

REPORT OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

2022 Vancouver-Quilchena and
Surrey South By-elections

Report of the Chief Electoral Officer

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Surrey South by-elections

December 20, 2022

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I have the pleasure to present the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer and Statement of Votes for the 2022 Vancouver-Quilchena and Surrey South By-elections to the Legislative Assembly, in accordance with section 13(1)(b) of the *Election Act*.

Respectfully submitted,



Anton Boegman
Chief Electoral Officer
British Columbia

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SUMMARY

Elections BC administered two provincial by-elections in 2022, in the Vancouver-Quilchena and Surrey South electoral districts. These were unique and groundbreaking events, being the first elections conducted under the newly amended *Election Act*. Representing the most significant changes to provincial election legislation in 25 years, the *Election Amendment Act, 2019* enabled the deployment of a more efficient and accessible voting model through the use of secure and proven technology in voting places. These changes provided better service to voters, close to real-time participation information to candidates, to help get out the vote efforts, and enabled much faster results reporting on election night. The Vancouver-Quilchena and Surrey South by-elections showcased

these improvements and provided valuable experience to Elections BC in administering an election under this new model. Lessons learned will be applied going forward, and provide important input into the planning for the next provincial general election, scheduled for October 2024.

Vancouver-Quilchena

On February 17, 2022, Andrew Wilkinson resigned as the Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) for the Vancouver-Quilchena electoral district. Pursuant to section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly informed the Chief Electoral Officer of the vacancy through a warrant. The warrant was received on February 18, 2022. The last possible date for

What does “voting model” mean?

A voting model is how voting and counting is administered by an election management body like Elections BC. It refers to the processes and procedures election administrators use to put election legislation into practice. The voting model is how your right to vote under the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* becomes the ballot in your hand on Election Day!

The voting **model** is not to be confused with a voting **system**. A voting system is how votes translate into representation in a legislature. In 2018, a referendum was held asking British Columbians whether to keep the First Past the Post voting system for provincial elections or move to a system of proportional representation. In that referendum, voters chose to keep First Past the Post.

The new voting model described in this report is not a new voting system, and doesn't affect how your votes translate into your representation in the legislature.

calling the by-election was August 18, 2022, as the writ for a by-election must be issued within six months after the warrant is received.

The Vancouver-Quilchena by-election was called on April 2, 2022. Final Voting Day was Saturday, April 30, 2022. On Final Voting Day there were 38,399 registered voters in Vancouver-Quilchena.

There were five candidates in the by-election representing five registered political parties. BC Liberal Party candidate Kevin Falcon was elected as the MLA for Vancouver-Quilchena.

Voter turnout was 27.6%, and the cost to administer the by-election was \$766,293, or \$19.96 per registered voter.

Surrey South

On April 28, 2022, Stephanie Cadieux resigned as the MLA for the Surrey South electoral district. The warrant was received on April 28, 2022, and the last possible date for calling the by-election was October 28, 2022.

The by-election was called on August 13, 2022. Final Voting Day was Saturday, September 10, 2022. On Final Voting Day there were 54,363 registered voters in Surrey South.

There were five candidates in the by-election representing five registered political parties. BC Liberal Party candidate Elenore Sturko was elected as the MLA for Surrey South.

Voter turnout was 19.8%, and the cost to administer the by-election was \$748,008, or \$13.76 per registered voter.

Calendar of events

The *Election Act* sets the calendar of events for a provincial by-election. The by-election begins on Day 0 when the writ is issued and the by-election is called. Final Voting Day is 28 days after Day 0.

Table 1: Event timeline

Day	Milestone	Date	
		Vancouver-Quilchena	Surrey South
0	Writ Day	April 2	August 13
7	Close of candidate nominations, 1 p.m.	April 9	August 20
18	Close of general voter registration, midnight	April 20	August 31
19/20-25	Advance voting*	April 22-27	September 1-4 and 6-7
22	Deadline to request a vote-by-mail package	April 25	September 4
28	Final Voting Day	April 30	September 10
28	Initial count – preliminary results announced	April 30	September 10
32/34	Final count**	May 4	September 14
41	Return Day	May 11	September 21
118	Election financing report filing deadline	July 29	December 9

* Due to the Labour Day statutory holiday (Monday, September 5, 2022), advance voting places were closed on Day 23 of the Surrey South by-election. Advance voting began a day early, on Day 19, to allow for six days of advance voting.

** In accordance with section 128 of the *Election Act*, final count must take place on a date specified by the Chief Electoral Officer and not before the fourth day following Final Voting Day. In both by-elections, the Chief Electoral Officer specified that final count would begin on the fourth day following Final Voting Day.

Statistics at a glance

Table 2: Statistics at a glance

Officials and voting places	Vancouver-Quilchena	Surrey South
Election officials and district electoral office staff	148	153
Voting areas	61	75
Advance voting places	2	4
Final voting places	9	6
Voter registration and turnout		
Registered voters at election call	38,052	53,993
New voter registrations	181	143
Voters who moved into the electoral district	178	241
Voters removed from the voters list*	12	14
Registered voters at close of voting	38,399	54,363
Registered voters who voted	10,579	10,742
Voter turnout (as a percentage of registered voters)	27.6%	19.8%
Candidates, political parties and advertising sponsors		
Registered political parties that endorsed candidates	5	5
Candidates	5	5
Registered third party advertising sponsors that filed disclosure reports	0	2
Registered political party expenses limit	\$64,399.38	\$67,058.28
Candidate expenses limit	\$64,399.38	\$67,058.28
Third party advertising limit	\$3,331.00	\$3,468.53
Results		
Total valid votes	10,579	10,742
Rejected ballots	5	14

* Voters who moved outside Vancouver-Quilchena or Surrey South or who were deceased were removed from the voters list for each district.

BACKGROUND: THE ROAD TO TWO HISTORIC BY-ELECTIONS

Both the Vancouver-Quilchena and Surrey South by-elections were examples of British Columbia's new modernized approach to elections, made possible by legislative changes in 2019.

2018 Report of the Chief Electoral Officer

Following the 2017 Provincial General Election, Elections BC submitted a recommendations report to the Legislative Assembly. The report recommended modernizing how B.C. elections are administered to provide better services to voters and other stakeholders.

The proposed model is explained in detail in the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on Recommendations for Legislative Change – May 2018. Amongst other changes, the report recommended using technology to implement:

- A first-come, first-served model to reduce line ups at voting places
- Close to real-time participation data for parties and candidates to support get-out-the-vote efforts
- Faster results reporting, with almost all ballots counted on election night (including absentee and mail-in ballots)

Election Amendment Act, 2019

The *Election Amendment Act, 2019* received Royal Assent in November 2019, addressing all of the Chief Electoral Officer's recommendations from the 2018 recommendations report. The Act was passed with the unanimous support of the Legislative Assembly and represented the most significant changes to the *Election Act* in 25 years.

The new legislation allows for the use of electronic tabulators (to count paper ballots) and electronic voting books (laptops to strike voters off the voters list in close to real time). These changes enable faster, better service for voters, as well as electronic participation data which may be provided to political parties to assist them with their get out the vote efforts. Improved get out the vote efforts may support increased voter participation.

Only a handful of the *Election Amendment Act, 2019*'s new provisions came into force immediately upon Royal Assent. Most of the provisions were designated to come into force through an Order-in-Council. This allowed Elections BC the necessary time to develop and optimize the many procedures, regulations, systems and supporting materials required to make a fully modernized election work.

Work begins

Upon passage of the *Election Amendment Act, 2019*, the development phase of the Voting Modernization (VMOD) project began in earnest. Elections BC's focus was on developing the supporting processes and procedures in detail. At that point in time, Elections BC was preparing to deliver the scheduled provincial general election in October 2021. Many of the preparations for a general election, of course, are transferable to a by-election. Testing the new systems and procedures on the smaller scale of a by-election provides an invaluable opportunity to gather feedback and lessons learned that can be used to improve service and efficiency. These can then be applied to the planning for a general election.

Each step of the voting process, as administered by election officials, is described in a procedure. Procedures are how election legislation is put into practice. Under the new voting model, virtually every voting, counting, and administrative procedure was redesigned from the ground up.

Voter-facing procedures include:

- striking a voter off in an electronic voting book
- updating voter information, if necessary
- issuing the ballot

Other behind-the-scenes processes that enable voting administration and support voting place technology are also described in procedures, such as:

- setting up and testing equipment
- performing logic and accuracy testing on tabulators
- trouble-shooting and activating related backup procedures
- closing a voting place at the end of voting
- preparing for initial count
- preparing write-in and other ballots which require transcription

New Electronic Voting Books (EVBs) were needed to enable these new procedures. EVBs consist of hardware (a laptop computer) and custom software. Elections BC conducted a competitive process to select a contracted vendor to develop this core software. The vendor, Datafix, was selected in April 2020.

With the procedures and software solutions under development, we also began work on a series of training products and related materials to support election officials in their new workflow. These materials included quick reference guides to step officials through each aspect of the procedures related to their role. They help ensure that officials can administer voting and counting efficiently in accordance with legislation, and are able to troubleshoot any problems that may arise. We also developed a range of other supporting materials.

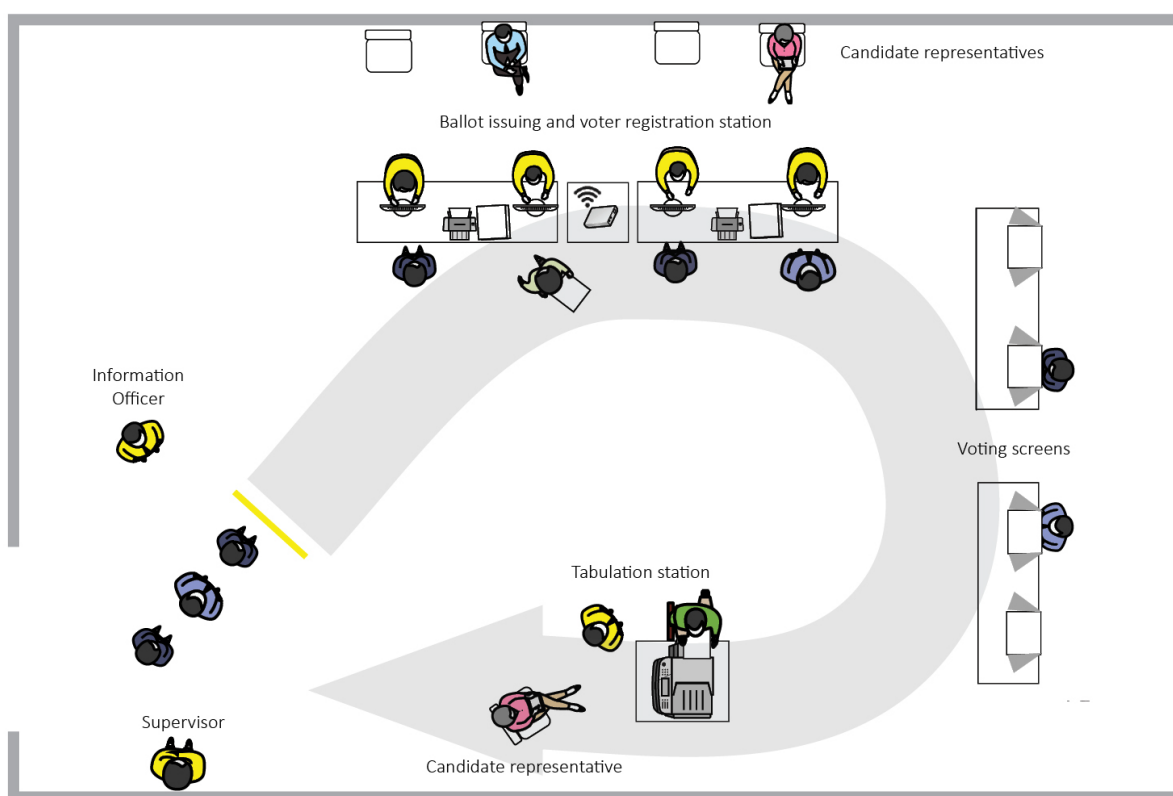
Election official roles were redefined to fit the new legislated requirements and procedures.

Table 3: Election official positions

Position under old model	Position under new model
Information Officers (IOs) greet voters, place signs and give directions at the voting place, providing information and assistance to all voters, especially those with special needs.	
Voting Clerks (VCs) were responsible for supporting the administration of general, advance, absentee and special voting opportunities. VCs completed and maintained the paper voting book and other documents, accounted for and secured all voting materials, and participated in initial count at the end of General Voting Day. There was one VC and one Voting Officer (VO) per voting station or mobile team.	Ballot Issuing Officers (BIOs) serve voters by registering or updating voter information in the electronic voting book, administering oral declarations and issuing ballots.
Voting Officers (VOs) at general voting opportunities were responsible for administering voting at an assigned voting station, issuing ballots to voters, accounting for and securing all voting materials, and conducting initial count at the end of General Voting Day. There was one VO per voting station.	
	Tabulator Officers (TBOs) set up the vote tabulator, assist voters with inserting ballots into the tabulator and manage tabulator notifications.
	Technical Supervisory Voting Officers (TSVOs) oversee the technology in the voting place. They ensure election officials have the tools they need to administer voting in a technology-enabled voting place. They also ensure the security of voting materials and equipment.
Supervisory Voting Officers (SVOs) oversee and manage staff a voting place or group of voting places. The SVO ensures that voting procedures are followed correctly and that voting places are safe and accessible. They also ensure the security of voting materials and equipment.	
Counting Support (CS) assist the SVO or district electoral office staff with conducting initial count. A key duty under the new model is to transcribe ballots and ensure the ballots are ready for counting by a tabulator.	

What does voting look like under the new model?

The most immediate difference for voters under the new voting model is how efficiently they are served at voting opportunities. Rather than lining up at an assigned voting station, voters will experience a faster “first-come, first-served” service model in voting places. These service improvements have resulted in a leaner staffing model requiring fewer election officials with redefined roles. Voters will be served by the next available election official in each voting place, rather than by a team of two election officials at their assigned voting station.



As the voting procedures and tools were developed, it became clear that a comprehensive procurement process would need to be undertaken in order to secure the technological tools necessary to implement the new voting model. These tools include laptops to run the EVB software, printers to print ballots on-demand, and tabulator machines to enable automated counting, as well as related materials like modems, routers, scanners and peripherals. At the scale of general election, this represents thousands of individual pieces of equipment, which must be safe and secure. For a by-election, while range of requirements is similar, the quantities required are much lower.

Elections BC determined that the most cost-effective approach to procure ballot tabulators for a provincial general election would be through Elections Ontario's tabulator lease program. Under this program, Elections Ontario is able to lease out their tabulators on a simple cost recovery basis when they are not required for an Ontario provincial election. Because Ontario and BC do not hold provincial elections in the same year, both jurisdictions can use the same machines without any disruption in service. Elections Ontario has previously leased their tabulators to Elections New Brunswick as well as a large number of municipalities across Canada. They are a proven technology that meet the integrity and security standards for a B.C. provincial election. This unique resource-sharing agreement represents an innovative approach to finding an effective technological solution that is cost-efficient without any sacrifice in service. Elections Ontario's tabulator service provider is Dominion Voting Systems (DVS), and Elections BC contracted with DVS to purchase a small number of tabulators that would meet our by-election requirements.

2020: An unprecedented year

Following the 2017 Provincial General Election and the establishment of a minority government, Elections BC entered a state of elevated election readiness that would continue for the next three years. We maintained this readiness state while working to implement legislative changes and process improvements until the spring of 2020. At that time, our world was radically changed by the onset of the global COVID-19 pandemic, which included for B.C., a declaration of a provincial state of emergency that would last for over a year. Under these circumstances it seemed likely that B.C.'s 42nd provincial election, whether held as scheduled in 2021 or earlier, would take place during the pandemic and under some stage of public health restrictions. Preparing to hold a safe election during the pandemic became our highest priority.

Like all other organizations, Elections BC had to rapidly adapt to this new reality. We began by shifting to remote work for almost all staff and developed new processes based on electronic work flows. The impact of COVID-19 on our operations cannot be overstated; every aspect of our administration and operations had to be reviewed and updated.

Despite these challenges, we were well underway in developing the required procedures and tools to deliver a safe, modernized election in 2021. When the unscheduled election was called in September 2020, all work on implementing the voting modernization project (VMOD) was put on hold until February 2021, when close-out activities for the 2020 Provincial General Election were winding up.

Election simulations

Conducting a large-scale, multi-day simulated election was a major focus of VMOD when it resumed in 2021. The simulation was held to test electronic voting books and tabulators and ensure we were ready to deliver a modernized election.

This included simulated voting at an external voting place and Elections BC headquarters using electronic voting books, tabulators, fictional voter profiles, and different voting scenarios to test new processes. Results were counted and reported to test results reporting procedures.

The overriding objective of the simulations was to identify procedural, physical layout, technological and other potential improvements to optimize the efficiency and effectiveness of the new voting model.

The simulations were run like a compressed election, and included many activities: training election officials; administering different voting opportunities using differing technology footprints, special voting, assisted telephone voting and mail-in voting; systems load testing and security testing; tabulator quality assurance testing; and initial and final count procedures.

Elections BC engaged headquarters staff and former district electoral officers and deputies to act as voters and election officials. Following the simulations, participants provided feedback on their experiences in their specific role. The lessons learned from conducting these simulations allowed us to identify improvements to our new voting and counting procedures and better understand the relationship between our contracted service providers, election officials and Elections BC headquarters.



Regulations of the Chief Electoral Officer

A structural change to the *Election Act* implemented in the *Election Amendment Act, 2019* was an increase in the powers of the CEO to make regulations to define some aspects of voting and counting. CEO regulations have the same force and effect as other provincial regulations, and are drafted by Legislative Counsel, but they are approved by the CEO, not government. The regulations (and their resultant procedures) were developed in conjunction with one another to ensure that the administrative processes required to implement voting modernization were consistent with the provisions of the Act. Prior to their finalization, a consultation was held with the Election Advisory Committee.

Four regulations — the Voting Opportunities Regulation, Voting Options Regulation, Vote Counting Regulation, and Ballot Form Regulation— were deposited by the Chief Electoral Officer and brought into force on March 18, 2022.

With the regulations in place, the legal framework for conducting an election under the new voting model was officially established. As of April 1, 2022, any by-elections called would be administered under the new model.

CONDUCTING TWO HISTORIC BY-ELECTIONS

By-election readiness

Elections BC maintains an ongoing state of readiness to administer on-demand events like provincial by-elections. The resignation of Andrew Wilkinson as MLA of Vancouver-Quilchena in February, 2022, resulted in a pending by-election. But because of the voting modernization changes, we had to be ready to administer a by-election under two different voting models. If the by-election was called before the *Election Amendment Act, 2019* (EAA) regulations were deposited and brought into force, we would need to administer a by-election under the legacy voting model – that used to administer previous provincial by-elections and general elections. If the by-election was called as of April 1, 2022, we would administer it under the new model.

Following the completion of election simulations in December 2021, we began preparations for implementing voting modernization under the new legislation. Elections BC incorporated lessons learned from the simulations to update and improve our systems, processes and procedures. A major component of these preparations was refining election official training content and materials, as well as enhancements to the EVB technology. We also updated our pandemic safety protocols to reflect the changed public health guidance in the

province at the time. As always, the safety of voters and election officials remained a top priority.

The Vancouver-Quilchena by-election was called on April 2 with Final Voting Day taking place on Saturday, April 30. It was therefore the first modernized election held under the newly amended *Election Act*, and a historic event for our province.

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

Conversations with voters during the event confirmed they were very comfortable with the new procedures and technology. Many voters commented that they found the new first-come, first-served process to be a great improvement.

Others commented on how fast the voting process was. Many voters made it through the voting place from start to finish – from in the door of the voting place to out – in under five minutes. At the close of voting, Elections BC was able to provide initial count results much more quickly than had been previously possible because of the use of ballot tabulators. Preliminary results were known within an hour of polls closing.

In voting place exit surveys, 96% of respondents found it very easy to vote, 96% rated the voting process as very efficient, and 98% were satisfied with their voting experience.

On April 28, 2022, Stephanie Cadieux resigned as the MLA for the Surrey South electoral district. The Surrey South by-election was called on August 13, 2022, with Final Voting Day taking place on September 10, 2022. Surrey South provided another opportunity for Elections BC to refine and improve voting modernization procedures and processes. As with Vancouver-Quilchena, voters had a very positive reaction to the new process. 92% of voters surveyed found it very easy to vote, 93% rated the voting process as very efficient, and 93% were satisfied with their voting experience.

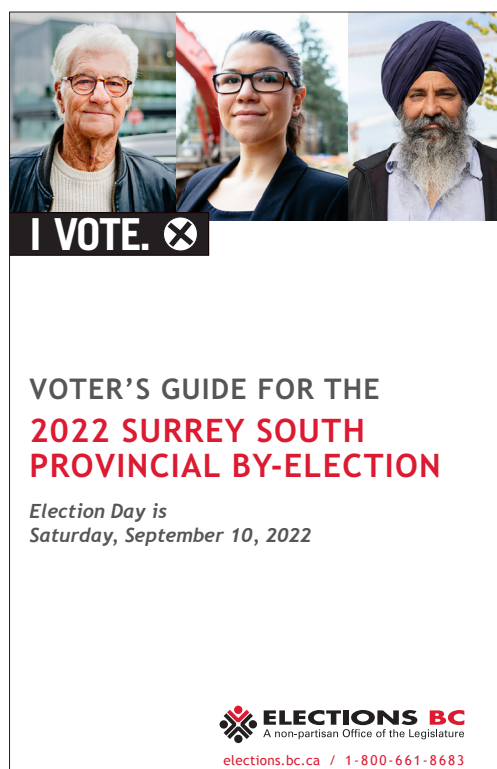
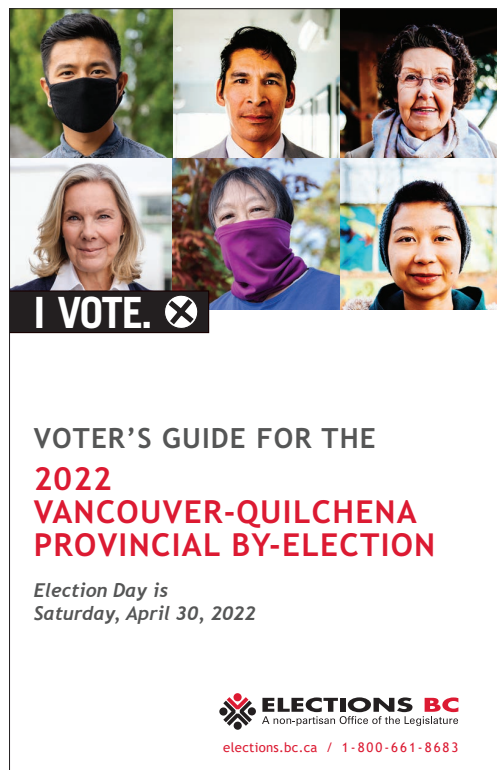
Public information and communications

The Chief Electoral Officer has a statutory responsibility to inform the public about voter registration and voting opportunities.

In addition to meeting its statutory obligations, Elections BC is committed to providing an inclusive and accessible electoral process. With these goals in mind, Elections BC implemented a comprehensive communications plan to inform voters in Vancouver-Quilchena and Surrey South of their right to vote, the electoral process, the dates and locations of voting opportunities and where to find additional information.

Voter's guide

Early in the campaign period for both events, Elections BC distributed a voter's guide to households in each electoral district. The guide included information about voter eligibility and ID requirements, voting opportunities, a map of the electoral district and information about services for at-risk voters and voters with disabilities.



The guide was designed to meet Canada Post standards so it could be sent economically as unaddressed mail. Elections BC worked with BC Mail Plus and Canada Post to target only residential points of call within each electoral district's boundaries, reducing "spillage" into neighbouring districts as much as possible.

In recognition of the demographics of each electoral district, the voter's guide for Vancouver-Quilchena was translated into two additional languages (traditional and simplified Chinese), and the guide for Surrey South was translated into eight additional languages (traditional and simplified Chinese, French, Hindi, Korean, Punjabi, Spanish and Tagalog). Translated versions of the guides were available on Elections BC's website.


In total, 21,308 voter's guides were delivered in Vancouver-Quilchena and 29,635 guides were delivered in Surrey South.

Where to Vote cards

Where to Vote cards were mailed to registered voters in each district before the start of advance voting. Each voter's card showed the dates and locations for advance voting, the voter's assigned voting place on Final Voting Day (Election Day), information about voter identification requirements and where to find more information about voting options. Where to Vote cards were also accepted as one of two documents used for voter identification, for those voters without a single piece of government issued photo-ID.

ELECTION DAY IS APRIL 30, 2022

VANCOUVER-QUILCHENA PROVINCIAL BY-ELECTION



ELECTIONS BC
A non-partisan Office of the Legislature

A provincial by-election has been called for the Vancouver-Quilchena electoral district.

Election Day is **Thursday, April 30, 2022**.

For information about where, when and how to vote, refer to the other side of this card or visit elections.bc.ca/vancouverquilchena.

Who can vote

You can vote if you are:

- a resident of the Vancouver-Quilchena electoral district,
- 18 or older on **April 30, 2022**,
- a Canadian citizen, and
- a resident of B.C. since **March 9, 2022**.

Ways to vote

Vote in person at any voting place listed on the back of this card. You can also vote at the district electoral office or by mail. Visit elections.bc.ca/vancouverquilchena for more information.

Voter ID


Remember to bring ID to the voting place. For a complete list of acceptable ID, visit elections.bc.ca/id.

Questions?

Contact Elections BC:
1-800-661-8683 | elections.bc.ca

ELECTION DAY IS SEPTEMBER 10, 2022

SURREY SOUTH PROVINCIAL BY-ELECTION



ELECTIONS BC
A non-partisan Office of the Legislature

A provincial by-election has been called for the Surrey South electoral district.

Election Day is **Saturday, September 10, 2022**.

For information about where, when and how to vote, refer to the other side of this card or visit elections.bc.ca/surreysouth.

Who can vote

You can vote if you are:

- a resident of the Surrey South electoral district,
- 18 or older on **September 10, 2022**,
- a Canadian citizen, and
- a resident of B.C. since **March 9, 2022**.

Ways to vote

Vote in person at any voting place listed on the back of this card. You can also vote at the district electoral office or by mail. Visit elections.bc.ca/surreysouth for more information.

Voter ID

Remember to bring ID to the voting place. For a complete list of acceptable ID, visit elections.bc.ca/id.

Questions?

Contact Elections BC:
1-800-661-8683 | elections.bc.ca

Bring this card to the voting place to make voting faster and easier.

96031-R (22/05)


Within the tight timeframe of a 29-day campaign period, delivery of this second round of Where to Vote cards may not be guaranteed before the start of advance voting, particularly in more remote areas of the province. While this was not an issue in Vancouver-Quilchena or Surrey South, which are urban electoral districts located in the lower mainland, Elections BC is continuing to look for ways to improve how essential election information is shared with voters. This may include exploring electronic or other options for Where to Vote cards in future elections.

Statutory advertising

In accordance with the *Election Act*, Elections BC placed two statutory advertisements in local newspapers for each by-election. The first ad included information about voter eligibility requirements, voter registration, voting opportunities and candidate nominations, as well as a map of the electoral district boundaries and the district electoral office address and contact information.

The second ad included the list of candidates, a list of voting places and the dates they were open, and information about eligibility and voter identification requirements.

The Surrey South advertisements were translated into Chinese, Korean and Punjabi for placement in ethnic community newspapers.



Sept. 10
2022

2022 SURREY SOUTH BY-ELECTION

A provincial by-election has been called in the Surrey South electoral district for Saturday, September 10, 2022.

You can vote if you are:

- a resident of the Surrey South electoral district,
- 19 or older on September 10, 2022,
- a Canadian citizen, and
- a resident of British Columbia since March 9, 2022.

☑ Voter registration

Register now to save time when you vote.

You can register or update your information at elections.bc.ca/voterinfo or by calling **1-800-641-8683**. Voter registration closes at 11:59 p.m. Pacific time on August 31.

After August 31 you can still register to update your vote, but voting will take longer. Remember to bring ID when you go to vote.

🗳 Ways to vote

Vote at the district electoral office

Visiting at the district electoral office is available one during office hours.

Surrey South district electoral office
8306-6471 • 632nd Street, Surrey, B.C.
236-455-6572

elections.bc.ca

Mail of question

Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
September 4, 6, 7 (bank holidays), 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
September 5, Labour Day, Closed
September 10 (Election Day), 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Vote by advance voting

There are six days of advance voting, from September 4 – 14, and September 16 – 17. Advance voting will be closed on Labour Day, September 5. You won't need a special reason to vote at advance voting – it's an option for all voters. Advance voting places will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Vote on Election Day

Election Day is Saturday, September 10, but there are lots of ways to vote before then. On Election Day voting places will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Vote by mail


If you wish to vote by mail, request your voting package as soon as possible. Go to elections.bc.ca/votermailinfo or call **1-800-641-8683**.

☑ Candidate nominations

You can get a candidate nomination application package online at elections.bc.ca/candidates or request a package from the District Electoral Office. Completed nominations must be filed with the District Electoral Office by 1 p.m. on Saturday, August 26, 2022.

🗳 Work in the by-election

By-election jobs are available. Visit elections.bc.ca/jobs for more information.








🔑 Know Your Electoral District

Eligible voters in the Surrey South electoral district can vote in the by-election. The boundaries of Surrey South electoral district are shown on the map. If you aren't sure if you're eligible to vote in the by-election, contact Elections BC.

Questions?

Call 1-800-641-8683 or visit elections.bc.ca.





[SurreySouthVotes](https://www.youtube.com/SurreySouthVotes)



I VOTE.

2022 VANCOUVER-QUILCHENA BY-ELECTION


April 30 2022

The 2022 Vancouver-Quilchena by-election is on Saturday, April 30, 2022. There are lots of ways to vote.

You can vote if you are:

- a resident of Vancouver-Quilchena electoral district,
- 18 or older on April 30, 2022,
- a Canadian citizen, and
- a resident of British Columbia since October 20, 2021.

Voting safely during COVID-19


 Practices of elections will be in place at all voting places to help you stay safe. Follow the instructions from federal staff at the voting place. If you are feeling sick or self-isolating, stay home. Contact Elections BC to discuss your voting options.

Visit elections.bc.ca/voting for more information.

Ways to vote

Vote by advance voting – Find advance voting places and the dates they are open below, or visit www.elections.bc.ca

Vote on Election Day – Find voting places and the dates they are open below at www.elections.bc.ca. Election Day is Saturday, April 30, but there are lots of ways to vote before then.


 Voting in the district electoral office is available during office hours from now until 4 p.m. on April 29.

Vancouver-Quilchena district electoral office
200-2985 Broadway W, Vancouver, B.C.
vq@elections.bc.ca

Hours of operation

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Closed each Friday, April 29

Vote by mail

 If you requested a vote-by-mail package from Elections BC, return it as soon as possible. Vote-by-mail packages must be received by Elections BC by 8 p.m. Pacific time on Saturday, April 30, 2022. Your completed package as soon as possible or drop it off at the Vancouver-Quilchena district electoral office.

What should I bring to vote in person?

- Do that shows your name and home address. See elections.bc.ca/id for the list of acceptable IDs.
- Your Voter to Vote card. Look for it in the mail from Elections BC. It will make voting faster and easier.
- You may wear a face mask in the voting place and will not be asked to remove it to vote.

Where and when to vote

Advance Voting Places (open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on the days listed)

	Fri. April 22	Sat. April 23	Sun. April 24	Mon. April 25	Tue. April 26	Wed. April 27	Thurs. April 28
Banker Emma Cosh 4700 Dunbar St, Vancouver, BC		✓					
Hedrick Centre of Vancouver 4010 Ardmore Dr., Vancouver, BC		✓					





Election Day Voting Places (open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. April 30)


	Fri. April 22	Sat. April 23	Sun. April 24	Mon. April 25	Tue. April 26	Wed. April 27	Thurs. April 28
Dr. R.E. McKechnie Elm School 3010 Elm St., Vancouver, BC		✓					
St. John's Anglican Church 2000 Keefer St., Vancouver, BC		✓					
Hedrick Centre of Vancouver 4010 Ardmore St., Vancouver, BC		✓					
Maple School 4300 Maple St., Vancouver, BC		✓					
Kerrisdale Elm School 3010 Elm St., Vancouver, BC		✓					
Leof Kilbricken Elm School 500 Leof Kilbricken St., Vancouver, BC		✓					
Point Grey Bay School 2070 Glen Road, Vancouver, BC		✓					
Princess of Wales Mini School 4710 Superior Ave., Vancouver, BC		✓					
Talbot Elementary School 4710 Superior Ave., Vancouver, BC		✓					

Candidates for the 2022 Vancouver-Quilchena By-election

Candidate's Name:	Financial Agent:	Official Agent:
Joanette Ash BC 1022	Jaime Mathew 312-34 Street Dr., North Vancouver, BC, V7Y 1L4 (604) 261-8600	Joanette Ash PO Box 20131 West Pender, Vancouver, BC, V6T 3T7
David Brudin Conservative	Eric Gervais 2700-380 Keefer Pk., Vancouver, BC, V6B 5J1 (604) 202-9795	Joanette Ash PO Box 20131 West Pender, Vancouver, BC, V6T 3T7
Kevin Faxon BC Liberal Party	Rob McElroy 3700-380 Keefer Pk., Vancouver, BC, V6B 5J1 (604) 202-9795	Joanette Ash PO Box 20131 West Pender, Vancouver, BC, V6T 3T7
Sandra Filisat-Schopper Libertarian	Sandra Filisat-Schopper 200-800 Pender St., North Vancouver, BC, V7Y 2D9 (604) 438-9443	Joanette Ash PO Box 20131 West Pender, Vancouver, BC, V6T 3T7
Wendy Rayha BC Green Party	Ben Lister PO Box 20058 Sim Centre, Victoria, BC, V8W 3B7 (888) 475-5336	Joanette Ash PO Box 20131 West Pender, Vancouver, BC, V6T 3T7

Questions? Call 1-800-661-8683 or visit elections.bc.ca.





[/VNVTweets](https://www.facebook.com/vnvtweets)


ELECTIONS BC
A non-partisan Office of the Legislature

Digital advertising and social media

In addition to the statutory newspaper ads required by legislation, Elections BC used digital and social media advertising to raise public awareness of the by-elections and direct voters to the Elections BC website for more information. Online ads were targeted to each electoral district to reach eligible voters. Digital and social media ads were translated into Chinese, Punjabi, Hindi and Korean.

Elections BC shared content consistent with the digital advertising campaign through its Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts. Relevant content was shared at particular times throughout the election period, directing followers to learn more about voter eligibility and registration, candidate nominations, voting opportunities, ID requirements and other information. Posts included the hashtags #VNQVotes and #SurreySouthVotes to encourage awareness and voter engagement.

Website

Elections BC's website is the central source of information about the electoral process in B.C. A dedicated event page for each by-election contained answers to the most frequently asked questions from voters, as well as key dates, candidate information, voter eligibility and ID requirements. Elections BC also posted safe voting place plans, outlining the policies, guidelines, and procedures necessary to maintain business continuity while reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases in voting places.

New for the 2022 by-elections, Elections BC was required to publish notice of the voting administration tools used in each by-election. The notice is now required under section 79.01 of the *Election Act* and includes information about election official roles and the tools they use at voting opportunities (such as ballot printers, electronic voting books, and tabulators).

The Elections BC website also provided a Where to Vote application that allowed users to enter their address to find their assigned voting place. Users could also find voting places near them based on their location, and the application provided directions. Voting places, the district electoral office and electoral district boundaries were displayed on a Google Map. If the voter entered a home address that was outside of Vancouver-Quilchena or Surrey South, an error message informed them that they were not eligible to vote in the by-election.

On election night, results were tabulated in voting places, and telephoned into the election offices, from which they were reported online, starting when polls closed at 8 p.m. Results were updated every three minutes as counting progressed. More information about results reporting on election night is available on page 25.

Election officials and office staff

The Chief Electoral Officer appoints a district electoral officer (DEO) to administer elections in each electoral district. One or more deputy district electoral officers (DDEOs) are also appointed to provide assistance, and to replace the DEO if the position becomes vacant.

The DEO for the Vancouver-Quilchena by-election was Debbie Fraser and the DDEO was Julie Brassington. The DEO for the Surrey South by-election was Kathi Kopan and the DDEO was Alexandra Ashcroft.

DEOs hire election officials to register voters, supervise voting places, issue ballots and maintain ballot boxes, provide information to voters and perform other duties at voting places. DEOs also hire staff to provide services at their district electoral office.

Under the new voting model, election official roles have been significantly revised. Instead of teams of two election officials at each voter's assigned voting station, a single Ballot Issuing Officer at each station served the next voter in line. This model avoids long line-ups at one station while other stations are unused, ensuring that all voters receive timely and efficient service.

Table 4: Number of election officials

Position	Number of officials	
	Vancouver-Quilchena	Surrey South
Information Officer / Tabulator Officer	43	54
Supervisory Voting Officer	15	13
Technical Supervisory Voting Officer	20	10
Ballot Issuing Officer	53	63
District electoral office staff	17	13

Candidate nominations

Candidate nominations

The *Election Act* provides two methods for nominating candidates: standing nominations and ordinary nominations. For a by-election, standing nominations may be submitted to the Chief Electoral Officer at any time until 4:30 p.m. on Day 2 of the election calendar. Ordinary nominations may be submitted to the district electoral officer during the ordinary nomination period, between 9 a.m. on Day 3 and 1 p.m. on Day 7.

In the Vancouver-Quilchena by-election, candidate nominations closed on April 9, 2022. Five candidates filed nominations.

In the Surrey South by-election, candidate nominations closed on August 20, 2022. Five candidates filed nominations.

Table 5: Vancouver-Quilchena candidates

Candidate name	Political party
Jeanette Ashe	BC NDP
Dallas Brodie	Conservative
Kevin Falcon	BC Liberal Party
Sandra Filosof-Schipper	Libertarian
Wendy Hayko	BC Green Party

CONDUCTING TWO HISTORIC BY-ELECTIONS

Table 6: Surrey South candidates

Candidate name	Political party
Jason Bax	Libertarian
Harman Bhangu	Conservative
Pauline Greaves	BC NDP
Simran Sarai	BC Green Party
Elenore Sturko	BC Liberal Party

Voting

British Columbia has the most accessible voting legislation in Canada. This provides voters with many ways to cast their ballot in provincial elections and by-elections. In addition to final and advance voting, the *Election Act* establishes a wide range of voting opportunities, providing for an accessible and inclusive electoral process. In essence, voters can vote throughout the campaign period, at the district office, at any voting place, at special opportunities and by mail. This accessible legislation works well for voters, but does add complexity for voting administration. Ensuring “vote anywhere” under voting modernization was a significant consideration, and a primary design element of the systems we have prepared for implementation in the scheduled 43rd Provincial General Election.

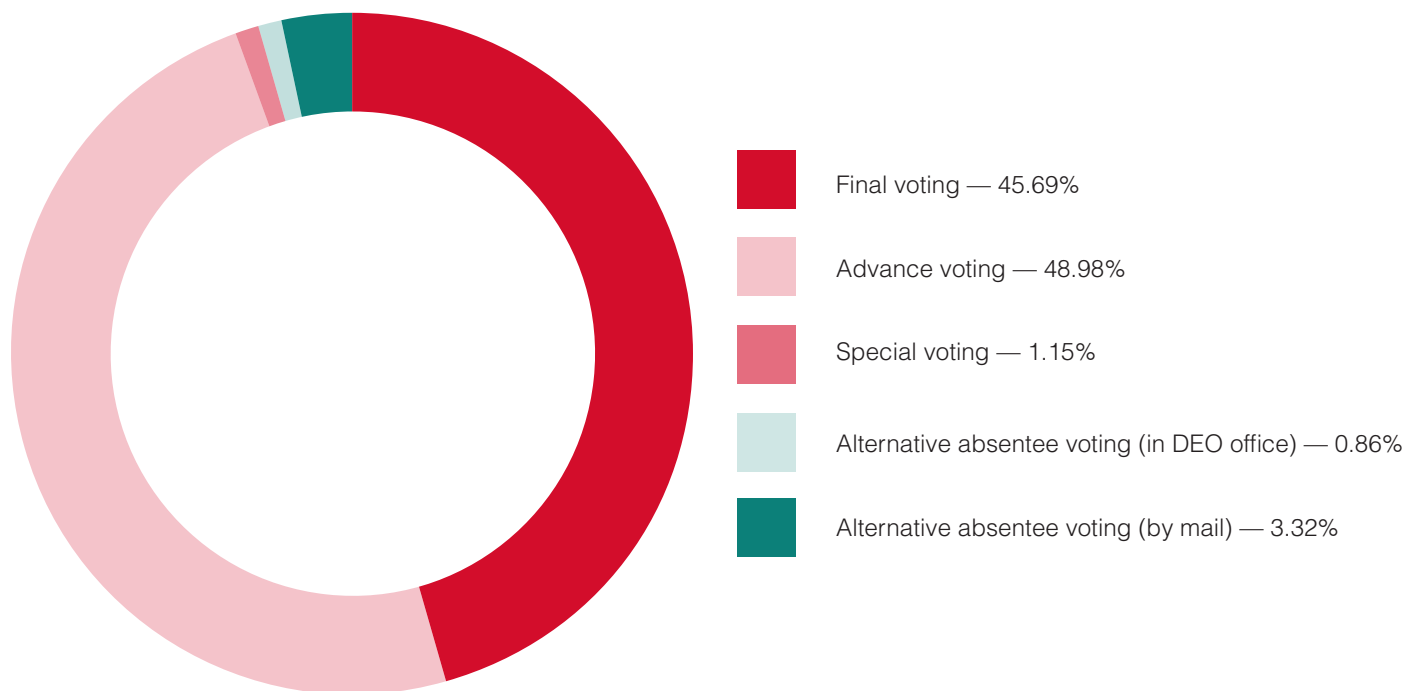
For Vancouver-Quilchena, Elections BC conducted voting at two advance voting places and nine final voting places. Special voting opportunities were also available in hospitals and long-term care facilities. Starting on Writ Day, all eligible voters could vote at the Vancouver-Quilchena district electoral office or by mail. Voters with disabilities were also offered the opportunity to vote by telephone.

Table 7: Votes cast by voting opportunity, 2022 Vancouver-Quilchena by-election

Voting opportunity	Valid votes	Rejected ballots	% of ballots rejected	Votes considered	% of popular vote
Final voting	4,833	3	0.06%	4,836	45.69%
Advance voting	5,182	2	0.04%	5,184	48.98%
Special voting	122	0	0.00%	122	1.15%
Alternative absentee voting (in DEO office)	91	0	0.00%	91	0.86%
Alternative absentee voting (by mail)*	351	0	0.00%	351	3.32%
Total votes considered	10,579	5	0.05%	10,584	100.00%

* Assisted telephone voting and voting by mail figures combined

Figure 1: Votes by voting opportunity, 2022 Vancouver-Quilchena by-election



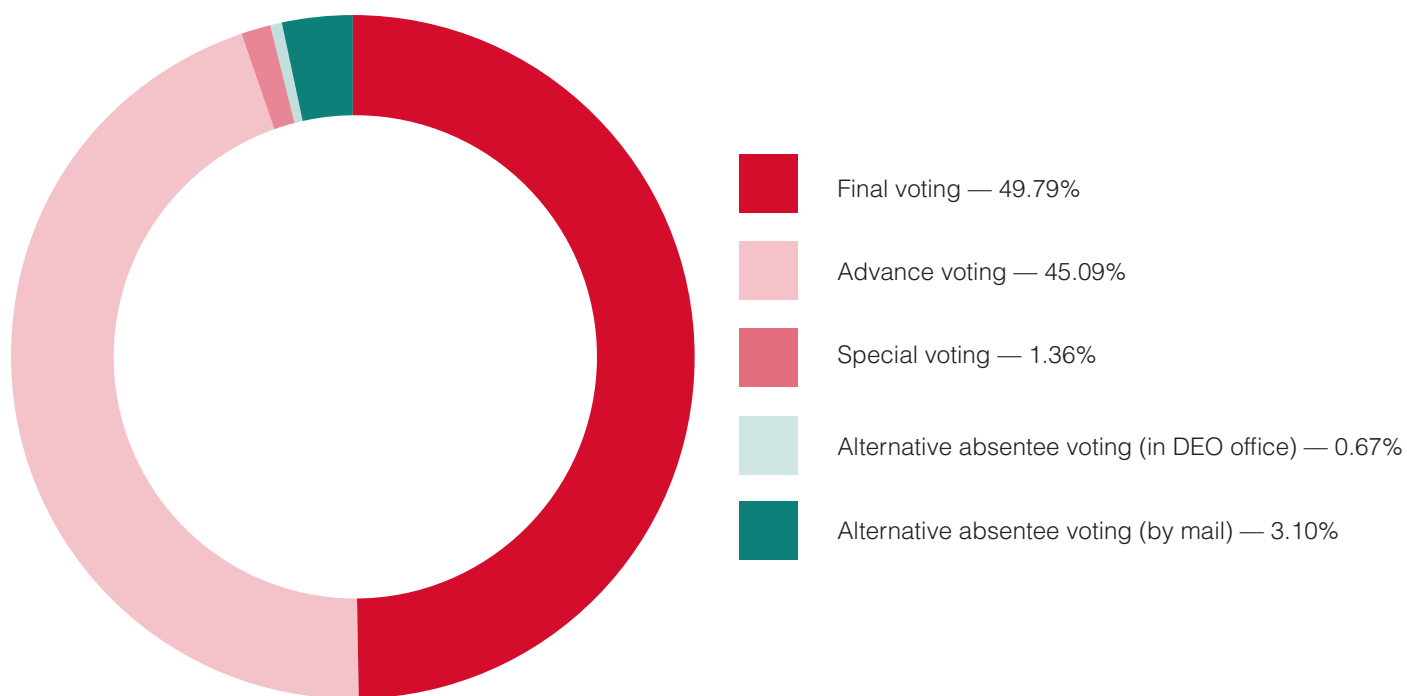
In Surrey South, Elections BC conducted voting at four advance voting places and six final voting places. Special voting opportunities were also available in hospitals and long-term care facilities. Starting on Writ Day, all eligible voters could vote at the Surrey South district electoral office or by mail. Voters with disabilities were also offered the opportunity to vote by telephone.

Table 8: Votes cast by voting opportunity, 2022 Surrey South by-election

Voting opportunity	Valid votes	Rejected ballots	% of ballots rejected	Votes considered	% of popular vote
Final voting	5,351	5	0.09%	5,356	49.79%
Advance voting	4,844	6	0.12%	4,850	45.09%
Special voting	142	3	2.07%	145	1.35%
Alternative absentee voting (in DEO office)	72	0	0.00%	72	0.67%
Alternative absentee voting (by mail)*	333	0	0.00%	333	3.10%
Total votes considered	10,742	14	0.13%	10,756	100.00%

* Assisted telephone voting and voting by mail figures combined

Figure 2: Votes by voting opportunity, 2022 Surrey South by-election



Final voting

Elections BC assigns voters to a final voting place based on their address, but they can vote at another voting place if it is more convenient for them. Thanks to voting modernization changes, voters experienced the same process wherever they voted on Final Voting Day. Electronic voting books and tabulators allowed all ballots to be counted after polls closed,

no matter which voting place they were cast at. Previously, if a voter did not vote at their assigned voting place on Final Voting Day, their vote was considered an absentee ballot, which would not be counted until final count.

Final Voting Day for the Vancouver-Quilchena by-election was April 30, 2022. Voting was available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at nine final voting places. 45.69% of ballots were cast on Final Voting Day by voters at final voting places.

Final Voting Day for the Surrey South by-election was September 10, 2022. Voting was available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at six final voting places. 49.79% of ballots were cast on Final Voting Day by voters at final voting places.

Advance voting

Elections BC published advanced voting places and the dates they were open for both by-elections on the Elections BC website, the Where to Vote application, on Where to Vote

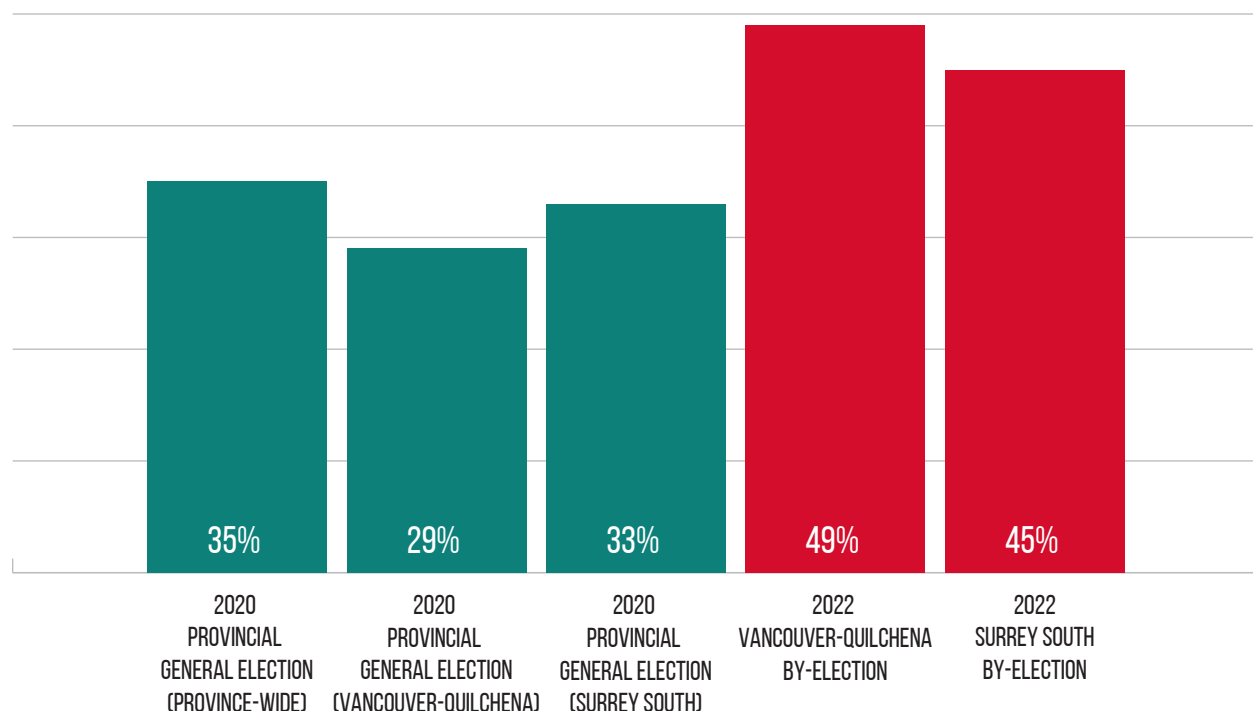
cards for registered voters, and in print and digital advertising in Vancouver-Quilchena and Surrey South. All advance voting locations were wheelchair accessible.

In Vancouver-Quilchena, advance voting was held from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on April 22 to 27, 2022 at two advance voting places. One voting place, the Dunbar Community Centre, was closed on Sunday, April 24; otherwise, both advance voting places were open on every day of the advance voting period.

In Surrey South, advance voting was held from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on September 1 to 4 and 6 to 7, 2022 at four advance voting places. Due to the Labour Day statutory holiday, advance voting places were closed on Monday, September 5. The advance voting period therefore started one day early to allow for a full six days of advance voting.

Advance voting turnout in both by-elections continued the trend of increased voter participation at advance voting compared to Final Voting Day. 49% of the total valid votes

Figure 3: Advance votes as a percentage of total valid votes



in the Vancouver-Quilchena by-election were cast at advance voting; 45% in Surrey South. In comparison, during the 2020 Provincial General Election, advance votes represented 29% of the total valid votes in Vancouver-Quilchena and 33% in Surrey South.

Special voting

Special voting opportunities are usually established for voters who are unable to vote at other opportunities because they will be absent or are in a hospital, mental health or care facility, provincial correctional centre, or remote community or work site. Special voting opportunities can be held at any point in the election period until the close of voting on Final Voting Day.

Building on the approach used in the 2020 Provincial General Election, both DEOs contacted administrators of care facilities in their electoral district to offer an in-person special voting opportunity, or to coordinate vote-by-mail packages for eligible voters in those facilities. Elections BC also communicated with BC Corrections and Correctional Services Canada to ensure that any eligible voters at those facilities were aware of the by-elections and had the opportunity to participate using vote-by-mail. In Vancouver-Quilchena, 122 voters cast their ballot at these special voting opportunities. In Surrey-South, 142 voters voted at a special voting opportunity.

Absentee voting

One of the benefits of the modernized voting model is that voters who vote on Final Voting Day at a voting place other than their assigned voting place no longer vote under absentee provisions. This means that these voters experience the same level of service whatever voting place they vote at. It also

means their votes are counted on election night, instead of being placed in a certification envelope and counted at final count.

Votes cast at the district electoral office are considered absentee votes. Voting in the Vancouver-Quilchena district electoral office was available from when the election was called on April 2, 2022 until 4 p.m. on Final Voting Day. 91 absentee votes were cast in the Vancouver-Quilchena district electoral office.

Voting in the Surrey South district electoral office was available from when the election was called on August 13, 2022 until 4 p.m. on Final Voting Day. 72 absentee votes were cast in the Surrey South district electoral office.

Voting by mail

The 2020 Provincial General Election saw an unprecedented increase in the number of voters choosing to vote by mail. This voter behaviour was largely driven by the COVID-19 pandemic and the public health conditions in place at that time. However, feedback received during the election indicated that voters who used vote-by-mail found the process simple and convenient; many voters indicated their intention to consider using mail-in voting in future elections, regardless of the public health situation.

With this in mind, Elections BC prepared for a greater number of vote-by-mail package requests in comparison to previous by-elections. However, the experience of 2020 was not repeated in either by-election.

In Vancouver-Quilchena, Elections BC received 505 requests for vote-by-mail packages. Every request for a vote by mail package was fulfilled, but not all packages were returned by voters. Of the 505

packages mailed out, 351 were received by Elections BC before 8 p.m. on Final Voting Day. In Surrey-South, 515 voters requested packages, and 333 packages were returned by the deadline. These numbers represent approximately 3% of the total votes considered in each by-election. By comparison, during the 2020 Provincial General Election 42% of the total valid votes in Vancouver-Quilchena and 37% of the total valid votes in Surrey South in were cast by mail.

Voters who requested a vote-by-mail package could opt to vote at another voting opportunity instead; 16 voters in Vancouver-Quilchena and 48 voters in Surrey South chose to vote in person or through assisted telephone voting rather than by returning their vote-by-mail package.

Assisted telephone voting

Assisted telephone voting was first piloted in the 2017 Provincial General Election. This voting option was available to a limited number of voters living with vision loss or a permanent disability that prevented them from voting independently at another voting opportunity.

We have continued to offer assisted telephone voting as an accessible voting option in subsequent by-elections as well as the 2020 Provincial General Election. We work with our partners including the CNIB to make eligible voters aware of this opportunity. In 2020, we significantly expanded access to this option due to the pandemic and the unscheduled election call. The option was made available to all voters living in care facilities and to patients in acute care hospitals experiencing an outbreak. In other cases, voters from a First Nations community that had instituted community quarantine measures, voters who

were self-isolating during the last week of the campaign period and Canadian Forces members deployed overseas were able to vote remotely using assisted telephone voting. This option proved invaluable in providing the flexibility to deal with the unique and challenging circumstances of a pandemic election. Use of assisted telephone voting rose by 226% in comparison to the 2017 Provincial General Election.

We maintained this expanded eligibility criteria for the Vancouver-Quilchena and Surrey South by-elections. In the Vancouver-Quilchena by-election, telephone voting was available between April 22 to 27 and on April 30, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Nine Vancouver-Quilchena voters cast their ballot through telephone voting. In the Surrey South by-election, telephone voting was available between September 1 to 4 and September 6 to 9 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on September 10 from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sixteen Surrey South voters cast their ballot through telephone voting.

Voter participation and turnout

One of the key benefits of the new voting model is the ability to provide campaigns with close to real-time voter participation data to help them in their get out the vote efforts.

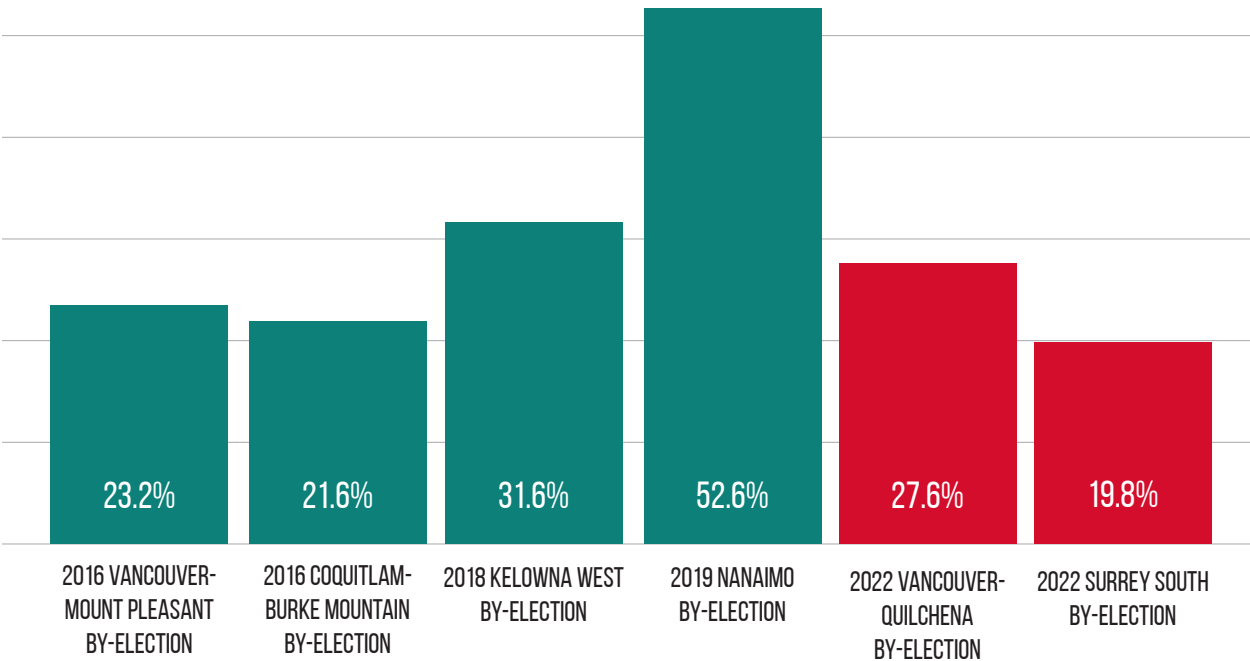
Candidates and parties who requested a voters list and submitted an approved privacy policy were given access to voter participation information (whether or not a registered voter had voted in the by-election) through the Secure Data Download Service (SDDS), the same process used to provide participation data since 2017.

Participation files were uploaded to the SDDS once a day, starting three days before the start of advance voting. These files included participation information about voters who had voted by mail or in the district electoral office. Files were provided twice a day on advance voting days and every 30 minutes on Final Voting Day. This represents more timely information than has been provided in previous general elections and by-elections. Participation files also included all voting opportunities for the first time. Previously, participation files only included advance voting.

Voter participation in a by-election is typically lower than turnout during a provincial general election. Turnout in the by-elections was lower than turnout in Vancouver-Quilchena and Surrey South in the 2020 Provincial General Election, and lower than turnout in the two previous provincial by-elections. That said, average turnout between both provincial by-elections in 2022 was 23.68%, higher than the provincial by-elections that were held in 2016 in Vancouver-Mount Pleasant and Coquitlam-Burke Mountain. Average turnout in the 2016 by-elections was 22.36%. The 2016 by-elections were held concurrently, but at a similar mid-range point in the electoral cycle between general elections.

Elections BC, like other election management bodies, focuses its efforts on ensuring an accessible voting process and providing timely, clear information so that all eligible voters who wish to participate can do so. Many factors influence voter turnout including campaign issues, political considerations, timing of the election, and the type of event (general elections vs. by-elections). Elections BC will continue to focus on reducing administrative barriers to participation, providing information and making the voting process as accessible as possible to encourage voters to exercise their democratic right to vote.

Figure 4: Turnout in recent by-elections



Counting

Initial count

Elections BC used electronic tabulators to count voter-marked paper ballots for the first time in a provincial by-election in Vancouver-Quilchena and Surrey South. Our election laws, procedures and security standards ensure the integrity and security of these systems, which are not connected to the internet. A rigorous quality assurance process was in place to ensure accurate counts. This process included pre-election logic and accuracy testing, producing zero-tapes from each tabulator before any ballots were inserted, ballot reconciliation after voting closed, scrutinized hand-counts of ballots from randomly selected tabulators to verify results, and post-election logic and accuracy testing.

Under the new voting model, all votes in a full-tech single-district by-election can be counted at initial count on election night. This means that absentee votes (votes cast in the DEO office, at a special voting opportunity, by mail, and by assisted telephone voting) can be counted on election night alongside votes cast at advance and final voting. Because voters are continuously struck off the voters list in the electronic voting book in close to real-time, multiple voting is prevented and there is no need for a delayed count of absentee ballots to allow time for these integrity checks.

Rejected ballot rates were slightly lower in the 2022 by-elections in comparison to previous by-elections. The rejected ballot rates were 0.05% in Vancouver-Quilchena and 0.13% in Surrey South, in comparison with 0.23% in the 2018 Kelowna West by-election and 0.14% in the 2019 Nanaimo by-election. The decreased rate of rejected ballots may be in part due to the use of ballot tabulators, which notify voters

if their ballot has been filled out incorrectly (e.g. the tabulator detects markings for two candidates). This gives voters an opportunity to correct their ballot such that it will not be rejected. Elections BC will continue to monitor ballot rejection rates closely in future elections.

At the close of voting, election officials produced a results tape from each tabulator and completed reconciliation procedures to ensure that the number of votes considered equaled the number of ballots issued. Results can be produced by electronic tabulators very quickly and accurately. Results from each voting place were reported by phone to the district electoral office, recorded in Elections BC's Voting Results System, and published on Elections BC's website.

In both by-elections, results began to be reported within 15 minutes of the close of voting. Complete preliminary results were known within an hour of polls closing. This was a marked improvement from past by-elections with manual counts. Typically in past by-elections results only started to be reported about 45 minutes after polls closed. Preliminary results reporting was usually not complete until late on election night. Nevertheless, we are examining our procedures with a view to getting further improvements in vote count reporting on election night.

Immediately following Final Voting Day, district electoral officers and Elections BC HQ staff conducted a hand count of a randomly-selected ballot box to confirm the accuracy of results. The manual count validated the results produced by the tabulator. Candidate representatives were invited to observe the hand count.

Recounts

Under the *Election Act*, candidates or their official agents can request a recount of some or all of the ballots considered at initial count within three days after Final Voting Day. Recount requests can only be made where:

- the difference between the top two candidates is close (defined in the *Election Act* as 100 votes or fewer); or
- votes were not correctly accepted or ballots were not correctly rejected, or a ballot account does not accurately record the number of votes for a candidate.

No recount requests were received in either the Vancouver-Quilchena or Surrey South by-election.

Final count

Under the previous model of election administration, absentee ballots were counted at final count, 13 days after election night. While historically it has been uncommon for the results of an election to hang on the count of absentee ballots, two recent high-profile examples illustrate the issues inherent in this model. In 2017, the margin between the top two political parties was very close – and the question of which party would form government was dependent on the results of final count. In 2020, an unprecedented number of mail-in ballots (a form of absentee voting) were counted at final count, representing approximately one third of all ballots cast in the election, and far exceeding the volume of votes the final count process was originally designed for.

The *Election Amendment Act, 2019* updated the timing of final count to a date specified by the Chief Electoral Officer, no earlier than four days following Final Voting Day. Under the new voting model, only a small number of votes will be counted at final count in a provincial general election. In a full-tech single-district by-election like Vancouver-Quilchena and Surrey South, all votes are counted at initial count on election night. The results of initial count were therefore certified at final count, and the winning candidate in each district was declared elected.

ELECTION FINANCING

Under the *Election Act*, candidates, political parties and constituency associations involved in the election must file election financing reports within 90 days after Final Voting Day. Individuals and organizations that sponsor election advertising must be registered with Elections BC, and sponsors who sponsor election advertising with a value of more than \$500 must file an election advertising disclosure report within 90 days after Final Voting Day.

Scanned reports for political participants, including report summaries and contributions received, are available on Elections BC's website. The filing deadline for the Vancouver-Quilchena by-election reports was July 29, 2022. The filing deadline for the Surrey South by-election reports was December 9, 2022.

Under the *Election Act*, eligible parties and candidates can submit claims to have some of their election expenses reimbursed. Eligible parties and candidates can be reimbursed for up to 50% of their eligible expenses, up to a maximum of 50% of the election expenses limit. 50% of the estimated claim must be paid to the financial agent of a party or candidate within 15 days after the claim and supporting receipts are filed. The remainder is paid after Elections BC reviews the report and supporting records and receipts. The amount of the second payment is adjusted if the party or candidate has claimed amounts not eligible for reimbursement. Parties are eligible to have expenses reimbursed if their endorsed candidate receives 10% or more of the valid votes in a by-election. Candidates are eligible if they received at least 10% of the valid votes in the by-election.

For the 2022 by-elections, three political parties and five candidates received sufficient votes to qualify for election expense reimbursements. The table below shows the election expense reimbursements claimed by eligible candidates and parties in both by-elections.

Table 9: Amounts claimed for election expense reimbursement by political parties

Political party	Vancouver-Quilchena	Surrey South
BC Liberal Party	\$25,199.59	\$24,660.95
BC NDP	\$10,034.12	\$21,738.41
Conservative	-*	\$3,771.05

* The Conservative party received less than 10% of the total valid votes in the Vancouver-Quilchena by-election, and therefore was not eligible for election expense reimbursement for that by-election.

Table 10: Amounts claimed for election expense reimbursement by candidates

Candidate name	Affiliation	Vancouver-Quilchena	Surrey South
Jeanette Ashe	BC NDP	\$21,896.16	-
Kevin Falcon	BC Liberal Party	\$32,199.69	-
Harman Bhangu	Conservative	-	\$17,269.09
Pauline Greaves	BC NDP	-	\$29,282.47
Elenore Sturko	BC Liberal Party	-	\$31,085.13

All reports were received by the filing deadlines for both by-elections.

STATEMENT OF VOTES

Summary of results

Table 11: Summary of results, 2022 Vancouver-Quilchena by-election

Candidate	Affiliation	Total valid votes	% of total valid votes
Jeanette Ashe	BC NDP	2,590	24.48%
Dallas Brodie	Conservative	698	6.60%
Kevin Falcon	BC Liberal Party	6,200	58.61%
Sandra Filosof-Schipper	Libertarian	66	0.62%
Wendy Hayko	BC Green Party	1,025	9.69%
		10,579	100.00%

Table 12: Summary of results, 2022 Surrey South by-election

Candidate	Affiliation	Total valid votes	% of total valid votes
Jason Bax	Libertarian	221	2.06%
Harman Bhangu	Conservative	1,364	12.70%
Pauline Greaves	BC NDP	3,221	29.98%
Simran Sarai	BC Green Party	368	3.43%
Elenore Sturko	BC Liberal Party	5,568	51.83%
		10,742	100.00%

Results by voting place

The following pages contain summaries of the results of the 2022 Vancouver-Quilchena and Surrey South by-elections by voting opportunity and voting place. Registered political parties are listed in alphabetical order by the ballot name of their candidate.

Vancouver-Quilchena

	Jeanette Ashe	Dallas Brodie	Kevin Falcon	Sandra Filosof- Schipper	Wendy Hayko	Total valid votes	Rejected ballots	Registered voters
	NDP	CP	LIB	LBN	GP			
Advance voting								
Dunbar Comm Centre	692	120	1,452	9	256	2,529	1	
Hellenic Comm of Vancouver	560	182	1,711	21	179	2,653	1	
Sub-totals: Advance voting	1,252	302	3,163	30	435	5,182	2	
Final voting								
Dr. R.E. McKechnie Elem School	80	29	377	4	37	527	0	4,933
Dunbar Comm Centre	175	41	350	3	102	671	1	4,369
Hellenic Comm of Vancouver	82	32	300	2	36	452	1	4,526
Kerrisdale Elem School	124	48	279	6	63	520	1	4,715
Lord Kitchener Elem School	241	51	362	5	98	757	0	4,714
Magee Sec School	137	44	322	8	69	580	0	4,531
Point Grey Sec School	147	46	228	2	55	478	0	3,508
Prince of Wales Mini School	91	24	240	2	41	398	0	3,454
Trafalgar Elem School	73	37	304	1	35	450	0	3,338
Sub-totals: Final voting	1,150	352	2,762	33	536	4,833	3	38,088
Special voting	36	25	55	1	5	122	0	311
DEO office voting	25	1	51	0	14	91	0	
Mail-in voting *1	127	18	169	2	35	351	0	
Assisted telephone voting *1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Grand totals	2,590	698	6,200	66	1,025	10,579	5	38,399
% of valid votes	24.48%	6.60%	58.61%	0.62%	9.69%			
Summary								
Valid votes - Advance and final voting	10,015	94.67%			Total valid votes			
Special voting	122	1.15%			Total valid votes			
DEO office voting	91	0.86%			Total valid votes			
Mail-in voting *1	351	3.32%			Total valid votes			
Assisted telephone voting *1	-	-			Total valid votes			
Total valid votes	10,579							
Rejected ballots	5	0.05%			Ballots cast			
Registered voters who voted	10,584	27.56%			Registered voters			
Registered voters	38,399							
Candidate elected:	Kevin Falcon (LIB)							
*1 Mail-in and assisted telephone voting results are combined								
For a map of Vancouver-Quilcehna, visit https://elections.bc.ca/docs/map/redis17/ED/VNQ_ED.pdf								

Surrey South								
	Jason Bax LBN	Harman Bhangu CP	Pauline Greaves NDP	Simran Sarai GP	Elenore Sturko LIB	Total valid votes	Rejected ballots	Registered voters
Advance voting								
Benchmark Business Centre	2	18	38	3	75	136	1	
Gracepoint Comm Church	25	159	324	41	751	1,300	1	
Jericho Ridge Comm Church	42	226	645	54	525	1,492	1	
Rosemary Heights Elem School	24	184	510	56	1,142	1,916	3	
Sub-totals: Advance voting	93	587	1,517	154	2,493	4,844	6	
Final voting								
Benchmark Business Centre	7	44	70	9	158	288	0	4,478
Chantrell Creek Elem School	12	58	93	19	368	550	0	3,678
Jericho Ridge Comm Church	31	183	413	42	338	1,007	2	16,157
Pacific Heights Elem School	27	220	365	51	815	1,478	0	12,837
Peace Portal Alliance Church	9	106	279	30	494	918	1	5,917
Rosemary Heights Elem School	21	108	292	34	655	1,110	2	10,844
Sub-totals: Final voting	107	719	1,512	185	2,828	5,351	5	53,911
Special voting	7	21	39	4	71	142	3	452
DEO office voting	1	11	11	2	47	72	0	
Mail-in voting *1	13	26	142	23	129	333	0	
Assisted telephone voting *1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Grand totals	221	1,364	3,221	368	5,568	10,742	14	54,363
% of valid votes	2.06%	12.70%	29.99%	3.43%	51.83%			
Summary								
Valid votes - Advance and final voting	10,195	94.91%		Total valid votes				
Special voting	142	1.32%		Total valid votes				
DEO office voting	72	0.67%		Total valid votes				
Mail-in voting *1	333	3.10%		Total valid votes				
Assisted telephone voting *1	-	-		Total valid votes				
Total valid votes	10,742							
Rejected ballots	14	0.13%		Ballots cast				
Registered voters who voted	10,756							
Candidate elected:	Elenore Sturko (LIB)							
*1 Mail-in and assisted telephone voting results are combined								
For a map of Surrey South, visit https://elections.bc.ca/docs/map/redis17/ED/SUS_ED.pdf								

ELECTIONS BC EXPENSES

The following expenses were incurred by Elections BC in administering the 2022 Vancouver-Quilchena and Surrey South by-elections.

Actual costs vary between events based on factors such as the number of registered voters and the locations of electoral district (e.g. voter notice postage/printing and office and voting place rental costs). The Deputy District Electoral Officer (DDEO) salary was lower in Surrey South compared to Vancouver-Quilchena because the DDEO was appointed for the pre-event period only. During the by-election, this role was filled by a permanent Elections BC staff member as a learning opportunity.

Table 13: Elections BC expenses, 2022 Vancouver-Quilchena by-election

Central office expenses	Combined actuals for fiscal years 2021-22 & 2022-23
Salaries	\$90,208
Professional services	10,986
Travel	12,716
Information systems	157,728
General office expenses	32,578
Voter notice postage/printing	48,153
Ballot printing	8,026
Advertising and publications	60,611
Total	\$421,006
District electoral office expenses	
District electoral officer salary and benefits	\$31,123
Deputy district electoral officer salary and benefits	25,396
Election official fees	86,268
Support staff salaries	56,890
Travel	79
General office expenses	8,528
Voting place rental	23,003
Office rental	114,000
Total	\$345,287
Total election expenses	\$766,293
Number of registered voters on Final Voting Day	38,399
Cost per registered voter	\$19.96
Election expense reimbursements to candidates and political parties	\$89,329.56

Table 14: Elections BC expenses, 2022 Surrey South by-election

Central office expenses	Fiscal year 2022/2023
Salaries	\$58,603
Professional services	11,480
Travel	10,295
Information systems	141,363
General office expenses	32,131
Voter notice postage/printing	65,668
Ballot printing	8,911
Advertising and publications	93,979
Total	\$422,430
District electoral office expenses	
District electoral officer salary and benefits	\$31,694
Deputy district electoral officer salary and benefits	10,265
Election official fees	118,408
Support staff salaries	56,913
Travel	545
General office expenses	7,418
Voting place rental	15,335
Office rental	85,000
Total	\$325,578
Total election expenses	\$748,008
Number of registered voters on Final Voting Day	54,363
Cost per registered voter	\$13.76
Estimated election expense reimbursements to candidates and political parties¹	\$100,000

1 – Estimate based on the amount paid and number of eligible candidates and political parties from previous by-elections. Actual cost will not be known until Elections BC has audited the claims and associated receipts.

CONCLUSION

The two by-elections administered by Elections BC in 2022 demonstrated that the improvements to service, efficiency, transparency and accessibility envisioned by the new election model are real and effective. The first-come, first-served voting place model effectively reduced line-ups and wait times, with 96% of voters surveyed rating the voting process as very efficient. Parties and candidates were able to make use of close to real-time participation data to support their get-out-the-vote efforts during advance and final voting. Faster results on election night were perhaps the most visible outcome of the new technology used to administer voting; ballot tabulators produced results tapes shortly after the close of voting, with complete preliminary results reported publically within 45 minutes.


The by-elections were also the first time Final Voting Day has been held on a Saturday in a by-election in B.C. Having Election Day on a weekend allows access to a wider pool of election officials available to work a full day, and also enables the use of schools as voting places on a non-instructional day. Voting on weekends (or on public holidays) is also considered an international best practice to facilitate voter participation.

With these successes in mind, there were also lessons learned from these events that will be applied to our planning and preparations for future by-elections and general elections.

Some voting places experienced slower network connectivity than expected on voting days. While these issues did not prevent the transmission of voter participation data, we are reviewing our testing procedures as part of our preparations for future elections. Testing network signal strength is part of our voting place suitability review, but this testing was occasionally conducted under different conditions than those experienced on Election Day. For example, signal strength may have been tested during periods of low network usage that did not match the high loads seen during voting. We remain confident that the new voting model will continue to provide improved service to candidates and parties in the form of close to real-time participation data.

Electronic voting books (EVBs) performed well in the by-elections and election officials found them quick and easy to use. In a provincial general election, however, B.C.'s "vote anywhere" model will require election officials to follow more complex EVB procedures to serve out-of-district voters at any voting place. A thorough review of election official training to cover all scenarios is a major component of our general election planning.

While ballot tabulators functioned as expected – the quality assurance program confirmed that they counted ballots correctly – minor issues such as occasional paper jams were observed. We are exploring ways to address these issues such as improved ballot secrecy folders that will feed ballots into tabulators more smoothly. We have high confidence in the technology supplied by Dominion Voting Systems.



Although results were reported quickly on election night – a significant improvement over previous by-elections, where results were not reported until late into the evening – we are targeting further improvement in this area. Scaling results reporting up to meet the anticipated higher turnout of a general election, as well as the added complexity of reporting multiple electoral districts at once, are also factors that we are examining closely as we plan for general election night reporting.

As the first events held under B.C.'s newly modernized election model, Vancouver-Quilchena and Surrey South were significant events from an election administration perspective. These two by-elections represented the culmination of several years of work by Elections BC headquarters and field staff, contracted service providers, legal consultations and stakeholder input. The successful administration of the by-elections marks a major milestone, but the modernization work is not yet complete. As we apply the lessons learned and feedback received from the by-elections, our focus is turning to areas of election administration unique to a general election. Our experience in the 2022 by-elections will need to scale up to as many as 93 electoral districts¹ (conducting 93 concurrent elections), and involve new factors like out-of-district voters, print-on-demand ballots and thousands more pieces of equipment and technology. Elections BC is ready to meet these challenges head-on to provide the highest level of service to voters, political participants and all stakeholders in the electoral process.

¹ – In its preliminary report published on October 3, 2022, the BC Electoral Boundaries Commission proposed the creation of 93 provincial electoral districts. The Commission's preliminary report is available at <https://bcebc.ca/preliminary-report/>. The Commission's final report must be published by April 3, 2023. After the final report is published, the Legislative Assembly will decide whether to accept all, some, or none of the Commission's recommendations.

APPENDIX: ORDERS OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

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

The Chief Electoral Officer issued the following orders in relation to the 2022 Vancouver-Quilchena and Surrey South by-elections:

Vancouver-Quilchena

ORD002-2022

April 2, 2022

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, public health orders required employers to maintain COVID-19 Safety Plans until April 8, 2022, and to maintain Communicable Disease Prevention Plans in accordance with the *Workers Compensation Act* after April 8, 2022. These plans may include the use of personal protective equipment. For the Vancouver-Quilchena 2022 by-election, the value of personal protective equipment obtained by provincial political parties and candidates was not subject to election expense limits provided the equipment did not include any partisan messaging, imaging, branding or election advertising.

ORD003-2022

April 2, 2022

Due to election material supply chain constraints, the secrecy envelopes and certification envelopes developed for use with the amended *Election Act* mail-in voting provisions brought into force in March 2022 did not arrive in time for use in the Vancouver-Quilchena by-election. Exceptions were made to allow for modifications to the voting materials, voting procedures and receiving requirements for vote-by-mail ballots.

ORD005-2022

April 27, 2022

During the advance voting period for the Vancouver-Quilchena by-election, an election official at an advance voting opportunity inadvertently inserted two ballots into the vote-counting equipment a second time while trying to resolve a paper jam issue. An exception was made to consider the ballot box to be an auxiliary compartment in which ballots were temporarily stored. The vote-counting equipment's memory card was cleared, and the ballots were then inserted into the vote-counting equipment to be properly tabulated.

ORD006-2022*April 28, 2022*

Individuals voting at a special voting opportunity established at a care facility for the Vancouver-Quilchena by-election were permitted to be assisted by employees of the facility. Employees were able to verify the identity of each voter. Due to an error in communication surrounding the responsibilities of an individual assisting a voter, employees assisting voters in completing their certification envelopes did not follow the correct process for completing a voting package, and several voting packages were partially or incorrectly completed. The voting packages and ballots of the affected voters were permitted to be considered as if they had been fully and correctly completed.

ORD007-2022*April 29, 2022*

An exception was made to allow for completed mail-in voting packages returned to an election official at a final voting place established for the Vancouver-Quilchena 2022 by-election before the close of final voting to be considered as if they were received at the office of the district electoral officer as required.

ORD008-2022*April 30, 2022*

A voter in the Vancouver-Quilchena by-election was assisted by an individual in completing their mail-in voting package. Due to a mistake, the completed package was delivered to the office of the district electoral officer with the correct identification, but the voter's birthdate was incorrectly marked on the certification envelope by the person assisting the voter. An exception was made to allow the mail-in voting package of the affected voter to be considered as if the birthdate was correctly marked on the certification envelope by the person assisting the voter.

Surrey South**ORD010-2022***September 1, 2022*

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a special voting opportunity was established at a care facility to allow voters to complete mail-in voting packages for the Surrey South by-election. Due to election official error, mail-in voting packages were delivered to voters with ballots that were not initialed in the Ballot Issuing Officer (BIO) initialing space. An exception was made to allow election officials, during initial count, to record their initials in the BIO initialing space on each ballot before inserting the ballot into vote-counting equipment.

ORD011-2022*September 10, 2022*

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a special voting opportunity was established at a care facility to allow voters to complete mail-in voting packages for the Surrey South by-election. Due to election official error, one mail-in voting package was delivered to a voter with an incorrect, old stock certification envelope that had a space for a birthdate rather than the space for a witness signature. The incorrect certification envelope was used by a voter who included their date of birth instead of a witness signature. An exception was made to allow the certification envelope to be considered as if the correct certification envelope had been used by the voter.

ORD012-2022*September 10, 2022*

Due to a procedural error, the majority of mail-in voting packages issued for the Surrey South by-election were delivered to voters with ballots which were not initialed in the Ballot Issuing Officer (BIO) initialing space. An exception was made to allow election officials, during the preparations for initial count, to record their initials in the BIO initialing space on each ballot before inserting the ballot into vote-counting equipment.

ORD013-2022*September 10, 2022*

Due to a procedural error, some or all of the ballots completed by election officials during Assisted Telephone Voting (ATV) procedures for the Surrey South by-election were not initialed in the Ballot Issuing Officer (BIO) initialing space. An exception was made to allow election officials, during the preparations for initial count, to record their initials in the BIO initialing space on each ATV ballot before inserting the ballot into vote-counting equipment.

ORD014-2022*September 10, 2022*

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, special voting opportunities were established at a number of extended care facilities to allow voters to complete mail-in voting packages for the Surrey South by-election. Due to election official error, mail-in voting packages were delivered to voters with ballots that were not initialed in the Ballot Issuing Officer (BIO) initialing space. An exception was made to allow election officials, during the preparations for initial count, to record their initials in the BIO initialing space on each ballot before inserting the ballot into vote-counting equipment.

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