



THE TOWNSHIP OF NIPIGON
2026 MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

Information for Candidates

Township of Nipigon 2026 Municipal and School Board Election Candidate Information Guide

Election Day: Monday, October 26, 2026

Term of Office: November 15, 2026, to November 14, 2030

Prepared by the Clerk/Returning Officer, Township of Nipigon

A Message to Prospective Candidates:

Thank you for your interest in helping govern the Township of Nipigon. Members of Council make important decisions that affect roads, water and sewer services, recreation, planning, local economic development, emergency services, community facilities, taxation, and the long-term strategic direction of the Township. Serving on Council is a rewarding way to give back to your community, but it is also a serious four-year commitment that requires preparation, time, sound judgment, and respect for the decision-making and representative role of Council as a whole.

This guide has been prepared to assist prospective candidates with the nomination process and to provide a practical overview of the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election. It is intended as a general information guide only. Candidates are responsible for ensuring that they comply with the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, the *Municipal Act, 2001*, the *Education Act*, applicable regulations, Township by-laws and policies, and any other legislation that may apply. Candidates are strongly encouraged to review the Province of Ontario's 2026 [Candidates' Guide—Ontario municipal and school board elections](#) and other resources listed at the end of this document, and, of course, to obtain independent legal or financial advice where appropriate.

1. Offices to be Elected

The Township of Nipigon elects its Council at-large, which means that the offices of Mayor and four Councillors are elected by all eligible voters in the Township of Nipigon. Eligible voters will also participate in electing a school board trustee for the following school boards: Superior Greenstone District School Board, Superior North Catholic District School Board, Conseil Scolaire de District Catholique des Aurores Boréales, and Conseil Scolaire Public du Grand Nord de L'Ontario.

2. Important Dates

The following dates are provided for convenience and are not exhaustive. Candidates should refer to the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* for complete requirements.

May 1, 2026: The first day to file a nomination for the office of Mayor, Councillor, and School Board Trustee, and to file a notice of registration as third-party advertiser.

Aug. 21, 2026:	Nomination Day, and the deadline to file or withdraw nominations (2:00 p.m.).
Aug. 24, 2026:	Deadline for the Clerk to certify nominations and declare acclamations (4:00 p.m.).
Sept. 1, 2026:	Voters' List becomes available to certified candidates subject to requirements.
Oct. 2026:	Advance voting period, as established by the Clerk.
Oct. 26, 2026:	Voting Day, with voting closing at 8:00 p.m.
Nov. 15, 2026:	New term of Council commences.
Mar. 26, 2027:	Deadline to file financial statements (2:00 p.m.).

3. Who May Run for Council

A person may be nominated if, on the day the nomination paper is filed, they are:

- a Canadian citizen;
- at least 18 years of age;
- a resident of the Township of Nipigon or an owner or tenant of land in the Township or the spouse of such a person;
- not legally prohibited from voting; and
- not disqualified by any legislation from holding office.

A person does not need to reside in the Township if they qualify as a non-resident elector through property ownership or tenancy. Disqualifications may include Township employees who have not taken a leave of absence, judges, members of provincial or federal legislatures, and individuals disqualified under legislation including those who failed to file required financial statements in a prior Ontario municipal election. Again, this is not an exhaustive list. Candidates are responsible for confirming their own eligibility.

4. Filing a Nomination

Nominations may be filed from May 1, 2026, until 2:00 p.m. on August 21, 2026, during regular Township office hours. Candidates are encouraged to make an appointment with the Clerk using the contact information provided at the end of this document.

A complete nomination includes:

- [Nomination Paper – Form 1](#)
- Payment of the filing fee (\$200 for Mayor, \$100 for Councillor).
- Proof of identity
- Candidates must also complete the declaration for use of the Voters' List before receiving voter information.

Nominations are not final until certified by the Clerk. Certification must be completed by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, August 24, 2026.

5. Changing Office or Withdrawing

Candidates wishing to run for a different office must file a new nomination paper for that office before 2:00 p.m. on Friday, August 21, 2026. If the filing fee for the new office is higher, the candidate must pay the difference.

A candidate may withdraw their nomination by filing a written withdrawal with the Clerk before 2:00 p.m. on Friday, August 21, 2026. A withdrawal must be filed in writing and received by the Clerk.

6. Campaigning and Campaign Finances

Candidates may not raise or spend funds on a campaign until they have filed their nomination paper with the Clerk. Candidates are responsible for keeping complete and accurate records of campaign contributions and expenditures. They must also file a financial statement, even if they were acclaimed, withdrew their nomination, spent no funds, accepted no contributions, or used only their own personal funds.

Candidates may accept contributions only from eligible contributors. Corporations and trade unions are not permitted to contribute to municipal election campaigns. Cash contributions above the statutory limit are not permitted. Candidates should carefully review the provincial guide before accepting contributions.

The Clerk will provide each candidate with preliminary spending limits after the nomination is filed. Final limits will be provided later in the campaign period.

Candidates must ensure that campaign expenses remain within the applicable limits.

The deadline to file the candidate's financial statement is 2:00 p.m. on Friday, March 26, 2027. Late filing can result in serious penalties, including ineligibility to be elected or appointed to municipal office until after the next regular election.

A separate campaign bank account is required if any contributions are accepted or expenses incurred beyond the filing fee, including those from themselves. Contributions must come from eligible individuals; corporations and trade unions are prohibited.

Spending limits will be provided by the Clerk. The financial statement deadline is March 26, 2027, and failure to comply can result in serious penalties, including ineligibility to be elected or appointed to municipal office until after the next regular municipal election.

7. Campaign Signs and Advertising

Candidates must comply with Township by-laws and policies governing election signs and advertising. This includes any rules regarding placement, timing, and removal of election signs. All campaign advertising must identify the responsible candidate. No election signs are permitted on Township property unless expressly authorized by by-law.

8. Use of Township Resources

Township resources may not be used for campaign purposes. This includes:

- Township of Nipigon logos and branding, photographs, or graphics;

- Township facilities, equipment, supplies, staff time, email accounts, phones, or social media accounts;
- Township-funded events or advertising;
- Township mailing lists, resident contact lists, or other information internal to Township operations.

Members of Council who are seeking re-election must take particular care to separate their official duties from campaign activities. Constituency work and Council duties may and should continue, of course, but Township resources must not be used to promote a candidacy.

9. Voters' List

The Voters' List is prepared for election purposes. Certified candidates may receive voter list information only in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 and the Clerk's procedures.

Candidates must use voter list information only for election purposes. Candidates must not sell, share, post, publish, or use the list for any other purpose. Copies of the list and any extracts must be protected and destroyed when no longer required, in accordance with the Clerk's instructions.

Candidates should direct residents to the Township's [election webpage](#) or the Clerk's Office for information about checking, adding, or correcting their voter information.

10. Voting Method and Procedures

The Clerk is responsible for conducting the election and for establishing procedures and forms for the use of any voting and vote-counting equipment or alternative voting method authorized by Council.

The Township will provide candidates with election procedures once they are finalized. These procedures will address matters such as:

- voting locations and hours, if applicable;
- advance voting opportunities;
- internet or telephone voting procedures, if applicable;
- paper ballot procedures, if applicable;
- candidate and scrutineer rights;
- procedures at the close of voting;
- unofficial results; and
- recount procedures.

Candidates are expected to familiarize themselves with the Clerk's election procedures and to ensure that campaign workers and scrutineers comply with them.

11. Scrutineers

Candidates may appoint scrutineers in accordance with legislation and Clerk procedures. Scrutineers act on behalf of a candidate during specified parts of the voting and counting process. Scrutineers must comply with all instructions from election

officials and must not interfere with voters, election workers, voting equipment, ballots, or the secrecy of the vote.

The required appointment form and any oath or declaration will be provided by the Clerk.

12. Accessibility

The Township is committed to an accessible election. Candidates are encouraged to ensure their campaigns are accessible by:

- holding events in accessible locations;
- making campaign materials available in accessible formats where possible;
- considering plain-language communication;
- ensuring online materials are readable and accessible; and
- responding respectfully to accessibility-related requests.

Candidates should advise the Clerk's Office as early as possible if they require accommodation in relation to the nomination process or election procedures.

13. Role of Council and Staff

Council is the decision-making body for the Township. In general terms, it sets policy, approves budgets, makes by-laws, and provides direction to staff. The Mayor provides leadership to Council and represents the municipality at official functions. Councillors also represent the public, participate in debate, serve on committees, and make decisions as members of Council. Staff provide professional advice to Council, implement decisions, and manage day-to-day operations.

Candidates are well-served by becoming familiar with the Municipal Act, 2001, the Province of Ontario's legislative framework governing municipal authority, functions, structures, and finances. It is also advisable to be familiar with Township legislation, including its Procedural By-Law and Code of Conduct.

14. Time Commitment

Council duties include attending regular Council meetings (usually bi-weekly and in the evenings), along with special meetings, including budget and other public meetings. For each meeting, there are agendas and background materials to review. Members of Council also serve on local committees, boards, and agencies, which hold their own meetings and prepare their own materials to review. Members of Council are often asked to attend community events and invited to participate in conferences and other educational opportunities for municipal officials. They are also often expected to respond to inquiries from local residents.

The time commitment varies, but candidates, if elected, should expect evening meetings, occasional daytime meetings or events, and additional preparation time.

15. Candidate Conduct

Candidates should conduct themselves respectfully and ethically during the course of their election campaign. Campaigns should avoid false or misleading statements, interference with other candidates and their election materials, and the use of intimidation, harassment, or undue influence. Good campaign conduct displays respect to voters, other candidates, election workers and municipal staff, and, above all, the secrecy and independence of the vote.

16. Resources for Candidates

- [Municipal Elections Act, 1996](#);
- [Municipal Act, 2001](#);
- [Education Act](#) (for school board trustee candidates);
- [Municipal Conflict of Interest Act](#);
- Province of Ontario [2026 Candidates' Guide, Ontario municipal council and school board elections](#);
- [The Ontario municipal councillor's guide](#);
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), [Lead Where you Live: A guide to running for council](#);
- AMO, [Election Resources: Supporting your Run for Municipal Office in 2026](#) (includes free online workshops)
- [Township of Nipigon Procedural By-law](#);
- Township of Nipigon, [Council Code of Conduct By-law](#);
- Clerk's election procedures for the 2026 Municipal Election.

17. Contact Information

Questions about the nomination process or election administration should be directed to:

Tim Cobban
Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk/Treasurer
Corporation of the Township of Nipigon
52 Front Street, Box 160
Nipigon, ON P0T 2J0
(807) 887-3135, ext. 205
cao@nipigon.net

Important Notice

This guide is provided for convenience and does not replace applicable legislation or official election procedures. Candidates are responsible for full compliance with all legal requirements.