

8. Accessible Voting

To learn more about accessible voting, visit the [Elections Canada page on accessible voting \(français\)](#).

Building Accessibility

A) What is an “accessible” polling station?


Elections Canada has a [video and transcript](#) about building accessibility at the polling station ([ASL version](#)).

If a polling station is labeled “accessible”, this means it has met **15 mandatory criteria** set by Elections Canada:

- **Exterior** (outside building)
 - There must be no obstacles on the pathway to the polling station.
 - The pathway to the polling station must be at least 36” wide.
 - There must be step-free access to the polling station.
 - There must be good exterior lighting.
 - There cannot be any protruding objects at the entrance to the polling station.
- **Entrance**
 - The door to the entrance must be at least 32” wide.
 - The door threshold must be a maximum 1/4” tall.
 - The door to the polling station must not be too heavy to open.
- **Interior** (inside building)

- Any doors inside the polling station must be at least 32" wide.
- The doors inside the polling must not be too heavy to open.
- The door thresholds inside must be a maximum 1/4" tall.
- The corridors inside the polling place must be at least 36".
- There must not be any protruding objects inside the polling station.
- The voting room and the entrance must be on the same level.
- The interior lighting must work.

B) How do I check if my polling station is accessible?

1. You can check on your **voter information card** if you received one. Accessible polling/voting stations are labeled with an accessibility (wheelchair user) symbol .
2. You can check online by entering your postal code in the [Voter Information Service](#). This website will tell you which of the 15 mandatory criteria your polling station meets.
3. You can **contact Elections Canada** to ask:
 - Phone: 1-800-463-6868
 - TTY: 1-800-361-8935 (TTY)
 - Elections Canada can accept [Video Relay Service \(VRS\)](#) calls
 - Hours: 7:00 a.m. to midnight (Eastern Time), everyday
 - [Contact form and information page](#)

Voting Tools and Services

Elections Canada has a [video and transcript](#) about services offered at the polling station ([ASL version](#)).

- **Polling stations will have:**
 - Large print/braille list of candidates at the polling station
 - Magnifiers with a light
 - Large-grip pencil
 - Braille and tactical voting templates
 - Signature guides (in case you need to sign your name)
- Elections Canada has **increased the ballot** since the last election. You find more information about the ballot size on the Elections Canada website.
- **Voting screens** do not have an overheard cover anymore; this will let in more light.
- **You can have services to help you vote:**
 - **Help to mark your ballot**
 - You can bring a **support person** (such as a family member, friend, personal support worker, or intervener). They will have to take an oath.
 - You can ask an **election worker** to help you. A second election worker will be there too, to witness.
 - **Sign language interpretation**

- You need to request sign language interpretation by Tuesday, September 14 at 6 PM:
 - Fill out the [online form](#)
 - Phone: 1-800-463-6868
 - TTY: 1-800-361-8935
- **Help to prove your identity**
 - Someone else can vouch for your identity. They have to be an eligible elector assigned to your polling station. They can only vouch for one person.
 - If you're living in a seniors' residence or long-term care facility, a worker may vouch for more than one person.

C) How do I give feedback on my polling station's accessibility?

- You can give feedback to the election worker at the polling station.
- You can fill out the [feedback form](#) online or in person.

Information for People with Sensory Sensitivities

- **It may be loud in the polling station.**
 - You can bring earplugs, earphones, or ear-defenders.
 - Polling stations are less busy during working hours (9:00 AM-5:00 PM local time), except lunch hour (12:00 PM-1:00 PM).

- You may be provided with a sharpie to vote that has a strong scent. You can ask for something that smells less strongly.
- Some polling stations may use fluorescent lighting.
- **Line-Ups:**
 - There may be a long line to vote at times.
 - Mid-morning and mid-afternoon tend to be less busy.
 - If the polling station looks too busy, try coming back later if possible.
 - You can also consider voting in advance or by mail to give yourself more time and options to vote.

Getting to the Polling Station

- If you are having trouble going to the polling station, here are some things you can do:
 - **Ask a friend or family member** to drive you / carpool
 - Some **organizations (including candidates) may be offering rides to polling stations** on election day. You do not need to vote for a candidate if they help provide rides. You can check their website or contact them to ask.
 - **Vote earlier** if an advance polling station is easier to go to
 - **Vote at an Elections Office**
 - **Vote by mail**
 - **Request a transfer** to a different polling station by [contacting Elections Canada](#)

Additional Accessibility Resources

- [Information for People with Disabilities](#)
- [Accessible Polling Places](#)
- [List of Services Offered at Polling Stations](#)
- [Full Accessibility Criteria List](#)
- [Information in Alternative Formats](#)