

Assent Vote (Referendum)

Who is eligible to vote as a non-resident property elector?

If you own property in the Municipality or Electoral Area in which you wish to vote and live elsewhere in BC, you may be eligible to vote as non-resident property elector.

To vote in the assent vote (referendum) as a non-resident property elector, you must meet ALL of the following requirements:

- you are not entitled to register as a resident elector of the Municipality or Electoral Area;
- you will be age 18 or older on general voting day;
- you are a Canadian citizen;
- you have been a resident of B.C. for at least 6 months immediately before the day of registration (advance or general);
- you have been a registered owner of property in the Municipality or Electoral Area for at least 30 days immediately before the day of registration (advance or general);
- the only persons who are registered owners of the property are individuals who are not holding the property in trust for a corporation or other trust;
- **if there is more than one registered owner on title**, you have received the written consent of a majority of the owners, authorizing you to be registered as the non-resident property elector;
- you have not registered as a non-resident property elector in relation to any other parcel of property in the Municipality or Electoral Area; and
- you are not disqualified by law from voting.

What does “registered owner of property” mean?

This means whichever of the following is applicable:

- a) the owner of a registered estate in fee simple of the property, unless another person holds an interest in the property referred to in paragraphs (b) to (d);
- b) the holder of the last registered agreement for sale, unless another person holds an interest in the property referred to in paragraph (c) or (d);
- c) the tenant for life under a registered life interest in the property, unless another person holds an interest in the property referred to in paragraph (d);
- d) the holder of a registered lease of the property for a term of at least 99 years.

What if the property is registered in my company’s name?

You are not eligible to vote as a non-resident property elector if the property is registered in your company’s name. You are also not eligible to vote if you are holding the property in trust for a corporation or another trust.

What if I own property with other people?

If there is more than one property owner on title, only one may register as the non-resident property elector. The person registering must have the written consent of that number of owners who, together with the person registering, constitute a majority.

In other words, if two individuals own a single piece of property, the other owner, together with the person registering, must consent. If five individuals own a single piece of property, at least two of the other property owners, together with the person registering, must consent.

Where there is more than one owner on title, a consent form completed by the other owner(s) must be submitted at the time of registration.

What if I own property with someone else, and that person is living on the property?

The person living on the property may qualify as a resident elector because he or she resides in the Municipality or Electoral Area. As a non-resident property owner, you are also eligible to vote as a non-resident property elector, but you will need the written consent of the majority of owners.

What if I own more than one piece of property?

You may only vote as a non-resident property elector in relation to one piece of property in any jurisdiction. In other words, even if you own two pieces of property in the Municipality or Electoral Area, you may only vote once.

How do non-resident property owners register?

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. One of them must have your signature on it.

You will also need to prove that you are entitled to register in relation to the property by providing a copy of the Property Tax Notice, Land Title Registration or BC Assessment Notice. If there is more than one registered owner on title, you will also need to submit a consent form.

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.

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 the Motor Vehicle Branch
- ICBC Owner's Certificate of Insurance and Vehicle License
- BC Care Card or BC Gold Care Card
- Ministry of Housing and Social Development Security Request for Continued Assistance (form SDES8)
- Social Insurance card
- Citizenship Card
- property tax notice
- credit card or debit card
- utility bill (electricity, natural gas, water, telephone or cable services)

If you are applying for registration as a non-resident property elector, you must also show proof of ownership of property in the Municipality or Electoral Area. The following documents are examples of acceptable proof of property ownership:

- Property Tax Notice
- Land Title Registration
- BC Assessment Notice

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

No. When you register as a non-resident property elector, your information will not be included in the provincial voters list. However, for non-resident property electors with property in an Electoral Area, the Regional District of Nanaimo will keep your name on its own voters list.

Do I need to get a Non-Resident Property Owner Certificate?

No. Prior to the 2008 election, non-resident property owners were required to go to the Election Office to get a special certificate providing evidence of their eligibility to register as a non-resident property elector. Due to a legislative amendment, this certificate is no longer required.

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.