

## **The Manitoba Voter Register – Use and Disclosure of Information**

Elections Manitoba maintains the Manitoba Voter Register, which is a permanent list of eligible voters. The register will be maintained and updated on an ongoing basis. It replaces province-wide enumeration for each election.

### **Purpose of Collection**

Personal information about eligible Manitoba voters is collected and maintained on an ongoing basis to support elections or byelections. The register creates the voters list which is used by Elections Manitoba and registered parties to support a free and democratic election. The voters list helps Elections Manitoba reach eligible voters to provide them with the information needed to exercise their right to vote.

### **Collecting Information**

Elections Manitoba gathers information from a variety of sources to maintain the accuracy, currency and completeness of the Manitoba Voter Register. The register includes: name, address, date of birth, gender and contact information. Information comes from voters directly and from other data sources. Voters can confirm their information on the register as well as add to or update their information. In addition, during an election there may be targeted registration of some voters in some areas such as those where there has been substantial growth or generally a lot of movement of residents.

Elections Manitoba has also entered into data sharing agreements with Elections Canada, Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI), Manitoba Health and Vital Statistics. These sources provide name, address, date of birth, gender and contact information, if available. The authority for this information sharing is legislated through *The Elections Act* [s.63.3(3)]

Elections Manitoba does not seek or obtain information about a person's health information or records, or driving and insurance records. The information is used solely for the purpose of maintaining the Manitoba Voter Register.

Elections Manitoba also collects the same information about 16 and 17 year olds to encourage and support future voters. This information is not shared on voting lists or with other organizations.

Collecting this information improves the accuracy of the voters lists and makes it easier for people to vote.

### **Disclosure of Information**

Each year a voters list drawn from the Manitoba Voter Register is provided to registered parties, and on request members of the legislative assembly (MLAs). During an election, a voters list is also provided to

returning officers, some elections officials, registered parties and candidates. [s. 63.8(1)] As per *The Elections Act*, the voters list includes only the name, address, phone number and contact information if available. Gender and date of birth are not shared. [s. 63.8(2)] *The Elections Act* limits the use of the voters list to election activity and communications by registered parties and MLAs.

Elections Manitoba may also develop agreements to share its voters list with municipalities and some government departments to support local elections, and with Elections Canada.

### **Safeguarding your Information**

Elections Manitoba securely holds personal information in an encrypted database. Only those who require information from the register to do their jobs are allowed access. Access to the database requires two-factor authentication including a complex password and a secure external key provided by Elections Manitoba. Elections Manitoba is able to track and monitor how data is accessed, used and changed. Employees working with personal information sign a specific oath related to the use of the data and generally undergo a security check or criminal record check.

Raw data received from data sources is encrypted when not in use. Once merged into the register database, the raw data is destroyed.

### **Opting out**

Manitobans who do not wish to be on the register can opt out and request their name be removed. If you wish to opt out, please fill out this form. An eligible voter who opts out of the register can still vote provided they have appropriate identification and swear an oath.

### **Retention of Information**

The personal information in the register is maintained and updated on an ongoing basis. It is securely held for the purposes of elections and byelections, and for purposes allowed by legislation. Information about voters who have moved or who are deceased will be removed from the register. Other information will be securely maintained.

If you have any questions or comments please contact us at: [elections@elections.mb.ca](mailto:elections@elections.mb.ca) or by calling 204-945-3225 or 1-866-628-6837.