

WANT TO VOTE IN THE 2021 FEDERAL ELECTION?

THE CRITERIA IS PRETTY SIMPLE: YOU MUST BE A CANADIAN CITIZEN 18 OR OLDER AND HAVE ID

Voters across the country will cast their ballots for the next federal government on Sept. 20.

The 44th Canadian Parliament will be elected in late September when voters go to the polls for the second time in less than two years following the October 2019 general election. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, the Liberal Party leader, asked new Gov. Gen. Mary Simon on Sunday, Aug. 15 to dissolve Parliament and begin the countdown to the next election.

As of Aug. 15, the Liberals held 155 seats, the Conservatives held 119, the

Bloc Québécois held 32, the New Democrats held 24 and the Greens held two. There were five Independent MPs and one seat was vacant.

The criteria for voting in the 2021 federal election is pretty simple: to register and vote in a federal election, you must be a Canadian citizen aged 18 or older on election day and provide accepted proof of identity and address.

Approved identification includes a driver's licence or any other card issued by a Canadian government with your name, photo and current address.



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Voters can also show two pieces of ID; both must have your name and at least one must have your current address.

Voters who don't have identification can still cast a ballot, but they must declare their identity and address in writing and have someone who knows you and who is assigned to your polling station vouch for you.

Elections Canada produces the preliminary lists of electors from information in the National Register of Electors. Shortly after an election is called, Elections Canada will mail a voter information card to everyone on the list of electors with-

in about three weeks.

If the name and address on the card are correct, keep the card. It will show that you are registered to vote and will tell you when and where to vote.

If the name and address on the card are not correct, call Elections Canada.

You will find the phone number of the local Elections Canada office on the back of the voter information card.

Advance voting will be held Sept. 10 to 13; the address of that polling place will be included on the voter information card received in the mail.

Canadians may also vote in-person at their local Elections Canada office any time before 6 p.m. (local time) on Sept. 14.

Or, to vote by mail, participants must apply on-

line at www.elections.ca or contact their local Elections Canada office by Tuesday, Sept. 14 at 6 p.m. Ballots must be returned by election day.

As well, Canadians may vote in person on Sept. 20 at various polling stations. That address will also be included on the voter information card.

For those voting in-person, Elections Canada will take a variety of COVID-19 precautions, including requiring those working at polling stations to wear masks.

There will also be hand

sanitizer stations, clear physical distancing markers and there'll only be one poll worker per desk behind a Plexiglas barrier.

Voters will also be required to wear a mask. Single-use pencils will be available to mark a ballot or voters can bring their own pen or pencil.

Voter turnout for the 2019 federal election was 67 per cent, when 18,350,359 of 27,373,058 eligible Canadians cast a ballot.

For more information on how to vote, visit www.elections.ca.

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