

Report of the Chief Electoral Officer

2018 REFERENDUM ON ELECTORAL REFORM

OCTOBER 22 – DECEMBER 20, 2018

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2018 Referendum on Electoral Reform



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December 11, 2019

Honourable Darryl Plecas
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Province of British Columbia
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia
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Dear Mr. Speaker:

I have the pleasure to present the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer regarding the 2018 Referendum on Electoral Reform to the Legislative Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

Anton Boegman
Chief Electoral Officer
British Columbia

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ELECTIONS BC
For the 2018 Provincial Election, please use this kit
Elections BC must receive your ballot before 4:30 p.m. on Friday, November 30, 2018

2018 REFERENDUM ON ELECTORAL REFORM

VOTER PACKAGE

CANADIAN ELECTORAL SYSTEM
1011
123456789

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report describes the proceedings, results and costs of administering the 2018 Referendum on Electoral Reform. The referendum asked voters to decide which voting system British Columbia should use for provincial elections. Voting in the referendum took place from October 22 to December 7, 2018, with results reported to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and announced province-wide on December 20, 2018. Overall, 1,403,074 ballot packages were returned to Elections BC, representing 42.6% of registered voters. Voters chose to keep the current First Past the Post voting system.

Elections BC partnered with several service providers to administer the referendum, and would like to acknowledge the hard work and effort of BC Mail Plus, Canada Post, the Center for Civic Design, Dominion Voting Canada, Elevator Strategy, Fujitsu Consulting Canada, Service BC, and Queen's Printer.

This was B.C.'s third referendum on electoral reform. The previous two referenda were held in conjunction with the 2005 and 2009 provincial elections. The 2018 referendum was held by mail in a manner similar to the 2011 HST (Harmonized Sales Tax) Referendum and the 2015 Metro Vancouver Transportation and Transit Plebiscite.

Voting packages were issued to 3,297,396 registered voters starting October 22, 2018, with 1,403,074 voting packages being returned to Elections BC by the deadline. Of the voting packages returned by the deadline, 10,653 were not considered for counting because they did not meet the requirements of the Electoral Reform Referendum 2018 Regulation. An additional 998 voting packages met the requirements for counting, but were resealed because the certification envelope either did not contain a ballot or contained more than one ballot.

The initial deadline for Elections BC to receive completed voting packages was November 30, 2018. However, rotating strikes at Canada Post prevented some voters from returning their package by the deadline. To ensure adequate time for returned packages to reach Elections BC, the Chief Electoral Officer issued an Order extending the deadline by one week, to December 7, 2018.

A total of 1,391,423 ballots were considered in the final determination of voting results. The majority (61.3%) supported keeping the current First Past the Post voting system, while 38.7% supported adopting a proportional representation voting system. Of the three proportional representation voting systems on the ballot, Mixed Member Proportional had the most support after two rounds of counting, with 63.05%.

The 2018 Referendum on Electoral Reform was unique in a number of ways. This was B.C.'s first referendum with a ranked choice question, and it was the first time that electronic tabulators were used to count ballots for a provincial referendum. It was also the first time that Elections BC was required to conduct a public education campaign on the topic of the referendum, in addition to providing information about when and how to vote.

Elections BC incurred costs of \$12,210,360, or \$3.70 per registered voter, to administer the referendum.

Statistics at a glance

Table 1: Statistics at a glance

Voter registration and turnout	
Registered voters at initial mail-out	3,287,577
Net increase to voters list during voting package request period	9,819
Total registered voters at the close of the period for requesting a voting package	3,297,396
Total voting packages returned	1,403,074
Percentage of voting packages returned	42.55%
Total voting packages not accepted for counting	11,651
Total ballots considered (registered voters who voted)	1,391,423
Percentage of registered voters who voted	42.20%
Results	
Total ballots considered	1,391,423
Valid ballots	1,388,962
Rejected ballots	2,461
Question 1 – Which system should British Columbia use for provincial elections?	
The current First Past the Post voting system	845,235 (61.30%)
A proportional representation voting system	533,518 (38.70%)
Invalid (did not provide a valid marking for Question 1)	10,209
Ballots rejected	2,461
Ballots considered for Question 1	1,391,423
Question 2 – If British Columbia adopts a proportional representation voting system, which of the following voting systems do you prefer?	
<i>Results as of second and final round of counting</i>	
Dual Member Proportional (DMP)	288,068 (36.95%)
Mixed Member Proportional (MMP)	491,630 (63.05%)
Rural-Urban Proportional (RUP)	Eliminated at round one
Exhausted ballots after round one	52,062
Invalid (did not provide a valid marking for Question 2)	557,202
Ballots rejected	2,461
Ballots considered for Question 2	1,391,423

Statistics at a glance — *continued*

Officials and ballot pick-up/drop-off locations	
Referendum officials	130
Referendum Service Offices	9
Service BC centres	61
Official opponent and proponent groups and advertising sponsors	
Registered third party advertising sponsors	29
Third party sponsor spending limit	\$200,000
Official opponent group	No BC Proportional Representation Society
Official proponent group	Vote PR BC
Opponent and proponent groups spending limit	\$700,000
Public funding provided to each opponent and proponent group	\$500,000

Calendar of events

Table 2: Calendar of events

Milestone	Date
<i>Electoral Reform Referendum 2018 Act</i> receives Royal Assent	November 30, 2017
Electoral Reform Referendum 2018 Regulation deposited	June 22, 2018
Campaign period begins	July 1, 2018
Voting package initial mail-out begins	October 22, 2018
Voting package initial mail-out concludes	November 2, 2018
Referendum Service Offices open	November 5, 2018
Deadline to request a voting package	November 23, 2018
Original deadline for returning a voting package	November 30, 2018
Ballot counting begins	December 1, 2018
Deadline for returning a voting package	December 7, 2018
Results announced	December 20, 2018

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

A referendum is a vote on a matter of public interest or concern. Registered voters indicate their opinion by marking a ballot in response to one or more questions asked by the provincial government. Elections BC administers provincial referenda under the *Referendum Act* or separate legislation enacted to administer a specific referendum. The 2018 Referendum on Electoral Reform was administered under the *Electoral Reform Referendum 2018 Act* and the Electoral Reform Referendum 2018 Regulation.

Electoral Reform Referendum 2018 Act

On November 30, 2017, the *Electoral Reform Referendum 2018 Act* received Royal Assent and came into force. The Act established that the Chief Electoral Officer conduct a referendum to decide whether B.C. should keep its current First Past the Post voting system or move to a system of proportional representation. The Act also established that the question or questions posed to voters on the ballot would be determined by Cabinet regulation. The Act included the framework for conducting the referendum, which set out who could vote and that the referendum be conducted by mail. The Act also established that the results of the referendum would be binding on government. The operational details of the referendum were established by the Electoral Reform Referendum 2018 Regulation, which was deposited on June 22, 2018.

Voting systems and ballot questions

On May 30, 2018, the Attorney General released a report with recommendations for the 2018 Referendum on Electoral Reform. The recommendations included which voting systems would be on the ballot as well as the format and wording of the questions. The first question would ask voters if B.C. should keep its current voting system or move to a system of proportional representation. The second question would ask voters to rank three proportional representation voting systems in order of preference.

On June 11, 2018, the Premier asked the Chief Electoral Officer to review whether the first question on the ballot was simple and clear enough for British Columbians to understand. The Chief Electoral Officer determined that Elections BC should review both ballot questions to ensure that wording on the ballot was simple and clear. Understanding what to do to mark a ballot is a clear aspect of voting accessibility. Elections BC's review did not extend to the structure or format of the ballot questions or to the voting systems. The review was conducted based on best practices from other jurisdictions and some usability and preference testing.

The Chief Electoral Officer provided recommendations regarding the wording of the ballot questions by way of a letter to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the three party House Leaders on June 18, 2018.

Recommendations of the Chief Electoral Officer

The first question as drafted asked:

Which should British Columbia use for elections to the Legislative Assembly? (Vote for only one.)

- The current First Past the Post voting system
- A proportional representation voting system

In its assessment, Elections BC determined that the wording of the question was generally simple and clear enough for voters to understand. Considering that some voters, especially those for whom English is not their first language, may have difficulty understanding the term “Legislative Assembly”, “provincial elections” was suggested as a replacement. Adding the word “system” between “Which” and “should” was also suggested to improve clarity. The Chief Electoral Officer recommended the following alternative for Question 1:

Which system should British Columbia use for provincial elections? (Vote for only one.)

- The current First Past the Post voting system
- A proportional representation voting system

The second question as drafted asked:

If British Columbia adopts a proportional representation voting system, which of the following voting systems do you prefer?

(Vote for the voting systems you wish to support by ranking them in order of preference. You may choose to support one, two or all three of the systems.)

- Dual Member Proportional (DMP)
- Mixed Member Proportional (MMP)
- Rural-Urban PR

Elections BC determined that the wording of this question was also generally simple and clear enough for voters to understand. Elections BC suggested simplifying the second sentence in the question and including an acronym for the third voting system option for consistency with the first two options. The Chief Electoral Officer recommended the following alternative for Question 2:

If British Columbia adopts a proportional representation voting system, which of the following voting systems do you prefer?

(Rank in order of preference. You may choose to support one, two or all three of the systems.)

- Dual Member Proportional (DMP)
- Mixed Member Proportional (MMP)
- Rural-Urban Proportional (RUP)

Government accepted the Chief Electoral Officer’s recommendations and included the suggested wording of both ballot questions in the Electoral Reform Referendum 2018 Regulation.

Figure 1: Final ballot (sample)

2018 Referendum on Electoral Reform

Ballot

Instructions: To vote, fill in the oval ○ to the right of your choices, like this: ●
Use black pen or marker. Do **not** use pencil.

Question 1

Which system should British Columbia use for provincial elections? (Vote for only one.)

The current First Past the Post voting system ○

A proportional representation voting system ○

Question 2

If British Columbia adopts a proportional representation voting system, which of the following voting systems do you prefer? (Rank in order of preference. You may choose to support one, two or all three of the systems.)

	1 1st Choice	2 2nd Choice	3 3rd Choice
Dual Member Proportional (DMP)	○	○	○
Mixed Member Proportional (MMP)	○	○	○
Rural-Urban Proportional (RUP)	○	○	○

Electoral Reform Referendum 2018 Regulation

On June 22, 2018, the Electoral Reform Referendum 2018 Regulation came into effect. The regulation established the full administrative framework of the referendum, based on the recommendations of the Attorney General.

The regulation established:

- dates of the campaign and voting periods
- the format of the ballot, including the questions and their wording
- contents of the voting package
- a requirement for Elections BC to provide non-partisan information to voters about the referendum process and voting systems on the ballot
- how ballots would be counted
- criteria for accepting or rejecting a ballot
- criteria for the Chief Electoral Officer to select official opponent and proponent groups
- the provision of public funds to official opponent and proponent groups
- expenses limits and contribution, advertising and disclosure rules for official opponent and proponent groups and registered third party advertising sponsors
- offences and penalties in relation to the referendum

CAMPAIGN FINANCING

The campaign financing rules for referendum advertising sponsors and the official opponent and proponent groups were similar to the rules under the *Election Act* for candidates, political parties and election advertising sponsors. In 2017, the *Election Act* was significantly changed, with new rules for contribution source restrictions, contribution limits and reporting. Similar rules were included in the campaign financing provisions for the referendum.

Official opponent and proponent groups

The Electoral Reform Referendum 2018 Regulation established the requirements for the Chief Electoral Officer to select one official opponent group and one official proponent group to oppose or support proportional representation. The requirements to be an opponent or proponent included that the organization was a society with volunteer members and directors, that its membership was open to everyone, and that at least two-thirds of its directors were residents of B.C. for at least six months before the referendum campaign period started.

Groups were required to submit an application to be considered as the official opponent or proponent by July 6, 2018. Two applications were received by the deadline.

- Official opponent group: No BC Proportional Representation Society
- Official proponent group: Vote PR BC

Each group received \$500,000 in public funding to use for public information campaigns during the referendum campaign period, July 1, 2018 to December 7, 2018.

The opponent and proponent were required to:

- include their name and contact information on all referendum advertising
- only accept referendum contributions from individuals who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents residing in B.C., and obtain confirmation and consent prior to using the contribution for referendum advertising
- limit contributions received from any one eligible individual to \$1,200
- not spend more than \$700,000 on referendum expenses
- file disclosure statements with Elections BC

Referendum advertising sponsors

Referendum advertising sponsors were individuals or organizations that conducted referendum advertising separate from the opponent and proponent groups.

Referendum advertising sponsors were required to:

- register with Elections BC before conducting referendum advertising
- include their name and contact information on all referendum advertising
- only accept referendum contributions from individuals who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents residing in B.C., and obtain confirmation and consent prior to using the contribution for referendum advertising
- limit contributions received from any one eligible individual to \$1,200
- not spend more than \$200,000 on referendum expenses
- file disclosure statements with Elections BC

There were 29 registered referendum advertising sponsors.

Disclosure reports

Initial and subsequent disclosure reports

The Electoral Reform Referendum 2018 Regulation required registered referendum advertising sponsors and the opponent and proponent groups to file initial and subsequent disclosure reports with Elections BC.

Initial disclosure reports had to be filed within 14 days of sponsoring more than \$10,000 in referendum advertising. If an eligible individual contributed more than \$250 in referendum contributions since the date of the initial disclosure report, a subsequent disclosure report had to be filed within 14 days of receiving those referendum contributions. Subsequent disclosure reports had to be filed continuously until the close of voting.

Filing deadline

Referendum advertising sponsors who sponsored referendum advertising with a value greater than \$500 had to file financing reports within 90 days after the close of voting for the referendum. The opponent and proponent groups were also required to file financing reports by this deadline. The filing deadline for the reports was 4:30 p.m. on March 7, 2019. These reports included contribution information previously disclosed in the initial and subsequent reports.

Of the 29 referendum advertising sponsors that were registered with Elections BC, 16 were required to file financial disclosure statements.

All reports were received by the filing deadline and are available on the Elections BC website (elections.bc.ca).

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Elections BC developed a comprehensive public education and awareness campaign for the 2018 Referendum on Electoral Reform. Ordinarily, Elections BC's public awareness campaign for a referendum focuses on information about when and how to vote. For the 2018 referendum, Elections BC had a new mandate to provide non-partisan and neutral information about the referendum and the voting systems on the ballot. This new mandate increased the scope of Elections BC's communications activities and presented new challenges for the organization. These challenges included low public awareness on the topic of electoral systems and the relative complexity of the subject matter.

Careful consideration was given to the perceived neutrality of Elections BC's public education materials. Before the public education campaign launched, a survey was conducted to assess the clarity and neutrality of draft materials. The majority of survey respondents felt that the materials were clear, easy to understand and unbiased.

The materials focused on describing the factual characteristics of each system, rather than their pros and cons. While drafting the materials in a way that all parties found unbiased was at times challenging, Elections BC received no major complaints about the materials after they were published, and received several compliments from voters and political participants who found them useful and neutral.

The public education and awareness campaign was built on Elections BC's experience administering other vote by mail events and included:

- advertising in a number of channels, including newspapers, television, radio and online
- conducting a comprehensive social and digital media campaign
- providing a dedicated referendum website with educational materials and resources
- distributing information cards and guides province-wide
- implementing a comprehensive media relations strategy
- operating a 1-800 contact centre for voter inquiries
- conducting outreach and engagement activities

In order to address issues of low public awareness of the voting systems and the complexity of the subject matter, Elections BC consulted with other election agencies that have had similar public education mandates in the past, including Elections Ontario and the New Zealand Electoral Commission. Elections BC also consulted with academic experts in voting systems and plain language experts to ensure that materials were both accurate and clear.

Surveys were conducted before and after the referendum in part to measure the success of the public awareness campaign. In the pre-event survey, 23% of respondents felt they knew enough about the referendum to make a decision. In the post-event survey, this figure was 65%. For more details, see page 18 of this report.

Advertising

Elections BC's referendum advertising campaign included newspaper, radio, television tile, digital and social media advertising. Ads communicated relevant and timely information at key points throughout the referendum period.

Newspaper ads were placed in community and multicultural publications. The first ads ran in late June, targeting potential third party advertising sponsors and groups interested in applying to be the official opponent or proponent. Ads reminding advertising sponsors of the requirement to register and follow the advertising rules ran again in September.

Additional newspaper ads in October and November focused on what the referendum was about and how to vote.

Television, radio and digital advertising began in September and continued until the end of voting. Television tile ads appeared on the province-wide cable news channel BC1. Thirty-second radio ads were also broadcast throughout the province. Digital display banner ads and search engine marketing ads, geo-targeted to B.C., reinforced timely messages throughout the referendum period.

Social media ads and boosted posts were placed on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, and short pre-roll ads ran at the start of YouTube videos. Social media advertising reached more than 1.4 million British Columbians and resulted in more than 57,000 trackable clicks to Elections BC's website.

Elections BC also collaborated with the top digital publications in B.C. to publish sponsored articles. Seventeen sponsored articles were published in an appropriate voice for each publication's existing audience. The publications amplified the articles by sharing on their social media platforms. In total, sponsored content reached over 450,000 British Columbians and resulted in over 27,000 article reads and over 18,000 trackable clicks to Elections BC's website.

Figure 3: Social media advertising statistics

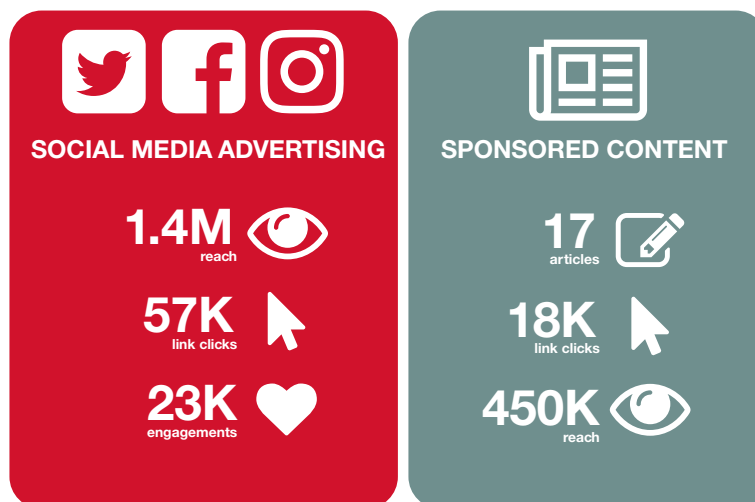
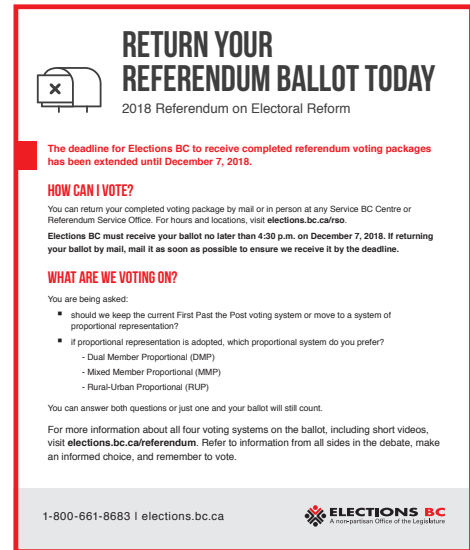


Figure 2: Newspaper ad



Referendum information card

In early September, Elections BC began sending referendum information cards to every household in B.C. to encourage voters to get ready for the referendum. The information card provided the dates for voting and a message encouraging eligible voters to register or update their voter information before voting package distribution began in October, as well as Elections BC contact and website information.

Nearly two million information cards were mailed to residential addresses across the province. Elections BC also sent more than 4,000 cards to post-secondary institutions for distribution on campuses.

Figure 4: Referendum information card, front



Voter's Guide

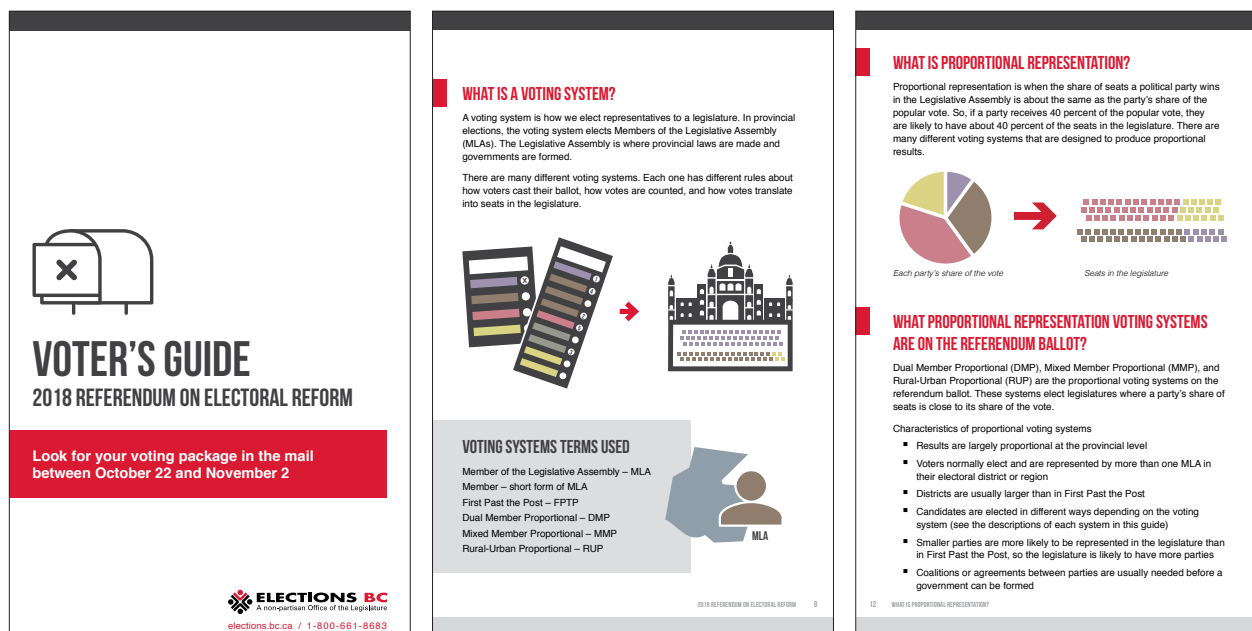
The referendum Voter's Guide, a small booklet delivered to all households in B.C. between October 15 and 22, 2018, was a central piece of Elections BC's public education materials. It provided voters with key dates and information about the referendum before voting packages were delivered.

Elections BC worked with plain language experts to ensure the Voter's Guide and other written materials were as simple and clear as possible.

The guide included information about:

- what the referendum was about
- who could vote
- how to vote
- important dates
- what a voting system is
- a description of each voting system on the ballot

Figure 5: Voter's Guide, front cover and sample interior pages



Nearly two million Voter's Guides were delivered to residential addresses throughout B.C. An additional 50,000 guides were sent to Service BC centres and Referendum Service Offices, BC Housing, libraries, constituency offices, secondary schools and post-secondary institutions. The guide was also available digitally on the Elections BC website and translated into 14 different languages.

When the voting period was extended to December 7, 2018, due to job action at Canada Post impacting mail delivery, an updated version of the Voter's Guide with the extended deadline was posted on Elections BC's website.

Elections BC website

Elections BC's public education materials and advertisements directed voters to the Elections BC website as the central source for information about the referendum. A dedicated 2018 Referendum on Electoral Reform webpage featured information and resources, including how to register to vote, how to vote, key dates, and a series of digital resources about voting and the voting systems on the ballot.

After the results of the referendum were announced on December 20, 2018, the Elections BC website was updated to include voting results by electoral district for both questions.

The referendum webpage received over 1.2 million visits between September 10, when the public awareness campaign began, and December 20, 2018, when voting results were announced. Of these, 27,845 visits were on December 7, 2018, the day that the voting period closed. More than half (55%) of visitors accessed the site using mobile devices and tablets.

Videos

Elections BC developed six animated videos about the referendum. The videos were posted on Elections BC's website and YouTube account and shared via social media.

The videos were two to three minutes long and each covered one aspect of the referendum:

- an overview of the referendum
- an instructional video explaining how to vote
- a video for each voting system on the ballot

When the voting period was extended to December 7, 2018 due to job action at Canada Post, the videos were updated to include the new deadline.

Between September 10 and December 20, 2018, Elections BC's referendum videos received more than 100,000 views and were shared more than 400 times on social media. Videos on the proportional representation voting systems were the most viewed.

Table 3: Referendum videos

Video topic	Number of views
Referendum overview	22,146
How to vote by mail	10,227
First Past the Post (FPTP)	13,508
Dual Member Proportional (DMP)	23,145
Mixed Member Proportional (MMP)	30,070
Rural-Urban Proportional (RUP)	29,792

Social media

Elections BC maintains an active social media presence on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. In addition to the paid social media advertising campaign, Elections BC used organic posts to promote public awareness of the referendum and encourage voters to contact Elections BC or visit the Elections BC website for more information.

Elections BC received a significant number of messages and questions about the referendum via social media. Staff responded promptly and directed users to relevant information on the Elections BC website.

An analysis of social media found more than 29,000 posts related to the referendum during the campaign period. Twitter was the social media platform with the highest number of posts (more than 21,000) related to the referendum.

In addition to responding to questions, Elections BC used social media to address misconceptions related to the voting process. Social media was an effective tool for identifying and responding quickly to emerging issues. For example, concerns emerged via social media from voters who planned to be out of province during the voting period. Elections BC responded quickly to ensure these voters were aware of how to ask for their voting package to be sent to an alternate address.

Figure 6: Social media post



Elections BC's organic social media posts about the referendum received more than 33,000 likes, comments and shares. Between September 10 and December 20, 2018, Elections BC's social media accounts gained more than 1,500 new followers.

Outreach and accessibility

Elections BC developed several measures to support accessibility for all voters during the referendum. Elections BC engaged with organizations that provide services to individuals with barriers to electoral participation, including youth (18-24), post-secondary students, Indigenous people, new Canadians, people with disabilities and people living homeless.

Elections BC's outreach activities and initiatives included:

- 29 educational presentations to over 800 attendees in 13 cities. Presentations were given at assisted living facilities, senior housing complexes, a stroke recovery group, and at the Island Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre with an interpreter to translate the presentation into sign language.
- A recorded message sent to Canadian National Institute for the Blind subscribers when voting packages were mailed.
- For sight-impaired voters, a braille template and text to voice software to listen to the Voter's Guide and other information on the Elections BC website.
- A bulletin, sent by the Office of the Seniors Advocate to long-term care facilities, with details about how to request a voting package if residents did not receive one and assistance options for people with disabilities.
- An information booth at Project Connect in Victoria, a fair for people experiencing homelessness and extreme poverty. Elections BC provided information and voter registration services.
- An article in the Westcoast Reader, a monthly newspaper-style learning resource for beginning readers of English, including new Canadians.

Referendum resources were also distributed to:

- all 203 First Nations in the province through the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations
- post-secondary institutions
- secondary schools with grade 12 students
- primary and secondary schools to be used as a learning tool

Media

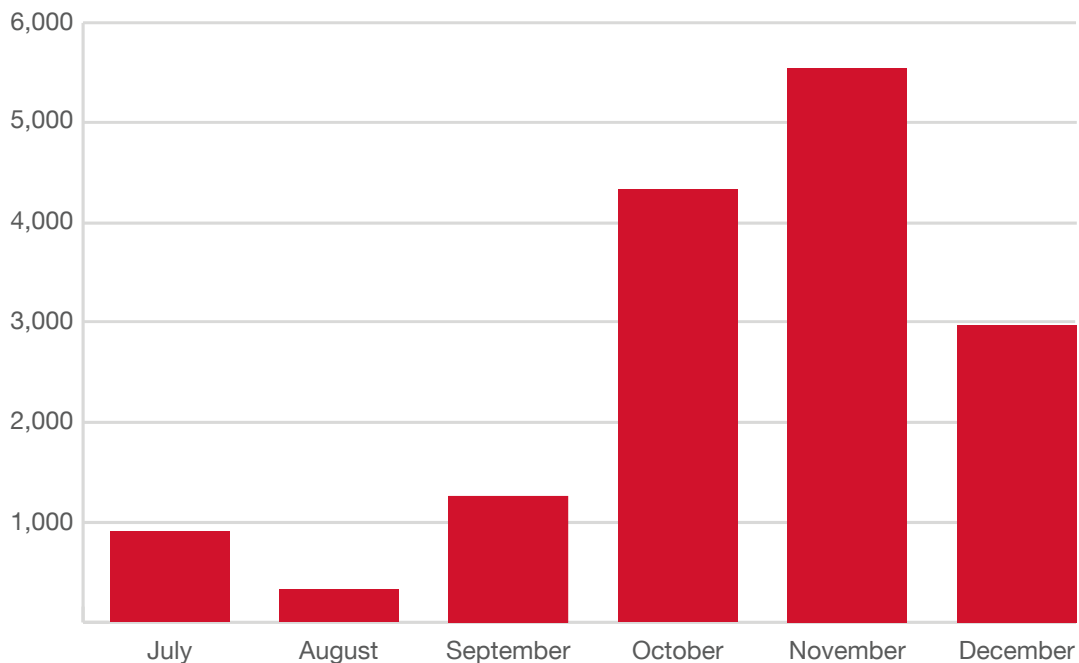
Providing accurate and timely information to the public through the media was an important part of Elections BC's public awareness campaign. In many cases, voters would seek information about the referendum from the media, rather than directly from Elections BC. Recognizing the media as an important conduit for information delivery, Elections BC maintained open channels of communication with members of the media to ensure that key information was distributed as widely as possible and emerging issues were addressed promptly and publicly.

At the beginning of the voting period on October 22, 2018, Elections BC held a news conference to provide an overview of the referendum process, display the voting package and answer questions from the media. Throughout the voting period, Elections BC released relevant information and reminders at key times through 14 news releases and advisories. Elections BC held a second news conference to announce the results of the referendum on December 20, 2018. The second news conference was live streamed on Elections BC's YouTube channel.

To provide a better understanding of the referendum processes, members of the media were invited to tour Elections BC's secure facilities as voting packages were mailed out and again as packages were received and counting progressed. Elections BC staff provided information, answered questions and demonstrated the procedures for receiving, screening and counting voting packages. Elections BC also provided the media with high-quality videos and images of these processes for use in reporting about the referendum.

An analysis of media coverage found more than 15,000 reports by Canadian broadcast, print, and online media outlets about the referendum. The most frequent publishers of referendum reporting were B.C.-based news publications such as the Vancouver Sun and The Province. News coverage of the referendum increased as voting package distribution began and peaked during the voting period.

Figure 7: Number of Canadian media reports about the referendum, by month



Contact centre

Elections BC operated a 1-800 contact centre during the referendum to provide information and voter registration services. Four supervisors and 48 operators staffed the contact centre between September 10 and December 21, 2018. It operated weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with hours extended to 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays from October 20 to December 1, 2018. On November 23, 2018, the last day for voters to request a voting package, the contact centre was open until midnight.

Operators were trained to answer basic questions about the voting systems on the ballot, as well as their usual role of processing telephone requests for voting packages and assisting voters with questions about the referendum process. In total, the contact centre received 52,124 calls. The highest number of calls on a single day occurred on November 5, when staff answered 1,849 calls from the public.

Voter awareness survey

In order to gauge public awareness of the referendum, Elections BC conducted two voter awareness surveys, one prior to the launch of the referendum and one after the close of voting.

The first survey was conducted between August 27 and September 9, 2018. A random sample of 500 eligible voters were asked about their awareness of the referendum and understanding of the voting systems on the ballot. The second survey, conducted between December 10 and 23, 2018, asked a random sample of just over 600 eligible voters follow-up questions about their levels of awareness and understanding after the referendum.

Regional and demographic quotas were established and responses were weighted to ensure that the survey results reflected the geographic, age and gender distribution of eligible voters in B.C.

Table 4: Levels of awareness and understanding, pre- and post-referendum

	Pre-referendum survey	Post-referendum survey
Unprompted awareness (voter was aware of the referendum and subject with no prompting)	27%	76%
Prompted awareness (voter was aware of the referendum and subject when asked yes or no)	52%	83%
Interest in the referendum (very or quite interested)	55%	52%
Knew enough to make a decision	23%	65%
Knew what would happen as a result of the referendum	51%	59%

Older voters tended to be more aware of the referendum than younger voters.

Table 5: Awareness by age group, pre- and post-referendum

	18-34	35-54	55+
Pre-referendum survey	32%	49%	66%
Post-referendum survey	74%	82%	89%

Respondents indicated increased levels of understanding of proportional representation and the voting systems on the ballot after the close of voting.

Table 6: Understanding of proportional representation and voting systems, pre-referendum

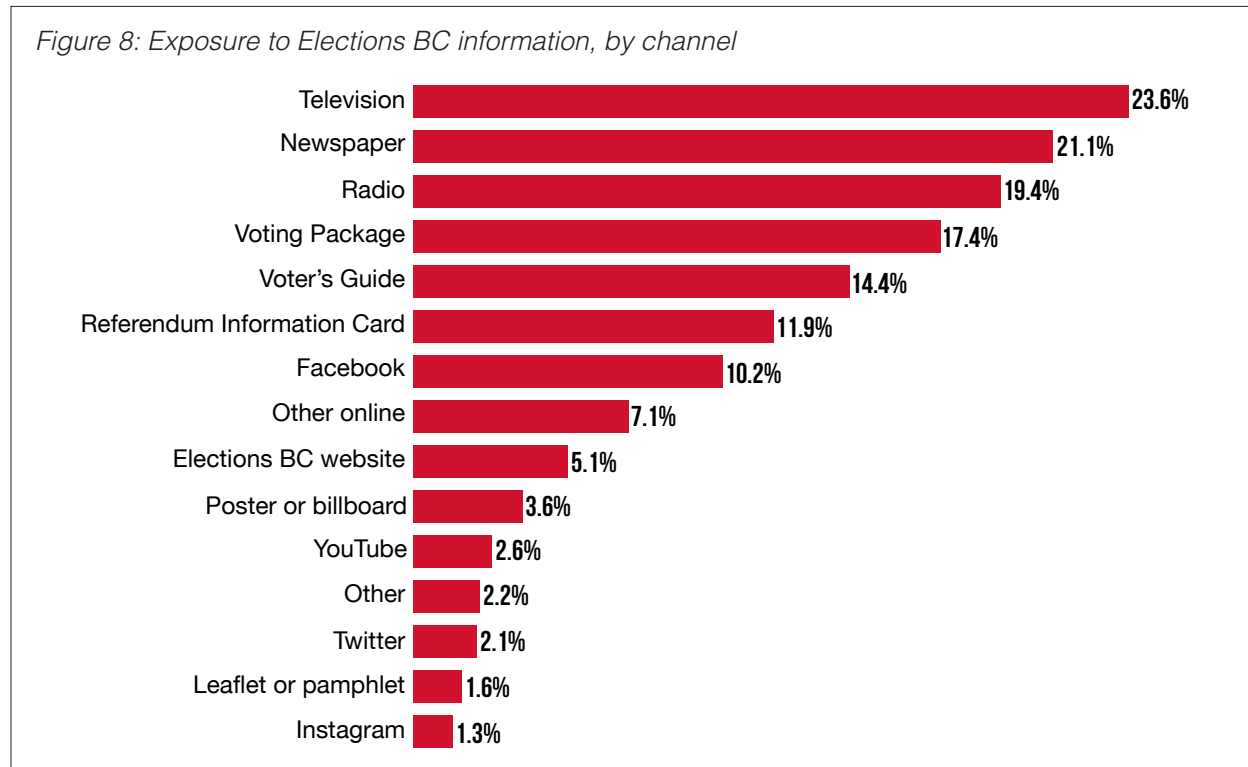
	A lot	A moderate amount	A little	Nothing / Haven't heard
Proportional representation	6%	22%	38%	33%
First Past the Post (FPTP)	27%	16%	20%	38%
Mixed Member Proportional (MMP)	2%	9%	20%	69%
Dual Member Proportional (DMP)	1%	8%	23%	68%
Rural-Urban Proportional (RUP)	2%	9%	26%	63%

Table 7: Understanding of proportional representation and voting systems, post-referendum

	A lot	A moderate amount	A little	Nothing / Haven't heard
Proportional representation	11%	35%	29%	24%
First Past the Post (FPTP)	39%	16%	15%	29%
Mixed Member Proportional (MMP)	6%	21%	32%	39%
Dual Member Proportional (DMP)	4%	23%	32%	40%
Rural-Urban Proportional (RUP)	5%	23%	32%	40%

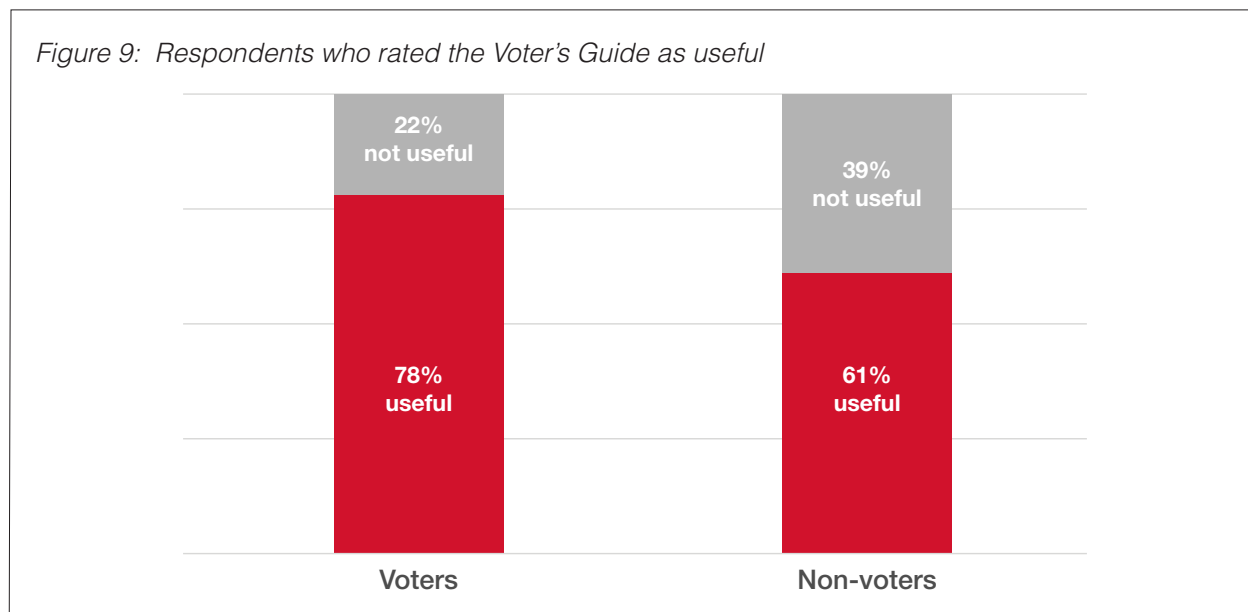
The post-referendum survey asked respondents about Elections BC’s information and advertising materials. Of respondents who indicated awareness of the referendum, 73% recalled exposure to Elections BC information and advertising.

Figure 8: Exposure to Elections BC information, by channel

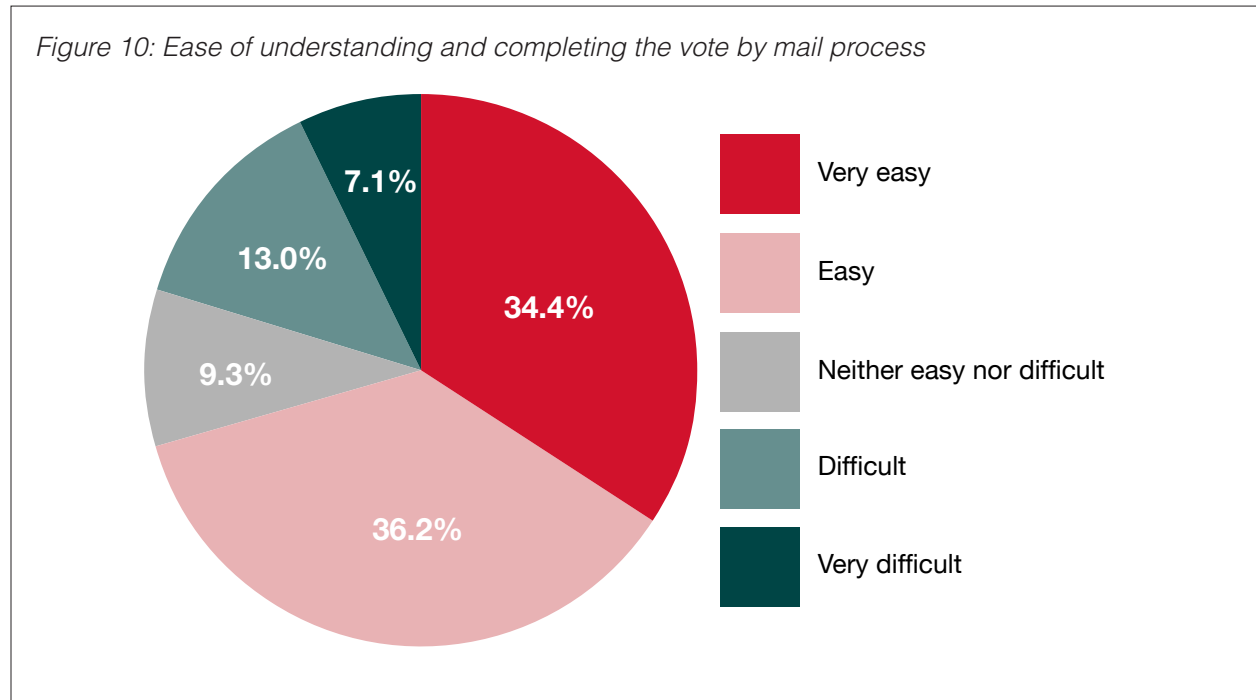


Of respondents who recalled exposure to Elections BC information, 85% indicated that they received a Voter’s Guide. Respondents who received the Voter’s Guide were more likely to feel that they knew enough to make a decision (78%) compared to those who didn’t receive the Guide (39%). Voters were also more likely than non-voters to rate the Voter’s Guide as useful.

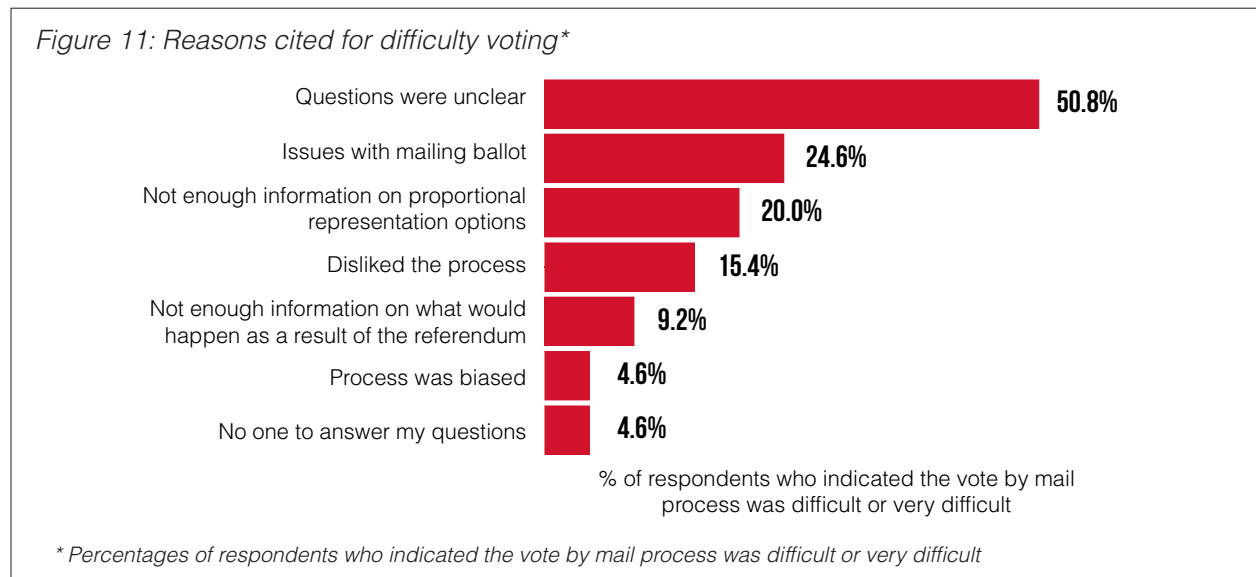
Figure 9: Respondents who rated the Voter’s Guide as useful



Respondents indicated that the vote by mail process was generally easy to understand and complete.



Approximately 20% of respondents indicated the vote by mail process was difficult or very difficult. The top reason cited for difficulty by these respondents was that the ballot questions were unclear (50.8%).



VOTING

Voter registration

Elections BC conducts a number of activities on an ongoing basis to help maintain a high quality provincial voters list. Information is received from several different sources to help keep the list up to date, including:

- ICBC, through the driver's licencing program
- BC Vital Statistics agency
- Elections Canada through the National Register of Electors, which includes information from Canada Revenue Agency tax filings

Every registered voter was entitled to vote in the referendum, including those who registered before the deadline to request a voting package.

In September, Elections BC ran ads and mailed referendum information cards encouraging voters to register or update their registration ahead of the referendum to ensure they received a voting package in the initial mail-out. More than 129,000 British Columbians contacted Elections BC by phone or online to register or make sure their registration was accurate before voting package delivery began in October.

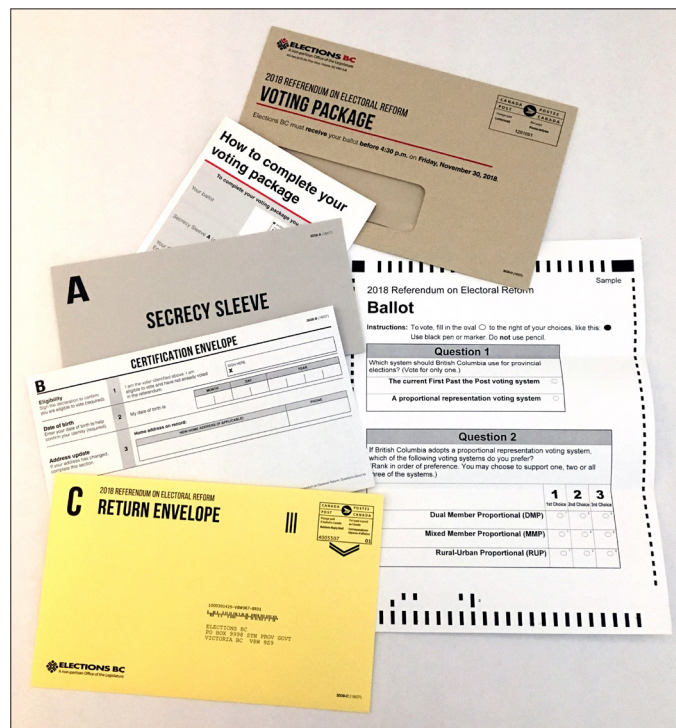
Eligible voters who were not registered could contact Elections BC up to midnight on November 23, 2018 to register and request a voting package. Voters could also update their voter information with Elections BC by completing the address update field on the certification envelope in their voting package. More than 58,000 voters provided an address update on their certification envelope. Over 8,500 voter registration transactions were processed at Referendum Service Offices and Service BC locations.

To keep pace with citizen expectations around digital service delivery, Elections BC updated its Online Voter Registration system for the referendum. The updates improved the user-interface, particularly on mobile devices.

Voting package

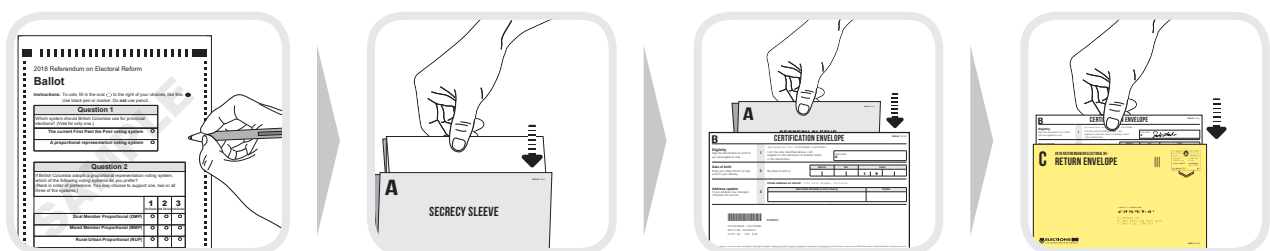
A voting package containing a ballot, secrecy sleeve, certification envelope, return envelope and instructions for marking the ballot was mailed to each registered voter between October 22 and November 2, 2018. Voters who did not receive a voting package in the mail could contact Elections BC by phone or online to request a package, or they could visit a Referendum Service Office or Service BC location in person to request a package. Voters who knew they would be away from their ordinary place of residence during the referendum were able to provide an alternate mailing address to receive their voting package.

Figure 12: Voting package outer envelope and contents



The voting package included an instruction sheet to guide voters through steps of completing and returning their package. Voters were instructed to mark their ballot and place it in the secrecy sleeve (A), which was then placed inside the certification envelope (B). Voters then completed the certification envelope and placed the certification envelope into the postage-paid return envelope (C). The instruction sheet also provided brief summaries of the voting systems on the ballot and directed voters to the Elections BC website for more information.

Figure 13: Steps to completing and returning the voting package



Each voting package was unique. The certification envelope was preprinted with the voter's name, address and first two digits of their birth year. The birthdate acted as a "shared secret" that Elections BC used to confirm the voter's identity. In previous mail-in events, some voters mistakenly completed the birthdate field with the date they signed the certification envelope, which required Elections BC to contact these voters to correct the date of birth. To avoid unnecessary corrections, each certification envelope was preprinted with the first two digits of the voter's year of birth. The instructions and design of the certification envelope were also simplified to help voters complete the envelope correctly. As a result of these changes, the proportion of certification envelopes not accepted for counting due to voter error was much lower than in past mail-based events.

Table 8: Certification envelopes set aside, by event

Event	Number of certification envelopes set aside	Number of set aside certification envelopes as a percentage of total envelopes received
2018 Referendum on Electoral Reform	10,653	0.76%
2015 Transportation and Transit Plebiscite	38,393	4.81%
2011 HST Referendum	38,294	2.32%

Because the certification envelope had personal information on it identifying the voter, the secrecy sleeve was used to maintain the secrecy of the ballot. The secrecy sleeve was an improvement over past mail-based referenda, in which a secrecy envelope was used. The sleeve provided the necessary separation between the certification envelope and ballot while reducing the time it took to process each returned voting package.

After the certification envelope was opened during the counting process, the secrecy sleeve, with the ballot enclosed, was separated from the certification envelope and sorted with other secrecy sleeves. After this step, the ballots were separated from the secrecy sleeves and prepared for tabulation. This two-step process of separation ensured the secrecy of the vote.

Initial voting package distribution

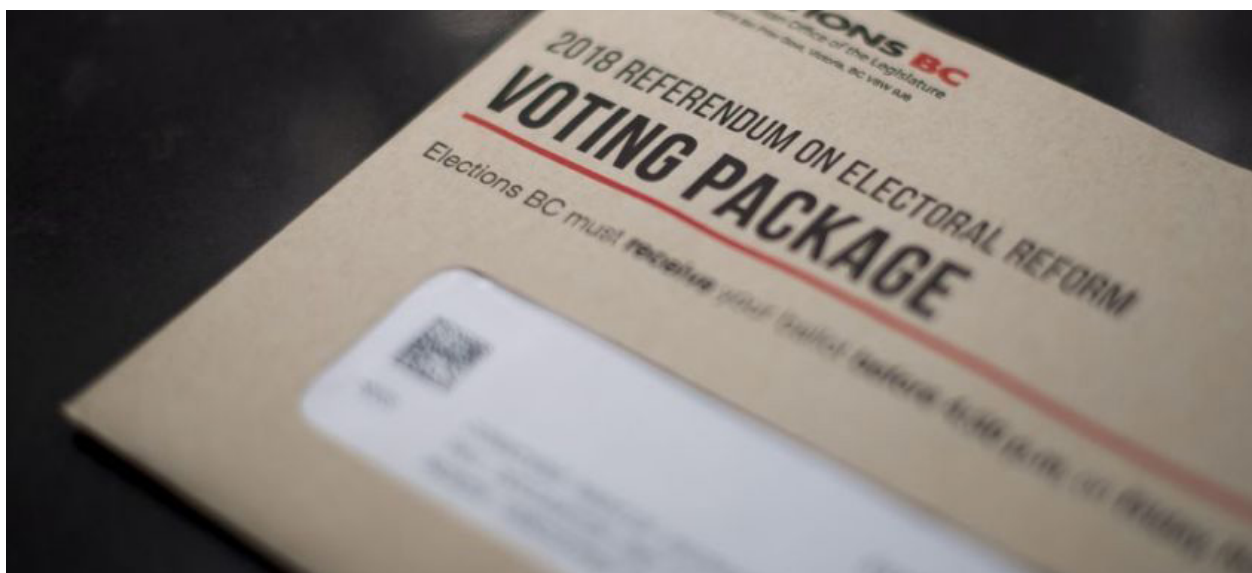
Elections BC began the initial distribution of voting packages on October 22, 2018. Packages were distributed over two weeks, taking into account the amount of time it takes for mail to reach different parts of the province.

The staggered delivery approach prioritized voters outside of Victoria and the lower mainland, recognizing that mail delivery to these parts of the province takes longer. The goal was to give all voters about the same amount of time to complete their voting package and return it to Elections BC. Staggered delivery also distributed call-volumes over two weeks, helping Elections BC respond quickly to calls from voters who had received their package. A list of the expected delivery dates in each community was available on Elections BC's website.

While Elections BC maintains a high quality provincial voters list, it is inevitable that some voters' information will be out of date. Voting packages that were delivered to out-of-date addresses were a topic of public scrutiny during the voting period. Some members of the media and the public expressed concern over the delivery of "extra" voting packages to voters who no longer lived at an address, particularly when the "extra" packages were recycled in apartment and condo building lobbies. Elections BC directed anyone who received a voting package that was not addressed to them to clearly mark the package "return to sender" and put it back in the mail, where it was securely returned to Elections BC. Voter registration information was updated on the basis of these returned packages. Elections BC also had processes in place to ensure that each voter only voted once, and that a voting package was only accepted for counting if completed by the voter it was addressed to.

Almost 3.3 million voting packages were included in the initial distribution. Early mailings were arranged for lightstation keepers, deployed military members and out of country voters who could not receive mail delivery during the regular distribution period.

Figure 14: Voting package



Rotating strikes at Canada Post

Rotating strikes by the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) were a significant administrative challenge during the referendum. Elections BC began monitoring this issue closely after CUPW members voted to support strike action on September 26, 2018.

Rotating strikes began in Victoria on October 22, which coincided with the start of the initial mail-out period for referendum voting packages. Elections BC was in contact with Canada Post throughout the referendum period to try to mitigate the impact of the strikes to the extent possible. Mail continued to move with intermittent stoppages affecting different parts of the province for one to four days at a time. The provincial mail system slowed significantly between November 10 and 12 when postal workers began strike action at Canada Post's central processing facility in Richmond.

The rotating strikes created public confusion. Elections BC received numerous reports from voters who had not received their voting package, and from voters who were concerned about returning their package by mail. The distribution schedule for packages was posted on the Elections BC website in part to help address these concerns. Elections BC also reached out to the media to provide the public with information about how to request a voting package and return it to Elections BC, either through the mail or via in-person channels. Despite the strikes, all voting packages were delivered to registered voters as scheduled by November 2. However, the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) determined that ongoing rotating strikes throughout the referendum voting period had materially impacted voters' ability to return their voting package by the November 30 deadline. As such, the CEO issued an Order on November 23 extending the deadline for Elections BC to receive a voting package to 4:30 p.m. on December 7, 2018.

Throughout the voting period higher than anticipated volumes were observed on the in-person channels for both requesting and returning a voting package. It is likely that the uncertainty generated by the strikes contributed to this trend.

Requesting a voting package

In the lead up to the referendum Elections BC updated its online Voting Package Request system to make it easier to use. The system's user interface was streamlined and optimized for mobile devices.

Eligible voters who did not receive a voting package by November 2, 2018 were able to request one by phone, online or in person at a Referendum Service Office or Service BC location. In total, 40,779 requests for a voting package were received by the voting package request deadline on November 23, 2018.

In cases where the voter updated their address with Elections BC after their original package was mailed, a replacement package was issued to the voter's new address. Voters who spoiled their ballot or lost their voting package could also request a replacement package.

Elections BC tracked the issuing of replacement voting packages and ensured that only one voting package was active for a voter at any time. When a replacement package was issued, the previously issued voting package was flagged as cancelled. If a voter returned more than one voting package, both packages were flagged and pulled for review by referendum officials. Multiple votes were set aside and not considered for counting.

Returning a voting package

Completed voting packages had to be received by Elections BC by the close of voting on December 7, 2018 in order to be considered for counting. Voting packages could be returned in-person at a Referendum Service Office or Service BC location, or by mail to Elections BC.

The voting package return envelope was pre-addressed to Elections BC and postage was paid if returned from within Canada. Voters who mailed their voting package from outside Canada were responsible for ensuring appropriate postage.

Packages returned by mail had to be received by the deadline in order to be considered for counting. Elections BC took possession of all voting packages at Canada Post's Pacific Processing Centre in Richmond at the close of voting. This reduced the risk of voting packages being received by Canada Post, but not transferred to Elections BC by the deadline.

Correction process

Certification envelopes that were missing required information, such as the voter's date of birth or signature, went through the correction process. This meant that the voter received a letter showing an image of their envelope with the missing information and informing them that their ballot could not be accepted for counting as submitted. The letter provided the voter with options on how to provide the missing information. If only the date of birth was missing, voters were able to contact Elections BC by phone to provide the information. If a signature was missing, voters could complete an enclosed form and return it by mail, email, or drop it off at a Referendum Service Office or Service BC location.

7,842 voters were contacted through the correction process. This was a significant decrease from the 2015 Metro Vancouver Transportation and Transit Plebiscite, in which 31,973 voters were contacted. This decrease is likely attributable to the improved and clearer design of the certification envelope used in 2018.

The correction procedure used in the referendum achieved significant efficiencies over past practice. In previous mail-based events, Elections BC staff separated certification envelopes with missing information from other envelopes, and mailed those that required a signature to a service office close to the voter. The voter then visited the office to sign the envelope. Sending the voter a letter with an enclosed form for signing saved the voter a trip to a service location.

Approximately 56% of all incorrectly completed certification envelopes were resolved through the correction process. This was an improvement over the 2015 plebiscite, in which 25% of all incorrectly completed certification envelopes were corrected.

Incomplete certification envelopes that were not corrected by the voter were set aside and their ballots were not considered.

Referendum Service Offices and Service BC centres

Elections BC contracted Service BC to provide referendum services and support, including issuing and receiving voting packages at 61 Service BC centres across the province. Because Service BC offers limited services in the Lower Mainland, Elections BC opened eight Referendum Service Offices in these areas to provide similar services to voters. Elections BC headquarters in Victoria also acted as a Referendum Service Office.

Service BC locations began providing referendum services on October 22 and Referendum Service Offices opened on November 5. Both continued providing referendum services until the close of voting at 4:30 p.m. on December 7, 2018. Most offices were open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. Some Service BC locations had reduced hours, and some Referendum Service Offices had extended hours on evenings and on Saturdays. Some Service BC locations also had 24-hour secure drop-off boxes where voters could return their voting package, while others did not. A list of Service BC and Referendum Service Office locations and hours of operation was available on the Elections BC website.

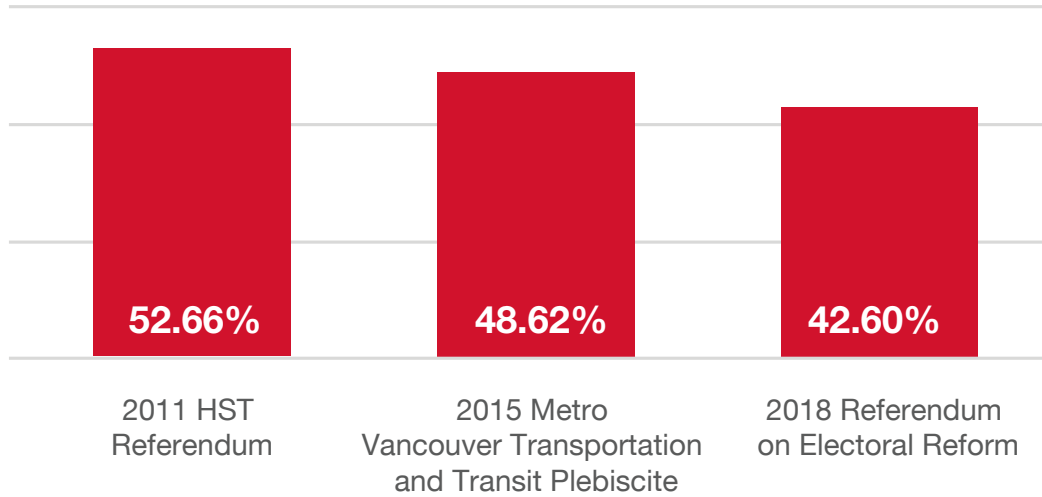
The locations for Referendum Service Offices were based on those of the Plebiscite Service Offices opened in the Metro Vancouver area during the 2015 Metro Vancouver Transportation and Transit Plebiscite. Because of this, office locations did not extend to the Fraser Valley, where Service BC locations are also limited. This created an unintentional gap in services. For example, for voters in Abbotsford, the nearest Service BC location was in Chilliwack. Elections BC will address this service gap in future events, and will also attempt to standardize hours and services between locations as much as possible.

More than 8,700 voting packages were issued at Referendum Service Offices and Service BC centres, and more than 144,000 completed voting packages were returned to these locations.

Turnout

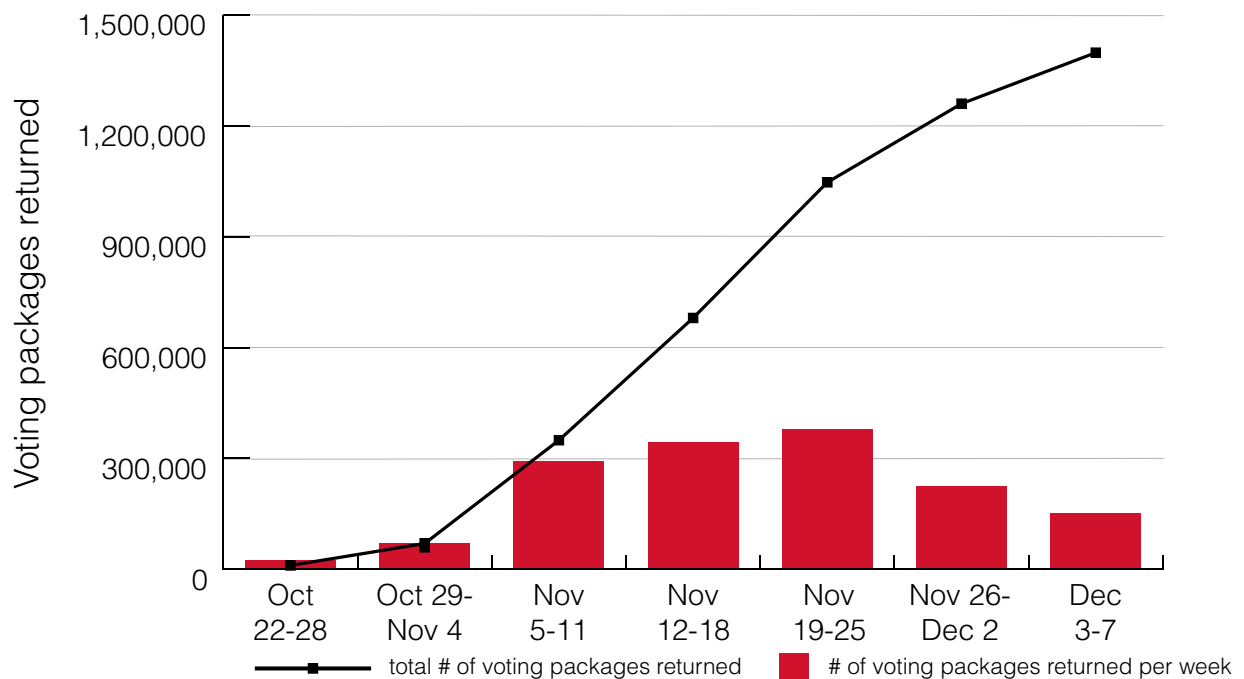
Elections BC received 1,403,074 returned voting packages by the deadline, representing 42.6% of registered voters. Voter participation was lower in comparison to similar mail-in events such as the 2011 HST Referendum and the 2015 Metro Vancouver Transportation and Transit Plebiscite.

Figure 15: Turnout in recent vote by mail events as a percentage of registered voters



Voters had six weeks, from October 22 to December 7, 2018, to return their completed voting package. Package return volumes peaked in mid-November.

Figure 16: Voting package returns by week



Turnout

VOTING

The distribution of voter participation by age group was similar to general elections, with voters in older age groups tending to participate at higher rates.

Table 9: Voter participation by age group

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	Total
Registered voters	208,284	516,971	517,987	563,038	638,408	493,675	359,033	3,297,396
Ballots considered (registered voters who voted)	63,213	141,372	164,274	209,539	312,565	302,150	198,310	1,391,423
% of registered voters who voted	30.3%	27.3%	31.7%	37.2%	49.0%	61.2%	55.2%	42.2%
Distribution of ballots considered	4.5%	10.2%	11.8%	15.1%	22.5%	21.7%	14.3%	100.0%

COUNTING

There was considerable public interest in knowing the results of the referendum as soon as possible. Counting began on December 1, 2018 with ballots from voters who had not been issued a replacement voting package. Packages for voters who had been issued replacement packages were counted after the close of voting on December 7, following an assessment to ensure they had only voted once.

Counting a mail-in referendum takes longer than a provincial election because all ballot packages must be screened for eligibility before being counted. There are also significantly fewer election officials to support the process. Elections BC anticipated that the counting process would take several weeks.

Elections BC undertook a number of measures to ensure ballots were counted as quickly as possible, while maintaining the security, accuracy and transparency of the counting process. Elections BC screened and then separated certification envelopes in a manner that satisfied all of the requirements of the Regulation. To accelerate the counting process, additional staff were deployed to assist with separating envelopes, which is a particularly manually-intensive part of the process. During the review and counting process, Elections BC identified instances where it appeared an individual returned more than one voting package. In these instances, all packages were set aside and not considered.

Certification envelope review

Returned ballot packages went through a comprehensive review process before being accepted for counting. This process was based on a new strategy for Elections BC. In past mail-based events, certification envelope review procedures were entirely manual. This meant that every envelope had to be physically reviewed by an Elections BC official. For the 2018 referendum, the process was automated so that only envelopes that did not meet the requirements of the regulation were manually reviewed. This change in strategy made the certification envelope review process significantly faster and more efficient.

Optical scanners captured images of each returned certification envelope and assigned it a unique sequence number. The information completed by voters on each envelope was then data entered using the captured image. This allowed most envelopes to be automatically reviewed for compliance with the Regulation. For instance, software validated the voter's birthdate from the certification envelope against Elections BC's records. Approximately 98% of certification envelopes passed these checks and were automatically accepted for counting. Envelopes that were not automatically accepted were put through the correction process. Using optical scanners to capture images of the envelopes also meant that the physical envelopes did not need to be sent to a data-entry service provider as they had been in past events.

Elections BC provided daily estimates of the number of ballot packages received throughout the voting period. In the past, this was done based on envelopes returned, sorted by region. This led to distortions in reporting, because it falsely implied that certain regions were returning their ballot packages at a greater rate than others. In 2018, Elections BC was able to report the number of envelopes returned as they were received and data captured, which made interim turnout estimates more accurate.

Elections BC hired 130 referendum officials to process returned ballot packages and review certification envelopes. These officials were supported by an additional 40 Elections BC staff members who were also appointed as referendum officials.

Preparing ballots for counting

After the voting package request period closed at midnight on November 23, 2018, Elections BC began preparing batches of accepted certification envelopes for counting.

Certification envelopes were cut open by machines and then separated in two steps. First, the secrecy sleeve was removed from the certification envelope and screened for any potentially identifiable information such as a signature. This step ensured the secrecy of the vote by removing the connection between the ballot and the voter's information on the certification envelope.

Next, the secrecy sleeve was transferred to different referendum officials who removed the ballot from the sleeve. During this process, ballots were screened to ensure they did not contain any identifiable information, were not damaged, and did not physically differ from the official ballot included in the voting package. Once screened, accepted ballots were assembled in boxes and securely stored in preparation for counting.

Question 1

The first question on the ballot asked voters if British Columbia should keep the current First Past the Post voting system or move to a system of proportional representation for provincial elections. To be considered a valid vote on Question 1, the ballot had to clearly indicate a choice for either First Past the Post or proportional representation. Voters did not have to answer Question 2 for their choice on Question 1 to be counted.

The threshold for Question 1 was set at 50% plus one vote, meaning that if more than half the votes supported First Past the Post on Question 1, the voting system would stay the same. If more than half the votes supported proportional representation, the proportional system with the most support on Question 2 would be adopted.

More than half the votes on Question 1 supported First Past the Post. A summary of the voting results for Question 1 is available on page 35.

Question 2

The second question on the ballot asked voters to rank three proportional voting systems in order of preference. To be considered a valid vote on Question 2, the ballot had to clearly indicate one first preference. If it did not, any second or third preferences indicated were ignored. Voters did not have to answer Question 1 for their choice on Question 2 to be counted.

If one of the three voting systems on Question 2 had received more than half of the first-ranked preferences, that system would have had the most support and no further counting would have been needed. However, no system received more than half the first preferences, so a second round of counting was required. Per the rules specified in the Electoral Reform Referendum 2018 Regulation, the voting system with the fewest first preferences, Rural-Urban Proportional (RUP), was eliminated from further consideration.

In the second round of counting, the first-preference votes for RUP that had a valid second preference were transferred to one of the remaining voting systems, Dual Member Proportional (DMP) or Mixed Member Proportional (MMP), according to that second preference. First-preference votes for RUP that did not have a valid second preference were not transferable and were set aside as exhausted ballots.

Votes for the two remaining systems were re-tallied, taking into account transferred votes from RUP. After the second round of counting, MMP had the most support on Question 2.

More information about the voting results for Question 2, including a summary of results after each round of counting, is available on page 36.

Tabulation technology

Elections BC partnered with Dominion Voting Canada to count the ballots using high-speed tabulators. Tabulation technology is proven to be accurate and efficient and has been used extensively in other jurisdictions within Canada and abroad.

Vote by mail events present a good opportunity to trial counting technology because a central facility processes all of the ballots. Elections BC first piloted the use of high-speed optical scanning machines during the 2015 Metro Vancouver Transportation and Transit Plebiscite. The 2018 referendum presented an even stronger case for applying technology to counting, with its provincial scale and two-question ballot that included a ranked-choice question. Using 12 tabulators, Elections BC had the capacity to count approximately 210,000 ballots per day. On a single-choice question, a team of two officials can manually count approximately 4,200 ballots per day. At least 50 teams of two referendum officials would be required to achieve a manual count in the same time-frame as a count using tabulators. The high-speed optical scanning machines counted both questions simultaneously, allowing results to be announced much more quickly than if manual counting had been used.

Extensive testing was conducted to ensure that the tabulators would accurately interpret ballot markings in accordance with the referendum regulation. Batches of marked ballots with a known outcome were tested on the tabulators to ensure that the tabulated results matched a manual count. This process was repeated immediately before the start of counting in the presence of external referendum observers.

Figure 17: Ballot tabulator



Adjudication process

Referendum officials reviewed images of each ballot that a tabulator could not count as a valid vote due to unclear markings. If they could determine the voter's intent the ballot was accepted. If the voter's intent could not be determined, the ballot was rejected. Approximately 35,000 referendum ballots required adjudication.

Quality assurance

In order to ensure the highest degree of confidence in the tabulated voting results, Elections BC conducted audit and quality assurance activities throughout the counting process. On each day of counting, Elections BC staff conducted spot checks of ballots sampled from different tabulators as independent confirmation that the scanned ballot images were a true and accurate reflection of the marked physical ballots.

Upon completion of tabulation on December 19, 2018, Elections BC conducted a final audit of the tabulated results. The tabulation audit took place after completion of ballot counting and prior to the voting results announcement on December 20, 2018.

Elections BC used a risk-limiting audit methodology to administer the tabulation audit. Risk-limiting audits establish a known level of confidence in the tabulated result if it can be shown that the number of vote discrepancies in a random sample of ballots does not exceed a statistically-determined threshold. In a risk-limiting audit, the size of the random sample is not known in advance and depends on both the closeness of the result and the number of vote discrepancies observed during the audit. Smaller vote margins and more discrepancies necessitate a larger sample to audit. At the completion of ballot counting, the vote margin was 22.4% on Question 1 and 14.6% on Question 2, so a relatively small sample was required.

A random selection of 136 ballots was audited by Elections BC staff in the presence of representatives of the official opponent and proponent groups. For each ballot in the sample, the actual ballot markings were compared to what the electronic tabulation system recorded as the cast vote record for Questions 1 and 2. Elections BC staff used a custom-built database to review ballot scan images and record audit decisions independently of the Dominion Voting tabulation software.

No discrepancies between audited and recorded votes were found for either Question 1 or Question 2. On the basis of these findings, the audit concluded that the referendum voting results were correctly tabulated.

Observers program

To ensure transparency and procedural fairness, Elections BC provided many opportunities for key stakeholders to observe referendum processes. Observers included representatives of the official opponent and proponent groups and political parties.

Elections BC invited observers to a demonstration of the ballot tabulation processes at Elections BC headquarters. Observers were also invited to tour Elections BC's secure processing and counting facilities, and were present throughout the counting process. Representatives of the official proponent and opponent groups were also present to observe the risk-limiting audit of tabulation results at the invitation of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Observers watched the process to ensure that the decisions made by the referendum officials were consistent and that the counting proceedings complied with the requirements of the Electoral Reform Referendum 2018 Regulation. Observers were not scrutineers and could not challenge or object to decisions of referendum officials. Observers swore an oath not to publicly disclose the proceedings they were observing.

VOTING RESULTS

Summary of results

The following pages contain the verified results of the 2018 Referendum on Electoral Reform.

Question 1: Which system should British Columbia use for provincial elections?

The current First Past the Post voting system received a majority of votes with 61.30% (845,235) of the valid votes for Question 1.

Table 10: Question 1 voting results

	Votes	%
The current First Past the Post voting system	845,235	61.30%
A proportional representation voting system	533,518	38.70%
Total valid votes	1,378,753	100.00%
Invalid votes (did not provide a valid marking for Question 1)	10,209	-
Rejected ballots	2,461	-
Total ballots considered	1,391,423	-

Question 2: If British Columbia adopts a proportional representation voting system, which of the following voting systems do you prefer?

Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) received a majority of votes with 63.05% (491,630) of the continuing ballots for Question 2.

Table 11: Question 2 voting results

	Round 1		Transfers	Round 2	
	Votes	%		Votes	%
Dual Member Proportional (DMP)	244,973	29.45%	+43,095	288,068	36.95%
Mixed Member Proportional (MMP)	343,038	41.24%	+148,592	491,630	63.05%
Rural-Urban Proportional (RUP)	243,749	29.31%	-243,749	0	0.00%
Total continuing ballots	831,760	100.00%	-52,062	779,698	100.00%
Exhausted ballots	-	-	-	52,062	-
Total valid votes	831,760	-	-	831,760	-
Invalid votes (did not provide a valid marking for Question 2)	557,202	-	-	557,202	-
Rejected ballots	2,461	-	-	2,461	-
Total ballots considered	1,391,423	-	-	1,391,423	-

Elections BC received 10,653 voting packages by the deadline that did not meet the requirements of the Electoral Reform Referendum 2018 Regulation and could not be considered for counting.

Table 12: Voting packages not considered, by reason

Reason	Voting packages not considered
Certification envelope not signed	421
Birthdate not provided	872
Birthdate provided did not match voter record	8,024
Certification envelope not signed and birthdate not provided	867
Certification envelope not used by the individual to whom it was issued	462
Individual appeared to be voting more than once	7
Total number of voting packages not considered	10,653

Elections BC received 998 voting packages that met the requirements for counting, but were resealed because there was no ballot in the package or because there was more than one ballot in the package.

Table 13: Resealed certification envelopes and secrecy sleeves, by reason

Reason	Voting packages that were resealed
Certification envelope did not contain a secrecy sleeve or ballot	730
Certification envelope contained more than one ballot	29
Secrecy sleeve did not contain a ballot	224
Secrecy sleeve contained more than one ballot	15
Total number of resealed certification envelopes and secrecy sleeves	998

An additional 7,220 voting packages were received after the close of voting. As a comparison, 8,472 voting packages were received after the close of voting in the 2011 HST Referendum.

On December 20, 2018 the Chief Electoral Officer reported the results of the referendum to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly as required by section 7 of the *Electoral Reform Referendum 2018 Act*. The Chief Electoral Officer also announced the results of the referendum to the public at a live-streamed news conference, on the Elections BC website, and through a province-wide news release on the same day.

Voting results by electoral district

	Question 1						Question 2 - Round 1 votes (first preferences)			
	FPTP votes	FPTP %	PR votes	PR %	Total valid votes	Invalid votes	DMP votes	DMP %	MMP votes	MMP %
Provincial total	845,235	61.30%	533,518	38.70%	1,378,753	10,209	244,973	29.45%	343,038	41.24%
Totals by electoral district										
Abbotsford-Mission ABM	13,329	73.75%	4,743	26.25%	18,072	94	3,141	32.96%	3,701	38.84%
Abbotsford South ABS	11,476	76.80%	3,467	23.20%	14,943	118	2,515	33.54%	2,886	38.49%
Abbotsford West ABW	11,102	79.29%	2,899	20.71%	14,001	114	2,272	36.68%	2,295	37.05%
Boundary-Similkameen BDS	10,838	68.68%	4,943	31.32%	15,781	183	2,459	27.96%	2,962	33.67%
Burnaby-Deer Lake BND	7,821	62.59%	4,675	37.41%	12,496	94	2,628	33.96%	3,413	44.11%
Burnaby-Edmonds BNE	7,724	60.35%	5,075	39.65%	12,799	103	2,841	33.75%	3,713	44.10%
Burnaby-Lougheed BNL	8,648	57.89%	6,291	42.11%	14,939	109	3,025	31.22%	4,239	43.75%
Burnaby North BNN	9,364	59.77%	6,304	40.23%	15,668	140	3,256	32.61%	4,308	43.14%
Cariboo-Chilcotin CBC	8,002	76.48%	2,461	23.52%	10,463	82	1,353	26.20%	1,607	31.12%
Cariboo North CBN	6,456	75.23%	2,126	24.77%	8,582	90	1,217	26.90%	1,376	30.42%
Chilliwack CHC	9,908	74.55%	3,383	25.45%	13,291	102	2,377	34.71%	2,468	36.04%
Chilliwack-Kent CHK	12,576	74.98%	4,197	25.02%	16,773	87	2,923	33.37%	3,254	37.15%
Columbia River-Revelstoke CLR	6,052	57.13%	4,541	42.87%	10,593	87	1,644	24.39%	2,476	36.74%
Coquitlam-Burke Mountain CQB	10,257	65.67%	5,363	34.33%	15,620	99	3,234	34.18%	4,224	44.64%
Coquitlam-Maillardville CQM	9,135	63.24%	5,310	36.76%	14,445	111	3,050	34.05%	3,926	43.83%
Courtenay-Comox CRC	12,607	55.16%	10,249	44.84%	22,856	156	3,900	27.08%	5,440	37.77%
Cowichan Valley CWV	11,175	52.82%	9,982	47.18%	21,157	172	3,844	28.11%	5,521	40.38%
Delta North DLN	9,923	69.71%	4,312	30.29%	14,235	81	2,679	33.18%	3,599	44.57%
Delta South DLS	12,765	70.58%	5,320	29.42%	18,085	106	3,166	32.67%	4,089	42.19%
Esquimalt-Metchosin ESM	8,772	47.30%	9,773	52.70%	18,545	130	3,576	27.80%	5,603	43.56%
Fraser-Nicola FRN	7,259	73.94%	2,558	26.06%	9,817	90	1,447	28.88%	1,536	30.65%
Kamloops-North Thompson KAN	11,814	68.73%	5,375	31.27%	17,189	149	3,014	31.44%	3,392	35.38%
Kamloops-South Thompson KAS	13,921	66.02%	7,166	33.98%	21,087	111	3,217	27.88%	4,636	40.17%
Kelowna-Lake Country KLA	14,254	71.04%	5,812	28.96%	20,066	138	3,533	32.38%	4,370	40.05%
Kelowna-Mission KLM	14,827	70.52%	6,199	29.48%	21,026	162	3,578	32.92%	4,478	41.20%
Kelowna West KLW	14,355	69.96%	6,164	30.04%	20,519	186	3,493	32.42%	4,427	41.09%
Kootenay East KOE	9,023	71.80%	3,544	28.20%	12,567	111	1,769	28.00%	2,274	36.00%
Kootenay West KOW	6,656	48.74%	7,000	51.26%	13,656	132	2,312	24.18%	3,289	34.40%
Langford-Juan de Fuca LJF	8,960	49.14%	9,274	50.86%	18,234	140	3,531	27.82%	5,548	43.71%
Langley LLY	11,685	72.29%	4,478	27.71%	16,163	131	3,171	35.16%	3,493	38.73%
Langley East LYE	15,777	73.55%	5,675	26.45%	21,452	118	3,603	31.34%	4,912	42.72%
Maple Ridge-Mission MAM	11,321	68.57%	5,188	31.43%	16,509	141	3,263	33.70%	3,782	39.06%
Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows MAP	11,564	68.30%	5,367	31.70%	16,931	138	3,405	34.07%	4,026	40.29%
Mid Island-Pacific Rim MPR	9,581	51.57%	8,999	48.43%	18,580	193	3,166	25.74%	4,524	36.77%
Nanaimo NAN	10,785	54.09%	9,153	45.91%	19,938	205	3,793	29.56%	5,532	43.12%
Nanaimo-North Cowichan NCW	9,644	50.39%	9,494	49.61%	19,138	214	3,452	26.90%	4,903	38.20%
Nechako Lakes NEC	4,848	77.65%	1,395	22.35%	6,243	74	869	26.66%	908	27.85%
Nelson-Creston NEL	6,147	42.95%	8,165	57.05%	14,312	132	1,924	18.96%	3,583	35.31%
New Westminster NEW	9,236	49.04%	9,596	50.96%	18,832	191	3,925	29.03%	6,113	45.21%
North Coast NOC	2,282	52.70%	2,048	47.30%	4,330	60	659	22.38%	914	31.05%
North Island NOI	10,232	56.78%	7,790	43.22%	18,022	204	3,033	26.90%	4,377	38.81%

				Question 2 - Round 2 votes (after second-preference transfers)							
RUP votes	RUP %	Total valid votes	Invalid votes	DMP votes	DMP %	MMP votes	MMP %	RUP votes	RUP %	Continuing ballots	Exhausted ballots
243,749	29.31%	831,760	557,202	288,068	36.95%	491,630	63.05%	-	-	779,698	52,062
2,687	28.20%	9,529	8,637	3,667	41.62%	5,144	58.38%	-	-	8,811	718
2,098	27.98%	7,499	7,562	2,853	41.47%	4,026	58.53%	-	-	6,879	620
1,627	26.27%	6,194	7,921	2,588	44.88%	3,178	55.12%	-	-	5,766	428
3,375	38.37%	8,796	7,168	3,032	38.84%	4,774	61.16%	-	-	7,806	990
1,697	21.93%	7,738	4,852	2,966	39.89%	4,470	60.11%	-	-	7,436	302
1,865	22.15%	8,419	4,483	3,201	39.34%	4,936	60.66%	-	-	8,137	282
2,425	25.03%	9,689	5,359	3,495	37.48%	5,831	62.52%	-	-	9,326	363
2,422	24.25%	9,986	5,822	3,731	38.73%	5,902	61.27%	-	-	9,633	353
2,204	42.68%	5,164	5,381	1,712	38.37%	2,750	61.63%	-	-	4,462	702
1,931	42.68%	4,524	4,148	1,555	39.79%	2,353	60.21%	-	-	3,908	616
2,003	29.25%	6,848	6,545	2,691	42.88%	3,585	57.12%	-	-	6,276	572
2,583	29.49%	8,760	8,100	3,390	41.96%	4,690	58.04%	-	-	8,080	680
2,620	38.87%	6,740	3,940	2,073	34.04%	4,017	65.96%	-	-	6,090	650
2,005	21.19%	9,463	6,256	3,649	39.99%	5,475	60.01%	-	-	9,124	339
1,981	22.12%	8,957	5,599	3,413	39.77%	5,168	60.23%	-	-	8,581	376
5,064	35.16%	14,404	8,608	4,707	35.53%	8,542	64.47%	-	-	13,249	1,155
4,308	31.51%	13,673	7,656	4,607	36.24%	8,106	63.76%	-	-	12,713	960
1,797	22.25%	8,075	6,241	3,040	39.37%	4,682	60.63%	-	-	7,722	353
2,436	25.14%	9,691	8,500	3,574	39.03%	5,584	60.97%	-	-	9,158	533
3,683	28.63%	12,862	5,813	4,214	34.60%	7,965	65.40%	-	-	12,179	683
2,028	40.47%	5,011	4,896	1,805	41.38%	2,557	58.62%	-	-	4,362	649
3,182	33.19%	9,588	7,750	3,530	40.68%	5,148	59.32%	-	-	8,678	910
3,687	31.95%	11,540	9,658	3,879	36.40%	6,778	63.60%	-	-	10,657	883
3,007	27.56%	10,910	9,294	4,093	40.27%	6,070	59.73%	-	-	10,163	747
2,813	25.88%	10,869	10,319	4,074	40.16%	6,071	59.84%	-	-	10,145	724
2,855	26.50%	10,775	9,930	3,998	39.38%	6,154	60.62%	-	-	10,152	623
2,274	36.00%	6,317	6,361	2,158	38.01%	3,519	61.99%	-	-	5,677	640
3,960	41.42%	9,561	4,227	2,933	33.81%	5,743	66.19%	-	-	8,676	885
3,614	28.47%	12,693	5,681	4,176	34.79%	7,827	65.21%	-	-	12,003	690
2,355	26.11%	9,019	7,275	3,584	42.29%	4,890	57.71%	-	-	8,474	545
2,983	25.94%	11,498	10,072	4,152	38.93%	6,512	61.07%	-	-	10,664	834
2,638	27.24%	9,683	6,967	3,790	41.67%	5,305	58.33%	-	-	9,095	588
2,562	25.64%	9,993	7,076	3,882	41.22%	5,536	58.78%	-	-	9,418	575
4,612	37.49%	12,302	6,471	3,944	35.12%	7,286	64.88%	-	-	11,230	1,072
3,505	27.32%	12,830	7,313	4,420	36.29%	7,759	63.71%	-	-	12,179	651
4,480	34.90%	12,835	6,517	4,195	35.72%	7,548	64.28%	-	-	11,743	1,092
1,483	45.49%	3,260	3,057	1,121	41.38%	1,588	58.62%	-	-	2,709	551
4,640	45.73%	10,147	4,297	2,537	27.93%	6,548	72.07%	-	-	9,085	1,062
3,484	25.77%	13,522	5,501	4,589	35.33%	8,399	64.67%	-	-	12,988	534
1,371	46.57%	2,944	1,446	856	33.63%	1,689	66.37%	-	-	2,545	399
3,867	34.29%	11,277	6,949	3,679	35.88%	6,576	64.12%	-	-	10,255	1,022

		Question 1						Question 2 - Round 1 votes (first preferences)			
		FPTP votes	FPTP %	PR votes	PR %	Total valid votes	Invalid votes	DMP votes	DMP %	MMP votes	MMP %
North Vancouver-Lonsdale	NVL	10,297	55.89%	8,128	44.11%	18,425	144	3,669	30.28%	5,472	45.17%
North Vancouver-Seymour	NVS	12,491	59.81%	8,394	40.19%	20,885	80	3,669	28.31%	6,106	47.11%
Oak Bay-Gordon Head	OBG	10,625	46.53%	12,210	53.47%	22,835	113	3,877	25.41%	7,212	47.28%
Parksville-Qualicum	PAQ	17,272	66.63%	8,651	33.37%	25,923	164	4,410	32.57%	5,497	40.60%
Peace River North	PCN	8,759	86.42%	1,376	13.58%	10,135	41	999	26.39%	1,201	31.72%
Peace River South	PCS	5,555	84.87%	990	15.13%	6,545	36	732	28.94%	760	30.05%
Penticton	PEN	13,186	63.17%	7,687	36.83%	20,873	172	3,650	31.21%	4,730	40.45%
Port Coquitlam	POC	10,029	61.67%	6,234	38.33%	16,263	139	3,519	33.28%	4,656	44.03%
Port Moody-Coquitlam	POM	9,989	59.73%	6,735	40.27%	16,724	84	3,207	29.81%	4,781	44.45%
Powell River-Sunshine Coast	POR	9,242	46.12%	10,799	53.88%	20,041	186	3,217	23.81%	5,376	39.80%
Prince George-Mackenzie	PRM	9,367	71.30%	3,771	28.70%	13,138	78	1,824	25.19%	2,749	37.96%
Prince George-Valemount	PRV	9,581	70.87%	3,939	29.13%	13,520	95	2,034	27.43%	2,759	37.21%
Richmond North Centre	RNC	8,702	73.35%	3,161	26.65%	11,863	61	2,098	34.86%	2,607	43.32%
Richmond-Queensborough	RQE	8,787	69.93%	3,779	30.07%	12,566	97	2,664	36.80%	3,036	41.93%
Richmond South Centre	RSC	7,663	74.29%	2,652	25.71%	10,315	54	1,971	36.91%	2,329	43.61%
Richmond-Steveston	RST	11,034	71.26%	4,450	28.74%	15,484	82	2,776	33.62%	3,679	44.55%
Saanich North and the Islands	SAN	13,540	48.62%	14,309	51.38%	27,849	179	4,501	25.14%	7,466	41.70%
Saanich South	SAS	11,220	54.72%	9,284	45.28%	20,504	85	3,657	28.54%	5,782	45.12%
Shuswap	SHU	14,404	69.86%	6,213	30.14%	20,617	159	3,106	28.71%	3,722	34.41%
Skeena	SKE	4,863	66.83%	2,414	33.17%	7,277	57	1,092	26.22%	1,345	32.29%
Stikine	SKN	3,142	60.03%	2,092	39.97%	5,234	47	715	21.81%	1,064	32.45%
Surrey-Cloverdale	SRC	11,461	72.82%	4,278	27.18%	15,739	84	3,238	36.68%	3,624	41.06%
Surrey-Fleetwood	SRF	8,165	72.24%	3,138	27.76%	11,303	103	2,480	39.21%	2,600	41.11%
Surrey-Green Timbers	SRG	5,548	72.65%	2,089	27.35%	7,637	90	1,736	40.76%	1,672	39.26%
Surrey-Guildford	SUG	7,314	69.11%	3,269	30.89%	10,583	97	2,369	37.09%	2,634	41.23%
Surrey-Newton	SUN	6,237	73.20%	2,284	26.80%	8,521	98	1,938	41.78%	1,826	39.36%
Surrey-Panorama	SUP	9,742	74.50%	3,334	25.50%	13,076	73	2,742	38.51%	2,930	41.15%
Surrey South	SUS	13,604	74.49%	4,658	25.51%	18,262	74	3,314	33.83%	4,204	42.92%
Surrey-Whalley	SWH	5,919	63.41%	3,415	36.59%	9,334	87	2,175	36.88%	2,358	39.98%
Surrey-White Rock	SWR	14,510	70.69%	6,017	29.31%	20,527	138	3,665	33.83%	4,626	42.70%
Vancouver-Fairview	VFA	8,801	42.38%	11,968	57.62%	20,769	87	3,393	22.41%	6,877	45.42%
Vancouver-False Creek	VFC	8,129	48.67%	8,572	51.33%	16,701	69	3,131	26.18%	5,239	43.81%
Vancouver-Fraserview	VFV	10,182	67.33%	4,940	32.67%	15,122	126	3,022	35.27%	3,724	43.47%
Vancouver-Hastings	VHA	6,337	38.37%	10,178	61.63%	16,515	141	3,096	24.50%	5,389	42.65%
Vancouver-Kensington	VKE	7,688	51.42%	7,262	48.58%	14,950	159	3,183	30.74%	4,308	41.60%
Vancouver-Kingsway	VKI	7,485	56.75%	5,705	43.25%	13,190	151	2,844	32.63%	3,602	41.33%
Vancouver-Langara	VLA	9,925	67.88%	4,696	32.12%	14,621	88	2,542	31.80%	3,459	43.27%
Vancouver-Mount Pleasant	VMP	4,131	25.74%	11,916	74.26%	16,047	140	2,647	19.54%	5,873	43.36%
Vancouver-Point Grey	VNP	8,533	47.11%	9,579	52.89%	18,112	81	2,764	22.20%	5,859	47.05%
Vancouver-Quilchena	VNQ	12,795	70.30%	5,405	29.70%	18,200	76	2,604	28.11%	4,270	46.09%
Vancouver-West End	VNW	5,645	38.55%	8,999	61.45%	14,644	99	2,702	24.04%	5,065	45.07%
Vernon-Monashee	VRM	14,375	65.55%	7,556	34.45%	21,931	194	3,787	29.81%	4,962	39.06%
Victoria-Beacon Hill	VTB	7,778	33.65%	15,333	66.35%	23,111	168	3,935	22.43%	7,995	45.58%
Victoria-Swan Lake	VTN	6,389	34.96%	11,885	65.04%	18,274	148	3,415	24.33%	6,165	43.92%
West Vancouver-Capilano	WVC	13,788	71.38%	5,527	28.62%	19,315	110	3,004	31.23%	4,419	45.95%
West Vancouver-Sea to Sky	WVS	8,905	51.48%	8,393	48.52%	17,298	97	2,603	23.43%	4,912	44.21%

				Question 2 - Round 2 votes (after second-preference transfers)							
RUP votes	RUP %	Total valid votes	Invalid votes	DMP votes	DMP %	MMP votes	MMP %	RUP votes	RUP %	Continuing ballots	Exhausted ballots
2,974	24.55%	12,115	6,454	4,220	36.46%	7,354	63.54%	-	-	11,574	541
3,187	24.59%	12,962	8,003	4,279	34.64%	8,073	65.36%	-	-	12,352	610
4,166	27.31%	15,255	7,693	4,606	31.83%	9,866	68.17%	-	-	14,472	783
3,632	26.83%	13,539	12,548	5,004	39.57%	7,642	60.43%	-	-	12,646	893
1,586	41.89%	3,786	6,390	1,262	39.25%	1,953	60.75%	-	-	3,215	571
1,037	41.00%	2,529	4,052	911	41.71%	1,273	58.29%	-	-	2,184	345
3,314	28.34%	11,694	9,351	4,263	39.11%	6,636	60.89%	-	-	10,899	795
2,400	22.70%	10,575	5,827	4,002	39.38%	6,160	60.62%	-	-	10,162	413
2,769	25.74%	10,757	6,051	3,772	36.66%	6,518	63.34%	-	-	10,290	467
4,916	36.39%	13,509	6,718	3,988	32.06%	8,450	67.94%	-	-	12,438	1,071
2,669	36.85%	7,242	5,974	2,217	34.31%	4,245	65.69%	-	-	6,462	780
2,622	35.36%	7,415	6,200	2,439	36.67%	4,213	63.33%	-	-	6,652	763
1,313	21.82%	6,018	5,906	2,381	40.94%	3,435	59.06%	-	-	5,816	202
1,540	21.27%	7,240	5,423	2,969	42.47%	4,022	57.53%	-	-	6,991	249
1,040	19.48%	5,340	5,029	2,170	42.03%	2,993	57.97%	-	-	5,163	177
1,803	21.83%	8,258	7,308	3,153	39.86%	4,758	60.14%	-	-	7,911	347
5,936	33.16%	17,903	10,125	5,466	32.81%	11,195	67.19%	-	-	16,661	1,242
3,375	26.34%	12,814	7,775	4,286	35.28%	7,861	64.72%	-	-	12,147	667
3,990	36.88%	10,818	9,958	3,749	39.02%	5,858	60.98%	-	-	9,607	1,211
1,728	41.49%	4,165	3,169	1,370	37.21%	2,312	62.79%	-	-	3,682	483
1,500	45.75%	3,279	2,002	940	32.37%	1,964	67.63%	-	-	2,904	375
1,965	22.26%	8,827	6,996	3,614	42.74%	4,842	57.26%	-	-	8,456	371
1,245	19.68%	6,325	5,081	2,752	45.43%	3,306	54.57%	-	-	6,058	267
851	19.98%	4,259	3,468	1,923	46.78%	2,188	53.22%	-	-	4,111	148
1,385	21.68%	6,388	4,292	2,637	43.12%	3,479	56.88%	-	-	6,116	272
875	18.86%	4,639	3,980	2,108	46.93%	2,384	53.07%	-	-	4,492	147
1,449	20.35%	7,121	6,028	3,046	44.54%	3,793	55.46%	-	-	6,839	282
2,277	23.25%	9,795	8,541	3,800	40.94%	5,481	59.06%	-	-	9,281	514
1,365	23.14%	5,898	3,523	2,429	43.04%	3,214	56.96%	-	-	5,643	255
2,542	23.47%	10,833	9,832	4,122	40.21%	6,128	59.79%	-	-	10,250	583
4,870	32.17%	15,140	5,716	4,247	29.36%	10,217	70.64%	-	-	14,464	676
3,588	30.01%	11,958	4,812	3,770	33.07%	7,629	66.93%	-	-	11,399	559
1,821	21.26%	8,567	6,681	3,395	41.13%	4,860	58.87%	-	-	8,255	312
4,150	32.85%	12,635	4,021	3,788	31.30%	8,315	68.70%	-	-	12,103	532
2,864	27.66%	10,355	4,754	3,706	37.23%	6,248	62.77%	-	-	9,954	401
2,270	26.04%	8,716	4,625	3,350	39.91%	5,043	60.09%	-	-	8,393	323
1,993	24.93%	7,994	6,715	2,932	38.28%	4,727	61.72%	-	-	7,659	335
5,025	37.10%	13,545	2,642	3,536	27.16%	9,485	72.84%	-	-	13,021	524
3,830	30.76%	12,453	5,740	3,437	28.97%	8,428	71.03%	-	-	11,865	588
2,390	25.80%	9,264	9,012	3,042	34.47%	5,782	65.53%	-	-	8,824	440
3,471	30.89%	11,238	3,505	3,355	31.18%	7,405	68.82%	-	-	10,760	478
3,954	31.13%	12,703	9,422	4,452	38.10%	7,233	61.90%	-	-	11,685	1,018
5,612	31.99%	17,542	5,737	4,850	29.11%	11,809	70.89%	-	-	16,659	883
4,458	31.76%	14,038	4,384	4,232	31.47%	9,214	68.53%	-	-	13,446	592
2,195	22.82%	9,618	9,807	3,392	37.41%	5,676	62.59%	-	-	9,068	550
3,596	32.36%	11,111	6,284	3,153	30.22%	7,282	69.78%	-	-	10,435	676

ORDERS OF THE CEO

Section 4(1)(k) of the Electoral Reform Referendum 2018 Regulation applied section 280 of the *Election Act* to the 2018 Referendum on Electoral Reform. This established the authority of the Chief Electoral Officer to make specific or general Orders in cases of exceptional circumstances, an emergency or a mistake. There were six Orders made by the Chief Electoral Officer relating to the 2018 Referendum on Electoral Reform. The Orders are summarized below.

ORD001-2018

November 23, 2018

Due to rotating strikes by the Canadian Union of Postal Workers starting on October 22, 2018, the voting period was extended by one week, with the deadline for the close of voting occurring at 4:30 p.m. local time on Friday, December 7, 2018. This extension was issued to ensure voter accessibility in returning completed voting packages.

ORD002-2018

December 19, 2018

Due to a mistake by an Elections BC service provider, 23 voters who requested a voting package were mistakenly issued certification envelopes with missing information. Ballot packages submitted by these voters that were otherwise completed in accordance with the regulation were considered for counting.

ORD003-2018

December 19, 2018

Due to a mistake by an Elections BC service provider, five voters who requested a voting package were not issued a voting package until after the close of voting. The deadline for returning a ballot package was extended to December 14 for two voters and December 17 for three voters.

ORD004-2018

December 19, 2018

In some households receiving more than one voting package, voters voted using the incorrect voting package. Where referendum officials could determine that, apart from this error, the ballot packages submitted by these voters were completed as required by the Regulation, these ballot packages were considered for counting as if each individual in the household voted using the ballot package issued to them.

ORD005-2018

December 19, 2018

A voter attempted to return a completed ballot package to an Elections BC service provider in Ucluelet at 3:09 p.m. on December 7, 2018 prior to the close of voting. The voter found the location to be closed, and was mistakenly advised their ballot package would be considered late. This voter's ballot package was considered for counting.

ORD006-2018

December 19, 2018

Due to extensive delays in the delivery of international mail resulting from a labour dispute between the Canada Post Corporation and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, 94 completed ballot packages from international sources were received after the close of voting. Apart from the delays in mail service, the voters addressed in this Order would have been able to participate in the referendum. The 94 ballot packages from international locations were considered for counting.

ELECTIONS BC EXPENSES

Table 14: Elections BC expenses

Expense categories	Combined totals for fiscal years 2017/2018, 2018/19 and 2019/20
Salaries	\$1,361,124
Professional services	713,302
Travel	9,987
Information systems	320,867
Office and business expenses	1,479,730
Postal services/postage/courier	6,169,901
Advertising and publications	2,066,955
Building occupancy costs	88,494
Total expenses	\$12,210,360
Number of registered voters at close of the period for requesting a voting package	3,297,396
Cost per registered voter	\$3.70
Public proponent and opponent funding	\$999,675*
Total expenses including proponent/opponent funding	\$13,210,035

*This figure is lower than the \$1,000,000 provided because some unused funds were returned to Elections BC.

APPENDIX: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Accepted	A certification envelope that passed the review process.
Adjudication	The process of manually reviewing a ballot that could not be counted by a tabulator due to unclear markings.
Cancelled	A voting package that was not considered for counting because a replacement voting package was issued to the voter.
Consider	The review of a certification envelope or ballot to determine if it meets the requirements of the <i>Electoral Reform Referendum 2018 Act</i> and its Regulation. A certification envelope that passes this review is “accepted”.
Continuing ballot	A valid vote on Question 2 that counts as a vote for a proportional representation voting system that is not eliminated. Includes ballots that transfer to a non-eliminated system in the second round of counting.
Dual Member Proportional (DMP)	A proportional voting system in which two MLAs are elected in most electoral districts.
Eliminated system	The proportional representation voting system with the fewest first-preference votes after the first round of counting on Question 2.
Exhausted ballot	A valid vote on Question 2 that could not be counted as a continuing ballot (i.e., no valid second preference).
First Past the Post (FPTP)	British Columbia’s current voting system for provincial elections in which the candidate with the most votes in a district wins and represents that district in the Legislative Assembly. One of the two voter choices allowed for Question 1.
Invalid vote	A vote on a referendum question that does not satisfy the counting rules for that question.
Mixed Member Proportional (MMP)	A proportional voting system in which some MLAs are elected to represent electoral districts, and others are elected to represent regions.
Opponent	The group selected by the Chief Electoral Officer according to the requirements of the Electoral Reform Referendum 2018 Regulation to receive \$500,000 in public funding to use for a public information campaign opposing proportional representation.
Proponent	The group selected by the Chief Electoral Officer according to the requirements of the Electoral Reform Referendum 2018 Regulation to receive \$500,000 in public funding to use for a public information campaign supporting proportional representation.
Proportional Representation (PR)	Refers to a class of voting systems that are designed to produce a voting result such that the share of seats a political party wins is nearly the same as the party’s share of the popular vote. One of the two voter choices allowed for Question 1.

Rejected ballot	A ballot that did not contribute a valid vote to either of the referendum questions.
Round	A stage in the counting process for Question 2 during which votes are tabulated to determine if a voting system has received a majority of votes or, failing that, which system must be eliminated from further consideration.
Rural-Urban Proportional (RUP)	A voting system which combines two different proportional systems: Single Transferable Vote (STV) and Mixed Member Proportional (MMP).
Tabulation	The process by which voter choices are recorded, interpreted, and aggregated into voting results.
Tabulator	An electronic vote-counting machine that scans a paper ballot to count and tabulate votes.
Valid vote	<p>A vote on a referendum question that satisfies the counting rules for that question.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To be considered a valid vote on Question 1, the ballot must clearly indicate a choice for either First Past the Post (FPTP) or Proportional Representation (PR). ▪ To be considered a valid vote on Question 2, the ballot must clearly indicate one and only one first preference among DMP, MMP, and RUP. Absent a clear first preference, second and third preferences are ignored in the counting of votes toward Question 2.
Voting package	The set of materials provided to voters by Elections BC for the purpose of voting in the referendum. The voting package consisted of an outer envelope, return envelope, certification envelope, secrecy sleeve, ballot and instruction sheet.

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