



September 9, 2022

Dear Father and Parish Staff,

Municipal Elections: Acceptable Conduct for Parishes

Our next municipal election will take place on Monday, October 24, 2022. As you are likely aware, the government has specified guidelines for allowable political activities for charities and we must respect these norms. Municipal elections also include the selection of Catholic school board trustees. In addition to encouraging all eligible voters to cast their ballots, I wish to provide every opportunity for Catholics to learn about their candidates for trustee. To this end, I have authorized the following:

- On weekends from October 1 through October 23, 2022, candidates for the office of Catholic school board trustee will be permitted to distribute campaign literature to those departing the church, in an appropriate location, outside of the church on the parish property. A candidate or campaign volunteer is authorized to distribute this information to those who may wish to receive it. Candidates will not be permitted to “flyer” cars, etc. and are asked to conduct themselves in a responsible and respectful manner.
- Parishes are permitted and encouraged to host all-candidate meetings, especially for the position of Catholic school board trustee. Pastors should liaise with Parent Councils (CSAC’s) and other local partners to coordinate logistics. Any local all-candidate meetings can be advertised in the church bulletin and attendance should be encouraged.

We also offer the following reminders to parishes as to what is not permitted as we prepare for these elections. **A church may not:**

- Invite any candidates (trustee, city councillor, mayor, etc.) to make political presentations during Mass or at any other time (exceptions noted above).
- Permit city/town council candidates to distribute information on church property.
- Promote or oppose one candidate for example,
 - Post signs for a candidate on church property,
 - Endorse a candidate from the pulpit,
 - Distribute literature on behalf of any candidates.
 - Advertise candidates or incumbents in the church bulletin.
- Link its views on issues of concern with those of a particular candidate.
- Highlight or publish how one particular candidate voted on a given issue.
- Encourage its members to vote for a particular candidate.

Your co-operation in following these guidelines is appreciated. A message outlining these matters is being sent to all candidates for Catholic school board trustee.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Thomas Card. Collins

Thomas Collins
Archbishop of Toronto