

Inmate Voting

Voting information for
incarcerated electors



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 lived in Nova Scotia for six months before the day of your incarceration and you intend to return to Nova Scotia upon release (See “Which civic address should I use” below for clarification).

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.

Which civic address should I use?

Use your ordinary place of residence, the street address where you lived before your incarceration. Your vote will be counted for a candidate in that electoral district. If you were incarcerated for six months or more but did not reside in Nova Scotia before being detained, or lived in the province but had no fixed address, your ordinary place of residence would be the correctional facility.

Step 2: If you **meet the eligibility criteria**, your application will be approved. We will issue you a write-in ballot kit and it will be delivered 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 for the elector identified on the kit envelope
- distribute it to you
- 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 your application 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 facility.

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
- certificate of Indian Status Card

OR

- 3 You can also attach copies of 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, or student identification 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.

Do I vote for a candidate or a party?

You can vote for either. On the ballot, make a mark in the circle beside the name of the registered political party or write in the name of the independent candidate in the space provided.

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, return your ballot by mail or have your correctional facility liaison officer return your ballot to Elections Nova Scotia's head office to be counted at the close of polls (8:00 pm) on election day.



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