
Important Information: What You Need to Know

Upcoming OAA Council Elections for 2026

The OAA's governing board of directors, [OAA Council](#), comprises elected members from the profession and appointees from the public. Guided by the [Strategic Plan](#), it makes policy decisions that influence long-term planning to ensure alignment with the Association's regulatory mandate and mission.

This fall, there will be five Architect seats up for election for three-year terms.

You can learn more on the [OAA Website](#), but this email includes important information about the roles of Councillors and how you can participate in this electoral process, both as a candidate and as a voter.

Council 101

In October, nominations will open for five seats across three districts:

- **Eastern Ontario** (one seat);
- **City of Toronto** (two seats); and
- **Province of Ontario** (two seats).

To be eligible to run in Eastern Ontario or Toronto, candidates must be an Architect with an address of record within those [district boundaries](#). Any Architect with an address of record in the province can run for the Ontario seat. In November, Architects will then vote within their own "home" electoral district as well as for the provincial seat. Terms then begin in **January 2027**.

While elections are grounded on geographic representation across the province, Councillors do not represent OAA members, but rather govern on behalf of the public. They have a fiduciary duty to the Association and must be able to focus on the big picture and material issues while considering regulatory matters. They need to make decisions without being influenced by external pressure and collaborate effectively with their peers, even when viewpoints differ.

Serving on Council is a good way to participate in the privilege and responsibility of self-governance entrusted to the profession. From developing educational requirements and standards of practice to enforcing the *Architects Act*, being a Councillor means helping shape the architectural profession in order to protect the public interest. You can learn more by watching this [OAA YouTube video](#).

*Note: There is a dedicated Council seat for members who hold a limited licence, but this three-year position is currently filled until **January 2029**.*

Finding the Right Candidates

To ensure good governance, it is critical to have a well-rounded, inclusive Council that includes a diversity of voices, opinions, skills, and knowledge. Experience in any of the following areas can be particularly important:



Ontario Association
of Architects

- strategic leadership and oversight of change;
- governance (including understanding the principle of self-governance, fiduciary duties, and the OAA's mandate);
- financial literacy, accounting, and investment management;
- teaching, mentorship, and knowledge transfer;
- legal issues and risk management; and
- emerging technologies that impact standards of practice.

If you have strength in any of these areas, consider running for Council this fall. If you know someone else who might be ideal, please encourage them to participate.

The Elections Process

The OAA Council elections process occurs using a dedicated online system, with an initial email sent out to all eligible participants on the first Monday of October (i.e. **October 5**). The nomination period is then open until the fourth Monday of that month (i.e. **October 26**). As part of the nomination submission process, nominees will be invited to complete a set of governance-oriented questions as well as provide links to their social media or online professional profile. This will be available on the OAA Website after the nomination period. Voters will also be able to ask candidates questions through the website and *OAA News*.

Voting by OAA members takes place from **November 9 to 23**, with the OAA Registrar announcing the results on the OAA Website and social media by **December 1**. The new three-year terms begin on **January 1, 2027**.