

# Internet voting

Jon Pammett (Carleton University)

Victoria, April 29, 2010.

Thanks to Nicole Goodman for Canadian information and creating some slides.

# Arguments for Internet Voting

- Increase accessibility
- Increase turnout
- Increase convenience
- Extension of e-government
- Accuracy and immediacy of results
- Eventual cost savings

## Arguments Against Internet Voting (as option)

- Security concerns
- Inconclusive evidence of turnout effects
- Initial costs
- Potential changes in campaigning
- Potential effects on political parties

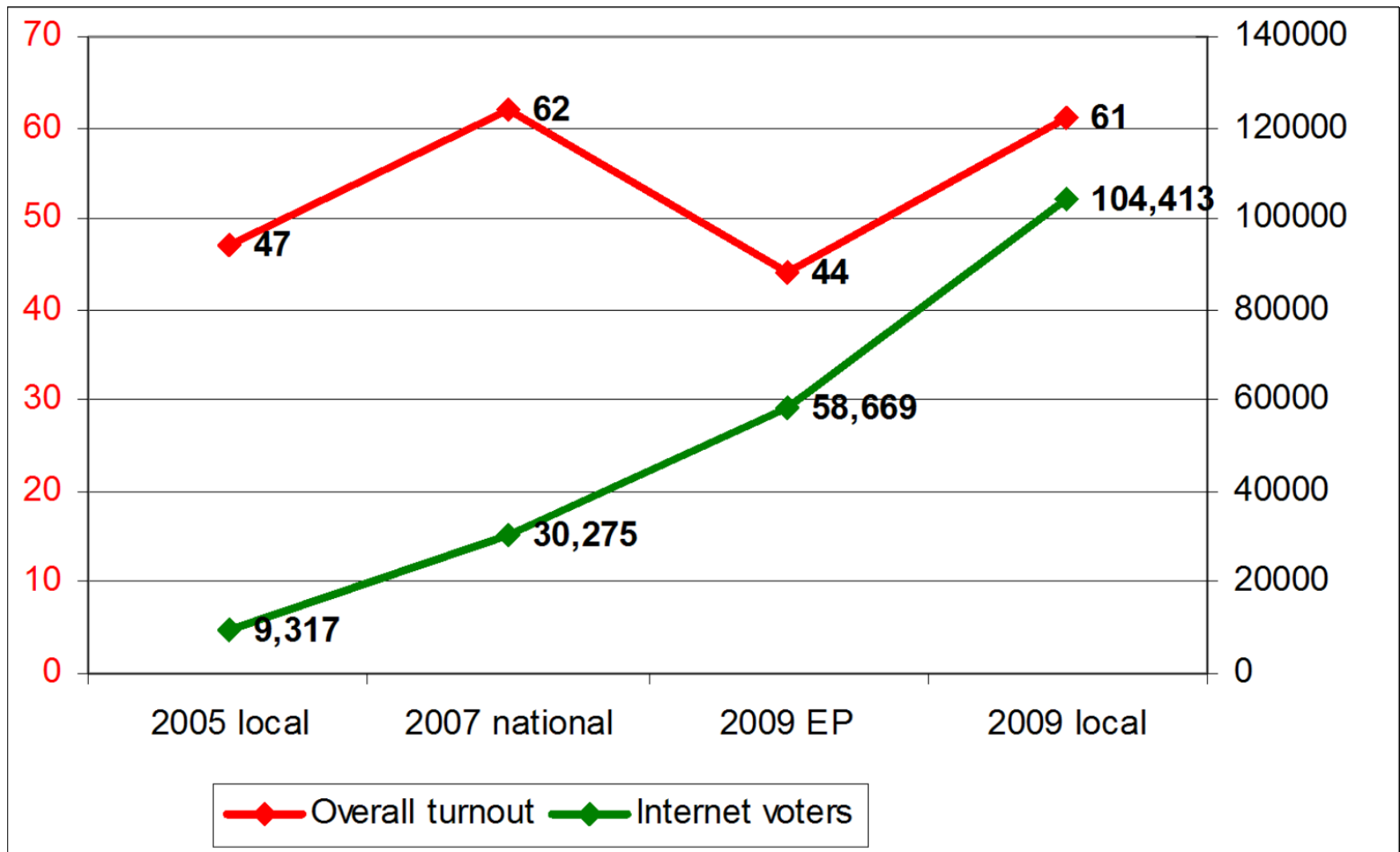
# Trials of remote Internet voting

- The United Kingdom
- multiple constituency trials 2001-5
- Primary reason-- to increase turnout
- Multiple methods tried
- Inconsistent results
- Terminated 2007 (MAY RESUME IN FUTURE)

# Trials of remote Internet voting

- United States (Military overseas) terminated for security concerns 2004
- Estonia – 2005 & 2009 local, 2007 national, 2009 EP
- Switzerland – Geneva since 2000, Neuchatel, Zurich, Basel

# Recent results from Estonia: the spread of internet voting (Thanks to Tarvi Martens)



# Canada

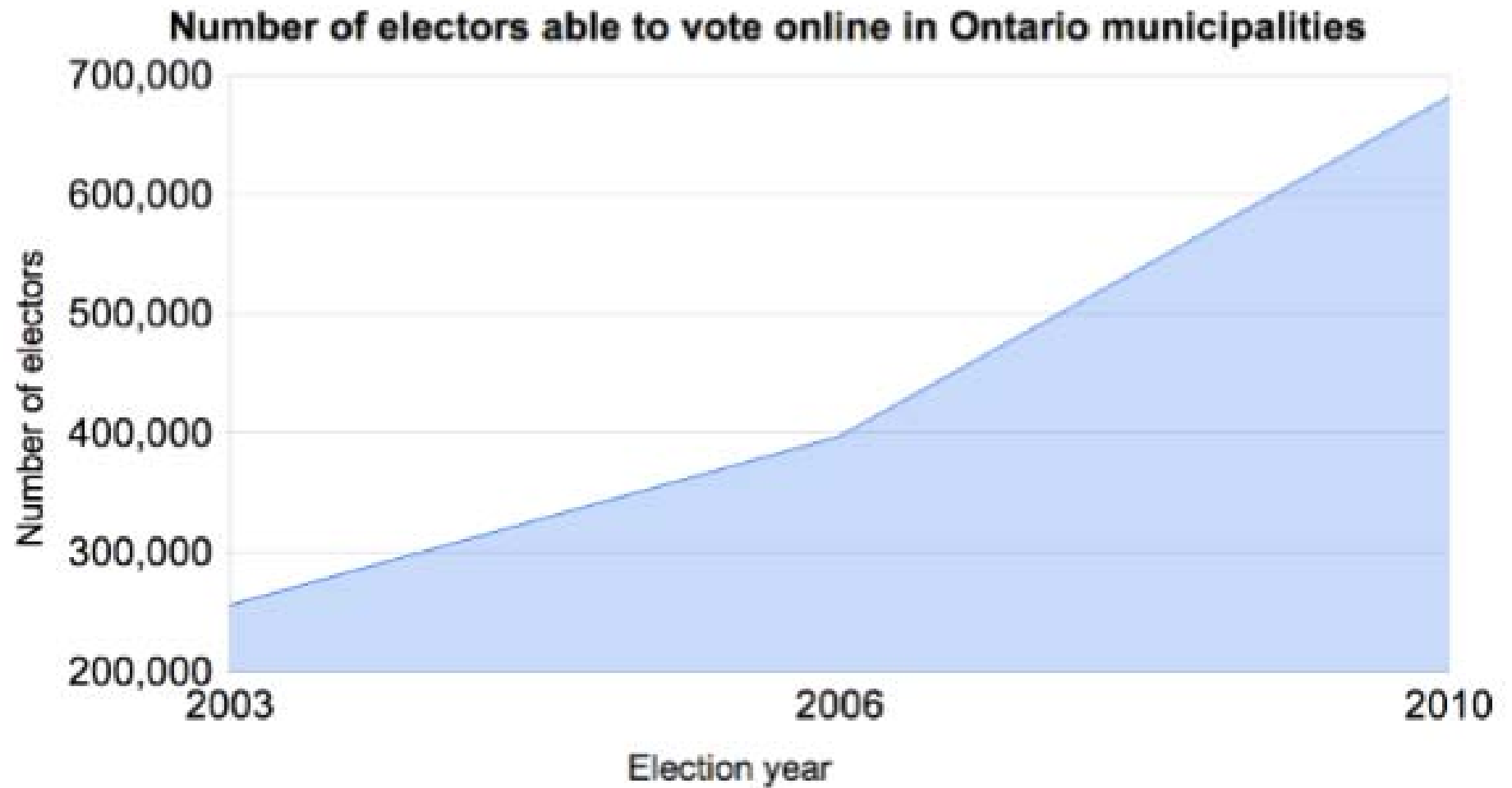
## Ontario municipal elections

- 2003, 2006, 2010
- 2010 will reach a projected 700,000 electors
- Over 37 municipalities

## Nova Scotia municipal elections

- Approximately 400,000 electors
- 4 municipalities

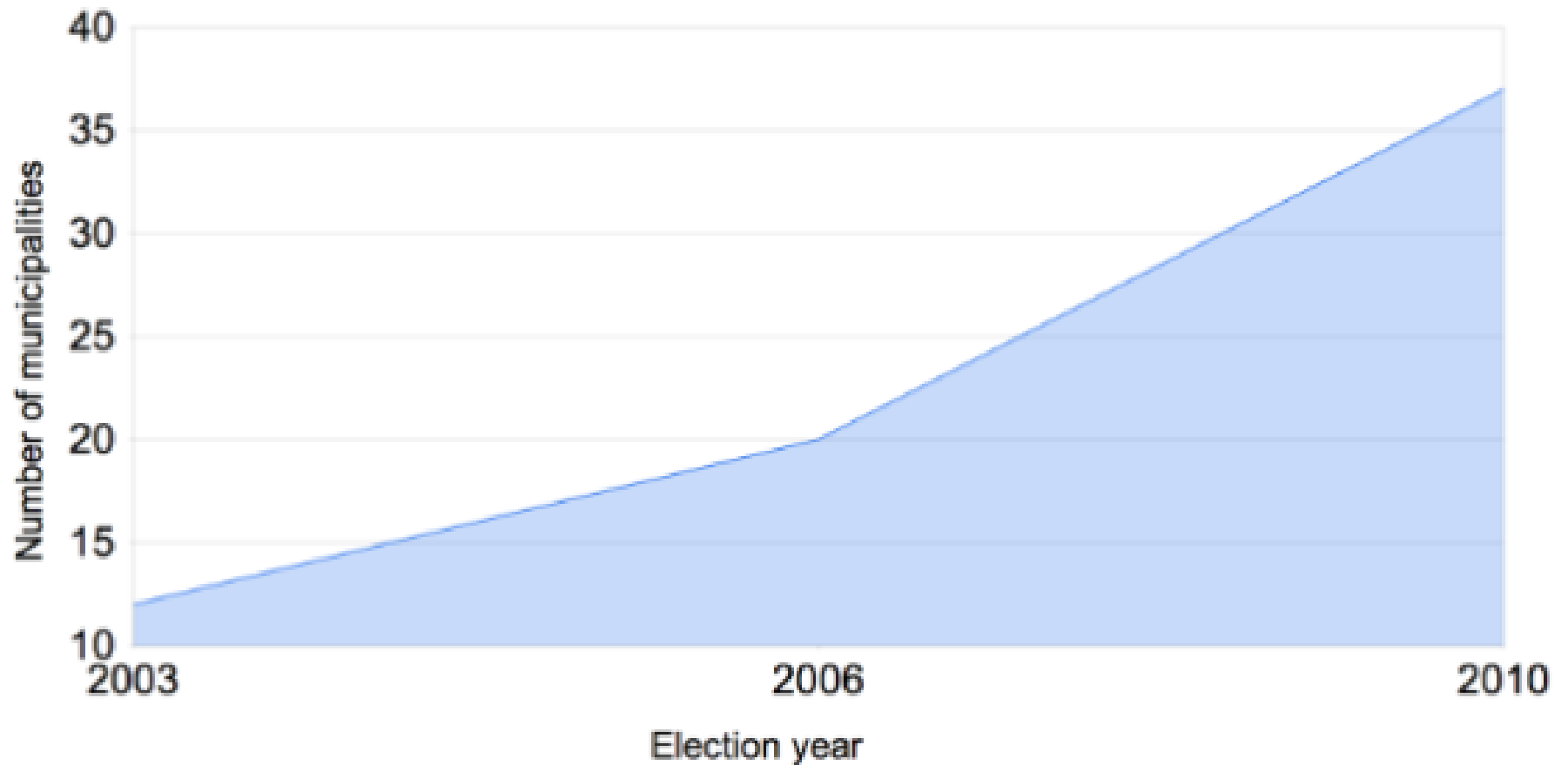
# Ontario





# Ontario

**Number of Ontario municipalities offering Internet voting**





# Markham

- First major Canadian municipality to embrace Internet voting
- Comprehensive, interactive communications plan involving candidates
- Used for advance polls; by 2006 18%
- Requires pre-registration, PINS and codes

# Halifax

- Largest municipality to trial Internet voting (280,000 electors)
- Does not require pre-registration, but requires PIN, code and CAPTCHA challenge
- Spoiled ballot allowed
- 2009 by-election, 75% voted by internet
- Will allow in entire election period in 2012
- Will also allow telephone voting in 2012
- Involves candidates in design

<http://www.halifax.ca/election/>

**HALIFAX**  
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

RESIDENTS VISITORS BUSINESS GOVERNMENT

SEARCH  
 GO  
Or select a Quick Link

**Make Your Vote Count!** HRM elections 2008

The Halifax Regional Municipality will be holding Municipal and School Board elections in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act on the third Saturday of October **(October 18, 2008 Other Key Dates)**. The purpose of the election is to elect Mayor, Regional Councillors and School Board members.

All eligible voters are encouraged to participate in the Municipal and School Board Elections.

**Recently Added Information!**

- [E-Voting & Phone Voting Tutorials](#)
- [Polling Locations](#)
- [Voter Notification Letter Details](#)
- [Notice of Poll \(Candidate Listing\)](#)

[General Information](#) | [How Can I Vote](#) | [Where Do I Vote](#) | [Polling Locations & Dates](#) | [Questions](#)

**General Information**

**MENU**

- Voters
- Candidates
- E-Voting
- Election Workers
- FAQs
- Special Needs
- Acts & Legislation
- Municipal Clerk Home
- Contact the Elections Office
- Polling Locations
- Election Archives

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## LINKS

- [Voter Notification Letter Details](#)
- [Evoting Questions and Answers](#)

## E-Voting Advanced Polls

E-Voting will occur from 8:00 am Saturday October 4th to 8 pm Monday October 6th **ONLY**

## Tutorials

Tutorials will open in a new window and are in Flash 7.0 format. Each tutorial is approximately 5 minutes viewing time.

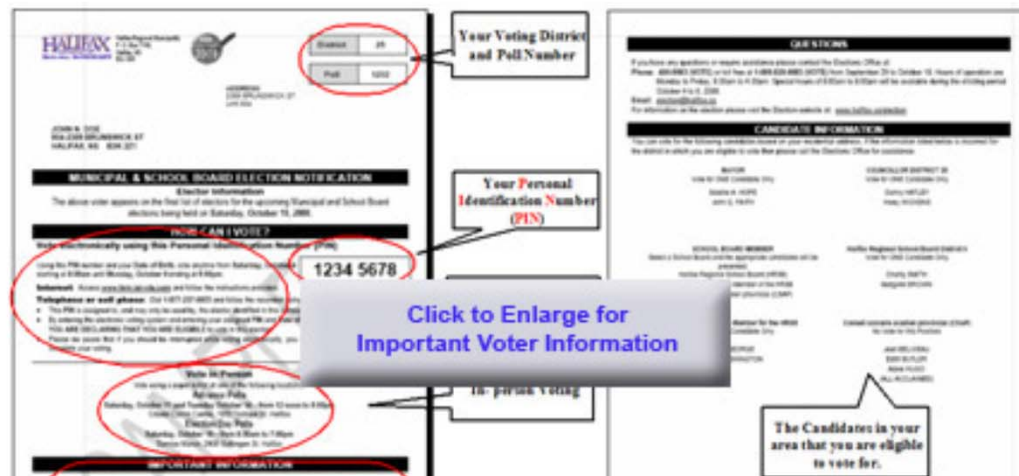


[E-Voting Tutorial](#)



[Phone Voting Tutorial](#)

## Voter Notification Letters with voting instructions will be in the mail on September 29th



The image shows a sample of a voter notification letter with several key pieces of information highlighted by red circles and callouts:

- Your Voting District and Poll Number:** A callout points to a box containing "District 25" and "Poll 1002".
- Your Personal Identification Number (PIN):** A callout points to a box containing the PIN "1234 5678".
- Click to Enlarge for Important Voter Information:** A callout points to a button labeled "Click to Enlarge for Important Voter Information".
- The Candidates in your area that you are eligible to vote for:** A callout points to a section titled "CANDIDATE INFORMATION" which lists various candidates for different offices.

The letter itself includes the following text:

**MUNICIPAL & SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION NOTIFICATION**

The above voter appears on the list of voters for the upcoming Municipal and School Board elections being held on Saturday, October 10, 2009.

**HOW CAN I VOTE?**

Vote electronically using this Personal Identification Number (PIN).

Using the PIN number and your Date of Birth, vote anytime from Saturday morning at 8:00am until Monday, October 12th at 8:00pm.

**Subsequent:** Voters appear on the list of voters for the upcoming Municipal and School Board elections being held on Saturday, October 10, 2009.

**Important:** This PIN is confidential and may only be used by you. Do not disclose this PIN to anyone else. If you are unable to use this PIN, please contact the Elections Office at 408-444-4444. If you are unable to use this PIN, please contact the Elections Office at 408-444-4444. If you are unable to use this PIN, please contact the Elections Office at 408-444-4444.

**Vote in Person**

Vote in person at the following locations:

- City of Salem, Oregon
- City of Seaside, Oregon
- City of Cannon Beach, Oregon
- City of Clifton, Oregon
- City of Gearhart, Oregon
- City of Hammond, Oregon
- City of Jewell, Oregon
- City of Lincoln City, Oregon
- City of Medford, Oregon
- City of North Bend, Oregon
- City of Olney, Oregon
- City of Seaside, Oregon
- City of Tillamook, Oregon
- City of Union, Oregon
- City of Westport, Oregon

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

# What makes these models work?

- Political will
- Internet penetration and access
- Public support and trust
- A supportive legal framework
- Gradual implementation, testing & research

## Turnout effects

- Overall turnout shows few changes
- Advance turnout shows increases
- Those casting ballots online report being likely to continue to do so in future elections
- Middle aged electors (40 to 59) most likely to make use of Internet voting
- Young citizens also disproportionately high



# ISSUES IN INTERNET VOTING

- CONTINUING NEED FOR SECURITY
- METHODS OF ACCREDITING INTERNET VOTERS
- CONTINUING CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS
- MOVING BEYOND THE ADVANCE POLL
- CONTRACT OUT? (NUMEROUS CANADIAN COMPANIES: DELVINIA, INTELIVOTE, DOMINION INTERACTIVE, ETC.)
- PROPRIETARY OR OPEN-SOURCE SOFTWARE

# **FUTURE CANADIAN DEVELOPMENTS**

- 2010 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS
- ADDITIONAL MUNICIPALITIES INTERESTED IN NEAR FUTURE--TORONTO
- ELECTIONS CANADA PILOT PROJECT IN FEDERAL BY ELECTION BY 2013
- PROVINCIAL ELECTION OFFICES INTERESTED.