



# A GUIDE FOR CANDIDATES

This Guide is intended for Candidates, to ensure they meet the requirements to be an approved Candidate. It is a summary of the laws for Candidates in the [Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act, 2007](#).

This Guide is not a legal document and it is recommended that all interested in becoming a Candidate read the [Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act, 2007](#).

This Guide has nine (9) sections as outlined in the table of contents:

1. Candidate Qualifications
2. Nomination Process
3. Financial Rules
4. Important Dates to Remember
5. Election Period Information
6. Election Day
7. Election Results
8. Election Offences
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Appendix A – Optional Candidate Profile

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## 1. Candidate Qualifications

### Who can be a Candidate?

A Candidate must be:

- Qualified to vote<sup>1</sup> in the election for which they are seeking office.
- Supported by at least five (5) eligible voters who have completed the Nominator's form.

A Candidate may run for only one (1) office. If a Candidate is nominated for more than one office, **all their Nominations are VOID** – and the Candidate is no longer able to be a Candidate for any office.

### Who cannot be a Candidate?

A person cannot be a Candidate if they:

- Are not qualified to vote in the election.
- Hold elected office pursuant to the *Elections Act, 1996* (Saskatchewan), the *Local Government Election Act* (Saskatchewan), the *Canada Elections Act*, or are a member of the Senate.
  - If an elected office is held, you must resign before accepting an MN-S Nomination
- Are a judge of any court, other than a citizenship court.
- Are an Election Officer or member of the staff of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer.
- Are not a resident of Saskatchewan.
- Are confined to a penal or correctional institution and serving a sentence of confinement that extends to at least election day.
- Have committed an offence within relation to elections within the previous ten (10) years.
- Have committed an indictable offence within the previous five (5) years.

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<sup>1</sup>An individual who:

a) is registered as a Métis citizen under the *Citizenship Act* and has received a Métis citizenship card issued by the Registrar appointed by the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly to administer the Central Registry under the *Citizenship Act* - Section 17.  
b) at least sixteen (16) years of age; c) a resident of Saskatchewan for at least six (6) months prior to election day, and d) in the case of an election for a Regional Representative, ordinarily resident in the Region. (amended February 20, 2021)



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As a Candidate you must not sign any document that would, if elected:

- Require you to resign your seat in the Provincial Métis Council at the request of another.
- Be an undated resignation from the Provincial Métis Council.
- Require you to follow a course of action that would prevent you from acting freely in the Provincial Métis Council.

If after being elected, a Candidate is found to be ineligible, the election for that position is VOID.

### What happens if a Candidate dies?

If a Candidate dies after nominations close and before the polls close on election day:

- The election is cancelled for that office.
- A new election process begins for that office.

### What does 'elected by acclamation' mean?

If there is only one (1) Candidate nominated and approved for a position when nominations close, there is no vote, and the Candidate is election by acclamation. An acclaimed candidate still has the right to observe at the poll and appoint Candidate Representatives.

If another Candidate removes their name and you are the only Candidate remaining in your office, you are elected by acclamation.

### What happens if a Candidate changes their mind?

If you are nominated and decide you do not want to be a Candidate:

- Complete form MN-S 412 available from the Chief Electoral Officer.
- Have two (2) voters take an Oath / Affirmation and sign the MN-S 412 form.
- Deliver the letter to the Chief Electoral Officer by 5pm on the last day nominations close - April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- Your \$100 deposit not refundable for any reason.



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## In what order do Candidates' names appear on the ballot?

Candidates' names are listed in alphabetical order by Last Name on the ballot.

If you have the same first and last name as another Candidate, the Chief Electoral Officer uses your other names to distinguish the two Candidates.

## 2. Nomination Process

### How does a person get nominated?

To get Nominated you must:

- Be an eligible Métis voter.
- Complete Nomination Papers correctly and include:
  - (CPIC) criminal record check document, valid within six (6) months of election, proving that you have not:
    - Committed an offence in relation to elections within the previous ten (10) years.
    - Committed an indictable offence within the previous five (5) years.
  - Minimum of five (5) Nominators
- File Nomination Papers with the Chief Electoral Office (or designate) before nominations close.
- Pay \$100.00 deposit.

### What information goes on the Nomination Papers?

Candidates must provide the following information:

- Name
- Birthdate
- Home Address
- Contact Information

Candidates must indicate the way they want their name to appear on the ballot. They must sign and take an Oath / Affirmation that they are eligible to be a Candidate.



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A Candidate seeking election as a Regional Representative may only be a Candidate in the Region in which they reside.

Candidates for all positions need to have at least five (5) eligible voters nominate them.

- Candidate for Executive Member: Any eligible Métis voter, who resides in Saskatchewan, can sign as a Nominator for a Candidate for election as an Executive Member of the Provincial Métis Council, i.e. President, Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer.
- Candidates for Regional Representative may only have eligible Métis voters, who reside in the Region to which they are seeking Candidacy, sign as a Nominator for the election as a Regional Representative Member of the Provincial Métis Council.

Candidates also need a Witness who sees each Nominator sign the Nomination form. The Witness signs a declaration that they know the Nominator. The Nominator and Witness sign at the same time, in front of each other. Any eligible voter, other than the Candidate, can witness the Nominator's signature. It does not need to be the same witness throughout the nomination papers.

### What are the rules to file nomination papers?

Candidates must file their Nomination Papers with the Chief Electoral Officer (or Designate) during the Nomination period.

**Nominations Open: 9:00 am on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Nominations Close: 2:00 pm on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

It is recommended that Candidates file their Nomination Papers early in the process, so that they will have time to make any corrections that may be necessary. Any part of the nomination papers can be corrected or replaced before nominations close.

Nomination Papers will be accepted by the Chief Electoral Officer, or delegated Regional Returning Officer, if:

- You are an eligible Candidate.
- You are nominated for just one elected office.



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- You are nominated by a minimum of five (5) eligible voters. (Regional Candidates must have Regional Nominators).
- Your Nomination Papers are correctly completed.
- Your CPIC criminal record check is submitted, valid within six (6) months.
- Your Nomination Papers are filed before nominations close.
- You have paid the \$100.00 deposit.

Candidates are invited to fill out the optional [mnselection.ca](http://mnselection.ca) Candidate Nomination Profile attached to this package. Upload a profile picture with a plain white background along with the candidate's platform. You can also provide public contact information, such as a phone number and email. The Chief Electoral Officer reserves the right to request amendments or changes, in communication with the Candidate, on submitted information prior to publishing on the [mnselection.ca](http://mnselection.ca) website.

Once the Chief Electoral Officer approves your nomination papers, you will receive a certificate indicating you are a qualified Candidate. Your filed nomination papers become public and may be viewed. The profile will be reviewed, approved and then posted to the website.

### 3. Financial Rules

Candidates may campaign for support and spend money during the election period to encourage voters to support them. The money pays for things such as campaign material, advertising, and travel to different communities in the Region or the Province.

#### **What are the rules to contribute money or services to a Candidate?**

People who give money or provide services to a Candidate's campaign can contribute any time and in any amount. There are no limits or restrictions on contributions. (Section 89)

#### **What are the rules to issue tax receipts?**

Money contributed to a Candidate's campaign is not tax deductible. A Candidate cannot give tax receipts to people who contribute money to their campaign.



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## What happens if there is money left over at the end of the campaign?

The Candidate may want to ask the person who contributed the money what they want the Candidate to do with it or the Candidate may decide to contribute surplus funds to a charity.

## 4. Important Dates to Remember:

Date	What Happens on that day?
April 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	Declaration of Election issued by Chief Electoral Officer
April 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	First day to file Candidate Nomination Papers
April 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	Last day to file Candidate Nomination Papers <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Deadline is 2:00 PM</li><li>○ Withdrawal Deadline is 5:00 PM</li></ul>
May 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	First day to register and vote in the Regional Returning Office (RRO)
May 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	Last day to vote in the Regional Returning Office (RRO)
May 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	Mobile Polls Held (in select communities)
May 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	Advance Polls: 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM (in select communities)
May 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	Election Day – Polls Open from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM

## 5. Election Period Information

### What are the rules about campaign materials and advertising?

- All campaign materials and advertising must display the Candidate's Name.
- No one can remove, cover up, damage, or change campaign material, unless they have the Candidate's authority.
- No one can put up any campaign material on the land or building at the polling location.
- Candidates and their Representatives cannot wear, use, or show any campaign material at the polling location.
- MN-S logos are NOT permitted on any campaign material or websites.
- Candidates must remove campaign signage as soon as possible after the Election and according to each community's bylaws.





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## **What is the Election Notice? When do Candidates get the Election Notice?**

The Election Notice provides information about the election, and it is finalized once nominations are confirmed. It lists all Candidates, the voting dates and times, and the location and address of each voting station.

The Election Notice will be posted on the Chief Electoral Officer's website [mnselection.ca](http://mnselection.ca).

## **How do Candidates get information on who voted?**

After the close of Advance Polls, a list is made of all those who have voted at Regional Returning Offices, and at Advance and Mobile Polls (section 50(2)(C)).

Candidates for Regional Representative can request the list for their region and Candidates for Executive positions can request a provincial list.

Requests can be made starting at the time of nomination, through the Chief Electoral Officer or a Regional Returning Officer.

## **6. Election Day**

### **What are the rules about campaign materials on Election Day?**

Candidates are not allowed to have any campaign material inside or on the property of the polling location on Election Day.

### **What are Candidates and their Representatives allowed to do at the polling location on Election Day?**

Candidates are allowed to have one Representative at a time at each polling station within a polling location, unless the Candidate is there in person. It is either the Candidate or a Representative, not both.

Candidates and their Representative may observe the voting process and the vote count. Neither may interfere with voters or election officials.

When a Representative first arrives at the polling station, they must show their official authorization to the Deputy Returning Officer. It must be signed by the Candidate, and must designate that person to act as their Representative.



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Candidates and Representatives may arrive at the polling stations fifteen (15) minutes before polls open to:

- Watch the Election Officer(s) count and initial the ballots.
- Inspect the ballots and other official paper for the poll.

### What is a Candidate or Representative allowed to do when the Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) counts the ballots?

Candidates and Representatives can observe and keep track of the count as the Deputy Returning Officer counts the ballots.

The Deputy Returning Officer is the **ONLY** person who handles the ballots.

Candidates and Representatives must always respect and not interfere with the Election Officials.

Candidates and Representatives may disagree and object when the Deputy Returning Officer accepts or rejects a ballot. The Deputy Returning Officer will record your objection and decide whether to accept or reject the ballot. The Deputy Returning Officer's decision is final.

The Deputy Returning Officer will prepare a "Statement of the Poll" after counting the ballots. Your representative can take a copy or take a picture of it.

## 7. Election Results

### How do Candidates know who won the Election?

The Regional Returning Officer gets a statement from each poll and totals the votes from all the polls in their Region. They prepare a Regional Election Report to certify the number of votes for each Candidate.

Unofficial results of the Election will be posted on the Chief Electoral Officer's website after the polls close on election night.

Once the Chief Electoral Officer approves the Election Reports, the Regional Returning Officers will provide them to the Candidates for that Region. The Chief Electoral Officer will prepare an Election Report that will be provided to Candidates for Executive Positions.



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### What happens if the two (2) Candidates get the same number of votes?

If a Candidate receives the same number of votes as another Candidate, or if the difference is less than 2% of the total votes, the Chief Electoral Officer must apply to the court for a recount.

Here are two (2) examples:

Example 1	Example 2
1000 People voted.	500 People voted.
2% of the 1000 is 20 votes	2% of the 500 is 10 votes
The winning Candidate must have at least 20 votes more than the Candidate who came second 2 <sup>nd</sup> . If not, there is a recount.	The winning Candidate must have at least 10 votes more than the Candidate who came second 2 <sup>nd</sup> . If not, there is a recount.

### What are Candidates allowed to do during a recount?

Candidates, Candidate Representatives, and their lawyer(s) may be at a recount.

If an application for a recount is considered to be scandalous, frivolous, or vexatious, or otherwise an abuse of the court process, the court may award costs or make any other order against the Applicant.

## 8. Election Offences

The [Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act, 2007](#) is similar to other laws. If you break the law, you can be punished. (Section 124 to 132).

### What are the main types of election offences?

There are five (5) basic types of election offences:

- Voting illegally. Two (2) examples:
  - Voting when you are not eligible.
  - Voting more than once
- Improperly influencing other voters. Two (2) examples:
  - Bribing a voter to vote in a certain way or not to vote at all
  - By intimidation, influencing the way a person votes or suggesting that voting is not secret.
- Using information improperly. Two (2) examples:
  - Using the voters list for anything except the election
  - Publishing a false statement about the withdrawal of a Candidate
- Crimes that involve Candidates. Two (2) examples:
  - Becoming a Candidate knowing you are not eligible.
  - Becoming a Candidate for more than one position.



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- Crimes that involve Election Officers. Two (2) examples:
  - Not respecting the secrecy of the vote.
  - As a Deputy Returning Officer, not counting the ballots the way the Act says they should be counted.

There are many ways to break the law for each type of offence. Read the Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act, 2007 and make sure you follow the law.

Knowingly making a false Oath / Affirmation is a serious criminal offence and may result in prosecution and conviction for perjury under the Criminal Code.

### How are Offenders punished?

If you break the Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act, 2007 and you are found guilty, you will not be able to be a Candidate for ten (10) years. (Section 133).

In addition, every person who commits perjury is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding fourteen (14) years.

### Who can complain about offences or problems?

Any person who believes that a violation of the Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act, 2007 has occurred, can make a complaint. A complaint can be made from the Declaration of the Election (April 19, 2025) to ninety (90) days following Election Day.

### Who investigates a complaint?

A Complaints Officer is appointed to investigate all complaints under the Act.

Law enforcement agencies have the power and responsibility to enforce the Criminal Code for cases of perjury, e.g., a false Oath / Affirmation.

## 9. Candidate's Checklist

### Before the election period begins:

- Consider finding a good Campaign Manager. You do not have to have a Campaign Manager, but it is recommended.
- Find at least five (5) eligible voters to sign your Nomination Papers. Another eligible elector must Witness these signatures.
- Make your official request for your CPIC, Criminal Record Check.
- Get a copy of the Saskatchewan Métis Elections Act, 2007.



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## The Election period up to Election Day

- Look on the Election website [www.mnselection.ca](http://www.mnselection.ca) to download blank Nomination Papers and instructions. Otherwise, you can also ask your Regional Returning Officer for a copy.
- Complete your Nomination Papers properly and ask the Chief Electoral Officer if you have a question.
- File your Nomination Papers on time and pay the \$100 deposit.
- It is preferable to file your Nomination Papers early so there will be enough time to make corrections, if necessary.
- Look on the Election website [www.mnselection.ca](http://www.mnselection.ca) to find the location of polling stations or ask your Regional Returning Officer.
- Look on-line or ask your Regional Returning Officer for a schedule of the Mobile Polls.
- Prepare and sign official authorization forms if you have Representatives and want them to visit the polls. Each Representative needs their own authorization form.
- Candidates and Candidate Representatives can be at the polls fifteen (15) minutes before they open at 9:00 AM and stay for the count after polls close at 8:00 PM.

## Election Day

- Vote
- Make sure you do not have any campaign materials at the polling station.
- Ask your Representative to get a copy of the Statement of the Poll from the Deputy Returning Officer when it is ready after the ballot count.

## After Election Day

- Take down ALL campaign materials as soon as possible following Election Day.



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## APPENDIX A – On-Line Profile Completion (Optional)

Once a candidate is approved by the Chief Electoral Officer, Candidates' names are listed in alphabetical order by Last Name for each Office on [www.mnselection.ca](http://www.mnselection.ca).

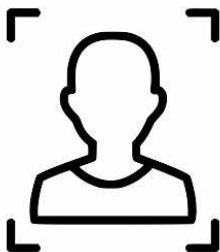
Note: If you have the same first and last name as another Candidate, the Chief Electoral Officer uses your other names to distinguish the two Candidates.

In an effort to help voters know who the Candidates are and their platform, Candidates are invited to fill out an optional Candidate Nomination Profile on the MN-S website.

What you will need:

- Profile Picture (following specified material requirements)
- Any public contact information such as phone number, & email address.
- A short biography or vision statement
- NO VOTE FOR Messaging, NO MN-S logos allowed in the picture; all pictures will be standardized.

Example:



- Profile Picture - must be headshot style showing shoulders up and must be on a plain white background
- Office they are seeking
- Experience – can include education or previous positions
- Vision Statement – maximum word count applies, be concise
- Public Contact Information

The Chief Electoral Officer will consult with the Candidate if amendments or changes are required.



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## APPENDIX B – Signage Rules and Regulations

### Prince Albert

- Rules are governed by the Election Bylaw (09 of 2020) and the Portable Sign Bylaw (19 of 2018)
- A Sign Permit is not required
- Under section 10 (a) Election signs are subject to the maximum size limitations within this Bylaw
- Election Signs section 26.
  - Election signs may be placed on public property, if the placement of the sign does not in any way impede, impair, disrupt, or disturb traffic, both pedestrian and/or vehicular. The sign may not in its placement cause any manner of visual impairment or obstruction that may be considered a safety hazard or a contribution to urban blight.
  - Elections signs must be removed within seven (7) days following the date of the election, and any other provisions of the elections act.
  - The City recognizes that individual property owners are deemed responsible for the care of City owned boulevard immediately abutting their property. Pursuant to this, the City entrusts the property owner with the right to remove any election signage from the portion of boulevard abutting the frontage of their property.
- Violations can be reported at 1-306-953-4370 or at [www.citypa.ca](http://www.citypa.ca). Report a Bylaw Violation Form is available on the website.

### North Battleford

- Rules are under Bylaw 2100, which regulates temporary signs
- ELECTION SIGNS section 16.
  - Election signs may be placed on public property, if the placement of the sign does not in any way impede, impair, disrupt, or disturb traffic, both pedestrian and/or vehicular. The sign may not in its placement cause any manner of visual impairment or obstruction that may be considered a safety hazard or a contribution to urban blight.
  - Elections signs must be removed within seven (7) days following the date of the election, and any other provisions of the elections act.



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### North Battleford Continued:

- The City recognizes that individual property owners are deemed responsible for the care of City owned boulevard immediately abutting their property. Pursuant to this, the City entrusts the property owner with the right to remove any election signage from the portion of boulevard abutting the frontage of their property.
- No signs will be placed in or on City facilities and City owned parking lots, or on City Hall property, or on the public property immediately abutting City Hall.
- Violations can be reported at 1-306-445-1700.

### Regina

- Rules fall under The Regina Zoning Bylaw 2019, Chapter 11 Signs and the Clean Property Bylaw 9881
- A permit is not required for election signs
- Signs are permitted on private property only
- Any signs on public property will be removed
- Violations can be reported at 1-306-777-7000 or at [regina.ca/bylaws](http://regina.ca/bylaws) Online Service Request Form

### Saskatoon

- Rules fall under the Temporary Sign Bylaw No. 7491 and the City of Saskatoon Election Sign Guide
- The dates for the election have been provided to the City, so they are aware of possible signage from Candidates
- Signs cannot be posted until the Declaration of the Election (Saturday, April 19) and must be removed within 7 days after the election (Saturday, May 31)
- Signs are limited in size on both private and public property, and there is a detailed list of where signs cannot be posted (see City of Saskatoon Election Sign Guide for a PDF version, including a map)
- Complaints related to these guidelines can be reported at 306-657-8766 or at [www.saskatoon.ca/bylaw-complaint](http://www.saskatoon.ca/bylaw-complaint)