



2024 BY-ELECTION - DECEMBER 14, 2024 FAQS FOR VOTERS

Am I eligible to vote?

There are two ways you can be eligible to vote: as a **Resident Elector**, or as a **Non-Resident Property Elector**.

You are eligible to vote in the City of Port Alberni as a **Resident Elector** if you:

- are a Canadian citizen; AND
- are 18 years of age or older (**December 14, 2006**) on or before general voting day; AND
- have lived in British Columbia for at least six months before you register to vote (**June 15, 2024**, is the last day to meet 6-month registration requirement); AND
- are a resident of the City of Port Alberni; AND
- are not disqualified by the *Local Government Act* or any other act from voting in an election or be otherwise disqualified by law.

If you meet all the above requirements, you can vote, and it does not matter whether you rent or own your home.

If you do not live in Port Alberni, but own property here, you can vote as a **Non-Resident Property Elector (NRPE)** if you:

- are eligible to vote as a Resident Elector in another municipality or regional district in BC and not in Port Alberni (i.e., a Canadian citizen, 18 years of age or older, a resident of BC for at least six months, a resident of another local government in BC, and not disqualified); AND
- are 18 years of age or older (**December 14, 2006**) on or before general voting day; AND
- own property in Port Alberni for at least 30 days immediately preceding the day of registration (**November 13, 2024**); AND
- are not disqualified by the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment, or by law from voting in a local election

If a person owns a property with one or more other individuals, only one person is eligible to vote as the NRPE for that property. The owner entitled to vote must be designated, in writing on the City's consent form, by the majority of the owners of that property. Regardless of the number of properties owned, a person may only register to vote **ONCE** as a NRPE.

I own a company or business located within the City, do I get a vote?

No - A person cannot vote on behalf of a corporation, or as a NRPE based on a property owned wholly or in part by a corporation. There is no corporate vote in BC.

How do I know if I'm eligible to vote in the City of Port Alberni?

You are eligible to vote if you reside or own property within the City of Port Alberni municipal boundaries. NOTE: there are some roads that are partially in the City's boundaries, as well as the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District.

You can check whether your property is within municipal boundaries using the maps at portalberni.ca/municipal-mapping

You may ask yourself: To whom do I pay my property taxes - the City of Port Alberni or the Province of BC? You may also call City Hall to confirm at 250-723-2146.

How do I register to vote?

The City of Port Alberni uses the Provincial voters list. If you are not on the list of electors, electors may register at any of the voting days, including advance voting opportunities. New electors who request a mail ballot will receive a voter registration form in their mail ballot kit.

When registering at any time, you will be required to provide two pieces of identification. Accepted documents include:

- British Columbia Driver's Licence
- BC Identification Card within the meaning of the Identification Card Regulation
- BC Services Card within the meaning of the Identification Card Regulation [photo or non-photo]
- Owner's Certificate of Insurance and Vehicle Licence issued by the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia
- BC CareCard or BC Gold CareCard
- Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security Request for Continued Assistance Form SDES8
- Social Insurance Number (SIN) card or confirmation of SIN letter issued by the government of Canada
- Citizenship Card issued by Citizenship and Immigration Canada,
- City of Port Alberni | Property Tax Notice
- Credit card or debit card issued by a savings institution
- Utility bill issued for the supply of electricity, natural gas, water, telephone services or cable services

ID is not required at the time of voting if your name is on the List of Registered Electors. Electors wishing to register for the first time must produce two pieces of identification that provide evidence of the applicant's identity and place of residence, one of which must include the applicant's signature or alternately, provide two pieces of identification verifying identity in addition to making a solemn declaration as to the applicant's place of residence. Resident electors may register at an advance voting opportunity or on general voting day.

Can I register as a Non-Resident Property Elector on election day?

Yes - If you are not registered as a non-resident property elector and have met all the requirements listed above, you may register on the day you vote, at either an advance voting opportunity or on general voting day.

You must complete and bring a NRPE Registration form and a consent form signed by yourself and a majority of your co-owners, if applicable, with a recent Title Search to confirm the names on title and that there is no corporation on title. New NRPE registrants are encouraged to contact the Deputy Chief Election Officer at 250-720-2822, to review your forms to ensure you have everything required to register on Voting Day. Review and download the consent form at:

<https://portalberni.ca/non-resident-property-elector>

Is there an opportunity to vote other than general voting day on December 14, 2024?

Yes - there are two advance voting opportunities in the City of Port Alberni. If you are unable to vote on December 14, you may vote at an advance voting opportunity.

The advance voting opportunities will be held on:

- **Wednesday, December 4 and Wednesday, December 11, 2024**
- Time: 8:00 am to 8:00 pm
- Location: Dogwood Room, Echo Centre, 4255 Wallace Street, Port Alberni.

Where do I go to vote on general voting day Saturday, December 14, 2024?

You may vote at the Cedar Room, Echo Centre, 4255 Wallace Street, Port Alberni, from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. When you vote at either an advance voting opportunity, or at the general voting day location, you will be required to sign a written declaration that you have not voted previously at any other time or location during the election.

Can I vote by Mail?

Vote by Mail is open to all electors and includes methods other than by mail.

Electors who wish to vote by mail may complete and submit an Application to Vote By Mail (available online and at City Hall) or contact the Deputy Chief Election Officer at City Hall, 4850 Argyle Street or 250-720-2822 to request an application to receive a mail ballot package.

On the form you will indicate if you or someone else will be picking up your mail ballot package from City Hall or if you want the package mailed to your residence or another address. If we receive your application late and time may not permit standard mailing, you may wish to consider planning to pick up a package at City Hall and/or arrange for delivery by courier.

NOTE: Date of ballot availability is subject to printer delivery, estimated to be November 21.

Do you need assistance to vote?

All voting places are wheelchair accessible.

➤ Curbside voting

At advance voting opportunities or on voting day, if you cannot enter the Voting Place because of a physical disability or impaired mobility:

- Call the Deputy Chief Election Officer at 250-720-2822 to request curbside voting.
- An election official will bring a ballot to you in your vehicle in the parking lot, wait while you mark the ballot, and then deposit the ballot into the vote counting unit in the Voting Place on your behalf.

➤ Marking your ballot

You can ask an election official, friend or relative to help you if you are unable to mark your own ballot. The *Local Government Act* requires the person assisting an elector to first sign a solemn declaration with the Chief Election Officer to commit to: preserving the secrecy of the ballot, marking the ballot as you instruct and not attempting to influence how you vote.

➤ Translation

Bring someone to assist if you require a translator. The translator will also need to sign a solemn declaration that they are able to make the translation and will do so to the best of their ability.

NOTE: Candidates, their representatives and financial agents are not permitted to assist electors.

Voting Day Rules and Regulations

- No campaigning within 100 metres of the Voting Place, including no displaying signs, ads, bumper stickers, posters, buttons, flyers or other material that advocates for or against a candidate
- No influencing voters within 100 metres of the Voting Place
- Only eligible electors are permitted in the Voting Place
- Voting is by a secret ballot – no talking about how you or someone else votes, no displaying your ballot and only one person per voting booth
- No vote buying or intimidation
- No signing false statements or declarations
- It is unlawful to reproduce a ballot. Cameras, phones and other forms of technology are to be turned off **PRIOR** to entering the Voting Place

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

Please check back regularly for information updates on the City's election process at: portalberni.ca/municipal-elections or contact Mark Brown, Chief Election Officer for the City at 250-927-0304. or email election@portalberni.ca

The above information has been prepared for the convenience of the public and to provide assistance in understanding the local government election process and does not cover every aspect of local elections. It is not intended to be a complete and comprehensive document nor is it a substitution for the legislation contained in Part 3 of the Local Government Act or any other Act. For detailed information on all aspects of voting or running for office in local government elections, refer to the Local Government Act or visit the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing website on local government elections at www.gov.bc.ca/localelections or Elections BC at elections.bc.ca.