



TOWN OF LADYSMITH 2025 BY-ELECTION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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1. When is Ladysmith’s 2025 By-Election?

General Voting Day for the 2025 By-Election is **Saturday, March 1, 2025.**

2. Where and how can I vote?

Eligible Resident and Non-Resident Property Electors can choose from the following voting opportunities in 2025:

ADVANCE VOTING

Dates: Wednesday February 19 and Wednesday, February 26

Time: 8:00 am to 8:00 pm

Location: City Hall Council Chambers

410 Esplanade, Ladysmith, BC (*corner of Roberts Street and the Trans-Canada Highway*)

Entrance is the side door facing Roberts Street

ELECTION DAY

Date: Saturday, March 1

Time: 8:00 am to 8:00 pm

Location: Frank Jameson Community Centre (FJCC) Gymnasium
810 6th Avenue, Ladysmith, BC

MAIL BALLOT VOTING

Mail Ballot Voting is open to all electors.

Electors who wish to vote by Mail Ballot Voting must complete and submit a Mail Ballot Voting Application. Applications will be available online or at City Hall, in February. On the form indicate if you or someone else will be picking up your mail ballot package at City Hall or if you want the package mailed to your residence or another address. If we receive your application late and time may not permit mailing, please arrange to pick up a package at City Hall and/or arrange for a courier. *NOTE: Date of ballot availability is subject to printer delivery - currently estimated to be early February.*

It is the elector's responsibility to ensure that their mail ballot is received by the Chief Election Officer before the close of voting at 8:00 pm on Saturday, March 1, 2025 at the Frank Jameson Community Centre Voting Place at 810 6th Avenue. Please carefully read the information on the Mail Ballot Voting application and in the mail ballot package, to ensure that you've completed the multi-envelope, certification, and ballot marking process as required.

3. Who can vote?

You are eligible to vote as a **Resident Elector** in the Town of Ladysmith if you meet the following criteria:

- A Canadian citizen;
- 18 years of age or older when you register to vote, or 18 years or older on General Voting Day;
- A resident of BC for at least six months immediately before the day you register to vote;
- A resident of the Town of Ladysmith; AND
- Not disqualified under the *Local Government Act*, or any other enactment, or by law from voting in a local election.

Voting rights are granted to Canadian citizens based on residency or property ownership. Unfortunately landed immigrants or permanent residents that are not yet Canadian citizens are not permitted to vote.

Although we may request it at the time of voting, proof of identification is not required if you are on the Voter's List.

4. I own property in Ladysmith but live elsewhere – can I vote?

Yes, as a **Non-Resident Property Elector** however, some conditions apply:

- You are eligible to vote as a Resident Elector in another municipality or regional district in BC and not in Ladysmith [i.e. a Canadian citizen, 18 years of age or older, a resident of BC for at least six months, a resident of another local government in BC, and not disqualified];
- You have been a registered owner of real property in the Town of Ladysmith for at least 30 days immediately preceding the day of registration;
- You must provide proof of ownership of the property, listing any other property owners on title along with their consent, if applicable; AND
- You are not disqualified under the *Local Government Act*, or any other enactment, or by law from voting in a local election.

A person cannot vote on behalf of a corporation, or as a Non-Resident Property Elector, based on a property owned wholly or in part by a corporation. If you own the property with a corporation, none of the property owners are eligible to vote as a Non-Resident Property Elector in relation to the property.

Regardless of the number of properties owned, a person may only register to vote once as a Non-Resident Property Elector.

To minimize your time and any inconvenience that may arise in the case of multiple owners, Non-Resident Property Electors are encouraged to apply ahead of time for a "Non-Resident Property Elector Application (Form No.7-2)" by contacting the Chief Election Officer.

Non-Resident Property Electors must:

- **produce 2 pieces of identification** (at least one with a signature) to prove identity;
- **provide proof** that they are entitled to register in relation to the property (see list below); and
- **provide written consent** from the majority of the property owners if there is more than one owner of the property.

The following documents are all acceptable proof of ownership:

- Property Tax Notice
- Land Title Registration
- BC Assessment Notice

5. Can someone assist me when I vote?

If you wish to vote in person, there are several ways we can assist you, listed below. Another option is mail ballot voting, discussed under No.2.

ACCESSIBLE

All Voting Places are wheelchair accessible (City Hall-side door on February 19 and 26; and FJCC on March 1).

CURBSIDE VOTING

If you can make it to the Voting Place but are unable to enter because of physical disability or impaired mobility please have someone come into the Voting Place and ask for "curbside voting".

Election Officials will bring a ballot to you in your vehicle in the parking lot, wait while you mark the ballot and, on your behalf, deposit the ballot into the vote counting unit in the Voting Place.

MARKING YOUR BALLOT

You can ask an Election Official, friend or relative to assist if you are unable to mark your own ballot. The *Local Government Act* requires the person assisting an elector to first sign a solemn declaration with the Chief Election Officer committing to: preserving the secrecy of the ballot, marking the ballot as you instruct and not attempting to influence how you vote.

TRANSLATION

Please bring someone to assist you if you need a translator. The translator will also be required to sign a solemn declaration that they are able to make the translation and will do so to the best of their ability.

6. I am a business owner in Ladysmith but live elsewhere - can I vote?

It depends - corporations do not have the right to vote, however, should your business be registered in a personal name vs. a company name you may vote. If that's the case, rules and regulations pertaining to Non-Resident Property Electors would apply.

7. How do I confirm that I live or own property within the Town of Ladysmith?

Some area residents may have a Ladysmith postal address but are actually located within an electoral area outside of the municipal boundaries.

Here are some ways to determine if you're within the Town boundaries:

- Ask who collects your taxes: the Town of Ladysmith, another municipality or the Province of BC?
- [Check out the Town's road index](#). If you don't see your address, you probably do not live within Town boundaries. If you are positive you do live in Town and your address does not appear, please call City Hall 250.245.6400 to confirm.

If you find that you are not within Town boundaries, you are most likely in one of the two regional districts that are adjacent to the Town of Ladysmith.

8. Am I on the list of electors?

The Town of Ladysmith is utilizing the [Provincial Voters List](#) to determine eligible voters. If you would like to confirm whether your name appears on this list, please contact the Chief Election Officer at City Hall during regular office hours at vote@ladysmith.ca.

The [Elections BC website](#) provides you with the opportunity to add your name to the Provincial Voter's List at any time. While the list is updated on a regular basis, late registrations will not make it onto the list that the Town will use for the 2025 By-Election. Our goal is for everyone to vote on voting day, so you can register at the time you want to vote. We will provide you with a registration form and ask for ID (listed under No.9).

9. What Identification (ID) is required to vote?

Although we may request ID at the time of voting, if you are already on the Provincial Voters List you are not required to show identification. A person whose name does not appear on the list is required to show two pieces of identification (or sign a solemn declaration) before being issued a ballot by the presiding election official. Any of the following classes of documents will be accepted (note that a combined Driver's Licence and Care Card only count as one document). The following classes of documents must be accepted as evidence of identity or residency.

Driver's Licence	Identification Card
Photo BC Services Card	Non-photo BC Services Card
Car insurance papers	BC Care Card
Provincial Social Assistance FORM SDES8	Social Insurance Number
Citizenship Card	Property Tax Notice
Credit card or debit card	Utility bill such as cable services, electricity, gas, telephone services, water

The above listed identification documents **MUST** be accepted by election officials. An election official may also accept other forms of documents that provide evidence satisfactory to the election official (e.g., a valid, current passport).

10. Who is eligible to run for office?

You may run for local government office if you are a Canadian citizen; are at least 18 years old on election day; have lived in BC for at least six months; and have not been disqualified from voting in a BC local election.

You do not have to live in the jurisdiction in which you are running for office.

The Town of Ladysmith Council By-Election is being held to fill the vacancy for the office of Mayor. One candidate will be elected to serve a term ending in November 2026. The newly-elected Mayor will take their oath of office at a Regular Council Meeting to be held in March 2025.

Individuals interested in running for office should note that that in addition to regular Council meetings, you may be appointed to sit on committees or boards. Prospective candidates may wish to speak to a current or past member of Council to discuss expected time commitments.

11. Who may not run for office?

You may not run for local government office if you are a judge of the Provincial Court, Supreme Court or Court of Appeal; are an employee or salaried officer of the local government (unless you have taken a leave of absence to run for office and agree to resign if elected); are under sentence for an indictable offence and are in custody or in prison; have been found guilty of an elections offence, such as double voting or buying votes, and are prohibited from holding office; or are disqualified for not filing a disclosure statement in a previous election or for not making an oath of office or attending meetings.

12. When and where will nomination packages be available for pickup?

When: Nomination packages will be available on December 16

Where: Download from our website www.ladysmith.ca; or

Pick one up in person at City Hall, 410 Esplanade, Ladysmith, BC

13. When does the nomination period begin?

The nomination period begins at 9:00 am on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 and ends at 4:00 pm on Friday, January 24, 2025. When a candidate is ready to submit their papers, it is strongly recommended that an appointment be scheduled with the Chief or Deputy Chief

Election Officers to go over each of the documents to ensure all the required information has been provided. The meeting takes approximately 15-20 minutes.

Potential candidates are reminded that in order to run as a candidate, you must be nominated by **two (2)** people who are eligible to vote - either as a resident or non-resident property elector in the Town of Ladysmith.

14. What is the pay for the positions of Mayor and Councillor?

In 2024, the Mayor earned \$45,538, and Councillors earned \$17,155.

15. What are the Voting Day rules and regulations?

Here are some of the key rules to follow on Voting Days:

- No campaigning within 100 metres of the Voting Place, including no displaying signs, ads, bumper stickers, posters, buttons, flyers or other material that advocates for or against a candidate.
- No influencing voters within 100 metres of the Voting Place.
- Only eligible electors are permitted in the Voting Place - and they must leave immediately after voting. 'Future voters' (children) are welcome, subject to close adult supervision.
- Voting is by secret ballot - no talking about how you or someone else votes inside the Voting Place, no displaying your ballot and only one person per voting booth
- No vote buying or intimidation.
- No signing false statements or declarations.
- Turn off all cameras, phones and technology *BEFORE* entering the Voting Place - it is unlawful to reproduce a ballot.

16. I am a resident of Stz'uminus First Nation – can I vote in Ladysmith's By-Election?

Residents of Stz'uminus First Nation (Oyster Bay Reserve No. 12) are located outside the Town's boundaries, within CVRD Electoral Area H (North Oyster/Diamond). This means they can vote in an election run by the CVRD, not the Town of Ladysmith.

For more information about voting from a Reserve, check out the Province's [Voters Guide for Electors Living on Reserve](#).

17. What is the role of the Town and what is the role of Elections BC in local elections?

[Elections BC](#) has provided the following table to summarize responsibilities:

If you have questions about...	Contact...
Voting and ballots	Local Chief Election Officers
Nomination process	Local Chief Election Officers
Advertising rules	Elections BC
Campaign financing and disclosure rules	Elections BC
Registration of elector organizations	Elections BC
School trustees/school board elections	Ministry of Education
Legislation for local elections	Ministry of Municipal Affairs

18. Who do I contact with more questions about the Town of Ladysmith 2025 By-Election?

Chief Election Officer: Donna Smith

Deputy Chief Election Officers: Sue Bouma, Sydney Ianson, Hayley Young

vote@ladysmith.ca or 250.245.6400

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