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## Annual Voters List Distribution

### *Registered Parties and MLAs*

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Each year by February 15, registered parties will receive a voters list from Elections Manitoba. Members of the legislative assembly (MLAs) who make a request will receive a voters list for their electoral division [s. 63.8(1)]. The lists will be pulled from the Manitoba Voter Register, which is the permanent list of voters maintained by Elections Manitoba. Legislative amendments to *The Elections Act* to make the permanent list possible were passed in 2017. Elections Manitoba is distributing the first annual list in February 2019.

#### **The Manitoba Voter Register**

This is the permanent voter register for Manitoba provincial elections.

- The final voter list from the 2016 general election was the base for the new register [s. 63.1(6)].
- Elections Manitoba makes regular updates to the register with data from Elections Canada, Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI), Vital Statistics and Manitoba Health [s. 63.2 and 63.3].
- Voters can also opt out of the register if they choose [s. 63.5(1)].
- Voters who register once do not have to do so again.
- The register largely replaces enumeration. There will still be some targeted registration before an election is called in electoral divisions with high mobility populations, new growth and/or other changes [s. 65].

#### **Annual Voters Lists**

- Registered parties will receive a province-wide list by electoral division. For the first list in 2019, parties will receive a list with the existing boundaries and a list with the new boundaries that will be in effect for the 2020 general election [s. 63.8(1)].
- The list will be alphabetical by name and include: surname, first name, any middle name on file, residential address, mailing address, telephone number if on file and the unique identifier assigned to the voter [s. 63.8(2)].
- MLAs can request a voters list for their electoral division. They will receive the same information noted above, except for the unique identifier.
- The voters lists will not include voters' date of birth, gender or anyone 16 and 17 years of age.

#### **Voter List Security and Use**

Voters lists contain confidential information and must only be used as authorized by legislation. The list can be used by parties to communicate with voters and by MLAs for carrying out their duties and functions [s. 63.9(3)(a)(b)].

Elections Manitoba will provide the list in a secure format to parties and MLAs. Parties and MLAs will be provided with a copy of *Guidelines on Authorized Use and Protection of Manitoba's Voters List*. This outlines the recommended safeguards to protect the list such as safe and secure storage and having those who will use the voter information sign a declaration of confidentiality [s. 63.9(1)]. In addition, fictitious voter information may be included on a voters list for the purpose of tracing unauthorized uses of a voters list [s. 63.9(5)].

If a voters list is lost, then the chief electoral officer must be notified immediately [s. 63.9(2)].

February, 2019