



B.C. Election 2026 - Day 2 Brief

Campaign Day 2: Wednesday, September 23 | Final voting day: Saturday, October 24

DAY 2 IN 30 SECONDS

- Candidate turnover accelerated: former BC Conservative leader John Rustad will not seek re-election, while Brenda Bailey became the fourth NDP cabinet member to confirm she will not run. [2][4]
- CentreBC recruited Andrew Weaver in Oak Bay-Gordon Head, while BC Green leader Emily Lowan announced she will run in Saanich North and the Islands after incumbent Green MLA Rob Botterell stepped aside. [5][7]
- A new Liaison Strategies poll reported NDP 41%, Conservatives 36%, Greens 12%, CentreBC 4%, OneBC 4%. Fieldwork ran September 21-22, so it overlaps the writ call and party realignment rather than measuring a settled post-writ electorate. [9]

What changed on Day 2

AREA	CONFIRMED DEVELOPMENT
Conservatives	John Rustad will not run again in Nechako Lakes. The party also said every sitting member of its caucus had been approved to run. Its board said it would pursue a constitutional change so interim leader Lorne Doerkson could remain leader if the party forms government. [2][3]
NDP departures	Brenda Bailey announced she will not seek re-election in Vancouver-South Granville, joining Ravi Kahlon, Kelly Greene and Lana Popham as cabinet members not seeking another term. [4]
NDP candidates	Former MLA Kelli Paddon was announced in Chilliwack-Cultus Lake; former legislative reporter Richard Zussman was announced in Saanich South. Mike Farnworth, Adrian Dix, Bowinn Ma and Josie Osborne also confirmed they intend to seek re-election. [5][6]
CentreBC	Leader Elenore Sturko named former BC Green leader Andrew Weaver as CentreBC's candidate in Oak Bay-Gordon Head. Weaver represented the riding from 2013 to 2020. [7]
BC Greens	Leader Emily Lowan will run in Saanich North and the Islands after incumbent MLA Rob Botterell announced he will not seek re-election. Lowan said the party was preparing a full slate while focusing significant resources on southern Vancouver Island. [2]
OneBC	No additional Day 2 MLA switch or leadership change was identified in the sources reviewed. Brent Chapman's September 22 move from the Conservatives to OneBC remains the party's latest major caucus development. [8]
Election admin.	Elections BC said it needs about 17,000 election officials to deliver services comparable to 2024. Provincial candidate nominations remain open until 1:00 p.m. Pacific on October 3. [1][2]

Campaign framing at close of Day 2

- NDP - David Eby announced a plan to triple funding for U.S. health-worker recruitment to \$15 million, with a stated goal of recruiting 2,400 additional workers and expanding outreach into Republican-controlled states. [2]
- BC Conservatives - The party emphasized caucus consolidation and election readiness, while its board moved to address the constitutional restriction preventing an interim leader from simply becoming permanent leader. [2][3]
- BC Greens - Emily Lowan launched her candidacy in a Green-held riding and said the party intends to field a full slate, with the strongest concentration of resources on southern Vancouver Island. [2]

- CentreBC - After beginning the campaign with one sitting MLA, CentreBC used Day 2 to rebuild its slate around a high-profile recruit: former Green leader Andrew Weaver in Oak Bay-Gordon Head. [7]
- OneBC - No comparable Day 2 leadership or caucus change was identified. Dallas Brodie remained leader and Brent Chapman remained the party's newest sitting MLA following his September 22 switch. [8]

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	Provincial candidate nominations close at 1:00 p.m. Pacific. [1]
OCT 16-21	Provincial advance voting, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. local time. [1]
OCT 17	General local elections across B.C. - a separate election with separate voting administration. [10]
OCT 24	Final Voting Day for the provincial election, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Pacific. [1]

Polling: first campaign-era numbers

A Liaison Strategies poll released September 23 reported NDP 41%, BC Conservatives 36%, BC Greens 12%, CentreBC 4%, OneBC 4% and other parties 3% among decided and leaning voters. Liaison surveyed 1,000 British Columbians on September 21-22 using IVR; the total-sample margin of error is +/-3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. [9]

The timing matters: fieldwork began before the writ was issued and continued on writ day, overlapping the September 22 opposition realignment. It is therefore an early campaign baseline, not a clean measurement of voter reaction after those changes. [9]

Provincial-local election overlap

The scheduling collision became concrete on Day 2. Provincial advance voting begins October 16, immediately before B.C.'s October 17 local elections. The BC School Trustees Association warned on September 23 that local and school-board races risk being overshadowed while both campaigns run side by side. [1][10][11]

There is also a direct candidate-level crossover in Saanich: Andrew Weaver is running provincially for CentreBC while being publicly listed as campaign manager for Jordan Weaver, an independent candidate for Saanich council in the October 17 local election. [12]

What to watch on Day 3

- Replacement candidates in Nechako Lakes, Vancouver-South Granville and other seats opened by late incumbent departures.
- Whether CentreBC converts the Weaver recruitment into a broader slate after its Day 1 caucus collapse.
- The timing and mechanism of any Conservative constitutional change concerning Lorne Doerksen.
- Formal candidate filings as party announcements begin translating into Elections BC nominations.
- The first poll conducted wholly after the writ and September 22-23 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. [2026 Provincial Election - key dates and voting information](#) (current).
- [2] Canadian Press / iNFOnews. [Doerksen leadership rule, Rustad exit, Bailey, Lowan and election administration](#) (Sep. 23).
- [3] Conservative Party of B.C. [Every sitting Conservative caucus member approved to run: Rustad not seeking re-election](#) (Sep. 23).
- [4] Global News. [Brenda Bailey will not seek re-election](#) (Sep. 23).
- [5] Canadian Press / 650 CKOM. [Candidate round-up: NDP, CentreBC, Greens and Conservatives](#) (Sep. 23).
- [6] Fraser Valley Today. [Kelli Paddon announced in Chilliwack-Cultus Lake](#) (Sep. 23).
- [7] Times Colonist / Castanet. [Andrew Weaver to run for CentreBC in Oak Bay-Gordon Head](#) (Sep. 23).
- [8] Sitka Media. [Brent Chapman joined OneBC on September 22](#)
- [9] Liaison Strategies. [B.C. political tracker: NDP 41%, Conservatives 36%](#) (Sep. 23).
- [10] Elections BC. [2026 General Local Elections - October 17](#) (current).
- [11] BC School Trustees Association. [Two elections, one important reminder](#) (Sep. 23).
- [12] Jordan Weaver campaign. [Saanich Council candidacy announcement listing Andrew Weaver as campaign manager](#) (Sep. 14).