

Election Scrutineer | Role Description

This document is to serve as a general outline of your roles and responsibilities as a scrutineer in the upcoming General Election.

The job of a scrutineer is to observe the counting and inspect the integrity of the ballots within the polling station you are assigned to. His or her goal is to work with the poll supervisor to both ensure that all ballots being counted are accurate and filled out properly, as well as making sure that ballots that are properly filled out for the PPC are correctly counted, and not thrown out for no good reason.

In order to be a scrutineer, you must obtain a signed *Authorization of a Candidate's Representative* (EC 20020) which will be provided to you, and present this form to the central poll supervisor. You will then be required to make a solemn declaration before receiving a Candidate's Representative Identification Badge which allows you access to view the ballots being counted.

Scrutineers are permitted to show up to the polls at least 15 minutes early in order to ask to have the ballots counted, witness election officers initialing the back of the ballots, and ask to inspect the ballots, confirm the ballot box is empty, and any other material related to the vote. Once a scrutineer has signed in at the polling station, they are permitted to leave and return without signing in again. We recommend that you show up 15 minutes before polls open in order to inspect the voting materials, and make sure ballot boxes are empty.

However, **it is a requirement that you show up to the poll at least 15 minutes before the poll closes in order to view the official ballot counting**. You will not be permitted to view the ballot counting if you are not in attendance before polls close.

It is important to emphasise that, as a scrutineer, you cannot interfere with the voting process in any way, or else you risk being removed from the polling station. You may also not wear any PPC logo, emblem, or specific colours that would identify the party or candidate, and no party literature or symbol can be displayed inside of the polling station.

Again, we strongly recommend viewing the [Guidelines for Candidates' Representatives](#) in order to view all the responsibilities and restrictions of being a scrutineer at a polling place.

Unfortunately, Elections Canada requires that all scrutineers wear a mask inside the polling station at all times. Medical exemptions will not be accepted.

If you wish to learn more about the roles and responsibilities, along with the proper voting procedures to follow, there is a more comprehensive guide found on the Elections Canada Website called [Guidelines for Candidates' Representatives](#). We strongly recommend everyone review this document.