



Municipal Elections 2017



Guide to Voting For Southern Alberta

Election Day is October 16, 2017

Table of Contents

Reason for this guide	3
Definitions.....	4
Who can Vote.....	5
ID Required to Vote	5
Election Day and Hours	6
Advance Voting (Early Voting).....	6
Do I get time off from work to vote?	6
Where to Vote	6
What if.....	7
Voters Tips	7
Questions to ask the Candidates	8

Reason for this guide

Voting can be a difficult process - you need to get informed on how to vote as well as who all the candidates in your area are. This package was developed by the South Region Self-Advocacy Network Advocacy Committee to help people to get informed and exercise your right to vote.

Much of the information has been collected by the committee and from the different town hall or city hall websites.



You will need access to a computer to get the most up-to-date information for the candidates in your area. You may also want to attend any candidate forums so that you can ask a question or raise an issue that is important to you.

We hope that this guide will help you to have a say in the municipal elections for your community by getting informed on the political parties, their candidates and the voting process. This is your opportunity to express your choice in a candidate in your area, get out and vote!

Voting is to
express one's
first choice for
a candidate.

Definitions

Candidate – the person that is running in the election



Campaign – the work a candidate does to try to get people to vote for them

Election – the process of picking who you would want to represent your town or city



List of Electors – This is a list of people that are eligible to vote. This list includes the person's name, address and phone number. This list is also used by the candidates to campaign.

Polling Day – the day of the election

Voting Station – the place where you go to vote



Who can Vote

You can vote in this election if you are:

- You are at least 18 years old
- You are a Canadian Citizen
- You are a resident of the city or town you are voting in for at least 6 months prior to polling day
- Have ID to vote

ID Required to Vote

- You must provide identification to be able to vote. Some of the ID you can use are:
 - Drivers Licence
 - Alberta issued ID card
 - Government cheque or cheque stub
 - Income/property tax assessment notice
 - Statement of government benefits such as employment insurance, old-age security, social assistance, disability support, or child tax benefit



Election Day and Hours

**Election Day is Monday, October 16, 2017
10:00 am – 8:00 pm**



Advance Voting (Early Voting)

You may vote at an early poll. Contact your local city or town hall for more information.

Do I get time off from work to vote?

You get to have 3 hours in a row to vote. You can vote on October 16, 2017 from 10:00 am – 8:00 pm.

Your regular work schedule may already allow for three consecutive hours during the time that the polls are open. If your work day starts at noon, or ends by 5 pm, you have the three hours required by law and do not get extra time off.

Where to Vote

Depending on where you live, you have to go to a certain place to vote. You can find out where to vote by:

- Checking with your local city or town hall
- Call or come into the SAIPA office with your postal code



What if...

If there is a concern you have or a reason you don't think you will be able to vote, you can:

- Talk to someone you trust
- Call or come into the SAIPA office and ask an ally for help

Voters Tips

Make sure you understand the material (pamphlets, speeches) that the person running for the position has given to you.

You can have a support person gather and read information to you. Their role is to help you understand what is being said. A staff or any other person should not influence or push you to vote one way or the other. Remember, this is your vote – not anybody else's.

If you don't understand who or what you are voting for you can leave your ballot blank.

It is your right to ask questions or ask for help if you are unsure.

Make sure you find out what each candidate stands for.

You can attend candidate forums and ask the candidates questions.

Questions to ask the Candidates

Make sure you find out what each candidate stands for.



Questions to ask:

- Do they have the commitment to do the job?
- Are they responsible?
- How will they help you?
- Why are they running?
- What do they want to achieve?
- A number of Alberta municipalities have made a commitment to employ individuals with developmental disabilities and have acted on that commitment. How will you ensure your municipality becomes an inclusive employer of individuals with developmental disabilities or expands its existing commitment?
- How will you ensure your municipality's recreation, leisure and cultural programs are welcoming and inclusive of children and adults with developmental disabilities?
- The lack of accessible and available transportation is a major challenge, limiting individuals with disabilities from fully participating in all aspects of community life. What actions will you be taking to improve the availability of accessible public transportation for individuals with disabilities?
- Across Alberta and Canada there is increased interest in affordable and accessible housing for individuals with disabilities. We are also interested in inclusive housing, in contrast to group homes. Would you be willing to work with us on creating municipal policies and practices that support affordable, accessible and inclusive housing?
- Do you see persons with disabilities being included in making helpful strategies for reducing poverty?

