

Recall and Initiative Act s. 19(2)(c) **Number of words in proponent statement**

Elections BC considers each meaningful grouping of letters or numbers typically shown with a space on either side when written, to be a word.

While Elections BC will not correct errors or otherwise amend a submitted statement, for the purpose of determining the number of words in the statement, Elections BC will interpret words as they would typically be written, regardless of how they appear on the page as submitted.

For example, if the statement read “recalltheMember”, Elections BC would consider it to say “recall the Member” and count it as three words; however, the statement would still be published as “recalltheMember”.

Other standards to be followed when calculating the number of words in a submitted statement are:

- Contractions and abbreviations are to be considered one word
 - e.g. “doesn’t” is one word, not two
- Hyphenated words are to be considered one word, provided the word is typically hyphenated
 - e.g. “non-commissioned” is one word, not two
 - e.g. “where-to-vote” is three words, not one because it is not hyphenated in typical use
 - e.g. “eighty-five” is one word, not two
- Electoral district names that are hyphenated are to be read without the hyphen and each word in the name considered as a unique word
 - e.g. “Powell River-Sunshine Coast” is four words, not three
- Initialisms and acronyms are to be considered one word, not the number of words in the entire phrase
 - e.g. “MLA” is one word, not five (Member of the Legislative Assembly)
 - e.g. “NASA” is one word, not five (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)
- Each segment of a date written in words or words and numbers is to be considered as an individual word, but dates written entirely as numbers are to be considered a single word
 - e.g. “May 12, 2009” is three words
 - e.g. “10/10/11” is one word

- Telephone numbers are to be considered a single word
 - e.g. “250-387-5305” is one word
- Email and website address are to be considered a single word
 - e.g. “electionsbc@elections.bc.ca” is one word
 - e.g. “www.elections.bc.ca” is one word
- Unless written as words, numbers are to be considered to be a single word
 - e.g. “85” is one word
 - e.g. “one hundred” is two words
- Dollar amounts written with a monetary symbol are considered to be one word
 - e.g. “\$100” is one word
 - e.g. “\$1 million” is two words

Counting the number of words in the statement must be done manually. Electronic word counting functions, such as the word count feature in MS Word, do not follow the standards used by Elections BC.