

# Voter Registration in Nova Scotia



## The Nova Scotia Register of Electors

Every Nova Scotian who is qualified to vote may choose to be included in the Register of Electors. While inclusion has certain benefits, such as being registered to vote and receiving a voter information card during an election that tells you where and when to vote, exclusion from the Register does not affect your right to vote.

To be included on the Register of Electors you need to apply through Elections Nova Scotia. If you choose not to be included in the Register, at the time of a provincial general election, or by-election, you will need to add your name to the list of electors by registering at any Elections Nova Scotia returning office during the election, at any early voting poll, or at a poll on election day in order to vote.

If your name is currently listed in the Register and you wish to update your address, contact Elections Nova Scotia. You will be asked personal information, such as your date of birth, in order for us to verify that you are an elector wishing to check or update your own information.

## To be added to the Nova Scotia Register of Electors

To be added to the Register of Electors, you must be a Canadian citizen, 18 years of age or over and have lived in Nova Scotia for at least six months. You can obtain an application form from the Elections Nova Scotia website or by calling Elections Nova Scotia.

## Proof of Identity

The application to be added to the Register of Electors must be accompanied by a photocopy (not the original) of identification. If some of the information is on the back of the document, be sure to photocopy both sides.

A suitable proof of identity is a current document showing your name and civic address (for example, a driver's license). If you do not have one document with this information, you can send photocopies of two

current documents, one showing your name and civic address (such as a telephone bill) and one showing your name (such as a Health Card). A summary of the acceptable identification options is available on the Elections Nova Scotia website or by calling Elections Nova Scotia.

## Privacy of Personal Information

The personal information provided to Elections Nova Scotia is protected by the *Elections Act*. In accordance with the *Elections Act*, personal information (name, address, age range and unique identifier and whether an elector voted in a previous election) from the Register is disclosed to members of the Nova Scotia Legislature, political parties, and candidates. It is an offence to use this information for non-electoral purposes.

As well, under the *Elections Act*, Elections Nova Scotia may, on the request of a municipality, provide a list of electors (name, address, date of birth, and unique identifier only) for municipal and school board elections. Under the Act, a municipality provided with elector information shall confirm within ten days of election day that all of the elector information provided by Elections Nova Scotia has been used only for election administration purposes.

A school board provided with elector information shall confirm to Elections Nova Scotia that the information has been destroyed within ten days of election day.

## Student's right to choose either their home address or their address while attending school as residence for List of Electors

The *Elections Act* states that if, on the date of the writ, you are registered and in attendance at an educational institution, reside in an electoral district or polling division other than that of your family home, and you qualify as an elector (including six months residency in Nova Scotia), you have the right to be included on the list of electors in one or the other of the polling divisions, but not both.

For example:



**Jeff** is a fourth year student from Truro. A provincial general election is called while Jeff is living in Halifax attending university. He can choose to register on the list of electors in either Truro or in the electoral district and polling division where he lives in Halifax, but not both.



**Eileen** is a first year student from Ottawa. A by-election is called for the electoral district in which she is living in Antigonish while attending university, four months into the school year. She is not an eligible elector as she does not meet the six months provincial residency rule.

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Elections Nova Scotia is the independent, non-partisan agency responsible for conducting provincial elections in Nova Scotia. For more information, please contact Elections Nova Scotia at:

**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](http://www.electionsnovascotia.ca)