

Our Democracy:

Accessibility and Opportunities during Provincial Elections in B.C.

Melanie Callas,
Outreach Coordinator

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About Elections BC

- An independent, non-partisan Office of the Legislature
- We're impartial – we treat all voters, candidates, political parties, and other stakeholders fairly

What we do

Provincial general elections

- Next one scheduled for October 16, 2021

Local general elections

- Next one scheduled for October 20, 2018
- We manage campaign financing and advertising rules in local elections

On-demand events/activities

- By-elections
- On-demand provincial general elections
- Initiative petitions and votes
- Recall petitions
- Referenda
- Plebiscites
- Financing provisions for local by-elections and assent voting
- Panels and commissions related to elections and electoral boundaries

The year ahead

Elections BC is busy year-round, even between elections. Upcoming events and activities include:

- Administering a referendum on B.C.'s voting system
- Updating forms, guides, and processes due to recent legislative change
- Being prepared for an unscheduled provincial general election



What is a Provincial General Election?

Did you know?

The candidate with the most votes in a district is elected

An election to choose our representatives in the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia

One candidate elected from each district

87 Electoral Districts



87 Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs)



Voter eligibility

Voter eligibility

- Canadian citizen
- 18 years of age or older
- resident of B.C. for six months

Voter registration

Voter registration

- To vote, you need to register
- You can register or update your information online, by phone, mail, fax, email, or in person
 - Visit elections.bc.ca/ovr or call **1-800-661-8683**
- If you register before an election, you will get a Where to Vote card that shows where and when you can vote
- The Where to Vote card will make voting faster and easier

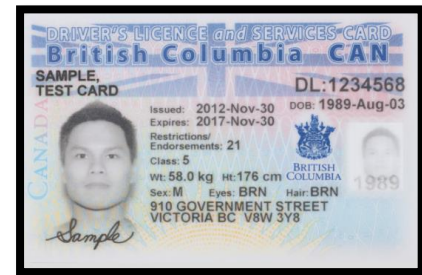


Provincial general elections

Identification

Voters need to show ID to prove who they are and their address. Here are the options:

1) One government-issued document that shows their name, residential address, and photograph

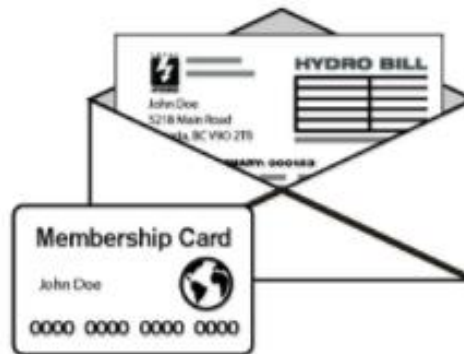


2) A Certificate of Indian Status issued by the Government of Canada



Identification (continued)

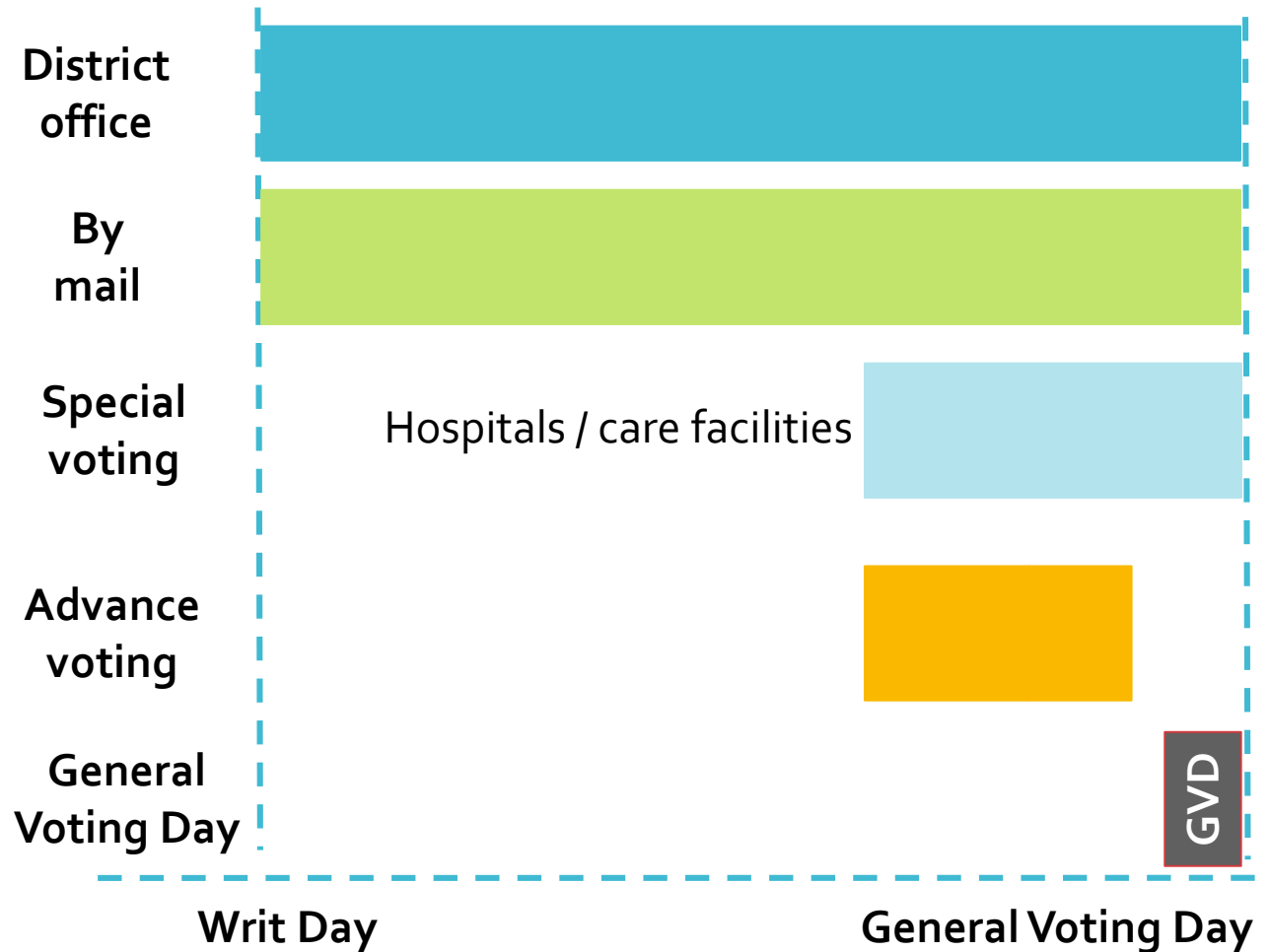
3) Two pieces of ID that *together* show their name and residential address



4) If a voter can't provide acceptable ID, we have a vouching process

Provincial general elections

Voting opportunities



Services for voters with disabilities

Telephone voting

- Operators assist voters with vision loss or who have a permanent or semi-permanent disability that prevents them from voting at other opportunities
- Voters must make a declaration that they are eligible to participate in the telephone voting program
- 1,065 voters voted by telephone during the 2017 Provincial General Election



Services for voters with disabilities

Physical accessibility

- All advance voting places are wheelchair accessible
- Most general voting places are wheelchair accessible
 - Accessible locations are indicated on Where to Vote cards with a wheelchair symbol and on Elections BC's website through the Where to Vote application
- We can assist voters who cannot enter a voting place
 - Voters can identify themselves to an election official who will bring the ballot box to the voter (i.e. in the parking area)



Services for voters with disabilities

Services for voters who have difficulty reading or writing

- Voters can ask for assistance from an election official or another individual in marking their ballot
- We have resources at voting places for individuals with vision loss:
 - Braille candidate lists
 - Plastic ballot template with braille text
 - Large print ballot posters



Services for voters with disabilities

Services for voters who have low literacy

- Information about the voting process is published in videos on Elections BC's website and in *The Westcoast Reader*
- We get advice from literacy programs in making our materials



Tools and resources

Free tools and resources to learn about democracy and voting

- Mock election kits
- Training ballots and plastic ballot templates for individuals with vision loss
- Online [educational videos](#) on Elections BC's website



Current Projects

Royal BC Museum Loan Kits

- Six educational kits that community groups and teachers can borrow for up to two weeks
- Learn about voting and democracy by handling archival documents and photos, maps, and more



Jobs

More info:

Email: jobs@elections.bc.ca

Website: elections.bc.ca/jobs

Jobs

- Elections BC offers several types of job opportunities:
 - Permanent and temporary jobs at headquarters in Victoria
 - Jobs at voting places and district electoral offices across the province during an election
 - Youth at the Booth high school student employment program
- Elections BC is committed to diversity and inclusion in our workplace



Summary

Register:

Online: elections.bc.ca

Call: 1-800-661-8683

- All eligible British Columbians have the right to participate
- Elections BC's goal is to remove administrative barriers
- We have tools and services to help voters vote independently
- Register or update your voter registration today!



Questions?

Contact: Melanie Callas, Outreach Coordinator
melanie.callas@elections.bc.ca