

MUNICIPAL ELECTION DATE IS WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2024

DOES RUNNING FOR TOWN COUNCIL INTEREST YOU?

SUMA CANDIDATE SCHOOL

SUMA's Candidate School is an opportunity for potential municipal election candidates to learn about being an elected official.

If you are interested in municipal politics and running for council you are invited to participate in a virtual session on September 11, 2024, from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., and September 17, 2024, from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

To register go to:

<https://suma.org/events/candidate-school>

TO BE A CANDIDATE IN A MUNICIPAL ELECTION, YOU MUST BE:

- 18 years of age on election day;
- A Canadian citizen at the time of submitting the nomination paper;
- Not disqualified from being a candidate pursuant to the LGEA or any other Act;
- Has lived in Saskatchewan for at least six consecutive months immediately preceding the date of submitting the nomination paper; and
- Has resided in the municipality for three consecutive months prior to the day of submitting the nomination paper.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A MUNICIPALITY AND ROLE OF COUNCIL?

A municipality is the "front-line" level of government. The municipality's purpose is to:

- Provide good governance;
- Provide services and facilities that council feels are necessary and desirable for all or part of the municipality;
- Provide wise stewardship of public assets;
- Develop and maintain a safe and viable community; and
- Foster economic, social and environmental well-being.

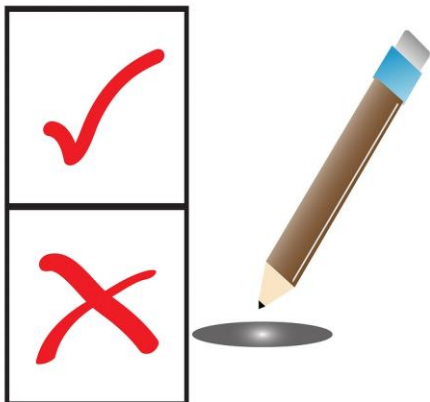
A municipality is a level of government. It is governed by, and acts through, the elected council. Council members make decisions by passing resolutions or enacting bylaws. Bylaws are the laws of the municipality.

The Council establishes policies about what services to provide, how those services will be delivered and at what levels. The municipal administrator (or administration) is then charged with implementing those policies.

WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A COUNCIL MEMBER

If you become a member of council, you must take an Oath of Office in the prescribed form prior to carrying out any power, duty or function as a member of council.

Within 30 days of being elected to council, you must complete and sign a Public Disclosure Statement which is also required at the time of filing your





nomination paper. This statement must be reviewed annually and updated when required. Your Oath of Office and Public Disclosure Statement are accessible public documents.

All decisions of the council must be made at a meeting open to the public with a majority of council members present. At these meetings, it is important for council members to listen to each other and collectively reach decisions that are in the best interest of the municipality. A member of council, including the mayor or reeve, does not have the authority to make independent decisions on behalf of the municipality, such as committing the municipality to expenditures or directing the activities of municipal employees.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?

Key Standards and Values for Council Members

- *Honesty*
- *Objectivity*
- *Transparency and Accountability*
 - *Confidentiality*
 - *Responsibility*
- *Leadership and Public Interest*
 - *Respect*

Saskatchewan municipalities need citizens to take on leadership roles as elected officials (council members) to represent the people in the community and provide direction on the policies and programs that will lead to better quality services. Serving in an elected position is not easy, but being a member of council offers a lot of personal satisfaction and an opportunity to help shape the future of the municipality. Being elected to council requires a time commitment. If elected, you will serve a four-year term. During that time, you should plan to attend the following:

- Meetings of council;
- Meetings of council committees;
- Meetings of other boards and agencies as a representative of council;
- Conferences, seminars, workshops, and conventions for training and discussion; and
- Events that promote the municipality.

It is not crucial to have education or experience in a government setting to run for council. You likely have skills, knowledge and abilities that are transferable to the council member's role. You may want to take a self-assessment of your skills by thinking about your volunteer experience, community involvement, work experience, membership in different organizations and family life. Often these experiences teach you how to work as part of a team, organize and prioritize, make decisions, debate and lead.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES ON RUNNING FOR COUNCIL, PLEASE VISIT THE ELECTIONS PAGE ON OUR WEBSITE AT www.oxbow.ca