

Political Party Newsletter



November 2023

In this issue:

- [Political party information session - September 28, 2023](#)
- [Electoral event updates](#)
- [Advisory opinion policy](#)
- [Cyber security for political participants](#)
- [Upcoming information opportunities](#)

Political Party Information Session – September 28, 2023

Elections BC hosted a Political Party Information Session (PPIS) in Vancouver on September 28, 2023. This session included informational updates from Elections BC, a presentation from the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security, as well as demonstrations of voting and counting technology and the Candidate Nominations Application System (CNAS).

For those who were unable to attend or would like to revisit the content, the materials are available on our website [here](#).

Electoral Event Updates

Electoral boundaries redistribution

B.C.'s electoral districts will change for the next provincial election. Amendments to the *Electoral Districts Act* will bring into force **six** new electoral districts for B.C., and changes to **72** current electoral district boundaries.

Elections BC's redistribution work involves applying new boundaries into our systems and maps, drawing voting area boundaries to help assign voters to voting places, and communicating these changes to voters.

Coming up:

- December 2023: new voting areas published on the Elections BC website and BC Gazette.
- January – March 2024: release of voters list to parties with new electoral district – voting area values.

Provincial enumeration

Elections BC will conduct enumeration activities to improve the quality of the voters list and raise awareness of the coming election. Elections BC aims to achieve at least **90%** net currency of the voters list.

Elections BC's enumeration work involves communicating with voters, asking them to register or update their information if necessary, and raising awareness of the coming election. The enumeration strategy includes expanding operational data processing, outreach to voters by mail, and registration drives conducted by field staff. Registration drives will focus on community outreach where barriers to participation in elections have been identified, including indigenous communities, homeless shelters, post-secondary institutions, and organizations serving new Canadians.

Coming up:

- October – November 2023: voter record clean-up.
- February – April 2024: District Electoral Officers (DEOs) prepare outreach plans for their electoral districts. Completed plans will be posted to the Elections BC website.

43rd Provincial General Election

The *Election Act* has been amended to modernize voting in B.C. The objectives of these changes are to:

- Provide **better service** to voters by implementing a first-come, first-served model in most voting places, retaining B.C.'s vote anywhere model and voter-marked paper ballots, and reducing line ups at voting places.
- Provide more **timely voter participation data** for parties and candidates by using voting technology to enable close to real-time strike-off data.
- Produce **faster and more complete results** by using ballot tabulators to count most ballots on election night.

Coming up:

- January 2024: final voting and counting simulations conducted by Elections BC.

- We anticipate that many of our voting places will be leased by May 31, 2024 and will begin publishing the list of voting places on our website as they are confirmed as an accessibility measure.

Advisory Opinion Policy

Elections BC is developing a policy for implementation starting in the pre-campaign period for the upcoming provincial general election, and running through the election period. The objectives of this policy are to increase transparency, ensure equal access to legislative interpretations in support of a level playing field, and establish a clear and consistent policy for issue interpretation questions. This would be accomplished by ensuring that all parties and the public know when an interpretation question has been asked, and that all parties and the public receive the interpretation at the same time.

The process under development is as follows:

- Before the pre-campaign period begins, party principal officers advise EBC HQ of individuals authorized to request advisory opinions/interpretation.
- When an authorized individual requests an advisory opinion or interpretation, EBC immediately posts the question on our website, and we advise other parties of the details of the request.
- At the CEO's discretion, EBC may solicit input from other parties.
- EBC addresses the request as soon as possible, posts the advisory opinion/interpretation on our website and notifies all parties

Further details regarding this policy will be shared in future newsletters. In the meantime, please contact correspondence@elections.bc.ca if you have any questions or comments on the information provided above.

Cyber Security for Political Participants

Below are resources provided by the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security for political participants.

- [Cyber security guide for campaign teams](#)
- [Cyber security advice for political candidates](#)
- [Five practical ways to protect your campaign](#)
- [Social media account impersonation](#)
- [Security considerations when using social media in your organization](#)
- [Spotting Malicious Email Messages](#)
- [Fact or fiction: Quick tips to help identify “fake news”](#)
- [How to identify misinformation, disinformation, and malinformation](#)
- [Device security for travel and telework abroad](#)
- [Mobile Devices and Business Travellers](#)
- [Generative artificial intelligence \(AI\)](#)

Upcoming Information Opportunities

There are many opportunities for political participants to receive further information on these topics from Elections BC.

- Now through March 2024 - Guides: written guides on various topics and for different political participants including Voting and Counting, Candidate Representatives, Financial Agents, and Third-Party Advertisers. Find these on the Elections BC website.
- February through November 2024 - Information Sessions: sessions with a focus on electoral finance topics including annual financial reports, candidate nominations, and campaign financing and advertising rules. Detailed information on these sessions and registration will be included in upcoming newsletters.
- April through May 2024 - Demonstrations: hands-on demonstrations of voting place technology for political parties and candidates. Detailed information on how to request a demonstration will be provided in upcoming newsletters.

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

