



# SASKATCHEWAN VOTERS GUIDE

**APRIL 4, 2016 PROVINCIAL ELECTION**

## **ABOUT THIS GUIDE**

This guide answers questions about the provincial voting process. It provides information such as who can vote, where and when to vote, and what ID to bring.

This guide is available in other languages and other formats at [elections.sk.ca](http://elections.sk.ca), or by calling 1.877.958.8683.

## **WHAT IS COVERED IN THIS GUIDE?**

- About Provincial Elections
- Can You Vote?
- Voter Rights
- Register to Vote
- Your Voter Information Card (VIC)
- Ways You Can Vote
- ID You Need
- What Happens When You Go to Vote?
- How Do You Mark Your ballot?
- Assistance in Voting
- Working Election Day
- A Voter's Checklist

## **ABOUT PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS**

In our First Past the Post system, each eligible Saskatchewan voter is allowed to cast one vote for one of the candidates in their constituency (known in other provinces as electoral districts, electoral divisions, or federally as ridings). In each constituency, candidates compete to be elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA). The candidate with the most votes wins. In Saskatchewan as a whole, the political party with the most candidates elected becomes the government and the leader of that party becomes the Premier.

For the next general election on April 4, Saskatchewan will be divided into 61 constituencies, an increase of three from the 2011 General Election. The boundaries of your constituency have most likely changed since the last election.

We have an interactive mapping tool on our website to help you find where to vote. Simply enter your address and your constituency information appears. See more at **[elections.sk.ca/wheretovote](http://elections.sk.ca/wheretovote)**.

## **CAN YOU VOTE?**

To vote in the April 4 provincial election you must:

- Be a Canadian citizen;
- Be at least 18 years old;
- Have lived in Saskatchewan for at least the six months before the day the election is called.

## **STUDENTS OR MILITARY PERSONNEL VOTING**

Saskatchewan residents who are now studying outside the province are eligible to vote, as are students from out of province who are now studying in Saskatchewan.

Active members of the Canadian Forces and their families from Saskatchewan serving outside the province can vote. Active Canadian Forces members and their families from outside the province currently serving in Saskatchewan are also eligible to vote.

## **VOTER RIGHTS**

All eligible voters have the right to:

- Ask for assistance marking your ballot if you are unable to do so;
- Ask your employer for three consecutive hours off work to vote if your work schedule does not provide for three consecutive hours while the polls are open;
- Be registered on the voters list as a voter;
- Decline your ballot and have it recorded as such;
- Have an interpreter assist you;
- Keep your vote secret;
- Request a new ballot if you accidentally damage or spoil the one you have been given;
- Request instruction on how to mark and fold the ballot;
- Request to vote immediately outside the polling place if you are physically unable to enter the polling place;
- Review your own information on the voters list and apply for revisions;
- Vote if you are waiting in line when the polling place closes, and
- Vote privately and free of interference.

## **REGISTER TO VOTE**

The voters list is a list of registered voters in each of Saskatchewan's 61 constituencies. Being on this list ahead of time makes your voting experience easier and faster.

If you are a registered voter, you have the right to review your own information on this list from now until March 23. Up to March 22, you can review your information either by calling 1.877.958.8683, visiting our website, or in person at your constituency returning office. On March 23, you can only review this in person at the office.

If you're not on the list, you only have until March 22 to register online or by phone.

If you're not on the list after March 23, you can still vote by registering in person at advance voting, March 29 to April 2, or on election day, April 4.

**Remember to bring ID.**

## **YOUR VOTER INFORMATION CARD (VIC)**

Soon after the election is called (also known as the dropping of the writ), all registered voters will receive a Voter Information Card (VIC) in the mail. It tells you where and when to vote. If there is more than one registered voter at your residence, this card will include the names of all registered voters. If you do not receive a VIC, you are likely not on the voters list.

If everything is correct, you are registered to vote. There is nothing else for you to do or any action to take (except vote!).

If there is an error with your name or address, or you don't receive this VIC by March 18, call us at 1.877.958.8683.

**Watch for your VIC in the mail in early March.**

## **WAYS YOU CAN VOTE**

Voting on election day, April 4, is just one way to cast your ballot.

If you are away from home or busy on election day, there are other ways to vote:

### **VOTE ON ELECTION DAY**

April 4 is election day, the last day to vote, and the day we count the ballots. Voting hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Central Time.

Each voter has a specific location to vote at. To find yours, check your Voter Information Card (VIC) sent to you in the mail. Visit **[elections.sk.ca](http://elections.sk.ca)** or call us.

### **VOTE IN ADVANCE**

Advance voting is held for five days—March 29 to April 2—at several locations around Saskatchewan. You can vote at any advance voting location in your constituency on one of these five days. Check your VIC for voting locations.

March 29 to April 1, 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. Central Time

April 2, noon to 7 p.m. Central Time

Whether you vote on election day or in advance, bring your VIC with you to make your voting experience easier and faster.

### **VOTE IN A PERSONAL CARE HOME**

Voting places are set up in select personal care homes and seniors' homes around Saskatchewan. A full list will be posted on our website.

### **VOTE IN A HOSPITAL**

If you are a patient on April 4 you can vote in the hospital you are in, even if it's not in your home constituency.

### **VOTE IN YOUR HOME**

If you are homebound due to a disability, you can make arrangements to have an election worker come to your home so you and your caregiver, if eligible, can both cast a ballot. Homebound voting is available March 29 to April 2. Contact your constituency returning office by March 28 to make an appointment. You can find a list of returning offices on our website or by calling 1.877.958.8683.

### **VOTE BY MAIL**

If you are away from your constituency during the election, or if it's more convenient, you can vote by mail. This is a good option for snowbirds away from the province this winter, or anyone else not in Saskatchewan or not in your constituency on April 4. Inmates in a provincial correctional centre may also be eligible to vote as an absentee voter.

To vote by mail, you first apply for an absentee ballot. This application to vote is available on our website. You receive your ballot in the mail, fill it out and mail it back to us.

If you're voting by mail, it's important to not wait too long to start the process. You need to allow enough time to:

- Download an application from our website;
- Fill it in and mail it, or email it, back to us along with a copy of your ID and a signed declaration;

- Wait for a voting kit to arrive to you by mail shortly after the writ drops in early March 2016; and
- Mark your ballot and mail back to us postmarked by 8 p.m. on April 4.

## **ID YOU NEED**

### **YOU MUST SHOW ID TO VOTE.**

### **THIS PROVES BOTH YOUR IDENTITY (NAME) AND ADDRESS.**

You have three options:

- 1.** A driver's licence, or other government-issued ID that has both your name, photo and address. This must be your civic/residential address, legal land description, lot/block/plan or First Nation reserve.
- 2.** Show two pieces of ID, both must have your name and one must have your address. For example, your health card and a utility bill. There are more than 50 acceptable documents. They are listed on the next page of this guide, on your VIC, and on our website at [elections.sk.ca/bringID](http://elections.sk.ca/bringID).
- 3.** At the voting station, you can sign a declaration, and a registered voter from your constituency, such as a neighbour or roommate, may vouch for you. Each person can only vouch for one other individual.

## **ACCEPTABLE ID**

| <b>Proof of Identity</b>           |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Birth Certificate                  | Hospital Bracelet   |
| Canada Border Services Agency ID   | Indian Status Card  |
| Canadian Blood Services Donor Card | Métis Nation Status Card  |
| Canadian Forces ID                 | Old Age Security (OAS) Card                                       |
| Canadian Passport                  | Other ID (Government, Municipality, School Division, Indian Band) |
| CATSA ID                           | Parole Card   |
| CIC Citizenship Card               | Passport of a Foreign State                                       |
| CNIB ID Card                       | Pleasure Craft Operators Licence                                  |
| Credit Card                        | Radio Operator Card   |

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Debit Card                         | Social Insurance Card                        |
| Driver's Licence (Saskatchewan)    | Student Card from Post-Secondary Institution |
| Firearms Possession Licence        | Union ID                                     |
| Fishing, Trapping, Hunting Licence | Veterans Affairs Health Card                 |
| Government Employee Card           | Voter Information Card                       |
| Health Card (Saskatchewan)         | Wildlife Certificate                         |

| <b>Proof of Address</b>  |   |
|--|---|
| Admission Form (Shelter, Student, Seniors Residence)   | Insurance Policy  |
| Attestation of Residence   | Letter of Authorization from a First Nations Band       |
| Bank Statement   | Letter of Stay (Shelter, Student, Seniors Residence)    |
| Blank Cheque with the Voter's Name   | Mortgage or Lease Statement                             |
| Certificate of Title   | Pension Statement                                       |
| Cheque (Government, Municipality, School Division, Indian Band)  | Post-Secondary Mail                                     |
| Credit Card Statement  | Property Tax Assessment                                 |
| Crop Insurance Statement   | Public Guardian or Trustee Letter                       |
| Court Document   | Utility Bill (telephone, power, cable)                  |
| Employer Paycheque   | Vehicle Registration                                    |
| Government Benefits Statement (Employment Insurance, OAS, Social Assistance, Disability Support, Child Tax Benefit, Workers' Compensation) | Voter Information Card from a Saskatchewan Municipality |
| Income Tax Assessment  |   |

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GO TO VOTE?

1. When you arrive at your voting location, an election worker greets you and directs you to the right table.
2. Here you show your ID and your name is crossed off the voters list.
3. You are handed a ballot.
4. Go behind a voting screen to vote in private. Mark one candidate with an X. You only vote once. Fold your ballot to keep it secret.
5. Hand it back to an election worker, who will show you what ballot box to put it in.

You're done. Congratulations on casting your ballot! Remember to check the results after 8 p.m. on election day on our results website at **results.elections.sk.ca**.

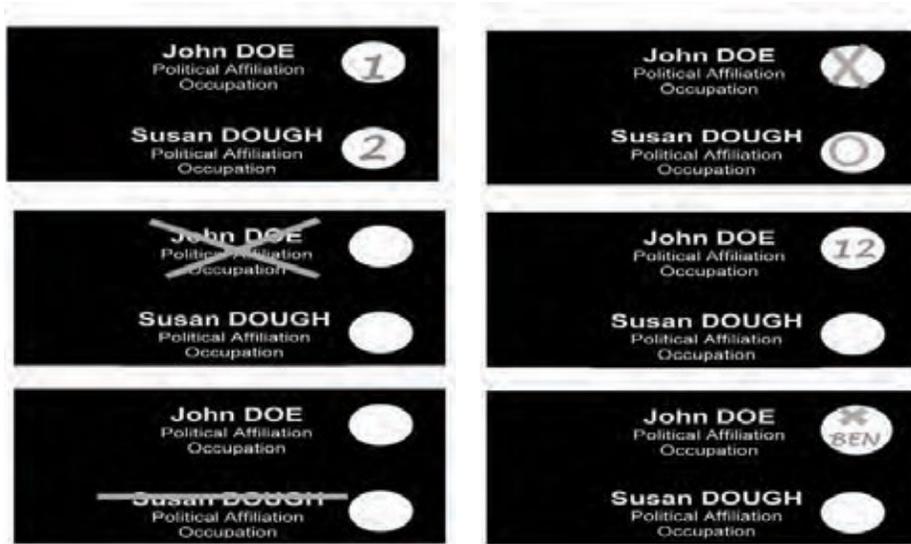
## HOW DO YOU MARK YOUR BALLOT?

Counting the ballots is an important part of election day. Ballots must clearly show who you voted for. Use the pencil provided to make only one mark on your ballot. Keep your mark inside the white circle just to the right of the candidate's name. An X is best, but any mark will be accepted as long as there is only one mark in the circle, and in no way can the mark identify the voter.

Examples of **ACCEPTED** ballots include the following:



Examples of **REJECTED** ballots include:



## ASSISTANCE IN VOTING

We are committed to including all citizens in the voting process. Below are the tools and services we offer on election day at many of the roughly 1,700 voting locations around Saskatchewan. To confirm the accessibility at your individual voting location, please see your Voter Information Card (VIC).

- wheelchair access
- parking near entrances for voters with disabilities
- adequate lighting, or additional lighting behind the voting screens
- pencil grips
- magnifiers
- a tactile and Braille voting template that fits on top of a ballot
- assistance marking the ballot and depositing it

If voting in advance or on election day does not work for you, there are other voting options listed in this guide under Ways to Vote on page 7 of this guide. These include voting at home, voting by mail, and voting at many hospitals and care homes.

For more information on your voting options, contact your constituency returning office. Accommodations, such as offering a sign language

interpreter, can often be made if planned in advance.

Watch or listen to our video on our YouTube channel for how we make voting accessible.

## WORKING ELECTION DAY

Saskatchewan citizens play a key role in supporting democracy by offering their time to work on elections. Working on election day is a great way to build your network (and your resume), reconnect with friends, and get paid while doing so!

We need 10,000 workers to help at Saskatchewan's roughly 1,700 voting locations around the province on election day. There are many different jobs during an election, such as an information officer, deputy returning officer, poll clerk, registration officer, messenger and enumerator. See our website for the duties of all these jobs.

Want to double the difference you make in your community? After expressing your interest to work, consider donating your election pay to charity.

To take part and give a day for democracy, sign up at **[elections.sk.ca/takepart](https://elections.sk.ca/takepart)** or call us at 1.877.958.8683.

## A VOTER'S CHECKLIST

- Check ahead of time if you're registered at **[elections.sk.ca](https://elections.sk.ca)** or by calling 1.877.958.8683. (see page 3)
- Watch for your Voter Information Card (VIC) in the mail. (see page 4)  
If you do not receive your card, call 1.877.958.8683.
- Find the candidates in your constituency on our website.
- Choose one of the voting options. (see pages 4-5)
- Bring ID to vote. Check the list of acceptable ID on our website. (see page 6)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on voting in the April 4 provincial election:

- Visit [elections.sk.ca](http://elections.sk.ca)
- Call 1.877.958.8683
- Check out our Facebook page and on Twitter @ElectionsSask and #SKVOTES
- See our YouTube channel for videos on voting in Saskatchewan
- Visit your constituency returning office and speak to an election worker

This guide is available in multiple languages on our website. Here you can also find an audio version and large print version of this guide.

Below is a list of links on our website to make it easier finding some of our popular information, such as:

[elections.sk.ca/accessibility](http://elections.sk.ca/accessibility)

[elections.sk.ca/bringID](http://elections.sk.ca/bringID)

[elections.sk.ca/candidates](http://elections.sk.ca/candidates)

[elections.sk.ca/canivote](http://elections.sk.ca/canivote)

[elections.sk.ca/homeboundvoting](http://elections.sk.ca/homeboundvoting)

[elections.sk.ca/takepart](http://elections.sk.ca/takepart)

[elections.sk.ca/votersguide](http://elections.sk.ca/votersguide)

[elections.sk.ca/voterregistration](http://elections.sk.ca/voterregistration)

[elections.sk.ca/waystovote](http://elections.sk.ca/waystovote)

[elections.sk.ca/wheretovote](http://elections.sk.ca/wheretovote)