



## Candidate Information Sheet

Nomination papers may be filed in the Clerk's office of the Town of Essex from May 1, 2026 until August 21, 2026 at 2:00 PM. The nomination must be in the prescribed form(s) and accompanied by the prescribed fee. Forms are available at the Clerk's office or on the Town's website at [www.essex.ca/elections](http://www.essex.ca/elections)

Faxed or emailed nomination papers will not be accepted.

### Nomination Process

- Obtain nomination papers (Nomination Form (Form 1) and Nomination Endorsement signatures (Form 2) from the Clerk's office, 33 Talbot Street South, Essex, Ontario or on the Town's website at [www.essex.ca/elections](http://www.essex.ca/elections)
- A nomination paper must be filed in person by the candidate or by an agent.
- The nomination paper must have original signatures. The nomination paper may not be faxed, mailed or emailed. Either the candidate or the agent must bring the completed and signed nomination papers to the office of the Clerk. The candidate will be required to show proof of identity and qualifying address.
- The Nomination must be filed with completed endorsement signature forms (Form 2) containing endorsement signatures from 25 people who are eligible to vote in the Town of Essex.
- The prescribed nomination filing fee must be paid at the time of filing the nomination. Payment to the municipality must be made by cash, debit, cheque or money order.
- Nomination filing fee is:
  - \$200 for office of Mayor (Head of Council)
  - \$100 for all other offices/positions

Note: A candidate is entitled to a refund of the filing fee if he or she files their campaign financial statement and confirms destruction of the PLE, by the prescribed deadline.

## Qualification for Council Members

You are qualified to be elected or hold office as member of council of a local municipality if you:

- a) reside in the Town of Essex or are the owner or tenant of land in the Town of Essex or are the spouse of such owner or tenant;
- b) are a Canadian citizen;
- c) are at least 18 years old; and
- d) are not otherwise prohibited from voting or disqualified from holding municipal office under the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* or any other Act.

Note: It is the sole responsibility of the candidate to determine whether he or she is qualified to be elected to and hold office.

## Persons Not Eligible to Run for Municipal Office

The following persons **are disqualified** from being elected to municipal office:

- a) any person not eligible to vote in the municipality;
- b) an employee of a municipality unless he or she:
  - i. takes an unpaid leave of absence before being nominated, and resigns, if elected to the office;
- c) a judge of any court;
- d) a member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, a Senator or a member of the House of Commons; or
- e) an inmate of a penal or correctional institution under sentence of imprisonment.

## Key Dates – 2026 Municipal Election

Nomination period begins	May 1, 2026
Nomination Day (last day to be nominated)	August 21, 2026 at 2:00 PM
Final day a candidate may withdraw	August 21, 2026 at 2:00 PM
Voting Day	October 26, 2026
Council term commences	November 15, 2026
Financial filing deadline	March 31, 2027

Copies of the *Municipal Elections Act* are available from e-laws on the Government of Ontario website at [www.gov.on.ca](http://www.gov.on.ca).

For further information and forms, please visit the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Ministry of Housing at [www.ontario.ca/municipalelections](http://www.ontario.ca/municipalelections)

Personal information on this form is being collected under the authority of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996 Section 88 (5) (10)* and will be used for the nomination process for office in the 2026 Municipal Election and will be available for public inspection in the office of the Clerk, Town of Essex, until the next municipal election. Questions about this collection of personal information may be directed to the Town Clerk, 33 Talbot Street South, Essex, Ontario.