

Guide to the *Nunavut Elections Act*



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For information or to obtain
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languages, in paper or electronic
format contact:

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Map of Nunavut's 19 constituencies

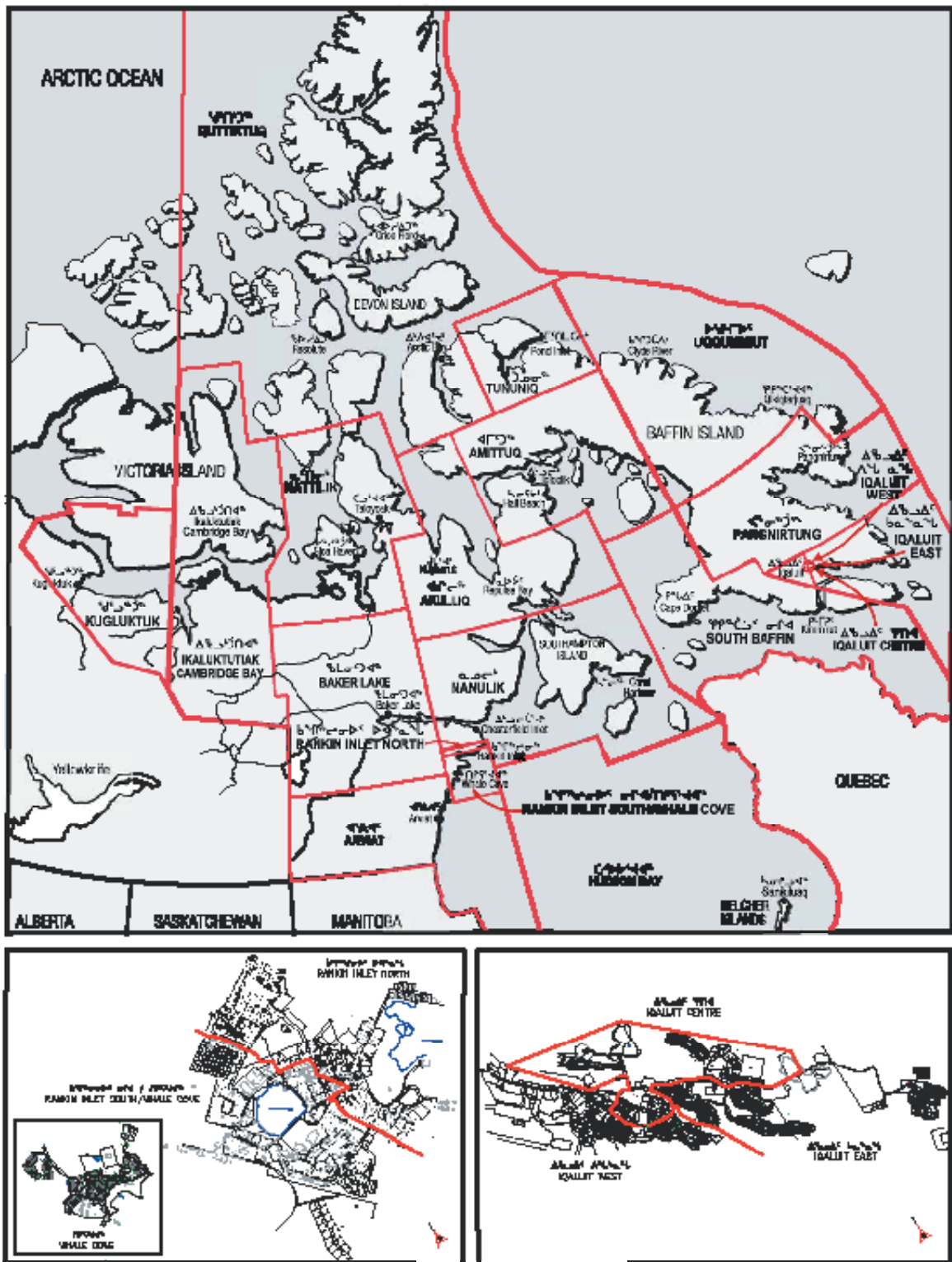


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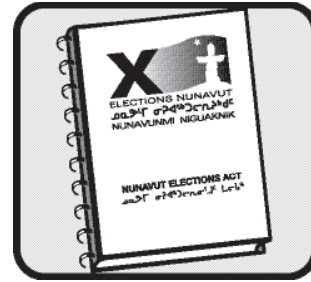
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1) Introduction

This Guide gives you basic information about the *Nunavut Elections Act* - Nunavut's laws about territorial elections. It is not a legal document. Please read the *Act* if you want to know the exact laws.



This Guide gives information for voters and candidates.

Voters or candidates who want more information - please contact the Chief Electoral Officer in Rankin Inlet or your Returning Officer.

See the contact information below and on the next page.

Contact Elections Nunavut

Chief Electoral Officer



Box 39, 43 Sivulliq Ave.
Rankin Inlet, Nunavut X0C0G0



1.800.267.4394



1.800.269.1125



info@elections.nu.ca



www.elections.nu.ca

Returning Officers	
Offices open from September 20 to October 31	
Constituency	Office Contact
Akulliq	Repulse Bay Phone or fax: 462-4025
Amittuq	Igloolik Phone or fax: 934.8140
Arviat	Arviat Phone or fax: 857.4440
Baker Lake	Baker Lake Phone or fax: 793.2051
Cambridge Bay	Cambridge Bay Phone or fax: 983.3052
Hudson Bay	Sanikiluaq Phone or fax: 266.8251
Iqaluit Centre	Iqaluit Phone or fax: 975.1155 OR 975.1177
Iqaluit East	Iqaluit Phone or fax: 975.1155 OR 975.1177
Iqaluit West	Iqaluit Phone or fax: 975.1155 OR 975.1177
Kugluktuk	Kugluktuk Phone or fax: 982.3043

Returning Officers	
Offices open from September 20 to October 31	
Constituency	Office Contact
Nanulik	Coral Harbour Phone or fax: 925.8032
Nattilik	Gjoa Haven Phone or fax: 360.6058
Pangnirtung	Pangnirtung Phone or fax: 473.8105
Quttiktuq	Arctic Bay Phone or fax: 439.8225
Rankin Inlet North	Rankin Inlet Phone or fax: 645.2391
Rankin Inlet South/ Whale Cove	Rankin Inlet Phone or fax: 645.2391
South Baffin	Cape Dorset Phone or fax: 897.8027
Tunnunig	Pond Inlet Phone or fax: 899.8015
Uqqumiut	Qikiqtarjuaq Phone or fax: 927.8342

Common Election Words

Acclamation: A candidate wins by acclamation when they're the only candidate in their constituency. Nobody votes.

Advance vote: A way to vote before Election Day. You vote at the polling station in the afternoon, 7 days before Election Day.

Ballot: The official paper we use to mark our vote. It lists the candidates' names in alphabetical order.

Candidate: An eligible voter who wants to be a member of the Legislative Assembly, and who files a declaration of candidacy that Elections Nunavut accepts.

Campaign: The signs, buttons, ads, speeches, and other things a candidate uses to make people want to vote for them.

Campaign manager: The person who coordinates and looks after a candidate's campaign.

Chief Electoral Officer: The person who looks after everything about territorial elections. The Commissioner of Nunavut appoints this person to oversee the *Nunavut Elections Act*. They're the boss of Elections Nunavut.

Constituency: A constituency is a geographic area and the people who live there. Nunavut has 19 constituencies. The people in each constituency elect a Member of the Legislative Assembly. See the map at the front of this Guide.

Contribution: Money, goods, or services a person or business gives to a candidate's campaign.

Counterfoil: The extra tab on a ballot. The Deputy Returning Officer rips it off just before the ballot goes in the ballot box.

Declaration of candidacy: The form a person fills out to say they want to be a candidate - they want a chance to be elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA). They must be eligible and give a \$200 deposit.

Deputy Returning Officer: The election officer in charge of a polling station. Deputy Returning Officers make sure voters and candidates follow the laws. They give out the ballots and count them.

Elect: To choose a person by voting. During a territorial election we elect our Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs).

Election: In a territorial election voters mark a secret ballot to choose a candidate to be a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA).

Elections Nunavut: The office and staff of the Chief Electoral Officer. These people run and organize territorial elections.

Election Officer: A person who works for an election. Election Officers include Returning Officers, Assistant Returning Officers, Deputy Returning Officers, and Poll Clerks.

Election period: The official time when election things happen. It starts with the writ and ends on Election Day. It lasts 35 days.

Election notice: The election notice shows the name and contact information for each candidate in a constituency, their financial agent, and campaign manager. The Chief Electoral Officer sends out the election notice 30 days before Election Day.

Financial agent: The person who handles all the money for a candidate's campaign. The financial agent takes contributions and pays all the expenses.

Legislative Assembly: The people we elect to form our government and make laws. Nunavut has 19 members in their Legislative Assembly.

Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs): The people that get elected during an election. The people that form the Government of Nunavut.

Mobile poll: A way to vote if you physically can't get out to vote. The poll comes to you.

Nunavut Elections Act: The law Nunavummiut use to organize and run a territorial election.

Poll Clerk: An election officer who works at a polling station with the Deputy Returning Officer. Poll Clerks look after the polling record.

Polling record: A list of everyone who voted at the polling station, any changes to the voters list, and everything that happens during voting.

Polling station: The place we go to vote on Election Day and for the advance vote.

Proxy vote: A voter gets another voter to vote for them. You apply to the Returning Officer to get a proxy certificate. You can only vote by proxy if: 1) You're suddenly called away from your community; 2) You can't vote on Election Day; and 3) You can't vote any other way.

Returning Officer: The Election Officer in charge of a constituency. Returning Officers appoint Registration Clerks and other election officers: an Assistant Returning Officer, and a Deputy Returning Officer and Poll Clerk for each polling station. Returning Officers oversee everything about the election in their constituency.

Special ballot: A way to vote if you're away at school, in hospital, on holiday, at a treatment centre, or in jail. Other people who need or want to vote by mail can also use a special ballot. You must apply to your Returning Officer or the Chief Electoral Officer to get a special ballot.

Territorial election: The time we elect members to the Nunavut Legislative Assembly. A **general election** is when we elect a member in all 19 constituencies. A **by-election** is when we elect a new member in one constituency.

Vote: In a territorial election you mark a secret ballot when you vote. You choose the candidate you want to elect to the Legislative Assembly.

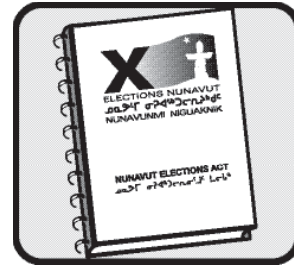
Writ: The official notice to say there is an election. The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) sends it to each Returning Officer (RO). Each RO posts the writ in their office.

The Commissioner sends a proclamation to the CEO and asks her to send the writ.

The **return of the writ** is the back side of the writ. It shows who won the election. The RO fills it out and sends it to the CEO after Election Day. If a candidate wins by acclamation the RO fills out the return of the writ right away.

2) Election Basics

What is the *Nunavut Elections Act*?



The *Nunavut Elections Act* is the law we follow to elect Members to the Legislative Assembly (MLAs).

Nunavummiut have the right to vote and help decide who forms the territorial government.

The principles of the *Nunavut Elections Act* are to:

- Encourage people to vote.
- Make it easy for voters to vote if they want to.
- Remove barriers for people who want to be candidates.
- Help the public be more aware about elections.
- Write public information in all Nunavut's official languages.
- Cooperate with others - such as people who run other elections in Nunavut - to share information, learn, train staff, and deliver better election services.
- Run an effective, efficient election.
- Respect the geography, languages, and other unique things about Nunavut.
- Evaluate the election process and make sure it meets the needs of Nunavummiut.

What is a constituency?

A constituency is a geographic area and the people who live there. Nunavut is divided into 19 constituencies. Look at the map at the front of this Guide. Voters in each constituency elect one Member of the Legislative Assembly.

Some constituencies have one community. Some have two or three. Because they have more voters, Iqaluit has three constituencies and Rankin Inlet has two.

What is a territorial election?

A territorial election is when Nunavummiut voters elect Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs). The 19 MLAs form the Government of Nunavut and make laws.

There are two kinds of territorial elections:

1. General election.
2. By-election.

We have a general election every 4 to 5 years to elect an MLA in each constituency. All eligible Nunavummiut voters can vote in a general election.

We have a by-election if an MLA leaves their job before the next general election. The eligible voters in that constituency elect a new member for the constituency. Only voters in that constituency can vote in a by-election.

Where do people go to vote?

Nunavummiut go to a polling station to vote. Each community has at least one. Look for an Elections Nunavut sign on the outside of the building.

Communities with more people have two or three polling stations - all in the same building. Elections Nunavut uses the first letter in your last name to make groups of 500 to 550 voters for each polling station. For example, if there are 2 polling stations - one is for people whose last name starts with A to L; and the second is for people whose last name starts with M to Z.

Rankin Inlet has four polling stations - two polling stations for each of their two constituencies. Iqaluit has six polling stations - two polling stations for each of their three constituencies.

Number of Election Day Polling Stations		
Constituency	Community	# Polling Stations
Akulliq	Kugaaruk	1
	Repulse Bay	1
Amittuq	Hall Beach	1
	Igloolik	2
Arviat	Arviat	2
Baker Lake	Baker Lake	2
Cambridge Bay	Cambridge Bay	2
Hudson Bay	Sanikiluaq	1
Iqaluit Centre	Iqaluit - centre part	2

Number of Election Day Polling Stations		
Constituency	Community	# Polling Stations
Iqaluit East	Iqaluit - east part	2
Iqaluit West	Iqaluit - west part	2
Kugluktuk	Kugluktuk	2
Nanulik	Coral harbour	1
	Chesterfield Inlet	1
Nattilik	Gjoa Haven	1
	Taloyoak	1
Pangnirtung	Pangnirtung	2
Quttiktuq	Arctic Bay	1
	Grise Fiord	1
	Resolute	1
Rankin Inlet North	Rankin Inlet - north part	2
Rankin Inlet South - Whale Cove	Rankin Inlet - south part	2
	Whale Cove	1
South Baffin	Cape Dorset	2
	Kimmirut	1
Tununiq	Pond Inlet	2
Uqqummiut	Clyde River	1
	Qikiqtarjuaq	1

3) Elections Nunavut

Elections Nunavut is the people that work to make an election happen. They:

- Organize everything for candidates and voters.
- Follow the *Nunavut Elections Act*.
- Make sure that everyone has a chance to participate and vote and the election is fair.



When the Commissioner calls an election Elections Nunavut has a lot to do and not very much time to do it.

Elections Nunavut includes:

- Chief Electoral Officer and her staff people in Rankin Inlet.
- Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers.
- Deputy Returning Officers and Poll Clerks.
- Registration Clerks.

Who is the Chief Electoral Officer? What does she do?

Sandy Kusugak is the Chief Electoral Officer now. She has an office and staff in Rankin Inlet.

The Chief Electoral Officer is the boss. She looks after everything about Nunavut's elections. She makes sure everyone follows the *Nunavut Elections Act*.

The Commissioner of Nunavut appoints the Chief Electoral Officer. The Legislative Assembly recommends who the Commissioner should appoint. Each Chief Electoral Officer has their job for seven years and the Commissioner can appoint the same person again.

Who are the election officers?

Election officers are people who work for Elections Nunavut during an election. They include Returning Officers, Assistant Returning Officers, Deputy Returning Officers, and Poll Clerks. You have to be an eligible voter to be an election officer.

Elections Nunavut also appoints Registration Clerks to help with voter registration. You do not have to be an eligible voter to be a Registration Clerk.

Election officers need to be impartial. They need to treat all candidates and voters the same and not show they like one candidate better than another. They can't give money, goods, or services to any candidate's campaign.

Election officers need to be fair. They must respect election laws and the rights of voters and candidates. Voters and candidates need to be able to trust them.

A person can't be an elections officer if they are:

- A candidate, financial agent, or campaign manager.
- An MLA or a member of the last Legislative Assembly.
- A member of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada.
- A member of the House of Commons or Senate.
- An MLA in another territory or a province.
- A mayor or municipal councillor.

- A judge.
- A convicted criminal under any elections law in Canada or under the Criminal Code of Canada for a crime related to elections.

What do Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers do?

The Chief Electoral Officer appoints 19 Returning Officers - one for each constituency. The Returning Officer (RO) is in charge of their constituency. They organize everything for voters and candidates in the constituency.

Each RO appoints an Assistant RO (ARO). They can't appoint a family member. The RO and ARO have an office in one community in the constituency.

If a constituency has more than one community the RO appoints an ARO for the separate community. That ARO organizes things for voters and candidates in that community.

The AROs act as the Deputy Returning Officer for the mobile poll and advance vote. At the Election Day poll they oversee voter registration and voting.

What do Deputy Returning Officers and Poll Clerks do?

The Deputy Returning Officer runs the polling station - the place people vote. The Returning Officer appoints the Deputy Returning Officers for their constituency.

On Election Day you see a Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) and Poll Clerk at each polling station. The DRO handles the ballots. They make sure everyone follows the laws. They help make sure the election is fair and that eligible voters have a chance to vote.

The Poll Clerk looks after the polling record - the list of everyone who votes.

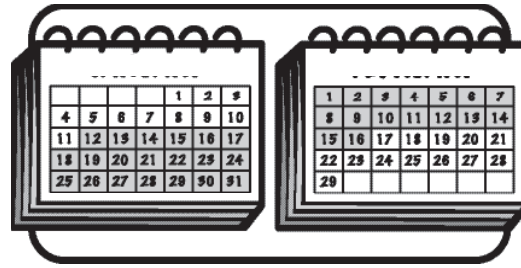
What do Registration Clerks do?

Registration Clerks help make sure the voters list is complete and accurate. They fill out a form to:

- Register voters whose name is not on the voters list.
- Change or correct voter information for voters whose name is already on the list. For example changing the address when a voter moves.

The Returning Officer or Assistant Returning Officer appoints a Registration Clerk to help on Election Day at the polling station. The Returning Officer may also appoint a Registration Clerk between elections to help register voters.

4) The Election Period



What is the election period?

The election period starts 35 days before Election Day and ends on Election Day. During the election period certain things must happen on certain days. Voters, candidates, and election officers must follow the laws and meet some strict deadlines.

See the election period calendar on the next page.

The election period starts with the writ. The writ is the official paper that says there will be an election. It shows the date the election period starts, Election Day, and the date for the return of the writ.

The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) sends the writ to each Returning Officer (RO). The RO posts the writ in their office until the end of the election period. They complete the return of the writ and send it to the CEO. The return of the writ shows who won the election.

During the election period candidates put up signs, give speeches, and do other things to convince people to vote for them.

Election Period Calendar	
Important Days	What happens on that day?
Sept. 22/08	Chief Electoral Officer sends the writ to each Returning Officer (RO). The ROs post it in their office.
Sept. 22/08	Preliminary voters list goes to each constituency.
Sept. 22/08	First day a person can file a declaration of candidacy.
Sept. 23/08	Elections Nunavut sends a Voter Information Card to every voter on the preliminary list.
Sept. 26/08	Last day to file a declaration of candidacy or write a letter to withdraw.
Sept. 27/08	Chief Electoral Officer sends out the election notice to each Returning Officer and candidate.
Sept. 29/08	Last day people can suggest changes to the preliminary voters list.
Oct. 4/08	Chief Electoral Officer sends the official voters list to each Returning Officer and candidate.
Oct. 13/08	First day voters can vote at the Returning Officer's office.
Oct. 20/08	Mobile poll in each community: 9 am to 11:30 am
Oct. 20/08	Advance vote in each community: noon to 7 pm.
Oct. 22/08	First day voters can get a proxy certificate.

Election Period Calendar	
Important Days	What happens on that day?
Oct. 23/08	Last day voters can vote at the Returning Officer's office.
Oct. 24/08	Elections Nunavut must receive all special ballots by 5 pm or the votes don't count.
Oct. 26 & 27/08	No campaign ads or speeches: TV, radio, internet, newspaper.
Oct. 27/08	Election Day. Polling stations open: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Central time zone: 9 am to 7 pm. ➤ Eastern time zone: 10 am to 8 pm. ➤ Mountain time zone: 8 am to 6 pm.
Oct. 27/08	3 pm local time - deadline for voters to apply for a proxy certificate.

Post Election Period Calendar	
Important Days	What happens on that day?
10 days after Election Day	Candidates must remove all campaign materials.
60 days after Election Day	Candidates and financial agents must complete and file the campaign financial return.

5) Candidates



Who is a candidate?

A candidate is a person who wants to be elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA). Each constituency usually has two or more candidates. The candidate who gets the most votes wins.

If a constituency has only one candidate people don't vote. The candidate wins by acclamation.

Who can be a candidate?

You can be a candidate if you are:

- An eligible voter. See the section about voters for details.
- Not disqualified.
- **By-election only: Must live in the constituency on the date of the writ.**

You are disqualified if - on the day you file the declaration of candidacy - you:

- Are a member of the House of Commons, Senate, or legislature of another territory or province.
- Are a judge, except in a citizenship court.
- Work for Elections Nunavut.
- Work for the Government of Nunavut and the Public Service Act says you can't.
- Don't live in Nunavut.
- Were a candidate or financial agent in the last election and didn't file your campaign financial return on time.

An MLA may leave their seat because they're charged with or convicted of a crime under Nunavut or Canadian laws. They can be a candidate again only after another election - when their constituency elects someone else as the MLA.

Candidates use buttons, brochures, signs, ads on TV and radio, speeches, and special events to encourage voters to vote for them. They travel to the communities in their constituency to meet and talk to voters.

How does a person become a candidate?

To become a candidate a person fills out a form called the declaration of candidacy. They give a \$200 deposit.

To fill out a declaration of candidacy a person needs:

- A financial agent – someone who will sign and swear to look after all the money matters for your campaign. Each candidate must have a financial agent.
- Witnesses for signatures.
- A campaign manager, if you want one - someone to coordinate your campaign. A candidate doesn't have to have a campaign manager, but it's usually a good idea.

People must file their declaration of candidacy with the Returning Officer. The first day you can file is 35 days before Election Day. The last day to file is 31 days before Election Day. When they file, they pay the \$200 deposit. They may also provide a digital photo if they want.

Elections Nunavut uses the photos to make a poster that shows all the candidates. The Deputy Returning Officer puts up the poster at the polling station to help people know who they're voting for.

How do candidates get money for their campaign?

It takes money to run a campaign. The *Nunavut Elections Act* has rules about who can contribute to a campaign and how much they can contribute.

Who can contribute to a campaign?

- Any person who lives in Nunavut.
- Any company that does business in Nunavut.
- Any organization that works in Nunavut.

How much can they contribute to a campaign?

- A person, business, or organization can give up to \$2500 to each candidate in each election. An organization has to list the people who give money for their contribution.
- A person, business, or organization must give their name and address, unless they contribute less than \$100. If they contribute less than \$100 they can choose to give their name or not.
- A person, business, or organization has the right to get a tax receipt for their contribution - so long as they give their name. If you make a contribution and give your name ask for a tax receipt.

What about the candidate?

- A candidate can use up to \$30,000 of their own money.
- A candidate can get a tax receipt for the amount they contribute to a maximum of \$2500. If they contribute more than \$2500 they get a tax receipt for \$2500. If they contribute less than \$2500 they get a tax receipt for the amount they contribute.

What other rules in the *Nunavut Elections Act* apply to contributions?

- Total campaign contributions can't be more than \$30,000. This includes all contributions from the candidate and the people, businesses, and organizations that contribute.
- People can contribute only during the election period - from 35 days before Election Day to Election Day.
- People contribute only to an official candidate's campaign. The money belongs to the campaign, not to the candidate or financial agent.
- People give money only to the candidate's financial agent or someone they authorize, not to the candidate. If you write a cheque you need to make it out to: 'The campaign to elect _____'.

6) Voters



Who can vote?

You're eligible to vote if you are:

- A Canadian citizen.
- 18 years or older on Election Day.
- A Nunavut resident for at least one year on Election Day.
- **By-election only includes: A resident in the constituency when the CEO issues the writ.**

You're not eligible to vote if you:

- Have a court order that says you don't understand your actions - you can't decide things for yourself. OR
- Broke the laws under the Criminal Code and you're in a place for people with mental illness. OR
- Broke an election law somewhere in Canada in the last five years and were convicted.

What does 'Nunavut resident' mean in the *Nunavut Elections Act* ?

The *Nunavut Elections Act* says if you're away at school, in hospital, or in jail you can vote if you still call Nunavut your home. You vote in the constituency you call home.

Voters that move to a different community in the same constituency vote in their new home community. Voters that move outside Nunavut for a permanent job are not residents.

Each voter can only vote once. If a voter has two homes in different places they vote where they live more than six months of the year.

7) Voter Registration



Voters register with Elections Nunavut to get their name on the voters list. Elections Nunavut holds voter registration activities between elections to keep the list up to date and accurate.

Voters can also register when they go to vote if their name isn't on the voters list.

Elections Nunavut uses two forms to register voters:

- Voter registration form.
- Change and correct form.

Eligible voters fill out and sign the voter registration form if their name is not on the voters list. Voters fill out and sign the change and correct form if their name is on the list and the voter information needs to change. For example:

- When a voter moves from one community to another in the same constituency or to a different house in the same community.
- When a voter moves to a community in a different constituency.
- If a voter's name or address isn't spelled correctly.
- If a voter changes their name.

Elections Nunavut has voter registration and change and correct forms that voters can fill out themselves, sign, and fax to the Chief Electoral Officer. Voters can call or email Elections Nunavut to get a voter registration form or to update their voter information.

During registration activities and on Election Day the Registration Clerk fills out the form and the voter signs.

To fill out the forms voters need to know their house and lot number or civic address, as well as their mailing address. You may need to provide ID if the election officer doesn't personally know you or to show your civic or mailing address.

If you need to show ID you must provide:

- One piece of ID that shows your name, current address, and signature.

Examples:

- ✓ Driver's licence.
- ✓ Vehicle registration.
- ✓ Government of Nunavut General ID Card.

OR

- Two pieces of ID: One that shows your name and signature and one that shows your name and address.

Examples of ID with your name and signature:

- ✓ Enrolment card - Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
- ✓ Health insurance card.
- ✓ Passport.
- ✓ Citizenship card.
- ✓ Old age security card.
- ✓ Social insurance card.
- ✓ Bank card or credit card.
- ✓ Library card.
- ✓ Student card.

Examples of ID that shows your name and address:

- ✓ Phone or other bill.
- ✓ Car insurance.
- ✓ Magazine or other mail with a label.

8) The Voters List



What is the voters list?

Elections Nunavut makes a list of all Nunavummiut who have the right to vote. It is a list of all registered voters. The voters list has your name, mailing address, and civic address - your house and lot number.

Elections Nunavut uses the voters list to keep track of who voted during an election. They only use the voters list during elections and keep the information on it very safe. No one uses the voters list for jury duty.

The voters list has three stages:

- 1) Preliminary voters list.
- 2) Official voters list.
- 3) Final voters list.

What is the preliminary voters list?

Elections Nunavut produces the preliminary voters list first - 34 days before Election Day. It is a list of all registered voters on that day. Elections Nunavut sends a preliminary voters list to each constituency.

The Returning Officer has the preliminary voters list for their constituency at their office. Voters check the list to see if their name is on it and their address is correct. Elections Nunavut can add a name or change information on the preliminary voters list until 28 days before Election Day.

What is the Voter Information Card?

All voters on the preliminary voters list get a Voter Information Card. This card shows:

- Your name and address.
- Your constituency.
- Where and when to vote on Election Day.
- Where and when to vote in the advance vote.
- Other ways to vote if you can't vote on Election Day.
- A toll-free phone number to call for more information.

It's very important that voters check their Voter Information Card to see if the information is correct. Call the Returning Officer or Elections Nunavut to change the information.

Keep the Voter Information Card and take it with you when you go to vote. It makes voting much easier and faster.

ELECTIONS NUNAVUT
NUNAVUNMI NIGUAKNIK

Chief Electoral Officer

43 Sivulliq Ave.
Box 39
Rankin Inlet, NU
X0C 0G0

1-800-267-4394
1-800-269-1125
info@elections.nu.ca
www.elections.nu.ca

You're on the voters list.

Nunavut General Election.
October 27 Election Day.

Mailing Label

If your name or other information is not correct let your Returning Officer know @ xxx-xxxx

What is the official voters list?

The official voters list is the preliminary list plus any changes and new names up to 28 days before Election Day. The Chief Electoral Officer prepares the official voters list by 23 days before Election Day.

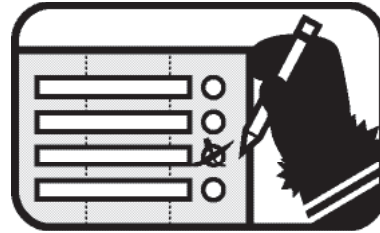
Election officers use the official voters list for the election. If voters want to vote and their name is not on the list they can still register when they vote.

What is the final voters list?

The final voters list is the official voters list plus the names of people who register when they go to vote. The final voters list also has any other changes election officers made during voting.

9) Voting

Voters make a choice when they vote. They mark an X beside the name of the candidate they want to be the Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) for their constituency.



An MLA represents all the people in the constituency. Each vote is important.

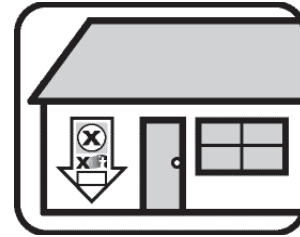
No one can force a person to vote. People have the right to vote and it is their choice to vote or not to vote. It is their choice how they vote.

Voting is secret. Voters don't need to tell anyone how they voted. No one should ask another person who they voted for.

Every voter has the right to have two hours to vote on Election Day. Some people work all the hours the polling station is open. Employers must give these voters up to two hours off work to vote. The employer chooses the time. Voters that work from 9 am to 5 pm don't get time off work to vote.

10) Ways to vote

Each voter can vote only once in a territorial election. Nunavummiut have many different ways to vote.



Every voter who wants to vote can choose a way to vote that suits them.

- Vote at the polling station at the advance vote.
- Vote at the polling station on Election Day.
- Vote at the Returning Officer's office.
- Vote by special mail-in ballot.
- Vote with the mobile poll.

Voters have other ways to vote if they meet certain strict conditions and find at the last minute that they can't vote any other way.

- Vote by proxy.
- Vote by radio or satellite phone.

Vote at the polling station in your community

Each community has at least one polling station for:

- The advance vote - 7 days before Election Day.
- AND
- Election Day.

An Assistant Returning Officer (ARO) oversees voter registration and voting. A Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) and Poll Clerk (PC) run the polling station.

Voters go to the DRO and PC and give their name. If they have a Voter Information Card they give that.

The PC looks for the voter's name on the voters list. If the name is there the PC crosses it off. If the name isn't there the voter can register.

The DRO gives the voter a folded ballot.

The voter:

- Goes to the voting compartment and unfolds the ballot. This keeps the vote secret.
- Finds the name of the candidate they want to vote for and marks 'X' in the circle beside the name.
- Folds the ballot the same way they got it and takes it back to the DRO. The DRO tears off the extra tab called the counterfoil. They give the voter the ballot.
- Puts their ballot in the ballot box. Or the DRO can do it.

Vote at the Returning Officer's office

Voters that live in a community with a Returning Officer's office can vote there. The first day to vote there is 14 days before Election Day. The last day to vote there is 4 days before Election Day.

Voters vote in the usual way during office hours - noon to 7 pm every day. If a voter's name isn't on the voters list, they can register when they vote.

Vote by special mail-in ballot

Voters can vote by special ballot if they're away at school, in hospital, at a treatment centre, on holidays, or in jail. Other voters such as people with a disability can also use a special ballot.

Voters have to apply for a special ballot. Get an application form by phone, fax, internet, or in person from the Returning Officer or Assistant RO, or Chief Electoral Officer.

If the voter's name isn't on the voters list they can register when they apply.

All applications go to the Elections Nunavut office in Rankin Inlet. If they approve the application they send a special ballot kit. The kit has a ballot and instructions how to mail it back.

Elections Nunavut must receive the special ballot before 5 pm local time, three days before Election Day - or the vote doesn't count.

Voters that apply for a special ballot can't vote any other way.

Vote with the mobile poll

The mobile poll is for voters who physically can't leave their home to vote. The poll comes to the voters.

The mobile poll happens seven days before Election Day in the morning. The Assistant Returning Officer operates the mobile poll. They finish the poll by 11:30 am. The Returning Officer organizes the mobile poll and voters should call if they need it.

If a voter's name isn't on the voters list, they can register when they vote.

Vote by proxy

A proxy vote is when a voter gets someone else to vote for them. The person who votes for the voter is the proxy voter. The voter's name and the proxy voter's name both must be on the official voters list in the constituency. A voter can be a proxy voter only once during an election.

Voters can vote by proxy ONLY if they meet three conditions:

- Must suddenly leave their community.
- Can't vote on Election Day.
- Can't vote any other way.

This is how proxy voting happens:

- 1) The voter asks the RO for an Application for a Proxy Certificate. The first day to apply is five days before Election Day. The last day to apply is 3 pm local time Election Day.
- 2) The voter and proxy voter fill out the proxy certificate when the RO sends it. The RO sends a certificate only if they approve the application.
- 3) The proxy voter takes the proxy certificate to the polling station. They give it to the DRO and take an oath. They get two ballots - one for their own vote and one for the proxy vote.

Vote by radio or satellite phone

A voter can vote by radio or satellite phone only if they are in a remote place and meet three conditions:

- Can't get to a polling station on Election Day.
- Can communicate ONLY by radio or SAT phone.
- Had no other way to vote before going to the remote place.

The Returning Officer receives the call. They must have another election officer with them. They need to make sure you are who you say you are. They mark a special ballot for your vote and keep it as secret as possible.

What if a voter needs help? What if a voter can't read?

The DRO can help voters if they need it. Voters can also bring a friend or relative to help. The person that helps has to promise four things:

- Mark the ballot where the voter wants.
- Keep the vote secret.
- Not tell the voter how to vote.
- Haven't helped any other person to vote.

What if a voter has a physical disability and can't get inside the polling station?

If a voter can't get inside the polling station the DRO can go outside the polling station to let a person vote in a place they can get to. The DRO shuts down the polling station for a short time. They bring the poll outside to the place where the voter can vote.

What if a voter needs an interpreter?

Voters can use any official language of Nunavut to vote. Elections Nunavut works hard to appoint election officers that speak the languages people use. But if a voter needs an interpreter the DRO must find one.

Important rules during voting

Rules everyone must follow

Everyone must follow these rules at the polling station:

- No one can use phones, cameras, two-way radios, or other recording or communication devices at the polling station.
- Everyone must turn off their cell phone inside the polling station.
- No one can put any campaign material on the land or building at the polling station.
- No one can wear, use, or show any campaign buttons, ball caps, T-shirts, or other materials at the polling station.
- No one can just stand around within 10 metres of the polling station.

Special rules for voters

Voters must follow these rules during voting:

- Voters must just vote and leave. They can't stay at the polling station and watch the voting.
- Every voter can vote only once in an election.
- No one can force a voter to say who they voted for. Their vote is secret.

Special rules for candidates and their representatives

Candidates and their representatives must not broadcast any campaign ads or speeches on Election Day or the day before. Broadcast includes radio, TV, and internet.

If a candidate has a website they must take off anything that promotes the candidate. They can leave things such as where people go to vote.

Each candidate can have one representative at a time at each polling station, unless the candidate is there. Either a candidate or their representative can be there, not both.

The representative can be any person the candidate appoints. Each representative must bring a consent form to the polling station that the candidate or financial agent signed.

A candidate or their representatives may watch the voting and they:

- Must always respect and stay out of the way of voters and election officers.
- May take information from the polling record during voting and pass it on.
- MUST go outside the polling station to receive calls or to phone someone to pass on information.
- May arrive at the polling station 15 minutes before it opens - to watch the election officers count and initial the ballots; and inspect the ballots and other official papers for the poll.
- May question a voter's identity, even if the voter's name is on the voters list. The voter must show their ID and take an oath or affirmation.
- May watch the Deputy Returning Officer count the ballots.
- May disagree when the Deputy Returning Officer accepts or rejects a ballot.

11) Who won the election



To find out who won the election we count all the ballots in each constituency:

- Ballots from the advance vote.
- Ballots from the mobile poll.
- Special ballots.
- Ballots from the Returning Officer's office.
- Ballots from each polling station on Election Day.

How do we count the ballots?

Each polling station counts their ballots. The Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) is the only person who handles the ballots. The Poll Clerk keeps count on a tally sheet.

Candidates or their representatives can watch and keep count too. If they aren't there, two voters need to watch the DRO count the ballots.

The DRO opens the ballot box and dumps the ballots on the table. They open each ballot and show it to everyone. They say how the ballot is marked. They make a separate pile of ballots for each candidate and one pile for any rejected ballots.

The DRO has a sheet with examples of rejected ballots. Rejected ballots don't count because the voter:

- Used an unofficial ballot.
- Made no mark.
- Marked the ballot, but it's not clear who the mark is for.
- Marked the ballot for someone who isn't a candidate.
- Marked the ballot for more than one candidate.
- Marked the ballot in a way that people can tell who the voter is.

Sometimes the DRO forgets to initial a ballot or tear off the extra tab. If they are sure the ballot is official they can do that when they count the ballots.

A candidate or their representative might want to reject a ballot the DRO counts. Or they might want to count a ballot the DRO rejects. The DRO records their objection in the polling record and decides to count or reject the ballot. Their decision is final.

How do we know who won the election?

Every Deputy Returning Officer fills out a Statement of the Poll form for their polling station. The form shows:

- The number of voters at that polling station.
- The number of votes for each candidate.
- The number of rejected ballots.

The DRO sends the Statement of the Poll to the Returning Officer as soon as possible. They give a copy to each candidate or representative at the polling station.

The Returning Officer gets statements from all the polling stations in their constituency. They add up all the votes for each candidate. They fill out the Election Results form to certify the number of votes for each candidate in their constituency.

The candidate with the most votes wins. The Returning Officer sends the Election Results to the Chief Electoral Officer. The Returning Officer asks for a recount if the difference between the number of votes for first and second candidates is less than 2% of the total votes.

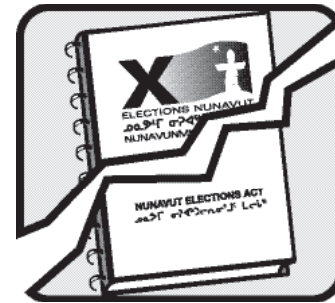
If there is no recount the Returning Officer completes the Return of the Writ and sends it to the Chief Electoral Officer.

The Chief Electoral Officer publishes the election results in the local newspaper and on their website.

Returning Officers post constituency results on community bulletin boards and on local radio and TV if the community has them.

12) Breaking Nunavut Elections Act Laws

The *Nunavut Elections Act* is like any other law. If people break the law they can be charged with a crime and punished.



What are the main ways to break the law?

There are many ways to break the law. See some examples in the table below. Read the *Nunavut Elections Act* and make sure you follow the law.

Ways to break the law	Example 1	Example 2
Vote improperly.	You vote and you aren't eligible to vote.	You do things you shouldn't do with ballots.
Influence voters improperly.	You bribe a voter with money, liquor, food, a job, or other things.	You sell or give away liquor on Election Day.
Use information improperly.	You use the voters list for something besides the election.	You damage Elections Nunavut notices.
Tell lies or cheat.	You're a candidate or financial agent and you aren't eligible.	You're a candidate in more than one constituency.
Use money improperly.	Your campaign expenses are more than \$30,000.	A candidate uses campaign money for personal expenses.

Who can complain about a possible election crime?

Any person who believes someone broke the law in the *Nunavut Elections Act* can complain. They must go to the police, NOT to Elections Nunavut or the Chief Electoral Officer.

It's the same as making a complaint about someone who breaks any other law - people go to the police if someone breaks into their house, steals their truck, or beats up their friend.

People need to go to the police within 90 days of when they know someone broke the law. Put the complaint in writing and send a copy to the Chief Electoral Officer.

Who investigates a complaint?

The police investigate. They tell the people they're investigating, unless they think it will hurt their investigation.

The police have the same power and responsibility to enforce the *Nunavut Elections Act* as any other laws of Nunavut and Canada.

The police work with the Chief Electoral Officer and the Integrity Commissioner to solve the problem.

The Integrity Commissioner is an officer of the Legislative Assembly and oversees the *Integrity Act*. The purpose of this Act is to help make sure Members of the Legislative Assembly are honest, reliable, and honourable.