



ELECTIONS BC
A non-partisan Office of the Legislature

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ELECTOR ORGANIZATION NEWSLETTER

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It's an election year!

The 2018 General Local Elections will take place on October 20, 2018. The election period started on January 1 and the campaign period will begin on September 22. This edition of our newsletter focuses on campaign accounts, receiving campaign contributions and paying for election expenses. For more information about the rules read the [Guide to Local Elections Campaign Financing in B.C. for Elector Organizations and their Financial Agents](#).

Campaign accounts

The *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* (LECFA) requires elector organizations that endorse candidates in multiple jurisdictions (e.g., a campaign in a

municipality and a campaign in a school district) to have a separate campaign account for each jurisdiction and administer the finances for each jurisdiction separately. Elector organizations must not operate a single campaign account and use it to support their candidates in multiple jurisdictions.

Receiving campaign contributions

Campaign contributions received by an elector organization must be deposited into the correct campaign account. This means contributors must tell you whether they are contributing to the municipal campaign or the school district campaign. If the financial agent doesn't know which campaign the contribution is for, they must contact the contributor and find out before depositing the contribution into the applicable campaign account. If a contributor wants to contribute to multiple campaigns (e.g., both municipal and school district), they must make the contributions in a way that each contribution can be separately deposited into the right campaign account. Money cannot be deposited into one campaign account and then transferred to another campaign account.



These rules also apply to online fundraising applications such as PayPal or other online payment methods. While it is permissible to use these applications to receive campaign contributions, elector organizations must ensure that all of LECFA's requirements are met. This includes ensuring that contributors provide their full name, mailing address and, if it is different, residential address. For elector organizations endorsing candidates in multiple jurisdictions, they must also include a method for contributors to indicate which campaign (e.g., municipal or school district) the contribution is for.



Elector organizations must also ensure that money received through online fundraising is deposited into the correct campaign account. Elector organizations are not permitted to have all contributions received through online fundraising put into a single campaign account and then transfer funds to a campaign account for a different campaign. This may require an elector organization to set up multiple online fundraising accounts in order to comply with the rules.

Paying for election expenses

Election expenses must be paid or reimbursed from the applicable campaign account. Elector organizations that endorse candidates in more than one jurisdiction (e.g., municipal and school district) must pay each campaign's election expenses from the correct campaign account. They cannot pay for the entire expense from one campaign account and then transfer money from the other campaign account.

For example, if an elector organization running two campaigns has an election expense for \$1,000 that is equally attributable to each campaign, they must pay the vendor \$500 from each campaign account or if an authorized individual paid for the expense, reimburse them \$500 from each campaign account. Also, if the expense is a campaign period expense, the elector organization must attribute the expense to the applicable candidates' expense limit.

Elector organization training session

To help elector organizations understand the campaign financing and election advertising rules, Elections BC will host a training session in the Lower Mainland in March 2018 if there is sufficient demand.

Please contact Elections BC if you, or representatives of your organization, would attend such a session. If enough interest is shown, we will send elector organizations the details of the session as soon as possible.

For more information about the campaign financing rules, please contact Elections BC using the information below.

CONTACT

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