

Do I vote for a candidate or a party?

You can vote for either a candidate or a party. You will receive a blank ballot in your write-in ballot kit. Mark the ballot by printing either the name of the candidate or a registered political party, or both, in the space indicated.

Are there time restrictions I should be aware of?

Yes, you are responsible for getting the write-in ballot in on time. No ballots received after polls close on election day will be counted. After you have voted, you can return your ballot by mail or have your correctional facility liaison officer return your ballot to your electoral district's returning office to be counted at the close of polls (8:00 pm) on election day.

I'm serving time in a correctional centre. Am I eligible to vote?

Voting information for incarcerated electors



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1-800-565-1504 (Toll free in Nova Scotia)
(902) 424-7475 (TTY) 
1-866-774-7074 (TTY Toll Free) 
(902) 424-6622 (Fax)
elections@gov.ns.ca



You can vote in an election if ...

- you are 18 years of age or older on election day,
- you are a Canadian citizen, and
- you've lived in Nova Scotia for six months before the day on which the election was called.

If I am eligible to vote, how do I vote?

You may vote by write-in ballot.

Step 1: You can get a write-in ballot application form from a correctional facility liaison officer at your provincial or federal correctional facility. Your request for a write-in ballot must be received by Elections Nova Scotia at least 10 days before election day.

A correctional facility liaison officer is a staff member at a correctional centre appointed by the superintendent to help inmates manage the process to vote.

Filling out the write-in application

What should I include in my application?

Your completed application form must include:

- a signed declaration that gives permission to the correctional facility superintendent to confirm that the information on the write-in ballot application form is the same as the information on your Facility Admission Form at the correctional facility; or
- copies of valid proof of identity and residence.

What civic address should I use?

Use your ordinary place of residence in Nova Scotia, the street address where you lived before your incarceration. Your vote will be sent to the returning officer in that electoral district.

What is a returning officer?

A returning officer is the person who administers the election in his or her electoral district. Nova Scotia has 51 electoral districts. Each electoral district has one returning office. All returning offices are set up at the start of an election.

Step 2: If you meet the eligibility criteria, your application will be approved. We will issue you a write-in ballot kit and deliver it to you through the correctional facility liaison officer in the correctional centre where you are serving your sentence.

Your liaison officer will:

- receive the write-in ballot kit
- distribute it to the elector identified on the kit envelope
- inform you of the deadline and process for casting your ballot

If your application is rejected, Elections Nova Scotia will try to reach you through the liaison officer by telephone or e-mail to request more information and/or to explain why you did not meet the voting criteria.

What is valid proof of identity and residence?

You have three options:

1. You can give permission to the correctional facility superintendent to confirm that the information in the write-in ballot application is the same as the information on your Facility Admission Form at the correctional centre.

OR

2. You can attach copies of one of the following pieces of personal identification that shows your name, civic address and signature when filling out your write-in ballot application. Examples include:

- driver's license
- lease
- cancelled personal cheque
- vehicle registration
- valid contract

OR

3. You can attach two pieces of personal identification to your write-in ballot application:

- one with your name and civic address, such as a utility or credit card bill, vehicle insurance policy, or proof of subscription to a magazine with a mailing label affixed AND
- one with your name and signature, such as a Canadian passport, Canadian citizenship card, credit card, student identification card, or Certificate of Indian Status card.

Step 3: You can vote anytime after you receive the write-in ballot kit. Follow the instructions in your write-in ballot kit, placing the ballot and contents in the right envelopes. Remember to sign the declaration on the envelope.

Is my vote secret?

Yes, the write-in ballot uses a special system of envelopes designed to protect the secrecy of your vote.