial statement and auditor's report (**Form 4**) with the Clerk reflecting all election campaign finances by March 31, 2027.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Virtual Session on May 4, 2026

Contributions

- Contributions **over \$25** may be by cheque or money order or by a method that clearly shows where the funds originated.
- Donations **under \$25** at fundraising events are not contributions.
- Receipts must be issued for each contribution and should include the name and address of the contributor and the amount and date of the contribution.
- No anonymous contributions except for pass the hat collections (limited to \$25).
- The limit on contributions to any one candidate or registered third-party advertiser is \$1,200.

Campaign Expenses

Costs incurred for goods or services by or under the direction of a candidate wholly or partly for use in their election campaign are expenses.

A campaign expense includes:

- ✓ any expense incurred for goods and services in relation to an election
- ✓ the replacement value of any goods held in inventory from a previous election
- ✓ the equivalent value of any contribution of goods and services for use in whole or in part

Voters List



- [Access to Voters List](#)
- Use of voter lists and personal information
- Handling constituent information during and after campaign
- Register to Vote Links for canvassing

Civility Pledge

- Treat others with dignity and respect
- Communicate honestly and factually
- Engage constructively in debate
- Support inclusivity and equitable representation
- Model accountability and positive leadership





Healthy Democracy Project



AMO Training Opportunities

- [AMO: Stronger Leaders, Stronger Communities Program](#)
Offered by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, this online leadership series supports first-time candidates and those considering re-election, with a focus on leadership skills, well-being, and values-based campaigning.
- [AMO: Workshops for Underrepresented Candidates](#)
Facilitated by former municipal elected officials, these workshops focus on campaign fundamentals, messaging, and community engagement, with an emphasis on supporting individuals from underrepresented communities.
- [AMO: Youth Information Sessions](#)
Led by currently elected officials, these sessions support young people interested in running for office by covering candidate requirements, campaign basics, and voter engagement strategies.
- [AMO: Urban Indigenous Peoples' Information Sessions](#)
Facilitated by Indigenous leaders with electoral experience, these sessions provide guidance on running for municipal office while leading with cultural integrity and community connection.

2026 Municipal & School Board Election

Election Day:
October 26, 2026



Candidate Information Session

Thinking about running?

Join our **free virtual information session** hosted by the *Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing*, in partnership with local municipalities.

Monday,
May 4, 2026
5:30pm-7:30pm

2026 Municipal & School Board Election

Candidate Information Sessions

Interested in running in the upcoming election?
Join any or all of our upcoming workshops!

Candidate Session with “Clerks on Call”

May 21 | 6:30pm

Innisfil Town Hall (Community Rooms)



Innisfil  **votes**
Your Voice, Your Vote / 2026

innisfil.ca/elections



Questions?





[Innisfil.ca/elections](https://www.innisfil.ca/elections)

MUNICIPAL

Matters Most



[Nominations May 01 – Aug 21](#)

[Innisfil.ca/elections](#)

[Get Involved Innisfil](#)

[2026 Candidates Guide](#)

Candidate Information Sessions

- May 4 5:30-7:30pm MMAH
- May 21 6:30pm Clerks on Call

[AMO Healthy Democracy](#)