

# Hello to great elections!

## Making democracy work at your housing co-op

### Why Board Elections Matter

Board elections are how members choose who leads the co-op. Elections make sure directors are accountable and that decisions reflect the will of the membership.

### What Changed in the Law

Ontario's Co-operative Corporations Act was updated in October 2023. All housing co-ops must now follow these rules, even if their by-laws have not yet been updated.

- Advance voting for board elections is required
- Members can vote before the election meeting
- Nominations must close before voting begins
- Floor nominations are no longer allowed

### Who Can Run for the Board

- You must be at least 18 years old
- You must be a member of the co-op
- You must meet the Act and the co-op's by-law requirements

### Qualities of Effective Directors

- Strong ethics and integrity
- Respect for members and their decisions
- Ability to work well with others
- Commitment to the best interests of the co-op

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## Nominations: How Candidates Are Chosen

To run for the board, members must be nominated in advance. This ensures fairness and allows time for advance voting.

- Nomination forms are shared with members ahead of time
- Members may nominate themselves or another member
- Forms must be submitted by the deadline set by the election committee
- Late nominations cannot be accepted

## Advance Voting: What Members Need to Know

Advance voting allows members to vote even if they cannot attend the election meeting. This supports fairness, accessibility, and inclusion.

- Advance voting takes place before the election meeting
- Voting locations, dates, and times are shared in advance
- Voting is always by secret ballot
- Completed ballots are sealed and opened only at the election meeting

## Your Role as a Member

- Learn about the candidates
- Ask questions and attend meetings
- Nominate yourself or another member
- Vote



***Strong elections lead to strong boards and better service for everyone***