



Township of Blandford-Blenheim

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MEMO

TO:	Certified Candidates
FROM:	Sarah Matheson, Director of Corporate Services/Clerk
DATE:	September 15, 2026
RE:	All Candidates' Events or Debates

Please be advised that, as per the [Municipal Elections Act, 1996](#), candidate events/debates are not required to be held nor is the Municipal Clerk responsible for organizing meetings or debates during an election period.

According to the [Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing's 2026 Candidates' Guide](#), "debates can be organized by community groups, media outlets, candidates or any other interested persons" (page 11).

The Township is not involved in the planning or administration of privately organized all-candidates events and does not have a role in selecting or approving the organizations or individuals that choose to host them.

Any questions regarding the organization, format, moderation or administration of a particular event should be directed to the event organizer.

Candidates are reminded that participation in any externally organized event does not alter their individual responsibility to comply with all applicable requirements of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, including applicable campaign finance, contribution and spending requirements.

Best regards,

Sarah Matheson, Director of Corporate Services/Clerk
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& Kevin Brandt, Deputy Clerk/Communications Coordinator
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This memo provides plain-language information and general guidance for candidates. It is intended to provide clear and consistent answers to questions asked and to support equal access to election information. The memo does not itself create legal requirements or prohibitions and is not legal advice. The Municipal Elections Act, 1996, applicable Township by-laws, policies and election procedures remain the governing authorities and should be referenced where additional detail is required. Individual circumstances may differ, and candidates are encouraged to contact the Clerk or Deputy Clerk for clarification where they are unsure of requirements.