

Supporting Homeless Residents – Vote 2010

Homeless people are urged to vote in the upcoming 2010 Municipal Election. It is important that we include all members of society in this democratic process. Eligible electors not having a permanent address or identification are encouraged to vote provided they have returned to sleep or to eat at a place (eg. hostel, shelter, drop-in centre) located in Cambridge for a period of at least 5 weeks prior to the date in which they mark their ballot.

Eligible voters who are homeless, or without a permanent home or fixed address, may participate in the municipal election. Their qualifying address will be determined by the place:

- to which they most frequently returned to sleep or eat during the five weeks prior to the election or the date they cast their vote, since this is considered to be their residence; or
- where they returned to sleep, if they returned with equal frequency to one place to sleep and another to eat.

Agencies working with homeless people are encouraged to assist those not having a permanent residence to:

- understand their right to vote;
- help them to register to vote;
- provide an identification letter as proof that the individual has either slept or eaten at your location for at least 5 weeks leading up to the vote; and,
- arrange for a staff member, or friend, to accompany the individual to a Voting Location to help support them through the voting process

To register an individual to vote:

- during the Voters' List revision period, September 7 to October 25, 2010, contact the Office of the City Clerk (519-740-4680) or email vote2010info@cambridge.ca to find out where they should go to vote (this will be at a Voting Location in which the current place of lodging or eatery resides; or an Advance Voting Location)
- at the Voting Location they will be asked to fill out and sign an Affidavit of Residence indicating the place where they have slept or eaten in the past 5 weeks (if presented, an identification letter from the agency can make the process of completing the form easier for the individual)
- *the easiest way to register and vote is to attend an Advance Voting location*

Information concerning the voting process, ward boundary changes and candidates running for election is available on the City of Cambridge website – www.cambridge.ca/vote2010info. Information concerning the voting process may also be obtained by contacting the Office of the City Clerk as noted above.