

If you know that you won't be able to vote on Election Day, you can either go to one of the City's advance vote locations or you can appoint another eligible elector to act as your proxy. To appoint a proxy, you and the person who will be voting on your behalf need to provide acceptable ID complete a form and have it certified by the City Clerk's Office.

Who can be a candidate in the municipal election?

To run for an office on Council or a School Board, a candidate must be qualified on the day he or she files the nomination paper.

To run for Council (Mayor or Councillor) the person must be:

- A Canadian citizen
- At least 18 years of age
- A resident of the City of Toronto
- Own or lease property in the City of Toronto (or be the spouse of the owner or lessee)
- Not legally prohibited from voting
- Not disqualified by any legislation from holding municipal office

To run for School Board Trustee the person must be:

- A Canadian citizen
- At least 18 years of age
- A resident in the area of jurisdiction of the board
- Eligible to be an elector for the school board
- Not legally prohibited from voting
- Not disqualified by any legislation from holding municipal office.

An elected member of Council or a School Board Trustee must maintain their qualifications throughout the entire term of office or their seat will become vacant.

If you're interested in being a candidate, please contact candidateinfo@toronto.ca.

Once a candidate has filed their nomination papers with the City, they are able to start fundraising and spending money on their election campaign. Contribution limits for City Councillor and School Board candidates are a maximum of \$750 per contributor; Mayoralty candidates can accept a maximum of \$2,500 per contributor. Corporations or trade unions are prohibited from contributing to candidates seeking office to Toronto City Council; they may still contribute to School Board Trustee candidates.

If a contributor wishes to contribute to multiple candidates, they cannot contribute more than \$5,000 to all candidates within a single Council or School Board jurisdiction. There are limits on the amounts a candidate can spend on expenses during the campaign period. These limits are based on the number of electors entitled to vote for the office. The City Clerk informs candidates about their spending limits.

For more information

311 is the public information and referral service for the City of Toronto, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Staff will help you with information about services and programs and how to contact your City Councillor. Service is available on line at toronto.ca/311.

- Phone within Toronto city limits: 311
- Phone outside city limits: 416-392-CITY (2489)
- TTY customers: 416-338-0TTY (0889)
- Email: 311@toronto.ca
- Fax: 416-338-0685

This brochure is just one in a series on the City of Toronto. You can find the rest of the series online and downloadable on the City's website at toronto.ca/civic-engagement/learning-material

toronto.ca

Your guide to...



ELECTIONS

Voting is a fundamental part of our democracy.

When you vote, you are selecting representatives who will make the laws and policies that determine how our City functions and how we live together. In Toronto's municipal election you vote for Mayor, Councillor and School Board Trustee.

Toronto City Council is the main governing and legislative body of the City of Toronto. City Council is made up of the Mayor and 44 Councillors. The Mayor is the only member of Council who is elected by voters from across the city. Each councillor represents one of Toronto's 44 municipal wards (a geographic area of the city). Elected trustees make up a school board. The number of trustees on a board is based on the population in the board's area of jurisdiction. You may find out more information by visiting Election Services at toronto.ca/elections.

Elections and City of Toronto

Unlike other orders of government, there are no political parties at the municipal level. Elections happen once every four years. The next municipal election will take place on Monday, October 22, 2018.

Who can vote in a municipal election?

You can vote in Toronto's municipal election if you are:

- a Canadian citizen, and
- at least 18 years old, and
- a resident of the City of Toronto, or
- a non-resident owner or tenant of land in the City of Toronto, or their spouse, and
- not prohibited from voting under any law

You may only vote once in the City of Toronto's municipal election regardless of how many properties you own or rent within the City. If you live in the city and own or rent more than one property, you must vote in the ward where you live.

What is the Voters' List?

The voters' list is a list of eligible electors in the City of Toronto. The Preliminary List of Electors is compiled by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) using their comprehensive database of property owners and tenants. MPAC's preliminary list aids the City of Toronto's Election Services in their preparation of the voters list. Being on the voters' list ensures that you will receive important election messaging like the voter information card. Not only does the voter information card tell you where and when to vote on the advance vote days and Election Day, it makes voting faster at your voting location.

To find out if you are currently in MPAC's database, to update or change your information or to have your name added to this database, please contact MPAC directly: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Toll free: 1-866-296-MPAC (6722)

Website: mpac.ca

How do I vote?

When you go to your voting place, take your voter information card and remember that you are required to show acceptable identification (ID). If you need to be added to the voters' list you will also need to show acceptable ID.

If you do not have acceptable ID but your name is on the voters' list, you will be required to sign a Declaration of Identity.

If you do not have acceptable ID, and are not on the voters' list, you will be asked to return with your ID in order to receive a ballot.

What is acceptable identification (ID)?

- ONE piece of ID showing your name, qualifying address and signature; or,
- TWO pieces of ID, the FIRST showing name and signature and the SECOND piece showing name and qualifying address.

To vote:

There are three parts to the Toronto election ballot. Each ballot will list all of the candidates running for Mayor and the candidates running for Councillor and School Board Trustee in your ward. If you are a non-resident owner or tenant of land assessed as commercial or industrial you cannot vote for a school board trustee.

1. Bring your voter information card along with acceptable identification when you go to vote.
2. At the voting place, you will be greeted by an election official (at the door or at the desk). If you need assistance, an election official will be happy to help you.
3. You will be asked for identification showing your name, qualifying address and signature.
4. The election official will check your identification against the voters' list and cross your name off the list.
5. The official will put your ballot in a secrecy folder. They will then show you how to mark your ballot by connecting the head and tail of the arrow pointing to the candidate of your choice. They will then direct you to the voting screen.
6. At the voting screen, review the instructions on how to mark your ballot.
7. You can vote once for Mayor and once for Councillor. You may also be entitled to vote once for School Board Trustee.
8. Place your marked ballot in the secrecy folder and take it to the vote tabulator officer who will feed your ballot into the machine.
9. Once your ballot is accepted by the machine, you have successfully voted.