

Becoming a Candidate

The following are steps to become a candidate in a Prince Edward Island provincial election:

- determine your eligibility
- declare your intention to become a candidate
- file your nomination papers

Eligibility (*Election Act* section 36)

- a Canadian citizen
- 18 years old on election day and a resident in Prince Edward Island for at least six months immediately preceding the date of the writ

Declare Your Intent to be a Candidate

You can declare your intent to be a candidate before or during an election in one of two ways:

Political party candidates

- District nomination meetings of registered political parties nominate most candidates but some parties do not have constituency associations. In either event this means affiliating yourself with a registered political party.

Independent candidates (not affiliated with a registered provincial political party)

- Declaring your intent may consist of making a public announcement and filing your nomination papers during the election.

FILING NOMINATION PAPERS (Form No. 3)

Contact your Electoral District Returning Officer to file your Nomination Form (Form No. 3) between the issuing of the writ up to 2:00 p.m. on the Friday, 17 days before election day. If you are a candidate for a registered political party, the nomination form requires the signature of the party leader, leader's signature, leader's signature witnessed, candidates written consent and accompanied with a deposit of \$200. The deposit of \$200 can be in legal tender, a money order or a certified cheque made payable to the Minister of Finance and Municipal Affairs. After the nomination papers have been verified, and accepted by the Returning Officer, you will become an official candidate in the provincial election. (Nomination Form (Form No. 3) are available from your district returning officer following the issuing of the writ of election in early September 2011). Nomination Form may be viewed at: http://www.gov.pe.ca/law/statutes/pdf/e-01_1.pdf (pages 61-62).

Nomination Form Requirements (Form No. 3)

- candidates' name, civic address, mailing address and phone number
- name and civic address of the person who will act as official agent for your political party or for you as an independent candidate (including his or her signed consent)
- at least **25 signatures** and civic address of qualified electors in the electoral district in which the candidate wants to nominate
- \$200 deposit in cash, certificated cheque or money order is refundable if the candidate (files documents with the chief electoral officer as required under section 20(1) of the *Election Expenses Act*).

Withdrawal of Candidate (Form No. 15)

Before 2:00 p.m. on nomination day, a candidate officially nominated may withdraw as a candidate only through the returning officer and by completing the appropriate form (Form No. 15). Deposit will be forfeited to the candidate.

Additional Information

Following the issuing of the writ all required forms are available by contacting your Electoral District Returning Officer. Additional information is available at: www.electionspei.ca

Note:

This document is a brief outline explaining the steps to become a nominated candidate. Persons making use of this outline are reminded that it has no legislative authority but is intended to provide general information. For precise statutory provisions reference should be made to the *Election Act*.

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