

Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the

# 2018 GENERAL LOCAL ELECTIONS

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OCTOBER 20, 2018



# **Report of the Chief Electoral Officer**

2018 General Local Elections

October 20, 2018





Mailing address:  
PO Box 9275 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9J6

Phone: 250-387-5305  
Toll-free: 1-800-661-8683 / TTY 1-888-456-5448  
Fax: 250-387-3578  
Toll-free fax: 1-866-466-0665

Email: [electionsbc@elections.bc.ca](mailto:electionsbc@elections.bc.ca)  
Website: [www.elections.bc.ca](http://www.elections.bc.ca)

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October 10, 2019

Honourable Darryl Plecas  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
Province of British Columbia  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, British Columbia  
V8V 1X4

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I have the pleasure to present the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the 2018 General Local Elections to the Legislative Assembly, in accordance with section 87(2)(b) of the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*.

Respectfully submitted,

**Anton Boegman**  
Chief Electoral Officer  
British Columbia

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2018 General Local Elections were held on October 20, 2018. These were the second province-wide general local elections in which Elections BC administered campaign financing and election advertising rules under the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* (LECFA). The administration of voting and the nomination process was the responsibility of local jurisdictions.

In local elections, candidates run for a variety of offices, including mayor, councillor, board of education trustee, electoral area director, Islands Trust trustee and park board commissioner. Campaigning is carried out by these candidates, elector organizations that endorse individual or slates of candidates, and third party advertising sponsors. Elections BC worked with 3,393 candidates, 64 elector organizations and 99 third party advertising sponsors (a total of 3,556 participants) in 250 local jurisdictions across B.C. to ensure compliance with LECFA.

Candidates, elector organizations and third party advertising sponsors were required to file disclosure statements within 90 days after General Voting Day. The filing deadline for the 2018 General Local Elections was 4:30 p.m. on January 18, 2019. Late statements could be filed by February 19, 2019 with a late filing fee of \$500.

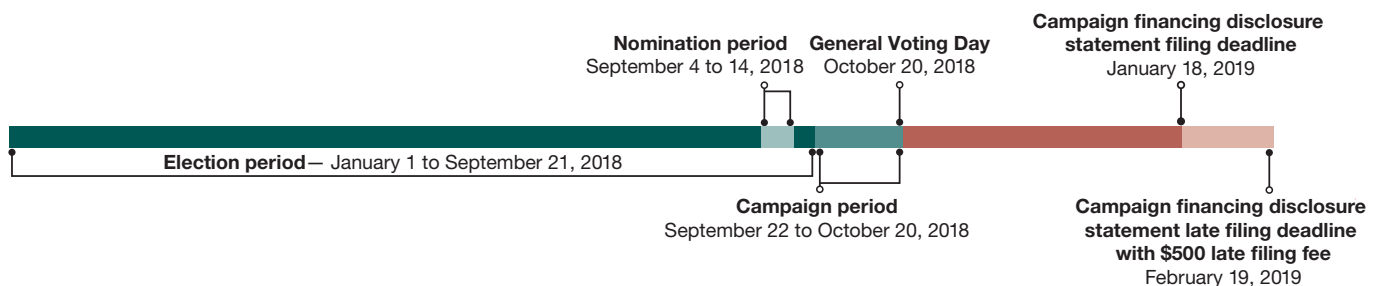
Elections BC conducts compliance reviews of every disclosure statement filed and works with candidates, financial agents and principal officials to ensure disclosure statements are amended if necessary. Disclosure statements are available for public viewing on the Elections BC website.

Of the 3,554 candidates, elector organizations and third party advertising sponsors originally required to file disclosure statements, 3,527, or 99 percent, submitted disclosure statements to Elections BC by the January 18, 2019 filing deadline. Five candidates and five elector organizations filed by the late filing deadline with the late filing fee. Two additional third party advertising sponsors were identified and required to register as a result of Elections BC’s compliance review process. These two sponsors registered with Elections BC and filed disclosure statements as required by LECFA. Only 17 candidates failed to comply with the disclosure statement requirements and are therefore disqualified from participating in local elections until after the 2022 General Local Elections.

Elections BC also provided voters lists to 91 local governments to help them administer voting.

Elections BC spent \$1,888,187 to administer the campaign financing and election advertising requirements of the 2018 General Local Elections.

Figure 1: 2018 General Local Elections timeline



# Calendar of events

Table 1: Milestones and key dates

<b>Election period</b>	January 1 – September 21, 2018
<b>Nomination period</b>	September 4 – 14, 2018
<b>Campaign period</b>	September 22 – October 20, 2018
<b>General Voting Day</b>	October 20, 2018
<b>Campaign financing disclosure statement filing deadline</b>	January 18, 2019
<b>Campaign financing disclosure statement late filing deadline with \$500 late filing fee</b>	February 19, 2019

## Statistics at a glance

Table 2: Statistics at a glance

<b>Jurisdictions and voters lists</b>	
Jurisdictions that conducted a general local election	250
Jurisdictions that received a voters list from Elections BC	91
<b>Political participants</b>	
Candidates	3,393
Elector organizations	64
Third party sponsors – individual	27
Third party sponsors – organization	72
<b>Total political participants</b>	<b>3,556</b>
<b>Disclosure statements</b>	
Filed by filing deadline	3,529 <sup>1</sup>
Filed by late filing deadline with the \$500 late filing fee	10
Filed by the late filing deadline without the \$500 late filing fee	7
Filed after late filing deadline	7
Not filed as of October 10, 2019	3
<b>Total disclosure statements</b>	<b>3,556</b>
<b>Compliance and enforcement</b>	
Disqualified candidates	17 <sup>2</sup>
Disqualified elector organizations	0
Disqualified third party sponsors	0

1 — Includes two third party advertising sponsors that registered and filed disclosure statements during the compliance review.

2 — Includes candidates who filed by the late filing deadline without the \$500 late filing fee, candidates who filed after the late filing deadline, and candidates that did not file.

# CAMPAIGN FINANCING AND ADVERTISING RULES

## Elections BC's role in local elections

Elections BC administers campaign financing and advertising rules for local elections and assent voting in B.C. under the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* (LECFA). When LECFA was enacted in 2014, it expanded Elections BC's mandate to include these responsibilities. Since then, Elections BC has administered the rules for the 2014 and 2018 General Local Elections, as well as 95 local by-elections and 49 local non-election assent voting events.

Elections BC does not administer voting or nominations for local elections. Unlike provincial elections, local elections in B.C. are not run by one single entity. Elections BC is one of several authorities that play a role in general local elections, by-elections and assent voting. Table 3 describes typical responsibilities.

Table 3: Local election responsibilities

Area of administration	Responsible
Voting and ballots	Local Chief Election Officers
Nomination process	Local Chief Election Officers
Advertising rules	Elections BC
Campaign financing and disclosure rules	Elections BC
School trustees / school board elections	Ministry of Education
Legislation for local elections	Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

## Legislative change

Since the 2014 General Local Elections, there have been a series of legislative changes to LECFA that introduced new rules for the 2018 General Local Elections.

In May 2016, the *Local Elections Campaign Financing (Election Expenses) Amendment Act* introduced two new election-related periods, campaign period expense limits for candidates and third party advertising sponsors, and Campaign Financing Arrangements for candidates endorsed by elector organizations.

In November 2017, the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Amendment Act, 2017* introduced substantial changes to LECFA. These changes included prohibiting campaign contributions from organizations, corporations and unions and limiting the amount of money eligible individuals could contribute. In April 2018, additional amendments to LECFA changed the rules for day-to-day administrative expenses of elector organizations.

The new rules did not apply to local by-elections and assent voting that occurred before the 2018 General Local Elections. The new rules did apply to the 2018 General Local Elections and will apply to all subsequent local by-elections, non-election assent voting and general local elections.

### Expense limits

Candidate expense limits, introduced in May 2016, are calculated by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and the Ministry of Education for each election area based on the office sought and the population of the election area. These limits apply during the campaign period only.

Generally, expense limits apply as follows:

- In communities with a population of fewer than 10,000 people, the expense limit is \$10,000 for mayoral candidates and \$5,000 for all other candidates.
- In communities with a population of 10,000 or more, the expense limits are determined using a per-capita formula.
- There is no separate expense limit for elector organizations. Endorsed candidates may attribute some or all of their campaign period expense limit to their elector organization.

Third party advertising sponsors are also subject to campaign period expense limits for directed advertising and issue advertising as follows:

- In a community that has a population of fewer than 15,000 people, the directed advertising limit is \$750.
- In a community that has a population of 15,000 people or more, the directed advertising limit is 5% of the candidate expense limit in the corresponding election area. In a municipality, the directed advertising limit is 5% of the expense limit for mayoral candidates.
- Issue advertising, about an issue of public policy that does not name a specific candidate or elector organization, is limited to \$150,000 overall.
- A third party advertising sponsor must not spend more than \$150,000 in total in directed and issue advertising.

### Election period and campaign period

Legislative change in 2016 established an election period and campaign period under LECFA. The election period begins on January 1 of a general local elections year and ends on the 29th day before General Voting Day. The campaign period begins on the 28th day before General Voting Day and ends at the close of voting.

The election and campaign periods have different campaign financing and advertising rules. Election expenses incurred during both periods must be disclosed, but only expenses incurred during the campaign period are subject to expense limits. The election advertising rules under LECFA apply during the campaign period only.

Table 4: Election period and campaign period rules

	<b>Election period (January 1 – September 21, 2018)</b>	<b>Campaign period (September 22 – October 20, 2018)</b>
<b>Election expenses must be disclosed</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Expense limit applies</b>	No	Yes
<b>Election advertising rules apply</b>	No	Yes

### Campaign Financing Arrangements

A Campaign Financing Arrangement (CFA) is a written agreement between an elector organization and each of its endorsed candidates. Elector organizations do not have their own expense limit. To incur campaign period expenses, an elector organization must establish a CFA with each of its endorsed candidates. Candidates may make some, all or none of their expense limit available to their elector organization. CFAs must be completed and submitted to Elections BC before the start of the campaign period.

### Campaign contribution source restrictions and limits

Campaign contribution source restrictions and limits were introduced in November 2017 and were retroactive to October 31, 2017. Under the new rules, campaign contributions from organizations, corporations and unions are prohibited. Only eligible individuals can contribute to the campaign of a candidate or elector organization. An eligible individual is someone who is a resident of B.C. and a Canadian citizen or permanent resident.

An eligible individual may contribute up to \$1,200 per year to an unendorsed candidate's campaign. As an exception, an unendorsed candidate may contribute up to \$2,400 to their own campaign in the calendar year of an election.

An eligible individual may contribute up to \$1,200 per year per campaign to an elector organization and its endorsed candidates. As an exception, a group of endorsed candidates may collectively contribute an additional \$1,200 in total for use in the campaign of the elector organization and the endorsed candidates in the calendar year of an election.

### Third party advertising sponsors

Sponsorship contribution source restrictions apply to third party advertising sponsors. Only an eligible individual can make sponsorship contributions to a third party advertising sponsor for use in third party advertising. An eligible individual is someone who is a resident of B.C. and a Canadian citizen or permanent resident. There are no sponsorship contribution limits for contributions to third parties.

The *Local Elections Campaign Financing Amendment Act, 2017* also revised the rules for determining who is the sponsor of election advertising to match those under the provincial *Election Act*.

### **Day-to-day administrative expenses for elector organizations**

In the spring of 2018, LECFA was amended to establish that day-to-day administration expenses of an elector organization are election expenses if they are incurred in an election period or campaign period. The expenses must be paid or reimbursed from a campaign account and must be reported in the elector organization's disclosure statement.

## **New for 2018**

Elections BC implemented a number of administrative and process changes in the 2018 General Local Elections. Most changes were made to improve service and accessibility as well as enhance efficiency. Some additional changes were the result of new interpretation of existing legislation.

### **Election advertising on the internet**

Elections BC issued an interpretation of the rules regarding election advertising on the internet in August 2016. Under this interpretation, election messages transmitted during the campaign period over the internet are election advertising only if they meet the applicable definition of election advertising and have, or would normally have, a placement cost.

LECFA restricts election advertising on General Voting Day. In the 2014 General Local Elections, this meant that free social media posts by candidates, elector organizations and third party advertising sponsors were not allowed on General Voting Day. Under the new interpretation, social media posts without a placement cost were permitted on General Voting Day for the 2018 General Local Elections.

### **Disclosure statement forms**

Following legislative change in 2016, 2017 and 2018, Elections BC's forms and accompanying guides were substantially revised to accurately reflect the new rules. Elections BC also made efforts to improve the simplicity and clarity of the forms and guides as much as possible through plain language and design best practices. In response to feedback following the 2014 General Local Elections, Elections BC combined forms where possible to reduce the total number of forms that needed to be completed.

Elections BC sent personalized packages to candidates, elector organizations and registered third party advertising sponsors. The packages included the relevant guide and forms pre-populated with information from the client's nomination or endorsement documents or third party sponsor application. This significantly reduced the number of administrative errors in completed disclosure statements.

Candidates who had zero campaign activity were only required to complete a one-page disclosure statement. Zero campaign activity means that the candidate had no income, deposits or expenses, did not have a campaign account, did not change financial agent, and did not receive any free election advertising from their jurisdiction. These candidates could check a box on their disclosure statement cover page indicating that they had zero campaign activity, and subsequently did not have to complete the rest of the disclosure statement forms. This significantly reduced the administrative burden on candidates with zero campaign activity.

# ADMINISTERING THE 2018 GENERAL LOCAL ELECTIONS

## Public information and communications

In support of the 2018 General Local Elections, Elections BC ran a comprehensive public education campaign to increase awareness of Elections BC's role in local elections, encourage compliance with the campaign financing and advertising rules under the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* (LECFA), and ensure an inclusive and accessible process.

### Advertising

To increase awareness of the rules for third party advertising sponsors, Elections BC placed ads in local newspapers throughout the province. The ads ran in 124 community newspapers and were translated into Mandarin, Cantonese and Punjabi.

Elections BC also ran digital ads for third parties. The ads were geo-targeted to B.C. These ads resulted in more than five million impressions and drove more than 9,000 clicks to Elections BC's website.

Ads on social media (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter) resulted in 7,700 engagements including likes, comments and shares, and drove over 4,000 clicks to Elections BC's website.

### Forms and guides

Disclosure statement forms and information guides for candidates, elector organizations and third party advertising sponsors were available online and in print. Local elections guides were designed to be searchable and compatible with screen reading programs.

Figure 2: "Know the Advertising Rules" newspaper ad

**KNOW THE ADVERTISING RULES**  
2018 GENERAL LOCAL ELECTIONS  
THIRD PARTY ADVERTISING

General local elections in B.C. are on October 20, and there are rules that third party advertisers must follow.

Third party advertising is any election advertising not sponsored by a candidate or elector organization. If you advertise as a third party between September 22 and October 20, you must:

- Register with Elections BC **before** conducting any advertising
- Include your name and contact information on all advertising
- Not sponsor advertising on behalf of, or together with, a candidate or elector organization
- Not spend more than the expense limit
- File a disclosure statement

There are expense limits for directed advertising in each election area. Find the limits at [elections.bc.ca/limits](http://elections.bc.ca/limits).

There is also a cumulative advertising expense limit of \$150,000. The total value of advertising sponsored must not exceed this limit.

Find registration forms and the *Guide for Local Elections Third Party Sponsors in B.C.* at [elections.bc.ca/sponsors](http://elections.bc.ca/sponsors).

If you have questions about the rules or how to register, call Elections BC at 1-855-952-0280.

Media outlets must not publish or transmit election advertising on General Voting Day, Saturday, October 20, 2018.

[elections.bc.ca/lecf](http://elections.bc.ca/lecf)  
1-855-952-0280 · [lecf@elections.bc.ca](mailto:lecf@elections.bc.ca)

**ELECTIONS BC**  
A non-partisan Office of the Legislature

Figure 3: Elections BC website

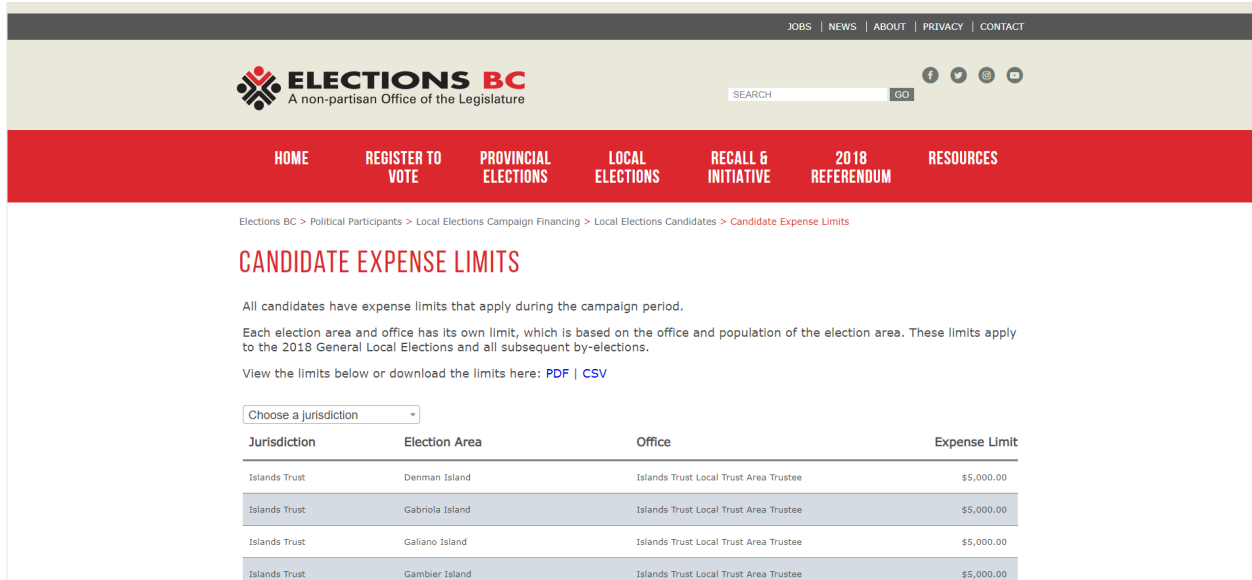


**Website**

A dedicated 2018 General Local Elections section on Elections BC’s website was a primary source of information about campaign financing and advertising rules. The section included a tool that allowed users to look up expense limits for every local jurisdiction in the province.

All financial disclosure statements received by Elections BC were published on the website after the filing deadline.

Figure 4: Expense limit look-up tool





The 2018 General Local Elections section on Elections BC's website received more than 165,000 visits during the campaign period, with more than 65,000 page views on General Voting Day. Fifty-seven percent of visitors to the website accessed the site using a mobile device.

### Social media

Social media continues to be an important tool for Elections BC to engage and educate candidates, elector organizations and third party advertising sponsors. Elections BC maintains an active social media presence on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube.

In addition to the paid social media advertising campaign detailed above, Elections BC used organic posts in the same visual style to support awareness of its role in local elections and the campaign financing and advertising rules.

Elections BC received a significant number of messages and questions via social media leading into and during the campaign period. While many of the questions were about the advertising rules, which Elections BC staff were able to answer promptly, there were also many questions about voting administration, which is not the responsibility of Elections BC. In response to these questions, Elections BC directed voters to their local jurisdiction.

Elections BC's organic social media posts about the 2018 General Local Elections received more than 1,000 likes, comments and shares. During the campaign period, Elections BC's social media accounts gained 560 new followers.

### Videos

Elections BC created two series of videos to support the 2018 General Local Elections.

The first was a series of four short animated videos intended for a general audience. These videos gave an overview of Elections BC's role in local elections and the rules for candidates, elector organizations and third party advertising sponsors. These videos matched the look and feel of the digital and social media advertising campaigns.

The second was a series of longer videos targeted to candidates, elector organizations and third party advertising sponsors. In these videos, Elections BC staff provided an overview of the relevant rules and requirements under LECFA. These audio-visual resources complemented the written forms and guides and provided an accessible alternative to using paper guides and in-person information sessions.

Elections BC received positive feedback about both series of videos. The videos were posted on Elections BC's YouTube account and the Elections BC website and shared on social media. They received more than 8,500 total views.

Figure 5: Elections BC instructional video



### Stakeholder partnerships

Elections BC maintains relationships with several ministries and organizations that have a role in administering local elections in B.C., including:

- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Ministry of Education
- Local Government Management Association of British Columbia
- British Columbia School Trustees Association
- Union of British Columbia Municipalities

Elections BC works closely with these organizations to leverage their existing communications channels and share information with local elections participants. Elections BC encouraged them to promote the Elections BC website through their communications channels.

## Provision of voters lists to local governments

Since 1993, municipalities have been able to use the provincial voters list for their elections. Local governments can also combine the provincial voters list with their own list of non-resident property electors.

Elections BC prepared lists for 91 municipalities and regional districts ahead of the 2018 General Local Elections.

During local elections, local governments register new voters and update information for existing voters. After the elections, local governments provide this information to Elections BC to update the provincial voters list. From the information provided to Elections BC after the 2018 General Local Elections, 15,032 new voters were added to the provincial voters list and 65,011 existing voter records were updated.

## Campaign financing

Campaign financing rules under LECFA require candidates, elector organizations and third party advertising sponsors to disclose all campaign contributions, election expenses, transfers, surplus funds, sponsorship contributions, advertising expenses and other transactions related to a local election or non-election assent voting event. Disclosure statements must be filed with Elections BC within 90 days after General Voting Day. Disclosure statements may be filed for another 30 days, but must be accompanied by a \$500 late filing fee. It is an offence to fail to file a disclosure statement under LECFA.

Amendments made to LECFA since 2014 resulted in substantial changes to the campaign financing rules for the 2018 General Local Elections. The introduction of expense limits, campaign contribution limits, advertising expense limits, contribution and sponsorship contribution source restrictions and Campaign Financing Arrangements made disclosure requirements more complex for candidates, elector organizations and third party advertising sponsors and their financial agents and principal officials.

Elections BC recognizes that the disclosure requirements represent a significant responsibility for local elections campaigns and is committed to providing supportive, accessible and efficient service to all clients and local jurisdictions.

Elections BC provided support to 3,393 candidates, 64 elector organizations and 99 third party advertising sponsors in filing their disclosure statements.

All disclosure statements received by the filing deadline were published on Elections BC's website on February 5, 2019. Disclosure statements received after the filing deadline were published as received.

### **Candidates**

Every individual who is declared a candidate in an election by the local Chief Election Officer must file a disclosure statement. This includes candidates who are acclaimed, candidates who withdrew after the declaration of candidates and candidates who accept no campaign contributions and incur no election expenses.

There were 3,393 candidate disclosure statements to be filed for the 2018 General Local Elections.

### **Elector organizations**

An elector organization is an organization that endorses candidates in an election. Elector organizations are similar to provincial political parties in that their endorsement of a candidate is shown on the ballot, but elector organizations are not required to maintain ongoing registration with either their local jurisdiction or Elections BC.

Elector organizations are required to file a disclosure statement for each jurisdiction in which they endorse candidates, even if they did not receive any campaign contributions, incur any election expenses or withdrew endorsement of all candidates.

For the 2018 General Local Elections, there were 64 elector organization campaigns that endorsed 311 candidates in 21 jurisdictions.

### **Third party advertising sponsors**

Organizations and individuals that sponsor election advertising are third party advertising sponsors. All third party advertising sponsors must register with Elections BC before conducting any third party advertising. Third party advertising is only regulated during the campaign period. Third party advertising conducted outside of this period is not subject to third party advertising rules under LECFA.

Elections BC's compliance reviews identified two advertising sponsors who had not registered with Elections BC. These two organizations registered and filed a disclosure statement as required by LECFA.

For the 2018 General Local Elections, there were a total of 99 registered third party sponsors – 27 individuals and 72 organizations.

### **Filing deadlines**

The disclosure statement filing deadline was 4:30 p.m. on January 18, 2019. The late filing deadline was 4:30 p.m. on February 19, 2019.

Under LECFA, the B.C. Chief Electoral Officer may grant extensions to the filing deadline if there are documented extenuating circumstances. Requests for extensions must be made in writing to the Chief Electoral Officer before the filing deadline.

The B.C. Chief Electoral Officer granted extensions to the filing deadline for five candidates and one elector organization:

*Table 5: Candidates granted an extension to the filing deadline*

<b>Candidate ballot name</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>
Rob Bottos	Coquitlam
Kevin B. Storrie	Nanaimo
William Beldessi	North Coast Regional District
Lorne Lewis	Sunshine Coast Regional District
Terry Sheldon	Township of Langley

*Table 6: Elector organization granted an extension to the filing deadline*

<b>Elector organization ballot name</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>
Building Bridges NV	SD44 – North Vancouver School District

**Late filers**

Candidates, elector organizations and third party advertising sponsors who failed to file by the January 18, 2019 filing deadline were required to file their disclosure statement with Elections BC by the late filing deadline of 4:30 p.m. on February 19, 2019. Late filings were subject to a \$500 late filing fee.

Twenty-two candidates and five elector organization campaigns did not file by the January 18 deadline. Of these, all elector organizations and five candidates filed by the late filing deadline with the \$500 late filing fee.

*Table 7: Candidates who filed by the late filing deadline with \$500 late filing fee*

<b>Candidate ballot name</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Endorsement</b>
Laura Busheikin	Islands Trust	-
Chris Qiu	SD39 – Vancouver School District	NPA
John Coupar	Vancouver	NPA
Sarah Kirby-Yung	Vancouver	NPA
Ken Sim	Vancouver	NPA

Table 8: Elector organizations that filed by the late filing deadline with \$500 late filing fee

Electoral organization ballot name	Jurisdiction
Richmond Citizens (RCA)	Richmond
Richmond Community Coalition	Richmond
Richmond Community Coalition	SD38 – Richmond School District
NPA	SD39 – Vancouver School District
NPA	Vancouver

Seven candidates filed by the late filing deadline, but did not include the \$500 late filing fee. Ten additional candidates failed to file a disclosure statement and the required late filing fee by the late filing deadline. As of the publication of this report, seven of these 10 candidates have since submitted their disclosure statements.

### Disqualification lists

Under LECFA, candidates, elector organizations and third party advertising sponsors who fail to file a disclosure statement by the late filing deadline with the \$500 late filing fee are automatically disqualified as summarized in the table below. Disqualification penalties also apply to candidates, elector organizations and third party advertising sponsors if they are convicted of a higher penalty offence. More information about offences is available on page 15 of this report.

Table 9: Penalties for failing to file a disclosure statement by late filing deadline with \$500 late filing fee

Candidate	Electoral organization	Third party sponsor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Elected candidates cease to hold office and their elected seat becomes vacant</li> <li>▪ Disqualified from being nominated for, elected to, or holding office until after the next general local elections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Disqualified from endorsing a candidate until after the next general local elections</li> <li>▪ Prohibited from accepting campaign contributions or incurring election expenses until after the next general local elections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prohibited from sponsoring third party advertising or non-election assent voting advertising until after the next general local elections</li> <li>▪ Prohibited from accepting sponsorship contributions until after the next general local elections</li> </ul>

The 17 candidates who failed to file a disclosure statement by the late filing deadline, or filed by the late filing deadline without the \$500 late filing fee are disqualified from seeking office until after the 2022 General Local Elections. No elector organizations or third party sponsors failed to file a disclosure statement for the 2018 General Local Elections.

A list of all disqualified candidates, elector organizations and third party sponsors is maintained on the Elections BC website.

*Table 10: Candidates who filed by the late filing deadline, but without the \$500 late filing fee (disqualified from seeking office until after the 2022 General Local Elections)*

<b>Ballot Name</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Endorsement</b>
Matteus Clement	Cowichan Valley Regional District	-
Trenten Laarz	Dawson Creek	-
Duffy Baker	Penticton	-
Connie Sahlmark	Penticton	-
Robyn Angus	SD27 – Cariboo Chilcotin School District	-
Stephanie Hughes	Tofino	-
Spike	Vancouver	-

*Table 11: Candidates who filed after the late filing deadline (disqualified from seeking office until after the 2022 General Local Elections)*

<b>Ballot Name</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Endorsement</b>
Grant Moore	Port Edward	-
Jo McDermott	Salmon Arm	-
Christopher August	SD46 – Sunshine Coast School District	-
Tim Sharp	Smithers	-
Jeff Lancaster	Tahsis	-
Sam Zaharia	Vernon	-
Stacey Lajeunesse	Tumbler Ridge	-

*Table 12: Candidates who have not filed as of October 10, 2019 (disqualified from seeking office until after the 2022 General Local Elections)*

<b>Ballot Name</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Endorsement</b>
Kyle Piper	Grand Forks	-
Wyatt Scott	Mission	-
Mrs. Doubtfire	SD39 – Vancouver School District	-

## Compliance reviews

Compliance reviews are a key component of Elections BC's compliance and enforcement mandate. Elections BC conducts compliance reviews of each disclosure statement and ensures the disclosure statement complies with LECFA. Staff contact the candidate, financial agent or principal official if any issues are identified, ensure the disclosure statement is amended if needed and send a letter indicating that the disclosure statement was reviewed. Amended disclosure statements and amended contribution information are posted on the Elections BC website.

As of October 10, 2019, staff have completed reviews of 3,234 of the 3,556 disclosure statements filed in relation to the 2018 General Local Elections. Compliance reviews of the remaining 322 disclosure statements are still in progress.

## Compliance and enforcement

Elections BC works with candidates, elector organizations and third party advertising sponsors who have obligations under LECFA to ensure they are aware of the rules and the requirement to file a disclosure statement.

During the 2018 General Local Elections, all political participants were sent a letter informing them of their filing obligations. They were also sent the forms they needed to submit and a guide detailing the campaign financing rules they had to follow.

Following the 2018 General Local Elections, Elections BC staff followed up again by letter, email and phone with participants who had not yet submitted their disclosure statement. In all, Elections BC sent over 7,400 reminder letters. Staff also made more than 8,200 phone calls to remind

participants to file and offer assistance.

Further, Elections BC posted reminders on its social media accounts and sent private messages through social media channels when individuals were not responsive through other means of communication. All of these reminder efforts increased in frequency as the filing deadline approached.

Failing to comply with the campaign financing and election advertising rules under LECFA is an offence and a person who commits an offence is liable to a fine and/or imprisonment. When it has been determined that an offence may have occurred, Elections BC may work with individuals to bring them into compliance with LECFA, or report the matter to Crown Counsel.

There are two categories of offences under LECFA. An individual who commits a lower penalty offence is liable to a fine of up to \$5,000 or imprisonment for up to one year, or both. If an organization commits a lower penalty offence, it is liable to a fine of up to \$10,000. Higher penalty offences carry fines of up to \$10,000 for an individual and \$20,000 for an organization. An individual who commits a higher penalty offence may also be subject to a prison term for up to two years. Failing to file a disclosure statement or supplementary report by the compliance deadline, providing false or misleading information or making a false or misleading statement are all higher penalty offences.

## Orders of the CEO

Under s. 90 of LECFA, the Chief Electoral Officer is permitted to issue an Order extending the time period for filing a disclosure statement without payment of a late filing penalty fee that would otherwise apply, in cases of emergency or other extraordinary circumstance. The request for an extension must be provided to the Chief Electoral Officer in writing.

The Chief Electoral Officer issued seven Orders in relation to the 2018 General Local Elections.

### **LECFA-ORD001-2019**

*January 15, 2019*

Due to extraordinary circumstances a local elections candidate was unable to file their disclosure statement by the deadline of January 18, 2019. An extension was granted to Robert Bottos (Coquitlam) to February 4, 2019.

### **LECFA-ORD002-2019**

*January 18, 2019*

Due to extraordinary circumstances a local elections candidate was unable to file their disclosure statement by the deadline of January 18, 2019. An extension was granted to William Beldessi (North Coast Regional District) to February 28, 2019.

### **LECFA-ORD003-2019**

*January 18, 2019*

Due to extraordinary circumstances a local elections candidate was unable to file their disclosure statement by the deadline of January 18, 2019. An extension was granted to Kevin B. Storrie (Nanaimo) to February 1, 2019.

### **LECFA-ORD004-2019**

*January 18, 2019*

Due to extraordinary circumstances a local elections candidate was unable to file their disclosure statement by the deadline of January 18, 2019. An extension was granted to Lorne Lewis (Sunshine Coast Regional District Election Area E) to February 19, 2019.

### **LECFA-ORD005-2019**

*January 18, 2019*

Due to extraordinary circumstances a local elections candidate was unable to file their disclosure statement by the deadline of January 18, 2019. An extension was granted to Terence Sheldon (Township of Langley) to January 31, 2019.

### **LECFA-ORD006-2019**

*January 18, 2019*

Due to extraordinary circumstances an elector organization was unable to file its disclosure statement by the deadline of January 18, 2019. An extension was granted to Building Bridges NV (SD44 – North Vancouver School District) to February 1, 2019.

### **LECFA-ORD007-2019**

*February 4, 2019*

Due to continued extraordinary circumstances a local elections candidate was unable to file their disclosure statement by the deadline of January 18, 2019, and required a further extension to their filing deadline. An Order of the Chief Electoral Officer (LECFA-ORD001-2019) was previously issued on January 15, 2019 to extend the candidate's filing deadline to February 4, 2019. Further extenuating circumstances affected the candidate's ability to meet the extended filing deadline. An additional extension was granted to Robert Bottos (Coquitlam) to February 28, 2019.



# ELECTIONS BC EXPENSES

These figures represent Elections BC's costs to administer the campaign financing and advertising rules for the 2018 General Local Elections. The incremental costs to Elections BC of providing voters lists to local authorities and administering campaign financing and advertising rules for local by-elections and non-election assent voting are included in Elections BC's ongoing operating budget.

*Table 13: Elections BC expenses*

<b>Expense categories</b>	<b>Combined totals for fiscal years 2017/18, 2018/2019, and 2019/20</b>
Salaries	\$1,310,637
Advertising and publications	178,580
Information systems	179,583
Professional services	106,782
General office expenses	80,997
Postage/Courier	25,276
Travel	6,332
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$1,888,187</b>

# IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY, TRANSPARENCY AND COMPLIANCE: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATORS

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As the office responsible for administering campaign financing and advertising rules for local elections in B.C. since 2014, Elections BC has a unique perspective on how accessibility, transparency and compliance could be improved in local elections through legislative change.

We have found that a large number of financial agents for local candidates and elector organizations have also been financial agents for provincial candidates and/or political parties. Greater consistency between LECFA and the *Election Act* would simplify administrative processes for financial agents and Elections BC. It would also improve compliance with campaign financing and advertising rules for local elections. Financial agents and candidates would experience less confusion and misunderstanding as they move through the two levels of elections.

## **Ongoing disclosure and regulation of elector organizations**

Elector organizations are commonly referred to as civic political parties. The primary purpose of most elector organizations is endorsing candidates in local elections and showing the elector organization's name on the ballot.

Currently, an elector organization can have an operating account and a campaign account. However, LECFA does not regulate all aspects of operating accounts and there is no requirement to disclose operating account transactions. Contribution limits and restrictions do not apply to funds collected and deposited into operating accounts, even though funds from operating accounts may be used for activities that could be considered campaigning (hosting events where campaign contributions are collected, for example).

Requiring elector organizations to register with Elections BC (as provincial political parties do) would improve transparency and accountability. By requiring elector organizations to register, Elections BC would be able to better establish ongoing relationships and improve service to these groups. Extending disclosure requirements to operating accounts would also improve transparency.

### **Recommendation:**

Require elector organizations to register with Elections BC and file annual disclosure statements including reports of all financial transactions, similar to those filed by provincial political parties. Maintain the membership requirement (50 members) for elector organizations as prescribed by s. 93(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act*.

### **Campaign Financing Arrangement flexibility**

Elector organizations do not have their own expense limit. To incur campaign period expenses, an elector organization must establish a Campaign Financing Arrangement (CFA) with each of their endorsed candidates. Candidates may make some, all or none of their expense limit available to their elector organization.

Candidates and elector organizations that exceed the available portion of the candidate's expense limit defined under the CFA are subject to penalties under LECFA, even if the total combined expenses of the candidate and elector organization do not exceed the candidate's expense limit. These penalties do not enhance fairness.

CFAs must be completed and submitted to Elections BC before the start of the campaign period, and can only be amended up to three days before General Voting Day. CFA forms must be filed with Elections BC as soon as practicable after the CFA is established, and again with the candidate's campaign financing disclosure statement. These prescriptive filing requirements do not enhance transparency or fairness, and may restrict the ability of an endorsed candidate or their endorsing elector organization from campaigning effectively in the final three days of the campaign period, including General Voting Day.

CFAs also introduced administrative and logistical complexities. Since Elections BC often does not know which elector organizations will be endorsing candidates in an election until endorsement documents are filed with a local jurisdiction, it is challenging to communicate the rules and procedures for CFAs to elector organizations and their endorsed candidates before the campaign period begins.

#### **Recommendation:**

Revise CFA provisions to provide more flexibility for candidates and elector organizations in amending or terminating the CFA during the campaign period, and only require that the CFA form be filed once and amended as necessary. Remove the penalty for exceeding the candidate or elector organization's available portion of the candidate's expense limit, if the overall expense limit is not exceeded.

### **Candidate contributions and expenses in relation to their own campaign**

LECFA requires every candidate and elector organization to open a campaign account if they receive a campaign contribution of money or become liable for paying an election expense. There is no threshold; any monetary contribution must be deposited into a campaign account and any payment for an election expense must be paid or reimbursed from a campaign account. If a candidate incurs an election expense directly (e.g. pays for property or services with their own funds), the expense must be reimbursed to the candidate from the campaign account. This requirement creates an administrative burden for all candidates, and can be particularly impractical for smaller campaigns, especially campaigns that are fully self-funded in the year of an election.

Opening campaign accounts can be difficult and sometimes costly for these campaigns. Many financial institutions require nomination documents in order to open a campaign account, but campaign contributions and expenses can be incurred well before the nomination period. Candidates in rural communities are sometimes required to travel significant distances to their nearest financial institution in order to open a campaign account. Many candidates fail to open a campaign account, which is an offence under LECFA.

**Recommendation:**

Revise the campaign contribution and election expense reimbursement requirements such that expenses incurred directly by a candidate during an election period or campaign period in relation to their own campaign are permissible campaign contributions and do not need to be reimbursed from a campaign account.

The campaign contribution limits and disclosure requirements of LECFA would continue to apply to these transactions, and sufficient records must be maintained, including receipts, to ensure compliance with the disclosure requirements.

**Detailed reporting of financial transactions**

Disclosure requirements detailed in the Local Elections Campaign Financing Expense Limit Regulation are extensive. Stakeholders have reported that the provisions can be onerous, especially for smaller campaigns.

For example, for transactions other than campaign contributions and election expenses, a candidate's disclosure statement must include the amount and purpose of each individual financial transaction to or from the campaign account for the following purposes:

- payment of the nomination deposit
- transfers between campaign accounts of the candidate
- payments of reasonably incurred expenses incidental to the campaign
- payments of the candidate's portion of a shared election expense
- deposits from other candidates as reimbursement of their portion of a shared election expense
- interest earned from the campaign account
- dividends of credit union shares in relation to the campaign account
- deposits of the proceeds of sale of goods or services for fundraising
- deposits of the proceeds of fundraising function ticket sales that are not campaign contributions

Requiring every transaction to be itemized in the disclosure statement is unnecessary, as disclosing only transaction totals would be sufficient to ensure transparency and accountability. For enforcement purposes, the Chief Electoral Officer has authority to inspect and make copies of the records of candidates and elector organizations, enabling each individual transaction to be verified if required as part of an audit or investigation.

Where possible, Elections BC has increased the simplicity of the reporting forms within the current legislative framework. However, removing some of the itemized disclosure requirements would considerably lessen the administrative burden on financial agents while maintaining transparency.

**Recommendation:**

Review the disclosure requirements and amend the Act to eliminate unnecessary financial reporting requirements. Harmonize as much as possible with similar requirements in the *Election Act*.

### **Penalties for non-compliance**

The Chief Electoral Officer is responsible for administering the campaign financing and election advertising provisions for local elections. Those responsibilities include conducting investigations of any matter that the Chief Electoral Officer considers might be an offence or a contravention of the Act, as well as following up on complaints of non-compliance reported by the public and stakeholders.

Under the current structure of the Act, the Chief Electoral Officer does not have the ability to determine and assess administrative penalties to address contraventions. Offences under LECFA are quasi-criminal offences, meaning they have some, but not all, of the qualities of a criminal prosecution. For example, they must include a high standard of evidence and be in the public interest. Proceeding with the prosecution of quasi-criminal offences requires the significant expenditure of public resources, and may not be appropriate for all forms of non-compliance. It is also important to consider that the public stigma for a subject who is convicted of an offence, even a “minor” violation, is high, and may carry significant personal consequences. Not all instances of non-compliance are necessarily in the public interest to pursue through a full prosecution, even if the case itself can meet the high evidentiary burden.

Currently, the *Election Act* empowers the Chief Electoral Officer to assess an individual or organization with an administrative monetary penalty in many instances of non-compliance in provincial elections. However, a subject that is non-compliant with a substantially similar provision of LECFA could be subject to a full offence prosecution.

Administrative penalties have proven to be an effective way to respond to non-compliance under the *Election Act*. Empowering the Chief Electoral Officer to issue similar administrative monetary penalties under LECFA would provide flexibility in applying proportionate and progressive penalties to instances of non-compliance. The Chief Electoral Officer would retain the discretion to recommend a full prosecution if an egregious example of non-compliance is identified.

#### **Recommendation:**

Establish administrative monetary penalties for offences under LECFA similar in structure to those under the *Election Act*.

Where the non-compliance involves an ongoing obligation that needs to be met, such as the obligation to provide a supplemental report or a solemn declaration, establish administrative prohibitions from participating in future local elections as a candidate or financial agent until the obligation has been met or relieved by the Court.

### **Returning funds from a campaign account**

Section 28(3) of LECFA requires prohibited campaign contributions to be returned from a campaign account. Failure to repay the prohibited contributions from a campaign account is an offence. This is problematic if the campaign account has been closed before the prohibited funds are identified. Allowing Elections BC to permit financial agents to pay monetary penalties or payment agreements from a non-campaign account would solve this problem.

#### **Recommendation:**

Allow Elections BC to permit payment of campaign funds from a non-campaign account to achieve compliance when issuing a monetary penalty or entering into a payment agreement with a non-compliant individual.

### **Investigations tools**

Section 74 of LECFA provides the Chief Electoral Officer with the investigative powers listed under s. 276(3) to (6) of the *Election Act*, including the authority to obtain a search warrant under s. 276(6). A search warrant is a useful tool in investigations, but is not always the best tool in every circumstance. A search warrant is a warrant to enter a named place and search for a named item. This is the correct tool if the investigator is seeking campaign records from an elector organization and is aware of where the records are maintained. Important information is often held by third party organizations (e.g. banks, social media companies), such as transaction records for a campaign contribution or an advertising contract or agreement. Because the information required may be held outside of B.C. or Canada, a warrant is not the correct tool to use to obtain this information.

Elections BC currently does not have the authority to compel the production of this information. A production order is a court order that requires a third party who holds certain types of data or documents to deliver it to the authority within a certain period of time. Having the authority to obtain a production order, similar to those in the Criminal Code, would significantly increase Elections BC's ability to conduct the complex investigations into campaign finance and election advertising matters necessary to enforce LECFA.

A preservation order is a court order that is a temporary, focused and targeted way to ensure that volatile data and information is not lost or deleted during the time it takes to obtain a judicial production order to access data. This order is an important tool when conducting investigations into social media advertising, where data can be particularly volatile.

A sealing order is an order that is attached to a warrant, production order or preservation order that prevents the existence of the order, and the content of the information used to obtain the order, from being made public. Generally, once a production order, preservation order or warrant has been issued, the public may obtain copies of the orders and information used to obtain the orders through the courthouse. Given the confidential nature of the investigations that Elections BC conducts, particularly leading up to an election, it is important that Elections BC have the authority to request that any orders be sealed.

Production orders, preservation orders and sealing orders are necessary tools to investigate campaign finance and election advertising non-compliance properly.

#### **Recommendation:**

Give the Chief Electoral Officer the authority to obtain production orders, preservation orders and sealing orders, similar to those contained in the Criminal Code of Canada, for the purposes of conducting investigations into offences and non-compliance under LECFA.

### **Confidentiality of information obtained through course of duties**

Many Officers of the Legislature, including the Information and Privacy Commissioner and the Ombudsperson, protect their staff from having to be called and information collected in the course of their duties from being used in civil proceedings that might arise from the course of their work. Many Officers of the Legislature also extend protection from threats of libel or slander lawsuits to complainants and witnesses that provide information to their office.

Given the contentious nature of the landscape that Elections BC regulates, similar provisions under LECFA would help to ensure individuals who choose to come forward with information about potential wrongdoing are not deterred by the threat of litigation.

**Recommendation:**

Enact provisions similar to s. 45 and 47(2.2) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, and s. 9(5) of the *Ombudsperson Act* in LECFA.

Enact provisions similar to s. 46 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, or s. 29 of the *Ombudsperson Act*.

**Third party sponsor independence requirements**

LECFA requires that third party sponsors do not sponsor election advertising on behalf of or in coordination with candidates or elector organizations. However, LECFA does not specifically require that third party sponsors are independent of candidates and elector organizations. The provincial *Election Act* requires third party sponsors to be independent of candidates and political parties, including appointed agents. During the 2018 General Local Elections the independence of some third party sponsors was questioned. However, as long as a third party sponsor does not coordinate their activities or sponsor advertising on behalf of or in coordination with a candidate or elector organization, there are no provisions under LECFA that ensure independence.

**Recommendation:**

Introduce independence requirements in LECFA for third party sponsors similar to those for third party advertising sponsors under s. 239(3) of the *Election Act*.

**Third party sponsor paid canvassing and sponsorship contributions**

LECFA limits campaign contributions to candidates and elector organizations. However, LECFA does not prescribe limits on sponsorship contributions to third party advertising sponsors. Third party sponsors may only accept sponsorship contributions from eligible individuals, but they are not subject to a monetary limit.

Under LECFA, paid canvassing by a third party sponsor is not election advertising as established by s. 1(3) of the *Election Act*. Paid canvassing activities conducted by third party sponsors are not subject to the same disclosure requirements as election advertising.

**Recommendation:**

Align the provisions for disclosure, election advertising and sponsorship contributions for third party sponsors under LECFA with those under s. 1(3) and s. 235.05 of the *Election Act*.

**General Order-making powers**

Under s. 280 of the *Election Act*, the Chief Electoral Officer is permitted to issue an Order to make exceptions to the Act if necessary. Orders can be issued to remedy non-compliance which only occurs due to an emergency, special circumstance or mistake.

Currently, the Chief Electoral Officer's ability to issue Orders under LECFA is limited to issuing late filing extensions in extraordinary circumstances, and does not extend to the additional financing provisions of the Act overseen by this office.

**Recommendation:**

Expand the order-making provisions to harmonize them with those contained in the *Election Act*. This would enable the Chief Electoral Officer to issue Orders to remedy non-compliance with the financing provisions of LECFA which are caused by special circumstances.

# APPENDIX A: BY-ELECTIONS AND NON-ELECTION ASSENT VOTING EVENTS

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As of October 10, 2019, Elections BC has administered the campaign financing and advertising rules for 95 local by-elections and 49 non-election assent voting events since the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* was enacted in 2014.

A full list of past and current local by-elections and non-election assent voting events, disclosure statements and campaign contribution data are available on the Elections BC website ([elections.bc.ca/lecf](https://elections.bc.ca/lecf)). Elections BC's expenses in administering local by-elections and non-election assent voting events are included in the ongoing budget of Elections BC.



# APPENDIX B: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

<b>Assent voting</b>	Voting on a bylaw or other matter for which a local government is required or authorized to obtain the assent of the electors. Assent voting may also be referred to as a “referendum”.
<b>B.C. Chief Electoral Officer</b>	An independent Officer of the Legislature appointed by the Lieutenant Governor on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly. The B.C. Chief Electoral Officer is responsible for the administration of the provincial electoral process in B.C. and the campaign financing and third party advertising provisions for local elections and non-election assent voting events.
<b>Campaign account</b>	An account in a savings institution opened by a financial agent to be used exclusively for the purposes of the election campaign.
<b>Campaign contribution</b>	Generally, a contribution of money, or the value of goods and services provided without compensation to a candidate or elector organization.
<b>Campaign contribution limit</b>	The maximum value of a campaign contribution that an eligible individual may provide.
<b>Campaign Financing Arrangement (CFA)</b>	A written arrangement between an endorsed candidate and their elector organization that determines the amount of the candidate's campaign period expense limit that is available for use by the candidate and by the elector organization.
<b>Campaign financing records</b>	The records maintained by a financial agent to complete disclosure statements for their candidate or elector organization. These records must be kept in B.C. for five years after General Voting Day for the relevant election.
<b>Campaign period</b>	The period that begins on the 28th day before General Voting Day and ends at the close of voting on General Voting Day.
<b>Campaign period expense</b>	An election expense that is used in the campaign period. Campaign period expenses are subject to an expense limit.
<b>Candidate</b>	In relation to candidate obligations applicable under LECFA, an individual who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ intends to become a candidate in an election,</li> <li>▪ is seeking or intends to seek endorsement by an elector organization for an election, or</li> <li>▪ was a candidate</li> </ul>
<b>Directed advertising</b>	Advertising specifically related to a candidate or elector organization by naming the candidate or elector organization or identifying the candidate by an image, likeness, voice or physical description or identifying an elector organization by their logo.

<b>Disclosure statement</b>	A document that discloses activities related to campaign financing. All disclosure statements must be filed with Elections BC.
<b>Election advertising</b>	Any transmission of a communication to the public during a campaign period that directly or indirectly promotes or opposes a candidate or an elector organization, including a communication that takes a position on an issue associated with a candidate or elector organization.
<b>Election area</b>	The defined geographical area where the election is held.
<b>Election expense</b>	Generally, the value of property or services used during the election period or the campaign period by or on behalf of a candidate or elector organization to promote or oppose, directly or indirectly, the election of a candidate, or an elector organization.
<b>Election period</b>	The period that begins on January 1 and ends on the 29th day before General Voting Day for general local elections. For by-elections, the election period starts on the day the office becomes vacant and ends on the 29th day before General Voting Day.
<b>Election period expense</b>	An election expense that is used in the election period.
<b>Elections BC</b>	A non-partisan Office of the Legislature responsible for the administration of the provincial electoral process in B.C. and the campaign financing and third party advertising provisions for local elections and non-election assent voting events.
<b>Elector organization</b>	An organization that endorses or intends to endorse a candidate in an election.
<b>Eligible individual</b>	An individual who is a resident of British Columbia and a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident.
<b>Expense limit</b>	The maximum value of campaign period expenses that a candidate or third party advertising sponsor may use in a campaign period. Endorsed candidates may make all, some or none of their expense limit available to their elector organization.
<b>Filing deadline</b>	The last day (90 days after General Voting Day) a disclosure statement may be filed with Elections BC without a monetary penalty.
<b>Financial agent</b>	A representative that a candidate and elector organization is required to appoint during an election campaign. A candidate may either act as their own or appoint another individual to this position. A candidate or elector organization may not have more than one financial agent at the same time.
<b>General Voting Day</b>	The final voting day in a general local election, by-election or assent voting event.
<b>Issue advertising</b>	A form of third party advertising that is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ (a) a communication respecting an issue of public policy, including an assent voting issue, and</li> <li>▪ (b) not specifically related to any candidate or elector organization</li> </ul>

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	The applicable jurisdiction in which a general local election, by-election or assent voting event is held.
<b>Late filing deadline</b>	The last day (120 days after General Voting Day) on which a disclosure statement may be filed by a candidate, elector organization or advertising sponsor unless relief is granted by the Supreme Court.
<b>Local authority</b>	The local authority of a jurisdiction for which an election or non-election assent voting can be held.
<b>Local election officer</b>	An individual appointed by a local authority to conduct a general local election, by-election or non-election assent voting. Local election officers are also called chief election officers.
<b>Placement cost</b>	The cost of purchasing election advertising space on the internet, including a social media site or website.
<b>Prohibited contribution</b>	A campaign contribution that is made or accepted in contravention of LECFA.
<b>Required contributor information</b>	Information that must be recorded for all campaign contributions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ value of contribution</li> <li>▪ date the contribution was made</li> <li>▪ full name, mailing address and, if it is different, residential address of the contributor</li> </ul>
<b>Shared election expense</b>	An election expense agreed to be shared by two or more candidates.
<b>Significant contributor</b>	An eligible individual who makes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ a campaign contribution having a value of \$100 or more, or</li> <li>▪ multiple campaign contributions to the same candidate or elector organization such that the total value is \$100 or more.</li> </ul>
<b>Sponsorship information</b>	An authorization statement that is required to be on most election advertising.
<b>Supplementary report</b>	A report that updates Elections BC of changed, added or corrected information to a disclosure statement. It includes a description of the circumstances leading to its submission.
<b>Surplus campaign funds</b>	The balance of money left in the campaign account after all financial transactions are completed.
<b>Third party sponsor</b>	An individual or organization who sponsors or intends to sponsor election advertising independently from the election campaign of any candidate or elector organization.
<b>Transfer</b>	Movements of money, property or services between a candidate and their elector organization.
<b>Value of election advertising</b>	The value of election advertising is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the price paid for preparing and transmitting the advertising (including applicable taxes), or</li> <li>▪ the market value of preparing and transmitting the advertising (including applicable taxes), if no price is paid, or if the price paid is lower than the market value.</li> </ul>

## **Elections BC**

PO Box 9275 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9J6

Phone: 250-387-5305

Toll-free: 1-800-661-8683

TTY: 1-888-456-5448

Email: [electionsbc@elections.bc.ca](mailto:electionsbc@elections.bc.ca)

[elections.bc.ca](http://elections.bc.ca)

