

## Election Campaign Bank Account Overview 2026 Municipal Election

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*All candidates must retain this document, sign the Acknowledgements and Confirmations Form, and return the completed form to the Town Clerk's Office.*

### **Election Campaign Bank Account**

Section 88.22 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* as amended states:

#### **Duties of Candidate**

88.22(1) A candidate shall ensure that,

(a) no contributions of money are accepted or expenses are incurred unless one or more campaign accounts are first opened at a financial institution exclusively for the purposes of the election campaign.

As such, you must open a bank account if you accept any contributions (including contributions of money from yourself) or incur any expenses. All contributions (including contributions you make yourself) must be deposited into the campaign bank account. All expenses must be paid from the campaign account.

You may only accept contributions or incur campaign expenses during your campaign period. Your campaign period begins on the day the Town Clerk receives your nomination and, in most cases, ends on December 31, 2026. Contributions received outside your campaign period must be returned to the contributor, or if that is not possible, turned over to the Town Clerk.

As per 88.17(1), any loans must be from a bank or recognized lending institution in Ontario, and must be paid directly into the campaign account; loans from family, corporations, or personal credit are not permitted.

**Note:** Campaign contributions are only permitted from Ontario residents, the candidate, and the candidate's spouse. Corporations and trade unions *are not* permitted to make contributions to candidates. This includes contributions of money, goods and services, or any special discounts on goods and services.

**Note:** The nomination fee is a personal expense, not a campaign expense, and does not need to be paid from a campaign bank account. A campaign bank account is only required if you accept contributions *of money* (including money from yourself or your spouse) or incur campaign expenses. If you receive only contributions of goods or services, but no money, you do not need to open a bank account but you must still record the value of those goods or services contributions and report them on your Campaign Financial Statement (Form 4).