



## Brantford Police Services Board

# **Policy #18-01** **Use of Board Resources During an Election Period**

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### **Description**

#### Purpose

This policy sets out provisions for the use of Brantford Police Services Board ("Board") and Brantford Police Service ("Service") resources and infrastructure during an election period, in order to preserve the public trust and integrity in the elections process and to comply with the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (the "Act"). This policy applies during an election period as defined in this policy. There may be additional Board policies that also apply during an election period.

#### Definitions

"Campaign Materials" – mean any materials used to solicit votes for a candidate or question on the ballot in an election period including, but not limited to: literature, banners, posters, pictures, buttons, clothing, or other paraphernalia. Campaign materials include, but are not limited to: materials in all media, such as print, displays, electronic, radio or television and online sources including websites or social media.

"Candidate" – means any person who has filed and not withdrawn a nomination for an elected office at the municipal (including school board), provincial or federal level in an election or by-election.

"Election" – means an election or by-election at the municipal (including school board), provincial and federal level of government, or the submission of a question or by-law to the electors.

"Election Period" – means the official campaign period of an election.

- a) For a municipal (including school board) election, the election period commences on May 1 of an election year and ends on voting day.
- b) For a provincial or federal election, the election period commences the day the writ for the election is issued and ends on voting day.

- c) For a question on the ballot, the period commences the day City Council passes a by-law to put a question to the electorate and ends on voting day.
- d) For a by-election, the period commences when the by-election is called and ends on voting day.

"Media Event" – means an event such as a press conference or photo opportunity to which the media is invited and the purpose of which is to promote, support or oppose a candidate, registered third party advertiser, a political party or a position on a question on a ballot. Features of a Media Event can include, but are not limited to: the issuing of a media advisory stating date, time and location of briefing/press conference, use of backdrops, podiums or public address systems, the distribution of media releases, media kits, display of signage or other materials to promote, support or oppose a candidate, registered third party advertiser or a position on a question on a ballot.

"Registered Third-Party Advertiser" – means, in relation to a municipal election, an individual, corporation or trade union that is registered with the City Clerk, as per section of the Act, whose purpose is to promote, support or oppose a candidate for office, or an issue on a question on a ballot, and is not under the direction of a candidate.

"Third-Party Advertisement" – means an advertisement in any broadcast, print, electronic or other medium that has the purpose of promoting, supporting or opposing a candidate for office, or an issue on a question on a ballot, and is not under the direction of a candidate.

## General

It is the policy of the Board that, during an Election Period:

1. Any facility that is owned, leased or occupied by either the Service or the Board may not be used for any election-related purpose, including a media event, by a candidate, registered third-party advertiser or political party.
2. Candidates, third-party advertisers or political parties may not distribute campaign materials on or in Service or Board facilities or at Service or Board events.
3. The crests or images of either the Service or the Board may not be printed, posted or distributed on any election-related campaign materials or included on any election-related website.
4. Candidates may not post photographs of themselves with Service members in uniform or with Board members in campaign materials.
5. Photographic or video materials created by Service members or the Board may not be used for any election purpose or in campaign materials.
6. Websites or domain names funded by, or officially associated with, the Service or the Board may not include any campaign materials, make reference to and identify any individual as a candidate, registered third-party advertiser or political party or profile

any slogan or symbol associated with a candidate, registered third-party advertiser or political party.

7. Candidates, registered third-party advertisers or political parties are permitted to attend Service and Board events, or events held at Service and Board facilities, but may not campaign while in attendance. No election signs may be posted and no campaign materials may be disseminated at Service and Board events.

## **Legislative Reference**

Board Policy / Municipal Elections Act

## **Passed / Reviewed and/or Updated**

Passed: May 10, 2018

Reviewed/Updated: September 2024