

Policy Name: Elections

Policy Category: Legislated

Purpose

The Elections Policy provides general information on how Halton Community Housing Corporation (HCHC) supports election and by-election activities in HCHC communities.

Scope

This policy applies to staff, HCHC tenants, HCHC occupants and all properties owned or operated by HCHC.

Standards and Values

HCHC will always engage fairly and equally with all candidates who are registered for municipal, provincial, or federal elections.

Definitions

Candidate: A person seeking election to a political office, such as school board trustee, representative on the local or regional council, Member of Provincial Parliament, or Member of Parliament.

Campaign material: Any material used to solicit votes for a candidate during an election period including, but not limited to, signs, literature, banners, posters, pictures, and brochures.

Election: Any election or by-election at the municipal, provincial, or federal level, or a referendum question on a ballot.

Election Official: An employee of Elections Canada, Elections Ontario, Municipal Elections or their agents, including the returning officer.

Staff: Employees of Halton Region.

Tenant: A person who has a signed lease with HCHC.

Policy Details

Election activities on HCHC property

Under the *Residential Tenancies Act*, a landlord cannot restrict reasonable access to a residential complex to candidates for election, or their authorized representatives, to campaign door-to-door or to distribute election material.

Halton Region's Use of Regional Resources Policy does not allow regional facilities to be used for campaign rallies or other election-related activities.

Election signs and campaign materials

HCHC does not allow candidates to post or leave campaign materials in or on HCHC property.

Tenants **are permitted** to support a candidate:

- By placing candidate signs anywhere in or on their own unit—signs must not be larger than 24 inches by 18 inches (60 cm by 45 cm) and must be removed within 5 days of the end of the campaign.
- In any other way allowed by local, provincial, or federal laws or by-laws

Tenants **are not permitted** to:

- Place signs or campaign material in shared or common spaces **except** on the day of the election or an advanced poll if the space is being used as a voting place
- Attach signs to trees, buildings, or balconies
- Place signs in any way that could interfere with pedestrian or vehicle safety
- Post signs in any other way that is disallowed by local, provincial, or federal laws or by-laws

Polling stations

HCHC will make every effort to provide space for polling stations for Election Day and advance polling at HCHC properties, for HCHC tenant use only, when asked to by the returning officer or elections official for the election.

HCHC does not consent to providing space for polling stations in HCHC communities for use by the broader voting public.

HCHC staff will provide support requested by Elections staff on the day of the election (for example, ensuring access to the buildings and washrooms; supplying chairs and tables).

Access to Private and Confidential Information

HCHC is committed to protecting personal Information in accordance with the *Municipal Freedom and Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Housing Services Act*.

HCHC staff will not provide tenant lists or other personal information about tenants to election officials, candidates, political parties, or registered third parties or their agents.

Related Policies and Resources	Use of Regional Resources Policy
Related Legislation	<i>Canada Elections Act, 2000</i> <i>Elections Act (Ontario), 1999</i> <i>Housing Services Act, 2011</i> <i>Municipal Elections Act, 1996</i> <i>Municipal Freedom and Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 1990</i> <i>Residential Tenancies Act, 2006</i>

HCHC policies can be found online at halton.ca/hchc