



MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Each municipality elects its own local council. The number of elected councillors generally depends on the size of the municipality. Voting eligibility and election dates can vary depending on the type of municipality.

Urban Municipalities

Urban municipalities hold general elections every four years. If the community uses the ward system, each voter casts one ballot for a candidate running for council in their ward, and one ballot for mayor. If the community does not use the ward system, voters can cast ballots for as many council candidates as there are seats on council, and one ballot for the mayor.

To vote in most urban municipal elections, individuals must be Canadian citizens 18 or older who:

- a) have lived in Saskatchewan for at least six months, and
- b) lived in or owned property in the municipality for at least three months.

Urban municipalities hold their general elections every four years, in the beginning of November.

Rural Municipalities

Although the reeve and councillors of rural municipalities hold office for four years, the full council and reeve are not elected at the same time. One-half of the council is elected every two years. The reeve is elected every second election. Each division in a rural municipality elects a councillor while all eligible voters in the entire rural municipality can vote for the reeve.

To vote in most rural municipal elections, individuals must be Canadian citizens 18 or older who have:

- a) resided in the RM for at least three consecutive months, or
- b) own land in the RM or are the spouse of such an individual.

Other people may also be eligible to vote in RMs. Complete requirements are listed on the Government of Saskatchewan's Municipal Affairs website.

Rural municipalities hold their elections in the beginning of November.

Organised Hamlets

Some organised hamlets elect a three member management board that reports to the RM council. Other organised hamlets may be designated an electoral division of the RM in which they exist, so the hamlet will elect one councillor to RM council.

Northern Municipalities

Northern municipalities hold general elections every four years to elect local council members and a mayor. Like other urban municipalities, northern municipalities can be divided into wards where one councillor is elected from each ward or the councillors can be elected from the community as a whole. Mayors are elected from the community as a whole.

To vote in most northern municipal elections, individuals must be Canadian citizens 18 and older who:

- a) have also lived in Saskatchewan for at least six months and
- b) lived in or owned property in the municipality for at least three months.

Northern municipalities hold their general elections every four years, some time in the fall.



MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS ...continued

Resort Villages

Because some people from other provinces live in resort villages during the summer months the residency requirement for eligible voters is a little different. Even if an individual has not lived in Saskatchewan for six months they may vote in an election in a resort village provided that they:

- a) have lived in, owned or leased property in the village for at least three months, or
- b) are the spouse of such a person.

Resort villages hold their general elections every four years, on a Saturday in late summer.

Plebiscites and Referendums

Sometimes, certain issues can be put to a direct vote. Either the local council decides to have a vote on a matter, or community members petition for a vote on a matter. This type of vote is called a plebiscite if the results are non-binding. It is a referendum if the results are binding and the local government must act on them. Although plebiscites and referendums can be held at any time, they are usually held during an election.