

## Voting

Unless you will be observing at the polling location where your name is on the List of Electors, you should consider voting in advance at one of the many voting opportunities offered before election day. Or, you can ask the Returning Officer in advance for a Transfer Certificate, Form 522, to vote at one of the polling locations where you are acting as an agent on election day.

## Important Information

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Campaign Office Phone

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Party Office Phone

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Electoral District Name

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Returning Officer Name

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Returning Office Phone

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Elections Nova Scotia Phone 1-800-565-1504

Advance Poll Voting Hours 10:00 am to 8:00 pm

Election Day Voting Hours 8:00 am to 8:00 pm



Local Police Phone Number 911

Ambulance Phone Number 911

Fire Department Phone 911



## Resources

- [www.electionsnovascotia.ca](http://www.electionsnovascotia.ca)
- Look for your returning office information in your local newspaper, on the Voter Information Card you received in the mail or at the Election Nova Scotia website after an election has been called. See the Electoral District Finder on our website for more information.
- **902-424-8584** (HRM)
- **902-424-7475** (TTY) 
- **1-800-565-1504** (toll-free line anywhere in Canada)
- **1-866-774-7074** (toll-free TTY line) 
- **902-424-6622** (Fax)

# The role of a Candidate's Agent

General information for agents appointed to represent a candidate at various stages in the election process.



## When and where an agent can be present

An agent may be present at the following places and times:

1. At any time in the returning office during voting hours (9:00 am to 6:00 pm) to observe the Continuous and Out-of-district polls voting and to witness the verification of the outer envelopes containing the write-in ballots where applicable and the count of the ballots for the continuous and out-of-district polls at the close of the polls on election day.
2. At the two days of Advance Poll during voting hours (10:00 am to 8:00 pm) and to witness the count of the Advance Poll ballots after the polls close on election day. An agent can also witness the opening and the closing of the Advance Poll on the two days it is open.
3. At a Mobile Polling Station on election day, during the opening and closing of the poll, during voting hours, and to witness the count of the ballots.
4. At each polling location on election day, during the opening and closing of the poll, during voting hours, and to witness the count of the ballots at the close of voting.
5. In the returning office to witness the revision process, and to witness revision anytime the office is open to the public (Monday to Saturday, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm).

### Agents can:

#### In every poll specified by their candidate:

- Witness the setting up, opening and closing
- Observe the voting process:
  - At the Deputy Returning Officer's or Presiding Officer's table
  - At the Poll Clerk's or the Deputy Presiding Officer's table
- Have access to Agent's Voter Tracking Sheets to see who has voted
- Have access to copies of Elector Information Forms, which identify additions and changes to the list of electors
- Challenge an elector, who must then take the Declaration of Qualification
- Observe the marking of a ballot, if the deputy returning officer acts as a friend for an elector
- Observe the counting of the ballots
- raise an objection to the acceptance or rejection of a ballot and have the objection recorded
- Sign the Statement of Poll

- Keep a copy of the Statement of Poll
- Sign all seals used to secure election materials

### Agents cannot:

- Prevent an elector from voting
- Stop or disrupt the voting process
- Engage in partisan activity in the polling location
- Wear badges, pins, emblems, etc., identifying them as supporters of a particular candidate or party
- Use a communication device in a polling location
- Approach electors entering or leaving the polling location
- Prevent a ballot from being counted, if the deputy returning officer accepts it
- Re-enter a polling location once the doors have been closed and the count has started

### Counting of the ballots

Two agents per candidate can be present to observe the counting of ballots. However, a request must be made to the Deputy Returning Officer to have the second agent present.

**It's a fact:** Each candidate is entitled to have two agents present in a polling station, however seating will be provided for only one agent at each location.

### Mobile polls and hospitals voting exception to the rule

The ballot box often goes from room to room. To limit disruption of residents/patients, only one agent per candidate is permitted.

### Admittance and observing at any poll

To be admitted to any polling location, you must:

- Carry a signed Appointment of Poll Agent, Form 520. This form must identify each polling location you intend to visit.
- Show Appointment of Poll Agent, Form 520, to the Deputy Returning Officer or Presiding Officer
- Take the Declaration of Agent Candidate or Elector Representing Candidate, Form 504 in the Poll Book.

An agent can leave and return to any station. If asked, the agent must show his or her Appointment of Poll Agent, Form 520, to the Deputy Returning Officer or Presiding Officer on return, but need not take the Declaration of Agent of Candidate or Elector Representing Candidate, Form 504 again.