MAIL BALLOT VOTING INFORMATION
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS MAIL BALLOT VOTING?

Mail ballot voting is a process whereby qualified electors are permitted to cast a ballot without attending in person at a polling station. The mail balloting process is regulated by Provincial statute and the Regional District's election bylaw.

WHO CAN VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT?

Any person who qualifies as an elector for a Regional District election, by-election or other voting may qualify to vote by mail ballot.

HOW DO I OBTAIN A MAIL BALLOT PACKAGE?

You must sign and submit a completed application form to the Chief Election Officer in person, by mail, fax, or email to elections@srd.ca by October 7, 2026. Application forms are available for pick up at the Regional District office or online at www.srd.ca. **Copies of documents required to establish your identity and place of residence in accordance with the *Local Government Act* are required to accompany the application**. Upon receipt your application will be reviewed to determine whether or not you are currently registered as a resident elector or non-resident property elector, and whether the documents you have provided confirm your identity and residency.

If you are not currently registered as an elector, your application must also be accompanied by an application to register as a resident elector or non-resident property elector. The appropriate forms for registering as an elector are available by mail or in person at the Regional District office, or online at www.srd.ca. If applying as a non-resident property elector, your ownership of real property will be checked against the records of the BC Land Title office. When your registration has been accepted and you have been included on the register of electors, a mail ballot package will be provided to you.

Voters who believe that their ballot package may not be received in sufficient time by regular mail may request expedited delivery of the mail ballot package or they may arrange to have the mail ballot package picked-up from the Regional District office. If a third party is picking up the mail ballot on an elector's behalf, the elector must provide written confirmation for that third party to act on their behalf. There is a flat fee of $30 to cover the cost of expedited mail delivery in Canada.

Once a mail ballot has been provided to an elector, that elector will be disqualified from voting in-person at any polling station.

WHEN DOES MY MAIL BALLOT NEED TO BE SUBMITTED?

Mail ballots must be received by the Chief Election Officer prior to the close of voting on general voting day. Mail ballots may be delivered personally or by regular mail or courier. Mail ballots submitted by fax or email cannot be accepted. It is the responsibility of the voter to ensure that their mail ballot is received

prior to the deadline. Mail ballots received after the deadline will not be counted and will remain in the sealed envelope.

WHAT PROVISIONS ARE IN PLACE TO ENSURE THAT MY VOTE WILL BE KEPT SECRET?

The mail balloting process has several safeguards to ensure that ballots are kept secret and that voter privacy is respected. The mail ballot package includes a secrecy envelope into which a voter's ballot is placed and the envelope is then sealed by the elector. The secrecy envelope does not have any external markings to identify the elector and it may only be opened by the Chief Election Officer on general voting day. In addition, if the number of mail ballots received for any election is deemed insufficient to ensure the secrecy of the ballot, they will be combined with the ballots in another ballot box for the same voting jurisdiction.

Mail ballots that are delivered to the Chief Election Officer in an unsealed secrecy envelope or certification envelope will be rejected.

IF I SPOIL MY BALLOT CAN I GET A REPLACEMENT BALLOT?

Yes, a mail ballot that has been spoiled by the elector may be replaced upon request of the elector and the return of the spoiled ballot. An elector who spoils a ballot is still subject to the requirement that their replacement ballot must be received by the Chief Election Officer before the close of voting on general voting day in order to be counted in the election result.

WHEN DO THE MAIL BALLOTS GET COUNTED?

When a mail ballot is received by the Chief Election Officer the certification envelope will be examined to ensure that it has been properly completed and, if satisfied as to the elector's entitlement to vote, the secrecy envelope will be extracted and deposited unopened in a separate ballot box reserved for mail ballots. On general voting day, the secrecy envelopes will be opened, and the ballots will be placed into a ballot box for the appropriate election. All mail ballots which have been accepted as valid will be counted on general voting day regardless of the day they are received by the Chief Election Officer.