

Voter's Guide

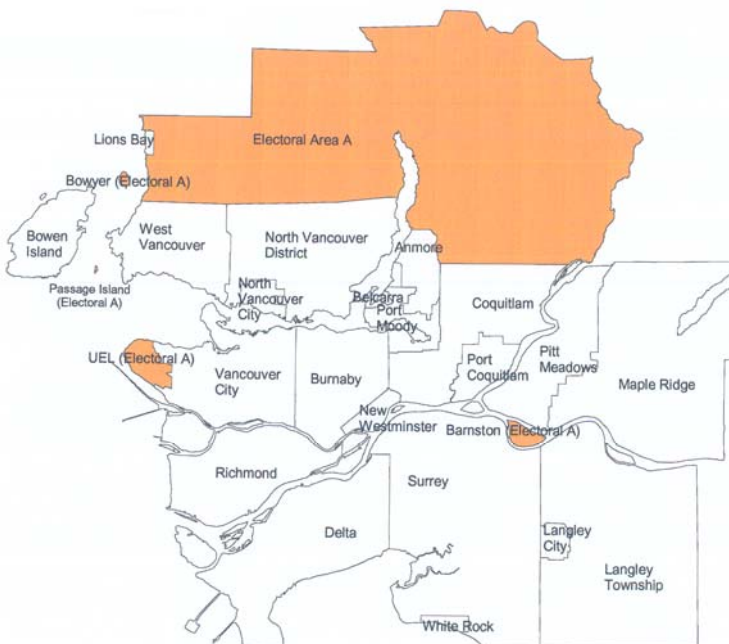
Greater Vancouver Regional District Electoral Area "A" Election 2008



The purpose of this guide is to provide voters in Electoral Area "A" with answers to frequently asked questions about the election, and the processes to follow.

1. Where is Electoral Area "A"?

Electoral Area "A" is depicted by the shaded areas in the map.



Electoral Area "A" refers to that part of the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) not within the boundaries of a City, District, Island, Town, or Village municipality, or any land, foreshore, or land covered by water that may be hereafter incorporated within the boundaries of a municipality. This includes the University Endowment Lands, University of British Columbia lands, Bowyer Island, Grebe Islets, Passage Island, Barnston Island, and those areas of Howe Sound, Indian Arm and West Pitt Lake in the GVRD not within a municipal corporation.

2. When is the election?

General voting day is Saturday, November 15, 2008, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

3. Where do I vote?

On general voting day (November 15, 2008), you can vote (from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.) at any one of the following places:

- University Hill Secondary School
2896 Acadia Road, Vancouver
- University of British Columbia
Student Union Building Room 212
6138 Student Union Boulevard
- Gleneagles School
6350 Marine Drive, West Vancouver
- Katzie First Nation Community Hall
Barnston Island

If you are not able to vote on general voting day, you may vote at an advance voting opportunity on November 5 or 8, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at any one of the following places:

On November 5, 2008 at:

- West Vancouver Municipal Hall
750 – 17th Street, West Vancouver
- Fleetwood Community Recreation Centre
15996 – 84 Avenue, Surrey
- Dunbar Community Centre
4747 Dunbar Street, Vancouver

On November 8, 2008 at:

- Dunbar Community Centre
4747 Dunbar Street, Vancouver
- Greater Vancouver Regional District
(Metro Vancouver)
4330 Kingsway, Burnaby

4. Do I have to pre register to vote?

No, you will register at the voting place on voting day, not in advance.

5. Can I vote by mail in ballot?

No, because registration is made at the voting place.

6. Who can vote in the Electoral Area "A" election?

A person who:

- is a Canadian citizen
- is 18 years of age or older on general voting day (November 15)
- has lived in British Columbia for at least six months on the day of voting
- has lived in Electoral Area "A" for at least 30 days on the day of voting
- is not disqualified by law from voting

All Electoral Area "A" residents who meet these requirements can vote. It does not matter whether you rent or own your own home. Landed immigrants who are not yet Canadian citizens are not permitted to vote.

If you are a student living in residence at an educational institution in Electoral Area "A", and are otherwise qualified to vote, then you can choose to vote in your new area (Electoral Area "A"), or vote in your usual area of residence, but not both.

If you do not live in Electoral Area "A", but own property there, see the Non-Resident Property Owner section of this guide

7. What do I need to bring with me to register to vote?

Bring two pieces of identification (ID) with you containing your name and address; one must have your signature. Here are the kinds of ID that are acceptable:

- BC Driver's Licence
- BC Motor Vehicle Identification Card
- ICBC Owner's Certificate of Insurance and Vehicle Licence
- BC CareCard or Gold CareCard
- Utility bill for electricity, natural gas, water, telephone, or cable services
- Canadian Citizenship card

- Property tax notice
- Credit or debit card issued by a savings institution
- Canadian Social Insurance card
- Request for Continued Assistance Form SDES8 from Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security
- Canadian Passport

If your ID doesn't have your residential address, you can make a solemn declaration at the voting place as to your residency.

If you do not live in Electoral Area "A", but own property there, you must bring proof of ownership with you to the voting place. See the Non-Resident Property Owner section of this guide.

8. Are the voting places wheelchair accessible?

Yes, all voting places are wheelchair accessible. Some are more accessible than others.

9. I will be away on general voting day. Can I still vote?

Yes, at an advance voting opportunity on November 5 or 8, 2008 at the locations and times noted in question 3.

10. I am a member of a First Nation living on reserve. Can I vote?

Yes, if the reserve is within Electoral Area "A" and you are otherwise eligible to vote, you can vote in the election. Refer to question 6 for eligibility requirements.

11. I moved here two weeks before general voting day. Can I vote?

No. You must have resided in Electoral Area "A" for 30 days before voting day to be eligible to vote.

12. Can I vote through the internet?

No.

13. What do I use to mark my ballot?

Use only the pen provided in the voting booth.

14. Can I take someone into the voting booth to help me?

Yes, if you are unable to mark a ballot because of physical disability or difficulty with reading or writing, or if you need an interpreter to translate.

If the person assisting you is not an election official, then the person will have to take an oath of secrecy administered by the Presiding Election Official at the voting place.

If you are unable to enter the voting place, you may ask to vote near the place.

15. Can a candidate help me vote if I need assistance?

No. Candidates and their representatives and agents are prohibited from assisting electors.

The following questions are for Non Resident Property Electors

16. Can I vote if I own property in Electoral Area "A" but I don't live there?

Yes as follows: If you own property in Electoral Area "A" but live somewhere else in B.C., you may also participate in this vote. This is called being a "non-resident property elector". As such, you can vote, as long as you:

- are a Canadian citizen
- are 18 years of age or older on general voting day (November 15)
- have lived in British Columbia for at least six months on the day of voting
- have owned real estate in Electoral Area "A", registered in your name, for at least 30 days on the day of voting
- are not disqualified by law from voting

You must present acceptable proof of ownership: a copy of your Certificate of Title, a current title search, a copy of your tax notice or your assessment notice.

18. Can I vote if there is more than one registered owner of my property?

Perhaps. If there is more than one registered owner of a property, only one of those individuals may, with the written consent of the majority of the other owners, register as a non-resident property elector. You may do so by completing the necessary consent form.

19. If I live in one community but own - with my spouse - rental property in Electoral Area "A", could we both vote as non-resident property electors for our rental property?

No. Only one of you could vote as the non-resident property elector for your rental property, and, in order to vote as the non-resident property elector for that property, you would need the written consent of your spouse.

Would our tenant get to vote?

Yes, the tenants of your rental property would be entitled to register to vote as resident electors of Electoral Area "A".

20. If I own property in Electoral Area "A" with another person, and that other person lives in the house there, could I still vote as a non-resident property owner?

Perhaps. You as a non-resident property owner could vote as the non-resident owner for that property provided you have the written consent of the other owner.

Could the other owner, who lives there, be the resident elector?

The person living in the house could only vote as a resident elector in Electoral Area "A" because he or she lives there.

21. What if I owned - with my spouse - two properties in Electoral Area "A"? Could we both vote?

Yes you could. You could vote as the non-resident property elector for one property and your spouse could vote as the non-resident property elector for the other property. Of course, you would both need the other's written consent to act as the non-resident property elector for either property.

Note: you can vote only once, regardless of the number of properties you own in Electoral Area "A".

22. Could I still vote if I owned property with four other people and two of them reside out of the country?

Yes, as long as you obtain the written consent of the majority of the owners.

23. If a corporation is on title, can a corporation be the non-resident property elector?

No, corporations are not entitled to vote.

24. Can I vote if I am personally incorporated? I have for example, Joe Smith Ltd. named on the title?

No, you would not be able to vote as a non-resident property elector for that property because it is owned by you as a corporate entity.

25. Who can vote if land is owned by a holding company and is subdivided into a number of properties – some of which house people year round and others that are used as vacation property?

The individuals who live on the properties owned by the holding company may vote as resident electors provided they meet the criteria for resident electors. The individuals who use the other properties as vacation property will NOT be eligible to vote because the property is owned by a corporate entity.

If you have any questions about the election, contact the GVRD Election Office at 604-432-6338.