



# 2022 General Local Elections

## Campaign Financing for Elector Organizations

This quick reference sheet helps financial agents and principal officials understand the campaign financing and election advertising rules for local elections. This sheet only summarizes the rules. Refer to the [Guide to Local Elections Campaign Financing in B.C. for Electoral Organizations and their Financial Agents](#) for more details.

### Campaign Account

- Elector organizations must have at least one campaign account for each jurisdiction they register in. Elector organization campaign accounts must be separate from candidate campaign accounts.
- All election expenses must be paid or reimbursed from a campaign account.
- A campaign account can only be used for an election campaign.

### Campaign Financing Arrangements

- A campaign financing arrangement is a written agreement between an elector organization and its endorsed candidates. The arrangement determines how much of the candidate's campaign period expense limit will be shared with the elector organization.
- Elector organizations do not have their own campaign period expense limit.
- An endorsed candidate can make all, some or none of their expense limit available to their elector organization to spend on their campaign. Expense limits can be found [here](#).
- A campaign financing arrangement must be submitted to Elections BC on the [regulated form](#) before the start of the campaign period.

### Campaign Contributions

- Only eligible individuals can make campaign contributions. An eligible individual is a resident of British Columbia, and a Canadian citizen or permanent resident. Organizations cannot make campaign contributions.
- There are campaign contribution limits for each calendar year for eligible individuals. The limit for 2022 is \$1,250 per campaign.
- Funds provided by a candidate to their own campaign are campaign contributions and are subject to the contribution limit.
- A group of endorsed candidates may contribute an additional \$1,250 in total to the campaign of the elector organization in 2022.
- An eligible individual can only contribute up to their limit to an elector organization and its endorsed candidates. The eligible individual can choose how their contribution is split between the elector organization and its candidates.

- If an eligible individual exceeds their contribution limit, the financial agent must return any excess contributions and report it as a prohibited contribution on their disclosure statement.
- Campaign contributions must be made to the financial agent or an individual authorized in writing by the financial agent.
- The details of each contribution must be recorded, including the date and value of the contribution and the contributor's full name and residential address.
- Campaign contributions for local elections are not eligible for tax receipts.

## Transfers

- Transfers include sending money or providing property or services between an elector organization and its candidates.
- Transfers can be made at any time, including after General Voting Day.

## Expenses

- Financial agents must record the details for all expenses and the dates when expenses are used.
- Financial agents must approve all election expenses. The financial agent may authorize in writing another individual to pay for an election expense approved by the financial agent.
- All expenses must be paid or reimbursed from the campaign account. This includes expenses paid by an endorsed candidate using personal funds.
- All candidates are subject to campaign period expense limits.

## Sponsorship Information

- Sponsorship information, also known as an authorization statement, is required on most election advertising during the pre-campaign period and campaign period.
- The sponsorship information must include the name of the financial agent, the words “authorized by” in front of the financial agent's name, and a B.C. phone number, or B.C. mailing address or email address at which the financial agent can be contacted. For example:

Authorized by John Doe, 250-123-4567

- There are monetary penalties for failing to include sponsorship information on election advertising.

## Fundraising Functions

- Only eligible individuals may purchase tickets to a fundraising function. Organizations are not permitted to purchase tickets to a fundraising function.
- Reporting fundraising functions can be complicated. For assistance, call Elections BC.

## Disclosure Statement

- A disclosure statement must be filed for every elector organization campaign and for each of their endorsed candidates even if the candidate withdrew, was acclaimed or had few or no financial transactions.
- The statement must be completed on Elections BC forms.
- Keeping detailed records is one of the most important items to remember to complete the disclosure statement required by the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*. If a financial agent has questions on the rules or what to record, they should contact Elections BC.