



SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

April, 2026

2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION THIRD PARTY ADVERTISERS – INTRODUCTORY LETTER

Dear Potential Third Party Advertiser:

Welcome to the 2026 Municipal Election. Ontario residents, corporations and trade unions that will incur expenses for advertisements related to the promotion, support or opposition of a candidate, or take a position on a “yes” or “no” question on the ballot, in any broadcast, print, electronic, or other medium must register as a third party advertiser.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)

The Third Party Advertisers Guide (on website), prepared by MMAH provides general information on the notice of registration and election process. You may also wish to check out their Municipal Election page on their website at <https://www.ontario.ca/document/2026-third-party-advertisers-guide> .

Municipal Elections Act

A copy of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 and its regulations can be viewed at <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/96m32> . The Act outlines all of the rules regarding the election.

Other Resources

Our website also provides a page regarding Information for Third Parties - <https://www.smithsfalls.ca/council-administration/elections/information-for-third-parties/>

Registration Process

Notice of Registration is to be filed with the Clerk at the Municipal Office during regular office hours from May 1, 2026 to Friday, October 23, 2026 (the Friday before Voting Day)

At the time of filing, you must also submit the following forms:

- Declaration of Qualifications – Third Party Advertiser (on website)
- A resolution from the corporation or trade union that authorizes the person to register on their behalf, if applicable

In addition, at the time of filing you will be required to provide proof of identity.

Both forms must be signed in front of the Returning Officer at the time of filing.

An appointment must be made to file your Notice of Registration.



SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

Key Dates

The attached list of key dates for the 2026 Municipal Election provides helpful information about the election process. This is not a complete list and the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 should be referred to.

Campaign Period

A registered third party can only accept contributions or incur campaign expenses during their advertising campaign period.

The advertising campaign begins on the day the individual, corporation or trade union is registered as a third party advertiser, and in most cases the campaign will end on December 31, 2026.

Campaign expenses shall not exceed the maximum established by the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 and are calculated as follows:

- Registered Third Party: \$5,000 plus \$.05 per elector (6940 electors as of September 15, 2022)

Upon filing, the Clerk shall give the individual, corporation or trade union filing the Notice of Registration, the Estimated Maximum Campaign Expenses, using the above calculation. These amounts shall be confirmed by the Returning Officer, on or before September 30, 2026, using the 2026 voter's list as of September 15, and a Certificate of Maximum Campaign Expenses will be provided to each Registered Third Party.

Every third party must open a bank account exclusively for the advertising campaign.

A detailed record of all revenues and expenditures must be kept by the Registered Third Party throughout the campaign period. To aid in your understanding of the financial reporting requirements, we have enclosed a blank Financial Statement. Please also refer to the MMAH Third Party Advertisers Guide which very clearly outlines all of the requirements. **Detailed records, including receipts are to be kept by the Registered Third Party.** Third Party advertisers are required to keep all financial records until November 15, 2030 when the next council takes office.

Third Party Advertising

Like campaign expenditures and revenues, the placement of third party signs and advertising shall not commence until after the filing of the Notice of Registration. The Town has a Third Party Advertising Policy (website) that informs Registered Third Parties of when and where they can post third party advertising and to ensure public safety on municipal roads and highways during an election period. Both the County of Lanark and provincial policy with respect to the posting of campaign advertising on County and provincial road allowances are enclosed. Third party advertising



SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

that will be installed or affixed to poles belonging to Hydro One Network, Bell Canada or other public utilities will require the permission of these respective approving authorities.

Returning Officer

Throughout the election process you will hear and see reference to the position of Returning Officer. The Municipal Elections Act, 1996 directs the Clerk of the municipality to assume the position of Returning Officer for the municipal election. The titles are often used interchangeably; however the roles and responsibilities are very different.

This guide is provided to you for information purposes. Any necessary changes will be provided to Registered Third Parties, posted to the Town's website, referred to as "Revised" and dated accordingly. As well, reference should always be made to the relevant legislation and regulations.

Once registered as a Third Party Advertiser I may be in contact with you throughout the election period. In the meantime, please visit the Town's website for up-to-date municipal election information.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (613) 283-4124 Ext. 1102 or kcostello@smithsfalls.ca

Sincerely,

Original Signed

Kerry Costello
Clerk/Returning Officer



SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

Sate	Information
May 1 to August 20	Nominations accepted Between 8:30 a/.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday
Nomination Day August 21	Nominations and Withdrawal of Nomination will be accepted between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
August 24	Certification/Rejection of Nomiation Papers By 4:00 p.m. Acclamation after 4:00 p.m.
No Later than August 28	Official List of Candidates Posted
Prior to September 30	Final Calculation of Maximum Campaign Expenses will be provided to Candidates
October 19 to October 26	Voting Period Until 8:00 p.m. October 26
October 27	Declaration of Official Election Results
November 15, 2026 to November 14, 2030	Term of Office
December 31, 2026	Must notify Returning Officer if intending to extend campaign
January 4, 2027	Earliest the Financial Statements can be filed
March 30, 2027	Deadline to file Financial Statements 2:00 p.m.