



ELECTIONS BC

A non-partisan Office of the Legislature

GUIDE TO RECOUNTS

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Introduction

Purpose of this guide

The purpose of the Guide to Recounts is to assist individuals in understanding the recount process under the *Election Act*.

This guide is designed to provide a framework and quick reference for judicial recounts and recounts conducted by District Electoral Officers. Applicable section references to the *Election Act* are provided. Section references appear as a number between square brackets; all refer to the *Election Act* unless otherwise noted.

Information in this guide is intended to be used as a reference in conjunction with the *Election Act* and does not take precedence over the Act. If any part of this Guide to Recounts conflicts with what appears in the *Election Act*, the Act is deemed the exclusive authority.

Scope of this guide

This guide explains the rights of voters and candidates to request a judicial recount or a recount of the ballots considered at initial count. The guide describes who may be present at a recount, the reasons an application for a recount may be made, how a recount is conducted, and the rules for establishing the validity of a vote. Information regarding recounts conducted in previous elections is also included.

This guide does not address challenges made to the validity of an election under Part 8 of the *Election Act*. An application may be made to the Supreme Court of British Columbia for a declaration regarding the right of an individual to take office or the validity of an election. Allegations that an elected candidate is not qualified to hold office, or applications to have an election declared invalid on the basis that the election was not conducted in accordance with the Act or that there were specific contraventions of the Act, may only be addressed by an application under Part 8, and cannot be dealt with at a judicial recount. [s. 150]

Privacy

Elections BC has the authority to collect, use, disclose and dispose of personal information under the *Election Act* and the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. This information is used to administer provisions of the *Election Act*.

For information about Elections BC's privacy policies, please visit elections.bc.ca/privacy or contact the **Privacy Officer, Elections BC** at 1-800-661-8683 or privacy@elections.bc.ca or PO Box 9275 Stn Prov Govt Victoria, BC V8W 9J6.

Overview

Voting

The *Election Act* provides a variety of voting opportunities from Writ Day through to General Voting Day. Following is a brief summary of each voting opportunity, the qualifications to vote, as well as the types of ballots available to voters at each voting opportunity. A table summarizing all voting opportunities is provided in the Appendix. [s. 73-114]

Who may vote

To vote in a provincial election, an individual must be a Canadian citizen, at least 18 years of age on General Voting Day, have lived in B.C. for at least six months before General Voting Day, be registered as a voter for the electoral district or register in conjunction with voting, and not be disqualified from voting in the election. [s. 29]

Ballots

All ballots are bound in books and have a stub and a counterfoil. The stub and counterfoil are sequentially numbered. Ballot stubs remain in the book; the voter is issued a ballot with the counterfoil attached. The counterfoil is removed from the ballot by the Voting Officer before it is placed in a ballot box.

For a general election, there are two types of election ballots: ordinary ballots and write-in ballots. Both ballots are established by the Schedule to the *Election Act*. Ordinary ballots provide a printed list of candidate names for an electoral district with a blank circle beside each name where the voter can make their mark. Write-in ballots have a blank space where voters write or print the name of a candidate or registered political party. Write-in ballots are used by absentee voters. [s. 86, 87, 91]

A copy of the ordinary ballot and write-in ballot are provided in the Appendix to this guide.

Advance voting

This voting opportunity is held from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (local time) on the Saturday and Sunday two weeks before General Voting Day and on the Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday of the week before General Voting Day. Advance voting is available to any voter resident in the electoral district. [s. 76, 97]

General voting

General voting is available on General Voting Day, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Pacific time). General voting is available to any voter resident in a voting area assigned to vote at that specific voting location. [s. 75, 96]

Absentee voting

Voters who are unable to attend their assigned voting location on General Voting Day, or the advance voting locations in their electoral district of residence, may vote at any other voting location in the province. Absentee voting is available at all advance voting and general voting places. Absentee ballots are placed in certification envelopes and sent to the appropriate district electoral office to be considered at final count. [s. 99-101]

Alternative absentee voting

Voters who are unable to attend an advance or general voting place may vote by alternative absentee voting. There are two types of alternative absentee voting: at any district electoral office from when an election is called until 4 p.m. (Pacific time) on General Voting Day, and, for voters who cannot vote in the district electoral office, by alternative absentee voting package (voting by mail). These packages are available on request to voters up to 30 days prior to when an election is called, until 4 p.m. (Pacific time) on General Voting Day. While voting packages may be issued prior to Writ Day, voters must not mark their ballot or complete the package prior to the election being called. All packages must be received by Elections BC by the close of voting on General Voting Day. Alternative absentee voting is by certification envelope and the ballots are considered at final count. [s. 78, 102-108]

Special voting

A District Electoral Officer may establish special voting opportunities for voters who are otherwise unable to vote. Typically special voting opportunities are for voters who are in a hospital, mental health or care facility, correctional centre, remote work site, etc. Special voting is a form of absentee voting, and voting is by certification envelope with the ballots considered at final count. Special voting can be administered by a mobile team of election officials that visit the special voting sites.

An exception is made for residents of site-based voting areas (SVAs). These are usually long-term care facilities where voters live. SVA voting is administered by a mobile team, but voting is by general voting procedures. [s. 77, 80(4), 98]

Certification envelopes

All absentee, alternative absentee and special voting opportunities require the use of a certification envelope. The election ballot is placed in a single secrecy envelope, which is then placed in the certification envelope. On the outside of the certification envelope, the Voting Officer records the voter's name, residential address and their electoral district of residence. The voter must sign the certification envelope, declaring they are registered as a voter for the electoral district for which the individual is voting (or are applying to register as such in conjunction with voting), that the voter has not previously voted and will not vote again in the election, and, if applicable, is eligible to vote by alternative absentee voting. If voting by mail, the voter's signature on the certification envelope must be witnessed. Certification envelopes must remain unopened until final count. [s. 87, 106]

There are three types of certification envelopes: two alternative absentee voting certification envelopes (one for voting in the district electoral office and one for voting by mail), and one certification envelope for special voting and absentee voting under sections 98, 99, 100 and 101.

Samples of each type of envelope are provided in the Appendix.

Counting

Initial count

The first stage of the vote counting process is called initial count: the counting of the ballots from general voting and advance voting. Initial count is conducted following the close of general voting. After initial count is completed, the District Electoral Officer announces the preliminary results.

Ballots contained in certification envelopes are not considered at initial count. In the 2013 General Election, 90.2% of the total ballots cast were counted at initial count. [s. 115-126]

Final count

Final count is the counting of the votes that were not considered as part of initial count. These are ballots contained in certification envelopes – ballots from voters who voted under the provisions for absentee voting, alternative absentee voting or special voting. Final count ordinarily begins on the 13th day after initial count, to allow enough time for envelopes to be sent to the District Electoral Officers for the electoral district in which the voters are resident. Final count must be conducted by the District Electoral Officer and be completed within three days. At the conclusion of final count, the District Electoral Officer declares the official election results, based on the votes accepted at initial count and final count, and the election of the candidate who received the most votes. [s. 127-138]

Recount of initial count

As part of final count, the District Electoral Officer may recount some or all of the ballots that were considered at initial count. The District Electoral Officer may decide to conduct a full or partial recount, or a candidate or the official agent of a candidate may also request a recount. Recount requests must be made in writing within three days after General Voting Day. A recount may only be requested if the difference between the top two candidates is 100 votes or fewer, or if there is a belief that errors were made in the acceptance or rejection of ballots, or if the ballot account does not accurately record the number of votes for a candidate. If a request is received from a candidate or official agent, the District Electoral Officer must conduct a full or partial recount, whichever is requested, as part of final count. [s. 136]

Judicial recount – election

A judicial recount is conducted by the Supreme Court of British Columbia, and may include some or all of the ballots and certification envelopes for an election. A voter, candidate, candidate's representative or District Electoral Officer may make an application for a judicial recount if they believe errors were made in the acceptance or rejection of certification envelopes or ballots, or if the ballot account is not correct. In the event of a tie vote, or if the difference between the first two candidates is less than 1/500 of the total ballots considered, the District Electoral Officer must make an application for a judicial recount. An application must be made within six days after the declaration of official results following the conclusion of final count. [s.139-143]

Appeal of judicial recount

A candidate in an election may appeal the decision of the Supreme Court to the Court of Appeal. An appeal must be commenced within two days after the results of a judicial recount are declared. The time set for the hearing of the appeal must be no later than 10 days after the Court of Appeal receives the notice of appeal. [s. 144-145]

Counting of the vote

The *Election Act*, Part 7, establishes how ballots are to be counted in an election.

Initial count

What is initial count?

Initial count is the preliminary count of the votes on the ballots for an election, other than those contained in certification envelopes. Provisions for initial count are under Part 7, Division 1 of the *Election Act*. [s. 115-126]

Every ballot box and its corresponding team of election officials are involved in initial count. Election ballots that are not in certification envelopes are considered at initial count. Although ballots in certification envelopes are not considered at initial count, the number of certification envelopes is recorded and an Initial Count Reconciliation form is completed for each voting station or mobile team.

When and where initial count is conducted

Initial count is conducted as soon as possible after the close of voting on General Voting Day (8:00 p.m. Pacific time). The initial count of ballots cast at a general voting opportunity must be conducted at the general voting place, unless the District Electoral Officer specifies another location. The District Electoral Officer must specify the location(s) where initial count will be conducted for ballots for other voting opportunities. Candidates must be notified of the location(s) where initial count will be conducted. [s.116-117]

Who may be present at initial count

The Voting Officer responsible for the ballot box and at least one other election official must be present. Candidates may be present and each candidate is entitled to have one candidate representative (scrutineer) present for each ballot box for which a count is being separately conducted. Scrutineers must be appointed in writing. No other individuals may be present at initial count, unless permitted by the District Electoral Officer or designate. [s. 119]

Who conducts initial count

The Voting Officer responsible for the ballot box must conduct initial count with the assistance of another election official. The Voting Officer must personally make all decisions regarding the acceptance of a vote or the rejection of a ballot. The District Electoral Officer may assign responsibility for initial count to another election official if necessary. [s. 118]

Initial count reconciliation

Before considering the ballots at initial count, the Voting Officer first reconciles the number of election ballots used to the number of voters who voted at the voting station. The Voting Officer must complete the ballot account reconciliation portion of the Initial Count Reconciliation form before opening the ballot box (see Appendix).

The Voting Officer:

- confirms the number of election ballots issued to the voting station
- counts the number of unused election ballots
- counts the number of spoiled election ballots
- determines the number of voters who voted in the election at the voting station

After the number of ballots and voters who voted is reconciled, the Voting Officer may proceed with considering the election ballots and counting the certification envelopes contained in the ballot box. [s.120-121]

Considering election ballots and counting the vote

The Voting Officer begins the counting of the vote by opening the ballot box and emptying the contents onto a table. All certification envelopes are separated from ballots not in envelopes. [s.122-123]

The Voting Officer sorts the certification envelopes (if any) by section of the *Election Act* under which the ballot in each envelope was cast, then counts the number of envelopes and records the totals on the reconciliation form and on a special parcel envelope. The certification envelopes are put into the parcel envelope, which is then sealed. Certification envelopes are not opened under any circumstances during initial count.

Accepting or rejecting ballots

The Voting Officer unfolds and considers each ballot to determine if it is marked in an acceptable manner. Samples of valid ballot markings and rejected markings for ordinary ballots, used as a guide by the Voting Officer, are provided in the Appendix.

Ballots must be rejected by the Voting Officer if any of the following apply:

- the ballot used is not one officially supplied
- the ballot is unmarked
- the ballot is written on or marked in a way that could identify the voter
- the voter has marked the ballot for more than one candidate
- the intent of the voter is not clear

Ordinary ballots may be marked with a tick (✓) or a cross (✕) in or partly in the space beside the name of a candidate. Any other mark is acceptable, as long as it clearly shows the intent of the voter and could not reasonably identify the voter.

In some instances, initial count may include write-in ballots. This may occur if ordinary ballots were not ready for the voting opportunity or if there were insufficient ordinary ballots provided and write-in ballots were substituted.

Votes on write-in ballots that indicate the name of a registered political party are attributed to the candidate endorsed by that political party in the electoral district. If the political party indicated on the write-in ballot did not endorse a candidate in the electoral district, the ballot is rejected. If a write-in ballot contains the name of a candidate and a political party, and the candidate was not endorsed by that party, the ballot is rejected. If a write-in ballot is marked with the name of a candidate in another electoral district, the ballot is rejected. Spelling errors on write-in ballots are accepted, as long as the intent of the voter is clear.

If a ballot counterfoil is still attached, the Voting Officer discreetly removes and discards the counterfoil, without examining the voter number and being careful to conceal the number from other individuals present.

The Voting Officer announces the candidate or registered political party indicated on each accepted ballot, or announces that the ballot is rejected. The assisting election official records the votes for each candidate and rejected ballots on a tally sheet.

When initial count is complete for each ballot box, the Voting Officer and Voting Clerk complete the Initial Count Reconciliation form and package the ballots. Candidate representatives who are present may request a copy of the completed reconciliation form. Results are reported to the district electoral office, where the results are entered into the Voting Results System. Preliminary results from initial count are made public at the same time. [s. 122-123]

Objections to the acceptance or rejection of a ballot

During initial count for the election, a candidate or their representative may object to the acceptance of a vote or the rejection of a ballot at the time the ballot is considered by the Voting Officer. The Voting Officer must record an objection on the Objection to Acceptance or Rejection of a Ballot or Certification Envelope form (see sample in the Appendix) and indicate the reason for the objection. The Voting Officer marks on the back of the election ballot the corresponding number from the Objection to Acceptance or Rejection of a Ballot or Certification Envelope form and initials this number. A decision by a Voting Officer is final for the purposes of the initial count, even though objected to, and may only be changed by the District Electoral Officer during final count, or by a judge at a judicial recount. [s. 124]

Final count

What is final count?

Final count is a count of the ballots for an election that were not considered as part of initial count, and a determination of the results of the election based on the votes accepted in initial count and final count. Part 7, Division 2 of the *Election Act* establishes the process for final count in an election. At the end of final count for an election, the District Electoral Officer declares the election of the candidate with the most votes. [s.127–138]

When and where final count is conducted

Final count ordinarily begins at 9:00 a.m. on the 13th day after General Voting Day. This is to allow time for the certification envelopes to be shipped to the appropriate District Electoral Officers following initial count. Final count is held in the district electoral office and may continue for up to three days. [s. 128]

Who may be present at final count

The District Electoral Officer and at least one other election official must be present at final count. Candidates and one candidate representative per candidate may be present during final count for the election. Candidate representatives must be appointed in writing. [s. 130]

Who conducts final count

Final count must be conducted by the District Electoral Officer, who may be assisted by other election officials. The District Electoral Officer must personally make decisions regarding the acceptance or rejection of election ballots and whether certification envelopes are accepted for final count. [s. 129]

Conducting final count

Before counting begins, the District Electoral Officer reviews the initial count results that were reported against the totals recorded on the parcel envelopes containing counted ballots, unused and spoiled ballots. The DEO may choose to recount some or all of the ballots during final count if errors are found during this process. The DEO screens all certification envelopes containing ballots cast by voters resident in that electoral district, and checks voting books used during voting to ensure that no one voted more than once. The DEO also confirms that all voters who used a certification envelope were registered to vote or registered in conjunction with voting.

Certification envelopes may be marked as remaining unopened for final count if they are not completed fully, are not signed by the voter, or the voter is not registered to vote in the electoral district. Certification envelopes from voters who have voted more than once also remain unopened.

In preparation for counting, accepted certification envelopes are sorted by the section of the *Election Act* under which they were completed. Certification envelopes which are not accepted remain unopened and are set aside.

Final count reconciliation

Before counting may start, the District Electoral Officer completes the top portion of a Final Count Reconciliation form for each section of the Act under which certification envelopes have been received.

Removing ballots from envelopes

The District Electoral Officer opens the ballot boxes one section at a time. Any certification envelopes not accepted for final count are announced, set aside, and remain unopened. The District Electoral Officer then opens each accepted envelope and removes the secrecy envelope. The secrecy envelope is placed in a ballot box designated for the section being counted.

A certification envelope must be resealed during final count if it clearly contains more than one election ballot. During this phase, if a certification envelope contains more than one secrecy envelope, the District Electoral Officer must open the secrecy envelopes contained within the certification envelope to verify whether they contain election ballots. The District Electoral Officer must take care to ensure that the secrecy of the vote is maintained during this process. If there is more than one election ballot in a certification envelope, these ballots must be resealed in their respective envelopes and must not be considered at final count. [s. 135]

After all certification envelopes for a section have been opened and the secrecy envelopes placed in a ballot box, the District Electoral Officer opens each secrecy envelope, removes the ballot.

If a secrecy envelope contains more than one ballot for the election, all the ballots must be returned to the secrecy envelope and resealed. The secrecy envelope must not be reopened and none of the ballots inside will be considered at final count.

Objections to the opening of certification envelopes

A candidate or their representative may object to a decision of whether or not a certification envelope is to remain unopened at final count. An objection must be recorded on the Objection to Acceptance or Rejection of a Ballot or Certification Envelope form, and the back of the certification envelope is marked with the corresponding objection number. A decision of the District Electoral Officer is final, and may only be overturned in a judicial recount. [s. 124(4), 134(3)]

Considering ballots and counting votes for the election

The District Electoral Officer conducts final count of ballots in certification envelopes one section at a time. Final count of the referendum ballots must not begin until final count for the election is completed. Consideration of ballots and the counting process for final count parallel the procedures at initial count.

Accepting or rejecting ballots

The District Electoral Officer unfolds and considers each ballot to determine if it is marked in an acceptable manner. Samples of valid ballot markings and rejected markings for both ordinary ballots and write-in ballots are provided in the Appendix.

Ballots must be rejected by the District Electoral Officer if any of the following apply:

- the ballot used is not one officially supplied
- the ballot is unmarked
- the ballot is written on or marked in a way that could identify the voter
- the voter has marked the ballot for more than one candidate
- the intent of the voter is not clear
- the ballot is a write-in ballot marked for a registered political party that is not represented by a candidate in that electoral district's election
- the ballot is a write-in ballot marked for an individual who is not a candidate in that electoral district's election
- the ballot is a write-in ballot marked for both a candidate and a registered political party, but the candidate is not a representative of that political party

Misspelling or an abbreviation of either the name of a candidate or registered political party on a write-in ballot are not grounds for rejection, if the intent of the voter is clear.

Objections to the acceptance or rejection of a ballot

During final count for the election, a candidate or their representative may object to the acceptance of a vote or the rejection of a ballot at the time the ballot is considered by the District Electoral Officer. All objections must be recorded on the Objection to Acceptance or Rejection of a Ballot or Certification Envelope form, indicating the reason for the objection. The District Electoral Officer marks on the back of the election ballot the corresponding number from the form and initials this number. A decision by the District Electoral Officer is final for the purposes of the final count and may only be changed at a judicial recount. [s. 124, 135(3)(a)]

Determining election results

When all election ballots have been counted for each section, the District Electoral Officer completes the Final Count Reconciliation form for each section and enters the results into the Voting Results System. Election results are determined by consolidating the outcomes of initial count and final count for the electoral district. At the conclusion of final count, the District Electoral Officer declares the official election results and the election of the candidate who received the most votes, subject to a judicial recount. [s. 132(1)(g), 137]

Recounts of initial count by DEOs

As part of final count, the District Electoral Officer may recount the election ballots that were considered at initial count. The District Electoral Officer may choose to recount some or all the ballots if they have concerns regarding the validity of the results reported.

If a candidate or the official agent of a candidate requests a recount of some or all of the election ballots considered at initial count, the District Electoral Officer must recount these ballots as part of final count. The request must be made in writing within three days of General Voting Day, and may only be made on the basis that either the difference of votes between the top two candidates is 100 or fewer, or if there is a belief that errors were made in the acceptance or rejection of ballots, or if the ballot account does not accurately record the number of votes for a candidate. [s. 136]

When a recount of initial count is conducted

While a request to recount some or all of the ballots considered at initial count may be made immediately following the completion of initial count, the District Electoral Officer must not conduct the recount until final count begins – ordinarily at 9:00 a.m. on the 13th day after General Voting Day. Parcel envelopes containing accepted and rejected ballots are not opened until the commencement of final count.

When final count begins, the District Electoral Officer completes the recount prior to considering the ballots in certification envelopes.

Conducting a recount of initial count

The recount of election ballots from initial count is conducted using the same procedures as for initial count for the election. The ballots from each ballot box must be considered separately and a new Initial Count Reconciliation form must be completed for each ballot box included in the recount, and attached to the original reconciliation form for that box. [s. 136]

Who conducts a recount

While the District Electoral Officer may assign election officials to conduct a recount, the District Electoral Officer must deal directly with any objections by a candidate or a candidate representative as to the acceptance or rejection of an election ballot. [s. 129]

Who may be present

During a recount of election ballots, the District Electoral Officer and at least one other election official must be present. Candidates and a candidate representative may be present. No other individuals may be present unless permitted by the District Electoral Officer. [s. 130]

Past recounts

Prior to amendments to the *Election Act* in 2008, there were no legislated criteria established for requesting a recount of initial count. A candidate or candidate representative did not have to provide any grounds for the request, and there was no time limit for requesting a recount.

There have been 21 recounts during final count since the *Election Act* came into force in 1995. One for the 2013 General Election, two for the 2009 General Election, eight for the 2005 General Election, two for the 2001 General Election and four for the 1996 General Election.

In 2013 after the completion of initial count, a recount was required in Saanich North and the Islands due to a 54 vote margin between the top two candidates. The recount was completed on May 27, 2013 and confirmed the results from initial count. Following final count the margin increased to 163 votes.

In 2009, a recount of the initial count was requested in two electoral districts: Cariboo South and Delta South. Following the final count in both electoral districts, the leading candidate after the initial count on General Voting Day changed. This was a result of the addition of absentee ballots, as well as the correction of errors made during initial count.

The eight recounts of initial count for the 2005 General Election were requested by candidates. Not all requests were from the top two candidates, and the initial count difference between the top two candidates ranged from 12 votes in Vancouver-Burrard to 664 votes in Saanich-South. All eight recounts were completed by June 1, 2005. In all eight electoral districts, the recount confirmed the winning candidate.

There were two recounts of initial count for the 2001 General Election. The recounts were requested by the candidates with the second highest number of votes in the electoral districts of Victoria-Beacon Hill and Victoria-Hillside. Both recounts began in the respective district electoral offices on Tuesday, May 29, 2001. In both cases only the ballots for the two candidates with the most votes were considered.

There were four recounts of initial count at final count for the 1996 General Election in the electoral districts of Burnaby-Edmonds, Burnaby-North, Okanagan-Boundary and Vancouver-Fraserview.

The scope of all four recounts was dependent on issues raised by the candidates, but the usual practice was to only consider the ballots accepted at initial count for the top two candidates and conduct a review of all rejected ballots.

Judicial recounts

A judicial recount is conducted by a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia and may include some or all of the ballots for an election. If a judicial recount is conducted for an election, the District Electoral Officer cannot return the writ of election until the court makes a determination regarding the outcome of the election. [s. 139-143]

Who may apply for a judicial recount

A voter, candidate or District Electoral Officer for the electoral district may make an application for a judicial recount of election ballots. [s. 139(4)]

When an application may be made

An application for a judicial recount may be made between the declaration of official election results following the conclusion of final count, and six days after that declaration.

When a judicial recount is conducted

Within 72 hours after an application has been filed, the court registry must notify the applicant of the date, time and place at which the judicial recount is to be conducted. The date set must be no later than eight days after the petition commencing the application is filed. The *Election Act* does not specify the time by which a judicial recount must be completed. [s. 139(3), 140]

On what grounds an application may be made

In the event of a tie vote, or if the difference between the first two candidates is less than 1/500 of the total ballots considered, the District Electoral Officer must make an application for a judicial recount. [s. 139(2)]

Otherwise, an application may only be made for one or more of the following reasons:

- votes were not correctly accepted or rejected as required under the rules for accepting and rejecting ballots
- unopened or resealed certification envelopes or secrecy envelopes contain ballots that should have been considered
- a ballot account does not accurately record the number of votes for a candidate
- final count did not correctly calculate the total number of votes for a candidate

Responsibilities of applicant for a judicial recount

The individual making the application must immediately notify the affected individuals of the application. If the application is for a judicial recount of election ballots, the applicant must notify the District Electoral Officer and each candidate in the election. Within 24 hours of making the application, the individual must also provide them with copies of the petition commencing the application and its accompanying affidavit.

The applicant must also serve notice to the affected individuals of the date, time and place of the judicial recount within 24 hours of being notified by the court registry. [s. 140]

Who may be present

At a judicial recount of election ballots the following individuals and their legal counsel are entitled to be present:

- the individual who made the application
- the District Electoral Officer and one other election official
- the candidates in the election
- one agent for each candidate who is present, and for each candidate who is not present, two agents
- the Chief Electoral Officer and one agent
- other individuals permitted by the court (such as individuals appointed by the court to assist in the recount)

Where a judicial recount is conducted

A judicial recount may be conducted by the court in chambers, at the office of the District Electoral Officer or at any other place specified by the court. [s. 140(3)]

Conducting a judicial recount

Before beginning a judicial recount, if the court determines on the basis of the final count reconciliation forms that the results of a judicial recount would not materially affect the results of the election, the court may declare that the results are those declared at final count and take no further action. [s. 142(2)]

If consented to by the individual who made the application for the judicial recount, the District Electoral Officer and the candidates present, the court may limit the ballots and envelopes to be considered. The court has discretion to consider other ballots and envelopes in addition to those for which the judicial recount was requested. [s. 142(3),(4)]

In conducting a recount, the court must consider ballots and certification envelopes in accordance with the requirements of the *Election Act*. [s. 142(5)]

Sections 122 and 123 of the *Election Act* establish the rules for considering, accepting and rejecting election ballots. Sections 134 and 135 of the *Election Act* apply for the consideration of certification envelopes and the ballots they contain.

Awarding costs of a judicial recount

No costs may be awarded on a judicial recount unless, in the opinion of the court, a party to the judicial recount engaged in vexatious conduct or made unfounded allegations or objections. [s. 142(8)]

Results of a judicial recount

If no appeal of the results of a judicial recount for an election is commenced within the time permitted, the Supreme Court judge who conducted a judicial recount of election ballots must issue a certificate of the results of the election to the District Electoral Officer. [s. 143]

For information about appealing a decision of the Supreme Court regarding a judicial recount, see Appeal of judicial recount in this guide.

Past judicial recounts

There have been four judicial recounts since the *Election Act* came into force in 1995. Following the 1996 General Election, a judicial recount was required for the electoral district of Okanagan-Boundary, as the difference between the first and second candidate was less than 1/500 of the total votes considered.

Final count was completed on June 10, 1996 and included a recount of initial count. At the conclusion of final count, 33 votes separated the top two candidates, out of 18,365 votes considered.

The District Electoral Officer filed an application by way of a petition in the Registry of the Penticton Court House on June 13, 1996. The judicial recount was first convened in the district electoral office but the location was determined by the judge to be too small; the recount was subsequently moved to the Penticton Court House.

Only ballots for the two candidates with the most votes were considered, as well as all rejected ballots. The judge also reviewed alternative absentee voting certification envelopes that did not have the signature of a witness.

If an objection was raised, the ballot was reviewed by each candidate representative until there was a consensus. If there was no consensus, an objection to the judge's decision on whether or not to accept or reject a ballot was recorded in the same form used by Voting Officers at initial count.

There were 24 certification envelopes that were not opened at final count because the voters were not on the voters list and did not register in conjunction with voting. The judge ruled that they would not be counted but that they would be opened to ascertain what the results would have been, if counted. The reason for this decision was, if the Court of Appeal decided the judge erred in not opening the certification envelopes, then that court would know the results. The judge also wanted to ensure that there were no registration applications inside any unopened certification envelope. Additionally, the representatives for both candidates would know the results which may assist their decision whether or not to apply for an appeal of the judicial recount.

The judicial recount took four days and ended on June 21, 1996. No application for an appeal of the judicial recount was made. The judge issued a certificate to the District Electoral Officer with the results of the election. The judicial recount narrowed the margin to 27 votes.

Upon completion of final count on June 1, 2005, the District Electoral Officer for the electoral district of Vancouver-Burrard made an application to the Supreme Court for a judicial recount as the difference in votes received by the leading two candidates was less than 1/500 of the total ballots considered. After final count, Lorne Mayencourt had 12,023 votes and Tim Stevenson had 12,005. Final count had included a recount of initial count for that electoral district.

The judicial recount in Vancouver-Burrard was conducted by Associate Chief Justice Patrick Dohm on June 6 and 7, 2005. Within two days following the conclusion of a judicial recount, a candidate may appeal the decision to the Supreme Court. This appeal period ended at the close of business on June 9, 2005, with no appeal filed. On June 10, 2005, Justice Dohm certified the election of Lorne Mayencourt with 12,009 votes; Tim Stevenson received 11,998 votes.

In the 2009 General Election, a judicial count was necessary due to the small margin between the top two candidates in the Delta South electoral district. The District Electoral Officer made an application to the Supreme Court for a judicial recount. The separation between the leading candidates was 32 votes, less than 1/500 (47 votes) of the 23,477 ballots considered.

Conducted by Madame Justice Wedge on June 1 and 2, 2009, the judicial recount upheld the results of the final count in Delta South, confirming the election of Vicki Huntington. Following a two day appeal period in which no appeal was filed, the District Electoral Officer returned the writ on June 5, 2009, marking the end of the election period for the 39th Provincial General Election.

Upon completion of final count on May 28, 2013, in Coquitlam-Maillardville, a judicial recount was necessary due to the small margin between the top two candidates; the separation between the leading candidates was 35 votes, less than 1/500ths of the 21,897 ballots considered.

On June 4, 2013, the judicial recount conducted by Mr. Justice Barry M. Davies upheld the results of final count in Coquitlam-Maillardville, confirming the election of Selina Mae Robinson. Following a two day appeal period in which no appeal was filed, the DEO returned the writ on June 7, 2013, marking the end of the election period for the 40th Provincial General Election.

Appeal of judicial recount

The decision of the Supreme Court of British Columbia regarding a judicial recount of ballots from an election may be appealed to the British Columbia Court of Appeal. [s. 144]

There have been no appeals of a judicial recount made since the *Election Act* came into force in 1995.

Who may appeal the decision of a judicial recount

Only a candidate in an election may appeal the decision of the Supreme Court to the Court of Appeal. [s. 144(1)]

When an appeal may be made

An appeal must be commenced by filing a notice of appeal with the British Columbia Court of Appeal within two days after the results of the judicial recount are declared. Within these two days the individual bringing the appeal must give written notice of the appeal to the judge and parties to the judicial recount.

The time set for the hearing of the appeal must be no later than 10 days after the Court of Appeal receives the notice of appeal. Once an appeal is commenced, the registrar of the Court of Appeal must obtain an appointment from the court for a time for hearing the appeal within the 10 days. [s. 144(2), (4)]

Who may be present

The individuals entitled to be present at an appeal are the same as those entitled to be present at the judicial recount. Other individuals may only be present if permitted by the Court of Appeal. [s. 145(1)]

Conducting an appeal of a judicial recount

The ballots or envelopes that are the subject of the appeal must be forwarded to the registrar of the Court of Appeal in sufficient time to permit the appeal to be heard at the time set. The Supreme Court judge who conducted the recount must provide the Court of Appeal with a certificate of the decision on the recount. [s. 144(6)]

On the hearing of the appeal, the Court of Appeal must recount the ballots that are the subject of the appeal in accordance with the *Election Act*. [s. 145(2)]

Results of an appeal of a judicial recount

At the conclusion of the appeal, the Court of Appeal must declare the results of the election in accordance with its recount and issue a certificate of the results to the District Electoral Officer. [s. 145(3)]

Return of the writ of election

The District Electoral Officer must send the completed writ of election to the Chief Electoral Officer on the date set for the return of the writ. Return of the writ may be delayed if a judicial recount is conducted. [s. 146(4)]

If no application for a judicial recount for an election is made, at the end of the period for making such an application, the District Electoral Officer must complete the writ of election in accordance with the results as declared at final count. [s. 146(1)]

If a judicial recount or an appeal of a judicial recount is conducted in regard to an election, on receipt of the certificate of results the District Electoral Officer must complete the writ of election in accordance with the results as certified. [s. 146(2)]

If no candidate can be declared elected because two or more candidates have the same number of votes, the writ of election must indicate that no Member was elected for the electoral district and that the office of the Member is vacant. A by-election will be held to fill the vacancy. [s. 146(3)]

Appendix – Sample forms

- Ordinary ballot
- Write-in ballot (303)
- Summary of Voting Opportunities (307)
- Initial Count Reconciliation (339)
- Certification Envelope – Alternative Absentee Voting (352)
- Certification Envelope – Alternative Absentee Voting in DEO Office (355)
- Certification Envelope – Special Voting/Absentee Voting (356)
- Objections to the Acceptance or Rejection of a Ballot or Certification Envelope (362)
- Sample Ballot Markings – Ordinary Ballot (516)
- Sample Ballot Markings – Write-in Ballot (517)

Ordinary ballot

General Voting Day: Electoral District: Voter Number: _____	No. 12345
COUNTERFOIL	
Voter Number: _____	No. 12345
CHAN Bill Chan Registered Political Party	
JOHAL Lis Johal	
LAW Gary Law Independent	
LEE Richard Lee Independent	
STILES George William Stiles Independent	

Write-in ballot (303)

Electoral District: _____		
Election Official's Initials: _____		

COUNTERFOIL		
Election Official's Initials: _____		

FOLD HERE		-----
FOLD HERE		-----
I vote for –		


Summary of Voting Opportunities (307)

ELECTION ACT SECTION	VOTING OPPORTUNITY	WHEN	DESCRIPTION
96	General voting	8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Pacific time) on General Voting Day.	Available to voters resident in the electoral district who are voting at their assigned voting place.
97	Advance voting	8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (local time) on the Saturday and Sunday two weeks before General Voting Day, and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (local time) on the Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday the week before General Voting Day.	Available to voters within their own electoral district.
98	Special voting - mobile	Held on dates and times specified by DEO. Special voting opportunities are usually not held before advance voting.	'Mobiles': available to acute care hospitals, logging and fishing camps, isolated communities, provincial correctional institutions, etc.
	Site-based voting area voting (SVA)	Held on dates and times specified by DEO. No SVA voting should be held before advance voting.	Available to voters resident in specially designated voting areas - long-term care facilities, nursing homes, etc. General voting procedures are used for SVA residents.
99	Absentee - out of voting area	8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Pacific time) on General Voting Day.	Available to voters who are voting within their electoral district but not at their assigned voting place.
100	Absentee - out of electoral district	8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Pacific time) on General Voting Day.	Available to voters outside their own electoral district.
101	Absentee advance - out of electoral district	8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (local time) on the Saturday and Sunday two weeks before General Voting Day, and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (local time) on the Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday the week before General Voting Day.	Available to voters outside their own electoral district.
104	Alternative absentee voting in the district electoral office	From the time an election is called until 4 p.m. (Pacific time) on General Voting Day.	Available to voters who come within at least one of the following circumstances: *
106	Alternative absentee voting by voting package (Vote by Mail)	Application may be made until 4 p.m. (Pacific time) on General Voting Day. For a fixed date general election, packages may be issued up to 30 days prior to Writ Day. Voters must not mark ballots or complete certification envelopes prior to the issue of the writ. Packages must be received by the DEO who issued the package by 8 p.m. (Pacific time) on General Voting Day.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will be out of B.C. on General Voting Day; • has a physical disability or whose mobility is impaired; • is in a location that is remote from a voting place; • cannot vote at advance or general voting due to weather or other environmental conditions; or • for another reason beyond their control. *Note: Voters do not have to produce proof of their circumstances.

Summary of Voting Opportunities (307) - continued

BALLOT	CERTIFICATION ENVELOPE	VOTING BOOK TYPE	COUNTED AT
Ordinary	No	General voting book - Section 96	Initial count
Ordinary	No	Advance voting book - Section 97	Initial count
Ordinary and Write-in	Yes	Special voting book - Section 98	Final count
Ordinary	No	General voting book - Section 96	Initial count
Ordinary	Yes	Absentee voting book - Sections 99, 100, 101	Final count
Write-in	Yes	Absentee voting book - Sections 99, 100, 101	Final count
Write-in	Yes	Absentee voting book - Sections 99, 100, 101	Final count
Write-in	Yes	Alternative absentee voting book - Section 104, voting at the District Electoral Office	Final count
Write-in	Yes	Alternative absentee voting book - Section 106, by Voting Package	Final count

Initial Count Reconciliation (339)



INITIAL COUNT RECONCILIATION **339**
(16/11)

TO BE COMPLETED FOR EACH BALLOT BOX

ELECTIONS BC
A non-partisan Office of the Legislature

PART 1: BALLOT ACCOUNT

ELECTORAL DISTRICT	
VOTING AREA	VOTING PLACE
DATE(S) OF VOTING OPPORTUNITY	

VOTING OPPORTUNITY (Check appropriate section(s))

<input type="checkbox"/> s. 96 – General voting	<input type="checkbox"/> s. 100 – Absentee: out of district
<input type="checkbox"/> s. 97 – Advance voting	<input type="checkbox"/> s. 101 – Absentee: advance
<input type="checkbox"/> s. 98 – Special voting	<input type="checkbox"/> s. 104 – Alternative absentee: in district electoral office
<input type="checkbox"/> s. 99 – Absentee: out of voting area	<input type="checkbox"/> s. 106 – Alternative absentee: by voting package

SERIAL NUMBERS OF ORDINARY BALLOTS ISSUED	TOTAL ORDINARY BALLOTS	SERIAL NUMBERS OF WRITE-IN BALLOTS ISSUED	TOTAL WRITE-IN BALLOTS
TO		TO	
TO		TO	
TO		TO	
TO		TO	
TO		TO	
TO		TO	
TO		TO	
TO		TO	
TO		TO	
TO		TO	
A TOTAL		TOTAL B	
A + B = C			

CERTIFIED CORRECT VO INITIALS

PART 2: BALLOT ACCOUNT RECONCILIATION

	① TOTAL BALLOTS UNUSED	② TOTAL BALLOTS SPOILED	③ NUMBER OF VOTERS WHO VOTED (from voting book)	TOTAL
ORDINARY BALLOTS				
WRITE-IN BALLOTS				
TOTALS			*	D

* This total must equal total of ① in Part 3 Total C must equal Total D

PART 3: STATEMENT OF VOTES FOR INITIAL COUNT (DO NOT OPEN CERTIFICATION ENVELOPES)

CANDIDATE NAMES	VALID VOTES
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
Total valid votes	E

Total valid votes **E**

Total rejected ballots **F** +

Total votes considered **G** =

Total certification envelopes to be considered at final count **H** +

I =

* Total no. of voters who voted
* This total must equal the total in column ③ in Part 2

CERTIFICATION ENVELOPES	
s. 98	
s. 99	+
s. 100	+
s. 101	+
s. 104	+
s. 106	+
H =	

CERTIFIED CORRECT

SIGNATURE OF VOTING OFFICER

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

RESULTS REPORTED TO DEO OFFICE
INITIALS OF OFFICIAL

WHITE - INSERT IN VOTING BOOK


GREEN - DISTRICT ELECTORAL OFFICER

CANARY - CANDIDATE AND/OR SCRUTINEER

PINK - CANDIDATE AND/OR SCRUTINEER

GOLDENROD - CANDIDATE AND/OR SCRUTINEER

Certification Envelope - Alternative Absentee Voting (352)



**ALTERNATIVE
ABSENTEE VOTING
SECTION 106**

352
(17/01)

CERTIFICATION ENVELOPE

PUT CE
LABEL HERE

Declaration

I, the named voter, declare that:

- my name and residential address are correct as shown
- I am a Canadian citizen
- I have been a resident of B.C. for the six months before General Voting Day
- I am or will be 18 years of age or older on General Voting Day
- I am registered to vote or am registering for the electoral district
- I am not disqualified from voting
- I am eligible for alternative absentee voting under section 102 of the *Election Act*
- I have not previously voted in this election and will not vote again in this election

B

SIGNATURE OF VOTER
DATE (YYYY/MM/DD)
SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

IT IS AN OFFENCE TO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT UNDER THE *ELECTION ACT*

This information is collected under the authority of the *Election Act* and the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The information will be used to administer provisions under the *Election Act*. Questions can be directed to: **Privacy Officer, Elections BC** at 1-800-661-8683, privacy@elections.bc.ca or PO Box 9275 Stn Prov Govt Victoria, BC V8W 9J6.

FRONT


BACK

OFFICE USE ONLY

FLAP

VOTER INFORMATION/REGISTRATION			
VOTING AREA	VOTER'S ELECTORAL DISTRICT		
LAST NAME		FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME
BIRTHDATE		B.C. DRIVER'S LICENCE/BCID (OPTIONAL)	
YYYY	MM	DD	
HOME ADDRESS (DO NOT USE POSTAL ADDRESS)			
APT/UNIT #	BUILDING #	STREET NAME	
CITY/TOWN		POSTAL CODE	TELEPHONE NO.
MAILING ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT FROM HOME ADDRESS ABOVE)			
PREVIOUS NAME (IF APPLICABLE, OPTIONAL)			
LAST NAME		FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME
PREVIOUS ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE, OPTIONAL)			
APT/UNIT #	BUILDING #	STREET NAME	
CITY/TOWN		POSTAL CODE	
IDENTIFICATION	GOVT ISSUE ID <input type="checkbox"/>	OTHER (2 PIECES) <input type="checkbox"/>	VOUCHER (366V) <input type="checkbox"/>
CHALLENGE OF REGISTRATION	CHALLENGER NAME	HOW CHALLENGE WAS SATISFIED	
ISSUED COUNTERFOIL NUMBER			
RECEIVED COUNTERFOIL NUMBER IS CORRECT	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	ELECTION OFFICIAL'S INITIALS	DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) TIME
s. 134	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCEPTED FOR FINAL COUNT		<input type="checkbox"/> ENVELOPE TO REMAIN UNOPENED
REASON			
s. 135	<input type="checkbox"/> RESEALED AT FINAL COUNT		
REASON			

Certification Envelope - Alternative Absentee Voting in DEO Office (355)



**ALTERNATIVE
ABSENTEE VOTING
SECTION 104**

355
(16/10)

CERTIFICATION ENVELOPE

PUT CE
LABEL HERE

Declaration

I, the named voter, declare that:

- my name and residential address are correct as shown
- I am a Canadian citizen
- I have been a resident of B.C. for the six months before General Voting Day
- I am or will be 18 years of age or older on General Voting Day
- I am registered to vote or am registering for the electoral district
- I am not disqualified from voting
- I am eligible for alternative absentee voting under section 102 of the *Election Act*
- I have not previously voted in this election and will not vote again in this election

VOTER SIGNATURE

IT IS AN OFFENCE TO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT UNDER THE ELECTION ACT

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FRONT

BACK

**DO NOT COMPLETE THIS SIDE UNLESS
INSTRUCTED BY A SUPERVISOR**

VOTER INFORMATION /REGISTRATION			
VOTING AREA	VOTER'S ELECTORAL DISTRICT		
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	
BIRTHDATE		B.C. DRIVER'S LICENCE (OPTIONAL)	BCID (OPTIONAL)
YYYY	MM	DD	
HOME ADDRESS (DO NOT USE POSTAL ADDRESS)			
APT/UNIT #	BUILDING #	STREET NAME	
CITY/TOWN		POSTAL CODE	TELEPHONE NO.
MAILING ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT FROM HOME ADDRESS ABOVE)			
PREVIOUS NAME (IF APPLICABLE, OPTIONAL)			
LAST NAME		FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME
PREVIOUS ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE, OPTIONAL)			
APT/UNIT #	BUILDING #	STREET NAME	
CITY/TOWN			POSTAL CODE
IDENTIFICATION	GOVT ISSUE ID <input type="checkbox"/>	OTHER (2 PIECES) <input type="checkbox"/>	VOUCHER (366) <input type="checkbox"/>
CHALLENGE OF REGISTRATION	CHALLENGER NAME	HOW CHALLENGE WAS SATISFIED	
DISTRICT ELECTORAL OFFICE USE ONLY			
s. 134	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCEPTED FOR FINAL COUNT		<input type="checkbox"/> ENVELOPE TO REMAIN UNOPENED
REASON			
s. 135	<input type="checkbox"/> RESEALED AT FINAL COUNT		
REASON			

Certification Envelope - Special Voting/Absentee Voting (356)



ABSENTEE VOTING
SECTIONS 99, 100, 101

356
(16/10)

CERTIFICATION ENVELOPE

PUT CE
LABEL HERE

Declaration

I, the named voter, declare that:

- my name and residential address are correct as shown
- I am a Canadian citizen
- I have been a resident of B.C. for the six months before General Voting Day
- I am or will be 18 years of age or older on General Voting Day
- I am registered to vote or am registering for the electoral district
- I am not disqualified from voting
- I have not previously voted in this election and will not vote again in this election

VOTER SIGNATURE

IT IS AN OFFENCE TO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT UNDER THE ELECTION ACT

This information is collected under the authority of the *Election Act* and the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The information will be used to administer provisions under the *Election Act*. Questions can be directed to: **Privacy Officer, Elections BC** at 1-800-661-8683, privacy@elections.bc.ca or PO Box 9275 Stn Prov Govt Victoria, BC V8W 9J6.


FRONT

BACK

DO NOT COMPLETE THIS SIDE UNLESS
INSTRUCTED BY A SUPERVISOR

SECTION (CHECK ONE)			
OUTSIDE VOTING AREA (s. 99) <input type="checkbox"/>		OUTSIDE ELECTORAL DISTRICT (s. 100) <input type="checkbox"/>	
ADVANCE ABSENTEE (s. 101) <input type="checkbox"/>			
VOTER INFORMATION/REGISTRATION			
VOTING AREA		VOTER'S ELECTORAL DISTRICT	
LAST NAME		FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME
BIRTHDATE			B.C. DRIVER'S LICENCE (OPTIONAL)
YYYY	MM	DD	BCID (OPTIONAL)
HOME ADDRESS (DO NOT USE POSTAL ADDRESS)			
APT./UNIT #	BUILDING #	STREET NAME	
CITY/TOWN		POSTAL CODE	TELEPHONE NO.
MAILING ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT FROM HOME ADDRESS ABOVE)			
PREVIOUS NAME (IF APPLICABLE, OPTIONAL)			
LAST NAME		FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME
PREVIOUS ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE, OPTIONAL)			
APT./UNIT #	BUILDING #	STREET NAME	
CITY/TOWN			POSTAL CODE
IDENTIFICATION	GOVT ISSUE ID <input type="checkbox"/>	OTHER (2 PIECES) <input type="checkbox"/>	VOUCHER (366) <input type="checkbox"/>
CHALLENGE OF REGISTRATION	CHALLENGER NAME	HOW CHALLENGE WAS SATISFIED	
DISTRICT ELECTORAL OFFICE USE ONLY			
s. 134	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCEPTED FOR FINAL COUNT		<input type="checkbox"/> ENVELOPE TO REMAIN UNOPENED
REASON			
s. 135	<input type="checkbox"/> RESEALED AT FINAL COUNT		
REASON			

Objections to the Acceptance or Rejection of a Ballot or Certification Envelope (362)



ELECTIONS BC
A non-partisan Office of the Legislature

**OBJECTIONS TO THE ACCEPTANCE
OR REJECTION OF A BALLOT
OR CERTIFICATION ENVELOPE**

362
(13/05)
s. 124
s. 134

ELECTORAL DISTRICT

Initial Count

VOTING AREA:

OR

ADVANCE VOTING LOCATION

OR

BOX #:

After initial count, this form must be placed in the envelope on the back cover of the voting book.

A - Certification Envelope
B - Ballot

Final Count

FINAL COUNT SECTION #:


After final count, this form must be kept with the Final Count Reconciliation (348).

SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	A OR B	REASON FOR OBJECTION
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		

Note: The sequential number indicated on this form must also be noted on the back of the applicable ballot and initialed by the Voting Officer or District Electoral Officer.

SIGNATURE OF VOTING OFFICER

Sample Ballot Markings - Ordinary Ballot (516)




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SAMPLE BALLOT MARKINGS
ORDINARY BALLOT
s. 123 of the *Election Act*


516 (11/01)


Valid Markings — Accepted


Rejected Markings


1. 

2. 

3. 

1. 


2. 


3. 


All clearly indicate the voter's intentions, and would be accepted.


Ballot marked for more than one candidate.


Blank


4. 

5. 

6. 

4. 


5. 


6. 


The intent is clear, however, the Voting Officer must be confident these markings are not identifiable.


Intent clear


Voter intention not clear


7. 

8. 

9. 

7. 

8. 

9. 

Intent clear

A cross or tick mark in or partly in the blank space.

Voter intention not clear

Could be identifiable

Sample Ballot Markings - Write-in Ballot (517)



**SAMPLE BALLOT MARKINGS
WRITE-IN BALLOTS
Section 123, *Election Act***

517 (11/01)

List of Candidates

CHAN, Bill
Maple Party
JOHAL, Lis
STILES, George William
Independent
STILES, Mary
Douglas Fir Party

Valid Markings - Accepted



Although misspelled, intent is clear.



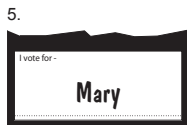
Although missing last name, intent is clear.



Intent clear



Although misspelled, intent is clear.



First name only acceptable, provided that only one candidate has that name. Intent must be clear.



Intent clear

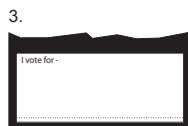
Rejected Markings



No Tax Free candidate.



Lis not Independent. Intent not clear.



Blank



No such candidate or party



Intent not clear. If two or more candidates have the same surnames, both first and last name or last name and initial must be shown.



Only the name of a registered political party or candidate can be used.

Questions?

For more information

Phone toll-free 1-800-661-8683 / TTY 1-888-456-5448

or contact

Elections BC

Mailing address:

PO Box 9275 Stn Prov Govt

Victoria BC V8W 9J6

Phone: 250-387-5305

Fax: 250-387-3578

Toll-free Fax: 1-866-466-0665

Email: electionsbc@elections.bc.ca

Website: elections.bc.ca

