



**ELECTIONS BC**  
A non-partisan Office of the Legislature

Mailing address:  
PO Box 9275 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9J6

Location:  
Suite 100 - 1112 Fort Street, Victoria

Phone: 1-800-661-8683 (toll-free)  
Fax: 250-387-3578  
Toll-free Fax: 1-866-466-0665  
Email: [electionsbc@elections.bc.ca](mailto:electionsbc@elections.bc.ca)  
Website: [elections.bc.ca](http://elections.bc.ca)

# CANVASSING GUIDELINES FOR PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS

The *Election Act* has rules for canvassers during provincial elections. Canvassers are individuals that attempt to influence how voters vote through activities like talking to voters in the community or by making phone calls.

## When the rules apply

Rules for canvassers under the *Election Act* apply during the campaign period. The campaign period starts the day the election is called and ends at the close of voting on General Voting Day.

## Authorized canvassers

Authorized canvassers are candidates or individuals authorized in writing by a candidate to canvass voters and distribute campaign materials on their behalf in multiple-residence buildings.

A sample [Canvasser Authorization](#) form is available on Elections BC's website. An authorization form must be completed by the candidate, and provided to the canvasser so that it can be presented while canvassing in multiple-residence buildings. This form does not need to be submitted to Elections BC, unless specifically requested.

## Access to housing cooperative, strata and rental properties

Authorized canvassers are entitled to access multiple-residence buildings between the hours of 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. during the campaign period (from when the election is called until the close of voting on General Voting Day).

## Identification of canvassers

Housing cooperatives, landlords, strata and individuals acting on behalf of these must not unreasonably restrict access to a residential property by a candidate or authorized canvasser who is entering the premise for the purpose of canvassing voters and distributing candidate information in their electoral district.

At the request of a resident or individual acting on behalf of a multiple-residence building, a canvasser entering a residential property must produce:

- government issued photo identification, and
- proof of candidacy or the candidate's written authorization (e.g. [Canvasser Authorization](#) form).

As a reminder, individuals and organizations are not permitted to distribute materials that identify candidates or political parties within 100 meters of:

- a district electoral office, or
- a building where advance voting or general voting is being conducted.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Are candidates or their representatives allowed to canvass in apartment buildings?**

Candidates and authorized canvassers are only entitled to access multiple-residence buildings from the day the election is called until the close of voting on General Voting Day.

- access is limited to between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.;
- candidates seeking access must, on request, provide valid government issued identification and proof of candidacy; and
- every person seeking access who is not a candidate must, on request, provide valid government issued identification and a [Canvasser Authorization](#) form signed by the candidate.

### **When are candidates and their representatives entitled to access?**

These rules only apply during the campaign period. The campaign period begins the day the election is called and ends at the close of voting on General Voting Day.

### **Can a candidate or their representatives be granted access outside the campaign period, or during the campaign period but outside the hours specified in the *Election Act*?**

Access for canvassers outside of a campaign period or outside of the hours specified above are not governed by the *Election Act*.

Anyone who wishes to canvass in a multiple-residence building outside of the campaign period, or during the campaign period but outside of the hours specified in the *Election Act*, should contact the owner, landlord or superintendent of the building to request permission.

### **What if the residents of a building do not want a candidate or their representatives to be allowed entry?**

If an owner of a multiple-residence building or a condominium corporation refuses to allow a candidate or their representatives access to a building, they may be given a notice explaining the law and requiring that access be granted.

If access is granted outside of the campaign period, or during the campaign period but outside of the hours specified by the *Election Act*, residents may contact their building management.

If a candidate or their representatives have gained access without permission, residents may contact the candidate or party.

### **Is there anything I should be aware of around canvassing in multiple-residence buildings or at other locations during the COVID-19 pandemic?**

Yes. Read our [Guidelines for Campaigning During COVID-19](#).