

## Explanatory Notes Regarding Identification Requirements Related to Special Ballots for Ontario Electors

The *Election Act* includes identification requirements for Ontario electors. This guide outlines the identification electors must provide to provide proof of name (identity) and/or proof of residential address (residence).

- To prove name and residential address, an elector is required to show one piece of identification that includes both name and residential address.
- To verify residence, an elector must use identification that contains his or her *residential* address. A residential address is the address used to indicate a person's residence, and usually consists of a building number, street name, municipality name, province and postal code. Elections Ontario needs this information to verify the elector's correct polling location. An elector is NOT permitted to use identification that contains a non-residential address (post office box number, general delivery, rural route) to verify residence.
- An elector is permitted to show an original piece of acceptable identification or a photocopy of a piece of acceptable identification. The copy is NOT required to be certified or notarized.
- An elector that applies to vote by mail, will include only a copy of the required piece of acceptable identification.
- Photo identification is NOT required in Ontario.
- Electors who wear coverings over their faces are NOT required to remove them.
- If an elector is voting by special ballot in person and is on the list of electors, he or she is required to show proof of name in order to obtain a special ballot. If an elector cannot show proof of name, the elector may, under paragraph 47(2)(b) of the *Election Act*, complete a statutory declaration in order to obtain a special ballot. When an elector makes this statutory declaration on the Special Ballot Application, the elector swears that he or she is eligible to vote and has not already voted in the election. This meets the requirements in order to receive a special ballot.

## Mandatory Requirements for Special Ballots

The *Election Act* requires that:

- Before receiving a special ballot
  - An elector who votes in person at the returning office and whose name is on the list of electors or polling list must provide proof of name (45.2(4) para.4);
  - An elector who applies in person but will take away a special ballot to mark and return later must provide proof of name and residential address (45.2(4) para.2)
  - An elector who applies for a special ballot by mail must provide proof of name and residential address (45.2(5) para.3; 45.2(6) para.3);
  - An elector who applies for a special ballot at a home visit and whose name is on the list of electors or polling list must provide proof of name (45.4(5));
  - An elector who applies for a special ballot at a home visit and whose name is not on the list of electors or polling list must provide proof of name and residential address (45.4(5)).
- An elector who applies to be named in the special ballot **Register of Absentee Electors** must provide proof of name and any other information that the Chief Electoral Officer considers necessary (45.13 (4)(a)).

Special Ballot Voting		Identification Requirements	
		Name	Residence
1. To vote by special ballot during an election	If application is made in person at the returning office, the elector is on the list of electors, and the elector will vote immediately	✓	✗
	If application is made in person at the returning office, the elector is on the list of elector, and the elector will take the ballot away	✓	✓
	If application is made in person at the returning office and the elector is <u>not</u> on the list of electors	✓	✓
	If application is for voting by mail	✓	✓
2. To submit an application for a special ballot if the application is made by an eligible elector who is temporarily in a hospital during a general election  <b>NOTE:</b> The elector's hospital patient identification bracelet is acceptable proof of name and the statutory declaration on the Special Ballot Application (F1000) form is sufficient as proof of residential address		✓	✓
3. To submit an application for a special ballot if the application is made by an eligible elector who is incarcerated in a federal or provincial institution  <b>NOTE:</b> An incarcerated elector's Certificate of Identity and Residence application must be signed by a federal or provincial institutional administrator or representative to be accepted as proof of name and residential address.		✓	✓
4. To obtain a ballot for home-visit voting	If the elector is on the list of electors	✓	✗
	If the elector is <u>not</u> on the list of electors	✓	✓
5. Electors who are absent from Ontario: a) On active military duty as a member of the armed forces of Canada b) In the service of the Government of Canada or Ontario c) Attend an educational institution d) Is a family member of a, b or c	Electors in this category may apply to be named to the Register of Absentee Electors	✓	

## Identification Types

During an electoral event, to prove name, an elector must show one piece of identification with name.

**Schedule A** contains examples of identification authorized by the Chief Electoral Officer that can be used to prove name. To prove name and residence, an elector must show one piece of identification that includes both name and residential address.

**Schedule B** contains examples of identification authorized by the Chief Electoral Officer that can be used to prove both name and residence.

Electors may present e-statements and e-invoices corresponding to the categories in Schedules A and B. These e-documents may be printed or displayed on a mobile device.

**Note:** The Voter Information Card (VIC) may NOT be used as proof of name; the VIC may be used as proof of residence ONLY. An elector must show a second piece of identification to prove name.

### Schedule A

Show one piece of identification that proves your name (*your name must match a name on the voters list*).

#### Examples:

##### Government-issued documents

- Birth Certificate
- Canadian Forces Identification Card
- Canadian Passport
- Certificate of Canadian Citizenship (Citizenship Card)
- Certificate of Indian Status (Status Card)
- Old Age Security Card
- Ontario Health Card (*with or without address*)
- Social Insurance Number Card
- Veterans Affairs Canada Health Card
- Any document:
  - issued by the Government of Canada, Ontario or a municipality in Ontario or from an agency of such a government
  - issued by a Band Council in Ontario (established under the *Indian Act*)

##### Other documents

- Credit/Debit Card
- Employee Card
- Hospital Card or Bracelet
- Student Card
- Union Card or Professional Licence

Any document in Schedule B

### Schedule B

Show one piece of identification that includes both your name and residential address.

#### Examples:

##### Government-issued documents

- Ontario's Driver's Licence
- Ontario Photo Card
- Ontario Health Card (*with address*)
- Ontario Motor Vehicle Permit
- Statement of Government Benefits (child tax benefit, old age security, etc.)
- Any document:
  - issued by the Government of Canada, Ontario or a municipality in Ontario or from an agency of such a government\*
  - issued by a Band Council in Ontario (established under the *Indian Act*)

##### Other documents

- Cellular Phone Bills
- School Admissions Letter
- School Transcript/Report Card
- School Tuition/Fees Statement
- Bank/Credit Card Statement
- Cancelled Personalized Cheque
- "Certification of Identity and Residence" form signed by authorized administrator
- Cheque stub, T4 tax slip or pay receipt issued by an employer
- CNIB Identity Card
- Hospital Record/Document
- Insurance Policy/Statement
- Loan/Agreement with a Financial Institution
- Residential Lease, Rental or Mortgage Agreement/Statement
- Utility Bill (gas, hydro, etc.)