

Voting in municipal elections impacts the community for years to come

Margaret Bird - May 2026

Municipal elections have a real impact on your daily life.

Municipalities provide a lot of services to you, including your water supply and sewage treatment; garbage and recycling pickup; road and sidewalk maintenance; community planning and development; parks and playgrounds; and, many other services. And, municipal council decisions can affect public transportation; bike paths; snow removal; culture and recreation; parking; permitting (for example, construction or renovation permits); waste management, and public security (like fire departments).

The upcoming municipal election this year – October 26, 2026 -- gives all eligible voters a chance to vote for what interests them, impacts their family, friends and community, and to make a definite difference in the final outcome of who represents them in their community.

This also relies on all eligible voters doing their homework and being aware of the background, experience and abilities, and proven expertise of all candidates – not just simply voting for name recognition, because after the voting results are in, there's no room for complaints, especially for those who do not vote! If you want big changes, then all eligible voters have to make a big effort and vote for their best-choice candidates for all those big changes to happen. Voters do not have to use up all the votes – only vote for those you know and who you have checked out beforehand! And remember, your choices are with us for four years.

And, don't forget that municipal elections include your school board trustees too.

Here are the 2026 dates to remember (as per the City of Sarnia), whether you are voting, or running as a candidate for council, too:

May 1, 2026 – First day to file your nomination. Submit your papers, ID, 25 endorsements, and filing fee.

August 21, 2026 – Final day to file. Paperwork must be submitted by 2 p.m. This is also the last day to withdraw as a candidate.

August 24, 2026 – Candidates are officially certified, and any acclamations are announced.

September 1, 2026 – Voters list is finalized. Candidates can access it, and residents can confirm their information.

October 26, 2026 – Voting Day! Polls are open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. unless otherwise set by the clerk.

Local government decisions affect our taxes, services, safety, and growth. Mark your calendars and get involved! Please vote. It only takes a few minutes to vote. Your vote can have a huge impact on the working people and families in the City of Sarnia. Together we can make Sarnia great again.