



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

P.O. Box 2064, Suite 1804
20 Eglinton Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario M4R 1K8
T. 416.932.9460 F. 416.932.9459
ocsta@ocsta.on.ca www.ocsta.on.ca

Patrick Daly, *President*
Beverley Eckensweiler, *Vice President*
Nick Milanetti, *Executive Director*

September 6, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairpersons and Directors of Education
- All Catholic District School Boards

FROM: Patrick J. Daly, President

SUBJECT: **The New Ontario Municipal Election Cycle—May 1, 2018 - October 22, 2018**

On June 7, 2016, the government of Ontario passed important amendments to the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*. The *Municipal Modernization Act, 2016* or Bill 181 introduced the following key changes for the administration of municipal and school board elections beginning in 2018.

Election Calendar for Municipal Councilors and School Board Trustees:

The first day that nominations can be filed for a regular election is May 1. The deadline for all nominations is the fourth Friday of July (July 27, 2018). The date of all municipal elections is now the fourth Monday in October or for 2018 October 22. The four year term of office begins on December 1, 2018 but will change to November 15 beginning in 2022.

Ranked Ballots:

Bill 181 also allows municipalities the option to use ranked ballot voting, beginning in the 2018 municipal elections. Ranked ballots will allow a voter to rank candidates in order of preference.

Campaign Finance:

Bill 181 also has new rules for municipal and school board elections. For example, corporate and union contributions to candidates is banned in every municipality across the province as well as providing for regulations to set out spending limits on post-campaign spending on gifts and parties.

Third-Party Advertising:

The bill introduced a framework to regulate third-party advertising, which includes contribution and spending limits. Only contributors who are eligible under the bill will be able to register as a third party. Third parties also have to identify themselves on signs and advertisements. Spending limits for third-party advertising will be set out in a regulation. The act defines third-party advertising as advertisements supporting or opposing a candidate.

Election Administration:

School boards are now required to establish policies regarding the use of board resources during a campaign. Boards must also have policies prior to the election setting out additional conditions for an automatic recount of ballots. Municipal clerks will determine the dates and times for advance voting, reduced voting hours in certain institutions and early opening on voting day.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Stephen Andrews at sandrews@ocsta.on.ca.

Attachments