



## 2020 MUNICIPAL ELECTION UPDATE

The next Municipal election is happening this Fall in October 2020.

This year is going to be a little different as it is a fully electronic election. Annapolis Royal Town Council decided to hold an electronic election this year to increase safety due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are providing this update to inform all residents of the Town of Annapolis Royal on how the election will operate.

The election will choose the Mayor and four Councillors for a term of four years to serve for the Town of Annapolis Royal. There will also be a vote for the for the Conseil Scolaire Acadien Provincial (CSAP) and the successful candidate will serve for the Provincial Electoral District of Greenwood comprising Annapolis County, Kings County, West Hants Regional Municipality, Annapolis Royal, Middleton, Berwick, Kentville and Wolfville.

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### HOW WILL THE 2020 ELECTION WORK?

**Electronic Voting:** We are very happy to offer electronic voting for the upcoming 2020 election. This means that eligible voters can vote from anywhere using:

- Landline
- Cell Phone or Smart Phone
- Desktop, Laptop, or Tablet

### WHY ELECTRONIC VOTING?

**Electronic voting is a part of our dedication to keep our residents protected against COVID-19. Eligible voters can vote from anywhere! (i.e. home, work, etc.) This is a safer option for voters and election workers alike to prevent further spread of the virus. We understand that the electronic voting might not be viable for some so we still have options available to vote in-person electronically.**

**Convenience:** There will be several days to vote! The electronic phone or internet voting service will be available 24 hours a day from 9:00 a.m. on October 8, 2020 until the closing of the election at 7:00 p.m. on October 17, 2020.

**Support:** If you are voting from home and require assistance there will be staff available via telephone during regular business hours and dates (excluding holidays) beginning October 8, 2020 to October 17, 2020.

**In-Person Voting:** There is still an option to vote in person if you choose to do so. You may come to Town Hall to vote starting at 9:00 a.m. on October 8, 2020 to October 16, 2020 and between 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. on the actual election day on Saturday, October 17, 2020. In-person voting will be via tablet voting kiosk. Election staff will be on hand and ready to assist you with any questions or needs. **We encourage you to only vote in-person if you have no option to do it on your own.**

### AM I ELIGIBLE TO VOTE?

**You qualify to vote if you meet all the following conditions:**

- You are 18 years of age or older and a Canadian citizen on the first advance polling day.
- You have been ordinarily resident in Nova Scotia for 6 months immediately before the first advance polling day.
- You are ordinarily resident in the Town of Annapolis Royal and have been so since immediately before the first advance polling day; and
- You are not otherwise disqualified to vote in the Municipal elections.



Please email at [elections@annapolisroyal.com](mailto:elections@annapolisroyal.com) or call 902-532-2043 ext. 102 to verify that you are on the voters' list.

## HOW WILL I KNOW HOW TO VOTE?

**Eligible voters will receive a personally addressed “Voter Letter” in late September.**

**The letter will provide you with the following information:**

1. The toll-free phone number for electronic phone voting. When voting you will hear the recorded voice menus and make your voting selection by pressing numbers.
2. Internet URL for computer voting. When voting you will see a visual on-screen ballot. You will click to select your candidate choice.
3. The letter will include a personal pin number which you will use to access the electronic voting (Do not lose this number). You will have to supply your pin and your birthdate for verification before choosing candidates.
4. Toll-free number to call Town staff for help.
5. Location, dates, and times for voting. (Please bring your voter letter if you choose to vote in-person).

## IMPORTANT DATES:

September 8, 2020 - Nomination Day – No appointment needed (Nominations can be filed by appointment with the Returning Officer in the seven business days preceding nomination day beginning Thursday, August 27, 2020).

September 9, 2020 at 4 p.m. - Last day for candidates to withdraw.

October 8, 2020 at 9 a.m. to October 17, 2020 at 7 p.m. - Electronic and telephone voting open.

October 17, 2020 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. - Election Day (unofficial results)

October 20, 2020- Official Addition of ballots by Returning Officer and last day to file affidavit (re: removal of posters and return of voters list for return of full or part of deposit).

October 27, 2020 - Last day to apply for a recount.

December 16, 2020 - Last day to file campaign contribution disclosure form.

## NEXT STEPS:

1. Watch for your official “Voter Letter” in the mail. These will be personally addressed to each eligible voter.
2. Stay informed by checking the Town of Annapolis Royal website for updates and information: <https://annapolisroyal.com/municipal-elections-2020/>
3. A video will also be circulating on Facebook for everyone to see how electronic voting is done closer to the election.
4. Contact us with any questions at [elections@annapolisroyal.com](mailto:elections@annapolisroyal.com).