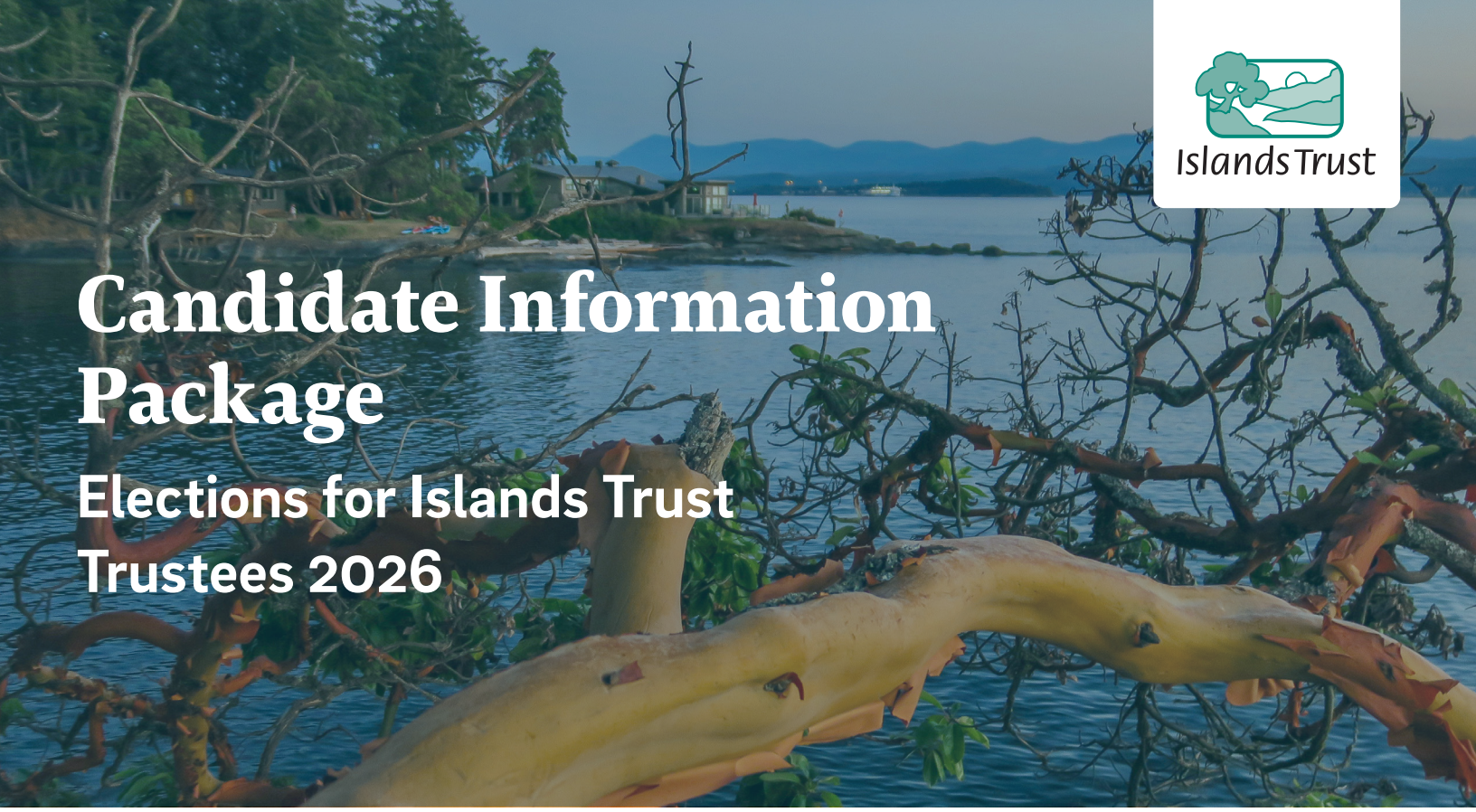

Candidate Information Package

Elections for Islands Trust Trustees 2026

Elections for Islands Trust Trustees

General elections for local officials in B.C., including trustees for Islands Trust, take place every four years. **The next general voting day is Saturday, October 17, 2026.**

Islands Trust trustees are elected in each of the 12 local trust areas, and two municipal trustees are elected for the Bowen Island Municipal Council. Being an elected trustee provides a unique opportunity to apply your experience and ideas to help preserve and protect the Islands Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the Islands Trust Area and of British Columbia.

What is Islands Trust?

Islands Trust is a special-purpose government mandated to preserve and protect over 450 islands and the surrounding waters in the Salish Sea. Encompassing the waters and islands of the Salish Sea between southern Vancouver Island and the mainland, the Islands Trust Area of British Columbia has been home to Indigenous Peoples since time immemorial. The region features vibrant communities, spectacular beauty, extensive cultural sites, and some of the world's most precious and endangered ecosystems. The Province of British Columbia created Islands Trust in response to the high rate of development in the Gulf Islands and the need to protect the unique amenities and environment of the region. Under the *Islands Trust Act*, the purpose (or "Object") of Islands Trust is: "To preserve and protect the trust area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the trust area and of British Columbia generally, in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, First Nations, other persons and organizations and the government of British Columbia." This work of fulfilling this mandate is overseen and directed by the 26 members of Islands Trust Council elected from across the Islands Trust Area, and three members appointed to the Islands Trust Conservancy Board by the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs.

Governance, Responsibility, Local Accountability, and Oversight

Islands Trust Council

Islands Trust Council is comprised of two locally elected trustees from each of the 12 local trust areas and two trustees representing Bowen Island Municipality. As Islands Trust Council, these 26 trustees make decisions on behalf of the whole region to further the Object of Islands Trust, including:

- Overall policy
- Staff resources and budget
- Governance
- Region-wide coordination with other levels of government
- Provincial outreach and liaison

Executive Committee

At its first meeting after the election, Islands Trust Council elects a chair and three vice-chairs from its 26 members to form the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee guides day-to-day operations and cooperative relations with other levels of government. It also reviews the land use bylaws of local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality to ensure they are not contrary to or at variance with the Islands Trust Policy Statement. It acts as the local trust committee for the Ballenas- Winchelsea Islands Local Trust Area, which does not have locally elected trustees.

Local Trust Committees

Each local trust committee is comprised of the two locally elected trustees and a member of the Executive Committee, who serves as the committee chair. Local trust committees oversee the development of official community plans and land use bylaws for each local trust area. Bowen Island Municipality does not have a local trust committee. Its two municipal trustees also serve as councillors on Bowen Island Municipal Council, which is responsible for land use on Bowen Island.

Islands Trust Conservancy

The Islands Trust Conservancy works with people and communities to preserve and protect the unique ecosystems and culturally significant places in the Islands Trust Area through conservation planning, land conservation, land management, and focussed community outreach. Since 1990, over 115 places across the region have been protected. The Islands Trust Conservancy Board consists of two island trustees elected by Islands Trust Council, one Executive Committee liaison elected by the Executive Committee, and three members from the public, appointed by the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs.

Professional Staff

Islands Trust has approximately 70 full and part-time staff, with staffed offices on Gabriola and Salt Spring islands and in Victoria. Positions include land use planners, policy advisors, mapping technicians, freshwater and ecosystem specialists, communications specialists, support staff and other roles. It's the job of staff to:

- Implement the direction, decisions and policies of Islands Trust Council, Executive Committee, Islands Trust Conservancy Board and local trust committees and manage Islands Trust resources
- Provide trustees with the information and professional advice needed to ensure informed and effective decision-making
- Communicate Islands Trust policy and decisions to the public and other orders of government

Is Islands Trust a Local Government?

Islands Trust was created under its own provincial legislation in 1974, the *Islands Trust Act*, as a unique special-purpose government. Islands Trust's land-use planning powers are similar to those applied by municipalities or regional districts, and are guided by B.C.'s *Local Government Act* and the *Islands Trust Act*. The Community Charter, which guides most local governments in B.C., provides rules on topics such as public

accountability and procedural matters that also apply to Islands Trust.

However, Islands Trust does not have many typical local government responsibilities – such as building and maintaining local infrastructure or delivering services such as garbage collection, recreation programs or policing. Instead, these responsibilities in the Islands Trust Area remain with the applicable regional districts or Bowen Island Municipality.

Trustees can only work within the mandate of Islands Trust and they refer residents to the appropriate local government body for matters outside Island Trust's responsibilities. Learn more about other governments' services in the Islands Trust Area. The *Islands Trust Act* obligates Islands Trust to work in cooperation with local governments and First Nations throughout the Islands Trust Area, and with relevant provincial agencies. To enable this, Islands Trust maintains collaborative and productive working partnerships with these and other partners across the region.

Like local governments, funding for Islands Trust's operations comes primarily from property taxes, supplemented by grants, and development application fees. The annual budget for Islands Trust in the 2026/27 fiscal year is approximately $11.8 million.

The Role of a Trustee

The federated structure of Islands Trust means trustees are elected to fulfil two primary responsibilities:

1. Region-wide decision making for the whole Islands Trust Area as a member of Islands Trust Council
2. Local decision-making as a member of a local trust committee or island municipality

As Members of Islands Trust Council

Islands Trust Council sets the annual budget, directs policy, advocates on issues important to the region, oversees public education programs and coordinates with other levels of government on issues important to the entire region to preserve and protect the Islands Trust Area for future generations. As members of Islands Trust Council, trustees need to consider and make decisions in the best interest of the entire Islands Trust Area and not only the interests of their local trust area.

There is also an opportunity for trustees to join the six standing committees of Islands Trust Council:

- Financial Planning Committee
- Regional Planning Committee
- Trust Programs Committee
- Governance Committee
- Accessibility Committee
- Chief Administrative Officer Performance Evaluation Committee

These committees play an important role in advancing the work of Islands Trust Council, and any trustee may stand for any of these committees.

Similarly, any trustee may stand for election to one of the two Islands Trust Council positions on the Islands Trust Conservancy Board.

As Local Trustees

Each local trust committee has land use jurisdiction over a number of islands and the surrounding waters. Local trust committees are made up of two locally elected trustees and an appointed chair from the Executive Committee.

Local trustees' responsibilities include:

- Making residential, commercial, and other land use decisions within their local trust area in accordance with applicable Provincial legislation and in alignment with the Islands Trust mandate
- Any amendments to official community plans and land use bylaws
- Engagement with First Nations governments
- Considering public input to inform decision making

Local trust committees are supported in this work by planning and administrative staff.

Who Can be Elected as a Trustee?

Under the *Local Government Act*, you may run for local government/Islands Trust office in B.C., if you:

- Are a Canadian citizen;
- Are at least 18 years old on election day;
- Have lived in BC for at least six months; and
- Have not been disqualified from voting in a BC local election.

There is no requirement that a trustee be a resident of the local trust area in which they are elected. However, candidates should note there are provisions within Islands Trust bylaws setting out requirements for in-person attendance at meetings.

Expectations of Elected Officials

Conduct and Conflict of Interest

All elected local government officials in B.C. must make an Oath of Office, must disclose financial information, and must comply with certain ethical conduct rules in accordance with the Community Charter. This statute provides rules regarding topics such as conflict of interest, insider information, influence, gifts and confidentiality. Violation of these rules can lead to disqualification from office. Islands Trust also has a Standards of Conduct policy that all trustees are required to follow. This includes further guidance on conflict of interest, as well as conduct issues such as bullying or harassment in meetings, harassment of staff, or disrespectful behaviour between elected officials that can make governing challenging. The policy also outlines processes for managing complaints and related investigations.

In spring 2026, the provincial government introduced new legislation to establish a provincial code of conduct for local government elected officials, including Islands Trust trustees. This legislation has not yet been passed, but if it is implemented Islands Trust will determine the impact on its existing policy. Trustees will receive an orientation to conduct as part of the orientation of the new Islands Trust Council at its first meeting.

Team Approach

Unlike government at the provincial or federal level, there is no governing party or opposition at Islands Trust. All trustees must instead work collaboratively to reach decisions that advance the overall mandate of Islands Trust. Success as a trustee depends on the ability to persuade others to consider different perspectives and to work collaboratively with elected colleagues and staff.

When an issue is being considered, it is important that each trustee express their views to contribute to a meaningful debate. Disagreements among trustees are to be expected. As long as the exchange of ideas is respectful and professional, the sharing of diverse perspectives and opinions is essential to making good decisions.

Many decisions of Islands Trust's governing bodies will not be unanimous. But once a decision is passed, the success of Islands Trust's work depends on all trustees then publicly respecting and upholding the decision.

How Much Time Does it Take to Serve as a Trustee?

Time commitments for trustees can vary considerably, based on the population they represent, the number and types of land use issues that face their community, and the number of Committee of the Whole or special meetings scheduled by Islands Trust Council. The time commitment required will also be greater if a trustee is a member of a standing committee, the Executive Committee, or the Islands Trust Conservancy Board.

In a 2025 survey, trustees reported they typically spent an average of 65 hours per month on their role as trustees. You can get a sense of the work of trustees by viewing recordings of meetings available on the Islands Trust website and reading recent Islands Trust Council, Committee of the Whole and local trust committee meeting agendas.

The annual regular meetings schedule is approved in advance so trustees and the public can plan ahead. However, if urgent matters arise that need to be

addressed outside the regular meeting schedule, there is potential for additional special meetings to be scheduled as needed.

Local Trust Committee Commitments

Local trust committees meet regularly, with most having between six and ten regular meetings per year, supported by planning and administrative staff. Some local trust committees may meet less frequently but there is a minimum requirement, established by the local trust committee bylaws, of at least two meetings a year. Local trust committee meetings are typically three-to four hours long and take place during normal business hours.

The purpose of these regular business meetings is to deal with land use planning applications and long-range planning projects. Local trust committees may also hold additional meetings to seek community input or to meet other statutory requirements.

Unless they are elected to the Executive Committee, the two trustees from Bowen Island Municipality do not participate in local trust committees as they are also municipal councillors and attend regularly scheduled meetings of the Bowen Island Municipal Council, as well as other meetings related to Bowen Island Municipality.

Islands Trust Council Commitments

All trustees attend four quarterly meetings of Islands Trust Council. These meetings may be held on different islands throughout the Islands Trust Area, or on Vancouver Island. Traditionally, the December meeting is held in Victoria. These meetings typically span three days each, allowing for travel time on the morning of the first day and the afternoon of the third day. While most trustees attend Islands Trust Council meetings in-person, there is a provision for a limited number of trustees to attend virtually.

Between the quarterly Islands Trust Council meetings, there are also quarterly Committee of the Whole meetings. These are attended by all members of Islands Trust Council and provide a less structured venue to discuss and consider issues without making formal decisions. Committee of the Whole meetings are typically virtual for all attendees, and may last four or more hours. They are scheduled during normal business hours.

Executive Committee Commitments

The Executive Committee meets 20 times per year, with each meeting typically four-to-five hours during normal business hours. Most of the meetings are virtual, although some may be held in-person in Victoria or in other locations. In addition, each member of the Executive Committee also serves as the chair of one or more local trust committees, which adds to the workload and can require significant inter-island travel. One member of the Executive Committee will be elected to serve on the Islands Trust Conservancy Board.

Committee Commitments

Trustees who are members of one of the Islands Trust Council standing committees or the Islands Trust Conservancy Board can expect to attend an additional four-to-six committee or board meetings each year. These are mostly virtual, and may last four or more hours. Most committee meetings are held during normal business hours, but some may be in the evening depending on the committee.

More than Meetings

It is important to consider that participation in all of the above activities requires more than just attendance at the meetings. Each meeting requires significant pre-reading of meeting agenda materials prepared by staff and circulated in advance of the meeting date. These packages can contain several hundred pages of information necessary to ensure trustees are able to make informed decisions. Trustees are also expected to monitor and respond to email from staff in a timely manner to support the effective and efficient conduct of Islands Trust business. There may be additional events such as trustee training sessions, especially during the first year of a term, that all trustees are expected to attend to ensure they have the knowledge and skills to be successful in their role. Trustees also spend time meeting or corresponding with community members and attending meetings of other organizations or coordination groups.

Planning Ahead: Key Events Leading up to the Election

September 1, 2026	Nomination period begins at 9:00 a.m. List of electors becomes available for review and objection
September 11, 2026	Close of nominations
September 15, 2026	Deadline for challenge of nominations ends at 4:00 p.m.
September 16, 2026	Elector ownership deadline for non-resident property electors
September 18, 2026	Deadline for withdrawal of candidates
September 19, 2026	Campaign period begins
September 21, 2026	Declaration of election by voting or of candidates elected by acclamation ends at 4:00 p.m.
October 7, 2026	Required advance voting opportunity (additional advance voting day may be scheduled in some locations — see local advertisements for details)
October 9, 2026	End of period for notice of election and assent voting
October 17, 2026	**GENERAL VOTING DAY**

Planning Ahead: Key Events after the Election

All trustees are supported with a comprehensive onboarding and orientation program over the weeks immediately following the election. Candidates should plan to attend the following mandatory events* for all trustees.

October 29, 2026*	Virtual onboarding webinar providing essential information on administrative processes and requirements, and an introduction to the organization
November 5, 2026*	Virtual orientation to local trust committee policies, procedures and processes
November 12-14, 2026	In-person Islands Trust Council meeting in Victoria, the swearing-in of trustees, orientation to the role of trustees, and elections for Executive Committee and the Islands Trust Conservancy Board
November 16 - December 4, 2026*	First meetings of each local trust committee
December 8-10, 2026	In-person Islands Trust Council meeting in Victoria, including presentation of the draft 2027/28 budget, continued orientation sessions, and committee appointments

**Dates may be subject to change*

Trustee Remuneration and Benefits

As defined in Trustee Remuneration Policy 7.2.1, remuneration trustees receive for their service to their community is a reflection of the population size and workload in their local trust area. Additional compensation is also provided for members of the Executive Committee and for participation in Council standing committees and the Islands Trust Conservancy Board.

In 2026, Islands Trust Council approved policy updates to the remuneration rates and calculation model to take effect April 1, 2027. The amounts set out in the table below are the provisional estimated rates under this new calculation model, but may be revised prior to the April 1, 2027 implementation date. Until that date, current rates based on the previous calculation model will apply. Candidates can contact Islands Trust to confirm the prevailing remuneration rates for their local trust area that will apply until March 31, 2027.

Local Trustees	Remuneration $ per Year	Remuneration $ per Month
Denman Island Local Trust Area	$25,072	$2,089
Gabriola Island Local Trust Area	$31,966	$2,664
Galiano Island Local Trust Area	$25,694	$2,141
Gambier Island Local Trust Area	$24,785	$2,065
Hornby Island Local Trust Area	$25,119	$2,093
Lasqueti Island Local Trust Area	$23,502	$1,959
Mayne Island Local Trust Area	$25,764	$2,147
North Pender Island Local Trust Area	$27,792	$2,316
Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area	$43,651	$3,630
Saturna Island Local Trust Area	$23,652	$1,970
South Pender Island Local Trust Area	$23,130	$1,928
Thetis Island Local Trust Area	$23,877	$1,990
Municipal Trustees		
Bowen Island	$12,600	$1,050

Executive Committee Remuneration	Remuneration $ per Year	Remuneration $ per Month
Chair	$55,105	$4,592
Vice-chairs	$47,917	$3,993

Remunerations are subject to Income Tax and CPP under applicable regulations in place at the time of payment.

Health and Dental Benefits

Under the Trustee Remuneration Policy, the premiums for the following medical and dental benefits are 100% covered by Islands Trust for trustees:

- Premiums for dental plan available through the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM)
- Premiums for extended health care available through the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM)
- Premiums for Employee and Family Assistance plan through the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM)

Payments of these premiums by Islands Trust may be subject to Income Tax as defined by Canada Revenue Agency.

Local trustees who do not register for any health or dental benefits through Islands Trust shall be paid $1,350.00 per year, paid monthly at a rate of $112.50 per month and prorated for periods of less than one year.

Trustees may enroll in an optional family benefits coverage plan, with the additional cost deducted from their remuneration.

Travel expenses

Trustees are reimbursed for costs they incur to travel to approved meetings on Islands Trust business, based on the rates that MLA's receive.

Administrator of Elections

Islands Trust is responsible for coordinating its general local elections process. For cost effectiveness and for the convenience of voters, it contracts with the following regional districts for administration of its elections.

Local Trust Area (LTA)	Regional District
Denman / Hornby Island LTA	**Comox Valley Regional District** comoxvalleyrd.ca
Gabriola Island LTA	**Nanaimo Regional District** rdn.bc.ca
Galiano / Mayne / North Pender / South Pender / Salt Spring / Saturna Island LTA	**Capital Regional District** crd.bc.ca
Gambier Island LTA	**Sunshine Coast Regional District** scrd.ca **Metro Vancouver** metrovancouver.org **(for Bowyer and Passage islands)**
Lasqueti Island LTA	**qathet Regional District** qathet.ca
Thetis Island LTA	**Cowichan Valley Regional District** cvrd.bc.ca

Maps showing the boundaries of local trust areas and Bowen Island Municipality are available on the Islands Trust website.

Municipal trustees for Bowen Island are determined as part of the election process for the Bowen Island Municipal Council. Additional information about elections on Bowen Island is available from the Chief Election Officer at Bowen Island Municipality.

General Information for Candidates

The most current information on Islands Trust elections will be available on the elections page of the Islands Trust website. During the campaign period, Islands Trust will post basic candidate information on its website, including nomination papers, and will provide an optional space for a photo and short biographical statement. Candidates must provide this information before the nomination period ends by sending an e-mail to elections@islandstrust.bc.ca.

Candidates are responsible for understanding and complying with all applicable legislative and regulatory requirements. More information for candidates in local elections can be found on the provincial government website.

This includes the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act (LECFA)* and its requirements. Elections BC oversees the campaign financing, disclosure, and third-party advertising rules for local elections. After the election, campaign finance disclosure documents (mandatory for all candidates, even if a candidate withdraws and even if no money is spent or raised) will be posted on the Elections BC website.

Refer to the Elections BC's Guide to Campaign Financing for local candidates and financial agents in B.C. and the Guide for Local Elections Third Party Sponsors in B.C. for detailed information and instructions about the campaign financing disclosure process and requirements, and rules related to third-party sponsors, available online at elections.bc.ca.

Additional information about Islands Trust is available from Islands Trust staff (250-405- 5151) and on the Islands Trust website. For toll-free access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: in Vancouver 604-660-2421 and elsewhere in B.C. 1-800-663-7867.