



Election Statutes Amendment Act

Overview

What will this legislation do?

The *Election Statutes Amendment Act* will strengthen democracy by getting big money out of Alberta politics and establishing a set election date.

Election financing changes

Once in force, the changes in the *Election Statutes Amendment Act* will:

- ban foreign money in provincial politics. It allows only those living in Canada to donate to political advertising. These changes prohibit political action committees or money from other countries from unduly influencing Alberta elections.
- set an annual \$30,000 contribution limit for donations to third parties, often called political action committees, and prohibit political parties, candidates and constituency associations from contributing to third parties.
- establish a formula for determining election expense limits for parties, which reflects the increase in costs for campaign expenses. Currently, there is a flat limit of \$2 million. The new limit would be \$1.16 per registered voter.

Set election date

The *Election Statutes Amendment Act* establishes the last Monday in May as Election Day in Alberta. This will level the playing field for all political parties, remove the advantage a governing party currently has, and increase trust in the democratic process.

Making the voting process easier

The act allows for increasing the number of advance voting stations, where needed, to make it easier for Albertans who want to vote early. An amendment also requires voters to provide identification to vote in provincial elections, as in municipal and federal elections, increasing the integrity of Alberta elections.

This legislation will also help voting stations run more smoothly by allowing election officers to perform a wider range of assigned duties instead of being restricted to specialized roles.

Additional changes

The *Election Statutes Amendment Act* also makes minor amendments to election-related legislation to make sure they are aligned and the language is consistent throughout. It also updates election-related legislation to include references to the new *Recall Act* and *Citizen Initiative Act*.

Other changes include:

- increasing the expense limit for nomination contestants from 20 per cent to 25 per cent of a candidate's limit
- making it so contributions to nomination contestants (those seeking to be the official candidate in a riding) are capped at \$4,000 in total, not part of a donor's maximum contribution limit, and no longer tax deductible
- allowing voter cards to be sent electronically as well as by mail
- clarifying that the Election Commissioner cannot start a citizen initiative petition
- allowing rules for a citizen initiative vote to be made by regulation