

# ELECTIONS PEI

## Glossary of municipal election terms

### **Advance poll**

This is a voting location for electors who want to vote in person before Election Day. Any eligible elector may vote at an advance poll location in their electoral district. After a general election or by-election has been called, the dates, times and locations of where you can vote will be announced or published — whether you decide to vote during advance polls or on election day.

### **By-Election**

A by-election is an election called in one or more electoral wards between general elections to replace a councilor of a municipal government when their seat or position within a municipal government is vacated.

### **Candidate**

A candidate is a person who, after the Writ is issued, has either had their nomination paper accepted by a returning officer or has been registered as a candidate (in Charlottetown, Cornwall, Stratford and Summerside) with Elections PEI by filing the appropriate registration forms.

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### **Chief Electoral Officer**

The Chief Electoral Officer, or CEO, is an Officer of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island, appointed by the Legislative Assembly of PEI. The CEO has overall responsibility for conducting provincial elections on Prince Edward Island as well as being appointed by council as MEO or Municipal Electoral Officer for Charlottetown, Cornwall, Stratford and Summerside.

### **Deputy Returning Officer**

This election official is appointed by a returning officer and is responsible for the handling of the ballots and ballot boxes at a specific polling station. They are also part of the counting team following the close of the polls.

### **Election Clerk**

An election clerk is appointed by the chief electoral officer. They are the second in command in a returning office. They report to the returning officer.

### **Election Period**

The election period begins the day the Writ is issued and ends on Election Day.

### **Elector**

An elector is a person who is eligible to vote but who has not yet voted in a municipal election on PEI.

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### **Information Officer**

An election worker who greets you at a polling location and checks your VIC and ID to ensure you are eligible and you are at the correct location.

### **List of Electors**

A preliminary list and/or the official list of electors of all eligible voters that have registered to vote.

### **Municipal Electoral Officer**

The person appointed by a council to administer an election or by-election.

### **Nomination for Councilor**

A candidate for councilor is nominated to run for election in an electoral ward when the returning officer accepts their nomination paper. The nomination paper contains the candidate's name and address and the signatures of at least 10 eligible electors from the electoral ward where the candidate is seeking nomination.

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### **Nomination for Mayor**

A candidate for mayor is nominated to run for election in a municipality when the returning officer accepts their nomination paper. The nomination paper contains the candidate's name and address and the signatures of at least 10 eligible electors from the municipality where the candidate is seeking nomination.

### **Official Results**

The official results of an election are declared after each Returning Officer verifies the election documents in their ward, for accuracy.

### **Poll Clerk**

A poll clerk is an election official who is appointed by a returning officer to assist a deputy returning officer at a polling station.

### **Polling Division**

An electoral area is divided into geographic areas called polling divisions. This is done for the purpose of administering the election and each poll is comprised of nearly 400 electors. Your voting location on Election Day is determined by your polling division.

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### **Polling Location**

A polling location is the physical address where electors go to vote in an election. A polling location may contain just one or multiple “polling stations”.

### **Polling Station**

A polling station is located inside a polling location. It is a place where electors can vote. There may be many polling stations inside one polling location.

### **Register of Electors**

The Register of Electors of PEI is a data base of eligible electors. This information is constantly maintained. Anyone who wants to vote in a municipal election must be on the Register of Electors. Islanders who are eligible to vote can add themselves to the list between elections or when they go to vote. The list of electors is updated throughout the election as people register, update or remove their information.

### **Returning Officer**

A returning officer is the election official who is appointed by the Chief Electoral Officer to administer an election in an electoral ward and whose appointment expires on declaration day.

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### **Scrutineer**

A person who represents a candidate at a voting location to observe the voting and the counting of the ballots. Two scrutineers per candidate are permitted for each polling station. A scrutineer must meet the qualification of an eligible elector.

### **Supervising Deputy Returning Officer**

The SDRO supervises polling locations containing polling stations. They are responsible for the overall administration of the election at the specific voting location.

### **Unofficial Results**

These are the election results that Elections PEI makes available to the media and the public on Election Night. They results remain “unofficial” until verified by the Returning Officer.

### **Voter**

A voter is an elector who has voted during an election.

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### **Voter Information Card (VIC)**

This card is issued by mail to every elector whose name and address appears on the register of electors. The card contains individual information about where and when an elector can vote. It also contains contact information for the elector's local returning office, and Elections PEI headquarters.

### **Writ of election**

A Writ is the formal, legal document that starts a municipal election or by-election and sets out the date for close of nominations. The Chief Electoral Officer issues a copy to the returning officer in each electoral ward, giving them the authority to hold an election.