

Q&A

Events Centre Referendum

The City of Nanaimo is considering the construction of an events centre that could host larger-scale concerts, touring shows, sports and other cultural and community events. A non-election assent vote (more commonly known as a referendum) will be held to determine if residents support the City borrowing money to finance the project.

What is this referendum about? Why is it being held?

In early 2016, City Council approved a three-year strategic plan that included the construction of an events centre to complement existing facilities, boost tourism and enhance cultural and recreational opportunities in Nanaimo. Residents and property owners in Nanaimo will now be asked whether they support borrowing funds to build an events centre in a non-election assent vote (referendum) proposed for Saturday, March 11.

What will the question on the referendum be?

"Are you in favour of the City of Nanaimo Council adopting Loan Authorization Bylaw 2017 No. 7237 which will authorize Council to borrow a sum not exceeding \$80,000,000, repayable over a period of no more than 20 years, for the development and construction of an event centre that will include an ice arena and other related entertainment, cultural and recreation facilities?"

When will the referendum be held?

The referendum is proposed to be held on Saturday March 11, 2017. This date will be confirmed shortly.

Where will the referendum be held?

There will be 11 voting places for the referendum, and eligible voters can vote at any one of them. The locations of the voting places on March 11 are:

1. McGirr Elementary School – 6199 McGirr Rd, Nanaimo
2. Randerson Ridge Elementary School – 6021 Nelson Rd, Nanaimo
3. Departure Bay School – 3004 Departure Bay Rd, Nanaimo
4. Chase River Elementary School – 1503 Cranberry Rd, Nanaimo
5. Georgia Avenue Community School – 625 Georgia Av, Nanaimo
6. Frank J. Ney Elementary School - 5301 Williamson Rd, Nanaimo
7. Island ConnectED – 4355 Jingle Pot Rd, Nanaimo
8. SARC Lobby/Boardroom – 411 Dunsmuir St, Nanaimo
9. Nanaimo Aquatic Centre – 741 Third St, Nanaimo
10. Protection Island Fire Hall – 26 Pirates Ln, Nanaimo
11. Nanaimo Alliance Church – 1609 Meredith Rd, Nanaimo

Hours of voting are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Protection Island.

Will there be advance polls?

Yes. There will be two days of advance polls – March 1 and March 8. The location for advance voting will be:

- VICC, (Vancouver Island Conference Centre) 101 Gordon St, Nanaimo, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Q&A

Events Centre Referendum

Who can vote in the referendum?

Anyone who qualifies as a resident elector or a non-resident property voter within the boundaries of the City of Nanaimo can participate in the referendum.

What is a resident elector?

Under the BC Local Government Act, a resident elector is defined as:

- a) an individual who will be 18 years old or older on voting day;
- b) a Canadian citizen;
- c) a resident of British Columbia for at least six months immediately before voting day;
- d) a resident of the City of Nanaimo for at least 30 days immediately before voting day; and
- e) not disqualified from voting in an election

What is a non-resident property voter?

Under the BC Local Government Act, a non-resident property elector who is not a resident in the City of Nanaimo, and is an individual who is:

- a) a registered owner of real property in the City of Nanaimo for at least 30 days immediately before voting day;
- b) 18 years old or older on voting day;
- c) a Canadian citizen;
- d) a resident of BC for at least six months before voting day;
- e) not entitled to register and vote as a resident elector, and
- f) not disqualified from voting in an election

Note there is only one individual entitled to register and vote for a single property; and if there are more than one owners, the written consent of the majority of owners is required for registration of an individual as a non-resident property elector.

What if I am not on the electors list?

If you are not on the electors list, you can register at the voting place at the time of voting.

Who is eligible to register to vote on voting day?

You can register to vote on voting day if you are:

- a) 18 years old or older at the time of registration;
- b) a Canadian citizen;
- c) a resident of the City of Nanaimo OR registered owner of property within the City, either for at least 30 days prior to registration; and
- d) not otherwise disqualified from voting in an election

What does “disqualified from voting” mean?

You may not vote in a British Columbia local government election if you have been convicted of an indictable offence and are in custody, or have been found guilty of an election offence.

Q&A

Events Centre Referendum

What identification do I need to bring to register as a resident on voting day, if I am not on the electors list?

You will need two pieces of ID, at least one with a signature. Picture ID is not necessary, but at least one of the pieces must prove both residency and identity. Some examples include a utility bill with your address on it, Social Insurance card, Care Card, Drivers License or a credit card.

I own property in the City of Nanaimo, but I live elsewhere. Am I still eligible to vote?

Yes. If you meet the criteria outlined in the question above about non-resident property electors, you can vote as a non-resident property elector.

What identification do I need to bring to register and vote as a non-resident property owner?

Non-registered property owners must bring two pieces of ID, at least one with a signature, proof that you are entitled to register in relation to the property you own, and if there is more than one owner of the property, you must have written consent from the majority of the property owners. Some examples include a utility bill with your address on it, Social Insurance card, Care Card, Drivers License or a credit card.

Do I need identification to vote?

No. You only need identification to register to vote.

I don't live in Nanaimo, but I own property in the city with another person. As joint owners, can we both vote as non-resident property electors in the referendum?

No. If there is more than one individual who is the registered owner of the property, only one of those individuals may register as a non-resident property elector. You will need to produce written consent of a majority of the other owners enabling you to be the individual to vote.

I own several properties in the City of Nanaimo. Can I vote more than once in the referendum?

No. You are entitled to one vote; owning multiple properties does not increase the number of votes you have.

How do I vote if I won't be there on referendum day?

There will be advance polls held on March 1 and March 8, at VICC (Vancouver Island Conference Centre), 101 Gordon Street, Nanaimo. You can vote at one of those polls.

There is also the option of mail ballot voting. If you have a physical disability, illness, or injury that affects your ability to vote in person, or if you will be away from the voting jurisdiction on voting day and on all advance voting days, you can vote by mail. Your eligibility requirements are the same as if you were voting in person.

How can I learn more about the referendum and the project?

A newsletter is being mailed to households which will outline the project and share answers to questions raised by the public. A flyer is planned to share voting information prior to the referendum. Additionally, you can attend one of six upcoming public open houses, email eventscentre@nanaimo.ca, post your questions on the City's [Facebook](#) and/or [Twitter](#) pages, and visit www.nanaimo.ca/eventscentre to learn more.

Questions about the project?

Email: eventscentre@nanaimo.ca

Questions about the referendum?

Email: vote@nanaimo.ca