

Amendments to the Local Authorities Election Act

In December 2018, amendments to the Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA) were enacted with changes to a number of areas including candidate nominations, candidate fundraising and third party advertising registration and disclosure requirements. Changes in candidate nominations and fundraising include:

- School boards are no longer able to set their own disclosure and surplus rules and candidates must follow the rules in the LAEA.
- The nomination period now begins January 1 of the year of the general election and ends at noon on Nomination Day (6 weeks before Election Day).
- The campaign period is January 1 to December 31 in the year of a General Election.
- Candidates cannot accept campaign contributions or incur campaign expenses until they have been nominated.
- Individuals who are already campaigning for the 2021 General Election cannot receive any additional contributions or incur campaign expenses until January 1, 2021.
- Candidates must disclose the names and addresses of donors whose contributions exceed \$50.
- Corporations, unincorporated organizations, trade unions and employee organizations are prohibited from making contributions.
- Only an individual ordinarily residing in Alberta may make a contribution to a candidate.
- Individuals contributing in any campaign period must not exceed \$4,000 in total to candidates for election as councillors and \$4,000 in total to candidates for election as school board trustees. An individual may make as many contributions to as many school board trustee and municipal candidates as they wish as long as the total combined amount of all those contributions does not exceed \$4,000 per school board trustee campaigns and \$4,000 per municipal campaigns.
- Campaign activities and advertising are prohibited inside the voting station and extends to the property surrounding a building used as a voting station.

Other changes in the legislation include the amendment of the term “incapacitated elector” to “persons with disabilities” or similar wording such as “elector who is unable to vote in the usual manner” depending on the context. Calgary requested this change through its LAEA engagement.