

Voting when you are homeless

You do not have to be a homeowner or a renter to be able to vote in Nova Scotia. As long as you are a Canadian citizen who will be 18 years of age or older on election day, and you have lived in Nova Scotia for the six months before the date the election is called, you have the right to vote. The polling location you vote at is determined by where you usually sleep.

If you are staying at a hostel or shelter, you can vote at the polling location for that polling division. You will need to be included on the List of Electors for that area. Make sure you know the address of the hostel or shelter where you are staying in order to fill out the form at the poll to be added to the List.

You will be asked to show documentation with your name and signature, such as your health insurance card or MSI card. If you do not have acceptable identification you still may be added to the list by signing a declaration of your identity and residency.

If you usually sleep outdoors but you go to a hostel or kitchen for some of your meals, you can make similar arrangements through them.

Do you need help to mark your ballot?

Arrangements to help you exercise your right to vote in a provincial election.



7037 Mumford Road, Suite 6
PO Box 2246, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3C8

(902) 424-8584 (HRM)

1-800-565-1504 (Toll free in Nova Scotia)

(902) 424-7475 (TTY) 📞

1-866-774-7074 (Toll Free) 📞

(902) 424-6622 (Fax)

elections@gov.ns.ca

or visit, www.electionsnovascotia.ca



If I require assistance to mark my ballot?

You can bring a friend with you to the polling location. This person will be allowed to go behind the privacy screen with you to help you mark your ballot.

Your friend can be your child, grandchild, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, spouse or caregiver. Or, your friend can really be -- a friend. The only difference is your family member or caregiver can act as a friend for more than just you. Anyone else only gets to do this once. Either way, you and your friend will be asked to take an oath before you cast your vote.

You can also ask the Deputy Returning Officer to help you vote if you prefer. In this case, if there is an agent representing a candidate present, he or she is entitled to accompany the two of you to observe the assistance given.

What if your polling location is not accessible?

It is mandatory that all polling locations have level access. Should it ever happen that your polling location is not accessible to persons with physical disabilities, it will be noted on the Voter Information Card you will receive in the mail with this symbol (show the symbol with an X or line through it.)

Elections Nova Scotia requires returning offices to have an approved plan on how they will accommodate electors who require a level access to cast their vote. You just have to contact your returning officer and tell him/her of your needs. The Returning Officer will have several options for you to choose from.

- You can have a Transfer Certificate. This will allow you to vote at another, more accessible, polling location.

- You can make an appointment for a write-in ballot coordinator team to visit you at home and help you vote.
- You can make an appointment to come into the returning office on any day the office is open to the public throughout the election. It is open every day except Sunday from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm.
- Or you can vote by mail if you want to vote totally without help.

Are you visually impaired?

At the poll, ask the Deputy Returning Officer for the special template that is available at all polling locations for persons who are visually impaired. He/she will explain to you how to use it. It will help you mark your own ballot.

Voting by the deaf and hard of hearing

You can bring a translator with you if you can speak using sign language.

Women in shelters

If you are in the protection of a shelter at an undisclosed location, you may not want to go to your regular polling location on election day. Elections Nova Scotia understands and respects your reasons and your privacy. They also still want you to be able to exercise your right to vote. In these circumstances, they recommend you take advantage of one of the many voting opportunities available to you.

You can vote at the Advance Poll, any day at the Returning Office Poll, by Write-in Ballot or schedule a day and time for the write-in ballot coordinator team to visit you at the shelter. Your name and location will be kept confidential.