

VOTING IN MUNICIPAL, DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL OR REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY ELECTIONS

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In New Brunswick, municipal, district education council and regional health authority elections have a fixed date and are held every four years in May to elect mayors and councillors, district education councillors, and regional health authority board members. Municipalities may also have a plebiscite question added to the ballot.

Voters vote by marking their choice(s) on a ballot listing the candidates for the municipality, school district or health region where the voter lives. After all of the ballots are counted, the candidate(s) with the most votes are declared elected.

Qualifications to Vote

A person is qualified to vote in a municipal, district education council or regional health authority election if he or she:

- is a Canadian citizen;
- will be eighteen years of age on or before polling day;
- has been or will have been a resident in the Province for a period of at least 40 days immediately before the election; and
- will be living in the municipality, school district, or health region on Election Day.

Voters List

If you have voted in previous elections in New Brunswick you are likely already on the voters list. To get added to the voters



list you must first meet the qualifications to vote and provide one or more pieces of ID that between them show your name, current address and signature. (A New Brunswick driver's license contains all three and is the ideal piece of identification).

Other options may include:

- lease agreements,
- utility bills,
- student IDs,
- other documentation that provides the above three requirements, or having a friend already on the voters list vouch for your residency.

If you need to add your name, correct or update your personal information, you may contact the local Returning Office or you can make the change when you go to the polls to vote. You can also contact Elections NB to update your personal information.

Everyone who is on the voters list is mailed a Voter Information Card before elections telling them the addresses of their polling stations as well as the dates and times of advance and ordinary polling.

Students

Many voters are attending school away from where they ordinarily live, and want to know if they can still vote in a New Brunswick municipal, district education council or regional health authority election.



Students have the option to vote for candidates in the municipality, school district, or health region where they normally reside, or for candidates in the municipality, school district, or health region where they live while attending school.

They must have lived in the province for forty days prior to Election Day, and must also meet the standard qualifications to vote.

Accommodation and Accessibility

Elections NB strives to ensure that the buildings it uses during elections are accessible and can accommodate the needs of voters with various challenges. We provide various supports at our Returning Offices and at the polling stations to assist and encourage electors with special needs to vote. We have introduced a number of technical solutions that provide additional voting options.

Tools for accommodation include:

- Audio Vote with Braille and sip & puff option (available at Returning Offices only)
- Sign language interpretation (by appointment)
- A friend of an elector can assist with marking the ballot
- Magnifiers

Special Ballots

Special Ballots are a means for electors to cast a ballot if they are unable to or don't wish to vote during the advance polls or on Election Day.

A voter from one municipality, school district or health region can also use a Special Ballot to vote from elsewhere in the province for a candidate in the place where they normally live by visiting a local returning office. Special Ballots are also used for electors who are in nursing homes, special care homes, federal or provincial correctional facilities, patients in the hospital, or electors unable to leave their homes because of illness or incapacity. Special Voting Officers can bring ballots to those electors who are unable to attend the ordinary or advance polls due to illness or incapacity.

Need more information? Visit our website at electionsnb.ca or contact us:

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