

Candidate 101 Session

2022 Whistler General Local Election

Whistler Public Library

September 1, 2022

Agenda

- Introductions
- Presentation
 - ✓ Role and responsibilities of the different positions
 - ✓ Pay and time commitments required
 - ✓ Key dates and deadlines
 - ✓ What you need to prepare
 - ✓ Election signs and campaigning
 - ✓ Resources and important legislation
- Question and answer period

Introductions

- Pauline Lysaght, Chief Election Officer/Manager of Legislative Services, Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW).
- Jessie Gresley-Jones, General Manager of Recreation, RMOW.
- Former Councillor (Whistler), Jayson Faulkner.

Elected Official Roles

- Local government elections occur every four years on the third Saturday in October.
- Whistler voters will elect:
 - ✓ One Mayor
 - ✓ Six Councillors
 - ✓ Two School Trustees
- The next municipal election will be held on October 15, 2022.
- There will be two advance voting opportunities on October 5 and 8, 2022.
- All eligible voters will be able to vote by mail.

Resort Municipality of Whistler at a Glance



The Resort Municipality of Whistler is a vibrant community situated within the shared traditional territories of the Squamish and Lil'wat Nations, and within the boundaries of Electoral Area C and Electoral Area D of the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District.

Resort Municipality of Whistler at a Glance

As the local government, the RMOW manages municipal planning and development, park and Village operations, sports facilities and recreation, public utilities and environmental services, bylaws and enforcement, fire rescue, fiscal planning and financial services, legislative services, human resources, communications, and is guided by Whistler's Official Community Plan.

Municipal Council Objectives

- Consider the well-being and interests of the municipality and its community;
- Contribute to the development and evaluation of municipal policies and programs respecting its services and other activities;
- Provide stewardship of the public assets of the community; and
- Foster the current and future economic, social and environmental well-being of the community.

Council logistics

- Council meetings generally held twice a month (Tuesday evenings).
- An agenda package is provided to Council and posted on the RMOW website and Municipal Hall bulletin board, allowing time for Council and residents to review the reports before the meeting.
- Council meeting and public hearing rules and procedures are set out in the provincial *Community Charter* and *Local Government Act*, and in Council's procedure bylaw.
- Visit the RMOW website at whistler.ca to see Council meeting and public hearing agendas and minutes for 2021 and 2022.

Council Members Responsibilities

- to participate in council and committee meetings and contribute to decision making;
- to adopt bylaws;
- to approve budgets and provide direction to the Chief Administrative Officer;
- to ensure that succession plans are in place;
- to approve annual salary and benefits programs; and
- to carry out other duties, such as heading committees.

Mayor Responsibilities

- to provide leadership to council including recommending bylaws;
- resolutions and other measures that may assist in the good governance of the municipality;
- to represent council at ceremonies and meetings;
- to communicate information to council;
- to chair council meetings, including overseeing conduct, maintaining order and knowing the rules of governing meetings;
- to establish and appoint people to standing committees;
- to provide general direction to municipal officers about implementation of municipal policies, programs and other council directions.

Types of Council and Committee Meetings

- **Closed Council** (private matters discussed as allowed under the *Community Charter*) – **Tuesday mornings 9:00 am**
- **Committee of the Whole** (workshop style meeting, no decisions made) – **Tuesday afternoons 2:00 pm**
- **Regular Council** (approve bylaws, budgets and policies) – **Tuesday evenings 5:30 pm**
- **Public Hearings** – **evenings 5:30 pm**
- **Committees of Council, Standing Committees, Board and Municipal Corporation Boards** – meeting dates and times vary

Committees

- The RMOW has nineteen committees of Council and at least one member of Council is appointed to each one.
- In addition, the RMOW has a Library Board, a Board of Variance and an Advisory Design Panel on which councillors sit.
- The RMOW also has several municipal corporations that councilors are appointed as directors.
- Each of these positions involve attending meetings, reviewing materials and providing Council with guidance on the activities of these committees and boards.
- Most of these meetings are open to the public and happen in person.

Comments/Questions

Typical Time Commitment

- Mayor: Full-time role
- Councillors: 20 to 25 hours per week



Remuneration (Effective Jan 1, 2023)

- Mayor: \$128,903.50
- Councillor: \$48,798
 - ✓ remuneration rates are adjusted yearly by the Consumer Price Index in British Columbia.

Comments/Questions

Running for Office

Thinking of running? Elected officials should have a desire to:

- ✓ Contribute to the betterment of the community
- ✓ Serve and act on behalf of all members of the community
- ✓ Be a leader

And be able to commit to:

- A four-year term
- Daytime and evening meetings
- Reviewing bi-weekly meeting packages
- Responding to inquiries and concerns from the public (ongoing)

Running for Office - Eligibility

- To qualify as a candidate, you must be:
 - ✓ 18 years of age or older as of general election day
 - ✓ A Canadian citizen
 - ✓ A resident of BC for 6 months before nomination date
 - ✓ Not subject to any of the disqualifications set out in s. 81 of the *Local Government Act*
- * Note: candidates are not required to reside within Whistler to run for office in Whistler

Running for Office – Key Dates

Election period

The period beginning January 1 of an election year until 29 days before General Voting Day. Campaigns must report all expenses incurred during the election period.

January 1 –September 16, 2022

Pre-campaign period

At the beginning of this period election advertising rules come into force and continue through General Voting Day.

July 18 –September 16, 2022

Nomination period

The period for candidates to submit their nominations to local election officials.

August 30 – September 9, 2022

Candidate Nomination and Endorsement Challenge

Last day to challenge a candidate nomination and endorsement

September 13, 2022

Candidate Withdrawal

Last day to withdraw as a candidate

September 16, 2022

Campaign period

The period that begins on the 28th day before General Voting Day and ends at the close of voting on General Voting Day. Candidate and third party expense limits apply during this period.

September 17 –October 15, 2022

General Voting Day

October 15, 2022

Campaign financing disclosure statement filing deadline

January 13, 2023

Campaign financing disclosure statement late filing deadline with \$500 late filing fee

February 13, 2023

Running for Office – next steps

- What you **need** to do:
 - ✓ Pickup a nomination package (RMOW website or at Municipal Hall) starting on Aug 2, 2022.
 - ✓ Book a time with municipal election staff to submit your nomination package during the candidate nomination period August 30 - September 9, 2022.
- What you **may want** to do:
 - ✓ Create a candidate biography for the RMOW website (submit a photo, 150 words about your platform, and your contact information).
 - ✓ Create a space online (social media account, website, email account, etc.) where members of the public can find out more information about you and your platform/policies, and how to contact you.

Nomination Documents

- Nomination documents may be submitted by hand, by mail or other delivery service, or by email.
- If a candidate submits nomination documents by email, the deadline for submitting the originals to the Chief Election Officer is September 16, at 4 p.m.
- Completed nomination documents will be posted on the RMOW website as they are received.
- Profiles and pictures will be posted to the candidate profile section of the website.

Candidate Representatives

- Candidates must either appoint a financial agent or act as their own financial agent.
- Candidates may appoint an official agent and scrutineers for General Voting Day.
- Scrutineers may observe the proceedings—one scrutineer is allowed per ballot box.
- Candidates are responsible for informing scrutineers of their role in the voting place.

Campaign Financing

- Candidates running in the general local elections must now comply with *the Local Election Campaign Financing Act*.
- Candidate's Guide for Local Elections in B.C., published by the provincial government, is a valuable source of information.
- A separate bank account must be opened strictly for campaign finances.
- All contributions and expenses must be recorded.
- Campaign financing disclosures must be filed with Elections BC within 90 days after General Voting Day.

In accordance with the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, the following candidate expense limits apply:

2022 Candidate Expense Limits:

- ✓ Mayor \$15,031.44
- ✓ Councillor \$7,515.72
- ✓ School Trustee \$ 5,398.92

2022 Third Party Advertising Expense Limits:

- ✓ Office of Mayor, Councillor and School Trustee: \$809.84

Financial Documents

- The legislation requires that all candidates (whether elected or not) must complete campaign financing documentation - Elections BC administers this process.
- Financial documents are available for public viewing at the local government office for seven years after the election.
- Campaign donations are not tax deductible.
- Campaign financing disclosure statements must be filed with Elections BC within 90 days after General Voting Day.

All Candidates Meetings

- Opportunities for candidates to provide the public with information on their perspective or proposed policies on hot topics or key issues in the community
- Typically hosted by local organizations in the community
- All-Candidate meetings can be added to the RMOW's Events Calendar at whistler.ca so that voters can find this information in a central location

Election Signs

- An election sign permit is required to post signs in Whistler (application found on website)
- Election signs may be located on private property with the permission of the property owner.
- The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure conditionally allows election signs on highway rights-of-way;



Question and Answer Period

Thank you

- Visit whistler.ca/election