

Frequently Asked Questions about Ratification

What is Electronic Voting?

Electronic Voting (also known as e-voting or online voting) is a secure, fully digital process for casting a ballot.

Why are we using electronic voting instead of paper ballots for the Health Facilities ratification vote?

The BCGEU Facilities Bargaining Association Bargaining Committee decided to use electronic voting for the ratification vote for two reasons:

- 1) A vote using electronic ballots is faster than using paper ballots delivered by stewards in the workplace (ensuring that the results are communicated as quickly as possible to members); and
- 2) Using a third-party, online election platform, which both sends out the voting credentials and tabulates all the votes, ensures the integrity of the vote.

Who is Simply Voting?

Simply Voting Inc. is an independent, full-service provider of securely hosted online elections. Their voting system was launched in 2003 and currently over 4000 organizations in 67 countries, from municipalities to political parties to unions, rely on Simply Voting to safely execute their elections. Many reputable third parties have audited the company's product, technical infrastructure, and corporate infrastructure. Customers include the Alberta NDP, the California Teachers Association, the BC Federation of Labour, and the Mississauga First Nation.

You can find further details on the security and reliability of the voting software here: <https://www.simplyvoting.com/security-and-reliability/>

When can I vote?

The vote starts at 8 a.m. PDT on Monday, October 3, 2022 and ends at 8 p.m. PDT on Wednesday, October 12, 2022. You may vote any time during that period.

How do I vote?

Voting using Simply Voting is easy. Simply Voting will send you your voting credentials by email, assuming you have provided the union with your current email address. **You will receive an email**

with your credentials on October 3, 2022. The email with your credentials will have the following sender address: vote@simplyvoting.com.

To avoid having your credentials email redirected to your Spam or Junk folder, save this email address to your Contacts now.

Your voting credentials will include your unique Elector ID (which is your BCGEU Membership number) and a password. These voting credentials are unique to you and can only be used once. Once you have submitted your ballot using your credentials, you will not be able to reuse them.

You can cast your ballot using any computer (desktop or laptop), tablet or smart phone.

What do I do if I don't receive my voting credentials?

If you have provided the union with your current email addresses, you should receive your voting credentials on October 3. If you do not receive an email with your credentials on October 3, do the following:

1. Check your Spam or Junk folder to see if an email from vote@simplyvoting.com is there.
2. If you started working on July 1, 2022 or later, and have not completed a BCGEU membership application, please go to www.bcgeu.ca/membership and complete this form. This will ensure you are entered into our membership database.
3. If you cannot find the email after searching your Spam or Junk folder and you are not a new hire, please contact the BCGEU Negotiations Department at FBA_Bargaining2022@bcgeu.ca (preferred), or call 604-291-9611 or toll-free 1-800-663-1674.

Please request your credentials as early as possible and by no later than Monday, October 10, 2022 at 9:00 AM PDT to ensure that there is time to verify your information, to confirm that you are eligible to vote and to provide you with your credentials. Your credentials will be emailed to you. Please note that it could take one to two business days to receive your credentials.

What do I do if I have received my credentials but am having problems voting?

If you have received your credentials, but are having technical issues trying to vote, please contact the BCGEU Negotiations Department at FBA_Bargaining2022@bcgeu.ca (preferred), or call 604-291-9611 or toll-free 1-800-663-1674.

Please note that phone support is available only during regular BCGEU office hours. Although the above email is accessible to you 24 hours a day, every day, your message will be responded to in the order that it is received, and it could take up to two business days to receive a response. As a result, please leave yourself sufficient time to cast your ballot in case you have any technical issues.

How does the vote get counted?

Simply Voting receives all the electronic ballots and will tabulate all the votes. The results will be emailed to the Facilities Bargaining Association Returning Officer after voting closes.

Will there be scrutineers for the count?

Yes. Two FBA members will be appointed as scrutineers to witness the receipt of the results of the election. A scrutineer cannot be a member of the bargaining committee. The role of the scrutineer is to observe the count process and to ensure that it is fair. In the case of an electronic vote, the scrutineers will be present when the email from Simply Voting is received by the Returning Officer and will witness the opening of the email and see its results.

The results of the vote will be communicated to all members as soon as possible.