2022 General Local Elections



Campaign Financing for Third Party Sponsors

Third party advertising sponsors must follow the election advertising rules under the <u>Local Elections Campaign</u> Financing Act (LECFA).

Third party advertising is any election advertising published during a pre-campaign or campaign period that is not sponsored by or on behalf of a candidate or elector organization.

New rules for third party sponsors

New rules for third party sponsors are in effect for the 2022 General Local Elections.

There are now limits placed on sponsorship contributions made by eligible individuals to third party sponsors. For 2022, this includes the following:

- An eligible individual may give a total of \$1,250 to each third party sponsor. An eligible individual is a resident of British Columbia and a Canadian citizen or permanent resident.
- The sponsorship contribution limit is adjusted at the start of each calendar year.
- For the 2022 General Local Elections, the pre-campaign period runs from July 18, 2022 until September 16, 2022. The campaign period runs from September 17 until the close of voting on General Voting Day, October 15, 2022. Third party advertising rules apply during both periods. Any third party sponsoring election advertising during the pre-campaign or campaign periods must register with Elections BC and file a disclosure report within 90 days after General Voting Day.

Other requirements

Third party advertising sponsors in local elections must:

- register with Elections BC before conducting any election advertising,
- include their name and contact information on all election advertising,
- be independent and not sponsor advertising on behalf of, or together with, a candidate or elector organization.
- not spend more than the <u>expense limits</u>; and,
- file a disclosure statement.

Campaign and assent voting communications transmitted **before** the pre-campaign period are not election advertising. These activities are allowed and do not require sponsorship information.



Sponsorship Information

- Sponsorship information, also known as an authorization statement, is required on most election advertising during the pre-campaign period and campaign period.
- The sponsorship statement must include the name of the sponsor, the words "authorized by" in front of the sponsor's name, that the sponsor is registered under LECFA; and a B.C. phone number, B.C. mailing address or email address where the sponsor can be contacted. For example:

Authorized by John Doe, registered sponsor under LECFA, 250-123-4567

Authorized by The Organization, registered sponsor under LECFA, TheOrganization@email.com

Monetary penalties

■ There are monetary penalties for failing to include sponsorship information on election advertising.

Disclosure Statement

- Third party advertisers must file a disclosure statement with Elections BC within 90 days after General Voting Day.
- The statement must be completed on Elections BC forms.
- Keeping detailed records is one of the most important items to remember to complete the disclosure statement required by the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*. If a financial agent has questions on the rules or what to record, they should contact Elections BC.

