

APPROVAL PROCESS INFORMATION SHEET

What is an Alternative Approval Process?

An alternative approval process (AAP) enables local governments to directly engage citizens about a proposed bylaw intended to undertake long-term borrowing, a boundary extension, establish a new regional district service, or other matters requiring elector approval.

The AAP allows voters to indicate whether they are against a local government proposal moving forward. The process requires that 10% or more of eligible voters sign and submit official opposition forms (also called Elector Response Forms) against the proposed initiative. If this threshold is met, then the local government must proceed with a referendum (assent voting) before it can proceed with the proposal. If a resident supports the proposal, no action is required.

Steps in the Process:

Notice of the approval process is published including:

- General description of the proposed bylaw, agreement or other matter;
- A description of the area to which the approval process applies;
- The deadline for elector responses to be submitted (at least 30 days after the second publication of the notice);
- A statement that the Regional District may proceed with the matter unless at least 10% of the electors of the area sign the responses;
- Upon completion of the 30-day term, the Regional District will announce the status of the subject alternative approval process.

Who is an eligible elector for an Alternative Approval Process?

An eligible elector for the purpose of the Alternative Approval Process is the same as for a general local election. An eligible elector must be a resident who meets the following criteria:

- Is age 18 or older;
- Is a Canadian citizen;
- Has been a resident of British Columbia for at least six months;
- Has been a resident of the participating area for at least thirty days; and,
- Is not disqualified from voting in an election by the Local Government Act or any other Act.

A non-resident property elector who meets the following criteria is also an eligible elector:

- Is not entitled to register as a resident elector for the participating areas;
- Is age 18 or older;
- Is a Canadian citizen;
- Has been a resident of British Columbia for at least six months;
- Has been a registered owner of real property within the participating area for at least thirty days; and,
- Is not disqualified from voting in an election by the Local Government Act or any other Act.

Note that if there are multiple owners of a parcel of land, only one person (with the consent of the majority of the owners) may vote as a non-resident property elector. In addition, corporations are not entitled to vote.

How do you indicate your objection?

Electors indicate their opposition to the proposal by submitting an Elector Response Form to the Corporate Officer of the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine. The response of the elector must be in the form established by the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine. Once this step in the process (outlined above) is reached, Elector Response Forms will be available for residents to complete.

Learn more:

Visit getinvolvedrdks.ca/heritage-park-service-area

Contact info@rdks.bc.ca or (250) 615-6100