



ELECTIONS BC

A non-partisan Office of the Legislature

GUIDE TO THE *ELECTION ACT*

FOR AN ELECTION ADMINISTERED DURING A PANDEMIC

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This guide

The *Election Act* sets the rules for the provincial electoral process. This guide provides some general information about the Act.

The challenges presented by COVID-19 necessitate changes to election processes as currently defined by the *Election Act*. These changes are necessary to ensure election processes align with public health directives, and to ensure a safe process for all electoral stakeholders, including voters, election workers, and political participants.

Section 280 of the *Election Act* provides the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) with Order-making authority to address emergencies, extraordinary circumstances and mistakes.

Out of necessity, and because of the unprecedented circumstances of administering an election during a global pandemic, the Chief Electoral Officer expects to exercise their Order-making powers under s. 280 to modify a number of legislated administrative procedures. These orders will be in place for an election held while public health restrictions are still in place.

This guide has been updated to reflect the provisions of the *Election Act* and Orders of the CEO that will apply during a provincial election held during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This guide is intended only as an aid to understanding the *Election Act*. How the Act applies to any particular case will depend on the individual circumstances of the case, and may change in light of new legislative and judicial developments.

Should any conflict arise between what appears in this document and what is written in the *Election Act* and the Orders of the CEO, the Act and related Orders shall be deemed to be the exclusive authority with respect to the conduct of an election in British Columbia when health restrictions are in place.

You can view the *Election Act* and the relevant Orders of the CEO on the Elections BC website (elections.bc.ca) or you can buy a copy of the Act from Crown Publications (crownpub.bc.ca).

A glossary of common election-related terms is available on page 34.

Privacy

Elections BC has the authority to collect, use, disclose and dispose of personal information under the *Election Act* and the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. This information is used to administer provisions of the *Election Act*.

For information about Elections BC's privacy policies, please visit elections.bc.ca/privacy or contact the **Privacy Officer, Elections BC** at 1-800-661-8683 or privacy@elections.bc.ca or PO Box 9275 Stn Prov Govt Victoria, BC V8W 9J6.

General information

Electoral districts

British Columbia is divided into electoral districts, sometimes called constituencies or ridings. Each electoral district is represented by one Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA). When you vote in an election, you and the other registered voters in your electoral district are voting for someone to represent you as your MLA. In an election, you can only vote for an MLA to represent the electoral district where you live.

The *Electoral Districts Act* specifies the names and boundaries of the electoral districts.

A commission reviews the electoral districts after every second general election to make sure that each MLA represents about the same number of people. The review is conducted under the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act*.

Voting areas

Every electoral district is divided into voting areas. A voting area is a smaller geographic area within an electoral district. Elections BC uses voting areas to decide how many voting places will be needed in an election and where each voting place should be located.

The *Election Act* also lets the Chief Electoral Officer designate special areas for voters who would not be able to go to a regular voting place. These areas are called site-based voting areas, and are usually located in long-term care facilities.

General elections

A general election is an election for every electoral district in the province. In a general election, voters in each electoral district elect an MLA on the same day.

While a general election can seem like one election, it is actually many separate elections happening at the same time.

To call a general election, the Premier asks the Lieutenant Governor to dissolve the Legislative Assembly. If the Lieutenant Governor agrees, the Chief Electoral Officer is asked to issue the writs of election.

A writ is a formal document addressed to each District Electoral Officer. It includes the dates for nominating candidates, General Voting Day and when the writ is to be returned to the Chief Electoral Officer.

A general election is called when the writs are issued by the Chief Electoral Officer.

By-elections

A by-election is an election for one electoral district that is not held as part of a general election. A by-election happens when an MLA resigns, dies, is disqualified from sitting or is recalled. More than one by-election can be held on the same day.

To call a by-election, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly tells the Chief Electoral Officer that there is a vacancy in the Legislative Assembly, and the Premier asks the Chief Electoral Officer to issue a writ of election for the electoral district where the by-election is to be held.

Election calendar

Scheduled General Election

An election period is usually 51 days long. It starts on the day the writ is issued and ends on the day the writ is returned to the Chief Electoral Officer. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, an additional day of advance voting will be added to the election calendar. Seven days of advance voting will now begin nine days prior to General Voting Day.

Day 0	Writ is issued
Day 7	Candidate nominations close
Day 19-25	Advance voting days
Day 28	General Voting Day
Day 41-43	Final count*
Day 50	Writ is returned*

*The Chief Electoral Officer may authorize the final count to begin early. If there are an exceptional number of absentee or mail-in ballots final count may begin later. The writs of election must be returned at the end of the period for requesting a judicial recount, a period of six days following the declaration of official results at the end of the final count. Return Day is ordinarily 23 days after General Voting Day.

Unscheduled General Election

In an unscheduled general election, four to 10 additional days are added to the election calendar before Day 0. This will ensure that General Voting Day is always on a Saturday. These days are referred to as Day -5, Day -4, etc.

If the elections is called on a...	Number of additional days
Monday	5
Tuesday	4
Wednesday	10
Thursday	9
Friday	8
Saturday	7
Sunday	6

Day -4 to -10	Writ is issued
Day 2 to 7*	Candidate nominations close**
Day 19-25	Advance voting days
Day 28	General Voting Day
Day 41-43	Final count*
Day 50	Writ is returned*

*The Chief Electoral Officer may authorize the final count to begin early. If there are an exceptional number of absentee or mail-in ballots final count may begin later. The writs of election must be returned at the end of the period for requesting a judicial recount, a period of six days following the declaration of official results at the end of the final count. Return Day is ordinarily 23 days after General Voting Day.

**In an unscheduled general election, candidate nominations close at 1 p.m. on the 11th day after the election is called, no matter how many additional days are added to the election calendar.

Time

Unless stated otherwise, the times set under the *Election Act* are local times. If the time set for doing anything falls or ends on a specified holiday, the time is extended to the next day that is not a specified holiday.

Officials

Chief Electoral Officer

The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) applies the *Election Act* in a fair and neutral way. The CEO is an independent Officer of the Legislature, must be impartial and cannot be a member of a political party or make contributions to a party or candidate. The CEO is not allowed to vote in provincial elections.

The CEO may appoint permanent and temporary staff to help perform the duties of the office.

District Electoral Officers

A District Electoral Officer (DEO) is appointed for each electoral district by the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO). The DEO administers the election in their electoral district and makes sure that the rules in the *Election Act* are followed. One or more Deputy District Electoral Officers (DDEOs) are hired in each electoral district to help the DEO.

Like the CEO, DEOs and their deputies must be impartial and must not belong to a political party or make political contributions. However, DEOs and their deputies can vote in an election.

District Registrars of Voters

A District Registrar of Voters (DRV) is appointed for each electoral district. The DRV is responsible for the registration of voters. Deputy DRVs are appointed to help the DRV in their respective electoral district.

During elections, District Electoral Officers and Deputy District Electoral Officers act as DDRVs. Elections BC staff are appointed as DDRVs for all electoral districts.

Election officials

Election officials hired by district electoral officers staff voting places. All election officials take an oath of office and sign a Declaration of Secrecy. This ensures that they act in a non-partisan manner and maintain the secrecy of the vote. Candidates and their representatives cannot be election officials.

- A Voting Officer is responsible for a voting station. The Voting Officer issues ballots and maintains the ballot box. At the close of voting, the Voting Officer and at least one other election official must count the ballots. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to maintain physical distancing, the Voting Officer is the only election official required to administer voting at a voting station and will be responsible for both maintaining the voting book and issuing ballots. At least one other election official must be present at a voting place during voting proceedings.
- A Supervisory Voting Officer may be appointed to a voting place to supervise the officials there.

Other officials may also be appointed to help voters at the voting place or to complete other responsibilities in the voting place.

Registering to vote

Who can register to vote

To vote in a provincial election, you must be registered as a voter. You can register if you:

- are a Canadian citizen,
- are at least 18 years old, and
- have been a resident of B.C. for the past six months.

If you are a Canadian citizen, you may register within 90 days of a scheduled general election if:

- you will be 18 years old by General Voting Day, and
- you will have been a resident of B.C. for six months by General Voting Day.

How to register

To register as a voter, you must complete an Application for Registration as a Provincial Voter.

You can register online at elections.bc.ca/ovr, or you can phone Elections BC and a voter registration official will register you over the phone. A registration form can also be printed from the Elections BC website, completed and sent to Elections BC by fax, mail or email.

After you are registered, it is important that you let Elections BC know if you change your name or address. You can update your voter registration online, by mail, over the phone, by email or in person.

Elections BC also updates voter registrations using information from the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC), Elections Canada and local election officials. This means that if you have changed your name or address on your driver's licence, BCID or BC Services card, the change should be automatically made on the Provincial Voters List. If you do not wish this information to be shared with Elections BC, you may opt out of information sharing by making a request directly to ICBC.

Provincial voters list

When you register as a voter, your name and address are added to the Provincial Voters List. The list is used to make sure that only registered voters vote, and that they only vote once.

The Provincial Voters List is not available for public sale or use. It can only be used for purposes allowed by the *Election Act*, and Elections BC does all it can to protect personal information on the list. Misuse of the Provincial Voters List is a serious offence and may result in a fine of up to \$20,000 and imprisonment of up to two years.

You can object to the registration of another voter if you believe they are not qualified to be registered. Objections must be made in writing to the District Registrar of Voters.

List of Future Voters

Elections BC maintains a list of eligible 16 and 17-year-olds who will be automatically added to the Provincial Voters List when they turn 18. This will make it easier for young voters to receive information about voting from Elections BC and will speed up the voting process for everyone. To register as a future voter, you must be 16 or 17 years old, a Canadian citizen and a B.C. resident.

Registering when you vote

The 'closed period' for general registration begins after an election is called on a day specified by the Chief Electoral Officer and ends on the second day after General Voting Day. During this period, you can only register when you vote. This is called 'registration in conjunction with voting'.

Voting

Who can vote

You can vote in a provincial election if you:

- are a Canadian citizen,
- will be at least 18 years old on General Voting Day, and
- have been a resident of B.C. for the six months immediately before General Voting Day.

You must be registered to vote. You can register when you vote provided you have acceptable identification or another voter vouches for you by making a declaration confirming your identity and place of residence.

Voter identification and vouching

When you vote or register in conjunction with voting, you must show identification. If you do not have identification, someone can vouch for you.

Acceptable identification includes:

- one document, issued by the Government of British Columbia or Canada, that contains your name, photograph and residential address, or
- one document, issued by the Government of Canada, that certifies you are registered under the *Indian Act*, or
- two documents, both of which contain your name and one of which contains your residential address, from a list of document types authorized by the Chief Electoral Officer.

Visit elections.bc.ca/id to see the list of document types authorized by the Chief Electoral Officer.

If you cannot produce identification that meets these requirements, you can still register if someone else agrees to confirm your identity and place of residence by making an oral declaration. An individual who does this is called a voucher.

To be a voucher, an individual must produce identification that verifies their identity and residential address, and must be:

- a registered voter in the applicant's electoral district, or
- the applicant's spouse, parent, grandparent, or adult child, grandchild or sibling, or
- an individual who has the authority to make personal care decisions for the applicant.

After you have satisfied the official of your identity and place of residence, you will be required to make an oral declaration that you are eligible to vote. The election official responsible will record your declaration in a voting book or on a certification envelope. Under ordinary circumstances, the voter would sign both of these documents. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, an Order has been issued replacing these written declarations with oral declarations to reduce shared touch points between voters and election officials.

If your right to vote is challenged at the voting place, you must either:

- provide evidence that satisfies the election official of your eligibility, or
- make an oral declaration before the election official that you are entitled to vote.

Determining where you are a resident

Under the *Election Act*, you are a resident of the place where you live and where you intend to return when you are away. You can only be a resident of one place at a time. Your residence does not change until you have found a new place of residence.

Temporary absences

You do not stop being a resident of a place if you leave for temporary purposes only. This includes leaving British Columbia to engage in the service of the Government of British Columbia or Canada or accompanying your spouse, parent or child for that purpose.

If you are on vacation or have been prevented from returning to your place of residence due to ongoing complications introduced by the COVID-19 pandemic, you also keep your British Columbia residence for the purposes of voting.

Students

If you are a student who has moved away from home – your usual place of residence – to attend an educational institution, you can choose, for the purposes of the *Election Act*, either your usual place of residence or where you live to go to school as the place where you are a resident.

Correctional Inmates

If you are in the custody of a correctional institution, you can choose to be a resident of:

- the place where you were a resident before you were imprisoned,
- the place where a spouse, parent or dependent is a resident, or
- if unable to provide the information above, the place where you were arrested or the place of the last court where you were convicted or sentenced.

For the purposes of the *Election Act*, you cannot use a correctional institution as your place of residence. Inmates with no fixed address may register as a voter at the address of a social service agency in the electoral district in which they were arrested.

Temporary residences

Temporary residential quarters are considered your place of residence only if you have no other place that you consider to be your residence.

If you have no dwelling place, you can use a shelter, hostel or other social service institution as your residence for registering as a voter.

Who cannot vote

Individuals convicted of certain election offences may be disqualified from voting. Election offences are outlined in Part 12 of the *Election Act* and include, but are not limited to:

- vote buying,
- intimidating voters to vote in a certain way or to refrain from voting, and
- voting twice, or voting when you are not eligible to do so.

Due to their duties under the *Election Act*, the Chief Electoral Officer and the deputy chief electoral officers are not eligible to vote.

Where to vote

Elections BC must notify voters of where they can vote.

If you are a registered voter, Elections BC will send you a “Where to Vote” information card in the mail after an election is called. The notice will tell you your advance voting options, as well as your assigned voting location on General Voting Day.

You can also visit the Elections BC website (elections.bc.ca) or phone the Elections BC office for more information about voting opportunities.

General voting

General voting is held between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. (Pacific time) on Day 28 of the election. This day is called election day or General Voting Day. If that day is a holiday, General Voting Day is the next day that is not a holiday.

Voters have an assigned voting place on General Voting Day. It is usually faster and more convenient to vote at your assigned voting place, but you can vote absentee at another voting place if you wish.

To vote on General Voting Day, visit your assigned voting place. You will be asked to produce your identification (see page 11) and will be recorded in the voting book. Then you will be given a ballot with the name of the candidates in your electoral district. Mark the ballot with an x or a check mark in the space next to the candidate for whom you want to vote.

Advance voting

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of advance voting days has been increased to provide more options for voters and to allow voters to remain physically distanced by reducing the number of voters expected at each advance voting opportunity. Advance voting is available over seven consecutive days starting nine days before General Voting Day. If one or more advance voting days is a holiday, the advance voting period is set by the Chief Electoral Officer and must consist of seven days over a period starting 13 days before General Voting Day and ending two days before General Voting Day.

Advance voting places are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (local time). Voters should note that not all advance voting places are open each day of the advance voting period. After an election is called, Elections BC publishes advance voting places and the dates they are open in community newspapers, on its website and on Where to Vote cards sent to voters. All voters can vote at any advance voting place, and all advance voting places are wheelchair accessible.

Absentee voting

If you do not attend your assigned voting place, you can vote at any other voting place in the province. This is called absentee voting.

If you visit a voting place in the electoral district where you are a resident, you will vote with an ordinary ballot. The ballot will list the names of the candidates in your electoral district. To vote, make an x or a check mark in the space beside the name of one candidate.

If you visit a voting place in a different electoral district, you may vote with a write-in ballot. Write-in ballots have a blank space instead of candidate names. To vote, you write the name of a candidate or a registered political party running in your electoral district in the blank space on the ballot. You will be provided with the List of Candidates for your electoral district.

Absentee voting is available during advance voting and on General Voting Day.

Alternative absentee voting

If you cannot visit any voting place, you can vote at the office of your District Electoral Officer (DEO) or by mail. This is called alternative absentee voting.

Alternative absentee voting is available as soon as reasonably possible after an election is called.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, qualifications for alternative absentee voting have been removed, and other requirements for mail-in voting have been modified by an Order of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO). Any voter who wishes to may vote in the office of the DEO or by mail.

You can vote at the office of the DEO until 4 p.m. (Pacific time) on General Voting Day.

To vote by mail, you may apply for a voting package on the Elections BC website, by calling Elections BC, or by directly requesting a package from a DEO. Applications are accepted until 4 p.m. (Pacific time) on General Voting Day, but voters wishing to vote by mail should request a vote-by-mail package as soon as possible after the election is called. The voting package contains instructions, a ballot and envelopes for returning the marked ballot by mail. The required documents and the contents of the vote-by-mail package have been modified by Order due to the COVID-19 pandemic and, depending on whether you request a mail-in voting package before or after the close of nominations, may now include either a write-in ballot or an ordinary ballot. To maintain physical distancing while completing mail-in voting packages, the witness signature requirement to complete a vote-by-mail certification envelope has been replaced by a shared secret: your birthdate.

You may request a replacement package if:

- you make a mistake completing your package,
- your package has an incorrect name or address,
- your package has been lost, mutilated or destroyed, or
- you did not receive your package.

If you request a replacement mail-in voting package, the CEO or DEO will instruct you on what to do with the original mail-in voting package.

To register when you vote by mail, you must complete an Application for Registration as a Provincial Voter. This registration form, copies of acceptable identification documents and your ballot must be returned with your vote-by-mail package.

To be counted in the election, the completed voting package must be received at a location specified by the CEO by the close of voting at 8 p.m. (Pacific time) on General Voting Day. These specified locations include the offices of DEOs throughout the province, voting places, Elections BC headquarters in Victoria and some partner locations.

Special voting opportunities

District Electoral Officers (DEOs) can set up special voting opportunities to provide accessible voting to eligible voters who may not be able to vote otherwise.

One type of special voting opportunity is voting at site-based voting areas (SVAs). Site-based voting areas are residential care facilities, where the residents are unable to travel to advance or general voting places because of medical or physical limitations. DEOs will send mobile teams to administer voting at SVAs. For residents, this special voting is under general voting rules.

Another special voting opportunity occurs when DEOs arrange for mobile teams to conduct voting at locations where voters are staying temporarily. For example, special voting can be conducted at acute care hospitals, correctional facilities and remote work sites. This type of special voting is under absentee voting rules.

Telephone voting is currently offered as a special voting opportunity to voters who are blind or partially sighted, as well as voters that have an extended or periodic disability that would prevent them from voting independently. This voting opportunity may be expanded on a case-by-case basis to address specific COVID-19 pandemic-related circumstances.

Other special voting opportunities may also be established.

Assistance with voting

If you are unable to mark your ballot due to a physical disability or because you have difficulty reading or writing, an election official or someone you are with can help you. The individual helping you must mark your ballot in the way that you tell them to. If you are helped by someone other than an election official, that individual must take an oath of secrecy.

A template is available at all voting places so that voters who are visually impaired can mark their own ballot. A Braille list of candidates is also available at each voting place.

You can be helped by a translator if you have trouble understanding or reading English. If your translator is not an election official, that individual must make a solemn declaration that they can perform the translation and that they will not tell anyone how you voted. District Electoral Officers try to hire election officials who speak languages common in local communities.

As the number of British Columbians voting by mail is expected to increase due to the COVID-19 pandemic, you may now be assisted in completing your vote-by-mail package. The individual assisting you is required to print their name on the certification envelope.

Voting place accessibility

If you cannot enter a voting place because of a physical disability, you can ask to vote at the nearest place where you can gain access. If you are unable to get out of a vehicle, election officials will help you cast your ballot while you remain in the vehicle.

All advance voting locations and District Electoral Offices are wheelchair accessible.

Time off from work for voting

If you are eligible to vote, you are entitled to four consecutive hours free from work between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. (Pacific time) on General Voting Day so you can vote. If your work hours do not allow for four consecutive hours free from work, your employer must allow you time off to provide those hours. Your employer may choose when you take the time off.

You may be entitled to time off for advance voting if you: 1) are not able to have four consecutive hours to vote during General Voting Day, and 2) are willing to vote in advance. You are not entitled to this time off if you are able to take four consecutive hours off on General Voting Day.

Your employer must not deduct pay or penalize you for taking time off for voting. You are entitled to your regular compensation for those hours not worked while voting.

You are not entitled to take time off if your place of work is so remote that you would be unable to reasonably reach a voting place during voting hours.

Employers and employees are encouraged to work together so that all eligible voters can vote without disrupting business operations.

Ballots

A ballot is the piece of paper a voter uses to mark their preference in an election. On an ordinary ballot, candidates for the electoral district are listed in alphabetical order by surname. Candidates can choose to have the name of their registered political party included. They can also be shown as “Independent” or have only their name listed. No other information about candidates is shown. A unique ordinary ballot is printed for each electoral district.

Beside each candidate’s name is a blank circle where the voter makes their mark. Ballots have a stub and a counterfoil. The stub and counterfoil are numbered. After marking your ballot, you will return it to the Voting Officer and show them the numbered counterfoil. You will remove the counterfoil and dispose of it as directed before the ballot is placed in a ballot box. You will then place the ballot into the ballot box unless you require assistance from the Voting Officer.

Voters voting in their electoral district will vote with ordinary ballots. Voters requesting mail-in voting packages following the close of nominations may be issued ordinary ballots once ordinary ballots are available.

Out-of-district and alternative absentee voters voting at the District Electoral Officer’s office or requesting a mail-in voting package before the close of nominations will vote with write-in ballots. These ballots have a blank space instead of candidate names. To vote, you write the name of a candidate or political party running in your electoral district on the ballot. Ballots are not rejected because of spelling mistakes if the intent of the voter is clear.

Obtaining a ballot

To obtain a ballot at a voting opportunity, you must satisfy the election official of your identity and place of residence. To do this you must show the election official one of the following:

- one document, issued by the Government of British Columbia or Canada, that contains your name, photograph and residential address, or
 - a Certificate of Indian Status, or
 - two documents, both of which contain your name and one of which contains your residential address, from a list of document types authorized by the Chief Electoral Officer.

Please see the voter identification and vouching section on page 11 or elections.bc.ca/id for more information.

Spoiled ballots

If you make a mistake marking a ballot, you can get a new one by giving the spoiled ballot to an election official. Spoiled ballots are not placed in the ballot box.

Which voters voted

Candidates may request to receive a list of voters that indicates who voted in the most recent election for their electoral district. This request should be made when an individual applies to be a candidate.

Candidate representatives may request to receive a list, for each voting area, of the voter numbers of individuals who have voted at general voting. This list will be available from election officials periodically during the day.

After each day of advance voting, on request by candidates, the District Electoral Officer must provide a list showing the voter number of each registered voter who voted at advance voting that day and the name and residential address of each voter who registered or updated their voter registration information in conjunction with voting. This list is available the day following each day of advance voting.

During an election conducted under the current public health restrictions, the Chief Electoral Officer may provide a list of the voters residing in the candidate's electoral district who request a voting package and/or return a voting package. Provision of this information is made possible by an Order of the CEO, recognizing the anticipated high numbers of voters who may choose to vote-by-mail in an election conducted during the pandemic.

Counting of the vote

Initial count

After voting ends on General Voting Day, election officials open the ballot boxes and count the ballots from general voting and advance voting. This is called the initial count.

Candidates and their representatives can watch the initial count. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chief Electoral Officer has issued an Order that may limit the number of candidate representatives present during the initial count if the combined number of candidate representatives would exceed the safe capacity of the counting location or public health guidance. The number of candidate representatives will not be limited beyond what is necessary to ensure that physical distancing can be maintained during initial count proceedings.

The District Electoral Officer announces the preliminary results of the election after the initial count.

Final count

The final count is the count of the ballots that were not considered at initial count. It is the count of all absentee and alternative absentee ballots.

The final count is also when the final results of an election are determined based on the votes accepted in the initial count and in the final count.

Candidates and their representatives can watch the final count. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chief Electoral Officer has issued an Order that may limit the number of candidate representatives present during the final count if the combined number of candidate representatives would exceed the safe capacity of the counting location or public health guidance. The number of candidate representatives will not be limited beyond what is necessary to ensure that physical distancing can be maintained during final count proceedings.

If counting errors occurred during initial count, or if the difference between the candidate declared elected and the candidate with the next highest number of votes is 100 votes or less, the candidate or their official agent may ask the District Electoral Officer (DEO) to recount the ballots considered at initial count as part of the final count. The request for this kind of recount must be made in writing within three days after General Voting Day.

Final count must not begin before the 13th day after General Voting Day. Final count continues until all of the absentee ballots are counted. Ordinarily final count is completed in two days, however, due to the expected high volume of vote-by-mail ballots, it may take longer in an election conducted during public health restrictions. After it has ended, the DEO adds the results of the final count to the results of initial count and announces the candidate who is elected.

Rejected ballots

A ballot is rejected during the initial count or the final count if it:

- is marked for more than one candidate,
- is blank,
- does not clearly indicate the intent of the voter, or
- is marked in a way that could identify the voter.

Write-in ballots are also rejected if they are marked for a person who is not a candidate or if they are marked for a registered political party that does not have a candidate in the electoral district.

If you spoil your ballot, it is important to get a new one so your vote is not rejected.

Judicial recounts

After the final count, the District Electoral Officer must ask for a judicial recount if the candidates with the most votes are tied or the top two candidates are separated by less than 1/500 of the total ballots considered. Candidates or voters can also ask for a judicial recount if the ballots were not counted properly.

A Judge of the Supreme Court conducts the judicial recount. Judicial recounts must be requested no more than six days after the end of the final count.

Candidates

Who can be nominated

To be a candidate in an election, you must be nominated. You can be nominated if you:

- are a Canadian citizen,
- are at least 18 years old, or, if an election is in progress, will be 18 years old on General Voting Day,
- have been a resident of B.C. for the past six months, and
- have not been disqualified from voting, being nominated, being elected or holding office as an MLA.

You cannot be nominated as a candidate for more than one electoral district at a time. You do not have to live in the electoral district where you are a candidate.

Members of Parliament must resign before they can be a candidate in a provincial election. Mayors and local government councillors do not have to resign to be a candidate or to be elected in a provincial election.

How to file nomination documents

You can file a standing nomination or an ordinary nomination. Standing nominations for a scheduled general election can be filed with the Chief Electoral Officer at any time until the end of the day before the election is called. Standing nominations for a by-election or unscheduled general election can be filed at any time until the end of Day 2 (the second day after the election is called).

Ordinary nominations for a scheduled general election can only be filed with the District Electoral Officer for the electoral district where you want to be a candidate and must be filed between the time the election is called and 1 p.m. (Pacific time) on Day 7 of the election.

Ordinary nominations for a by-election or unscheduled general election can be filed between 9 a.m. (Pacific time) on Day 3 and 1 p.m. (Pacific time) on Day 11.

The same forms are used for both types of nomination. All nominations must be signed or orally declared to by at least 75 qualified nominators in the electoral district. There is also a \$250 deposit. When the required nomination documents are accepted, a certificate of candidacy is issued. The certificate can only be issued after an election is called.

Who can sign a nomination

A nomination must be signed or be orally declared to by at least 75 qualified nominators who live in the electoral district where the election is being held. In recognition of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, oral declarations and electronic signatures may be accepted. Collecting oral declarations carries additional requirements to share information about the nominee with the nominator and to retain contact information for the nominator. A nominator does not have to be a registered voter; they only have to meet the qualifications to register to vote. A nominator can only nominate one candidate in an election.

Agents and financial officers

Every candidate must appoint a financial agent. A financial agent manages the candidate's finances according to the rules of the *Election Act*. A candidate can be their own financial agent.

Candidates must also appoint an auditor. An auditor must be a qualified firm or individual who is a Chartered Professional Accountant (C.P.A.) or is certified by the Auditor Certification Board. A candidate cannot be their own auditor, and the auditor and financial agent cannot be the same person.

Candidates can also appoint one official agent to act as their representative. An individual can be both the official agent and the financial agent for a candidate.

Scrutineers and candidate representatives

A candidate or their official agent can appoint candidate representatives (scrutineers) to observe voting, registration in conjunction with voting and ballot counting for an election. Other representatives may also be appointed to transmit information to and from scrutineers.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to reduce touch points between candidate representatives and election officials, candidate representatives will not be permitted to inspect voting books, lists of voters or lists of voter numbers during election proceedings. The participation information provided to candidate representatives will still be supplied at the times directed by the Chief Electoral Officer.

Political parties and constituency associations

Registering with the Chief Electoral Officer

Political parties and constituency associations must be registered with the Chief Electoral Officer to:

- issue tax receipts for political contributions,
- make transfers of money, goods or services to other registered entities for the same registered political party,
- incur election expenses, and
- in the case of a political party, have the party name appear on a ballot.

A major political party is one that is eligible to appoint a representative to the Election Advisory Committee. This includes any party represented in the Legislative Assembly or any party that fielded candidates in at least 50% of all electoral districts in the last general election.

For more information about registering a political party or constituency association, contact Elections BC or visit elections.bc.ca.

Electoral Finance

Financial reporting

Registered political parties and registered constituency associations must file annual financial reports by March 31 each year. These reports must disclose all of the financial transactions made by the organization during the previous calendar year.

A political party that is eligible to receive an annual allowance must also file interim financial reports within 30 days after the interim reporting period.¹

After an election, candidates, registered political parties and registered constituency associations must file election financing reports. These reports must be filed within 90 days after General Voting Day.

Third parties who sponsor election advertising with a total value greater than \$500 are also required to file election disclosure reports within 90 days after General Voting Day and may also be required to file additional disclosure reports prior to General Voting Day if they sponsor election advertising in excess of \$10,000.

Nomination contestants and party leadership contestants must file financial reports within 90 days after the date of selection. However, if a nomination contest ends during or within 30 days of the campaign period, they may submit their report within 90 days after General Voting Day. Acclaimed or appointed contestants also need to file with Election BC.

¹ Under the *Election Act*, the Chief Electoral Officer must pay an annual allowance to a registered political party that meets certain criteria based on the votes cast in the last general election. For more information, see <https://elections.bc.ca/provincial-elections/provincial-financing/annual-allowances/>.

Political contributions

Registered political parties, registered constituency associations, candidates, nomination contestants and leadership contestants must record all of the contributions they receive. They must also list, on their financing reports, contributors who give more than \$250 in a single year, election campaign or contest.

Political contributions can only be accepted from eligible individuals. An eligible individual is someone who is a resident of B.C. and a Canadian citizen or permanent resident.

Corporations, unions, federal political parties, electoral district associations and other organizations are not allowed to make political contributions.

There are also contribution limits. In a calendar year, an eligible individual must not contribute more than \$1,200 to any one registered political party, including any registered constituency associations, candidates or nomination contestants representing that political party. This does not include fees up to \$350 paid to attend a convention of a political party.

An additional \$1,200 contribution limit exists for each contestant seeking the leadership of a political party.

Personal election/contestant expenses paid by candidates/contestants that result in political contributions are also exempt from the contribution limit.

The \$1,200 limits will be adjusted for changes to the consumer price index, and the \$350 convention exemptions will increase by \$10 each year. The current contribution limits and exemptions are posted on the Elections BC website (elections.bc.ca).

Contributions can be made anonymously but only in certain circumstances. Anonymous contributions must be less than \$50 and can only be made at a function held by or on behalf of the organization or individual to whom the contribution is given.

Registered political parties and registered constituency associations cannot accept more than \$10,000 in anonymous contributions in a year. Candidates, leadership contestants and nomination contestants cannot accept more than \$3,000 in anonymous contributions for one election or contest.

Registered political parties and registered constituency associations can issue income tax receipts for contributions of money received at any time, but not for contributions of goods or services. Candidates can only issue income tax receipts for contributions of money received after they have received their certificate of candidacy and before the return of the writ.

Leadership contestants and nomination contestants cannot issue income tax receipts.

Specified fundraising functions

A specified fundraising function is an event:

- attended by a prominent attendee, specifically a parliamentary secretary, member of the Executive Council or leader of a major political party, and
- held to raise funds for a major political party or candidate, nomination contestant, leadership contestant or constituency association representing a major political party.

A major political party is one that has a representative on the Election Advisory Committee established by section 14 of the *Election Act*.

The details about specified fundraising functions must be reported both before and after the event.

At least seven days before the event, the host must report to Elections BC details about the event, including the date, time, location, ticket price and names of any prominent attendees.

Within 60 days after the event, the financial agent must report to Elections BC the number of tickets sold, any contributions raised from the event and the names of prominent attendees at the event.

If an individual or organization hosts a specified fundraising function on behalf of a political party, candidate, nomination contestant, leadership contestant or constituency association, the event host must provide to the financial agent within 30 days after the event all details of the event, including contributor information.

For a specified fundraising function held at a private residence:

- the address and the name of the resident must be reported to Elections BC, but is not to be made publically available,
- the individual ticket price must be \$100 or less, and
- political contributions in relation to the function must not be accepted, other than ticket sales.

Election expenses

An election expense is the value of property or services used by or on behalf of a candidate, registered constituency association or registered political party during a campaign period to promote or oppose, directly or indirectly, the election of a candidate or registered political party.

For candidates, the expense limit for a general election or by-election is \$58,000 during the campaign period.

For registered political parties, the expense limit for a general election is calculated as \$1.16 per registered voter. For a by-election, the expense limit is \$58,000 during the campaign period.

These expense limits will be adjusted for changes to the consumer price index and the length of the campaign period if additional days are added. The adjusted limits will be posted on the Elections BC website (elections.bc.ca) as soon as possible after an election call.

Candidates who receive at least 10% of total valid votes are eligible to receive a reimbursement of up to 50% of their election expenses. Political parties are also eligible to be reimbursed up to 50% of their election expenses if the party receives at least 5% of valid votes in a general election or 10% of valid votes in a by-election.

For more information about election expenses, including limits and reimbursements, see the Guide for Financial Agents Appointed Under the *Election Act*.

Election advertising

There are two types of election advertising: “campaign period election advertising” and “pre-campaign period election advertising”.

Campaign period election advertising is the transmission, by any means, of an advertising message to the public that:

- is transmitted during a campaign period, and
- promotes or opposes, directly or indirectly, a registered political party or the election of a candidate. This includes messages that take a position on an issue with which a candidate or registered political party is associated.

Pre-campaign period election advertising only applies to third party sponsors and is an advertising message to the public that:

- is transmitted during the 60 days before the start of the campaign period for a scheduled general election, and
- directly promotes or opposes a registered political party or the election of a candidate.

Note that pre-campaign period election advertising does not include messages that indirectly promote or oppose a party or candidate.

Election advertising does not include:

- news, an editorial, an interview, a column, a letter, a debate, a speech or a commentary published without charge in a bona fide periodical or on a radio or television program
- the distribution or promotion of a book for no less than its commercial value, if the book was planned to be made public regardless of whether there was to be an election
- documents sent by a person or a group directly to their members, employees or shareholders
- the transmission by an individual of their personal political views on a non-commercial basis on the Internet or by phone or text messaging
- messages on the internet which do not and would not normally have a placement cost, including social media posts, websites and videos
- free social media posts on websites and platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter and YouTube

The definition of election advertising is broad, and in some cases it can be difficult to determine if an item or activity is election advertising. Election advertising certainly includes:

- signs, posters, leaflets, billboards and brochures, and
- advertisements in newspapers, magazines, newsletters and on television, radio and the internet.

Sponsoring election advertising

Individuals and organizations, other than registered political parties, registered constituency associations and candidates, who want to sponsor election advertising must register with Elections BC. These individuals and organizations are called third party sponsors or election advertising sponsors.

Election advertising must identify the sponsor or, in the case of a candidate, the candidate's financial agent or the financial agent of the candidate's registered political party.

The *Election Act* limits the value of election advertising that third party sponsors can sponsor.

The total value of election advertising sponsored during a campaign period by a third party sponsor cannot be more than:

- \$3,000 in relation to one electoral district, and
- \$150,000 in the province overall.

These limits apply to the campaign period beginning on the day an election is called and ending at the close of voting on General Voting Day. These limits will be adjusted for changes to the consumer price index and the length of the campaign period if additional days are added and the updated limits will be posted on the Elections BC website.

Third party sponsors must not use contributions that are not sponsorship contributions to sponsor election advertising. Sponsorship contributions can only be made by eligible individuals who are residents of British Columbia and are either a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada. There are also sponsorship contribution limits. In a calendar year, an eligible individual must not contribute more than \$1,200 to any one third party sponsor. This limit will be adjusted each year for changes to the consumer price index and posted on the Elections BC website.

If the value of election advertising was greater than \$500, third party sponsors must file a disclosure report within 90 days after General Voting Day. Where a third party has sponsored more than \$10,000 in election advertising, the disclosure report must be audited, and the sponsor may be required to file initial and subsequent disclosure reports prior to General Voting Day.

Registered political parties, registered constituency associations and candidates do not need to file separate disclosure reports. Their advertising expenses are included in their election financing reports.

For more information, see the Guide to Communications for Provincial Third Party Sponsors.

Election advertising on General Voting Day

On General Voting Day, no campaign period election advertising may be published, broadcast or transmitted to the public before the close of all the voting stations in the electoral district. This does not include:

- a notice of an event the leader of a registered political party plans to attend
- an invitation to meet or hear the leader of a registered political party
- a message transmitted to the public on the internet before General Voting Day that is not changed before the close of voting
- the distribution of pamphlets or the posting of signs, posters or banners
- a message transmitted to the public on the internet for the sole purpose of encouraging voters to vote in the election

Election advertising in rental and strata units

Renters and strata owners may display election advertising posters in their residences. Landlords and strata corporations can set reasonable conditions on the size and type of posters that can be displayed. They can also prohibit posters from being displayed in common areas.

During the campaign period, landlords, housing cooperatives and strata corporations must not unreasonably restrict access to candidates and authorized canvassers for the purpose of canvassing voters between the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

If requested, authorized canvassers must produce government issued photo ID as well as a copy of their written authorization to canvass voters on behalf of the candidate.

Campaigning near election offices and voting places

Election offices

During a campaign period, there is a 100-metre no-campaigning zone around the building where the office of the District Electoral Officer (DEO) is located. Within this zone, no one may post, display or distribute:

- campaign period election advertising
- any material that identifies a candidate, registered political party or registered constituency association, unless it is with the authorization of the DEO

Voting places

There is a similar 100-metre zone around any building where voting is being conducted during advance voting and general voting. Within this zone, no one may:

- post, display or distribute campaign period election advertising
- post, display or distribute any material that identifies a candidate, registered political party or registered constituency association, unless it is with the authorization of the DEO
- canvass or solicit votes or attempt to influence how a voter votes
- carry, wear or supply flags, badges or anything else that indicates support for a candidate or registered political party
- post, display, distribute or openly leave a representation of a ballot marked for a candidate or registered political party

While the 100-metre zone is in effect, no one may publish, broadcast or transmit campaign period election advertising by means of a public address system or loudspeaker that is within hearing distance of a voting place.

New election opinion surveys on General Voting Day

On General Voting Day, the results of election opinion surveys that have not previously been made public must not be published, broadcast or transmitted until all of the voting stations in the electoral district are closed.

Glossary

<p>Absentee voting</p>	<p>An opportunity to vote for people who do not vote at their assigned voting place because they are away from home or for other reasons. Absentee ballots are counted at final count.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 73 (d), (e)]</p>
<p>Advance voting</p>	<p>An opportunity to vote before General Voting Day. Advance voting is held between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. over seven consecutive days before General Voting Day.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 73, 76, 97, CEO Order]</p>
<p>Ballot</p>	<p>A piece of paper used by voters to mark their choice in an election or electoral event.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 86]</p>
<p>Ballot box</p>	<p>A sealed container for marked ballots that cannot be opened without breaking the seals.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 85]</p>
<p>By-election</p>	<p>An election held between general elections to fill an empty seat in the Legislative Assembly. When an MLA resigns, is disqualified from sitting, dies, or is successfully recalled, a by-election is held. More than one by-election can be held on the same day.</p> <p>[<i>Constitution Act</i>, s. 35; <i>Election Act</i>, s. 1, 25; <i>Recall and Initiative Act</i>, s. 26-28]</p>
<p>Campaign period</p>	<p>The time between when an election is called and the close of voting on General Voting Day.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 1]</p>

<p>Candidate</p>	<p>An individual who stands for election to the Legislative Assembly. To become a candidate, an individual must meet the requirements of the <i>Election Act</i>, file nomination documents and receive a certificate of candidacy from Elections BC.</p> <p>For election financing and election advertising purposes, a candidate includes an individual who becomes a candidate or who was a candidate.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 1, 52-68]</p>
<p>Candidate representative (Scrutineer)</p>	<p>An individual appointed in writing by a candidate or the candidate’s official agent to watch the voting, registration in conjunction with voting and counting proceedings in an election.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 70]</p>
<p>Chief Electoral Officer (CEO)</p>	<p>An independent Officer of the Legislature appointed by the Lieutenant Governor on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly. The Chief Electoral Officer supervises and administers the provincial electoral process.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 1, 4-13]</p>
<p>Constituency</p>	<p>See <i>Electoral District</i>.</p>
<p>Constituency association</p>	<p>An organization formed for an electoral district as the local organization of a political party or as the local organization to support an independent Member of the Legislative Assembly for that electoral district.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 157]</p>

<p>Deputy District Electoral Officer (DDEO)</p>	<p>A person appointed by the Chief Electoral Officer to help the District Electoral Officer (DEO) conduct elections in an electoral district. If the DEO becomes unable to carry out their duties, the DDEO takes on their role.</p> <p>More than one DDEO can be appointed to an electoral district. In such cases, the Chief Electoral Officer decides which DDEO will act as DEO if that person is no longer able to carry out their duties.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 18-21]</p>
<p>Deputy District Registrar of Voters (DDRV)</p>	<p>A person appointed by the Chief Electoral Officer to help the District Registrar of Voters prepare and maintain the provincial voters list in an electoral district.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 22, 23]</p>
<p>District Electoral Officer (DEO)</p>	<p>A person appointed by the Chief Electoral Officer to conduct elections in an electoral district.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 18-21, 88]</p>
<p>District Registrar of Voters (DRV)</p>	<p>A person appointed by the Chief Electoral Officer to prepare and maintain the provincial voters list in one or more electoral districts.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 22, 23]</p>
<p>Election advertising</p>	<p>See page 28.</p>
<p>Elections BC (EBC)</p>	<p>The usual name for the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer. Elections BC administers the electoral process in B.C. This includes provincial general elections and by-elections, provincial referendums, and recall and initiative petitions and votes.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 10 (1)]</p>
<p>Eligible individual</p>	<p>An individual who is a resident of British Columbia and either a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 1]</p>

Electoral district (ED)	<p>A geographic area represented by a single Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA). Electoral districts are also called constituencies or ridings.</p> <p>[<i>Constitution Act</i>, s. 18; <i>Electoral Districts Act</i>]</p>
Enumeration	<p>A registration event directed to all eligible voters or specific groups of voters in one or more electoral districts. An enumeration is an opportunity to identify and register people who are eligible to vote but have not yet registered. The information collected in an enumeration is used to update the provincial voters list.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 42-44]</p>
Final count	<p>The count by the District Electoral Officer of the ballots in certification envelopes. Certification envelopes contain the ballots from absentee voting, alternative absentee voting and special voting.</p> <p>Final count ordinarily begins on Day 41 (the 41st day after an election is called) but may begin later depending on the volume of absentee ballots cast during an election.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 127-137]</p>
Financial agent	<p>An individual appointed to manage the finances of an individual or group. Registered political parties, registered constituency associations, candidates and leadership contestants must appoint a financial agent.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 175-178]</p>
General election	<p>Elections called on the same date for all the electoral districts in the province.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 1, 24, 26-28]</p>
General Voting Day (GVD)	<p>The day when an election is held. General Voting Day is Day 28 and must fall on a Saturday.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 27]</p>

<p>Independent</p>	<p>A candidate or MLA who does not represent a political party.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 1]</p>
<p>Initial count</p>	<p>The counting of ballots from advance voting and general voting after voting ends on General Voting Day. Candidate representatives are allowed to watch the count.</p> <p>After the initial count, the District Electoral Officer may announce the preliminary results of the election. Final results are determined after final count, when the ballots from absentee, alternative absentee and special voting are counted.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 115-126]</p>
<p>Judicial recount</p>	<p>A recount by the B.C. Supreme Court of some or all of the votes in an election.</p> <p>If the candidates with the most votes are tied, or if the top two candidates are separated by less than 1/500 of the total votes considered, the District Electoral Officer must apply for a judicial recount. Voters and candidates can also apply for a judicial recount if they believe the ballots were not counted properly.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 139-145]</p>
<p>Legislative Assembly</p>	<p>A body composed of all elected members (MLAs), who each represent a single electoral district. The role of the Legislative Assembly is to pass legislation, approve public finances, and scrutinize government.</p> <p>[<i>Constitution Act</i>, s. 17]</p>
<p>Legislature of British Columbia</p>	<p>The formal name for the body that makes provincial laws. It includes the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly. For a Bill to become law, it must be passed by the Legislative Assembly and assented to by the Lieutenant Governor.</p>

<p>Lieutenant Governor</p>	<p>The representative of the Queen in British Columbia. Along with other formal powers, the Lieutenant Governor can dissolve the Legislative Assembly and order a general election.</p> <p>In practice, this power is exercised at the request of the Premier.</p> <p>[<i>Constitution Act</i>, s. 3, 23]</p>
<p>List of Future Voters</p>	<p>A list of eligible 16- and 17-year-olds who will be automatically added to the Provincial Voters of List when they turn 18.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 51.02]</p>
<p>Major political party</p>	<p>A registered political party that is eligible to have a representative on the Election Advisory Committee.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 1]</p>
<p>Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA)</p>	<p>A person elected to represent an electoral district in the Legislative Assembly.</p> <p>[<i>Constitution Act</i>, s. 18]</p>
<p>National Register of Electors (NRoE)</p>	<p>A list of registered voters maintained by the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada for use in federal elections. The NRoE is also used to update the provincial voters list.</p> <p>[<i>Canada Elections Act</i>, s. 44-56]</p>
<p>Nomination period</p>	<p>The period when a person can be nominated as a candidate. To become a candidate, nominees must file nomination documents with the Chief Electoral Officer or the District Electoral Officer for the electoral district in which they want to run.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 1, 56, 57]</p>
<p>Official agent</p>	<p>An individual appointed by a candidate to serve as their representative during an election. An individual can be appointed as both the financial agent and the official agent of the same candidate.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 1, 69]</p>
<p>Political party</p>	<p>An organization that has as a primary purpose the fielding of candidates for election to the Legislative Assembly.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 155]</p>

<p>Pre-campaign period</p>	<p>The period beginning 60 days before the campaign period for a fixed-date general election and ending on the day before the writs of election are issued. Note: the pre-campaign period does not apply for by-elections or general elections not conducted in accordance with section 23(2) of the <i>Constitution Act</i>.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 1]</p>
<p>Provincial Voters List</p>	<p>A list prepared by the Chief Electoral Officer that contains the names and addresses of registered voters in each electoral district.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 45-51]</p>
<p>Rejected ballot</p>	<p>A ballot that is rejected during counting and not counted toward the total votes for any candidate. A ballot is rejected if it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ differs physically from the official ballots ▪ is blank ▪ is marked in such a way that the voter could be identified ▪ is marked for more than one candidate ▪ does not clearly indicate the intention of the voter ▪ is a write-in ballot that is marked for a political party that is not represented by a candidate in the election ▪ is a write-in ballot marked for both a candidate and a political party, but the candidate is not a representative of that political party <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 123]</p>
<p>Return Day</p>	<p>The day when the District Electoral Officer must return the writ of election and other documents to the Chief Electoral Officer. Return Day is usually Day 50 (the 50th day after an election is called).</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 146]</p>
<p>Riding</p>	<p>See <i>Electoral District</i>.</p>
<p>Scrutineer</p>	<p>See <i>Candidate representative</i>.</p>

<p>Specified fundraising function</p>	<p>A fundraising function held for the purpose of raising funds for a major political party (including its constituency associations, candidates and leadership contestants) and is attended by a leader of a major political party, a parliamentary secretary or a member of the Executive Council.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 1, 185.01, 185.02]</p>
<p>Special voting opportunity</p>	<p>An opportunity to vote for eligible voters who cannot visit a regular voting place. This may be because these voters have a disability or because they are in a hospital, a mental health facility, a long-term care facility, a remote work site or a correctional centre. This voting opportunity includes telephone voting.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 77, 98]</p>
<p>Spoiled ballot</p>	<p>A ballot that is marked inappropriately or in such a way that it would be rejected. If a voter spoils their ballot and would like a replacement, they can do so by giving the spoiled ballot to an election official.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 113]</p>
<p>Statement of Votes (SOV)</p>	<p>A report prepared by the Chief Electoral Officer after an election or referendum. The report contains a review of the proceedings and results of the electoral event, and is submitted to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 13 (1) (b)]</p>
<p>Time</p>	<p>All times referred to in the <i>Election Act</i> are local times, except for the close of nominations and voting hours on General Voting Day, which are Pacific time.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 2]</p>
<p>Voter</p>	<p>An individual who meets the qualifications to be registered as a voter.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 29, 31]</p>
<p>Voter registration official</p>	<p>A person appointed by the District Registrar of Voters on a temporary basis to help register voters in an electoral district.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 23]</p>

<p>Voting area (VA)</p>	<p>A smaller geographical area within an electoral district, which is used to assign voters to voting places.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 1, 80]</p>
<p>Voting book</p>	<p>A book that contains a record of who voted at a specific voting station or voting opportunity or used a voting option.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 84]</p>
<p>Voting clerk (VC)</p>	<p>A person appointed by the District Electoral Officer to help the Voting Officer.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 19, 88]</p>
<p>Voting officer (VO)</p>	<p>The election official appointed by the District Electoral Officer to conduct the vote at a particular voting station.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 19, 88]</p>
<p>Voting place</p>	<p>The building or facility where advance voting is held or where voters of one or more voting areas are assigned to vote on General Voting Day.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 1, 81]</p>
<p>Voting screen</p>	<p>A screen in a voting place where voters go to mark their ballot in private.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 83]</p>
<p>Voting station</p>	<p>A table in a voting place with a Voting Officer and a ballot box. Voters in a voting area are assigned to vote at a voting station.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 82]</p>
<p>Writ of election</p>	<p>A formal order signed by the Chief Electoral Officer and the Lieutenant Governor that directs a District Electoral Officer to conduct an election. An election is called when the writ of election has been issued. In a general election, a writ is issued for every electoral district in the province.</p> <p>[<i>Election Act</i>, s. 1, 26]</p>

Questions?

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