

# Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario

## 2021 Grand Lodge Electronic Voting

To: All Brethren  
March 01, 2021

Brethren,

As announced by the Grand Master and briefly outlined in the February Communique, we will be conducting electronic elections and voting in 2021.

This letter will provide you with the **initial** set of details on how the elections and voting will be conducted and how you will be able to exercise your franchise. Further communications will follow at a later date.

**This document may be shared and it will be posted on the Grand Lodge website.**

**There will be two separate and distinct electronic elections conducted this year in the absence of an in-person Annual Communication of Grand Lodge.**

- **The first election will be conducted in June of 2021 and will be for the election of all District Deputy Grand Masters.**
- **The second election will be conducted in July of 2021 and will be for the election of Grand Lodge Officers and for voting on the proposed Constitutional amendments.**

### **Election of the District Deputy Grand Masters June 2021:**

#### Overview:

- The voting for DDGMs will take place electronically (from home or while travelling from any computer, tablet or smartphone) via an internet connection.
- The election will run simultaneously in all 41 Districts at the same time.
- The election will be run under the auspices of Grand Lodge.
- Registration of every voter will be required to verify voter eligibility, acquire voter contact information (email) and for affiliated members of multiple lodges to choose the lodge they will vote under.
- Registration and Voting will be conducted electronically only.
- Ballots will not allow for write in names in 2021 (i.e. no late nominations will be accepted).
- The election of the District Deputy Grand Master will be conducted independently from any District meetings held in the spring of 2021.
- There will be **no acclamations** in June 2021. An electronic vote will still be required even if only one candidate is nominated.

### Nomination Process:

The nomination process for the office of District Deputy Grand Master has already been detailed in a document sent out by the Grand Secretary on February 12, 2021. It is also available on the Grand Lodge website.

### Election Process and timelines:

The election for the office of DDGM will be a two step process:

**Step 1:** every eligible voter **MUST** preregister during the registration window in order to receive a ballot.

**Step 2:** every eligible voter must cast his electronic ballot during the voting window.

- Voter registration will take place from June 12, 2021 9:00AM EST through June 17, 2021 4:00PM EST.
- Voting will take place on Friday June 18, 2021 starting at 9:00AM EST until Saturday June 19, 2021 at 4:00 PM EST.
- Results will be distributed to all voters as soon as they are available.
- Once available, the DDGM may further announce and distribute the results to the lodges.

### Ballots:

- There will be only one election for all DDGMs.
- Voting Groups (i.e. Districts) will be used to create specific ballots for the 41 Districts.
- The voter will see only the ballot applicable to his District (based on the lodge he registered under).
- Ballots will not allow for write-in names in 2021 (no last minute nominations).

### Voter Registration:

Registration is required to:

- obtain the voter contact information (email address),
- validate the voter eligibility,
- assign every eligible voter to the lodge/District in which he is an active member in good standing,
- allow an affiliated member to select which lodge/District he wishes to vote in,
- assign unique Voter ID, and
- distribute any election communications as required.

Registration will require the voter to supply:

- His last name,
- His Given names (not validated),
- Grand Lodge Certificate Number and
- Lodge Number.

Eligible voters who are affiliated with more than one lodge must select the lodge/District under which they wish to vote at registration time.

### Voting:

Once successfully registered, each voter will be sent a voter ID link just prior to the start of the voting period to the email address provided in the registration step.

Once the voter has clicked on the voter ID link he will be presented with his electronic ballot.

Once the ballot has been completed the voter will submit the ballot.

Once the voter has submitted his ballot he will not be able to vote again.

### Tie Breaking:

Should a tie vote result, the Grand Master will cast the deciding ballot.

## **Election of Grand Lodge Officers (including members of the Board of General Purposes) and Voting on Proposed Amendments July 2021:**

### Overview:

- The voting for Grand Lodge officers (including members of the Board of General Purposes) and the voting on proposed Constitutional amendments take place electronically (from home or while travelling from any computer, tablet or smartphone) via an internet connection.
- The election and voting will be run under the auspices of Grand Lodge.
- Registration of every voter will be required to verify voter eligibility and acquire voter contact information (email).
- Eligible voters who registered in the June 2021 election for DDGMs will be automatically registered for the July 2021 election and voting.
- Registration and Voting will be conducted electronically only.
- Because every eligible voter will be enfranchised with electronic voting, the use of the proxy has been eliminated.

### Nomination Process:

- Candidates **MUST** submit nomination forms as per the current Book of Constitution.

The nomination process for Grand Lodge officers remains the same as specified in the book of Constitution with a deadline of April 01, 2021. Note that all nominations successfully completed and approved in July 2020 have been automatically carried over to July 2021.

- Final lists of candidates will be prepared and distributed after April 15, 2021.

### Election Process and timelines:

The election for Grand Lodge officers (including members of the Board of General Purposes) and voting on proposed amendments will be a two step process:

**Step 1:** every eligible voter **MUST** preregister in order to receive a ballot. **NOTE:** All eligible brethren who **successfully registered** to vote in the election of DDGMs will have their registration automatically carried forward to this election (and will therefore not be required to register again).

**Step 2:** every eligible voter must cast his electronic ballot during the voting window.

- Voter registration will take place from July 12, 2021 9:00AM EST through July 18, 2021 4:00PM EST.
- Voting will take place between Monday July 19, 2021 at 9:00AM EST and Tuesday July 20, 2021 at 3:00PM EST.
- Should a second (or run-off) ballot be required, voting will take place from 7:00PM-9:00PM EST on Tuesday July 20, 2021. See Second (Run-off) ballot requirements below.
- Results will be distributed to all voters as soon as they are available.

#### Ballots:

- The ballots will list the nominees for each elected office in alphabetical order as has been done at past in-person Annual Communications.
- The ballots will also contain the proposed Constitutional amendments forwarded to Grand Lodge by the Chairman of Constitution and Jurisprudence and approved by the Board of General Purposes.

#### Voter Registration:

Registration is required to:

- obtain the voter contact information (email address),
- validate the voter eligibility,
- assign every eligible voter to the Lodge/District in which he is an active member in good standing,
- allow an affiliated member to select which lodge/District he wishes to vote in,
- assign unique Voter ID, and
- distribute any election communications required.

Registration will require the voter to supply:

- His last name,
- His Given names (not validated),
- Grand Lodge Certificate Number and
- Lodge Number.

Voters who registered for the election of the DDGM will NOT be required to register a second time in order to vote for the Grand Lodge officers and the proposed Constitutional Amendments. Their prior registration will be automatically carried forward to the second election.

#### Voting:

- Once successfully registered, each voter will be sent a voter ID Link just prior to the start of the voting period to the email address provided in the registration step.
- Once the voter has clicked on the voter ID Link he will be presented with his electronic ballot.
- Once the ballot has been completed the voter will submit the ballot.
- Once the voter has submitted his ballot he will not be able to vote again.

### Second or Run-off Ballot:

Should a second or run-off ballot be required:

- Grand Lodge will create the second ballot which will contain only the necessary items required for the second ballot (i.e. only the office and names of those being voted on in the second ballot).
- The election software will send emails to all voters who cast a first ballot informing them that a second ballot is required.
- The notification of the second ballot will specify the details of the second ballot election window 7:00PM-9:00PM EST on Tuesday July 20, 2021.

Note that in all cases, spoiled or void ballots are counted in the total votes cast.

### Additional Details:

#### Eligible voters without computers or mobile devices:

Any member of Grand Lodge (Past Master, Master or Warden) who is eligible and wishes to vote in the election who does not have a computer or mobile device that can connect to the internet must notify his lodge Secretary.

- The lodge Secretary will then be responsible for registering that member during the registration window.
- During the registration process the lodge Secretary will supply his own (or lodge) email address for the brother in question.
- Once registration has been completed the election software will send the voter ID for the member in question to the email address of the lodge Secretary.
- The lodge Secretary will then be responsible for ensuring that a laptop or mobile device is made available to the member so that he can log in and cast his ballot during the voting period.
- Once the ballot has been cast for that member he will not be able to vote again.
- The above process will not affect the vote of the lodge Secretary.

If there are any questions regarding the registration or voting process, please contact the Grand Secretary or COO by email. It is our intention to gather all questions and distribute a 'Frequently Asked Questions' summary when available.

D. Garry Dowling,  
Grand Secretary  
Lou Domjan,  
COO