

# Special Ballot Voting

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**\* All times listed in this pamphlet are in  
Newfoundland Standard Time**

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## **Elections Newfoundland and Labrador**

A non-partisan office responsible for the conduct of provincial elections and plebiscites.

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## **What is Special Ballot voting?**

Special Ballot voting is a method of voting that allows any qualified elector to vote, beginning as early as four weeks prior to the election call (*Elections Act, 1991, sect. 86*). This is a great option for electors who believe they will have difficulty voting in person at the Advance Poll or on Election Day.

**Special Ballot voting begins on Tuesday, October 13, 2015.**

**NEW! Voters can now apply for, complete and return Special Ballots at any Special Ballot office in the province! Simply fill out an application, mark a ballot for your home district and drop it off at whichever Special Ballot office is most convenient for you.**

## Who is eligible to vote by Special Ballot?

Any person who is 18 years of age, a Canadian citizen and a resident of Newfoundland and Labrador can vote by Special Ballot. Examples include (but are not limited to):

- electors who believe they will be unable to vote at the advance poll or on polling day;
- students;
- electors temporarily residing outside the Province for a continuous period of less than 6 months; and,
- patients in hospital who will unlikely be released before polling day.

## How can I vote by Special Ballot?

Special Ballot voting can be completed through the mail, or in person:

- at any of the 40 provincial electoral district Returning Offices;
- at Designated Special Ballot Offices established throughout the province; or,
- at Elections Newfoundland and Labrador (ENL) headquarters (39 Hallett Crescent, St. John's).

In order to vote by Special Ballot, an application form must be completed, which must be accompanied by identification providing the elector's name, current address and signature.

Once the application is approved, the elector is issued a “Special Ballot kit”. A Special Ballot kit consists of:

- a list of instructions;
- a series of envelopes designed to provide voting secrecy; and,
- a **blank** Special Ballot.

Ballots used at the advance and regular polls contain candidates’ names and party affiliations. A Special Ballot is **blank** and requires the elector to write or print the name of the candidate, political party or both. This is because Special Ballot voting begins prior to the official nomination of candidates.

## What kind of identification must accompany the application?

Along with a completed application, a Special Ballot applicant must provide proof of his or her identity. The applicant must provide documentation to show his/ her **name, current address and signature.**

Proof of name, current address and signature may be provided using:

- **one document** showing the applicant's name, current address and signature (such as a valid driver's licence);
- a document, such as a utility bill, showing the applicant's address, which the applicant then **signs** (to compare with the signature on the application form);
- a **combination of documents** that, together, show the applicant's name, current address and signature. For example, a bank card (showing

the person's name and signature) plus a television/ phone bill (showing the person's current address);

- confirmation by another person (using a **Guarantor's Form**) to verify the applicant's identity and address in the electoral district they intend to vote in; or,
- a sworn statement (**Affidavit for Identification**) signed before an authorized official (i.e. Commissioner for Oaths/ Justice of the Peace) verifying the applicant's name, current address and signature.

## **Are there deadlines associated with Special Ballot voting?**

Yes, there are important deadlines for applying for Special Ballot voting and for returning your completed Special Ballot to both the district Returning Office and to Elections Newfoundland and Labrador.

The deadline to **apply** for a Special Ballot at your district Returning Office and ENL headquarters is **6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 23, 2015.**

The deadline to **drop off** a completed Special Ballot:

- at any district Returning Office is **4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 24, 2015**
- at ENL Headquarters is **4:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 26, 2015**

All Special Ballots are counted at Elections Newfoundland and Labrador's headquarters just prior to Election Day. The district deadline of Tuesday, November 24 is to ensure the ballots can be delivered from all 40 provincial electoral districts to ENL headquarters by the Thursday, November 26 deadline.

Special Ballot voting at Designated Special Ballot offices ends on **Saturday, November 21, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.**

**It is the responsibility of the elector to meet all established deadlines. Late ballots cannot be accepted.**

**How can an individual who is hospitalized (or who resides in a Personal Care Home) vote?**

On **Thursday, November 19, 2015** ENL will conduct a visit to Personal Care Homes and Hospitals throughout Newfoundland and Labrador to allow people who either reside in these facilities or who are temporarily hospitalized to vote by Special Ballot. If you or someone you know is in such a facility, the opportunity to vote will be available that day.

## **Did you know?**

Once a Special Ballot application has been processed and a Special Ballot kit has been issued, an elector is deemed to have “voted” and can no longer vote at the advance or regular polls.

**Remember, it is the responsibility of the elector to meet all established deadlines. Late ballots cannot be accepted.**

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