

DELIVERING MODERNIZED ELECTIONS

2022/23 Annual Report &
2023/24-2025/26 Service Plan

Delivering Modernized Elections

2022/23 Annual Report &
2023/24-2025/26 Service Plan

October 3, 2023

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Honourable Raj Chouhan
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Province of British Columbia
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia
V8V 1X4

Dear Mr. Speaker:

It is my pleasure to submit Elections BC's Annual Report for the 2022/23 fiscal year and Service Plan for the 2023/24-2025/26 fiscal years.

This report outlines the work of my office in 2022/23, a year in which we enacted considerable change throughout our organization. This report also outlines our strategic plans and upcoming projects for 2023-26.

Our office is committed to providing a high level of service to British Columbians and I look forward to sharing our plans for service improvements for the years ahead.

Respectfully submitted,



Anton Boegman
Chief Electoral Officer
British Columbia

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

I am pleased to present *Delivering Modernized Elections*, Elections BC's Annual Report for 2022/23 and Service plan for the 2023/24-2025/26 fiscal years. Our annual report shows how we're modernizing election administration in B.C. to provide better service for voters and other electoral stakeholders.

Elections BC's mandate has experienced transformative change over the past number of years. Since the *Election Amendment Act, 2019* was passed almost four years ago, a central focus of our work has been enacting these legislative amendments including completing the voting modernization project, establishing the List of Future Voters and implementing new sources of data to improve the quality of the Provincial Voters List. In 2022/23, many of these changes were put into action for the first time.

Fiscal year 2022/23 began with a provincial by-election called in Vancouver-Quilchena on April 2, 2022. We had completed the implementation of the first phase of our voting modernization project on March 31, and were ready to administer an election under the new voting model. Voters were served using proven and secure technology in voting places, enabling a more efficient and accessible process. Many of the anticipated key benefits were realized in the by-election, including providing better service to voters (using a first-come, first-served delivery model), faster results reporting on election night, and providing close to real-time participation data to campaigns to support get-out-the-vote efforts. Following the by-election, we reviewed voter exit survey data and completed comprehensive lessons learned to improve how the model was deployed. These enhancements were put into practice just a few months later, when on September 2, 2022, a second provincial by-election was called in Surrey South. Administering these two by-elections provided us with necessary experience in the new model, which proved beneficial when subsequent concurrent by-elections were held in Langford-Juan de Fuca and Vancouver-Mount Pleasant on June 24, 2023. This experience will also serve us well as we prepare for the next provincial general election in October 2024.

In July 2022, with the beginning of the pre-campaign period for the 2022 General Local Elections, our mandate for campaign finance and election advertising oversight under the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* (LECFA) began in earnest. The 2022 General Local Elections were held throughout the province on October 15, 2022. Changes to LECFA in 2021 introduced new rules and requirements for candidates, elector organizations and third party advertising sponsors. These were put into practice for the first time in 2022. With nearly 3,500 regulated participants, the intensity and volume of work for Elections BC was significant as we responded to inquiries and complaints, and reviewed and assessed local financial disclosure statements. I am pleased to report that as of the publication date of this annual report and service plan, all general local elections disclosure statement reviews have been completed. Compliance and enforcement work remains ongoing, however, with a new audit program, an expanded investigations work unit and the ability to issue administrative monetary penalties. I am confident that our work will continue to improve transparency and overall compliance in local election campaign financing and election advertising.

Looking ahead, the remainder of fiscal year 2023/24 will be very busy as we move into a provincial general election year, and approach the end of our four-year business cycle. In September, we welcomed district electoral officers and deputy district electoral officers to Victoria for their first in-



person training seminar where they are getting their first look at the technology that will be used to administer the 43rd Provincial General Election, including electronic voting books and tabulators to count voter-marked paper ballots. The electoral geography team will continue to implement the new electoral district and voting area boundaries in our systems and mapping products, with completion targeted for December 2023, and we will begin our voter awareness and outreach campaign in February 2024. In summer 2024, we will carry out B.C.'s first province-wide enumeration since 2017, concurrent with final stage preparations for the October 2024 provincial general election. It is certain that 2024 will be extremely busy for all staff at Elections BC.

In addition to our operational and event readiness focus, Elections BC remains committed to actively address existing and new challenges to our democracy resulting from the increasing risks of disinformation, cyber threats and foreign interference. The *Election Amendment Act, 2023* brought in important new amendments to improve our ability to address disinformation about the electoral process and electoral participants. Additional recommendations to help mitigate against foreign interference, improve the transparency of election advertising, and enhance enforcement action remain before our legislature, and I strongly encourage all legislators to review and act on these recommendations.

As Chief Electoral Officer, I am greatly appreciative of the exceptional work done by all Elections BC staff in delivering on our strategic priorities and our vision to be leaders in electoral administration through the delivery of modern, accessible and trusted electoral services with British Columbians at the centre. As we approach B.C.'s historic 43rd Provincial General Election I am looking forward to realizing the accessibility, service, efficiency, and integrity improvements that will be part of our province's first fully modernized provincial general election.

Anton Boegman
Chief Electoral Officer
British Columbia
October 3, 2023





SECTION 1

BACKGROUND

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Who we are

Our mandate

Elections BC is the independent, non-partisan Office of the Legislature responsible for administering electoral processes in British Columbia in accordance with provincial legislation including the *Election Act*, *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, *Constitution Act*, *Recall and Initiative Act* and *Referendum Act*. Together, these Acts define our responsibilities and set out the duties of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Our vision, mission and values

Our vision is to be leaders in electoral administration through the delivery of modern, accessible and trusted electoral services designed with British Columbians at the centre.

Our mission is to serve democracy in British Columbia through the fair and impartial administration of electoral processes.

Our seven core values are:

- *Accountability*: We take responsibility for our actions and decisions, and make effective use of resources.
- *Impartiality*: We treat all voters, candidates, political parties, elector organizations and other stakeholders fairly.
- *Innovation*: We explore new ways to improve service levels and respond to change.
- *Integrity*: We are honest, and our decisions and actions are consistent with our values.
- *Respect*: We value the diversity of our colleagues and stakeholders, build collaborative relationships based on an understanding of our differences, and maintain dignity in all our interactions.
- *Service*: We strive to anticipate and meet the diverse and evolving needs of our stakeholders.
- *Transparency*: We are open about how we work and communicate issues that may impact our stakeholders.

Our team

Elections BC's organization chart includes the CEO and 79.75 core positions, organized into program areas and work units.

Chief Electoral Officer

The Chief Electoral Officer has overall responsibility for Elections BC. The Chief Electoral Officer oversees two Deputy Chief Electoral Officers and four staff in Communications.

Communications

The Communications program area is responsible for media relations and external communications, reporting to the Legislative Assembly, voter outreach, and public education programs about voter registration and the electoral process.

Deputy Chief Electoral Officer, Corporate Services

The Deputy CEO, Corporate Services oversees two program areas: Information Technology and Corporate Services.

Information Technology

The Information Technology (IT) program area provides information management systems and supporting infrastructure encompassing all aspects of electoral administration to Elections BC. The 18 staff in Information Technology are organized into two work units, Application Services and Technical Services.

- **Technical Services** (IT-TS) plans, develops, implements and manages shared infrastructure services and technology solutions for daily operations and elections. This includes systems operations, administration, security and maintenance to ensure ongoing operations technical support. During elections, IT-TS plans and manages large-scale technology implementation projects affecting multiple lines of business. This includes configuring, installing, and integrating services and support for 93 temporary offices and 2,000 temporary staff across the province.
- **Application Services** (IT-AS) provides business analysis, technology planning, systems design, client support and project management expertise for all tasks within the systems development lifecycle. These systems help administer candidate nominations, accessible voting, ballot counting and results reporting. They also support publishing electoral financing reports, voter registration services, and a full suite of electoral geography products. IT-AS leads or coordinates all information systems projects and approves their associated schedules, budgets and expenditures.

Corporate Services

The Corporate Services program area is organized into four work units, which include 18.75 staff: Investigations, Finance and Administration, Human Resources and Development Services, and Corporate Planning and Strategic Initiatives.

- **Investigations** is responsible for Elections BC's compliance and enforcement framework. This includes leading and conducting investigations and other enforcement activities.
- **Finance and Facilities Administration** provides financial and administration services to Elections BC. These services include budget development, revenue and expenditure forecasting, financial accounting and control, financial reporting, contract administration, accounts processing, administrative and facilities services, and payroll for Elections BC's core employees and temporary staff during electoral events.
- **Human Resources and Development Services** provides human resource services for Elections BC's public service employees, district electoral officers (DEOs) and their deputies, as well as temporary staff and election officials. Responsibilities include the recruitment and selection of human resources, employee relations, training and development, occupational health and safety and all related human resource activities.
- **Corporate Planning and Strategic Initiatives** is responsible for effectively planning and leading electoral events, both scheduled and on demand. This includes coordinating support activities across the organization and leading post-event reporting and evaluation. The work unit also has overall responsibility for strategic planning, performance measurement, risk management, operational support to the Chief Electoral Officer, policy analysis and development, research services, records management, freedom of information and privacy.

Deputy Chief Electoral Officer, Electoral Finance and Operations

The Deputy CEO, Electoral Finance and Operations oversees two program areas: Electoral Finance and Electoral Operations, as well as regional field officers, and district and deputy district electoral officers and their staff.

Electoral Finance

The 17 permanent staff in Electoral Finance are organized into two work units: Audit and Assessment and Compliance Services.

- **Audit and Assessment** (AA) is responsible for reviews of the various financial disclosure statements submitted to Elections BC. This includes a formal ongoing audit program to help assess and improve compliance with electoral financing requirements. This team is also responsible for auditing receipts and recommending payment for election expense reimbursements claims.

- **Compliance Services** (CS) is responsible for registering political participants and helping improve understanding of electoral financing provisions. This is accomplished through training, guidance and other initiatives to develop programs that help promote compliance with requirements.

Electoral Operations

The 20 staff in Electoral Operations are organized into three work units: Electoral Geography, Electoral Operations, and Voter Services.

- The **Electoral Geography** work unit is responsible for maintaining provincial electoral and administrative boundaries. The work unit also produces and distributes a full suite of electoral geography products, including provincial electoral boundary maps, voting area maps and voting place maps.
- The **Electoral Operations** work unit is responsible for the operational administration of all provincial events including general elections, by-elections, referenda, plebiscites, recall petitions, and initiative petitions and initiative votes. Electoral Operations manages Elections BC's 93 district electoral officers, their deputies and the 20,000 election officials, who in turn administer provincial elections in the field across the province. Electoral Operations oversees the administration of candidate nominations, accessible voting, ballot counting and results reporting, and manages Elections BC's warehouse. Electoral Operations is also responsible for the training of all election officials who serve voters directly in the voting place.
- The **Voter Services** work unit maintains the provincial voters list, manages all voter registration services, and coordinates voter data integration from external agencies including Elections Canada, BC Vital Statistics, and the

Insurance Corporation of BC. Voter Services also manages voters list improvement activities including voter registration drives and enumerations, and produces and distributes the provincial voters list to Members of the Legislative Assembly, political parties, candidates, and local governments.

What we do

At the provincial level, we administer general elections, by-elections, referenda, recall petitions and initiative petitions. This includes preparation, candidate nominations, event administration, and follow through activities outlined in our legislation. We also oversee ongoing campaign finance and advertising requirements for political parties, administer public funding requirements of the *Election Act*, and ensure compliance of political participants with these provisions. Other than receiving and reviewing financing reports, we have no role in political party leadership campaigns, as these are administered by each respective party.

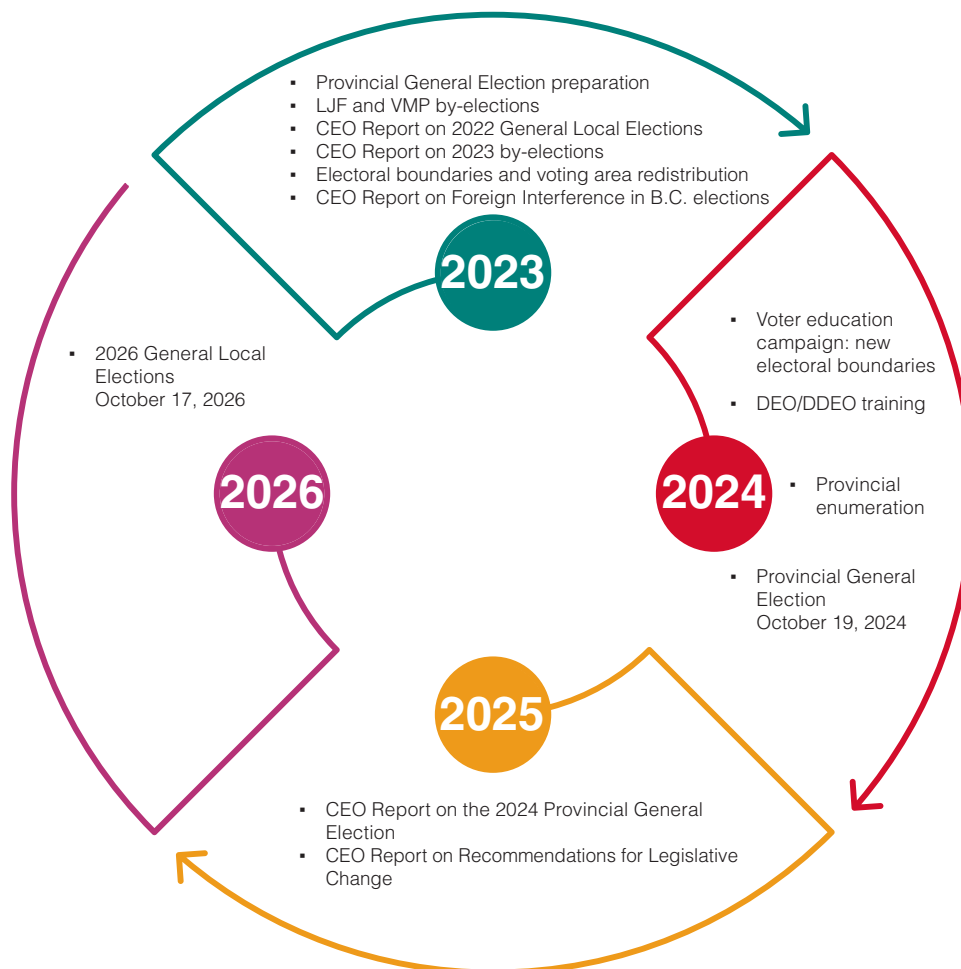
At the local government level, we oversee campaign financing and advertising rules, and register elector organizations (civic political parties). We do not administer voting or candidate nominations for local elections, these are administered locally.

On an ongoing basis, we research best practices and emerging issues in electoral administration and maintain operational readiness for various scheduled and on-demand electoral events. We liaise with federal, provincial and foreign election management bodies; conduct outreach activities; maintain the provincial Voters List and List of Future Voters; provide voters lists to local governments, political parties and MLAs; monitor threats to democracy; maintain relationships with security and police agencies; conduct investigations; respond to public inquiries, and carry out voter outreach and education activities.

Our business cycle

The start of the 2022/23 fiscal year coincided with the provincial by-election in Vancouver-Quilchena. This by-election was the first to be held under the new provisions established by the *Election Amendment Act, 2019*, which introduced new technology into the election process. We completed our implementation of the voting modernization requirements of that Act on March 31, 2022, and the by-election was called just a few days later on April 2. In September, another provincial by-election was held in Surrey South. This fiscal year also included the 2022 General Local Elections, held on October 15, 2022, three recall petitions, and political party leadership contests for the BC NDP (October 2022) and the BC Conservative Party (March 2023). After every second provincial general election, an electoral boundaries commission is established to recommend changes to the province's electoral districts. The BC Electoral Boundaries Commission first proposed new electoral district boundaries in Fall 2022, with final recommendations in the Spring that were passed into law in May 2023.

Looking ahead, the 2023/24 fiscal year promises to be a busy one for Elections BC. We are continuing with compliance and enforcement actions related to the 2022 General Local Elections, and are preparing a report on the impact and risks of foreign interference in B.C. elections. Work on the electoral boundaries redistribution is in progress. A province-wide enumeration campaign in summer 2024 will be followed by the scheduled provincial general election on October 19, 2024. We will also continue to maintain readiness for any unscheduled electoral events that may arise.



2022 Three Rivers

Mark your ballot by filling in the circles next to the number of your choice.

Candidate	1	2	3	4	5
ANDREW ANDREW					
TONY VAN KANEN CHONG					
CHUCKY SAM					
SHERRY WONG					
JOHN GARCIA					

**Ballot
Marking**



ELECTIONS BC
A non-partisan Office of the Legislature





SECTION 2

2022/23

ANNUAL REPORT

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2022/23 YEAR IN REVIEW

Elections BC's operational priorities are to deliver events, modernize electoral services, improve accessibility and inclusivity, build organizational capacity and protect electoral integrity. We have performance indicators and set targets related to each.

The sections below outline our performance measures, activities and results for the 2022/23 fiscal year (April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023). Our plans to achieve our operational priorities over the coming business cycle are outlined in the service plan portion of this report.

Deliver events

Delivering electoral events is our top priority. We maintain readiness to administer scheduled and unscheduled events, including provincial general elections, by-elections, referenda, recall petitions and initiative petitions. We also administer campaign financing and election advertising laws for local by-elections and referenda (non-election assent voting) throughout the year.

Vancouver-Quilchena and Surrey South by-elections

We began the 2022/23 fiscal year by administering the first provincial by-election to be held under the provisions of the *Election Amendment Act, 2019*. This legislation was the most significant change to the *Election Act* in 25 years, and has been a major focus of our work since receiving Royal Assent in November 2019. It allows us to use more technology in voting administration, including electronic tabulators (to count paper ballots) and electronic voting books (laptops to strike voters off the voters list in close to real time). These changes enable faster, better service for voters and much faster and more accurate results reporting, as

well as data to support voter participation efforts. The Vancouver-Quilchena and Surrey South by-elections held in 2022 were our first opportunities to put these changes into practice.

The Vancouver-Quilchena by-election was called on April 2, 2022. Final Voting Day was Saturday, April 30, 2022. On Final Voting Day there were 38,399 registered voters in Vancouver-Quilchena. There were five candidates in the by-election representing five registered political parties. BC Liberal Party candidate Kevin Falcon was elected as the MLA for Vancouver-Quilchena. Voter turnout was 27.6% of registered voters, and the cost to administer the by-election was \$766,293, or \$19.96 per registered voter.

The Surrey South by-election was called on August 13, 2022. Final Voting Day was Saturday, September 10, 2022. On Final Voting Day there were 54,363 registered voters in Surrey South. There were five candidates in the by-election representing five registered political parties. BC Liberal Party candidate Elenore Sturko was elected as the MLA for Surrey South. Voter turnout was 19.8% of registered voters, and the cost to administer the by-election was \$748,008, or \$13.76 per registered voter.

More information about the by-elections is available in the [Report of the Chief Electoral Officer – 2022 Vancouver-Quilchena and Surrey South By-elections](#).

2022 General Local Elections

B.C.'s 2022 General Local Elections were held on October 15, 2022. In local elections, Elections BC administers campaign financing and advertising rules established by the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* (LECFA), and provides voters lists to local jurisdictions upon request. Other aspects of the process are administered by local jurisdictions,

including candidate nominations, voting and results reporting. Elections BC provided voters lists to 107 local governments to help them administer their elections.

Changes to LECFA introduced in 2021 established new campaign financing and advertising rules for local elections. The changes included requiring elector organizations to register with Elections BC and file annual financial reports, introducing a pre-campaign period for local elections, annual limits for contributions to third party advertisers and new administrative penalties to support compliance with the rules. These changes followed recommendations made by the Chief Electoral Officer after B.C.'s general local elections in 2018. The new rules came into effect for the 2022 General Local Elections.

More information about the 2022 General Local Elections will be available in the forthcoming report of the Chief Electoral Officer on that event.

Provincial general election readiness

Preparations for B.C.'s next provincial general election continued in 2022/23.

The 43rd Provincial General Election is scheduled for October 19, 2024. However, given the scope of change enacted in the *Election Amendment Act, 2019*, and global supply chain challenges, it was imperative that many readiness activities commence more than 24 months before that date. Early readiness would also mitigate the risk of on-demand events. Elections BC must maintain a state of readiness to address the risk of an unscheduled election call.

In summer 2022, we expedited plans to lease or acquire the technology required for the new voting model, and, in early 2023, we began recruiting management-level field staff including regional field officers (RFOs), district electoral officers (DEOs) and deputy district electoral officers (DDEOs). During the spring of 2023, the new DEOs and DDEOs received a full day of in-person training, delivered regionally by RFOs, and completed a comprehensive suite of online training.

As our preparations for the scheduled provincial general election in October 2024 progress, each DEO will complete their first work package to help familiarize them with their electoral district, plan outreach activities within their district (including outreach to Indigenous communities and long-term care facilities), and review voting area boundaries.

The other preparatory activities included:

- refining our new modernized voting and counting processes and procedures with lessons learned from two provincial by-elections conducted under the provisions of the *Election Amendment Act, 2019*,
- beginning the procurement process for the technology equipment required on the scale of a provincial general election, and
- entering into a lease agreement with Elections Ontario for the use of technology equipment in their off-cycle.

Electoral Boundaries Commission

Under the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act*, a commission must be appointed within one year after every second provincial general election to propose changes to the area, boundaries and names of British Columbia's provincial electoral districts. An electoral boundaries commission was appointed on October 21, 2021. The Commission tabled its final report to the Legislative Assembly on April 3, 2023, marking the end of its process.

The Commission's recommendations included a proposal to create six additional electoral districts in areas of rapid population growth, bringing the total number of provincial electoral districts to 93 from the current 87. The Commission also recommended adjustments to the boundaries of 72 electoral districts and changes to 41 electoral district names based on the geographic, demographic, and communication and transportation considerations set out in the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act*.

While the Commission is a separate organization from Elections BC, the CEO is appointed to the Commission by the *Electoral Boundaries*



Commission Act, and Elections BC supports the Commission's operations. We provided a wide array of support to the Commission, including in the areas of human resources, finance and administration, information technology, communications and public engagement. The Commission also operated out of Elections BC's head office in Victoria.

The Legislative Assembly approved all of the Commission's recommendations and passed the *Electoral Districts Act, 2023* in May 2023. The new boundaries will come into effect when the next provincial general election is called.

Recall petitions

Recall is a process that allows a registered voter (the proponent) to petition to remove a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) from office between elections. This process is conducted under the *Recall and Initiative Act*. The proponent may be helped by volunteers to collect signatures from eligible registered voters. If the required signature threshold is met, the MLA is removed from office and a by-election is held.

For the petition to be successful, the proponent must collect signatures from more than 40% of the voters eligible to sign the petition. To be eligible to sign the petition, an individual must:

- be currently registered to vote, and
- have been registered to vote in the MLA's electoral district on the Final Voting Day the MLA was elected.

Elections BC administered three recall petitions during the 2022/23 fiscal year, in Vernon-Monashee, Vancouver-Point Grey and Peace River North. None of these petitions met the signature threshold and therefore did not proceed further in the petition process.

For each recall petition, the petition proponent, MLA and advertising sponsors are required to file financial reports with Elections BC within 28 days after the end of the recall petition period. The table below summarizes the recall petitions administered in the 2022/23 fiscal year. Note that Elections BC does not verify signatures or canvassers when it becomes clear that the recall petition has failed to meet statutory requirements.

Electoral District	MLA	Affiliation	Proponent	Petition issued	Petition due	Signatures required	Signatures returned*
Peace River North	Dan Davies	BC Liberal Party	Joseph Wayne Bell	February 3, 2023	April 4, 2023	10,487	465
Vancouver-Point Grey	David Eby	BC NDP	Salvatore Vetro	January 17, 2023	March 20, 2023	16,449	2,737
Vernon-Monashee	Harwinder Sandhu	BC NDP	Genevieve Ring	August 12, 2022	October 11, 2022	21,268	79

* As submitted by the proponent. Not verified by Elections BC.

Leadership contests

Two political party leadership contests took place during the 2022/23 fiscal year.

The Conservative Party announced its leadership contest in March 2023. John Rustad was acclaimed leader on March 31, 2023. The *Election Act* requires all approved leadership contestants to file a financing report, even if they are acclaimed. John Rustad's financing report is available [here](#).

The BC NDP announced its leadership contest in July 2022, with David Eby acclaimed leader on October 21, 2022. David Eby's financing report is available [here](#). In relation to the 2022 BC NDP leadership contest, Elections BC initiated a review into possible political contributions from Dogwood BC to Anjali Appadurai's prospective leadership campaign. The review was initiated after complaints were received alleging that Dogwood BC's activities in the BC NDP leadership race may have constituted in-kind political contributions under the *Election Act*. The Act requires that approved leadership contestants only accept political contributions from eligible individuals and file financing reports with Elections BC. The Act further prohibits organizations from making political contributions, in-kind or otherwise, to approved leadership contestants.

Elections BC closed its review, because due to a decision by the party, Anjali Appadurai did not become an approved leadership contestant. A political party must approve a leadership contestant for the *Election Act*'s campaign finance rules to apply to their campaign. This meant that the activities of Dogwood BC in relation to the Anjali Appadurai campaign were not regulated by the *Election Act*. This also meant that Anjali Appadurai was not required to file a leadership contestant financing report with Elections BC.

Elections BC's role in leadership contests is limited. The *Election Act* includes rules around political contributions to approved leadership contestants, and approved leadership contestants must file financing reports with Elections BC. However, leadership contests are otherwise administered by political parties and subject to the rules established by the party.

Political party name change

If a registered political party wishes to change its name or to add other names to those specified in its party registration, the party must first seek the Chief Electoral Officer's approval for the change. Political party names may not include the words "independent" or "unaffiliated" or similar terms, be similar to the name of a political party that is currently registered, or be likely to be confused with the name of another political party that has been registered at any time in the past four years. In fiscal year 2022/23, the former BC Liberal Party requested a name change to BC United, which was approved on March 29, 2023.

Performance indicator #1: Quality of the Voters List

The Provincial Voters List is an essential tool we use to deliver the events we administer. The list contains the names and residential addresses of voters registered in each electoral district. In provincial elections, it is used to ensure that only eligible voters vote, and that they only vote once.

It is also used to deliver other events like recall petitions, and is provided on request to support local elections. A high-quality voters list makes it easier to administer voting, and helps us contact voters with information about when, where and how to vote. It also makes voting faster and easier for voters. The quality of the list is assessed based on coverage, currency and net currency.

- **Coverage** measures how many eligible voters in B.C. are on the voters list. It is calculated by dividing the number of registered voters by the estimated number of eligible voters.
- **Currency** measures how many voters are registered at their current address (how up-to-date the list is). Currency is estimated as the percentage of registered voters who are registered at their current address.
- **Net currency** combines coverage and currency. It measures how many eligible voters are registered at their current address. It is calculated by multiplying coverage by currency.

Coverage can be calculated at any point in the business cycle based on the number of registered voters divided by the estimated number of eligible voters.

Because currency estimates are generated by BC Stats after each provincial general election using survey research and an analysis of Elections BC data, the currency and net currency of the voters list are only measured following a provincial general election. The most recent Voters List Quality Study, conducted following the 2020 Provincial General Election, measured currency at 89.8% and net currency at 89.2%. Currency and net currency targets will be set in preparation for the enumeration to be conducted before the next scheduled provincial general election.

	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Target	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
Coverage*	96.1%	97%**	91%	98.5%	95.6%	95%

* All voters list quality indicators are based on population projections or surveys conducted on behalf of Elections BC by an independent third party.

** The 2021/22 coverage measurement has been updated based on revisions to the estimate of eligible voters.

Currently, there are a relatively large number of "stale" voter records on the Provincial Voters List. These are records that have not been updated or confirmed from any of Elections BC's data sources in some time. Elections BC is conducting a purge of these records as non-routine voters list maintenance, and expects to remove approximately 150,000 "stale" records from the voters list. This maintenance was last conducted in 2014. As such, we anticipate that coverage in 2023/24, ahead of the province-wide enumeration to be conducted in summer 2024, will decrease slightly from 2022/23 actuals.



Looking forward, Elections BC expects to continue to improve the quality of the voters list. A provincial enumeration will be conducted in the summer of 2024. In addition, we have now integrated our enhanced access to new sources of voter information into our regular voters list maintenance operations. The creation of the List of Future Voters in 2019 also allows eligible 16 and 17-year olds to sign up so they are automatically added to the Provincial Voters List when they turn 18. Overall, these new sources of information are improving the coverage and currency of the voters list, and will continue to do so in future years.

Performance indicator #2: Stakeholder satisfaction

Elections BC surveys voters and other stakeholders, such as political participants, after provincial general elections and by-elections to obtain feedback and determine how to better deliver electoral events. Stakeholder satisfaction is assessed based on the percentage of respondents satisfied or very satisfied with Elections BC's service. Following the 2020 Provincial General Election, we achieved a stakeholder satisfaction rate of 89%. This figure will be used as our baseline for measuring stakeholder satisfaction with the 2024 Provincial General Election through a post-election stakeholder satisfaction survey.

Elections BC also surveyed voters about their experiences during the Vancouver-Quilchena and Surrey South by-elections. The results of these surveys, which measured voters' satisfaction with their experience voting under the modernized election model for the first time, were positive. The first-come, first-served voting place model effectively reduced line-ups and wait times, with 96% of voters surveyed rating the voting process as very efficient.

Modernize electoral services

In support of our operational priority of modernizing electoral services, we are always looking for new opportunities to enhance service and increase efficiency to meet the changing needs of our stakeholders.

In fiscal year 2022/23 we achieved several performance milestones related to modernization and innovation, including the successful implementation of the voting modernization project in two provincial by-elections and launching the Candidate Nominations Application System (CNAS) through the Elections BC Services portal.

Voting modernization

The voting modernization project has been one of our top priorities since the *Election Amendment Act, 2019* received Royal Assent in November 2019. Completion of this project coincided with the start of fiscal year 2022/23, and was followed shortly thereafter by the by-election in Vancouver-Quilchena.

Modernized processes and procedures used for the first time in Vancouver-Quilchena (and in a second by-election in Surrey South) included:

- using electronic voting books to strike voters off the list in close to real time,
- using tabulators to count paper ballots,
- new election official roles and positions, including dedicated election equipment officers to facilitate the use of technology in the voting place,
- new criteria for selecting voting places, including sufficient access to power outlets and network connectivity, and
- logic and accuracy testing of all ballot tabulators.

Although a number of the benefits of a modernized election will only be realized during a general election — for example, printing ordinary ballots on demand for out of district voters — the by-elections were an important opportunity to test our new procedures, software and hardware.

Voting modernization changes in the by-elections provided better service to voters and close to real-time participation information to candidates, and allowed all ballots to be counted on election night. The Vancouver-Quilchena and Surrey South by-elections showcased these improvements and provided valuable experience to Elections BC in administering an election under this new model. Modifications to our new voting and counting processes and procedures have already been applied to the 2023 by-elections in Langford-Juan de Fuca and Vancouver-Mount Pleasant,

and have factored into our planning for the next provincial general election, scheduled for October 2024.

Elections BC Services Portal and Candidate Nominations Application System

As work on implementing technology in the voting place progressed, we also continued to modernize electoral services at Elections BC headquarters. A major project in support of this priority has been the development and implementation of the Elections BC Services Portal and the Candidate Nominations Application System (CNAS). The Services Portal allows users to create an account to access Elections BC services. CNAS is currently the only service available through the portal. Projects are underway to develop additional services, including allowing political participants to file financial reports electronically, and services for voters.

CNAS allows provincial candidates to complete and submit their nomination documents online and pay the nomination deposit using a credit card. Political parties are then able to review this information and provide candidate endorsements through the system.

CNAS launched publicly in April 2023, in time for the June 24, 2023 by-elections in Langford-Juan de Fuca and Vancouver-Mount Pleasant. More information about the candidate nomination process for those events will be available in the forthcoming report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the by-elections.

At present, CNAS can accept standing nominations for B.C.'s 87 current electoral districts. However, new electoral district boundaries will come into effect for the 2024 Provincial General Election. Work is currently ongoing to incorporate the 93 new and revised electoral districts into CNAS so that candidates in the next provincial election can submit their nominations electronically.

Improve accessibility and inclusivity

Elections BC is committed to building an inclusive and accessible electoral process for all eligible voters. Our work towards improving accessibility and inclusivity in fiscal year 2022/23 included:

- continuing our work on establishing an accessibility committee in accordance with the *Accessible British Columbia Act*,
- improving the quality of the Provincial Voters List with data updates following the 2022 General Local Elections,
- utilizing new data sources to target outreach to youth and other voters that face accessibility barriers, and
- partnering with Elections Canada to promote voter registration for new Canadians in B.C.

Accessibility committee

Following the passage of the *Accessible British Columbia Act*, we worked throughout 2022/23 to appoint an accessibility committee to fulfill the

requirements of that legislation. The eight-member committee held its first meeting in June 2023. The committee's responsibilities include:

- Assisting with the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to any individuals that interact with Elections BC, including voters and candidates;
- Providing subject matter expertise on disabilities, accessibility needs, and the delivery of barrier-free services to voters with disabilities;
- Advising Elections BC on how to provide accessible services to voters;
- Providing accessibility input to Elections BC on public-facing, election-related services, tools and resources;
- Providing input on Elections BC's accessibility plan and public feedback process; and
- Helping to identify best practices for informing people with disabilities about voter registration, voting opportunities and the voting process.



Access to new sources of information

The *Election Amendment Act, 2019* granted Elections BC expanded access to data sources for the purposes of updating voter information on the Provincial Voters List. Following the completion of an Information Sharing Agreement with ICBC in 2021, Elections BC was granted access to data sources held by Provincial Identity Information Service Providers, including the BC Services Card, in addition to the existing access to data sources held by ICBC. Elections BC now receives name and address updates for every registered voter that has either a BC driver's licence, BC Identification card (BCID) or BC Services Card. The first run of this expanded data was integrated into our monthly voters list batch updates in early 2023.

The data sources accessible via these new provisions have been used to support targeted outreach to youth across British Columbia by inviting them to join the List of Future Voters.

Access to these data sources results in a more accurate and up to date Provincial Voters List. A high-quality voters list means that more voters will receive important information about when, where and how to vote from Elections BC during an election or other electoral event.

Provision of voters lists and Provincial Voters List updates – 2022 General Local Elections

Local governments may use the Provincial Voters List as their register of resident electors. They can access the list by submitting a privacy policy and request form to Elections BC before the election. Local governments can also combine the provincial voters list with their own list of non-resident property electors. Elections BC held a presentation in January 2022 for local chief election officers that included information about how to request a voters list. Elections BC prepared lists for 107 local jurisdictions for the 2022 General Local Elections.

During local elections, local governments register new voters and update information for existing voters. After the elections, local governments

provide this information to Elections BC to update the provincial voters list. From the information provided to Elections BC after the 2022 General Local Elections, more than 14,000 new voters were added to the provincial voters list and more than 37,000 existing voter records were updated.

New Canadian citizens

Elections BC has several resources available for new Canadian citizens, including a New Citizen's Guide to Voting in B.C. and educational lesson plans and activities targeted to English language learners. These resources are available on our website. This year we partnered with Elections Canada to produce a congratulatory letter for new Canadian citizens that celebrates the achievement of becoming a citizen and encourages them to register and vote. The letter, available in English and French, is signed by the chief electoral officers of B.C. and Canada. The letter is available as part of the information package provided to new Canadian citizens after their citizenship ceremony.

Democracy Bootcamp

On March 2-3, 2023, Elections BC attended Democracy Bootcamp, a professional development event for British Columbia teachers hosted by CIVIX at the Segal Graduate School of Business for British Columbia teachers. Elections BC was a sponsor of the event, which was designed to build knowledge, instructional capacity and motivation for teaching students about democracy, digital literacy and the skills of responsible citizenship.

We reviewed voter participation trends and related research, as well as outreach initiatives to engage future voters, including the List of Future Voters, resources for teaching about voting rights and democracy in B.C., as well as the three levels of government and elections.

Teachers who were surveyed after attending Democracy Bootcamp provided positive feedback, with 97% agreeing that Democracy Bootcamp increased their motivation and confidence in facilitating classroom discussions around

democratic participation and political issues. 89% said they are likely or very likely to share the resources presented with their colleagues.

Performance indicator #3: Electoral awareness

Electoral awareness is determined by calculating the percentage of voters surveyed who report that they knew what they needed to do to vote. Voter surveys are conducted following each provincial general election.

Following the 2020 Provincial General Election, 59% of respondents surveyed said it was extremely easy and 29% said it was somewhat easy to find the information needed to vote, for a total of 88% saying finding information was easy. The next survey will be conducted after the 2024 Provincial General Election.

Voter awareness is important for an accessible, inclusive, and well-run election. We survey voters after each general election to assess whether there are gaps in voter knowledge that we can address. This helps to ensure that we are providing all eligible voters with an understanding of what they need to do to vote. Awareness also promotes efficiency and better service. For example, a voter with high knowledge of the voting process is more likely to bring their Where to Vote card with them when they go to vote. This helps election officials at the voting place serve the voter faster, which improves service levels for other voters by reducing wait times. We review the results of voter surveys after each event to identify gaps in voter knowledge and ensure our communications campaigns continue to deliver key information to voters about where, when and how to vote.

Build organizational capacity

Elections BC is only as strong as its people. We believe we can build organizational strength

by managing strategically, fostering employee development, creating a supportive and inclusive work environment, and enhancing internal and external relationships. In fiscal year 2022/23, Elections BC accomplished several initiatives to support our organizational capacity and build the strength of our team. These include completing implementation of our hybrid “Where We Work” model, continuing organizational restructuring, implementing new policies and tools to support recruitment, retention and human resources management and ongoing participation in external partnerships and collaborations.

Where We Work and the hybrid work model

Like all organizations, our work environment has radically shifted since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in the spring of 2020. Following a period in which nearly all employees worked remotely full-time, we initiated the Where We Work project in the spring of 2021 to develop a hybrid work model that incorporated staff working both remotely and in-office. The development of this model was informed by staff engagement, management input and research into best practices in other organizations. Over the fall and winter of 2021, pandemic conditions deferred full implementation of the hybrid work model to spring 2022. Our transition to the hybrid work model was complete in April 2022.

Headquarters staff who have completed a remote work agreement are able to work up to two days per week remotely, with three days per week in-office. During an event period, such as a provincial general election, all staff work in-office. In fall 2022, we conducted a six-month review of the project to gather staff feedback and refine and improve upon the hybrid work model.

Incorporating more flexibility in where we work has improved the way we work together, and strengthens the Elections BC community, supporting recruitment, retention and performance.

Organizational restructuring

In fiscal year 2021/22, organizational realignments took place across all program areas at Elections BC. This year, further refinements of our team structures continued and the benefits of our workforce plan began to be realized.

Electoral Finance program

In Electoral Finance, our Compliance Services (CS) and Audit and Assessment (AA) teams took on their first large-scale event under the new work unit structure during the 2022 General Local Elections. The CS team was the “front line” of contact during the election for nearly 3,500 candidates, elector organizations and third party advertising sponsors. The CS team ensured all participants were registered with Elections BC, provided information and training, and assisted participants to complete disclosure statements after the election. In addition to five regular full-time compliance officers, we hired an additional 23 compliance service representatives to support a high level of service to our stakeholders during the 2022 General Local Elections.

In early 2023, Electoral Finance's focus shifted towards audit, assessment and investigations work to close out the General Local Elections. Once the 2022 General Local Elections disclosure statements were filed, the AA team began the process of assessing risk for each statement and conducting compliance reviews. Thirteen temporary compliance reviewers joined our team of six regular full-time compliance auditors to support the review process. Many of the compliance service representatives joined the AA team as compliance reviewers once their term with the CS team was complete. They brought their knowledge and experience to the AA team to complete the 2022 General Local Elections cycle conducting compliance reviews.

More information about the audit and assessment process for the 2022 General Local Elections is available on page 21 of this report and in the forthcoming report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the 2022 General Local Elections.

Information Technology program

Last year, we brought core information technology services in-house with an expanded IT program area. This work was undertaken to reduce operational risk and accommodate new support requirements associated with the implementation of voting and counting technology. The IT program area is organized the Technical Services and Application Services teams. Both teams continued to grow this year as we added capacity to support event delivery, preparations for the 2024 Provincial General Election, and our expanding roster of current and upcoming strategic projects.

Management classification and compensation policy

Elections BC is not a part of government. As an independent office of the legislature, the nature of our organization and the work of our management level staff is unique. During an electoral event, all Elections BC staff perform exceptional work under extraordinary circumstances. Management-level staff frequently work significant additional hours to ensure successful delivery of our mandate.

Recognizing the unique environment in which we work, and following recent recruitment challenges particularly for management-level positions, we began development of an organization-specific job classification and salary policy for management staff. The approach we have previously used of applying the broader public service framework to Elections BC did not adequately meet our needs. We took this opportunity to create an EBC-focused framework, aligned with the B.C. public service framework, that supports our efforts to recruit and retain managers, as well as our focus on enhancing leadership pathways and building organizational capacity.

The policy outlines the Elections BC Management Classification and Compensation Framework, which provides a consistent approach, guidance and tools to assist in making appropriate compensation decisions for management employees and positions covered under the *Public Service Act*. This policy was implemented in spring 2023.

We are committed to having a workplace that supports employee recruitment, retention and performance. The compensation and classification policy supports the strategic and operational goals of the organization, and assists in meeting Elections BC's vision, mission and mandate.

Recruitment software

Over the summer of 2022, our Human Resources (HR) team began transitioning to a new applicant tracking system. Previously, job applicants for positions at headquarters and in the field sent their applications through email. This represented a risk; email can be caught in network filters and is a common vector for cyber attacks and scams. Because job applications include personal and private information, and because of the high volume of applications we receive for field staff positions, it is preferable for applications to come through a secure system. Our new platform allows us to create job requisitions, post job opportunities and receive and track applications within the software application, limiting risk. We are continuing to explore opportunities for workforce management using software solutions that will streamline our recruitment and selection processes.

External partnerships and collaborations

Ongoing inter-jurisdictional partnerships and collaborations include participating on the program and steering committees of the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL), supporting the Canadian Election Official Training (CEOT) group, and participating in several committees and communities of practice through the Secretariat for Electoral Coordination (SEC). By participating in these partnerships and collaborations, we can learn and share insights and best practices, thereby building our organizational knowledge and capacity.

The Chief Electoral Officer is a member of the COGEL Steering Committee, and our Executive Director, Electoral Finance serves on COGEL's program committee. COGEL is a professional organization for government agencies and other organizations working in several areas, including elections and campaign finance.

We were also involved in several SEC subcommittees and groups. Currently, our CEO is the co-chair of the SEC Steering Committee and a member of the program committee for the CEOT group. Elections BC also has staff members serving on several SEC subcommittees and groups:

- National Standards on E-Voting (co-chair),
- Vote-by-Mail Best Practices (co-chair),
- Deceptive Online Practices (committee member),
- Enhancing Indigenous Experiences (committee member)
- Recruitment and Training Community of Practice (committee member), and
- Voters with a Disability (co-chair and committee member).

Performance indicator #4: Stress and Workload

The stress and workload performance indicator is based on staff feedback collected through the Work Environment Survey, conducted every two years. The most recent survey was conducted in January 2022. The survey questions measure whether employees have manageable workloads that are distributed fairly, have support to provide high levels of service and to balance their work and personal life, and feel well supported during times of change. Overall scores are out of 100; the higher the score, the more supported and able to manage their workload staff feel. In 2020, the results of the survey

produced a stress and workload score of 73, higher than the BC public service score of 63. In 2022, our stress and workload score was 68, again higher than the BC public service score of 63. We remain committed to monitoring the needs and concerns of staff, and will take actions as necessary to address this area. We will again conduct this survey in early 2024.

	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Target
Stress and workload	66/100	68/100	N/A*	70/100

*The Work Environment Survey is conducted every two years.

Protect electoral integrity

Ensuring the integrity of British Columbia's electoral system is an ongoing focus of Elections BC. Administering electoral legislation consistently, transparently and to the highest standards is critical to maintaining free and fair elections in our province. More recently, Elections BC has focused on the challenges of disinformation, misinformation and cyber threats that have emerged online, particularly through social media. We are also actively looking into the risks and potential mitigation strategies necessary to address the threat to our democracy and electoral processes from foreign interference.

Operationally, our Electoral Operations, Electoral Finance and Investigations work units have key responsibilities for protecting electoral integrity. In relation to political financing and election advertising, Electoral Finance supports stakeholders like provincial political parties and local elector organizations, candidates and third party advertising sponsors, to ensure they understand campaign financing rules and their financial filing obligations.

Voter Services ensures only eligible individuals are registered on the Provincial Voters List and the List of Future Voters. They also focus on information accuracy and protection of voters' personal information. Electoral Operations staff work to provide accessible voting opportunities to all eligible British Columbians, ensuring both one vote per voter and the secrecy of the ballot.

In 2022/23, we held information sessions and annual financial report training for provincial political parties and constituency associations, as well as for local elector organizations. These sessions allowed us to clearly explain the often complex campaign finance rules, and to respond to questions and provide support. We also held virtual information sessions for candidates, elector organizations, financial agents and third party advertising sponsors throughout the summer of 2022 in the lead-up to the 2022 General Local Elections. Information sessions were held virtually, and recorded and posted to the Elections BC website.

We have a mandate to enforce the legislation we administer, including the *Election Act*, *Referendum Act*, *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* and *Recall and Initiative Act*. We respond to cases of noncompliance through education and support, or compliance actions as necessary. If there is evidence that a substantial case of non-compliance has occurred, we open an investigation and can administer monetary penalties or refer the matter to the BC Prosecution Service to consider offence charges.

Administrative monetary penalties

The *Election Act* and *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* (LECFA) establish administrative monetary penalties (AMPs) for some cases of non-compliance with those Acts. The Chief Electoral Officer has the authority to determine whether non-compliance has occurred and, if so, the amount of the penalty within ranges established by those Acts.

Of the 38 AMPs issued in fiscal year 2022/23, 37 were issued under LECFA. The majority of these penalties were in relation to the 2022 General Local Elections. AMPs were added to LECFA as a result of legislative changes recommended by the Chief Electoral Officer following the 2018 General Local Elections. Previously, investigations of non-compliance under LECFA were referred to the BC Prosecution Service at the Ministry of Attorney General to consider offence charges. The BC Prosecution Service decided whether to lay charges based on the likelihood of conviction and whether charges were in the public interest. The burden of evidence required to lay charges is high, and in cases of inadvertent non-compliance, prosecution is unlikely to be in the public interest. The application of AMPs is an effective way to address such cases while improving fairness and electoral integrity.

The largest number of penalties were applied in cases of missing or incomplete authorization statements on election advertising. Another common reason for issuing an AMP was failure to register as a third party advertising sponsor before sponsoring election advertising. Potential third party sponsors are often unaware of this requirement, particularly when they have not participated in an election in B.C. previously. We are exploring additional methods to improve awareness of the rules for third party sponsors for future provincial and local elections, and continue to develop recommendations for updates to LECFA based on our experience administering local elections. Additional AMPs related to the 2022 General Local Elections will continue to be issued as our reviews of disclosure statements continue.

A full list of AMPs issued by our office is available on our [website](#).

Audit program

Under the *Election Act*, *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, and *Recall and Initiative Act*, the Chief Electoral Officer may periodically audit the financial affairs and accounts of individuals and organizations that participate in elections or petitions. These audits help political participants strengthen internal financial processes and support compliance with campaign finance rules.

Elections BC's Audit and Assessment (AA) team was established in 2021 with the purpose of enhancing the reviews of the various financial disclosure statements submitted to Elections BC and establishing a formal ongoing audit program to help assess and improve compliance with electoral financing rules.

The AA team first conducted audits of the 2020 Annual Financial Reports of B.C.'s three largest political parties, the BC Green Party, BC United (formerly known as the BC Liberal Party), and the BC NDP. These audits were completed in April 2022.

Since establishing the formal audit program, the 2022 General Local Elections represented the first major event we administered with a large number of financial disclosure statements. Nearly 3,500 political participants including candidates, elector organizations, and individuals and organizations who sponsor election advertising were required to file a disclosure statement after the elections.

In preparation for the 2022 General Local Elections, the EFAA team developed a risk-based approach to assessing the disclosure statements and determining which files would be audited. Elections BC worked with an external auditing firm (Deloitte) for some of the audits performed.

Thirty-six disclosure statements were selected for audits, which are ongoing as of the publication of this report.

A list of financial reports that have been selected for audit is available on our [website](#).

Resources to build public resilience to misinformation

Throughout 2022/23, Elections BC was an active participant on the Secretariat for Electoral Coordination's Deceptive Online Practices Subcommittee. One of the subcommittee's deliverables was the development and production of a series of short videos encouraging voters to be cautious about what they see online, and to go to Elections BC as their official source of election information. These videos, developed in conjunction with other Canadian electoral management bodies, are a starting point as we develop additional misinformation resources in preparation for the 2024 Provincial General Election. The videos are available on [Elections BC's YouTube channel](#).

Social media monitoring

Elections BC partnered with Elections Canada for social media monitoring support during the 2022 General Local Elections. Monitoring focused on flagging potential violations of LECFA and misinformation about election advertising rules.

Elections Canada's monitoring team provided a weekly report to Elections BC covering key observations, relevant news and blog articles, on-the-radar items, as well as a summary of most-engaged posts and content by topic. Monitoring began in July with the start of the pre-campaign period and continued through to General Voting Day.

Social media monitoring through a partner organization served as a valuable pilot project. We will be expanding our capacity in this area as we look ahead to the 2024 Provincial General Elections.

Performance indicator #5: Support compliance

We provide support to political participants at the provincial and local levels to understand the requirements of our legislation and to promote compliance. We measure compliance based on the percentage of financing reports or statements filed on time, compared to the total number due in that fiscal year. The number of reports filed by the deadline includes those filed by the late filing deadline and those granted an extension by Order of the Chief Electoral Officer. To help political participants understand the filing requirements, Elections BC holds information sessions across the province in the lead-up to a major event or filing deadline. Of the 145 provincial financing reports required in 2022/23, 139 reports (96%) were filed by the deadline. Of the 3,553 local campaign financing disclosure statements required in 2022/23 (primarily in relation to the 2022 General Local Elections), 3,463 (97%) were filed by the deadline.

	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Target	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
Provincial and local filing compliance	99%	98%	99%	97%	99%	99%

Stakeholder feedback

“Thank you for your work to ensure that we have fair elections. You play a vital role in the democratic process!”

- Local election candidate



“The work we do for Elections BC is interesting and can be challenging. They are fabulous to work with and are very responsive to suggestions and feedback from us.”

- King's Printer



“Thanks again to you, and your colleagues at Elections BC. Your service has been excellent.”

- Financial agent



“There were four of us who attended [Democracy Bootcamp] from the same school. We will be sharing the resources with our colleagues to help them facilitate discussion.”

- Teacher

Voting Place



ELECTIONS BC
A non-partisan Office of the Legislature

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SECTION 3

SERVICE PLAN FOR

2022/23 TO 2024/25

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Our plans and priorities

After the unscheduled election in October of 2020, Elections BC's business cycle reset to a four year period covering 2020-2024. We are now in the latter half of the cycle as we prepare for the scheduled October 19, 2024 Provincial General Election. This impacts our focus over the coming years and our budgetary requirements.

In 2023, major areas of focus are administering the ongoing compliance reviews, audits, and investigations related to the 2022 General Local Elections, on-boarding and training management-

level field staff, implementing B.C.'s redrawn electoral district boundaries, and focusing our efforts on preparations for the 43rd Provincial General Election.

Our five priorities - deliver events, modernize electoral services, improve accessibility and inclusivity, build organizational capacity and protect electoral integrity - remain the same, offering continuity and focus to our work.

Our ongoing activities and strategic projects that support each of our priorities are summarized in the table on the following pages.

Priority	Supporting activities and projects
Deliver events Be ready for and successfully deliver electoral events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deliver the 2023 Langford-Juan de Fuca and Vancouver-Mount Pleasant By-elections. These concurrent events are in their final stages and we expect to publish the Chief Electoral Officer's report before the end of 2023. ▪ Complete compliance reviews and audits of disclosure statements for the 2022 General Local Elections. This is a major focus of our work for the remainder of 2023. ▪ Continue investigations related to the 2022 General Local Elections. The investigation process can take a few weeks to over a year, depending on the investigation. ▪ Administer on-demand events as necessary. ▪ Prepare to deliver the next provincial general election. In the short term our general election preparedness work will focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training district electoral officers and deputy district electoral officers. Our first in-person training sessions are taking place in September and October 2023. ▪ Implementing new electoral district boundaries. ▪ Preparing to deliver a comprehensive enumeration campaign ahead of the provincial election. ▪ Conduct ongoing operational activities, including maintaining the voters list, maintaining organizational event readiness (including systems maintenance), and ensuring business continuity processes are in place to ensure successful event delivery.

<p>Modernize electoral services</p> <p>Find new opportunities to enhance service and increase efficiency to meet the changing needs of our stakeholders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Modernize the systems used to recruit, train and schedule election officials hired for general elections ▪ Replace our legacy geographic information system ▪ Complete refinements to the voting modernization project to ensure the processes and procedures piloted in four by-elections scale to the level of a provincial general election. ▪ Develop new processes and procedures related to the <i>Election Amendment Act, 2023</i>, including alternative ways for voters to satisfy identification requirements when voting by mail and a process by which voters can correct errors on their certification envelopes. ▪ Procure and test technology to deliver elections under the new modernized voting model ▪ Update the Candidate Nomination Application System (CNAS) for candidates and parties with the new electoral district boundaries ▪ Create an authenticated access online portal to give voters more self-service options such as vote-by-mail package tracking and electronic Where to Vote cards
<p>Improve accessibility and inclusivity</p> <p>Engage all eligible voters in the electoral process.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Publishing our mandated Accessibility Plan and continuing to meet with Elections BC's Accessibility Committee ▪ Continuing to build our program for the pre-registration of 16 and 17 year olds (future voters) ▪ Continuing to partner with Elections Canada to register new Canadian citizens in B.C. ▪ Ongoing communication with voters through multiple channels, including traditional and social media, to increase their knowledge of when, where and how to vote ▪ Increase accessibility to voting through stakeholder consultation, communication and partnerships with an emphasis on Indigenous communities ▪ Review processes and procedures to ensure administrative and physical barriers to participation are minimized

<p>Build organizational capacity</p> <p>Build strength and resiliency by managing strategically, enhancing internal and external relationships and enabling employee development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to provide leadership opportunities to staff through our leadership development program, which provides opportunities and resources for employee education and skills development ▪ Continue to develop supervisory skills and staff resiliency through training and development programs ▪ Continue to foster a diverse and inclusive workplace through employee training and communications ▪ Continue to leverage opportunities to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of recruitment, hiring and onboarding processes ▪ Maintain a resilient planning framework to ensure strategic projects are prioritized and well managed, and resources are allocated effectively
<p>Protect electoral integrity</p> <p>Address challenges to democracy, trust and electoral integrity posed by cyber threats and other coordinated inauthentic behavior.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish an Election Integrity Working Group with external partner organizations in preparation for the 2024 Provincial General Election ▪ Develop and implement a program to address disinformation during electoral events as required by the <i>Election Amendment Act, 2023</i> ▪ Adapt and introduce systems and processes to respond to threats to electoral integrity and ensure transparency and compliance are maintained ▪ Engage political participants to support understanding of legislated requirements and promote compliance, and continue to support recommendations for legislative change ▪ Maintain robust and effective complaints management, investigation, and enforcement practices ▪ Build and maintain trust in Elections BC as the province's nonpartisan election administrator and authoritative source of information regarding B.C.'s electoral processes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Develop and implement public education programs to build voter capacity to navigate this new environment▪ Stay on top of emerging trends while maintaining relationships with other EMBs and security and police agencies▪ Produce reports to the Legislative Assembly as needed to identify additional legislative or policy considerations
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Further to the information provided in the table above, more detail on our major areas of focus over the coming year are provided below.

Electoral boundaries redistribution

With the passage of the *Electoral Districts Act, 2023* in May 2023, our work on integrating B.C.'s 93 new and revised electoral districts began. The new boundaries will come into effect when the 43rd provincial general election is called.

Almost all of Elections BC's materials, systems and processes are impacted by a boundaries change. Behind the scenes, our work will focus on:

- creating new map products, including digital mapping tools as well as paper products;
- integrating the new districts into our Election Information System (EIS), Elections BC's central database of election-related information such as office and voting place locations, candidate information, and results reporting; and
- updating voting materials and material distribution plans.

From a public perspective, the campaign to inform voters about the new electoral district boundaries will begin in early 2024. Given the scale of the changes to our provincial electoral districts in this redistribution (six new districts, changes to 72 other district boundaries and changes to 41 district names), most voters in B.C. will experience some change. To ensure that voters are aware of changes that may impact them, we will begin a province-wide public information campaign in the first quarter of 2024. The campaign will involve mailing a redistribution notice to all residential addresses in B.C. The notice will encourage voters to check the Elections BC website to ensure they know their electoral district and have all the information they need to be ready to vote when the election is called. The Elections BC website will include an interactive map tool for voters to explore their new district boundaries.

Enumeration

Ahead of the scheduled provincial general election in October 2024, we will conduct a modernized, targeted enumeration campaign throughout the province beginning in the summer. The primary goal of a provincial enumeration is to achieve a high quality voters list ahead of the general election. Enumeration activities also raise awareness of the upcoming election among all British Columbians and allow for meaningful engagement with communities experiencing barriers to electoral participation. Enumerations are only conducted before a fixed-date general election, and are not possible if an unscheduled election is called.

Our Voter Services team performs operational maintenance of the Provincial Voters List on an ongoing basis between electoral events. Voters list maintenance involves integrating data from data sharing partners, as well as processing updates and registrations received directly from voters through the

Online Voter Registration system and over the phone. In preparation for the enumeration, additional effort will be applied to resolving address exceptions and identifying and removing inactive or ineligible records from the Provincial Voters List.

We will also analyze data from a variety of sources to identify areas of relatively high mobility and low currency to better target our outreach efforts during the enumeration.

There will be two main approaches to the 2024 Enumeration campaign:

- **Mail outreach** will consist of an enumeration notice sent to all residential households in the province listing the registered voters at that address and encouraging voters to register to vote or update their voter information if they are not on the notice. Residents will also be asked to notify Elections BC of any voters listed on the notice who no longer reside at that address.
- **Community outreach** activities will centre around registration drives for high mobility and low currency communities, such as universities, Indigenous communities, unhoused populations and support organizations for new Canadian citizens. This will be supported by outreach services to homeless shelters and social services agencies, as well as registration drives in high-traffic locations within each electoral district. District electoral officers will identify suitable locations within their districts for community outreach events.

These enumeration approaches reflect current best practices in voter contact and engagement¹.

An assessment of the outcomes of the 2024 Enumeration campaign will be included in the report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the 2024 Provincial General Election.

2024 Provincial General Election

With the scheduled election in October 2024 only a year away, we are now pivoting to putting the plans, processes and procedures developed over the last three years into action. As we enter the pre-event phase of the election cycle, our work is focusing on:

- incorporating lessons learned from previous events including four by-elections into procedures, training, materials, IT equipment deployment and systems;
- procuring and preparing IT equipment needed to deliver a fully modernized election, including laptops, cell modems, tabulators and ballot-on-demand printers;
- creating additional warehouse space to facilitate the logistical challenge of distributing election supplies to 93 electoral districts;
- orienting and training the six regional field officers and 187 district electoral officers and deputies who will manage event delivery around the province through eLearning modules and training workshops scheduled for June 2023, September 2023, January 2024 and July 2024;
- developing recruitment and staffing plans for field staff throughout the province;
- having DEOs complete work packages to finalize their budget, staffing, voting places, voting area assignments, and office locations;
- leasing DEO offices, setting them up and unpacking supplies, and opening them to the public by Writ Day;
- finalizing and printing forms, guides and other materials and supplies, and distributing most supplies to DEO offices;
- accepting and processing standing nomination applications from prospective candidates;

1 — A province-wide door-to-door enumeration has not been conducted in B.C. since 1989. In 2017, targeted door-to-door enumeration accounted for nearly 60% of overall field enumeration transactions, but around 75% of these transactions were confirmations that did not improve list quality. At approximately 75% of homes visited by enumerators, doors went unanswered. Results can be achieved more effectively and efficiently through mail-based and community outreach activities.

- registering election advertising sponsors and providing support and education to political parties, advertising sponsors and prospective candidates;
- developing and delivering a comprehensive advertising and public education and awareness campaign;
- developing and delivering a recruitment plan to hire approximately 20,000 temporary employees required to staff district electoral offices and voting places around the province;
- creating and implementing a staffing and facilities plan for the additional temporary headquarters staff in Victoria; and
- establishing a contact centre to support public communications during the electoral boundaries redistribution, enumeration, and general election periods.

Legislative changes

We are also working to incorporate legislative changes passed in May 2023 that will impact the next provincial general election. The changes enacted by the *Election Amendment Act, 2023* reflect some of the recommendations in the Chief Electoral Officer's 2020 report [Digital Communications, Disinformation and Democracy: Recommendations for Legislative Change](#) and the 2022 [Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on Recommendations for Legislative Change](#), and will help strengthen the accessibility, efficiency, and integrity of B.C.'s democratic process.

The changes include adding restrictions on intentionally impersonating or making certain types of false statements about political parties, candidates or Elections BC, as well as specific restrictions on deliberate disinformation about the electoral process. It also allows for the Chief Electoral Officer to issue takedown notices to platforms transmitting non-compliant content and issue administrative monetary penalties to individuals and organizations who do not come into compliance.

Several of the changes will help improve the vote-

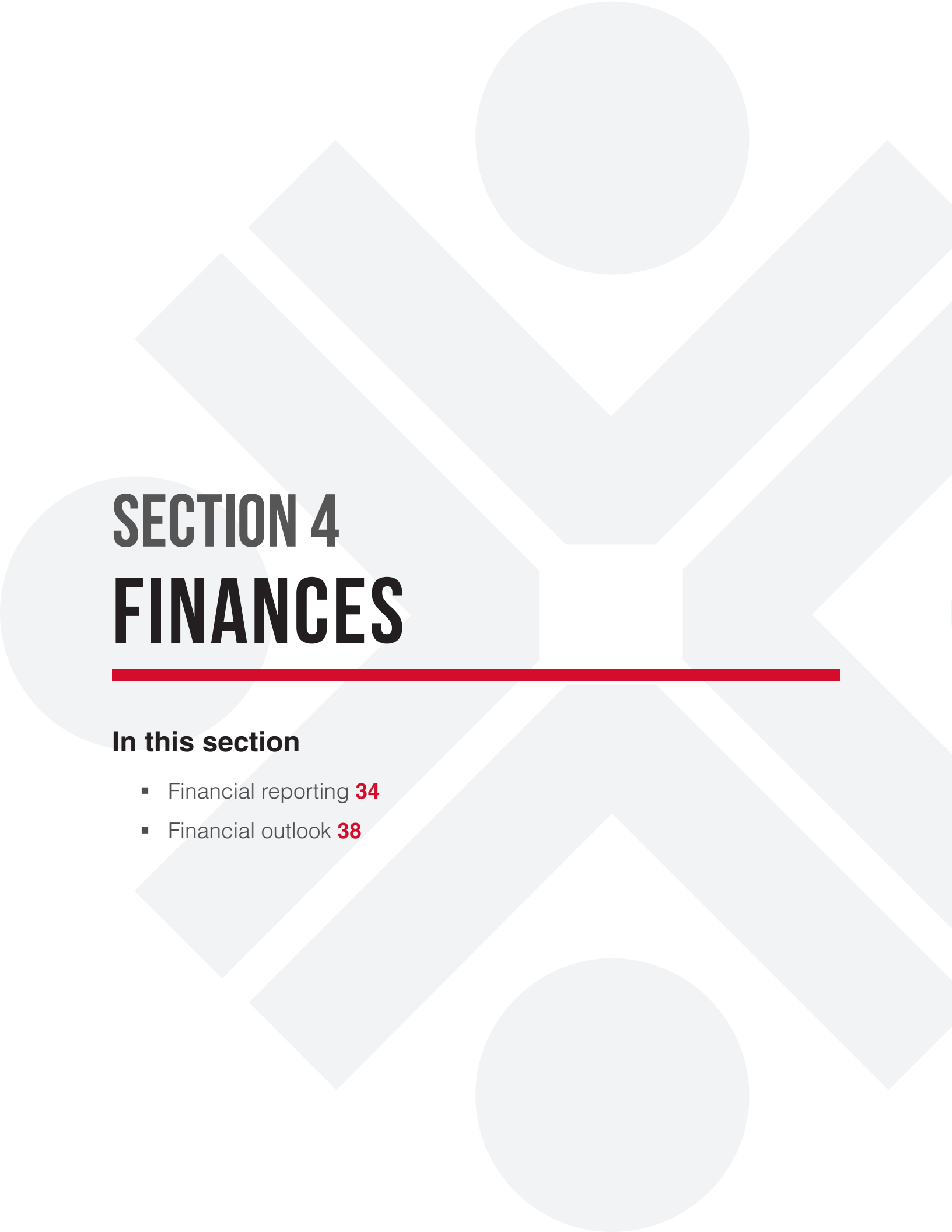
by-mail process, including expanding the locations where voters can drop-off their completed vote-by-mail package and establishing a process by which voters can correct their vote-by-mail package if they make a mistake completing it.

The *Election Act* was also updated with provisions related to write-in ballots and the ballot adjudication process to allow a voter to vote by indicating the name of a political party leader.

While many of these changes were implemented for the 2023 by-elections in Langford-Juan de Fuca and Vancouver-Mount Pleasant, others have yet to be put into practice. Our teams are working diligently to ensure that these provisions and their improvements to the electoral process are in place for the 43rd Provincial General Election.

We are also continuing to monitor where legislative changes may improve accessibility and services to B.C. voters, or enable Elections BC to better respond to current or emerging threats to our democracy. The Chief Electoral Officer will report on any proposed new recommendations as necessary.





SECTION 4

FINANCES

In this section

- Financial reporting **34**
- Financial outlook **38**

Financial reporting

Budget Process

Elections BC is an independent office of the legislature and is not a part of government. To avoid any possibility of political interference with electoral operations, the *Election Act* provides for independent financing to run Elections BC and conduct electoral events. Consequently, Elections BC does not submit a budget the way a government entity would do, but instead advises the Legislative Assembly of its requirements, through a select standing committee.

Elections BC achieves accountability and transparency in financial reporting to the Legislative Assembly through the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services. The mandate of that Committee includes considering and making recommendations on the annual reports, rolling three-year service plans and budgets of independent offices of the legislature, including Elections BC. During the budget process each fall, Elections BC meets with the Committee and presents our budget proposal for the next fiscal year and the following two fiscal years. The Committee does not have budget approval power, but may make recommendations to the Minister of Finance.

The Chief Electoral Officer, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer, Electoral Finance and Operations, and Deputy Chief Electoral Officer, Corporate Services, met with the Committee on October 26, 2022. Elections BC provided the Committee with a comprehensive review of the financial results for the previous fiscal year and a budget proposal for fiscal years 2023/24 to 2025/26. The proposal detailed the budget requirements for ongoing operations, capital investments, and event funding needed to cover activities necessary to for preparations for the 43rd Provincial General Election, a province-wide enumeration, implementation of a provincial electoral district and voting areas boundary redistribution, as required by the *Electoral Districts Act, 2023*, and

for costs to conduct audits and assessments of the financial disclosure statements for the 2022 General Local Elections. In its report of December 8, 2022, the Committee recommended that Elections BC's ongoing (non-event) operating budget for fiscal year 2023/24 be \$13.873 million. The recommended capital budget for 2023/24 was \$400,000, and the event funding recommendation was \$18.794 million. Elections BC also received \$3.3 million in 2023/24 to fund the annual allowances for political parties under Division 6.1 of the *Election Act*.

Additionally, during our annual meeting on October 26, 2022 supplementary funding of \$8,897,000 for fiscal year 2022/23 was request to support preparations for the 43rd Provincial General Election. The majority of these funds were for procurement of necessary technology for the modernized voting place enacted in the *Election Amendment Act, 2019*. Procurement would usually take place in the year prior to a fixed-date election, however due to global supply-chain challenges and delays, procurement activities needed to be advanced.

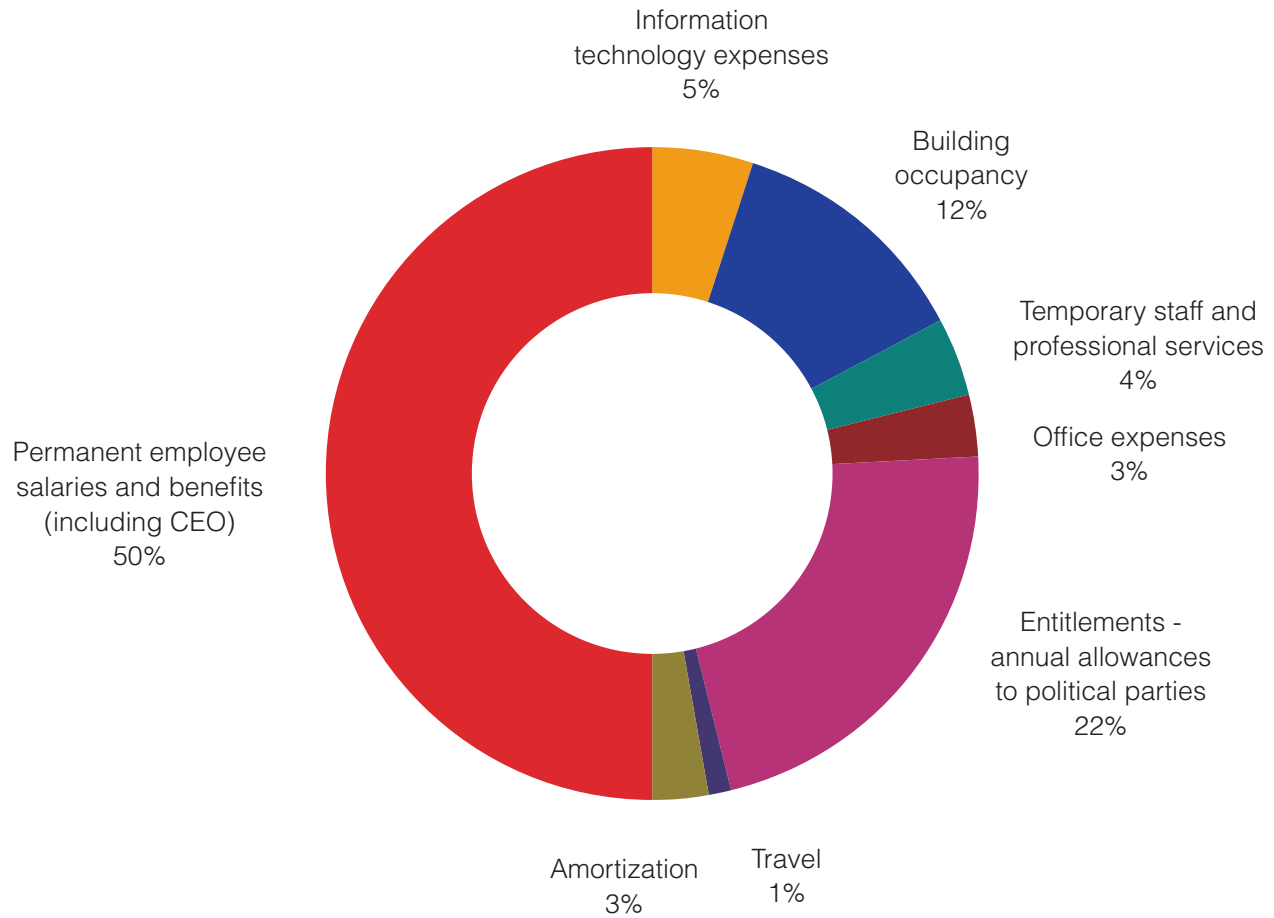
Elections BC's operating and capital budgets can be planned and presented consistently on an annual basis. Event budget requirements, however, are driven by the legislated requirements for these events and can occur on a scheduled or on-demand basis. While Elections BC has statutory spending authority to administer electoral events, meeting with the Committee on these budget requirements provides for increased transparency and accountability. Typically, budgets for scheduled electoral events are included in the annual budget process. For unscheduled events, or for additional funding that is required as a result of legislative change that occurs outside of the annual budget planning window, the Committee has established an alternate process whereby the Chief Electoral Officer advises the chair of the Committee in writing when these funds are required. This process has been followed for all electoral events since 2002.

On August 18, 2022, the Chief Electoral Officer wrote to the chair of the Committee requesting supplementary funding in fiscal 2022/23 for administering the 2022 Surrey-South by-election which was held on September 10, 2022. The anticipated cost for the by-election was \$806,000. Additionally, funding of \$100,000 was required in 2022/23 for the purpose of paying election expense reimbursement claims to eligible candidates and political parties as required by section 215.04 of the *Election Act*. During the annual meeting with the Committee on October 26, 2022, the Chief Electoral Officer discussed this request for supplementary funding of \$906,000 in 2022/23. The Committee recommended approval of this request.

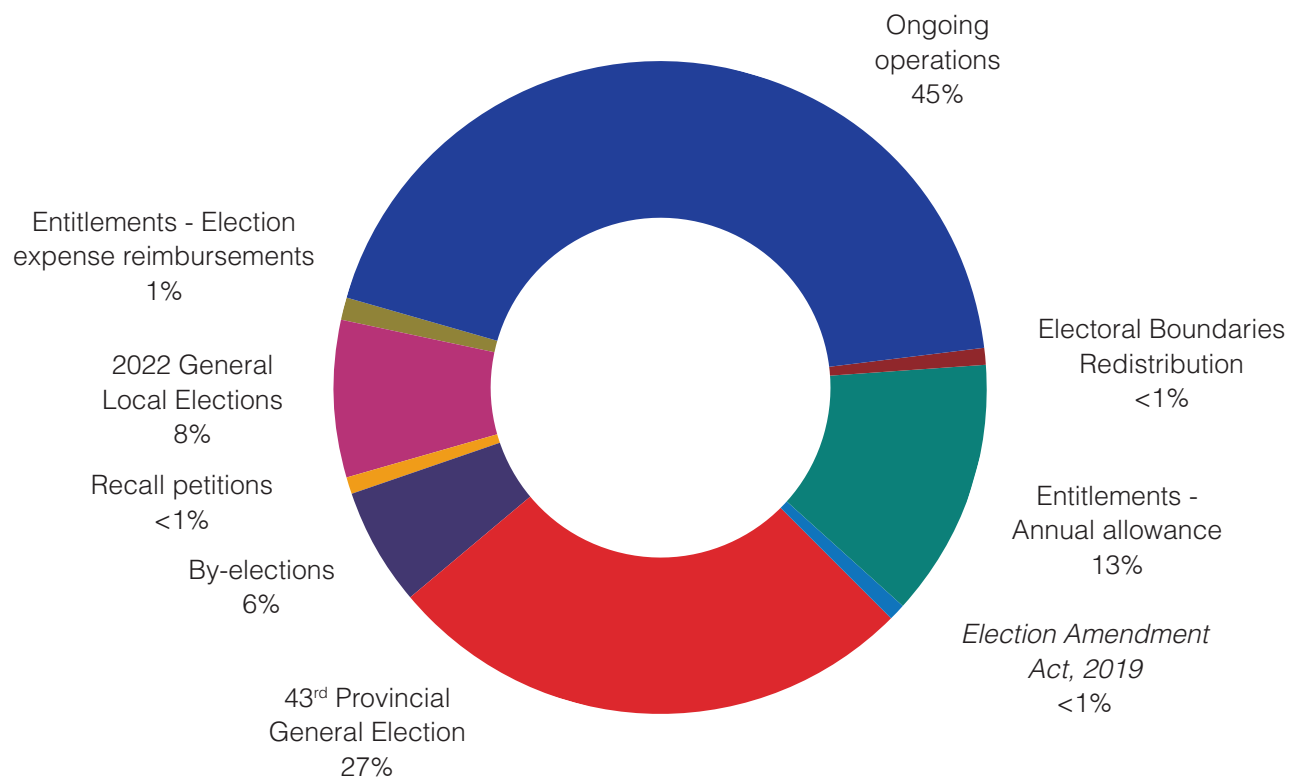
The ongoing operating and event funding table (page 37) shows Elections BC's budget for fiscal 2022/23 and the actual expenditures for that year. These amounts include funding and expenditures for ongoing work and for events conducted in 2022/23.

The summary ongoing financial outlook table (page 38) illustrates the budgets and planned budgets for ongoing work for each of the three fiscal years beginning in 2023/24. The Select Standing Committee recommended these amounts on December 8, 2022.

2022/23 Ongoing operating actual expenditures by type



2021/22 Actual expenditures for ongoing operations and events



Ongoing operating and event funding

	2022/23 Budget \$	2022/23 Actual \$	Variance \$
Funding			
Estimates (Note 1)	18,416,000	25,968,610	(7,552,610)
Other authorizations (Note 2)	7,552,610	7,552,610	-
Total Funding	25,968,610	33,521,220	(7,552,610)
Expenses (Note 3)			
Salaries and benefits for permanent employees and the Chief Electoral Officer	8,064,000	7,922,537	141,463
Amortization	613,000	465,647	147,353
Building occupancy charges	1,636,000	1,781,436	(145,436)
Office expenses	537,000	551,540	(14,540)
Corporate information systems	699,000	580,788	118,212
Address and boundary maintenance	74,000	157,594	(83,594)
Voters list maintenance	242,000	146,280	95,720
Political entity reporting	18,000	8,425	9,575
Voter education	133,000	102,878	30,122
Scheduled events			
Annual Allowances for Political Parties	3,248,000	3,246,843	1,157
2022 General Local Elections	2,580,000	2,134,338	445,662
<i>Election Amendment Act, 2019</i> (Bill 43)	360,000	123,540	236,460
43 rd Provincial General Election	212,000	6,992,937	(6,780,937)
Unscheduled events (Other authorizations - Note 2)	7,552,610		7,552,610
By-elections (VNQ, SUS, LJF, VMP)	-	1,438,498	(1,438,498)
Election Expense Reimbursements for Candidates and Political Parties	-	229,362	(229,362)
Electoral Boundaries Redistribution	-	84,817	(84,817)
Recall Petitions	-	1,150	(1,150)
Total expenses	25,968,610	25,968,610	(0)

Note 1 - Estimates represents Election BC's approved budget as per Estimates. The ongoing (non-event) operating budget for 2022/23 was \$12,016,000. The event budget for 2022/23 was \$6,400,000

Note 2 - Other authorizations represents Elections BC's Statutory Appropriation (within Vote) for administering the ongoing responsibilities related to administering the *Election Act*.

Note 3 - The budget is based upon anticipated activities at the beginning of the year and does not include reallocations of budget made during the fiscal year, hence actual expenses differ from the budget.

Financial outlook

The summary ongoing financial outlook table illustrates the operating and capital budgets for 2023/24 and planned budget for 2024/25 and 2025/26, as presented to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services (SSCFGS) during the annual budget review on October 26, 2022. The SSCFGS recommended these amounts in their Annual Review of the Budgets of Statutory Offices report, dated December, 2022.

Summary ongoing financial outlook

	2023/24 budget \$	2024/25 (planned) \$	2025/26 (planned) \$
ONGOING OPERATING COSTS			
Approved budget by SSCFGS	13,873,000	13,855,000	14,031,000
Total funding for ongoing operating costs	13,873,000	13,855,000	14,031,000
Notes Expenses			
1 Salaries and benefits for permanent employees and the Chief Electoral Officer	9,239,000	9,501,000	9,766,000
2 Professional services	332,000	339,000	332,000
3 Office expenses	516,000	510,000	516,000
4 Amortization	573,000	548,000	448,000
5 Building occupancy charges	1,749,000	1,799,000	1,848,000
6 Corporate information systems	1,464,000	1,158,000	1,121,000
Total expenses for ongoing operating costs	13,873,000	13,855,000	14,031,000

See the following pages for detailed information on notes 1 - 6.

	2023/24 (budget) \$	2024/25 (planned) \$	2025/26 (planned) \$
CAPITAL ASSETS			
Approved budget by SSCFGS			
Computer hardware and software	400,000	325,000	150,000
Total funding for capital assets	400,000	325,000	150,000
Expenditures for capital assets			
Computer hardware and software	400,000	325,000	150,000
Total expenditures for capital assets	400,000	325,000	150,000

Notes:


Core services expenses are those incurred to continue operations and ensure readiness for electoral events. These expenses are incurred regardless of electoral events.

Event expenses are those incurred to prepare and deliver events, both scheduled and unscheduled. Such events include provincial and local elections, enumerations, referenda and recall and initiative petitions.

- Note 1 - The salaries and benefits line includes salaries and benefits for Elections BC's permanent employees and the Chief Electoral Officer. Employees are paid in accordance with policies established by the BC Public Service Agency.
- Note 2 - Professional services includes costs for legal fees, audits, investigations, advertising services, and other professional services.
- Note 3 - Office expenses includes supplies, equipment, postage, courier, bank charges, permanent staff training, travel, office utilities, and printing costs.
- Note 4 - Amortization is the allocation of the cost of a capital asset over its estimated useful life, and it is closely tied to capital spending. The major contributors to amortization are capital investments made in the Electoral Information System (EIS), Financial Reports and Contributions System (FRPC) and other information systems. For example, the figure in the capital budget represents the actual cost for 2023/24; however, that actual cost must also be paid for out of the operating budgets over a number of years. Amortization rates are government policy established by the Office of the Comptroller General, and Elections BC does not have flexibility to change them.
- Note 5 - Building occupancy charges are rental charges for the main office and warehouse space.
- Note 6 - Corporate information systems include some application maintenance which is provided through contract staff; the cost of telecommunications, email accounts; a portion of network costs; licensing and maintenance fees for various software and hardware in use at EBC; costs for purchasing software and repairing hardware; and fees for the Internet service on which the Elections BC website is hosted.

The above cost categories support the ongoing work of our office which includes a focus on the following four business areas:

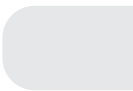
Address and boundary maintenance involves the upkeep of voting area boundaries to satisfy legislative requirements and to enhance the accessibility of voting places to voters. Work also includes the production of high quality electoral data and information through the continual custodianship of a geo-spatial database containing B.C.'s electoral boundaries, road network, address data and administrative boundaries. This means to accurately and efficiently derive physical addresses from provided addresses and assign physical addresses to electoral districts and voting areas; to maintain a current and complete register of physical addresses for residential and non-residential properties, to maintain a current and complete road network along with their electoral district and voting area assignments and to communicate this electoral information through map products and web tools.



Voters list maintenance involves working with information technology and the transfer of voter data to keep the list up to date. The voters list contains the names and residential addresses of all individuals registered to vote in each electoral district. It is a fundamental component of all electoral events and is used to ensure only registered voters vote and to prevent voters from voting more than once. It is also used to ensure that only registered voters sign recall and initiative petitions. The voters list is used by MLAs, parties and candidates to communicate with registered voters and by the Court Services Branch to generate jury selection lists.

Political entity reporting includes work associated with development and delivery of guides, forms and training for political entities, financial agents and auditors; maintaining the register of political parties, constituency associations and third party sponsors.

Voter education is a statutory responsibility of the Chief Electoral officer under section 12(1) (c) of the *Election Act*. Work includes engaging with partner organizations and the public with the goal of increasing civic engagement and accessibility to the democratic process. It also includes initiatives to help inform B.C.'s youth about the importance of elections and voting.





APPENDICES

In this section

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- Appendix B: Constituency association registrations and deregistrations **44**
- Appendix C: Elector organization registrations and deregistrations **44**
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Political party registrations and deregistrations

As of March 31, 2023, there were 16 provincial political parties registered in B.C.

The following political party registrations and deregistrations occurred between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023.

Registrations

Freedom Party of British Columbia

Voluntary political party deregistrations

British Columbia Social Credit Party

Involuntary political party deregistrations

Wexit BC

Constituency association registrations and deregistrations

As of March 31, 2023, there were two provincial constituency associations registered in B.C.

The following constituency association registrations and deregistrations occurred between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023.

Involuntary constituency association deregistrations

Wexit BC

- Boundary-Similkameen Constituency Association
- Peace River Constituency Association

Elector organization registrations and deregistrations

As of March 31, 2023, there were 25 local elector organizations registered in B.C.

The following elector organizations registrations and deregistrations occurred between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023.

Registrations

- A Better Maple Ridge
- Abbotsford First Electors Society
- Affordable Housing Coalition of Vancouver

- Community First Langford
- Community First New Westminster
- Contract With Langley Association
- Elevate Langley Voters Association
- Independent Maple Ridge
- Independents Working for You-School Board
- Langford Now Elector Organization
- New Westminster Progressive
- ONE Burnaby
- ParentsVoice BC
- Partners in Education Abbotsford
- People's Council Surrey
- Richmond Community Coalition Association
- Richmond Education Party
- Richmond Rise
- Richmond United Voters Association
- Squamish Community
- Surrey Cares Society
- Surrey First Electors Society
- Team Surrey Schools
- United Surrey
- VOTE Socialist Vancouver

Orders of the CEO

Section 280 of the *Election Act* gives the Chief Electoral Officer the power to issue Orders to vary from the Act if necessary because of an emergency, mistake or extraordinary circumstance. Typically Orders of the Chief Electoral Officer are reactive, responding to issues that arise during an election. Errors made by voters or election officials may result in an Order being issued to rectify the mistake.

Under s. 90 of LECFA, the Chief Electoral Officer is permitted to issue an Order extending the time period for filing a disclosure statement without payment of a late filing penalty fee that would otherwise apply, in cases of emergency or other extraordinary circumstance. The request for an extension must be provided to the Chief Electoral Officer in writing.

Summaries of Orders issued in relation to the 2022 Vancouver-Quilchena and Surrey South by-elections are included in the [report of the Chief Electoral Officer](#) on the by-elections. Summaries of Orders issued in relation to the 2022 General Local Elections will be available in the forthcoming report of the Chief Electoral Officer on that event.

Other Orders issued under these Acts are summarized below.

Election Act

EA-ORD009-2022

May 9, 2022

Due to extraordinary circumstances, a leadership contestant's financial agent was unable to file the required financing report for the 2022 BC Liberal Party leadership contest by the deadline of May 6, 2022. The contestant's financial agent was granted an extension to June 6, 2022, to file the report.

EA-ORD015-2022

October 6, 2022

Due to an error or omission in a leadership contestant's 2022 BC Liberal Party leadership contest financing report, the contestant was required to file a supplementary report by October 11, 2022. Due to extraordinary circumstances, the contestant's financial agent was granted an extension to November 15, 2022, to file the supplementary report.

Local Elections Campaign Financing Act

LECFA-ORD004-2023

March 28, 2023

Due to extraordinary circumstances, a registered elector organization was unable to complete the annual financial report required under s. 18 of LECFA by the deadline of March 31, 2023. An extension was granted to Team Surrey Schools (Surrey School District) to May 1, 2023.

LECFA-ORD00-2023

March 31, 2023

Due to extraordinary circumstances, a registered elector organization was unable to complete the annual financial report required under s. 18 of LECFA by the deadline of March 31, 2023. An extension was granted to Vision Vancouver Elector Association (Vancouver) to April 17, 2023.

Activities of the CEO

Elections BC continued to provide instructional support to the Canadian Election Official Training group and by:

- providing administrative support and presenting the March 23, 2023, online seminar Decrypting Cryptocurrency: Understanding its Implications for Campaign Financing Regulation.
- presenting at the April 2023 Electoral Finance course.

CEO speaking engagements

- Co-hosted a panel and workshop with Dr. Holly Ann Garnett on Electoral Democracy in a Polarized Society at the Conference of Canadian Election Officials (CCEO) in Iqaluit, on Tuesday, July 19, 2022.

- Made a presentation and facilitated discussion on 2022 Priorities for Election Management Bodies and What's Next for Vote by Mail at the mid-year virtual COGEL Elections Roundtable on August 11, 2022.
- Presented to the Advisory Committee on Standards for Voting Technologies on November 16, 2022 (virtual meeting).
- BC-EBC MLA session on November 23, 2022.
- Panelist and presenter at COGEL 2022 Conference in Montreal on the topic Elections Under Threat: Navigating Microscopic and Systemic Challenges to Democracy, on December 7, 2022.
- Meet and greet with legislative interns in Victoria, on January 5, 2023.
- CEO roundtable on building trust in democracy in Gatineau, Quebec on January 23, 2023.

CEO event attendance

- Electoral Boundaries Commission, Commissioner, public meetings Kootenays and Okanagan April 4 – April 8, 2022
- Electoral Boundaries Commission, Commissioner, virtual public meeting South Central & Southeastern B.C. April 11, 2022
- Electoral Boundaries Commission, Commissioner, public meetings Northern BC April 26 – 29, 2022
- Electoral Boundaries Commission, Commissioner, virtual public meetings North, Interior and Coastal B.C. May 3, 2022
- Electoral Boundaries Commission, Commissioner, public meetings North & Coast May 8-12, 2022.
- Electoral Boundaries Commission, Commissioner, virtual public meeting May 13, 2022.
- Elections Ontario Visitor's Program – 43rd Ontario Provincial General Election, Toronto, May 31 – June 3, 2022
- Electoral Integrity Project – Electoral Integrity Around the Globe Virtual Conference, July 4 – 8, 2022.
- Conference of Canadian Election Officials (CCEO), Iqaluit, July 18 – 20, 2022.
- Swedish Election Authority: Swedish Elections International Visitor's Program. Stockholm, Sweden, September 10 – 12, 2022.
- Provincial Commemorative Service in honour of Queen Elizabeth II, Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria, September 19, 2022.
- Electoral Boundaries Commission, Commissioner, public meetings Prince George, Kamloops, Kelowna, and Castlegar September 17 – 21, 2022.
- Virtual Conference on the 2022 Québec Election, November 3, 2022.
- COGEL Conference, Montreal, Quebec, December 2 – 7, 2022.
- ICPS Cyber Influence course in Brussels, Belgium, February 27 – March 2, 2023.
- Estonia National Elections Visitor's Program in Tallinn, Estonia, March 2 – 7, 2023.
- COGEL Program Committee meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, March 20 – 22, 2023.

Other

- Wrote an article for The Guardian (COGEL's periodic newsletter); September 2022

Reports of the Chief Electoral Officer

The following reports were tabled between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023:

- [Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on Recommendations for Legislative Change – May 2022](#)
- [A Year of Change: 2021/22 Annual Report & 2022/23-2024/25 Service Plan](#)
- [Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the 2022 Vancouver-Quilchena and Surrey South By-Elections](#)

Local by-elections and referenda

Between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023, Elections BC administered the campaign financing provisions of the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* for seven local by-elections and two referenda (non-election assent votes).

Disclosure statements for by-election and referenda participants are available on the Elections BC website. All participants in 2022/23's by-elections and referenda filed disclosure statements by the filing deadline.

The incremental costs to our organization of administering by-elections and referenda are included in the ongoing budget of Elections BC.

By-elections

Jurisdiction	General Voting Day	Filing Deadline	Candidates	Elector Organizations	Third Party Sponsors	Late/non-filers
Silverton	2022-04-09	2022-07-08	2	0	0	0
Lytton	2022-04-30	2022-07-29	4	0	0	0
Nanaimo Regional District	2022-06-04	2022-09-02	1	0	0	0
Salmo	2023-02-25	2023-05-26	3	0	0	0
Peace River Regional District	2023-02-25	2023-05-26	2	0	0	0
Invermere	2023-03-04	2023-06-02	5	0	0	0
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District	2023-03-11	2023-06-09	4	0	0	0

Referenda

Jurisdiction	General Voting Day	Filing Deadline	Third Party Sponsors	Late/non-filers
Columbia-Shuswap Regional District	2022-04-30	2022-07-29	0	0
Thompson-Nicola Regional District	2022-05-28	2022-08-26	0	0

Disclosure report

The *Public Interest Disclosure Act* came into force December 1, 2019. This law gives current and former employees of provincial government bodies, including Offices of the Legislature, a way to bring forward concerns about wrongdoing in their workplace. The Ombudsperson has the statutory mandate to conduct such investigations if employees do not wish to report those concerns internally to their employer. The Act protects employees from reprisal, and the Ombudsperson has the sole mandate to investigate if an employee believes they have been retaliated against for bringing a concern forward.

Under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act*, the Chief Electoral Officer has the responsibility, as the head of a public body, to post an annual disclosure report on Elections BC's website. The Ombudsperson advises that public bodies can do this as part of their Annual Report.

Between April 1, 2022, and March 31, 2023, Elections BC received no disclosures, including no referrals of disclosures, pertaining to the *Public Interest Disclosure Act*. The Ombudsperson provided no notification to Elections BC of any disclosures made by current or former Elections BC employees directly to the Ombudsperson's office. Nor did the Ombudsperson provide notification of any investigations under the Act involving Elections BC employees.

Minutes of Election Advisory Committee meetings

No meetings of the Election Advisory Committee were held between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023.

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