

## Community Information & Volunteer Centre

### Kelowna Capital News 2011 October 13

#### **Engaging in the political process**

November 19 is election day for our municipal governments and there are advance polls November 9, 16, 17 & 18 as well. You can even apply online for a mail-in ballot.

You can vote in another way, by giving of your time and / or money in support of a candidate running for mayor or council. Getting involved in the political process will increase your knowledge and enthusiasm for our democratic process.

Does this sound scary? Maybe you have no idea about the kinds of things you can do as a volunteer between now and November 19, 2011. Here are some ideas.

Many candidates have campaign offices. You could greet visitors, answer phones, help with mail outs and hand out promotion materials. You could receive training and field questions. If your forte is in the kitchen, why not bake or bring fruit to keep the other volunteers going?

Signs need to be erected before the election and then collected again afterwards. You can skip your workout at the gym on sign moving days.

Door to door canvassers typically work in pairs and speak to people at their homes about the candidate. Materials are given out and questions can be recorded for the candidate to answer. You will receive training if this type of volunteering is new to you.

Are you very personable on the phone? There is a role for you in calling previously identified supporters of the candidate to provide information and to encourage them to vote. Again training will be provided.

Have car will travel? On election day, you could pick up voters, drive them to the polls and return them home. A valid driver's license and vehicle are required.

Contact the candidate of your choice and offer your time and financial backing. Every vote and every dollar counts, so don't sell yourself short!

**Dawn Wilkinson, Coordinator**  
**Community Information & Volunteer Centre**  
**Kelowna Community Resources**  
Email. [informkelowna@kcr.ca](mailto:informkelowna@kcr.ca)  
Phone. 250.763.8008 E. 24  
Fax. 250.763.7608  
Website. [www.kcr.ca](http://www.kcr.ca)  
Address. 120 - 1735 Dolphin Avenue  
Kelowna, BC V1Y 8A6