2026 Notice of Election and Nomination Guide for Elections to Districts 5, 6 and 7

College of Chiropractors of Ontario (CCO) January 2026

Notice

Pursuant to By-law 6: Election of Council Members, notice is hereby given that elections to CCO Council will be held in Districts 5, 6 and 7 for a term of approximately 3 years.

District 5: Central West comprised of the counties of Brant, Dufferin, Wellington, Haldimand and Norfolk, the regional municipalities of Halton, Niagara, Peel and Waterloo, and the city of Hamilton.

District 6: Western comprised of the counties of Essex, Bruce, Grey, Lambton, Elgin, Middlesex, Huron, Perth and Oxford, and the municipality of Chatham-Kent.

District 7: Academic comprised of the entire province of Ontario (member of faculty of an accredited academic institution).

Election Procedures

- CCO will not be providing candidates with a list of members in their districts or mailing labels. However, CCO will post on CCO's website and distribute to members in their districts on behalf of candidates biographical information and one additional page of campaign materials, in accordance with the election timetable and campaign guidelines.

- The elections are carried out by electronic vote and secret ballot. The Registrar supervises all aspects of the election.

ELECTION TIMETABLE

January 26, 2026: Notice of Election and Nomination Guide sent electronically to all members.

February 17, 2026: Nomination Date: Nomination papers, candidate undertakings, biographical information and additional campaign material to be circulated by CCO in a format suitable for distribution to voters must be received by CCO by 4 p.m.

February 24, 2026, 6 pm: Mandatory orientation for all candidates to be held virtually.

February 24, 2026: Deadline for candidates to withdraw from the election by 4 p.m.

March 6, 2026: CCO posts on its website and distributes by email a list of candidates and biographical information reviewed and approved by CCO to eligible voters in each district.

March 11, 2026: CCO posts on its website and distributes by email additional campaign material submitted by candidates and reviewed and approved by CCO to eligible voters in each district.

March 13, 2026: List of candidates, biographical information, and voting procedures sent by email to all eligible voters.

March 30, 2026: All votes must be received by CCO by 4 p.m.

March 30, 2026: Unofficial election results announced.

April 13, 2026: Deadline to make a written request for a recount with a $150 deposit, which must be received by CCO by 4 p.m. Election results posted on CCO's website at www.cco.on.ca.

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- Candidates are required to submit their nomination papers, candidate undertakings, biographical information and one additional piece of campaign material in a format suitable for distribution on or before **February 17, 2026 at 4 p.m**. CCO will review all materials for general consistency with the campaign guidelines for elections, the biographical information guidelines, the principles of fair, accurate and appropriate election statements and, by analogy, Standard of Practice S-016: Communication to the Public, and will forward a response to the candidate as soon as possible. If you have any questions about any campaign material, contact CCO.

- Any additional campaign material and communications, including written material, oral presentations/speeches and general decorum of candidates must comply with the campaign guidelines for elections in this document. Material should be submitted to the CCO Election Review Committee in advance of February 18, 2025.

- Elections are conducted in a fair and transparent manner, consistent with democratic principles. Failure to comply with the principles of fairness by candidates and others may jeopardize the election process and results.

- Eligibility to nominate, vote and stand for elections to CCO Council is reflective of By-law 6.

ACRONYMS

AFC	Alliance for Chiropractic
CCA	Canadian Chiropractic Association
CCEC	Council on Chiropractic Education (Canada)
CCEB	Canadian Chiropractic Examining Board
CCO	College of Chiropractors of Ontario
CCPA	Canadian Chiropractic Protective Association
CCRF	Canadian Chiropractic Research Foundation
CMCC	Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College
CNAC	Canadian National Alliance for Chiropractic
CSCE	Canadian Society of Chiropractic Evaluators
FCC	Federation of Canadian Chiropractic
OCA	Ontario Chiropractic Association
RHPA	*Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*
UQTR	Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières

ELIGIBILITY TO NOMINATE AND/OR VOTE

- A member holding a General (active), Inactive or Retired certificate of registration **is eligible to nominate and vote** in the electoral district in which the member, as of January 1st of the election year, has their primary practice, or if the member is not engaged in the practice of chiropractic, in which the member has their primary residence.

- A member **is ineligible to nominate or vote** in a Council election if the member is in default of payment of any fees prescribed by by-law or any fine or order for costs to CCO imposed by a CCO committee or court of law or is in default in completing and returning any form required by CCO.

ELIGIBILITY TO STAND FOR ELECTION

A member **is eligible for election** to Council in an electoral district, if, on the closing date of nominations and any time up to and including the date of the election:

- the member's primary practice of chiropractic is located in the electoral district in which the member is nominated or, if the member is not engaged in the practice of chiropractic, the member's primary residence is located in the electoral district in which the member is nominated;
(continued on next page)

- the member is not in default of payments of any fees prescribed by by-law or any fine or order to pay costs to CCO imposed by a CCO committee or court of law;

- the member is not in default in completing and returning any form required by CCO;

- the member is not the subject of any disciplinary or incapacity proceeding;

- a finding of professional misconduct, incompetence or incapacity has not been made against the member in the preceding six years;

- the member has not resigned from a position on Council, before completing the term, within the last three years;
- the member does not have an outstanding code of conduct matter with the College;
- the member is not, and has not been in the preceding three years, an employee, officer, director, or member of a committee, sub-committee or working group of any professional chiropractic association such that a real or apparent conflict of interest may arise, including but not limited to being an employee, officer or director of the OCA, CCA, CCPA, AFC, CCEB, CSCE, the CCEC of the FCC, CCRF or CNAC;
- the member is not, and has not been in the preceding three years, an officer, director, or administrator of any chiropractic educational institution, including but not limited to, CMCC and UQTR, such that a real or apparent conflict of interest may arise;
- the member has not been disqualified from the Council or a committee of the Council in the previous six years;
- the member is not a member of the Council or of a committee of the college of any other health profession;
- the member has not been a member of the staff of CCO at any time within the preceding three years;
- for District 7 only, the member is a member of the faculty of an accredited educational institution;
- for any district other than District 7, the member is not eligible for election in District 7, and has not been eligible for election in District 7 in the preceding three years;
- the member is not, and has not been within the preceding six years, an adverse party in litigation against CCO, the Council of CCO, a committee of CCO, or any of CCO's directors, officers, employees or agents, on a matter related to CCO business;
- the member is not an accused currently charged with a criminal offence under the *Criminal Code of Canada*; and
- the member has not been convicted of a criminal offence for which the member has not received a pardon pursuant to the *Criminal Code of Canada*.

Term of Office

The term of office of a member elected to Council is approximately three years commencing with the first regular meeting of Council immediately following the election (currently scheduled on April 23, 2026). Incumbents continue to serve in office until the first regular Council meeting, unless otherwise disqualified from Council. By-law 6: Election of Council Members outlines the circumstances in which a member may be removed from Council.

Please note: A member who has served on Council for nine consecutive years is ineligible for election to Council until a full three-year term has passed since that member last served on Council. A non-Council member may only serve on CCO committees for nine consecutive years, whether the time is served as a Council member or as a non-Council member.

Orientation for Candidates

Candidates are required to attend the virtual orientation session, scheduled for February 24, 2026, 6 pm.

Role of CCO and Council Members

CCO is the regulatory body for chiropractors in Ontario, governed by a 15-16 member Council comprised of 6-7 public members appointed by the provincial government and 9 registered chiropractors elected by the membership.

CCO's legislative mandate is to govern chiropractic in the public interest. CCO's main responsibilities include:

- developing standards of admission to the profession;
- investigating complaints and disciplining members who have committed acts of professional misconduct or are incompetent;
- implementing a quality assurance program to ensure continuous quality improvement in the profession, including the development of standards of practice, policies and guidelines to which all members of the profession must conform;
- maintaining a public register; and
- implementing a patient relations program.

Time Commitments

Council membership involves a significant time commitment, which varies according to committee. Members attend Council meetings four or more times per year and may serve on one or more committees. Preparatory readings and work for Council and committee meetings can be extensive. Candidates should also note that, whenever possible, all Council and committee meetings are held during regular business hours, Monday to Friday. Members should review the Competencies for Council and Committee Members document, posted on the election page of CCO's website, for further information about competencies, expectations and time commitments on Council and committees.

Compensation

Council members are compensated for their time spent on CCO work in accordance with CCO By-law 9: Remuneration and Internal Policy I-012. However, per diems and expenses paid by CCO to Council members are intended to partially offset the cost of a contribution to the self-regulation of the chiropractic profession rather than to pay for services rendered or to compensate for lost income or the opportunity to earn income.

Campaign Guidelines for Elections to CCO Council

The following guidelines are for candidates for election or re-election to CCO Council and any member who produces or distributes campaign material on behalf of a candidate. These guidelines are intended to apply to the candidate biography, additional material distributed by CCO, any other written campaign materials distributed by any means, including email, websites or social media, oral presentations/speeches and general decorum of candidates. It is each candidate's responsibility to ensure that his/her campaign material and behaviour complies with the campaign guidelines:

Do the following:

- Be respectful, polite, dignified and professional in everything you do;
- Announce your qualifications and competencies rather than denouncing another candidate's qualifications;
- Rely on and promote information that is both factual and provable;
- Focus on your ideas and the positives that you have to offer;
- Ensure the words you use are inclusive and would not offend any specific group;
- Remember the public interest mandate of CCO and don't make any promises that could be viewed as inconsistent with that mandate; (continued on next page)

- Remember that you are a professional and a member of a regulated health profession and so are other candidates;
- Take all reasonable steps to ensure anyone campaigning on your behalf also acts and communicates in a respectful, professional manner;
- Comply with CCO regulations, standards of practice, policies and guidelines, including, but not limited to: CCO's Code of Ethics, CCO's Code of Conduct, the Candidate Undertaking, the Professional Misconduct Regulation, Policy P-011: Conflict of Interest for Council and Committee Members, standards of practice and guidelines related to advertising, social media and communication to the public, and common law.

Do <u>not</u> do the following:

- Include any information or material that is false or misleading, not readily comprehensible by the persons to whom it is intended, or disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional;
- Compare yourself to another member's or other health care provider's practice, qualification or expertise;
- Imply, in any way, that CCO or any CCO Council or committee member supports your candidacy; or
- Mount a personal or professional attack on any candidate.

Non-compliance with the guidelines may result in a private or public direction issued by CCO during the election and a review as to whether the election is valid after the votes are counted. Non-compliance may result in the election of a district being recalled.

Professional, respectful discourse is essential to a fair election process!

Guidelines to Candidates for Providing Biographical Information

In addition to the guidelines above, a candidate's biographical information must meet the following guidelines. Biographical information must:

- Reflect CCO's role in protecting the public interest and be typewritten on one 8.5" x 11"-page white paper with a minimum of one-inch margins on all four sides, in portrait format (not landscape);
- The candidate's name must appear on the top of the page.
- The candidate's photograph may be included - head and shoulders only.
- Candidates must **NOT** imply, in any way, that CCO or any CCO Council or committee member supports their candidacy.
- Candidates should include information that is relevant to their knowledge, competencies, expertise, skills and attributes related to:
  - CCO's statutory mandate to regulate chiropractors in the public interest to assure, safe, ethical and competent chiropractic care for the public of Ontario
  - CCO's Competencies for Council and Committee Members and Peer Assessors
  - chiropractic care of patients, including patients from different backgrounds
  - serving on boards in an oversight role
  - interpersonal and communication skills
  - previous roles and experience in business, organizational planning, human resources, health and safety, policy development, risk management, education and research, financial or accounting, information technology and any other roles relevant to CCO's mandate and functions.

In addition to the candidate biography, candidates may submit one additional piece of campaign material that CCO will distribute to eligible voters in their district in accordance with the election timetable. This additional campaign material must comply with CCO election guidelines, be received by CCO on or before February 17, 2026, 4 pm, and only be written material typewritten on one 8.5" x 11"-page white paper with a minimum of one-inch margins on all four sides, in portrait format (not landscape).

CCO Committees

Statutory:

- Executive
- Inquiries, Complaints and Reports
- Discipline
- Fitness to Practise
- Patient Relations
- Quality Assurance
- Registration

Non-Statutory:

- Nominating Committee
- Election Review Sub-Committee

MISSION

The College of Chiropractors of Ontario regulates the profession in the public interest to assure ethical and competent chiropractic care.

VISION

Committed to Regulatory Excellence in the Public Interest in a Diverse Environment.

VALUES

Integrity, Respect, Collaborative, Innovative, Transparent, Responsive

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. Strengthen Governance and Leadership.
2. Strengthen the Understanding of CCO and the Profession's Role in the Healthcare System.
3. Demonstrate a Proactive Approach to Regulatory Change.
4. Enhance Member Engagement and Communication (internal and external).

Developed at the Strategic Planning Session: September 2024
Approved by Council: November 28, 2024

Thank you for participating in the self-regulation of your profession!

CURRENT CCO COUNCIL

ELECTED MEMBERS

Name	District	Term of Office (April to April)
Dr. Angelo Santin, *Thunder Bay*	1	April 2024 - April 2027
Dr. Salima Ismail, *Manotick*	2	April 2025 - April 2028
Dr. Michael Gauthier, *Ajax*	3	April 2025 - April 2028
Dr. Kyle Grice, *Toronto*	4	April 2025 - April 2028
Dr. Julia Viscomi, *Maple*	4	April 2024 - April 2027
*Dr. Sarah Green, *Elmira*	5	April 2023 - April 2026
Dr. Annette Langlois, *Amherstburg*	5	April 2025 - April 2027
**Dr. Colin Goudreau, *Chatham-Kent*	6	April 2023 - April 2026
*Dr. Jarrod Goldin, *Toronto*	7	April 2023 - April 2026

**Term of office expires April 2026. Eligible for re-election.*
***Term of office expires April 2026. Not eligible for re-election.*

PUBLIC MEMBERS

Name	Date Order-in Council Expires
Ms Anuli Ausbeth-Ajagu, *Brampton*	December 2027
Mr. Robert Chopowick, *Ajax*	September 2027
Mr. Gagandeep Dhanda, *Mississauga*	April 2027
Ms Zoe Kariunas, *Toronto*	October 2028
Ms Janet Lemieux, *Hamilton*	October 2028
Mr. Scott Stewart, *Cavan Monaghan*	March 2028
Vacant	

ELECTIONS QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q. What is the purpose of the election of professional members to the Council?

A. The *RHPA* and the *Chiropractic Act, 1991* provide for the election of the majority of the Council from among the membership of the profession. Since chiropractic is a self-regulating profession, it is important that the majority of the Council be members of the profession. While there could be a number of ways for the professional members to be chosen, the legislation requires an election system to ensure that Council members have the confidence and respect of those whom they regulate.

Q. Is the election of Council members similar to the election of MPPs or municipal councillors?

A. While the form of election is somewhat similar (i.e., voting for candidates by secret ballot), the purpose is actually quite different. Your MPP represents the interests of those who elected him/her. A Council member does not represent the specific interests of chiropractors, but rather the broader public interest as described in the *RHPA*.

CCO, unlike the legislature, is a corporation. The Council, as the Board of Directors of the corporation, has a fiduciary (trust) duty to fulfill the public interest mandate of the corporation/CCO and not the specific interests of the professional electorate.

Q. Does a Council member represent his/her constituents?

A. No, a Council member does not have constituents. A Council member is somewhat like the trustee of an estate: he/she acts in the best interest of the beneficiary, not the persons who selected him/her as Trustee. The beneficiary under the *RHPA* and the *Chiropractic Act, 1991* is the public interest. If a chiropractor from a Council member's district has a problem with CCO, it would be inappropriate for the Council member to intervene on the chiropractor's behalf with the pertinent committee or CCO staff person.

Q. How does this affect a candidate's 'campaign' materials?

A. While people sometimes do refer to the election process as a 'campaign', this, too, is a bit of a misnomer. Candidates for election can and should provide information about themselves and their philosophy to the other chiropractors in their district to assist them in making an informed choice. However, there is not really a role for campaign 'promises' or statements about how a candidate, if elected, will decide specific matters that might arise in the future. In addition, candidates are strongly urged to forward their campaign material to CCO before distribution to ensure the elections are conducted in a fair manner.

The Election Review Sub-Committee will review all material for compliance with CCO standards and policies and consistency with the requirement for professional, respectful communication.

Q. Why, then, are Council members elected from districts?

A. Perspective. Having Council members elected from various districts ensures that the perspective of all chiropractors, not just those from one region (e.g., the Greater Toronto Area), is reflected on Council. Some issues might have a different impact on the public from rural or northern areas, small towns, medium-sized cities and Toronto. It is important that all perspectives are heard.

This notice explains the election rules established under the *Chiropractic Act, 1991*. To the extent of any inconsistency, the legislation and the by-laws govern. If you have any questions, please contact CCO at (416) 922-6355.

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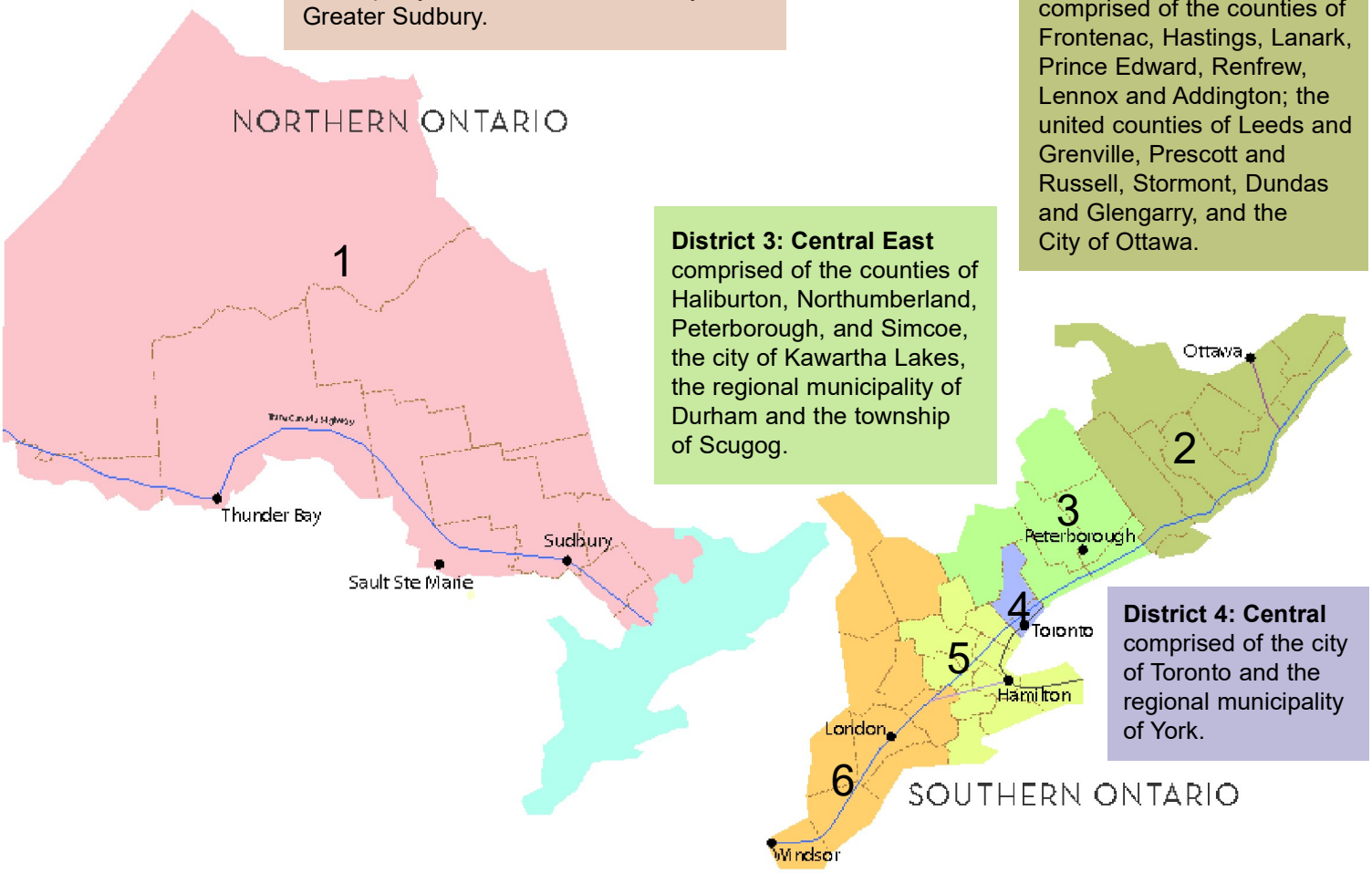
CCO ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

[map not to scale, illustrative of districts only]

District 1: Northern comprised of the districts of Kenora, Rainy River, Thunder Bay, Algoma, Cochrane, Manitoulin, Parry Sound, Nipissing, Timiskaming; the district municipality of Muskoka, and the city of Greater Sudbury.

District 2: Eastern comprised of the counties of Frontenac, Hastings, Lanark, Prince Edward, Renfrew, Lennox and Addington; the united counties of Leeds and Grenville, Prescott and Russell, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, and the City of Ottawa.

District 3: Central East comprised of the counties of Haliburton, Northumberland, Peterborough, and Simcoe, the city of Kawartha Lakes, the regional municipality of Durham and the township of Scugog.



District 4: Central comprised of the city of Toronto and the regional municipality of York.

District 7: Academic Member of faculty of an accredited educational institution (elected by all members in Ontario).

District 6: Western comprised of the counties of Essex, Bruce, Grey, Lambton, Elgin, Middlesex, Huron, Perth and Oxford, and the municipality of Chatham-Kent.

District 5: Central West comprised of the counties of Brant, Dufferin, Wellington, Haldimand and Norfolk, the regional municipalities of Halton, Niagara, Peel and Waterloo, and the city of Hamilton.