

A GUIDE FOR **SCRUTINEERS**

Introduction

This guide is designed to provide general information and guidance to scrutineers appointed by candidates to represent them at voting stations during an election, by-election or referendum.

Qualification of a Scrutineer

- At least 18 years old
- Appointed by the candidate or the candidate's official agent by completing a Form 412.
- Must swear or affirm an oath of secrecy at the voting station.

Conduct of a Scrutineer

On election day, up to two scrutineers for each candidate may be present at any given time at each polling station. The same applies to advance voting stations, absentee voting stations and institutional voting stations.

As a scrutineer you must present your appointment, Form 412, to the voting officer at each voting station to which you are appointed and take the oath at each station. Some scrutineers are appointed as 'runners'. They enter the voting place and pick up information from the scrutineers at the various voting stations in order to transfer it to campaign headquarters. These scrutineers also require a Form 412 but they will be required to take an oath at only one voting station, that being the lowest numbered station at that voting place.

Instructions for scrutineers are provided on Form 412, Appointment of a Scrutineer. They are outlined under the categories of what a scrutineer must, may, and must not do. Please familiarize yourself with these rules of conduct.

Voting Procedure

An individual who is entitled to vote will be given a ballot on which the voting officer's initials are placed. After marking the ballot, the voter returns it to the voting officer for him/her to check their initials. Once satisfied that this is the same ballot, either the voter or the voting officer places the ballot into the ballot box.

If an individual's name is not on the voters list, that individual must answer the three qualifying questions, produce the required ID (either driver's license or Manitoba enhanced identification card, or 2 pieces of ID which confirm their name and take the oath of a voter before being allowed to vote. If they do not have identification with a current address, they may sign a declaration of current address.

Voter Assistance

A voter who is unable to mark their ballot can receive assistance from another person who is at least 18 years old and who takes the Oath of Friend Assisting a Voter, or from the voting officer who is not required to take another oath. Other than the voting officer, a person may not assist more than two voters.

If an interpreter is required, that individual must take the Oath of Interpreter. This interpreter could be any individual who happens to be in the voting station at that time.

Voter Challenge

A scrutineer, or any other voter, may challenge a voter's right to vote if he or she has reasonable grounds to do so. (ie: is not a qualified voter, has already voted, is voting under a false name or designation) In this case the voter must take the Oath After Challenged before being permitted to vote. The assistant voting officer will record the challenge in the voting station book.

The Count

Scrutineers who are present at the close of the voting station have the right to remain and observe the count. Only the voting officer handles the ballots and conducts the count, and his or her decisions in regard to the count are final.

Objections at the Count

A scrutineer does have the right to object to a ballot being counted or rejected at the count. The objection will be documented in the voting station book, but the voting officer's decision is final.