



—  PROUD TO BE CANADIAN  —
CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP PRACTICE TEST
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EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

ELECTIONS *in* **CANADA**

— Understand Canada's Democratic System —



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**YOUR JOURNEY
TO BECOMING A
CANADIAN
CITIZEN!**



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Elections in Canada Explained

Everything You Need to Know About Canada's Democratic System

One of the most important responsibilities of Canadian citizenship is participating in elections. Voting allows citizens to choose the people who represent them and helps shape Canada's future.

Understanding how elections work is an important part of preparing for the Canadian citizenship test.

✂ What Is an Election?

An election is the process Canadians use to choose their representatives.

During an election, eligible citizens vote for a candidate in their electoral district.

The candidate with the most votes becomes the Member of Parliament (MP) for that riding in a federal election.

CA Why Are Elections Important?

Canada is a democracy.

This means that government leaders are chosen by citizens through free and fair elections.

Voting gives Canadians a voice in how the country is governed.

Every vote contributes to Canada's democratic system.

+ Who Can Vote?

To vote in a federal election, a person generally must:

- Be a Canadian citizen.
- Meet the legal voting age.
- Meet any other requirements established by election laws.

Permanent residents cannot vote in federal elections unless the law changes.

What Is an Electoral District?

Canada is divided into many **electoral districts**, also called **ridings**.

Each riding elects one Member of Parliament (MP) to represent the people living there.

No matter where you live in Canada, you belong to one electoral district.

Who Is a Member of Parliament (MP)?

A Member of Parliament (MP) is an elected representative in the House of Commons.

An MP:

- Represents people living in a riding.
- Participates in debates.
- Votes on proposed laws.
- Helps address issues affecting constituents.

If you have concerns about federal matters, you can contact your local MP.



The Prime Minister

After a federal election, the political party that forms the government usually selects its leader to serve as the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister leads the federal government and works with Cabinet ministers to carry out government policies.



Parliament and Elections

Canada's Parliament includes:

- The King
- The Senate
- The House of Commons

During elections, Canadians vote only for their Member of Parliament in the House of Commons.



Secret Ballot

Canada uses a **secret ballot**.

This means:

- Your vote is private.
- No one can force you to vote a certain way.
- You are free to make your own choice.

The secret ballot protects the fairness and integrity of elections.

Why Voting Matters

Voting allows citizens to:

- Participate in democracy.
- Help choose government representatives.
- Influence public policy.
- Support their communities.

Even if election results are close, every vote counts.

Fair Elections

Canada's election system is designed to be:

- Fair
- Transparent
- Secure

Election laws help ensure that voting is conducted honestly and that results reflect the choices of voters.

Study Tips

When preparing for citizenship test questions:

- ✓ Understand who can vote.
- ✓ Learn what a riding (electoral district) is.
- ✓ Know the role of an MP.
- ✓ Understand why voting is important.
- ✓ Remember that voting is by secret ballot.

★ Quick Review

Remember these key facts:

- ✓ Canada is a democracy.
 - ✓ Citizens vote in elections.
 - ✓ Electoral districts are also called ridings.
 - ✓ MPs represent their ridings.
 - ✓ Voting is conducted by secret ballot.
 - ✓ Parliament includes the King, the Senate, and the House of Commons.
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Frequently Asked Questions

What is a riding?

A riding is another name for an electoral district. It is the area represented by one Member of Parliament.

What is a secret ballot?

A voting system that keeps each person's vote private.

Why should citizens vote?

Voting allows citizens to participate in democracy and choose their representatives.

Who represents me in Parliament?

Your local Member of Parliament (MP) represents your electoral district in the House of Commons.

Ready to Practice?

Election questions are commonly included on the Canadian citizenship test. Strengthen your understanding by practicing with realistic mock exams designed to build your confidence before test day.

Did You Know?

- Canada uses a **secret ballot** to protect every voter's privacy.
 - Every electoral district elects **one Member of Parliament**.
 - Voting is one of the most important ways citizens participate in Canada's democracy.
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Official Resources

- [Government of Canada – Canadian Citizenship](#)
- [Official Discover Canada Study Guide](#)