



**ONTARIO PUBLIC  
SCHOOL BOARDS'  
ASSOCIATION**

**Leading Education's Advocates**

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**OPSBA Overview of Municipal and School Board Election significant amendments from  
Bill 181, Municipal Elections Modernization Act and  
Bill 68, Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act**

**March 7, 2018**

Original Legislation	Change	Applicable to School Boards	Applicable to Municipalities	Effective Date	Notes
Bill 181					
	Ranked Ballots	NO	YES	Royal Assent (RA) June 9, 2016	Only City of London has opted for this.
	Requirement of 25 signatures of endorsement	NO	YES	April 1, 2018	Proposed changes will exempt candidates in municipalities with 4,000 or less electors
	Policy for use of board resources during campaign	YES	YES	May 1, 2018	
	Policy for automatic recounts (other than for ties)	YES	YES	RA	Not a must, but a may establish a policy
	Nomination date moved from Jan 1 to May 1	YES	YES	RA	
	Nomination close day moved from September to 4 <sup>th</sup> Friday in July	YES	YES	RA	

	Requirement to provide ID on signs and materials	YES	YES	RA	
	Nomination fees refundable if financial statement filed on time.	YES	YES	RA	
	Candidates able to close their campaign and file their financial statement before December 31	YES	YES	RA	
	Grace Period for missing filing deadline of financial statements	YES	YES	RA	
	Compliance Audit Committee meetings must be open to the public	YES	YES	RA	
	Compliance Audit Committees must give brief written reasons for decisions	YES	YES	RA	
	Accessibility plans for voting	YES– see notes	YES – see notes	RA	Clerks to determine accessibility plan as opposed to a council decision. Work with school boards re: polling stations in schools. School boards are required to provide space for a voting place if the clerk requests it.
	Voting – advanced voting details, voting hours.	YES– see notes	YES – see notes		Clerks to determine voting dates/times as opposed to a council decision.

					Work with school boards re: polling stations in schools.
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Original Legislation	Change	Applicable to School Boards	Applicable to Municipalities	Effective Date	Notes
Bill 68				Royal Assent (RA) May 30, 2017	
	The individual contribution limits to a candidate or third party advertiser is \$1,200	YES	YES	RA	Similar to provincial limits.  Corporations and Trade Unions are no longer permitted to give contributions to candidates running for school boards or council.
	Self-funding limit – based on number of electors to a max of \$25,000	NO	YES	RA	
	Pregnancy and Parental Leave – allowance of up to 20 weeks	YES	YES	RA	A mandatory policy on pregnancy/parental leave is required for municipalities as of March 1, 2019. A similar provision for school boards under the Education Act is already in force (on Royal Assent)
	Mandatory Codes of Conduct	NO	YES	March 1, 2019	
	Public Access to Integrity Commissioner	NO	YES	March 1, 2019	

	Allowance of Participation in Meetings Electronically	NO – see notes	YES	January 1, 2018	School boards already have a regulation for this.
	Definition of “meeting”	NO	YES	January 1, 2018	Schools boards have rules about who must be present for a meeting.
	Conflict of Interest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Written disclosure</li> <li>- Registry creation</li> <li>- Judge penalties</li> <li>- Applications can be brought by interested persons</li> <li>- Applications can be brought against former members</li> </ul>	YES	YES	March 1, 2019	
	Term Start Date – move from December 1 to November 15	YES	YES	Effective for 2022 Election	