

Use of County Resources During a Municipal Election

Legislative Services
Policy B31

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| Policy: | B31 – Use of County Resources During a Municipal Election |
| Policy Department(s): | Legislative Services |
| Adoption Date: | June 9, 2025 |
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Policy Purpose

To establish guidelines respecting the use of the County of Grande Prairie resources for election-related purposes to promote public confidence and transparency in local government elections, and to protect incumbent candidates from allegations of benefit, privilege or inappropriate use of County resources by taxpayers, voters, or other candidates.

Policy Statement

The County of Grande Prairie recognizes that in an election year, there must be clear delineation between the role of an elected official and the role of a candidate.

Definitions

“Act” means the Local Authorities Election Act, RSA 2000, Chapter L-21 as amended.

“Campaign” means any organized effort for the purpose of being elected to public office.

“Candidate” means a member of Council, or any private citizen, who seeks the office of Reeve or Councillor pursuant to the Act.

“Council” means all members of the County of Grande Prairie No. 1 duly elected and holding office.

“County” means the municipality of the County of Grande Prairie No.1 having jurisdiction under the Municipal Government Act and other applicable legislation.

“County Resources” means resources (including human resources) paid for or acquired with County funds and includes, but is not limited to, County staff time, equipment, financial assets and non-financial assets (such as vehicles, material, paper or electronic documents, tools, electronic equipment such as fax machines, photocopiers, printers, computers, cell phones, telephones and phone numbers), promotional materials, internet services (including email and social media) and intellectual property.

“Incumbent” means a current member of Council.

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Policy Guidelines

1. Candidates shall not use any County owned or operated facilities or property, equipment, supplies, postage, services, or other resources, such as employee services during hours in which those employees receive compensation from the municipality, for any election campaign or campaign-related activity.
2. The municipal logo shall not be used by Candidates on any campaign-related materials or election related social media site or website.
3. Candidates shall refrain from referring to themselves in campaign advertisements as "Councillor X".
4. Incumbents shall not use County owned resources, such as electronic devices, for campaign-related activities.
5. Candidates shall not post campaign-related materials on County social media platforms. Any campaign-related materials posted by Candidates will be removed.
6. Campaign-related activities may be permitted at a County owned facility or grounds, subject that the facility or grounds are normally available for rental to the general public and such rental has been arranged through the normal rental process and all applicable fees are paid.
7. Candidates attending County hosted events and functions, in either their capacity as elected representative or as private citizens, may not Campaign while in attendance.

Attachments

Not Applicable

References

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| Legal Authorities | Local Authorities Election Act, RSA 2000, Chapter L-21 |
| Related Plans, Bylaws, Policies, Etc. | B1 – Policy Development |
| Other | Not applicable |

Revision History

| Review Date | Description |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
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