

Elector Organizations

FAQ



This FAQ is intended to provide a brief background of what an elector organization is and what it means when an elector organization makes an endorsement of a candidate in a school trustee elections.

Q: What is an elector organization?

A: Elections BC describes an elector organization as follows:

Elector organizations promote candidates in local elections. They are also called civic political parties. Anyone can form an elector organization, but only elector organizations registered with Elections BC can endorse candidates, receive campaign contributions and incur election expenses.

<https://elections.bc.ca/local-elections/elector-organizations/>

Q: How does one become endorsed by an elector organization?

A: Sections 92 and 93 of the *Local Government Act* require that certain documents must be submitted by the elector organization to the Chief Election Officer and Elections BC to be effective. The individual candidate must also consent to the endorsement. (Note that the *Local Government Act* has undergone recent changes in December 2021 that will impact the trustee election of fall of 2022 but the amendments to the legislation do not apply to the current by-election.)

Q: What is the impact of an endorsement by an elector organization?

A: Elections BC states as follows:

Elector organizations file endorsement documents with their Local Chief Election Officer. If approved by the Local Chief Election Officer, the elector organization's name, abbreviation or acronym will appear on the ballot beside their endorsed candidate's name.

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Further, section 115 of the *Local Government Act* states:

What must and must not be included on a ballot

115 (1)A ballot for an election **must** include the following:

- (a) instructions as to the number of candidates to be elected to the office;
- (b) instructions as to the appropriate mark to make a valid vote for a candidate;

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(c) the full name of each candidate or, if a candidate specified a different usual name in the nomination documents, this usual name;

(d) if applicable, the name, abbreviation or acronym of the endorsing elector organization for a candidate, as shown on the endorsement documents for the candidate.

Accordingly, the name of the candidate is accompanied on the ballot by the name (or acronym) of the elector organization.

Q: Can a candidate or an elector organization revoke the endorsement by an elector organization?

A: Yes, but pursuant to section 95 such a revocation must occur 29 days prior to the general voting day.

Q: Does the Chief Election Officer have the discretion to remove the name of an elector organization from a ballot?

A: No, section 115 of the *Local Government Act* limits the discretion of the Chief Election Officer. Once the endorsement documents are accepted by the Chief Election Officer and it is beyond 29 days prior to the election (such that the time has expired for the elector organization to withdraw its endorsement or for the candidate to withdraw consent to the endorsement) the endorsing elector organization's name will appear on the ballot.

Notably, all endorsement documents are provided by the local Chief Election Officer to Elections BC upon receipt.

Q: Can the candidate or elector organization request that the elector organization's name not be on the ballot?

A: Barring the revocation of consent by the candidate or revocation of the endorsement by the elector organization at least 29 days prior to voting the name must appear on the ballot.

Q: What if the name of the elector organization is too long for the ballot?

A: The Chief Election Officer may consult with the elector organization in the event that the name needs to be altered or shortened to be reasonably accommodated on the ballot.

Q: Where do I find endorsement documents for local candidates?

A: The documents can be found at the following link: <https://www.sd68.bc.ca/board/local-by-election-school-trustee/>