



B.C. Election 2026 - Day 1 Brief

Campaign opened Tuesday, September 22 | Final voting day: Saturday, October 24

DAY 1 IN 30 SECONDS

- Writs were issued in all 93 electoral districts. Nominations close October 3, advance voting runs October 16-21, and final voting is October 24. [1]
- Opposition realignment accelerated within hours: seven **CentreBC** MLAs returned to the **B.C. Conservatives**; **Elenore Sturko** remained with **CentreBC** and was subsequently named its leader. [2]
- The campaign also opened with candidate churn: **Kerry-Lynne Findlay** will not run for the **Conservatives** in Abbotsford-Mission; **Brent Chapman** moved to **OneBC**; and three **NDP** cabinet ministers are now not seeking re-election. [4]

What changed on Day 1

AREA	CONFIRMED DEVELOPMENT
Election called	Elections BC confirmed writs for the 44th Provincial General Election. The Abbotsford-Mission by-election was cancelled; ballots already cast there will not carry into the general election. [1]
Conservatives	Interim leader Lorne Doerkson entered the campaign after rapidly rebuilding the caucus. Seven former Conservative MLAs who had joined CentreBC on September 18 returned on Day 1. [2]
CentreBC	Elenore Sturko was the only one of CentreBC's eight sitting MLAs not to return to the Conservatives. CentreBC later announced her as leader, leaving the party with one sitting MLA at campaign launch. [3]
Findlay	Former Conservative leader Kerry-Lynne Findlay has left the party and, according to Lorne Doerkson , will not be its Abbotsford-Mission candidate in the general election. [4]
OneBC	Surrey South MLA Brent Chapman left the Conservatives and joined OneBC on September 22. [5]
NDP	Health Minister Ravi Kahlon and Emergency Management Minister Kelly Greene said they would not seek re-election. Tourism Minister Lana Popham had announced the same the previous day. [4]

Campaign framing at close of Day 1

- **NDP - David Eby** framed the early election around the U.S. trade conflict and the need for a renewed mandate to respond to external economic pressure. [4]
- **BC Conservatives** - The party criticized the early election as unnecessary while presenting the return of former caucus members as an effort to consolidate the opposition under **Lorne Doerkson**. [2]
- **BC Greens** - Leader **Emily Lowan** criticized the snap election and its timing, arguing the government should instead focus on governing through current pressures. [6]

■ **CentreBC** - The party begins the campaign under **Elenore Sturko** after losing seven of its eight sitting MLAs back to the Conservatives on the same day the writs were issued. [3]

■ **OneBC** - The party added **Brent Chapman** on Day 1, expanding its sitting representation as the campaign began. [5]

Election clock

DATE	MILESTONE
OCT 1	Register or update voter information by this date to ensure a Where to Vote card is mailed. ^[1]
OCT 3	Candidate nominations close at 1:00 p.m. Pacific. ^[1]
OCT 16-21	Advance voting, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. local time. ^[1]
OCT 17	General local elections across B.C. - a separate electoral event with separate voting arrangements. ^[7]
OCT 24	Final Voting Day for the provincial election, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Pacific. ^[1]

Polling: no Day 1 read yet

The most recent major provincial polls available at the close of Day 1 were fielded before the writ and before the September 22 party realignment. They are useful as a pre-campaign baseline, but they do not measure voter response to today's changes. ^[8]

What to watch on Day 2

- Formal candidate confirmations in ridings affected by late party switches, especially Abbotsford-Mission and seats represented by returning Conservative MLAs.
- Whether **CentreBC** publishes a broader candidate slate and how quickly **Elenore Sturko** establishes a campaign organization after the same-day leadership change.
- The first policy announcements made under writ conditions, rather than pre-election government announcements.
- Any polling fielded after September 22 that captures the writ call and the latest party realignment.

Scope note: This is a factual public-source monitoring brief. It does not endorse, oppose, rank, or recommend any party, leader, candidate, or electoral choice.

Sources

[1] **Elections BC.** [Writs issued / 2026 provincial election \(Sep. 22\)](#)

[2] **Canadian Press / Global News.** [Seven CentreBC MLAs return to Conservatives \(Sep. 22\)](#)

[3] **KamloopsBCNow.** [Sturko stays with CentreBC and becomes leader \(Sep. 22\)](#)

[4] **Canadian Press / Brandon Sun.** [Election call; Doerkson, Findlay and NDP candidate changes \(Sep. 22\)](#)

[5] **Sitka Media.** [Brent Chapman joins OneBC \(Sep. 22\)](#)

[6] **Global News.** [Party reaction to the election call \(Sep. 22\)](#)

[7] **Elections BC.** [2026 General Local Elections \(current\)](#)

[8] **338Canada poll list.** [Latest listed B.C. polls \(Angus Reid / Ipsos; pre-writ fieldwork\)](#)