



TEMPORARY LEAVE OF SITTING BOARD MEMBERS SEEKING HIGHER POLITICAL OFFICE

PSB-AI-008

Adopted: June 27, 2025

1. Purpose

This policy establishes clear rules for members of the Peel Police Service Board (“the Board”) who choose to seek nomination or election to higher political office. It is designed to protect the integrity, impartiality, and public credibility of the Board as a civilian oversight body and prevent the politicization of its work during active campaigns.

2. Authority

This policy is established under the authority of the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 (CSPA)* and the Board’s governance mandate. It aligns with recognized best practices from other public sector boards and agencies in Ontario.

3. Application

This policy applies to all sitting Board members, including:

- Elected municipal officials appointed under the CSPA; and
- Non-elected members, including provincial appointees and citizen members.

While the CSPA prescribes the inclusion of elected municipal representatives on the Board, it also confers upon the Board the authority to regulate its internal procedures and uphold standards of neutrality and transparency.

4. Distinction Between Elected and Non-Elected Members

Recognizing the statutory appointment of elected officials under the CSPA, this policy affirms that:

- Elected members (e.g., mayors or councillors appointed to the Board) retain their seat by virtue of their elected office, but are equally subject to this policy’s leave provisions during periods of candidacy for higher office.
- Non-elected members (citizen or provincial appointees) are expected to uphold the highest standard of political neutrality while serving in their capacity as Board members and are likewise required to take a leave of absence if they seek political office.

This ensures that all members—regardless of appointment status—are held to a consistent, fair, and principled standard of conduct during election periods.

5. Mandatory Leave Requirement

Any Board member who seeks nomination or election to higher political office—defined as:

- Mayor, Regional or City Councillor in Brampton, Mississauga or Caledon;
- Member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario;
- Member of the House of Commons of Canada;
- Leadership of a provincial or federal political party—

must take an immediate leave of absence from the Board upon the earliest of the following events:

- Public declaration of candidacy or intent to run;
- Filing of nomination papers;
- Commencement of campaign activities (e.g., public events, fundraising, canvassing, or endorsements).

6. Election Period Definition and Dispute Resolution

The “election period” is considered to have begun at the earliest of the above triggers. If a dispute arises regarding whether a member's conduct constitutes candidacy, the matter shall be resolved by a simple majority vote of the Board. This decision shall be final and binding.

7. Conditions During Leave

While on leave under this policy, a Board member shall:

- Refrain from attending or participating in any Board or committee meetings;
- Be denied access to confidential or in-camera Board materials;
- Not represent the Board in any official or public capacity.

The member's seat will not be declared vacant, and quorum thresholds will adjust per the Board's procedural by-laws.

8. Return from Leave

A member may resume full duties only upon:

- Official withdrawal from the election or nomination race;
- An unsuccessful election outcome; or
- Conclusion of the election period.

9. Rationale

This policy ensures:

- The independence and neutrality of the Board;
- The non-partisan conduct of its members;
- That Board participation cannot be leveraged for political gain.

It affirms the principle that civilian oversight of policing must remain free from the appearance or reality of partisanship, or personal political gain, especially during election periods.