MAGISTRATE COURT OF BELIZE

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROCEDURE FOR OBJECTION HEARINGS BEFORE THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE COURTS

UNDER RULE 36 OF THE REGISTRATION RULES (SECOND SCHEDULE) TO THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT, CHAPTER 9 OF THE LAWS OF BELIZE

The Magistracy of Belize hereby gives notice to the general public, to registered electors, and to all persons who intend to object to the registration of any elector, of the procedure that will apply to objection hearings before the District Magistrate Courts in their capacity as Revising Officers.

Under Rule 36(1) of the Registration Rules, contained in the Second Schedule and given effect by section 6 of the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 9, every person who is a registered elector may object to the inclusion of a name on the monthly list of persons whom the Registering Officer intends to register. Under section 12(2) of the Act, the Chief Magistrate, or a Magistrate nominated by the Chief Magistrate, is the Revising Officer for the divisions in the Belize District, and the resident Magistrate of each district is the Revising Officer for the divisions in that district.

1. When Objections May Be Lodged

Objections **may be lodged every month**, within the time prescribed by the Registration Rules. The monthly cycle is as follows:

Date in each month	What happens	Authority
On or before the 15th	The Registering Officer publishes the list of persons whose applications have satisfied the conditions necessary for registration.	Rule 32
By the 25th	Last day for a registered elector to deliver a notice of objection to the Registering Officer.	Rules 32 and 36
On or before the last day of the month	The Revising Officer, who is the Magistrate, will hold an open court hearing to decide whether to uphold objections and appeals.	Rule 38
Before the 5th of the following month	The Revising Court must complete its determination of all matters before it for that month.	Rule 39 (proviso)

In addition, objections to names already on the register may be lodged during the Annual Revision period, in Form 14A, before the 1st day of November (Rules 46 and 49).

Because the Court must complete its determinations before the 5th day of the following month, objection applications are strictly time sensitive.

2. A Court Application Is Required

The notice of objection is not a court application. A notice of objection lodged at the Elections and Boundaries Department office for the electoral division does not substitute for the court application process. We advise filling out **Form 14 A** in triplicate original.

Objection hearings are open court hearings. Under Rule 38, objections are heard and decided in open court before the Revising Officer/ Magistrate. Every objector must therefore also lodge an application with the respective District Magistrate Court for a case number to be assigned to the objection hearing.

The parties. The person objecting to the elector is the **Applicant**. The elector objected to is the **Respondent**.

This is not a new procedure. This procedure has always existed, but it has not previously been implemented. It will now be applied in all District Magistrate Courts. Creating applications for each objection allows the court to issue an order of the court showing its final disposition.

Outcomes are orders of the Court. The outcome of an objection hearing is an order of the Court. For that reason, an application must be lodged, and a summons must be issued referring to that application, so that the Respondent is properly notified and given the opportunity to be heard.

Burden of proof. Objectors must be prepared to prove their objection to the Court on the grounds on which the objection was made. An objector who does not appear to support the objection risks having the objection overruled and the name remains on the registration list.

Registering Officers are not witnesses or parties. The Registering Officers of each district are not witnesses for either the objector or the voter objected to, and they are not parties to the application.

False objections are an offence. ***Under section 24 of the Act, a person who objects on grounds that they know, or have reasonable cause to believe, to be false commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding $500 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year.***

3. Step-by-Step Guide for Objectors

1. **Lodge the notice of objection.** Present yourself at the relevant Elections and Boundaries Department Registration office with valid photo identification and present the notice of objection in **Form 14A**, as required by Rule 36(2) of the Registration Rules. A copy of **Form 14A** is to be delivered to the person objected to. It is advised that this form be completed in triplicate original.

2. **Go to the District Magistrate Court promptly.** After submitting your notice of objection, present yourself promptly at the District Magistrate Court with your photo identification. Because the application is strictly time sensitive, objectors are advised to do this on the same day the notice of objection is submitted.

3. **Complete the interview form and pay the suit fee.** You will be required to fill out an interview form with your personal details, give your reasons for objecting to the voters and pay a lodgement fee of **$4.00** to the Court. This fee is applicable to each objection.

4. **Provide the Respondent's address and directions.** You must have a recent address for the voter objected to, so that summons can be prepared and served on the Respondent. The Court is responsible for serving the summons. Come prepared with the address, directions to the location, and a description of the house or place of employment of the Respondent. This information will assist the process server in executing the summons promptly.

Members of the public who require further information should contact the Clerk of Court at their District Magistrate Court.

Dated this 5th day of November 2026.

Magistracy Department Belize City

From the office of the Chief Magistrate
Magistrate Court
Attorney General's Ministry