

DISTRICT OF SEHELDT
Bylaw No. 504-3, 2026

A bylaw to amend the Elections and Other Voting Bylaw for the District of Sechelt

WHEREAS Council of the District of Sechelt adopted District of Sechelt Elections and Other Voting Bylaw No. 504, 2011;

AND WHEREAS Council deems it appropriate to amend mail ballot provisions and make other administrative amendments to Bylaw No. 504, 2011;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the District of Sechelt, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

TITLE

1. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as, "Elections and Other Voting Amendment Bylaw No. 504-3, 2026".

AMENDMENTS

2. The following Definitions are added to the Elections and Other Voting Bylaw No. 504-3, 2026, "the bylaw":

"Acceptable mark" means a mark that an elector makes in the space provided on a ballot opposite the name of any candidate or opposite either "yes" or "no" on any question, and the vote tabulating unit is able to identify.

"Ballot" means a single automated ballot card designed for use in an automated vote counting system and conforms to the requirements of the Local Government Act, which shows:

- (a) the names of all of the candidates for each of the offices of Mayor, Councillor and the District of Sechelt School Trustee (School District 46);
and,
- (b) all the choices on all of the bylaws or other matters on which the opinion or assent of the electors is sought.

"Ballot box" means a container for ballots that have been marked by electors.

"Certification envelope" means an envelope in which the secrecy envelope is to be placed during mail ballot voting, and is printed with:

- spaces to record the person's full name and residential address;
- a statement to be signed by the person voting declaring that the person is entitled to be registered as an elector for the election and has not previously voted in the election.

"Council" means the Municipal Council of the District of Sechelt.

"chief election officer" means the chief election officer for the District of Sechelt appointed by a resolution of Council.

"chief election officer, deputy chief election officer" means the chief election officer deputy chief election officer for the District of Sechelt appointed by a resolution of Council.

"District" means the District of Sechelt.

"Election" means a general local election or by-election held in accordance with the Local Government Act.

"Election headquarters" means the Municipal Office located at 5797 Cowrie Street, Sechelt, British Columbia.

"Election Sign" means any sign installed to support the election of a candidate or political party at a municipal, provincial or federal level or public authority office, or providing information related to an election, political initiative, or referendum.

"Elector" means a resident elector, or property owner of the jurisdiction as defined by the Local Government Act.

"General Voting Day" means

- (a) for a general local election, the third Saturday in October in the year of an election;
- (b) for by-elections or elections ordered by the Minister, the date set in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the Local Government Act.

"Mail Ballot Return Locations" are locations, as specified by the chief election officer in the public notice of mail ballot voting, where mail ballots will be accepted.

"Portable Ballot Box" means a ballot box that is used at a voting place where a vote tabulating unit is not being used or is not functioning.

"Returned Ballot" means a voted ballot that was inserted into the vote counting unit by the elector but was not accepted and was returned to the elector with an explanation of the ballot marking error that caused the ballot not to be accepted.

“Secrecy Sleeve” means an open-ended folder or envelope used to cover ballots to conceal the choices made by each elector.

“Voting Tabulator Unit” means the device into which voted ballots are inserted and which scans each ballot and records the number of votes for each candidate, and for and against each other voting question.

3. A new section is added to the bylaw following section for as follows:

“5. Signs

“An election sign for an election or municipal referendum is permitted on property only in accordance with the specifications and requirements in Schedule A of this Bylaw, and in accordance with Sign Bylaw 456, 2006 and its amendments.”

4. The additional Advanced Voting Opportunity is changed from the 4th day before general voting day to the 3rd day before general voting day.

5. The locations for Special Voting Opportunities in subsection (a) are amended to:

5.1 Remove: Shorncliffe Residential Care Facility
5847 Medusa Street Sechelt, BC;

5.2 Remove: Totem Lodge
5544 Sunshine Coast Highway Sechelt, BC

5.3 Add: “Silverstone Care Centre
5625 Derby Road
Sechelt, BC”

6. A new subsection (b) is added under Special Voting Opportunities as follows:

“(b) Subject to the Local Government Act, the chief election officer may limit the number of candidates' representatives who may be present at a special voting opportunity, which shall not be less than one per candidate.”

7. A new subsection (d) is added under Special Voting Opportunities as follows:

“(d) Ballots cast during Special Voting Opportunities will be inserted into a Voting Tabulator Unit in accordance with District of Sechelt Automated Voting Machines Authorization Bylaw No. 443, 2005, and its amendments, during General Voting Day in the presence of at least one other person and any scrutineers present.”

8. The Mail Ballot Voting is deleted in its entirety and replaced with:

“8. Mail Ballot Voting

- (a) As authorized under section 110 of the Local Government Act, voting may be done by mail ballot and registration of electors may be done by mail in conjunction with mail ballot voting.
- (b) The chief election officer is authorized to:
 - i. establish time limits in relation to voting by mail; and
 - ii. specify mail ballot return locations; and
 - iii. specify mail ballot procedures in accordance with the Local Government Act.
- (c) Notice of mail ballot voting must be issued in accordance with the Local Government Act and must include the mail ballot return locations and deadlines.
- (d) Mail ballots may be issued until 4 pm on the Thursday, two days before general voting day.
- (e) A person wishing to vote by mail ballot must submit an application to the chief election officer within the timeframe noted in the public notification in accordance with section 8 (c) of this bylaw and the chief election officer or their delegate will add the person’s name and address to a list of all mail ballot applicants.
- (f) Mail Ballot Acceptance or Rejection
 - (i) In order to be counted for an election, an elector’s mail ballot must be:
 - A. Marked with acceptable marks for each portion of the ballot; and
 - B. Contained within the secrecy envelope; and
 - C. The secrecy envelope must be contained within the certification envelope; and
 - D. The certification envelope must be filled out with the person’s name and residential address, and the declaration that the person is entitled to be registered as an elector for the election, and has not previously voted in the election must be signed to the satisfaction of the chief election officer; and
 - E. Accompanied by any documentation required for the person to register as an elector, including but not limited to a resident elector registration form, a non-resident property elector registration form, a non-resident property elector joint ownership consent form and any supporting documents required; and

counted in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act*.

- (v) Once all the certification envelopes have been opened, the secrecy envelopes may be randomized if needed to protect the identity of the electors and as soon as possible inserted into the tabulator for counting.
- (h) Mail Ballot – Replacement of Spoiled Ballot
 - (i) Prior to Ballot Counting
 - A. Where an elector unintentionally spoils a mail ballot before returning it to the chief election officer, the elector may request a replacement ballot by advising the chief election officer or designate of the ballot spoilage and by mailing or otherwise delivering by any appropriate means, the spoiled ballot package in its entirety to the chief election officer or designate.
 - B. The chief election officer shall, upon receipt of the spoiled ballot package, record such fact, and issue a new ballot.
 - (ii) During Ballot Counting

Where an elector has clearly identified the candidate(s) they wish to vote for, or which response they have selected for any other “yes” or “no” question on the ballot, but the tabulator does not accept the mark, the chief election officer or their designate is authorized to:

 - A. Mark the ballot as spoiled, record such fact and issue a new ballot. The new ballot shall be marked by the chief election officer or their designate using acceptable marks for the elector’s selections.
 - B. The ballot must be inserted into the tabulator as soon as possible for counting.
 - (iii) Any certification envelopes and their contents rejected in accordance with Section 8 (f) of this bylaw shall be marked as ‘rejected’, remain unopened and shall be subject to the provisions of Section 160 of the *Local Government Act* with regard to their destruction.
- (i) Mail Ballot Challenge of Elector
 - (i) A person exercising the right to vote under the provisions of this bylaw may be challenged in accordance with and on the grounds specified in Section 126 of the *Local Government Act*, until 4pm on the Friday the day before General Voting Day.
 - (ii) The provisions of Section 126 (2) to (5), inclusive of the *Local Government Act* shall apply where a challenge of an elector using a mail ballot has been made.

(j) Mail Ballot – Elector’s Name Already Used

Where, upon receiving a request for a mail ballot, or upon receiving a completed mail ballot, the chief election officer determines that another person has voted or has already been issued a mail ballot in the elector’s name, the provisions of Section 127 of the *Local Government Act* shall apply, so far as applicable.

9. The following section is added following Mail Ballot Voting:

“Curbside Voting

- (a) Curbside voting will be available to any elector who cannot access the voting place.
- (b) Upon request to the presiding election official, the presiding election official will assist the elector to register and vote in the presence of one witness.”

10. ‘Schedule A – Election Signage’ attached to Elections and Other Voting Amendment Bylaw No. 504-3, 2026 is added to Elections and Other Voting Amendment Bylaw No. 504, 2011.

PROVISIONS


11. If any section, subsection or clause of this bylaw is for any reason held to be invalid by the decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this bylaw.

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 18th DAY OF MARCH, 2026

READ A SECOND TIME THIS 18th DAY OF MARCH, 2026

READ A THIRD TIME THIS 18th DAY OF MARCH, 2026

ADOPTED THIS 1st DAY OF APRIL, 2026



Mayor



Corporate Officer

SCHEDULE A - Election Signage

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Sign permits are not required.
- Signs must remain in compliance with District of Sechelt Sign Bylaw 456, 2006 and its amendments at all times.
- Signs must not be visible from any voting place.
- Signs must not be illuminated, animated, rotating, flashing or have moving lights or other electrical features.
- Signs must meet the requirements of the Local Election Campaign Financing Act.
- Elections signs for municipal or school trustee elections or by-elections, or referenda are permitted only within the municipal election period, beginning with the first day of the nomination period.
- Signs must be removed within seven (7) days after the election or referendum vote.

GENERAL PROHIBITIONS

- Signs are prohibited on:
 - medians and traffic islands, and in municipal planting beds;
 - boulevard trees, or within one (1) metre of a boulevard tree;
 - all District facilities or structures, parks, and playing fields, including the adjoining boulevard area.
- Signs are prohibited on public or private property that:
 - are within one (1) metre of a fire hydrant;
 - obstruct or detract from any traffic control device or signage;
 - obstruct the line of vision at an intersection; or
 - are placed in a manner that may constitute a hazard to pedestrians, cyclists or vehicles.

GENERAL ENFORCEMENT

- Signs installed in prohibited areas will be removed by District staff if not removed or relocated within 24 hours' notice to the applicable candidate or campaign office.
- Where there are immediate safety concerns or damage to municipal property, District staff will immediately remove the signs and then contact the candidate or campaign office.
- The District will assume no responsibility for any damage to election signs where they are removed by District staff in prohibited locations.

ADDITIONAL CANDIDATE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Persons installing signs on municipal property must be aware of the risk of damage to underground utilities. A call must be made by the candidate or their agent to the District at least 48 hours in advance of the installation in order to confirm that the location chosen is safe.
- Any damage to underground utilities or services as a result of election signs being placed on municipal property is the responsibility of the candidates and their agents.
- Candidates and their agents are liable for any damage done to District property in placement of election signs on municipal property.
- Candidates and their agents should also refer to applicable Provincial and Federal statutes and regulations for additional requirements.

