

*Local Government Elections,
Assent Vote (Referendum)*

Who is eligible to vote as a resident elector?

To vote in the Local Government Elections or assent vote (referendum) as a resident elector, you must meet ALL of the following requirements:

- Be 18 years of age or older on general voting day; and
- Be a Canadian citizen; and
- Be a resident of British Columbia for at least 6 months immediately before the day of registration; and
- Be a resident in the voting jurisdiction (as per Section 67 of the *Local Government Act*); and
- Not be disqualified under the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment from voting in an election or assent vote (referendum) or otherwise disqualified by law; and
- You are registered to vote.

What does “resident” mean?

Section 67 of the *Local Government Act* contains rules for determining residence:

- (1) The following rules apply to determine the area in which a person is a resident:
 - (a) a person is a resident of the area where the person lives and to which, whenever absent, the person intends to return;
 - (b) a person may be the resident of only one area at a time for the purposes of this Part;
 - (c) a person does not change the area in which the person is a resident until the person has a new area in which the person is a resident;
 - (d) a person does not cease being a resident of an area by leaving the area for temporary purposes only.
- (2) As an exception to subsection (1), if
 - (a) a person establishes for the purposes of attending an educational institution a new area in which the person is a resident, and
 - (b) the new area is away from the usual area in which the person is a resident,the person may choose for the purposes of this Part either the usual area or the new area as the area in which the person is a resident.

Can I pre-register to vote?

No, a resident elector cannot pre-register to vote. The voters list is prepared using the provincial list of voters. A person may only register as an elector at the time of voting at either one of the advanced opportunities (October 7, or October 14, 2026) or on general voting day (October 17, 2026).

To find out if you are on the voters list, please visit the Regional District of Nanaimo Administration Office, Legislative Services Department, located at 6300 Hammond Bay Road in Nanaimo, during regular office hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, or call (250) 390-4111 and toll free at 1-877-607-4111.

How do resident electors register to vote?

If you are not on the voters list, you can register at the time of voting by completing an application form. You will be asked to provide two pieces of identification that prove who you are and where you live. One of them must have your signature on it.

If the two pieces of identification do not provide proof of residence, you may make a solemn declaration as to your place of residence.

What are acceptable documents for voter registration?

Acceptable documents for providing proof of identity and residence are as follows:

- BC Driver's License
- BC ID card issued by ICBC
- Photo BC services card issued by ICBC
- Non-photo BC services card issued by Service BC
- Certificate of Indian Status (issued by the Government of Canada)
- Citizenship or membership card issued by a First Nation
- Citizenship card issued by Métis Nation British Columbia
- ICBC Owner's Certificate of Insurance and Vehicle License
- BC Care Card or BC Gold Care Card
- Ministry of Housing and Social Development and Economic Security Request for Continued Assistance (form SDES8) (now Monthly Report HR0081)
- Social Insurance Number card or confirmation of Social Insurance Number letter issued by the government of Canada
- Citizenship Card
- Property tax notice
- Credit card or debit card
- Utility bill (electricity, natural gas, water, telephone or cable services)

When I register to vote with the Regional District, will my name be added to the provincial voters list?

Yes. When you register as a resident elector, your information will be forwarded to Elections BC, to be included in the provincial voters list.

What does "disqualified from voting" mean?

You may **not** vote in a British Columbia local government election if you:

- have been convicted of an indictable offence and are in custody; or
- have been found guilty of an election offence.