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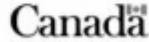
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# Federal Political Parties

## Electoral District Associations and Nomination Races

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## Agenda

- Political Parties
- Electoral District Associations
- Nomination Races
- Other
- Q&A

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## Political Parties – at a glance

- Not GoC entities
- Operate as private clubs/charities with finances reviewed by Elections Canada
- No set structure
- 99+% of MPs since 1993 were elected as part of a party

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## Political Parties – Goals

### Goals?

Get MPs elected to form government or have influence in House of Commons

### They do that by:

- Having volunteers and signing up new party members



- Raising money
- Identify voters

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## Political Parties - Structure



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## Electoral District Associations – at a glance

- Parties have volunteer-run chapters in individual ridings.
- Some riding associations can have thousands of party members, others could have fewer than a handful.
- Riding associations typically elect an Executive
- Riding Association President/Official Agent are the interlocutors with the Party HQ

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## Electoral District Associations – Purpose

- Fundraise for local and national campaigns
- Sign-up new members
- Search for candidates
- Run nomination meetings
- Core local campaign team during elections
- Vessel for members to vote on policy/send delegates for national conventions

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## Electoral District Associations – Requirements

EDAs must register with Elections Canada if it wants to perform financial tasks including:

- Accepting donations
- Issuing tax receipts
- Transferring funds, property or services to other political entities
- Accept surplus funds from a nomination contestant



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## Electoral District Associations – Requirements

- Subject to Elections Canada Act including annual audit if EDA has accepted \$5k+ in donations
- Can be deregistered
- Subject to the same maximum donation limits as contributions to national party
- High Roller Clubs; Laurier Club, Leader's Circle

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## Nomination Races

### Why are they important?

- Political parties have a disproportionate effect on who gets elected to office.
- Fewer than half of one percent of those elected to Parliament since 1993 won as independents.
- Effectively gives parties control over the pool of people with the chance to serve as MPs
- In ridings where one party always wins during elections, the nomination race becomes the defacto election

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## Nomination Races – Requirements

### What is it?

- When local members choose their candidate in the next election.
- Traditionally organised by EDA with direction/approval from Party HQ.

### Who can Vote?

- Party members (or supporters) who live in a specific riding.
- Canadians and Permanent Residents
- Those 14 and older

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## Nomination Races

- Parties are notoriously tight-lipped about how they manage nomination races.
- Rules between parties vary greatly.
- Under Canada Elections Act, need to report: the date a nomination race starts, ends, the contestants' names and who won.
- Of 3,900 nomination races between 2003-2015, 70% had a single contestant.
- Most nomination races are short – half last three weeks or less.
- Financial implications/strategic advantages for preferred candidates depending on length of race

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## Vetting Candidates

Liberal "Green Light" committee vs. Conservative Candidate Review Board vs. NDP National Candidate Nomination Committee

Prospective candidates are required to submit questionnaires regarding:

- Political and community affiliation
- Accountability and integrity
- Financial statements and credit checks
- Online records and social media account passwords
- Agreement to party policy and declaration of candidate responsibility

Research bureaus are under considerable pressure in the lead up to an election to quickly vet both its own candidate and opposition candidates in order to find advantages.

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## Nomination Races

	Conservative	Green	Liberal	NDP
Who decides when to open nominations?	National Executive Director	Executive Council	N/A	National Candidate Nominations Committee
Call for nominations sent to all members?	Yes	Yes	No	No
Diversity search committee required?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Decision to hold nomination meeting?	EDA nominating committee	Executive Council	National campaign chair	National Candidate Nominations Committee
Deadline for voter sign-up?	21 days before vote	30 days before vote	3-7 days before notice of meeting	30 days before vote
Total contest length	42-54 days from call for nominations	Unspecified; at least 29 days from notice of nominations closing to vote	14-26 days	Unspecified; 14-30 days from close of nominations to vote
Final sign-off on candidates	Leader	Leader	Leader	National Director
Nomination application fee	\$1,000 refundable deposit	None	\$1,500 non-refundable fee	None
Party spending limit	No	No	No	\$6,500
Nomination rules on party website?	Yes	No	Yes	No

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## Other

Provincial Rules

Senators

### Common words

- Populus (NDP Voter ID system)
- Liberalist (LPC Voter ID system)
- CIMS (CPC Voter ID system)
- LRB (Liberal Research Bureau)
- CRG (Conservative Resource Group – which is different from Campaign Resource Group)

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