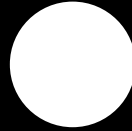
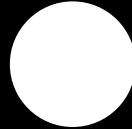


## MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS 2026

Ready?



Set!



**Run for Council!**



# Practical Guide for Candidates

February 2026

New Brunswick  
Local Government Elections



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We would like to thank the employees of the City of Moncton who created a guide for people interested in running in the upcoming municipal elections. Their work sparked important discussions about the value of education and preparation before an election, helping ensure a positive experience for the future council, municipal staff, and citizens. It also served as the foundation for this provincial guide, designed to suit all types of local governments.

We also thank the representatives of the New Brunswick Association of Municipal Administrators, the Association francophone des municipalités du Nouveau-Brunswick, the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick, and the Department of Environment and Local Government, who contributed to this collective effort.

## INTRODUCTION

General municipal elections will be held on May 11, 2026.

These elections allow eligible voters in the 77 local governments to choose new council members. A total of 599 people are needed to play important roles in our democracy: 77 mayors, 147 councillors at-large, and 375 ward councillors<sup>1</sup>. Being elected at the local level lets you help shape your community's future, represent its residents, and show that you can lead responsibly.

There is no single profile for an ideal candidate. Our communities are made up of people of different ages, interests, and backgrounds. A local government benefits from a council with a variety of perspectives and skills. What matters most is the willingness to collaborate, respect good governance and act in the best interest of the whole community.

Do you care about your community? Do you want to use your skills and experience to help its residents? Are you interested in local government and ready to get involved? Congratulations on your interest in serving as mayor or as a member of your municipal council!

This guide gives you what you need to know to get started. It will help you understand the facts, make an informed decision, and contribute positively to your community alongside other council members. You will learn what it takes to be eligible for elected office and how the electoral process works.

**This guide has been prepared to provide information.** Reading this guide is just the first step. It provides a general overview of the laws and regulations that apply to local governments and the election process.

We strongly encourage you to consult the official resources provided by Elections New Brunswick. This includes the [Candidacy Declaration Kit](#), which contains all the forms and guides you will need. It also has detailed information on how to file your candidacy and the rules for election campaigns.

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1 - <https://www.electionsnb.ca/content/dam/enb/pdf/MunicipalCouncilSeats-Siegesconseillersmunicipaux4.pdf>

To learn more, candidates can check several sources:

- The [Local Governance Act](#), the [Municipal Elections Act](#), the [Local Governance Commission Act](#), and other relevant laws;
- Webinars offered by municipal associations on Tuesday, March 24 (in French) and Thursday, March 26 (in English);
- Elections New Brunswick if needed, for any questions.

If you are thinking of running for office in a municipal election, you need to make sure that you meet all of the legal requirements. Failing to do so could disqualify you from the race. You must also follow the rules on election financing and comply with the *Local Governance Act*, the above-mentioned legislation and their regulations.

**Note:** If you live in a rural district and want to run for a seat on a rural district advisory committee, contact Elections New Brunswick with any questions about your eligibility. If you want to know more about the role of rural district advisory committees, you can contact the Department of Environment and Local Government.

## Important Dates



### WEBINARS:

In French: Tuesday, March 24, 6:30 p.m.  
In English: Thursday, March 26, 6:30 p.m.



### NOTICE OF ELECTION:

Monday, March 23, 2026



### NOMINATIONS CLOSE:

Friday, April 10 at 2:00 p.m.



### ELECTION DAY:

Monday, May 11, 2026

## Municipal association websites:

- [Association francophone des municipalités du Nouveau-Brunswick](#)
- [Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick](#)
- [Association of Municipal Administrators of New Brunswick](#)

## WHY RUN FOR OFFICE?

The next general municipal elections will be held on May 11, 2026. These will be the first general elections held since the local governance reform, which took effect in January 2023.

This reform reorganized the local governance landscape in New Brunswick, creating 77 local governments and 12 rural districts. Regional service commissions are now responsible for providing their members with services in several additional areas. This is intended to help communities work together, reduce duplication, and make better use of resources.

Since the last general election in 2021, local issues have become more complex. Local governments are now addressing challenges such as homelessness, supporting immigrant integration, investing in infrastructure and housing, and adapting to climate change.

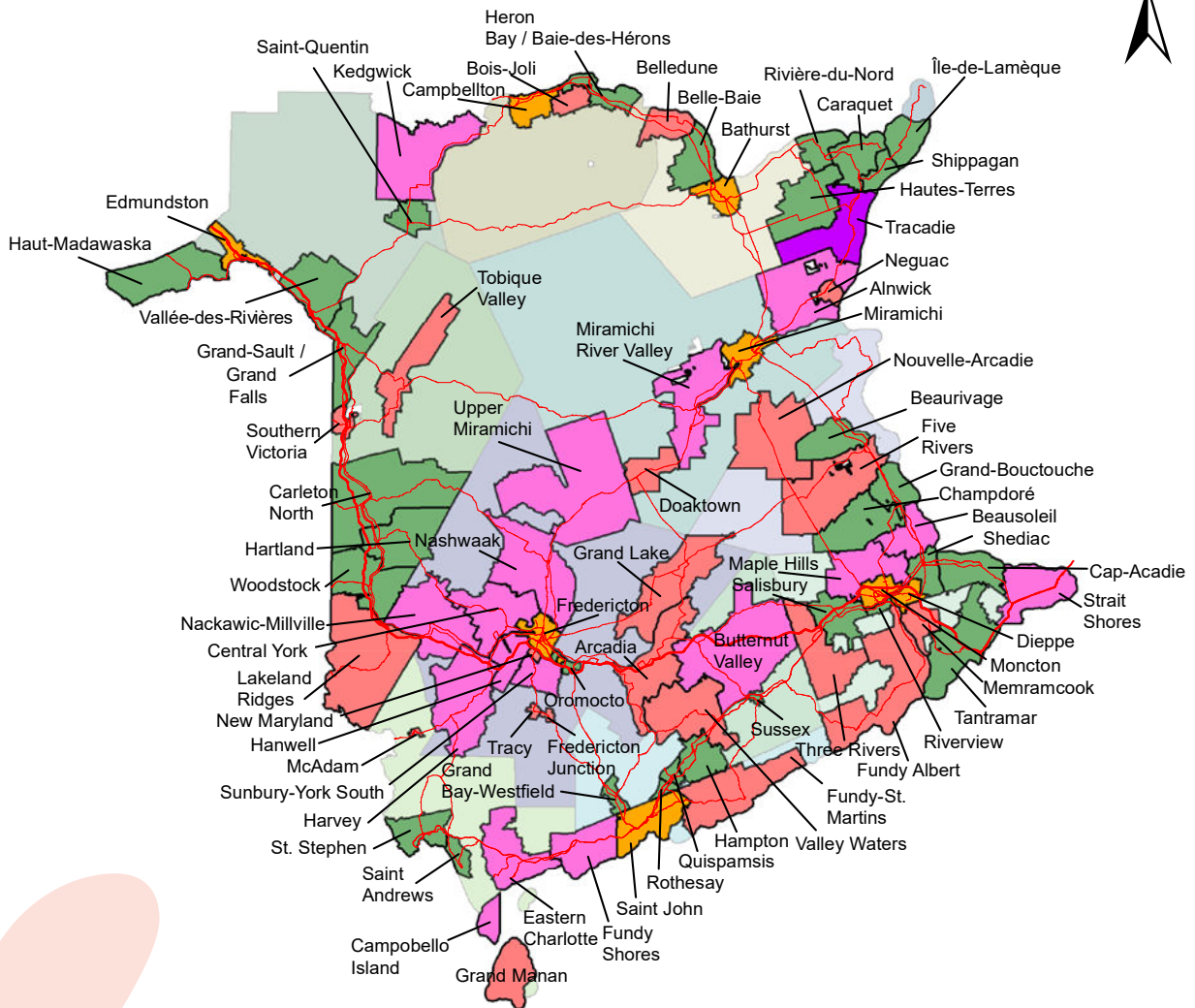
There are many challenges, but getting involved in local democracy is worth it. Local government is the level of government that is closest to the people. It is where you can respond to their needs in a concrete way while reflecting their values. Elected officials play an important role: they make decisions that benefit the community and develop plans to address local issues.


















Local elected officials focus on:

- The community's economic, social, and cultural development
- Upholding the values of democracy
- Promoting community well-being, inclusion and collaboration
- Improving public services and local facilities
- Being responsible with public funds
- Making decisions that affect residents
- Working effectively as a team

People elected to local office often find it very rewarding because of the influence they can have and the personal growth it offers. These benefits can encourage others to get involved in local politics.

# LOCAL GOVERNANCE IN NEW BRUNSWICK



- |                                                                                     |                                                |                                                                                     |                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | City / Cité                                    |  | Acadian Peninsula rural district/ District rural de la Péninsule acadienne |
|  | Regional Municipality / Municipalité régionale |  | Capital Region rural district / District rural de la région de la Capitale |
|  | Rural Community / Communauté rurale            |  | Chaleur rural district / District rural de Chaleur                         |
|  | Town / Ville                                   |  | Fundy rural district / District rural de Fundy                             |
|  | Village/Village                                |  | Greater Miramichi rural district / District rural du Grand-Miramichi       |
|                                                                                     |                                                |  | Kent rural district / District rural de Kent                               |
|                                                                                     |                                                |  | Kings rural district / District rural de Kings                             |
|                                                                                     |                                                |  | Northwest rural district / District rural du Nord-Ouest                    |
|                                                                                     |                                                |  | Restigouche rural district / District rural de Restigouche                 |
|                                                                                     |                                                |  | Southeast rural district / District rural du Sud-Est                       |
|                                                                                     |                                                |  | Southwest rural district / District rural du Sud-Ouest                     |
|                                                                                     |                                                |  | Western Valley rural district / District rural de la vallée de l'Ouest     |

Source: Department of Environment and Local Government

## 89 Local Entities

New Brunswick now has 77 local governments and 12 rural districts.

There are different types of local governments. We don't always make a distinction between them, but it's helpful to understand the differences:

- Municipalities include cities, towns, and villages.
- Local governments include municipalities, rural communities, and regional municipalities.
- The 12 rural districts are not local governments. Rural districts advisory committees which are elected and provide advice to the Minister of Local Government on the administration of rural districts. Local services such as garbage collection, dog control, land-use planning etc. are provided by the provincial government or by regional service commissions.

To find out the exact type of local government in your area, see the full list [here](#).

## 12 Regional Service Commissions

All local governments and rural districts are part of one of the province's 12 regional service commissions (RSCs). These commissions are created and governed by the [Regional Service Delivery Act](#) and are not a level of government. They are led by the mayors and the rural district advisory committee chairs of the region, who make up the RSC Board.

The role of RSCs is to provide services to their members—local governments and rural districts within their territory. These services include: Waste management, Land-Use Planning (to its rural district member and to its local government members that are not providing their own service), Supporting regional economic growth, Promoting tourism, Regional transportation, and community development.

RSCs are also responsible to identify regional infrastructure in the region and manage cost sharing agreements among members. They are also responsible for creating a public safety committee and in some cases they have responsibilities related to social inclusion.

## The Local Governance Commission

Established in 2024, the Local Governance Commission (LGC) was created following local governance reform. The mandate and role of the LGC can be summarized as follows:

Mandate:

- Providing support and assistance to local governments and regional service commissions (RSCs);
- Providing advice and recommendations to the Minister of Local Government on any matter related to local governments, RSCs, and rural districts;
- Investigating and ruling on matters within the LGC's jurisdiction; and
- Providing education, advice, and information on matters under the [Local Governance Commission Act](#) or any other Act.

Role:

- Investigating and ruling on alleged code of conduct by-law violations and conflict of interest provision violations;
- Reviewing and making recommendations on local government restructuring requests;
- Reviewing and making recommendations on RSC boundary alteration requests;
- Reviewing and making recommendations on cost sharing decisions relating to regional sport, recreational and cultural infrastructure;
- Reviewing and making recommendations on amending or repealing certain local government by-laws; and
- Appointing supervisors, trustees, inspectors, and auditors.

# ROLE AND POWERS OF ELECTED OFFICIALS IN NEW BRUNSWICK LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

## Overview

Elected officials in New Brunswick's local governments serve their communities. They adopt policies and by-laws, make decisions that affect their community, and provide leadership and oversight. Their powers and responsibilities are defined in the *Local Governance Act*, by-laws, and other relevant provincial legislation.

## What Elected Officials Can Do

Elected officials in local governments work together as members of their council and may:



### 1. Adopt Policies and Set Guidelines

- Approve by-laws, policies, and resolutions that guide local government.
- Make decisions about priorities, strategic planning, and the delivery of community services.
- Define the vision and goals as part of the strategic planning and budgeting processes.



### 2. Approve Budgets and Financial Decisions

- Approve annual budgets for operating expenses, reserve funds and major projects.
- Set local property tax rates to raise revenue to support the budget.
- Monitor the local government's financial health and ensure resources are managed properly.



### 3. Represent the Public

- Advocate for the needs of the community.
- Ensure residents' opinions and concerns are considered in decision-making.



### 4. Provide Oversight

- Monitor the performance of municipal services and programs.
- Ensure accountability through regular reports and operational reviews.
- Assess the performance of the Chief Administrative Officer.



### 5. Adopt and Amend Local By-Laws

- Adopt, repeal, or amend by-laws. These by-laws regulate local matters such as zoning, parking, noise, and land-use planning.

## What Elected Officials Should Not Do

Elected officials play an important role in governance, but their authority has clear limits. They should not:



### — 1. Interfere in Day-to-Day Operations

- Elected officials must not direct, supervise, or interfere with the work of local government staff.
- The Chief Administrative Officer is the only paid employee who reports directly to the council.



### — 2. Make Decisions on Their Own

- Elected officials have no personal authority. All decisions must be made collectively during council meetings.
- No member of the council can force the local government to act or promise the community a specific outcome.



### — 3. Take Advantage of Their Position for Personal Gain

- Elected officials must avoid situations where their personal interests could affect their decisions. They cannot use their position to benefit themselves, their families, or relatives.
- If they have a conflict of interest, they must leave the discussion and abstain from voting.



### — 4. Break Promises of Confidentiality

- Elected officials must keep private meetings and all confidential information secret, even after they leave office.



**By-law:** A law created by a local government council. It organizes, regulates, and manages aspects of municipal life based on powers granted by the province. There are some mandatory by-laws all local governments must have. Section 10 of the *Local Governance Act* sets out the areas that local governments can enact by-laws under.

**Policy:** A set of rules created by a local government to guide decision-making, manage operations, and take action. Policies do not have the legal force of a by-law.

In short: By-laws set out requirements, prohibitions and may establish fees and user charges, while policies explain how to act and the principles to follow.

In summary, council members must:

- Understand the difference between governing and managing day-to-day operations.
- Communicate with the administration through the Chief Administrative Officer.
- Carry out their responsibilities as part of a team making important decisions.
- Act honestly and responsibly and make the community's interests a priority.
- Never share any private information about their work.
- Put the community's long-term interests ahead of short-term political gains.
- Participate actively and respectfully in council and committee meetings.
- Engage with the community while respecting council processes.
- Continue professional development in local governance.

## GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE AND KEY ROLES

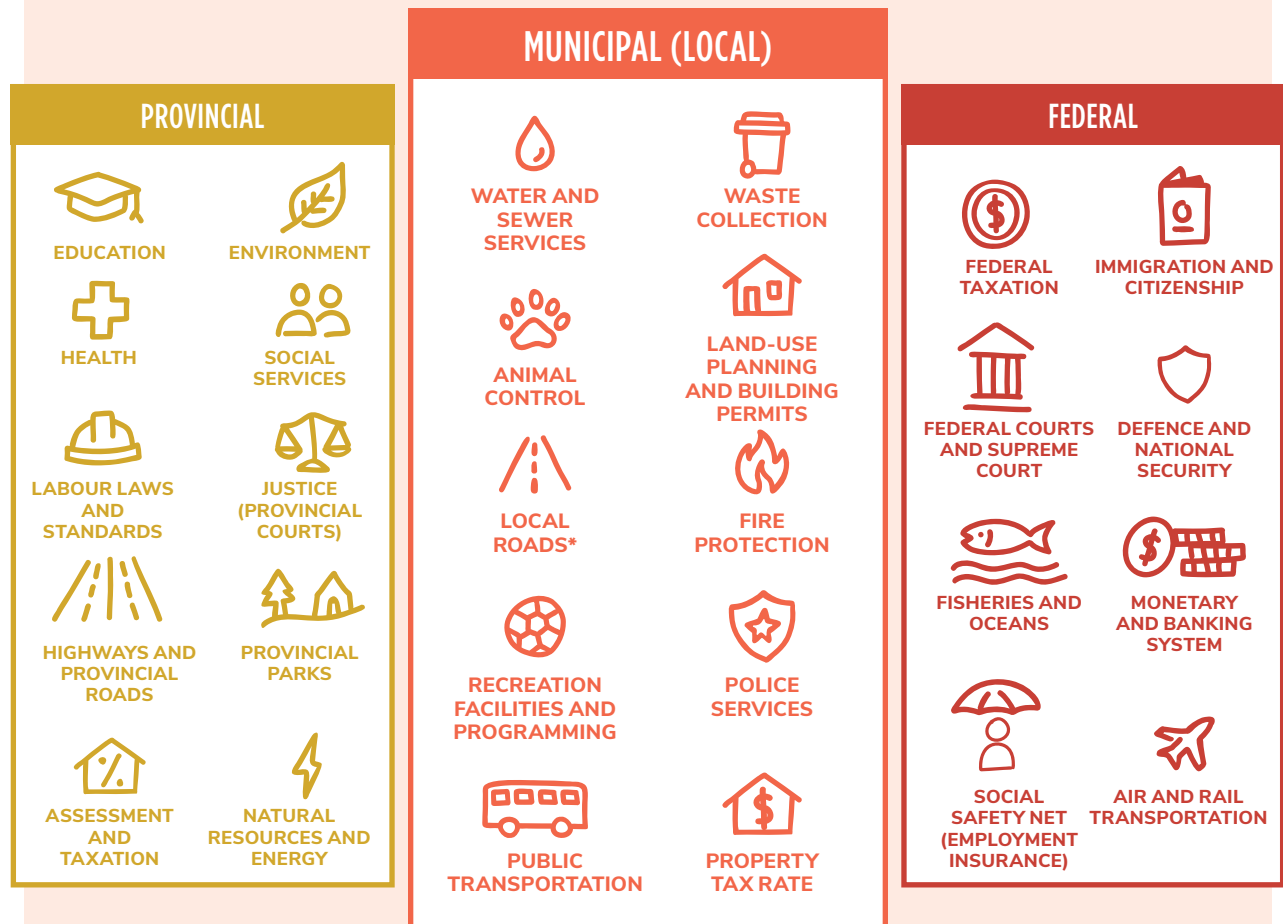


## LOCAL GOVERNANCE: THE MOST IMPORTANT FORUM FOR DEMOCRACY

In Canada, local governments are a separate level of government that is closest to people's daily lives and best able to understand their needs. This level of government relies on people who take leadership roles in councils to represent their communities and make decisions about local policies, programs, and services. These decisions directly affect the daily lives of residents, families, businesses, and visitors.

### DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES AMONG THE THREE LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

Here is a brief overview of the responsibilities of each level in New Brunswick:



Increasingly, some areas need the three levels of government and community partners to work together.

- **Environment:** protecting the environment and adapting to climate change.
- **Infrastructure:** funding major projects.
- **Economic development:** supporting regional growth and workforce development.
- **Housing:** providing affordable housing and addressing homelessness.

## COUNCIL COMPOSITION

A local government council consists of the mayor and councillors. They may be elected at-large or by ward. The Elections NB website shows the [number of seats on each council](#) and provides [maps](#) of regions and local governments.

Mayors and councillors are elected in municipal elections and are responsible for making decisions about local governance, by-laws, services, and finances.

## How the Council Works

Candidates should understand what their role involves. They may need to be available during some evenings and sometimes during the day to attend council and local government meetings and activities.

The conduct of all meetings is strictly governed by various laws and the local government's procedural by-law.

### Meeting Schedule

Local governments decide when council meetings are held. These meetings usually happen on the same day of the week. However, there may be exceptions in case of emergencies. There are different types of meetings, depending on the topics. The frequency and schedule vary for each local government. The date and time for the regular council meeting is identified in the local government's procedural by-law.

- Regular meetings
- Committee meetings
- Special meetings
- Budget meetings
- Closed meetings, as needed: only matters covered by section 68 of the *Local Governance Act* may be discussed.

### Commitment to Committees

Some local governments set up council committees, which may be permanent or temporary. Others rely on staff expertise to support the council's decision-making.

When committees exist, they usually meet about once a month. Council members report on their activities to the council roughly twice a year. This involvement helps ensure transparent governance and supports the efficient operation of the local government.

Committees can deal with various topics, such as protective services, finances, economic development, recreation, arts and culture, and more. However, all decisions are made at public council meetings.

### Council Member Participation

Council members play an important role in community engagement. Attending events such as community activities, conferences, professional development opportunities, official receptions, and staff recognition events helps strengthen connections with residents. In some cases, the local government representative gives a short speech. In other situations, simply being present shows support and represents the community or a cause.

## Council Members' Workload

Council members represent a ward or the entire community and contribute reliably to local governance and community representation. Once elected, they make decisions for the good of the whole community. They focus on the needs and interests of residents, take an active part in council and committee meetings, and help make informed decisions that guide the development and services of the local government.

Even though council members do not take part in administrative or operational tasks, local government policies, actions, and communications are guided by the council's strategic goals and aim to serve the best interests of the community.

The time needed to serve on the council can vary. Members spend time preparing for and attending meetings, working on committees, reading reports, handling emails and social media, and taking part in community events. Fulfilling this role requires having a flexible schedule, being well organized, responsive, and maintaining a consistent presence in the community. It helps to consult the procedural by-law and to talk with current council members and staff to understand what's required.

## Role of the Mayor

The mayor provides leadership to council and this role includes several responsibilities:

- **Leadership:** Guide the council, provide strategic direction, coordinate with local government staff, and help develop policy initiatives and priorities.
- **Policy Implementation:** Work with council members to carry out policy decisions and work with the administration to ensure the implementation of by-laws.
- **Representation:** Act as the spokesperson for the local government with the media and represent the community in local, regional, and international matters, as well as at events and initiatives.
- **Member of the Regional Service Commission (RSC) Board:** Attend regular RSC board meetings, contribute to regional decision making and participate in some standing committees.
- **Council Meetings:** Chair meetings and facilitate fair and open discussions and decision-making processes.
- **Community Engagement:** Consult residents, stakeholders, and organizations on local issues and support citizen initiatives.

The mayor acts under the authority of the council and must respect its decisions.

## Role of Councillors

Councillors in a local government:

- a. Consider the well-being and interests of the whole community when making decisions.
- b. Bring forward issues to the council that can support the community's well-being or interests.
- c. Take part in developing and evaluating local government policies and programs.

## Compensation

Council members receive an annual amount set by a by-law adopted by their local government. Members can also be reimbursed for expenses related to their duties, including attending meetings. For current rates, review the salary and allowances of the mayor and councillors' by-law or contact your local government office.

## Status of Council Members

It is important to note that council members are not employees (part of the local government staff). If there are alleged violations of the code of conduct or rules on conflicts of interest, council discussions on these matters must be held in public, not in closed sessions, except in cases allowed by law.

This clarification was confirmed in an [advisory opinion](#) from the Local Governance Commission in November 2025.



## Code of Conduct

Council members in New Brunswick must act with integrity, show respect and transparency, avoid conflicts of interest, protect confidential information, use resources responsibly, and communicate fairly. Each local government must adopt a code of conduct by-law and set up a process to receive and handle complaints, in accordance with the *Local Governance Act* and its [Code of Conduct Regulation](#).

The code of conduct guides the behaviour of all council members.

It sets standards for how they must carry out their duties and responsibilities to ensure professionalism, integrity, and public trust. The code promotes respect in governance and ensures that council members are accountable for their decisions and actions.

The code also outlines principles and values to follow, such as integrity, responsibility, honesty, and good faith, always acting in the best interests of the local government.

Elected officials must follow local government rules and policies, as well as provincial and federal laws. These laws include but are not limited to the [Local Governance Act](#), the [Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#) (RIPPA), the [Municipal Elections Act](#), the [Human Rights Act](#), the [Occupational Health and Safety Act](#), and the [Criminal Code](#).

All elected officials must sign a declaration confirming that they will follow the code of conduct established by the local government. Local government clerks make sure that this declaration is signed and filed.

The Chief Electoral Officer of New Brunswick (CEO) ensures elections are run fairly, impartially, and without political influence, in accordance with the [Elections Act](#). In this role, the CEO also oversees municipal and district education council elections, as required by the [Municipal Elections Act](#).

## Important Dates - 2026 Elections <sup>2</sup>

Date	Days before the election	Action to be taken
<b>Monday, March 23, 2026</b>	<b>-49</b>	Publish notice of election Applications for special ballots accepted Beginning of nominations Returning offices open to the public
<b>Friday, April 10, 2026</b>	<b>-31</b>	<b>Nominations close (2:00 p.m.)</b>
<b>Monday, April 13, 2026</b>	<b>-28</b>	Deadline for withdrawal of candidates (5:00 p.m.)
<b>Saturday, April 18, 2026</b>	<b>-23</b>	Publish notice of grant of poll
<b>Monday, April 20, 2026</b>	<b>-21</b>	Special ballots may be issued
<b>Monday, April 27, 2026</b>	<b>-14</b>	Mail voter information cards
<b>Saturday, May 2, 2026</b>	<b>-9</b>	<b>Advance polls (10 a.m. to 8 p.m.)</b>
<b>Monday, May 4, 2026</b>	<b>-7</b>	<b>Advance polls (10 a.m. to 8 p.m.)</b>
<b>Thursday, May 7, 2026</b>	<b>-4</b>	End of revision period
<b>Monday, May 11, 2026</b>	<b>0</b>	Final return of special ballots (8 p.m.) <b>ELECTION DAY</b>
<b>Wednesday, May 13, 2026</b>	<b>2</b>	Declaration Day
<b>Thursday, May 21, 2026</b>	<b>10</b>	Deadline - Application for recount

<sup>2</sup> - <https://www1.gnb.ca/elections/en/mun26may11/26may11munschedulelist-e.asp>

# APPLY TO BE A CANDIDATE ON A LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

## Eligibility Requirements

To run for local government elections, you must:

- Be at least 18 years old on or before election day.
- Be a Canadian citizen.
- Have lived in the province and in the local government for at least six months before election day.
- Live in the ward if running for this ward election.

## Disqualification

The following people cannot apply:

- Local government employees of the same local government.
- Judges, election officials, or anyone declared ineligible by election laws.
- Federal or provincial civil servants who have not received permission from their employer.

**Note:** An employee of an RSC can run in an election. If elected, they cannot sit on the RSC board and must stay out of discussions where there is a conflict of interest.

Applicants should ask their employer if they need permission before running.

## Nomination Process

The form M-04-002, called the [candidacy declaration](#), must be completed and submitted to the Municipal Returning Officer, not the local government office.

- Deadline: Friday, April 10, at 2:00 p.m. **No nominations will be accepted after this time and date.**
- Documents required:
  - The candidate's name and municipal address.
  - The certificate of eligibility.
  - The signed consent form with a witness signature.\*
  - The names of at least ten (10) nominators who must be eligible voters in the area (and in the ward, if applicable).
  - The declaration of the person who collected the signatures.\*\*

\* You cannot act as your own witness. However, you can sign as a witness in the section of the nomination form listing the signatories.

\*\* Each person who collects signatures must complete their own declaration (Part F) in the documents.



**Recommendation:**  
It's a good idea to collect a few extra signatures in case some signatories are found to be ineligible.

## After Submitting a Nomination

- A candidate can withdraw by submitting a signed declaration with two witnesses (eligible voters for that candidate) no later than April 13, at 5:00 p.m.
- In the event of a candidate's death before the polls close, the election at that polling station is postponed and rescheduled.

## Voters List

After the nomination documents are accepted, you can ask the municipal returning officer's office for a copy of the voters list for the polling divisions in the area. A person responsible for the list (either the candidate or a trusted individual) must be chosen to create an account to download the information from the Elections New Brunswick candidate website. Only authorized people can use the list, and only for legitimate campaign activities.

## Additional Resources <sup>3</sup>

The [Elections New Brunswick](#) website provides access to forms, guides, and contact information.

You can also call **1-888-858-VOTE (8683)** for help.

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3 - [Information for Local Government Election Candidates](#)



# CONTRIBUTIONS TO MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTION ADVERTISING

## Contributions to Municipal Campaigns

Candidates for local government are not required to keep records of campaign contributions or expenses. They do not need to file a financial report after the election. Elections New Brunswick's [infographic](#) has a summary of the rules on campaign contributions and spending.

## Summary of the Rules on Election Advertising

Note: If the candidate prepares and copies the advertising material themselves, it is enough to include the statement: "Prepared and printed by [name]." A personal address should not be included.

### General Guidelines:

- Election advertising can start at any time, even before the official election is called.
- All printed election materials (campaign signs, posters, and flyers) must show the name and address of the printer and publisher. Failure to do so is an offence.

### Restrictions on Election Advertising:

- From 12:01 a.m. on the Sunday before voting day (May 10) until 8:00 p.m. on voting day (May 11), certain election activities are not allowed:
  - Giving election-related speeches or appearances on radio or television.
  - Posting paid advertisements in newspapers.
  - Sending election materials by computer.
  - Sponsoring or boosting social media ads during the [restricted advertising period](#)<sup>4</sup>.
- During this period, the following activities are still allowed:
  - Existing websites can remain active.
  - New campaign signs can be put up.
  - Canada Post can continue to send out flyers.

### Rules Specific to Voting Day

- It is against the law to put up ads on moving vehicles. Vehicles with posters must remain parked.
- On voting day and during advance voting days, the candidate is not allowed to carry, wear, or distribute campaign materials—including posters, clothing, or other items, within 30 metres (100 feet) of the entrance to a polling station.

4 - <https://www.electionsnb.ca/content/enb/en/representatives/municipal-candidates/candidates.html#3>

### Location Restrictions

- Campaign signs may not be placed:
  - On the road right of way.
  - In areas that could be dangerous.
  - On utility poles, at the request of Bell Aliant and NB Power.
- Local government by-laws may also limit where and when campaign signs are allowed.



## ADDITIONAL RELEVANT INFORMATION

### Important Sections of the *Local Governance Act*

#### Municipal Purposes (Section 5)

- a. to provide good government;
- b. to provide services, facilities or things the council considers necessary or desirable for all or part of the local government;
- c. to develop and maintain safe and viable communities, and
- d. to foster the economic, social and environmental well-being of its community.

#### Powers of Local Governments (Section 6)

6 (3) The powers of a local government are vested in and shall be exercised by its council.

6 (4) Anything begun by one council may be continued or completed by a succeeding council.

#### Accepting Office on a Council (Swearing In) (Section 58)

A person elected to an office on a council or to a rural district advisory committee shall accept the office by:

- taking and subscribing to the oath of office prescribed by regulation in the Forms Regulation - *Local Governance Act*; or
- making and subscribing the affirmation of office prescribed by regulation in the Forms Regulation – *Local Governance Act*.

#### Closed Meetings (subsections 68(1) and 68(2))

The [Local Governance Act](#) states what topics the council can discuss in a closed meeting. This list does not include alleged violations of a code of conduct or rules on conflict of interest. A council or committee meeting may be closed to the public for the duration of the discussion if it is necessary to talk about:

- a. information of which the confidentiality is protected by law;
- b. personal information as defined in the [Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#);
- c. information that could cause financial loss or gain to a person or the local government or could jeopardize negotiations leading to an agreement or contract;
- d. the proposed or or pending acquisition or disposition of land;
- e. information that could violate the confidentiality of information obtained from the Government of Canada or from the government of a province or territory;
- f. information concerning legal opinions or advice provided to the local government by its lawyer and or privileged communications between lawyer and client in a matter of local government business;
- g. litigation or potential litigation affecting the local government or any corporation under subsection 8(1), or its agencies, boards, or commissions;
- h. the access to or security of buildings and other structures used by the local government or access to or security of systems of the local government, including computer or communication systems;
- i. information gathered by the police, including the RCMP, in the course of investigating any illegal activity or suspected illegal activity, or the source of that information;
- j. labour and employment matters, including the negotiation of collective agreement.

## Interesting Section of the *Municipal Elections Act*

### Close Result or Tied Vote (Section 41)

If there is a difference of not more than 25 votes between the votes for a candidate elected and a candidate not elected, the candidate who was not declared elected may apply to the Municipal Returning Officer for a recount of the votes. The application must be filed within ten days after the election.

If there is a tie in the number of votes for two or more candidates for the same office, the Municipal Returning Officer will recount the votes cast for such candidates in the presence of not less than two qualified voters (normally the affected candidates) and declare a winner.

If the vote remains tied after the recount and the candidates agree, the Municipal Returning Officer will resolve the tie by putting the two names in a box and drawing one out, and the candidate whose name is drawn being declared elected. If the candidates do not agree on this method to resolve the tie, the Municipal Returning Officer will make a request to a judge for a recount.

## Procedural By-law

All local governments must have a procedural by-law that sets the rules for how council and committee meetings are structured and conducted. This by-law covers:

- **Meeting Governance:** Rules for calling, scheduling, and organizing council and committee meetings.
- **Quorum and Leadership:** The minimum number of council members who must be present for the council to make decisions, and the role of the mayor or deputy mayor in chairing meetings.
- **Agenda and Decision-Making:** The order of business and the procedures for motions, recorded votes, and tie-breaking votes.
- **Public Participation:** Rules for presentations or comments from registered and non-registered participants.
- **Conduct and Decorum:** Expectations for behaviour, maintaining order, and ensuring that proceedings run properly.

## Orientation

After an election, an orientation is one of the first formal training sessions offered to elected officials. Its main purpose is to ensure that council members clearly understand their roles and responsibilities in governing and delivering services for the local government. In addition to training provided by each local government for the new council, it is highly recommended that all elected officials attend orientation sessions offered by the Department of Environment and Local Government, in collaboration with municipal associations.

## Relations with the Media

The media help ensure transparency in local government and inform the public about important issues, such as events, road detours, new policies, or initiatives.

Council members often receive calls from the media on various topics. They are free to accept or decline interview requests based on their interest, availability, and knowledge of the subject.

The mayor is the person who speaks for the council. If a council member gives an interview, they speak for themselves, not for the council. In this context, you can share your personal thoughts and opinions, but they must not be presented as reflecting the official position of the council or the local government as a whole. If issues arise as a result of public comments that do not reflect the official position, the council member cannot rely on the local government's communications services for support.

Some local governments offer media training as part of their orientation programs. This training helps people understand the work of journalists and provides useful tips and strategies for giving interviews effectively and professionally.

Participating in training following the election and any additional training provided by the department or municipal associations throughout the four-year mandate will contribute to the success of councils and staff, and ensure that everyone is working together for the betterment of their community.

It's a good idea to create a separate account for council activities, apart from personal accounts. Candidates can also create an account for their campaign and continue using it if elected.

## Social Media

Social media can be a great way to communicate with the public, but managing it can be demanding.

Council members often face a lot of negative comments online. Keeping a separate account for council activities helps protect personal spaces, such as those for family and friends.

- Limit the number of accounts: Managing accounts takes time. It's better to have a few accounts that are well managed than having many that are hard to keep up with.
- Set rules for participation: Elected officials should accept criticism, but abuse or harassment is not allowed. Clear rules for behaviour should be set to guide online interactions.



## CONCLUSION

In New Brunswick, elected officials in local governments play an important role in guiding their communities. They exercise their powers within collective decision-making and strategic leadership, and not in operational management or independent actions. Understanding the scope and limits of their powers helps avoid awkward or conflicting situations, promotes a cooperative environment, and ensures effective, respectful, and transparent local governance.

For complete and reliable information, candidates can:

- Review the *Local Governance Act*, the *Municipal Elections Act*, and other relevant laws;
- Participate in webinars offered by municipal associations: Tuesday, March 24 (in French) and Thursday, March 26 (in English);
- Contact Elections New Brunswick if needed.

Being part of council is the most direct way to shape the future of your community. As mayor or councillor, you will be part of the team responsible for your local government's development. Whatever your gender, age, background, or experience, there is a place for you on your local government council.

Ready? Set! Run for Council!

## APPENDIX A

City (8)	Town (30)	Village (21)	Rural Community (17)	Regional Municipality(1)
Bathurst	Beaurivage	Arcadia	Alnwick	Tracadie
Campbellton	Belle-Baie	Belledune	Beausoleil	
Dieppe	Cap-Acadie	Bois-Joli	Butternut Valley	
Edmundston	Caraquet	Doaktown	Campobello Island	
Miramichi	Champdoré	District of Tobique Valley	Central York	
Moncton	District of Carleton North	Five Rivers	Eastern Charlotte	
Fredericton	Grand Bay-Westfield	Fredericton Junction	Fundy Shores	
Saint John	Grand -Bouctouche	Fundy Albert	Hanwell	
	Grand Falls/ Grand-Sault	Fundy-St. Martins	Harvey	
	Hampton	Grand Manan	Kedgwick	
	Hartland	McAdam	Maple Hills	
	Haut-Madawaska	Memramcook	Miramichi River Valley	
	Heron Bay / Baie-des-Hérons	Municipality of Grand Lake	Nackawic-Millville	
	Île-de-Lamèque	Municipality of Lakeland Ridges	Nashwaak	
	Municipalité des Hautes-Terres	Neguac	Strait Shores	
	Municipal District of St. Stephen	New Maryland	Sunbury-York South	
	Oromocto	Nouvelle-Arcadie	Upper Miramichi	
	Quispamsis	Southern Victoria		
	Riverview	Three Rivers		
	Rivière-du-Nord	Tracy		
	Rothesay	Valley Waters		
	Saint Andrews			
	Saint-Quentin			
	Salisbury			
	Shediac			
	Shippagan			
	Sussex			
	Tantramar			
	Vallée-des-Rivières			
	Woodstock			