

ALTERNATIVE APPROVAL PROCESS BACKGROUND INFORMATION

What is an Alternative Approval Process?

On January 1, 2004, the *Community Charter* came into force and it prescribes two methods by which local governments may seek approval from the electors. These are *Assent of the Electors*, which is approval by voting, or *Alternative Approval Process* which allows a Board to proceed with a proposed action unless at least 10% of the electors state their opposition within a prescribed period. If at least 10% of the electors state their opposition to the proposed action, the matter requires the *Assent of the Electors* if the Board wishes to proceed.

The *Alternative Approval Process* under the *Community Charter* replaces the *Counter Petition Opportunity* under the *Local Government Act* that some may have been familiar with.

Participating areas for a proposed service may vary depending on the municipalities that may be affected. Within Metro Vancouver participating areas may include several of the municipalities or may include all municipalities and the Electoral Area A, Tsawwassen First Nation, and Abbotsford.

Who is an eligible elector for an Alternative Approval Process?

An eligible elector for the purpose of the Alternative Approval Process is the same as for a general local election. An eligible elector must be a resident who meets the following criteria:

- Is age 18 or older;
- Is a Canadian citizen;
- Has been a resident of British Columbia for at least six months;
- Has been a resident of the participating area for at least thirty days; and,
- Is not disqualified from voting in an election by the *Local Government Act* or any other Act.

A non-resident property elector who meets the following criteria is also an eligible elector:

- Is not entitled to register as a resident elector for the participating areas;
- Is age 18 or older;
- Is a Canadian citizen;
- Has been a resident of British Columbia for at least six months;
- Has been a registered owner of real property within the participating area for at least thirty days; and,
- Is not disqualified from voting in an election by the *Local Government Act* or any other Act.

Note that if there are multiple owners of a parcel of land, only one person (with the consent of the majority of the owners) may vote as a non-resident property elector. In addition, corporations are not entitled to vote.

How do you indicate your objection?

Electors indicate their opposition to the proposal by submitting an Elector Response Form to the Corporate Officer of Metro Vancouver.

The response of the elector must be in the form established by the Metro Vancouver Board. Forms are available at Metro Vancouver offices located at 4730 Kingsway in Burnaby. Forms are also available on the Metro Vancouver website at www.metrovancouver.org/boards/elections; please refer to the Alternative Approval Process section. Electors who are unable to access the forms by these means may contact Metro Vancouver at 604.432.6200 or email to icentre@metrovancouver.org.

An accurate copy of the blank Elector Response Form may be used. Only Elector Response Forms with original signature are to be submitted. For the Elector Response Form to be accepted it must meet the following conditions:

- Only eligible electors of the participating area are entitled to sign the form;
- The full name of the elector must be stated;
- The residential address of the elector must be stated;
- The elector must sign the form;
- If applicable, the address of the property in relation to which the person is entitled to vote as a non-resident property elector must be stated; and
- The form must be submitted to the Metro Vancouver Corporate Officer before the deadline.

Is there a Response Deadline?

Elector Response Forms must be submitted in person or by mail to be received by the Corporate Officer at Metro Vancouver located at the following address:

Metro Vancouver
Attention: Corporate Officer
4730 Kingsway
Burnaby, British Columbia V5H 4G8

Elector Response Forms may also be submitted by email (as a scanned attachment) at icentre@metrovancouver.org or by facsimile at 604-436-6901. Please ensure that the transmission was completed.

Responses must be in the possession of the Corporate Officer by no later than 4:00 p.m. on the deadline date. Postmarks will not be accepted as date of submission.

Do you need more information?

More information may be obtained by contacting:

Chris Plagnol, Metro Vancouver
Corporate Officer
Telephone: 604.432.6338
Email: chris.plagnol@metrovancouver.org

Klara Kutakova, Metro Vancouver
Deputy Corporate Officer
Telephone: 604.451.6530
Email: klara.kutakova@metrovancouver.org

Metro Vancouver Information Centre
Telephone: 604.432.6200
Email to icentre@metrovancouver.org