

PRESS RELEASE

September 30, 2025

Elections Yukon Updates Special Ballot Voting Process during the Canada Post Mail Strike

The territorial general election and plebiscite vote is expected to be called on or before Friday, October 3, 2025.

Mail services provided by Canada Post are an integral component of election planning and administration. The recent labour action at Canada Post has required Elections Yukon to provide key information, materials, and services to Yukon electors by other means.

Elections Yukon is introducing a number of voting process changes during the upcoming election to minimize disruption to electors as they exercise their right to vote.

In previous elections, Canada Post has shipped election materials and ballots to offices in all electoral districts, delivered Voter Information Cards to tens of thousands of registered electors (there will be over 36,500 this election), and distributed election information to households across the territory (there will also be plebiscite material this election). For these challenges, alternate arrangements are being made.

Perhaps most significant is that Canada Post was the main carrier used to send out and return special ballots. For the 2021 election, 17% of electors used this option. With the loss of mail services, this is a concern for electors, particularly those who may be out of the territory and rely on the mail services to vote. For those electors, additional measures have been implemented:

- Applications opened earlier this week for special ballots. This will allow additional time to approve and process special ballots, so they are ready to be sent out on issue of the writ. Applications for the mail out of special ballots will close on the Tuesday before the Advance Polls (about three weeks from today). This is a change initiated prior to the mail strike.
- Special ballot kits of electors outside of the Yukon by courier. A return courier envelope will also be provided. This will be paid by Elections Yukon. This is a change.

Most electors who vote by special ballot do so in the Yukon and in-person at the Returning Office in their district. Once complete, the ballots are put in the ballot box to be counted after the close of polls on Polling Day. This is unchanged.

All Returning Offices and their satellite offices located in a number of communities (called Additional Assistant Returning Offices) can also take applications and issue special ballots to electors from any electoral district.

Where an elector applies for a special ballot in a returning office in a different district, or at a satellite office, the election officials will also be authorized to accept the ballots and will arrange return delivery to Elections Yukon in Whitehorse. This will allow any elector who goes to any Returning Office the option to apply, vote, and return their special ballot. This is a change.

Voting by special ballot, by mail or in person, is one of three ways to vote. It offers the longest period for an elector to vote. It is open to all electors. No reason is required. In person applications and voting at Returning Offices and satellite offices can be made from the issue of the writ to the Friday before Polling Day (about four weeks from today).

The other options are voting in-person during the Advance Polls (the Sunday and Monday before Polling Day) and on Polling Day, a week later. Polling Day voting accounts for over half of the votes cast during the election.

Information about the election, including how to vote, how to register and where to find information about the candidates and the plebiscite is available on Elections Yukon's website and social media channels.

Election Yukon is further developing ways to serve the public during this disruption. Visit electionsyukon.ca, call 867-667-8683 (Toll free in Yukon: 1-866-668-8683) or visit your local returning office during the election period to register or check your registration, apply for a special ballot, or find out where you vote at the Advance polls or on Polling Day.

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