

Ontario Municipal Elections 2010

Several years ago, FOCA undertook the job of reforming electoral processes in Ontario municipalities to help strengthen the voice of cottagers in local governance. Municipal councils are now able to pass bylaws empowering their clerks to utilize alternate means to vote, including the vote by mail option.

This summer, your association has a role to play in deciding how your local tax dollars are spent, and which local priorities will be addressed over the next term of office. Your local council will serve a 4 year term, so getting organized and making an informed vote is very important.

Get out there and vote!

Summer is an important time for residents to get to know the candidates running for municipal council this fall. Municipal government is responsible for the establishment of an Official Plan for your area, creating and enforcing municipal bylaws, waste management services, public roads, municipal fire fighting, parks and recreation, drinking water and wastewater, ambulance, police, and library services. Your municipality manages the municipal budget, which is paid for through your property taxes.

Changes to the Municipal Elections Act

Bill 212 received Royal Assent on December 15, 2009, which included several revisions to the Elections Act, and specified the dates for candidate nominations (January 4, 2010 until 2pm September 10, 2010) and the Election Day (October 25, 2010).

On May 18 2006, Bill 81 (the Budget Measures Act, 2006), received Royal Assent. It included an amendment to the Municipal Elections Act, to establish a four year (formerly three year) term of office for council members and school trustees, which took effect with the new councils in December 1, 2006. Getting informed about the issues and the perspectives of the candidates in your area and making wise choices during the election are crucial.

MPAC will provide every municipal clerk with a list of eligible voters. The clerk is required to provide notice of the location of voting places, dates and times when voting places will be open, where voting proxies are available (if authorized by municipal by-law) and how electors may use voting proxies (such as mail-in ballots).

KEY DATES:

Jan 4, 2010	Nomination and Campaign Period Commences
June 1, 2010	Deadline to pass by-law authorizing an alternative voting method
July 31, 2010	Earliest date to receive Preliminary List of Electors
Sept 7, 2010	Revision of Preliminary List of Electors begins
Sept 10, 2010	Nominations close (2 pm)
Sept 27, 2010	Voter Kits will be mailed out this week
Oct 16, 2010	Last day for returning ballot by mail
Oct 25, 2010	VOTING DAY - 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Oct 26, 2010	Clerk to Declare Official Results

Term of Office for Elected Representatives:

December 1st, 2010 to November 30th, 2014 (four year term)

For more information or to learn how you can get involved in the upcoming municipal elections, please visit www.foca.on.ca. Be sure to sign up for our free Elert (electronic newsletter) for all the breaking news on municipal elections in 2010.

With Notes from Highlands East