



**TOWNSHIP OF SEVERN
MUNICIPAL ELECTION
OCTOBER 25, 2010**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES
(MAYOR AND COUNCIL)**

Who can be a candidate?

A person who is qualified to be a voter in the Township of Severn's 2010 Municipal Election is also eligible to be a candidate for office. That means, on the day that you submit your Nomination Form, you must be qualified to hold that office. Candidates for the offices of Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillor must meet the same criteria as eligible voters or electors. A candidate for school board trustee must reside within the Board area and be a supporter of that Board.

You must be:

- ✓ A resident of the Township of Severn, or an owner or tenant of land in the Township of Severn, or the spouse or same sex partner of such an owner or tenant;
- ✓ A Canadian citizen;
- ✓ At least 18 years old;
- ✓ Not prohibited from voting by law.

In order to be considered for declaration as a legally qualified municipal candidate, you must file a Nomination Form and a Declaration of Qualifications for the Township of Severn 2010 Municipal Election. The deadline for filing Nomination Forms is **Friday, September 10, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.**

What offices are to be elected?

The offices to be elected are:

- Mayor
- Deputy Mayor
- Councillor (1 for each 5 wards)
- School Board Trustee (1 for each Board)
 - English Public
 - English Separate
 - French Public
 - French Separate

What are the responsibilities of these offices?

The **Mayor** is responsible to provide leadership and act as a spokesperson to the public and work with other levels of government which includes a seat with the Council for the County of Simcoe.

The **Deputy Mayor** is also responsible to provide leadership and act as a spokesperson to the public in the absence of the Mayor. The Deputy Mayor also holds a seat with the Council of the County of Simcoe.

Council is made up of five (5) Councillors (1 from each ward) that are the primary decision making body for the Township. Council relies on reports from its staff and the recommendations of its Committees to make decisions. The role of Council is to develop policies and adopt By-laws or resolutions based on these policies.

What is the time commitment if I am elected?

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are not only committed to Township duties, but also committed to Council and Committees as appointed by the County of Simcoe.

The time commitment varies from individual to individual and can depend upon the Councillor's employment circumstances. A Councillor can expect to devote time for a minimum of three meetings per month along with various duties on outside Committees as appointed by Council. This would include:

- ✓ Council Meetings (1st Thursday of each month – 7:30 p.m.)
- ✓ Planning & Development Committee (3rd Thursday each month – 7:30 p.m.)
- ✓ Corporate Services Committee (4th Wednesday each month – 9:00 a.m.)
- ✓ Attendance at extra Committees that a Councillor can be expected to be appointed to by Council
- ✓ Telephone calls and contact with constituents
- ✓ Reading and research time

Can I use the Township logo on my campaign material?

Use of any corporate logo, crest or images by candidates on signs, brochures, websites or any other election related material is strictly prohibited. The reason for this prohibition is to remove any suggestion that the Township supports or otherwise endorses any candidate, campaign material or statements made by candidates.

How much am I allowed to spend on my campaign?

There are limits on the amount a candidate may spend during the campaign period. The limit on campaign expenses is based on a formula related to the number of electors entitled to vote for the office:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Mayoralty Candidates | \$7,500 + 70 cents per elector |
| Councillor & School Board Candidates | \$5,000 + 70 cents per elector (entitled to vote for that office) |

As a reference point only – the following chart lists the campaign expense formula. Please note that these figures will change as additions and deletions are made to the list up to Nomination Day. The Clerk will issue an Official Certificate of Campaign Expenditures by September 20, 2010 (ten days after Nomination Day) as required by Section 76(7) of the *Municipal Elections Act*.

| MAYOR | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|----------------|------------|-------------|
| Base Rate | Per Elector | Wards | # Electors | Total |
| \$7,500 | \$0.70 | 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 | 13,430 | \$16,901.00 |

| Deputy Mayor / Councillor | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| Position | Base Rate | Per Elector | Ward | # Electors | Total |
| Deputy Mayor | \$5,000 | \$0.70 | 1,2,3,4 & 5 | 13,430 | \$14,401.00 |
| Councillor | \$5,000 | \$0.70 | 1 | 2,700 | \$6,890.00 |
| Councillor | \$5,000 | \$0.70 | 2 | 2,164 | \$6,514.80 |
| Councillor | \$5,000 | \$0.70 | 3 | 3,146 | \$7,202.20 |
| Councillor | \$5,000 | \$0.70 | 4 | 2,537 | \$6,775.90 |
| Councillor | \$5,000 | \$0.70 | 5 | 2,883 | \$7,018.10 |

What are my financial obligations during and after my campaign?

- You must file a Nomination Form **before** you collect or spend any funds.
- You should open a separate bank account immediately upon filing your nomination paper. All contributions and expenses should go into this account.
- Your campaign period runs from the day you file your Nomination Form until December 31, 2010 (*some exceptions may apply*).
- You must file a Financial Statement prior to **March 25, 2011**.

When is the Council Inauguration Ceremony?

The Council Inauguration Ceremony is typically held on the first Thursday in December at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Your family and friends are most welcome to attend.

When is the first working meeting?

The first working meeting is typically the Planning & Development Committee Meeting on the 3rd Thursday in December at 7:30 p.m.

How do I contact the Clerk's Department?

For more information on all election matters, you may contact the Township of Severn Clerk's Department, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at:

**Township of Severn Administration Office
1024 Hurlwood Lane
(705) 325-2315**

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