

Election Expenses Timeline for Members of the Legislative Assembly

Purpose:

To provide Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) with summary information regarding election campaign expenditures during the year before an election.

Discussion:

The *Election Act* establishes rules regarding expenditures in relation to general elections. These rules apply to all candidates, even before they file nomination documents with Elections BC.

This summary briefly outlines the expenses provisions before and during an election.

This document is a summary of relevant timelines only and should not be used as the sole source of information regarding election financing. Elections BC's [Guide for Financial Agents Appointed Under the *Election Act*](#) provides more comprehensive information.

Section 3.1(2) of the *Election Act* provides that nothing in the Act affects a Member of the Legislative Assembly in the doing of an act necessary for the performance of the Member's duties. However, there are perception issues regarding what does and does not constitute election advertising and a public expectation that Elections BC will monitor those activities and respond to complaints regarding MLAs conducting advertising containing partisan messages.

Nothing in this document supersedes rules regarding the use of public funds by Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Types of expenses:

For a candidate, or potential candidate, there are three types of expenses that must be tracked and reported:

1. *Campaign period election expenses subject to spending limits*
The value of goods and services used in the campaign period (Writ Day to the close of voting on General Voting Day) to promote or oppose, directly or indirectly, a candidate or political party.
2. *Election expenses not subject to spending limits*
The value of goods and services used in the campaign period to promote or oppose, directly or indirectly, a candidate or political party but that are specifically excluded from the spending limits by section 203 of the *Election Act*.

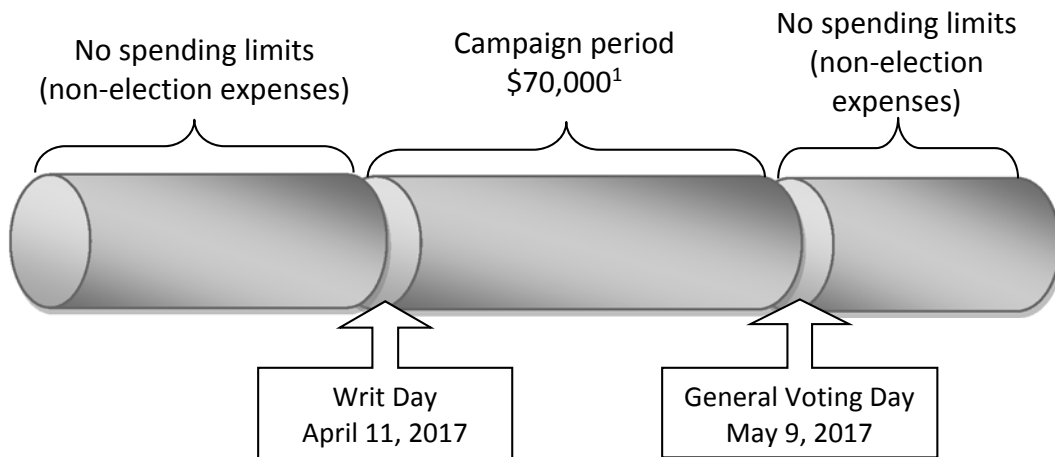
3. *Non-election expenses*

The value of goods or services used in relation to a candidate's campaign but outside of the campaign period.

When determining if property or services are an election expense or a non-election expense it should be noted that it is the timing of its use that is relevant, not the date on which it was purchased or received by a candidate.

If an individual becomes a candidate in an election, all of these types of expenses must be reported in the candidate's election financing report. However, expenses limits only apply to goods and services used in the campaign period.

Timeline for the 2017 General Election:



For more information
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1. The campaign period has an election expense limit of \$70,000 for candidates. The \$70,000 will be adjusted for changes to the Consumer Price Index.