

# DISTRICT OF KITIMAT

## 2022 GENERAL ELECTION

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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#### Who is eligible to run as a Candidate?

To qualify to run for local government office, a person at the time of nomination must:

- be 18 years or older on General Voting Day (October 15, 2022);
- be a Canadian Citizen; and
- be a resident of British Columbia for at least 6 months before the election.

In addition, you must not have been otherwise disqualified, for example, by failing to file a campaign financing disclosure statement after the last election. Candidates are not required to be residents of the community in which they are seeking public office. District of Kitimat employees are required to take a leave of absence before being nominated for a position on Council.

#### When can I file my Nomination Documents?

The nomination period begins at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday August 30, 2022 and ends at 4:00 p.m. on Friday September 9, 2022. Candidate nominations can only be filed during the nomination period.

#### How many people need to nominate me to run for Office?

Two. You will need to ensure that those who have nominated you are eligible voters.

#### Is there a Cost to Filing Nomination Documents?

No. There is no nomination deposit required to run for Mayor or Council in Kitimat. Some municipalities require a fee to become a candidate, but the District of Kitimat does not.

#### Can the public view my nomination documents?

Yes. They will be available for public inspection during regular hours at the Municipal Office and will be available on the District of Kitimat website [www.kitimat.ca](http://www.kitimat.ca)

#### What if I decide I do not want to run for office after I have put in my nomination papers?

You can withdraw by delivering a signed withdrawal to the Election Officer at any time up until 4:00pm (PDT) on September 16, 2022. After this deadline, a candidate can withdraw only by delivering a signed request to the Election Officer and receiving approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

#### What are the rules with respect to Election Signs and Advertising?

The District is responsible for regulating election signs on public property including when they may be put up, the size of the signs, and when the signs must come down.

Election signs may be erected on public space once a temporary Election sign Permit has been approved by the District of Kitimat.

Refer to the section of the *Kitimat Municipal Code [Part 9, Division 3, Section 12]* for regulations on size and placement of signs.

Election signs cannot be placed within 100 metres of a voting place during voting.

Signs must come down at the end of the election period following general voting day.

Elections BC is responsible for regulating what information needs to be included on election signage, for more information on these requirements visit [Elections BC](#).

### What are the rules with respect to campaign Contribution and Expense limits?

Elections BC is responsible for educating candidates on the campaign financing requirements set out in the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act (LECFA)* and for administering campaign financing rules under *LECFA*. This responsibility includes managing campaign financing disclosure requirements, conducting investigations, and enforcing the campaign financing provisions set out in *LECFA*.

Campaign Expense Limit for the position of Mayor is \$10,797.83.

Campaign Expense Limit for the position of Councillor in Kitimat is \$5,398.92

For more information on these requirements visit [Elections BC](#).

### Do I need a financial agent?

Yes, every candidate must appoint a financial agent but a candidate may act as their own financial agent. The financial agent is responsible for ensuring that the financial aspects of the election campaign comply with the *LECFA* requirements.

For more information on these requirements visit [Elections BC](#).

### Do I have to have an official agent?

Candidates may appoint an official agent to represent them during the election process. The official agent can act as the campaign manager or spokesperson or be the point of contact for the people helping on the candidate's election campaign. Official agents can appoint scrutineers to represent the candidate during voting proceedings. A candidate must appoint their official agent in writing and deliver the appointment (a form is available in this package or from the District of Kitimat website) to the Chief Election Officer as soon as practicable after the appointment has been made.

### Can I appoint scrutineers?

Scrutineers represent candidates at voting opportunities by observing voting procedures and scrutinizing the ballot-counting process at the close of voting on general voting day. A candidate and/or their official agent may appoint scrutineers.

Each candidate is permitted under the *Local Government Act* to appoint one scrutineer for each ballot box used at a voting place. The Chief Election Officer will advise how many ballot boxes will be used at each voting location.

The scrutineer appointment must be made in writing and must include the person's full name and mailing address. The appointment must be signed by the candidate and submitted to the Chief Election Officer as soon as practicable after the appointment has been made. A form is available in this package or at the District of the Kitimat website.

An official agent and scrutineers will be required to sign a declaration before being permitted in the voting location.

Refer to the [Scrutineer's Guide to Local Elections in B.C.](#) for further information about scrutineers.