

# What Halton candidates need to know for 2018 election

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Thinking of running in the 2018 municipal and school board elections? There are some new rules potential candidates need to be sure they know about.

Voters will head to the polls on Oct. 22 to decide who is best to represent their interests and lead their communities by electing the members of their town or city councils and local public and Catholic school boards.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs wants to ensure voters and prospective candidates are aware of the province's changes to the rules in the Municipal Elections Act made in 2016 and 2017 to increase transparency and accountability.

The act sets out rules candidates, voters and third-party advertisers need to comply with.

The new rules include:  
• the campaign period has been shortened by 120 days. Candidates can file their nomination between May 1-July 27, instead of on Jan. 1 to the second Friday in September;

• candidates must open a bank account before incurring any expenses or accepting any contributions of money, including a contribution from themselves or their spouse;

• the limit for campaign contributions to a candidate is now \$1,200, increased from \$750. Corporations and trade unions are not permitted to make contributions to candidates;

• there is now a limit for contributions a candidate for municipal council and their spouse can make to the candidate's own campaign.

The campaign period begins on the day a candidate files their nomination and

candidates can only accept contributions or spend campaign expenses during their campaign period.

Candidates have to return any contributions made or accepted if it conflicts with the rules of the Municipal Elections Act - penalties for breaking any of the rules can include forfeiting office.

The complete 2018 Candidates' Guide for Ontario Municipal and School Board Elections, which outlines the rules in the act and other legislation and regulations, is available online at [www.ontario.ca/municipal-elections](http://www.ontario.ca/municipal-elections).

For more information on becoming a candidate in the 2018 municipal and school board elections, contact the municipal clerk office at the City of Burlington, 905-335-7600; Town of Oakville, 905-845-6601; Town of Milton, 905-878-7252; or Region of Halton, 905-825-6000.

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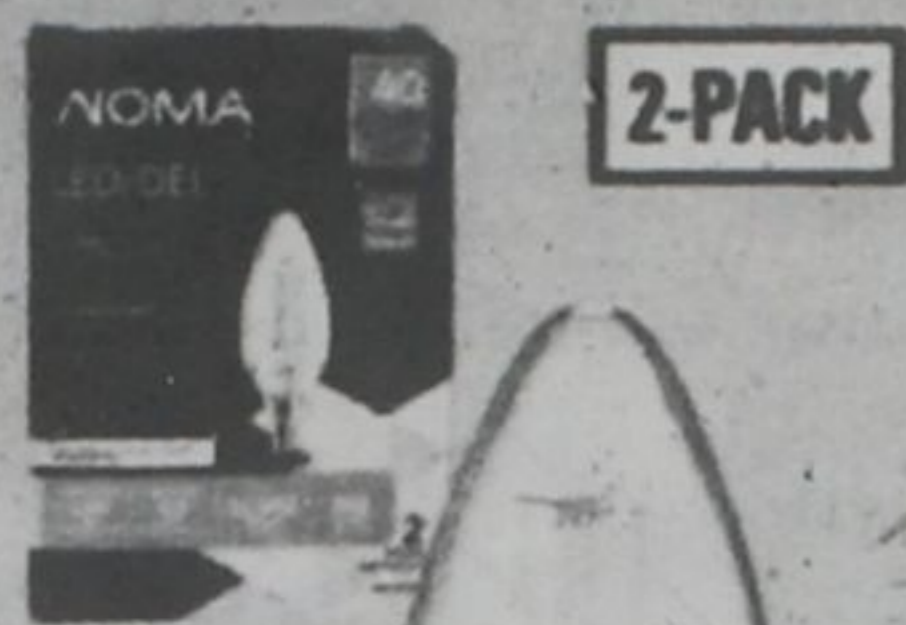
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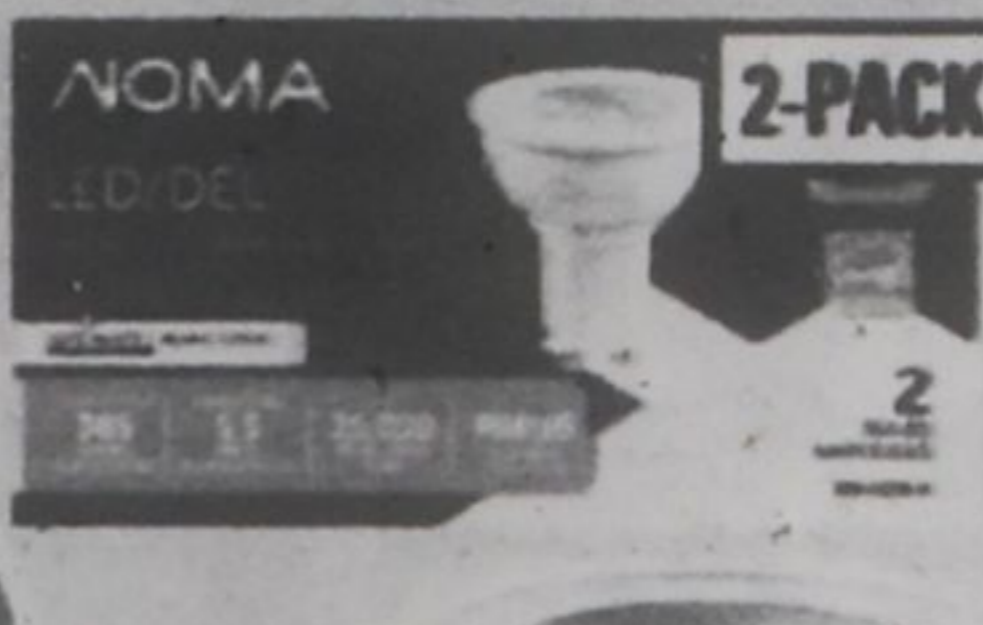
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