

# Municipal Election Guide 2022

## A toolkit for voters (short edition)

1. What are Municipal Elections?
2. Recommendations
3. Vote!

Municipal elections in British Columbia are held every four years for each local area. The next one will be held Saturday, October 15, 2022, where voters will elect different candidates for different positions, including **school trustees**, **mayors**, and **councillors**.

***Candidate:*** Someone who is hoping to be elected to a position in government.

***School trustees*** help make rules about what happens in schools, how they spend the school district's money, and what education issues they focus on.

***Mayors and Councillors*** make decisions about local laws and services in the areas they are elected in (for example, the Mayor of Vancouver make decisions in Vancouver).

What we hope to achieve is for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to be part of the local elections and ensuring they have the tools they need to meet with candidates, share issues affecting their lives and exercise their right to vote.

To know more about what ideas the candidates support, you can attend an all-candidates meeting (event where candidates present their ideas). At these events you can talk about your concerns or changes you would like to see.



Online pledge by a grassroots group of disabled people which lists candidates committed to inclusion [accessiblehousingpledge.ca](https://accessiblehousingpledge.ca)



Online database of local data housing needs and list of candidates committed to inclusion [makehousingcentral.ca](https://makehousingcentral.ca)

## 1. What are Municipal Elections?

## 2. Recommendations

## 3. Vote!

### Inclusive Education

Every child in British Columbia has the right to education. Schools that include children of all backgrounds and abilities help us build a world where everyone is welcomed and celebrated. This helps to create strong and peaceful communities.

Inclusion BC highlights four issues for school districts to improve the access to education for all students:

- **Access** – Make rules and spend money in ways that make sure students with intellectual and developmental disabilities are fully included at school.
- **Safety** – Stop the use of physical restraints and seclusion in schools, create ways to report when it happens and offer training for school staff to handle difficult situations.
- **Learning** – Support school staff to use teaching methods that support all learners' needs.
- **Full-day education** – Track how often students are only allowed to go to school for only a part of the school day and plan for all students to attend full days at school.

### Inclusive and Affordable Housing

More than 5,000 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are looking for homes in British Columbia. Municipal government can make decisions to increase housing options for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. These are five key points for an accessible and affordable home:

- **Choice and Control** over living space. Do people have choice and control within their homes and the same rights and responsibilities as others?
- **Accessibility & Affordability:** Housing must meet basic requirements and give people access to both their homes and their community.
- **The number of people with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities** is reflecting the natural population proportion.
- **Diversity:** Is the housing accessible to everyone?
- **Sustainability:** Housing needs to provide stability and a sense of security

1. What are Municipal Elections?
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3. **Vote!**

**Voting Day**  
**Saturday, October 15th**  
between 8am and 8pm

### To Vote on October 15th, you must be:

- A Canadian citizen and at least 18 years old on election day
- Living in BC for at least 6 months
- Living in the area where you plan to vote for at least 30 days

If you are already on the Voters List, you will receive a voting card in the mail. If you are not on the Voters List, or if you live in a community that does not use the Voters List, you can register to vote at a voting place (polling station). Remember that there may be line-ups to vote and that you will need two pieces of ID.

### Where do I vote on Election Day?

The address will be sent to you along with your voters' card. Every BC community also holds Advance Voting opportunities and remote voting opportunities by mail-in ballots or directly in some hospitals and care facilities.

### What if someone asks who I voted for?

Your vote belongs to you. Your vote is secret and you can keep it to yourself unless you want to share it with others.

### What if I need help to vote?

If you get to a voting place but find it difficult to access, you can ask the staff, an election official, a friend or relative to help you.

If you have further questions, you can contact your local government office for more information, find further information on our [Municipal Elections Guide 2022 \(Full-version\)](#) or online at [www.civicinfo.bc.ca/directories](http://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/directories).

