B.C. Election 2026 - Day 29 Brief

Campaign Day 29: Tuesday, October 20, 2026 | **Final Voting Day:** Saturday, October 24

DAY 29 IN 30 SECONDS

- **New polling:** INNOVATIVE Research reports a 43%-38% Conservative-NDP split among decided voters; its online-panel methodology limits direct comparison with Oct. 19 surveys. [1]
- **Surrey:** Both the NDP and Conservatives independently pledged a SkyTrain extension to Newton following Doug McCallum's local-election win; project costing remains unresolved. [2][3][4]
- **New campaign activity:** NDP committed $30 million for Kelowna hospital capacity; CentreBC highlighted AI safeguards; Vancouver mayor-elect Pete Fry endorsed Green leader Emily Lowan. [2][5][6][7]
- **Ballots:** Elections BC updated four-day advance voting to 571,055; CentreBC's Freddy Rawji ceased campaigning **but remains a candidate**. No new MLA switch or party leadership change verified. [8][9]

What changed on Day 29

AREA	CONFIRMED DEVELOPMENT / ANNOUNCEMENT	STATUS / CONTEXT
Polling	**Oct. 20:** INNOVATIVE Research Group reported **43% Conservative / 38% NDP / 12% Green / 7% other** among decided respondents, using Oct. 15-19 fieldwork. [1]	New survey; non-probability online panel. Do not infer day-to-day swing.
Surrey transit	**Oct. 20:** The **BC NDP and BC Conservatives each pledged** to work toward extending SkyTrain to Newton along King George Boulevard. [2][3][4]	Parallel pledges, not an approved or fully costed construction project.
NDP health	**Oct. 20:** David Eby pledged **$30 million** toward a permanent sixth-floor inpatient unit at Kelowna General Hospital. [5]	Project planning predates the election; new funding pledge.
CentreBC: AI	**Oct. 20:** CentreBC publicized AI policy details including government human review, job retraining, children's safeguards and data-centre energy obligations. [6][7]	Party proposal; components also appear in its published platform.
CentreBC: candidate	**Oct. 20: Freddy Rawji**, Port Moody-Burquitlam, stepped back from active campaigning for family reasons. [8]	**Not a formal withdrawal.** He remains on the Oct. 24 ballot.
BC Greens	**Oct. 20:** Vancouver mayor-elect **Pete Fry** personally endorsed provincial Green leader Emily Lowan at a Sidney appearance. [2]	Cross-level personal endorsement; municipal and provincial Greens are distinct organizations.
Voting data	**Oct. 20 update:** Elections BC now reports **571,055** preliminary ballots cast during Oct. 16-19 advance voting. [9]	Oct. 20 ballots not yet reported at cutoff; earlier daily counts revised.

Campaign framing at close of Day 29

BC NDP - David Eby emphasized a Newton SkyTrain partnership and $30m for Kelowna General; criticisms of Conservative spending are party claims. [3][5]

BC Conservatives - Lorne Doerkson's party pledged SkyTrain to Newton; a route-specific budget and timetable remain unconfirmed. [2][4]

BC Greens - Emily Lowan gained mayor-elect Pete Fry's personal endorsement, separate from municipal Green party affiliation. [2]

CentreBC - Elenore Sturko's party put AI protections in focus; Rawji paused campaigning without ending his candidacy. [6][7][8]

OneBC - Dallas Brodie's party had no newly verified Oct. 20 leadership, caucus or formal candidate-status change; earlier policy remains distinct from new news. [11][12]

Election clock

DATE	MILESTONE	MEANING AT CUTOFF
OCT 20	**Day 29:** Advance voting continued at eligible open locations. [10]	Oct. 20 ballot count not yet available in official tally. [9]
OCT 21	**Final advance-voting day,** generally 8 a.m.-8 p.m. local time. [10]	Check location-specific operating days and hours.
OCT 24	**Provincial Final Voting Day,** 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Pacific; mail ballots must be received by 8 p.m. [10]	Four days from the Oct. 20 cutoff.
NOV 6-10	**Provincial final count** scheduled. [10]	Distinct from election-night preliminary results.

Polling | new INNOVATIVE Research release, October 20

INNOVATIVE Research Group: Oct. 15-19 online survey; **1,153** unweighted B.C. adults, weighted to **n=1,000**; reported decided-vote base **n=908**. [1]

BC Conservatives	BC NDP	BC Greens	Other parties
43%	**38%**	**12%**	**7%**

Method: Online, non-probability polling does not support a conventional probability-sample margin of error; subgroup figures have further uncertainty. The **five-point gap** is a survey estimate, not a forecast. **Other** includes smaller parties; OneBC and CentreBC are not separately broken out in this headline chart. The Oct. 19 Angus Reid poll used different sample and field dates; cross-poll differences are not proof of daily movement. [1]

Provincial-local election overlap

Surrey: Following the Oct. 17 municipal election, mayor-elect Doug McCallum's preferred Newton rail corridor became the subject of separate Oct. 20 NDP and Conservative promises. The NDP referenced **$250m already allocated for bus rapid transit** in the corridor; it is **not** a full SkyTrain construction estimate. Neither announcement establishes a final approved project. [2][3][4]

Vancouver / Saanich North and the Islands: Mayor-elect Pete Fry attended Emily Lowan's Sidney event on Oct. 20 and endorsed her personally. Fry said his Oct. 19 appearance alongside Eby was **not** an NDP endorsement. Municipal Vancouver Greens and the provincial BC Green Party are separate organizations. [2]

What to watch on Day 30

- **Voting:** Final day of advance polling on Oct. 21; check Elections BC for revised Oct. 20 participation and the updated running total. [9][10]
- **Transit and fiscal details:** Full cost, staging, federal contributions and delivery timetable for the overlapping Surrey SkyTrain proposals; party promises are not funded construction approvals. [2][3][4]
- **Candidate status and local certification:** Rawji remains on the ballot despite stepping back. Watch for formal municipal declarations and any additional documented party/candidate changes. [8][11]

Scope note: Non-partisan public-source review through **8:03 p.m. Pacific, Oct. 20, 2026**. Figures are preliminary; party announcements are proposed commitments, not enacted policy. Election-office and independent reporting are distinguished from partisan claims. No new verified provincial leadership change, MLA switch or formal candidate withdrawal today. This brief does not endorse, oppose, rank, score or recommend any party or electoral choice.

Sources (numbered; clickable references)

[1] INNOVATIVE Research Group, BC Election Outlook, Oct. 20; field Oct. 15-19

[2] Canadian Press / iNFOnews, twin SkyTrain pledges and Fry endorsement, Oct. 20

[3] BC NDP, SkyTrain extension to Newton commitment, Oct. 20

[4] BC Conservatives, SkyTrain to Newton Town Centre commitment, Oct. 20

[5] BC NDP, Kelowna General Hospital expansion release, Oct. 20

[6] CentreBC, published platform: AI & the Future of Work

[7] RED FM, CentreBC AI package reported Oct. 20

[8] Freshet News, Freddy Rawji stops active campaigning, Oct. 20

[9] Elections BC, 2026 preliminary advance-voting turnout, updated Oct. 20

[10] Elections BC, voting opportunities and election-day rules

[11] Elections BC, official 2026 candidate information

[12] BCBallot, party platforms and election campaign reference