

ELECTIONS '17

This is the first in a four-part series of articles dealing with municipal elections.

UNDER WHAT AUTHORITY IS THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION HELD? The Local Authorities Election Act.

DOES THE PRESENT COUNCIL HAVE ANY JURISDICTION OVER THE ELECTION? Council appoints the Returning Officer and after that the Returning Officer runs the election in accordance with the above stated Act. If there are any inconsistencies, it is the Returning Officer who would be liable for prosecution.

HOW LONG IS THE TERM OF OFFICE FOR POSITIONS BEING ELECTED? Four years; Municipal elections, unlike the Federal or Provincial elections, are legislated to take place on the third Monday in October, every four years.

HOW MANY TERMS CAN SOMEONE SIT ON COUNCIL? There is no limit as to the number of times an individual can run and be elected.

WHAT ARE THE CAMPAIGN RULES FOR A CANDIDATE? If you are interested in running for Municipal Office (either Mayor or Councillor), you must complete and file the *Application for Registration of Notice of Intent to Become a Candidate for Municipal Office* with the Returning Officer before accepting any campaign contributions. This is a new requirement of the Province since the last election. The form that is required to be completed and filed with the Municipality before raising funds can be accessed here: [Form 3A Application for Registration of Notice of Intent to Become a Candidate for Municipal Office](#). Other than that there are no real rules except common sense. A candidate can not post his/her poster on property without getting the permission of the owner. Posters or election material posted on the outside of the polling station or brought into the polling station will be taken down and destroyed.

WHAT POSITIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR NOMINATION? Nominations will be accepted for Mayor (1 position) and Councillor (4 positions). The Palliser Regional Schools will be accepting nominations for School Board Representative (1 position).

If you are a Prospective Candidate looking for information about running for office, please visit the Alberta Municipal Affairs web site <http://www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/municipalities-and-communities>, click on Municipal Elections on the left side of the page, then scroll down to Prospective Candidates and refer to the following: "Running for Municipal Office in Alberta: A Candidate's Guide" or "Ready for Her: A Guide for Women Running for Municipal Office."

The second in the series of articles about the municipal election process will appear in the August issue of the Town News.