

Questions and Answers Game: Answer Key

1. How many electors does each member of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly represent?

Each member of the Nova Scotia house of Assembly represents between 10,128 (Guysborough-Eastern Shore-Tracadie) and 21,029 (Bedford) electors.

2. How many provincial electoral districts are there in Nova Scotia?

There are 51 provincial electoral districts.

3. How does a candidate win the seat for an electoral district?

The candidate with the most votes in an electoral district wins the seat in the House of Assembly.

4. Do the electoral district boundaries change? Why would they change? Who decides on the changes?

Every 10 years, the boundaries of electoral districts are reviewed in light of the demographic changes revealed by the national census. An independent commission is set up to do this. The commissions recommend the changes they think are appropriate. Decisions are made by the Legislature.

5. How big or small can an electoral district be?

The size of electoral districts varies with population density. The smallest is Halifax Chebucto at just under 5 kilometres squared, while the largest is Guysborough-Eastern Shore-Tracadie at 5,331 kilometres squared.



JOSEPH HOWE, journalist, politician, and public servant (1804-1873)

6. How many polling stations are there across Nova Scotia on election day during a provincial general election?

There are approximately 1,833 polling stations in a provincial general election on election day.

7. There is no need for voting to take place in buildings with level access. Do you agree or disagree, and what are your reasons?

Voting must be done in buildings with level access so that all electors, including those with physical disabilities, can exercise their democratic rights.

8. Who is responsible for conducting a provincial election in Nova Scotia? Why is it important that an election be conducted by an independent agency?

Elections Nova Scotia is responsible for conducting provincial elections. This non-partisan agency has been made

responsible for conducting elections to ensure that the process is fair.

9. Who can vote in a provincial election?

Persons 18 years of age or older who are Canadian citizens, resident in the province, at least six months before an election is called. The only persons who qualify under the current rules who cannot vote are the Chief Electoral Officer and the Assistant Chief Electoral Officer.

10. Could a polling station be set up in your school?

Yes, schools are often used because they are usually centrally located, easy to find and usually accessible to persons with disabilities.

11. Who can vote at the advance polls?

Any voter can vote early at advance polls and at returning offices throughout the province during the election period.

12. Where can you find out about the rules governing provincial elections?

From Elections Nova Scotia. Visit its Web site www.electionsnovascotia.ca

13. On what day of the week are provincial elections held in Nova Scotia?

Provincial elections are held on a Tuesday in Nova Scotia.

14. What rules must a person follow to become a candidate?

Candidates must be Canadian citizens, at least 18 years old and they must file nomination papers with the returning officer in the electoral district in which they are running, 20 days before election day. Under the current rules, they must make a \$200 deposit and their nomination papers must be signed by at least 5 electors residing in the electoral district.

15. How many recognized provincial political parties are there in Nova Scotia?

There are currently five recognized provincial political parties in Nova Scotia: Green Party of Nova Scotia; Nova Scotia Liberal Party; Nova Scotia New Democratic Party; The Atlantica Party Association of Nova Scotia; and The Progressive Conservative Association of Nova Scotia.

16. Why do you think candidates must keep a record and report all contributions of \$200 or more that they receive?

Keeping a record of all donations lets the public know who contributes to a campaign, which helps prevent corruption or unfair influence.

17. How many provincial general elections have there been in Nova Scotia since Confederation?

The 40th provincial general election was held May 30th, 2017.

18. Who first had the right to vote in Nova Scotia?

English speaking European Protestant men who owned registered property.

19. In what year was the secret ballot first used? How did people vote before this? What problems might there be with this less formal method of voting?

In 1874. Before this, voting was done orally, in public, so that everyone knew how you voted. (Your vote might thus have made you some enemies.)

20. When did women become eligible to vote in Nova Scotia provincial elections?

April 26, 1918.

21. When did Aboriginal persons living on reserves obtain the right to vote?

In 1960.

22. Statistics show that young electors participate less often in elections than older people do. Why do you think this might be?

Note: To answer this question, young people will have to give some thought to their own involvement in the electoral process, and the democratic system in general.

