

School Trustee Candidate Guide 2026 – School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake)





ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge, respect and honour the First Nations in whose traditional territories the Kootenay Lake School District operates and all Aboriginal people residing within the boundaries of School District No. 8.



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DISTRICT OVERVIEW

Mission and Vision

Our mission is to inspire and support each learner to thrive in a caring learning environment. SD8's vision, values, and strategic goals centre on student success, inclusion, and community engagement. The Board of Education's 2024–2029 Strategic Plan sets out the district's priorities for improving student achievement, well-being, and equity in alignment with provincial mandates

Annual Budget: Approximately \$85 million (for 2025–2026). The school district's budget allocates resources to support student learning and strategic priorities.

Mission

We inspire and support each learner to thrive in a caring learning environment.

Vision

Our learners grow as global citizens in an innovative and inclusive community.

Strategic Priorities

Lifelong Learners

We improve student learning through interest-based, competency-based, flexible and innovative approaches.

Connected Learners

We inspire learners to become curious, critical, and creative stewards of the natural world and the local and global community.

Caring and Inclusive Learning Culture

We promote physical and mental well-being through social-emotional learning to foster compassionate learners.

Cultural and Identity Development

We promote a positive sense of identity in culturally safe and responsive communities of learning.

Career Development

We prepare students to graduate with options for their future life and career goals.

DISTRICT OVERVIEW (CONT.)

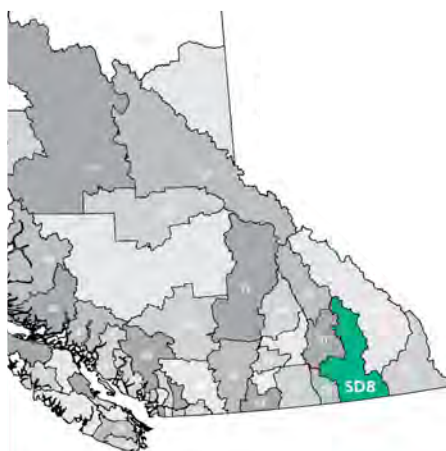
Students and Schools: SD8 serves about 4,700 students in 23 schools across a large geographic region. These include multiple community elementary schools, several secondary schools, and a number of K-12 schools in smaller communities.

The district's schools are located in the Nelson and Creston areas and the surrounding rural communities (e.g. Kaslo, Salmo, Slocan Valley, East Shore of Kootenay Lake, and surrounding areas.). SD8 also operates Elev8 (a provincial online learning school) to serve students across B.C.

Employees: The district employs roughly 900 staff (including teachers, support staff, and administrators) to deliver public education in the region.



School District 8 Kootenay Lake
Families of Schools



British Columbia School Districts

4,700
students

23
schools

900
staff

2026 SCHOOL TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

Trustee Positions in the 2026 General Local Elections

In October 2026, voters in School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) will elect 9 school trustees as part of B.C.'s general local elections. The SD8 Board of Education seats are distributed across seven trustee electoral areas. For a full view of those areas, see the [electoral area map](#) or select electoral areas from the [SD8 Catchment Map on our website](#).

- TEA 1 – City of Nelson/Bealby Point – 2 Trustees
- TEA 2 – Salmo/Taghum/Blewett – 1 Trustee
- TEA 3 – Slocan Valley/Bonnington – 1 Trustee
- TEA 4 – Crawford Bay/East Shore & North Shore – 1 Trustee
- TEA 5 – South Rural Zone – 2 Trustees (portions of RDCK Area A, B, C south of Kootenay Lake)
- TEA 6 – Town of Creston – 1 Trustee

(Note: municipal authorities conduct trustee elections in Nelson and Creston, while the school district administers elections in the rural zones.)

General Election Schedule – 2026

- Nomination Period: September 1 – 11, 2026 (nominations open 9:00 a.m. Sept 1 and close 4:00 p.m. Sept 11)
- Declaration of Candidates: September 11, 2026 (after 4:00 p.m., list of officially nominated candidates is published)
- Deadline for Challenging Nominations: September 15, 2026 (period to challenge a nomination in court)
- Deadline for Candidate Withdrawal: September 18, 2026 (last day for candidates to withdraw, by 4:00 p.m.)
- Campaign Period: September 19 – October 17, 2026 (campaign advertising rules in effect 28 days before General Voting Day)
- Advance Voting Days: October 7, 2026 and October 14, 2026 (at least two advance polls, as required by law)
- General Voting Day: October 17, 2026 (Saturday)
- Official Election Results Declaration: by October 21, 2026 (final results declared by Chief Election Officer)
- Inaugural Board Meeting (swearing-in): November 2026 (date TBA – newly elected trustees sworn in and begin their term)

(All candidates are responsible for meeting these deadlines and should confirm exact dates with the local Chief Election Officer.)

Disclaimer: This guide provides general information for prospective candidates and should not be considered legal advice. Candidates should refer to the School Act, local government bylaws, and official elections materials for authoritative requirements.



What Does A School Trustee Do?

School trustees are the members of a local board of education – in this case, the Board of Education of School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake). Trustees are locally elected representatives of the public, acting as community advocates for public education in the Kootenay Lake area. Under the B.C. School Act, trustees must carry out their duties in a manner that assists the board in fulfilling its legislated responsibilities. In practice, an individual trustee's role includes maintaining a focus on student achievement and well-being, and participating in board decisions that benefit the entire school district while representing the interests of their specific community.

Some key aspects of the trustee role include:

→ Trustees Set the Strategic Direction of the District

One of the board's primary responsibilities is to set the strategic vision for the school district. Together, trustees develop and approve the district's strategic plan, which establishes a vision and priorities for the district and guides parents, the public, and staff toward common goals. The strategic plan lays out long-term priorities and goals (for example, improving literacy outcomes or supporting inclusive education) that guides the allocation of resources.

While the board sets policy and goals, it entrusts the superintendent (CEO) to carry out the day-to-day management of the district and implement the board's strategic plan. The superintendent is responsible for enacting procedures, supervising staff, and ensuring that the board's objectives are met. Trustees focus on governance – setting direction and policy – while district administration (superintendent and staff) handles operations (the "how") of achieving those high-level, strategic goals.

→ Boards of Education and the Provincial Government

B.C. boards of education share a co-governance relationship with the provincial government, particularly the Ministry of Education and Child Care. The province sets the overall framework for K–12 education – including

the curriculum, funding levels, and the legal framework (School Act, regulations, and ministerial orders) within which school boards operate. Within that framework, boards of education are required to align with the province's policy direction and to reflect community priorities.

The respective roles of the ministry and local boards are set out in the School Act. Key functions of boards of education defined in provincial law includes:

- Attending board meetings (and committee meetings) to conduct district business.
- Setting local policies for the effective and efficient operation of schools.
- Employing the staff necessary for school district operations.
- Approving the school district's annual operating budget and capital plans.
- Hearing appeals from students or parents when a staff decision significantly affects a student's education, health, or safety (as required by the School Act).

In short, the ministry provides broad direction and funding, while local boards provide local governance and oversight, operating schools to meet the aspirations and needs of their communities within the provincial framework.

→ Trustees as Financial Stewards

School districts are significant public enterprises, and trustees must act as responsible financial stewards. One of the board's most important governance tasks is connecting the district's goals and plans with the fiscal reality – in particular, approving and overseeing the district's annual budget. The board must ensure that the budget and staffing allocations align with the strategic plan and the priority outcomes the board is seeking for students. This involves tough choices to allocate limited funds in ways that best support student achievement.

Throughout the year, trustees monitor financial reports and budget status to ensure the district remains on sound financial footing. All major financial decisions (e.g. adopting budgets, capital expenditures, significant spending) require board approval. In SD8, as in other districts, the board's Policy, Finance and Operations Advisory Committee may review details, but final approval rests with the full board. The goal is to ensure educational goals drive the budget, and that public resources are used effectively and transparently for the benefit of students.

→ Trustees as Part of a Team

A school trustee is one member of a team – the corporate board of education. Under the School Act, the powers of school boards are exercised by the board as a whole, not by individual trustees. In other words, no single trustee has authority to make decisions or take actions on behalf of the district; only the board acting collectively (through majority vote) can govern. This principle means that trustees must be prepared to work collaboratively. While healthy debate and diverse viewpoints are important in deliberations, once the board votes and makes a decision, it becomes the official position of the board. All trustees are expected to uphold and communicate that decision, even if they personally argued against it during debate.

Trustees often run for office because of personal passions or specific local issues. While such passion is valuable and can motivate good work, an effective trustee must look beyond personal or single-issue agendas. Each trustee is responsible for making decisions in the best interests of the entire district, not just advocating for one school or group. Success as a board member requires balancing your representative role (being a voice for your community's priorities) with your governance role (doing what is best for all students in the district). This team approach, and the ability to accept and support board decisions, is vital to good governance.

→ Trustees as Community Leaders

Trustees serve as community leaders and advocates for public education. They build relationships with other community partners and local government to support the success of all students. As connectors between the school system and the public, trustees help ensure the community's values and expectations are reflected in schools. They may be called on to explain board decisions, listen to public concerns, or participate in community events on behalf of the board.

While trustees represent specific electoral areas, they do not function as “electoral area politicians” on the board. Their primary responsibility is to the entire district's student body. Effective trustees manage to balance these roles – they remain accessible to their local constituents and bring forward local perspectives, but they make policy and budget decisions with the whole district in mind. By doing so, they help ensure equitable opportunities for all students in SD8 to reach their potential.

Boards of education acts as “the employer” of all school district staff and thus have legal responsibilities in employer–employee relations. In practice, employer duties (hiring, evaluation, labour relations) are delegated to management, but the board retains authority and accountability for key aspects including:

- **Ratifying Agreements – Collective Bargaining:** most school district employees are unionized. For teaching staff, B.C. uses a two-tier bargaining system – provincial negotiations between the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) and BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) set broad terms (e.g. salaries, common benefits), while local issues may be negotiated between each board and its local teachers' association. Non-teaching unions (such as CUPE for support staff) bargain local agreements, with some coordination provincially. The board's role is to work in alignment with BCPSEA for provincial matters and to approve local collective agreements (BCPSEA acts as the bargaining agent for B.C.'s 60 public boards and provides labour relations services).
- **Superintendent (CEO) – Key Employee:** the board has one direct employee—the superintendent of schools—who acts as the CEO of the district. Hiring the superintendent is one of the board's most critical responsibilities. A strong board–superintendent relationship based on clear communication, respect, and mutual trust is central to effective governance. All other district staff report directly or indirectly to the superintendent. For example, the secretary-treasurer and other senior managers report to their supervisor, the superintendent. Other employees report to the superintendent through their own supervisors. The superintendent in turn is accountable to the board for the overall performance of employees operating on behalf of the district.
- **Labour Relations:** at the governance level, the board sets policies that affect labour (a human resource policy). The board may also be involved in high-level labour issues via the BCPSEA. For example, one or more trustees may serve as the board's representative to BCPSEA or on bargaining committees (note: any trustee with a close family member in a BC teacher union is ineligible for certain BCPSEA roles due to conflict of interest rules – see School Act Part 5). Overall, the board must ensure that fair employment practices are in place and that the district's employees are supported to do their best work for students. Good governance in labour relations means setting a respectful tone as well as good policy, while leaving negotiations and administration to staff.



Am I Up to the Job?

You do not need to be an educator or have a background in public education to serve as a school trustee. Many trustees come from diverse walks of life. However, the following skills, knowledge and attributes are helpful for potential trustee candidates, and will be developed further through practical experience and training during a trustee's tenure.



Understanding of Board Procedures and Governance

Familiarity with how official meetings are run (Roberts Rules or other procedural rules) and the board's own bylaws/policies is valuable. Candidates are encouraged to review the SD8 Board's bylaws, governance policies, and code of conduct (e.g. Policy 130: Trustee Code of Conduct, available on the SD8 website). Attending a school board meeting and speaking with current trustees can also provide insight into board processes.

Awareness of the Legal and Political Context

School boards operate within a complex framework of laws and policies. A basic understanding of the B.C. School Act and related legislation, Ministry of Education and Child Care directives, and board policies will be an asset. New trustees will learn about the legislative environment (including the School Act, Local Government Act election provisions, the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, etc.) as part of their orientation. What's important is a willingness to work within legal mandates and to engage with provincial policy directions (for example, curriculum changes or provincial education initiatives).

Financial Literacy

School district budgets and financial statements can be complex. Trustees don't need to be accountants, but should be comfortable reviewing financial information, asking questions about budgets and audits, and understanding the implications of financial decisions. As a trustee, you will help govern a multi-million dollar public budget. Training and support are available – for instance, the BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) offers workshops on school finance – but an ability to think critically about resource allocation is important. Trustees must connect financial decisions to educational outcomes, ensuring that money is spent wisely in support of students.

Willingness to Learn

Perhaps most important is an openness to learning and growth. The role of trustee is complex and comes with a steep learning curve, especially for those new to the education sector or governance. Successful trustees commit time to ongoing learning – whether it's understanding student data, attending training on governance, or learning about Indigenous education – to better serve students. The public entrusts the board with overseeing the education of children and youth, as well as millions in public funds. Trustees must be responsible stewards, which means continuously improving their knowledge and skills in areas like governance, finance, policy, and advocacy.

Time Commitment

Being a school trustee is considered a part-time public office, but it can be very demanding. Time commitments can vary week to week, but it is not uncommon for trustees to spend an average of 15+ hours per week on board business. This includes:

- **Board Meetings and Committees:** Preparing for and attending regular board meetings (in SD8, typically monthly) and committee meetings. Preparation involves reading agenda packages, reports, and background materials in advance. SD8's Board meets regularly throughout the school year – the meeting schedule and agendas are posted on the district's website. Trustees may also sit on advisory committees or external committees, which adds to the meeting schedule.
- **Community Representation:** Attending school or community events as a representative of the board. Trustees are often invited to school celebrations, graduations, and other school or community events. They may also liaise with local government or attend education-related forums in the community.
- **Development and Conferences:** Participating in professional development and provincial meetings. For example, trustees usually attend the BCSTA Annual General Meeting and possibly other conferences or workshops each year. These events often occur over weekends and provide training and networking with trustees from across B.C.
- **Constituent Communication:** Responding to inquiries or concerns from parents, students, and community members. Trustees receive phone calls, emails, and meeting requests from the public. As a trustee, you are a link between the community and the school district – you'll spend time listening to concerns, explaining board decisions/policies, or directing people to the appropriate personnel or process (for example, referring a parent to the superintendent when appropriate).
- **Reading and Research:** Staying informed about educational issues. Trustees read provincial policy documents, research best practices, and keep up with local issues (such as enrolment trends or facility plans) to inform their decision-making.

It's a significant volunteer commitment. Prospective candidates should ensure they have the time flexibility to attend meetings (often in the evenings, with some daytime commitments) and to handle the workload. The board typically holds inaugural and orientation sessions after the election, and new trustees should expect additional time for training during their first few months.

(For reference, SD8's Board Meeting Dates, agendas, and minutes can be found on the district website. Regular board meetings are open to the public, and attendance can provide a sense of the time and work involved.)

Trustee Remuneration

Trustee Remuneration: Trustees in SD8 receive an annual stipend to compensate for their service. As of the 2024–2025 fiscal year, the base remuneration rates (before expenses) are approximately:

- Trustee: \$21,728 per year
- Vice-Chair: \$22,213 per year
- Board Chair: \$25,079 per year

These amounts are adjusted each July 1 in accordance with the B.C. Consumer Price Index, per board policy. For example, a 2.6% CPI increase was applied for 2025–2026. Trustees are also reimbursed for allowable expenses incurred while performing their duties.

Eligibility to Run for School Trustee

To run for election as a school trustee, you must meet the general local government election qualifications in British Columbia:

- Canadian Citizenship – you must be a Canadian citizen.
- Age – you must be 18 years of age or older on General Voting Day (October 17, 2026).
- B.C. Residency – you must have been a resident of British Columbia for at least 6 months immediately before the nomination date. (For the 2026 election, this means living in B.C. by March 2026.)
- Not Disqualified – you must not be disqualified by law from being nominated, elected, or holding office as a school trustee. Certain provisions in the School Act or other Acts prohibit individuals from running (for example, people who have been convicted of election offenses or who are disqualified for not filing campaign finance disclosures from a previous election).

You do not have to reside within the school district or trustee area you wish to run in (any B.C. resident meeting the six-month requirement can run in any district), though practical credibility in the community is an obvious consideration. You also do not need to own property – homeownership is not a requirement, just residency in B.C.

If You Are a School District Employee

Employees of any school district are permitted to run for trustee in a district other than their employer without taking leave. However, if you are an employee of School District No. 8 and you wish to run for a seat on the SD8 Board (i.e. the board of your employer), the law requires you to take certain steps:

You must notify your employer in writing of your intention to seek nomination before being officially nominated.

Once you have given notice (or on the first day of the nomination period, whichever is later), you must take a leave of absence from your employment with the school district. This leave is without pay and covers the period from nomination through the election.

If you are successfully elected as a trustee, you must resign from your employment with the school district before being sworn in. Holding office as a trustee and simultaneously being employed by the same school district is not permitted (to avoid conflict of interest). If you are not elected, you may be able to apply to the school district for a position after the election.

These requirements (per the School Act) ensure a clear separation between staff and governance. If you work for a different school district (or independent school) and run for trustee in SD8, you don't have to take a leave or resign. However, be mindful of potential conflicts of interest – for instance, a teacher from a neighboring district who becomes a trustee here would have to recuse themselves on matters like provincial bargaining that could affect their employment. Always consider conflict rules (discussed below) if you have any employment or financial connections to the education sector.

Conflict of Interest Considerations

Trustees are governed by conflict of interest rules in the School Act (Part 5) and by common-law principles designed to ensure decisions are made in the public interest, not for personal gain. Upon taking office, trustees must swear an Oath of Office which includes a promise to abide by conflict of interest requirements (in particular, to disclose any pecuniary interest) – see School Act s.50, and the B.C. trustee oath form.

Pecuniary Interest: If a matter comes before the board in which a trustee (or certain members of their immediate family) has a pecuniary interest – i.e. a financial interest that could directly or indirectly benefit them – the trustee is in a conflict of interest. Under the School Act, the trustee must disclose the interest, abstain from discussion and voting on that matter, and not attempt to influence the decision in any way (inside or outside the meeting). For example, if the board is voting on a contract with a company that a

The law attributes the financial interests of a spouse, parent, or child of a trustee to the trustee. So, even if you don't have a direct financial stake, if your immediate family member does, it's treated as yours. A specific example: A trustee whose spouse, child, or parent is a member of the BC Teachers' Federation (i.e. a teacher in any BC public school district) is deemed to have a conflict with respect to certain BCPSEA roles. Such a trustee cannot serve as the board's representative on the BCPSEA provincial bargaining team or on the BCPSEA Board of Directors, nor participate in BCPSEA general meetings on the board's behalf. This restriction is meant to prevent conflicts between a trustee's duty to the board (as an employer) and loyalty to a family member's union.

Personal Interest and Perceived Bias: Even when no money is involved, trustees should avoid participating in decisions where they have a strong personal interest that could create a perception of bias. Common-law conflict of interest extends to situations that create a "reasonable apprehension of bias." For example, if the board must decide on a student disciplinary appeal and the student is the child of the trustee's close personal friend, the trustee should consider stepping aside from that decision. The test is whether an objective, well-informed observer would reasonably think the trustee could be influenced by a personal connection. When in doubt, err on the side of transparency and recusal – it protects you and the integrity of the board's decision.

All trustee candidates should familiarize themselves with School Act Part 5 (Conflict of Interest provisions). Violating conflict rules can lead to serious consequences, including disqualification from office. However, by being mindful and upfront about potential conflicts, trustees can manage these situations. The onus is on each trustee to declare conflicts – "if in doubt, declare and step out."

Election Process

Filing Your Nomination Papers

To officially become a candidate, you must submit nomination papers during the nomination period (see dates above) to the local Chief Election Officer for the appropriate jurisdiction. In SD8's case, this can be a little complex due to multiple jurisdictions:

- If you are running for a trustee position representing the City of Nelson/Bealby Point, you will file your nomination with the Chief Election Officer at the City of Nelson (since the city conducts the election for those seats).
- For the Town of Creston trustee, you file with the Town of Creston's election office.
- For trustees in the rural zones which are conducted by the School District's Chief Election Officer, Cathy MacArthur, Secretary-Treasurer at the school board office in Nelson.

The Notice of Nomination published by each jurisdiction will specify where and how to submit your forms. Be sure to obtain the correct nomination package for the trustee election in your area. (Nomination packages are typically available from the school board office, city hall, or the applicable civic website by the summer of the election year.)

Nominators: You will need a minimum of two qualified nominators to sign your papers. These nominators must be eligible electors (voters) in the trustee electoral area for which you are running. Example: If running for a Nelson trustee seat, your nominators must be eligible voters of the City of Nelson. (SD8 requires at least two nominators – you can have more than two sign if desired, but two is the minimum.) Each nominator will fill in their name and address and sign your nomination form.

Deposit: School District No. 8 policy requires a \$100 nomination deposit when filing for trustee candidacy (this is the maximum allowed under law). The deposit must be provided by the nomination deadline (often paid in cash, certified cheque, or money order as specified by the CEO). This deposit is refunded after the election if you: a) are elected, or b) receive at least 10% of the votes in your contest, or c) withdraw before the deadline. If you fail to get 10% of the vote (and are not elected), the deposit may be forfeited to the school district. Always check the nomination instructions; if a deposit is required, plan accordingly.

Along with the nomination form and deposit, you must include a statement disclosing your financial interests (as per the Financial Disclosure Act). This "Statement of Disclosure" (sometimes called the Form 2 under the Act)

details your employment, business holdings, property, and corporate interests. It's a public document meant to reveal any potential financial conflicts of interest. It must be submitted with your nomination papers (even if it seems you have nothing to disclose, you still must submit the form, listing "nil" or not applicable in the sections, as it is required by law).

After the close of nominations (4 p.m. on Sept 11, 2026), the Chief Election Officer will declare the list of candidates. If the number of candidates in a trustee area is equal to or less than the number of available seats, those candidates are elected by acclamation (no election vote is conducted for that area). If more candidates are nominated than seats (e.g. three candidates for two Nelson trustee seats), an election by voting will be declared for that area.

Key post-nomination dates (subject to confirmation by local election officials):

- Declaration of Candidates: September 11, 2026 (after nominations close, all valid nominees are announced).
- End of Nomination Challenge Period: likely September 15 or 16, 2026. During the four days following the close of nominations, an elector may file in court to challenge a candidate's nomination on limited grounds (e.g. the candidate is not qualified). Such challenges are rare.
- Withdrawal Deadline: September 16 or 18, 2026 (depending on the jurisdiction's timeline, typically a few days after close of nominations). After this date (usually by 4 p.m.), a candidate's name will remain on the ballot and they cannot withdraw except by Minister's approval in extraordinary circumstances.
- Once the candidate list is finalized, the election campaign officially kicks off.

Reminder: It is solely the candidate's responsibility to ensure all nomination documents (and the deposit, if applicable) are filed correctly and on time with the appropriate election office. Late nominations cannot be accepted. Missing paperwork (e.g. forgetting the financial disclosure) could invalidate a nomination. Do not leave it to the last minute – if possible, file early in the nomination period so any errors can be corrected before the deadline. If you have questions about the forms, ask the Chief Election Officer for guidance well ahead of time.



Campaigning and Campaign Finance

School trustee candidates in B.C. are subject to the same campaign finance laws as municipal candidates, set out in the Local Elections Campaign Financing Act (LECFA). All campaign financing and advertising in local elections (including school board elections) is overseen by Elections BC, not the school district. Candidates must familiarize themselves with these rules – they cover campaign contribution limits, expense limits, disclosure requirements, and advertising regulations.

Key points include:

- Campaign period expense limits: Each candidate will have a defined maximum they can spend on their campaign, determined by Elections BC formulas (varying by population).
- Contribution rules: Only eligible individuals (resident Canadians) can donate, up to a set annual limit, and donations from organizations or unions are prohibited. All donations over \$50 must be disclosed with the donor's name.
- Disclosure filings: Candidates (and their financial agents) must file disclosure statements with Elections BC after the election, reporting all campaign contributions and expenses. These are made public. Failure to file on time can result in fines and disqualification from future elections.

These rules are detailed and can be complex. Fortunately, Elections BC provides guides and resources. Every candidate (and their financial agent, if they appoint one) should read the Guide to Local Elections Campaign Financing in B.C. for Candidates and Their Financial Agents (available from Elections BC). This guide explains in plain language how to comply with contribution rules, recording transactions, spending limits, signage sponsorship info, etc. Elections BC also has advisors available to answer questions – don't hesitate to use these resources to stay on the right side of the law.

Note that campaign finance rules apply during the election year. For example, campaign contributions can only be solicited or used for expenses during the defined election period (Jan 1 to campaign period start for recording, then campaign period for spending). There are also restrictions on election advertising before and during the campaign period (e.g. "sponsorship information" must be on all ads, even in the pre-campaign period, and certain blackout rules apply on General Voting Day).

General Campaigning Guidelines

Campaigning for school board is similar in many ways to any local election campaign, but there are a few special points to keep in mind:

- Local Sign/Advertising Bylaws: be aware of any municipal bylaws regulating election signs (size, placement, timing) in the areas where you campaign. For instance, the City of Nelson and Town of Creston may have specific rules about not placing signs on certain public property or boulevards, and when signs must be removed. Check with each municipality or the regional district for sign bylaws. Non-compliance can result in your signs being removed or fines.
- School District Policy on Political Activities: campaigning in or around schools is sensitive. SD8 has policies about distributing campaign literature on school property or using school events for political purposes. Generally, campaigning in schools is not allowed during school hours or school events. You should not involve students in campaigning (other than your own children volunteering, for example) and you must not use any school district resources (photocopiers, staff time, email lists) for your campaign. Review SD8's policy on political activities to ensure you don't inadvertently violate it.

- Ministry of Transportation Rules for Signs: if you plan to put signs along highways or roads outside municipal boundaries, note that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has policies about election signs on provincial highways. Typically, signs must not obstruct sight lines and must be removed promptly after the election. Check the MoTI website for their election sign guidelines to avoid having your signs taken down.
- Online/Social Media Advertising: online campaign advertising is allowed, but the same rules about sponsorship info apply. Any digital ads (Facebook ads, Google ads, etc.) must include who is sponsoring the ad. If you run your own campaign social media pages or website, you should also include an authorization statement (e.g. “Authorized by John Doe, financial agent/candidate, 250-xxx-xxxx”). Elections BC has specific guidance on internet election advertising – including how the rules apply to social media posts, websites, and third-party shares. Be cautious about advertising on General Voting Day (which is not allowed, with some exceptions for messages that were published before that day).
- General Voting Day Conduct: There are campaign restrictions on the actual voting days. On General Voting Day (and advance voting days), campaigning near voting places is prohibited. You cannot canvass or distribute literature within 100 metres of a polling station. Also, volunteers should remove or cover any campaign buttons, shirts, or signs when at a voting place. Essentially, voting places should be politics-free zones on those days, aside from posted official candidate lists. Ensure your supporters know not to violate these rules, as it could reflect on your campaign.

Remember, as a candidate you are responsible for compliance with all election rules. There is no “grace” for ignorance, and contraventions can lead to fines or even disqualification. When in doubt, consult Elections BC (for campaign finance and advertising questions) or the Chief Election Officer (for nomination or procedural questions).

Key Resources and References

Prospective candidates should take advantage of the many resources available to guide you through the process and responsibilities of being a school trustee:

School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) Resources

- [SD8 Strategic Plan](#)
- [SD8 Policy Manual](#)
- [SD8 Board Governance Framework and Learning Plan](#)

Important Links

- [BC School Trustees Association](#)
- [Elections BC](#)
- [General Local Elections](#)
- [Local Government Act](#)
- [Local Election Campaign Financing Act](#)
- [School Act](#)

Additional Resources

- BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) New Guide for School Trustee Election Candidates
- B.C. School Trustees – Putting Students First
- Characteristics of Effective Locally Elected Officials
- Guide to Local Elections Campaign Financing in BC for Candidates and their Financial Agents

Lastly, consider reaching out to current or former trustees in your area. While they may not endorse anyone, many are willing to share their experience and offer insights into the realities of the role. Running for school board is a significant undertaking, but it is also a rewarding opportunity to shape the education system for children in your community.

All the best in your candidacy for School District 8 Trustee!



School District 8
Kootenay Lake