

# GUIDE TO SUPPORTING A CANDIDATE



FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS IN B.C.



Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

Guide to supporting a candidate: local elections in B.C.

ISBN 978-0-7726-6530-0

1. Local elections--British Columbia. 2. Election law--British Columbia.  
3. Campaign funds--Law and legislation--British Columbia. 4. Political campaigns--  
Law and legislation--British Columbia. I. British Columbia. Ministry of Community,  
Sport and Cultural Development

KEB478.5 E43 G84 2011

342.711'07

C2011-909051-1

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This guide may be photocopied.

NOTE: Although this guide was prepared to help citizens understand the electoral process and legislation regarding local elections in British Columbia, each person must refer to the *Local Government Act*, *Vancouver Charter* and/or *School Act* and its regulations for specific interpretation and advice.

# Key Contacts

## Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Contact the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development (Ministry) for answers to questions about the material contained in this guide. Ministry staff can also provide additional information about local government elections in British Columbia (B.C.).

Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development  
Local Government Department  
Advisory Services Branch  
PO Box 9839 Stn. Prov. Govt.  
Victoria, BC V8W 9T1  
Phone: 250-387-4020  
Website: [www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/contacts/department.htm](http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/contacts/department.htm)

## Enquiry BC

Enquiry BC is a provincial referral service connecting British Columbians to public servants in Ministries throughout the BC Public Service:

In Victoria call: 250-387-6121  
In Vancouver call: 604-660-2421  
Elsewhere in B.C. call: 1-800-663-7867  
Outside BC: 604-660-2421  
E-mail address: [EnquiryBC@gov.bc.ca](mailto:EnquiryBC@gov.bc.ca)  
Hours of Operation: 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday

## Municipal and Regional District Information

Local government mailing address, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses and websites are available online through CivicInfoBC at: [www.civicinfo.bc.ca/11.asp](http://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/11.asp)

## Other Resources

### Election Legislation

Printed versions of local government election legislation including the *Local Government Act*, the *Vancouver Charter*, the *Community Charter* and the *School Act* are available at public libraries in communities throughout B.C. Printed versions of the Acts are also available from Crown Publications, Queens Printer for British Columbia at:

Crown Publications Inc.  
106 Ontario Street  
Victoria, BC V8V 1M9  
Phone: 250-386-4636  
Fax: 250-386-0221  
Toll Free: 1-877-747-4636  
Website: [www.crownpub.bc.ca/default.aspx](http://www.crownpub.bc.ca/default.aspx)

## BC Laws

BC Laws provides free public online access to the current laws of British Columbia. This unofficial current consolidation of B.C. Statutes and Regulations is updated continually as new and amended laws come into force. Electronic versions of the *Local Government Act*, the *Vancouver Charter*, the *Community Charter* and the *School Act* are available online at: [www.bclaws.ca/](http://www.bclaws.ca/)

NOTE: The Province of British Columbia does not warrant the accuracy or the completeness of the electronic version of the Statutes and Regulations available online at BC Laws.

## Educational Materials

The Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, the Union of BC Municipalities and the Local Government Management Association collaborated to produce educational guides for the 2011 general local election. The following materials are available online at: [www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/elections\\_home.htm](http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/elections_home.htm)

- Candidate's Guide to Local Elections in B.C.
- Campaign Organizer and Elector Organization Guide to Local Elections in B.C.
- Campaign Financing Standard Forms Booklet for Local Elections in B.C.
- Election Choices Guide for Local Governments in B.C.
- Other Voting (Referendum) Guide
- Voter's Guide to Local Elections in B.C. (available in English, French, Chinese, Punjabi)

## Disclaimer

The information contained in this guide is provided as general reference and while all attempts have been made to ensure the accuracy of the material – the guide is not a substitute for provincial legislation.

Please refer directly to the latest consolidation of provincial statutes at BC Laws ([www.bclaws.ca](http://www.bclaws.ca)) for specific election related provisions and requirements within the *Local Government Act*, the *Vancouver Charter*, the *Community Charter*, and the *School Act*.

Terms in **boldface font** are further explained in the Glossary.

# Introduction

General local elections are the foundation of democratic local governments in British Columbia.

Locally elected officials are charged with making decisions that affect the daily lives of citizens, families, and the business community – municipal councils, regional district boards, school boards, Islands Trust, local community commissions and other local bodies influence jobs, create safe communities for British Columbians and shape the long-term vision for the community as a whole.

The general local election process enables residents and property owners to determine the body of individuals who then make decisions and govern on their behalf for three years following general voting day.

Local governments have two primary roles: acting first as a political forum through which citizens, families and business owners within the local community express their collective vision; and, secondly as a means of providing desired services and programs to the community.

Since 1990, general local elections for mayors, councillors, electoral area directors, school board trustees, local community commissioners and Islands Trust local trustees in British Columbia have been held every three years on the third Saturday in November. **The next general local election will be held on November 19, 2011.**

The *Guide to Supporting a Candidate for Local Elections in B.C.* was created to illustrate ways in which citizens may support a candidate in a local election. The guide provides general information about election **campaigns** and how to support a candidate by: nominating a candidate(s); making **campaign contributions**; volunteering; fundraising and/or advertising on behalf of a candidate; posting signs; and, becoming a **campaign organizer** or joining an **elector organization**.

Anyone actively engaged in an election campaign must be aware that their actions may lead them to become a **campaign organizer**. See the *Campaign Organizer and Elector Organization Guide to Local Elections in B.C.*, available online at: [www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/elections\\_home.htm](http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/elections_home.htm) for further information about campaign organizers.

Voting is a fundamental way to support a **candidate** – the *Voter's Guide to Local Elections in B.C.*, available online at: [www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/elections\\_home.htm](http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/elections_home.htm), provides information about the voting process, including eligibility, registering to vote, and identification requirements.

# What are Election Campaigns?

An election **campaign** is a connected series of actions (e.g. advertising, meetings and speeches) designed to elect a **candidate** or a slate of candidates to a municipal council, regional district board, school board, local community commission or local trust committee of the Islands Trust.

Typically, an election campaign involves activities to communicate with the electorate, through:

- public appearances and speeches;
- advertisements on television, radio, the Internet, in newspapers and magazines;
- brochures, signs, posters, billboards;
- mail inserts and newsletters; and
- displays and/or exhibitions.

An election campaign may be undertaken by a candidate, **campaign organizer** or **elector organization** during a local election.

# How to Support a Candidate

There are a number of ways to support a **candidate** in a local election by:

- voting for a candidate;
- nominating a candidate;
- volunteering for a candidate;
- becoming a campaign organizer or joining an elector organization;
- making a financial contribution to a candidate;
- fundraising for a candidate;
- advertising on behalf of a candidate; and
- posting signs supporting a candidate.

## Voting

Informed and engaged electors create effective, accountable and democratic local governments. Elected officials exercise considerable authority and make a wide range of decisions that affect the daily lives of citizens, families, and the business community. Electing candidates that represent the broad interest of the community is the responsibility of the electorate – **voting is the most fundamental part of the local election process.**

See the *Voter's Guide to Local Elections in B.C.*, available online at [www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/elections\\_home.htm](http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/elections_home.htm), for information about the voting process – including voter eligibility, how residents register to vote, and identification requirements.

## Nominating

Individuals wishing to be a candidate for local government office must be nominated by at least two electors from the jurisdiction in which the candidate intends to run – some local governments may require more than two nominators.

While the legislation requires at least two qualified nominators for each candidate, local governments may require two, 10, or, in jurisdictions with populations greater than 5,000, 25 nominators for each candidate. Prospective candidates generally approach possible nominators to support their candidacy.

The two (or more) nominators must sign the candidate's nomination form. Signing a candidate nomination form involves, providing the nominator's name and residential address and declaring that, to the best of their knowledge, the candidate is qualified to run for office. The form is then filed with the Chief Election Officer during the nomination period.

Nominators may nominate as many candidates as there are positions to fill on council or the regional district board. The individual being nominated must consent to the nomination. **Resident electors** and **non-resident property electors** are eligible to nominate a candidate for office. Nomination papers are available at local government offices throughout B.C.

The candidate's nomination documents are available for public inspection after the end of the nomination period until 30 days after the local election. Local governments must make the forms available for viewing during regular business hours – they may also make the documents available by other means – including on the Internet.

Voting is the most fundamental part of the local election process.

Contact the Chief Election Officer to determine the minimum number of nominators required by the local government.

## Campaign Organizer

Another way to support a candidate is by becoming, or supporting, a **campaign organizer**.

Campaign organizers may be an individual or a few individuals in a single community, or organizations that run election **campaigns** in multiple jurisdictions. If an individual undertakes or intends to undertake such a campaign in an election *and* accepts or intends to accept contributions from others, that person is considered a campaign organizer. An individual is not a campaign organizer unless they accept **campaign contributions** from others to finance campaign activities.

Campaign organizers may support candidates; however, campaign organizers are not permitted to have their endorsement appear on a ballot the way an elector organization may.

Campaign organizers can operate independently from candidates and elector organizations and do not require the consent from a candidate or elector organization to run a campaign. Campaign organizers may be active in relation to an election campaign in one community or support like-minded candidates in many communities.

Campaign organizers must identify themselves to the Chief Election Officer for the jurisdiction – or jurisdictions – where they are active, as soon as possible after they receive more than \$500 in contributions or incur more than \$500 in expenses. Campaign organizers that exceed the \$500 contribution or expense threshold must file a **campaign financing disclosure statement**.

### GARY'S GROCERY

You own a local corner store and are considering opening a second location across town. You would like to support a mayoral candidate you know to be supportive of local small businesses. You receive money from other small business owners and spend \$600 for local radio and newspaper ads encouraging residents to vote for this candidate.

Although you are not a formal organization, you are engaged in election activities and are augmenting or operating in place of the election campaign of the candidate you support and you are collecting funds to support your activities. You are, therefore, a campaign organizer and are required to follow campaign financing rules – including appointing a chief official and a financial agent. You must also provide a name and contact information to the local government Chief Election Officer, record campaign financing information and file a campaign financing disclosure statement. You may act as your own chief official and/or financial agent.

Campaign organizers may be an individual or a few individuals in a single community, or organizations that run election campaigns in multiple jurisdictions.

ARE YOU A CAMPAIGN ORGANIZER?	YES	NO
Are you or your organization...		
...advertising or promoting a candidate or platform?		
...advertising or promoting against a candidate or platform?		
...accepting or collecting funds to support your activities?		
...augmenting or taking the place of a candidate's own campaign?		
...participating in campaigning that goes beyond activities such as volunteering, contributing funds, or having a sign in your front lawn?		

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, you may be a **campaign organizer**. There are certain rules and requirements that campaign organizers must follow in order to ensure transparency and avoid committing elections offences.

See the *Campaign Organizer and Elector Organization Guide to Local Elections in B.C.*, available online at: [www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/elections\\_home.htm](http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/elections_home.htm) for more information about campaign organizers.

## Elector Organization

Another way to support a candidate is by joining, or creating, an **elector organization**.

Elector organizations are formed to promote a candidate, slate of candidates, or point of view in a local election. Elector organizations are occasionally referred to as “civic political parties”.

Elector organizations formally endorse candidates by having their name, abbreviation or acronym appear on the ballot beside the name of the candidates that the organization has endorsed. Elector organizations must formally request that the Chief Election Officer include their **endorsement** on the ballot.

An elector organization must have a membership of at least 50 eligible electors – who have been members for at least 60 days prior to endorsing a candidate – in order to qualify as an elector organization. Elector organizations tend to have a somewhat formalized structure because of the membership requirement.

Once an elector organization meets the qualifications, it must appoint a chief official, a **financial agent** and file contact and other information with the local government Chief Election Officer – the organization must also comply with campaign financing disclosure requirements.

## Volunteering

A **volunteer** provides services to a candidate for no remuneration or material benefit.

Anyone can be a volunteer, except for individuals who are self-employed and offer services that they normally sell or otherwise charge for – or if an employer makes an employee available for an election campaign at the employer’s expense.

There are a variety of activities that can be undertaken by a volunteer in an election campaign, including:

- door-to-door canvassing;
- making phone calls;

Elector organizations are formed to promote a candidate, slate of candidates, or point of view in a local election. They can endorse candidates on the ballot.

A volunteer provides services to a candidate for no remuneration or material benefit.

- driving voters to polls;
- arranging events;
- putting up signs; and
- assisting with logistics.

Driving electors to voting places must not create an obligation on the elector, whether overt or implied, to vote for certain candidates; otherwise, it could be considered vote-buying – which is an election offence.

## COFFEE CONVERSATION

You are volunteering for a candidate who is hosting a meet-and-greet at a local coffee shop. A couple is passing by and you offer to buy them coffee if they will speak with you and the candidate.

While buying someone coffee seems like a harmless offer, it must not be interpreted as an inducement to vote or not vote a particular way. Vote-buying includes offering money, gifts, valuable considerations, refreshments, entertainment, employment or any other benefit of any kind to a voter.

It is an election offence to offer inducements to vote or not to vote, or to vote for a particular candidate. It is also an offence to accept inducements to vote.

Certain **volunteer** roles in election campaigns may be more formal than others – such as a chief official, **financial agent** or **scrutineer**. The chief official may be the campaign manager or the spokesperson for the candidate. The candidate may also appoint the chief official as their financial agent. Financial agents are responsible for ensuring the financial aspects of a candidate's campaign are managed according to the campaign financing requirements – while scrutineers observe voter registration, voting procedures and the ballot counting process.

## POSTER PATROL

You are a business owner who supports a specific candidate. You and two of your staff volunteer to put up campaign posters in high traffic areas around the community.

All three of you spend an hour printing and organizing the posters and mapping out a route – and another two hours driving around hanging posters. You estimate that the truck used \$35 of gas and the poster printing cost \$25. You tell the candidate not to worry about reimbursing you.

Be aware that the poster costs, the cost of gas, both you and your staff's time (wages) must be recorded and disclosed by the candidate as a campaign contribution under your businesses name.

See the *Campaign Organizer and Elector Organization Guide to Local Elections in B.C.*, available online at [www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/elections\\_home.htm](http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/elections_home.htm) for further information.

## Making Campaign Contributions

Campaign contributions, more commonly referred to as “donations”, are another way to support a candidate and be involved in an election campaign.

A **campaign contribution** is the value of any money, service or property provided to a candidate for use in an election campaign. Campaign contributions include monetary and “in-kind contributions”. Monetary contributions are generally made by cash or cheque directly from the individual to the candidate’s financial agent or directly to the candidate if the candidate is acting as their own financial agent (or is authorized by the financial agent to accept contributions).

In-kind contributions include the donation of property or services, and must be valued and reported by the candidate in their **campaign financing disclosure statement**. Indirect contributions – where specific contributions are given through another person or organization to a candidate – are not permitted.

The financial agent must record information such as the contributor’s name and address, the value of the contributions and date it was received.

### WEB WIZARD

You are a professional website designer and often design websites for community organizations and non-profit groups. When you learn one of the candidates supports the same new recycling program in the community as you do, you decide to work with the candidate to design a 10-page website free of charge.

The time and money you invest in creating the website is considered an in-kind contribution. The candidate (or their financial agent) is required to disclose the fair market value of creating the website.

Be aware if the website you provide would normally cost \$1,500, the candidate or financial agent must list the website as a \$1,500 contribution from you in the campaign financing disclosure statement.

The financial agent must record the name and other relevant information about individuals who contribute less than \$100 – however, this information is not included in the campaign financing disclosure statement the candidate completes following the election.

Anyone who contributed \$100 or more, or who makes several smaller donations to one candidate that together total more than \$100, will have their name and address included in the candidate’s campaign financing disclosure statement. For example, an individual who purchased a ticket to a fundraiser dinner for more than \$100 would have their name and address recorded and the ticket amount listed as a contribution in the candidate’s campaign financing disclosure statement.

Anonymous contributions are permitted up to a total value of \$50. A contribution is not anonymous if the candidate or their agent accepting the contribution knows who submitted it. A candidate or **financial agent** must record and disclose the names of campaign contributors – even if asked to keep the contribution “anonymous”. Candidates are required to remit to the local government any anonymous contribution over \$50.

## ENVELOPE MYSTERY

You are a volunteer taking down chairs after a candidate's fundraising dinner and discover an envelope with the candidate's name written on the outside. Inside the envelope is \$60 in cash.

You bring the envelope to the attention of the candidate's financial agent, who is responsible for the financial aspects of a candidate's election campaign. The financial agent tells you that because the total exceeds \$50 and you do not know where it came from, the entire contents of the envelope must be turned over to the local government. The amount of the donation must also be recorded in the candidate's campaign financing disclosure statement.

## Fundraising

Fundraising generally involves collecting monetary or in-kind contributions on behalf of a candidate. Fundraising may involve arranging a variety of events, such as dinners, silent auctions, or raffles, where people pay money or give contributions to a candidate for their election **campaign**.

Fundraisers must be cautious not to collect and funnel contributions from several individuals under a single name without naming all the individuals who made the contributions.

It is an election offence to contribute money to an individual or organization knowing that the funds would be redistributed (or "funnelled") as campaign contributions to one or more candidates – even if the individual or organization that made the contribution does not know which candidate received the money. Indirect contributions – contributions given through another person or organization – are not permitted.

## READING RAINBOW

You and your book club decided at a meeting to contribute money to a mayoral candidate. After that meeting, you pass around a hat and collect \$400 from the group.

In order to give the \$400 to the candidate, you need to record the names and addresses of everyone who contributed and the individual amounts they contributed.

If the money came from membership fees instead of from specific individuals, then the \$400 could be given to the candidate under the name of the book club.

## Advertising

Election advertising can take many forms including: television; radio; flyers; websites or banner ads; social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter and Youtube); and, print or newspaper ads.

Advertising can be for or against a candidate, a slate or platform, a campaign organizer or an elector organization. Anyone who wishes to can advertise – although most advertisements are issued by candidates, campaign organizers and elector organizations. Depending on how the advertising campaign is conducted it may be subject to campaign organizer rules.

See the *Campaign Organizer and Elector Organization Guide to Local Elections in B.C.*, available online at: [www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/elections\\_home.htm](http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/elections_home.htm), for more information about campaign organizer advertising requirements.

Advertising and campaigning of any sort is prohibited within 100 metres of a voting place. This includes displaying signs, posters, flyers, bumper stickers on vehicles parked outside the voting place, badges worn by supporters, canvassing or soliciting votes, or otherwise trying to influence how an elector votes.

**Candidates**, campaign organizers, elector organizations and citizens must not advertise in print, radio or television media on general voting day – nor may they accept supportive advertising purchased or donated as a campaign contribution by another party that appears in those media on general voting day. The only exceptions are for advertising that was posted, published or broadcasted before general voting day and was not changed prior to general voting day. For example, candidate lawn signs do not need to be taken down on general voting day unless they are within 100 metres of a voting place.

Advertisements are not required to have the name of the sponsor of the advertisement included in the advertisement – although the sponsor may wish to include this information for transparency reasons.

## POSITION PAPER

You are a resident who supports the construction of a new community pool. A candidate in the upcoming election is against this project. You write a letter to the editor in your local newspaper stating your opinion and criticizing the candidate's position.

This does not qualify as 'advertising'. You are free to voice your opinion in a letter to the editor.

## MORE PARKLAND PLEASE

You are a member of 'More Parkland Now' (MPN), a citizens' group advocating for a new city park. Two of the candidates running for city council support the new park. MPN paid more than \$500 for radio advertising as well as printing and distributing flyers supporting the two candidates.

MPN raised money to pay for their advertising and flyers, and used its own resources to campaign in support of the candidates. MPN is a campaign organizer. MPN must appoint a chief official and must also appoint a financial agent to record contributions and expenses to ensure MPN complies with campaign financing requirements for campaign organizers.

MPN must provide the names and contact information for both the chief official and financial agent to the Chief Election Officer for the jurisdiction where MPN is active as soon as MPN's contributions or expenses exceed \$500. MPN must file a campaign financing disclosure statement within 120 days after general voting day.

## Posting Signs

One way to support a candidate is to display signs – for example in windows, on lawns, or in other public places – however, signs must not be within 100 metres of a voting place.

Municipalities and regional districts have the authority to regulate the size, placement, maintenance and removal of signs and other forms of public advertising – the rules may be quite different between local governments. Contact the local government about any restrictions before placing election campaign signs.

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure regulates sign placement along Provincial highways, medians, bridges and along major roadways. Contact the local government or local Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure office before placing election campaign signs on medians, bridges or along major roads.

# Glossary

## ***campaign***

An election campaign organized and conducted to benefit a candidate, may be initiated for one or several of the following purposes, to:

- promote or oppose the election of a candidate;
- approve or disapprove of a course of action advocated by a candidate;
- promote or oppose an elector organization or its program; or
- approve or disapprove of a course of action advocated by an elector organization.

A campaign may consist of any or all of the following activities to influence voters: advertising; distribution or mailing of printed leaflets or letters; speeches; interviews with news media; and, door-to-door visits with potential voters.

## ***campaign contribution***

The value of any money, property or services provided to a candidate, elector organization or campaign organizers' use in their election campaign. A campaign contribution may be provided by donation, advance, deposit or discount. Any money provided by a candidate in relation to their own campaign is considered a campaign contribution. This is also true for a campaign organizer who is an individual – the amount of any money provided by the individual for the election campaign is considered a campaign contribution.

Campaign contributions in the form of the donation of goods or services are "in-kind contributions", and must be assigned a fair market value, and recorded and disclosed in the same manner as monetary contributions.

## ***campaign financing disclosure statement***

The document that outlines the total amount of all campaign contributions received, the sources of campaign contributions of \$100 or more, the amount and purpose of the election expenses and the use of surplus contributions, in relation to an election campaign.

The campaign financing disclosure statement must be filed within 120 days following general voting day. Every candidate and elector organization is required to file a campaign financing disclosure statement. Campaign organizers are required to file a campaign financing disclosure statement if the election expenses of their campaign exceeded \$500, or the campaign organizer received campaign contributions greater than \$500.

## ***campaign organizer***

An individual or organization (other than an elector organization) that organizes and directs a series of coordinated activities that promote or oppose a candidate, elector organization, or point of view during a local government election, and which supplements the election campaign of one or more particular candidates or elector organizations.

An individual is not a campaign organizer unless they accept campaign contributions from others to finance campaign activities.

Campaign financing rules apply to campaign organizer campaigns and all campaign organizers must appoint a financial agent who is responsible for ensuring compliance with the campaign financing rules in the *Local Government Act* or *Vancouver Charter*.

section 84 of the  
*Local Government Act*

section 56 of the  
*Vancouver Charter*

section 83 of the  
*Local Government Act*

section 55 of the  
*Vancouver Charter*

sections 83-93 of the  
*Local Government Act*

sections 55-65 of the  
*Vancouver Charter*

section 83 of the  
*Local Government Act*

section 55 of the  
*Vancouver Charter*

section 33 of the  
*Local Government Act*

sections 14-16 of the  
*Vancouver Charter*

section 79 of the  
*Local Government Act*

section 51 of the  
*Vancouver Charter*

section 51 of the  
*Local Government Act*

section 24 of the  
*Vancouver Charter*

### ***candidate***

An individual who has filed nomination papers before the close of the nomination period and has been declared a candidate by the Chief Election Officer at the end of that period. For the purposes of the campaign financing rules, a candidate includes a person who accepts campaign contributions or incurs election expenses with the intention of becoming a declared candidate in an election, or seeking the endorsement of an elector organization for an election.

### ***elector organization***

An organization that endorses or intends to endorse a candidate in an election. Endorsing means having the elector organization's name appear on the ballot beside the candidate's name. An elector organization may endorse more than one candidate – a candidate may only be endorsed by one elector organization.

The elector organization must have a membership of 50 or more eligible electors for 60 or more days before endorsing a candidate. Campaign financing rules apply to elector organization campaigns. All elector organizations must appoint a financial agent who is responsible for ensuring compliance with the campaign financing rules. See the *Campaign Organizer and Elector Organization Guide to Local Elections in B.C.*, available online at: [www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/elections\\_home.htm](http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/elections_home.htm) for more information about the rules and requirements for elector organizations.

### ***endorsement***

A ballot endorsement by an elector organization is the only visible indication of an elector organization's support for a candidate permitted within a voting place. Endorsements are the name or abbreviation of an elector organization that appear next to the candidate's name on the ballot. An elector organization may endorse more than one candidate – a candidate may only be endorsed by one elector organization. See the *Campaign Organizer and Elector Organization Guide to Local Elections in B.C.*, available online at: [www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/elections\\_home.htm](http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/elections_home.htm) for further information about the eligibility and process for making a ballot endorsement.

### ***financial agent***

A candidate representative legally responsible for ensuring that the financial aspects of an election campaign comply with the *Local Government Act*, and/or *Vancouver Charter* campaign financing requirements.

See the *Campaign Organizer and Elector Organization Guide to Local Elections in B.C.* available online at: [www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/elections\\_home.htm](http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/elections_home.htm) for further information about the role and responsibilities of a financial agent.

### ***non-resident property elector***

An individual who does not live in a jurisdiction and is entitled to vote in an election by virtue of owning property in that jurisdiction. On voting day, a non-resident property elector must:

- be a Canadian citizen;
- be at least 18 years of age;
- have lived in British Columbia for at least six months prior to registering to vote; and
- have owned the property for at least 30 days prior to registering to vote.

***resident elector***

An individual qualified to vote in a jurisdiction by virtue of living in the jurisdiction. On voting day, a resident elector must:

- be a Canadian citizen;
- be at least 18 years of age;
- have lived in British Columbia for at least six months prior to registering to vote; and
- have lived in the jurisdiction for at least 30 days prior to registering to vote.

***scrutineer***

Candidates (and/or their official agent) appoint scrutineers to observe voter registration, voting procedures and the ballot-counting process at voting places during advance, special and general voting opportunities.

***volunteer***

An individual who provides services for no remuneration or material benefit.

*section 50 of the  
Local Government Act*

*section 23 of the  
Vancouver Charter*

