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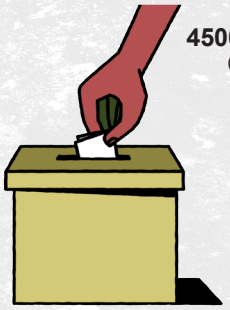
# 2026 General Local Elections



## Local Election Expense Limits

This quick reference sheet outlines the rules for election expense limits that candidates and electoral organizations must follow during the 2026 General Local Elections.

To ensure you understand the rules and requirements under the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* (LECFA), please review the detailed forms, guides, training materials and other resources on our website. Contact us at 1-800-661-8683 or electoral.finance@elections.bc.ca if you have questions.

### What are election expenses

- Election expenses are the values of property or services used in an election campaign to promote or oppose, directly or indirectly, the election of a candidate or elector organization.
- Election expenses can be incurred in the campaign period, the election period, or both.
- Election expenses may include advertising, fundraising functions, rent, professional services, and research, etc.
- Election expenses used in the campaign period are subject to an expense limit.
- Elector organizations are not allowed to incur campaign period expenses unless they share an endorsed candidate's expense limit under a campaign financing arrangement.
- The value of an election expense is the price paid for the property or service, or its market value if the amount paid is less than market value.

### Expense limits

- Expense limits are the maximum value of expenses that may be used in the campaign period.
- All candidates are subject to expense limits, which are based on the office sought and population of the election area.
- Expense limits for the 2026 General Local Election will be published by May 31, 2026.
- Election expenses are attributed to the period in which they were used, not when they were purchased.

### Endorsed candidates

- Endorsed candidates may make all, some or none of their expense limit available to their elector organization.
- All candidates who are endorsed by an elector organization must have a campaign financing arrangement with their elector organization.

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## Exceeding expense limits

- If a candidate exceeds their expense limit:
  - monetary penalties will apply
  - they will lose their seat, if elected, and
  - they commit an offence under LECFA.

## Resources

- Local guides
- Local forms
- Online learning
- Information sessions



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