

Clergy Active in Politics

The Diocese of Toronto recognizes that clergy and lay staff may wish to take an active part in community affairs. Accordingly, the diocese will provide the opportunity for individual to participate in the political process regardless of the political affiliation of the individual.

A. Procedure

Individuals seeking elective public office or wishing to participate as a campaign manager, will notify their immediate superior (or, in the case of a cleric, the churchwardens) as soon as possible of their intention.

As soon as such candidacy is official or the appointment as campaign manager is made, leave of absence must be requested.

B. Provincial and Federal Elections – Candidates

In the case of appointments held by licence from the bishop, the application for leave of absence must be accompanied by a statement of intention to resign from such appointment if elected.

The leave of absence will normally be granted on the following terms:

1. Campaign

The leave of absence will cover the period from the date of the issuance of the election writ to the date of the election.

2. On election

If elected, the intended resignation will become effective and the leave of absence will be extended for the initial term of office in the elected position. The individual will be entitled to maintain his/her rights to any benefits accrued during the prior service in the diocese.

Further leaves of absence on similar conditions may be granted at the discretion of the diocese for a further period if elected beyond the first.

3. Return to Employment

When the individual resigns from public office, does not seek re-election, or is not re-elected, and the leave of absence ceases, every effort will be made to return the individual to a position comparable to that which he/she enjoyed prior to his/her election.



C. Municipal Elections - Candidates

Even in the event that only part-time responsibilities are involved, the individual must apply for the necessary time away from diocesan or parish responsibilities. The area bishop, at his/her discretion, may assign the individual to an alternative responsibility on such conditions as appear reasonable in the circumstances.

If, after election, the demands upon the individual's time, created by public service responsibility, require full-time participation, or are such that the individual is unable to discharge properly his/her position in the diocese, the individual will resign and apply for leave of absence.

D. Campaign Chairperson, Polling Officers

An individual may be granted leave of absence for up to eight weeks to act as a campaign chairperson for a prospective federal or provincial member or a municipal representative.

An individual may be granted leave of absence without pay on an election day to act as an electoral officer, poll captain, or other office connected with an election.

