



2205 Otter Point Road, Sooke, BC V9Z 1J2, 250.642.1634 | sooke.ca

ALTERNATIVE APPROVAL PROCESS INFORMATION SHEET

What is an Alternative Approval Process?

From the [Province of British Columbia, Alternative Approval Process for Local Government](#):

The alternative approval process is a form of approval that allows electors to indicate whether they are against a local government proposal moving forward.

For certain matters, local governments are required to obtain approval of the electors or participating area approval before the municipal council or regional district board may proceed with its decision. The alternative approval process can be used as both a form of approval of the electors and participating area approval.

Approval of the electors is required for a variety of municipal and regional district actions, including disposal of certain utilities or specified parkland, municipal boundary extensions, and municipal loan authorization bylaws. Where approval of the electors is required, it may be obtained by the local government either directly through assent voting (referendum) or by first 'testing the waters' through the alternative approval process.

The alternative approval process was formerly known as counter-petition. The alternative approval process requires that 10 percent or more of the eligible electors must sign and submit response forms in opposition to the proposed initiative to require the local government to obtain assent of the electors in order to proceed. When this happens the issue is considered significant and the local government has two choices. They may proceed to assent voting within 80 days, or they may put the matter on hold and consider alternatives to the proposed action.

What decisions can be conducted by the Alternative Approval Process?

From the [Province of British Columbia, Alternative Approval Process for Local Government](#):

The *Local Government Act* and *Community Charter* identify a number of matters where approval may be obtained by the alternative approval process. In all of these cases, municipal councils and regional district boards have the option of holding assent voting instead.

Municipal matters where approval may be made by the alternative approval process include:

- Boundary extensions
- Loan authorization bylaws (long-term borrowing)
- Changes to municipal classification
- Disposal of certain utilities other than water or sewage systems
- Exchanges or other disposal of specified parkland
- Granting an exclusive or limited franchise

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 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 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 District of Sooke.

The response of the elector must be in the form established by the District of Sooke. Forms are available at District of Sooke Municipal Hall located at 2205 Otter Point Road. Forms are also available on the District of Sooke website at www.sooke.ca/aap.

Electors who are unable to access the forms by these means may contact District of Sooke at 250.642.1634 or email corp@sooke.ca.

Only Elector Response Forms with original signature are to be submitted and must be received by the District of Sooke Corporate Officer before the deadline.

Learn more:

Visit sooke.ca/aap

Contact Corporate Services at corp@sooke.ca or 250.642.1634