

1. Purpose

This policy defines the requirements regarding voter identification to ensure coherence and consistency in the application of the provisions of the *Election Act*.

The policy sets out the considerations and principles for administering the voter identification requirements under the guidelines as authorized by the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) when registering (including e-registration) and voting in person in electoral events. It explains to electors and political entities how Elections PEI establishes the list of authorized pieces of identification and how it intends to administer the identification provisions at the polls.

The policy includes the list of pieces of identification as authorized by the CEO. The list serves to allow all eligible electors to exercise their right to vote freely and without undue burden while maintaining trust in the electoral process. Trust in the electoral process includes both confidence in the integrity of the process, as well as confidence that it is administered in a fair, consistent, effective and transparent manner.

2. Definitions

- 2.1 "**Election Act, the Act**": *Election Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988 Cap. E-1.1
- 2.2 "**Chief Electoral Officer**"; "**CEO**": Refers to the Chief Electoral Officer of Prince Edward Island.
- 2.3 "**Correspondence**": On the list of pieces of identification authorized by the Chief Electoral Officer of PEI the term correspondence is deemed to include all statements of account, transcripts and communications between a school, college or university and an elector.
- 2.4 "**Election Officer**": means the Chief Electoral Officer, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer, and any other election official as appointed under the *Election Act*.
- 2.5 "**Elections PEI; the agency**": Refers to the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer of Prince Edward Island.
- 2.6 "**Electoral event**": Refers to a provincial or municipal general election, by-election, or plebiscite. An electoral event commences when the writ of election is issued and concludes on polling day or on the dates specified in legislation for voting during a Plebiscite.
- 2.7 "**Government**": Refers to the Government of Prince Edward Island and encompasses Elections PEI.
- 2.8 "**Identification**": Refers to an elector providing a designated election officer with satisfactory proof of their name and address.
- 2.9 "**Piece(s) of identification**": Refers to all pieces of identification authorized by the Chief Electoral Officer of Prince Edward Island for proving identity and/or residence.

- 2.10 "**Policy on Voter Identification**": Refers to Elections PEI's Policy on Voter Identification with regard to e-registration, registering and voting in person in provincial/municipal electoral events, by-elections and plebiscites.

3. Application

- 3.1 This policy applies at a provincial/municipal general election, by-election or plebiscite.
- 3.2 It applies to electors who are registering and voting in person on polling day or at a mobile poll, electors who are registering and voting in person on any polling day, electors who are registering online via the Elections PEI online registration service, and electors who request a special ballot in person at the office of a returning officer.

4. Effective Date

- 4.1 This policy takes effect on June 1, 2016.

5. Considerations

- 5.1 Three key considerations have guided the development of the Policy on Voter Identification:
- accessibility for electors who may face barriers in providing documentary proof of their ordinary place of residence
 - the integrity of the vote, including public confidence in the electoral system
 - the efficient administration of electoral events, whereby the process is seamless and the requirements are applied consistently
- 5.2 With regard to accessibility, a continued challenge in the identification regime is the difficulty some electors face in providing documentary proof of their residence. Not all electors may have a driver's license or provincial ID card.
- 5.3 The following categories of electors are more likely to experience difficulty in proving their identity and, in particular, their place of ordinary residence:
- **Electors living in long-term care facilities**
 - **Youth and students**
 - **Electors who are homeless**
 - **Electors who have recently moved or who have difficulty proving their physical address**
- 5.4 Elections PEI will work with these electors to ensure access to voting is available.

6. Legal Context

Identification requirements – Options to Prove Identity and Residence

- 6.1 Electors are required to provide documentary evidence of both their name and their address to register and to cast a ballot at a polling station.
- 6.2 If the poll clerk determines the elector's name and address appear on the list of electors or the elector is eligible to vote, then, subject to subsection (3), the elector shall provide to the designated election official the following proof of their identity and residence:
- (a) one piece of identification issued by the Province of Prince Edward Island, or an agency of that government, that contains a photograph of the elector and their name and address; or
 - (b) two pieces of identification of a type authorized under subsection (2.1), each of which establishes the elector's name and at least one of which establishes the elector's address.
- 6.3 The Chief Electoral Officer may authorize types of identification for the purposes of paragraph (6.2)(b). For greater certainty, any document, regardless of who issued the document, may be authorized.
- 6.4 An elector who proves their identity by providing two pieces of identification of a type authorized under section 6.2.b which establish the elector's name may instead prove their residence by making a declaration in writing in the prescribed form – if they are accompanied by another elector whose name appears on the list of electors for the same polling division who
- (a) prove their own identity and residence to the designated election official by providing the piece or pieces of identification referred to in paragraph 6.2 (a) or (b), respectively; and
 - (b) vouches to the elector's residence, a declaration in writing, in the prescribed form, including the statements that:
 - (i) they know the elector personally,
 - (ii) they know that the elector resides in the polling division,
 - (iii) they have not vouched to the residence of another elector at the election, and
 - (iv) their own residence has not been vouched to by another elector at the election.

7. Option 1 - One Piece of Identification

7.1 The elector shall provide one piece of identification issued by the Province of Prince Edward Island, or an agency of that government, that contains a photograph of the elector and their name and address.

Examples of these pieces include:

- PEI driver's license, or
- PEI voluntary ID card, or
- Any other government card which has the voter's photo, name and current address.

8. Option 2 - Two pieces of identification

8.1 The elector shall provide two pieces of identification of a type authorized by the CEO, each of which establishes the elector's name and at least one of which establishes the elector's current address.

8.1.1 Utility statement used for proof of residence must be current and dated within two months from the date of the election.

8.3 Under this option, the CEO has established guidelines which authorize which types of identification may be used to establish an elector's identity and residence in order to vote and to register to vote.

8.4 E-statements and e-invoices are acceptable in printed form or with mobile devices.

9. Option 3 - Vouching (or) letter of Confirmation of Residence

9.1 If an elector does not have the required documentation to prove their residence, a letter of Confirmation of Residence, as approved by the Chief Electoral Officer, may be completed and signed by the appropriate authority. See Confirmation of Residence - Appendix B.

9.2 The elector who accompanies someone without proof of residence must have the required piece or pieces of identification proving identity and residence, and must not have vouched for another elector in the election, or have had their own address vouched for, at the same election. They must also take a declaration on the approved form.

9.3 For all three identification options, the election officer must be satisfied that the elector has established their identity as well as residence.

10. Policy Statement

10.1 Objectives

- To establish the CEO's list of authorized pieces of identification and to clarify its application
- To maintain the integrity of the voting process, enhance accessibility, and strengthen the efficiency of the voting process.

10.2 Expected Results

- Electors establish their identity and residence at the polls in accordance with the *Election Act*.
- Electors have various alternatives for proving their identity and residence in order to vote
- Elections PEI supports the effective and efficient administration of the list of authorized pieces of identification by election officers

11. Policy

11.1 Proof of Residence with List of Electors

- 11.1.a Where the address found on the elector's piece(s) of identification does not establish their residence but is consistent with the information on the list of electors, the elector's residence is deemed to have been proven, unless the election officer has reasonable doubt as to the residence of the elector.
- 11.1.b Reasonable doubt must not be founded on the fact that the elector's residence could not be established by the piece(s) of identification presented. In cases of doubt, the elector may only vote if they take the authorized declaration.
- 11.1.c For electors required to be added to the Register of Electors without proof of residence, they may have another elector vouch as to their place of residence by completing the Declaration of Elector Vouching, as per Section 9.

11.2 Discrepancies

- 11.2.a In cases where there are discrepancies between the name and address on the list of electors and on the piece(s) of identification presented by the elector, the election officer will determine consistency based on all information available to them, including personal knowledge of changes in street name or municipal designation.
- 11.2.b If the Election Officer is satisfied that the identification documents prove the elector's identity and residence, the elector shall be allowed to vote. If the Election Officer is not satisfied that the elector's name or address, as established by the documents presented, corresponds to an entry on the list of electors, the elector will need to be registered before being allowed to vote.

12. Candidate's and Scrutineer's Right to Examine

- 12.1 A candidate or candidate's representative (agent/ scrutineer) may examine, but not handle, any piece of identification presented by an elector to the election officer at the polling station or in the office of the returning officer. A candidate agent may request to look at any piece of identification only when the election officer is processing the voter and verifying proof of identity and residence.
- 12.2 When a request to examine an elector's identification occurs, the election officer may either show the identification to the agent or ask the elector to show their identification to the agent. If the agent raises an objection, the election officer will make the final decision in accepting or not accepting the identification as valid.
- 12.3 Should the elector refuse to show their identification to agent on request, the elector will be allowed to vote if the election officer is satisfied that the elector has established their identity as well as their residence. In this case, the CEO has instructed that the elector's objection be noted.

13. Authorized Pieces of Identification

- 13.1 Pieces of identification must be in either English or French.
- 13.2 Expired pieces of identification are accepted for proof of identity only.

14. Policy with Regard to the CEO's List of Authorized Pieces of Identification – Applicable to Option 2 and Option 3 Only

- 14.1 The list may include pieces of identification that are not issued by a government institution and that are not designed or ordinarily referred to as pieces of identification, provided that they meet the guidelines as authorized by the CEO. The criteria guiding the CEO in determining those authorized pieces of identification are the following:
- inclusion of name or name and residential address information
 - source
 - prevalence of piece generally
 - prevalence of piece among specific groups of electors
 - ease of access
- 14.2 The list of pieces of identification authorized by the CEO is provided in Appendix A.

15. Original Pieces of Identification, Printouts, and Online Versions on an Electronic Device

- 15.1 Pieces of identification are accepted in whichever format they were first issued. In the case of documents issued electronically (such as e-statements or e-invoices), both printouts printed by the elector or online versions shown on a mobile device are accepted.
- 15.2 Photocopies or scanned versions of documents that were not issued electronically (e.g. a Canadian passport, Driver's licence) are not accepted.

16. Handwritten Information on a Piece of Identification

- 16.1 A piece of identification in which the name and/or address of the elector has been added by hand by the issuing organization may serve to prove the elector's identity and/or residential address.
- 16.2 A passport cannot be used as proof of address because the address is written in by the passport holder; therefore, it may only be used to prove identity.

17. Source of a Piece of Identification

- 17.1 Electors are allowed to present two different pieces of identification from the same source, if the documents serve different purposes. For example, a student may present a bill for services and a transcript of their marks, even if they have been issued by the same school, college or university.
- 17.2 An elector may not provide two pieces of identification from the same source if both documents serve the same purpose. For example, an elector may not provide two telephone bills from the same provider for the same telephone line, even if both documents are for different billing cycles.

18. Letter of Confirmation of Residence

- 18.1 A letter of confirmation of residence can be issued by a designated shelter, soup kitchen, student residence, seniors' residence or long-term care facility, and will be accepted as proof of residence.
- 18.2 The letter of confirmation of residence serves as one of two pieces of identification required by the elector to register and/or vote in person at the polls or at the office of the returning officer. The elector must also bring a second piece of identification proving their identity (such as a health card, or a library card or any other piece listed in section 9), or complete an attestation of identity at the poll.

- 18.3 Elections PEI will accept letters of confirmation of residence signed by those in leadership positions (for example, a band councillor, a chief, a councillor, or a member of a board of directors or management team). In addition, Elections PEI allows this task to be delegated to employees under a leader's supervision.
- 18.4 A template *Letter of Confirmation of Residence* will be available on the Elections PEI website and listed in Appendix B.
- 18.5 A letter printed on the designated establishment's letterhead confirming that the elector is resident or receives services at the establishment is also accepted.

19. ID must prove both identity and address. There are three options:

- 19.1 A driver's licence, or other government-issued ID that has your name, photo and address. This must be your civic/residential address.
- 19.2 Show two pieces of ID, both must have your name and one must have your address. For example, your health card and a utility bill. These are listed below and on the back of the Voter Information Card (VIC) , at electionspei.ca or at 1-888-234-8683.
- 19.3 At the voting station, you can sign a declaration, and a registered voter from your district, such as a neighbour or roommate, will vouch for you. A person can only vouch for one individual unless it is an immediate family member or a person who resides at the same residence. An immediate family member is a spouse, mother, father, brother, sister, step-brother, step-sister, son, daughter, grandmother or grandfather.

Letter of Confirmation of Residence

You can use this letter as your *proof of address* — along with proof of Identity — to register and vote in a provincial election.

What you need to know:

- This proof of address will be valid **only** if it is signed by the administrator of a student residence, seniors' residence, long-term care facility, or shelter.
- If you live in or receive services from one of the places listed above, print this letter and ask the administrator to complete and sign it.
- The administrator should contact the local returning officer* to make sure the facility is listed with Elections PEI. If it is not on our list, this letter will not be accepted at the polls.
- When you register and/ or vote, bring this letter and a second piece of ID with your name. Choose from the ID listed in Appendix A or on the Elections PEI website.

I confirm the person named below:

(Print voter's first name and last name)

resides or receives services at:

(Full name and address of facility or establishment)

Administrator's full name, title, address and telephone number:

(Signature of facility administrator)

(Date)

(Signature of elector)

Contact Info: Elections PEI
1-888-234-8683 (VOTE)

Facilities can be added to the list once the election has been called.

Note: Any person who knowingly registers to be included on a list of electors for a polling division that he or she does not ordinarily live in commits an offence under the *Election Act*, unless he or she is authorized to do so under the Act.

Declaration of Elector Vouching

District _____

I, _____
Name

of _____
Civic Address

Municipality or Community

declare:

1. That I am a qualified elector at the above-mentioned address and my name properly appears on the List of Electors for polling division no. _____ thereof.

2. That I know _____
Name

who lives at _____
Civic Address

and who has applied to vote at this polling station.

3. That I truly believe that the applicant is a Canadian citizen, of the full age of eighteen years, and that the applicant has been ordinarily resident in Prince Edward Island for at least six months immediately preceding the date of the writ of election, and that the applicant is or will be ordinarily resident at the address in paragraph 2 at the date of the election.

4. That I truly believe that the applicant is qualified to vote at this election.

Declared before me _____)

at _____)
Name of community

Province of Prince Edward Island)

the _____ day of _____, 20____)
month

Election Official

Signature of Voter Vouching