

Voting Station Information for Candidates

Campaigning During Voting

Candidates are permitted to campaign while advance elections and the general election are underway but are prohibited from campaigning inside a building used for a voting station and within the boundaries of the land on which the building used for a voting station is located. This prohibition applies to signs, including vehicle wraps, promotional material like handouts, t-shirts and buttons, and any verbal communication with any person for the purpose of influencing that person's vote. The voting stations are:

- Canmore Recreation Centre – October 7, 8, 9, 12, and 13
- The Coast Hotel – October 18

Observing the Election Proceedings

Candidates may observe the election proceedings themselves at any time or delegate this function to a scrutineer or their official agent.

Scrutineers

Scrutineers act as representatives of candidates and are appointed by candidates to observe election proceedings. The role of the scrutineer is to:

- have a role in ensuring that only those who are eligible to vote cast their ballots; and
- observe whether the count is conducted in accordance with legislative requirements.

Scrutineer qualifications:

- Must be at least 18 years of age; and
- Cannot have been convicted of an offence under election legislation in the past 10 years.

Number of Scrutineers Allowed

Each candidate can have one scrutineer at the voting station at any one time. A candidate may appoint more than one scrutineer; however, one scrutineer must leave the voting station before another is allowed to be present. An exchange of information between the scrutineers, or with the candidate or the candidate's official agent, must take place outside the voting station.

Candidates may also act as a scrutineer themselves or appoint their official agent to be their scrutineer. If the candidate or the candidate's official agent is acting as a scrutineer on election day, they must follow the same procedure as a scrutineer.

Registering as a Scrutineer

To be recognized as a scrutineer, a person must, during voting hours, present the returning officer with a written notice, signed by the candidate, stating the person is that candidate's scrutineer. A Scrutineer Appointment Form is included at the end of this document.

Any scrutineer appointed to observe the election procedure is required to sign a statement provided by the returning officer in the voting station.

Anyone authorized to observe the election procedure will be issued with a name tag and assigned a place in the voting station from where they may observe any person making a statement under sections 53(1)(b) or (2), 77, or 78 of the *Local Authorities Election Act*.

Scrutineers are permitted to:

- Be present during voting hours in the assigned place, note irregularities and report them back to the candidate or candidate's official agent for resolution with the returning officer.
- Object to a person wishing to vote if they believe that the person is not eligible to vote.
- Remain at the voting station after the close of voting to observe the count and to view the results as shown on the tabulation tape from the automated voting machine.

Scrutineers are not permitted to:

- Interfere with voting in any way.
- Greet voters at the door, socialize in the voting station or pass out campaign material.
- Induce or attempt to ascertain how a voter marked their ballot.
- Communicate information about how another person voted.
- Disqualify a voter from voting.
- Cause a disturbance or campaign at the voting station.
- Interfere with the normal voting procedures.
- Be present at the marking of a ballot.

Making an Objection

A scrutineer may object to a person registering to vote if they believe the person is ineligible to vote.

The objection must be made at the time the voter makes their statement on the Voting Register. The deputy returning officer will note in the Voting Register the name of the scrutineer and the reason for the objection. **Any person who completes a Voting Register and produces proof of identification must be permitted to vote.**

If the number of valid ballots objected to is sufficient to affect the result of the election, the returning officer will seek the advice of Alberta Municipal Affairs the day after election day.

Ballot Count

Scrutineers wishing to observe the count must be present in the voting station before 8 p.m. Once the voting station is closed, it will not be reopened until the completion of the count. Counting typically takes about 60 minutes and unfolds as follows:

- The returning officer or deputy will open the ballot boxes used to collect the institutional vote and the special ballots and insert the voted ballots into the voting machine.

- Deputy returning officers will submit a count of voting registers, ballots used and spoiled ballots to the returning officer, and the returning officer will confirm all ballots are accounted for and that the number ballots used equals the count on the voting machine.
- The returning officer will follow the procedure for closing the polls on the voting machine and print the results.
- Results will be entered into a spreadsheet so they can be sorted, then displayed to those present as quickly as possible.

Scrutineers are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the *Local Authorities Election Act*, which can be downloaded [here](#).

Scrutineer Appointment Form
Local Authorities Election Act
(Section 69(1))

To the Returning Officer:

I, _____, candidate for the office of:

Mayor

Councillor

hereby appoint _____,
to act as my scrutineer at the voting station for the October 18, 2021 election.

Dated at Town of Canmore, Alberta this _____ day of October, 2021.

Signature of Candidate

OFFICE USE: **STATEMENT OF SCRUTINEER COMPLETED (FORM 10)**

Note: The personal information that is being collected under the authority of the *Local Authorities Election Act* will be used for the purposes under that Act. It is protected by the privacy provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. If you have any questions about the collection, contact Cheryl Hyde, returning officer, at 403.678.1550.