Voting Where a Person Owns Property in Multiple Wards

The province has specific rules regarding voting with wards. This explanation is intended to clarify common misunderstandings.

To be eligible to vote, a person must:

1. Be a Canadian citizen;
2. Be at least 18 years of age on Election Day; and
3. Be a resident of, or a registered owner of property in the Municipality for at least six months before Election Day **(October 28, 2026).**

These rules assume the person meets the above requirements. The following explains additional rules regarding wards.

Rule 1 – Residents of the Municipality

A person who lives in the Municipality must vote in the ward where they reside, even if they own property in multiple wards.

This is to prevent a person from being eligible to vote in more than one ward based on both residence and property ownership. A person may only vote once in the municipality, so they must vote in their residential ward.

Rule 2 – Non-Residential Property Owners

A person who does not live in the Municipality but owns property in more than one ward must apply to the Senior Election Official (SEO) to designate their voting ward. This selection must be made before the voters list is closed to revisions **(September 22, 2026)**, otherwise the SEO will assign a ward on the voter's behalf.

Non-resident property owners are eligible voters and must be placed on the voters list. If they do not choose a ward before the deadline, the SEO will assign them to one of the wards where they own property. Assignments are typically made well in advance of the election to avoid any perception of bias after nominations are filed.

Important Note

A person who owns property in more than one ward must appear only once on the voters list. Voting in more than one ward, or appearing on multiple ward lists, is an offence under *The Municipal Councils and School Act.*

Consequences of Non-Compliance:

1. A person who knowingly votes or applies to vote in an election when not eligible may be subject to a fine of up to $10,000 and/or imprisonment of up to one year; and
2. A court may declare the election invalid and the office vacant, requiring a by-election.

Compliance with these rules ensures the integrity of the election process.

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