

Elections in British Columbia

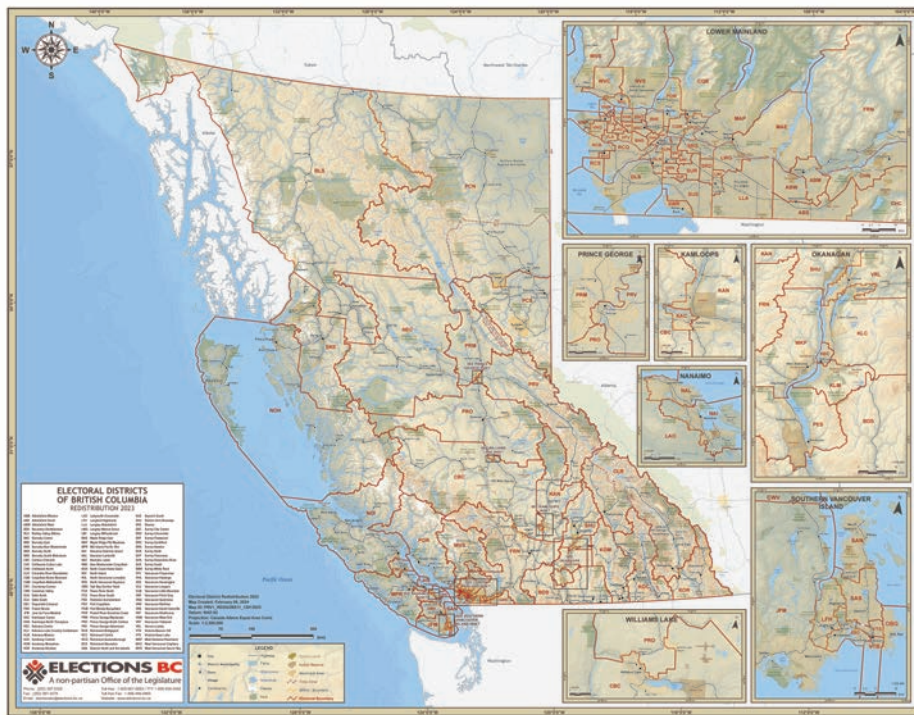


British Columbia's electoral system is based on the principle of representation by population. In the next provincial general election, anticipated to take place on October 19, 2024, voters will elect one person in 93 electoral districts to represent them in the Legislative Assembly. On average, each Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) represents approximately 53,000 people.

When are elections held?

Provincial general elections are scheduled to be held on the third Saturday in October every four years.

The election officially begins when the Lieutenant Governor issues a proclamation dissolving the Legislative Assembly and issues writs of election for each of the electoral districts in the province. The writ is a formal proclamation of an election and includes important information, such as the date of general voting day and the date when the writ must be returned.



In addition to final voting day, there are also six days of advance voting and many other ways for people to vote, including by mail and at local district electoral offices.

Who can vote in provincial elections?

To vote in a provincial general election, you must be a Canadian citizen, 18 years or older, a resident of B.C. for the six months before the election, and not be disqualified from voting.

The map of British Columbia divided into the 93 electoral districts.

https://elections.bc.ca/docs/map/Provincial_ED_Map_2023_28x36.pdf

After the election

Following the election, the Chief Electoral Officer provides the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly with a list of the people who were elected. The successful candidates are sworn in as MLAs at a ceremony overseen by the Clerk. The Lieutenant Governor invites the leader of the party that has the support of a majority of the MLAs to become Premier and to form a government. The Premier will then choose MLAs from their own party to serve as Cabinet Ministers.

PARLIAMENTARY EDUCATION OFFICE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

PEO@leg.bc.ca @BCLegislature LegislativeAssemblyBC

For more learning resources, visit
www.leg.bc.ca/learn/learning-resources

