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ORDER No.	CEO-ORDER-2020-006
Date	September 28, 2020
Date Revised	N/App
Subject	Ballot Counterfoil Handling
Reference	Sections 74(4)(a), 74(4)(b)(ii), 75(b)(i), 75(b)(ii), 77(3)(b), 77(3)(c), 99(10)(b)(i), 99(10)(b)(iii), 107(10)(b)(i), 107(10)(b)(iii), 115(10)(b)(i), 115(10)(b)(iii), 123(10)(b)(i) and 123(10)(b)(iii) of <i>The Election Act, 1996</i>
Intent	To minimize handling of the ballot after it has been issued to the voter, the Deputy Returning Officer will remove the counterfoil prior to issuing the ballot to the voter

The Chief Electoral Officer has the authority, under section 7 of *The Election Act, 1996* (the Act) and section 2 of *The Election Act Regulations* (the Regulations), to declare that an emergency exists and that the Act does not provide adequate provision to respond to the emergency. These declarations are made through CEO Orders.

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic occurring during the 29th Saskatchewan General Election it is necessary that efforts be made to minimize the possibility of any viral transmission occurring during the handling of ballots and minimize surface touch interaction between voters and deputy returning officers.

The Chief Electoral Officer hereby declares that, pursuant to section 7(1)(c) of the Act and section 2(2)(a)(ii) of the Regulations, an emergency exists for which no adequate provision is made by the Act to adapt requirements for each deputy returning officer to issue a folded ballot with the counterfoil still attached into the hands of each qualified voter who applies to vote, and then, after the voter has marked their ballot in a voting station, have the voter return their folded ballot into the hands of the deputy returning officer for verification of the ballot's authenticity and removal of the counterfoil, and then have the deputy returning officer return the folded ballot back into the hands of the voter for insertion into the ballot box.

Therefore, the Chief Electoral Officer hereby orders that:

- The deputy returning officer will remove the ballot counterfoil before the ballot is issued to the voter and hand both the ballot and the detached counterfoil to the voter;

- The deputy returning officer will verbally provide voting instructions to the voter that are inclusive of any instructions printed on the counterfoil and the voting instructions contained on the E-307 Directions for the Guidance of Voters shall be posted in the voting station;
- After the voter returns from having voted in a voting station, the deputy returning officer will ask the voter to hold up their folded ballot and detached counterfoil in order to allow the deputy returning officer to verify the presence of specific initials on the back of the ballot paper and the counterfoil number, per section 73(2) and 74(3) of the Act; and
- Once the deputy returning officer has verified that the ballot is one they issued to the voter, they shall instruct the voter to deposit their folded ballot along with the detached counterfoil into the ballot box.

This order is in effect for Saskatchewan's 29th General Election, scheduled to be held pursuant to *The Legislative Assembly Act, 2007* section 8.1(1) on October 26, 2020.



DR. MICHAEL BODA  
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER  
PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2020