

Health protocol to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 during any municipal election



List of health guidelines for the in-person solicitation and collection of supporting signatures, when preparing an application for authorization of an elector who undertakes to run as an independent candidate¹

Important information

Under [Order 2020-060](#), issued by the Minister of the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux on August 28, 2020, **an elector who undertakes to run as an independent candidate for the seat of mayor or borough mayor in a municipality or borough with 50,000 or more inhabitants must collect a maximum of 50 supporting signatures.** Under sections 160 and 400.1 of the *Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities* (CQLR, c. E-2.2), this number normally varies between 5 and 200, depending on the number of inhabitants in a particular municipality.

Context

Élections Québec and the Ministère des Affaires municipales et de l'Habitation have collaborated with the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux to develop a [Health protocol to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 during any municipal election](#), which was made public on August 21, 2020. This protocol includes a set of measures affecting both election preparations (up to and including the conduct of polling) and the rules governing political financing. It is available on the Élections Québec website, in the section titled "Elections in the time of COVID-19."

In particular, the protocol includes measures related to the solicitation of supporting signatures, when preparing an application for authorization of an elector who undertakes to run as an independent candidate. In order to limit in-person interactions with electors, Élections Québec recommends that contributions be solicited and collected remotely. A [summary table](#), available on the Élections Québec website, outlines the application of these guidelines.

In cases where supporting signatures are solicited or collected in person, the health guidelines listed below should be followed. In particular, signatures are collected by appointment and the names and contact information of every person met with, regardless of whether he or she decides to provide a signature, are recorded in a register that might be shared with public health authorities in the event of an investigation. This measure aims to facilitate such investigations into COVID-19 outbreaks.

Submitting the list

Once completed, this list should be submitted to the returning officer, along with the application for authorization of an elector who undertakes to run as an independent candidate.

¹ Measure 2.6 of the protocol.

Health guidelines

Person soliciting or collecting supporting signatures	

Given name and surname	
_____	_____
Political entity concerned (name of the prospective candidate)	Municipality

The following health guidelines apply to the in-person solicitation or collection of supporting signatures by an elector who undertakes to run as an independent candidate or by a designated person:

an appointment has been made with the signatory in a specific location that limits gatherings (e.g., at the wheel of a car; in the open air; in a private residence; or in a public place where applicable hygiene rules and the rule of physical distance are respected, such as the public library);	<input type="checkbox"/>
sufficient time has been allowed for each of the signatories, so that they are not gathered in the same place;	<input type="checkbox"/>
disinfectant has been provided to the signatory to disinfect hands before and after handling the form;	<input type="checkbox"/>
the signatory has been instructed to wear a face cover and to use his or her own pencil;	<input type="checkbox"/>
each of the signatories signed on a separate form provided for that purpose;	<input type="checkbox"/>
any equipment used for the meeting (e.g., a chair) has been disinfected before and after the meeting;	<input type="checkbox"/>
hand hygiene rules have been followed when handling any form completed by a signatory;	<input type="checkbox"/>
a two metres distance was always maintained between the signatory and the candidate, and direct contact (e.g., handshakes) was avoided during greetings;	<input type="checkbox"/>
the name and contact information of the person met, including any person who refused to provide a signature, were recorded in a logbook that can be handed over in the event of an investigation from public health authorities. A document to be used for this purpose is available on the Élections Québec website.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Person designated to solicit or collect supporting signatures

When designating a person to solicit or collect supporting signatures, an elector who undertakes to run as an independent candidate must remind the designated person of the following:

- the approved [health protocol](#) recommends that supporting signatures be solicited and collected remotely. The protocol is available on the Élections Québec website, in the section titled “Elections in the time of COVID-19”;
- in cases where supporting signatures are solicited or collected in person, health guidelines apply. An elector who undertakes to run as an independent candidate must provide each designated person with a copy of this *List of health guidelines for the in-person solicitation and collection of supporting signatures, when preparing an application for authorization of an elector who undertakes to run as an independent candidate*.

→ As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolds, this list may be changed as circumstances require and to align it with measures adopted by the government or by public health authorities. Where applicable, any significant changes will be announced on the Élections Québec website.

If you have any questions, please contact the RAPEQ team by email at repag@electionsquebec.qc.ca, or by telephone at 418-528-0422 or 1-888-ELECTION (1-888-353-2846, toll-free).