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Acknowledgements

Student Vote is a program of CIVIX, a charitable organization dedicated to empowering school-aged youth with the knowledge, attitudes and skills to be active and informed citizens.



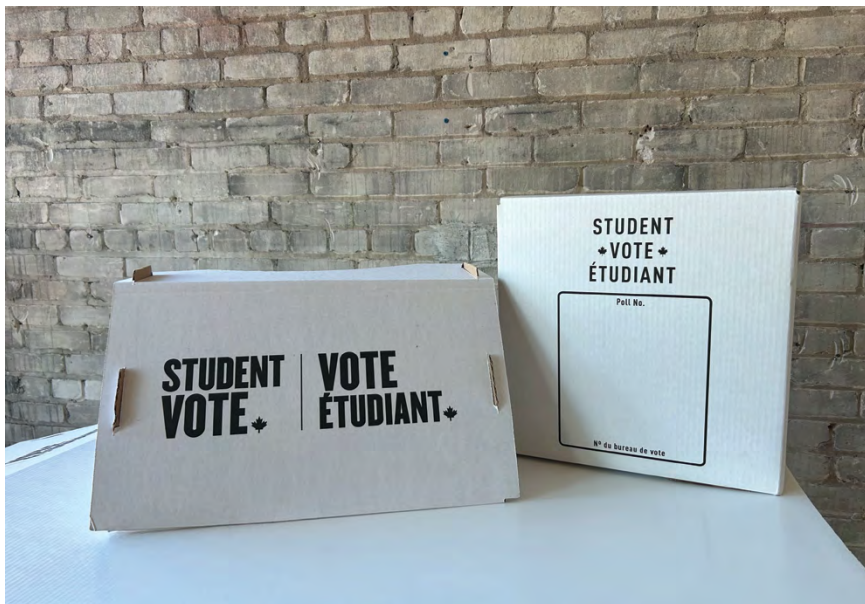
The Student Vote program for the Newfoundland and Labrador provincial election is presented in partnership with Elections NL with support from the Government of Canada.



Introduction

This manual is intended to help guide you through Student Vote Day at your school. On the following pages, you will find suggestions on how to coordinate your vote.

There are several possible methods for running the vote at your school, but in all instances widespread participation is encouraged. The experience helps demystify the voting process for students and increases their confidence about voting in the future.



Here is a list of items you will need for your Student Vote Day:

- Ballot boxes**
- Voting screens**
- Ballots**
- Statement of Votes (reporting form)**
- Seals or tape (if desired)**

You may wish to use your own seals or tape for securing the ballot boxes to ensure they are not tampered with during the voting process.

Student Vote Day

You can choose to hold your Student Vote Day for the 2025 Newfoundland and Labrador provincial election on any day leading up to and including election day.

Please report your results to CIVIX by 4pm NT on **Tuesday, October 14**. Please refer to the *Confidentiality Note* regarding results found on page 15.

Reporting your results by this deadline will ensure your school's results are included in the preliminary totals released on election night.

Schools that report their results after the deadline will be included in the final tallies shared in the days following the election.



Voting Methods

The following voting methods have been designed to assist in the organization of your vote. You may choose to use one or more of these suggestions or develop another method that works for your school.

Method A: VOTE BY CLASSROOM (stationary voting scenario)

Teachers take their classes to the polling station at pre-set times throughout the day. An arrangement in which classes are called down by class or grade is suggested to ensure that students do not have the opportunity to vote more than once. When students arrive at the voting location, designated election officials instruct them on where to line up to cast a ballot. This method of voting allows for an authentic voting experience. Consider offering additional polling stations or voting booths in order to process the number of students in the time allotted. Alternatively, you can arrange for classes to vote over a number of days so that all students have the opportunity to participate.

Method B: VOTING ON OWN TIME (stationary voting scenario)

The polls are open all day, and students are only able to vote on their own time. When students arrive at the voting location, designated election officials tell them where to line up to cast a ballot. While it is the most authentic, this method of voting often leads to a lower voter turnout and a surge of voters in short periods, such as between classes and during lunch. Consider offering more polling stations or voting booths in order to be prepared for high voter traffic.



Method C: HOMEROOM VOTING (in-class voting scenario)

Before the school day begins, distribute ballots to all participating teachers and classrooms. At the beginning of homeroom class, each teacher hands out the ballots to students in their class. Students vote immediately, and the teacher collects the ballots shortly thereafter. Designated election officials collect the ballots from each class before the end of the period, using either a ballot box or envelope. All ballot boxes and/or envelopes are then taken to a secure room, where the ballots can be counted immediately or later in the day. This method makes voting very quick and easy, as it is completed in just a few minutes at the start of the day. However, the experience is less authentic. Consider providing an alternative voting option for students who do not have homeroom at the beginning of the day.

Method D: MOBILE POLLING STATION (in-class voting scenario)

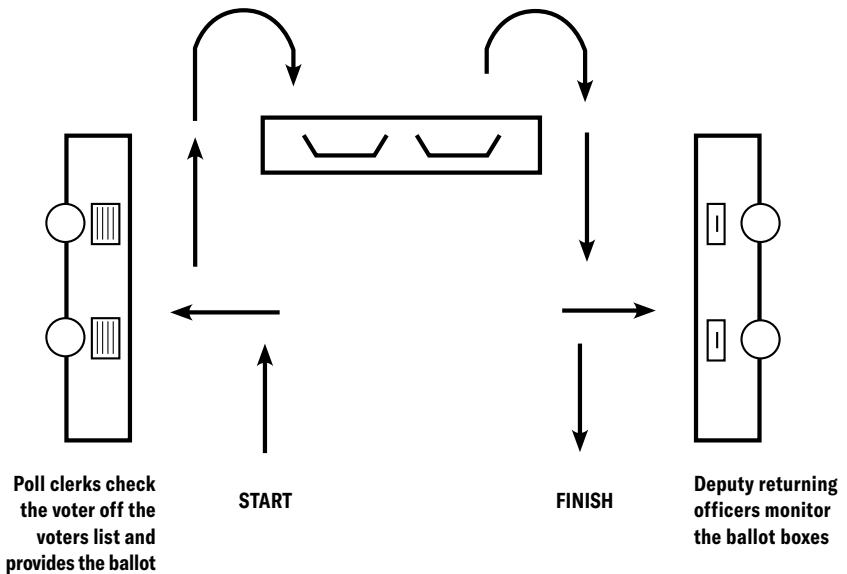
During the first period of the day, designated election officials take polling stations from classroom to classroom. Generally, this method works well with three election officials per group. When every class has had an opportunity to vote, all ballot boxes are taken to a secure room where the ballots can be counted immediately or later in the day. This method of voting eliminates long lines, delays, and the disruption caused by moving an entire class to a polling station. Plan ahead so that there are enough mobile polling stations for all students to participate within one period of the day. It is suggested that you allow approximately 15 minutes for the mobile polling station to visit each classroom.



Layout of a Polling Station

If your school chooses to use a stationary voting scenario for multiple classes, we recommend that you select a spacious and accessible location such as a library, empty classroom, gym, or cafeteria. Make sure the location is well-known and students are informed of the location before Student Vote Day. Where circumstances allow, we suggest the following area layout to process a maximum number of students quickly for optimum efficiency. You may also want to set up multiple polling stations if you are serving a large number of students.

- Set up desks or tables in a 'U' shape around the perimeter.
- Seat poll clerks along one side to process voters and distribute ballots as they enter.
- Voting booths are situated on the next bank of desks/tables. Voters go behind the voting screen or desk and mark their ballot.
- Once they have voted, students take their ballot to the tables/desks lining the third side, where Deputy Returning Officers verify the ballots and monitor the ballot boxes.
- The entrance should be along the fourth 'empty' side—where there are no tables—to allow easy access and queuing without disrupting the flow of students between tables.



Suggested Guidelines

Roles for Student Vote Day

We strongly encourage students to take on the roles of election officials so that they have a greater experience of the voting process. The following roles are suggested for Student Vote Day:

- **Deputy returning officers (DROs)** are the officials responsible for conducting the student election, collecting ballots and counting the votes. They are the only election officials allowed to handle the ballots during the counting process.
- **Poll clerks** are the individuals responsible for checking ID (optional), crossing voters off the voters list, and distributing ballots. When the voting process is complete, the poll clerks assist the deputy returning officers by totaling the ballots counted and filling in the vote tally sheet.
- **Scrutineers** are individuals appointed by a candidate to act as an observer of the voting process. In the case of the Student Vote program, the Team Leader can appoint scrutineers for each party or candidate. Scrutineers may be present when ballots are counted, but they may not handle the ballots in any way.
- **Student Vote Team Leader (an educator or administrator)** is the official liaison between the school and CIVIX, and is in charge of overseeing the entire process.

If you proceed with having students take on the roles of election officials, consider providing identification badges (refer to page 18 for templates).



Creating & Using a Voters List

A voters list is recommended when using a stationary polling station to provide authenticity and to ensure that students do not vote multiple times. A voters list is also an option for in-class voting scenarios.

The voters list should include the names of all students. A simple way to create this list is to request a copy of class attendance sheets from the main office.

As with an actual voters list, when a student enters the polling station and/or is handed a ballot, the poll clerk will cross off the name of the student to indicate that they have participated in the election.

Ballots

It is strongly recommended that the Team Leader (or an appointed election official) initial the reverse side of each ballot before the commencement of Student Vote Day. This helps to validate the official Student Vote ballots for your school and ensure a secure voting process.

If you believe there is an error on the ballot or you received the wrong ballots, please contact CIVIX as soon as possible.



Student Vote Election Requirements

Regardless of the voting method you select, the following procedures should be followed for Student Vote Day.

Before You Begin

- No campaign materials are permitted at the polling station or on election officials. This rule is to ensure a completely impartial environment.

Preparing the Ballot Box

- Once the ballot box is folded together, the deputy returning officer will show the inside of the empty box to the poll clerks and scrutineers so that they can verify that the box is empty;
- Next, the ballot box will be sealed using seals or tape (optional);
- The seals or tape will be initialed by the Team Leader to show that they have authorized the ballot box for use.

Receiving a Ballot

- When a voter requests a ballot at the polling station, the poll clerk will fold a ballot into thirds, thereby concealing the side with the candidates' names from observers;
- The poll clerk will verify that the ballot has been initialed by the Team Leader (or appointed deputy returning officer) and will hand the folded ballot to the voter;
- The voter will take the ballot behind a voting screen to unfold the ballot in private, mark the ballot as they choose, and refold the ballot;
- The voter will take their ballot to the deputy returning officer monitoring the ballot box;
- Without unfolding the ballot, the deputy returning officer will verify that the Team Leader's initials are visible on the ballot;
- Once verified, the voter will put the ballot in the ballot box;
- In the event that the ballot is poorly printed, or a voter tears a ballot or makes a mistake, the voter may return the ballot and request a new one. The first ballot will be declared a cancelled ballot, and the poll clerk will write "cancelled" on the back of the ballot and keep it to the side. The cancelled ballot is not placed in the ballot box.

Counting the Ballots

- If using seals/tape, the Team Leader will verify that each ballot box is still sealed by the seals or tape that they initialed and that neither the box nor the seal has been tampered with;
- The tape will be broken and the deputy returning officers will open the box to count the ballots;
- Scrutineers may be present to observe that the process is completed fairly.
- The ballots will be tallied by the deputy returning officer based on two distinct categories (ballots not placed in the ballot box, and ballots placed in the ballot box).

1 – Ballots not placed in the ballot box will be separated and counted as such:

CANCELLED – A ballot that has been kept separate and never placed in the ballot box because it was mistakenly marked or torn and exchanged for a new ballot. The poll clerk writes “cancelled” on the back of the ballot.

2 – Ballots placed in the ballot box will be separated and counted as such:

VALID – A ballot that has been properly marked for one candidate (see page 13).

REJECTED – A ballot that has not been marked properly and declared invalid by the deputy returning officer (see page 14).

- Any questionable ballots will be left to the Team Leader to categorize according to the criteria describing a properly marked ballot;
- Ballots will not be counted again unless the Team Leader orders a recount to confirm the totals;
- Consider using a **tally sheet** to assist in the tabulation of votes (page 20). A digital tally sheet is also available on the ‘Student Vote Day’ page of the election website: studentvote.ca/nl2025

Statement of Votes

- The Statement of Votes is an accounting of the ballots for your school's Student Vote Day;
- This accounting includes the number of valid ballots, rejected ballots, and cancelled ballots;
- The Team Leader will verify the results and sign off on the form;
- This form will constitute the official results of the election at your school.

TEACHER NOTE

Please keep the Statement of Votes form for one month after the Student Vote parallel election in case your results need to be confirmed by CIVIX.



Properly Marked Ballots

Valid Ballot

To be counted for a candidate, a ballot must clearly indicate the voter's choice. A voter may mark their ballot in any way that they want in the circle next to the name of the candidate.

The following examples have been provided to demonstrate a properly marked ballot:

- The voter uses a checkmark;
- The voter marks an X;
- The voter uses another type of mark;
- The voter shades the circle.

BRODY BLUE Apple Party / parti Pomme	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
TONY TEAL Banana Party / parti Banane	<input type="radio"/>
VERONICA VIOLET Pear Party / parti Poire	<input type="radio"/>
YASMIN YELLOW Independent / Indépendent	<input type="radio"/>

BRODY BLUE Apple Party / parti Pomme	<input type="radio"/>
TONY TEAL Banana Party / parti Banane	<input type="radio"/>
VERONICA VIOLET Pear Party / parti Poire	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
YASMIN YELLOW Independent / Indépendent	<input type="radio"/>

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VERONICA VIOLET Pear Party / parti Poire	<input type="radio"/>
YASMIN YELLOW Independent / Indépendent	<input type="radio"/>

BRODY BLUE Apple Party / parti Pomme	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
TONY TEAL Banana Party / parti Banane	<input type="radio"/>
VERONICA VIOLET Pear Party / parti Poire	<input type="radio"/>
YASMIN YELLOW Independent / Indépendent	<input type="radio"/>

Rejected Ballot

A ballot will not be counted towards any candidate when it does not clearly indicate the voter's choice.

The following examples have been provided to demonstrate a rejected ballot:

- The voter marks the ballot for more than one candidate. This applies even if different symbols are used for different candidates, such as a checkmark for one candidate and an 'X' for another;
- The voter marks the ballot in a way that identifies themselves;
- The voter leaves the ballot blank.

BRODY BLUE Apple Party / parti Pomme	①	BRODY BLUE Apple Party / parti Pomme	○
TONY TEAL Banana Party / parti Banane	②	TONY TEAL Banana Party / parti Banane	○
VERONICA VIOLET Pear Party / parti Poire	③	VERONICA VIOLET Pear Party / parti Poire	○
YASMIN YELLOW Independent / Indépendant	④	YASMIN YELLOW Independent / Indépendant	○

BRODY BLUE Apple Party / parti Pomme	⊗	BRODY BLUE Apple Party / parti Pomme	○
TONY TEAL Banana Party / parti Banane	⊗	TONY TEAL Banana Party / parti Banane	○
VERONICA VIOLET Pear Party / parti Poire	⊗	VERONICA VIOLET Pear Party / parti Poire	○
YASMIN YELLOW Independent / Indépendant	○	YASMIN YELLOW Independent / Indépendant	○

BRODY BLUE Apple Party / parti Pomme	○	BRODY BLUE Apple Party / parti Pomme	○
TONY TEAL Banana Party / parti Banane	○	TONY TEAL Banana Party / parti Banane	○
VERONICA VIOLET Pear Party / parti Poire	○	VERONICA VIOLET Pear Party / parti Poire	○
YASMIN YELLOW Independent / Indépendant	○	YASMIN YELLOW Independent / Indépendant	○

Reporting Results

Step 1: Select your method of reporting

A Report online

Please visit <http://studentvote.ca/vote/nl2025> and follow the prompts to submit your results.

B Report by phone

Contact the CIVIX team at 1-866-488-8775 to report your school's results.

Step 2: Enter/provide your School ID and Poll Code

Your school ID and poll code are located on your Statement of Votes form. These credentials will allow you or a CIVIX team member to access your school and electoral district information.

Step 3: Report your results

You will be asked to report the number of votes for each candidate and the number of rejected votes. You will not be asked to report the number of cancelled votes. Please review the definitions on page 11.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE:

We require that you and your students keep your school's Student Vote results confidential until the close of polls on election day (Tuesday, October 14).

This confidentiality is very important to ensure that Student Vote results are released at the appropriate time and do not interfere with the general election in any way. There has been some concern that an early release of results could influence voting decisions by electors.

Any school that releases the results of its election early will be removed from the Student Vote tallies and will be indefinitely suspended from participating in future programs.

Media Relations

Involving the media in your school's Student Vote Day can be a powerful way to highlight student participation and make the experience even more meaningful and empowering. Always remember to consult your school district's policies regarding members of the media on school property.

Media outlets may be interested in publishing photos of your Student Vote Day or setting up interviews with you or your students. If you are interested in media attention for you and your students, please contact the CIVIX team to be put on a list of schools for media requests. You can contact CIVIX via email at hello@civix.ca or by phone at 1-866-488-8775.

Alternatively, you and your students can contact members of the media and make your own arrangements:

- Building a connection with local reporters early on can be beneficial, as they often appreciate following the journey of a school or class throughout the program.
- Consider asking editorial staff to print articles or op-ed pieces written by students.
- Offer to share your own high-resolution photos or videos for publication.

We recommend keeping CIVIX aware of all of your media activities. Always ensure media releases have been signed in advance by any students (or their parents/guardians) in the photos.

Please remember that no matter how close a relationship you form with the media, you cannot divulge the results of your school's election before the end of official voting.



Voter ID Templates

VOTER IDENTIFICATION

NAME _____

CLASS/HOMEROOM _____

BIRTHDAY _____

SIGNATURE _____



VOTER ID CARD

NAME _____

CLASS/HOMEROOM _____

BIRTHDAY _____

SIGNATURE _____



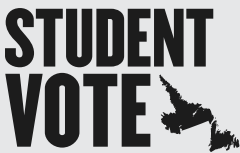
POLL CLERK

NAME _____



POLL CLERK

NAME _____



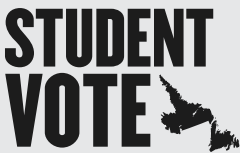
DEPUTY RETURNING OFFICER

NAME _____



SCRUTINEER

NAME _____



Tally Sheet

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