

CANDIDATE CORNER

Voter Awareness Month at a Glance

Voting: A Right, A Responsibility, A Choice

Throughout Voter Awareness Month, the Parliamentary Registry delivered a series of outreach initiatives aimed at educating the public, increasing voter registration, and promoting accessible voting practices across Bermuda.

School & Community Outreach

We visited the following institutions to engage students and encourage early voter registration:

- The Berkeley Institute
- CedarBridge Academy
- Mount Saint Agnes Academy
- Warwick Academy
- Bermuda College

Through these visits and on-site registration drives, a total of **204 voter registration forms** were collected from students and first-time voters.

Stakeholder Engagement & Accessibility

- We engaged with Vision Bermuda to gather feedback on accessible voting tools, including the Tactile Audio Device (TAD) pen.
- A Candidate Workshop was hosted to facilitate discussion on absentee voting and its impact within the current legislative framework.

These activations reflect our continued commitment to ensuring that every eligible Bermudian is informed, empowered, and ready to participate in the democratic process.



In preparation for the annual register published every year on June 15, below is a table describing the registration process as set out by the Parliamentary Election Act 1978.

THE REGISTER OF ELECTORS: A SYSTEM OF PROCESS, SAFEGUARDS AND PARTICIPATION

The Register is maintained through interconnected processes, including qualifying dates, voter responsibility, statutory safeguards, objection and hearing procedures, and the requirement for entitlement to vote on polling day.



1. CONSTITUTION

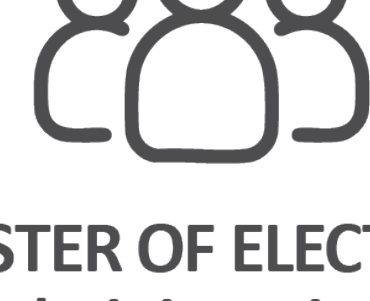
Section 55 of the Bermuda Constitution sets the qualifications to vote:

- At least 18 years of age
- Bermudian status
- Ordinarily resident in the constituency



2. QUALIFYING DATE The Legal Snapshot

Eligibility is determined by reference to the qualifying date. It is the point in time used to assess whether a person meets the constitutional and statutory requirements for the registration.



3. REGISTER OF ELECTORS The Administrative Record

Persons who meet the requirements on the qualifying date are entered on the Register. The Register is not designed to be a continuously self - updating record.



4. MAINTENANCE MECHANISMS Keeping the Register Current

The Act provides for:

Voter updates
Voters must notify the Registrar of changes in their circumstances within 28 days.

Scrutineers
Nominated by the political parties to examine the Register and advise the Registrar on the revisions. (Not appointed in recent years)

Registration Officers
May be appointed by the Registrar to verify information and support maintenance (where resources permit).



5. OBJECTION & HEARING PROCESS A Key Safeguard

Concerns about inclusion or omission can be raised through formal objection.

OBJECTION PERIOD
15 June – 15 JULY

Persons may:

- Object to the inclusion of a name on the register; or
- Object to the omission of a person entitled to be registered.

All objections are heard and determined in accordance with the act, with notice and an opportunity to respond.



6. ENTITLEMENT TO VOTE The Final Safeguard (section 4)

Notwithstanding that a person may be registered, they are not entitled to vote on polling day if they no longer meet the qualification requirements under the Constitution, including the age, Bermudian status and ordinary residence.

Registration alone does not guarantee the right to vote.

MYTH VS REALITY

<p>MYTH: The Register is expected to be fully accurate at all times.</p>	<p>REALITY: The Act prioritises certainty, due process, and fairness over real-time accuracy.</p>
<p>MYTH: The Registrar can remove names based on suspected changes in the circumstance.</p>	<p>REALITY: Removal is strictly limited by law and must follow prescribed processes.</p>
<p>MYTH: The Register is maintained solely through administrative action.</p>	<p>REALITY: The Act relies on voter notification and statutory review processes to support accuracy.</p>

WHO PLAYS A ROLE?

<p>VOTERS</p> <p>Keep information up to date.</p> <p>Notify changes within 28 days.</p>	<p>POLITICAL PARTIES (through scrutineers)</p> <p>Nominate scrutineers to examine the Register and advise on revisions.</p>	<p>THE PUBLIC</p> <p>Use the objection process to raise concerns about inclusion or omission.</p>	<p>TOGETHER</p> <p>We support a fair, transparent, and credible electoral system.</p>
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In the absence of the prescribed helpers, we all pick up the slack by engaging with the processes that exist under the act.

OUR ONGOING WORK

- Voter awareness campaigns and targets communications
- Outreach initiatives within school and wider community.
- Direct engagement with the public at events and registration drives.
- Using available statutory powers to verify and update information where possible.

These efforts promote understanding of the system and encourage timely updates by voters.



The Parliamentary Election Act and the Constitution work together to protect the integrity of our electoral system and the right to vote.

Your Right ■ Your Vote ■ Your Future