

British Columbia Voting Systems Questionnaire

Version 2.1 | Nov. 15, 2017 |

The B.C. government is holding a referendum in the fall of 2018 to ask voters whether the province should keep the current first-past-the-post voting system or change to a proportional representation voting system. This questionnaire will help B.C.'s Attorney General understand the preferences and expectations of B.C. voters about the referendum.

There are two parts to this survey. Part one asks key questions about your values and general outlook as to how we vote for Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), and for how the legislature functions. Part two asks more detailed questions about your preferences regarding electoral reform, voting systems and the referendum process. At the end of each part, you will have the opportunity to provide further written feedback.

Each part of the questionnaire will take approximately 5-8 minutes to complete. We ask that you complete this survey only once.

Privacy Statement

Personal information collected through this feedback form will inform the development of a ballot for a November 2018 electoral reform referendum by the Ministry of Attorney General, under the authority of s.26 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. If you have any questions about the collection, use and disclosure of your personal information, please contact:

*Neil Reimer
Director, Director, Strategic Initiatives
Ministry of Justice
Victoria BC
Neil.Reimer@gov.bc.ca*

Comment [NSR1]: From PL: This is a colloquialism. The system is a single member plurality. I don't know that it should be described that way, necessarily, but as we educate people perhaps we should aim to get that phrase correct.

Part 1

Section 1: Profile

Please provide this general profile information. Your identity cannot be determined by answering these questions.

Profile_Q2 – What are the first three characters in your postal code (this is a required field)?

- [3 character field]

Profile_Q3 - How old are you?

- Under 18
- 18 - 39 years
- 40 - 64 years
- 65 - 75 years
- Over 75 years
- Prefer not to answer

Profile_Q1 - Please indicate your gender:

- Man (1)
- Woman (2)
- X: _____[text box] (3)
- Prefer not to answer

Profile_Q5 - Do you identify with any of the following groups? Please select all that apply

- Visible minority (1)
- First Nations (2)
- Inuit (3)
- Métis (4)
- Persons with disabilities (5)
- LGBTQ2 (6)
- None of the above (7)
- Prefer not to answer

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your interest in, and familiarity with, current affairs and voting in elections.

Outlook_Q1 - Generally speaking, how interested are you in politics and current affairs?

- Not interested at all (1)
- Not very interested (2)
- Somewhat interested (3)
- Very interested (4)
- Prefer not to answer

Outlook_Q4 - How often do you vote in provincial elections?

Comment [GF2]: Necessary? If people don't identify with the above, they simply won't answer the question "Do you identify...?"

Comment [NSR3]: From PL: Why is this being asked? I understand why it's interesting in a vacuum, but how will asking the question help the ministry? Seems to me the most likely and worst outcome is some silly claim that ignorant people like the status quo. Which they might, as lack of interest is endogenous to satisfaction, and not a good indicator of sophistication.

- I am not eligible to vote (1)
- Never (2)
- Rarely (3)
- Sometimes (4)
- Most of the time (5)
- All of the time (6)
- First time voter in 2017 (7)
- Prefer not to answer

Outlook _ Which, if any, of the following have been barriers that have kept you from voting?

(Please select all that apply.)

- Not enough time (1)
- Not enough information (2)
- Disability or mobility issues (3)
- Voting location isn't convenient (4)
- Do not feel included (5)
- Frustration with politics (6)
- Don't like the voting system (7)
- I was not eligible to vote (8)
- Not interested in politics (9)
- I feel like my vote doesn't count (10)
- Prefer not to answer

Outlook_Q6 – If you were to vote in a referendum to choose a voting system today, how confident are you that you would make you feel about making an informed choice?

- Not at all confident (1)
- Not very confident (2)
- Somewhat confident (3)
- Very confident (4)
- Don't know (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q1 Please select up to five values—why 5, not 3 or 8?—from the list below that are most important to you.

I value most:

[note to reviewers: the sequence of value statements below will be rotated randomly for each user.]

Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who focus primarily on what is best for the province as a whole
Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who focus primarily on the interests of their local community
A voting system that is easy to understand
Better representation of groups that are currently under-represented in the Legislative Assembly

Increasing the number of political parties in the Legislative Assembly to represent more points of view
A Legislative Assembly in which where the share of seats each party holds closely matches the share of the popular vote it receives across the province
A Legislative Assembly where in which the share of seats each party holds is fairly similar to the share of the popular vote it receives across the province
A voting system that encourages political parties to appeal to other parties' voters appeal as broadly as possible to voters
A voting system that makes it easier for independent candidates (those not running for a political party) to be elected
A voting system that allows a voter to rank a political parties or/and candidates (1, 2, 3, etc.)
Single-party majority governments that are clearly accountable for their decisions
A Legislative Assembly where two or more parties co-operate to make decisions
Other:

Comment [NSR4]: From PL: It's not empirically clear to me that the diversity of points of view - especially views outside party orthodoxy - are more likely to be represented by more parties.

Comment [GF5]: I agree with Max.

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your values and preferences regarding how MLAs are elected, how governments are formed and how the Legislative Assembly operates.

Preferences_Q6 Which would you prefer? Not sure why we bother to ask this question. The decision about the number of MLAs should reflect a judgment about how many are needed not the "values" or "preferences" of the electorate.

- The number of MLAs should remain the same (1)
- There should be more MLAs to better reflect voters' interests (2)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q7 There should be greater diversity of views represented in the Legislative Assembly.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q12 The party that wins the most seats in an election should have to compromise with other parties, even if it means changing some of its campaign commitments. Even under PR a party might win a majority and not have to compromise much. I think the question here should be: Parties should use the legislature to find compromises that reflect the preferences of voters, even if that means changing campaign commitments

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)

Comment [GF6]: I agree with Max on this point.

Comment [NSR7]: From PL: I don't know what you are getting at here. Is it compromise on gov formation or compromise once in government? Distinguishing between these two could allow for a more direct question.

- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q13 It should always be clear which party is accountable for decisions made by government, even if this means that decisions are only made by one party. Are minority or coalition parliaments less accountable?

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Comment [GF8]: I agree with Max.

Please answer the following question to help us understand the choices you would like to see on the referendum ballot.

Ballot Options_Q 1 Which would you prefer?

- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current first-past-the-post voting system and ONE proportional representation voting system. (which means someone has to set the agenda)
- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current first-past-the-post voting system and MORE THAN ONE proportional representation voting system (in which case, what if a majority prefer change but can't agree on an alternative?)
- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current first-past-the-post voting system and proportional representation, with a specific voting system to be established by legislation after the referendum. (which means abdicating a role in selecting the system) – none of these options seems desirable, which is why some kind of process of public engagement/deliberation beyond this poll is essential.
- My preference would be: a ballot that offers a choice between FPTP or PR, followed by a choice of PR systems for those who opt to change the system. You don't want to stack FPTP against a menu of choices across which voters are dispersed; nor set the agenda by selecting the alternative for them. We want to know (a) do you want change? If a majority says yes, then (b) what is the most popular alternative? The ballot has to be structured to reveal the preferences across both those aspects of the choice.
- Prefer not to answer

Comment [NSR9]: PL suggests us Single Member Plurality instead of FPTP.

Comment [GF10]: Yes, totally.

[Text box]

Are there any other comments you would like to make about voting systems or the upcoming referendum? [Limit to 200 characters]

This is the end of Part 1 of the questionnaire. Part 2 asks further questions about your preferences regarding electoral reform and the referendum ballot. You may submit your responses to Part 1

now and leave the survey, or continue on to Part 2. Why encourage people to submit and leave? It seems to me you have made the survey brief enough that this should not be necessary.

Comment [GF11]: Yes.

SUBMIT AND LEAVE

CONTINUE TO PART 2

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Part 2

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your interest in electoral reform.

Outlook_Q2 - How closely have you followed public debate on electoral reform?

- Not closely at all (1)
- Somewhat closely (2)
- Very closely (3)
- Prefer not to answer

Outlook_Q3 - Did you vote in either the 2005 or 2009 B.C. referendum on electoral reform?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Not sure (3)
- Not eligible (4)
- Prefer not to answer

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your values and preferences regarding how Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) are elected, how governments are formed and how the Legislative Assembly operates.

Preferences_Q2 Which would you prefer?

Having more ~~small two or more~~ parties represented in the Legislature or fewer big parties?

- ~~Two~~ A few big parties (1)
- More ~~than two small~~ parties (2)
- Prefer not to answer

We have a two-party system with a third party emerging. FPTP tends to encourage two-party systems (Duverger's law). This is the key fact that PR would change.

Preferences_Q3 Which would you prefer?

- Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who do what their party promised.
- MLAs who do what their constituents want.
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q4 Ballots should allow voters to choose more than one candidate or political party by ranking them in order of preference.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q8 All votes should contribute to electing an MLA, even if it means the ballot is longer or more complicated. Honestly, I think the whole issue of complexity is way over-blown.

Comment [NSR12]: PL's suggested wording: "Having a large number of small parties represented...."

Comment [GF13]: Yes. I prefer Max's language here.

Comment [NSR14]: From PL: In no sense are voters choosing more than one party. Voters don't individually choose. Aggregation of preferences chooses. So, should be "support" or something else.

The ballot will never be too hard for voters to understand. What they may not understand is the formula for translating votes into seats. There is no ballot complexity issue.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Comment [GF15]: I agree.

Comment [NSR16]: From PL: I know what you're getting at here, but every vote is counted in every system, some just aren't cast for winners.

Preferences_Q10 An election ballot should be easy to understand, even if it means voters have fewer options to express their preferences. Here again is the belabouring of a non-issue in a slightly different guise. This gives the impression that you are stacking the deck in favor of FPTP.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3) Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Comment [GF17]: I agree.

Preferences_Q11 It is better for several parties to have to govern together than for one party to make all the decisions in government, even if it sometimes takes longer to form government after an election. I also think this is a non-issue. For people with little familiarity with coalition government this may seem like a challenge, but the reality is that the bigger problem is that coalitions have to negotiate to get to yes, and this means that one can vote for a party that, in order to be part of a ruling coalition, must make compromises with other parties. "It is better for several parties to cooperate in the legislature, even if they have to make compromises to reach agreement" is how I would word this.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3) Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Comment [GF18]: I agree with Max. I didn't like this question when I first saw it. I still don't like it. Max's rephrasing is more on point.

Preferences_Q14 - Please indicate which you prefer:

- Each electoral district is represented by one MLA
- Each electoral district is represented by several MLAs
- Some MLAs represent an electoral district, while other MLAs represent larger regions or the province as a whole.
- Prefer not to answer

A PR supporter might say "I don't prefer several MLAs, but I prefer proportionality and this is necessary to get it."

Please answer the following questions to help us understand the choices you would like to see on the referendum ballot.

Ballot Options_Q 2 If the government offers voters a choice of more than one proportional representation voting system, which do you prefer?

- Voters should indicate their support for only one proposed system
- Voter should rank order their support for all the proposed systems
- Prefer not to answer
- Again, my answer is "both." One question is: Do you like FPTP or want to change it? The next question is: "What is your preferred alternative?"

Ballot Options_Q 3: Alongside the option of keeping the first-past-the-post voting system, which system or systems of proportional representation would you like to see on the ballot? Please select all that apply. (With mouse-over summary text from web 101 pages that does not click to a new page)

- List Proportional Representation
- Mixed Member Proportional
- --> If MMP, do you prefer open or closed lists?
- Single Transferable Vote
- Mixed Member Majoritarian
- Other: Please describe
- Prefer not to answer

Ballot Options_Q 4: If B.C. changes to a system of proportional representation, there should be a second referendum after a trial period (for example, two elections) on whether to keep the new system.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3) Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

good

Section 5: Public funding and advertising in the referendum

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your expectations with regards to public funding for advocacy groups and campaign advertising for particular voting systems during the referendum.

Public Funding_Q 1 The government should provide public funds to designated groups to campaign for their preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

If this is all that the government understands by public engagement then they will simply be setting fire to the whole process. I'd designate public funds to a well-structured deliberative process that takes the issue out of the hands of both partisans and advocates and puts it back in the hands of citizens. The choice of a referendum as the instrument for decision-making polarizes the debate between yes/no, rather than encouraging a search for a better system.

Comment [GF19]: Yes, we need a multifaceted deliberative process that is well funded and couple with an effective media campaign as well as balanced and comprehensive information.

Public Funding_Q 2 There should be spending limits imposed on any group that campaigns for its preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Comment [GF20]: Again, I don't think this is an appropriate question. If the responses are mostly (1) or (2), would the government really think that's a good idea? No caps on campaign spending? Really? It's a basic principle of fairness in election campaigns. There must be spending caps. Don't ask the question. Just do it.

Public Funding_Q 3 The provincial government should provide the public with impartial information during the referendum campaign period.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer
- Not just information – a process that allows citizens to interact, discuss the issues, educate themselves, and come to judgment. The problem is lack of understanding not just lack of information.

Comment [GF21]: Again, I don't think this is appropriate to ask. The government needs to provide this information and, as Max puts it, this information should allow citizens to interact, discuss, etc.

Public Funding_Q 4 The provincial government should ensure that paid advertisements that appear during the referendum campaign period are produced only by groups that must register, disclose their identity in their advertising and disclose their contributors and expenses after the referendum.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

[Text box]

Are there any other comments you would like to make about voting systems or the upcoming referendum? [Limit to 200 characters]

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Part 1

Section 1: Profile

Please provide this general profile information. Your identity cannot be determined by answering these questions.

Profile_Q2 – What are the first three characters in your postal code (this is a required field)?

- [3 character field]

Profile_Q3 - How old are you?

- Under 18
- 18 - 39 years
- 40 - 64 years
- 65 - 75 years
- Over 75 years
- Prefer not to answer

Profile_Q1 - Please indicate your gender:

- Man (1)
- Woman (2)
- X: _____[text box] (3)
- Prefer not to answer

Profile_Q5 - Do you identify with any of the following groups? Please select all that apply

- Visible minority (1)
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- Inuit (3)
- Métis (4)
- Persons with disabilities (5)
- LGBTQ2 (6)
- None of the above (7)
- Prefer not to answer

Comment [GF1]: Necessary? If people don't identify with the above, they simply won't answer the question "Do you identify...?"

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your interest in, and familiarity with, current affairs and voting in elections.

Outlook_Q1 - Generally speaking, how interested are you in politics and current affairs?

- Not interested at all (1)
- Not very interested (2)
- Somewhat interested (3)
- Very interested (4)
- Prefer not to answer

Outlook_Q4 - How often do you vote in provincial elections?

- I am not eligible to vote (1)
- Never (2)
- Rarely (3)
- Sometimes (4)
- Most of the time (5)
- All of the time (6)
- First time voter in 2017 (7)
- Prefer not to answer

Outlook _ Which, if any, of the following have been barriers that have kept you from voting?

(Please select all that apply.)

- Not enough time (1)
- Not enough information (2)
- Disability or mobility issues (3)
- Voting location isn't convenient (4)
- Do not feel included (5)
- Frustration with politics (6)
- Don't like the voting system (7)
- I was not eligible to vote (8)
- Not interested in politics (9)
- I feel like my vote doesn't count (10)
- Prefer not to answer

Outlook_Q6 – If you were to vote in a referendum to choose a voting system today, how confident would you feel about making an informed choice?

- Not at all confident (1)
- Not very confident (2)
- Somewhat confident (3)
- Very confident (4)
- Don't know (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q1 Please select up to five values—why 5, not 3 or 8?—from the list below that are most important to you.

I value most:

[note to reviewers: the sequence of value statements below will be rotated randomly for each user.]

Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who focus primarily on what is best for the province as a whole
Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who focus primarily on the interests of their local community
A voting system that is easy to understand
Better representation of groups that are currently under-represented in the Legislative Assembly

Increasing the number of political parties in the Legislative Assembly to represent more points of view
A Legislative Assembly in which where the share of seats each party holds closely matches the share of the popular vote it receives across the province
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A voting system that makes it easier for independent candidates (those not running for a political party) to be elected
A voting system that allows a voter to rank a political parties or candidates (1, 2, 3, etc.)
Single-party majority governments that are clearly accountable for their decisions
A Legislative Assembly where two or more parties co-operate to make decisions
Other:

Comment [GF2]: I agree with Max.

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your values and preferences regarding how MLAs are elected, how governments are formed and how the Legislative Assembly operates.

Preferences_Q6 Which would you prefer? Not sure why we bother to ask this question. The decision about the number of MLAs should reflect a judgment about how many are needed not the "values" or "preferences" of the electorate.

- The number of MLAs should remain the same (1)
- There should be more MLAs to better reflect voters' interests (2)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q7 There should be greater diversity of views represented in the Legislative Assembly.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q12 The party that wins the most seats in an election should have to compromise with other parties, even if it means changing some of its campaign commitments. Even under PR a party might win a majority and not have to compromise much. I think the question here should be: Parties should use the legislature to find compromises that reflect the preferences of voters, even if that means changing campaign commitments

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)

Comment [GF3]: I agree with Max this point.

- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q13 It should always be clear which party is accountable for decisions made by government, even if this means that decisions are only made by one party. Are minority or coalition parliaments less accountable?

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
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- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Comment [GF4]: I agree with Max.

Please answer the following question to help us understand the choices you would like to see on the referendum ballot.

Ballot Options_Q 1 Which would you prefer?

- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current first-past-the-post voting system and ONE proportional representation voting system. (which means someone has to set the agenda)
- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current first-past-the-post voting system and MORE THAN ONE proportional representation voting system (in which case, what if a majority prefer change but can't agree on an alternative?)
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- My preference would be: a ballot that offers a choice between FPTP or PR, followed by a choice of PR systems for those who opt to change the system. You don't want to stack FPTP against a menu of choices across which voters are dispersed; nor set the agenda by selecting the alternative for them. We want to know (a) do you want change? If a majority says yes, then (b) what is the most popular alternative? The ballot has to be structured to reveal the preferences across both those aspects of the choice.
- Prefer not to answer

Comment [GF5]: Yes, totally.

[Text box]

Are there any other comments you would like to make about voting systems or the upcoming referendum? [Limit to 200 characters]

This is the end of Part 1 of the questionnaire. Part 2 asks further questions about your preferences regarding electoral reform and the referendum ballot. You may submit your responses to Part 1

now and leave the survey, or continue on to Part 2. Why encourage people to submit and leave? It seems to me you have made the survey brief enough that this should not be necessary.

Comment [GF6]: Yes.

SUBMIT AND LEAVE

CONTINUE TO PART 2

DRAFT - CONFIDENTIAL - NOT FOR CIRCULATION

Part 2

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your interest in electoral reform.

Outlook_Q2 - How closely have you followed public debate on electoral reform?

- Not closely at all (1)
- Somewhat closely (2)
- Very closely (3)
- Prefer not to answer

Outlook_Q3 - Did you vote in either the 2005 or 2009 B.C. referendum on electoral reform?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Not sure (3)
- Not eligible (4)
- Prefer not to answer

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your values and preferences regarding how Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) are elected, how governments are formed and how the Legislative Assembly operates.

Preferences_Q2 Which would you prefer?

Having more ~~small~~ two or more parties represented in the Legislature or ~~fewer~~ big parties?

- ~~Two~~ A few big parties (1)
- More ~~than two small~~ parties (2)
- Prefer not to answer

We have a two-party system with a third party emerging. FPTP tends to encourage two-party systems (Duverger's law). This is the key fact that PR would change.

Comment [GF7]: Yes. I prefer Ma language here.

Preferences_Q3 Which would you prefer?

- Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who do what their party promised.
- MLAs who do what their constituents want.
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q4 Ballots should allow voters to choose more than one candidate or political party by ranking them in order of preference.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q8 All votes should contribute to electing an MLA, even if it means the ballot is longer or more complicated. Honestly, I think the whole issue of complexity is way over-blown.

The ballot will never be too hard for voters to understand. What they may not understand is the formula for translating votes into seats. There is no ballot complexity issue.

Comment [GF8]: I agree.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q10 An election ballot should be easy to understand, even if it means voters have fewer options to express their preferences. Here again is the belabouring of a non-issue in a slightly different guise. This gives the impression that you are stacking the deck in favor of FPTP.

Comment [GF9]: I agree.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q11 It is better for several parties to have to govern together than for one party to make all the decisions in government, even if it sometimes takes longer to form government after an election. I also think this is a non-issue. For people with little familiarity with coalition government this may seem like a challenge, but the reality is that the bigger problem is that coalitions have to negotiate to get to yes, and this means that one can vote for a party that, in order to be part of a ruling coalition, must make compromises with other parties. "It is better for several parties to cooperate in the legislature, even if they have to make compromises to reach agreement" is how I would word this.

Comment [GF10]: I agree with Ma
I didn't like this question when I first
saw it. I still don't like it. Max's
rephrasing is more on point.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q14 - Please indicate which you prefer:

- Each electoral district is represented by one MLA
- Each electoral district is represented by several MLAs
- Some MLAs represent an electoral district, while other MLAs represent larger regions or the province as a whole.
- Prefer not to answer

A PR supporter might say "I don't prefer several MLAs, but I prefer proportionality and this is necessary to get it."

Please answer the following questions to help us understand the choices you would like to see on the referendum ballot.

Ballot Options_Q 2 If the government offers voters a choice of more than one proportional representation voting system, which do you prefer?

- Voters should indicate their support for only one proposed system
- Voter should rank order their support for all the proposed systems
- Prefer not to answer
- Again, my answer is "both." One question is: Do you like FPTP or want to change it? The next question is: "What is your preferred alternative?"

Ballot Options_Q 3: Alongside the option of keeping the first-past-the-post voting system, which system or systems of proportional representation would you like to see on the ballot? Please select all that apply. (With mouse-over summary text from web 101 pages that does not click to a new page)

- List Proportional Representation
- Mixed Member Proportional
- --> If MMP, do you prefer open or closed lists?
- Single Transferable Vote
- Mixed Member Majoritarian
- Other: *Please describe*
- Prefer not to answer

Ballot Options_Q 4: If B.C. changes to a system of proportional representation, there should be a second referendum after a trial period (for example, two elections) on whether to keep the new system.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3) Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

good

Section 5: Public funding and advertising in the referendum

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your expectations with regards to public funding for advocacy groups and campaign advertising for particular voting systems during the referendum.

Public Funding_Q 1 The government should provide public funds to designated groups to campaign for their preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

If this is all that the government understands by public engagement then they will simply be setting fire to the whole process. I'd designate public funds to a well-structured deliberative process that takes the issue out of the hands of both partisans and advocates and puts it back in the hands of citizens. The choice of a referendum as the instrument for decision-making polarizes the debate between yes/no, rather than encouraging a search for a better system.

Comment [GF11]: Yes, we need a multifaceted deliberative process that is well funded and couple with an effective media campaign as well as balanced and comprehensive information.

Public Funding_Q 2 There should be spending limits imposed on any group that campaigns for its preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Comment [GF12]: Again, I don't think this is an appropriate question. If the responses are mostly (1) or (2), would the government really think that's a good idea? No caps on campaign spending? Really? It's a basic principle of fairness in election campaigns. There must be spending caps. Don't ask the question. Just do it.

Public Funding_Q 3 The provincial government should provide the public with impartial information during the referendum campaign period.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer
- Not just information – a process that allows citizens to interact, discuss the issues, educate themselves, and come to judgment. The problem is lack of understanding not just lack of information.

Comment [GF13]: Again, I don't think this is appropriate to ask. The government needs to provide this information and, as Max puts it, this information should allow citizens to interact, discuss, etc.

Public Funding_Q 4 The provincial government should ensure that paid advertisements that appear during the referendum campaign period are produced only by groups that must register, disclose their identity in their advertising and disclose their contributors and expenses after the referendum.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

[Text box]

Are there any other comments you would like to make about voting systems or the upcoming referendum? [Limit to 200 characters]

British Columbia Voting Systems Questionnaire

Version 2.1 | Nov. 15, 2017 |

The B.C. government is holding a referendum in the fall of 2018 to ask voters whether the province should keep the current first-past-the-post voting system or change to a proportional representation voting system. This questionnaire will help B.C.'s Attorney General understand the preferences and expectations of B.C. voters about the referendum.

There are two parts to this survey. Part one asks key questions about your values and general outlook as to how we vote for Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), and for how the legislature functions. Part two asks more detailed questions about your preferences regarding electoral reform, voting systems and the referendum process. At the end of each part, you will have the opportunity to provide further written feedback.

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*Neil Reimer
Director, Director, Strategic Initiatives
Ministry of Justice
Victoria BC
Neil.Reimer@gov.bc.ca*

Part 1

Section 1: Profile

Please provide this general profile information. Your identity cannot be determined by answering these questions.

Profile_Q2 – What are the first three characters in your postal code (this is a required field)?

- [3 character field]

Profile_Q3 - How old are you?

- Under 18
- 18 - 39 years
- 40 - 64 years
- 65 - 75 years
- Over 75 years
- Prefer not to answer

Profile_Q1 - Please indicate your gender:

- Man (1)
- Woman (2)
- X: _____[text box] (3)
- Prefer not to answer

Profile_Q5 - Do you identify with any of the following groups? Please select all that apply

- Visible minority (1)
- First Nations (2)
- Inuit (3)
- Métis (4)
- Persons with disabilities (5)
- LGBTQ2 (6)
- None of the above (7)
- Prefer not to answer

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your interest in, and familiarity with, current affairs and voting in elections.

Outlook_Q1 - Generally speaking, how interested are you in politics and current affairs?

- Not interested at all (1)
- Not very interested (2)
- Somewhat interested (3)
- Very interested (4)
- Prefer not to answer

Outlook_Q4 - How often do you vote in provincial elections?

- I am not eligible to vote (1)
- Never (2)
- Rarely (3)
- Sometimes (4)
- Most of the time (5)
- All of the time (6)
- First time voter in 2017 (7)
- Prefer not to answer

Outlook _ Which, if any, of the following have been barriers that have kept you from voting?

(Please select all that apply.)

- Not enough time (1)
- Not enough information (2)
- Disability or mobility issues (3)
- Voting location isn't convenient (4)
- Do not feel included (5)
- Frustration with politics (6)
- Don't like the voting system (7)
- I was not eligible to vote (8)
- Not interested in politics (9)
- I feel like my vote doesn't count (10)
- Prefer not to answer

Outlook_Q6 – If you were to vote in a referendum to choose a voting system today, how confident would you feel about making an informed choice?

- Not at all confident (1)
- Not very confident (2)
- Somewhat confident (3)
- Very confident (4)
- Don't know (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q1 Please select up to five values—why 5, not 3 or 8?—from the list below that are most important to you.

I value most:

[note to reviewers: the sequence of value statements below will be rotated randomly for each user.]

Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who focus primarily on what is best for the province as a whole

Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who focus primarily on the interests of their local community

A voting system that is easy to understand

Better representation of groups that are currently under-represented in the Legislative Assembly

Increasing the number of political parties in the Legislative Assembly to represent more points of view
A Legislative Assembly where the share of seats each party holds closely matches the share of the popular vote it receives across the province
A Legislative Assembly where the share of seats each party holds is fairly similar to the share of the popular vote it receives across the province
A voting system that encourages political parties to appeal to other parties' voters <u>appeal as broadly as possible to voters</u>
A voting system that makes it easier for independent candidates (those not running for a political party) to be elected
A voting system that allows a voter to rank a political parties <u>or</u> 's candidates (1, 2, 3, etc.)
Single-party majority governments that are clearly accountable for their decisions
A Legislative Assembly where two or more parties co-operate to make decisions
Other:

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your values and preferences regarding how MLAs are elected, how governments are formed and how the Legislative Assembly operates.

Preferences_Q6 Which would you prefer? ~~Not sure why we bother to ask this question. The decision about the number of MLAs should reflect a judgment about how many are needed not the "values" or "preferences" of the electorate.~~

- The number of MLAs should remain the same (1)
- There should be more MLAs to better reflect voters' interests (2)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q7 There should be greater diversity of views represented in the Legislative Assembly.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q12 The party that wins the most seats in an election should have to compromise with other parties, even if it means changing some of its campaign commitments. Even under PR a party might win a majority and not have to compromise much. I think the question here should be: Parties should use the legislature to find compromises that reflect the preferences of voters, even if that means changing campaign commitments

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)

- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q13 It should always be clear which party is accountable for decisions made by government, even if this means that decisions are only made by one party. Are minority or coalition parliaments less accountable?

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Please answer the following question to help us understand the choices you would like to see on the referendum ballot.

Ballot Options_Q 1 Which would you prefer?

- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current first-past-the-post voting system and ONE proportional representation voting system. (which means someone has to set the agenda)
- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current first-past-the-post voting system and MORE THAN ONE proportional representation voting system (in which case, what if a majority prefer change but can't agree on an alternative?)
- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current first-past-the-post voting system and proportional representation, with a specific voting system to be established by legislation after the referendum. (which means abdicating a role in selecting the system) – none of these options seems desirable, which is why some kind of process of public engagement/deliberation beyond this poll is essential.
- My preference would be: a ballot that offers a choice between FPTP or PR, followed by a choice of PR systems for those who opt to change the system. You don't want to stack FPTP against a menu of choices across which voters are dispersed; nor set the agenda by selecting the alternative for them. We want to know (a) do you want change? If a majority says yes, then (b) what is the most popular alternative? The ballot has to be structured to reveal the preferences across both those aspects of the choice.
- Prefer not to answer

[Text box]

Are there any other comments you would like to make about voting systems or the upcoming referendum? [Limit to 200 characters]

This is the end of Part 1 of the questionnaire. Part 2 asks further questions about your preferences regarding electoral reform and the referendum ballot. You may submit your responses to Part 1

now and leave the survey, or continue on to Part 2. Why encourage people to submit and leave? It seems to me you have made the survey brief enough that this should not be necessary.

SUBMIT AND LEAVE

CONTINUE TO PART 2

DRAFT - CONFIDENTIAL - NOT FOR CIRCULATION

Part 2

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your interest in electoral reform.

Outlook_Q2 - How closely have you followed public debate on electoral reform?

- Not closely at all (1)
- Somewhat closely (2)
- Very closely (3)
- Prefer not to answer

Outlook_Q3 - Did you vote in either the 2005 or 2009 B.C. referendum on electoral reform?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Not sure (3)
- Not eligible (4)
- Prefer not to answer

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your values and preferences regarding how Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) are elected, how governments are formed and how the Legislative Assembly operates.

Preferences_Q2 Which would you prefer?

Having more ~~small two or more~~ parties represented in the Legislature ~~or fewer big parties?~~

- Two ~~A few big~~ parties (1)
- More than two ~~small~~ parties (2)
- Prefer not to answer

We have a two-party system with a third party emerging. FPTP tends to encourage two-party systems (Duverger's law). This is the key fact that PR would change.

Preferences_Q3 Which would you prefer?

- Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who do what their party promised.
- MLAs who do what their constituents want.
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q4 Ballots should allow voters to choose more than one candidate or political party by ranking them in order of preference.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q8 All votes should contribute to electing an MLA, even if it means the ballot is longer or more complicated. Honestly, I think the whole issue of complexity is way over-blown.

The ballot will never be too hard for voters to understand. What they may not understand is the formula for translating votes into seats. There is no ballot complexity issue.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q10 An election ballot should be easy to understand, even if it means voters have fewer options to express their preferences. Here again is the belabouring of a non-issue in a slightly different guise. This gives the impression that you are stacking the deck in favor of FPTP.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q11 It is better for several parties to have to govern together than for one party to make all the decisions in government, even if it sometimes takes longer to form government after an election. I also think this is a non-issue. For people with little familiarity with coalition government this may seem like a challenge, but the reality is that the bigger problem is that coalitions have to negotiate to get to yes, and this means that one can vote for a party that, in order to be part of a ruling coalition, must make compromises with other parties. "It is better for several parties to cooperate in the legislature, even if they have to make compromises to reach agreement" is how I would word this.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q14 - Please indicate which you prefer:

- Each electoral district is represented by one MLA
- Each electoral district is represented by several MLAs
- Some MLAs represent an electoral district, while other MLAs represent larger regions or the province as a whole.
- Prefer not to answer

A PR supporter might say "I don't prefer several MLAs, but I prefer proportionality and this is necessary to get it."

Please answer the following questions to help us understand the choices you would like to see on the referendum ballot.

Ballot Options_Q 2 If the government offers voters a choice of more than one proportional representation voting system, which do you prefer?

- Voters should indicate their support for only one proposed system
- Voter should rank order their support for all the proposed systems
- Prefer not to answer
- Again, my answer is "both." One question is: Do you like FPTP or want to change it? The next question is: "What is your preferred alternative?"

Ballot Options_Q 3: Alongside the option of keeping the first-past-the-post voting system, which system or systems of proportional representation would you like to see on the ballot? Please select all that apply. (With mouse-over summary text from web 101 pages that does not click to a new page)

- List Proportional Representation
- Mixed Member Proportional
- --> If MMP, do you prefer open or closed lists?
- Single Transferable Vote
- Mixed Member Majoritarian
- Other: *Please describe*
- Prefer not to answer

Ballot Options_Q 4: If B.C. changes to a system of proportional representation, there should be a second referendum after a trial period (for example, two elections) on whether to keep the new system.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3) Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

good

Section 5: Public funding and advertising in the referendum

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your expectations with regards to public funding for advocacy groups and campaign advertising for particular voting systems during the referendum.

Public Funding_Q 1 The government should provide public funds to designated groups to campaign for their preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

If this is all that the government understands by public engagement then they will simply be setting fire to the whole process. I'd designate public finds to a well-structured deliberative process that takes the issue out of the hands of both partisans and advocates and puts it back in the hands of citizens. The choice of a referendum as the instrument for decision-making polarizes the debate between yes/no, rather than encouraging a search for a better system.

Public Funding_Q 2 There should be spending limits imposed on any group that campaigns for its preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Public Funding_Q 3 The provincial government should provide the public with impartial information during the referendum campaign period.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer
- Not just information – a process that allows citizens to interact, discuss the issues, educate themselves, and come to judgment. The problem is lack of understanding not just lack of information.

Public Funding_Q 4 The provincial government should ensure that paid advertisements that appear during the referendum campaign period are produced only by groups that must register, disclose their identity in their advertising and disclose their contributors and expenses after the referendum.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

[Text box]

Are there any other comments you would like to make about voting systems or the upcoming referendum? [Limit to 200 characters]

British Columbia Voting Systems Questionnaire

Version 2.1 | Nov. 15, 2017 |

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Victoria BC
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Part 1

Section 1: Profile

Please provide this general profile information. Your identity cannot be determined by answering these questions.

Profile_Q2 – What are the first three characters in your postal code (this is a required field)?

- [3 character field]

Profile_Q3 - How old are you?

- Under 18
- 18 - 39 years
- 40 - 64 years
- 65 - 75 years
- Over 75 years
- Prefer not to answer

Profile_Q1 - Please indicate your gender:

- Man (1)
- Woman (2)
- X: _____[text box] (3)
- Prefer not to answer

Profile_Q5 - Do you identify with any of the following groups? Please select all that apply

- Visible minority (1)
- First Nations (2)
- Inuit (3)
- Métis (4)
- Persons with disabilities (5)
- LGBTQ2 (6)
- None of the above (7)
- Prefer not to answer

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your interest in, and familiarity with, current affairs and voting in elections.

Outlook_Q1 - Generally speaking, how interested are you in politics and current affairs?

- Not interested at all (1)
- Not very interested (2)
- Somewhat interested (3)
- Very interested (4)
- Prefer not to answer

Outlook_Q4 - How often do you vote in provincial elections?

- I am not eligible to vote (1)
- Never (2)
- Rarely (3)
- Sometimes (4)
- Most of the time (5)
- All of the time (6)
- First time voter in 2017 (7)
- Prefer not to answer

Outlook _ Which, if any, of the following have been barriers that have kept you from voting?

(Please select all that apply.)

- Not enough time (1)
- Not enough information (2)
- Disability or mobility issues (3)
- Voting location isn't convenient (4)
- Do not feel included (5)
- Frustration with politics (6)
- Don't like the voting system (7)
- I was not eligible to vote (8)
- Not interested in politics (9)
- I feel like my vote doesn't count (10)
- Prefer not to answer

Outlook_Q6 – If you were to vote in a referendum to choose a voting system today, how confident would you feel about making an informed choice?

- Not at all confident (1)
- Not very confident (2)
- Somewhat confident (3)
- Very confident (4)
- Don't know (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q1 Please select up to five values from the list below that are most important to you.

I value most:

[note to reviewers: the sequence of value statements below will be rotated randomly for each user.]

Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who focus primarily on what is best for the province as a whole
Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who focus primarily on the interests of their local community
A voting system that is easy to understand
Better representation of groups that are currently under-represented in the Legislative Assembly

Increasing the number of political parties in the Legislative Assembly to represent more points of view
A Legislative Assembly where the share of seats each party holds closely matches the share of the popular vote it receives across the province
A Legislative Assembly where the share of seats each party holds is fairly similar to the share of the popular vote it receives across the province
A voting system that encourages political parties to appeal to other parties' voters
A voting system that makes it easier for independent candidates (those not running for a political party) to be elected
A voting system that allows a voter to rank a political party's candidates (1, 2, 3, etc.)
Single-party majority governments that are clearly accountable for their decisions
A Legislative Assembly where two or more parties co-operate to make decisions
Other:

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your values and preferences regarding how MLAs are elected, how governments are formed and how the Legislative Assembly operates.

Preferences_Q6 Which would you prefer?

- The number of MLAs should remain the same (1)
- There should be more MLAs to better reflect voters' interests (2)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q7 There should be greater diversity of views represented in the Legislative Assembly.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q12 The party that wins the most seats in an election should have to compromise with other parties, even if it means changing some of its campaign commitments.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q13 It should always be clear which party is accountable for decisions made by government, even if this means that decisions are only made by one party.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Please answer the following question to help us understand the choices you would like to see on the referendum ballot.

Ballot Options_Q 1 Which would you prefer?

- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current first-past-the-post voting system and ONE proportional representation voting system.
- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current first-past-the-post voting system and MORE THAN ONE proportional representation voting system
- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current first-past-the-post voting system and proportional representation, with a specific voting system to be established by legislation after the referendum.
- Prefer not to answer

[Text box]

Are there any other comments you would like to make about voting systems or the upcoming referendum? [Limit to 200 characters]

This is the end of Part 1 of the questionnaire. Part 2 asks further questions about your preferences regarding electoral reform and the referendum ballot. You may submit your responses to Part 1 now and leave the survey, or continue on to Part 2.

SUBMIT AND LEAVE

CONTINUE TO PART 2

Part 2

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your interest in electoral reform.

Outlook_Q2 - How closely have you followed public debate on electoral reform?

- Not closely at all (1)
- Somewhat closely (2)
- Very closely (3)
- Prefer not to answer

Outlook_Q3 - Did you vote in either the 2005 or 2009 B.C. referendum on electoral reform?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Not sure (3)
- Not eligible (4)
- Prefer not to answer

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your values and preferences regarding how Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) are elected, how governments are formed and how the Legislative Assembly operates.

Preferences_Q2 Which would you prefer?

Having more small parties represented in the Legislature or fewer big parties?

- A few big parties (1)
- More small parties (2)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q3 Which would you prefer?

- Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who do what their party promised.
- MLAs who do what their constituents want.
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q4 Ballots should allow voters to choose more than one candidate or political party by ranking them in order of preference.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q8 All votes should contribute to electing an MLA, even if it means the ballot is longer or more complicated.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)

- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q10 An election ballot should be easy to understand, even if it means voters have fewer options to express their preferences.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3) Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q11 It is better for several parties to have to govern together than for one party to make all the decisions in government, even if it sometimes takes longer to form government after an election.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3) Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q14 - Please indicate which you prefer:

- Each electoral district is represented by one MLA
- Each electoral district is represented by several MLAs
- Some MLAs represent an electoral district, while other MLAs represent larger regions or the province as a whole.
- Prefer not to answer

Please answer the following questions to help us understand the choices you would like to see on the referendum ballot.

Ballot Options_Q 2 If the government offers voters a choice of more than one proportional representation voting system, which do you prefer?

- Voters should indicate their support for only one proposed system
- Voter should rank order their support for all the proposed systems
- Prefer not to answer

Ballot Options_Q 3: Alongside the option of keeping the first-past-the-post voting system, which system or systems of proportional representation would you like to see on the ballot? Please select all that apply. (With mouse-over summary text from web 101 pages that does not click to a new page)

- List Proportional Representation
- Mixed Member Proportional

- Single Transferable Vote
- Mixed Member Majoritarian
- Other: *Please describe*
- Prefer not to answer

Ballot Options_Q 4: If B.C. changes to a system of proportional representation, there should be a second referendum after a trial period (for example, two elections) on whether to keep the new system.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Section 5: Public funding and advertising in the referendum

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your expectations with regards to public funding for advocacy groups and campaign advertising for particular voting systems during the referendum.

Public Funding_Q 1 The government should provide public funds to designated groups to campaign for their preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Public Funding_Q 2 There should be spending limits imposed on any group that campaigns for its preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Public Funding_Q 3 The provincial government should provide the public with impartial information during the referendum campaign period.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)

- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Public Funding_Q 4 The provincial government should ensure that paid advertisements that appear during the referendum campaign period are produced only by groups that must register, disclose their identity in their advertising and disclose their contributors and expenses after the referendum.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

[Text box]

Are there any other comments you would like to make about voting systems or the upcoming referendum? [Limit to 200 characters]

DRAFT - CONFIDENTIAL - NOT FOR CIRCULATION

British Columbia Voting Systems Questionnaire

Version 2a2.1 | Nov. 15, 2017 |

The B.C. government is holding a referendum in the fall of 2018 to ask voters whether the province should keep the current ~~First Past the Post~~~~first-past-the-post~~ voting system or change to a proportional representation voting system. This questionnaire will help B.C.'s Attorney General understand the preferences and expectations of B.C. voters about the referendum, as well as the campaign leading up to it.

There are two parts to this survey. Part one asks key questions about your values and general outlook as to how we vote for Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), and for how the legislature functions. Part two asks more detailed questions about your preferences regarding electoral reform, voting systems and the referendum process. At the end of each part, you will have the opportunity to provide further written feedback.

Each part of the questionnaire will take approximately 5-8 minutes to complete. We ask that you complete this survey only once.

Privacy Statement

Personal information collected through this feedback form will inform the development of a ballot for a November 2018 electoral reform referendum by the Ministry of Attorney General, under the authority of s.26 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. If you have any questions about the collection, use and disclosure of your personal information, please contact:

*Neil Reimer
Director, Director, Strategic Initiatives
Ministry of Justice
Victoria BC
Neil.Reimer@gov.bc.ca*

Part 1

Section 1: Profile

Please provide this general profile information. Your identity cannot be determined by answering these questions.

Profile_Q1 – What is your gender?

- Man (1)
- Woman (2)
- Other (3)
- Prefer not to answer

Profile_Q2 – What are the first three characters in your postal code (this is a required field)?

- [3 character field]

Profile_Q3 - How old are you?

- Under 18
- 18 - 39 years
- 40 - 64 years
- 65 - 75 years
- Over 75 years
- Prefer not to answer

Profile_Q1 - What is your gender?

- Man (1)
- Woman (2)
- Other: [text box] (3)
- Prefer not to answer

Profile_Q5 - Do you identify with any of the following groups? Please select all that apply

- Visible minority (1)
- First Nations (2)
- Inuit (3)
- Metis (4)
- Persons with disabilities (5)
- LGBTQ2 (6)
- None of the above (7)
- Prefer not to answer

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your interest in, and familiarity with, current affairs and voting in elections.

Outlook_Q1 - Generally speaking, how interested are you in politics and current affairs?

- Not interested at all (1)

- Not very interested (2)
- Somewhat interested (3)
- Very interested (4)
- Prefer not to answer

Outlook_Q4 - How often do you vote in provincial elections?

- I am not eligible to vote (1)
- Never (2)
- Rarely (3)
- Sometimes (4)
- Most of the time (5)
- All of the time (6)
- First time voter in 2017 (7)
- Prefer not to answer

Outlook_Q4b ~~[only appears if "Never (2)" or "Rarely (3)" or "Sometimes (4)" are selected in Intro_Q4]~~ **Why don't you vote? Which, if any, of the following have been barriers that have kept you from voting?** (Please select all that apply.)

- Not enough time (1)
- Not enough information (2)
- Disability or mobility issues (3)
- Voting location isn't convenient (4)
- Do not feel included (5)
- Frustration with politics (6)
- Don't like the voting system (7)
- I was not eligible to vote (8)
- Not interested in politics (9)
- I feel like my vote doesn't count (10)
- Prefer not to answer

Outlook_Q6 – If you were to vote in a referendum to choose a voting system today, how confident would you feel about making an informed choice?

- Not at all confident (1)
- Not very confident (2)
- Somewhat confident (3)
- Very confident (4)
- Don't know (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q1 Please select up to five values from the list below that are most important to you.

I value most:

[note to reviewers: the sequence of value statements below will be rotated randomly for each user.]

Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who focus primarily on what is best for the province as a whole

Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who focus primarily on the interests of their local community
A voting system that is easy to understand
Better representation of groups that are currently under-represented in the Legislative Assembly
Increasing the number of political parties in the Legislative Assembly to represent more points of view
A Legislative Assembly where the share of seats each party holds closely matches the share of the popular vote it receives across the province
A Legislative Assembly where the share of seats each party holds <u>is fairly similar to</u> the share of the popular vote it receives across the province
A voting system that encourages political parties to appeal to other parties' voters
A voting system that makes it easier for independent candidates (those not running for a political party) to be elected
A voting system that allows a voter to rank a political party's candidates (1, 2, 3, etc.)
Single-party majority governments that are clearly accountable for their decisions
A Legislative Assembly where two or more parties co-operate to make decisions
Other:

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your values and preferences regarding how MLAs are elected, how governments are formed and how the Legislative Assembly operates.

Preferences_Q6 Which would you prefer?

- The number of MLAs should remain the same ~~(currently 87)~~ (1)
- There should be more MLAs to better reflect voters' interests (2)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q7 There should be greater diversity of views represented in the Legislative Assembly.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q12 The party that wins the most seats in an election should have to compromise with other parties, even if it means changing some of its promises policies.

- Strongly disagree (1)

- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q13 It should always be clear which party is accountable for decisions made by government, even if this means that decisions are only made by one party.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Please answer the following question to help us understand the choices you would like to see on the referendum ballot.

Ballot Options_Q 1 Which ~~do~~would you prefer?

- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current ~~First Past the Post~~first-past-the-post voting system and ONE proportional representation voting system.
- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current ~~First Past the Post~~first-past-the-post voting system and MORE THAN ONE proportional representation voting system
- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current ~~First Past the Post~~first-past-the-post voting system and proportional representation, with a specific voting system to be established by legislation~~decided by government~~ after the referendum.
- Prefer not to answer

[Text box]

Are there any other comments you would like to make about the upcoming referendum? [Limit to 200 characters]

This is the end of Part 1 of the questionnaire. Part 2 asks further questions about your preferences regarding ~~voting systems~~ electoral reform and the referendum ballot. You may submit your responses to Part 1 now and leave the survey, or continue on to Part 2.

SUBMIT AND LEAVE

CONTINUE TO PART 2

DRAFT - CONFIDENTIAL - NOT FOR CIRCULATION

Part 2

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your interest in electoral reform.

Outlook_Q2 - How closely have you followed public debate on electoral reform?

- Not closely at all (1)
- Somewhat closely (2)
- Very closely (3)
- Prefer not to answer

Outlook_Q3 - Did you vote in either the 2005 or 2009 B.C. referendum on electoral reform?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Not sure (3)
- Not eligible (4)
- Prefer not to answer

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your values and preferences regarding how Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) are elected, how governments are formed and how the Legislative Assembly operates.

Preferences_Q2 Which would you prefer?

Having several ~~small parties~~ represented in the Legislature or fewer big parties?

- Several ~~small parties~~ (1)
- A few big parties (2)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q3 Which would you prefer?

- Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who do what their party promised, ~~even if it means going against what their constituents want.~~
- MLAs who do what their constituents want, ~~even if it means going against what their party promised.~~
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q4 Which best describes your views? Ballots should allow voters to choose more than one candidate or political party by ranking them in order of preference.

- ~~Ballots should allow voters to select one candidate or political party.~~
- ~~Ballots should allow votes to rank more than one candidate or political party.~~
- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q8 ~~All views of British Columbians, even those that are unpopular, should be represented in the Legislative Assembly. All votes should contribute to electing an MLA, even if it means the ballot is longer or more complicated.~~

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q10 An election ballot should be easy to understand, even if it means voters have fewer options to express their preferences.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q11 It is better for several parties to have to govern together than for one party to make all the decisions in government, even if it sometimes takes longer to form government after an election.~~for government to make decisions.~~

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q14 - Please indicate which you prefer:

- Each electoral district is represented by one MLA
- Each electoral district is represented by several MLAs
- Some MLAs represent an electoral district, while other MLAs represent larger regions or the province as a whole.
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q15 ~~Please indicate which you prefer:~~

- ~~• Voters vote with a single 'X' for the candidate or political party of their choice~~
- ~~• Voters can rank the candidates or parties in order of preference~~
- ~~• Prefer not to answer~~

Please answer the following questions to help us understand the choices you would like to see on the referendum ballot.

Ballot Options_Q 2 If the government offers voters a choice of more than one proportional representation voting system, which do you prefer?

- Voters should indicate their support for only one proposed system

- Voter should rank order their support for all the proposed systems
- Prefer not to answer

Ballot Options_Q 3: Alongside the option of keeping the ~~First Past the Post~~first-past-the-post voting system, which system or systems of proportional representation would you like to see on the ballot? Please select all that apply. (With mouse-over summary text from web 101 pages)

- List Proportional Representation
- Mixed Member Proportional
- Single Transferable Vote
- Mixed Member Majoritarian
- Other: *Please describe*
- Prefer not to answer

Ballot Options Q 4: If B.C. changes to a system of proportional representation, there should be a second referendum after a trial period on whether to keep the new system.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Section 5: Public funding and advertising in the referendum

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your expectations with regards to public funding for advocacy groups and campaign advertising for particular voting systems during the referendum.

Public Funding_Q 1 The government should provide public funds to designated groups to campaign for their preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Public Funding_Q 2 There should be spending limits imposed on any group that campaigns for its preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Public Funding_Q 3 The provincial government should provide voters with high-quality and impartial information ~~prior to~~during the referendum campaign period.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Public Funding_Q 4 The provincial government should ensure that paid advertisements that appear during the referendum campaign period are produced only by groups that must register, disclose their identity in their advertising and disclose their contributors and expenses after the referendum.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

[Text box]

Are there any other comments you would like to make about the upcoming referendum? [Limit to 200 characters]

British Columbia Voting Systems Questionnaire

Version 2a | Nov. 9, 2017 | 33 questions

The B.C. government is holding a referendum in the Fall of 2018 to ask voters whether Government the province should keep the current First Past the Post voting system or change to a proportional representation voting system. This questionnaire will help B.C.'s Attorney General understand the preferences and expectations of B.C. voters about regarding the referendum as well as the campaign leading up to it.

There are two parts to this survey. Part One asks general questions about your outlook on current events and what you value most in voting for Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and how governments function. Part Two asks more detailed questions about your interests and preferences respecting electoral reform, voting systems and the referendum process.

Each part of the questionnaire will take approximately 5-8 minutes to complete.

The information you provide will help the Attorney General to:

- Understand what voters value about different voting systems;
- Determine whether the referendum ballot should offer the choice between two voting systems, or more than two voting systems;
- Determine whether government should provide public funds to registered advocacy campaigns, both for and against voting system reform; and
- Determine if and how to regulate advertising activities during the referendum period..

Repeat Usage

We are asking that you to act honourably and only complete this survey once only. Attempting to tamper with this survey or circumvent controls deprives others of their voices and skews the results unfairly.

~~(What do we do about families and shared access centres, like libraries, where legitimately more than one person will use the same computer to complete the survey?)~~

A randomly-selected, representative panel of BC residents will also complete another version of this survey that will be used to provide a benchmark against which to assess responses from this survey. {NR: not sure we want this? Won't it just raise questions from respondents about why, make them think their responses aren't going to count as much?}

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Neil Reimer
Director, Director, Strategic Initiatives
Ministry of Justice
Victoria BC
Neil.Reimer@gov.bc.ca

Sections:

1. Profile
2. General outlook
3. Voting system preferences
4. Ballot options
5. Public funding and advertising

Part 1

After further reflection, I don't know how we make this work in terms of stitching responses from both modules together, analyzing the results, or preventing individuals from completing both. This would seem to make the exercise more, not less complicated and I'm concerned that providing a shorter version will significantly lower the response rate to the longer version.

Section 1: Profile

~~(11 questions):~~

Please provide basic information to help us better understand the preferences of British Columbians across the province. Your identity cannot be determined by answering these questions.

Profile_Q1 - What is your gender?

- Male (1)
- Female (2)
- Other (3)

Profile_Q2 – What are the first three characters in your postal code?

- [3 character field]

Profile_Q3 - How old are you?

- [insert standard age ranges used by BC]

Outlook_Q4 - How often do you vote in provincial elections?

- I am not eligible to vote (1)
- Never (2)
- Rarely (3)
- Sometimes (4)
- Most of the time (5)
- All of the time (6)

Outlook_Q4b [only appears if “Never (2)” or “Rarely (3) or Sometimes (4)” are selected in

Intro_Q4] - Why don't you vote? (Please select all that apply.)

- Not enough time (1)
- Not enough information (2)
- Disability or mobility issues (3)
- Voting location isn't convenient (4)
- Do not feel included (5)
- Frustration with politics (6)
- Don't like the voting system (7)
- I was not eligible to vote (8)
- Not interested in politics (9)
- I feel like my vote doesn't count (10)

- Other (9) [Open text]

Profile_Q5 - Do you identify with any of the following groups? Please select all that apply

- Visible minority (1)
- First Nations (2)
- Inuit (3)
- Métis (4)
- Persons with disabilities (5)
- LGBTQ2 (6)
- None of the above

Section 2: General outlook

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your interest in, and familiarity with, current affairs and voting systems in elections.

Outlook_Q1 - Generally speaking, how interested are you in politics and current affairs?

- Not interested at all (1)
- Not very interested (2)
- Somewhat interested (3)
- Very interested (4)

Outlook_Q4 - How often do you vote in provincial elections?

- I am not eligible to vote (1)
- Never (2)
- Rarely (3)
- Sometimes (4)
- Most of the time (5)
- All of the time (6)

Outlook_Q4b [only appears if "Never (2)" or "Rarely (3) or Sometimes (4)" are selected in Intro_Q4] - Why don't you vote? (Please select all that apply.)

- Not enough time (1)
- Not enough information (2)
- Disability or mobility issues (3)
- Voting location isn't convenient (4)
- Do not feel included (5)
- Frustration with politics (6)
- Don't like the voting system (7)
- I was not eligible to vote (8)
- Not interested in politics (9)
- I feel like my vote doesn't count (10)

Outlook_Q6 – If you were to vote in a referendum to choose a voting system today, how confident would you feel about making an informed choice?

- Not at all confident (1)
- Not very confident (2)
- Somewhat confident (3)
- Very confident (4)
- Don't know (5)

Section 3 – Preferences

Preferences_Q1 Please select up to five values from the list below that are most important to you.

Peter comment: (With a shorter list, I'm beginning to think the best route is a likert-scale based on "Not important, Somewhat important, Important, Very important") [NR: Downside is we get a lot of "somewhats". Better I think to make people choose.

I value most:

Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who focus on what is best for the province as a whole
Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who focus primarily on the interests of their local community
A voting system that is easy to understand
Better representation of groups that are currently under-represented in the Legislative Assembly
Increasing the number of political parties in the Legislative Assembly to represent more points of view
A Legislative Assembly where the share of seats each party holds closely matches the share of the popular vote it receives across the province
A Legislative Assembly where the share of seats each party holds somewhat matches the share of the popular vote it receives across the province
A voting system that encourages political parties to appeal to other parties' voters
A voting system that makes it easier for independent candidates (those not running for a political party) to be elected
A voting system that allows a voter to rank a political party's candidates (1, 2, 3, etc.)
Single-party majority governments that are clearly accountable for their decisions
A Legislative Assembly where two or more parties co-operate to make decisions
Other:

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your values and preferences regarding how MLAs are elected, how governments are formed and how the ~~L~~egislative ~~a~~Assembly operates.

Preferences_Q6 Which would you prefer?

- The number of MLAs should remain the same (currently 87) (1)
- There should be more MLAs to better reflect voters' ~~interests~~preferences (2)

Preferences_Q7 There should be greater diversity of views represented in the provincial legislature~~Legislative Assembly~~.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q12 ~~A~~The party that wins the most seats in an election should have to compromise with other parties, even if it means changing some of its policies.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q13 It should always be clear which party is accountable for decisions made by government, even if this means that decisions are only made by one party.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

~~Section 4: Referendum Ballot Options~~

~~In Fall 2018, B.C. voters will have the opportunity to vote for either keeping the current First Past the Post voting system used to elect provincial MLAs or adopting a proportional voting system. Please answer the following questions to help us understand the choices you would like to see on the referendum ballot.~~

Ballot Options_Q 1 Which do you prefer?

- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current First Past the Post voting system and ONE proportional representation voting system.

- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current First Past the Post voting system and MORE THAN ONE proportional representation voting system

This is the end of Part 1 of the questionnaire. Part 2 asks further questions about your preferences regarding voting systems and the referendum ballot. You may submit your responses to Part 1 now and leave the survey, or continue on to Part 2.

SUBMIT AND LEAVE

CONTINUE TO PART 2

DRAFT - CONFIDENTIAL - NOT FOR CIRCULATION

Part 2

Section 2: General outlook

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your interest in electoral reform, and familiarity with, voting systems.

Outlook_Q2 - How closely have you followed public debate on electoral reform?

- Not closely at all (1)
- Somewhat closely (2)
- Very closely (3)

Outlook_Q3 - Did you vote in either the 2005 or 2009 BC referendum on electoral reform?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Not sure (3)
- Not eligible (4)

Outlook_Q5 - In general, how satisfied are you with how the current First Past the Post voting system works to elect Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) in British Columbia?

- Not at all satisfied (1)
- Not very satisfied (2)
- Somewhat satisfied (3)
- Very satisfied (4)
- Don't know (5)

Comment [NSR1]: This question looks awkward here and I'm not sure what it tells us that we can't glean from the values table in part 1 and other questions.

Section 3: Voting system preferences

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your values and preferences regarding how Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) are elected, how governments are formed and how the Legislative Assembly operates.

Preferences_Q2 Which would you prefer?

Having several small parties in the Legislature or fewer big parties?

- Several small parties (1)
- A few big parties (2)

Preferences_Q3 Which would you prefer?

- Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) should/who do what their party promised, even if it means going against what their constituents want.
- MLAs should/who do what their constituents want, even if it means going against what their party promised.

Preferences_Q4 Which best describes your views?

- Ballots should allow voters to select one candidate or political party.
- Ballots should allow votes to rank more than one candidate or political party.

Preferences_Q5 Which would you prefer?

- A Legislative Assembly where one party governs, without requiring the support of another party to make decisions.
- A Legislative Assembly where two or more parties must cooperate to make decisions.

Comment [NSR2]: This question is covered in the values table in Part 1, and is very similar to Q11 below.

Preferences_Q8 All views of British Columbians, even if those that are unpopular, should be represented in the Legislative Assembly.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q10 An election ballot should be easy to understand, even if it means voters have fewer options to express their preferences.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q11 It is better for several parties to have to govern together than for one party to make all the decisions in government, even if it sometimes takes longer for government to make decisions.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q14 - Please indicate which you prefer:

- Each electoral district is represented by one MLA
- Each electoral district is represented by several MLAs
- Some MLAs Each represent an electoral district, is represented by one MLA, while other MLAs represent larger regions or the province as a whole.

Preferences_Q15 Please indicate which you prefer:

- Voters vote with a single 'X' for the candidate or political party of their choice
- Voters can rank the candidates or parties in order of preference

Section 4: Referendum Ballot Options

In Fall 2018, B.C. voters will have the opportunity to vote for either keeping the current First Past the Post voting system used to elect provincial MLAs or adopting a proportional voting system. Please answer the following questions to help us understand the choices you would like to see on the referendum ballot.

Ballot Options_Q 2 If the government offers voters a choice of more than one proportional representation voting system, which do you prefer?

- Voters should indicate their support for only one proposed system
- Voter should rank order their support for all the proposed systems

Ballot Options_Q 3: Alongside the option of keeping the First Past the Post voting system, which system or systems of proportional representation would you like to see on the ballot? Please select all that apply. (With mouse-over summary text from web 101 pages)

- List Proportional Representation
- Mixed Member Proportional
- Single Transferable Vote
- Mixed Member Majoritarian
- Other: *Please describe*

Section 5: Public funding and advertising in the referendum

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your expectations with regards to public funding for advocacy groups and campaign advertising during the referendum.

Public Funding_Q 1 The government should provide public funds to designated groups to campaign for their preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Public Funding_Q 2 There should be spending limits imposed on any group that campaigns for its preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Public Funding_Q 3 The provincial government should provide voters with high-quality and impartial information prior to the referendum.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Public Funding_Q 4 The provincial government should ensure that paid advertisements that appear during the campaign period are produced only by groups that must register, disclose their identity in their advertising and disclose their contributors and expenses after the referendum.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

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British Columbia Voting Systems Questionnaire

Version 2a | Nov. 9, 2017 | 33 questions

The B.C. government is holding a referendum in the Fall of 2018 to ask voters whether Government the province should keep the current First Past the Post voting system or change to a proportional representation voting system. This questionnaire will help B.C.'s Attorney General understand the preferences and expectations of B.C. voters about regarding the referendum as well as the campaign leading up to it.

There are two parts to this survey. -Part One asks general questions about your outlook on current events and what you value most in voting for Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and in how the legislature functions. Part Two asks more detailed questions about your interests and preferences respecting electoral reform, voting systems and the referendum process.

Each part of the questionnaire will take approximately 5-8 minutes to complete.

The information you provide will help the Attorney General to:

- Understand what voters value about different voting systems;
- Determine whether the referendum ballot should offer the choice between two voting systems, or more than two voting systems;
- Determine whether government should provide public funds to registered advocacy campaigns, both for and against voting system reform; and
- Determine if and how to regulate advertising activities during the referendum period..

Repeat Usage

We are asking that you to act honourably and only complete this survey once only. Attempting to tamper with this survey or circumvent controls deprives others of their voices and skews the results unfairly.

~~(What do we do about families and shared access centres, like libraries, where legitimately more than one person will use the same computer to complete the survey?)~~

A randomly selected, representative panel of BC residents will also complete another version of this survey that will be used to provide a benchmark against which to assess responses from this survey. ~~(NR: not sure we want this? Won't it just raise questions from respondents about why, make them think their responses aren't going to count as much?)~~

Comment [DAS1]: Don't put this in

Privacy Statement

Personal information collected through this feedback form will inform the development of a ballot for a November 2018 ~~E~~electoral ~~R~~reform ~~B~~allot~~referendum~~ by the Ministry of Justice ~~Attorney General~~, under the authority of s.26 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. If you have any questions about the collection, use and disclosure of your personal information, please contact:

Neil Reimer
Director, Director, Strategic Initiatives
Ministry of Justice
Victoria BC
Neil.Reimer@gov.bc.ca

Sections:

1. Profile
2. General outlook
3. Voting system preferences
4. Ballot options
5. Public funding and advertising

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Part 1

After further reflection, I don't know how we make this work in terms of stitching responses from both modules together, analyzing the results, or preventing individuals from completing both. This would seem to make the exercise more, not less complicated and I'm concerned that providing a shorter version will significantly lower the response rate to the longer version.

Section 1: Profile

~~(11 questions):~~

Please provide basic information to help us better understand the preferences of British Columbians across the province. Your identity cannot be determined by answering these questions.

Profile_Q1 - What is your gender?

- Male (1)
- Female (2)
- Other (3)
- Prefer not to answer

Profile_Q2 – What are the first three characters in your postal code?

- [3 character field]
-

Profile_Q3 - How old are you?

- Under 18
- 18 - 39 years
- 40 - 64 years
- 65 - 75 years
- Over 75 years
- Prefer not to answer [insert standard age ranges used by BC]

Outlook_Q4 – How often do you vote in provincial elections?

- I am not eligible to vote (1)
- Never (2)
- Rarely (3)
- Sometimes (4)
- Most of the time (5)
- All of the time (6)
- Prefer not to answer
-

Outlook_Q4b [only appears if “Never (2)” or “Rarely (3)” or “Sometimes (4)” are selected in Intro_Q4] – Why don't you vote? (Please select all that apply.)

- Not enough time (1)

- Not enough information (2)
- Disability or mobility issues (3)
- Voting location isn't convenient (4)
- Do not feel included (5)
- Frustration with politics (6)
- Don't like the voting system (7)
- I was not eligible to vote (8)
- Not interested in politics (9)
- I feel like my vote doesn't count (10)
- Other (9) [Open text]
- Prefer not to answer

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Profile_Q5 - Do you identify with any of the following groups? Please select all that apply

- Visible minority (1)
- First Nations (2)
- Inuit (3)
- Métis (4)
- Persons with disabilities (5)
- LGBTQ2 (6)
- None of the above
- Prefer not to answer

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Section 2: General outlook

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your interest in, and familiarity with, current affairs and voting systems in elections.

Outlook_Q1 - Generally speaking, how interested are you in politics and current affairs?

- Not interested at all (1)
- Not very interested (2)
- Somewhat interested (3)
- Very interested (4)
- Prefer not to answer

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Outlook_Q4 - How often do you vote in provincial elections?

- I am not eligible to vote (1)
- Never (2)
- Rarely (3)
- Sometimes (4)
- Most of the time (5)

- All of the time (6)
- Prefer not to answer

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Outlook_Q4b [only appears if "Never (2)" or "Rarely (3) or Sometimes (4)" are selected in Intro_Q4] - Why don't you vote? (Please select all that apply.)

- Not enough time (1)
- Not enough information (2)
- Disability or mobility issues (3)
- Voting location isn't convenient (4)
- Do not feel included (5)
- Frustration with politics (6)
- Don't like the voting system (7)
- I was not eligible to vote (8)
- Not interested in politics (9)
- I feel like my vote doesn't count (10)
- Prefer not to answer

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Outlook_Q6 – If you were to vote in a referendum to choose a voting system today, how confident would you feel about making an informed choice?

- Not at all confident (1)
- Not very confident (2)
- Somewhat confident (3)
- Very confident (4)
- Don't know (5)
- Prefer not to answer

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Section 3 – Preferences

Preferences_Q1 Please select up to five values from the list below that are most important to you.

(With a shorter list, I'm beginning to think the best route is a likert-scale based on "Not important, Somewhat important, Important, Very important")

I value most:

Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who focus on what is best for the province as a whole

Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who focus primarily on the interests of their local community

A voting system that is easy to understand
Better representation of groups that are currently under-represented in the Legislative Assembly
Increasing the number of political parties in the Legislative Assembly to represent more points of view
A Legislative Assembly where the share of seats each party holds closely matches the share of the popular vote it receives across the province
A Legislative Assembly where the share of seats each party holds somewhat matches the share of the popular vote it receives across the province
A voting system that encourages political parties to appeal to other parties' voters
A voting system that makes it easier for independent candidates (those not running for a political party) to be elected
A voting system that allows a voter to rank a political party's candidates (1, 2, 3, etc.)
Single-party majority governments that are clearly accountable for their decisions
A Legislative Assembly where two or more parties co-operate to make decisions
Other:

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your values and preferences regarding how MLAs are elected, how governments are formed and how the Legislative Assembly operates.

Preferences_Q6 Which would you prefer?

- The number of MLAs should remain the same (currently 87) (1)
- There should be more MLAs to better reflect voters' interests preferences (2)
- Prefer not to answer

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Preferences_Q7 There should be greater diversity of views represented in the provincial legislature/Legislative Assembly.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

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Preferences_Q12 The party that wins the most seats in an election should have to compromise with other parties, even if it means changing some of its policies.

- Strongly disagree (1)

- Somewhat disagree (2)
- ~~Neutral~~ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

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No bullets or numbering

Preferences_Q13 It should always be clear which party is accountable for decisions made by government, even if this means that decisions are only made by one party.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ~~Neutral (3)~~
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

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~~Section 4: Referendum Ballot Options~~

In Fall 2018, B.C. voters will have the opportunity to vote for either keeping the current First Past the Post voting system used to elect provincial MLAs or adopting a proportional voting system. Please answer the following questions to help us understand the choices you would like to see on the referendum ballot.

Ballot Options_Q 1 Which do you prefer?

- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current First Past the Post voting system and ONE proportional representation voting system.
- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current First Past the Post voting system and MORE THAN ONE proportional representation voting system
- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current First Past the Post voting system and proportional representation, with a specific voting system to to be decided by government after the referendum.
- Prefer not to answer

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This is the end of Part 1 of the questionnaire. Part 2 asks further questions about your preferences regarding voting systems and the referendum ballot. You may submit your responses to Part 1 now and leave the survey, or continue on to Part 2.

SUBMIT AND LEAVE

CONTINUE TO PART 2

Part 2

Section 2: General outlook

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your interest in electoral reform, and familiarity with, voting systems.

Outlook_Q2 - How closely have you followed public debate on electoral reform?

- Not closely at all (1)
- Somewhat closely (2)
- Very closely (3)
- Prefer not to answer
-

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Outlook_Q3 - Did you vote in either the 2005 or 2009 BC referendum on electoral reform?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Not sure (3)
- Not eligible (4)
- Prefer not to answer
-

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Outlook_Q5 - In general, how satisfied are you with how the current First Past the Post voting system works to elect Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) in British Columbia?

- Not at all satisfied (1)
- Not very satisfied (2)
- Somewhat satisfied (3)
- Very satisfied (4)
- Don't know (5)

Comment [NSR2]: This question looks awkward here and I'm not sure what it tells us that we can't glean from the values table in part 1 and other questions.

Section 3: Voting system preferences

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your values and preferences regarding how Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) are elected, how governments are formed and how the Legislative Assembly operates.

Preferences_Q2 Which would you prefer?

Having several small parties in the Legislature or fewer big parties?

- Several small parties (1)
- A few big parties (2)
- Prefer not to answer
-

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Preferences_Q3 Which would you prefer?

- Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) ~~should~~who do what their party promised, even if it means going against what their constituents want.
- MLAs should~~who~~ do what their constituents want, even if it means going against what their party promised.
- Prefer not to answer
-

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Preferences_Q4 Which best describes your views?

- Ballots should allow voters to select one candidate or political party.
- Ballots should allow votes to rank more than one candidate or political party.
- Prefer not to answer
-

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Preferences_Q5 Which would you prefer?

- ~~A Legislative Assembly where one party governs, without requiring the support of another party to make decisions.~~
- ~~A Legislative Assembly where two or more parties must cooperate to make decisions.~~

Comment [NSR3]: This question is covered in the values table in Part 1, and is very similar to Q11 below.

Preferences_Q8 All views of British Columbians, even if those that are unpopular, should be represented in the Legislative Assembly.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- ~~Neutral~~ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer
-

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Preferences_Q10 An election ballot should be easy to understand, even if it means voters have fewer options to express their preferences.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- ~~Neither agree nor disagree (3)~~ Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer
-

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Preferences_Q11 It is better for several parties to have to govern together than for one party to make all the decisions in government, even if it sometimes takes longer for government to make decisions.

- Strongly disagree (1)

- Somewhat disagree (2)
- ~~Neither agree nor disagree (3)~~ Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q14 - Please indicate which you prefer:

- Each electoral district is represented by one MLA
- Each electoral district is represented by several MLAs
- Some MLAs ~~Each represent an~~ electoral district, ~~is represented by one MLA,~~ while other MLAs represent larger regions or the province as a whole.
- Prefer not to answer

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Preferences_Q15 Please indicate which you prefer:

- Voters vote with a single 'X' for the candidate or political party of their choice
- Voters can rank the candidates or parties in order of preference
- Prefer not to answer

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~~Section 4: Referendum Ballot Options~~

~~In Fall 2018, B.C. voters will have the opportunity to vote for either keeping the current First Past the Post voting system used to elect provincial MLAs or adopting a proportional voting system. Please answer the following questions to help us understand the choices you would like to see on the referendum ballot.~~

Ballot Options_Q 2 If the government offers voters a choice of more than one proportional representation voting system, which do you prefer?

- Voters should indicate their support for only one proposed system
- Voter should rank order their support for all the proposed systems
- Prefer not to answer

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Ballot Options_Q 3: Alongside the option of keeping the First Past the Post voting system, which system or systems of proportional representation would you like to see on the ballot? Please select all that apply. (With mouse-over summary text from web 101 pages))

- List Proportional Representation
- Mixed Member Proportional
- Single Transferable Vote
- Mixed Member Majoritarian
- Other: Please describe
- Prefer not to answer

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Section 5: Public funding and advertising in the referendum

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your expectations with regards to public funding for advocacy groups and campaign advertising for particular voting systems during the referendum.

Public Funding_Q 1 The government should provide public funds to designated groups to campaign for their preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- ~~Neutral~~ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Public Funding_Q 2 There should be spending limits imposed on any group that campaigns for its preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ~~Neutral (3)~~
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Public Funding_Q 3 The provincial government should provide voters with high-quality and impartial information prior to the referendum.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ~~Neutral (3)~~
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Public Funding_Q 4 The provincial government should ensure that paid advertisements that appear during the campaign period are produced only by groups that must register, disclose their identity in their advertising and disclose their contributors and expenses after the referendum.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)

- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ~~Neutral (3)~~
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

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British Columbia Voting Systems Questionnaire

Version 2a | Nov. 10, 2017 |

The B.C. government is holding a referendum in the fall of 2018 to ask voters whether the province should keep the current First Past the Post voting system or change to a proportional representation voting system. This questionnaire will help B.C.'s Attorney General understand the preferences and expectations of B.C. voters about the referendum, as well as the campaign leading up to it.

There are two parts to this survey. Part one asks key questions about your values and general outlook as to how we vote for Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), and for how the legislature functions. Part two asks more detailed questions about your preferences regarding electoral reform, voting systems and the referendum process.

Each part of the questionnaire will take approximately 5-8 minutes to complete. We ask that you complete this survey only once.

Privacy Statement

Personal information collected through this feedback form will inform the development of a ballot for a November 2018 electoral reform referendum by the Ministry of Attorney General, under the authority of s.26 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. If you have any questions about the collection, use and disclosure of your personal information, please contact:

*Neil Reimer
Director, Director, Strategic Initiatives
Ministry of Justice
Victoria BC
Neil.Reimer@gov.bc.ca*

Part 1

Section 1: Profile

Please provide this general profile information. Your identity cannot be determined by answering these questions.

Profile_Q1 - What is your gender?

- Man (1)
- Woman (2)
- Other (3)
- Prefer not to answer

Profile_Q2 – What are the first three characters in your postal code (this is a required field)?

- [3 character field]

Profile_Q3 - How old are you?

- Under 18
- 18 - 39 years
- 40 - 64 years
- 65 - 75 years
- Over 75 years
- Prefer not to answer

Profile_Q5 - Do you identify with any of the following groups? Please select all that apply

- Visible minority (1)
- First Nations (2)
- Inuit (3)
- Métis (4)
- Persons with disabilities (5)
- LGBTQ2 (6)
- None of the above (7)
- Prefer not to answer

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your interest in, and familiarity with, current affairs and voting in elections.

Outlook_Q1 - Generally speaking, how interested are you in politics and current affairs?

- Not interested at all (1)
- Not very interested (2)
- Somewhat interested (3)
- Very interested (4)
- Prefer not to answer

Outlook_Q4 - How often do you vote in provincial elections?

- I am not eligible to vote (1)
- Never (2)
- Rarely (3)
- Sometimes (4)
- Most of the time (5)
- All of the time (6)
- First time voter in 2017 (7)
- Prefer not to answer

Outlook_Q4b [only appears if “Never (2)” or “Rarely (3)” or “Sometimes (4)” are selected in

Intro_Q4] - Why don’t you vote? (Please select all that apply.)

- Not enough time (1)
- Not enough information (2)
- Disability or mobility issues (3)
- Voting location isn’t convenient (4)
- Do not feel included (5)
- Frustration with politics (6)
- Don’t like the voting system (7)
- I was not eligible to vote (8)
- Not interested in politics (9)
- I feel like my vote doesn’t count (10)
- Prefer not to answer

Outlook_Q6 – If you were to vote in a referendum to choose a voting system today, how confident would you feel about making an informed choice?

- Not at all confident (1)
- Not very confident (2)
- Somewhat confident (3)
- Very confident (4)
- Don't know (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q1 Please select up to five values from the list below that are most important to you.
I value most:

Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who focus on what is best for the province as a whole
Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who focus primarily on the interests of their local community
A voting system that is easy to understand
Better representation of groups that are currently under-represented in the Legislative Assembly
Increasing the number of political parties in the Legislative Assembly to represent more points of view

A Legislative Assembly where the share of seats each party holds closely matches the share of the popular vote it receives across the province
A Legislative Assembly where the share of seats each party holds somewhat matches the share of the popular vote it receives across the province
A voting system that encourages political parties to appeal to other parties' voters
A voting system that makes it easier for independent candidates (those not running for a political party) to be elected
A voting system that allows a voter to rank a political party's candidates (1, 2, 3, etc.)
Single-party majority governments that are clearly accountable for their decisions
A Legislative Assembly where two or more parties co-operate to make decisions
Other:

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your values and preferences regarding how MLAs are elected, how governments are formed and how the Legislative Assembly operates.

Preferences_Q6 Which would you prefer?

- The number of MLAs should remain the same (currently 87) (1)
- There should be more MLAs to better reflect voters' interests (2)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q7 There should be greater diversity of views represented in the Legislative Assembly.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q12 The party that wins the most seats in an election should have to compromise with other parties, even if it means changing some of its policies.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q13 It should always be clear which party is accountable for decisions made by government, even if this means that decisions are only made by one party.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Please answer the following question to help us understand the choices you would like to see on the referendum ballot.

Ballot Options_Q 1 Which do you prefer?

- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current First Past the Post voting system and ONE proportional representation voting system.
- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current First Past the Post voting system and MORE THAN ONE proportional representation voting system
- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current First Past the Post voting system and proportional representation, with a specific voting system to be decided by government after the referendum.
- Prefer not to answer

Comment [NTG1]: Note program's edits to "by regulation"

This is the end of Part 1 of the questionnaire. Part 2 asks further questions about your preferences regarding voting systems and the referendum ballot. You may submit your responses to Part 1 now and leave the survey, or continue on to Part 2.

SUBMIT AND LEAVE

CONTINUE TO PART 2

Part 2

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your interest in electoral reform.

Outlook_Q2 - How closely have you followed public debate on electoral reform?

- Not closely at all (1)
- Somewhat closely (2)
- Very closely (3)
- Prefer not to answer

Outlook_Q3 - Did you vote in either the 2005 or 2009 B.C. referendum on electoral reform?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Not sure (3)
- Not eligible (4)
- Prefer not to answer

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your values and preferences regarding how Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) are elected, how governments are formed and how the Legislative Assembly operates.

Preferences_Q2 Which would you prefer?

Having several small parties in the Legislature or fewer big parties?

- Several small parties (1)
- A few big parties (2)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q3 Which would you prefer?

- Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who do what their party promised, even if it means going against what their constituents want.
- MLAs who do what their constituents want, even if it means going against what their party promised.
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q4 Which best describes your views?

- Ballots should allow voters to select one candidate or political party.
- Ballots should allow votes to rank more than one candidate or political party.
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q8 All views of British Columbians, even those that are unpopular, should be represented in the Legislative Assembly.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q10 An election ballot should be easy to understand, even if it means voters have fewer options to express their preferences.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3) Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q11 It is better for several parties to have to govern together than for one party to make all the decisions in government, even if it sometimes takes longer for government to make decisions.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3) Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q14 - Please indicate which you prefer:

- Each electoral district is represented by one MLA
- Each electoral district is represented by several MLAs
- Some MLAs represent an electoral district, while other MLAs represent larger regions or the province as a whole.
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q15 Please indicate which you prefer:

- Voters vote with a single 'X' for the candidate or political party of their choice
- Voters can rank the candidates or parties in order of preference
- Prefer not to answer

Please answer the following questions to help us understand the choices you would like to see on the referendum ballot.

Ballot Options_Q 2 If the government offers voters a choice of more than one proportional representation voting system, which do you prefer?

- Voters should indicate their support for only one proposed system
- Voter should rank order their support for all the proposed systems

- Prefer not to answer

Ballot Options_Q 3: Alongside the option of keeping the First Past the Post voting system, which system or systems of proportional representation would you like to see on the ballot? Please select all that apply. (With mouse-over summary text from web 101 pages)

- List Proportional Representation
- Mixed Member Proportional
- Single Transferable Vote
- Mixed Member Majoritarian
- Other: *Please describe*
- Prefer not to answer

Section 5: Public funding and advertising in the referendum

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your expectations with regards to public funding for advocacy groups and campaign advertising for particular voting systems during the referendum.

Public Funding_Q 1 The government should provide public funds to designated groups to campaign for their preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Public Funding_Q 2 There should be spending limits imposed on any group that campaigns for its preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Public Funding_Q 3 The provincial government should provide voters with high-quality and impartial information prior to the referendum.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Public Funding_Q 4 The provincial government should ensure that paid advertisements that appear during the campaign period are produced only by groups that must register, disclose their identity in their advertising and disclose their contributors and expenses after the referendum.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

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British Columbia Voting Systems Questionnaire

Version 3 | Nov. 17, 2017 |

The B.C. government is holding a referendum in the fall of 2018 to ask voters whether the province should keep the current first-past-the-post voting system or change to a proportional representation voting system. This questionnaire will help B.C.'s Attorney General understand the preferences and expectations of B.C. voters about the referendum.

There are two parts to this survey. Part one asks key questions about your values and general outlook as to how we vote for Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), and for how the legislature functions. Part two asks more detailed questions about your preferences regarding electoral reform, voting systems and the referendum process. At the end of each part, you will have the opportunity to provide further written feedback.

Each part of the questionnaire will take approximately 5-8 minutes to complete. We ask that you complete this survey only once.

Privacy Statement

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*Neil Reimer
Director, Director, Strategic Initiatives
Ministry of Justice
Victoria BC
Neil.Reimer@gov.bc.ca*

Part 1

Section 1: Profile

Please provide this general profile information. Your identity cannot be determined by answering these questions.

Profile_Q2 – What are the first three characters in your postal code (this is a required field)?

- [3 character field]

Profile_Q3 - How old are you?

- Under 18
- 18 - 39 years
- 40 - 64 years
- 65 - 75 years
- Over 75 years
- Prefer not to answer

Profile_Q1 - Please indicate your gender:

- Man (1)
- Woman (2)
- X: _____[text box] (3)
- Prefer not to answer

Profile_Q5 - Do you identify with any of the following groups? Please select all that apply

- Visible minority (1)
- First Nations (2)
- Inuit (3)
- Métis (4)
- Persons with disabilities (5)
- LGBTQ2 (6)
- None of the above (7)
- Prefer not to answer

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your interest in, and familiarity with, current affairs and voting in elections.

Outlook_Q1 - Generally speaking, how interested are you in politics and current affairs?

- Not interested at all (1)
- Not very interested (2)
- Somewhat interested (3)
- Very interested (4)
- Prefer not to answer

Outlook_Q4 - How often do you vote in provincial elections?

- I am not eligible to vote (1)
- Never (2)
- Rarely (3)
- Sometimes (4)
- Most of the time (5)
- All of the time (6)
- First time voter in 2017 (7)
- Prefer not to answer

Outlook _ Which, if any, of the following have been barriers that have kept you from voting?

(Please select all that apply.)

- Not enough time (1)
- Not enough information (2)
- Disability or mobility issues (3)
- Voting location isn't convenient (4)
- Do not feel included (5)
- Frustration with politics (6)
- Don't like the voting system (7)
- I was not eligible to vote (8)
- Not interested in politics (9)
- I feel like my vote doesn't count (10)
- Prefer not to answer

Outlook_Q6 – If you were to vote in a referendum to choose a voting system today, how confident are you that you would make ~~would you feel about making an informed choice?~~

- Not at all confident (1)
- Not very confident (2)
- Somewhat confident (3)
- Very confident (4)
- Don't know (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q1 Please select up to five values from the list below that are most important to you.

I value most:

[note to reviewers: the sequence of value statements below will be rotated randomly for each user.]

Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who focus primarily on what is best for the province as a whole
Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who focus primarily on the interests of their local community
A voting system that is easy to understand
Better representation of groups that are currently under-represented in the Legislative Assembly

Increasing the number of political parties in the Legislative Assembly to represent more points of view
A Legislative Assembly wherein <u>in which</u> the share of seats each party holds closely matches the share of the popular votes it receives across the province
A Legislative Assembly wherein <u>in which</u> the share of seats each party holds is fairly similar to the share of the popular votes it receives across the province
A voting system that encourages political parties to appeal to other parties' voters <u>as broadly as possible to voters</u>
A voting system that makes it easier for independent candidates (those not running for a political party) to be elected
A voting system that allows a voter to rank a political party's candidates (1, 2, 3, etc.)
Single-party majority governments that are clearly accountable for their decisions
A Legislative Assembly where two or more parties co-operate to make decisions
Other:

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your values and preferences regarding how MLAs are elected, how governments are formed and how the Legislative Assembly operates.

Preferences_Q6 Which would you prefer?

- The number of MLAs should remain the same (1)
- There should be more MLAs to better reflect voters' interests (2)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q7 There should be greater diversity of views represented in the Legislative Assembly.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q12 The party that wins the most seats in an election should have to compromise with other parties, even if it means changing some of its campaign commitments.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q13 It should always be clear which party is accountable for decisions made by government, even if this means that decisions are only made by one party.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Please answer the following question to help us understand the choices you would like to see on the referendum ballot.

Ballot Options_Q 1 Which would you prefer?

- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current first-past-the-post voting system and ONE proportional representation voting system.
- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current first-past-the-post voting system and MORE THAN ONE proportional representation voting system
- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current first-past-the-post voting system and proportional representation, with a specific voting system to be established by legislation after the referendum.
- Prefer not to answer

[Text box]

Are there any other comments you would like to make about voting systems or the upcoming referendum? [Limit to 200 characters]

This is the end of Part 1 of the questionnaire. Part 2 asks further questions about your preferences regarding electoral reform and the referendum ballot. You may submit your responses to Part 1 now and leave the survey, or continue on to Part 2.

SUBMIT AND LEAVE

CONTINUE TO PART 2

Part 2

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your interest in electoral reform.

Outlook_Q2 - How closely have you followed public debate on electoral reform?

- Not closely at all (1)
- Somewhat closely (2)
- Very closely (3)
- Prefer not to answer

Outlook_Q3 - Did you vote in either the 2005 or 2009 B.C. referendum on electoral reform?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Not sure (3)
- Not eligible (4)
- Prefer not to answer

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your values and preferences regarding how Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) are elected, how governments are formed and how the Legislative Assembly operates.

Preferences_Q2 Which would you prefer?

Having more small parties represented in the Legislature or a fewer big parties?

- A few big parties (1)
- More small parties (2)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q3 Which would you prefer?

- Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who do what their party promised.
- MLAs who do what their constituents want.
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q4 ~~Ballots should allow voters to choose~~ support more than one candidate or political party by ranking them in order of preference.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q8 ~~All votes should contribute to electing an MLA, even~~ A ballot should give voters lots of choices, even if it's less clear how votes get turned into seats. ~~means the ballot is longer or more complicated.~~

- Strongly disagree (1)

- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q10 An election ballot should be easy to understand, even if it means voters have fewer options to express their preferences.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q11 It is better for several parties to co-operate and have to govern together rather than for one party to govern alone, make all the decisions in government, even if it sometimes takes longer to form government after an election.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q14 - Please indicate which you prefer:

- Each electoral district is represented by one MLA
- Each electoral district is represented by several MLAs
- Some MLAs represent an electoral district, while other MLAs represent larger regions or the province as a whole.
- Prefer not to answer

Please answer the following questions to help us understand the choices you would like to see on the referendum ballot.

Ballot Options_Q 2 If the government offers voters a choice of more than one proportional representation voting system, which do you prefer?

- Voters should indicate their support for only one proposed system
- Voter should rank order their support for all the proposed systems
- Prefer not to answer

Ballot Options_Q 3: Alongside the option of keeping the first-past-the-post voting system, which system or systems of proportional representation would you like to see on the ballot? Please select all that apply. (With mouse-over summary text from web 101 pages that does not click to a new page)

- List Proportional Representation
- Mixed Member Proportional
- Single Transferable Vote
- Mixed Member Majoritarian
- Other: *Please describe*
- Prefer not to answer

Ballot Options_Q 4: If B.C. changes to a system of proportional representation, there should be a second referendum after a trial period (for example, two elections) on whether to keep the new system.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Section 5: Public funding and advertising in the referendum

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your expectations with regards to public funding for advocacy groups and campaign advertising for particular voting systems during the referendum.

Public Funding_Q 1 The government should provide public funds to designated groups to campaign for their preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Public Funding_Q 2 There should be spending limits imposed on any group that campaigns for its preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Public Funding_Q 3 The provincial government should provide the public with impartial information during the referendum campaign period.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)

- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Public Funding_Q 4 The provincial government should ensure that paid advertisements that appear during the referendum campaign period are produced only by groups that must register, disclose their identity in their advertising and disclose their contributors and expenses after the referendum.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

[Text box]

Are there any other comments you would like to make about voting systems or the upcoming referendum? [Limit to 200 characters]

DRAFT - CONFIDENTIAL - NOT FOR CIRCULATION

British Columbia Electoral Systems Ballot Survey

Draft 2

This survey is intended to help the BC government understand the preferences and expectations of BC voters regarding this autumn's provincial referendum on electoral reform. This referendum will be the third time since 2004 that voters have been asked to provide the provincial government with mandate to change the electoral system used to allocate seats in the provincial legislature.

In this survey, you can complete one or more sections. Each section has up to eight questions.

The information you provide will help the BC government to:

- Understand what voters value about different electoral systems
- Understand how informed voters are with regards to the use of different systems in other jurisdictions
- Determine whether it should offer voters the choice between two or more systems on the ballot
- Determine whether to provide public funds to registered advocacy campaigns during the referendum period

Sections:

1. Profile
2. Familiarity
3. Outlook
4. System Preferences
5. System Values
6. System Design
7. Public Funding
8. Ballot Options

Section 1: Profile

Profile_Q1 - What is your gender?

- Male (1)
- Female (2)
- Other (3)

Profile_Q2 – What are the first three characters in your postal code?

Profile_Q3 - In which year were you born?

1916-2016

Profile_Q4 - What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

- No schooling (1)
- Some high school or elementary school (2)
- High school (3)
- Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma (4)
- College, CEGEP, or college classique (5)
- Bachelor's degree (6)
- Master's degree (7)
- Degree in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, or optometry (8)
- Doctorate (9)

Profile_Q5 - What occupational area do you work in?

- Retired (1)
- Student (without other employment) (2)
- Stay-at-home parent (3)
- Art, culture, recreation and sport (4)
- Business, finance and administration (5)
- Education, law and social, community and government services (6)
- Health (7)
- Management (8)
- Manufacturing and utilities (9)
- Natural and applied sciences (10)
- Natural resources, agriculture and related production (11)
- Sales and service (12)
- Trades, transport and equipment operators (13)
- Unemployed (14)

Profile_Q6 - Which of the following best describes your combined household income before taxes?

Less than \$20,000 (1)
Between \$20,000 - \$29,999 (2)
Between \$30,000 - \$39,999 (3)
Between \$40,000 - \$49,999 (4)
Between \$50,000 - \$59,999 (5)
Between \$60,000 - \$69,999 (6)
Between \$70,000 - \$79,999 (7)
Between \$80,000 - \$89,999 (8)
Between \$90,000 - \$99,999 (9)
Between \$100,000 - \$109,999 (10)
Between \$110,000 - \$119,999 (11)
Between \$120,000 - \$129,000 (12)
Between \$130,000 - \$139,000 (13)
Between \$140,000 - \$149,999 (14)
Between \$150,000 - \$199,999 (15)
Between \$200,000 - \$500,000 (16)
Between \$500,000 - \$999,999 (17)
\$1 million or more (18)

Profile_Q7 - What is the first language that you learned?

English (1)
French (2)
Other (3)

Profile_Q8 - Generally speaking, how interested are you in politics?

Not interested at all (1)
Not very interested (2)
Somewhat interested (3)
Very interested (4)

Profile_Q9 - How frequently do you follow news and current affairs?

Never (1)
Rarely (2)
Several times each month (3)
Several times each week (4)
Daily (5)

Profile_Q10 - Do you identify with any of the following groups?

Visible minority (1)
First Nations (2)
Inuit (3)
Métis (4)

Persons with disabilities (5)

LGBTQ2 (6)

Profile_Q14 - Please provide your postal code so we can determine your region.

Section 2: Familiarity

Quiz_Q1 - Name a country where the candidate with most vote wins

Quiz_Q2 - Name a country where you can vote for party & candidate

Quiz_Q3 - Name another country where you can vote for party & candidate

Quiz_Q4 - Name a country where voters rank candidates

Quiz_Q5 - Name a country with proportional representation

Quiz_Q6 - Name another country with proportional representation

Section 3: Outlook

Outlook_Q1 - In general, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in British Columbia?

- Not at all satisfied (1)
- Not very satisfied (2)
- Somewhat satisfied (3)
- Very satisfied (4)
- Don't know (4)

Outlook _Q2 - How closely have you followed the public debate on electoral reform in BC?

- Not closely at all (1)
- Somewhat closely (2)
- Very closely (3)

Outlook _Q3 - How often have you discussed provincial electoral reform with others?

- Not at all (1)
- Somewhat often (2)
- Very often (3)

Outlook _Q4 - How often do you vote in provincial elections?

- I am not eligible to vote (1)
- Never (2)
- Rarely (3)
- Sometimes (4)
- Most of the time (5)

Outlook _Q5 [only appears if “Never (2)” or “Rarely (3)” are selected in Intro_Q4] - What are the biggest barriers preventing you from voting? (Please select all that apply.)

- Lack of time (1)
- Lack of information (2)
- Disability or mobility issues (3)
- Voting location isn't convenient (4)
- Do not feel included (5)
- Frustration with politics (6)
- Don't like the voting system (7)
- I was not eligible to vote (8)
- Other (9)

Intro_Q6 [only appear if “Other (9)” is selected in Intro_Q5] - Please specify which other barriers prevent you from voting.

Outlook _Q6 Based on what you know and feel about the way we elect members of the provincial Legislature, which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

The system needs to be changed completely.

The system needs major changes

The system only needs minor changes.

The system works well and does not need to be changed.

Section 4: System Preferences

Preferences_Q1 Please select the priorities from the list below that are most important to you.

myDemocracy / CES questions	Broadbent / Abacus questions
Governments that collaborate with other parties in the Legislature	
Strengthening the link between voter intention and the election of representatives	
Governments that consider all viewpoints before making a decision	
Increasing voter turnout	
Governments that can be easily held to account by voters	The system makes it easy to get rid of governments that are out of sync with the population
MLAs that focus on what is best for the province	
Ensuring the voting process is easy to understand	The ballot is simple and easy to understand
Governments with strong representation from every region	The system ensures that the governments has MLAs from each region of the province
Allowing voters to express a wide range of preferences when voting	
Governments that can make decisions quickly	
Better representation of groups that are currently underrepresented in the Legislature	
MLAs who focus primarily on the interests of their local community	The system allows you to directly elect MLAs who represent your community
Increasing the presence of smaller parties in the Legislature	
	The system produces stable and strong governments
	The system makes it easier to elect more women and people from diverse backgrounds to the legislature
	The system ensures that the number of seats held by a party in legislature closely matches their actual level of support throughout the province.

	The system ensures seats in the legislature reflect the proportion of the vote a party receives provincially
	The system prevents a party that did not receive a majority of the vote from passing laws without the support of other parties
	The system ensures that more of the voters' first preferences are reflected in the legislature
	The system produces majority governments — that is one party has a majority (More than 50% of the seats in the legislature)
	The system ensures that a majority of voters in an electoral district (more than 50%) support the MP that is elected (meaning he or she could be their first, second or third choice)
	The system encourages political parties to reach beyond their most loyal supporters appeal to other party's voters.
	The system provides opportunities for independent candidates (not running for a political party) to be elected.
	The system produces minority or coalition governments.

Preferences _Q1 Which would you prefer?

Having many small parties in the Legislature representing many different views or having a few big parties that try to appeal to a broad range of people?

Many small parties (1)

A few big parties (2)

Preferences _Q2 Which would you prefer?

Members of the Legislative Assembly that do what their party promised, even if it means going against what their constituents want or members of the Legislative Assembly that do what their constituents want, even if it means going against what their party promised?

MLAs that do what their party promised (1)

MLAs that do what their constituents want (2)

Preferences _Q3 Which best describes your views?

Ballots should be as simple as possible so that everybody understands how to vote or ballots should allow everybody to express their preferences in detail?

As simple as possible (1)

Allow everybody to express their preferences (2)

Preferences_Q4 Which would you prefer?

A government where one party governs and can make decisions on its own or a government where several parties have to collectively agree before a decision is made?

One party makes decisions on its own (1)

Several parties have to collectively agree (2)

Section 5: System Values

Values_Q1 There should be parties in the Provincial Legislature that represent the views of all British Columbians, even if some are radical or extreme.

Strongly disagree (1)
Somewhat disagree (2)
Neutral (3)
Somewhat agree (4)
Strongly agree (5)

Values_Q2 There should be greater diversity of views in the Provincial Legislature.

Strongly disagree (1)
Somewhat disagree (2)
Neutral (3)
Somewhat agree (4)
Strongly agree (5)

Values_Q3 Members of the Legislative Assembly should always support the position of their party, even if it means going against the wishes of their constituents.

Strongly disagree (1)
Somewhat disagree (2)
Neutral (3)
Somewhat agree (4)
Strongly agree (5)

Values_Q4 Voters should be able to express multiple preferences on the ballot, even if this means that it takes longer to count the ballots and announce the election result

Strongly disagree (1)
Somewhat disagree (2)
Neutral (3)
Somewhat agree (4)
Strongly agree (5)

Values_Q5 A ballot should be easy to understand, even if it means voters have fewer options to express their preferences.

Strongly disagree (1)
Somewhat disagree (2)
Neutral (3)
Somewhat agree (4)
Strongly agree (5)

Values_Q6 It is better for several parties to have to govern together than for one party to make all the decisions in government, even if it takes longer for government to get things done.

Strongly disagree (1)
Somewhat disagree (2)
Neutral (3)
Somewhat agree (4)
Strongly agree (5)

Values_Q7 A party that wins the most seats in an election should still have to compromise with other parties, even if it means reconsidering some of its policies.

Strongly disagree (1)
Somewhat disagree (2)
Neutral (3)
Somewhat agree (4)
Strongly agree (5)

Values_Q8 Governments should have to negotiate their policy decisions with other parties in the Legislature, even if it is less clear who is accountable for the resulting policy.

Strongly disagree (1)
Somewhat disagree (2)
Neutral (3)
Somewhat agree (4)
Strongly agree (5)

Values_Q9 It should always be clear which party is accountable for decisions made by government, even if this means that decisions are only made by one party.

Strongly disagree (1)
Somewhat disagree (2)
Neutral (3)
Somewhat agree (4)
Strongly agree (5)

Section 5: System Design

(Adapted from the Ontario CA learning materials)

Electoral Elements

All electoral systems have three basic elements.

Systems_Q1 - 1. District magnitude (DM) means the number of members elected in each electoral district (**constituency** or **riding**). There are three basic options.

Please indicate which ballot type you prefer:

- citizens vote in **single-member** districts, or
- citizens vote in **multi-member** districts, or
- citizens vote in a single-member district and a national or regional multi-member district: this is called a **mixed system**.

Systems_Q2 - 2. Electoral Formula

The rules determining who wins the seat or seats is called the **electoral formula**. This element too has three basic options.

Please indicate which ballot type you prefer:

- the winning margin is **plurality**: the successful candidate receives at least one more vote than any of the other candidates; or
- the winning margin is **majority**: the successful candidate receives at least one more vote than all of the other candidates (50% +1 vote); or
- the winners are determined by **proportionality** rules, which allocate seats among the candidates in proportion to their shares of the vote.

Systems_Q1 - 3. Ballot Type

The **ballot type** covers how the choices (candidate or party) are presented to the voters, and the options available for choosing between them. There are three basic possibilities.

Please indicate which ballot type you prefer:

- voters use an **exclusive** ballot, which allows each voter to choose only one candidate or party in each race; or
- voters use a **preferential** ballot, which allows each voter to rank the candidates in order of preference; or
- voters use a ballot that is **categorical** in one respect (for example, in choosing between parties) and **preferential** in another respect (for example, in ranking the chosen party's candidates).

Electoral Families

There are four families of electoral systems.

Plurality and **majority** systems generally share elect one representative per electoral district but they differ in the electoral formulas that decide which candidate wins the seat. The two variations of majority systems (the Two-Round System and Alternative Vote) use different ballot types to reach their final results.

Proportional representation systems seek to minimize the differences between each party's share of the votes cast and its share of seats: they make the distribution of seats proportional to the distribution of votes. To do this, PR systems use multi-member districts which are constituencies that are represented by more than one elected politician. The difference between List Proportional Representation and Single Transferable Vote is in their types of ballots and their counting systems.

Mixed systems combine aspects of the majority family and the proportional family and feature a group of single- member seats (decided by plurality or by majority) with a second group of proportional seats. The two Mixed systems, Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) and Parallel or Mixed Member Majority (MMM), differ mainly in the relationships between the two groups of seats. In the Mixed Member Proportional system, the distribution of the proportional seats adjusts for the results of the single-member districts, so that the overall outcome is more proportional. When the second-tier seats are used this way, they are identified as adjustment or compensatory seats. In the Parallel or MMM system the second tier of seats are distributed proportionally but in a non- compensatory way.

Final Systems_ QX - According to your preference, please rank order the following electoral systems for use in British Columbia (With mouseover summary text)

Alternative Vote
First-Past-the-Post
List Proportional Representation
Mixed Member Majoritarian
Mixed Member Proportional
Single Transferable Vote
Two-round system

Section 6: Public funding

Public Funding_Q 1 The government should provide public funds to registered groups to campaign for their preferred electoral system within limits established by the Elections BC

Strongly disagree (1)
Somewhat disagree (2)
Neutral (3)
Somewhat agree (4)
Strongly agree (5)

Public Funding_Q 3 There should be spending limits imposed on any group which campaigns for their preferred electoral system within limits established by the Elections BC

Strongly disagree (1)
Somewhat disagree (2)
Neutral (3)
Somewhat agree (4)
Strongly agree (5)

Public Funding_Q 3 The provincial government is uniquely responsible for ensuring that BC voters have access to high quality and impartial information prior to the autumn referendum.

Strongly disagree (1)
Somewhat disagree (2)
Neutral (3)
Somewhat agree (4)
Strongly agree (5)

Section 7: Ballot Options

During this autumn's referendum, voters will have the opportunity to vote for retaining the current electoral system or to vote for a new system.

Ballot Options_Q 1 Which do you prefer?

The ballot should be as simple as possible

The ballot should give voters as much choice as possible

Ballot Options_Q 2 Which do you prefer?

The ballot should offer voters the choice between the current electoral system and ONE alternate system proposed by the government

The ballot should offer voters the choice between the current electoral system and up to five alternate systems proposed by the government

Ballot Options_Q 3 If the government offers a choice of up to five electoral systems, which do you prefer?

The voter should indicate their support for only one system

The voter should rank order their support for up to five proposed systems

=====

Additional example preference statements

FPTP

-

A first past the post system is better because it creates strong majority governments that can implement their policies. (FPTP1)

-

A first past the post system is better because it makes sure that every Member of Provincial Parliament is elected from a constituency. (FPTP2)

-

A first past the post system is better because one ballot is less confusing than two. (FPTP3)

-

A first past the post system is better because it allows local party members to choose all of a party's candidates. (FPTP4)

-

A mixed member proportional system is worse because it will lead to unstable coalition governments. (FPTP5)

-

A mixed member proportional system is worse because it puts too much control in the hands of parties and political elites. (FPTP6)

MMP

-

A mixed member proportional system is better because it makes sure that parties that have support of some of the population still get some representation. (MMP1)

-

A mixed member proportional system is better because it lets voters indicate their preference for both a local representative and a party. (MMP2)

-

A mixed member proportional system is better because parties should get the same share of seats as their share of the vote. (MMP3)

-

A mixed member proportional system is better because it will lead to more diversity in the legislature. (MMP4)

-

A first past the post system is worse because it gives some parties a share of the seats much larger than their share of the vote. (MMP5)

-

A first past the post system is worse because it shuts out small parties. (MMP6)

STV

-

A single transferable vote system is better because it makes sure that parties that have support of some of the population still get some representation. (STV1)

-

A single transferable vote system is better because it lets voters rank their preference among several local representatives. (STV2)

-

A single transferable vote system is better because parties should get the same share of seats as their share of the vote. (STV3)

-

A single transferable vote system is better because it will lead to more diversity in the legislature. (STV4)

AV

-

An alternative vote system is better because it makes sure that all representatives are elected with the support of a majority of voters. (AV1)

-

An alternative vote system is better because it allows voters to rank their preferences. (AV2)

-

An alternative vote system is better because it creates strong majority governments that can implement their policies. (AV3)

-

An alternative vote system is better because it makes sure that every Member of Provincial Parliament is elected from a constituency. (AV4)

British Columbia Electoral Voting Systems Ballot Survey

Draft 2

This survey is intended to help the BC government understand the preferences and expectations of BC voters regarding this autumn's the fall 2018 provincial referendum on electoral voting system reform. This referendum will be the third time since 2004 that voters have been asked to provide the provincial government with mandate to change the electoral voting system used to allocate seats in the provincial legislature.

In this survey, you can complete one or more sections. Each section has up to eight questions.

The information you provide will help the BC government to:

- Understand what voters value about different electoral voting systems
- Understand how informed voters are with regards to the use of different systems in other jurisdictions
- Determine whether it should offer voters the choice between two systems or more than two systems on the ballot
- Determine whether to provide public funds to registered advocacy campaigns during the referendum period

Sections:

1. Profile
2. Familiarity
3. Outlook
4. System Preferences
5. System Values
6. System Design
7. Public Funding
8. Ballot Options

Section 1: Profile

Profile_Q1 - What is your gender?

Male (1)

Female (2)

Other (3)

Profile_Q2 – What are the first three characters in your postal code?

Profile_Q3 - In which year were you born?

1916-2016

Profile_Q4 - What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

No schooling (1)

Some high school or elementary school (2)

High school (3)

Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma (4)

College, CEGEP, or college classique (5)

Bachelor's degree (6)

Master's degree (7)

Degree in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, or optometry (8)
Doctorate (9)

Profile_Q5 - What occupational area do you work in?

Retired (1)
Student (without other employment) (2)
Stay-at-home parent (3)
Art, culture, recreation and sport (4)
Business, finance and administration (5)
Education, law and social, community and government services (6)
Health (7)
Management (8)
Manufacturing and utilities (9)
Natural and applied sciences (10)
Natural resources, agriculture and related production (11)
Sales and service (12)
Trades, transport and equipment operators (13)
Unemployed (14)

Profile_Q6 - Which of the following best describes your combined household income before taxes?

Less than \$20,000 (1)
Between \$20,000 - \$29,999 (2)
Between \$30,000 - \$39,999 (3)
Between \$40,000 - \$49,999 (4)
Between \$50,000 - \$59,999 (5)
Between \$60,000 - \$69,999 (6)
Between \$70,000 - \$79,999 (7)
Between \$80,000 - \$89,999 (8)
Between \$90,000 - \$99,999 (9)
Between \$100,000 - \$109,999 (10)
Between \$110,000 - \$119,999 (11)
Between \$120,000 - \$129,000 (12)
Between \$130,000 - \$139,000 (13)
Between \$140,000 - \$149,999 (14)
Between \$150,000 - \$199,999 (15)
Between \$200,000 - \$500,000 (16)
Between \$500,000 - \$999,999 (17)
\$1 million or more (18)

Profile_Q7 - What is the first language that you learned?

English (1)
French (2)
Other (3)

Profile_Q8 - Generally speaking, how interested are you in politics?

Not interested at all (1)
Not very interested (2)
Somewhat interested (3)
Very interested (4)

Profile_Q9 - How frequently do you follow news and current affairs?

Never (1)
Rarely (2)
Several times each month (3)
Several times each week (4)

Daily (5)

Profile_Q10 - Do you identify with any of the following groups?

Visible minority (1)

First Nations (2)

Inuit (3)

Métis (4)

Persons with disabilities (5)

LGBTQ2 (6)

Profile_Q14 - Please provide your postal code so we can determine your region.

Section 2: Familiarity

Quiz_Q1 - Name a country where the candidate with most vote wins

Quiz_Q2 - Name a country where you can vote for party & candidate

Quiz_Q3 - Name another country where you can vote for party & candidate

Quiz_Q4 - Name a country where voters rank candidates

Quiz_Q5 - Name a country with proportional representation

Quiz_Q6 - Name another country with proportional representation

Comment [KA1]: Is this going to scare people off?

Section 3: Outlook

Outlook_Q1 - In general, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in British Columbia?

Not at all satisfied (1)

Not very satisfied (2)

Somewhat satisfied (3)

Very satisfied (4)

Don't know (4)

Outlook_Q2 - How closely have you followed the public debate on electoral voting system reform in BC?

Not closely at all (1)

Somewhat closely (2)

Very closely (3)

Outlook_Q3 - How often have you discussed provincial electoral voting system reform with others?

Not at all (1)

Somewhat often (2)

Very often (3)

Outlook_Q4 - How often do you vote in provincial elections?

I am not eligible to vote (1)

Never (2)

Rarely (3)

Sometimes (4)

Most of the time (5)

Outlook_Q5 [only appears if "Never (2)" or "Rarely (3)" are selected in Intro_Q4] - What are the biggest barriers preventing you from voting? (Please select all that apply.)

Lack of time (1)

Lack of information (2)

Disability or mobility issues (3)

Voting location isn't convenient (4)

Comment [KA2]: Nice to have?

Do not feel included (5)
 Frustration with politics (6)
 Don't like the voting system (7)
 I was not eligible to vote (8)
 Other (9)

Intro_Q6 [only appear if "Other (9)" is selected in Intro_Q5] - Please specify which other barriers prevent you from voting.

Outlook_Q6 Based on what you know and feel about the way we elect members of the provincial Legislature, which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

~~The system needs to be changed completely.~~
~~The system needs major changes~~
~~The system only needs minor changes.~~
~~The system works well and does not need to be changed.~~

Section 4: System Preferences

Preferences_Q1 Please select the priorities from the list below that are most important to you.

myDemocracy / CES questions	Broadbent / Abacus questions
Governments that collaborate with other parties in the Legislature	
Strengthening the link between voter intention and the election of representatives	
Governments that consider all viewpoints before making a decision	
Increasing voter turnout	
Governments that can be easily held to account by voters	The system makes it easy to get rid of governments that are out of sync with the population
MLAs that focus on what is best for the province	
Ensuring the voting process is easy to understand	The ballot is simple and easy to understand
Governments with strong representation from every region	The system ensures that the governments has MLAs from each region of the province
Allowing voters to express a wide range of preferences when voting	
Governments that can make decisions quickly	

Comment [KA3]: 10 max, choose all that apply; need to have some that contrast

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Better representation of groups that are currently underrepresented in the Legislature	
MLAs who focus primarily on the interests of their local community	The system allows you to directly elect MLAs who represent your community
Increasing the presence of smaller parties in the Legislature	
	The system produces stable and strong governments
	The system makes it easier to elect more women and people from diverse backgrounds to the legislature
	The system ensures that the number of seats held by a party in legislature closely matches their actual level of support throughout the province.
	The system ensures seats in the legislature reflect the proportion of the vote a party receives provincially
	The system prevents a party that did not receive a majority of the voted from passing laws without the support of other parties
	The system ensures that more of the voters' first preferences are reflected in the legislature
	The system produces majority governments — that is one party has a majority (More than 50% of the seats in the legislature)
	The system ensures that a majority of voters in an electoral district (more than 50%) support the MP that is elected (meaning he or she could be their first, second or third choice)
	The system encourages political parties to reach beyond their most loyal supporters appeal to other party's voters.
	The system provides opportunities for independent candidates (not running for a political party) to be elected.
	The system produces minority or coalition governments.

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Preferences _Q1 Which would you prefer?

Having many small parties in the Legislature representing many different views or having a few big parties that try to appeal to a broad range of people?

Many small parties (1)

A few big parties (2)

Preferences _Q2 Which would you prefer?

Members of the Legislative Assembly that do what their party promised, even if it means going against what their constituents want or members of the Legislative Assembly that do what their constituents want, even if it means going against what their party promised?

MLAs that do what their party promised (1)

MLAs that do what their constituents want (2)

Preferences _Q3 Which best describes your views?

Ballots should be as simple as possible so that everybody understands how to vote or ballots should allow everybody to express their preferences in detail?

As simple as possible (1)

Allow everybody to express their preferences (2)

Preferences _Q4 Which would you prefer?

A government where one party governs and can make decisions on its own or a government where several parties have to collectively agree before a decision is made?

One party makes decisions on its own (1)

Several parties have to collectively agree (2)

Comment [KA4]: Leading? A ballot can be both.

Section 5: System Values

Values _Q1 There should be parties in the Provincial Legislature that represent the views of all British Columbians, even if some are radical or extreme.

Strongly disagree (1)

Somewhat disagree (2)

Neutral (3)

Somewhat agree (4)

Strongly agree (5)

Values _Q2 There should be greater diversity of views in the Provincial Legislature.

Strongly disagree (1)

Somewhat disagree (2)

Neutral (3)

Somewhat agree (4)

Strongly agree (5)

Values _Q3 Members of the Legislative Assembly should always support the position of their party, even if it means going against the wishes of their constituents.

Strongly disagree (1)

Somewhat disagree (2)

Neutral (3)

Somewhat agree (4)

Strongly agree (5)

Values _Q4 Voters should be able to express multiple preferences on the ballot, even if this means that it takes longer to count the ballots and announce the election result

Strongly disagree (1)

Somewhat disagree (2)

Neutral (3)

Somewhat agree (4)

Strongly agree (5)

Values_Q5 A ballot should be easy to understand, even if it means voters have fewer options to express their preferences.

Strongly disagree (1)
Somewhat disagree (2)
Neutral (3)
Somewhat agree (4)
Strongly agree (5)

Values_Q6 It is better for several parties to have to govern together than for one party to make all the decisions in government, even if it takes longer for government to get things done.

Strongly disagree (1)
Somewhat disagree (2)
Neutral (3)
Somewhat agree (4)
Strongly agree (5)

Values_Q7 A party that wins the most seats in an election should still have to compromise with other parties, even if it means reconsidering some of its policies.

Strongly disagree (1)
Somewhat disagree (2)
Neutral (3)
Somewhat agree (4)
Strongly agree (5)

Values_Q8 Governments should have to negotiate their policy decisions with other parties in the Legislature, even if it is less clear who is accountable for the resulting policy.

Strongly disagree (1)
Somewhat disagree (2)
Neutral (3)
Somewhat agree (4)
Strongly agree (5)

Values_Q9 It should always be clear which party is accountable for decisions made by government, even if this means that decisions are only made by one party.

Strongly disagree (1)
Somewhat disagree (2)
Neutral (3)
Somewhat agree (4)
Strongly agree (5)

Section 5: System Design

(Adapted from the Ontario CA learning materials)

ElectoralVoting Elements

All electoralvoting systems have three basic elements.

Systems_Q1 - 1. District magnitude (DM) means the number of members elected in each electoral district (**constituency** or **riding**). There are three basic options.

Please indicate which ballot type you prefer:

Comment [KA5]: What system is this?

Comment [KA6]: I don't like any of these questions. Too complex. Need to remove jargon and simplify much further.

- citizens vote in **single-member** districts, or
- citizens vote in **multi-member** districts, or
- citizens vote in a single-member district and a national or regional multi-member district: this is called a **mixed system**.

Systems_Q2 - 2. ElectoralVoting Formula

The rules determining who wins the seat or seats is called the **electoralvoting formula**. This element too has three basic options.

Please indicate which ballot type you prefer:

- the winning margin is **plurality**: the successful candidate receives at least one more vote than any of the other candidates; or
- the winning margin is **majority**: the successful candidate receives at least one more vote than all of the other candidates (50% +1 vote); or
- the winners are determined by **proportionality** rules, which allocate seats among the candidates in proportion to their shares of the vote.

Systems_Q1 - 3. Ballot Type

The **ballot type** covers how the choices (candidate or party) are presented to the voters, and the options available for choosing between them. There are three basic possibilities.

Please indicate which ballot type you prefer:

- voters use an **exclusive** ballot, which allows each voter to choose only one candidate or party in each race; or
- voters use a **preferential** ballot, which allows each voter to rank the candidates in order of preference; or
- voters use a ballot that is **categorical** in one respect (for example, in choosing between parties) and **preferential** in another respect (for example, in ranking the chosen party's candidates).

ElectoralVoting System Families

There are four families of electoralvoting systems.

Plurality and **majority** systems generally share elect one representative per electoralvoting district but they differ in the electoralvoting formulas that decide which candidate wins the seat. The two variations of majority systems (the Two-Round System and Alternative Vote) use different ballot types to reach their final results.

Proportional representation systems seek to minimize the differences between each party's share of the votes cast and its share of seats: they make the distribution of seats proportional to the distribution of votes. To do this, PR systems use multi-member districts which are constituencies that are represented by more than one elected politicianMLA. The difference between List Proportional Representation and Single Transferable Vote is in their types of ballots and their counting systems.

Mixed systems combine aspects of the majority family and the proportional family and feature a group of single- member seats (decided by plurality or by majority) with a second group of proportional seats. The two Mixed systems, Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) and Parallel or Mixed Member Majority (MMM), differ mainly in the relationships between the two groups of seats. In the Mixed Member Proportional system, the distribution of the proportional seats

Comment [KA7]: Remove references to majoritarian systems. Out of scope.

adjusts for the results of the single-member districts, so that the overall outcome is more proportional. When the second-tier seats are used this way, they are identified as adjustment or compensatory seats. In the Parallel or MMM system the second tier of seats are distributed proportionally but in a non- compensatory way.

Final Systems_QX - According to your preference, please rank order the following electoralvoting systems for use in British Columbia (With mouseover summary text)

~~Alternative Vote~~

~~First-Past-the-Post~~

~~List Proportional Representation~~

~~Mixed Member Majoritarian~~

~~Mixed Member Proportional~~

~~Single Transferable Vote~~

~~Two-round system~~

Section 6: Public funding

Public Funding_Q 1 The government should provide public funds to registered groups to campaign for their preferred electoralvoting system within limits established by the Elections-BC

Strongly disagree (1)

Somewhat disagree (2)

Neutral (3)

Somewhat agree (4)

Strongly agree (5)

Public Funding_Q 3 There should be spending limits imposed on any group which campaigns for their preferred electoralvoting system within limits established by the Elections-BC

Strongly disagree (1)

Somewhat disagree (2)

Neutral (3)

Somewhat agree (4)

Strongly agree (5)

Public Funding_Q 3 The provincial government is uniquely responsible for ensuring that BC voters have access to high quality and impartial information prior to the autumn-fall 2018 referendum.

Strongly disagree (1)

Somewhat disagree (2)

Neutral (3)

Somewhat agree (4)

Strongly agree (5)

Section 7: Ballot Options

During this autumn's the fall 2018 referendum, voters will have the opportunity to vote for retaining the current electoralvoting system or to vote for a new system.

Ballot Options_Q 1 Which do you prefer?

The ballot should be as simple as possible

The ballot should give voters as much choice as possible

Ballot Options_Q 2 Which do you prefer?

The ballot should offer voters the choice between the current electoral voting system and ONE alternate system proposed by the government

The ballot should offer voters the choice between the current electoral voting system and up to five more than one alternate systems proposed by the government

Ballot Options_Q 3 If the government offers a choice of up to five electoral systems, which do you prefer?

The voter should indicate their support for only one system

The voter should rank order their support for up to five proposed systems

=====

Additional example preference statements

FPTP

-

A first past the post system is better because it creates strong majority governments that can implement their policies. (FPTP1)

-

A first past the post system is better because it makes sure that every Member of Provincial Parliament is elected from a constituency. (FPTP2)

-

A first past the post system is better because one ballot is less confusing than two. (FPTP3)

-

A first past the post system is better because it allows local party members to choose all of a party's candidates. (FPTP4)

-

A mixed member proportional system is worse because it will lead to unstable coalition governments. (FPTP5)

-

A mixed member proportional system is worse because it puts too much control in the hands of parties and political elites. (FPTP6)

MMP

-

A mixed member proportional system is better because it makes sure that parties that have support of some of the population still get some representation. (MMP1)

-

A mixed member proportional system is better because it lets voters indicate their preference for both a local representative and a party. (MMP2)

-

A mixed member proportional system is better because parties should get the same share of seats as their share of the vote. (MMP3)

-

A mixed member proportional system is better because it will lead to more diversity in the legislature. (MMP4)

-

A first past the post system is worse because it gives some parties a share of the seats much larger than their share of the vote. (MMP5)

-

A first past the post system is worse because it shuts out small parties. (MMP6)

STV

-

A single transferable vote system is better because it makes sure that parties that have support of some of the population still get some representation. (STV1)

-

A single transferable vote system is better because it lets voters rank their preference among several local representatives. (STV2)

-

A single transferable vote system is better because parties should get the same share of seats as their share of the vote. (STV3)

-

A single transferable vote system is better because it will lead to more diversity in the legislature. (STV4)

AV

-

An alternative vote system is better because it makes sure that all representatives are elected with the support of a majority of voters. (AV1)

-

An alternative vote system is better because it allows voters to rank their preferences. (AV2)

-

An alternative vote system is better because it creates strong majority governments that can implement their policies. (AV3)

-

An alternative vote system is better because it makes sure that every Member of Provincial Parliament is elected from a constituency. (AV4)

British Columbia Voting Systems Questionnaire

B.C. is holding a referendum in the Fall of 2018 to ask voters whether Government should keep the current First Past the Post voting system or change to a proportional representation voting system. This questionnaire will help B.C.'s Attorney General understand the preferences and expectations of B.C. voters regarding the referendum and campaign leading up to it.

We appreciate you taking the time to fill out the survey, which should take about 10 minutes to complete.

The information you provide will help the Attorney General to:

- Understand what voters value about different voting systems;
- Determine whether the referendum ballot should offer the choice between two voting systems, or more than two voting systems;
- Determine whether government should provide public funds to registered advocacy campaigns, both for and against voting system reform; and
- Determine if and how to regulate advertising activities during the referendum period.

Privacy information / How do we prevent people from filling out the survey multiple times?

Sections:

1. Profile
2. General outlook
3. Voting system preferences
4. Ballot options
5. Public funding and advertising

Comment [Rose1]: This is a lot to ask in a ten minute survey!

Comment [Rose2]: This is a large problem. In the federal case, I think they tracked the ip addresses. But if not tracked there could be a large problem with it being co-opted by Fa Vote or other pro-reform groups.

One method would be to provide a ticket that can only be used once but I'm not sure how to do that. Other solutions like forcing login with a SIN number has obvious privacy issues.

Section 1: Your profile

Please provide your basic demographic information to help us better understand the preferences of British Columbians throughout the province. Your identity cannot be determined by answering these questions.

Profile_Q1 - What is your gender?

- Male (1)
- Female (2)
- Other (3)
- Prefer not to say (4)

Profile_Q2 – What are the first three characters in your postal code?

- [3 character field]

Profile_Q3 - How old are you?

- [insert standard age ranges used by BC]

Profile_Q4 - What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

- Some high school, elementary school or home schooling (2)
- High school (3)
- Apprenticeship or trades certificate (4)
- College diploma or degree (5)
- Bachelor's degree (6)
- Master's degree (7)
- Professional degree (8)
- Doctorate (9)

Profile_Q5 - Do you identify with any of the following groups?

- Visible minority (1)
- First Nations (2)
- Inuit (3)
- Métis (4)
- Persons with disabilities (5)
- LGBTQ2 (6)
- None of the above

Section 2: General outlook

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your interest in, and familiarity with, voting systems.

Outlook_Q1 - Generally speaking, how interested are you in politics?

- Not interested at all (1)
- Not very interested (2)
- Somewhat interested (3)
- Very interested (4)

Outlook_Q2 - How frequently do you follow news and current affairs?

- Never (1)
- Rarely (2)
- Several times each month (3)
- Once a week
- Several times each week (4)
- Daily (5)

Outlook_Q3 - How closely have you followed the public debate on electoral reform in B.C.?

- Not closely at all (1)
- Somewhat closely (2)
- Very closely (3)

Outlook_Q4 - Did you vote in either the 2005 or 2009 provincial referendum on electoral reform?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Not sure (3)
- Not eligible (4)

Outlook_Q5 - How often have you discussed provincial electoral reform with others?

- Not at all (1)
- Occasionally
- Somewhat often (2)
- Very often (3)

Outlook_Q6 - How often do you vote in provincial elections?

- I am not eligible to vote (1)
- Never (2)
- Rarely (3)
- Sometimes (4)
- Most of the time (5)
- All of the time (6)

Outlook_Q6b [only appears if “Never (2)” or “Rarely (3) or Sometimes (4)” are selected in Intro_Q4] - What are the biggest barriers preventing you from voting? (Please select all that apply.)

- Lack of time (1)
- Lack of information (2)
- Disability or mobility issues (3)
- Voting location isn't convenient (4)
- Do not feel included (5)
- Frustration with politics (6)
- Don't like the voting system (7)
- I was not eligible to vote (8)
- Lack of interest
- Other (9) [Open text]

Outlook_Q7 – Have you read the background information on this website regarding the various voting systems?

- Yes
- No
- Somewhat

Outlook_Q8 - In general, how satisfied are you with how the current First Past the Post voting system works to elect MLAs to the BC legislature in British Columbia?

- Not at all satisfied (1)
- Not very satisfied (2)
- Somewhat satisfied (3)
- Very satisfied (4)
- Don't know (5)

Comment [Rose3]: First-past-the-post

Outlook_Q9 - How knowledgeable do you feel about the differences among between voting systems?

- Not at all knowledgeable (1)
- Not very knowledgeable (2)
- Somewhat knowledgeable (3)
- Very knowledgeable (4)
- Don't know (5)

Comment [Rose4]: Or do you want to ask about how knowledgeable they are about the different ways politicians can be elected? I wonder if voting system is too jargony?

Outlook_Q10 – If you were to vote in the referendum today, how confident would you feel about selecting a voting system and making an informed choice about the ideal voting system?

- Not at all confident (1)
- Not very confident (2)
- Somewhat confident (3)
- Very confident (4)
- Don't know (5)

Section 3: Voting system preferences

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your values and preferences regarding how MLAs are elected, how governments are formed and how the legislative assembly operates.

Preferences_Q1 Please select up to five values from the list below that are most important to you.
I value most:

~~It is important~~ Governments that
governments collaborate with other
parties in the legislature. ~~Legislature~~

A voting system should allow that
allows you to select your preferred
candidate or party, without having to
consider strategically who is most
likely to win

Single-party majority governments
ensure greater accountability, where
it is clear who is accountable for
decisions

MLAs should ~~who~~ focus on the
interests of ~~what is best for~~ the
province as a whole instead of his or
her riding.

It's important that the A voting
system process that is easy to
understand.

Governments with MLAs need to
represent representing every region in
the province.

Voters should be allowed to vote for a
party and a candidate. Allowing
voters to express several preferences
for candidates or political parties
when voting

A voting system should ensure
governments are able to act
decisively. Governments that make
decisions quickly

The legislature should help
ensure ~~Better~~ representation of
groups currently underrepresented
groups. in the Legislative Assembly

It is important for MLAs to ~~who~~ focus
primarily on the interests of their

Comment [Rose5]: These need to
statements they can agree on.

Comment [Rose6]: These are real
two questions; one about choice and
the other about strategic voting. They
can't be conflated. Also, strategic
voting is a complex idea and every
system embodies strategic voting.

Comment [Rose7]: You're not
interested in voting process but system
I think.

Comment [Rose8]: You're not
interested in voting process but system
I think.

Comment [Rose9]: This is a bit of
meaningless question. Unless there
was list PR where candidates were
from all regions, (ie, the Israeli and
Dutch models) every electoral system
ensures regional representation. I'd
delete this.

Comment [Rose10]: This is also
another question that won't yield much
as mixed systems, STV and open list
PR all allow this. I'm not sure what an
answer would contribute to narrowing
options.

Comment [Rose11]: This is also
another question that won't yield much
as mixed systems, STV and open list
PR all allow this. I'm not sure what an
answer would contribute to narrowing
options.

Comment [Rose12]: I think speed
(quickly) is the wrong thing. You are
interested in governments acting
decisively.

Comment [Rose13]: I think speed
(quickly) is the wrong thing. You are
interested in governments acting
decisively.

local community.

~~A voting system should encourage increasing the presence of smaller parties in the Legislature.~~

A voting system should ensure that a party's vote share matches its seat share in the Legislature. A legislature where the number of seats each party holds closely matches their support across the province

A voting system that encourages political parties to reach beyond their supporters and appeal to other parties' voters

~~A voting system should provide that provides opportunities for Independent candidates, (not running for a political party) to be elected~~

Minority A voting system that produces minority or coalition governments are desirable.

MLAs who continue to represent the same number of citizens as they do now

It is important A voting system that allows a voter to rank a political party's candidates.

~~A voting system that allows a voter should be allowed to vote for a political party.~~

Preferences _Q2 Which would you prefer?

Having several small parties in the Legislature representing a diversity of views or fewer big parties that try to appeal to a broad range of people?

- Several small parties (1)
- A few big parties (2)

Preferences _Q3 Which would you prefer?

- Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who do what their party promised, even if it means going against what their constituents want.
- MLAs who do what their constituents want, even if it means going against what their party promised.

Comment [Rose14]: This is called bridging vs. bonding parties and is a consequence of an electoral system. It's an esoteric question to ask.

Comment [Rose15]: Bad question not ranking it could be because you want more politicians or fewer politicians. But if you did keep it I would say: "I think the number of MLAs in the Legislature is about right"

Comment [Rose16]: I would change this to:
An MLA should do what the party promised.
An MLA should follow the wishes of their constituents.

Preferences_Q4 Which best describes your views?

- Ballots should allow voters to select one candidate or political party.
- Ballots should allow votes to select more than one candidate or political party.

Preferences_Q5 Which would you prefer?

- A Legislative Assembly where one party governs, without requiring the support of another party to make decisions.
- A Legislative Assembly where two or more parties must collaborate to make decisions.

Preferences_Q6 Which would you prefer?

- The number of MLAs should remain the same (currently 87) (1)
- There should be more MLAs to better reflect voters' preferences (2)
- There should be fewer MLAs.

Preferences_Q7 There should be greater diversity of views in the provincial legislature.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q8 All views of British Columbians, no matter how marginal, should be represented in the Legislative Assembly.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q9 Voters should be able to express multiple preferences on the election ballot, even if this means that it takes longer to count the ballots and announce the election result.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Comment [Rose17]: This latter point is a red herring. It's a bit irrelevant.

Preferences_Q10 A ballot should be easy to understand, even if it means voters have fewer options to express their preferences.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Comment [Rose18]: I'd delete this question. I can't imagine a complex ballot that decreases voters' preferences. I don't understand what it's getting at.

Preferences_Q11 It is better for several parties to have to govern together than for one party to make all the decisions in government, even if it takes longer.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q12 A party that wins the most seats in an election should have to compromise with other parties, even if it means changing some of its policies.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q13 It should always be clear which party is accountable for decisions made by government, even if this means that decisions are only made by one party.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q14 - Please indicate which you prefer:

- Each electoral district is represented by one MLA
- Each electoral district is represented by several MLAs, possibly from different parties
- One MLA represents a specific electoral district, and other MLAs, possibly from different parties, represent a larger region or the province as a whole.

Preferences_Q15 Please indicate which you prefer:

- Voters vote with a single 'X' for the candidate or political party of their choice
- Voters can rank the candidates or parties in order of preference

Comment [Rose19]: The important tradeoff of the size of districts is not communicated in this. So I might want several MLAs but wouldn't choose that if the districts were much larger.

Comment [Rose20]: This last one I think a description of a mixed system but does not get at it adequately. Maybe: One MLA represents a specific district and the other MLAs represent the region or the province as a whole.

Section 4: Referendum Ballot Options

In Fall 2018, B.C. voters will have the opportunity to vote for either retaining the current First-Past-the-Post voting system or adopting a proportional voting system. Please answer the following questions to help us understand the choices you would like to see on the referendum ballot.

Comment [Rose21]: This is usually hyphenated.

Ballot Options_Q 1 Which do you prefer?

- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current ~~first-past-First~~ Past the-post Post voting system and ONE proportional representation voting system.
- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current First Past the Post voting system and MORE THAN ONE proportional representation voting system

Ballot Options_Q 2 If the government offers a choice of more than one proportional representation voting system, which do you prefer?

- Voters should indicate their support for only one system
- Voter should rank order their support for all the proposed systems

Comment [Rose22]: This is far too early to ask these sorts of questions when voters haven't given much thought to 'other systems' let alone whether they'd like to rank them or chose one.

Ballot Options_Q 3: Alongside the option of keeping the First Past the Post voting system, which system or systems of proportional representation would you like to see on the ballot? Please select all that apply. (With mouse-over summary text from web 101 pages)

- List Proportional Representation
- Mixed Member Proportional
- Single Transferable Vote
- Mixed Member Majoritarian
- Other: *Please describe*

Comment [Rose23]: The summary text will be key here but I suspect that you will capture those who understand the system (ie reform advocates) and those who may not fully. Why ask this before a public education campaign? Shouldn't this be asked later?

Section 5: Public funding and advertising in the referendum

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your expectations with regards to public funding for advocacy groups and campaign advertising during the referendum.

Public Funding_Q 1 The government should provide public funds to designated groups to campaign for their preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Public Funding_Q 2 There should be spending limits imposed on any group that campaigns for its preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Public Funding_Q 3 The provincial government should provide voters with high-quality and impartial information prior to the referendum.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Public Funding_Q 4 The provincial government should ensure that paid advertisements that appear during the campaign period are produced only by groups that must register, disclose their identity in their advertising and disclose their contributors and expenses after the referendum.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

British Columbia Voting Systems Survey

Draft 3

This survey is intended to help the B.C. government understand the preferences and expectations of BC voters regarding a planned Fall 2018 provincial referendum on electoral reform. This referendum will be the third time since 2005 that voters have been asked to provide the provincial government with mandate to change the voting system used to allocate seats in the provincial legislature.

The survey should take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

The information you provide will help the BC government to:

- Understand what voters value about different voting systems
- Understand how ready voters feel to make an informed choice about their preferred voting system
- Determine whether government should offer voters the choice between two or more than two systems on the ballot
- Determine whether to provide public funds to registered advocacy campaigns and regulate advertising activities during the referendum period

Privacy information / How do we prevent people from filling out the survey multiple times?

Sections:

1. Profile
2. Outlook
3. System Preferences
4. Ballot Options
5. Public Funding and advertising

Comment [NSR1]: Wording change

Comment [NSR2]: Wording change

Comment [NSR3]: Please use "voting system" throughout whenever referring to actual system(s), not "electoral system".

Comment [NSR4]: Don't see the value in referring to past referenda right up front (although maybe I was the one who suggested it be mentioned somewhere.....). Would replace second sentence with something high level like, "In the referendum, BC voters will be asked whether to keep the current provincial voting system or change to a proportional representation system."

Comment [NSR5]: Changed to "voting system"

Comment [NSR6]: Is it about voter readiness or their current state of knowledge? Readiness is maybe less important a focus in this survey than how engaged/informed they are(?)

Comment [NSR7]: Wording change

Comment [NSR8]: Wording change

Section 1: Profile

Please provide your basic demographic information to help us understand the preferences of people with different backgrounds, living in different parts of the province. This information cannot be used to identify you.

Comment [KA9]: I thought we agreed to move these to the end so as not to scare people off

Comment [NSR10]: Could we just say "across the province" rather than "with different...." etc?

Profile_Q1 - What is your gender?

- Male (1)
- Female (2)
- Other (3)

Profile_Q2 – What are the first three characters in your postal code?

- [3 character field]

Profile_Q3 - How old are you?

- [insert standard age ranges used by BC]

Profile_Q4 - What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

- No schooling (1)
- Some high school or elementary school (2)
- High school (3)
- Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma (4)
- College, CEGEP, or college classique (5)
- Bachelor's degree (6)
- Master's degree (7)
- Degree in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, or optometry (8)
- Doctorate (9)

Profile_Q5 - Do you identify with any of the following groups?

- Visible minority (1)
- First Nations (2)
- Inuit (3)
- Métis (4)
- Persons with disabilities (5)
- LGBTQ2 (6)

Section 2: Outlook

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your familiarity with electoral reform and interest in politics.

Outlook_Q1 - Generally speaking, how interested are you in politics?

- Not interested at all (1)
- Not very interested (2)
- Somewhat interested (3)
- Very interested (4)

Outlook_Q2 - How frequently do you follow news and current affairs?

- Never (1)
- Rarely (2)
- Several times each month (3)
- Several times each week (4)
- Daily (5)

Outlook_Q3 - How closely have you followed the public debate on electoral reform in B.C.?

- Not closely at all (1)
- Somewhat closely (2)
- Very closely (3)

Outlook_Q4 - Did you vote in either the 2005 or 2009 provincial referendum on electoral reform?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Not sure (3)
- Not eligible (4)

Outlook_Q5 - How often have you discussed provincial electoral reform with others?

- Not at all (1)
- Somewhat often (2)
- Very often (3)

Outlook_Q6 - How often do you vote in provincial elections?

- I am not eligible to vote (1)
- Never (2)
- Rarely (3)
- Sometimes (4)
- Most of the time (5)

Outlook_Q6b [only appears if “Never (2)” or “Rarely (3) or Sometimes (4)” are selected in Intro_Q4] - What are the biggest barriers preventing you from voting?

(Please select all that apply.)

- Lack of time (1)
- Lack of information (2)

- Disability or mobility issues (3)
- Voting location isn't convenient (4)
- Do not feel included (5)
- Frustration with politics (6)
- Don't like the voting system (7)
- I was not eligible to vote (8)
- Other (9) [Open text]

Outlook_Q7 - In general, how satisfied are you with the way the voting system works in British Columbia?

- Not at all satisfied (1)
- Not very satisfied (2)
- Somewhat satisfied (3)
- Very satisfied (4)
- Don't know (5)

Outlook_Q8 - How confident do you feel right now about selecting an electoral_a voting system and making an informed choice in the 2018 referendum?

- Not at all satisfied (1)
- Not very satisfied (2)
- Somewhat satisfied (3)
- Very satisfied (4)
- Don't know (5)

Comment [NSR11]: Suggest adding "right now" to signal this is just the opening phase.

Comment [NSR12]: These should say "confident", not "satisfied".

Outlook_Q9 - How knowledgeable do you feel about the differences between electoral voting systems?

- Not at all knowledgeable (1)
- Not very knowledgeable (2)
- Somewhat knowledgeable (3)
- Very knowledgeable (4)
- Don't know (5)

Comment [KA13]: Swap the order of 8 and 9. Should also ask if they have read the backgrounder info on the website to help interpret this knowledge response.

Section 3: System Preferences

Please answer the following questions to help us understand what you like and dislike about B.C.'s current electoral-voting system and its proposed alternatives.

Preferences_Q1 Voting systems have different characteristics based on the underlying values they seek to emphasize. Please select up to five priorities-values from the list below that are most important to you. I value...:

myDemocracy / CES questions	Broadbent / Abacus questions	Proposed B.C. statements
Governments that collaborate with other parties in the Legislature		Governments that collaborate with other parties in the Legislature
Strengthening the link between voter intention and the election of representatives		Strengthening the link between voter intention and the election of representatives Strong links between
Governments that consider all viewpoints before making a decision		Governments that consider all viewpoints before making a decision
Increasing voter turnout		
Governments that can be easily held to account by voters	The system makes it easy to get rid of governments that are out of sync with the population	Single-party majority governments where it is clear who is accountable for unpopular decisions
MLAs that focus on what is best for the province		MLAs that focus on what is best for the province
Ensuring the voting process is easy to understand	The ballot is simple and easy to understand	A voting process that is easy to understand
Governments with strong representation from every region	The system ensures that the governments has MLAs from each region of the province	Governments with MLAs representing every region in the province
Allowing voters to express a wide range of preferences when voting		Allowing voters to express a wide range of preferences when voting
Governments that can make decisions quickly		Governments that can make decisions quickly
Better representation of groups that are currently underrepresented in the Legislature		Better representation of groups that are currently underrepresented in the Legislature
MLAs who focus primarily on the interests of their local community	The system allows you to directly elect MLAs who represent your community	MLAs who focus primarily on the interests of their local community

Comment [KA14]: We need to be clear amongst ourselves up front what values are tied to each potential system.

In fact, we should do this for every question in the survey so there is no ambiguity about how we analyze the responses after the fact. We should also share this "key" with the academics to ensure they agree.

Comment [KA15]: These statements read more clearly if prefaced with: "I value..."

Comment [KA16]: Needs to be more plain language

Comment [NSR17]: In fact, I don't understand what this statement means. Is it "strong link between voter and individual/local MLA"? Or is it getting reducing "wasted votes"?

Comment [NSR18]: Not sure how this one relates to voting systems. Suggest cutting it.

Comment [NSR19]: Suggest removing "unpopular". Does it add anything?

Comment [NSR20]: Suggest adding "as a whole" at the end to make it clearer.

Comment [NSR21]: Wording change

Increasing the presence of smaller parties in the Legislature		Increasing the presence of smaller parties in the Legislature
	The system produces stable and strong governments	Single party, majority governments
	The system makes it easier to elect more women and people from diverse backgrounds to the legislature	
	The system ensures that the number of seats held by a party in legislature closely matches their actual level of support throughout the province.	A legislature where the number of seats each party wins closely matches their support across the province
	The system ensures seats in the legislature reflect the proportion of the vote a party receives provincially	
	The system prevents a party that did not receive a majority of the voted from passing laws without the support of other parties	
	The system ensures that more of the voters' first preferences are reflected in the legislature	
	The system produces majority governments — that is one party has a majority (More than 50% of the seats in the legislature)	
	The system ensures that a majority of voters in an electoral district (more than 50%) support the MP that is elected (meaning he or she could be their first, second or third choice)	
	The system encourages political parties to reach beyond their most loyal supporters appeal to other party's voters.	A voting system than encourages political parties to reach beyond their most loyal supporters and appeal to other parties' voters.
	The system provides opportunities for independent candidates (not running for a political party) to be elected.	A voting system that provides opportunities for independent candidates (not running for a political party) to be elected.
	The system produces minority or coalition governments.	An electoral system that produces minority or coalition governments.
		MLAs that continue to represent the same number of citizens as

Comment [KA22]: How does this differ from "Single party, majority governments where it is clear who is accountable for unpopular decisions"

Comment [NSR23]: Changed to "voting system"

Comment [NSR24]: Changed to voting system

Comment [NSR25]: Removed "mo

		they do now
		[something about open vs closed lists] A voting system that focuses on candidates, not political parties.

Comment [KA26]: Or should this be in a question below?

Comment [NSR27]: Something like that?

Preferences _Q2 Which would you prefer?

Having many small parties in the Legislature representing many different views or having a few big parties that try to appeal to a broad range of people?

- Many small parties (1)
- A few big parties (2)

Preferences _Q3 Which would you prefer?

Members of the Legislative Assembly that do what their party promised, even if it means going against what their constituents want, or members of the Legislative Assembly that do what their constituents want, even if it means going against what their party promised?

- MLAs that do what their party promised (1)
- MLAs that do what their constituents want (2)

Preferences _Q4 Which best describes your views?

Ballots should be as simple as possible so that everybody understands how to vote, or ballots should allow everybody to express multiple preferences?

- As simple as possible (1)
- Allow everybody to express multiple preferences (2)

Preferences _Q5 Which would you prefer?

A legislature where one party governs and can make decisions on its own, or a legislature where several parties have to collectively agree before a decision is made?

- One party makes decisions on its own (1)
- Several parties have to collectively agree (2)

Preferences _Q6 Which would you prefer?

- A system where all MLAs represent an electoral district and are directly elected by local voters, or a system where some MLAs are also elected by a larger region or the province as a whole? (1)
- A system where all MLAs represent an electoral district and are directly elected by local voters (2)
- A system where some MLAs are also elected by a larger region or the province as a whole (3)

Preferences _Q7 Which would you prefer?

- The legislature should remain the same size, or there should be more MLAs to better reflect voters preferences
- The legislature should remain the same size (1)
- There should be more MLAs to better reflect voters preferences (2)

Comment [NSR28]: Electoral district is preferable to constituency; the latter can be interpreted to mean a group of individuals with common interests not related to geography.

Comment [NSR29]: Added larger region

Comment [KA30]: This suggests MMP. What about strictly List PR?

Alternate question to get at all options

A system where all MLAs represent an electoral district and are directly elected by local voters, or a system where some or all MLAs are elected by a larger region or the province as a whole?

- A system where all MLAs represent an electoral district and are directly elected by local voters (1)
- A system where some MLAs are also elected by a larger region or the province as a whole (2)
- A system where all MLAs are elected by a larger region or the province as a whole (3)

Comment [KA31]: To be clear, this does not tie to one particular system but does provide advice to governments about specific implementation of any PR system.

Preferences_Q8 There should be parties in the provincial legislature that represent the views of all British Columbians, even if some are radical or extreme.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q9 There should be greater diversity of views in the provincial legislature.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q10 Members of the provincial legislature should always support the position of their party, even if it means going against the wishes of their constituents.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q11 Voters should be able to express multiple preferences on the ballot, even if this means that it takes longer to count the ballots and announce the election result

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Comment [NSR32]: Do we need to explicitly refer to election ballots so people aren't confused that we're asking about the referendum ballot?

Preferences_Q12 A ballot should be easy to understand, even if it means voters have fewer options to express their preferences.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q13 It is better for several parties to have to govern together than for one party to make all the decisions in government, even if it takes longer for government to get things done.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)

- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q14 A party that wins the most seats in an election should still have to compromise with other parties, even if it means changing some of its policies.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q15 Governments should have to negotiate their decisions with other parties in the Legislature, even if it is less clear who is accountable for the resulting law or policy.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Comment [NSR33]: Wording changed to insert "law" and remove "policy" from decisions above. I think policy is a difficult term for a lot of people to grasp outside of context.

Preferences_Q16 It should always be clear which party is accountable for decisions made by government, even if this means that decisions are only made by one party.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q17 - Please indicate which you prefer:

- Each MLA represents a specific electoral district, or
- Several MLAs, possibly from different parties, represent a specific electoral district, or
- One MLA represents a specific electoral district, and other MLAs, possibly from different parties, represent a larger region or the province as a whole.

Comment [NSR34]: Changed constituency to electoral district

Preferences_Q18 Please indicate which you prefer:

- During an election, the winning candidate receives at least one more vote than ANY of the other candidates; or
- During an election, the winning candidate, receives at least one more vote than ALL of the other candidates (50% +1 vote); or
- During an election, the winning candidates are determined proportionally. Seats are allocated among the candidates in proportion to their party's shares of the vote.

Comment [KA35]: Plurality and Majority systems not an option, so no value in this question?

Preferences_Q19 Please indicate which you prefer:

- Voters can vote once for either a candidate or a party in each race; or
- Voters can rank the candidates or parties in order of preference
- A mix of both options using two ballots

Comment [NSR36]: Changed citizens to voters

Preferences_20 The B.C. government will hold a referendum in 2018 on changing the province's voting system. Based on what you know, which alternate system or systems

Comment [NSR37]: Wording changed to "voting system"

would you like to see appear on the ballot. Please select all that apply. (With mouseover summary text)

- List Proportional Representation
- Mixed Member Proportional
- Single Transferable Vote
- Mixed Member Majoritarian
- Other: Please describe

Comment [NSR38]: After further review/discussion, we are planning to include information about this system even though it is generally regarded semi-proportional. We will flag it for AG and MO staff and get their confirmation whether to include or not. Also will hear from experts. MMM has ways to configure that get it close to proportional.

Section 4: Referendum Ballot Options

In 2018, B.C. citizens will have the opportunity to vote for either retaining the current voting system or adopting a new proportional voting system. Please answer the following questions to help us understand the choices you would like to see on the referendum ballot.

Comment [NSR39]: Changed to "voting system"

Referendum Ballot Options_Q 1 Which do you prefer?

- The referendum ballot should be as simple as possible
- The referendum ballot should give voters as much choice as possible

Ballot Options_Q 2 Which do you prefer?

- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current electoral system and ONE alternate system proposed by the government
- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current electoral system and up to three alternate systems proposed by the government

Comment [NSR40]: Kevin and I both think it's safer to have the more general "more than one" rather than "up to three". Is there a particular logic to including a specific number?

Ballot Options_Q 3 If the government offers a choice of up to three alternate voting systems, which do you prefer?

- The voter should indicate their support for only one system
- The voter should rank order their support for up to three proposed systems

Section 5: Public funding and advertising in the referendum

Comment [NSR41]: Wording added

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your expectations with regards to public funding for advocacy groups and campaign advertising during the referendum.

Comment [NSR42]: Wording added

Public Funding_Q 1 The government should provide public funds to designated groups to campaign for their preferred voting system

Comment [NSR43]: Designated is more precise

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Public Funding_Q 2 There should be spending limits imposed on any group that campaigns for its preferred voting system

Comment [NSR44]: Changed to voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Public Funding_Q 3 The provincial government should ensure that BC voters have access to high-quality and impartial information prior to the referendum.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Public Funding_Q 4 The provincial government should ensure that paid advertisements that appear during the campaign period are produced only by groups that must register, disclose their identity in their advertising and disclose their contributors and expenses after the referendum.

Comment [NSR45]: Wording changed to distinguish from designated pro/opp groups, above.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

=====

Appendix: Additional system-specific preference statements

FPTP

- A first past the post system is better because it creates strong majority governments that can implement their policies. (FPTP1)
- A first past the post system is better because it makes sure that every Member of Provincial Parliament is elected from a constituency. (FPTP2)
- A first past the post system is better because one ballot is less confusing than two. (FPTP3)
- A first past the post system is better because it allows local party members to choose all of a party's candidates. (FPTP4)
- A mixed member proportional system is worse because it will lead to unstable coalition governments. (FPTP5)
- A mixed member proportional system is worse because it puts too much control in the hands of parties and political elites. (FPTP6)

MMP

- A mixed member proportional system is better because it makes sure that parties that have support of some of the population still get some representation. (MMP1)
- A mixed member proportional system is better because it lets voters indicate their preference for both a local representative and a party. (MMP2)
- A mixed member proportional system is better because parties should get the same share of seats as their share of the vote. (MMP3)
- A mixed member proportional system is better because it will lead to more diversity in the legislature. (MMP4)
- A first past the post system is worse because it gives some parties a share of the seats much larger than their share of the vote. (MMP5)
- A first past the post system is worse because it shuts out small parties. (MMP6)

STV

- A single transferable vote system is better because it makes sure that parties that have support of some of the population still get some representation. (STV1)
- A single transferable vote system is better because it lets voters rank their preference among several local representatives. (STV2)
- A single transferable vote system is better because parties should get the same share of seats as their share of the vote. (STV3)
- A single transferable vote system is better because it will lead to more diversity in the legislature. (STV4)

Comment [KA46]: I think we should cut these altogether. The rest of the survey is written as neutrally as possible, but these clearly contain leading/pejorative statements.

If keeping, need to come up with new statements for List PR

British Columbia Voting Systems Questionnaire

B.C. is holding a referendum in the Fall of 2018 to ask voters whether Government should keep the current First Past the Post voting system or change to a proportional representation voting system. This questionnaire will help B.C.'s Attorney General understand the preferences and expectations of B.C. voters regarding the referendum and campaign leading up to it.

We appreciate you taking the time to fill out the survey, which should take about 10 minutes to complete.

The information you provide will help the Attorney General to:

- Understand what voters value about different voting systems;
- Determine whether the referendum ballot should offer the choice between two voting systems, or more than two voting systems;
- Determine whether government should provide public funds to registered advocacy campaigns, both for and against voting system reform; and
- Determine if and how to regulate advertising activities during the referendum period.

Comment [Cameron1]: I'm not sure voters have "values about voting systems" so much as values that could inform their views on what would be the best system. Alternative wording: "Values as they relate to the choice of voting systems".

Comment [Cameron2]: good

Comment [Cameron3]: as well as non-partisan civic education activities

Comment [Cameron4]: good

Privacy information / How do we prevent people from filling out the survey multiple times?

Sections:

1. Profile
2. General outlook
3. Voting system preferences
4. Ballot options
5. Public funding and advertising

Section 1: Your profile

Please provide your basic demographic information to help us better understand the preferences of British Columbians throughout the province. Your identity cannot be determined by answering these questions.

Profile_Q1 - What is your gender?

- Male (1)
- Female (2)
- Other (3)

Profile_Q2 – What are the first three characters in your postal code?

- [3 character field]

Profile_Q3 - How old are you?

- [insert standard age ranges used by BC]

Profile_Q4 - What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

- Some high school, elementary school or home schooling (2)
- High school (3)
- Apprenticeship or trades certificate (4)
- College diploma or degree(5)
- Bachelor's degree (6)
- Master's degree (7)
- Professional degree (8)
- Doctorate (9)

Profile_Q5 - Do you identify with any of the following groups?

- Visible minority (1)
- First Nations (2)
- Inuit (3)
- Métis (4)
- Persons with disabilities (5)
- LGBTQ2 (6)
- None of the above

Section 2: General outlook

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your interest in, and familiarity with, voting systems.

Outlook_Q1 - Generally speaking, how interested are you in politics?

- Not interested at all (1)
- Not very interested (2)
- Somewhat interested (3)
- Very interested (4)

Outlook_Q2 - How frequently do you follow news and current affairs?

- Never (1)
- Rarely (2)
- Several times each month (3)
- Once a week
- Several times each week (4)
- Daily (5)

Outlook_Q3 - How closely have you followed the public debate on electoral reform in B.C.?

- Not closely at all (1)
- Somewhat closely (2)
- Very closely (3)

Outlook_Q4 - Did you vote in either the 2005 or 2009 provincial referendum on electoral reform?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Not sure (3)
- Not eligible (4)

Outlook_Q5 - How often have you discussed provincial electoral reform with others?

- Not at all (1)
- Occasionally
- Somewhat often (2)
- Very often (3)

Comment [Cameron5]: Maybe say "Have you discussed electoral reform with others during or since the BC election?"

Outlook_Q6 - How often do you vote in provincial elections?

- I am not eligible to vote (1)
- Never (2)
- Rarely (3)
- Sometimes (4)
- Most of the time (5)
- All of the time (6)

Outlook_Q6b [only appears if “Never (2)” or “Rarely (3) or Sometimes (4)” are selected in Intro_Q4] - What are the biggest barriers preventing you from voting? (Please select all that apply.)

- Lack of time (1)
- Lack of information (2)
- Disability or mobility issues (3)
- Voting location isn't convenient (4)
- Do not feel included (5)
- Frustration with politics (6)
- Don't like the voting system (7)
- I was not eligible to vote (8)
- Lack of interest
- Other (9) [Open text]

Outlook_Q7 – Have you read the background information on this website regarding the various voting systems?

- Yes
- No
- Somewhat

Comment [Cameron6]: What kind of background information will be provided?

Outlook_Q8 - In general, how satisfied are you with how the current First Past the Post voting system works in British Columbia?

- Not at all satisfied (1)
- Not very satisfied (2)
- Somewhat satisfied (3)
- Very satisfied (4)
- Don't know (5)

Do you think the current First Past the Post System should be changed?

(If yes above) Do you prefer a some form of proportional representation?

(If yes) Which of the following systems do you prefer?

- List Proportional Representation
- Mixed Member Proportional
- Single Transferable Vote
- Mixed Member Majoritarian
- Other: *Please describe*

Comment [Cameron7]: Why these systems? See note below.

Outlook_Q9 - How knowledgeable do you feel about the differences between voting systems?

- Not at all knowledgeable (1)
- Not very knowledgeable (2)
- Somewhat knowledgeable (3)
- Very knowledgeable (4)
- Don't know (5)

Outlook_Q10 – If you were to vote in the referendum today, how confident would you feel about selecting a voting system and making an informed choice?

- Not at all confident (1)
- Not very confident (2)
- Somewhat confident (3)
- Very confident (4)
- Don't know (5)

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Section 3: Voting system preferences

Voting systems influence Please answer the following questions to help us understand your values and preferences regarding how MLAs are elected, how governments are formed, and how the legislative assembly operates. Please answer the following questions to help us understand your values and preferences on these issues.

Preferences_Q1 Please select up to five values from the list below that are most important to you.

I value most:

What is the rationale for having 5 values rather than ranking the importance of each?

Governments that cooperate/collaborate with other parties in the Legislature
A voting system that allows you to select your preferred candidate or party, without having to consider strategically who is most likely to win
Single-party majority governments where it is clear who is accountable for decisions
MLAs who focus on what is best for the province as a whole
A ballot/voting process that is easy to understand
Governments with MLAs representing every region in the province
Allowing voters to express several preferences for candidates or political parties when voting
Governments that make decisions quickly
Better representation of groups currently underrepresented in the Legislative Assembly
MLAs who focus primarily on the interests of their local community
Increasing the presence of smaller parties in the Legislature

Comment [Cameron8]: Collabora has a slightly negative connotation s.22

Comment [Cameron9]: strategic voting

Comment [Cameron10]: majority double barreled.

Comment [Cameron11]: ?

Comment [Cameron12]: Yes – where choices are easy to make

Comment [Cameron13]: This see to obliquely raise the issue of malapportionment. I think the issue needs to be addressed more directly

Comment [Cameron14]: double barrelled

Comment [Cameron15]: good

Comment [Cameron16]: good

Comment [Cameron17]: Or "MLAs who focus on what is best for their constituents"

Comment [Cameron18]: good

A legislature where the number of seats each party holds closely matches their support across the province

A voting system that encourages political parties to reach beyond their supporters and appeal to other parties' voters

A voting system that provides opportunities for Independent candidates (not running for a political party) to be elected

A voting system that produces minority or coalition governments

MLAs who continue to represent the same number of citizens as they do now

A voting system that allows a voter to rank a political party's candidates

A voting system that allows a voter to vote for a political party

Nothing about rural ridings.

Preferences _Q2 Which would you prefer?

Having several small parties in the Legislature representing a diversity of views or fewer big parties that try to appeal to a broad range of people?

- Several small parties (1)
- A few big parties (2)

good

Preferences _Q3 Which would you prefer?

- Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who do what their party promised, even if it means going against what their constituents want.
- MLAs who do what their constituents want, even if it means going against what their party promised.

good

Preferences _Q4 Which best describes your views?

- Ballots should allow voters to select one candidate or political party.
- Ballots should allow votes to select or rank more than one candidate or political party.

good

Preferences _Q5 Which would you prefer?

- A Legislative Assembly where one party governs, without requiring the support of another party to make decisions.

Comment [Cameron19]: good

Comment [Cameron20]: This is double-barreled. I would just say "beyond their supporters." They may for example, appeal to new or undecided voters too.

Comment [Cameron21]: good

Comment [Cameron22]: Same point here as regards majority government. In addition to this question, mirror the questions suggested regarding major governments. A voting system that encourages cooperation (we already have that). A voting system that creates a less adversarial politics. A voting system that encourages longer-term coalitions.

Comment [Cameron23]: good

Comment [Cameron24]: yes

Comment [Cameron25]: good

Comment [Cameron26]: Seems odd. I don't think we're contemplating an alternative to choosing parties.

- A Legislative Assembly where two or more parties must ~~cooperate~~collaborate to make decisions.

Preferences_Q6 Which would you prefer?

- The number of MLAs should remain the same (currently 87) (1)
- There should be more MLAs ~~if necessary to ensure more proportional representation~~better reflect voters' preferences (2)

Preferences_Q7 There should be greater diversity of views in the provincial legislature.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q8 All views of British Columbians, no matter how marginal, should be represented in the Legislative Assembly.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Comment [Cameron27]: I don't like this question. What is a marginal view? How could all views be represented anyway. I think the last question gets at this anyway.

Preferences_Q9 Voters should be able to express multiple preferences on the election ballot, even if this means that it takes longer to count the ballots and announce the election result.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q10 A ballot should be easy to understand, even if it means voters have fewer options to express their preferences.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q11 It is better for several parties to have to govern together than for one party to make all the decisions in government, even if it takes longer.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)

- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q12 A party that wins the most seats in an election should have to compromise with other parties, even if it means changing some of its policies.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Comment [Cameron28]: good

Preferences_Q13 It should always be clear which party is accountable for decisions made by government, even if this means that decisions are only made by one party.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Comment [Cameron29]: good

Preferences_Q14 - Please indicate which you prefer:

- Each electoral district is represented by one MLA
- Each electoral district is represented by several MLAs, possibly from different parties
- One MLA represents a specific electoral district, and other MLAs, possibly from different parties, represent a larger region or the province as a whole.

~~Will people understand this? What about asking whether people prefer to have one representative in a smaller riding or a few representatives in a larger riding?~~

Preferences_Q15 Please indicate which you prefer:

- Voters vote with a single 'X' for the candidate or political party of their choice
- Voters can rank the candidates or parties in order of preference

Section 4: Referendum Ballot Options

In Fall 2018, B.C. voters will have the opportunity to vote for either retaining the current First Past the Post voting system or adopting a proportional voting system. Please answer the following questions to help us understand the choices you would like to see on the referendum ballot.

Ballot Options_Q 1 Which do you prefer?

- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current First Past the Post voting system and ONE proportional representation voting system.
- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current First Past the Post voting system and MORE THAN ONE proportional representation voting system

Comment [Cameron30]: good

Ballot Options_Q 2 If the government offers a choice of more than one proportional representation voting system, which do you prefer?

- Voters should indicate their support for only one system
- Voter should rank order their support for all the proposed systems

Comment [Cameron31]: good

Ballot Options_Q 3 Should the ballot have two questions?

- ~~Voters should indicate whether they wish to keep the current First Past the Post system or change it in favor of a more proportional system. Voters who indicate they prefer a more proportional system would then indicate or rank which of the different proportional representation systems they prefer.~~

Ballot Options_Q 4: Alongside the option of keeping the First Past the Post voting system, which system or systems of proportional representation would you like to see on the ballot? Please select all that apply. (With mouse-over summary text from web 101 pages)

- List Proportional Representation
- Mixed Member Proportional
- Single Transferable Vote
- Mixed Member Majoritarian
- Other: *Please describe*

I would propose:

A ballot with a closed list of candidates chosen by the parties

A ballot with an open lists of candidates that voters can choose from

A single transferable vote

A mixed member proportional

A combination of different systems

Other: please describe

Comment [Cameron32]: Why the systems? STV and MMP have to be there. STV because it was the recommendation of the Citizens' Assembly, MMP because it is, s.2 e s.22 Beyond that, it is not clear which systems would have to be included. Maybe "Other" or some "Made in BC" compromise solution. Or leave open and see if people can generate their own preferences.

Section 5: Public funding and advertising in the referendum

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your expectations with regards to public funding for advocacy groups and campaign advertising during the referendum.

Public Funding_Q 1 The government should provide public funds to designated groups to campaign for their preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Public Funding_Q 2 There should be spending limits imposed on any group that campaigns for its preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Public Funding_Q 3 The provincial government should provide voters with high-quality and impartial information prior to the referendum.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Government should involve voters in public consultations such as:

- town halls (meetings convened by MLAs in their ridings)
- deliberative polls (randomly selected representative cross-section of voters participate in a deliberation after which they present their recommendation)
- citizens' juries (small groups of citizens debate the pros and cons of the ballot question and make a recommendation)
- other (please describe)

Perhaps these options could be described in the accompanying website?

Public Funding_Q 4 The provincial government should ensure that paid advertisements that appear during the campaign period are produced only by groups that must register, disclose their identity in their advertising and disclose their contributors and expenses after the referendum.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)

- Strongly agree (5)

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British Columbia Voting Systems Questionnaire

B.C. is holding a referendum in the Fall of 2018 to ask voters whether Government should keep the current First Past the Post voting system or change to a proportional representation voting system. This questionnaire will help B.C.'s Attorney General understand the preferences and expectations of B.C. voters regarding the referendum and campaign leading up to it.

We appreciate you taking the time to fill out the survey, which should take about 10 minutes to complete.

The information you provide will help the Attorney General to:

- Understand what voters value about different voting systems;
- Determine whether the referendum ballot should offer the choice between two voting systems, or more than two voting systems;
- Determine whether government should provide public funds to registered advocacy campaigns, both for and against voting system reform; and
- Determine if and how to regulate advertising activities during the referendum period.

Privacy information / How do we prevent people from filling out the survey multiple times?

Sections:

1. Profile
2. General outlook
3. Voting system preferences
4. Ballot options
5. Public funding and advertising

Section 1: Your profile

Please provide your basic demographic information to help us better understand the preferences of British Columbians throughout the province. Your identity cannot be determined by answering these questions.

Profile_Q1 - What is your gender?

- Male (1)
- Female (2)
- Other (3)

Profile_Q2 – What are the first three characters in your postal code?

- [3 character field]

Profile_Q3 - How old are you?

- [insert standard age ranges used by BC]

Profile_Q4 - What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

- Some high school, elementary school or home schooling (2)
- High school (3)
- Apprenticeship or trades certificate (4)
- College diploma or degree(5)
- Bachelor's degree (6)
- Master's degree (7)
- Professional degree Doctorate (9)

Profile_Q5 - Do you identify with any of the following groups?

- Visible minority (1)
- First Nations (2)
- Inuit (3)
- Métis (4)
- Persons with disabilities (5)
- LGBTQ2 (6)
- None of the above

Section 2: General outlook

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your interest in, and familiarity with, voting systems.

Outlook_Q1 - Generally speaking, how interested are you in politics?

- Not interested at all (1)
- Not very interested (2)
- Somewhat interested (3)
- Very interested (4)

Outlook_Q2 - How frequently do you follow news and current affairs?

- Never (1)
- Rarely (2)
- Several times each month (3)
- Once a week
- Several times each week (4)
- Daily (5)

Outlook_Q3 - How closely have you followed the public debate on electoral reform in B.C.?

- Not closely at all (1)
- Somewhat closely (2)
- Very closely (3)

Outlook_Q4 - Did you vote in either the 2005 or 2009 provincial referendum on electoral reform?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Not sure (3)
- Not eligible (4)

Outlook_Q5 - How often have you discussed provincial electoral reform with others?

- Not at all (1)
- Occasionally
- Somewhat often (2)
- Very often (3)

Outlook_Q6 - How often do you vote in provincial elections?

- I am not eligible to vote (1)
- Never (2)
- Rarely (3)
- Sometimes (4)
- Most of the time (5)
- All of the time (6)

Outlook_Q6b [only appears if “Never (2)” or “Rarely (3) or Sometimes (4)” are selected in

Intro_Q4] - What are the biggest barriers preventing you from voting? (Please select all that apply.)

- Lack of time (1)
- Lack of information (2)
- Disability or mobility issues (3)
- Voting location isn't convenient (4)
- Do not feel included (5)
- Frustration with politics (6)
- Don't like the voting system (7)
- I was not eligible to vote (8)
- Lack of interest
- Other (9) [Open text]

Outlook_Q7 – Have you read the background information on this website regarding the various voting systems?

- Yes
- No
- Somewhat

Outlook_Q8 - In general, how satisfied are you with how the current First Past the Post voting system works in British Columbia?

- Not at all satisfied (1)
- Not very satisfied (2)
- Somewhat satisfied (3)
- Very satisfied (4)
- Don't know (5)

Outlook_Q9 - How knowledgeable do you feel about the differences between voting systems?

- Not at all knowledgeable (1)
- Not very knowledgeable (2)
- Somewhat knowledgeable (3)
- Very knowledgeable (4)
- Don't know (5)

Outlook_Q10 – If you were to vote in the referendum today, how confident would you feel about selecting a voting system and making an informed choice?

- Not at all confident (1)
- Not very confident (2)
- Somewhat confident (3)
- Very confident (4)
- Don't know (5)

Section 3: Voting system preferences

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your values and preferences regarding how MLAs are elected, how governments are formed and how the legislative assembly operates.

Preferences_Q1 Please select up to five values from the list below that are most important to you.
I value most:

Governments that collaborate with other parties in the Legislature
A voting system that allows you to select your preferred candidate or party, without having to consider strategically who is most likely to win.
Single-party majority governments where it is clear who is accountable for decisions
MLAs who focus on what is best for the province as a whole
A voting process that is easy to understand
Governments with MLAs representing every region in the province
Allowing voters to express several preferences for candidates or political parties when voting
Governments that make decisions quickly
Better representation of groups currently underrepresented in the Legislative Assembly
MLAs who focus primarily on the interests of their local community
Increasing the presence of smaller parties in the Legislature
A legislature where the number of seats each party holds closely matches their support across the province

A voting system that encourages political parties to reach beyond their supporters and appeal to other parties' voters.
A voting system that provides opportunities for Independent candidates (not running for a political party) to be elected.
A voting system that produces minority or coalition governments.
MLAs who continue to represent the same number of citizens as they do now
A voting system that allows a voter to rank a political party's candidates.
A voting system that allows a voter to select a political party alone.

Preferences _Q2 Which would you prefer?

Having several small parties in the Legislature representing a diversity of views or fewer big parties that try to appeal to a broad range of people?

- Many small parties (1)
- A few big parties (2)

Preferences _Q3 Which would you prefer?

- Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who do what their party promised, even if it means going against what their constituents want.
- MLAs who do what their constituents want, even if it means going against what their party promised.

Preferences _Q4 Which best describes your views?

- Ballots should allow voters to select one candidate or political party.
- Ballots should allow votes to select more than one candidate or political party.

Preferences _Q5 Which would you prefer?

- A Legislative Assembly where one party governs, without requiring the support of another party to make decisions.
- A Legislative Assembly where two or more parties must collaborate to make decisions.

Preferences _Q6 Which would you prefer?

- The number of MLAs should remain the same (currently 87) (1)
- There should be more MLAs to better reflect voters' preferences (2)

Preferences_Q7 There should be greater diversity of views in the provincial legislature.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q8 All views of British Columbians, no matter how marginal, should be represented in the Legislative Assembly.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q9 Voters should be able to express multiple preferences on the election ballot. even if this means that it takes longer to count the ballots and announce the election result.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q10 A ballot should be easy to understand, even if it means voters have fewer options to express their preferences.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q11 It is better for several parties to have to govern together than for one party to make all the decisions in government, even if it takes longer.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q12 A party that wins the most seats in an election should have to compromise with other parties, even if it means changing some of its policies.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)

- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q13 It should always be clear which party is accountable for decisions made by government, even if this means that decisions are only made by one party.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q14 - Please indicate which you prefer:

- Each electoral district is represented by one MLA
- Each electoral district is represented by several MLAs, possibly from different parties
- One MLA represents a specific electoral district, and other MLAs, possibly from different parties, represent a larger region or the province as a whole.

Preferences_Q15 Please indicate which you prefer:

- Voters can vote once for either a candidate or a party in each race
- Voters can rank the candidates or parties in order of preference
- A mix of both options using two ballots

Section 4: Referendum Ballot Options

In Fall 2018, B.C. voters will have the opportunity to vote for either retaining the current First Past the Post voting system or adopting a proportional voting system. Please answer the following questions to help us understand the choices you would like to see on the referendum ballot.

Ballot Options_Q 1 Which do you prefer?

- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current First Past the Post voting system and ONE proportional representation voting system.
- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current First Past the Post voting system and MORE THAN ONE proportional representation voting system

Ballot Options_Q 2 If the government offers a choice of up to three PR voting systems, which do you prefer?

- The voter should indicate their support for only one system
- The voter should rank order their support for up to three proposed systems

Ballot Options_Q 3: Which system or systems of proportional representation would you like to see appear on the ballot, alongside the option of keeping First Past the Post. Please select all that apply. (With mouse-over summary text)

- List Proportional Representation
- Mixed Member Proportional
- Single Transferable Vote
- Mixed Member Majoritarian
- Other: *Please describe*

Section 5: Public funding and advertising in the referendum

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your expectations with regards to public funding for advocacy groups and campaign advertising during the referendum.

Public Funding_Q 1 The government should provide public funds to designated groups to campaign for their preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Public Funding_Q 2 There should be spending limits imposed on any group that campaigns for its preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Public Funding_Q 3 The provincial government should provide voters with high-quality and impartial information prior to the referendum.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Public Funding_Q 4 The provincial government should ensure that paid advertisements that appear during the campaign period are produced only by groups that must register, disclose their identity in their advertising and disclose their contributors and expenses after the referendum.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

British Columbia Voting Systems Questionnaire

B.C. is holding a referendum in the Fall of 2018 to ask voters whether Government should keep the current First Past the Post voting system or change to a proportional representation voting system. This questionnaire will help B.C.'s Attorney General understand the preferences and expectations of B.C. voters regarding the referendum and campaign leading up to it.

We appreciate you taking the time to fill out the survey, which should take about 10 minutes to complete.

The information you provide will help the Attorney General to:

- Understand what voters value about different voting systems;
- Determine whether the referendum ballot should offer the choice between two voting systems, or more than two voting systems;
- Determine whether government should provide public funds to registered advocacy campaigns, both for and against voting system reform; and
- Determine if and how to regulate advertising activities during the referendum period.

Privacy information / How do we prevent people from filling out the survey multiple times?

Sections:

1. Profile
2. General outlook
3. Voting system preferences
4. Ballot options
5. Public funding and advertising

Comment [Johnson1]: Too many questions. See my comments for which questions can/should be cut.

Please ensure that this survey and the referendum are very well publicized and accompanied by impartial, accurate, and impartial information about electoral systems.

Comment [Johnson2]: Are you sending this out to a representative sample or are you encouraging anyone to respond. In either case, for the highest possible response rate, which is very important, this survey needs to be sent out via Canada post along with a return envelope (postage paid). There should also be an option to fill out the survey on-line. In other words, you need both paper and on-line survey. To reach young voters, there should be a sustained social media campaign to encourage them to participate in the survey. This survey should absolutely not be simply posted on-line, with little advertising of it and information about it.

Comment [Cameron3]: I'm not sure voters have "values about voting systems" so much as values that could inform their views on what would be the best system. Alternative wording: "Values as they relate to the choice of voting systems".

Comment [Cameron4]: good

Comment [Cameron5]: as well as non-partisan civic education activities

Comment [Cameron6]: good

Comment [Rose7]: This is a lot to ask in a ten minute survey!

Comment [Rose8]: This is a large problem. In the federal case, I think they tracked the ip addresses. But if not tracked there could be a large problem with it being co-opted by False Vote or other pro-reform groups.

One method would be to provide a ticket that can only be used once but I'm not sure how to do that. Other solutions like forcing login with a SIN number has obvious privacy issues.

Section 1: Your profile

Please provide your basic demographic information to help us better understand the preferences of British Columbians throughout the province. Your identity cannot be determined by answering these questions.

Profile_Q1 - What is your gender?

- Male (1)
- Female (2)
- Other (3)
- Prefer not to say (4)

Profile_Q2 – What are the first three characters in your postal code?

- [3 character field]

Profile_Q3 - How old are you?

- [insert standard age ranges used by BC]

Profile_Q4 - What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

- Some high school, elementary school, or home schooling (2)
- High school (3)
- Apprenticeship or trades certificate (4)
- College diploma or degree (5)
- Bachelor's degree (6)
- Master's degree (7)
- Professional degree (8)
- Doctorate (9)

Comment [Johnson9]: Missing 1?

Profile_Q5 - Do you identify with any of the following groups?

- Visible minority (1)
- First Nations (2)
- Inuit (3)
- Métis (4)
- Persons with disabilities (5)
- LGBTQ2 (6)
- None of the above

Comment [Johnson10]: A respondent should be able to check that apply.

Section 2: General outlook

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your interest in, and familiarity with, voting systems.

Outlook_Q1 - Generally speaking, how interested are you in politics?

- Not interested at all (1)
- Not very interested (2)
- Somewhat interested (3)
- Very interested (4)

Outlook_Q2 - How frequently do you follow news and current affairs?

- Never (1)
- Rarely (2)
- Several times each month (3)
- Once a week
- Several times each week (4)
- Daily (5)

Outlook_Q3 - How closely have you followed the public debate on electoral reform in B.C.?

- Not closely at all (1)
- Somewhat closely (2)
- Very closely (3)

Outlook_Q4 - Did you vote in either the 2005 or 2009 provincial referendum on electoral reform?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Not sure (3)
- Not eligible (4)

Outlook_Q5 - How often have you discussed provincial electoral reform with others?

- Not at all (1)
- Occasionally
- Somewhat often (2)
- Very often (3)

Outlook_Q6 - How often do you vote in provincial elections?

- I am not eligible to vote (1)
- Never (2)
- Rarely (3)
- Sometimes (4)
- Most of the time (5)
- All of the time (6)

Comment [Johnson11]: I'm not sure how useful data collected re: this question will be. I think it's safe to assume that most voters won't know that much about electoral systems. Getting a sense of how much people know would be important information because it would give you an indication of how widely publicized information about electoral systems will need to be. But, general interest in politics? Not sure how useful.

Comment [Johnson12]: Currently this debate isn't really in the media.

Comment [Loewen13]: Why limit to electoral reform in BC? I understand that you want it to be for this process but I think you are missing an opportunity to hear to gauge general interest as well.

Comment [Johnson14]: In advance of running the survey, there should be a very large media campaign to explain the issues with the current FPP system and to outline possible PR alternatives.

Comment [Loewen15]: Q4 - you have major problems of recall here

Comment [Cameron16]: Maybe s "Have you discussed electoral reform with others during or since the BC election?"

Comment [Loewen17]: Q5 - again missing more general interest here, though I understand why you want it be specific.

Comment [Loewen18]: if you can ask about turnout in electoral reform contests, why not gauge actual turnout in the last election?

Outlook_Q6b [only appears if “Never (2)” or “Rarely (3) or Sometimes (4)” are selected in Intro_Q4] - What are the biggest barriers preventing you from voting? (Please select all that apply.)

- Lack of time (1)
- Lack of information (2)
- Disability or mobility issues (3)
- Voting location isn't convenient (4)
- Do not feel included (5)
- Frustration with politics (6)
- Don't like the voting system (7)
- I was not eligible to vote (8)
- Lack of interest
- Other (9) [Open text]

Outlook_Q7 – Have you read the background information on this website regarding the various voting systems?

- Yes
- No
- Somewhat

Outlook_Q8 - In general, how satisfied are you with how the current First Past the Post voting system works to elect MLAs to the BC legislature in British Columbia?

- Not at all satisfied (1)
- Not very satisfied (2)
- Somewhat satisfied (3)
- Very satisfied (4)
- Don't know (5)

Do you think the current First Past the Post System should be changed?

(If yes above) Do you prefer a some form of proportional representation?

(If yes) Which of the following systems do you prefer?

- ☐ List Proportional Representation
- ☐ Mixed Member Proportional
- ☐ Single Transferable Vote
- ☐ Mixed Member Majoritarian
- ☐ Other: Please describe

Outlook_Q9 - How knowledgeable do you feel about the differences between among between voting systems??

- Not at all knowledgeable (1)
- Not very knowledgeable (2)
- Somewhat knowledgeable (3)
- Very knowledgeable (4)
- Don't know (5)

Comment [Johnson19]: Add something along the lines of “Do not feel like my vote counts” – which is tr especially for young voters who feel who feel disaffected. Not feeling like your vote counts is a fact about the FPP system, and this fact shouldn't b shied away from.

Comment [Johnson20]: Please b sure that there's lots of messaging about the existence of this website! This website needs to be really well designed and accessible.

Comment [Cameron21]: What kin of background information will be provided?

Comment [Rose22]: First-past-the post

Comment [Cameron23]: Why the systems? See note below.

Comment [Johnson24]: Please ensure that the website includes lots accurate information about the differ PR systems.

Comment [Rose25]: Or do you wa to ask about how knowledgeable the are about the different ways politician can be elected? I wonder if voting systems is too jargony?

Outlook_Q10 – If you were to vote in the referendum today, how confident would you feel about selecting a voting system and making an informed choice about the ideal voting system?

- Not at all confident (1)
- Not very confident (2)
- Somewhat confident (3)
- Very confident (4)
- Don't know (5)

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Section 3: Voting system preferences

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your values and preferences regarding how MLAs are elected, how governments are formed, and how the legislative assembly operates. Please answer the following questions to help us understand your values and preferences on these issues.

Preferences_Q1 Please select up to five values from the list below that are most important to you.

I value most:-

What is the rationale for having 5 values rather than ranking the importance of each?

It is important that governments that cooperate with other parties in the legislature.
A voting system should allow that that allows you to select your preferred candidate or party, without having to consider strategically who is most likely to win.
Single-party majority governments ensure greater accountability, where it is clear who is accountable for decisions.
MLAs should focus on the interests of what is best for the province as a whole instead of his or her riding.
It's important that the A voting process that is easy to understand.
Governments with MLAs need to represent every region in the province.
Voters should be allowed to vote for a party and a candidate. Allowing voters to express several preferences for candidates or political parties when voting.
A voting system should ensure governments are able to act decisively. Governments that make decisions quickly.

Comment [Rose26]: These need to be statements they can agree on.

Comment [Cameron27]: Collaboration has a slightly negative connotation. s. 22

Comment [Rose28]: These are really two questions; one about choice and the other about strategic voting. They can't be conflated. Also, strategic voting is a complex idea and every system embodies strategic voting.

Comment [Loewen29]: YOU WILL HAVE STRATEGIC VOTING IN ANY SYSTEM SO, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS GETS YOU

Comment [Cameron30]: strategic voting

Comment [Cameron31]: majority double barreled.

Comment [Cameron32]: ?

Comment [Loewen33]: IS THERE A SYSTEM THAT WOULD DO BETTER ON THIS?

Comment [Rose34]: You're not interested in voting process but system I think.

Comment [Rose35]: You're not interested in voting process but system I think.

Comment [Cameron36]: Yes – where choices are easy to make

Comment [Cameron37]: This seems to obliquely raise the issue of malapportionment. I think the issue needs to be addressed more directly

Comment [Rose38]: This is a bit of a meaningless question. Unless there was list PR where candidates were from all regions, (ie, the Israeli and Dutch models) every electoral system ensures regional representation. I'd delete this.

Comment [Rose39]: This is also another question that won't yield much as mixed systems, STV and open list PR all allow this. I'm not sure what a

Comment [Rose40]: This is also another question that won't yield much

Comment [Loewen41]: WHY NOT JUST SAY RANK?

Comment [Cameron42]: double barreled

Comment [Rose43]: I think speed (quickly) is the wrong thing. You are

Comment [Rose44]: I think speed (quickly) is the wrong thing. You are

Comment [Johnson45]: No one wants a government that is too hasty

Comment [Cameron46]: good

Comment [Johnson47]: No one wants a government that is too hasty

~~The legislature should help ensure better representation of groups currently underrepresented groups in the Legislative Assembly, such as women, visible minorities, Aboriginals, and people with disabilities.~~

~~It is important for MLAs who focus primarily on the interests of their local community.~~

~~A voting system should encourage increasing the presence of smaller parties in the Legislature.~~

~~A voting system should ensure that a party's vote share matches its seat share in the Legislature. A legislature where the number share of seats each party holds closely matches their support across the province the share of votes they receive~~

~~A voting system that encourages political parties to reach beyond their supporters and appeal to other parties' voters~~

~~A voting system should provide that provides opportunities for Independent candidates. (not running for a political party) to be elected~~

~~A minority A voting system that produces minority or coalition governments are desirable.~~

~~MLAs who continue to represent the same number of citizens as they do now~~

~~AA It is important A voting system that allows a voter to rank a political party's candidates.~~

~~A voting system that allows a voter should be allowed to vote for a political party.~~

~~Nothing about rural ridings.~~

Preferences _Q2 Which would you prefer?

Comment [Loewen48]: DO YOU WANT TO BE EXPLICIT HERE ABOUT DESCRIPTIVE REPRESENTATION? PROBABLY NOT, BUT THIS QUESTION HAS A FEW ANGLES.

Comment [Cameron50]: good

Comment [Johnson49]: These are the four official groups recognized in human rights law. Why not spell it out in PR systems can be more effective in addressing gender gaps (and other demographic gaps). So, when this value is checked or not, it will give you a sense of preferences.

Comment [Cameron51]: Or "MLAs who focus on what is best for their constituents"

Comment [Loewen52]: WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? GIVING THEM MORE SAY OR GIVING THEM MORE SEATS?

Comment [Cameron53]: good

Comment [Cameron54]: good

Comment [Cameron55]: This is double-barreled. I would just say "beyond their supporters." They may, for example, appeal to new or undecided voters too.

Comment [Loewen56]: WHAT SYSTEM DOES THIS BETTER? STV, I SUPPOSE?

Comment [Rose57]: This is called bridging vs. bonding parties and is a consequence of an electoral system. It's an esoteric question to ask.

Comment [Johnson58]: Here again I'm not sure how useful data on this value will be. Independents can run in both FPP and PR systems.

Comment [Cameron59]: good

Comment [Cameron60]: Same point here as regards majority government. In addition to this question, mirror the questions suggested regarding majority governments. A voting system that encourages cooperation (we already have that). A voting system that creates a less adversarial politics. A voting

Comment [Cameron61]: good

Comment [Cameron62]: yes

Comment [Rose63]: Bad question. Not ranking it could be because you want more politicians or fewer

Comment [Cameron64]: good

Comment [Johnson65]: Useful? Voters vote for parties in both FPP and PR systems. In FPP, voters may have

Comment [Cameron66]: Seems odd. I don't think we're contemplating an alternative to choosing parties.

Comment [Loewen67]: Pref Q2 - don't think this is a very well framed tradeoff. I think you should just ask

Having several small parties in the Legislature representing a diversity of views or fewer big parties that try to appeal to a broad range of people?

- Several small parties (1)
- A few big parties (2)

good

Preferences_Q3 Which would you prefer?

- Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who do what their party promised, even if it means going against what their constituents want.
- MLAs who do what their constituents want, even if it means going against what their party promised.

good-

Preferences_Q4 Which best describes your views?

- Ballots should allow voters to select one candidate or political party.
- Ballots should allow voters to select or rank more than one candidate or political party.

good

Preferences_Q5 Which would you prefer?

- A Legislative Assembly where one party governs, without requiring the support of another party to make decisions.
- A Legislative Assembly where two or more parties must collaborate to make decisions.

Preferences_Q6 Which would you prefer?

- The number of MLAs should remain the same (currently 87) (1)
- There should be more MLAs to if necessary to ensure more proportional representation better reflect voters' preferences (2)
- There should be fewer MLAs.

Preferences_Q7 There should be greater diversity of views in the provincial legislature.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q8 All views of British Columbians, no matter how marginal, should be represented in the Legislative Assembly.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Comment [Rose68]: I would change this to:
An MLA should do what the party promised.
An MLA should follow the wishes of their constituents.

Comment [Johnson69]: This question more about party discipline and not electoral systems per se? Useful.

Comment [Loewen70]: Pref Q4 - use of "selects" here is not very helpful because they really aren't selecting individuals. I think it's better to use the language of ranking.

Comment [Loewen71]: Pref q6 - what about more MLAs generally? We assume they will better represent preferences?

Comment [Loewen72]: pref q8 - replace marginal with "rare" or something like that. marginal is only non-pejorative among economists.

Comment [Cameron73]: I don't like this question. What is a marginal view? How could all views be represented anyway. I think the last question gets at this anyway.

Preferences_Q9 Voters should be able to express multiple preferences on the election ballot, even if this means that it takes longer to count the ballots and announce the election result.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Comment [Loewen74]: pref q9 - is this really a trade off? Can't we count them pretty fast now?

Comment [Rose75]: This latter point is a red herring. It's a bit irrelevant.

Preferences_Q10 A ballot should be easy to understand, even if it means voters have fewer options to express their preferences.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Comment [Rose76]: I'd delete this question. I can't imagine a complex ballot that decreases voters' preferences. I don't understand what it's getting at.

Preferences_Q11 It is better for several parties to have to govern together than for one party to make all the decisions in government, even if it sometimes takes longer for government to make decisions.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q12 A party that wins the most seats in an election should have to compromise with other parties, even if it means changing some of its policies.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Comment [Cameron77]: good

Preferences_Q13 It should always be clear which party is accountable for decisions made by government, even if this means that decisions are only made by one party.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Comment [Cameron78]: good

Preferences_Q14 - Please indicate which you prefer:

- Each electoral district is represented by one MLA
- Each electoral district is represented by several MLAs, possibly from different parties

Comment [Rose79]: The important tradeoff of the size of districts is not communicated in this. So I might want several MLAs but wouldn't choose that if the districts were much larger.

- One MLA represents a specific electoral district, and other MLAs, possibly from different parties, represent a larger region or the province as a whole.

~~Will people understand this? What about asking whether people prefer to have one representative in a smaller riding or a few representatives in a larger riding?~~

Preferences_Q15 Please indicate which you prefer:

- Voters vote with a single 'X' for the candidate or political party of their choice
- Voters can rank the candidates or parties in order of preference

Comment [Rose80]: This last one I think a description of a mixed system but does not get at it adequately. Maybe: One MLA represents a specific district and the other MLAs represent the region or the province as a whole.

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Section 4: Referendum Ballot Options

In Fall 2018, B.C. voters will have the opportunity to vote for either keeping retaining the current First- Past- the- Post voting system or adopting a proportional voting system. Please answer the following questions to help us understand the choices you would like to see on the referendum ballot.

Comment [Rose81]: This is usually hyphenated.

Ballot Options_Q 1 Which do you prefer?

Comment [Cameron82]: good

- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current ~~first-past-First~~ Past the-~~post~~ Post voting system and ONE proportional representation voting system.
- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current First Past the Post voting system and MORE THAN ONE proportional representation voting system.

Ballot Options_Q 2 If the government offers a choice of more than one proportional representation voting system, which do you prefer?

Comment [Cameron83]: good

- Voters should indicate their support for only one system
- Voter should rank order their support for all the proposed systems

Comment [Rose84]: This is far too early to ask these sorts of questions when voters haven't given much thought to 'other systems' let alone whether they'd like to rank them or chose one.

Ballot Options_Q 3_Q 3 Should the ballot have two questions?

- ~~Voters should indicate whether they wish to keep the current First Past the Post system or change it in favor of a more proportional system. Voters who indicate they prefer a more proportional system would then indicate or rank which of the different proportional representation systems they prefer.~~

Ballot Options_Q 4: Alongside the option of keeping the First Past the Post voting system, which system or systems of proportional representation would you like to see on the ballot? Please select all that apply. (With mouse-over summary text from web 101 pages)

- List Proportional Representation
- Mixed Member Proportional
- Single Transferable Vote
- Mixed Member Majoritarian
- Other: Please describe

Comment [Johnson85]: It's absolutely critical that the public has accurate information concerning the different types of PR system in advance of this survey. Most voters simply won't know the details re: each of these.

Comment [Rose86]: The summary text will be key here but I suspect that you will capture those who understand the system (ie reform advocates) and those who may not fully. Why ask this before a public education campaign? Shouldn't this be asked later?

I would propose:

A ballot with a closed list of candidates chosen by the parties

A ballot with an open lists of candidates that voters can choose from

A single transferable vote

A mixed member proportional

A combination of different systems

Other: please describe

Comment [Cameron87]: Why the systems? STV and MMP have to be there. STV because it was the recommendation of the Citizens' Assembly, MMP because it is, & ?

& ?? Beyond that, it is not clear which systems would have to be included. Maybe "Other" or some "Made in BC" compromise solution. Or leave open and see if people can generate their own preferences.

- ~~List Proportional Representation~~
- ~~Mixed Member Proportional~~
- ~~Single Transferable Vote~~
- ~~Mixed Member Majoritarian~~
- ~~Other: Please describe~~

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Section 5: Public funding and advertising in the referendum

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your expectations with regards to public funding for advocacy groups and campaign advertising during the referendum.

Public Funding_Q 1 The government should provide public funds to designated groups to campaign for their preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Public Funding_Q 2 There should be spending limits imposed on any group that campaigns for its preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Public Funding_Q 3 The provincial government should provide voters with high-quality and impartial information prior to the referendum.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Government should involve voters in public consultations such as:

- town halls (meetings convened by MLAs in their ridings)
- deliberative polls (randomly selected representative cross-section of voters participate in a deliberation after which they present their recommendation)
- citizens' juries (small groups of citizens debate the pros and cons of the ballot question and make a recommendation)

other (please describe)

Perhaps these options could be described in the accompanying website?

Public Funding_Q 4 The provincial government should ensure that paid advertisements that appear during the campaign period are produced only by groups that must register, disclose their identity in their advertising, and disclose their contributors and expenses after the referendum.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)

Comment [Johnson88]: This is an inappropriate question. There is no question that the government should do this. The very success of the referendum -- in terms of soliciting informed preferences re: electoral referendum -- is contingent on "high-quality and impartial information" about electoral systems. Please do not have referendum without lots of high-quality, accurate, comprehensive, and impartial information. Please. Don't.

In addition, consider conducting a well-publicized Citizen's Initiative Review panel that produces a Citizen's Statement including pro-, con-, and a consensus claims. This Statement could then be distributed to all voters. The CIR has been very effective in Oregon, Arizona, Massachusetts, and elsewhere. I'm very happy to advise further on this.

Comment [Johnson89]: Again, this is an inappropriate question. There is no question that this should happen.

- Strongly agree (5)

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British Columbia Voting Systems Questionnaire

B.C. is holding a referendum in the Fall of 2018 to ask voters whether Government should keep the current First Past the Post voting system or change to a proportional representation voting system. This questionnaire will help B.C.'s Attorney General understand the preferences and expectations of B.C. voters regarding the referendum and campaign leading up to it.

We appreciate you taking the time to fill out the survey, which should take about 10 minutes to complete.

The information you provide will help the Attorney General to:

- Understand what voters value about different voting systems;
- Determine whether the referendum ballot should offer the choice between two voting systems, or more than two voting systems;
- Determine whether government should provide public funds to registered advocacy campaigns, both for and against voting system reform; and
- Determine if and how to regulate advertising activities during the referendum period.

Privacy information / How do we prevent people from filling out the survey multiple times?

Sections:

1. Profile
2. General outlook
3. Voting system preferences
4. Ballot options
5. Public funding and advertising

Comment [Johnson1]: Too many questions. See my comments for which questions can/should be cut.

Please ensure that this survey and the referendum are very well publicized and accompanied by impartial, accurate, and impartial information about electoral systems.

Comment [Johnson2]: Are you sending this out to a representative sample or are you encouraging anyone to respond. In either case, for the highest possible response rate, which is very important, this survey needs to be sent out via Canada post along with a return envelope (postage paid). There should also be an option to fill out the survey on-line. In other words, you need both paper and on-line survey. To reach young voters, there should be a sustained social media campaign to encourage them to participate in the survey. This survey should absolutely not be simply posted on-line, with little advertising of it and information about it.

Section 1: Your profile

Please provide your basic demographic information to help us better understand the preferences of British Columbians throughout the province. Your identity cannot be determined by answering these questions.

Profile_Q1 - What is your gender?

- Male (1)
- Female (2)
- Other (3)

Profile_Q2 – What are the first three characters in your postal code?

- [3 character field]

Profile_Q3 - How old are you?

- [insert standard age ranges used by BC]

Profile_Q4 - What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

- Some high school, elementary school, or home schooling (2)
- High school (3)
- Apprenticeship or trades certificate (4)
- College diploma or degree(5)
- Bachelor's degree (6)
- Master's degree (7)
- Professional degree (8)
- Doctorate (9)

Comment [Johnson3]: Missing 1?

Profile_Q5 - Do you identify with any of the following groups?

- Visible minority (1)
- First Nations (2)
- Inuit (3)
- Métis (4)
- Persons with disabilities (5)
- LGBTQ2 (6)
- None of the above

Comment [Johnson4]: A respondent should be able to check all that apply

Section 2: General outlook

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your interest in, and familiarity with, voting systems.

Outlook_Q1 - Generally speaking, how interested are you in politics?

- Not interested at all (1)
- Not very interested (2)
- Somewhat interested (3)
- Very interested (4)

Outlook_Q2 - How frequently do you follow news and current affairs?

- Never (1)
- Rarely (2)
- Several times each month (3)
- Once a week
- Several times each week (4)
- Daily (5)

Outlook_Q3 - How closely have you followed the public debate on electoral reform in B.C.?

- Not closely at all (1)
- Somewhat closely (2)
- Very closely (3)

Outlook_Q4 - Did you vote in either the 2005 or 2009 provincial referendum on electoral reform?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Not sure (3)
- Not eligible (4)

Outlook_Q5 - How often have you discussed provincial electoral reform with others?

- Not at all (1)
- Occasionally
- Somewhat often (2)
- Very often (3)

Outlook_Q6 - How often do you vote in provincial elections?

- I am not eligible to vote (1)
- Never (2)
- Rarely (3)
- Sometimes (4)
- Most of the time (5)
- All of the time (6)

Comment [Johnson5]: I'm not sure how useful data collected re: this question will be. I think it's safe to assume that most voters won't know that much about electoral systems. Getting a sense of how much people know would be important information because it would give you an indication of how widely publicized information about electoral systems will need to be. But, general interest in politics? Not sure how useful.

Comment [Johnson6]: Currently, debate isn't really in the media.

Comment [Johnson7]: In advance of running the survey, there should be a very large media campaign to explain the issues with the current FPP system and to outline possible PR alternatives.

Outlook_Q6b [only appears if “Never (2)” or “Rarely (3) or Sometimes (4)” are selected in

Intro_Q4] - What are the biggest barriers preventing you from voting? (Please select all that apply.)

- Lack of time (1)
- Lack of information (2)
- Disability or mobility issues (3)
- Voting location isn't convenient (4)
- Do not feel included (5)
- Frustration with politics (6)
- Don't like the voting system (7)
- I was not eligible to vote (8)
- Lack of interest
- Other (9) [Open text]

Outlook_Q7 – Have you read the background information on this website regarding the various voting systems?

- Yes
- No
- Somewhat

Outlook_Q8 - In general, how satisfied are you with how the current First Past the Post voting system works in British Columbia?

- Not at all satisfied (1)
- Not very satisfied (2)
- Somewhat satisfied (3)
- Very satisfied (4)
- Don't know (5)

Outlook_Q9 - How knowledgeable do you feel about the differences between voting systems?

- Not at all knowledgeable (1)
- Not very knowledgeable (2)
- Somewhat knowledgeable (3)
- Very knowledgeable (4)
- Don't know (5)

Outlook_Q10 – If you were to vote in the referendum today, how confident would you feel about selecting a voting system and making an informed choice?

- Not at all confident (1)
- Not very confident (2)
- Somewhat confident (3)
- Very confident (4)
- Don't know (5)

Comment [Johnson8]: Add something along the lines of “Do not feel like my vote counts” – which is tr especially for young voters who feel who feel disaffected. Not feeling like your vote counts is a fact about the FPP system, and this fact shouldn't b shied away from.

Comment [Johnson9]: Please be sure that there's lots of messaging about the existence of this website! This website needs to be really well designed and accessible.

Comment [Johnson10]: Please ensure that the website includes lots accurate information about the differ PR systems.

Section 3: Voting system preferences

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your values and preferences regarding how MLAs are elected, how governments are formed, and how the legislative assembly operates.

Preferences_Q1 Please select up to five values from the list below that are most important to you. I value most:

Governments that collaborate with other parties in the Legislature
A voting system that allows you to select your preferred candidate or party, without having to consider strategically who is most likely to win
Single-party majority governments where it is clear who is accountable for decisions
MLAs who focus on what is best for the province as a whole
A voting process that is easy to understand
Governments with MLAs representing every region in the province
Allowing voters to express several preferences for candidates or political parties when voting
Governments that make decisions quickly
Better representation of groups currently underrepresented in the Legislative Assembly, such as women, visible minorities, Aboriginals, and people with disabilities
MLAs who focus primarily on the interests of their local community
Increasing the presence of smaller parties in the Legislature
A legislature where the number of seats each party holds closely matches their support across the province

Comment [Johnson11]: No one wants a government that is too hasty or one that's too slow. Also, the speed at which any government responds is often issue dependent (as opposed to being dependent on being a maj., min. or coalition government). I'm not sure how useful including this value is.

Comment [Johnson12]: No one wants a government that is too hasty or one that's too slow. Also, the speed at which any government responds is often issue dependent (as opposed to being dependent on being a maj., min. or coalition government). I'm not sure how useful including this value is.

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A voting system that encourages political parties to reach beyond their supporters and appeal to other parties' voters

A voting system that provides opportunities for Independent candidates (not running for a political party) to be elected

A voting system that produces minority or coalition governments

MLAs who continue to represent the same number of citizens as they do now

A voting system that allows a voter to rank a political party's candidates

A voting system that allows a voter to vote for a political party

Comment [Johnson14]: Here again I'm not sure how useful data on this value will be. Independents can run both FPP and PR systems.

Comment [Johnson15]: Useful? Voters vote for parties in both FPP and PR systems. In FPP, voters may have stronger identification to candidates in their ridings, but the party label still matters (and is often the dominant consideration for a voter).

Comment [Johnson16]: This question more about party discipline and not electoral systems per se? Useful.

Preferences_Q2 Which would you prefer?

Having several small parties in the Legislature representing a diversity of views or fewer big parties that try to appeal to a broad range of people?

- Several small parties (1)
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Preferences_Q3 Which would you prefer?

- Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who do what their party promised, even if it means going against what their constituents want.
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- Ballots should allow voters to select more than one candidate or political party.

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- A Legislative Assembly where one party governs, without requiring the support of another party to make decisions.
- A Legislative Assembly where two or more parties may need to collaborate to make decisions.

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- The number of MLAs should remain the same (currently 87) (1)
- There should be more MLAs to better reflect voters' preferences (2)

Preferences_Q7 There should be greater diversity of views in the provincial legislature.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
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Preferences_Q8 All views of British Columbians, no matter how marginal, should be represented in the Legislative Assembly.

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- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q10 A ballot should be easy to understand, even if it means voters have fewer options to express their preferences.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q11 It is better for several parties to have to govern together than for one party to make all the decisions in government, even if it takes longer.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q12 A party that wins the most seats in an election should have to compromise with other parties, even if it means changing some of its policies.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)

- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q13 It should always be clear which party is accountable for decisions made by government, even if this means that decisions are only made by one party.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q14 - Please indicate which you prefer:

- Each electoral district is represented by one MLA
- Each electoral district is represented by several MLAs, possibly from different parties
- One MLA represents a specific electoral district, and other MLAs, possibly from different parties, represent a larger region or the province as a whole.

Preferences_Q15 Please indicate which you prefer:

- Voters vote with a single 'X' for the candidate or political party of their choice
- Voters can rank the candidates or parties in order of preference

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Section 4: Referendum Ballot Options

In Fall 2018, B.C. voters will have the opportunity to vote for either ~~keeping~~retaining the current First Past the Post voting system or adopting a proportional voting system. Please answer the following questions to help us understand the choices you would like to see on the referendum ballot.

Ballot Options_Q 1 Which do you prefer?

- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current First Past the Post voting system and ONE proportional representation voting system.
- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current First Past the Post voting system and MORE THAN ONE proportional representation voting system

Ballot Options_Q 2 If the government offers a choice of more than one proportional representation voting system, which do you prefer?

- Voters should indicate their support for only one system
- Voter should rank order their support for all the proposed systems

Ballot Options_Q 3: Alongside the option of keeping the First Past the Post voting system, which system or systems of proportional representation would you like to see on the ballot? Please select all that apply. (With mouse-over summary text from web 101 pages)

- List Proportional Representation
- Mixed Member Proportional
- Single Transferable Vote
- Mixed Member Majoritarian
- Other: *Please describe*

Comment [Johnson17]: It's absolutely critical that the public has accurate information concerning the different types of PR system in advance of this survey. Most voters simply won't know the details re: each of these.

Section 5: Public funding and advertising in the referendum

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your expectations with regards to public funding for advocacy groups and campaign advertising during the referendum.

Public Funding_Q 1 The government should provide public funds to designated groups to campaign for their preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Public Funding_Q 2 There should be spending limits imposed on any group that campaigns for its preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Public Funding_Q 3 The provincial government should provide voters with high-quality and impartial information prior to the referendum.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Public Funding_Q 4 The provincial government should ensure that paid advertisements that appear during the campaign period are produced only by groups that must register, disclose their identity in their advertising, and disclose their contributors and expenses after the referendum.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Comment [Johnson18]: This is an inappropriate question. There is no question that the government should do this. The very success of the referendum -- in terms of soliciting informed preferences re: electoral referendum -- is contingent on "high-quality and impartial information" about electoral systems. Please do not have referendum without lots of high-quality, accurate, comprehensive, and impartial information. Please. Don't.

In addition, consider conducting a well-publicized Citizen's Initiative Review panel that produces a Citizen's Statement including pro-, con-, and consensus claims. This Statement could then be distributed to all voters. The CIR has been very effective in Oregon, Arizona, Massachusetts, and elsewhere. I'm very happy to advise further on this.

Comment [Johnson19]: Again, this is an inappropriate question. There is no question that this should happen.

British Columbia Voting Systems Questionnaire

B.C. is holding a referendum in the Fall of 2018 to ask voters whether Government should keep the current First Past the Post voting system or change to a proportional representation voting system. This questionnaire will help B.C.'s Attorney General understand the preferences and expectations of B.C. voters regarding the referendum and campaign leading up to it.

We appreciate you taking the time to fill out the survey, which should take about 10 minutes to complete.

The information you provide will help the Attorney General to:

- Understand what voters value about different voting systems;
- Determine whether the referendum ballot should offer the choice between two voting systems, or more than two voting systems;
- Determine whether government should provide public funds to registered advocacy campaigns, both for and against voting system reform; and
- Determine if and how to regulate advertising activities during the referendum period.

Privacy information / How do we prevent people from filling out the survey multiple times?

Sections:

1. Profile
2. General outlook
3. Voting system preferences
4. Ballot options
5. Public funding and advertising

Comment [Johnson1]: Too many questions. See my comments for which questions can/should be cut.

Please ensure that this survey and the referendum are very well publicized and accompanied by impartial, accurate, and impartial information about electoral systems.

Comment [Johnson2]: Are you sending this out to a representative sample or are you encouraging anyone to respond. In either case, for the highest possible response rate, which is very important, this survey needs to be sent out via Canada post along with a return envelope (postage paid). There should also be an option to fill out the survey on-line. In other words, you need both paper and on-line survey. To reach young voters, there should be a sustained social media campaign to encourage them to participate in the survey. This survey should absolutely not be simply posted on-line, with little advertising of it and information about it.

Comment [Cameron3]: I'm not sure voters have "values about voting systems" so much as values that could inform their views on what would be the best system. Alternative wording: "Values as they relate to the choice of voting systems".

Comment [Cameron4]: good

Comment [Cameron5]: as well as non-partisan civic education activities

Comment [Cameron6]: good

Comment [Rose7]: This is a lot to ask in a ten minute survey!

Comment [Rose8]: This is a large problem. In the federal case, I think they tracked the ip addresses. But if not tracked there could be a large problem with it being co-opted by False Vote or other pro-reform groups.

One method would be to provide a ticket that can only be used once but I'm not sure how to do that. Other solutions like forcing login with a SIN number has obvious privacy issues.

Section 1: Your profile

Please provide your basic demographic information to help us better understand the preferences of British Columbians throughout the province. Your identity cannot be determined by answering these questions.

Profile_Q1 - What is your gender?

- Male (1)
- Female (2)
- Other (3)
- Prefer not to say (4)

Profile_Q2 – What are the first three characters in your postal code?

- [3 character field]

Profile_Q3 - How old are you?

- [insert standard age ranges used by BC]

Profile_Q4 - What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

- Some high school, elementary school, or home schooling (2)
- High school (3)
- Apprenticeship or trades certificate (4)
- College diploma or degree (5)
- Bachelor's degree (6)
- Master's degree (7)
- Professional degree (8)
- Doctorate (9)

Comment [Johnson9]: Missing 1?

Profile_Q5 - Do you identify with any of the following groups?

- Visible minority (1)
- First Nations (2)
- Inuit (3)
- Métis (4)
- Persons with disabilities (5)
- LGBTQ2 (6)
- None of the above

Comment [Johnson10]: A respondent should be able to check that apply.

Section 2: General outlook

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your interest in, and familiarity with, voting systems.

Outlook_Q1 - Generally speaking, how interested are you in politics?

- Not interested at all (1)
- Not very interested (2)
- Somewhat interested (3)
- Very interested (4)

Outlook_Q2 - How frequently do you follow news and current affairs?

- Never (1)
- Rarely (2)
- Several times each month (3)
- Once a week
- Several times each week (4)
- Daily (5)

Outlook_Q3 - How closely have you followed the public debate on electoral reform in B.C.?

- Not closely at all (1)
- Somewhat closely (2)
- Very closely (3)

Outlook_Q4 - Did you vote in either the 2005 or 2009 provincial referendum on electoral reform?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Not sure (3)
- Not eligible (4)

Outlook_Q5 - How often have you discussed provincial electoral reform with others?

- Not at all (1)
- Occasionally
- Somewhat often (2)
- Very often (3)

Outlook_Q6 - How often do you vote in provincial elections?

- I am not eligible to vote (1)
- Never (2)
- Rarely (3)
- Sometimes (4)
- Most of the time (5)
- All of the time (6)

Comment [Johnson11]: I'm not sure how useful data collected re: this question will be. I think it's safe to assume that most voters won't know that much about electoral systems. Getting a sense of how much people know would be important information because it would give you an indication of how widely publicized information about electoral systems will need to be. But, general interest in politics? Not sure how useful.

Comment [Johnson12]: Currently, this debate isn't really in the media.

Comment [Loewen13]: Why limit to electoral reform in BC? I understand that you want it to be for this process but I think you are missing an opportunity to hear to gauge general interest as well.

Comment [Johnson14]: In advance of running the survey, there should be a very large media campaign to explain the issues with the current FPP system and to outline possible PR alternatives.

Comment [Loewen15]: Q4 - you have major problems of recall here

Comment [Cameron16]: Maybe s "Have you discussed electoral reform with others during or since the BC election?"

Comment [Loewen17]: Q5 - again missing more general interest here, though I understand why you want it be specific.

Comment [Loewen18]: if you can ask about turnout in electoral reform contests, why not gauge actual turnout in the last election?

Outlook_Q6b [only appears if “Never (2)” or “Rarely (3) or Sometimes (4)” are selected in Intro_Q4] - What are the biggest barriers preventing you from voting? (Please select all that apply.)

- Lack of time (1)
- Lack of information (2)
- Disability or mobility issues (3)
- Voting location isn't convenient (4)
- Do not feel included (5)
- Frustration with politics (6)
- Don't like the voting system (7)
- I was not eligible to vote (8)
- Lack of interest
- Other (9) [Open text]

Outlook_Q7 – Have you read the background information on this website regarding the various voting systems?

- Yes
- No
- Somewhat

Outlook_Q8 - In general, how satisfied are you with how the current First Past the Post voting system works to elect MLAs to the BC legislature in British Columbia?

- Not at all satisfied (1)
- Not very satisfied (2)
- Somewhat satisfied (3)
- Very satisfied (4)
- Don't know (5)

Do you think the current First Past the Post System should be changed?

(If yes above) Do you prefer a some form of proportional representation?

(If yes) Which of the following systems do you prefer?

- ☐ List Proportional Representation
- ☐ Mixed Member Proportional
- ☐ Single Transferable Vote
- ☐ Mixed Member Majoritarian
- ☐ Other: Please describe

Outlook_Q9 - How knowledgeable do you feel about the differences between among between voting systems??

- Not at all knowledgeable (1)
- Not very knowledgeable (2)
- Somewhat knowledgeable (3)
- Very knowledgeable (4)
- Don't know (5)

Comment [Johnson19]: Add something along the lines of “Do not feel like my vote counts” – which is tr especially for young voters who feel who feel disaffected. Not feeling like your vote counts is a fact about the FPP system, and this fact shouldn't b shied away from.

Comment [Johnson20]: Please b sure that there's lots of messaging about the existence of this website! This website needs to be really well designed and accessible.

Comment [Cameron21]: What kin of background information will be provided?

Comment [Rose22]: First-past-the post

Comment [Cameron23]: Why the systems? See note below.

Comment [Johnson24]: Please ensure that the website includes lots accurate information about the differ PR systems.

Comment [Rose25]: Or do you wa to ask about how knowledgeable the are about the different ways politician can be elected? I wonder if voting systems is too jargony?

Outlook_Q10 – If you were to vote in the referendum today, how confident would you feel about selecting a voting system and making an informed choice about the ideal voting system?

- Not at all confident (1)
- Not very confident (2)
- Somewhat confident (3)
- Very confident (4)
- Don't know (5)

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Section 3: Voting system preferences

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your values and preferences regarding how MLAs are elected, how governments are formed, and how the legislative assembly operates. Please answer the following questions to help us understand your values and preferences on these issues.

Preferences_Q1 Please select up to five values from the list below that are most important to you.

I value most:-

What is the rationale for having 5 values rather than ranking the importance of each?

It is important that governments collaborate with other parties in the legislature. Legislature
A voting system should allow that allows you to select your preferred candidate or party, without having to consider strategically who is most likely to win
Single-party majority governments ensure greater accountability, where it is clear who is accountable for decisions
MLAs should focus on the interests of what is best for the province as a whole instead of his or her riding.
It's important that the A voting process ballot voting process voting system process that is easy to understand.
Governments with MLAs need to represent representing every region in the province.
Voters should be allowed to vote for a party and a candidate. Allowing voters to express several preferences for candidates or political parties when voting
A voting system should ensure governments are able to act decisively. Governments that make decisions quickly
The legislature should help ensure Better representation of groups currently underrepresented groups. in the Legislative Assembly, such as women, visible minorities, Aboriginals, and people with disabilities.
It is important for MLAs who focus primarily on the interests of their local community.
A voting system should encourage increasing the presence of smaller parties in the Legislature.
A voting system should ensure that a party's vote share matches its seat share in the Legislature. A legislature where the number share of seats each party holds closely matches their support across the province the share of votes they receive
A voting system that encourages political parties to reach beyond their supporters and appeal to other parties' voters
A voting system should provide that provides opportunities for Independent candidates. (not running for a political party) to be elected
A minority A voting system that produces minority or coalition governments are desirable.
MLAs who continue to represent the same number of citizens as they do now
AA It is important A voting system that allows a voter to rank a political party's candidates.

Comment [Rose26]: These need to be statements they can agree on.

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Comment [Cameron27]: Collaboration has a slightly negative connotation

s 22

Comment [Rose28]: These are really two questions; one about choice and the other about strategic voting. They can't be conflated. Also, strategic voting is a complex idea and every system embodies strategic voting.

Comment [Loewen29]: YOU WILL HAVE STRATEGIC VOTING IN ANY SYSTEM

Comment [Cameron30]: strategic

Comment [Cameron31]: majority

Comment [Cameron32]: ?

Comment [Loewen33]: IS THERE A

Comment [Rose34]: You're not

Comment [Rose35]: You're not

Comment [Cameron36]: Yes –

Comment [Cameron37]: This seems

Comment [Rose38]: This is a bit of

Comment [Rose39]: This is also

Comment [Rose40]: This is also

Comment [Loewen41]: WHY NOT

Comment [Cameron42]: double

Comment [Rose43]: I think speed

Comment [Rose44]: I think speed

Comment [Johnson45]: No one

Comment [Cameron46]: good

Comment [Johnson47]: No one

Comment [Loewen48]: DO YOU

Comment [Johnson49]: These are

Comment [Cameron50]: good

Comment [Cameron51]: Or "MLA"

Comment [Loewen52]: WHAT DOES

Comment [Cameron53]: good

Comment [Cameron54]: good

Comment [Cameron55]: This is

Comment [Loewen56]: WHAT

Comment [Rose57]: This is called

Comment [Johnson58]: Here again

Comment [Cameron59]: good

Comment [Cameron60]: Same point

Comment [Cameron61]: good

Comment [Cameron62]: yes

Comment [Rose63]: Bad question

Comment [Cameron64]: good

~~A voting system that allows a voter should be allowed to vote for a political party.~~

~~Nothing about rural ridings.~~

Suggested values

- MLAs who focus on what is best for the province as a whole
- MLAs who focus primarily on what is best for their local community
- A Legislative Assembly where the share of seats each party holds closely matches the share of votes they receive [province-wide]
- A Legislative Assembly where the share of seats each party holds somewhat matches the share of votes they receive [province-wide]
- A voting system that emphasizes the role of candidates
- A voting system that emphasizes the role of political parties
- The ability to rank candidates on the ballot
- A voting system that encourages political parties to reach beyond their supporters
- _____
- _____

Preferences_Q2 Which would you prefer?

Having several small parties in the Legislature representing a diversity of views or fewer big parties that try to appeal to a broad range of people?

- Several small parties (1)
- A few big parties (2)

good

Preferences_Q3 Which would you prefer?

- Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who do what their party promised, even if it means going against what their constituents want.
- MLAs who do what their constituents want, even if it means going against what their party promised.

good.

Preferences_Q4 Which best describes your views?

- Ballots should allow voters to select one candidate or political party.
- Ballots should allow ~~voters~~votes to select ~~or rank~~ more than one candidate or political party.

good

Preferences_Q5 Which would you prefer?

- A Legislative Assembly where one party governs, without requiring the support of another party to make decisions.
- A Legislative Assembly where two or more parties ~~may need to~~must collaboratemust cooperate to make decisions.

Comment [Johnson65]: Useful? Voters vote for parties in both FPP and PR systems. In FPP, voters may have stronger identification to candidates in their ridings, but the party label still matters (and is often the dominant consideration for a voter).

Comment [Cameron66]: Seems odd. I don't think we're contemplating an alternative to choosing parties.

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Comment [Loewen67]: Pref Q2 - don't think this is a very well framed tradeoff. I think you should just ask them whether they want more parties less, without assuming that we know how the aggregation of interests will play out in that new system.

Comment [Rose68]: I would change this to:
An MLA should do what the party promised.
An MLA should follow the wishes of their constituents.

Comment [Johnson69]: This question more about party discipline and not electoral systems per se? Useful.

Comment [Loewen70]: Pref Q4 - use of "selects" here is not very helpful because they really aren't selecting individuals. I think it's better to use the language of ranking.

Preferences_Q6 Which would you prefer?

- The number of MLAs should remain the same (currently 87) (1)
- ~~There should be more MLAs to if necessary to ensure more proportional representation~~ better reflect voters' preferences (2)
- ~~There should be fewer MLAs.~~

Comment [Loewen71]: Pref q6 - what about more MLAs generally? W assume they will better represent preferences?

Preferences_Q7 There should be greater diversity of views in the provincial legislature.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q8 All views of British Columbians, no matter how marginal, should be represented in the Legislative Assembly.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Comment [Loewen72]: pref q8 - replace marginal with "rare" or something like that. marginal is only non-pejorative among economists.

Comment [Cameron73]: I don't like this question. What is a marginal view? How could all views be represented anyway. I think the last question gets at this anyway.

Preferences_Q9 Voters should be able to express multiple preferences on the election ballot, even if this means that it takes longer to count the ballots and announce the election result.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Comment [Loewen74]: pref q9 - is this really a trade off? Can't we count them pretty fast now?

Comment [Rose75]: This latter point is a red herring. It's a bit irrelevant.

Preferences_Q10 A ballot should be easy to understand, even if it means voters have fewer options to express their preferences.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Comment [Rose76]: I'd delete this question. I can't imagine a complex ballot that decreases voters' preferences. I don't understand what it's getting at.

Preferences_Q11 It is better for several parties to have to govern together than for one party to make all the decisions in government, even if it sometimes takes longer for government to make decisions.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q12 A party that wins the most seats in an election should have to compromise with other parties, even if it means changing some of its policies.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Comment [Cameron77]: good

Preferences_Q13 It should always be clear which party is accountable for decisions made by government, even if this means that decisions are only made by one party.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Comment [Cameron78]: good

Preferences_Q14 - Please indicate which you prefer:

- Each electoral district is represented by one MLA
- Each electoral district is represented by several MLAs, possibly from different parties
- One MLA represents a specific electoral district, and other MLAs, possibly from different parties, represent a larger region or the province as a whole.

Comment [Rose79]: The important tradeoff of the size of districts is not communicated in this. So I might want several MLAs but wouldn't choose that if the districts were much larger.

~~Will people understand this? What about asking whether people prefer to have one representative in a smaller riding or a few representatives in a larger riding?~~

Comment [Rose80]: This last one I think a description of a mixed system but does not get at it adequately. Maybe: One MLA represents a specific district and the other MLAs represent the region or the province as a whole.

Preferences_Q15 Please indicate which you prefer:

- Voters vote with a single 'X' for the candidate or political party of their choice
- Voters can rank the candidates or parties in order of preference

Section 4: Referendum Ballot Options

In Fall 2018, B.C. voters will have the opportunity to vote for either keeping retaining the current First- Past- the- Post voting system or adopting a proportional voting system. Please answer the following questions to help us understand the choices you would like to see on the referendum ballot.

Comment [Rose81]: This is usually hyphenated.

Ballot Options_Q 1 Which do you prefer?

Comment [Cameron82]: good

- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current ~~first-past-First~~ Past the-~~post~~ Post voting system and ONE proportional representation voting system.
- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current First Past the Post voting system and MORE THAN ONE proportional representation voting system.

Ballot Options_Q 2 If the government offers a choice of more than one proportional representation voting system, which do you prefer?

Comment [Cameron83]: good

- Voters should indicate their support for only one system
- Voter should rank order their support for all the proposed systems

Comment [Rose84]: This is far too early to ask these sorts of questions when voters haven't given much thought to 'other systems' let alone whether they'd like to rank them or chose one.

Ballot Options_Q 3_Q 3 Should the ballot have two questions?

- ~~Voters should indicate whether they wish to keep the current First Past the Post system or change it in favor of a more proportional system. Voters who indicate they prefer a more proportional system would then indicate or rank which of the different proportional representation systems they prefer.~~

Ballot Options_Q 4: Alongside the option of keeping the First Past the Post voting system, which system or systems of proportional representation would you like to see on the ballot? Please select all that apply. (With mouse-over summary text from web 101 pages)

- List Proportional Representation
- Mixed Member Proportional
- Single Transferable Vote
- Mixed Member Majoritarian
- Other: Please describe

Comment [Johnson85]: It's absolutely critical that the public has accurate information concerning the different types of PR system in advance of this survey. Most voters simply won't know the details re: each of these.

Comment [Rose86]: The summary text will be key here but I suspect that you will capture those who understand the system (ie reform advocates) and those who may not fully. Why ask this before a public education campaign? Shouldn't this be asked later?

I would propose:

A ballot with a closed list of candidates chosen by the parties

A ballot with an open lists of candidates that voters can choose from

A single transferable vote

A mixed member proportional

A combination of different systems

Other: please describe

Comment [Cameron87]: Why the systems? STV and MMP have to be there. STV because it was the recommendation of the Citizens' Assembly, MMP because it is, s. 22

- ~~List Proportional Representation~~
- ~~Mixed Member Proportional~~
- ~~Single Transferable Vote~~
- ~~Mixed Member Majoritarian~~
- ~~Other: Please describe~~

s. 22 Beyond that, it is not clear which systems would have to be included. Maybe "Other" or some "Made in BC" compromise solution. Or leave open and see if people can generate their own preferences.

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Section 5: Public funding and advertising in the referendum

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your expectations with regards to public funding for advocacy groups and campaign advertising during the referendum.

Public Funding_Q 1 The government should provide public funds to designated groups to campaign for their preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Public Funding_Q 2 There should be spending limits imposed on any group that campaigns for its preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Public Funding_Q 3 The provincial government should provide voters with high-quality and impartial information prior to the referendum.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Government should involve voters in public consultations such as:

- town halls (meetings convened by MLAs in their ridings)
- deliberative polls (randomly selected representative cross-section of voters participate in a deliberation after which they present their recommendation)
- citizens' juries (small groups of citizens debate the pros and cons of the ballot question and make a recommendation)

other (please describe)

Perhaps these options could be described in the accompanying website?

Public Funding_Q 4 The provincial government should ensure that paid advertisements that appear during the campaign period are produced only by groups that must register, disclose their identity in their advertising, and disclose their contributors and expenses after the referendum.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)

Comment [Johnson88]: This is an inappropriate question. There is no question that the government should do this. The very success of the referendum -- in terms of soliciting informed preferences re: electoral referendum -- is contingent on "high-quality and impartial information" about electoral systems. Please do not have referendum without lots of high-quality, accurate, comprehensive, and impartial information. Please. Don't.

In addition, consider conducting a well-publicized Citizen's Initiative Review panel that produces a Citizen's Statement including pro-, con-, and a consensus claims. This Statement could then be distributed to all voters. The CIR has been very effective in Oregon, Arizona, Massachusetts, and elsewhere. I'm very happy to advise further on this.

Comment [Johnson89]: Again, this is an inappropriate question. There is no question that this should happen.

- Strongly agree (5)

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British Columbia Voting Systems Questionnaire

Nov. 21, 2017

The B.C. government is holding a referendum in the fall of 2018 to ask voters whether the province should keep the current First Past the Post system or change to a Proportional Representation voting system. This questionnaire will help B.C.'s Attorney General understand the preferences and expectations of B.C. voters about the referendum.

There are two parts to this survey. Part one asks key questions about your values and general outlook as to how we vote for Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), and for how the legislature functions. Part two asks more detailed questions about your preferences regarding electoral reform, voting systems and the referendum process. At the end of each part, you will have the opportunity to provide further written feedback.

Each part of the questionnaire will take approximately 5-8 minutes to complete. We ask that you complete this survey only once.

Privacy Statement

Personal information collected through this feedback form will inform the development of a ballot for a November 2018 electoral reform referendum by the Ministry of Attorney General, under the authority of s.26 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. If you have any questions about the collection, use and disclosure of your personal information, please contact:

*Neil Reimer
Director, Director, Strategic Initiatives
Ministry of Justice
Victoria BC
Neil.Reimer@gov.bc.ca*

Part 1

Section 1: Profile

Please provide this general profile information. Your identity cannot be determined by answering these questions.

Profile_Q2 – What are the first three characters in your postal code (*this is a required field*)?

- [3 character field]

Profile_Q3 - How old are you?

- Under 18
- 18 - 39 years
- 40 - 64 years
- 65 - 75 years
- Over 75 years
- Prefer not to answer

Profile_Q1 - Please indicate your gender:

-
- Prefer not to answer

Comment [NTG1]: Open text box

Profile_Q5 - Do you identify with any of the following groups? Please select all that apply

- Visible minority (1)
- First Nations (2)
- Inuit (3)
- Métis (4)
- Persons with disabilities (5)
- LGBTQ2 (6)
- None of the above (7)
- Prefer not to answer

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your interest in, and familiarity with, current affairs and voting in elections.

Outlook_Q1 - Generally speaking, how interested are you in politics and current affairs?

- Not interested at all (1)
- Not very interested (2)
- Somewhat interested (3)
- Very interested (4)
- Prefer not to answer

Outlook_Q4 - How often do you vote in provincial elections?

- I am not eligible to vote (1)
- Never (2)

- Rarely (3)
- Sometimes (4)
- Most of the time (5)
- All of the time (6)
- First time voter in 2017 (7)
- Prefer not to answer

Outlook _ Which, if any, of the following have been barriers that have kept you from voting?

(Please select all that apply.)

- Not enough time (1)
- Not enough information (2)
- Disability or mobility issues (3)
- Voting location isn't convenient (4)
- Do not feel included (5)
- Frustration with politics (6)
- Don't like the voting system (7)
- I was not eligible to vote (8)
- Not interested in politics (9)
- I feel like my vote doesn't count (10)
- Prefer not to answer

Outlook_Q6 – If you were to vote in a referendum to choose a voting system today, how confident are you that you would make an informed choice?

- Not at all confident (1)
- Not very confident (2)
- Somewhat confident (3)
- Very confident (4)
- Don't know (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q1 Please select up to five values from the list below that are most important to you.
(sequence of value statements below will be rotated randomly for each user.)

I value most:

Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who focus primarily on what is best for the province as a whole
Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who focus primarily on the interests of their local community
A voting system that is easy to understand
Better representation of groups that are currently under-represented in the Legislative Assembly
Increasing the number of political parties in the Legislative Assembly to represent more points of view

A Legislative Assembly in which the share of seats each party holds closely matches the share of the votes it receives across the province
A Legislative Assembly in which the share of seats each party holds is fairly similar to the share of the votes it receives across the province
A voting system that encourages political parties to appeal as broadly as possible to voters
A voting system that makes it easier for independent candidates (those not running for a political party) to be elected
A voting system that allows a voter to rank a political party's candidates (1, 2, 3, etc.)
Single-party majority governments that are clearly accountable for their decisions
A Legislative Assembly where two or more parties co-operate to make decisions
Other:

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your values and preferences regarding how MLAs are elected, how governments are formed and how the Legislative Assembly operates.

Preferences_Q6 Which would you prefer?

- The number of MLAs should remain the same (1)
- There should be more MLAs to better reflect voters' interests (2)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q7 There should be greater diversity of views represented in the Legislative Assembly.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q12 The party that wins the most seats in an election should have to compromise with other parties, even if it means changing some of its campaign commitments.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q13 It should always be clear which party is accountable for decisions made by government, even if this means that decisions are only made by one party.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Please answer the following question to help us understand the choices you would like to see on the referendum ballot.

Ballot Options_Q 1 Which would you prefer?

- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current First Past the Post voting system and ONE Proportional Representation voting system.
- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current First Past the Post voting system and MORE THAN ONE Proportional Representation voting system
- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current First Past the Post voting system and Proportional Representation, with a specific voting system to be established by legislation after the referendum.
- Prefer not to answer

[Text box]

Are there any other comments you would like to make about voting systems or the upcoming referendum? [Limit to 200 characters]

This is the end of Part 1 of the questionnaire. Part 2 asks further questions about your preferences regarding electoral reform and the referendum ballot. You may submit your responses to Part 1 now and leave the survey, or continue on to Part 2.

SUBMIT

CONTINUE TO PART 2

Part 2

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your interest in electoral reform.

Outlook_Q2 - How closely have you followed public debate on electoral reform?

- Not closely at all (1)
- Somewhat closely (2)
- Very closely (3)
- Prefer not to answer

Outlook_Q3 - Did you vote in either the 2005 or 2009 B.C. referendum on electoral reform?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Not sure (3)
- Not eligible (4)
- Prefer not to answer

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your values and preferences regarding how Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) are elected, how governments are formed and how the Legislative Assembly operates.

Preferences_Q2 Which would you prefer?

Having more small parties represented in the Legislature or a few big parties?

- A few big parties (1)
- More small parties (2)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q3 Which would you prefer?

- Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who do what their party promised.
- MLAs who do what their constituents want.
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q4 Ballots should allow voters to support more than one candidate or political party by ranking them in order of preference.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q8 A ballot should give voters lots of choices, even if it's less clear how votes get turned into seats.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)

- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q10 An election ballot should be easy to understand, even if it means voters have fewer options to express their preferences.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q11 It is better for several parties to co-operate and govern together rather than one party to govern alone, even if it sometimes takes longer to form government after an election.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Preferences_Q14 - Please indicate which you prefer:

- Each electoral district is represented by one MLA
- Each electoral district is represented by several MLAs
- Some MLAs represent an electoral district, while other MLAs represent larger regions or the province as a whole.
- Prefer not to answer

Please answer the following questions to help us understand the choices you would like to see on the referendum ballot.

Ballot Options_Q 2 If the government offers voters a choice of more than one Proportional Representation voting system, which do you prefer?

- Voters should indicate their support for only one proposed system
- Voter should rank order their support for all the proposed systems
- Prefer not to answer

Ballot Options_Q 3: Alongside the option of keeping the First Past the Post voting system, which system or systems of Proportional Representation would you like to see on the ballot? Please select all that apply.

- List Proportional Representation
- Mixed Member Proportional
- Single Transferable Vote
- Mixed Member Majoritarian

- Other: *Please describe*
- Prefer not to answer

Comment [NTG2]: With mouse-over summary text from web 101 pages that does not click to a new page

Ballot Options_Q 4: If B.C. changes to a system of Proportional Representation, there should be a second referendum after a trial period (for example, two elections) on whether to keep the new system.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Section 5: Public funding and advertising in the referendum

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your expectations with regards to public funding for advocacy groups and campaign advertising for particular voting systems during the referendum.

Public Funding_Q 1 The government should provide public funds to designated groups to campaign for their preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Public Funding_Q 2 There should be spending limits imposed on any group that campaigns for its preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Public Funding_Q 3 The provincial government should provide the public with impartial information during the referendum campaign period.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

Public Funding_Q 4 The provincial government should ensure that paid advertisements that appear during the referendum campaign period are produced only by groups that must register, disclose their identity in their advertising and disclose their contributors and expenses after the referendum.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)
- Prefer not to answer

[Text box]

Are there any other comments you would like to make about voting systems or the upcoming referendum? [Limit to 200 characters]

SUBMIT

Comment [NTG3]: Question from MO: will the option exist to click "submit" and leave mid-way through part two, with the responses offered being captured.

British Columbia Voting Systems Questionnaire

B.C. is holding a referendum in the Fall of 2018 to ask voters whether Government should keep the current First Past the Post voting system or change to a proportional representation voting system. This questionnaire will help B.C.'s Attorney General understand the preferences and expectations of B.C. voters regarding the referendum and campaign leading up to it.

We appreciate you taking the time to fill out the survey, which should take about 10 minutes to complete.

The information you provide will help the Attorney General to:

- Understand what voters value about different voting systems;
- Determine whether the referendum ballot should offer the choice between two voting systems, or more than two voting systems;
- Determine whether government should provide public funds to registered advocacy campaigns, both for and against voting system reform; and
- Determine if and how to regulate advertising activities during the referendum period.

Privacy information / How do we prevent people from filling out the survey multiple times?

Sections:

1. Profile
2. General outlook
3. Voting system preferences
4. Ballot options
5. Public funding and advertising

Section 1: Your profile

Please provide your basic demographic information to help us better understand the preferences of British Columbians throughout the province. Your identity cannot be determined by answering these questions.

Profile_Q1 - What is your gender?

- Male Man (1)
- Female Woman (2)
- Other X (3)
- Prefer not to say

Profile_Q2 – What are the first three characters in your postal code?

- [3 character field]
- *Required field

Profile_Q3 - How old are you?

- [insert standard age ranges used by BC]
- Prefer not to say

Profile_Q4 - What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

- Some high school, elementary school or home schooling (2)
- High school (3)
- Apprenticeship or trades certificate (4)
- College diploma or degree (5)
- Bachelor's degree (6)
- Master's degree (7)
- Professional degree (8)
- Doctorate (9)
- Prefer not to say (10)

Profile_Q5 - Do you identify with any of the following groups?

- Visible minority (1)
- First Nations (2)
- Inuit (3)
- Métis (4)
- Persons with disabilities (5)
- LGBTQ2 (6)
- None of the above (7)
- Prefer not to say (8)

Section 2: General outlook / values (can be completed independently)

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your interest in, and familiarity with, voting systems.

Outlook_Q1 - Generally speaking, how interested are you in politics?

- Not interested at all (1)
- Not very interested (2)
- Somewhat interested (3)
- Very interested (4)

Outlook_Q2 - How frequently do you follow news and current affairs?

- Never (1)
- Rarely (2)
- Several times each month (3)
- Once a week
- Several times each week (4)
- Daily (5)

Outlook_Q3 - How closely have you followed the public debate on electoral reform in B.C.?

- Not closely at all (1)
- Somewhat closely (2)
- Very closely (3)

Outlook_Q4 - Did you vote in either the 2005 or 2009 provincial referendum on electoral reform?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Not sure (3)
- Not eligible (4)

Outlook_Q5 - How often have you discussed provincial electoral reform with others?

- Not at all (1)
- Occasionally
- Somewhat often (2)
- Very often (3)

Outlook_Q6 - How often do you vote in provincial elections?

- I am not eligible to vote (1)
- Never (2)
- Rarely (3)
- Sometimes (4)
- Most of the time (5)
- All of the time (6)
- First-time voter in 2017 (7)

Outlook_Q6b [only appears if “Never (2)” or “Rarely (3)” or Sometimes (4)” are selected in Intro_Q4]– **What are the biggest barriers preventing you from voting that make it difficult for you to vote?** (Please select all that apply.)

- Lack of time (1)
- Lack of information (2)
- Disability or mobility issues (3)
- Voting location isn't convenient (4)
- Do not feel included (5)
- Frustration with politics (6)
- Don't like the voting system (7)
- I was not eligible to vote (8)
- Lack of interest
- Other (9) [Open text]

Outlook_Q7 – Have you read the background information on this website regarding the various voting systems?

- Yes
- No
- Somewhat

Outlook_Q8 - In general, how satisfied are you with how the current First Past the Post voting system works in British Columbia?

- Not at all satisfied (1)
- Not very satisfied (2)
- Somewhat satisfied (3)
- Very satisfied (4)
- Don't know (5)

Outlook_Q9 - How knowledgeable do you feel about the differences between voting systems?

- Not at all knowledgeable (1)
- Not very knowledgeable (2)
- Somewhat knowledgeable (3)
- Very knowledgeable (4)
- Don't know (5)

Outlook_Q10 – If you were to vote in the referendum today, how confident would you feel about selecting a voting system and making an informed choice?

- Not at all confident (1)
- Not very confident (2)
- Somewhat confident (3)
- Very confident (4)
- Don't know (5)

Section 3: Voting system preferences

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your values and preferences regarding how MLAs are elected, how governments are formed and how the legislative assembly operates.

Currently-held views Q1 – Do you have strong views when it comes to electoral reform? Please elaborate

- [Open text](#)

Preferences_Q1 Please select up to five values from the list below that are most important to you. I value most:

Governments that collaborate with other parties in the Legislature
A voting system that allows you to select your preferred candidate or party, without having to consider strategically who is most likely to win
Single-party majority governments where it is clear who is accountable for decisions
A voting system that advantages rural regions. MLAs who focus on what is best for the province as a whole
A voting process that is easy to understand
Governments with MLAs representing every region in the province
Allowing voters to express several preferences for candidates or political parties when voting
Governments that make decisions quickly
Better representation of groups currently underrepresented in the Legislative Assembly
MLAs who focus primarily on the interests of their local community
Increasing the presence of smaller parties in the Legislature

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Comment [KA1]: What can with do with this response? Do we weight answers by how they respond to this question?

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Formatted: List Paragraph, Bulleted Level: 1 + Aligned at: 0.63 cm + Indent at: 1.27 cm

Comment [KA2]: Completely different subject. Also, quite a loaded statement and not one that ties to a particular voting system.

A legislature where the number of seats each party holds closely matches their support across the province
A voting system that encourages political parties to reach beyond their supporters and appeal to other parties' voters
A voting system that provides opportunities for Independent candidates (not running for a political party) to be elected
A voting system that produces minority or coalition governments
MLAs who continue to represent the same number of citizens as they do now
A voting system that allows a voter to rank a political party's candidates
A voting system that allows a voter to vote for a political party

Preferences _Q2 Which would you prefer?

Having several small parties in the Legislature representing a diversity of views or fewer big parties that try to appeal to a broad range of people?

- ~~Several small parties (1)~~
- A few big parties (21)
- More small parties (2)

Preferences _Q3 Which would you prefer?

- Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who do what their party promised, even if it means going against what their constituents want.
- MLAs who do what their constituents want, even if it means going against what their party promised.

Preferences _Q4 Which best describes your views?

- Ballots should allow voters to select one candidate or political party.
- Ballots should allow votes to select more than one candidate or political party.

Preferences _Q5 Which would you prefer?

- A Legislative Assembly where one party governs on their own, without requiring the support of another party to make decisions.

- A Legislative Assembly where two or more parties must ~~collaborate~~ cooperated to make decisions.

Preferences_Q6 Which would you prefer?

- The number of MLAs should remain the same ~~(currently 87)~~ (1)
- There should be more MLAs to better reflect voters' preferences (2)

Preferences_Q7 There should be greater diversity of views in the provincial legislature.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q8 All views of British Columbians, ~~no matter how marginal~~ even if, should be represented in the Legislative Assembly.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q9 Voters should be able to express multiple preferences on the election ballot, even if this means that it takes longer to ~~count the ballots and announce the election result~~ know who will form government.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q10 A ballot should be easy to understand, even if it means voters have fewer options to express their preferences.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q11 It is better for several parties to have to compromise and govern together than for one party to make all the decisions in government, ~~even if it takes longer~~.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)

- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q12 ~~A party that wins the most seats in an election should have to compromise with other parties, even if it means changing some of its policies.~~

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q13 It should always be clear which party is accountable for decisions made by government, even if this means that decisions are only made by one party.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Preferences_Q14 - Please indicate which you prefer:

- Each electoral district is represented by one MLA
- Each electoral district is represented by several MLAs, possibly from different parties
- One MLA represents a specific electoral district, and other MLAs, possibly from different parties, represent a larger region or the province as a whole.

Preferences_Q15 Please indicate which you prefer:

- Voters vote with a single 'X' for the candidate or political party of their choice
- Voters can rank the candidates or parties in order of preference

Section 4: Referendum Ballot Options

In Fall 2018, B.C. voters will have the opportunity to vote for either retaining the current First Past the Post voting system or adopting a proportional voting system. Please answer the following questions to help us understand the choices you would like to see on the referendum ballot.

Ballot Options_Q 1 Which do you prefer?

- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current First Past the Post voting system and ONE proportional representation voting system.
- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current First Past the Post voting system and MORE THAN ONE proportional representation voting system.
- The referendum ballot should offer voters the choice between the current First Past the Post voting system and proportional representation, with a specific system to be decided by government legislation.

Ballot Options_Q 2 If the government offers a choice of more than one proportional representation voting system, which do you prefer?

- Voters should indicate their support for only one system
- Voter should rank order their support for all the proposed systems

Ballot Options_Q 3: Alongside the option of keeping the First Past the Post voting system, which system or electoral systems of proportional representation would you like to see on the ballot?

Please select all that apply. (With mouse-over summary text from web 101 pages)

- List Proportional Representation
- Mixed Member Proportional
- Single Transferable Vote
- Mixed Member Majoritarian
- Other: *Please describe*

Comment [KA3]: When will these decisions be made? There is not much time following the referendum results to make decisions without risking the June 1, 2021 implementation schedule.

A referendum ballot without a specific alternative provides considerable ambiguity on which opponents of PR can build their campaign in the referendum.

Comment [KA4]: Not using "electoral".

Scope limited by Bill 6 to a PR system so should be cautious about implying broader suite of options.

Section 5: Public funding and advertising in the referendum

Please answer the following questions to help us understand your expectations with regards to public funding for advocacy groups and campaign advertising during the referendum.

Public Funding_Q 1 The government should provide public funds to designated groups to campaign for their preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Public Funding_Q 2 There should be spending limits imposed on any group that campaigns for its preferred voting system

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Public Funding_Q 3 The provincial government should provide voters with high-quality and impartial information prior to the referendum.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)

Public Funding_Q 4 The provincial government should ensure that paid advertisements that appear during the campaign period are produced only by groups that must register, disclose their identity in their advertising and disclose their contributors and expenses after the referendum.

- Strongly disagree (1)
- Somewhat disagree (2)
- Neutral (3)
- Somewhat agree (4)
- Strongly agree (5)