

For Immediate Release

October 22, 2018

A Criminal Record Does Not Disqualify Residents from Voting

Those who have a criminal record can still vote in Wednesday's civic election, providing they meet other criteria for eligibility.

The provincial legislation governing elections in municipalities (The Municipal Councils and School Boards Elections Act) states nothing to the contrary.

"Of course those with criminal records can vote," said John Hutton, Executive Director of the John Howard Society of Manitoba. "Upon release into the community, people with criminal records begin their journey of reintegration. And their contribution is valid and valuable."

The Social Planning Council of Winnipeg issued a voter's guide ([see https://spcw.mb.ca/guide-and-information-sheets](https://spcw.mb.ca/guide-and-information-sheets)). Those who are currently incarcerated had opportunity to vote by way of a ballot in a sealed envelope before October 21.

Citizens with criminal records living in the community are as eligible to vote according guidelines set for any other residents. Polls open on Wednesday, October 24, from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

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