

news release



chief electoral office

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ELECTIONS ALBERTA: YOUR “ONE-STOP SHOP”

EDMONTON - Chief Electoral Officer, O. Brian Fjeldheim, has announced expanded communications measures to provide Alberta’s electors with all the information needed to vote in the April 23, 2012 provincial election. “Elections Alberta is a one-stop shop for all election information,” said Fjeldheim.

“We have continued to expand the ways in which we serve Albertans”, he added. “Through the creative use of new technology, we are positioned to offer the most robust range of service delivery options in our history”.

Electors may obtain necessary information online, in person, by mail, by phone, through radio broadcasts, by newspaper, and via social media.

The website www.elections.ab.ca contains a wide range of resources, to assist electors in:

- identifying their new electoral division,
- determining voting days and voting options,
- obtaining information on elector eligibility,
- registering to vote,
- locating their polling place,
- identifying authorized identification, for those not on the List of Electors,
- applying for a Special Ballot, for those unable to vote at the advance polls or on election day,
- answering common questions, and
- viewing real-time unofficial results when the polls close on election day.

To facilitate voter participation, considerable efforts have been made to address accessibility issues raised by various groups including post-secondary students, Band offices on reserves, the military, snowbirds, homeless, inmates and those in temporary work camps.

Additional resources and voting instructions have been translated into several languages for those whose first language is not English.

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Residences across the province received general information by mail last week. In addition, “Where to Vote” cards are being sent this week to all available residential addresses.

Election workers are still needed for work on April 23 in many parts of the province. Electors are encouraged to contact www.elections.ab.ca or 780-422-8683 (or 1-877-422-8683) to apply.

For more information, please read the attached Backgrounder or visit www.elections.ab.ca.

Elections Alberta is an independent office of the Legislative Assembly that provides non-political administration of the electoral process.

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For media inquiries please contact:

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BACKGROUND: Chief Electoral Officer: “One Stop Shop”

During the election period, relevant information will be shared through a wide array of communication channels to effectively serve electors, while respecting their preferences for information delivery. Electors will be served through more communications channels than ever before.

Online (www.elections.ab.ca) resources will include:

- Returning Officers' contact information
- Employment application for election day positions
- Special Ballot applications
- Key dates in the election period
- Interactive Where-Do-I-Vote? and Am-I-Registered? functionality
- Voting options and locations
- Common questions
- Candidates listing
- Links to political parties
- Third party advertising requirements
- Requirements and restrictions on the broadcast of surveys
- Election day poll-by-poll unofficial results, in real time

In addition, online advertisements will appear on various websites to notify Albertans of the upcoming election.

By mail:

- Residences in the province will receive general election information early in the election period
- Residential addresses on file with Elections Alberta will receive a where-to-vote card prior to the opening of the advance polls

In newspapers:

- Advertisements will provide key dates and voting options early in the election period
- Advertisements will feature electoral division maps and a listing of polling places prior to the opening of the advance polls
- Advertisements will feature a listing of candidates, official agents and contact information for campaign offices prior to the opening of the advance polls

By telephone and email:

- The call centre and email response centre will be open from 8 am to 8 pm on weekdays and 9 am to 4 pm on weekends, and will offer extended hours on voting days (8 am to 8 pm)
- The call centre is available through 780-422-VOTE (8683) and 1-877-422-VOTE (8683), outside of the Edmonton calling area

In person:

- Returning Officers' offices will be available throughout the province to assist candidates and electors
- Returning Officers' offices will be open from 9 am to 6 pm on weekdays and 10 am to 4 pm on Saturdays, and will offer extended hours of service through the advance polls and on election day (9 am to 8 pm)

By radio broadcasts:

- Radio advertisements will notify Albertans of voting days and voting options and will provide sources of additional information

Via social media:

- Twitter will be used to share timely and useful information (@ElectionsAB)

In addition, resources are available online for political parties and candidates:

- Registration information for constituency associations (on the new electoral division boundaries)
- Registration information for candidates
- Receipt application for candidates
- Maps of new electoral divisions which came into effect upon the issuance of the writs of election

Resources are available to help political entities fulfill their statutory responsibilities:

- A Guide to the Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act
- A Guide for Candidates on the Election Act
- A Guide for Scrutineers
- A Guide for Candidates and Chief Financial Officers on the Senatorial Selection Act
- A Guide for Contributors

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