

WHAT IS AN APPLICATION FOR VOTING PROXY?

An Application for Voting Proxy (or proxy) is a provincially mandated Municipal Election form which allows one to appoint another person, who is a qualified elector in the same municipality, to vote on his or her behalf. If an elector is going to be away from the municipality, or for whatever reason will be unable to personally cast his or her vote on Election Day (Monday, October 25th, 2010) or at any of the Advance Votes (October 16th, 18th, 19th, or 20th, 2010), then an elector can utilize the proxy form to appoint someone else to vote on his or her behalf.

WHO CAN ACT AS A PROXY AND HOW MANY TIMES CAN A PERSON ACT AS A PROXY?

Under Section 44(2) and (3) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, an elector may act on behalf of:

- one other qualified elector who is not a relative; or
- one or more qualified electors who are relatives.

Immediate family members are defined as:

- parents
- grandparents
- children
- grandchildren
- brothers
- sisters
- spouses

Even if an elector is eligible to vote in more than one municipality, he or she can ONLY vote as a proxy for one non-relative.

In the case where an elector is acting on behalf of more than one qualified elector who are relatives, separate proxy forms are required.

A proxy is a public record and the copy on file with the Clerk may be inspected by any person.

HOW DO I OBTAIN A PROXY?

Proxy forms can be obtained through the Clerk's Department at the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville during regular office hours - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

If you cannot attend at the Town offices in person to pick up your proxy form, the Clerk's Department will make arrangements to deliver a proxy form to you. Please call (905) 640-1900 or (905) 895-2423.

Proxy forms cannot be obtained through municipal candidates.

WHEN CAN I OBTAIN A PROXY?

Section 44(4) of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 states that a person shall not appoint a voting proxy until the time for the withdrawal of nominations has expired for all offices for which the election is being conducted.

In Whitchurch-Stouffville, the municipal election is for the offices:

- Mayor;
- six Ward Councillors; and
- a Trustee for each of the four school boards.

If by September 10th there are candidates for all of the offices, then proxies can be issued as of September 13th.

However, if any of the offices, including the four school boards, do not have registered candidates by September 10th, then the nomination period is extended until September 15th. That would mean that first day that proxies could be issued would be September 16th.

To determine the date when proxies can be issued, please contact the Clerk's Department at (905) 640-1900 or (905) 895-2423.

I COMPLETED A PROXY PRIOR TO THE 2006 MUNICIPAL ELECTION, IS IT STILL VALID?

The appointment does not remain in effect after Election Day. If you appointed someone to act as your proxy during the 2006 Municipal Election, that appointment is no longer valid for the 2010 Municipal Election.

HOW DO I COMPLETE A PROXY?

The elector making the appointment must complete Boxes A, B and C on the form, sign it and then tell their proxy how they wish to vote.

Box A is entitled "Elector Making Appointment" and requires the elector to list their full name and address.

Box B is entitled "Elector Appointed" and requires the elector to list the full name and address of the person that they wish to appoint as their proxy as well as their relationship to that person.

Box C is entitled "Statement of Elector making Appointment" and must be signed, dated and sworn before a witness who is not the person acting as the proxy.

These three boxes MUST be completed at the time the elector making the appointment signs the statement. It is unlawful to sign the proxy form without completing Box B ("Elector Appointed"). In other words, an elector cannot sign a proxy form and leave the determination of who will be their proxy until a later date.

The elector who is appointed to be the proxy must present both copies of the form in person to the Clerk of the municipality.

Regular Office hours:
Monday to Friday 8:30-4:30

The Clerk, or her designate, will also be available to sign proxy forms on **Saturday, October 16th, 2006 from 12 noon to 5:00 p.m.** at either the Ballantrae Fire Hall or the Town offices.

Proof of identity of the elector appointed is REQUIRED.

After certification, the Clerk, or her designate, will return the original (white copy) of the form to the elector appointed. This form is to be taken to the voting place in order for the elector to receive a proxy ballot.

Once at the Voting Place, the appointed elector will be required to take an oral oath attesting that they are in fact the appointed elector.

CAN I FILL OUT A PROXY FORM OVER THE PHONE, BY FAX OR BY E-MAIL?

No. We must have both your original signature as well as that of your proxy's. The Clerk, or her designate, must certify the original certificate and this cannot be done online or with faxed proxies. Election officials will not accept photocopied, faxed or digital signatures on proxies.

If you cannot attend at the Town offices in person to pick up your proxy form, the Clerk's Department will make arrangements to deliver a proxy form to you.

CAN I APPOINT A PROXY BEFORE SEPTEMBER 13th, 2010?

No. The list of candidates running in the election is not finalized until 2:00 p.m. September 10th, 2010 (or September 15th, 2010 if nominations are extended). Until the list of candidates is finalized, you cannot tell your proxy whom you wish them to vote for on your behalf.

CAN MY PROXY VOTE ON HIS/HER OWN BEHALF, AS WELL AS VOTE AS MY PROXY?

Yes. They must, however, vote at their own voting place if it is different than yours. If you would both vote at the same voting place, (i.e. husband and wife), then the proxy would vote twice at the same location - once for themselves and once while acting as your proxy.



For more information, contact the Clerk's Department:

Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
37 Sandiford Drive, 4th Floor
Stouffville, ON L4A 7X5
Tel: 905-640-1900 or 905-895-2423
Fax: 905-640-7957
www.townofws.com/election



All you need to know about...

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