



Alberta Elections 2012



Guide to Voting For the Southern Alberta Ridings

Election Day is April 23, 2012

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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 Government Communications Committee in efforts 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 Elections Alberta website. Elections Alberta is an organization that is not connected to any political party and oversees general elections and by-elections for the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.



This guide has website links that will help you to know what political parties and the many candidates that are registered with Elections Alberta. 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.

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

We hope that this guide will help you to have a say in the provincial election for Alberta 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!



Definitions

Candidate – the person that is chosen by the political party to run in the election



Campaign – is trying to get people to vote for the candidate

Chief Electoral Officer – this person is responsible for the running of elections



Election – the process of picking who you would want to represent you in Edmonton

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

Riding – an area in which you live where you would vote (Lethbridge-west). There are 87 ridings in Alberta. The winner of the election in each riding becomes the MLA

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 resident of Alberta for at least 6 months prior to polling day
- You are a Canadian Citizen

ID Required to Vote

- If your name is not on the list, you can still vote but you must provide identification and complete a declaration. The identification must be a driver's license or an Alberta issued ID card. If you do not have a driver's license or Alberta issued ID card you must provide two pieces of ID approved by the Chief Electoral Officer. Some of these are:
 - AISH card
 - Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan Card
 - Birth Certificate
 - Canadian Blood Services Card
 - Canadian Passport
 - Library card
 - Social Insurance Card



For a complete list see Alberta Elections website

www.elections.ab.ca

- You can have your name added to the list of electors. The list of electors means eligible voters. If you need to add your name to the list of electors you can register online using **Voterlink** at www.voterlink.ab.ca at Alberta elections website. You can also phone them at 780-427-7191 or by email at info@elections.ab.ca once your information is added it will appear on the list of electors in each election.

Election Day and Hours

Voters will have an opportunity to elect a member of the Legislative Assembly in each electoral division and 3 Senate nominees for the province.

**Election Day is Monday, April 23, 2012
9:00 am – 8:00 pm**



Advance Voting

You may vote at an advance poll. Advance polls are held from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm on the Thursday, Friday and Saturday prior to polling day.

Addresses of advance polls are published in local newspapers and can also be obtained from returning officers or Elections Alberta's website.

Advance Polls are:

- Thursday, April 19, 2012
- Friday, April 20, 2012
- Saturday, April 21, 2012

Do I get time off from work to vote?

There are provisions in the Election Act to ensure that there is sufficient time for eligible voters to vote on polling day and section 132 of the Election Act allows for 3 consecutive hours for the purpose of voting. Polls are open from 9:00 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 legislation and are not entitled to additional time off.

These provisions are contained in section 132, which states:

1. An employee who is an elector qualified to vote shall, while the polls are open on polling day at an election or plebiscite, be allowed 3 consecutive hours for the purpose of casting the employee's vote.
2. If the employee's hours of employment do not allow for the 3 consecutive hours' absence, the employee's employer shall allow the employee additional time for voting to provide the 3 consecutive hours, but the additional time for voting shall be granted at the convenience of the employer.
3. No employer may make any deduction from the pay of an employee or impose on or exact from the employee any penalty by reason of the employee's absence from employment during the 3 consecutive hours referred to in subsection (1) or additional time granted under subsection (2)

Where to Vote

- You must vote at the voting station assigned to your area

Voting places are located for where the majority of voters live. To find out where you vote this website link will ask you to put in your home address and will let you know where to vote.

<http://wtv.elections.ab.ca/wtWhereDoIVote.cfm>



Special Provisions

Visually Impaired



Templates, magnifiers and large-format ballot poster are available at all polling stations so that the visually impaired are able to mark their ballots independently. Alternative, a friend or election officer may offer assistance.

What if I am in the Hospital on Election Day?

On Election Day, mobile polls go around to hospitals, many supportive living facilities and seniors' lodges so the residents are able to register and cast their ballots. You can check with your facility to see if a mobile poll is expected.

Will you be away during the election period?

A Special Ballot is a means for an elector to cast a ballot in the provincial general election and Senate nominee election if he or she is unable to vote during the advance polls or on polling day because you are:

- Physically injured,
- Away from your electoral division,
- Serving as an inmate,
- An election officer, candidate, official agent or scrutineer, or
- Living in a remote area, as defined in the Election Act.

You may apply for a Special Ballot:

- In writing,
- By telephone
- By fax or by email,
- In person, or
- online



Please be certain to consider these options well in advance of polling day – voters who have not made arrangements in time have been very disappointed when, for example, enough time is not left to receive and return a Special Ballot. The returning officer will do his or her best to

accommodate your particular situation, but the request must be made by the voter in time to meet the administrative requirements of the electoral process.

Your Special Ballot must be properly completed and received, with identification, by the returning officer to the close of polls at 8:00 pm on polling day to be counted. Any Special Ballots received after the close of polls are counted as rejected ballots.

It's as easy as 1-2-3. Just Request, Receive and Return!

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.










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?



Political Parties and Leaders in Alberta

The following political parties are the registered parties within Alberta however not all of the political parties have candidates running for election in all of the ridings. Look at the Elections Alberta website for up to date information on candidates or go to the political parties' websites.

Political Party	Political Party Leader
Alberta Liberal Party www.albertaliberal.com 	Dr. Raj Sherman
Alberta New Democratic Party www.albertandp.ca 	Mr. Brian Mason
Alberta Party www.albertaparty.ab.ca  alberta party	Mr. Glenn Taylor
Alberta Social Credit Party www.socialcredit.com 	Mr. Len Skowronski
Communist Party – Alberta www.comunistparty-alberta.ca 	Ms. Naomi Rankin
Evergreen Party of Alberta www.evergreenparty.ca 	Mr. Larry Ashmore
Progressive Conservative Association of Alberta www.votepec.ca 	Ms. Alison Redford
Separation Party of Alberta www.separationalberta.com 	Mr. Bart Hampton
Wildrose Alliance Party www.wildrose.ca 	Ms. Danielle Smith

Southern Alberta Ridings and Candidates

There are eight (8) ridings in the southern part of Alberta. You will need to know which is your riding then you can click on the website to find out who the candidates in your riding are.

Cardston-Taber-Warner

<http://wtv.elections.ab.ca/wtEDCandidates.cfm?ED=53>

Cypress – Medicine Hat

<http://wtv.elections.ab.ca/wtEDCandidates.cfm?ED=55>

Lethbridge – East

<http://wtv.elections.ab.ca/wtEDCandidates.cfm?ED=68>

Lethbridge – West

<http://wtv.elections.ab.ca/wtEDCandidates.cfm?ED=69>

Little Bow

<http://wtv.elections.ab.ca/wtEDCandidates.cfm?ED=70>

Livingstone – Macleod

<http://wtv.elections.ab.ca/wtEDCandidates.cfm?ED=71>

Medicine Hat

<http://wtv.elections.ab.ca/wtEDCandidates.cfm?ED=72>

Strathmore – Brooks

<http://wtv.elections.ab.ca/wtEDCandidates.cfm?ED=83>