



## My Voter's Guide



## About the guide

This guide answers questions about the federal voting process and lets you know what to expect when you go to vote.

To order extra copies or other formats (such as Braille), please call Elections Canada.

**[elections.ca](http://elections.ca) | 1-800-463-6868 | ☎ TTY 1-800-361-8935**

This product is available online in other languages.

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# What are elections all about?

When a federal election is called, you vote to elect a member of Parliament to represent you in the House of Commons, where he or she will debate and pass laws on your behalf.

Canada is divided into 338 ridings. During an election, one member of Parliament is elected to represent the people of that riding. Each member of Parliament has a seat in the House of Commons.

Candidates can represent a political party, or can be independent, meaning they have no association with a political party. After all the votes are counted for each riding, the political party with the most seats in the House of Commons usually forms the government. The leader of that party becomes the prime minister of Canada.



## Can I vote?



### You can vote if:

- ✖ you are a Canadian citizen
- ✖ you are at least 18 years old on election day
- ✖ you can prove your identity and address

# Am I registered to vote?

## Make sure you're registered

If you have moved, recently become a Canadian citizen, will be voting for the first time or are a student living away from home, you may not be correctly registered.

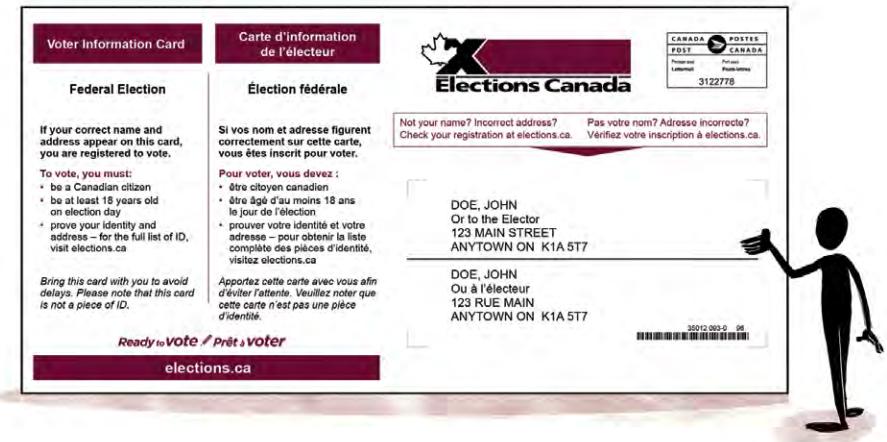
Go to **elections.ca/register** now to check, update or complete your registration. It's easy and will save you time when you go to vote.

Need help? Call us at **1-800-463-6868**.



## Watch for your voter information card

When you're registered, you will get a **voter information card** in the mail soon after the election is called. It tells you when, where and ways to vote. The card looks like this:



Check your name and address on the card. If they are correct, you are registered to vote.

If there are errors, or if you don't receive a card, go to **elections.ca** or call us to update your information.

The card also tells you:

- the accessibility of your polling places
- how to request language or sign language interpretation
- how to request other assistance

# What are the ways to vote?

## **There are many ways to vote:**

- On election day
- On an advance voting day
- At an Elections Canada office
- By mail

## **☒ Vote on election day**

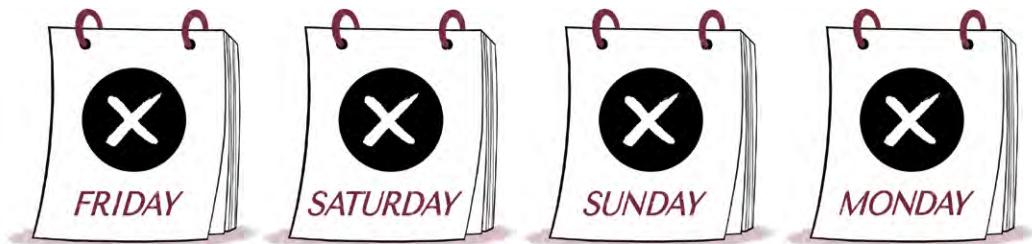
Your polling place will be open for 12 hours.

To find out when and where to vote once the election is called:

- check your voter information card sent to you by mail
- go to **elections.ca** and type your postal code into our voter information service
- call us at **1-800-463-6868**

## **☒ Vote on an advance voting day**

Vote on one of four advance voting days.



Your advance polling place will be open from noon to 8:00 p.m.

To find your advance polling dates and location once the election is called:

- check your voter information card sent to you by mail
- go to **elections.ca** and type your postal code into our voter information service
- call us at **1-800-463-6868**

## **✗ Vote at an Elections Canada office**

Once the election is called, go to any Elections Canada office across the country by 6:00 p.m. on the Tuesday before election day.

To find an Elections Canada office near you, visit **elections.ca** or call **1-800-463-6868**.



## **✗ Vote by mail**

If you're away from your riding during the election, or if it's more convenient, you can vote by mail.

Here's how:

- ✗ Apply to receive a voting kit.** You can get an application form at **elections.ca**, at any Elections Canada office, Canadian embassy, high commission or consulate.

- 
- ✗ Important deadline:** Your completed application, with a copy of your ID, must reach us by 6:00 p.m. on the Tuesday before election day.
- 

- ✗ Once we receive your application, we'll mail you a voting kit with everything you need to vote.**
- 

- ✗ Don't wait!** You need to allow enough time for your voting kit to reach you and for your marked ballot to reach Elections Canada by election day.

# What ID should I take with me?

To vote, you need to prove your identity and address:



**Show one piece of government-issued ID with your photo, name and address.** For example, your driver's licence.

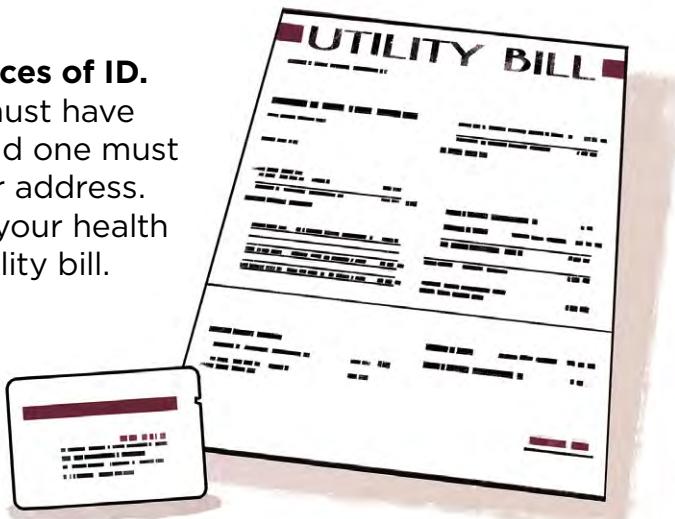
..... OR .....

**Take an oath.** Show two pieces of ID with your name and have someone who knows you attest to your address. This person must show proof of identity and address, and be registered in the same polling division. This person can attest for only one person.

We accept *ID cards and documents issued in their original formats. For documents issued electronically (such as e-statements or e-invoices), we accept printouts or you may show them on a mobile device.*

..... OR .....

**Show two pieces of ID.** Both pieces must have your name, and one must also have your address. For example, your health card plus a utility bill.



# What happens when I go to vote?

Once you're registered, here's what you can expect when you go to vote at your polling place.

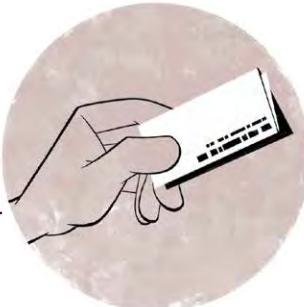
- 1** When you enter the polling place, an election worker greets you and shows you to the right table.



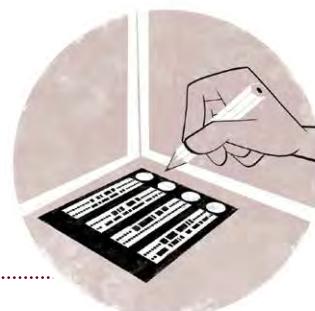
- 2** At your table, show your proof of identity and address.



- 3** The election worker will initial, fold and hand you a ballot.



- 4** Go behind the voting screen, mark and refold your ballot to keep it secret.



- 5** Return your ballot to the worker so they can tear off the tab.



- 6** Put your ballot in the box.



## I am a student — how can I get ready to vote?

To vote, you must be registered. Check, update or complete your registration at [elections.ca/register](http://elections.ca/register).

If you live in two places — one while at school, the other while away from school — choose which one you consider home and use that address to register. You vote for a candidate in the riding where your home address is located.

When you're registered, you'll get a voter information card in the mail soon after the election is called. It tells you when and where to vote.

**Remember:** If you're away from your riding, or if it's more convenient, you can vote by mail or at any Elections Canada office.



## What is available to make voting more accessible?

We provide many voting services and tools to meet the diverse needs of Canadians.

### Here are the voting tools and services we offer:

- Magnifiers
- A tactile and Braille voting template that fits on top of a ballot
- Large-print lists of candidates
- Braille lists of candidates (available on election day)
- Sign language interpretation (call us to request it ahead of time)
- Assistance in marking a ballot
- Improved voting screens that let in more light
- If you cannot leave home and would like to vote there, call us

# How can I provide feedback to Elections Canada?

## Polling place accessibility

If you're registered to vote, you'll get a voter information card soon after the election is called. This card describes the accessibility of your polling places. You can also find this information at [elections.ca](#) by entering your postal code or by calling **1-800-463-6868**.

When you go to vote, either your polling place will have an automatic door opener or an election worker will be at the door to provide assistance. Please let this person know how they can help.

We also check the accessibility of polling places throughout voting days. If you have questions or comments about your polling place, please let us know and we'll look into it.

For a full list of the accessibility criteria we use when we select polling places, go to [elections.ca](#).



Let us know how we're doing. This helps us better serve you.

You can:

- ✖ fill out our general feedback form at [elections.ca](#)
- 

- ✖ call us at **1-800-463-6868**
- 

- ✖ contact us by TTY at **1-800-361-8935**
- 



If you have feedback on accessibility, you can also:

- ✖ fill out an accessibility feedback form at [elections.ca](#) or at your polling place

- ✖ speak to an election worker when you go to vote

## Where can I get more information?

- ✖ Visit **elections.ca**
- ✖ Call **1-800-463-6868**
- ✖ Contact us by TTY at **1-800-361-8935**



Elections Canada offers many resources about the electoral process, including:

- information and promotional products
- election simulation kits
- educational resources

You can download many of these resources at **elections.ca** or call us to order copies.

## Voter's checklist

- Make sure you're registered at **elections.ca**
- Watch for your voter information card
- Check that you have the right ID
- Find the candidates in your riding by entering your postal code at **elections.ca**
- Choose one of the many ways to vote
- Mark your calendar with key dates
- Plan how you'll get there



**Ready  
to  
vote**



100%

FSC  
F.P.O.

# Have your ID ready to vote

Three options to prove your identity and address

Option 1

**Show one of these pieces of ID**

- your driver's licence
- any other card issued by a Canadian government (federal, provincial/territorial or local) with your photo, name and current address

Option 2

**Show two pieces of ID**

Both must have your name and at least one must have your current address

**Examples:**

- voter information card and bank statement
- utility bill and student ID card

**Don't have these? No problem!**

See the **list of accepted ID for option 2** below



Option 3

**If you don't have ID**

You can still vote if you declare your identity and address in writing and have someone who knows you and who is assigned to your polling station vouch for you.

The voucher must be able to prove their identity and address. A person can vouch for only one person (except in long-term care institutions).

**From a government or government agency**

- |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| • band membership card                     | • government cheque or cheque stub                             | • library card  | • property tax assessment or evaluation            |
| • birth certificate                        | • government statement of benefits                             | • licence or card issued for fishing, trapping or hunting | • public transportation card                       |
| • Canadian citizenship card or certificate | • health card  | • liquor identity card                                    | • social insurance number card                     |
| • Canadian Forces identity card            | • income tax assessment  | • Métis card  | • vehicle ownership                                |
| • Canadian passport                        | • Indian status card or temporary confirmation of registration | • old age security card                                   | • Veterans Affairs health care identification card |
| • card issued by an Inuit local authority  |  | • parolee card  |  |
| • firearms licence                         |  |   |  |

**From Elections Canada**

- targeted revision form to residents of long-term care institutions
- voter information card

**From an educational institution**

- correspondence issued by a school, college or university
- student identity card

**From a health care facility or organization**

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| • blood donor card                  | • identity bracelet issued by a hospital or long-term care institution |
| • CNIB card                         | • medical clinic card  |
| • hospital card                     |  |
| • label on a prescription container |  |

**From a financial institution**

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| • bank statement                             | • mortgage contract or statement |
| • credit card                                | • pension plan statement         |
| • credit card statement                      | • personal cheque                |
| • credit union statement                     |                                  |
| • debit card                                 |                                  |
| • insurance certificate, policy or statement |                                  |

**From a private organization**

- employee card
- residential lease or sub-lease
- utility bill (e.g.: electricity; water; telecommunications services including telephone, cable or satellite)

**Letters of confirmation**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • letter from a public curator, public guardian or public trustee   | following designated establishments:<br>– student residence |
| • letter of confirmation of residence from a First Nations band or reserve or an Inuit local authority          | – seniors' residence  |
| • letter of confirmation of residence, letter of stay, admission form, or statement of benefits from one of the | – long-term care institution                                |
|   | – shelter   |
|   | – soup kitchen  |
|   | – a community-based residential facility                    |

Additional pieces of ID may be added. We accept e-statements and e-invoices. Print them or show them on a mobile device.

The complete list of accepted ID is available in multiple languages at [elections.ca](http://elections.ca).  
For other formats, such as braille and audio, call 1-800-463-6868.



# Work for Elections Canada in the next general election!

Elections Canada offers short-term employment opportunities for Indigenous adults and youth, including:

- the Indigenous Elder and Youth Program
- Community Relations Officer positions

## To work in an election, you need to:

- hold Canadian citizenship
- be at least 16 years old
- live in the riding where you will be working
- remain non-partisan (not belong to a political party during employment)



To learn more about these opportunities or to view job postings for the 2019 general election, visit:

**[www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca)**

# Travaillez pour Élections Canada lors de la prochaine élection générale!

Élections Canada offre des possibilités d'emploi à court terme aux adultes et aux jeunes autochtones, notamment dans le contexte des programmes suivants :

- le Programme des aînés et des jeunes autochtones;
- le Programme des agents de relations communautaires.

## Pour travailler à une élection, vous devez :

- avoir la citoyenneté canadienne;
- être âgé d'au moins 16 ans;
- habiter la circonscription dans laquelle vous travaillerez;
- demeurer non partisan (n'appartenir à aucun parti politique pendant votre emploi).



Pour en savoir plus sur ces possibilités ou voir les avis de postes à combler pour l'élection générale de 2019, visitez :

**[www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca)**.