

## **2026 Municipal Election**

### **Voter Eligibility – Frequently Asked Questions (Q&A)**

---

#### **Who can vote in the 2026 Municipal Election? (Municipal Elections Act, 1996, (MEA) s. 17(2))**

You are eligible to vote in the Town of Renfrew municipal election if, on voting day, you:

- are a Canadian citizen;
- are at least 18 years of age;
- are not prohibited from voting under the Municipal Elections Act, 1996; and
- qualify as:
  - a resident of the Town of Renfrew; or
  - the owner or tenant of land in the Town of Renfrew (or the spouse of such an owner or tenant).

#### **What does "owner or tenant of land" mean? (MEA, s. 1(1))**

Under the Municipal Elections Act, an owner or tenant generally means:

- a person who is shown as the owner or tenant on the assessment roll; or
- a non-residential tenant of land assessed under the Assessment Act, whether or not they appear on the assessment roll.

The Municipal Clerk is responsible for determining voter eligibility where questions arise.

#### **I own property in Renfrew but live somewhere else. Can I vote? (MEA, s. 17(2))**

Yes. If you own property in the Town of Renfrew but your permanent residence is elsewhere, you may be eligible to vote in Renfrew as a non-resident property owner.

You may only vote once for school board elections, based on your school support.

#### **I rent my home in Renfrew. Can I vote? (MEA, s. 17(2))**

Yes. Eligible tenants have the same voting rights as property owners.

#### **I own vacant land. Can I vote? (MEA, s. 17(2))**

Yes. Owners of assessed property, including vacant land, may be eligible to vote in the municipality where the property is located.

---

**I own or rent a commercial or industrial property. Can I vote? (MEA, s. 17(2) and 17(3))**

Yes. Owners and qualifying tenants of commercial or industrial property may be eligible to vote in the municipality where the property is located, provided they meet the requirements of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996.

However, corporations are not eligible to vote. If a property is owned by a corporation or business, an individual does not qualify to vote solely because they own, control, or are employed by that corporation. To qualify as a non-resident elector, the property must be owned or rented personally by the individual (or their spouse).

**I am staying in an Airbnb or other short-term rental. Can I vote? (MEA, s. 1(1))**

Generally, no.

A short-term Airbnb guest is not considered a tenant for the purposes of the Municipal Elections Act because they are not shown on the assessment roll as a tenant.

Short-term accommodations do not normally establish voting eligibility.

**What about time-share properties? (MEA, s. 1(1))**

Ownership or use of a property through a time-share agreement does not automatically qualify a person to vote.

The Municipal Elections Act contains specific provisions regarding time-share arrangements and voting eligibility.

**I own a cottage or seasonal property. Can I vote? (MEA, s. 17(2))**

Yes, provided you qualify as the owner of the property under the Municipal Elections Act.

If you own property in more than one municipality, you may be eligible to vote in each municipality's municipal election.

**I rent a seasonal property. (MEA, s. 1(1) and s. 17(2))**

Eligibility depends on the circumstances of the tenancy.

The Municipal Clerk will determine whether the rental arrangement meets the legislative definition of a tenant of land.

---

### **Can I vote more than once? (MEA, s. 17(2) and the Government of Ontario 2026 Voters Guide)**

If you qualify to vote in more than one municipality, you can vote in all of those municipal elections.

However:

- You are permitted to vote in the same school board election only once.
- You may only cast one ballot per qualifying property, in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act.

For example, if you qualify as a resident elector in one municipality, and a non resident elector in three other municipalities, you can vote in all four of those municipal elections.

### **What if I'm unsure whether I'm eligible?**

If your circumstances involve:

- a seasonal residence;
- a rental property;
- a commercial property;
- a storage unit;
- a vacation property;
- an Airbnb or short-term accommodation; or
- another unique ownership or tenancy arrangement,

please contact the Town Clerk's Office before voting.

Each situation is reviewed individually using the definitions contained in the Municipal Elections Act, 1996; Assessment Act; and applicable guidance issued by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

### **Important Note**

The Municipal Clerk is responsible for determining voter eligibility where questions arise. Eligibility decisions are based on the legislation and the individual facts of each situation.

This document is intended as general information only and does not replace the requirements of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996.