



2026

PEACHLAND GENERAL ELECTION

Candidate Information Session



August 24, 2026



District Of Peachland Council Chambers

AGENDA

Candidate Information Session

01

Welcome and Introductions

02

Informational Presentation



Running for Office

Eligibility, nomination and candidacy



Election Preparation

Campaign rules, timelines and requirements



Overview of the District of Peachland

Organization, services and local government



What to Expect Once Elected

Roles, responsibilities and time commitment

03

Question and Answer Panel

RUNNING FOR OFFICE



WHY RUN FOR OFFICE?

LOCAL LEADERSHIP MATTERS

Effective local government requires dedicated, ethical and informed leaders who are committed to their communities

Serving on Council is an opportunity to take an active role in the future of your community.

1

BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED

Be actively involved in the local democratic process

2

SHARE WHAT YOU KNOW

Contribute your experience and knowledge to your community

3

HELP ADDRESS ISSUES

Address various issues in your community

4

LEAD CHANGE

Lead change in your community

What would you like to contribute to your community?

GOVERNANCE VS. ADMINISTRATION

Different roles. One organization. A shared focus on serving the community.

COUNCIL | GOVERNANCE

-  **SETS DIRECTION** Vision, strategic priorities and community outcomes
-  **MAKES POLICY** Adopts bylaws, policies and service levels
-  **ALLOCATES RESOURCES** Approves budgets and major priorities
-  **DECIDES COLLECTIVELY** Council acts through decisions made at the table
-  **HOLDS CAO ACCOUNTABLE** Focuses on results and organizational performance

STAFF | ADMINISTRATION

-  **IMPLEMENTS DIRECTION** Turns Council decisions into programs and services
-  **ADMINISTERS POLICY** Applies bylaws, policies and established procedures
-  **MANAGES OPERATIONS** Delivers services and manages day-to-day resources
-  **PROVIDES ADVICE** Brings professional expertise and recommendations to Council
-  **LEADS STAFF** The CAO directs and manages the municipal organization

KEY PRINCIPLE: COUNCIL GOVERNS. STAFF ADMINISTERS.

Individual Council members do not direct staff. Council provides direction collectively; the CAO leads the administration.

TERM OF OFFICE

A Four-Year Commitment



COUNCIL

ELECTED FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM

The 2026–2030 Council is elected through the 2026 General Local Election.

01

OATH

TAKING OFFICE

Before taking office, newly elected members must make an Oath or Solemn Affirmation of Office. The new Council begins its work at the Inaugural Council Meeting on November 3, 2026.

02

TERM

SERVING THE TERM

Council members serve for the duration of the 2026–2030 term and remain in office until their successors take office.

03

A four-year term provides continuity for Council to establish priorities and see major initiatives through.

CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY

Candidates must meet specific requirements. *(Local Government Act s. 81)*

1

18 years of age or older (on Election Day);

2

Canadian Citizen;

3

Resident of BC (for at least 6 month);

4

Not disqualified under any legislation (See section 81(2) of the LGA)

5

Not an employee of the District of Peachland

RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

Locally elected officials need to uphold these principles of responsible conduct

INTEGRITY



Integrity – being honest and demonstrating strong ethical principles

ACCOUNTABILITY



Accountability – an obligation and willingness to accept responsibility or to account to one's actions

RESPECT



Respect – having due regard for others' perspectives, wishes, and rights and displaying respect for the office of local government and the role of local government in decision making

LEADERSHIP AND COLLABORATION



Leadership and Collaboration – an ability to lead, listen to and positively influence others; coming together to pursue a common goal through collective efforts

Locally elected officials need to uphold these principles of responsible conduct

PREPARING TO RUN FOR COUNCIL

What candidates need to know
before the campaign begins



2026 GENERAL LOCAL ELECTION

Key Dates for Candidates

DATE	EVENT	LEGISLATION
September 1	Nomination Period Begins	LGA s. 84(1)
September 11	Nomination Period Closes Candidates who have been nominated are officially declared	LGA ss. 97(1)
September 15	Last Day to Challenge Nomination	LGA ss. 91(2)
September 21	Declaration of Election by Voting or Acclamation • Drawing of Names for Ballot • Campaign Period Begins	LGA s. 98
October 7	Mandatory Advance Voting Day • 8:00 AM–8:00 PM	LGA s. 107(1)
October 14	Additional Advance Voting Day • 8:00 AM–8:00 PM	LGA s. 107(1)
October 15	Opening of Mail Ballot Certification Envelopes • 4:00 PM	
October 17	GENERAL VOTING DAY • 8:00 AM–8:00 PM	LGA s. 52
November 3	Inaugural Meeting for New Council • 3:00 PM	
January 15, 2027	Deadline for Filing Financial Disclosures with Elections BC Keep these dates in mind throughout the campaign — several deadlines are established by legislation and cannot be extended.	LECFA s. 47(1)
February 18, 2027	Late Filing Deadline • \$500 late filing fee	LECFA s. 47(2)

NOMINATION PROCESS

What you need to know to complete and file your nomination.

NOMINATION PERIOD

SEPTEMBER 1 • 9:00 AM — SEPTEMBER 11 • 4:00 PM

1

GET YOUR PACKAGE

Nomination packages are available at the District Office and have also been provided at this Candidate Information Session.

2

TWO NOMINATORS REQUIRED

Two eligible electors — individuals eligible to vote in the Peachland election — are required to make the nomination.

3

COMPLETE & FILE

File with the Chief Election Officer or Deputy Chief Election Officer in person, by mail, fax or email. In-person appointments are recommended (Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM–4:00 PM).

4

SOLEMN DECLARATION

The Solemn Declaration must be made before the CEO, DCEO or a Commissioner for Taking Affidavits.

5

MEET THE DEADLINE

The complete nomination package must be received by 4:00 PM on September 11. Incomplete forms or submissions received after 4:00 PM will not be accepted.

6

PUBLICATION

Nomination forms will be available for public inspection. Personal contact information will be redacted.

RECOMMENDATION: Book an appointment to have your package reviewed before the filing deadline.

CANDIDATE REPRESENTATIVES

Candidates may have different people assist with campaign administration, representation and election-day activities.

FINANCIAL AGENT

REQUIRED

- Every candidate must have a Financial Agent.
- The candidate may act as their own Financial Agent or appoint someone else.
- Administers campaign finances in accordance with LECFA.

OFFICIAL AGENT

OPTIONAL

- Represents the candidate during the General Local Election.
- May act as campaign manager, spokesperson or primary representative.

SCRUTINEER

OPTIONAL

- Represents the candidate at voting opportunities.
- May observe voting procedures and the ballot counting process.

CANVASSERS

OPTIONAL

- May campaign on the candidate's behalf and may be authorized to access multi-residential buildings.
- Must be appointed in writing and provide written consent.
- Must carry identification and proof of appointment while canvassing.

The Financial Agent is required. Official Agents, Scrutineers and Canvassers are optional roles a candidate may appoint as needed.

Make sure anyone acting on your behalf understands the responsibilities and requirements of their role.

CAMPAIGN PERIOD

Campaign Expense Limits

- All candidates are subject to campaign expense limits during the campaign period.
- The campaign expense limit for Peachland is \$12, 323.78 (Mayor) and \$6,161.89 (Councillor).
- Candidates must keep records of all campaign income and expenses, including receipts and supporting documentation.

Campaign Signage & Advertising

- Campaign advertising must include the required sponsorship information.
- Campaign signs and activities must comply with the District of Peachland Election Sign Bylaw No. 2463 (*see handout*).
- **It is an election offence to conduct campaign activities or display election advertising within 100 metres of a voting place while voting is taking place.**
- These restrictions apply to candidates, campaign workers and supporters acting on behalf of a campaign.



THIRD PARTY ADVERTISING SPONSORS

Third party advertising is election advertising published during a pre-campaign or campaign period that is not sponsored by a candidate or elector organization.



THIRD PARTY ADVERTISING SPONSORS MUST:

- ✓ Register with Elections BC
- ✓ Include name and contact information on all advertising
- ✓ Be independent — not sponsor advertising on behalf of, or together with, a candidate or elector organization
- ✓ Not spend more than the applicable Peachland expense limit
- ✓ File a disclosure statement

KEY POINT

Third party advertisers must remain independent and comply with campaign financing rules.

ELECTION OFFENCES

Election rules apply throughout the campaign – candidates and their campaigns are responsible for knowing and following them.

Local Government Act (LGA)	• Vote buying • Intimidation • Voting & campaigning offences
Local Elections Campaign Financing Act (LECFA)	• Campaign contribution violations • Exceeding expense limits • Financial disclosure violations
Potential Penalties	• Disqualification / loss of office • Fines • Imprisonment

Election offences can have significant consequences.

Candidates are responsible for understanding and complying with election legislation.

GENERAL VOTING DAY

WHILE VOTING IS TAKING PLACE

100-Metre Rule

No campaigning or election advertising within 100 metres of a voting place while voting is taking place.

Candidate Access

Candidates cannot remain in the voting place while voting is underway, except to cast their own ballot.

No Photos or Recording

No photographs, video or recording inside the voting place. This helps protect ballot secrecy and voter privacy.

Candidate Representatives: Appointed scrutineers may be present as permitted and must follow the directions of election officials.

OBSERVING THE COUNT

- Candidates and authorized representatives will have a designated observation area.
- Remain in the designated area, keep conversations to a minimum and do not interfere with the count.
- Scrutineers may observe and raise an objection on a ballot decision — election officials make the determination.
- Observers do not count or touch ballots, ballot boxes or election materials.
- No photographs, video or recording during the count.
- Once the count is underway, no one may enter or leave until it is complete.

Candidates and scrutineers may observe the process — election officials conduct the count.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU ARE ELECTED?

Getting the new Council ready for the 2026–2030 term

The first few months are busy — taking office, orientation, budget preparation and setting Council’s strategic direction.

NOV 3



INAUGURAL MEETING

Sworn in and officially take office

NOV 4–6



ORIENTATION

Council Orientation

FALL 2026



BUDGET WORKSHOP

2027 Budget Considerations

EARLY 2027



STRATEGIC PLANNING

Establish Council priorities for the term

ONGOING TRAINING

Additional training and professional development opportunities will be provided throughout the year to support Council in its role.

Election Day is only the beginning — the new Council moves quickly into orientation, learning and decision-making.

COUNCIL'S ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES

COMMUNITY CHARTER S. 114-115



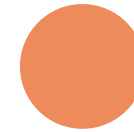
GOVERN COLLECTIVELY

- Mayor and Councillors govern together as Council
- Municipal decisions are made by Council as a whole at the Council table
- Individual members do not have independent decision-making authority



SERVE THE COMMUNITY

- Consider the well-being and interests of the community
- Develop and evaluate municipal policies and programs
- Participate in Council, committee and appointed meetings



MAKE DECISIONS

- Review information and ask questions, debate and vote
- Set Policy, budgets and strategic priorities
- Represent the community and serve on appointed bodies

KEY PRINCIPLE

Individual Councillors do not direct staff, commit municipal resources or make municipal decisions unless specifically authorized.

COUNCIL'S ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES

THE MAYOR | COMMUNITY CHARTER S. 116

The Mayor has all the responsibilities of a Councillor, plus additional leadership responsibilities.

The Mayor is the head and Chief Executive Officer of the municipality and has all the responsibilities of a Councillor, plus responsibility to:

- Provide leadership to Council
- Preside over Council meetings
- Recommend measures that support good government
- Communicate information to Council
- Provide general direction to the CAO in implementing Council decisions
- Chief Spokesperson for the District

The Mayor does not:

- Override Council decisions
- Make policy decisions without Council approval
- Independently direct municipal operations

***The Mayor provides leadership but does not govern independently.
Council governs collectively, with most decisions made by majority vote.***



TIME COMMITMENT

Serving on Council is More Than Attending Meetings

Being a member of Council requires a significant commitment of time throughout the year.

Regular Council Responsibilities

- Attend Council and committee meetings
- Review agendas, reports and background materials in advance
- Participate in strategic planning and budget discussions
- Attend training and orientation sessions

Community Engagement

- Meet with residents and stakeholders
- Attend community events, ceremonies and public functions
- Represent the District on regional committees and organizations
- Respond to emails, phone calls and constituent inquiries

Estimated Time Commitment

Varies depending on appointments and individual involvement

- **Mayor:** Approximately **30–40+ hours per week**
- **Councillor:** Approximately **10–20+ hours per week**

Meeting attendance is only one part of the role. Much of the work occurs outside formal Council meetings through preparation, community engagement, attending community events, training and conferences and committee participation.



COUNCIL REMUNERATION

Recognizing The Responsibilities Of Elected Office

Council Remuneration recognizes the time, responsibility and public service involved in serving the community.

WHY IS COUNCIL COMPENSATED?

- ❖ **Time Commitment** Preparation, meetings, committees and work outside the Council Chamber
- ❖ **Public Responsibility** Making decisions that affect services, budgets and the future of the community
- ❖ **Community Service** Engaging with residents, attending events and representing the District
- ❖ **Access to Public Office** Helps make elected service possible for people from a range of backgrounds and circumstances

HOW IT WORKS IN PEACHLAND

Council Remuneration Policy PRO-070 establishes base salaries and provides for certain per diems, benefits and eligible Council expenses.

2026 REMUNERATION REVIEW

Council remuneration is currently being considered by the Council Remuneration Review Committee for the incoming 2026-2030 Council.

OVERVIEW – DISTRICT OF PEACHLAND



DISTRICT OF PEACHLAND SERVICES

The District provides a wide range of services that support residents, businesses and the community.

● Fire & Emergency Services	fire protection, emergency response, fire prevention and inspections
● Emergency Management	emergency planning, preparedness, response and recovery
● Water Services	water treatment, distribution and system maintenance
● Sewer Services	wastewater collection and infrastructure
● Roads & Transportation	road maintenance, snow removal, sidewalks and street infrastructure
● Parks & Trails	parks, beaches, playing fields, trails, playgrounds and public spaces
● Recreation & Community Services	recreation programs, facilities, community events and Swim Bay
● Planning & Development	land-use planning, zoning, development applications and long-range planning
● Building Services	building permits, inspections and compliance
● Bylaw Enforcement	enforcement of municipal bylaws and regulatory matters
● Waste & Recycling	garbage, recycling and related waste-management services
● Engineering & Infrastructure	capital projects, infrastructure planning and asset management
● Corporate & Legislative Services	Council support, elections, records management, FOI and communications
● Financial Services	budgeting, taxation, utility billing, financial reporting and procurement
● Business Licensing	administration and regulation of business licenses
● Cemetery Services	operation and maintenance of the municipal cemetery

Council helps establish priorities, service levels and budgets across this broad range of municipal services.



DISTRICT DEPARTMENTS

How the organization is structured to deliver municipal services

**CHIEF
ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICER**

Provides overall organizational leadership, implements Council’s strategic direction and oversees District operations.

CORPORATE SERVICES

Council & legislative services • Elections •
Records & FOI • Communications • Human
Resources • Information Technology

FINANCE

Budgeting & financial planning • Taxation •
Utility billing • Purchasing • Financial
reporting

**ENGINEERING &
OPERATIONS**

Roads • Water & sewer • Capital projects •
Asset management • Parks • Facilities • Fleet
• Waste

**PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT**

Land-use planning • Development
applications • Zoning • Building permits &
inspections • Long-range planning

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Recreation programs • Community events •
Recreation facilities • Facility rentals •
Community services

FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES

Fire suppression • Emergency response •
Prevention & inspections • Public education
• Emergency preparedness

ONE ORGANIZATION • MANY SERVICES

Departments work together under the CAO to deliver Council’s direction and serve the community.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

01

Province of British Columbia

Local election rules, candidate information and provincial guidance.

www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/local-governments/governance-powers/general-local-elections

02

Elections BC

Campaign financing, election advertising and third-party sponsor requirements.

www.elections.bc.ca

03

District of Peachland

Local election dates, notices, candidate information and Peachland-specific updates.

www.peachland.ca/elections

DISTRICT OF PEACHLAND CONTACTS FOR THE 2026 ELECTION

Questions? We're here to help.

ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

● **Chief Election Officer** Jennifer Sawatzky jsawatzky@peachland.ca

● **Deputy Chief Election Officer** Karen Babin kbabin@peachland.ca

GENERAL ELECTION QUESTIONS

● **General Election Mailbox** elections@peachland.ca

CAMPAIGN FINANCING & ADVERTISING

● **Elections BC** www.elections.bc.ca

Questions?

COUNCIL MEMBER Q & A

A chance to hear directly from current Council members about what it's like to serve.

-  **ASK ABOUT** Time commitment, responsibilities, challenges and lessons learned.
-  **KEEP THE FOCUS** Questions about the experience of serving as a Mayor or Councillor.
-  **SAVE FOR ANOTHER TIME** Specific community issues, projects or past Council decisions.

Please keep questions brief and respectful so we can hear from as many people as possible.