

Candidate and Third-Party Information Session Question and Answer Document

Question

Can an elected official be a third-party advertiser?

Answer

A candidate running for any municipal council or school board office cannot register to be a third-party advertiser in any municipality. Groups, associations or businesses that are not corporations are not eligible to register and may not spend money on third party advertising in municipal elections. For example, neighbourhood associations, clubs or professional associations cannot register and cannot make contributions to third party advertisers. Members may register as individual third-party advertisers and may contribute individually. Candidates in the provincial election cannot register. They may register after the provincial election, when they are no longer candidates. Federal and provincial political parties cannot register to be third party advertisers. Political parties are not permitted to be financially involved in municipal elections.

Question

In how many municipalities can you be a third-party advertiser? Are your funding limits cumulative?

Answer

If a third-party advertiser wants to advertise to voters in more than one municipality, they must register in each municipality where they want to advertise.

Question

What if you are an elected official who is not running. Can you be a third-party advertiser?

Answer

Please reach out to Jane Parnell your Municipal Advisor as this will require more research thank you. jane.parnell@ontario.ca

Question

I see that individuals and incorporated groups can (and perhaps must) register as third-party advertisers. What about a community group that is unincorporated? If they spend money on advertising, would they be deemed to be a third-party advertiser?

Answer

No, only individuals, trade unions and corporations can register.

Question

Can the voter's list be provided to candidates in a sortable format to make it more useable?

Answer

Requests for voter's list must be made to the clerk in writing.

Question

Are candidates allowed to receive a voters list that includes the mailing address if it is outside of the municipality? I.e., seasonal residents.

Answer

Voter's lists are only available to municipal candidates or trustee candidates.

Question

We know that, however since we have a lot of people who have secondary residences here, the only way to reach them is through their mailing address. Is the clerk obligated to provide that to candidates so we can do mail-outs?

Answer

Answered during question period following presentations.

Question

I believe the question is what information is to be included on the voter's lists provided by clerks to candidates. Some municipalities such as ours include the voter's mailing address other's do not, thereby disadvantaging those voters who own property but do not live at that address.

Answer

Answered during question period following presentations

Question

Can you run for council if a member of your family works for the municipality you are running for?

Answer

Answered during question period following presentations. Please contact your local municipality for any relevant policies.

Question

Are community groups who promote issues on social media (not endorsed candidates) considered Third Party advertisers?

Answer

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing addressed this during their presentation earlier in the session.

Question

What should I anticipate as the cost to run an election?

Answer

Anyone wishing to run in the election should visit the municipal websites and view what others have spent on their campaigns in past years, as it can vary.

Question

When can people put yard signs up?

Answer

Candidates should speak to their municipal clerk to confirm what each municipality's restrictions are and also confirm with Grey County to see what is allowed alongside Grey County roads.

Question

Does an appointed member of a council run for election or re-election?

Answer

The Ministry has stated that the legislation doesn't regulate how a candidate presents their candidacy and is silent on that matter.

Question

I would appreciate clarity around conflict of interest for anyone running for Council.

Answer

Each municipality has procedures around use of resources during a campaign. Candidates are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act and get a legal opinion on outstanding questions.

Question

Hours worked per week?

Answer

Candidates are encouraged to speak with their municipal clerk or a current councillor to get a sense of how many meetings occur each month or week, however keeping in mind that it can vary from time to time.