

# GUIDE FOR MOBILE VOTING

Supportive Living, Long Term Care, and Hospitals



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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:

- A treatment centre that provides medical treatment or care on an in-patient basis (such as a hospital or nursing home); or
- A supportive living or long-term care facility (such as a seniors' lodge or assisted living facility).

Mobile voting is established by the returning officer in each eligible facility, after consultation with the facility representatives. A mobile voting station may only be established in facilities with ten or more electors who are receiving 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 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, in-patient or receiving services within the facility where a mobile voting station has been established are eligible to vote. They will be deemed to be 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.

Electors in a treatment centre (i.e., hospital) must be considered, in the opinion of facility representatives, to be well enough to vote. It is important that this determination is made by facility representatives and not by election officers or scrutineers.

Staff working at supportive living facilities, long-term care facilities, or treatment centres are not eligible to vote during the mobile voting process as they are not ordinary residents of the facility.



## **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 the facility or are in-patients at a treatment centre. Once the mobile voting process is completed, the facility representative will sign the voting record to indicate that the persons that 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 that may be interested in working these positions. This option may be preferred in some locations, as it ensures that the staff are familiar with the residents, which may reduce stress on the residents 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 staff of the facility, 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 together 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 are in-patients or resident 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 during Mobile Voting

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 in-patients of the facility.

## How Does the Mobile Vote Process Work?

In the case of supportive living or long-term care facilities, electors whose names appear in the voting record will be provided with a ballot. If their name does not appear on the list of electors, they will be asked to sign the *Mobile Voting Declaration* (see [Appendix 1](#)) prior to being added to the voting record. Returning officers will work with facility representatives in the months prior to the election to obtain a list of eligible electors that reside at the facility to reduce the number of electors that need to complete the Mobile Vote Declaration.

In the case of treatment centers, all electors will be asked to sign the Mobile Vote Declaration to be added to the voting record. A ballot will be provided to the elector once the declaration has been signed.

In treatment centres, the voting station generally travels from room to room. In supportive living or long-term care facilities, the voting station may be established in a central location, or it may also travel from room to room.



# 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](http://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 Resident for Electors Living in Supportive Living or Long-Term Care* (see [Appendix 2](#)) is also available for facility representatives to complete on behalf of electors residing or receiving services in their facility to use in lieu of ID. Forms are available online at [www.elections.ab.ca/voters/id-required-to-vote/](http://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.

## Establishing an Advance Voting Location in the Facility

Advance voting takes place the week before Election Day, from Tuesday through Saturday, between 9:00 am and 8:00 pm. Some locations are open all 5-days, while others operate on fewer days and/or alternate hours. Advance voting locations are often established in malls, community centres, libraries, universities, and other public buildings to provide electors with locations that are convenient to where they live, work, shop, or travel.

Advance voting locations offer “Vote Anywhere” service to electors. This allows electors to vote from any advance voting location throughout Alberta, for their local candidates.

As staff working in facilities are not eligible to vote at a mobile voting station, some facilities may wish to host an advance voting place, allowing staff, visitors, and the community with an accessible voting option.



For a facility to be used as an advance vote location, the facility is required to be accessible by the general public during the hours designated by the returning officer, to facilitate the voting process for any elector who may wish to vote. Facilities interested in offering advance voting should speak with the returning officer further about this option.





# 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 Living in Supportive Living or Long-Term Care

Available for download at [www.elections.ab.ca/voters/id-required-to-vote](http://www.elections.ab.ca/voters/id-required-to-vote)



**E-22-707**  
Election Act

**ATTESTATION OF IDENTITY AND ORDINARY RESIDENCE  
FOR ELECTOR LIVING IN SUPPORTIVE LIVING OR LONG-TERM CARE**

Electoral Division \_\_\_\_\_ Voting Area No. \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE COMPLETE BOTH SECTIONS BELOW**

**SECTION 1**  
*To be completed by the elector living in supportive living or long-term care*

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 at the supportive living or long-term care facility*

I, the undersigned, am an authorized representative of \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of facility)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(address) (city/town/village) (postal code)

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
(name and job title of authorized representative) (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.





**Suite 100, 11510 Kingsway NW  
Edmonton, Alberta T5G 2Y5**

**Toll Free: 310-0000 | Phone: 1-877-422-VOTE (8683)  
[www.elections.ab.ca](http://www.elections.ab.ca) | [info@elections.ab.ca](mailto:info@elections.ab.ca)**

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