B.C. Election 2026 - Day 26 Brief

Campaign Day 26: Saturday, October 17, 2026 | Final Voting Day: Saturday, October 24

DAY 26 IN 30 SECONDS

- **Local voting closed at 8 p.m.:** Municipal and regional voting coincided with provincial advance polling. Preliminary local results were still emerging at cutoff; no municipal winner is treated here as certified. [9][11][15]
- **First provincial turnout published:** Elections BC reports **137,248** advance ballots on **Oct. 16** (including **1,577** counted in Cowichan Valley). The Oct. 17 tally was not yet in the official table. [1]
- **New platform commitments:** NDP announced **$80M** for **7,200** school-based child-care spaces plus **$250M** to seek a wider federal-provincial expansion; Greens outlined mental-health reforms; CentreBC proposed a **$25M/year** rural ER fund. [2][4][6]
- **Structural checks:** No verified new party leader, formal candidate withdrawal, or MLA affiliation change. No new province-wide poll identified for Oct. 17. [12][13][14]

What changed on Day 26

AREA	CONFIRMED DEVELOPMENT / ANNOUNCEMENT	STATUS / CONTEXT
Election admin	**Oct. 17:** Official table newly reports **137,248** advance votes cast on Oct. 16 across the province, including 1,577 recorded in Cowichan Valley. [1]	Preliminary first-day count; voters tallied where they voted. Oct. 17 figures awaited.
Local elections	**Oct. 17:** General local voting ended at 8 p.m. across B.C.; municipalities are reporting their own results separately from Elections BC. [9][11][15]	Results developing at cutoff; final declarations follow local procedures.
BC NDP	**Oct. 17:** Pledged **$80M for 7,200 school-based childcare spaces** plus **$250M** to leverage federal support; Penticton-Summerland candidate also proposed a second urgent/primary-care centre for Penticton. [2][3]	New party and riding-level promises, not approved expenditures or completed facilities.
BC Greens	**Oct. 17:** Lowan proposed mental-health as a fourth 911 response option, six MSP-covered visits per year, and Mental Health Act reform. Greens publicized economist Gabriel Zucman's support for their wealth-tax plan. [4][5]	Policy proposal and endorsement; not an independent validation of projected tax revenues.
CentreBC	**Oct. 17:** Sturko proposed a **$25M annual rural emergency-room stabilization fund** for locums, travel, and virtual backup. [6]	Canadian Press confirmed announcement; not an operating program.
BC Conservatives	**Oct. 17:** Penticton-Summerland candidate Tracy St. Claire promised to seek funding to upgrade 201 Forest Service Road as an alternate route to Highway 97. [7][8]	Local candidate pledge, with no disclosed cost or construction approval.

Campaign framing at close of Day 26

BC NDP - Focused on childcare capacity and affordability; made a separate local health-access pledge for Penticton. [2][3]

BC Conservatives - Advanced a regional transport-access promise; a fully costed platform had not been released by cutoff. [7][8][6]

BC Greens - Put mental-health legislation and emergency response at issue; amplified outside support for the Fair Share wealth tax. [4][5]

CentreBC - Emphasized rural hospital staffing and overnight emergency-care continuity. [6]

OneBC - No separately verified new provincial policy, party leadership, or candidate-status development in sources reviewed today.

Election clock

DATE	MILESTONE	MEANING AT CUTOFF
OCT 17	General local voting day; polls closed 8 p.m. [9][11][15]	Unofficial results arriving; local jurisdictions certify outcomes.
OCT 18	Last day to request provincial vote-by-mail package online or by telephone. [10]	Submission/receipt deadline for completed ballot remains Oct. 24 at 8 p.m.
OCT 16-21	Provincial advance voting, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. local time at locations open that day. [10]	Oct. 17 is second day; daily turnout still being posted.
OCT 24	Provincial Final Voting Day, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Pacific. [10]	Seven calendar days away.

Polling | no verified new province-wide release on Oct. 17

Leger, published Oct. 14 - decided voters; fieldwork Oct. 9-12; online panel, **n=1,000**. [12]

Conservatives	BC NDP	BC Greens	OneBC	CentreBC
42%	**40%**	**9%**	**4%**	**3%**

Method: Leger sampled non-probability online-panel participants; a conventional margin of error does not apply. The latest circulated **Pollara** toplines (fieldwork Oct. 8-13) were Conservative 41%, NDP 36%, Greens 13%, OneBC 5%, CentreBC 4%, but the complete original methodological release was not independently recovered; treat those figures as **provisional secondary reporting**. Pollsters' results cannot be read as day-to-day movement. [12][13]

Provincial-local election overlap

New Oct. 17 operational picture: Local voting finished today while provincial advance voting continued. Local governments count and publish their own municipal results; Elections BC administers the provincial vote and local campaign-financing/advertising rules. Paid local-candidate advertising was barred today, while unpaid social-media posts were generally allowed. [9][11]

Results caution: As of 8:40 p.m., available province-wide election-night listings were still showing results as pending. Do not conflate emerging municipal outcomes, local turnout, or the first provincial advance-vote count with evidence of provincial party preference. [1][11][15]

What to watch on Day 27

- **Sunday, Oct. 18:** The last online/telephone request day for provincial mail-ballot packages; check Elections BC for any deadline updates. [10]
- **Official data:** Elections BC's preliminary Oct. 17 advance-vote totals, municipal election-night results and any local recount/verification notices. [1][11]
- **Campaign follow-up:** Details on childcare and mental-health costings, CentreBC's rural ER fund, Conservative platform costings, and any official candidate changes. [2][4][6][14]

Scope note: Non-partisan public-source review of material available through **8:40 p.m. Pacific, Oct. 17, 2026**. Party releases are evidence of commitments, not implementation, independently verified costs, or outcomes. Media reporting is distinguished from official electoral records. The Oct. 17 local counts and provincial advance-vote participation for that date remained incomplete at cutoff. No electoral endorsement or voting recommendation is made.

Sources (numbered; clickable references)

[1] Elections BC, advance-voting turnout table, Oct. 17 update (PDF)
[2] BC NDP, Oct. 17: new childcare commitments
[3] Castanet, Oct. 17: NDP Penticton urgent-care promise
[4] BC Greens, Oct. 17: mental-health commitments
[5] BC Greens, Oct. 17: economist supports wealth-tax proposal
[6] Canadian Press / Castanet, Oct. 17: CentreBC rural ER fund
[7] BC Conservatives, Oct. 17: 201 Forest Service Road pledge
[8] Castanet, Oct. 17: St. Claire road pledge reporting
[9] Elections BC, Oct. 15: advance vote and local-election advertising rules
[10] Elections BC, 2026 election dates and deadlines
[11] CityNews, Oct. 17: municipal election night results (developing)
[12] Leger, Oct. 14: B.C. voting intentions and method
[13] BCPoliTracker, Oct. 16-17: Pollara toplines (secondary listing)
[14] Elections BC, official 2026 candidate list
[15] City of Vancouver, Oct. 17 municipal voting information