



**ELECTIONS BC**  
A non-partisan Office of the Legislature

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# ELECTOR ORGANIZATION NEWSLETTER

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## Introduction

Last month, the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* (LECFA) and Local Elections Campaign Financing Expense Limit Regulation were amended. The changes are effective for the 2018 General Local Elections and any local election thereafter.

## Campaign contribution limits and source restrictions

Under the new rules, campaign contributions can only be received from eligible individuals. An eligible individual is a resident of British Columbia and either a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident. Campaign contributions from organizations are prohibited.



The new rules also have campaign contribution limits. Eligible individuals can contribute up to \$1,200 per year to an elector organization and its endorsed candidates (the “elector organization family”). If an elector organization endorses candidates in multiple jurisdictions (e.g., a municipality and a school district), an eligible individual can contribute up to \$1,200 to each of the candidate’s and elector organization’s campaigns.

For example, the contributor could give up to \$1,200 to the elector organization family for the municipal campaign **and** up to \$1,200 to the elector organization family for the school district campaign. This limit also applies to loans made by eligible individuals to the elector organization and its endorsed candidates.

Financial agents and individuals authorized to collect campaign contributions from eligible individuals must now record the residential address and, if different, the mailing address of each contributor. For example, if an eligible individual provides a mailing address, such as a PO Box or commercial address, they **must** also provide their residential address.

Contributor residential addresses must be included in disclosure statements for the 2018 General Local Elections and beyond. However, Elections BC will redact contributor addresses before publishing the statements.



The new rules apply to all campaign contributions received on or after October 31, 2017.

## Contributions received before October 31, 2017

Campaign contributions received before October 31, 2017 may be used in the 2018 General Local Elections if they were deposited into the appropriate campaign account (see Campaign accounts). These contributions must be disclosed in the elector organization's disclosure statement with the information required under the former rules.

## Campaign accounts

As discussed in a previous edition of this newsletter, an elector organization must open a separate campaign account for each jurisdiction in which they endorse candidates. A new rule under LECFA is that elector organizations **cannot** make transfers between their campaign accounts in different jurisdictions.

If an elector organization endorses candidates in more than one jurisdiction (i.e., municipality and school district), election campaigning in relation to each of the jurisdictions is a separate election campaign for the purposes of LECFA.

Since expenses of each campaign must be paid from its respective campaign account, elector organizations must ensure that campaign contributions received in relation to each campaign are deposited into the appropriate campaign account. For example, if an eligible individual wishes to make a campaign contribution to the elector organization's municipal and school district campaigns, they will need to make two contributions, one for each campaign account.



If your elector organization has been raising funds and depositing into a single campaign account, but plan to endorse candidates in multiple jurisdictions, please contact Elections BC for guidance on how to proceed.

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

## CONTACT

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Elections BC is the independent, non-partisan Office of the Legislature responsible for administering electoral processes in British Columbia under the *Election Act*, *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, *Recall and Initiative Act* and *Referendum Act*.