



ELECTIONS

CHOOSING THE DECISION MAKERS

Provincial government has legislation that all municipalities must operate under for elections, called the Local Government Elections Act, which can be found on the Government of Saskatchewan website.

Both Urban and Rural Governments follow the Local Government Elections Act. **In Saskatchewan, to run as an elected official in a municipal election, the individual must:**

- Be a Canadian Citizen;
- Be at least 18 years old;
- Be a resident of the municipality for at least 3 months;
- Have the right to vote in that municipality;
- Provide public disclosure statements along with their nomination papers.

There are some differences in the Local Government Elections Act between the Urban and Rural municipalities. For example,

- Rural Municipal Governments have elections every two years as their elected positions are staggered. The odd number divisions plus the Reeve are held together one year, and then the even numbered divisions are held two years after.

- In urban municipalities, all positions are included in the election every four years.

- In a rural election, only those eligible to vote in the division where there is an election can vote. In the case of Reeve, everyone in the municipality can vote.

- In Urban municipalities, everyone votes for all elected positions no matter where they live. Of course, they all can also vote for Mayor if there is an election.

If there is a vacancy on council, at the next regular meeting, council must set a date for a by-election to fill the position. If the vacancy happens after January 1st in the year of a general election, council can choose to not fill the vacancy until the date of the general election.

Individuals are only allowed to vote once in the election; however, if they are eligible to vote in more than one municipality they can vote there as well. **The only way to vote twice in one municipal election is when there are elections for both council and Reeve/Mayor.**

In general terms, nomination forms for a candidate running for an elected official or Reeve in a Rural municipal election must have signatures of two people eligible to vote in the election. A candidate does NOT have to run in the division that they live in. They simply need signatures of 2 individuals that are eligible to vote in that division

In an urban election where the population is less than 20,000, nomination forms for candidates running as elected officials or Mayor must have signatures of 5 people eligible to vote in the election.

