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2026 School Trustee Elections Technical Advisory Committee Webinar

April 22, 2026



BCSTA British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

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Indigenous Acknowledgement



BCSTA British Columbia
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Objectives

- Elections Overview
- Elections Key Dates
- Legislative Changes & Timelines
- TAC: roles and resources



BCSTA British Columbia School Trustees Association

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 **BRITISH COLUMBIA**

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

 **BCSTA** British Columbia School Trustees Association

 **LGMA**
LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

 **HARRIS**

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2026 General Local Elections

April 22, 2026



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Presenters

Arielle Guetta, Director, Governance Services, Local Government Division, Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs

Samantha Kolb, Senior Planning Analyst, Local Government Division, Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs

Leanne Davies, Director, Workforce Accountability and Governance Division, Ministry of Education and Child Care

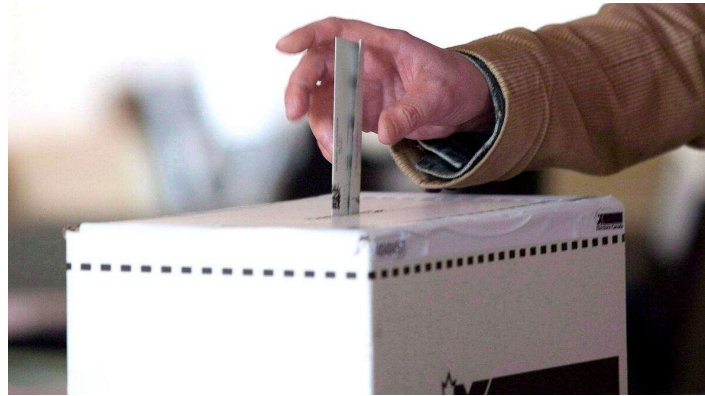
Karen Loughran, Senior Legislative Analyst, Workforce, Accountability and Governance Division, Ministry of Education and Child Care

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Agenda

- Overview of general local elections (GLE)
- Role of the Ministries
- 2026 Legislative changes
- Resources
- Who to contact?



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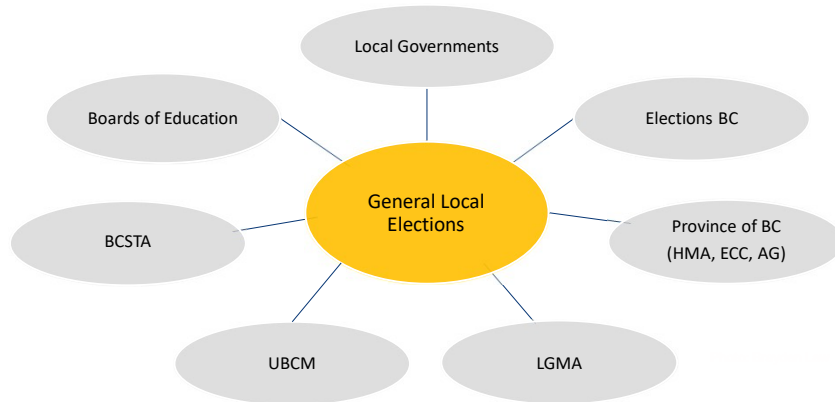
Overview of GLE: Legislative Framework

- *Local Government Act*
- *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*
- *Community Charter & Vancouver Charter*
- *School Act*
- *Islands Trust Act*
- *Other (e.g., Interpretation Act, Offence Act)*



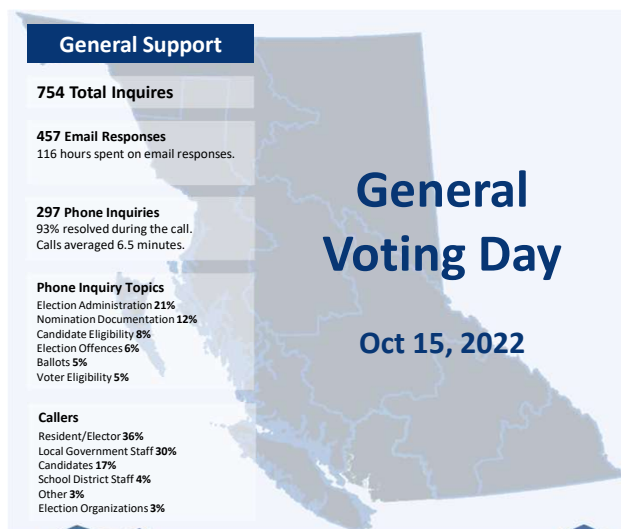
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Overview of GLE: Roles and Responsibilities



Role of the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs

- **Coordination** (Technical Advisory Committee)
- **Legislative Amendments**
- **Provincial Approvals** (for some local government election matters)
- **Guidance and Advice**



Role of the Ministry of the Attorney General

- Responsible for the *Financial Disclosure Act*
- Member of the Technical Advisory Committee



Statement of Disclosure Financial Disclosure Act

You must complete a Statement of Disclosure form if you are:

- a nominee for election to provincial or local government office*, as a school trustee or as a director of a francophone education authority
 - an elected local government official
 - an elected school trustee, or a director of a francophone education authority
 - an employee designated by a local government, a francophone education authority or the board of a school district
 - a public employee designated by the Lieutenant Governor in Council
- *("local government" includes municipalities, regional districts and the Islands Trust)

Who has access to the information on this form?

The Financial Disclosure Act requires you to disclose assets, liabilities and sources of income. Under section 6 (1) of the Act, statements of disclosure filed by nominees or municipal officials are available for public inspection during normal business hours. Statements filed by designated employees are not routinely available for public inspection. If you have questions about this form, please contact your solicitor or your political party's legal counsel.

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Role of the Ministry of Education and Child Care

- Administers the *School Act*
- Member of the Technical Advisory Committee
- Seeks exemptions and approvals as necessary
- Prepares expense limits under LECFA
- Provides information and resources to candidates and election officials

SCHOOL TRUSTEE ELECTION PROCEDURES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

A GUIDE FOR BOARDS OF EDUCATION,
ADMINISTRATORS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

(Twelfth Edition, 2026)



Ministry of
Education and
Child Care

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2026 GLE: Key Dates

Action or Deadline	Date
Last day for boards to apply for advance voting exemption order	Tuesday, July 7th
Last day for board to adopt election bylaw	Tuesday, August 4th
Nomination period begins	Tuesday, September 1st
Nomination period ends	Friday, September 11th
Candidate withdrawal deadline	Friday, September 18th
Required advance voting day	Wednesday, October 7th
General voting day	Saturday, October 17th

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Legislative Changes for 2026

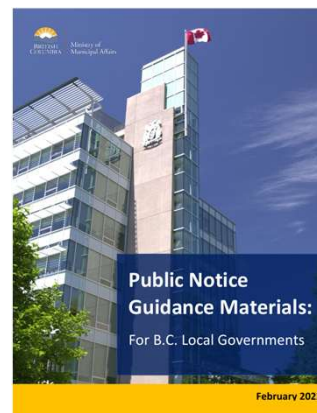


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Legislative Changes for 2026: Public Notice Posting Place

Boards of education will be required to pass a bylaw to identify the places that are to be public notice posting places.

Recommend passing bylaw by July 24, 2026

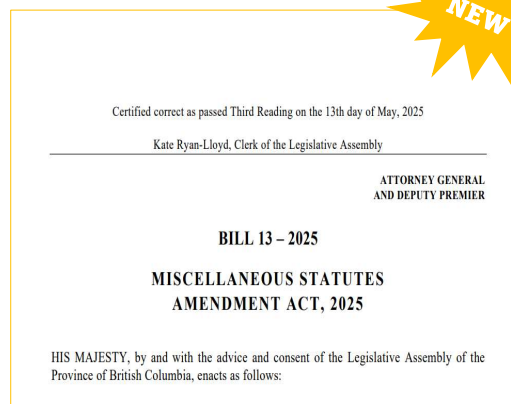


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Legislative Changes for 2026: Election Procedures and Privacy

- **Nomination Documents**
- **Mail Ballot Voting**
- **Marking the Ballot**
- **Clarifying Ministerial Order and Regulatory Authority**
- **Increased Candidate Privacy Protection**

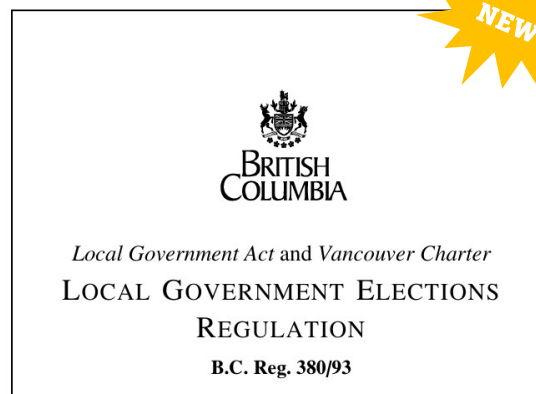
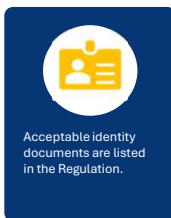


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Legislative Changes for 2026: Acceptable Identification

- **Additions to List of Acceptable Identity Documents**
(B.C. Reg. 380/93)



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Resources

Ministry of Education and Child Care

- School Trustee Election Procedures in British Columbia: A Guide for Boards of Education, Administrators and Election Officials
- Key Dates for CSF Elections
- School Trustee and Regional Trustee Forms Packages
- **See:** <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/legislation-policy/school-trustee-election-procedures>

Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs

- Scrutineer's Guide to General Local Elections
- Supporting a Candidate for Local Elections in B.C.







Ministry of the Attorney General


- Frequently Asked Questions webpage



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Who to Contact

Organization	Responsibility	Contact info
 LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA	Training and support for election administrators	250 383-7032 office@lgma.ca https://www.lgma.ca/election-resources
 ELECTIONS BC A non-partisan Office of the Legislature	Campaign financing and election advertising	1 800 661-8683 electoral.finance@elections.bc.ca https://elections.bc.ca/local-elections
 Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs	Local government election information related to the <i>Local Government Act and Community Charter</i>	250 387-4020 LGgovernance@gov.bc.ca www.gov.bc.ca/localections
 Ministry of Education and Child Care	School trustee election information related to the <i>School Act</i>	250 387-8037 EDUC.Governance.Legislation@gov.bc.ca www2.gov.bc.ca/.../school-trustee-election-procedures
 British Columbia School Trustees Association	General school trustee election information	604 360-1257 mpeter@bcsta.org https://bcsta.org/trustee-elections/
 CIVICINFOBC	Publication of election results and other election data (current & historic)	250 383-4898 info@civicinfo.bc.ca https://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/election



LGMA

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
 MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION
 OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

LEARN, LEAD, GROW

2026 General Local Elections
 BCSTA Webinar
 April 22, 2026

Presenters

Carolyn Mushata

LGMA Elections Advisory Committee Co-chair
Director of Legislative Services & Chief Election
Officer, City of Maple Ridge

Tricia Mayea

LGMA Elections Advisory Committee member
Manager, Legislative Services & Chief Election Officer,
Municipality of North Cowichan



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Legal Disclaimer

By accessing this programming through the LGMA, you acknowledge that some of the session content speaks to legal considerations that are for **teaching and learning purposes only**. Participation in the program automatically releases the LGMA and their volunteer speakers from any and all legal responsibility. By participating in this program, you understand that it is your responsibility to seek professional legal advice regarding serious legal matters. You understand that any learning gleaned from the volunteer speakers and from the LGMA does not substitute legal advice, nor should it be taken as such. You must indemnify and save harmless the LGMA and our officers, employees, directors, agents and contractors from and against any claims, costs, losses, damages, actions, causes of action and expenses arising, directly or indirectly, from an error, omission or negligent or willful act of participants or participants' agents, employees, sub-consultants or sub-contractors, or from participants' breach of this Agreement.



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Today's Topics

- LGMA – What We Do
- Collaboration With Others
- Training, Networking Opportunities & Resources
- Chief Election Officer – Role & Responsibilities
- Cost Sharing Agreements
- Additional Resources



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Local Government Management Association



WHAT WE DO

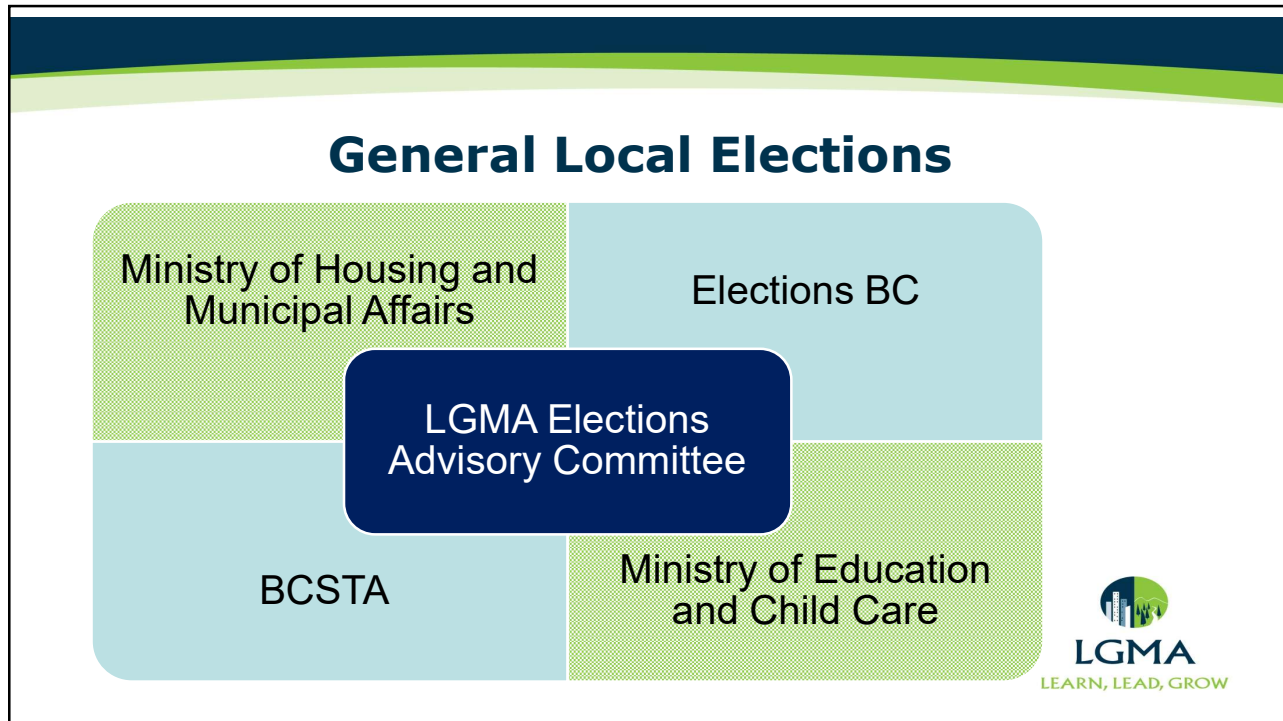
We support local government professionals to excel in their profession.

We do this through:

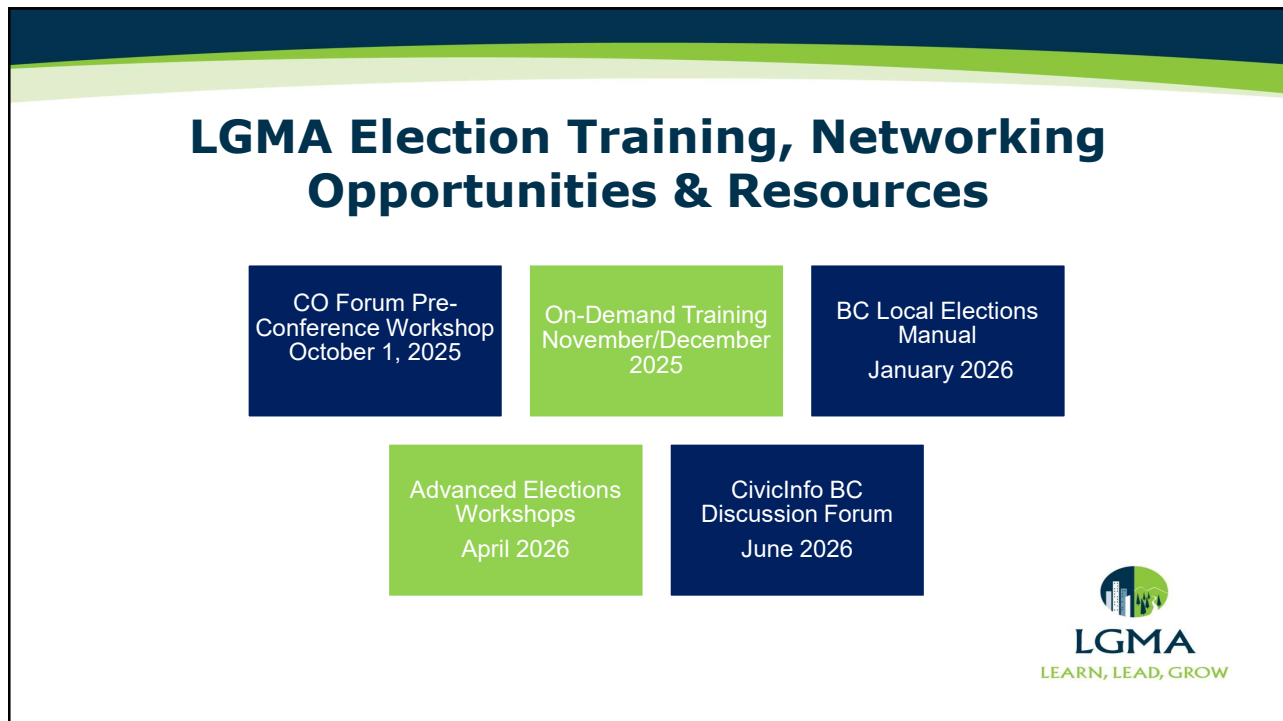
- Delivering Vital Training and Professional Development
- Building Meaningful Connections
- Sharing Best Practices



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Chief Election Officer Role and Responsibilities

- Overall administration of municipal, regional district and/or school trustee elections
 - School District Bylaw
- Appointed by Council, Regional District Board or School Board



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Cost Sharing Agreements

- When part of GLE, School Board must reimburse for costs additional to costs of GLE or assent voting
- When not required, may enter into cost-sharing agreement
 - Varies among local governments



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Additional Resources

LGMA Election Resources

- <https://www.lgma.ca/election-resources>

To register for CivicInfo BC Discussion Forum (CEOs or Deputies):

- <https://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/forums>



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Contact Information

Sonia Santarossa, Program Advisor

ssantarossa@lgma.ca



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2026 General Local Elections



Jodi Cooke

Executive Director, Electoral Finance



Alex Stover

Team Lead, Compliance Services



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Agenda:

- EBC's Role and Mandate
- Key Periods in the Election Calendar
- Campaign Finance Rules Overview
- Additional Resources



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Elections BC's Mandate

Independent, non-partisan Office of the Legislature responsible for administering electoral processes in British Columbia in accordance with the *Election Act*, *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, *Recall and Initiative Act*, and *Referendum Act*.

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Elections BC's Role in Local Elections

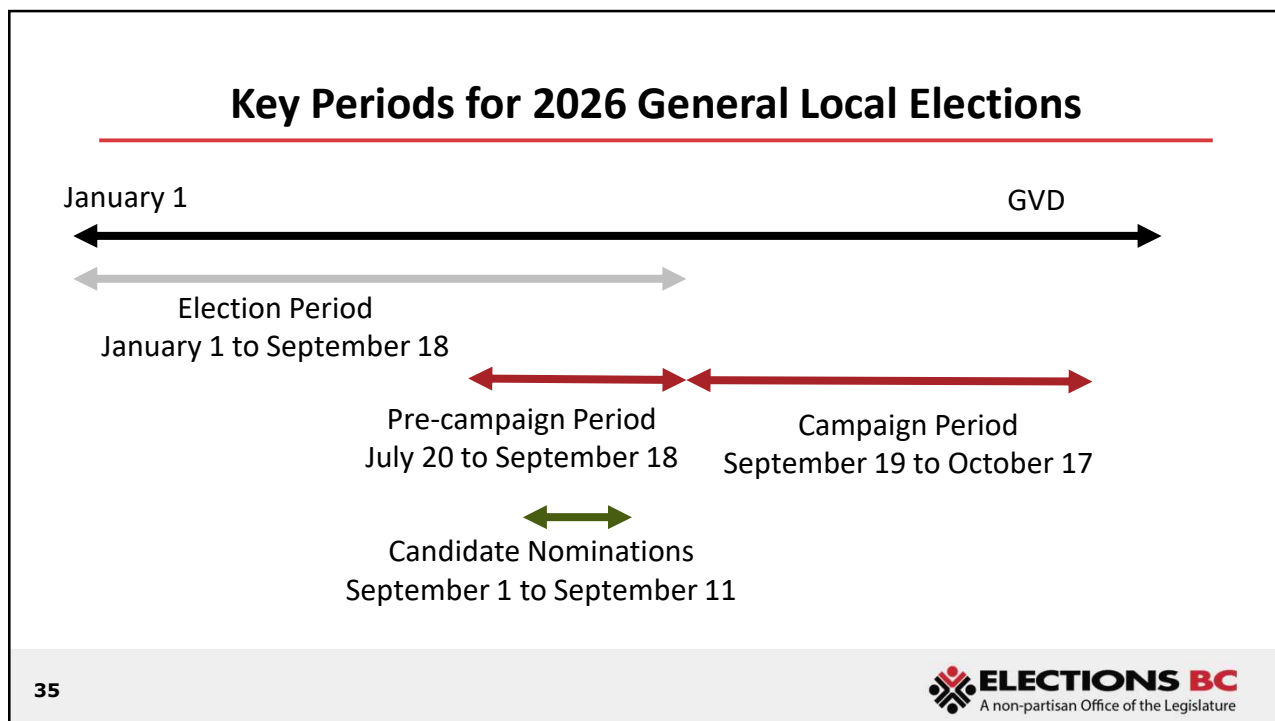


- Campaign finance and advertising rules
- Registration of elector organizations
- Registration of third-party advertising sponsors
- Receive and publish financing reports
- Assess compliance through reviews, audits and investigations
- Enforcement for non-compliance

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Candidate Nominations



- Nominations period is from **September 1** to **September 11**
- EBC receives from the Local Chief Election Official:
 - C2 - Nomination Document (page 3 only)
 - C3 - Other Information Provided by Candidate
 - C4 – Appointment of Financial Agent
 - Any changes or withdrawals
 - Declaration of candidates

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A non-partisan Office of the Legislature

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Campaign Period

- Pre-campaign period from **July 20** to **September 18**
- Campaign period from **September 19** to **October 17**
- Election advertising must contain authorization statement
- EBC may ask for assistance with verifying advertising issues
- Campaign finance and advertising questions can be referred to EBC

LCEOs are responsible for regulating advertising within 100 metres of voting place

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Campaign Finance Rules Overview


- Campaign accounts
- Contributions restrictions and limits
- Expense limits
- Election advertising
- Financial reports



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2026 General Local Elections



2026 GENERAL LOCAL ELECTIONS

The next general local elections will be held on October 17, 2026.

What are general local elections

General local elections include elections for:

- mayors and municipal councillors
- regional district directors
- school boards trustees
- specified parks boards

Visit: elections.bc.ca/local-elections


Guidance Materials

It is your responsibility to ensure you follow the rules in the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*.

See the resources below for support and guidance:


- [Local Guides](#)
- [Local Forms](#)
- [Local Quick Reference Sheets](#)
- [Online Training](#)
- [Information Sessions](#)

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Resources for GLE 2026



For Candidates, EO and TPS:

- Guides
- Forms
- Quick Reference Sheets
- Online Training
- Information Sessions (sign-up online)

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Need More Information?



elections.bc.ca/local-elections



Electoral.Finance@elections.bc.ca



1-800-661-8683



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

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School Board Trustee Elections BCSTA Role & Resources

Presented By:
MARYKE PETER
Program Assistant - Legal Services




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Role of BCSTA

- Member of TAC
- Provides legal advice, information and resources to boards of education
- Local Trustee Elections Engagement





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BCSTA Resources

- A Guide for School Trustee Candidates (2026)
- Trustee Elections Bulletins



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BCSTA Resources

- Sample Election Bylaw
- Election Day Hotline

BCSTA British Columbia School Trustees Association



Thumbnail description: A document cover for 'BCSTA Sample Election Bylaw 2026'. At the top, it features the slogan 'YOU MATTER TO PUBLIC EDUCATION' with a red apple logo containing a white checkmark, and 'British Columbia School Trustee Elections' below it. The main title 'BCSTA Sample Election Bylaw' is in the center, with '2026' in red below it and a red arrow pointing to the year. The BCSTA logo is at the bottom right.

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BCSTA Resources

SIGNIFICANT DATES

General Election

Election Period: January 1, 2026 - September 18, 2026

Pre Campaign Period: July 20 - September 18, 2026

Nomination Period (BC-wide): September 1, 2026 - September 11, 2026

Declaration of Candidates: September 11, 2026

Challenge of Nomination Deadline: September 15, 2026

Candidate Withdrawal Deadline: September 18, 2026

Candidate Endorsement Withdrawal Deadline: September 18, 2026

Campaign Period: September 19, 2026 - October 17, 2026

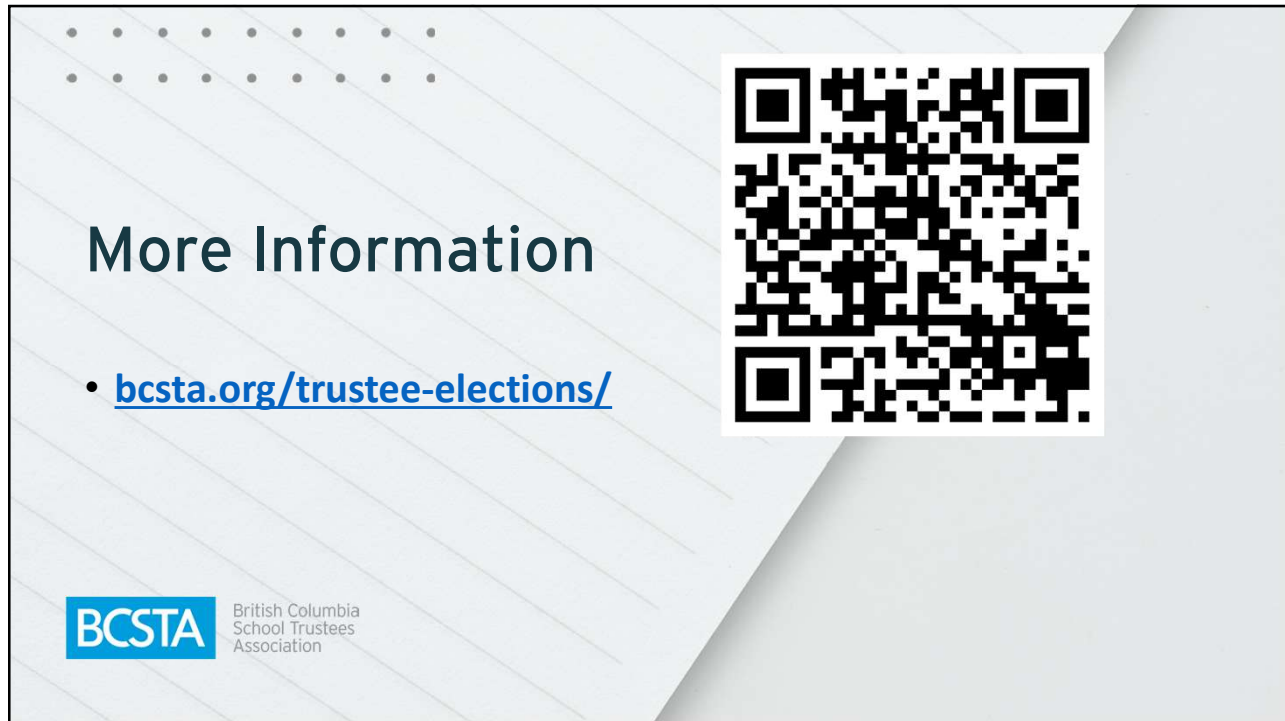
Voting Day (General): October 17, 2026

Disclosure Statement Filing Deadline: January 15, 2027

Late filing deadline for disclosure statements (with \$500 fee): February 16, 2027

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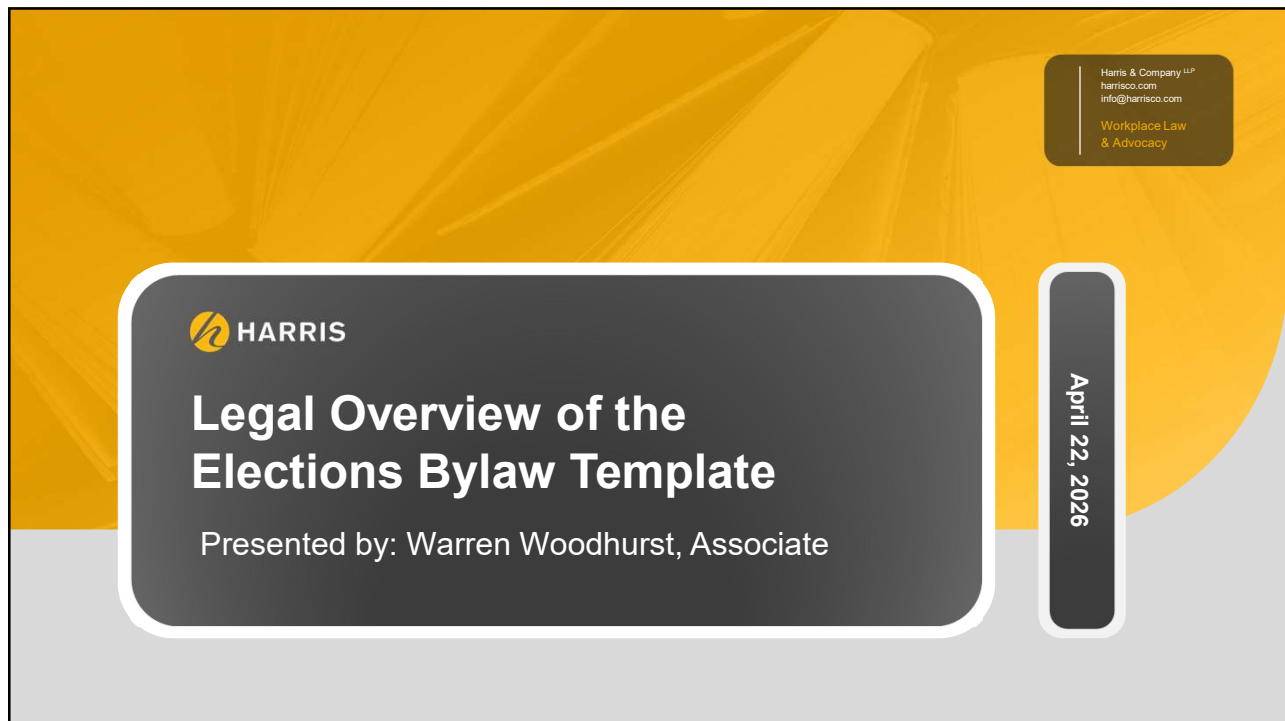
More Information

- bcsta.org/trustee-elections/

BCSTA British Columbia School Trustees Association

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HARRIS

Legal Overview of the Elections Bylaw Template

Presented by: Warren Woodhurst, Associate

Harris & Company LLP
harrisco.com
info@harrisco.com
Workplace Law & Advocacy

April 22, 2026

The slide features a dark grey rounded rectangle containing the HARRIS logo and title, and a vertical grey bar on the right with the date.

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4. Voters List

[Default is that the school board maintains its own list of electors]

A.
Voting in a trustee election shall be limited to only those electors registering to vote at the time of voting.

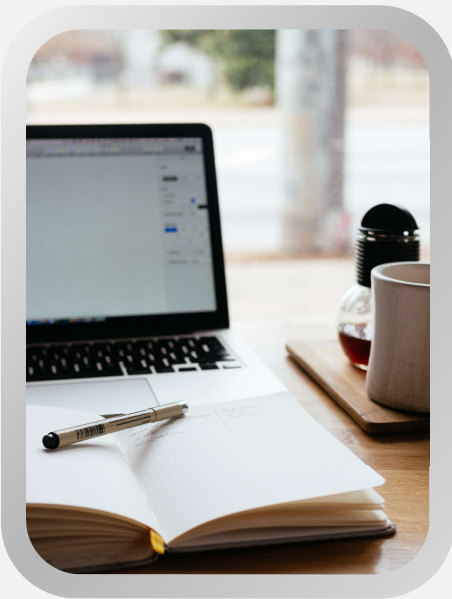
B.
The most current available Provincial list of voters prepared under the Election Act is the register of resident electors, **effective 52 days before general voting day for any election to which this bylaw applies.**

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5. Application of Local Government Bylaws

a. In [Trustee Electoral Area #...] the election bylaws of the Municipality of _____ apply to trustee elections conducted by the Municipality of _____, except for those sections of the bylaws determining the minimum number of nominators, the order of names on the ballot, the resolution of tie votes after judicial recount, requiring a nomination deposit, or any other matter on which the local government bylaws may not by law apply to a trustee election.

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5. Application of Local Government Bylaws

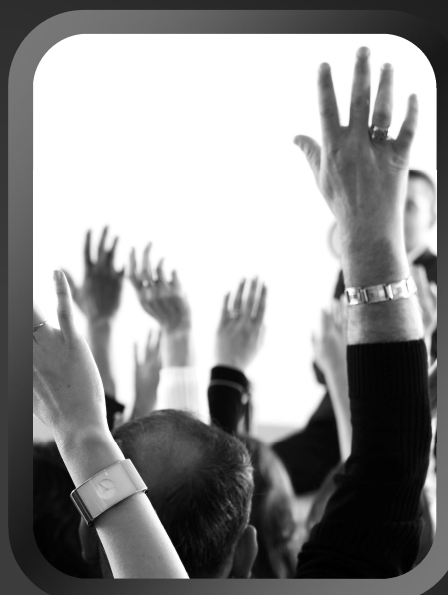
b. In [Trustee Electoral Area #...], if the (name the local government) conducts all or a part of the trustee election, the election bylaws of (name of local government), as they may be amended from time to time, apply to that trustee election or part of the trustee election, except for any bylaws determining the minimum number of nominators, the order of names on the ballot, the resolution of tie votes after judicial recount, requiring a nomination deposit, or any other matter on which the local government bylaws may not by law apply to a trustee election.



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5. Application of Local Government Bylaws

c. In [Trustee Electoral Area #...], for a trustee election held at the same time as the general local elections, the elections bylaws of (name of local government), as they may be amended from time to time, apply to that trustee election, except for any bylaws determining the minimum number of nominators, the order of names on the ballot, the resolution of tie votes after judicial recount, requiring a nomination deposit, or any other matter on which the local government bylaws may not by law apply to a trustee election.



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Cost Sharing under the *School Act*

Costs of trustee election conducted by municipality

38 (1) For a trustee election conducted by a municipality under section 37 (1) as part of a general school election, the board must reimburse the municipality for any costs of the trustee election that are additional to the costs, if any, incurred by the municipality in conducting a local government election or assent voting at the same time as the trustee election.

(3) For a trustee election conducted by a municipality, other than one referred to in subsection (1), the board must reimburse the municipality for the costs necessarily incurred by the municipality in conducting the election.



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6. Required Advance Voting Opportunities

A.

Unless the Board is exempted from the requirement by Order of the Minister, an advance voting opportunity will be held on the tenth day before general voting day.

C.

In [Trustee Electoral Area #...], the required advance voting opportunity will be held on the tenth day before general voting day, unless exempted by order of the Minister, and no other advance voting opportunity will be held.



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6. Required Advance Voting Opportunities

b. Unless the Board is exempted from the requirement for an additional advance voting opportunity by Order of the Minister, or unless s. 6(c) applies, an additional advance voting opportunity will be held on: [select as appropriate]

i. in [Trustee Electoral Area #, a municipal TEA], the date specified in the bylaws of the [Municipality of ...]

ii. in [Trustee Electoral Area #..., a non-municipal TEA], for a general school election, the date specified in the bylaws of the ...[Regional District or Municipality of...] as they may be amended from time to time; and for by-elections [insert date as desired in generic terms, e.g., 2 days before general voting day].

iii. in [Trustee Electoral Area #..., a non-municipal TEA where bylaw of Regional District of Municipality does not apply], on [insert date as desired in generic terms, e.g., 2 days before general voting day].



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8. Additional General Voting Opportunities

OR

9. Special Voting Opportunities

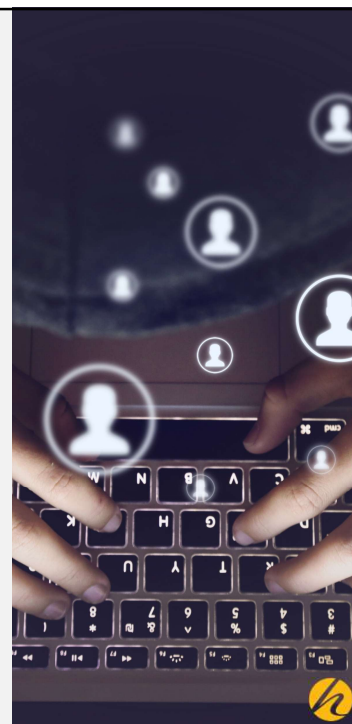


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14. Website Access to Candidate Nomination Documents and Campaign Financing Disclosure

(a) The Board authorizes public access to nomination documents of the trustee candidates:

- i. during the regular office hours at the Board's office from the time the nomination documents are delivered until 30 days after declaration of the election results; [and, if applicable,]
- ii. [specify other means by which public access is provided, and the time period within which access will be provided], except that public access by the means set out in this subparagraph may not include the residential address of the person nominated, other than the municipality, electoral area or treaty lands in which the person is resident.



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14. Website Access to Candidate Nomination Documents and Campaign Financing Disclosure

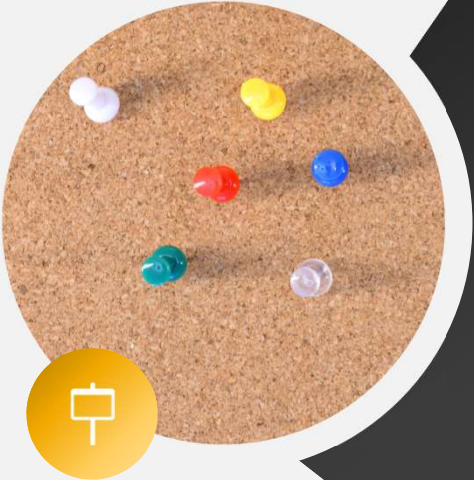
(b) The Board will make available to the public **by internet access**, without charge, during the regular office hours of the Board's head office, the disclosure statements or supplementary reports required to be made available by the BC chief electoral officer on an Elections BC authorized website, other than:

- i. a mailing address or residential address of a significant contributor, or
- ii. a telephone number, mailing address, or residential address of a candidate,

until 5 years after general voting day for the election to which the trustee's disclosure statements and supplementary reports relate by providing a copy of that information for inspection.




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15. Public Notice Posting Places

a. For the purpose of trustee elections conducted by the Board, the following are designated as public notice posting places for the purposes of section 50 of the *Local Government Act*:

- (i) the notice board located at the main entrance to the Board's head office; and
- (ii) [other physical places should be designated such as a local government office in each community within the District].




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16. Publication By Means Other Than Newspaper

a. The Board designates the following means of publication of notices required to be published pursuant to section 94.2 of the Community Charter:

- i. [method 1, i.e., the Board's website at <insert URL>; and
- ii. second approved means of publication].



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A presentation slide with a dark background and yellow wavy borders. It features two white rounded rectangular boxes with yellow borders containing contact information for legal counsel. The title 'Q&A with Legal Counsel' is written in large white font on the right. The Harris logo is in the bottom left corner.


Keith E.W. Mitchell
Partner
kmitchell@harrisco.com

Warren Woodhurst
Associate
wwoodhurst@harrisco.com

Q&A with Legal Counsel

 HARRIS


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A presentation slide with a white background. On the left, there is a section titled 'Closing Remarks' with a bulleted list of three items. On the right, there is a photograph of a woman in a green turtleneck sitting in a chair, holding a clipboard and a pen. The BCSTA logo is in the bottom left corner.

Closing Remarks







- Election Day: October 17, 2026
- Slides will be circulated.
- Contact presenters for additional support.

 **BCSTA** British Columbia
School Trustees
Association



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Who to Contact

Organization	Responsibility	Contact info
 LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA LGMA	Training and support for election administrators	250 383-7032 office@lgma.ca https://www.lgma.ca/election-resources
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 British Columbia School Trustees Association	General school trustee election information	604 360-1257 mpeter@bcsta.org https://bcsta.org/trustee-elections/
 CIVICINFOBC	Publication of election results and other election data (current & historic)	250 383-4898 info@civicoinfo.bc.ca https://www.civicoinfo.bc.ca/election

Thank you!

