

Candidates and campaign workers convicted of vote-buying, intimidation, campaigning near a voting place on general voting day, providing or distributing false information, or conducting other activities contrary to the *Local Government Act* or *Vancouver Charter* may be subject to penalties.

Local Election Offences

Vote-buying

It is an election offence to offer incentives to an elector to vote or not to vote, or to vote for a particular candidate. Inducements can include offers of money, gifts, refreshments, entertainment, employment or any other benefit. It is also an offence for an elector to accept inducements to vote.

Vote-buying includes buying coffee for patrons or volunteering to drive an elector to a voting place in exchange for their vote. These activities are permitted as long as there is no obligation on the elector, whether overt or implied, to vote for a certain candidate(s).

Intimidation

It is an election offence to intimidate an elector, by action or threat, to compel the elector to vote, or to refrain from voting. It is also an election offence to punish an elector for voting or refraining from voting generally, or for voting for a particular candidate(s).

Campaigning Near a Voting Place

It is an election offence to campaign and engage in other activities that show support for one candidate over another, or for an elector organization, within 100 metres of a voting place.

Providing or Distributing False Information

It is an election offence to falsely withdraw a candidate from an election, distribute a false statement that a candidate has withdrawn, falsely withdraw an elector organization's candidate endorsement, consent to nomination when ineligible to do so, provide false information or make false statements or declarations during local government elections.

Contravening Voting Provisions

It is an election offence to vote when not entitled to do so, vote more than once in an election, obtain a ballot in another person's name, interfere with the secrecy of the ballot, tamper with ballots or ballot boxes, or print, reproduce, give out or destroy ballots without authorization during local government elections.

Election offences are generally dealt with by the Supreme Court of B.C. Generally, local election offences are prosecuted if Crown counsel chooses to proceed with laying charges after the police have undertaken an investigation and made a recommendation to Crown counsel.