

Scrutineers

Candidates may appoint scrutineers to represent them during the conduct of the vote and the counting of the votes. Appointments must be in writing and scrutineers may be required to show the appointment form to election officials at the voting place.

The Act prohibits campaigning in the voting place and allows the clerk to define the boundaries of the voting place.

If using scrutineers, the following rules may apply:

- there is a limit of one (1) scrutineer per candidate per ballot box;
- the number of scrutineers in any one polling place for any one candidate is reduced by one if the candidate is in the polling place;
- scrutineers may be required by the clerk to take an oath of secrecy;
- scrutineers may not interfere with the activity of the vote or the counting of the ballots (they may observe but they can't touch the ballots); and
- acclaimed candidates are not entitled to scrutineers, neither are they entitled to be scrutineers.

Scrutineers and Certified Candidates (not including those elected by acclamation) are entitled to:

- enter the voting place 15 minutes before opening to inspect ballot boxes, ballots and all other papers relating to the vote;
- be present when election materials and documents are delivered to the clerk;
- place his or her seal on the ballot box to ensure ballots deposited in the box cannot be withdrawn without breaking the seal;
- examine ballots as they are counted, but not touch them; and
- object to a ballot or the counting of ballots if the ballot or votes does not comply with the rules.

Note: Where a municipality uses vote counting equipment or an alternative voting method, candidates should check with the clerk to determine any additional requirements with respect to scrutineers.