

New Rules for Local Elections Candidates, Elector Organizations and Third Party Sponsors

This bulletin highlights the **transitional campaign financing and election advertising rules for the 2014 General Local Elections** as contained in the *Local Elections Statutes Amendment Act* (LESAA) and the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* (LECFA).

Local elections candidates and elector organizations have **new recording and disclosure rules**. **Flip the page** for their key responsibilities, which are outlined in further detail in Elections BC's **Guide to Local Elections Campaign Financing in B.C.**

Third party sponsors are a newly regulated group in local elections under LECFA. Third party sponsors are individuals or organizations that sponsor, or intend to sponsor, third party advertising during the election proceedings period. **Flip the page** for their key responsibilities, which are outlined in further detail in Elections BC's **Third Party Sponsor Guide for Local Elections in B.C.**

Important Dates

Thursday, March 27, 2014

New anonymous contributions rules in effect

Thursday, May 29, 2014

New legislation in force

Tuesday, September 30, 2014 – Saturday, November 15, 2014

Election proceedings period

Saturday, November 15, 2014

2014 General Local Elections General Voting Day

Friday, February 13, 2015 at 4:30 p.m.

Disclosure statement filing deadline

Monday, March 16, 2015 at 4:30 p.m.

Disclosure statement late filing deadline

Contact Elections BC

Toll-free: 1-855-952-0280

TTY: 1-888-456-5448

Mailing Address:

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

Phone: 250-387-5305

Fax: 250-387-3578

Toll-free Fax: 1-866-466-0665

Email: electoral.finance@elections.bc.ca

Website: elections.bc.ca/lecfa

Campaign organizer role eliminated under new legislation

Local elections campaign organizers as defined under the former legislation are **no longer participants** under LECFA. However, campaign organizers that were active in relation to the 2014 General Local Elections (including those who may become candidates, elector organizations or third party sponsors) **still have legal obligations**, which are outlined in Elections BC's **New Rules for Local Elections Campaign Organizers** bulletin.

MORE INFORMATION ON BACK 

Candidates and Elector Organizations MUST:

- ✓ **Reappoint financial agents by Thursday, June 12, 2014**
 - if they appointed financial agents for the 2014 General Local Elections under the previous rules. Financial agents who are not reappointed by that date **must hand over** to the candidate or elector organization all financial records and any other records related to the 2014 election campaign.
- ✓ **Open separate bank accounts by Thursday, June 12, 2014**
 - if an elector organization had a campaign bank account on May 29, 2014, and **intends to endorse candidates in more than one jurisdiction** in the 2014 General Local Elections.
 - if a candidate had a campaign account on May 29, 2014, and **intends to run for office in more than one election** in the 2014 General Local Elections.
- ✓ **Record and disclose financial transactions**
 - about campaign contributions, transfers, election expenses and other financial transactions. Best efforts should be made to follow the new LECFA rules for the recording and disclosure of financial transactions that occurred before May 29, 2014.
- ✓ **File disclosure statements by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 13, 2015.**
Statements filed after this date must include a \$500 late filing fee. The late filing deadline is 4:30 p.m. on Monday, March 16, 2015.

Third Party Sponsors MUST:

- ✓ **Register with Elections BC before sponsoring any third party advertising**
 - which is election advertising that is independent of the election campaign of a candidate or elector organization.
- ✓ **Record and disclose each sponsorship contribution**
 - which is money, property or services given to an individual or organization to sponsor third party advertising. Best efforts should be made to follow the new LECFA rules for the recording and disclosure of sponsorship contributions received before May 29, 2014.
- ✓ **Not accept anonymous sponsorship contributions greater than \$50.**
Information for each anonymous sponsorship contribution must be recorded. Any anonymous sponsorship contribution of more than \$50 received on or after March 27, 2014, **is prohibited and must be paid to Elections BC.**
- ✓ **Record and disclose the following information for all prohibited anonymous sponsorship contributions received on or after March 27, 2014:**
 - the circumstances in which the anonymous sponsorship contribution was received
 - the value of the anonymous sponsorship contribution
 - the date on which the anonymous sponsorship contribution was made
 - when and how the value of the anonymous sponsorship contribution was paid to Elections BC — if it was more than \$50
- ✓ **File disclosure statements by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 13, 2015.**
Statements filed after this date must include a \$500 late filing fee. The late filing deadline is 4:30 p.m. on Monday, March 16, 2015.