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## PRESS RELEASE

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### PROVINCE EXCLUDES HOMELESS, POOR WITH NEW ELECTION REQUIREMENTS

*Vancouver* – Eligible Vancouver voters are being prevented from participating in this month's municipal election by new provincial requirements for registering at the polls, according to Dale Hofmann, Green Party Park Board candidate. Hofmann has been operating the "Green Buses" in Vancouver's downtown, taking poor, homeless, and street-involved voters to advance polls.

"We have seen voters turned away from voting because their ID did not meet the new criteria," Hofmann said today at City Hall, as he delivered more advance voters. "These new regulations definitely work to exclude the poor and the homeless, tenants and youth."

New provisions in the Municipal Act require municipalities, including Vancouver, to ask voters to provide two pieces of ID, one of which bears a signature, in order to register and vote at a polling station.

"In past elections, Vancouver city elections staff allowed people to swear a declaration that they were eligible to vote, and that was a great help to those of us trying to involve the marginalized populations of the city in voting," said Hofmann. "The city has done a good job of interpreting the new regulations as liberally as possible, but they are handcuffed by this Municipal Act."

Hofmann is calling on the provincial government to relax the ID requirements for Saturday's vote. "From what I've seen at the advance polls, there will be thousands of people in Vancouver disenfranchised by these new regulations. I am calling on Victoria to address this, so that all Vancouverites can exercise their democratic right to vote."