

Rules for determining residence for the purposes of the *Election Act*

In order to register as a provincial voter in British Columbia, you must be a resident of B.C. for six months. The *Election Act* sets the rules for determining which address to use for voting.

What is a residence?

Your residence is your home. It is the place where you live and where you will return to when you are away. Under the *Election Act*, you can only have one residence at a time, and your address does not change until you have a new residence.

Your residential address is also known as your home address, physical address or civic address. You may not use a work or postal address as your residence.

If you receive mail at a different address from where you live, you must provide this mailing address separately.

Temporary absence

You are still considered a resident if you leave temporarily for travel, school, work or military service, or if you accompany a spouse, child or parent posted outside B.C.

Students

Your residence can be either where you live when you're at school or your permanent address (such as your parent's address).

Correctional inmates

You cannot use the correctional institution address as your residence. You can use your previous address or the address of a spouse, parent or dependent. You can also use the place where you were arrested or the court where you were convicted and sentenced.

No fixed dwelling

If you are experiencing homelessness, you can use your most recent permanent address, the address where you are staying temporarily or the address of a shelter, hostel or similar institution where you receive food, lodging or social services.