

Candidate Information for the 2026 Municipal Election
Provided by
The District Municipality of Muskoka

The following information is provided to potential candidates who are interested in running for Muskoka District Council during the 2026 municipal election.

General Responsibilities of The District Municipality of Muskoka include (but are not limited to):

911 and Mapping	Clerk's Services
Children's Services	Community Paramedicine
Construction and Maintenance	Continuous Improvement
Communications	Development Approvals
District Roads	Emergency Management
Engineering Services	Environment and Watershed Programs
Facilities Services	Finance Services
Health Link	Homelessness
Housing	Human Resources
Indigenous Relations	Legal Services
Long-Term Care (two homes)	Muskoka Official Plan
Ontario Works (social assistance)	Paramedic Services
Planning Services	Port Carling Locks/James Bartleman Island
Provincial Offences	Records Management
Regional Economic Development	Septage Lagoons
Seniors Services	Solid Waste Management
Regional Strategic Initiatives	Technology Services
Water and Sewer Services	Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Anti-Racism

Other Corporations Relevant to the District

- Muskoka Airport Inc.
- Muskoka Municipal Non-Profit Housing Corporation

Campaign Signs

For information regarding campaign signs, please contact the Clerk at the respective lower-tier municipality. Sizing requirements and standards may vary between.

Canvassing at District Facilities

Campaigning at District facilities is not permitted, except at the following location:

Huntsville – Fairvern Long-Term Care Home

Candidates within the boundaries of the Town of Huntsville, for the offices of Mayor, District & Town Councillor, Huntsville and Chaffey Ward Councillor and School Board Trustees may visit the residents of Fairvern Long-Term Care Facility (Fairvern) on a

predetermined date for campaign purposes. Your visit may need to be restricted to some locations within the home due to resident care requirements. In addition, it is expected that you respect the privacy of resident information (such as names or health conditions) obtained during your visit.

The date for candidates to visit Fairvern will be communicated through the Town of Bracebridge when such a date has been decided.

District Chair and District Councillor Remuneration

Current remuneration (effective January 1, 2026) for the District Chair, Deputy District Chair and District Councillors (not including lower-tier remuneration) is as follows:

District Chair:	\$107,903
Deputy Chair:	\$36,362
District Councillor:	\$28,330

In addition to the above-mentioned remuneration, each of the Standing Committee Chairs for next term will receive an additional \$2,000 annually.

Each term of Council sets the remuneration for the following term. By-law 2025-12 was passed in April 2025 and states the following:

“3. Effective January 1st of 2027, 2028, 2029 and 2030, the annual remuneration for Council members shall be increased as follows:Position	Annual increase starting 01-01-2027
Councillor	\$2,796
Deputy Chair	\$3,108
District Chair	\$4,386

4. In addition to the increases provided in the table above, an inflationary amount shall be added to the annual remuneration for Council members equivalent to the annual economic adjustment approved for the Management and Non-Union jobs effective on January 1st of each year.”

In addition to this, Councillors are reimbursed for mileage incurred while travelling to and from official meetings per District policy. Lastly, Councillors are provided with a technology stipend in January, immediately following the election. The current approved stipend is \$1,692 which is paid once per term.

Council and Committee Meeting Schedule

Muskoka District Council generally meets on the third Monday of the month at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at 70 Pine Street in Bracebridge. Should a meeting fall on a Statutory Holiday, the meeting will be rescheduled for the Tuesday of the same week. Meeting may be cancelled or rescheduled due to conflicts with provincial conferences such as AMO and ROMA.

Committee meetings follow within the same week on Wednesday and Thursday and commence at 9:00 a.m. In 2025 Muskoka District Council approved a change to the structure of Committees, moving from the current four standing committee, to two. Rather than having six Member plus the District Chair at each Committee, there will now be twelve Members plus the District Chair with equal representation from each of the Towns and Townships.

Committee meeting dates and times are subject to change at the Call of the Committee Chair and with the consensus of the Committee members.

There are also various ad hoc and special committees established from time to time, as the need arises.

Muskoka District Council Inaugural Meeting

The District's Inaugural meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday November 19, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. At that meeting, the Clerk will administer the Oath of Office to Council-elect before they can move on to the only business at hand – the selection of the District Chair.

Should there be more than one candidate for the office of District Chair, a Meet the Candidate/Debate event will be held on Tuesday November 10 at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber. Additional information will be provided should the need arise.

Questions regarding Muskoka District Council can be directed to:

Amy Back, District Clerk
The District Municipality of Muskoka
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