

ELECTION RESULTS 1871-1986

Votes

Although official election returns were most certainly announced prior to 1916 it was not until that date that they were published in any form that has survived and not until 1928 that the first *Statement of Votes* appeared. Consequently, before 1916 and to a certain extent even afterwards, unofficial sources have had to be used to obtain vote results.¹ These have been cited, for both general and by-elections. All general election results since 1928 have been taken from the respective *Statement of Votes*. By-election results after 1952 are included in the *Statement* but as it is not always clear which one, this has been indicated. From 1928 to 1952 by-election results are to be found in a publication entitled *Summary of Votes* which appears to be a retrospective compilation by the Elections Branch of general and by-election results based upon official figures. Before 1928 various editions of the *Canadian Parliamentary Guide*, its predecessor the *Canadian Parliamentary Companion*, the *Dominion Annual Register*, and R.E. Gosnell's *Year Book of British Columbia*, and numerous newspapers of the period have provided figures. These sources have also been used to supply results of general elections before 1916. Their reliability and their completeness vary.

Due to the existence of multi-Member Electoral Districts, from 1871 to date, voters in those Districts have as many votes as seats to be filled. As a result, the number of total votes cast, both in the District and in the province as a whole, exceeds the number of voters who voted (i.e. ballots cast) or even the number of registered voters. Electors were not obliged to vote for a full slate (voting for fewer is known as plumping) so the total votes cast is not necessarily a multiple of the number of candidates and the number of voters who voted. The *Statement of Votes* gives the number of registered voters who voted in the multi-Member Districts for each election since 1928 except 1941, 1945 and 1953 but can be determined for these three. The figures have been provided in a separate section. In the "General Election Summary" for 1928-1986 an overall total for each election is to be found. Before 1928, in order to get a rough idea of the number of voters who cast ballots, one can divide the total number of votes by the number of seats. Due to probable plumping, however, this will only be an estimate. The percentage, or popular vote in multi-Member Districts has been calculated in all cases by using the number of votes rather than the number of ballots. The same is true for overall provincial party standings. For the 1952 and 1953 general elections the single transferable vote was employed. Those Districts electing more than one Member were issued separate ballots for each seat and candidates were divided among the ballots. Accordingly, it is possible to calculate the popular vote for each candidate as in single-Member Districts.

By votes is meant valid votes. The number of rejected ballots is taken from the *Statement of Votes* and until 1986 indicates the number of voters whose entire ballot was rejected. Before 1956 this figure was added to the total votes cast but this was inaccurate for multi-Member Districts. The figures are available for general elections since 1928 and for by-elections since 1952. In 1986 the number of rejected votes rather than ballots was counted for multi-Member Districts.

Candidates

The form of name has been standardized throughout. Given names are often lacking in early election returns, and sometimes in later ones. They have been supplied when known. Names have been determined and verified using newspapers, the Legislative Library Newspaper Index, *Voters' Lists*, the B.C. *Journals* (which names those elected), the B.C. *Gazette* (appointment notices), the *Canadian Parliamentary Guide*, the *Statement of Votes*, the *List of Candidates* (first printed in 1924), and candidates' disclosure statements (since 1975). Those candidates who withdrew before polling day have been omitted but those who withdrew during polling are included — and noted if known.

¹Please note that reference to use of a 'single transferable vote' system in the general election of 1952 and 1953 is not correct. As indicated in footnotes to the 1952 and 1953 election results, p. 240 footnote 1 and p. 252 footnote 1, the system in use was actually an 'alternative voting' system.

GENERAL ELECTION SUMMARY¹

1871 - 1924

	1871	1875	1878	1882	1886	1890	1894	1898
1 Dissolution of Legislature.....	—	30 Aug	12 Apr	13 Jun	3 Jun	10 May	2 Jun	7 Jun
2 Issue of Writs.....	2 Oct	30 Aug	12 Apr	13 Jun	3 Jun	10 May	2 Jun	7 Jun
3 Nomination Day.....	12 Oct- 23 Oct	9 Sep- 15 Oct	8 May	10 Jul	23 Jun	30 May	23 Jun	25 Jun
4 Polling Day.....	16 Oct- 15 Dec	11 Sep- 25 Oct	22 May	24 Jul	7 Jul	13 Jun	7 Jul	9 Jul
5 Electoral Districts.....	12	12	12	13	13	18	25	29
6 Members in Legislature.....	25	25	25	25	27	33	33	38
7 Candidates Nominated.....	46	55	46	54	68	65	64	76
8 Registered Voters.....	N/A	[3,135]	4,394	4,766	7,239	15,560	23,368	34,369
9 Valid Votes Polled.....	3,804	5,656	6,377	7,358	[10,941]	19,517	31,085	34,996

1928 - 1986

	1928	1933	1937	1941	1945	1949	1952	1953
1 Dissolution of Legislature.....	7 Jun	1 Aug	14 Apr	22 Jul	31 Aug	16 Apr	10 Apr	27 Mar
2 Issue of Writs.....	7 Jun	13 Sep	14 Apr	9 Sep	31 Aug	16 Apr	10 Apr	10 Apr
3 Nomination Day.....	27 Jun	12 Oct	11 May	30 Sep	4 Oct	25 May	22 May	19 May
4 Polling Day.....	18 Jul	2 Nov	1 Jun	21 Oct	25 Oct	15 Jun	12 Jun	9 Jun
5 Electoral Districts.....	40	39	40	41	41	41	41	41
6 Members in Legislature.....	48	47	48	48	48	48	48	48
7 Candidates Nominated.....	117	210	186	156	147	138	212	229
8 Registered Voters.....	245,240	323,540	372,781	417,839	476,222	649,019	793,073	740,006
9 Voters Who Voted.....	174,934	236,415	265,446	303,901	298,387	477,999	543,456	522,052
10 % of Voters Who Voted.....	71.33	73.07	71.20	72.73	62.66	73.64	68.53	70.55
11 Valid Votes Polled.....	361,814	381,223	417,929	453,893	467,747	698,823	768,561	659,563
12 Rejected Ballots.....	3,259	[3,380]	4,143	4,797	3,899	9,891	45,649	43,766
13 Rej. Ballots — % of Ballots Cast	1.86	[1.43]	1.56	1.58	1.31	2.07	8.40	8.38
14 Ordinary Polls Opened.....	996	926	1,137	1,837	1,882	1,900	1,959	1,966
15 Cost per Registered Voter (\$)...	0.69	0.49	0.50	0.49	0.46	0.43	0.58	0.59

¹ Figures given in [] indicate that they are incomplete. Figures in the table for 1928-1986 are taken mostly from the 1983 and 1986 *Statement of Votes*. In multi-Member Districts, voters could vote for more than one candidate which affects the number of valid votes. In 1916, 1941, and 1945 active service voting was extended beyond the polling day given here. In elections until 1900, polling day for certain Districts often varied from that for the rest of the province. This also occurred for two Districts in 1933. The active service vote cost in 1941 was \$2.88 per voter, in 1945, \$1.79 per voter. The percentage of voters who voted in the 1945 election appears to have omitted the active service voters. For 1986 the number of rejected ballots is actually the number of rejected votes, which due to dual candidate Districts is greater than the number of ballots. As well, the percentage is based on the number of votes, not ballots, cast.

1900	1903	1906/7	1909	1912	1916	1920	1924	
10 Apr	16 Jun	24 Dec	20 Oct	27 Feb	31 May	23 Oct	10 May	1
24 Apr	5 Sep	24 Dec	20 Oct	27 Feb	5 Jul	23 Oct	10 May	2
26 May	19 Sep	19 Jan	11 Nov	14 Mar	3 Aug	10 Nov	30 May	3
9 Jun	3 Oct	2 Feb	25 Nov	28 Mar	14 Sep	1 Dec	20 Jun	4
29	34	34	34	34	39	39	40	5
38	42	42	42	42	47	47	48	6
93	95	112	104	88	116	155	168	7
44,069	39,296	49,443	73,706	79,596	125,222	201,372	225,675	8
47,184	60,120	[63,205]	101,415	84,529	179,774	354,088	345,608	9

1956	1960	1963	1966	1969	1972	1975	1979	1983	1986	
13 Aug	3 Aug	21 Aug	5 Aug	21 Jul	24 Jul	3 Nov	3 Apr	7 Apr	24 Sep	1
13 Aug	3 Aug	22 Aug	5 Aug	21 Jul	24 Jul	3 Nov	3 Apr	7 Apr	24 Sep	2
5 Sep	29 Aug	16 Sep	29 Aug	13 Aug	16 Aug	27 Nov	26 Apr	22 Apr	9 Oct	3
19 Sep	12 Sep	30 Sep	12 Sep	27 Aug	30 Aug	11 Dec	10 May	5 May	22 Oct	4
42	42	42	48	48	48	48	50	50	52	5
52	52	52	55	55	55	55	57	57	69	6
199	230	205	178	177	226	221	178	224	237	7
778,587	874,267	873,140	873,927	1,152,598	1,343,357	1,559,633	1,673,111	1,768,063	1,770,000	8
509,409	628,031	608,672	596,716	794,696	921,496	1,088,001	1,155,505	1,373,018	1,366,193	9
65.43	71.84	69.71	68.28	68.95	68.60	69.76	69.06	77.66	77.19	10
817,397	996,404	967,675	751,876	978,356	1,132,172	1,290,451	1,405,077	1,649,533	1,935,453	11
6,642	9,862	6,132	7,056	9,011	11,537	12,924	21,328	17,126	27,582	12
1.30	1.57	1.01	1.18	1.13	1.25	1.19	1.84	1.25	1.41	13
1,986	2,221	2,206	2,266	2,378	2,827	5,698	6,133	6,377	5,603	14
0.60	0.61	0.61	0.83	0.77	0.86	1.29	1.78	4.98	5.36	15

2013 Statistics in comparison

Table 2: 40th Provincial General Election compared to previous general elections

Year	Dissolution of Legislature	Writ of election	Nomination of candidates	Date of election	Electoral districts	Members in Legislature	Candidates in election	Estimated eligible voters ¹	Registered voters	Voters who voted	% of registered voters who voted	Valid votes ²	Rejected votes	Rejected votes - % of votes cast	Cost per registered voter
1928 ³	7-Jun	7-Jun	27-Jun	18-Jul	40	48	117	-	245,240	174,934	71.33%	361,814	3,259	0.89%	\$0.70
1933 ⁴	1-Aug	13-Sep	12-Oct	2-Nov	39	47	210	-	323,540	236,415	73.07%	381,223	3,380	0.88%	\$0.49
1937	14-Apr	14-Apr	11-May	1-Jun	40	48	186	-	372,781	285,446	71.20%	417,929	4,143	0.98%	\$0.50
1941	22-Jul	9-Sep	30-Sep	21-Oct	41	48	156	-	417,839	303,901	72.73%	453,893	4,797	1.05%	\$0.49 ⁵
1945	31-Aug	31-Aug	4-Oct	25-Oct	41	48	147	-	457,017	298,387	65.29%	467,747	3,899	0.83%	\$0.46 ⁶
1949	16-Apr	16-Apr	25-May	15-Jun	41	48	138	-	649,019	477,999	73.65%	698,823	9,891	1.40%	\$0.43
1952 ⁷	10-Apr	10-Apr	22-May	12-Jun	41	48	212	-	793,073	543,456	68.53%	768,561	45,649	5.61%	\$0.58
1953 ⁷	27-Mar	10-Apr	19-May	9-Jun	41	48	229	-	740,006	522,052	70.55%	727,839	43,766	5.67%	\$0.59
1956	13-Aug	13-Aug	5-Sep	19-Sep	42	52	199	-	778,587	509,409	65.43%	817,397	6,642	0.81%	\$0.60
1960	3-Aug	3-Aug	29-Aug	12-Sep	42	52	230	-	874,267	628,031	71.84%	996,404	9,862	0.98%	\$0.61
1963	21-Aug	22-Aug	16-Sep	30-Sep	42	52	205	-	873,140	608,672	69.71%	967,675	6,132	0.63%	\$0.61
1966	5-Aug	5-Aug	29-Aug	12-Sep	48	55	178	-	873,927	596,716	68.28%	751,876	7,056	0.93%	\$0.83
1969	21-Jul	21-Jul	13-Aug	27-Aug	48	55	177	-	1,152,598	794,696	68.95%	978,356	9,011	0.91%	\$0.77
1972	24-Jul	24-Jul	16-Aug	30-Aug	48	55	556	-	1,343,357	921,496	68.60%	1,132,172	11,537	1.01%	\$0.86
1975	3-Nov	3-Nov	27-Nov	11-Dec	48	55	221	-	1,559,633	1,088,001	69.76%	1,290,451	12,924	0.99%	\$1.29
1979	3-Apr	3-Apr	26-Apr	10-May	50	57	178	-	1,673,111	1,155,505	69.06%	1,405,077	21,328	1.50%	\$1.78
1983	7-Apr	7-Apr	22-Apr	5-May	50	57	224	1,947,617	1,768,063	1,373,018	77.66%	1,649,533	17,126	1.03%	\$4.98
1986	24-Sep	24-Sep	9-Oct	22-Oct	52	69	237	2,076,366	1,770,000	1,366,193	77.19%	1,935,453	27,582	1.41%	\$5.36
1991 ⁸	19-Sep	19-Sep	4-Oct	17-Oct	75	75	317	2,331,871	1,989,054	1,493,200	75.07%	1,462,467	30,733	2.06%	\$6.78
1996	30-Apr	30-Apr	15-May	28-May	75	75	513	2,694,537	2,227,424	1,592,655	71.50%	1,582,704	9,951	0.62%	\$6.99
2001	18-Apr	18-Apr	3-May	16-May	79	79	456	2,885,714	2,254,920	1,599,765	70.95%	1,591,306	8,459	0.34%	\$8.04
2005	19-Apr	19-Apr	4-May	17-May	79	79	412	3,049,153	2,845,284	1,774,375	62.36%	1,762,450	11,925	0.67%	\$8.05
2009	14-Apr	14-Apr	24-Apr	12-May	85	85	345	3,238,737	2,995,465	1,651,567	55.14%	1,640,542	11,025	0.67%	\$11.77
2013	16-Apr	16-Apr	26-Apr	14-May	85	85	376	3,279,141	3,176,455	1,813,912	57.10%	1,802,149	11,763	0.65%	— ⁹

- Source: BC Stats
- In the multimember electoral districts, voters were able to vote for more than one candidate, resulting in the total number of valid votes exceeding the number of registered voters who voted.
- Detailed Statements of Votes were not produced for earlier elections.
- In the Vancouver Centre and Victoria electoral districts, Nomination Day was November 6 and the vote was taken on November 27.
- Cost of the Active Service vote was \$2.88 per registered voter who voted.
- Cost of the Active Service vote was \$1.79 per registered voter who voted.
- The alternative voting system was used in these elections.
- First election with all single member electoral districts.
- Figure to be reported in the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the 40th Provincial General Election, May 14, 2013.

2017 Statistics at a glance

Table 2: 2017 Statistics at a glance

Officials and voting places	
Electoral districts	87
District electoral officers	87
Deputy district electoral officers	90
Election officials	23,369
Voting areas	6,277
Advance voting places	347
General voting places	1,317
Voter registration and turnout	
Registered voters at election call	3,156,991
Voters who registered when voting	89,656
Registered voters at close of voting	3,246,647
Registered voters who voted	1,986,374
Voter turnout (as a percentage of registered voters)	61.2%
Estimated eligible voters	3,441,054
Percentage of estimated eligible voters registered	94.4%
Voter turnout (as a percentage of estimated eligible voters)	57.7%
Candidates, political parties and advertising sponsors	
Registered political parties	28
Registered political parties that endorsed candidate(s)	18
Standing nominations filed	264
Ordinary nominations filed	107
Candidates	371
Registered advertising sponsors	293
Registered political party expenses limit	\$4,882,404.95
Candidate expenses limit	\$77,674.62
Third party advertising limit (for a single electoral district)	\$3,328.91
Third party advertising limit (province-wide)	\$166,445.62
Results	
Total valid votes	1,974,712
Rejected ballots	11,662
BC Liberal Party candidates elected	43
BC NDP candidates elected	41
BC Green Party candidates elected	3