

Voting qualifications (municipal council) (mayor and councillor)

Under s14 of the *Municipal Elections Act*, a person entitled to be registered on the List of Electors and to vote in a municipal election

- Must be 18 years of age AND a Canadian citizen on or before October 8, 2020 (the first advance poll day);
- Must be “ordinarily resident” in Nova Scotia for a period of (6) six months immediately preceding the first advance poll day – as of April 7, 2020 – and continue to live there; and
- Must be residing in MODL as of October 7, 2020, the day immediately preceding the first advance poll day.
- You are not otherwise disqualified to vote in Municipal and CSAP elections.

Disqualified persons

- Municipal Returning Officer
- A person serving a sentence in a penal or reform institution
- A person who has been convicted of bribery under the MEA in the 6 years preceding ordinary polling day (October 17, 2020)

What is meant by “ordinarily resident”?

Section 16 of the *Municipal Elections Act* defines an Ordinary Resident as –

- Where a person lives and where the person intends to return to when away.
- Where a person usually lives and sleeps and, to which, when away, the person intends to return, regardless of where he or she takes meals or is employed.
- Where a person is living temporarily at a place and, if the person has no other place, the person considers as that person’s place of residence.
- Where a person is provided with food, lodging, or other social services by a shelter, hostel or similar institution, the person would be ordinarily resident in that shelter, hostel, or other institution.

NOTE – a person is NOT ordinarily resident in a seasonal dwelling generally only occupied between May and October unless the person has no other dwelling place. A person can only be ordinarily resident in one place at a time.

Students

A student is ordinarily resident either where the person's family home is located or where the person is attending school, but not both. In establishing residency, election officials may require students to demonstrate where they live. Students must meet voting qualifications in order to vote. It is likely that most first year Nova Scotian students will meet the residency requirement in order to vote either where they attend school or where their family home is located, but not in both places.

An elector must be resident in the Province for six months immediately preceding the first advance polling day. The resident must also be ordinarily resident in the municipality or in an area annexed to the municipality and have been so since immediately before the first advance polling day.

Students, once the residency requirements have been met, may be required to work elsewhere for the summer and return in the fall to continue their studies. In such cases if they determine their home to be where they continue to attend school and are qualified to vote, they could choose to vote where they attend school.

If they feel they live where their family home is regardless of where they attend school, they have the option to vote where their family home is located. They can only vote once.

Voting qualifications (CSAP)

There are additional qualifications that electors who are voting for a member of the *Conseil scolaire acadien provincial* (CSAP) must meet.

Qualified electors who are "entitled persons" within the meaning of s.3 (h),(i) of the *Education (CSAP) Act* are entitled to vote for the member of CSAP in their polling district. An "entitled person" is a person:

- who is a Canadian citizen, and
- whose first language learned and still understood is French, or
- who received their primary school instruction in Canada in a French-first-language program, or
- of whom any child has received or is receiving primary or secondary school instruction in Canada in a French-first-language program.