

INFLUENCING BC

What you need to know

- Updated guidance documents
- Election FAQs

A provincial general election has been called in British Columbia. The final Voting Day is October 24, 2026. During an election, MLAs cease to be members of the Legislative Assembly from the moment the House is dissolved by the Lieutenant Governor, which typically coincides with the issuance of the election writ. This may raise questions for lobbyists and designated filers about reporting requirements.

Updated guidance

The ORL has updated three guidance documents to assist lobbyists during the provincial election period:

- *Guidance for lobbyists during an election*
- *Political, sponsorship, and recall contributions*
- *How to report political sponsorship and recall contributions in the Lobbyists Registry*

FAQs

Do I need to register lobbying activities during an election?

Yes. The LTA requires lobbying information to be registered in the Lobbyists Registry when public office holders and senior public office holders are being lobbied. While MLAs cease to be public office holders once the House is dissolved, there are many other public office holders and senior public office holders, such as the Premier and Ministers, who remain in those roles. In addition, there are public office holders and senior public office holders that are not elected officials, such as staff or Deputy Ministers or government employees. You must indicate lobbying of those public office holders in your Registration Return and lobbying of other senior public office holders in your Monthly Return.

(continued on next page)



FAQs (cont'd)

Do I need to report lobbying of a candidate in the Lobbyists Registry?

It depends. The answer is “no” if the unelected candidate is not otherwise a public office holder nor a senior public office holder. In other words, if they are only a candidate and do not meet the definition of public office holder or senior public office holder, lobbying of them is not required to be reported in the Lobbyists Registry. The answer is “yes” if the candidate is otherwise a public office holder or senior public office holder.

If elected, the candidate becomes a senior public office holder. Designated Filers must submit information to the Lobbyists Registry about lobbying communications with the MLA that happen from the date the candidate is elected.

Do I need to report lobbying of Ministers and the Premier during an election period?

Yes. Ministers and the Premier, while not MLAs, remain members of the Executive Council (ie: Cabinet) during an election and any lobbying communications with them should be reported as they are senior public office holders under the LTA.

What responsibilities do lobbyists have if they volunteer for a candidate's campaign during an election?

During an election, designated filers are required to continue to register lobbying communications in the Lobbyists Registry. While MLAs cease to be MLAs, designated filers continue to be required to register lobbying of other public office holders and senior public office holders.

Communications with a candidate who is a public office holder or a senior public office holder only need to be submitted to the Lobbyists Registry if the communication is lobbying. If a lobbyist is communicating with a candidate or another campaign volunteer who is also a public office holder or senior public office holder about campaign matters that are not lobbying matters, those communications do not need to be submitted to the Lobbyists Registry.

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