



Accessible Voting

Additional Information for Media

Elections Alberta strives to make voting easy and accessible for all electors by providing barrier-free access to voting places and returning offices, providing and allowing accessibility tools onsite, and offering translated information about the election.

Efforts are taken to ensure that as many voting locations as possible meet Elections Alberta's barrier-free criteria. This includes ensuring accessible parking is available, pathways and ramps are at least 36" wide, easy open devices on doorways, obstacle-free hallways, and more.

Accessibility information is included on all *Where to Vote Cards* and online at map.elections.ab.ca. If voting places do not meet this barrier-free criteria, electors may also vote at advance voting locations that provide better accessibility, vote at their local returning office on any day of the election period, or request a special ballot by mail.

Voter Assist Terminals will be available at select advance voting locations. Voting locations that are equipped with this technology will be advertised on *Where to Vote Cards* and online at map.elections.ab.ca. These machines assist electors who require assistance with reading or marking their ballot. They include features including LCD touch screens with high contrast mode and zoom features, rubber-textured directional hardware arrows and buttons with Braille text, audio jack with headphones for audio ballot instructions, rocker paddle and an ADA dual switch access port compatible with assistive devices such as sip-and-puff.

Statistics

	Number of Voting Places (Election Day + Advance)	% of Voting Places that met Barrier-Free Requirements	Number of Locations Equipped with Voter Assist Terminals
2019	1,663	96%	0
2023	1,555	98%	97 (Advance Voting)

Assets and Resources

- Watch the explainer video: [How Everyone Can Vote in Alberta](#)
- For more information about how we make voting accessible and the list of voting places equipped with a voter assist terminal, visit elections.ab.ca/accessibility
- Photo and video assets of the voter assist terminal will be available starting the week of May 8.

Commonly Asked Questions

What assistive devices are available at voting locations?

Voting places are equipped with large-print ballot posters, Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) magnifying sheets, and voter templates. These assistive devices help electors requiring visual support to vote independently.

Can electors bring their own assistive tools to a voting place?

Elections Alberta encourages electors to bring their own assistive tools if it does not disrupt other voters or the secrecy of the vote. For example, electors can use their cell phone camera to provide light or magnification, or other supportive applications on their device that can provide specific assistance.

Can an elector receive assistance from another person?

Electors that need help to read or mark their ballot may be assisted by the election workers at the voting location or may bring a friend or family member to assist them. All persons providing assistance must take an oath that they will mark the ballot as directed by the elector and maintain the secrecy of the elector's choice.

What language support is provided?

Elections Alberta provides translated information on the voting process, eligibility to vote, how to mark a ballot, and voting options in 27 languages. Visit www.elections.ab.ca/voters/assistance-in-your-language/ to access translated voting guides. These guides as well as elector eligibility posters and instructions on how to vote are available at all voting places in the 27 languages.

Where specific translations cannot be offered, the local community can provide support. When the election worker at the voting place speaks another language they can translate for the elector, or an elector may wish to bring another person to the voting place to translate for them.

Who can benefit from the voter assist terminal?

The voter assist terminal can enable an elector who is unable or has challenges reading or marking the ballot to vote independently. With the various features available, the voter assist terminal may be useful for electors that need the following features:

- **Ballot zoom / contrast:** The ballot is displayed on the screen and can be viewed as low- or high-contrast and the elector can zoom in on candidate names. This feature may benefit electors requiring visual assistance.
- **Ballot marking:** The voter assist terminal marks the elector's selection on the ballot. This feature may benefit electors requiring visual assistance or who have difficulties holding a ballot marking device, such as a marker or pencil.
- **Audio Instructions:** Audio instructions using the headphones can be used in conjunction with the ballot on the screen or with the screen off. The audio instructions walk the elector through how to use the voter assist terminal and read the names on the ballot. This feature may benefit electors with no- or low- vision or those unable to read the ballot.
- **Keypad with Braille / Rocker Paddle input:** In addition to the touchscreen electors may interact with the machine using the keypad equipped with braille buttons on the rocker paddle. These provide additional options for electors with no- or low-vision or limited mobility.
- **Sip-n-Puff compatible:** Electors with a sip-n-puff device can bring their device, which can be used as an input device for the voter assist terminal.