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# YOUR VOTE MATTERS!

TOOLKIT TO SUPPORT VOTING

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN AND THE LAW



nawl  
anfd



Celebrating the Legacy  
Célébrer l'héritage

Defining the Future  
Définir l'avenir

# Your vote matters!

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This spring, millions of Canadians will participate in shaping the future of our country by voting in the federal election. Voting is always important. It is an excellent opportunity to have your say on issues you care about.

It can be easy to forget how many people will be impacted by the outcome of this election. The federal government adopts laws that affect everyone: children who deserve the best start in life, young people who need stable employment and affordable housing, families struggling to afford groceries and other necessities, and seniors who rely on public pension income to live their lives with dignity.

Federal laws and programs impact most people's priorities: affordability, the economy and job security, the environment, access to healthcare and other social programs, and many more. Your vote will help decide which federal party will form government and invest in the issues that affect your daily life and that of many others.

This toolkit was created to ensure you have the information you need in order to cast your vote in the upcoming election, because your vote matters. We deserve a future where every person in Canada can succeed, regardless of where we live or what we look like. We should demand policies that advance equality, drive economic growth, protect our human rights, and make our communities safer. Let's vote for leaders who will strengthen our country by prioritizing our collective wellbeing.

**Change happens when we demand better!**

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This toolkit was created in collaboration with the *Demand Better* campaign. *Demand Better* is a national, non-partisan, bilingual awareness campaign to unite people in Canada around the idea that gender justice and economic prosperity are interconnected. To learn more about how you can demand better from our politicians, scan the QR code or visit [demandbettertoday.ca](https://demandbettertoday.ca)



# YOUR VOTE MATTERS!

MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE ON ADVANCE POLLING DAYS OR ON ELECTION DAY

Advance polls: April 18, 19, 20, 21, 2025  
Election day: April 28, 2025

ELECTION DAY

APRIL  
28

## PREPARE TO VOTE

To vote in a federal election you must be a Canadian citizen and at least 18 years old on election day. If you meet these criteria then you can vote in the election! Follow the steps below to make sure you are able to cast your vote and help shape the future of our country.

### 1 MAKE SURE YOU'RE REGISTERED

To vote in a federal election you must be registered on the list of electors. Registering in advance will make the voting process faster and easier, although you can still register at the polls when you go to vote. To add, update or confirm your information, visit [elections.ca](https://elections.ca) or scan the QR code. You will be required to upload proof of identity and address.



### 2 DECIDE WHO YOU WANT TO VOTE FOR

When deciding who to vote for, it's important to think about the issues that matter to you and consider which party or candidate aligns with your values. Visit [elections.ca](https://elections.ca) and input your address to view a list of all the candidates in your riding. This list will also show you which party each candidate belongs to (if any). If you're not sure where you stand, or which party aligns with your values, here are a few tools to help you learn more:

#### DEMAND BETTER

*Demand Better* demonstrates how strong social policies, like childcare, Pharmacare and affordable housing, help build a strong economy. Learn more at [demandbettertoday.ca](https://demandbettertoday.ca)

#### VOTE COMPASS

Vote Compass is a tool developed by political scientists to help you explore how your views align with those of the parties. Learn more from CBC.

#### PARTY PLATFORMS

Each party has their own website where you can learn more about their platforms. Many candidates will also have their own websites where you can learn more.

# GO VOTE!

## WHERE TO VOTE:

If you're registered in advance you will receive a voter identification card in the mail outlining when and where to vote. You can also visit [elections.ca](https://elections.ca) and input your address to find your assigned polling station.

## VOTE EARLY:

It is strongly recommended that you make a plan to vote early. This will help you avoid any unexpected delays that may prevent you from getting to the polls on election day.

### ▶ VOTE ON ADVANCE POLLING DAYS:

- Vote at your assigned polling station on between 9am and 9pm on Friday, April 18; Saturday, April 19; Sunday, April 20; and Monday, April 21, 2025.

### ▶ VOTE AT ANY ELECTIONS CANADA OFFICE:

- Vote in person at any Elections Canada office across the country until Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 6pm.

### ▶ VOTE BY MAIL:

- If you are unable to vote in person, you can apply to vote by mail. Be aware that deadlines apply. Visit [elections.ca](https://elections.ca) for more information.

## VOTE ON ELECTION DAY:

If you are unable to vote early, you can vote at your assigned polling station on Monday, April 28, 2025. Polls will be open for 12 hours (hours vary by time zone).

## IDENTIFICATION:

In order to vote in the federal election, you must be able to prove your identity and address. If you don't have ID, you can still vote if you declare your identity and address in writing and have someone vouch for you. See the attached document for more information.

## VOTER CHECKLIST:

Your vote matters! Use this checklist to make sure you're prepared:



Register in advance to make the voting process faster and easier.



Map out directions/plan your transit route to your polling station.



Add the election day and advance polls into your calendar, and set a reminder in your phone.



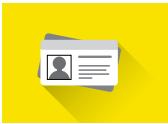
Review the list of accepted IDs and bring your voter identification card.

# Have your ID ready to vote

Three options to prove your identity and address

To vote, you must be a Canadian citizen and at least 18 years old on election day.


**Option 1**



**Show one of these pieces of ID**

- your driver's licence
- any other card issued by a Canadian government (federal, provincial/territorial or local) with your photo, name and current address

**Option 2**




**Show two pieces of ID**

Both must have your name and at least one must have your current address

**Examples:**



- voter information card and bank statement
- utility bill and student ID card



**Don't have these? No problem!**

See the **list of accepted ID for option 2** below

**Option 3**

**If you don't have ID**

You can still vote if you declare your identity and address in writing and have someone who knows you and who is assigned to your polling station vouch for you.

The voucher must be able to prove their identity and address. A person can vouch for only one person (except in long-term care facilities).



From a government or government agency			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• band membership card</li> <li>• birth certificate</li> <li>• Canadian citizenship card or certificate</li> <li>• Canadian Forces identity card</li> <li>• Canadian passport (accepted only as proof of identity)</li> <li>• firearms licence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• government cheque or cheque stub</li> <li>• government statement of benefits</li> <li>• health card</li> <li>• income tax assessment</li> <li>• Indian status card or temporary confirmation of registration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• library card</li> <li>• licence or card issued for fishing, trapping or hunting</li> <li>• liquor identity card</li> <li>• Métis card</li> <li>• old age security card</li> <li>• parolee card</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• property tax assessment or evaluation</li> <li>• public transportation card</li> <li>• social insurance number card</li> <li>• vehicle ownership</li> <li>• Veterans Affairs health care identification card</li> </ul>
From Elections Canada	From an educational institution	From a health care facility or organization	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• targeted revision form to residents of long-term care facilities</li> <li>• voter information card</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• correspondence issued by a school, college or university</li> <li>• student identity card</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• blood donor card</li> <li>• CNIB card</li> <li>• hospital card</li> <li>• label on a prescription container</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identity bracelet issued by a hospital or long-term care facility</li> <li>• medical clinic card</li> </ul>
From a financial institution	From a private organization	Letters of confirmation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bank statement</li> <li>• credit card</li> <li>• credit card statement</li> <li>• credit union statement</li> <li>• debit card</li> <li>• insurance certificate, policy or statement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mortgage contract or statement</li> <li>• pension plan statement</li> <li>• personal cheque</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• employee card</li> <li>• residential lease or sub-lease</li> <li>• utility bill (e.g.: electricity; water; telecommunications services including telephone, cable or satellite)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• letter from a public curator, public guardian or public trustee</li> <li>• letter of confirmation of residence from a First Nations band or reserve or an Inuit local authority</li> <li>• letter of confirmation of residence, letter of stay, admission form, or statement of</li> </ul> <p>benefits from one of the following designated establishments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- student residence</li> <li>- seniors' residence</li> <li>- long-term care institution</li> <li>- shelter</li> <li>- soup kitchen</li> <li>- a community-based residential facility</li> </ul>

Other pieces of ID may be added. We accept e-statements and e-invoices. Print them or show them on a mobile device.

## Letter of Confirmation of Residence

You can use this letter as your *proof of address*—along with a second piece of ID—to register and vote in a federal 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, shelter, soup kitchen, First Nations' band or reserve, Inuit local authority, or community-based residential facility (CCC/CRF).
- If you live in or receive services from one of the establishments listed above, print this letter and ask the administrator to complete and sign it.
- The administrator should contact the returning officer\* to make sure the establishment is listed with Elections Canada†. If it is not on our list, this letter will not be accepted at the polls.
- When you go to register and vote, bring this letter and a second piece of ID with your name. Choose from the ID listed on our website.

I confirm that the person named below:

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*(Voter's first name and last name)*

resides or receives services at:

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*(Full name and address of facility or establishment)*

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

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*(Signature of establishment administrator)*

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*(Date)*

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\* Contact information for returning officers can be found on the Elections Canada website once the election has been called.

† The list refers to the *List of Designated Establishments* (EC 50054) and is only available once the election is called. Establishments 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 in which they do not ordinarily reside commits an offence under the *Canada Elections Act*, unless they are authorized to do so under the Act.

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This toolkit was produced by the National Association of Women and the Law. NAWL is dedicated to advancing substantive equality for all women in Canada through law reform, particularly at the federal level. Since our founding in 1974, we are proud to have had a major role in achieving significant milestones for women's rights, and for our advocacy to have impacted numerous laws and policies across the country.

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