



## ASSENT VOTE (REFERENDUM) FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Q: What is assent voting (referendum)?**

*For certain matters (long-term borrowing, establishment of new services), regional districts are required to obtain elector approval before the project can proceed. Assent voting, or referendum, allows electors to vote on whether a proposal would move forward or not. Assent of the electors is obtained if a majority of the votes counted are in favour of the bylaw or question.*

### **Q: Who can vote in this referendum to establish a service?**

*Resident and non-resident property owners within the boundaries of the proposed service area can vote, provided they meet the voter qualifications.*

### **Q: What are voter qualifications?**

*Resident and non-resident property owners within the boundaries of the proposed service area must meet the following qualifications in order to vote:*

#### **Resident Elector**

- *18 years of age or older on voting day*
- *Canadian citizen*
- *Resident of BC for at least six months immediately before the day of voting*
- *Resident within the boundaries of the proposed service area*

#### **Non-Resident Property Elector**

- *18 years of age or older on voting day*
- *Canadian citizen*
- *Resident of BC for at least six months immediately before the day of voting*
- *Registered owner of real property within the boundaries of the proposed service area for at least 30 days immediately before the day of voting*

### **Q: Can tenants vote?**

*Yes, all residents living at a property within the proposed service area can vote as long as they meet the voter qualification requirements.*

### **Q: How do I prove that I am a resident living within the proposed service area?**

*You will be required to provide two pieces of ID, one verifying your identity and one proving your current residence. One piece of ID must have your signature. If you have recently moved and not updated your ID, a utility bill registered in your name with the current address may be used.*

### **Q: How do I prove that I am a non-resident property owner?**

*Along with two pieces of ID (as stated above), non-resident property electors must also provide the address or legal description and the title (or other proof of ownership) of the property you own.*

### **Q: I own more than one property in the service area, do I get to vote more than once?**

*Each person can vote only once. Even if you own multiple properties, you can only vote once in this referendum.*

# Bamfield Sewer Connection Community Interest Project

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**Q: If there is more than one owner of a property, can they each cast a vote?**

*If they reside on the property, they can each vote. If they do not reside on the property (non-resident), then the property owners only get one vote and must get the consent of at least two-thirds majority of property owners to appoint who will vote for the property.*

**Q: Do properties owned by businesses get to vote?**

*No, there is no corporate or business vote in local government elections. Voting rights are granted to citizens on the basis of residency or property ownership.*

**Q: What is the threshold for the referendum to pass?**

*A minimum of 51% of the votes cast in the referendum will have to be in favor of the service in order for it to pass.*

**Q: Can people mail-in votes?**

*Yes, there will be the ability to vote by mail.*

**Q: What if I won't be in Bamfield on the day of the referendum?**

*People will be able to request a mail-in ballot or use the advance voting option.*

**Q: When is the referendum vote going to happen?**

*The referendum is planned for fall 2024 depending on the time it takes to have the bylaw drafted and ready to be voted on. A minimum of 30 days prior to the referendum date, notices will be mailed out to all properties and property owners as well as notices posted on the ACRD website, the Bamfielder, and Bamfield Corkboard.*

**Q: When will I see the proposed establishment bylaw that I will be voting on?**

*The bylaw will be available to view on the ACRD website approximately two months prior to the referendum. It will also be included in the notice of the referendum sent out a minimum of 6 days prior to the vote and no more than 30 days in advance.*

**Q: What is the role of the ACRD in conducting this referendum?**

*The ACRD's role is to remain neutral and provide voters with information to make an educated decision on the referendum question. It is the role of the ACRD to administer the referendum in accordance with the Local Government Act and Community Charter.*