

Read Me

This document is intended to help those who would like to interpret and manipulate the data compiled in our *NL Municipal Candidates* database.

In the Excel file, there are four sheets:

1. "All" which is a compilation of all data collected for the three municipal election cycles;
2. "2009" which includes data for that year's municipal election cycle;
3. "2013" which includes data for that year's municipal election cycle; and,
4. "2017" which includes data for that year's municipal election cycle.

All sheets are organized with the same set of headings. The following is a description of the data included in each column:

- **Name:** In this column is listed the official name of the municipality
- **Region:** The data we received was previously organized by region, namely the Eastern (1), Central (2), Western (3), and Labrador (4) regions. A map has been created to accompany this file, which indicates the approximate boundaries of each region, and the code number for each region is noted above inside the parentheses next to the name of each region.
- **Population:** These figures were sourced from the Census occurring immediately prior to each electoral cycle.
 - For example, the population figures for municipalities during the 2017 election year were sourced from the 2016 Census.
- **Census:** Corresponds with the Census year from which population data was derived.
- **Election Year**
- **Candidate Name:** Candidates are listed with their surname first and their given name last.
- **Sex:** Male candidates were coded 1, female candidates coded 2.
- **Age:** Candidates between the ages of 18 to 25 were coded 1; between 25 and 34 years old, 2; between 34 and 45, 3; between 45 and 55, 4; and, over 55, 5.
- **Position:** There were a maximum of four positions open for election, which were Mayor (1), Deputy Mayor (2), At-Large Councillor (3), and Ward Councillor (4).
- **Winner:** Victorious candidates were coded 1, and defeated candidates were coded 2.
- **ID Number:** Intentionally left blank.
- **Size of Council:** Indicates the total number of members on each municipal council.
- **Number of Votes Obtained:** Lists the total number of votes received by each candidate in the election. In the event of an acclamation, the number 1 was inserted as a placeholder.

- **Total Votes in Election:** This is the turnout figure derived from our source data. As voters can vote for multiple positions, and sometimes multiple candidates for the same position (such as At-Large Councillors), this number reflects the number of voters who cast ballots in the election. In the event of an acclamation, the number 1 was inserted as a placeholder. If data was missing at the source, this field was left blank.
- **Eligible Voters:** This is the number of registered voters per municipality, as listed in our source data. In the event of an acclamation, the number 1 was inserted as a placeholder. If data was missing at the source, this field was left blank.
- **Campaign Spending:** Intentionally left blank.
- **Type of Election:** The different types of electoral contests here include general elections (1), by-elections (2), special elections (3), and acclamations (4). In the event that there were fewer candidates in the general election than there were available seats on council, oftentimes a by-election was held shortly after the general election date. In the event that an elected candidate was deemed ineligible, passed away, or resigned, or the election results were declared void, after the general election *and* prior to the swearing-in of the new council, a special election would subsequently be held.
- **Incumbent:** If a candidate was also an incumbent, they were coded 1. Otherwise, the candidates were coded 2.
- **Years of Service:** If available in the source data, the cumulative years of service on municipal councils is listed here.
- **Acclaimed/Elected:** Candidates who were acclaimed were coded 1. Candidates elected in a contested election were coded 2. Candidates who were defeated in a contested election were coded 3.

As previously noted, there are some notable gaps in the information we have compiled. The data which is included in our Excel data file is accurate, and reflects both the data provided to us and information discovered through research. The essential information—municipality, candidate name, sex, and votes received—is quite complete.

This project is a work-in-progress and we will be updating our data file in the future, after each round of municipal elections in the province.

Please forward any questions you may have about our data to Dr. Amanda Bittner, Director of Memorial University's Gender and Politics Lab (abittner@mun.ca), or to the Women in NL Municipal Politics project co-leads, Griffyn Chezenko (griffyn.chezenko@mun.ca) and Brooke Steinhauer (bns427@mun.ca).