Implementation Fact Sheet

Voter Accessibility Amendments
Local Authorities Election Act, 2018 and 2020

List of Acceptable Identification

Legislation: *Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA)*

Section Numbers: s. 53, s. 53.01, s. 53.02

Previous requirement:

All electors are required to produce identification that shows name and current address.

The *LAEA* allows an elector to produce government issued photo identification or one piece of identification outlined by the Chief Electoral Officer of Alberta's list of acceptable identification.

What has changed?

The Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Minister of Education are empowered, through Ministerial Order, to create a list of acceptable identification in addition to the list provided by the Chief Electoral Officer of Alberta. s.53.02

What does the public need to know?

Since 2013, all voters attending a voting station for the purpose of voting must produce identification to prove name and current address. Acceptable pieces of identification include:

- government issued identification (either municipal, provincial or federal);

- any one piece of identification approved by the Chief Electoral Officer of Alberta; or

- any other type of identification allowed for by the Minister of Municipal Affairs or the Minister of Education.

What do municipalities and school boards need to know?

Electors can provide government issued identification (either municipal, provincial or federal), any one piece of identification approved by the Chief Electoral Officer of Alberta, or any other type of identification allowed for by the Minister of Municipal Affairs or the Minister of Education.

When do these changes take place?

The amendments to the *LAEA* came into force January 1, 2019.

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*Amendments passed in July 2020 under Bill 29: *The Local Authorities Election Amendment Act*

Alberta

*Vouching

Legislation: *Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA)*

Section Numbers: s. 53(4)(5)(6)(7)

Previous requirement:

The *LAEA* allows for vouching for an unlimited number of people if an elector provides proof of identification.

What has changed?

An elector cannot vouch for more than one person, unless every person the elector is vouching for shares the same place of residence. s. 53(6).

What does the public need to know?

In order to vouch for a person, an elector must make a statement, in the prescribed form, that they know the person and know that the person resides at the address indicated on the person's statement. The elector may not vouch for more than one person, unless every person resides at the same place of residence. s. 53(6) and s. 53(7).

What do municipalities and school boards need to know?

A scrutineer shall not vouch for a person in either a general election or by-election. s. 53(5)

An elector who has relied on vouching to validate their identity and address cannot vouch for a person. s. 53(6)

An elector may not vouch for more than one person, unless every person resides at the same place of residence. s. 53(6).

When did these changes take place?

The amendments to the *LAEA* came into force January 1, 2019 and September 1, 2020.

Residency Requirement

Legislation: *Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA)*

Section Numbers: s. 47, s. 49(5)

Previous requirement:

The *LAEA* outlines that to be eligible to vote an elector must be 18 years old, a Canadian Citizen, an Alberta resident for six consecutive months preceding election day, and a resident of the local jurisdiction on election day.

What has changed?

The six-month residency requirement has been removed.

What does the public need to know?

To be eligible to vote an elector must be:

- 18 years old;
- A Canadian Citizen;
- resident in Alberta; and,
- the electors place of residence must be located in the local jurisdiction on election day. s. 47

What do municipalities and school boards need to know?

All residents of Alberta who meet all other requirements are eligible to vote on election day.

When do these changes take place?

The amendments to the *LAEA* came into force January 1, 2019.

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*Amendments passed in July 2020 under Bill 29: *The Local Authorities Election Amendment Act*

Alberta

Advance Votes

Legislation: *Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA)*

Section Numbers: s. 73, s. 75

Previous requirement:

The LAEA allowed for a municipality or school board to pass a resolution allowing for one or more advance votes.

If a resolution was passed, the returning officer must determine the dates, times and locations of the voting stations.

What has changed?

Local jurisdictions with populations greater than 5,000 are required to hold an advance vote for municipal councillors or for votes on a bylaw/question. s. 73(3)

Municipalities with populations of less than 5,000, as well as all school divisions, continue to be enabled to pass a resolution allowing for an advance vote.

What does the public need to know?

If an individual resides in a municipality with a population greater than 5,000, an advance vote must be held. Electors are encouraged to watch for notification outlining when the advance vote will take place or contact their local municipal office for more information.

If an individual resides in a municipality with a population less than 5,000, the municipality may choose to establish an advance vote through a resolution of council. Electors are encouraged to contact their local municipal office for information about whether a resolution was passed.

School boards may also choose to establish an advance vote by resolution; electors should contact their local school board for more information about whether a resolution was passed.

What do municipalities and school boards need to know?

Local jurisdictions greater than 5,000 **must** provide for an advance vote.

Municipalities less than 5,000 **may** provide for an advance vote through a resolution of council.

School boards may, by resolution, provide for an advance vote for an election.

When do these changes take place?

The amendments to the *LAEA* came into force January 1, 2019.

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*Amendments passed in July 2020 under Bill 29: *The Local Authorities Election Amendment Act*

Alberta