

Frequently Asked Questions – Business Ratepayers

1. If my company was previously registered with the Corporation of Hamilton for Municipal Elections in the past, am I still registered?

No. With new legislation in place, all companies previously afforded the vote in past Municipal Elections must re-register with the Corporation of Hamilton.
2. There are two owners of our business. Do we both get to vote?

No. If a company has two or more owners or is a partnership or association, they must nominate a person to vote on the company's behalf. This will be the company Nominee (see Part 3 of registration form).
3. If my company occupies an assessment unit in Hamilton, what documents need to be submitted with my registration form?

Along with your completed registration form as an Occupier, the following MUST be submitted:-

 - A copy of your current lease **OR** a copy of a Corporation of Hamilton Demand Notice for the assessment no. you are voting on; and
 - A letter on your company letterhead or a corporate resolution stating the full name of the company, referencing the assessment unit you are voting on and naming the Nominee for said company. This must be signed by someone other than the Nominee or in addition to the Nominee.
4. I am a business owner in the City of Hamilton and my landlord pays all of the City taxes on my assessment unit. Do I still get a vote?

Yes. Despite what arrangement has been made between the property Owner and Occupier regarding payment of taxes, you each are entitled to a vote, one as Owner, one as Occupier.
5. Does my company Nominee need to be Bermudian?

Yes. All Nominees for companies must be on the current Parliamentary Register, therefore Bermudian.
6. I am the sole owner of my company. Do I still need a letter from my company stating I will be the voter?

No. In Part 1 of the Registration Form put only your name under Owner Name. This will signify just one owner. Complete Part 3 with your information as the Nominee.
7. My company owns more than 5 assessment units in the City of Hamilton and there is not enough room in Part 2 to list them. What do I do?

A separate sheet listing all of your assessment units can be attached to your registration. The Occupier name (if applicable) and telephone number for each unit must be provided.
8. Is there an absentee ballot?

No.
9. What is the deadline to register?

The Parliamentary Registrar will drop the Writ announcing the election sometime at the end of March. Once the Writ is dropped, the Register will only be open for 7 days as per the Act. Any registrations received after the deadline will not be eligible to vote.

10. Once the election is announced, if the Nominee will be off island or unavailable to vote on our company's behalf, can we change our Nominee?
Yes, the Nominee can be changed up until Registration closes. A new Registration Form must be completed and a company letter naming the new Nominee submitted to the Corporation offices.
11. I do not have a company but I occupy commercial property in the City of Hamilton. Do I still get a vote as a ratepayer?
Yes. You would be operating as an owner /self-employed, you do not have to be incorporated.
12. We are a subsidiary of a Holding Company. Can we register if the Holding company does not?
No, the parent company has the right to register, not the subsidiary.
13. I live in the City and also own a business that occupies and pays taxes on a commercial assessment unit. Do I get two votes?
As a resident of the City you are automatically registered in the Residents Register to vote as a resident. You can register your company as a voter in the Ratepayers Register and appoint someone to be your company's Nominee.