

Your voice,
Gander's
tomorrow.



2025 Gander Municipal Election

CANDIDATE GUIDE



TOWN OF GANDER

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Welcome

Why You Should Run



Your voice, Gander's tomorrow.

Council is where ideas become action, and where community-minded people come together to make Gander even better. No political experience needed, just a willingness to lead with heart and work with others toward shared goals.

Do you believe in Gander's potential? Are you ready to be a voice for your neighbours, a builder of ideas, a shaper of change?

Why run?

- ★ Represent your neighbours and make their voices count
- ★ Contribute fresh ideas and new perspectives
- ★ Help shape policies that reflect Gander's evolving needs
- ★ Support a more inclusive, connected, and vibrant community

Your path to candidacy

- ✓ 2 signatures from eligible voters
- ✓ 1 simple form (MEF-02)
- ✓ \$10 nomination fee (non-refundable)
- ✓ File your nomination at Town Hall on September 2, 3, or 4.
- ✓ Campaign with purpose
- ✓ Election Day: October 2, 2025



How the Election Works

Here's what you need to know:

Council composition

- 1 Mayor (elected separately)
- 1 Deputy Mayor (chosen by Council)
- 5 Councillors (elected at-large)

Candidates must choose to run either for Mayor or Councillor—not both.

Selection of Deputy Mayor

Council selects a Deputy Mayor from among the elected Councillors after the election.

Returning Officer

The Returning Officer runs the municipal election and ensures it's fair and properly managed. They're your main contact if you have questions about the process. Gander also appoints an Alternate Returning Officer for support.

Voting system

Gander does not use wards. All Councillors are elected at-large, by all voters.

The polls

The polling station is staffed by:

- Deputy Returning Officer - Manages the station
- Poll Clerks - Record and track voter activity



Serving on Municipal Council

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What it's like being on Council

Council term

Council is elected for a four-year term. The next term runs from Fall 2025 to Fall 2029.

Being a Councillor means helping guide Gander's future. You'll work with other elected members and staff to make decisions that impact every part of our town, from parks and roads to housing and public safety.

Council is responsible for governing the Town, not managing daily operations. Council is responsible for making decisions that shape the community's present and future. Day-to-day operations are handled by the Chief Administrative Officer and staff.

Council is responsible for:

- Strategic planning and priority setting
- Budget approval and spending oversight
- Bylaw and policy adoption
- Decision-making on infrastructure, services, and development
- Community representation

Council composition & roles

1 Mayor, 1 Deputy Mayor, and 5 Councillors

- Each member has one vote on decisions.
- The Mayor chairs Council meetings and ensures they run efficiently and fairly.
- The Mayor is also the official spokesperson.
- The Deputy Mayor steps in when the Mayor is unavailable.

There are policies that guide who speaks on behalf of the Town, especially for media and public events.

Being on Council means working together with other members, staff, and residents to build a stronger Gander.

Council does not have authority over municipal staff, individual employees, or day-to-day operations.

The responsibility for managing staff and operations rests with the Town Manager (Chief Administrative Officer) and management team.

Legislation you'll follow as a Councillor

All members of Council must follow rules set by the Province. The main law is the *Towns and Local Service Districts Act*.

This legislation outlines:

- The powers and duties of Council
- How decisions are made and meetings are run
- Financial and ethical standards
- Rules for transparency, accountability, and conduct

Council decisions must follow this framework to ensure they are fair, lawful, and in the public's best interest.

Learn more:

www.assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/statutes/t08.htm

Councillors must also attend training and abide by the Council Code of Conduct to ensure their actions align with the highest standards of integrity and public service.

Support and Resources for New Councillors

- Orientation and training sessions
- Staff support (e.g. CAO, Clerk)
- Access to Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador (MNL) resources
- Mentoring opportunities



Becoming a Candidate

What are the qualifications?

To run for Mayor or Councillor, you must:

- ✓ Be a Canadian citizen
- ✓ Be at least 18 years old
- ✓ Have lived in Gander for at least 30 days before nominations open
- ✓ Have no outstanding taxes or charges payable to the Town

Disqualifications

You cannot run if you:

- ✗ Work for the Town (unless granted leave)
- ✗ Are an MHA, MP, senator, or judge
- ✗ Are a chief administrator of a Town agency
- ✗ Were dismissed from Council or had your seat vacated within the past 2 years

When do I file nomination papers?

Nomination period: Sept 2–4, 2025 (weekdays, 9am–4pm)

Location: Gander Town Hall, 100 Elizabeth Drive

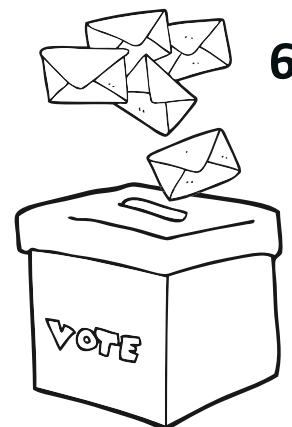
What's required:

- Two nominators (eligible Gander voters)
- Completed nomination form (MEF-02)
- \$10 nomination fee (non-refundable)

If you can't file in person, an alternate form (MEF-03) is available.

You may withdraw up to Sept 10, 2025, at 4pm.

Key Election Information



Important dates

Action	Date
Residency required to qualify as a candidate (30 days prior to first day of nominations)	Sunday, August 3, 2025
First day of nominations	Tuesday, September 2, 2025
Residency required to qualify as a voter (30 days prior to election day)	Tuesday, September 2, 2025
Last day for nominations	Friday, September 4, 2025 at 4 p.m.
Last day to withdraw nominations	Friday, September 5, 2025 at 4 p.m.
Vote-by-mail kits distributed	Week of September 15-19
Last day to mail return envelope (via Canada Post)	Wednesday, September 24, 2025
Last day to return voter kits to Town Hall in person	Thursday, October 2, 2025, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Election Day	Thursday, October 2, 2025, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Last day to apply for a recount	Sunday, October 5, 2025
Swearing in ceremony	To be determined
Last day to file campaign contribution/expense declaration	Sunday, November 2, 2025

Campaigns



Campaigning:

- Prohibited within 30 metres of polling stations (MEA s.36)
- No use of Town logo on any campaign materials

Election signs:

- Election signs must comply with the Town of Gander's sign regulations.

Campaign finance (MEA s.67–67.4):

- Contributions over \$100 must be disclosed
- Disclosure must be submitted within 90 days (Forms MEF-19A or 19B)
- Contributions may only come from natural persons
- Must use cheque, money order, or credit card if over \$100 (MEA s.67.2)

Anonymous contributions over \$100 must be forfeited to the Town

Voter list & candidate agents

Voter list:

- Provided to official candidates upon nomination
- Use for electoral purposes only (MEA s.32)
- All users must complete the Oath of Secrecy (MEF-10/Schedule B)

Candidate's Agent (MEA s.4, s.36):

- A Candidate's Agent must be appointed before Election Day.
- The agent may observe voting and the counting of ballots.
- The agent cannot interfere with the voting process, campaign on Election Day, or handle ballots.

A Candidate's Agent is a person authorized by a candidate to represent them during the election. The agent's role is to observe the voting and counting process to ensure fairness but without direct involvement in the actions of voting or campaigning.



FAQ

Can I run for Council if I work for the Town?

No. If you are a Town Clerk, Manager, Department Head, or paid Fire Chief, you are not eligible to run and cannot request a leave of absence.

What if I work through a temporary program like CEEP?

You must request a leave of absence before running. If you are not elected, you may return to your position after the election.

Can I run if I owe taxes to the Town?

No. You must have no outstanding taxes or charges owed to the municipality. Any pre-authorized payments must be paid in full through the end of the year.

What if my business owes taxes?

If you personally own a business and are responsible for its debts with outstanding balances, you cannot run for Council.

If you own a corporation, you are eligible to run, as corporations are separate legal entities. However, sole proprietorships or partnerships must have all taxes paid.

Does the nomination form have to be signed in person?

Yes. You, your proposer, and your seconder must sign the nomination form in front of the Returning Officer. If you cannot attend, one proposer can complete a special form on your behalf.

What does “ordinarily resident for 30 days” mean?

You must live and sleep in the municipality, intend to return if temporarily away, and consider it your primary residence. The Returning Officer determines whether this condition is met.

What can a candidate's agent do?

An agent can observe voting, verify the voter list, confirm ballot box procedures, object to a voter or ballot, and attend vote counting or a recount—after taking an oath of office.

Can a candidate's agent campaign at the polls?

No. Agents may not campaign or distribute materials at the polling station or within 30 metres of it.

Does ballot counting wait for candidates or their agents to arrive?

No. Counting begins as scheduled. It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure an agent is present if desired.

When does the new Council begin its term?

The term begins within two weeks of the election. Members must be sworn in before assuming their duties.

Who can swear in a newly elected Councillor?

The Returning Officer, a Town Clerk, a Justice of the Peace, a Provincial Court Judge, or a Commissioner for Oaths.

When is the first Council meeting held?

Within 14 days of the election.

Are there rules for campaign donations?

Yes. Any donation over \$100 (cash or in-kind) must be reported. Final reports are due within 90 days of the election and are available to the public.

Do I report in-kind contributions like signs or office space?

Yes. Goods and services must be reported at their lowest market value. Personal volunteer time does not need to be reported.



We're here to help

Contact information:



709-651-5919



elections@gandercanada.com



Town Hall, 100 Elizabeth Drive, Gander, NL