

2026 Municipal Election Information for Candidates



If you need this document in an alternate format, please contact the
Clerk's Department at 519-287-2015 or by emailing
election@southwestmiddlesex.ca

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Introduction

This Guide has been prepared for the purpose of supplying information to residents intending to stand for elected office. This guide is available electronically on the Southwest Middlesex website.

This Guide is only intended to provide candidates with information on running for office. Candidates are responsible for ensuring they are familiar with the requirements of the *Municipal Elections Act* and should consult the *Act* for complete information and legislative requirements.

A copy of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, is available online at www.e-laws.gov.on.ca. Candidates must comply with all regulations of the *Act* relating to election campaign financing.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) produces a guide for candidates that outlines the financial reporting requirements under the *Act*. The Ministry Guide is available online from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/municipal-elections>, on the Southwest Middlesex website www.southwestmiddlesex.ca/elections and in hard copy from the Clerk's Department.

This guide may be updated periodically. Please notify municipal staff if there are any changes to your mailing and/or email address.

It is the responsibility of prospective candidates to ensure that they are in compliance with the election financing regulations and that they are qualified and not disqualified by law to take part in the election.

In all cases of filing times, the time displayed by the Clerk's Department electronic clock shall prevail.

Contacts

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Important Dates

The following are legislative dates as set out in the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.

2026

Monday, May 1 – Nomination Period

- First day for **candidates** to register for Nominations in-person for the office of Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillor or school board trustee.
- Nominations will continue to be accepted via appointment at the municipal office, Monday to Friday between 8:30 – 4:00 p.m.
- First day for an individual or entity to file a notice of registration as a third-party advertiser. To become a Third-Party Advertiser, you must file a completed Notice of Registration in person at the municipal office with the Clerk's department, as original signatures are required. Appointments can be scheduled by contacting the Municipal Office via election@southwestmiddlesex.ca or by phone at 519-287-2015 starting May 1, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. to October 23, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.
- Campaign period begins once a nomination paper or notice of registration is filed
- Preliminary expense limit and other legislative documentation provided to candidates and third-party advertisers on the day they file

Friday, August 21

- Nomination Day
 - Last day for a candidate to file their nomination papers
 - 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. – nominations or withdrawal cannot be accepted beyond 2:00 p.m.
- Withdrawal of Nominations
 - A candidate who wishes to withdraw their nomination must notify the clerk in writing before 2 p.m. (s.36).
 - Either the candidate or an agent of the candidate must file the withdrawal form in person. Upon receiving the withdrawal form, the nomination filing fee refund will be processed following the submission of a financial statement covering all financial transactions up to the time of the withdrawal.
 - The candidate or agent must provide identification at the time of filing the withdrawal form. In addition, if an agent is filing the withdrawal form on behalf of a candidate, the candidate must provide the agent with a written authorization sworn before a commissioner to give to the Clerk authorizing the agent to file the withdrawal form. The Clerk will contact the candidate to confirm their intention to withdraw.

Monday, August 24 – Certify Nomination

- The clerk will
 - Examine and certify all nominations by 4:00 p.m. (s.35(1)). Once a candidate is certified, their name will be placed on the ballot unless the candidate dies or the candidate's name is removed by Court Order. Nomination papers are public documents and are available for inspection in the Clerk's Office.
 - Declare the candidate(s) elected by acclamation (s.37(1))

Tuesday, September 1 – Voters List

- Deadline to reproduce the Voters List
 - Upon written request, the Clerk shall provide candidates with a copy of the part of the Voters List containing the names of the electors who are entitled to vote for that office (s.23(4)).

Tuesday, September 1, 2026 to Monday, October 26, 2026 – Revision Period

- Revisions to the Voters List will be accepted at the Municipal Office by filing an application to amend the Voters List or an application to request a deceased person's name be removed from the Voters List.

Thursday, October 1 – Certificate of Maximum Campaign Spending Limits

- The clerk will provide candidates with:
 - A certificate of the applicable maximum amount of expenses (s.88.20(6)).
 - A certificate of the applicable maximum amount of contributions to the candidate's own election campaign (s.88.9.1(1)).
 - A certificate of the applicable maximum amount for parties, etc. after voting day (s.88.20(9)).
- The clerk shall provide registered third parties with:
 - A certificate of the applicable maximum amount of expenses (s.88.21(14)).
 - A certificate of the applicable maximum amount for parties, etc. after voting day (s.88.21(14)).

Friday, October 23

- Last day for third party advertisers to file their notice of registration (s.88.6(7)).

Monday, October 19 to Monday, October 26

- Voting Period: internet and telephone voting available 24 hours per day beginning Monday, October 19 at 9:00 a.m. to Monday, October 26 at 8:00 p.m.
- Voter Help Centre Hours: Monday, October 19 to Friday, October 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Saturday, October 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Monday, October 26 – Election Day

- Voting Day – 10:00 am to 8:00 pm (Municipal Elections Act, 1996)
- Voting Help Centre – 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (internet or telephone voting support)

- The Clerk shall, as soon as possible after the close of voting, declare and make available the unofficial results of the 2026 Municipal Election on the municipality's website.

Sunday, November 15, 2026 – Term of Office Begins

- The 2026-2030 Council term of office officially begins and the Inaugural Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 31 – End of Campaign Period

- The campaign period for candidates officially ends
- End of election campaign period (Municipal Elections Act, 1996), subject to any extension permitted under the Act.
- Candidates and registered third parties must notify the Clerk, in the prescribed form, of a campaign deficit and continuation of the campaign period on or before December 31, 2026 (s.88.24(2), s.88.28)

2027

Monday, March 1, 2027 – Notice of Penalties and Filing Fee to Candidates

- The Clerk will provide candidates and registered third parties with notice of the filing requirements for their initial financial statements and auditor's reports (s.88.25(9), s.88.29(7))

Tuesday, March 30, 2027 – Deadline for Filing of Financial Statements

- Last day for candidates to file financial statements and auditors' reports for reporting period ending December 31, 2026 – applies to all candidates and registered third parties (s.88.30(1)).
- Candidates and registered third parties who apply to the Superior Court of Justice for an extension of time to file financial statements and auditor's reports must notify the Clerk in writing, on or before the 2:00 p.m. filing deadline (s.88.23(7), s.88.27(4)).

Municipal Offices to be Elected

From Monday, October 19, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. to Monday, October 26, 2026 at 8:00 p.m., voters in the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex will elect members for the following offices:

Members of Council

Mayor: One (1) member to be elected by all electors in the Municipality

It is the role of the Head of Council (Mayor) to:

- Act as the Chief Executive Officer of the Municipality
- Preside over Council Meetings;

- Provide leadership to Council;
- Represent the municipality at official functions; and
- Carry out the duties of the head of Council under the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25 or any other Act.

Deputy Mayor: One (1) member to be elected by all electors in the Municipality

- Support the Mayor in carrying out their duties as the Head of Council;
- Act in the place of the Mayor when the Mayor is absent, unavailable, or unable to perform their duties;
- Represent the municipality at official functions, as required; and
- Carry out the duties of Council under the Municipal Act, 2001, or any other Act.

Ward Councillor: Six (6) members to be elected – two in each of the three (3) wards.

- Two to be elected by Ward 1 electors in the municipality
- Two to be elected by Ward 2 (Glencoe) electors in the municipality
- Two to be elected by Ward 3 electors in the municipality

It is the role of Council:

- To represent the public and to consider the well-being and interests of the municipality as a whole
- To develop and evaluate the policies and programs of the municipality;
- To determine which services the municipality provides;
- To ensure that administrative practices and procedures are in place to implement the decisions of Council;
- To maintain the financial integrity of the municipality; and
- To carry out the duties of Council under the Municipal Act, 2001, or any other Act.

School Board Trustee Positions

English Public (Thames Valley District School Board)

- Two (2) Trustees to be elected by public school board electors
- Contact: Jennifer Pereira, Clerk, Municipality of Strathroy Caradoc
- 519-245-1105 www.strathroy-caradoc.ca

English Separate (London and District Catholic Separate School Board)

- One (1) Trustee to be elected by separate school board electors
- Contact: Jennifer Pereira, Clerk, Municipality of Strathroy Caradoc
- 519-245-1105 www.strathroy-caradoc.ca

French Public (Conseil scolaire Viamonde)

- One (1) Trustee to be elected by French language electors
- Contact: Michael Schulthess, City Clerk, City of London
- 519-661-4535 www.london.ca

French Separate (Conseil scolaire Catholique Providence)

- One (1) Trustee to be elected by French language separate school electors
- Contact: Jeff Bunn, Manager of Legislative Services/ Deputy City Clerk, City of Woodstock
- 519-539-2382 www.cityofwoodstock.ca

Council Expectations

Meeting Schedule and Time Commitment

Members of Council represent constituents, participate in municipal and corporate initiatives, and attend community meetings and events. Councillors are also appointed to local boards and committees.

Council generally meets twice monthly: the first Wednesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. and the third Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. Additional training, education or special meetings may also be scheduled. The Mayor also serves on County Council, which generally meets once per month on Tuesdays.

Serving on Council requires a significant time commitment, including preparation for Council and committee meetings through the review of the agendas and meeting materials, as well as daytime, evening and possibly occasional weekend responsibilities.

Remuneration

Position	Base Remuneration for 2026
Mayor	\$21,650.00 /year (base salary/honorarium)
Deputy Mayor	\$12,629.20 /year (base salary/honorarium)
Ward Councillor	\$ 8,118.81 /year (base salary/honorarium)
-Meeting Rate: \$135.30/ meeting (see By-law 2026/009 for details)	
-transportation or mileage at the annual CRA Kilometric Rate	

Nomination Process

Candidates can register in-person between May 1, 2026 and August 20, 2026 between 8:30 – 4:00 p.m. The last day to register is August 21, 2026 between 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. It is strongly recommended that you call the municipal office book an appointment to submit your nomination papers in order to ensure that Clerk or Deputy Clerk is available to meet with you. Please allow at least 30 minutes for the meeting.

Candidates must be qualified on the day they file their nomination paper.

Please note that a Member of Council must maintain their qualifications throughout the entire term of office or their seat will become vacant.

Qualification

Qualifications for members of Council are set out in Section 256 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* and Section 17 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.

In order to run for office in the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex, you must meet the following qualifications:

- A Canadian citizen;
- At least 18 years old;
- A resident of the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex or the owner or tenant of land here, or the spouse of such owner or tenant; and
- Not legally prohibited from voting
- Not disqualified by any legislation from holding Municipal office.

Disqualification

The following people are disqualified from being elect as a member of Council or holding office as a member of Council:

- A judge of any court
- A member of the Provincial Legislature, the Federal House of Commons or Senate who has not resigned from their office by the close of Nominations. Proof of resignation must be provided by the close of Nominations.
- A candidate who failed to file the necessary financial statement or exceeded the prescribed spending limit in the last municipal Election or By-Election.
- Employees of the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex who wish to run for Mayor, Deputy Mayor or Councillor must take an unpaid leave of absence before filing a Nomination Paper. Documentation providing leave of absence is required.

Filing Nomination Papers

Anyone intending to run as a candidate must file nomination papers before accepting contributions or spending campaign funds. Nominations open May 1, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. Papers are available at the Southwest Middlesex office and on the Municipality's website.

Nomination papers must be submitted in person at the Municipal Office (153 McKellar Street, Glencoe). Papers submitted by fax, email or mail will not be accepted. Candidates must complete the Nomination Paper, including a declaration of qualification taken before a Commissioner of Oaths. A Commissioner of Oaths in the Clerks Department can administer this declaration for you. Government issued photo identification with a signature and proof of address are required.

Council nominations must be endorsed by at least 25 eligible municipal voters. The filing deadline is Friday, August 21, 2026 between 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Filing fees are \$200 for Mayor and \$100 for Deputy Mayor or Councillor, payable by cash, debit, certified cheque or money order payable to the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex.

If an agent files on behalf of a candidate, the nomination paper must already be commissioned, and the agent must provide both the candidate's identification as well as their own identification. Candidates are responsible for meeting all qualifications and filing requirements.

Exception for Additional Nominations

If the number of nominations filed for an office is less than the number of persons to be elected to an office, additional nominations may be filed between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on the Wednesday following Nomination Day – August 26, 2026.

Refund of Nomination Deposit

A candidate is entitled to receive a refund of the nomination filing fee if they file their financial statements with the Clerk by the prescribed filing date. For the 2026 Municipal Election, the filing deadline is 2:00 p.m. on March 30, 2027.

Examination and Certification of Nominations by Clerk

The Clerk shall certify the Notice of Candidates by 4:00 p.m. on the Monday following Nomination Day, being August 24, 2026.

Any additional nominations filed under s.33(5) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 shall be examined before 4:00 p.m. on the Thursday following Nomination Day, being August 27, 2026.

If the Clerk rejects a nomination, they will provide notice as soon as possible to the individual seeking nomination and to all candidates. The Clerk's decision to certify or reject a nomination is final.

Withdrawal of Nominations

A person may withdraw their nomination by filing a written withdrawal with the Clerk's Department before 2:00 p.m. on August 21, 2026. The withdrawal form must be filed in person by the candidate or their agent. A refund of the nomination filing fee will be processed after submission of a financial statement covering all financial transactions up to the withdrawal date.

The candidate or agent must provide identification when filing. If an agent files on the candidate's behalf, they must also provide written authorization from the candidate, sworn before a commissioner, authorizing the agent to file the withdrawal form. The Clerk will contact the candidate to confirm their intention to withdraw.

Acclamations

If, following the certification of nominations, the number of certified candidates for an office is the same as or less than the number to be elected, the Clerk shall declare the candidate or candidates elected by acclamation.

Campaign Information

Campaign Period

Candidates are advised to refer to the Province of Ontario's Candidates Guide for information on Campaign Contributions and Fund Raising and on Campaign Expenses. The provincial guide is available online from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and on the Municipal website.

The *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* imposes limitations on the expenses for candidates in municipal elections and also imposes requirements on the candidate to report the contributions received and the funds expended. The candidate should become familiar with these provisions.

You are only allowed to accept contributions or incur campaign expenses during your campaign period. Your campaign begins on the day you file your nomination.

Bank Account

Once you have filed your nomination papers, you are required to open a separate bank account for your campaign. Even if you are planning a very small campaign, you are not permitted to use your personal bank account for campaign expenses. All contributions, including contributions you make yourself, must be deposited into the campaign bank account. All expenses must be paid for from the campaign account, with the exception of the nomination fee.

You are not required to open a bank account if you do not raise or spend money related to your campaign.

Expenses

Campaign expenses are the costs that you incur, or that a person such as your campaign manager incurs on your behalf, during your campaign.

Goods and services that are contributed to your campaign are also expenses. They should be treated as if the contributor gave you money and you went out and purchased the goods and services. You must record both the contribution and the expense. If you are given a special discount on a good or service that you are purchasing for your campaign, you should record the expense as if you were not given the discount, since the value of the discount is considered to be a contribution of the good or service to your campaign.

Campaign Expense Limits

These limits set the maximum amount a registered candidate may spend during a campaign. The campaign period begins when a candidate files a Nomination Paper and ends on December 31, 2026. Campaign spending limits are calculated based on the number of electors entitled to vote for the office.

Upon filing a nomination, candidates will receive a Preliminary Certificate of Maximum Campaign Expense Limit based on the 2022 municipal Voters List. A final certificate will be issued on or before September 25, 2026, using the greater number of electors on either the 2022 municipal Voters List or the September 15, 2026 Voters List.

The spending limits are calculated as follows:

Head of Council	\$7,500.00 plus 85 cents for each elector entitled to vote for the office $\$7,500 + (0.85 \times \text{number of electors})$
Candidate for another office	\$5,000.00 plus 85 cents for each elector entitled to vote for the office $\$5,000 + (0.85 \times \text{number of electors})$

Please note that candidates are also subject to the Maximum Amount of Contributions – Own Campaign limit. Third-party advertisers are subject to separate Maximum Campaign Spending Limits.

Contributions

Campaign contributions are any money, goods or services that are given to you for use in your campaign, including money and goods that you contribute yourself. If you are given a special discount on a good or service that you are purchasing for your campaign, the difference between what you were charged and what an average person would be charged is considered to be a contribution.

Not deemed to be Contributions

If you have volunteers working for your campaign, the value of their volunteer labour is not considered to be a contribution.

A cash donation of \$25 or less received at a fundraising event is not considered to be a contribution, and you may accept such donations without keeping track of who gave them to you.

The value of free political advertising, provided that such advertising is made available to all candidates and is in accordance with the Broadcasting Act (Canada) is not considered to be a contribution.

If you obtain a campaign loan from a bank or a recognized lending institution in Ontario, the amount of the loan is not considered to be a contribution. Note that loans may only be guaranteed by the candidate or spouse.

Receiving Contributions

You can only accept contributions after you have filed your nomination, and you cannot accept contributions after your campaign period has ended. Any contributions received outside the campaign period must be returned to the contributor. If you cannot return the contribution to the contributor, you must return it to the Clerk.

Qualified Contributors

You can accept contributions from:

- individuals who normally reside in Ontario
- yourself and your spouse

Groups such as clubs, associations or ratepayers' groups are not eligible to make contributions. The members of these groups may make individual contributions from their personal funds (as long as they are residents of Ontario).

Ineligible Contributors

The following individuals and organizations are not allowed to make contributions to municipal and school board campaigns:

- a federal political party, constituency association, or a registered candidate in a federal election
- a provincial political party, constituency association, or a registered candidate or leadership contestant
- a federal or provincial government, a municipality or a school board
- corporations that carry on business in Ontario
- trade unions that hold bargaining rights for employees in Ontario
- an individual who is not normally a resident in Ontario

Contributor Limits

A \$1,200 limit applies to each person who contributes to your campaign. If a person makes multiple contributions (i.e., donates money, goods, or purchases a ticket to a fundraising event), the total combined value of all contributions from that person cannot exceed \$1,200.

The maximum total amount that a contributor can give multiple candidates in the same jurisdiction (i.e. running for the same council or the same school board) is \$5,000.

Only a contribution that is \$25 or less can be made in cash. All contributions above \$25 must be made by cheque, money order, or by a method that clearly shows where the funds came from.

Candidates are required to inform contributors of contribution limits. Candidates could consider including on their receipts the contribution limits as noted above.

Contributions from Yourself and your Spouse

The maximum contribution by a candidate or spouse is the lesser of \$5,000 + \$0.20 per elector for councillors and \$7,500 + \$0.20 per elector for the head of Council.

Filing Financial Statements

All nominated candidates, including those not elected, those who withdrew their nomination and those whose nomination was rejected by the Clerk, **MUST** disclose and report on or before March 30, 2027 by 2:00 p.m., their contributions and expenses as of December 31, 2026 in accordance with the following:

- All candidates are required to file a detailed financial statement on the prescribed form – MMAH Form 4.
- Candidates must have their financial statement audited and submit the auditor's report to the Clerk along with their financial statement if expenses are over \$10,000.00

A candidate must file a separate financial statement for each office they were nominated for during the election period unless the offices are all on the same council and are elected by a general vote of all electors of a municipality. Each campaign for an office for which the election is conducted by ward is a separate campaign.

The financial statement must be filed by March 30, 2027 at 2:00 p.m. Candidates' financial statements are filed with the Clerk and are public documents which are to be available at no charge for viewing by the public on the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex website. The Clerk will advise at least 30 days prior to March 30, 2027 filing deadline of all the filing requirements of the Act. The Clerk is not required to give additional notice for each supplementary filing date.

It is the responsibility of the candidate to file a complete and accurate financial statement by the filing date.

Please refer to the *Municipal Elections Act* for detailed information with respect to:

- Extending a campaign in order to eliminate a deficit;
- Supplementary financial statement information;
- Surplus and deficit information; and
- Enforcement and penalties.

Notification to the Clerk of a Deficit and Continuation of Campaign Period

The last day for candidates to provide notice to the Clerk of a deficit and the continuation of their campaign period is Thursday, December 31, 2026.

Notice of Penalties and Filing Fee to Candidates

The Clerk is to provide candidates with notice of the filing requirement for initial financial statements and auditors' reports by Monday, March 1, 2027.

Deadline for Filing of Financial Statements

The last day for candidates to file financial statements and auditors' reports, or to notify the Clerk in writing of an extension made with the Superior Court of Justice to extend the time for filing initial statements is Tuesday, March 30, 2027.

Scrutineers (Candidates' Agents)

Scrutineers may be appointed, in writing by the candidate, as stated under Section 16 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended.

Upon presenting a signed Appointment of Scrutineer form (SWM22) and taking the required oath(s) of secrecy (SWM25), scrutineers may:

- Access the Candidate module to view voter sequence numbers and/or elector names eligible to vote for the candidate's office and identify who has voted; and
- Attend Voter Help Centres during operating hours to observe the voting process.

Scrutineers who interfere with the voting process, attempt to influence voters, or fail to follow the instructions of the Clerk or elections official will be removed and their appointment revoked.

Candidates and scrutineers are prohibited from:

- Using cellular phones or electronic devices in a Voter Help Centre;
- Campaigning or discussing voting with electors;
- Influencing or attempting to influence how an elector votes;

- Displaying campaign material in a voting place;
- Compromising ballot secrecy or interfering with voting; and
- Interfering or attempting to interfere with an elector who is marking a ballot;
- Obtaining or sharing information about how an elector intends to vote or has voted.

Election Signs

Election signs must follow election sign regulations of the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex and the County of Middlesex. The *Municipal Elections Act*, section 88.3(2) sets out important signage requirements for Candidates and sections 88.4(2) and 88.5(1) set out important signage requirements for Third Party Advertisers.

Please refer to the Municipal website for the full Sign By-law regulations.

Southwest Middlesex Sign Regulations

The Municipality of Southwest Middlesex regulates the placement of election signs on municipal roads and intersections (excluding Middlesex County Roads).

Excerpt from Municipality of Southwest Middlesex Sign By-law No. 2021/061:

- 10.1 In addition to the requirements contained in Section 3, the requirements of this section shall apply to election signs.
- 10.2 No person shall affix, erect or otherwise display an election sign or permit an election sign to be erected, affixed, or otherwise displayed prior to the issuance of writs for a provincial or federal election.
- 10.3 No person shall affix, erect or otherwise display an election sign or permit an election sign to be erected, affixed or otherwise displayed prior to nomination day in a municipal election or by-election.
- 10.4 An election sign shall not display a logo, crest, seal or other identification of the municipality.
- 10.5 No person shall place or permit to be placed an election sign that:
 - a. Is illuminated;
 - b. Has a sign area greater than 6 square meters;
 - c. Interferes or impedes the safe operation of vehicular traffic, or pedestrians;
 - d. Interferes, impedes or obstructs municipal maintenance operations;
 - e. Is in or on a roadway;
 - f. Is in between a roadway and sidewalk;
 - g. Is on a tree, fence, wall, gate or utility pole located on public property;
 - h. Is in a publicly owned park or at a municipal facility;
 - i. Is within 10 meters of another election sign of the same candidate;
 - j. Is located in or at a voting place.

- 10.6 An election sign shall not exceed a height of one (1.0) metres above grade if erected in a sight triangle.
- 10.7 An election sign shall be removed within forty-eight (48) hours immediately following the day of the election.

Middlesex County Sign Regulations

The County of Middlesex regulates the placement of election signs on municipal roads and intersections under their jurisdiction. Please check the Middlesex County website to ensure you understand their by-law.

Prohibition of Canvassing in Voting Places

The Clerk, as the Returning Officer, is the lessee of the Voter Help Centre. As the lessee, the Returning Officer does not permit campaigning of any nature in or on the premises (the Voter Help Centre) used as a voting location throughout the voting period. The premises are deemed to include the entire building and the property on which it is located.

Section 48 of the Act provides as follows:

'While an elector is in a voting place, no person shall attempt, directly or indirectly, to influence how the elector votes. No person shall display a candidate's election campaign material or literature in a voting place. For the purpose of this section, 'Voting Place' includes any place in the immediate vicinity of the voting place designated by the Clerk.'

Election Officials are instructed to immediately remove from any voting place material or literature of any nature which may be deposited in and around a voting place.

Candidates or their agents and scrutineers must not engage electors in conversations at voting places and they may not wear campaign buttons or distribute material of any kind in and around a voting place.

We ask for your cooperation in this regard.

Access to Apartment Buildings, Condominiums, etc. by Candidates

Campaign rules have been clarified through amendments to the *Act*, allowing candidates to campaign in apartment buildings, condominiums, non-profit housing co-ops and gated communities from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. Landlords and condominium corporations cannot prevent tenants or owners from displaying campaign signs in their windows.

General Voter Information

Voter Qualifications

You are eligible to vote in the election for municipal council if you meet all of the following requirements:

- you are a Canadian citizen
- you are aged 18 or older
- you qualify to vote in the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex

There are 3 ways that you can qualify to vote in a municipality:

1. As a **resident elector** if you live in the municipality. You may own, rent, live in shared accommodation where you do not pay rent or live in the municipality but do not have a fixed address. Being a resident elector is the most common type of eligibility.
2. As a **non-resident elector** if you own or rent property in a municipality, but it's not the one where you live. You can only be a resident elector in 1 municipality. However, you can be a non-resident elector in any other municipality (or municipalities) where you own or rent property.
3. As the **spouse of a non-resident elector** if your spouse owns or rents property in the municipality or municipalities other than the one where you live.

Neither you nor your spouse qualify as a non-resident elector if you do not personally own or rent the property in the municipality. For example, if the property is owned by your business or your cottage is owned by a trust, you would not qualify as a non-resident elector.

Persons Prohibited from Voting

The following persons are prohibited from voting:

- a. A person who is serving a sentence of imprisonment in a penal or correctional institution;
- b. A corporation;
- c. A person acting as executor or trustee or in any other representative capacity, except as a voting proxy (see section on Voting Proxies);
- d. A person who was convicted of the corrupt practice described in subsection 90(3) of the *Municipal Elections Act*, if voting day in the current election is less than five years after voting day in the election in respect of which he or she was convicted.

Definition of Residence

Residence

2 (1) For the purposes of this Act, a person's residence is the permanent lodging place to which, whenever absent, he or she intends to return. 1996, c. 32, Sched., s. 2 (1).

Rules

(2) The following rules apply in determining a person's residence:

1. A person may only have one residence at a time.
2. The place where a person's family resides is also his or her residence, unless he or she moves elsewhere with the intention of changing his or her permanent lodging place.
3. If a person has no other permanent lodging place, the place where he or she occupies a room or part of a room as a regular lodger or to which he or she habitually returns is his or her residence. 1996, c. 32, Sched., s. 2 (2).

Exception, students

(2.1) Despite paragraph 1 of subsection (2), a person may have residences in two local municipalities at the same time if,

- (a) the person lives in one of the local municipalities in order to attend an educational institution, but not with the intention of changing his or her permanent lodging place; and
- (b) the person's permanent lodging place is in the other local municipality. 2009, c. 33, Sched. 21, s. 8 (3).

Rules if no permanent lodging place

(3) If a person has no permanent lodging place as described in subsections (1) and (2), the following rules apply in determining his or her residence:

1. The place to which the person most frequently returned to sleep or eat during the five weeks preceding the determination is his or her residence.
2. If the person returns with equal frequency to one place to sleep and to another to eat, the place to which he or she returns to sleep is his or her residence.
3. Multiple returns to the same place during a single day, whether to eat or to sleep, shall be considered one return.
4. A person's declaration regarding the places to which he or she returned to eat or sleep during a given time period is conclusive, in the absence of evidence to the contrary. 1996, c. 32, Sched., s. 2 (3); 2016, c. 15, s. 2.

Voters List

The 2026 Voters List for the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex is initially prepared by Elections Ontario. The Voters List contains the names, addresses and school support of each person who meets the qualifications of a voter.

The information contained on the Voters List is to be used for election purposes only. The use and sale of the Voters List for commercial purposes is prohibited.

Candidates are entitled to receive a copy of the list for their use and candidates may request either an electronic or paper copy of the list by completing Form EL14-Candidate's Declaration – Proper Use of Voters List.

Revision of the Voters List

The Voters List will be available by Tuesday, September 1, 2026. Revisions to the Voters List, including requests to remove a deceased person's name, will be accepted at the municipal office from Tuesday, September 1, 2026 until the close of voting on Voting Day – October 26, 2026.

Individuals can confirm their information on the Voters List by visiting www.RegisterToVoteON.ca before Wednesday, August 12, 2026.

Voting Methods

Council approved the use of electronic and telephone voting as an alternative voting method through by-law 2025/086 on October 1, 2026. These methods were used in the previous 2022 Municipal Election. Voting procedures are available from the Southwest Middlesex website or in hard copy, upon request.

Proxy Voting

The intent and purpose of proxy voting is to allow individuals to vote through a trusted friend or family member if such individual anticipates being away on Voting Day for various reasons.

With alternate voting methods being approved, internet and telephone voting, proxy voting is not required. Internet and telephone voting allows individuals who have been issued a voting PIN to vote from anywhere in the world at any time during the Voting Period.

Advance Voting Days

All eligible electors are encouraged to vote any time from Monday, October 19, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. through to Voting Day – Monday, October 26 at 8:00 p.m. Votes are accepted by telephone and internet, 24 hours a day, during the voting period.

Candidates may view the names of the electors who have already voted through the Candidates' Module when the Form EL14 (Candidates Declaration – Proper Use of Voters List) has been completed and returned to the Clerk's Department.

Voter Notification

A notice will be mailed by the Clerk to each voter advising them of the date and time of the voting period and locations and methods of voting (options on where and how to vote).

The Clerk will provide the candidates with an up-to-date copy of a list of voting places for the area in which they are standing for elected office. In the event that any location is subsequently changed, a notice of such change will be mailed to the candidates concerned.

Reminders to Candidates

1. Must be eligible elector for the office being sought.
2. Must file their FORM 1 and FORM 2 in person or by agent.
3. Cannot be nominated for more than one office.
4. Must pay a filing fee of \$100 or \$200 by cash, debit, certified cheque or money order payable to the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex.
5. Candidates cannot accept donations or spend any funds on a campaign until such time as you have filed a Nomination Paper with the Clerk.
6. You are responsible for keeping records of the financial activities related to your campaign. Remember to issue receipts for all donations, including donations of goods or services; obtain receipts for expenses incurred; keep copies of all receipts.
7. Keep receipts for all expenditures and a record of the value of all contributions which are not money (i.e., sign stakes, paper, printing services, etc.).
8. It is the responsibility of the candidate to file a complete and accurate financial statement on time. Candidates should completely familiarize themselves with the appropriate sections of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.

Southwest Middlesex Candidate Guide Resources

1. Sign By-laws:
 - a. Southwest Middlesex Sign By-law No. 2021/061
<https://www.southwestmiddlesex.ca/laws/sign-law>
 - b. County of Middlesex Sign By-law No. 6272:
<https://www.middlesexcentre.ca/by-laws/building-bylaw-enforcement/sign-law-2013-037-amending-2022-023>
2. Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) Guides:
 - a. Candidate Guide
<https://www.ontario.ca/document/2026-candidates-guide-ontario-municipal-council-and-school-board-elections>
 - b. Third Party Advertiser Guide
<https://www.ontario.ca/document/2026-third-party-advertisers-guide>
 - c. Voters' Guide
<https://www.ontario.ca/document/2026-voters-guide-ontario-municipal-council-and-school-board-elections>
3. Required Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) Forms:
 - a. Nomination Paper – Form 1
<https://forms.mgcs.gov.on.ca/en/dataset/017-9499p>
 - b. Nomination Paper, Endorsement of Nomination – Form 2
<https://forms.mgcs.gov.on.ca/en/dataset/017-2233>
 - c. Financial Statement, Auditor's Report Candidate – Form 4
<https://forms.mgcs.gov.on.ca/en/dataset/017-9503p>

Check on our municipal website for additional forms.