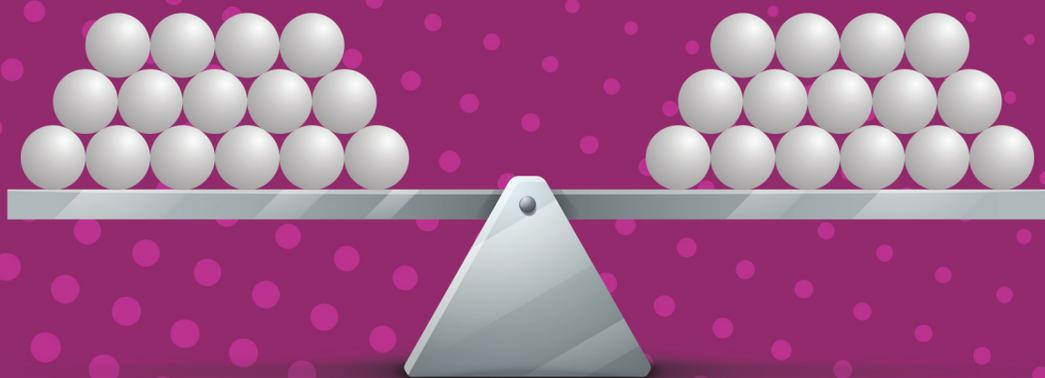


Local Government Elections  
**YOUR VOTE  
MATTERS!**

 **ELECTIONSNB**

*YOUR TRUSTED ELECTION SOURCE*

May 11, 2026



[electionsnb.ca](http://electionsnb.ca)

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

**Elections New Brunswick purposefully chose the slogan, “Your Vote Matters”, for the campaign we will use to generate awareness and interest in the approaching local government elections taking place in May 2026.**



In many post-election surveys, a frequent reason given by people who chose not to vote was the belief that their vote does not matter, or it will not make a difference. Last year’s federal election clearly proved otherwise. Do you remember the single vote that tipped the scale in the Quebec riding of Terrebonne? There were also other close contests that resulted in recounts across the country.

New Brunswick has also seen its fair share of election outcomes in which the margin of victory has been razor thin. These are most common in local government elections, where a vote margin of 25 votes or less is enough to request a recount. In the May 2021 local government elections, 15 close contests resulted in recounts being requested; of those 15, three contests were ties that had to be broken.

Voter apathy may also be fed by the lack of voting opportunities in some areas. In the November 2022 local government elections, of the 50 vacant mayoral positions, 15 were filled by acclamation, and almost one-third of the 250 council members were elected by acclamation.

Local governments rely on the participation of civic-minded citizens willing to offer their expertise, experience and time towards the betterment of the community they have chosen to call home. They do so by stepping forward and putting their name on a ballot, offering themselves as a candidate interested in playing a role in helping their community thrive.

In the upcoming elections, you will have the opportunity to cast a ballot to elect the individuals that you want to be your voice on your local government councils, rural district advisory committees and district education councils. You will be electing the people who have direct input in the decision-making process and influence the growth in the community you, your family and your neighbours call home.

A healthy and vibrant democracy depends on an engaged and informed electorate. I encourage every eligible elector to consider the power of your single vote and its ability to tip the scales. The only way to ensure your vote does matter is to vote. It also sends a clear message to those who are ultimately elected that New Brunswickers care about the democratic process and expect that those who are elected will hear your voices.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kimberly A. Poffenroth'.

Kimberly A. Poffenroth  
Chief Electoral Officer

# DATES & TIMES OF VOTING

Dates	Voting
Saturday, May 2	Advance Voting
Monday, May 4	Advance Voting
Monday, May 11	Election Day

Polls are open each day from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Bring your voter information card with you for faster service.

## RETURNING OFFICE VOTING

Once the ballots have been printed, electors have the option to cast their vote at any of the returning offices opened province-wide. Any returning office in the Province can provide any elector with a ballot for the contests in which they are eligible to vote.

The returning offices are open 6 days a week, up to and including Election Day. The list of locations and contact information for the returning offices will be posted on our website once the election begins.



# QUALIFICATIONS TO VOTE

**A person is qualified to vote in the election if they are:**

- a Canadian citizen
- at least 18 years old by Election Day
- a resident of the Province for at least 40 days immediately before the election, and
- living in the local government, rural district, or school district on Election Day

# GETTING ON THE VOTERS LIST

**If you have voted in a previous election in New Brunswick, you may already be on the voters list.**

To be added, you must meet the qualifications to vote and provide one or more pieces of identification that, in combination, show your name, current civic address and signature. A New Brunswick driver's licence contains all three and is ideal.

Other options include:

- a lease agreement, utility bills, Medicare card, student ID, Certificate of Indian Status
- any other documentation that provides the above three pieces of information
- having a friend on the voters list for your polling station vouch for your identity and residency

# POSITIONS TO ELECT

**This is the first general election to be held since the 2022 restructuring of local governments.**

See the map on page 12 for the location of all of the local governments and rural districts where elections will take place in May 2026. Find out your voting information by visiting [electionsnb.ca](https://electionsnb.ca) and click on the link [search my voter information](#).

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS

New Brunswick has 77 local governments with elected councils, comprised of 77 mayors and 522 councillors, 375 of whom are elected to represent a ward in their community, and the remaining 147 are elected to represent their communities at-large.

## Candidate Qualifications

To run as a candidate for a local government or rural district advisory committee, a person must be an eligible elector (see eligibility requirements on page 4), and they must meet the following qualifications:

- be a resident of the province and of the local government or rural district for at least 6 months immediately before election day; and
- in a local government or rural district that is divided into wards for election purposes, a candidate for a ward position must be a resident of that ward when they are nominated.

## Who cannot be a candidate

- A local government official or a full-time employee of a local government cannot be a candidate in that local government.
- A council member is not eligible for employment with or appointment as an officer of the local government, at any time while the person holds office.

**Note:** It is the responsibility of a candidate to consult with their employer to determine if they must seek approval to become a candidate.

# RURAL DISTRICT MEMBERS

There are 12 rural district advisory committees spread across the province with a total of 40 elected members. All but two of the committees elect members by ward, with four of the 12 committees having a combination of both. The committees do not have a mayor, but each committee will select a chair from amongst its members.

In a rural district advisory committee, members may make a recommendation to the Minister to provide or discontinue a service in the rural district.

For a full list of the local government and rural district advisory committee positions to elect in each, scan the QR code or visit [electionsnb.ca](https://electionsnb.ca) and click on the link [positions to elect](#).



## Roles & Responsibilities

- Attend regular and special meetings of council. The number of meetings and remuneration for the members of council is set out in procedural bylaws.
- Provide oversight and offer input on the overall direction of the local government; sit on various committees.
- Members of council are not involved in the day-to-day administration of the local government but provide oversight and help set overall direction for the community.

# DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCILS (DEC)

New Brunswick's education system is comprised of four anglophone school districts and three francophone school districts. Each district is further divided into subdistricts. The Anglophone school system has 41 subdistricts. The Francophone school system has 27 subdistricts. Each subdistrict elects one councillor.

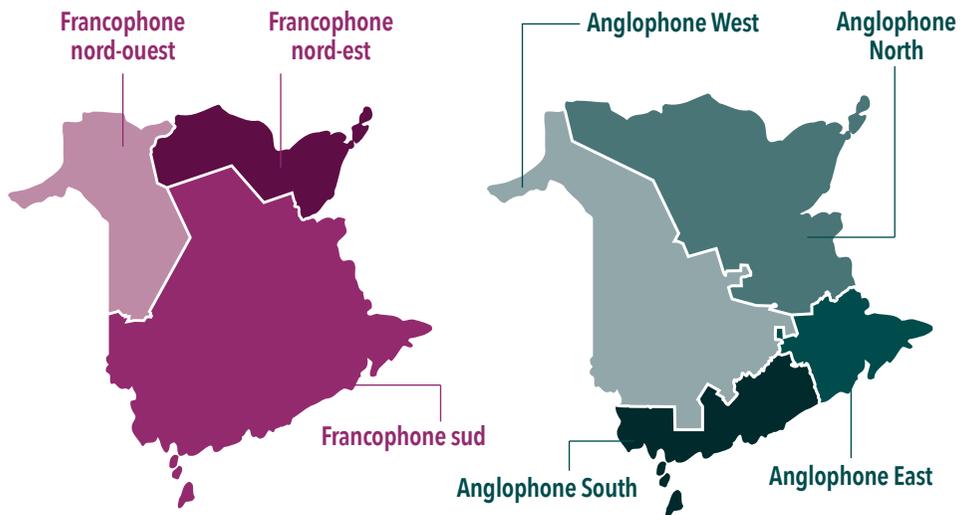
Electors have the option to vote for either a candidate running for the Anglophone school district or the Francophone school district in their community. Electors may not vote for a candidate in both school districts.

## DEC Candidate Qualifications

To run as a candidate for a district education council, a person must be an eligible elector (see eligibility requirements on page 4), and they must meet the following qualifications:

- be a resident of the school district for at least six months immediately before election day;
- be a resident of the subdistrict in which they are a candidate when nominated; and
- certify that they are willing to discharge the duties of the office of councillor in the official language of the school district for which they are a candidate.

**Note:** You do not have to have a child attending school to qualify as candidate.



To learn more about district education councils, scan the QR code or visit [electionsnb.ca/dec](http://electionsnb.ca/dec)



## Who cannot be a DEC candidate

- School personnel, such as: teachers; school bus drivers; building maintenance personnel, including custodians; secretaries and clerks
- Persons other than teachers engaged to assist in the delivery of programs and services e.g. educational assistants.
- Employees of the District Education Council and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

**Note:** It is the responsibility of a candidate to consult with their employer to determine if they must seek approval to become a candidate.

## Roles & Responsibilities

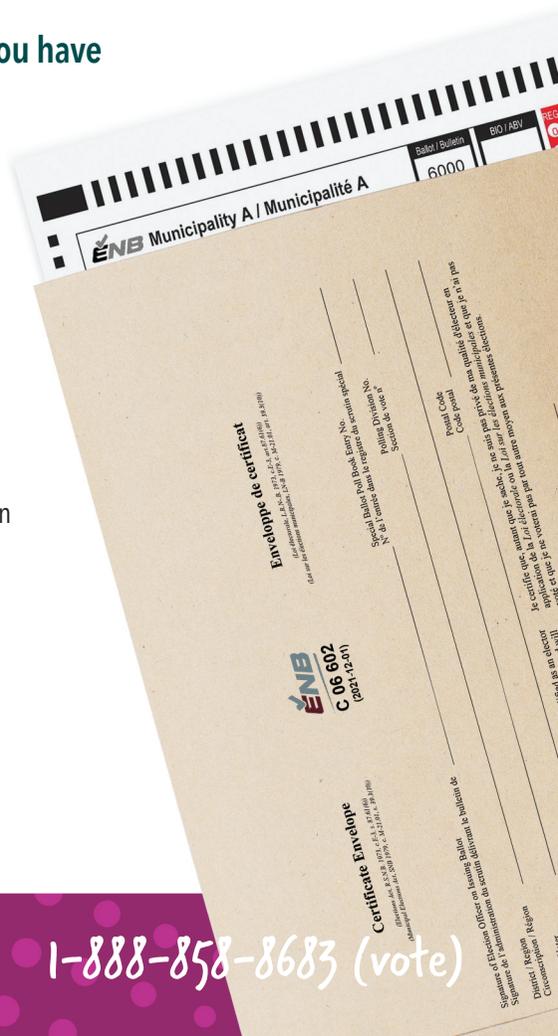
- DEC councillors help to shape the education system in their district.
- DEC councillors establish and monitor the district education plan and budget for their district.
- DEC councillors are not involved in the day-to-day decision making for schools or the district office, and do not deal with issues regarding staff or individual students.

# VOTE BY MAIL

## If you are unable to vote in person, you have the option to vote by mail.

During an election, you can apply to vote by mail by using an online portal on our website or by downloading form M 06 101 to request a special ballot and send it to the local returning office in the region where you are eligible to vote.

A mail-in-ballot package will be sent to you. You are responsible for sending the ballot package back to the local returning office before the polls close at 8 p.m. on Election Day. Any ballot packages received after the polls close on Election Day cannot be counted.



# ACCESSIBILITY

**Elections New Brunswick offers a variety of options to assist voters with a physical or cognitive disability.**

Please join our efforts to improve voting accessibility for the people of New Brunswick by spreading the word throughout your community about the voting options and accommodations available.

You may vote using:

- a personal assistive communication device such as an e-reader or magnifying app
- a support worker, family member, or friend to help you
- a sign language interpreter (by appointment only)
- a large grip, scent-reduced marker
- a mail-in ballot

An election officer may also assist a voter in marking their ballot.

## CURBSIDE VOTING

Elections New Brunswick makes every effort to provide accessible voting places throughout the province. However, some voting places may still present barriers for some voters. A voter who is unable to access a voting place may request curbside voting. The poll supervisor will arrange to have the ballot brought to the individual's vehicle so they can vote and cast their ballot.





## AUDIO VOTE (RETURNING OFFICE ONLY)

Individuals are able to vote independently using an audio vote session that is only available at returning offices. While wearing headphones, the voter listens to voting instructions and makes their selection privately using one of the following devices:

- a braille controller with an audio ballot
- sip and puff technology with an audio ballot
- paddles with an audio ballot

## SPECIAL BALLOTS

Special ballots are used by individuals living in nursing homes, special care homes, federal and provincial correctional facilities, patients in the hospital, and voters who are unable to leave their homes because of illness or incapacity.

Scheduled visits to treatment centres are arranged early in the election. Someone who is unable to vote in person due to illness or incapacity may set up an appointment to have a ballot delivered to them at home.

If an individual is temporarily away from their home, they may vote at any returning office in the province, for a candidate running in the region where they normally live.

If you have any questions on how to use or access any of these accommodations, please contact us. **1-888-858-8683 (VOTE)**

# YOUR TRUSTED ELECTION SOURCE

**Elections New Brunswick has the mandate to run all provincial and local government elections in the Province. Over time, we have introduced changes to improve the voting process, making it more accessible and efficient.**

The integrity of the electoral process and voters' confidence in the security and accuracy of their vote are key considerations in any change we make.

## TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPARENCY

The technology used to streamline voting and enhance the accuracy and timeliness of results reporting have been rigorously tested by Elections New Brunswick and other election offices across Canada.

Every tabulation machine used in an election is tested to make sure it accurately reads and counts every ballot it is programmed to accept. After testing, each tabulation machine is re-zeroed, sealed in its case, and shipped to a returning office using a secure shipping method to ensure it cannot be tampered with.

Elections New Brunswick has used tabulation machines to accurately and securely count nearly 2.6 million paper ballots since the technology was first used in 2008.

## THE PAPER TRAIL

International election experts cite the continued use of a paper ballot as the best practice to guarantee the integrity of an election.

In New Brunswick, post-election hand-counts of paper ballots, dozens of judicial recounts, and post-election audits conducted by returning officers have upheld all election outcomes originally counted using tabulation machines.

### Did you know:

By law, all ballots cast in provincial elections are stored for one year so that they are available for potential legal challenges to the outcome of an election.

### Have questions?

Get the facts from your trusted election source, Elections New Brunswick.

# CHECK THE FACTS... VERIFY THE SOURCE.

**Today's modern elections no longer use only road signs and other more traditional advertising tools to promote campaigns.**

Candidates and political activists rely heavily on social media platforms to spread their messages. This makes it more challenging and more important that you take the time to check the facts before sharing information with others. When possible, validate the source before accepting information at face value and sharing posts that show up in your social media feeds.

Inaccurate information is being used to disrupt the democratic process by attempting to influence who you vote for or even if you vote at all.

Elections New Brunswick is your trusted source for information about election processes such as the qualifications to vote and the details about when and where voting will take place.

Access voting information relevant to this year's election on our website at [electionsnb.ca](https://electionsnb.ca) or by calling us at 1-888-858-8683.

Learn more about digital media literacy and how to confirm the accuracy of information by scanning the QR code or using this link: <https://mediasmarts.ca/break-fake>



[electionsnb.ca/facts](https://electionsnb.ca/facts)



[electionsnb.ca](https://electionsnb.ca)

1-888-858-8683 (vote)

# LOCAL GOVERNMENTS & RURAL DISTRICTS

## LES GOUVERNEMENTS ET DISTRICTS RURAUX DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

