Political Party Newsletter



October 15, 2026

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Key Dates

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Date	Milestone
October 16-21, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Advance voting
October 18, 8 p.m.	Deadline to request a vote-by-mail package online and by phone
October 24, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.*	Election Day
After 8 p.m.* on Election Day	Initial count – Preliminary results announced
October 28	DEO recount request deadline
November 10	Final count ends – Final results announced**

November 18	Writs of election returned to Chief Electoral Officer

*Voting hours on election day are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Pacific Time. For information on which B.C. communities observe different time zones, refer to the information here: B.C.'s new time zone (Pacific time) - Province of British Columbia

**The exact timing of final count will depend on absentee vote volumes and will be communicated as soon as possible after Election Day.

Advance Voting Begins October 16, 2026

Changes to advance or final voting places are posted on the Elections BC website: Voting Place Updates | Elections BC

These changes will also be reflected in Elections BC's other voting place data products, including the Where to Vote app.

Electronic Participation Reports Available

Electronic participation reports are available for advance voting, district electoral office voting, special voting, and vote-by-mail. Electronic participation reports are based on the voter's electoral district of residence. Authorized users and candidates will receive automatic email notifications when new files are available.

For more information about participation reports, please refer to the October 9 Political Party Newsletter.

Candidate Representative Conduct

Candidate and political party representatives play an important role in supporting transparency and confidence in the electoral process. In the lead up to advance voting, representatives are reminded to review the Guide for Candidate and Political Party Representatives and comply with its requirements while observing election proceedings.

Representatives are expected to observe proceedings without interfering with voters, election officials, or voting procedures. Election officials are responsible for maintaining peace, order, and safety at voting places. Individuals who interfere with election proceedings or engage in disruptive behaviour may be directed to leave the voting place.

Prohibited Advertising Reminder

Parties and candidates are reminded that they are prohibited from posting, displaying, or distributing any materials that qualify as campaign period election advertising or that identify a candidate, registered political party, or registered constituency association within 100 metres of election offices and voting places during the campaign period, unless authorized by the district electoral officer (*Election Act*, s.234(1) & (2)).

Additionally, while advance voting or final voting is in progress, activities such as canvassing, soliciting votes, or using items indicating support for a candidate or party are also not allowed in these areas. For further details, please refer to the list of advance voting locations or the Where to Vote app. Parties may wish to remove any signs from these locations to prevent potential complaints or contraventions.

Similar rules also exist under the *Local Government Act* for the 100 meters surrounding a voting place where local voting is being conducted. The 100-meter rule for local elections is not enforced by Elections BC, however, you may wish to be aware of these regulated areas. For a list of local voting locations, contact the local government.

Signs that do not directly or indirectly promote or oppose the election of a provincial candidate or political party, or otherwise identify them, are not regulated under the *Election Act.* For example, signs promoting local government elections displayed near advance provincial voting locations.

Vote-by-mail Deadlines

Reminder: October 18 is the final day to request a vote-by-mail package online or by phone.

Elections BC must receive **completed** vote-by-mail packages by **8 p.m. (Pacific time) on October 24.**

Completed packages can be returned by mail or dropped off at any district electoral office or voting place.

Results Reporting Overview

Preliminary results will be reported on election night after voting closes at 8 p.m. (Pacific time). Most ballots are counted during the initial count, with results reported as

they become available. Preliminary results remain subject to quality assurance and may change before official results are declared.

The following ballots are included in the preliminary results:

- Votes cast at advance voting places
- Votes cast at assigned voting stations on Election Day
- Votes cast at district electoral offices
- Votes cast at special voting opportunities by in-district voters

Ballots not included in election night results will be counted during final count, which is scheduled to conclude on November 10. The exact timing will depend on absentee vote volumes. The following ballots are counted at final count:

- Votes cast at advance voting places by out-of-district voters
- Votes cast **not at** assigned voting stations on Election Day
- Votes cast at special voting opportunities by out-of-district voters
- Votes cast by mail and assisted telephone voting

Candidates may observe the counting process and appoint scrutineers to observe counts at voting places and district electoral offices.

For detailed information on counting procedures, see the Guide to Voting and Counting.

Modifications to procedures through CEO Orders

Harmonizing Election Day absentee voting procedures

The Chief Electoral Officer has made a procedural change to standardize absentee voting procedures on Election Day:

- All absentee voters voting outside their voting area on Election Day will vote using certification envelopes, regardless of whether an electronic voting book is used.
- Certification envelopes prepared under this order will not be set aside from the final count if there is sufficient information recorded in the electronic voting book to record that the voter has voted.

The use of certification envelopes for all voters voting outside their voting area on Election Day is already covered in the Guide to Voting and Counting.

Burnaby North and Langley-Willowbrook Ballots

As indicated in previous Elections BC advisories, candidates that were originally not included on the ballots in Burnaby North (BNO) and Langley-Willowbrook (LWI) have now been added.

To accommodate these additions, the following changes to procedures will be implemented in voting places, to ensure compatibility between ballots and tabulator memory cards:

- At advance voting places in BNO and LWI, separate tabulators will be used for in-district and out-of-district ballots.
- In advance voting places in all other electoral districts, BNO and LWI ballots will be placed in the auxiliary compartment of the tabulator ballot box and counted by hand as part of the initial count.

In addition, voters whose vote-by-mail package was sent before the ballot additions will be offered a replacement voting package.

Political Campaign Activity Code of Practice

Elections BC and the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC) encourage political parties to review the *Political Campaign Activity Code of Practice*. The voluntary Code commits participating parties to fair campaigning principles that support a level playing field between electoral campaigns and balance the role of political parties in the electoral process with the protection of individual privacy.

All political parties and other political actors remain responsible for complying with applicable legal requirements, including the *Personal Information Protection Act* and the *Election Act*. The Code and guidance materials provided by Elections BC and the OIPC are intended to help parties understand and meet these requirements and promote public confidence in the electoral process.

Read the Code here: Political Campaign Activity Code of Practice

For further guidelines on protecting personal information, review the OIPC's Guidance Document: Political Campaign Activity.

Foreign Interference Information for Candidates and Parties

Candidates, campaign teams, and political parties may be targeted by foreign interference activities, including disinformation, cyber threats, intimidation, coercion, and illicit financing. We encourage all participants to remain vigilant, verify information sources, follow cyber security best practices, and report any suspicious activity.

Additional information on recognizing and responding to foreign interference, including reporting options and resources from CSIS, the RCMP, and the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security, is available on our website: Foreign Interference Information for Candidates

New and Updated Publications

UPDATED – Specification of Voting Administration Tools: This guide summarizes the voting administration tools Elections BC will use to administer the 2026 Provincial General Election, as required by section 79.01 of the *Election Act*.

Elections BC Contacts

It is helpful if your party can identify two or three contacts who are authorized to correspond with Elections BC on your party's behalf. This can include your party's principal officer(s), campaign manager, legal counsel or other contact.

When contacting Elections BC, please ensure that you use the appropriate topic-specific email addresses rather than personal email addresses. This helps direct your inquiries to the correct team for a timely response.

Topic	Email Address
Campaign finance and advertising inquiries	Electoral.Finance@elections.bc.ca
Voting, counting, and general inquiries	Correspondence@elections.bc.ca

This newsletter is sent to the email address included in your party's registration documents with Elections BC, and to all members of the Election Advisory Committee. If you would like any other members of your campaign team, such as your campaign manager, financial agent, or legal counsel, added to this distribution list please email Correspondence@elections.bc.ca.

If you have any questions or have suggestions for how we can share information with political participants, please email correspondence@elections.bc.ca.



Sent by

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