

Orders

For the vast majority of voters, voting in the 2017 Provincial General Election proceeded without incident. In some instances, however, errors made by voters or election officials prompted the Chief Electoral Officer to issue an Order. Established by section 280 of the *Election Act*, an Order permits the Chief Electoral Officer to make exceptions to the Act if necessary because of an emergency, mistake or extraordinary circumstance. The Chief Electoral Officer issued 51 Orders related to the 2017 Provincial General Election. The majority of Orders were the result of election official errors, evidence of the complexity of provincial electoral legislation and the need to continue to review election official procedures with a view to simplify processes. Summaries of the Orders are provided below.

ORD001-2017

April 13, 2017

Due to extraordinary circumstances, the 2016 annual financial report of a registered political party was received by Elections BC after the filing deadline of March 31, 2017. The financial agent was granted an extension to April 10, 2017.

ORD002-2017

April 11, 2017

Election officials at the Oak Bay-Gordon Head district electoral office erred in providing a voter with a list of candidates for the incorrect district and the voter voted for a candidate from the incorrect district. When this error was discovered, the voter was invited to correctly vote based on the list of candidates for the correct electoral district. The certification envelope containing the ballot for the incorrect electoral district remained unopened at final count.

ORD003-2017

April 18, 2017

The candidate nomination documents for nominees in the Burnaby-Lougheed and Columbia River-Revelstoke electoral districts were incorrectly accepted as complete, prior to the deadline, even though they did not include a signed statement of service address as required by s. 54(3)(i) of the *Election Act*. This error was discovered during review after the submission deadline. The nomination documents for the candidates were accepted as if they were received with the signed statement of service address before the submission deadline.

ORD004-2017

April 19, 2017

The candidate nomination documents for a nominee in the Nechako Lakes electoral district were incorrectly accepted as complete, prior to the deadline, even though they did not include an appointment of auditor as required by s. 54(3)(f) of the *Election Act*. This error was discovered during review after the submission deadline. The nomination documents for the candidate were accepted as if they were received with the appointment of auditor before the submission deadline.

ORD005-2017

April 22, 2017

Three voters voted at a special voting – telephone voting opportunity for voters with disabilities in Victoria-Beacon Hill. Due to a technical error, the voters were provided lists of candidates for incorrect electoral districts instead of their electoral districts of residence. Each voter voted for candidates in the wrong electoral district. When this error was discovered, the voters were invited to correctly vote for their electoral district of residence. The certification envelopes containing the ballots for the incorrect electoral district remained unopened at final count.

ORD006-2017*April 22, 2017*

Election officials at the Vancouver-Fraserview district electoral office erred in providing a voter with a list of candidates for the incorrect electoral district and the voter voted for a candidate from the incorrect electoral district. When this error was discovered, the voter was invited to correctly vote based on the list of candidates for the correct electoral district. The certification envelope containing the ballot for the incorrect electoral district remained unopened at final count.

ORD007-2017*April 24, 2017*

A voter applied for and received a voting package under s. 106 of the *Election Act* in Victoria-Beacon Hill. The voter is physically disabled and was unable to mark the ballot, sign the certification envelope, and assemble the voting package independently. The voter's wife was permitted to mark the ballot and sign the certification envelope on behalf of her husband. She had to affirm that she would preserve the secrecy of the ballot, mark the ballot in accordance with her husband's wishes, and refrain from influencing how he voted. The certification envelope was considered for final count as if it had been completed in accordance with s. 106.

ORD008-2017*April 29, 2017*

Election officials at advance voting opportunities in Columbia River-Revelstoke, Penticton, and Vancouver-Hastings did not notice that two write-in ballots were stuck together and issued both ballots to each of the voters. During preparations for final count, the secrecy envelopes were opened and examined by the District Electoral Officer. If both write-in ballots were marked, they remained uncounted at final count. If only one write-in ballot was marked, the unmarked ballot was set aside and not considered at final count, while the marked ballot was considered at final count.

ORD009-2017*April 29, 2017*

Election officials at advance voting opportunities in Abbotsford-Mission, Burnaby-Edmonds, Langley, Richmond South Centre, Skeena, Surrey-White Rock, Vancouver-Kensington, and Vancouver-Quilchena erred in putting voters' marked ballots directly into the ballot box instead of into secrecy and certification envelopes. These ballots were the only write-in ballots placed into the respective ballot boxes. Empty secrecy and certification envelopes were stapled together and placed into the respective ballot boxes. At initial count, the marked ballots were identified, inserted into the voters' secrecy and certification envelopes and were considered at final count.

ORD010-2017*April 30, 2017*

Two voters were incorrectly advised at advance voting opportunities in North Vancouver-Seymour and Nelson-Creston to vote under the absentee provisions of s. 101 of the *Election Act*. The voters resided within these electoral districts so they should have voted under s. 97. In error, the voters were provided lists of candidates for their electoral districts and write-in ballots, which were placed into secrecy and certification envelopes before going into the ballot boxes. The certification envelopes were accepted for consideration at initial and final count as if they had been administered correctly at a valid s. 101 advance absentee voting opportunity.

ORD011-2017*May 7, 2017*

A voter was incorrectly advised at an advance voting opportunity in Nanaimo to vote under the absentee provisions of s. 101 of the *Election Act*. The voter resided within the electoral district so should have voted under s. 97. In error, the voter was provided an incorrect candidate list and a write-in ballot, and, as a result, voted for a candidate in the wrong electoral district. When the error was discovered, the voter was invited to vote again, correctly, at the office of the District Electoral Officer. The envelope cast in the district electoral office was considered for final count, while the first certification envelope remained unopened.

ORD012-2017*May 8, 2017*

Election officials at site-based voting areas and mobile voting locations in several electoral districts erred when administering voting to some non-resident, in-district voters. The marked ordinary ballots of these non-resident voters went directly into the respective ballot boxes instead of in secrecy and certification envelopes. The general voting book records of these voters were struck through to prevent them voting at general voting, and the ballots cast by these voters were then considered at initial count.

ORD013-2017*May 2, 2017*

Election officials at an advance voting opportunity in Stikine completed a voter's certification envelope incorrectly, and then put the certification envelope into the ballot box without having first recorded the required voter information on the envelope. Rather this was recorded on an advance voting certificate. At initial count, election officials recorded the required information on the voter's certification envelope and the envelope was considered at final count.

ORD014-2017*May 8, 2017*

The election officials at some advance voting stations erred in not having all voters sign the requisite voting documents or voting books. Missing signatures included those in advance and absentee voting books, on advance voting certificates, and on certification envelopes cast under s. 101 of the *Election Act*. The ballots and certification envelopes were considered to have been administered correctly.

ORD015-2017*May 2, 2017*

Election officials at an advance voting place opportunity in Surrey-Cloverdale erred in completing documentation for s. 97 voting instead of s. 101 voting. The voter's write-in ballot was placed directly into the ballot box without first going into secrecy and certification envelopes. Upon receipt of this Order, the district electoral officer correctly prepared a certification and secrecy envelope for the voter, and placed them in the voting document envelope for the voting book for that opportunity. On opening the ballot box at initial count, the voter's write-in ballot was placed into the secrecy and certification envelopes, and the certification envelope was considered at final count.

ORD016-2017*May 7, 2017*

Election officials at advance voting opportunities in Abbotsford West and Kelowna West erred in putting voters' marked write-in ballots directly into the ballot box instead of in secrecy and certification envelopes. These ballots were the only write-in ballots placed into the respective ballot boxes. The election officials immediately noticed the errors, stapled the empty secrecy envelopes to the certification envelopes, and placed both envelopes into the respective ballot boxes. At initial count, the write-in ballots were inserted into the voters' secrecy and certification envelopes, and the certification envelopes were considered at final count.

ORD017-2017*May 2, 2017*

Election officials attending a special voting opportunity in Burnaby-Edmonds erred in putting a voter's marked write-in ballot directly into the ballot box instead of in secrecy and certification envelopes. This ballot was the only write-in ballot placed into the ballot box. Election officials immediately noticed the error, secured the empty secrecy and certification envelopes, and placed them in the voting documents envelope at the back of the voting book. At initial count, the write-in ballot was inserted into the voter's secrecy and certification envelopes, and the certification envelope was considered at final count.

ORD018-2017*May 2, 2017*

A voter requested a voting package under s. 106 of the *Election Act*. It was determined that due to clerical error, the request was not processed in a timely manner. As a result, the voter did not receive their voting package in sufficient time for them to complete and return the voting package by the close of general voting. The voter was permitted to return their voting package provided that it was time and date stamped by postal services prior to the close of voting on May 9, 2017 (8 p.m. Pacific Time), and that it was received on or before May 19, 2017, prior to the start of final count.

ORD019-2017*May 7, 2017*

Election officials at advance voting opportunities in Burnaby-Deer Lake, Delta South, Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows, Vancouver-False Creek, Vancouver-Mount Pleasant, and West Vancouver-Sea to Sky erred in not noticing that two write-in ballots were stuck together, and issued both ballots to each of the voters. During preparations for final count, the secrecy envelopes were opened and examined by the respective district electoral officers. If both write-in ballots were marked, they remained uncounted at final count. If only one write-in ballot was marked, the unmarked ballot was set aside and not considered at final count, while the marked ballot was considered at final count.

ORD020-2017*May 3, 2017*

Election officials at an advance voting opportunity in Vancouver-Fraserview erred in putting voters' marked ballots into secrecy and certification envelopes instead of directly into the ballot box. The voters signed the necessary declaration, and voted with the correct ballot for s. 97 voting. The certification envelopes were considered at final count.

ORD021-2017*May 7, 2017*

Election officials at an advance voting opportunity in Vancouver-Fraserview erred in placing a voter's write-in ballot directly into the ballot box rather than in secrecy and certification envelopes. This ballot was the only write-in ballot placed into that ballot box. The empty certification envelope bearing the voter's signature and the secrecy envelope were placed in the voting document envelope in the back of the voting book. At initial count, the voter's write-in ballot was placed in the secrecy and certification envelopes, and the certification envelope was considered at final count.

ORD022-2017*May 7, 2017*

Election officials at the district electoral office in Surrey-Whalley erred in providing incorrect certification envelopes that did not include the required declaration to voters. The certification envelopes were considered at final count as if the correct envelopes had been used.

ORD023-2017*May 9, 2017*

Elections officials at district electoral offices in Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows, Vancouver-Fraserview, and Vancouver-West End erred in putting voters' marked write-in ballots directly into the ballot box instead of in secrecy and certification envelopes. These ballots were the only loose write-in ballots placed into the respective ballot boxes. The election officials immediately noticed their errors, and either secured the empty secrecy and certification envelopes and placed them in the voting documents envelope at the back of the voting book, or placed them directly into the ballot box. At initial count, the voters' marked write-in ballots were sealed in the secrecy and certification envelopes, and the certification envelopes were considered at final count.

ORD024-2017*May 5, 2017*

Election officials at advance voting opportunities in Kootenay West, Vancouver-West End, and West Vancouver-Sea to Sky erred in placing voters' write-in ballots directly into the ballot boxes instead of in secrecy and certification envelopes. The voters' write-in ballots were the only such ballots in each respective ballot box. When this error was discovered, the voters were invited to vote again correctly. At initial count, the loose write-in ballots were sealed in secrecy envelopes and set aside. The voters' correctly cast certification envelopes were considered at final count.

ORD025-2017*May 9, 2017*

Election officials at site-based voting areas and mobile voting locations in Kootenay East, Langley East, and Penticton erred when administering voting to some non-resident, in-district voters. While certification envelopes were completed as required under s. 98 of the *Election Act*, the marked ordinary ballots of these voters went directly into the respective ballot boxes instead of in secrecy and certification envelopes. The general voting book records of these voters were struck through to prevent them voting at general voting, and the ballots cast by these voters were then considered at initial count.

ORD026-2017*May 5, 2017*

Election officials at a special voting opportunity in Saanich South erred in putting a voter's marked write-in ballot directly into the ballot box instead of in secrecy and certification envelopes. The election officials stapled the empty secrecy envelope to the certification envelope, and placed both envelopes into the ballot box. The write-in ballot was the only such ballot in the ballot box. At initial count, the write-in ballot was inserted into the voter's secrecy and certification envelope, and the certification envelope was considered at final count.

ORD027-2017*May 5, 2017*

Election officials at the district electoral office of West Vancouver-Sea to Sky erred in putting a voter's marked write-in ballot directly into the ballot box instead of in secrecy and certification envelopes. The election official immediately noticed the error, and permitted the voter to vote a second time following correct procedures. The write-in ballot was the only ballot in the ballot box not in a secrecy envelope. At initial count, the loose write-in ballot was sealed in a spare secrecy envelope and set aside. The voter's correctly cast certification envelope was considered at final count.

ORD028-2017*May 7, 2017*

Several voters at advance and special voting opportunities in Port Moody-Coquitlam, Vancouver-Langara, and Vancouver-Point Grey were provided incorrect lists of candidates to use with their write-in ballots, and therefore voted for candidates in the wrong electoral districts. When this error was discovered, the voters were invited to vote again, correctly, for their electoral districts of residence. The second certification envelopes were considered at final count while the first certification envelopes remained unopened at final count.

ORD029-2017*May 6, 2017*

Election officials at an advance voting opportunity in Abbotsford-Mission erred in placing a voter's counterfoil into the secrecy and certification envelopes instead of the voter's marked write-in ballot. When this error was discovered, the voter's ballot was sealed in a second secrecy envelope, marked with the voter's name, and placed into the ballot box. At initial count, the certification envelope was opened and the secrecy envelope containing the counterfoil taken out and set aside. The secrecy envelope containing the voter's ballot was inserted and sealed into the voter's certification envelope. The certification envelope was considered at final count.

ORD030-2017*May 8, 2017*

A voter who attended an advance voting opportunity in Vancouver-False Creek left the voting place with their ballot. The voter returned the ballot to the district electoral officer eight days later and was permitted to vote. The ballot was placed in secrecy and certification envelope bearing the name and signed declaration of the voter. At initial count, the certification envelope containing the ballot was given to the responsible election official. Before opening the ballot box to count ballots, the certification and secrecy envelopes subject to the Order were opened and the voter's marked ballot was inserted into the ballot box and considered for initial count.

ORD031-2017*May 8, 2017*

On May 5, 2017, the District Electoral Officer of North Coast was notified that the election officials that had been hired to administer general voting in the First Nation community of Klemtu, B.C. were unable to work the hours required by the *Election Act* due to a death in the community. Klemtu is a remote community that is only accessible by boat or float-plane. Due to the location of the community and the timing in the election period, the District Electoral Officer was unable to secure and deploy a replacement election official team. To provide the voters in Klemtu with an opportunity to vote, voting was held from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on May 6, 2017, as well as on May 9 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. The voting opportunities provided to the voters to whom this Order applies were considered as their general voting opportunity for the election. The votes cast were considered at initial count.

ORD032-2017*May 8, 2017*

Election officials at special voting opportunities in Cariboo-Chilcotin and Langley erred in putting the voters' marked write-in ballots directly into the ballot boxes rather than in secrecy and certification envelopes. When the election officials noticed their errors, they placed the empty secrecy and certification envelopes in the voting documents envelopes at the back of the respective voting books. The write-in ballots were the only ballots in the ballot boxes not in secrecy envelopes. At initial count, the voters' marked write-in ballots were sealed in their secrecy and certification envelopes. These certification envelopes were considered at final count.

ORD033-2017*May 9, 2017*

Election officials at voting opportunities in several electoral districts erred in not instructing all voters who voted under the provisions of s. 96 of the *Election Act* to sign the voting book as required by the Act. The ballots cast by these voters were considered cast as if the voters had signed the necessary declaration in the voting books.

ORD034-2017*May 9, 2017*

Several voters attended general voting opportunities in Cariboo-Chilcotin, Kelowna West, Nelson-Creston, Skeena, and Vancouver-Kingsway to voter under the provisions of s. 99 of the *Election Act*. In error, the election officials placed the voters' marked ordinary ballots directly into the respective ballot boxes rather than in secrecy and certification envelopes. The ballots cast by these voters were considered at initial count.

ORD035-2017*May 9, 2017*

Election officials at a general voting opportunity in Kelowna West did not notice that two ordinary ballots were stuck together, and issued both ballots to the voter. The two ballots were placed in the ballot box. The ballot box was immediately sealed and there were no other ballots in the box. At initial count, the two ballots were unfolded and examined by the election official responsible. If both ballots were marked, they were set aside. If one of them was unmarked, the unmarked ballot was set aside while the marked ballot was considered at initial count.

ORD036-2017*May 9, 2017*

Several voters attended general voting opportunities in Burnaby-Deer Lake, Delta South, Fraser-Nicola, Shuswap, Surrey-Green Timbers, Surrey-Newton, and Vancouver-Point Grey to vote under the provisions of s. 99 and 100 of the *Election Act*. In error, the voters' marked ballots were put directly into the respective ballot boxes instead of into secrecy and certification envelopes. The election officials immediately noticed their errors, and either inserted the empty secrecy and certification envelopes into the ballot boxes, or stored them in the voting documents envelopes at the back of the voting books. The ballots were the only ballots in the respective ballot boxes not contained in certification envelopes. At initial count, the voters' marked ballots were sealed in their secrecy and certification envelopes, and the certification envelopes were considered at final count.

ORD037-2017*May 9, 2017*

Election officials at an absentee voting opportunity in Vancouver-Fraserview erred in providing write-in ballots to some voters voting under s. 99 of the *Election Act*, rather than ordinary ballots as required by the Act. The write-in ballots were not rejected at final count on the basis that the incorrect ballot was used.

ORD038-2017*May 9, 2017*

Several voters who attended general voting places in Langley and West Vancouver-Capilano to vote under the absentee provisions of the *Election Act* were provided incorrect ballots. When this error was discovered, the voters were invited to vote again correctly. The second certification envelopes were considered at final count while the first certification envelopes were not opened at final count.

ORD039-2017*May 9, 2017*

Election officials at general and absentee voting opportunities in Cariboo-Chilcotin, Cariboo North, Fraser-Nicola, and Richmond-Steveston erred by issuing a number of voters write-in ballots when they should have been issued ordinary ballots. The write-in ballots cast by the voters who voted under s. 99 of the *Election Act* were not rejected at final count, and the write-in ballots cast by the voters who voted under s. 96 of the Act were not rejected at initial count on the basis that the incorrect ballot was used.

ORD040-2017*May 9, 2017*

Election officials at an absentee voting opportunity in Vancouver-Kingsway erred in putting a voter's marked ballot into a ballot box, without first being sealed in secrecy and certification envelopes. The marked ballot still had the counterfoil attached. The election officials immediately noticed their errors and inserted the empty secrecy and certification envelopes into the voting documents envelope at the back of the absentee voting book. At initial count, the counterfoil was removed and set aside, and the ballot was sealed in secrecy and certification envelopes. The certification envelope was considered at final count.

ORD041-2017*May 9, 2017*

At initial count, election officials at a voting place in Nanaimo-North Cowichan erred in opening 77 certification envelopes that had been cast under s. 99 of the *Election Act*. The election officials were not able to balance their ballot account and were checking to determine whether each of the certification envelopes contained a secrecy envelope. No secrecy envelopes were removed from the certification envelopes in this process. All opened certification envelopes were resealed and considered for final count as if they had been administered correctly.

ORD042-2017*May 9, 2017*

Two voters attended district electoral offices in Langley and West Vancouver-Sea to Sky to vote. Due to election official error, the voters' ballots were cast incorrectly. In Langley, the voter's ballot was placed into an unmarked certification envelope instead of the voter's signed certification envelope. In West Vancouver-Sea to Sky, the voter did not sign their certification envelope containing their ballot, and was directed to sign a second, empty, secrecy envelope. At initial count, the unmarked certification envelope containing the ballot cast in Langley was opened, and the secrecy envelope containing the ballot was resealed into the second certification envelope signed by the voter. The two certification envelopes placed into the ballot box in West Vancouver-Sea to Sky were stapled together and considered as one single, correctly cast, certification envelope. The certification envelopes were considered at initial and final counts as if they had been administered correctly. The unmarked certification envelope was set aside.

ORD043-2017*May 9, 2017*

Election officials at absentee voting opportunities in Cowichan Valley and Burnaby-Deer Lake erred by mixing up voters' certification and secrecy envelopes, resulting in voters' ballots being placed into the incorrect certification envelopes. At initial count, these voter's certification envelopes were opened and the secrecy envelopes inserted into the correct certification envelopes. The corrected certification envelopes were considered at initial and final count.

ORD044-2017*May 9, 2017*

Election officials at a special voting opportunity in Nanaimo erred in not recording voter information and not providing certification envelopes to voters. It was impossible to associate ballots with certification envelopes to ensure the correct ballots would be considered at final count. All ballots to which this Order applies were set aside and not considered at initial count or final count.

ORD045-2017*May 9, 2017*

At initial count, election officials at a voting place in Vancouver-Fraserview erred in opening some certification envelopes that had been cast under s. 101 and counted the write-in ballots contained therein along with the ordinary ballots administered at that station. Following the count it was impossible to associate all write-in ballots with the voters who had cast them, to ensure the correct ballots would be considered at final count. All ballots and certification envelopes to which this Order applies were set aside and not considered at initial count or final count.

ORD046-2017*May 9, 2017*

Election officials administering site-based voting area and special voting in Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows erred in placing marked ordinary ballots in secrecy and certification envelopes instead of directly into the ballot box. The election officials compounded their error at initial count by opening the certification envelopes and counting the ballots along with the other s. 96 ballots in the ballot box. An additional resident, in error, was provided a write-in ballot instead of an ordinary ballot to cast their vote, which was placed directly into the ballot box. All voters were resident in Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows, only voted once, and voted for the correct candidates. The ballots cast by these voters were accepted at initial count as if they were administered correctly.

ORD047-2017*May 9, 2017*

An absentee voting station at a general voting location in Vancouver-Quilchena was not provided sufficient write-in ballots to meet the requirements of the voters who attended to vote under the provisions of s. 100 of the *Election Act*. Some voters were provided ordinary ballots and they were allowed to write the name of their candidate or registered political party of choice on the back of the ordinary ballot for the purposes of voting under s. 100 of the *Election Act*. At final count, these ballots were considered as if they were the ballots officially supplied for the election.

ORD048-2017*May 9, 2017*

Election officials at special voting opportunities in Burnaby-Deer Lake and Vancouver-Point Grey erred in not noticing that two ballots were stuck together, and issued both ballots to two voters. During preparations for final count, the secrecy envelopes were opened and examined by the respective district electoral officers. If both ballots were marked, they remained uncounted at final count. If only one ballot was marked, the unmarked ballot was set aside and not considered at final count, while the marked ballot was considered at final count.

ORD049-2017*May 9, 2017*

Election officials at an advance voting opportunity in Cariboo-Chilcotin erred in providing a write-in ballot to a voter, which was placed in secrecy and certification envelopes instead of providing an ordinary ballot, which should have gone directly into the ballot box. At initial count, the voter's certification and secrecy envelopes were opened and the ballot was accepted for initial count. The ballot was not rejected on the basis that the incorrect ballot was used.

ORD050-2017*June 30, 2017*

Due to extraordinary circumstances, a candidate's financial agent was unable to file a financing report for the 2017 Provincial General Election by the deadline of August 8, 2017. The candidate's financial agent was granted an extension to October 6, 2017 to file the report.

ORD051-2017*August 9, 2017*

Due to extraordinary circumstances, eight candidates' financial agents were unable to file financing reports for the 2017 Provincial General Election by the deadline of August 8, 2017. The candidates' financial agents were granted extensions to file the reports.