

THE CORPORATION OF THE  
TOWNSHIP OF EVANTUREL

BY-LAW No. 2026-15

BEING A BY-LAW TO ESTABLISH RULES  
AND PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE USE  
OF MUNICIPAL RESOURCES DURING  
AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN PERIOD

**WHEREAS** Section 88.18 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* requires municipalities to establish rules and procedures governing the use of municipal resources during an election campaign period;

**AND WHEREAS** the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* prohibits municipalities from making contributions to candidates or registered third party advertisers in municipal elections;

**AND WHEREAS** a contribution may include money, goods, services, staff time, facilities, equipment, or other municipal resources used to support an election campaign;

**AND WHEREAS** the use of municipal resources for election purposes could create an unfair advantage and undermine public confidence in the electoral process;

**AND WHEREAS** Council recognizes the importance of maintaining neutrality and transparency during municipal, provincial, and federal election periods;

**AND WHEREAS** the Township of Evanturel wishes to establish clear rules governing the use of municipal resources during election periods;

**NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EVANTUREL ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

**1. DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of this By-law:

**“Campaign”** Any activity intended to solicit or influence votes in support of or opposition to a candidate in a federal, provincial, or municipal election or by-election, or a question on a ballot.

**“Campaign Material”** Material in any form used to promote or oppose a candidate, political party, registered third party, or ballot question. Campaign material includes but is not limited to pamphlets, brochures, posters, lawn signs, clothing, buttons, social media content, or vehicle wraps.

**“Campaign Period”** The period defined under the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, beginning when a nomination is filed and ending December 31 of the election year, unless extended in accordance with the Act. For provincial or federal elections, the campaign period begins when the writ of election is issued and ends on voting day.

**“Candidate”** A person who has filed nomination papers in a municipal election or by-election, or a person seeking election in a provincial or federal election.

**“Registered Third Party”** An individual, corporation, or trade union that has registered to advertise during an election in accordance with applicable election legislation.

**“Township Resources”** All assets owned, leased, or controlled by the Township of Ewanturel including staff time, buildings, vehicles, equipment, supplies, financial resources, information systems, communications systems, and data.

**“Township Property”** All land, buildings, facilities, parks, vehicles, equipment, and infrastructure owned, leased, or operated by the Township of Ewanturel.

**“Staff”** All full-time, part-time, contract, and volunteer personnel performing work on behalf of the Township.

## **2. PURPOSE**

**2.1** The purpose of this By-law is to:

- a. Ensure compliance with the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* and other applicable legislation;
- b. Maintain neutrality and fairness in elections;
- c. Prevent the use of Township resources for campaign purposes; and
- d. Protect public confidence in the integrity of the election process.

## **3. APPLICATION AND SCOPE**

**3.1** This By-law applies to:

- a. Members of Council;
- b. Members of local boards;
- c. Candidates and registered third parties;
- d. Township staff and volunteers; and
- e. Provincial and federal election candidates when interacting with Township resources.

**3.2** Nothing in this By-law prevents Members of Council from carrying out their normal duties until the end of their term.

## **4. USE OF TOWNSHIP RESOURCES**

**4.1** Township resources shall not be used for campaign purposes.

**4.2** The Township shall remain politically neutral and shall not directly or indirectly support or oppose any candidate, registered third party, political party, or question on a ballot.

**4.3** The following activities are prohibited:

- a. Campaigning inside Township buildings or facilities;
- b. Displaying or distributing campaign materials within Township facilities or on Township property;
- c. Using Township funds to produce or distribute campaign materials;

- d. Using Township equipment, vehicles, supplies, communications systems, or other Township resources for campaign activities;
- e. Displaying campaign materials at voting locations; and
- f. Posting election signs on Township property.

4.4 Candidates may use the voters' list only as permitted under the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.

#### 4.5 Election Signs

- a. Election signs are not permitted on Township property or at voting locations and must comply with the Township's Sign By-law.

#### 4.6 Information Technology and Social Media

- a. Township technology resources shall not be used for election purposes. This includes:
  - i. Township computers;
  - ii. Township email accounts;
  - iii. Township websites;
  - iv. Township social media accounts; and
  - v. Township mobile devices or phones.
- b. Township communication platforms shall remain politically neutral.

#### 4.7 Municipal Branding and Communications

- a. Township logos, crests, branding, photographs, or other municipal identifiers shall not be used in campaign materials.
- b. Members of Council who are candidates shall not use Township-funded newsletters, printing services, or communications resources for campaign purposes following Nomination Day in a municipal election year.

### 5. CONDUCT DURING THE ELECTION PERIOD

#### 5.1 Candidate Conduct

- a. Candidates attending Township events may participate as members of the public or as elected officials but shall not campaign during the event.
- b. Campaign materials, signage, clothing, or promotional items are not permitted at Township events.

#### 5.2 Staff Conduct

- a. Township staff shall remain politically neutral while performing their duties.
- b. Staff shall not:
  - i. Campaign while working or receiving compensation from the Township;
  - ii. Distribute campaign material on Township property;
  - iii. Wear campaign clothing while on duty;
  - iv. Use their position to influence voters;
  - v. Use Township resources for campaign purposes.

### **5.3 Voting Location Rules**

- a. Photography, video recording, or other recording devices are not permitted within a voting location in accordance with election procedures.

## **6. EXCEPTIONS**

**6.1** The following municipal information may continue to be publicly available during an election period:

- a. Township information prepared and maintained by the municipality, including names, photographs, and contact information for elected officials;
- b. Council and committee agendas and minutes;
- c. Municipal communications regarding official Township business;
- d. Government announcements directly related to Township business; and
- e. Non-partisan events held at Township facilities where space is rented in accordance with municipal policies.

## **7. ADMINISTRATION AND SEVERABILITY**

**7.1** The Clerk shall be responsible for the administration and enforcement of this By-law.

**7.2** The Clerk shall:

- a. Communicate this By-law to candidates and registered third parties;
- b. Provide interpretation of this By-law when required; and
- c. Review and update this By-law periodically to maintain compliance with legislation.

**7.3** The Clerk may establish procedures, forms, and instructions as may be necessary to implement and administer this By-law.

**7.4** The Clerk may report to Council regarding any recommended amendments or improvements to this By-law.

**7.5** Any alleged contravention of this By-law may be reviewed by the Clerk or their designate, and appropriate action may be taken to ensure compliance.

**7.6** If any section, subsection, clause, or provision of this By-law is declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unenforceable, such section, subsection, clause, or provision shall be deemed severable and the remaining provisions of this By-law shall remain in full force and effect.

## **8. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This By-law shall come into force and take effect upon its third and final reading.

8.1 All by-laws or resolutions, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this By-law are hereby repealed.


**9. SHORT TITLE**

9.1 This By-law may be cited as the "Use of Corporate Resources During Elections By-law."

**READ A FIRST AND SECOND TIME, READ A THIRD TIME AND FINALLY PASSED THIS 22ND DAY OF APRIL, 2026.**



  
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**Derek Mundle, Reeve**

  
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**Melissa Chenier, Clerk**