



## Qualifications of an Elector and List of Electors

### Qualifications of an Elector

Under Section 14 of the *Municipal Elections Act*, a person entitled to be registered on the list of electors and to vote in a municipal or school board election must:

- be 18 years or older on the first advance polling day;
- be a Canadian citizen on the first advance polling day;
- has been ordinarily resident in the Province for a period of six months immediately preceding the first advance polling day; and
- is ordinarily resident in the municipality or in an area annexed to the municipality and has been so since immediately before the first advance polling day.

Persons who may be regarded as having a mental illness or mental disability are entitled to vote, as long as they are able to identify themselves to election officers, and to indicate that they wish to vote.

### Persons not qualified to vote

Section 15 of the Act disqualifies the following persons from registration or voting:

- the returning officer
- a person serving a sentence in a penal or reform institution
- a person convicted of bribery under the *Municipal Elections Act* in the 6 years preceding ordinary polling day.

### Definition of Ordinary Resident

Section 16 of the Act provides that a place where a person is "ordinarily resident" is:

- where a person lives and where the person intends to return when away,
- where a person usually lives and sleeps, and to which, when away the person intends to return, regardless of where he or she takes meals or is employed,
- where a person is living temporarily at a place and if the person has no other place the person considers as that person's place of residence,
- where a person is provided with food, lodging or other social services by a shelter, hostel or similar institution, the person would be ordinarily resident in that shelter, hostel or other institution.

A student who is an ordinary resident in a polling district other than that of the person's family home and is a qualified elector may be included on the list of elector for the district in which they are a resident or the district of the family home but not both.

In instances where the rules are not sufficient to determine the place where a person is ordinarily resident, then the appropriate election officer after considering all of the facts, determines ordinary residency.

A person is not an ordinarily resident in a seasonal dwelling generally only occupied between May and October unless the person has no other dwelling place in the Province where they reside between November and April.

A person can be ordinarily resident only in one place at a time.

## **Qualifications for School Board Elections**

Any elector qualified to vote in a municipal election is qualified to vote during school board election. However, there are additional qualifications to be eligible to vote for an African Nova Scotian or Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) member of the school board.

To qualify to vote for the African Nova Scotian member of the school board electors must be African Nova Scotian or a parent/guardian of an African Nova Scotian child. At the polling station the qualified elector must request the African Nova Scotian ballot.

An entitled person to vote for the CSAP member of the school board is a person:

- who is a Canadian Citizen and,
- whose language first learned and still understood is French, or
- who received his or her primary school instruction in Canada in a French-first-language program, or
- of whom any child has received or is receiving primary or secondary school instruction in Canada in a French-first-language program.
- for clarity, a French-first-language program is a school program in which the first language of instruction is French and in which English is taught, but does not include a French immersion program.

At the polling station the qualified elector must request the CSAP ballot.

An elector may only vote in one of the school board elections: Regional, African Nova Scotian or CSAP.

## List of Electors

A list of qualified electors is determined by obtaining the most recent Provincial Electoral List from Elections Nova Scotia. The first list is called the Preliminary List. During an election there is a revising period for the Preliminary Electoral List, during which electors names can be added, removed or corrected. Changes to the list can be made by telephone, fax, email or in person. **It is the elector's responsibility to notify of needed revisions.**

After the revision period an Amended List of Electors is created. The Amended List of Electors must be complete before the nomination period begins, as the list is given to those who have officially been nominated for the purpose of campaigning. The Amended List of Electors is confidential except for election purposes and shall not be open for inspection, disposed of or sold.

If a qualified elector is not on the Amended List of Electors they can still be added until the third day before the first advance poll by contacting the Returning Officer. In addition, qualified electors who are not on the Amended List of Electors can be added to the list on the advance or ordinary poll days at the polling stations. The elector must complete the appropriate oath or affirmation the presence of the Deputy Returning Officer and will be asked for their name, address and birthdate.

A Final List of Electors will be completed after the election by adding the names added the polls to the Amended List. The Final List is what will be used until a new Preliminary list is created and a copy will also be given to Elections Nova Scotia.