

THINKING OF RUNNING FOR COUNCIL?

The next election will be on October 27, 2010. Residents will have the opportunity to vote for a Mayor and four Councillors. If you are thinking of running for Council, here are a few questions and answers to help you to make your decision.

Do I meet the requirements?

To become a candidate, you must:

- Be a Canadian citizen
- Be at least 18 years of age on Election day
- Be a resident of Manitoba
- Be a qualified voter of the municipality (you have either resided in or owned property in the municipality for at least six months)
- Have not been disqualified from running under *The Municipal Act* or any other Act.

You are not qualified to run if you:

- Are a judge of the Court of Queen's Bench or the Court of Appeal
- Are a provincial judge or justice of the peace
- Are a member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba or the Senate or House of Commons of Canada
- Are a sitting member or are nominated for office in another municipality or school division
- Have been disqualified from running under *The Municipal Act* or any other Act

How can I be nominated?

Once you pick up your nomination form, you will require a minimum of 25 signatures from people eligible to vote in the Municipal election.

Completed nomination forms must be submitted, in person, at the Municipal Office. The dates for acceptance of these forms is September 15, 2010 to September 21, 2010.

Can an individual declare himself/herself as a candidate for Mayor or Councillor before formally registering?

Yes, however until registered neither the individual, nor any other person acting on behalf of the individual, shall accept a contribution or incur an expense for the purpose of the election of the individual.

When can I start campaigning?

Candidates must register within a certain timeframe, which is referred to as the campaign period.

MAYOR candidates must register between May 1, 2010 and September 21, 2010.

COUNCILLOR candidates must register between June 30, 2010 and September 21, 2010.

A registered candidate is a prospective candidate – you are not considered a candidate until your nomination papers have been accepted.

Once you are registered, you may begin to accept contributions and spend money on your campaign.

Registration forms are available at the Municipal office.

What are the rules about campaign expenses?

Bill 35, The Municipal Conflict of Interest and Campaign Financing Act was passed on October 8, 2009. The Bill creates new campaign rules for municipalities. Changes to the Municipal Council Conflict of Interest Act strengthens the rules that apply to all municipalities.

Full reporting is required after the election so it is a good idea to know the facts.

Those considering running for council should familiarize themselves with the Rural Municipality of Gimli By-Law 10-0001, Establishing the Campaign Expenses and Contributions By-Law.

How long is the term?

The Mayor and Councillors serve a four-year term. The 2010 council will be sworn in shortly after the election in 2010 and remain in place until October, 2014.

Do I have time to be on Council?

The demands on your time will be heavy. You will be required to attend:

- Regular meetings of Council and Council-in-Committee
- Meetings of any committees to which you are appointed as Council's representative
- Conferences, conventions, seminars and workshops
- Social and other events promoting the Municipality

You will also spend time preparing for meetings and talking with residents.

Can I change the world?

Yes and no. As an individual member of council:

- You will have an opportunity to significantly influence the future of the municipality. This opportunity will depend on your ideas and visions and ensuring that the majority of Council is on side with your visions. All Council decisions are made at meetings open to the public.
- You will not have the opportunity to commit the Municipality to expenditures, nor will you personally be able to direct the activities of Municipal employees. Any promise you make during your campaign that involves these things can only be carried out if you convince a majority of Council that it is a good idea.

Will I be paid a salary?

Yes. The Mayor's indemnity is \$1,275 per month, \$15,300 per year, the Deputy Mayor's is \$925 per month, \$11,100 per year and Councillors receive \$875 per month, \$10,500 per year.

For complete details, please refer to RM of Gimli By-Laws 04-0018 and 08-0021.