

GUIDE FOR MOBILE VOTING

Shelters and Community Support Centres

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In-Person Mobile Voting

What is Mobile Voting?

Mobile voting is a means for electors to vote within one of the following facilities on an advance voting day or on Election Day:

- An emergency shelter (serving individuals experiencing homelessness or escaping domestic violence); or
- A community support centre (serving individuals experiencing poverty or homelessness).

Mobile voting is established by the Returning Officer in each eligible facility, after consultation with the facility representative. A mobile voting station may only be established in facilities with ten or more electors who are residents or receiving support or services from the facility.

Mobile voting adapts to the needs of the residents. It may be set up in a central location or may travel from room to room, or it may provide both services. This decision will be made by the Returning Officer in consultation with the facility representative, to ensure residents' needs are met.

Who is Eligible to Vote at a Mobile Voting Station?

All electors who are resident or receiving support or services within the facility where a mobile voting station has been established are eligible to vote. They will be deemed ordinarily resident in the facility. That means that they are entitled to vote for the nominated candidates in the electoral division in which the facility is located, even if they do not normally reside in that electoral division.

Qualified electors are:

- Canadian citizens,
- At least 18 years of age on Election Day, and
- Ordinarily resident in Alberta.

Staff working at the shelter or community support centre are not eligible to vote during the mobile voting process.



Is Identification Required to Vote at a Mobile Voting Station?

No, electors who are eligible to vote at a mobile voting station do not need to show any identification. That is why it is important that a facility representative is available during the mobile voting process to indicate to the election officers which electors either reside at or are receiving services at the facility. Once the mobile voting process is completed, the facility representative will sign the voting record to indicate that the persons who voted were eligible to do so.

When is Mobile Voting Available?

Mobile voting can be offered on any of the days fixed for advance voting, or on Election Day. In each case, the Returning Officer, in consultation with the facility representative, will determine the dates, locations and hours when the mobile vote will operate.

How are Staff Selected for the Mobile Voting Station?

The Returning Officer will hire and train two election officers to conduct the mobile vote. While the Returning Officer is responsible for hiring the required election officers, the facility representative may recommend to the Returning Officer any facility staff who would be interested in working these positions. This option may be preferred in some locations, as it ensures that staff are familiar with the electors, which may reduce stress on them during the voting process.

Who is Allowed to be Present at a Mobile Voting Station?

By legislation, the following individuals are allowed to be present during the conduct of mobile voting:

- Election officers,
- The Returning Officer and Election Clerk,
- An interpreter,
- A member of the facility staff, and
- One scrutineer per candidate at any one time.

However, it is recognized that it may not be appropriate to allow this number of individuals to be present in a mobile voting station. On the recommendation of a member of the facility staff, the Voting Officer may limit the individuals present to:

- Two election officers,
- An interpreter, and
- A member of the facility staff.



What Role do Facilities Play in Mobile Voting?

1) Arrange the Time and Location

The Returning Officer will work with the facility representative to determine if mobile voting will occur during the advance vote or on Election Day. They will work to arrange dates, times, and locations. Facility representatives should notify the Returning Officer of any concerns they may have, including any challenges electors may experience. Since the facility representative is most familiar with the client group, their expertise is valuable to ensure that adequate time is available for the conduct of voting and that the location will accommodate all interested electors.

2) Advise Electors

Facility staff can advise electors who reside at or are receiving services in the facility that a mobile voting station will be established. Advise them in advance of the location and hours of operation. This may be done by posting the notice provided by the Returning Officer. Electors' questions on the mobile vote or voting process can be directed to the Returning Officer.

3) Accompany the Election Officers on Election Day

It is helpful if a staff member is available during the conduct of mobile voting. This will help to ensure that all interested electors are able to participate, and that the conduct of the mobile voting station does not interfere with facility operations. At the close of the mobile voting station, a representative of the facility will be asked to sign the voting record to confirm that the persons listed are residents or individuals receiving services in the facility.

How Does the Mobile Vote Process Work?

Electors will be asked to complete and sign a *Mobile Voting Declaration* (see [Appendix 1](#)). This form requires the elector to provide their name, the name of the shelter or community support centre that they are receiving services from, and to declare that they are eligible to vote and have not already voted. No identification is required. The election officers will add the elector's name to the voting record and a ballot will be provided to the elector.



Alternate Voting Options

Community Voting Places

Electors eligible to vote at mobile locations may instead choose to vote at a voting place established in the community. On advance voting days, they may vote at any location. On Election Day, they may vote at the location designated for their place of ordinary residence. Electors may use the online where-to-vote tool at www.elections.ab.ca or call 1.877.422.VOTE (8683) to determine when and where they can vote.

Electors voting at these locations will require identification to vote. An *Attestation of Identity and Ordinary Residence for Electors Receiving Services from a Shelter or Community Support Centre* (see [Appendix 2](#)) is available for facility representatives to complete on behalf of electors residing or receiving services in their facility to use in lieu of identification. Forms are available online at www.elections.ab.ca/voters/id-required-to-vote/.

Special Ballot Voting

Electors that are not able to vote in advance or on Election Day because they are:

- physically disabled,
- away from their electoral division,
- an inmate,
- an election officer, candidate, official agent or scrutineer, or
- living in a remote area, as defined in the *Election Act*

may apply to vote by special ballot. Special ballots may be completed in the returning office, picked up by a designate of the elector, or mailed to the elector. Electors can make an application to receive a special ballot during the election period.

Secure Special Ballot Voting

An elector who believes that their personal safety may be at risk if

- they appear in person at a voting place; or
- their name and address appear in the voting record

may apply to vote by secure special ballot.

Secure special ballot voting is offered in the returning office and at Elections Alberta's Edmonton office. The elector will be required to show identification to the Returning Officer to establish their eligibility to vote, but their name and address will not be added to the voting record. Electors residing in or receiving services at the facility may use the [attestation form](#) referenced above for identification.



Facility representatives who have multiple electors who are interested in voting by secure special ballot can make arrangements with the Returning Officer to designate a time during the election period for the Returning Officer to visit the facility and provide secure special ballots.



Appendix 1: Mobile Voting Declaration



Mobile Voting Declaration

E-22-510
Election Act
Section 120, 121, 123

Electoral Division of _____ Voting Area No. _____

I, _____
(first name) (middle name) (surname)

declare that I have not previously voted at this election and that I am a qualified elector by virtue of being:

- a Canadian citizen,
- 18 years of age or older, and
- ordinarily resident in Alberta.

COMPLETE A, B, OR C WHICHEVER APPLIES:

Treatment Centre or Emergency Shelter

A

I am an in-patient or a resident at:

(name of treatment centre or emergency shelter)

Community Support Centre

B

I am receiving services or support at:

(name of community support centre)

Supportive Living Facility

C

I am ordinarily resident at:

(name of supportive living facility)

(unit) (physical address) (city/town/village) (postal code)

(date of birth: month/day/year) (gender) (telephone number)

I make this declaration conscientiously believing it to be true and believing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath.


(signature of elector)

(date)

- (1) All persons deemed resident of a treatment centre, emergency shelter, or community support centre are required to complete this form.
- (2) Only supportive living facility residents who are NOT on the List of Electors are required to complete this form.

Appendix 2: Attestation of Identity and Ordinary Residence for Electors Receiving Services from a Shelter or Community Support Centre

Available for download at www.elections.ab.ca/voters/id-required-to-vote



E-22-702
Election Act

**ATTESTATION OF IDENTITY AND ORDINARY RESIDENCE
FOR ELECTOR RECEIVING SERVICES FROM
SHELTER OR COMMUNITY SUPPORT CENTRE**

Electoral Division _____ Voting Area _____

PLEASE COMPLETE BOTH SECTIONS BELOW

SECTION 1
To be completed by the elector

Ordinary residence is determined in accordance with the following rules:

- (a) a person can have only one place of ordinary residence;
- (b) a person's ordinary residence is the place where the person lives and sleeps and to which, when the person is absent from it, intends to return.

I _____
(first name) (middle name) (surname)

based on the definition above, ordinarily reside at _____
(name of facility)

_____ (address) _____ (city/town/village) _____ (postal code)

and certify that the information I have provided is true:

_____ (signature of elector) _____ (date)

SECTION 2
To be completed by the authorized representative of the shelter/support centre

I, the undersigned, am an authorized representative of: _____
(name of facility)

and certify the identity and ordinary residence of the elector named in **SECTION 1**.

_____ (name of authorized representative) _____ (job title of authorized representative)

_____ (email address) _____ (phone number)

_____ (signature of authorized representative) _____ (date)

(1) This document, once completed, may be used as proof of identity and ordinary residence for the purpose of voting.
 (2) Any person who wilfully applies to be included on the List of Electors for an electoral division in which the person is not ordinarily resident commits an offence under the *Election Act*.
 (3) Only signed original copies are accepted.





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