

[What is final count?](#)

[When is final count?](#)

[What happens to prepare for final count?](#)

[Will an estimate of the number of ballots to be counted at final count be available on election night?](#)

[When will the results of final count be available?](#)

[Who conducts final count?](#)

[Who may be present for final count?](#)

What is final count?

Final count is a count of absentee ballots for an election that were not considered at initial count, including mail-in ballots. The final results of an election are determined at final count based on the votes accepted at initial count and final count. The district electoral officer in each electoral district conducts final count. At the end of final count, the district electoral officer can declare a candidate elected.

Ballots considered at final count include:

- Absentee – Out of voting area: Voting within the voter’s electoral district but not at the voter’s assigned voting place ([Election Act, s. 99](#))
- Absentee – Out of electoral district: Voting outside of the voter’s electoral district ([Election Act, s. 100](#))
- Advance absentee – Out of the electoral district: Voting at advance voting outside of the voter’s electoral district ([Election Act, s. 101](#))
- Alternative absentee voting: Voting in the office of the district electoral officer between Writ Day and 4 p.m. (Pacific time) on General Voting Day ([Election Act, s. 104](#))
- Alternative absentee voting by voting package: Vote by Mail ([Election Act, s. 106](#))
- Special voting: Mobile teams visit locations with voters unable to attend another voting opportunity, such as hospitals, isolated communities, logging and fishing camps ([Election Act, s. 98](#))

When is final count?

Final count normally starts 13 days after General Voting Day and lasts for three days. Due to the large volume of mail-in ballots to be considered in the 2020 Provincial General Election, it is possible that the preparatory period for final count and the count itself will be extended. The preparatory period is needed to allow enough time for certification envelopes containing absentee ballots to be sent from the electoral district where they are cast to the voter’s district of residence.

Because the volume of absentee ballots differs by electoral district, it is possible that final count will have a staggered start. Districts with fewer absentee ballots may be able to start on the usual 13 days after General Voting Day, while others with more ballots may require more time.

What happens to prepare for final count?

After General Voting Day, out-of-district absentee ballots are sent from where they are received to the voter's district of residence. There they undergo several screening checks before being accepted for counting to ensure election integrity. Certification envelopes containing the absentee ballots are checked to ensure that legislated requirements are met, including that the voter was eligible and registered to vote, and that they only voted once. This screening cannot happen until after General Voting Day to ensure that a voter who has voted at advance or general voting cannot also vote by mail or absentee.

Will an estimate of the number of ballots to be counted at final count be available on election night?

A count of certification envelopes containing absentee ballots that were cast at advance and general voting will be available at the conclusion of initial count. This number will **not** include mail-in ballots.

After General Voting Day, district electoral offices will begin inputting mail-in ballots received prior to the close of voting in our tracking system. This will include mail-in ballots received at district electoral offices, voting places and Service BC centres.

Based on these two data streams, an estimate of the total number of certification envelopes in each electoral district to be considered for final count will be available within a few days after General Voting Day.

When will the results of final count be available?

Results will be published at results.elections.bc.ca as teams in each electoral district complete counting each type of absentee ballot. The website will also indicate the progress in each district, based on the total number of absentee ballots and the number currently reported.

Once an electoral district has completed counting all of its absentee ballots, the final results in that district will be announced by the district electoral officer and reported on Elections BC's website.

Elections BC will announce when final count is complete across all electoral districts.

Who conducts final count?

Final count is held in each district electoral office (or another location if additional space is required), and is conducted under the supervision of the district electoral officer (DEO). Counting teams of election officials will assist the district electoral officer.

Who may be present for final count?

Candidates and one candidate representative per candidate may be present at final count. Individuals must make a solemn declaration of secrecy before observing final count. Public health requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic may limit who may be present at final count.