

The Federal Candidate's First 30 Days Checklist

Focus on Compliance Today to Protect Your Campaign Tomorrow

17 **Week 1: The Core Foundation (Legal Setup)**

- **Verify Eligibility:** Confirm you are a Canadian citizen, at least 18, and not disqualified by law.
- **Appoint your Official Agent (Mandatory):** You must have an Official Agent before you accept any money or spend a single dollar.
- **Open the Campaign Bank Account:** The Official Agent must open a separate bank account in a Canadian financial institution.
- **Consent Forms:** Ensure your Official Agent signs the mandatory consent statement.

17 **Week 2: Financial & Team Onboarding**

- **Appoint an Auditor:** Although only required if you hit the \$10,000 threshold, it is highly recommended to appoint a professional auditor now.
- **Register with Elections Canada:** Use the PESC portal (Political Entities Service Centre) for a faster submission.
- **Set up Naming Protocol:** Train your team on the Naming Standard for all digital receipts and invoices.

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Week 3: Nominations & Signatures

- Download the Nomination Paper (EC 20010): Get this from the PESC portal or your local Returning Officer.
- Collect 100 Signatures: You need at least 100 signatures from eligible electors in your riding (50 in certain remote ridings).
- Verify Party Endorsement: If running for a party, ensure you have the leader's written certificate of endorsement.

Week 4: Final Verification & Launch

- Review the Spending Limit: Check the 2026 expense caps for your specific riding to plan your budget.
- Official Launch: Once your bank account is open and your agent is appointed, you are legally ready to accept your first contribution.
- Candidate Briefing: Attend the Elections Canada briefing session once your nomination is confirmed.

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