McAllister
Opinion Research

BC GENERAL ELECTION · OCTOBER 24, 2026

What happened in BC's 2026 election, and why

Who switched, who stayed home and what voters wanted: our final poll and Elections BC's riding results

McAllister Opinion Research · October 26, 2026

POST-MORTEM

ABOUT THIS BRIEFING

This briefing combines our final poll with Elections BC's riding results to explain who voted, who switched and why

1 Our final poll

We surveyed 1,959 British Columbians online from October 20 to 24, the last five days of the campaign. We asked how they planned to vote (or had voted), why, and how they voted in 2024 and federally in 2025.

2 The election count

Elections BC's initial count for all 93 ridings, complete as of October 26 and preliminary until the final count. We compare it with 2024 on the same basis: only the kinds of ballots counted on election night.

3 Neighbourhood data

We linked each respondent's postal code, and each riding, to the 2021 Census: income, renting, immigration, age and education. This shows where the vote moved and who moved it.

How to read the numbers

- Vote shares count decided voters who had already voted or were certain to vote.
- How voters moved since 2024 is estimated from the riding results. Think of each riding as a room: if the rooms that lost the most NDP voters are also the rooms that gained the most Conservative voters, the pattern tells us where voters went. Our poll checks the estimate.
- All 2026 counts are preliminary. Mail-in and out-of-district ballots are added at the final count, planned for November 6 to 10.

THE SHORT VERSION

The NDP lost a quarter of its 2024 vote while the Conservative vote held, and that decided the election

1. **63 of 93** seats for the Conservatives: a majority, with 48.1% of the vote. The NDP won 28 seats (37.4%) and the Greens 2 (11.0%). It is the BC Conservatives' first election win since 1928.

2. **−213,000** NDP votes compared with 2024 on an election-night basis, a drop of 24%. The Conservative vote barely moved (−3,521). The Greens gained 34,000, partly by running in more ridings (73, up from 69).

3. **10 in 100** of 2024's NDP voters switched to the Conservatives, and about 6 went Green. Others stayed home (estimates from the riding results; our poll points the same way).

4. **48.1%** turnout on the initial count (by coincidence, the same as the Conservative share), down from 55.1% on election night in 2024.

5. **11.1 pts** the Conservative lead in our final poll. The actual lead was 10.7 points; the six public polls fielded October 20–23, published before the vote, showed 4 to 6.

Sources: Elections BC initial count (100% of ballot boxes, October 26, 2026); 2024 results by voting opportunity; McAllister Opinion Research poll, October 20–24, 2026 (n=1,959).

HOW WE DID THE RESEARCH

A five-day online poll, checked for quality and weighted to BC's adult population

When and how. Online, October 20 to 24, 2026, in English. 1,281 people came from a research panel and 678 were recruited through social media ads.

Quality checks. We removed 173 of 2,132 completed surveys: repeat entries, people who rushed or answered every grid the same way, answers written by AI tools, and people living outside BC. 1,959 remain.

Weighting. Matched to BC adults by region, gender, age and education (BC Stats 2026 projections; 2021 Census). Among people who recalled how they voted, also matched to the 2024 BC result in each of the four regions and to the 2025 federal result.

Likely voters. Vote shares count decided voters who had already voted or were certain to vote: 1,353 people.

The likely-voter screen, the ballot check and the weighting targets all use information available before election day (candidate lists closed October 3). The weighting was revised on October 26 to match the 2024 results region by region.

HOW PRECISE THE POLL IS

Our results are accurate to about ±3 points for BC as a whole and ±4 to ±8 points for each region

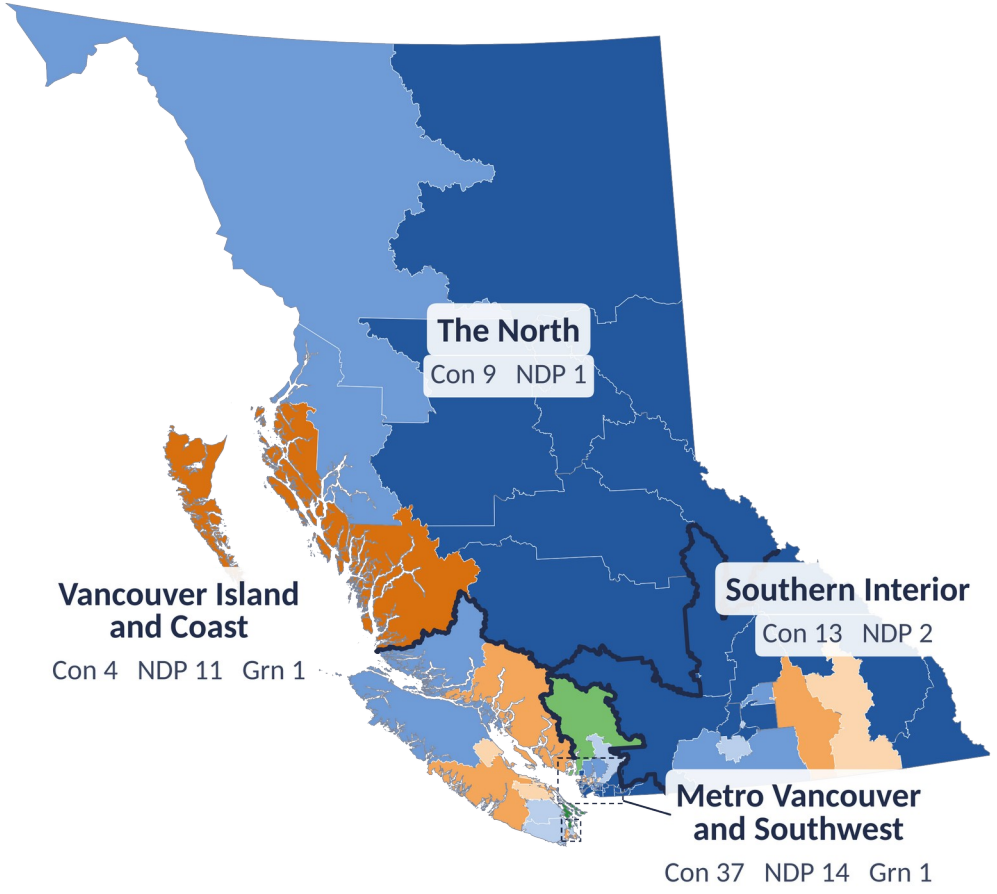
Region	Ridings	People surveyed	Design effect	Margin, all adults	Decided voters*	Margin, decided voters*
British Columbia	93	1,959	1.57	±2.8	1,353	±3.2
Metro Vancouver / Southwest	52	852	1.36	±3.9	605	±4.5
Vancouver Island / Coast	16	417	1.53	±5.9	290	±7.0
Southern Interior	15	391	1.43	±5.9	245	±7.4
The North	10	299	1.39	±6.7	213	±7.5

Margin of error. We report Bayesian 95% credible intervals: given our data, there is a 95% chance the true figure is within this many points of our estimate. This covers sampling error only. The figures are for a 50% result, where the range is widest.

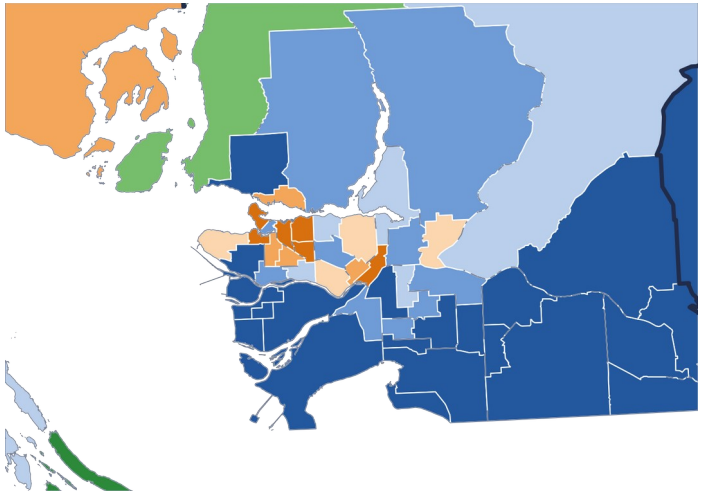
Design effect. Weighting makes some answers count more than others, which costs some precision. A design effect of 1.57 means our 1,959 interviews are as precise as a pure random sample of about 1,250.

*Decided voters who had already voted or were certain to vote, after the ballot check; their margins use the design effect within that group. Regions group the 93 ridings: Metro Vancouver / Southwest includes the Fraser Valley and Sea to Sky; Vancouver Island / Coast includes Powell River–Sunshine Coast; Southern Interior includes Fraser-Nicola; The North runs from the Cariboo to the Peace and North Coast.

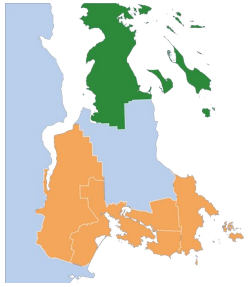
The Conservatives won almost everywhere except Vancouver Island and the City of Vancouver, where, even in the face of major losses, the NDP still holds most seats



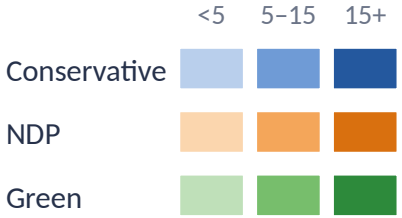
Metro Vancouver



Greater Victoria



Winning margin, points



Seats, 2024 → 2026

	Con	NDP	Grn
Metro / Southwest	21→37	30→14	1→1
Island / Coast	2→4	13→11	1→1
Southern Interior	12→13	3→2	0→0
The North	9→9	1→1	0→0
All of BC	**44→63**	**47→28**	**2→2**

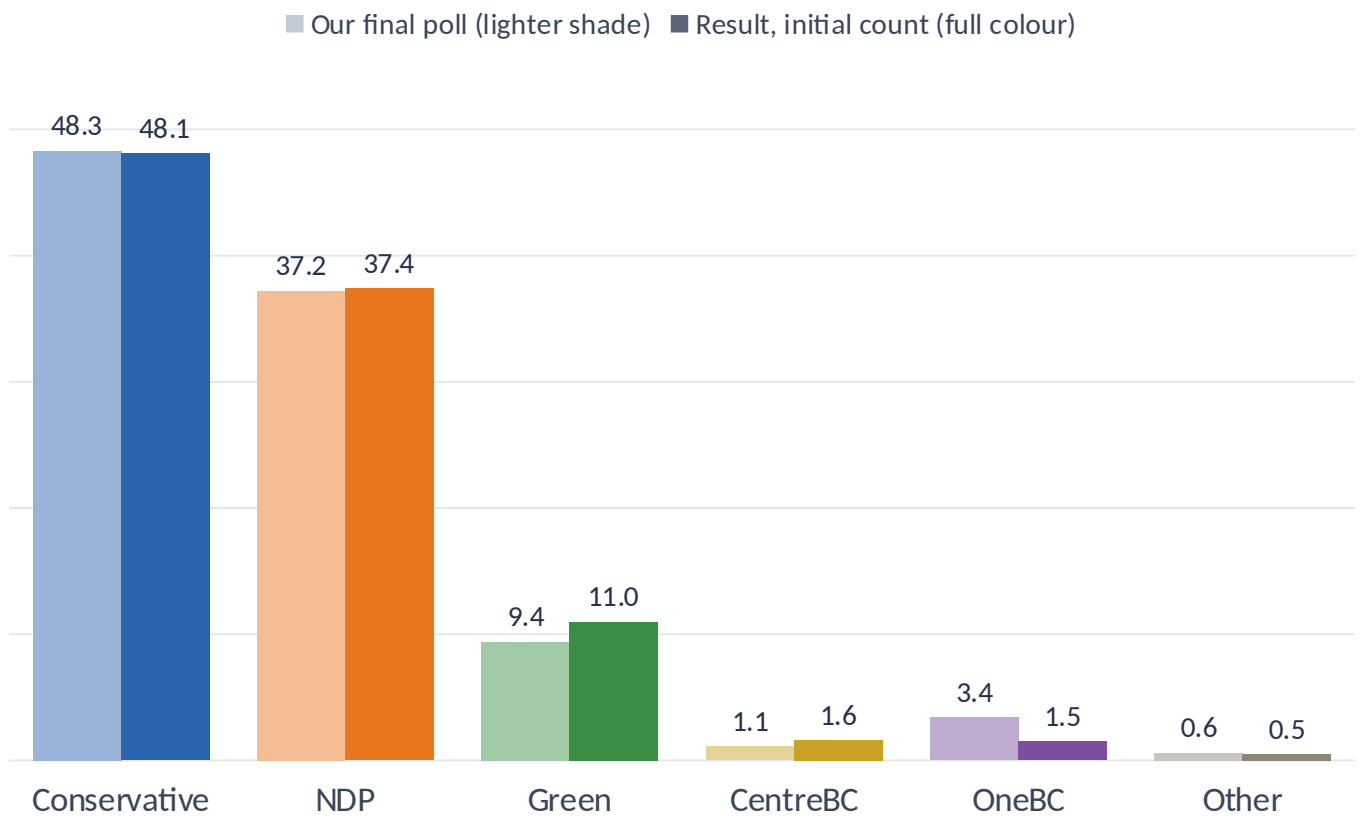
Outside the Vancouver Island region and the City of Vancouver, the Conservatives won 55 of 65 seats.

Twenty (20) seats moved from the NDP to the Conservatives.

One seat, Courtenay-Comox, moved the other way.

Source: Elections BC initial count, October 26, 2026. Shading shows the winner's lead over second place, in percentage points.

Our final poll came within 1 point of the Conservatives' winning margin



The Conservative lead over the NDP

Six public polls, October 20–23

4 to 6 pts

Our final poll

11.1 pts

Actual result

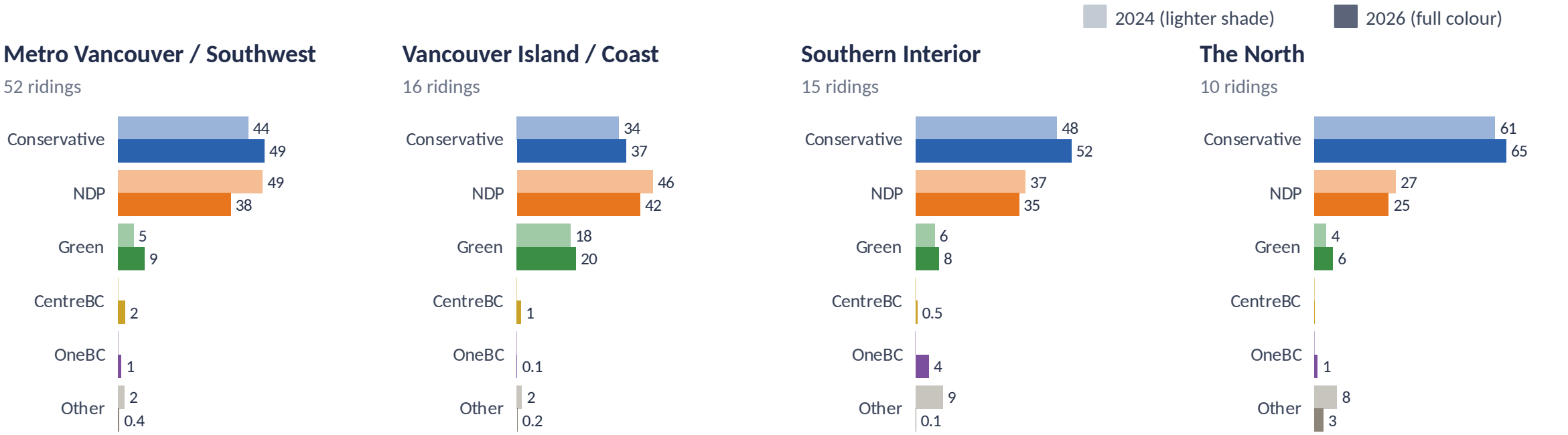
10.7 pts

Before the likely-voter screen and the ballot check, our decided voters gave the Conservatives a 9-point lead (45% to 36%).

Our poll: decided voters who had already voted or were certain to vote, after the ballot check (n=1,353), weighted. Result: Elections BC initial count, October 26. Public polls: the six polls fielded October 20–23 (Forum, Ipsos, Leger, Mainstreet, Pallas, Research Co.), as published before the vote; ours is reported after the count, so this is not a like-for-like comparison.

VOTE SHARE BY REGION, 2024 VS 2026

Metro Vancouver swung hardest, with the NDP down 11 points; on the Island, in the Interior and in the North, the NDP slipped only 2 to 4 points



Biggest swing: NDP −11. In the suburbs from Burnaby to Surrey it fell 10 points as the Conservatives rose 6. In the City of Vancouver it fell even more (−13), and the Greens gained most (+7, to 16%). The North Shore swung hardest: NDP −14, Conservatives +10.

Modest shifts: NDP −4, but still first at 42%. Conservatives +3 and Greens +2. At 20%, the Island is still by far the Greens' strongest region.

NDP −2 only. The 9% that went to independents and others in 2024 all but disappeared. Conservatives +4; OneBC took 4%, its best region.

Already the Conservatives' best region, now 65% (+4). NDP −2 and Greens +2; independents and others fell from 8% to 3%.

Share of valid votes. 2024 on the election-night basis (excludes mail-in, assisted telephone and out-of-district election-day ballots, which Elections BC counts later); 2026 initial count. Changes are in percentage points. 'Other' was mostly independents. Regions as on slide 5.

The NDP lost about 213,000 votes from 2024, 72% of them in Metro Vancouver and the Southwest; the Conservative vote barely changed

−213,411

NDP votes (−24.1%)

−3,521

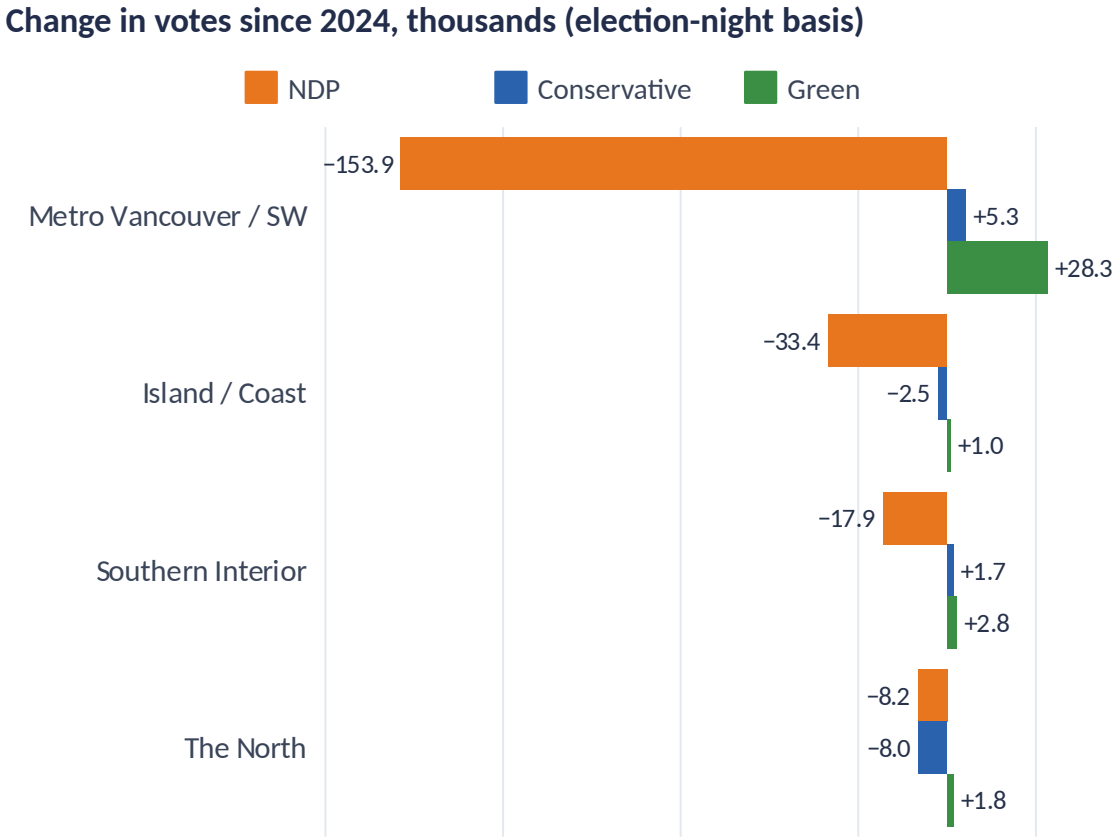
Conservative votes (−0.4%)

+33,835

Green votes (+20.7%)

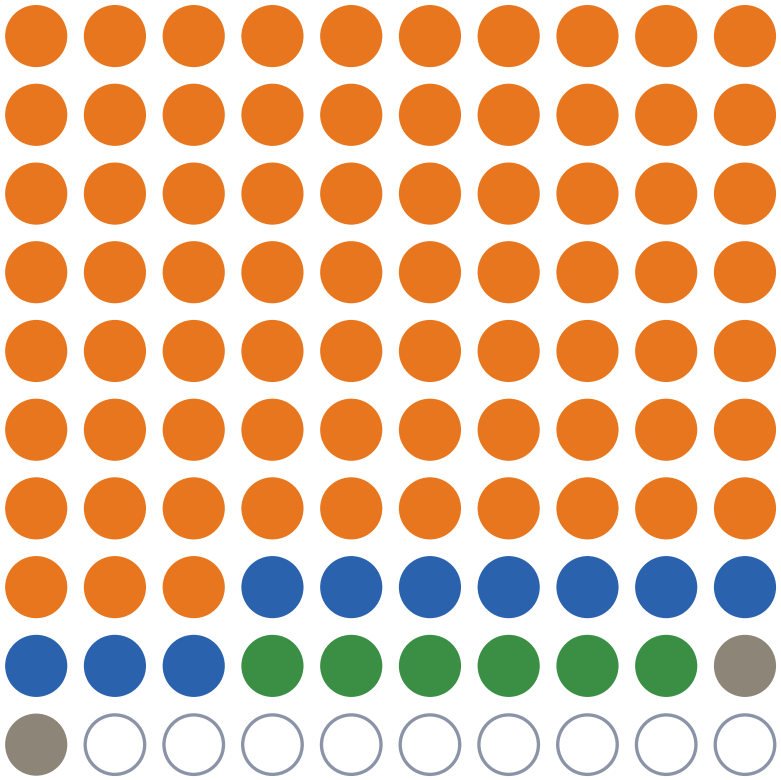
55.1% → 48.1%

turnout, election-night ballots



Election-night basis: the 2024 count excludes the ballots Elections BC counts later in 2026 (mail-in, assisted telephone and out-of-district election-day ballots), so both years compare like with like. The Greens ran in 73 ridings in 2026 and 69 in 2024.

Of every 100 people who voted NDP in 2024, about 73 did so again and about 10 switched to the Conservatives



73	NDP again
10	Conservative
6	Green
2	Other party
9	Stayed home

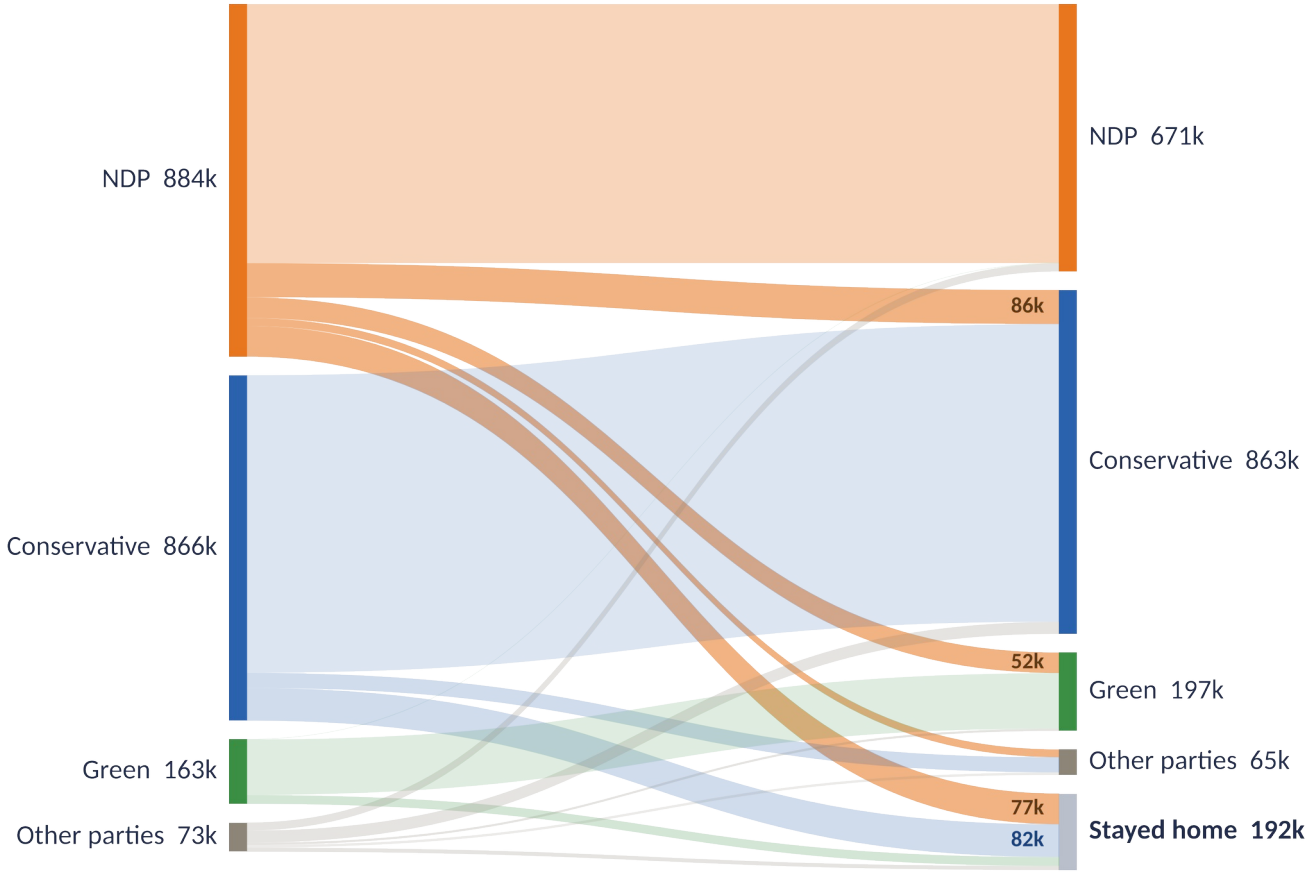
Conservative voters from 2024 were steadier. Of every 100, about 86 voted Conservative again, 4 went to other parties and 9 stayed home (how the last two split is uncertain).

Our poll agrees. Among 2024 NDP voters who had voted or were certain to vote, 12 in 100 chose the Conservatives (the riding model says 11) and 8 chose the Greens.

How sure we are. We find the switching rates that best explain how each riding's vote changed. This method is solid for the NDP-again and Green figures, but it struggles to tell switching from staying home: other methods put NDP voters who stayed home anywhere from 5 to 15 in 100, and switchers to the Conservatives from 7 to 12.

Riding-level model: rates fitted on the 68 ridings with the same main parties on the ballot both years, then matched to all 93 ridings' totals (2024 election-night basis to the 2026 initial count). Bootstrap 80% range for NDP-to-Conservative: 7.0 to 12.9 in 100. Poll: 2024 NDP voters who had voted or were certain to vote, with a party choice (n=574).

The Conservative vote held because NDP switchers largely replaced the voters the Conservatives lost



About 86,000

2024 NDP voters who voted Conservative, probably the largest move from one party to another (other methods: 62,000 to 107,000).

About 120,000

2024 Conservative voters who stayed home or switched to OneBC, CentreBC or other small parties (how they split is uncertain).

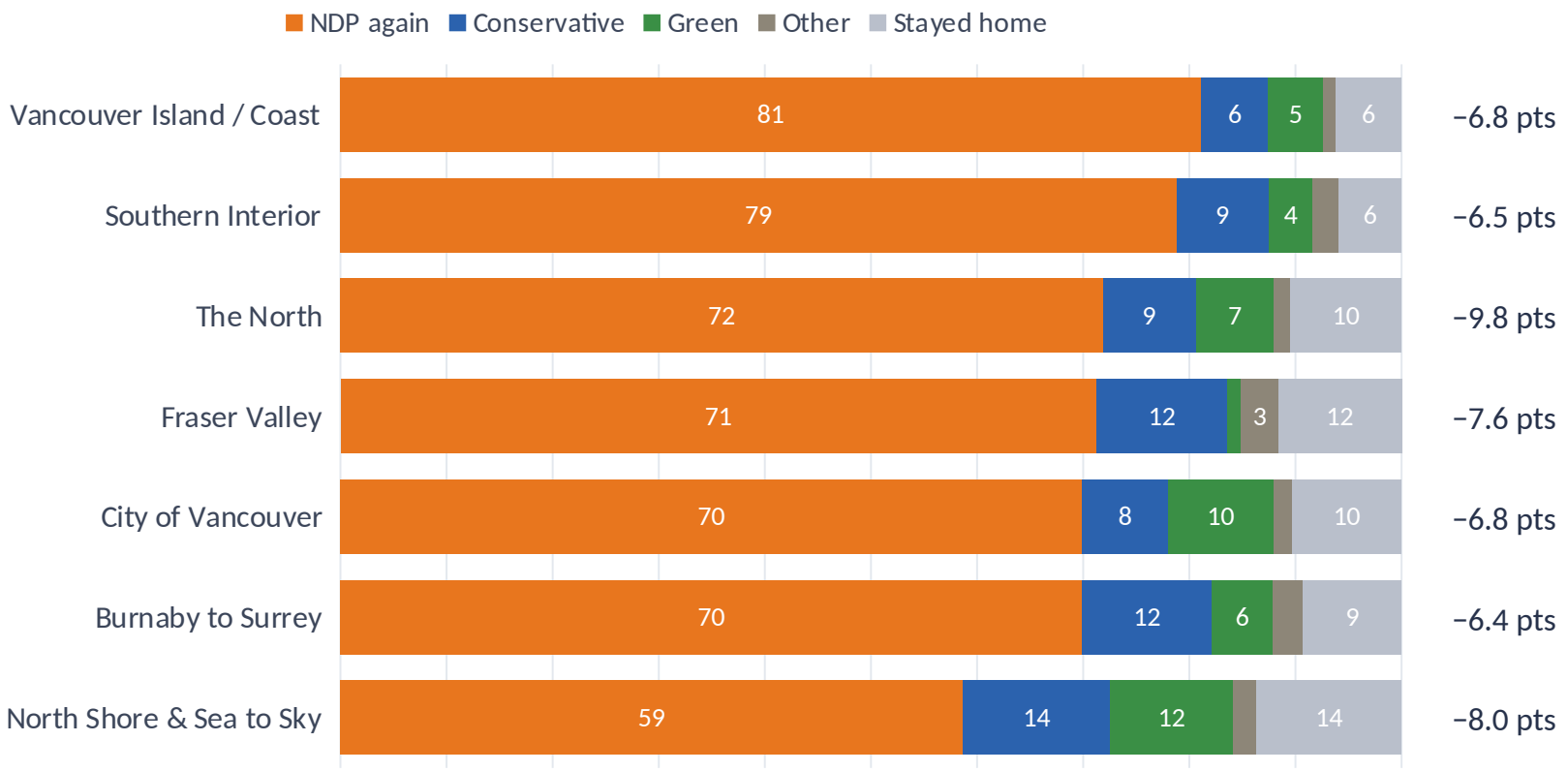
192,000

fewer valid votes counted on election night than in 2024, even though the voters list had grown by nearly 130,000 more people.

Central estimate of the net movement of 2024 election-night voters to the 2026 initial count (riding-level model). The split between switching and staying home is the least certain part (see slide 10). 'Other parties' in 2024 were mostly independents; in 2026, mostly OneBC and CentreBC.

The NDP kept its voters best on Vancouver Island and in the Interior, and worst on the North Shore

What 100 NDP voters from 2024 did in 2026



Turnout change

−6.8 pts

−6.5 pts

−9.8 pts

−7.6 pts

−6.8 pts

−6.4 pts

−8.0 pts

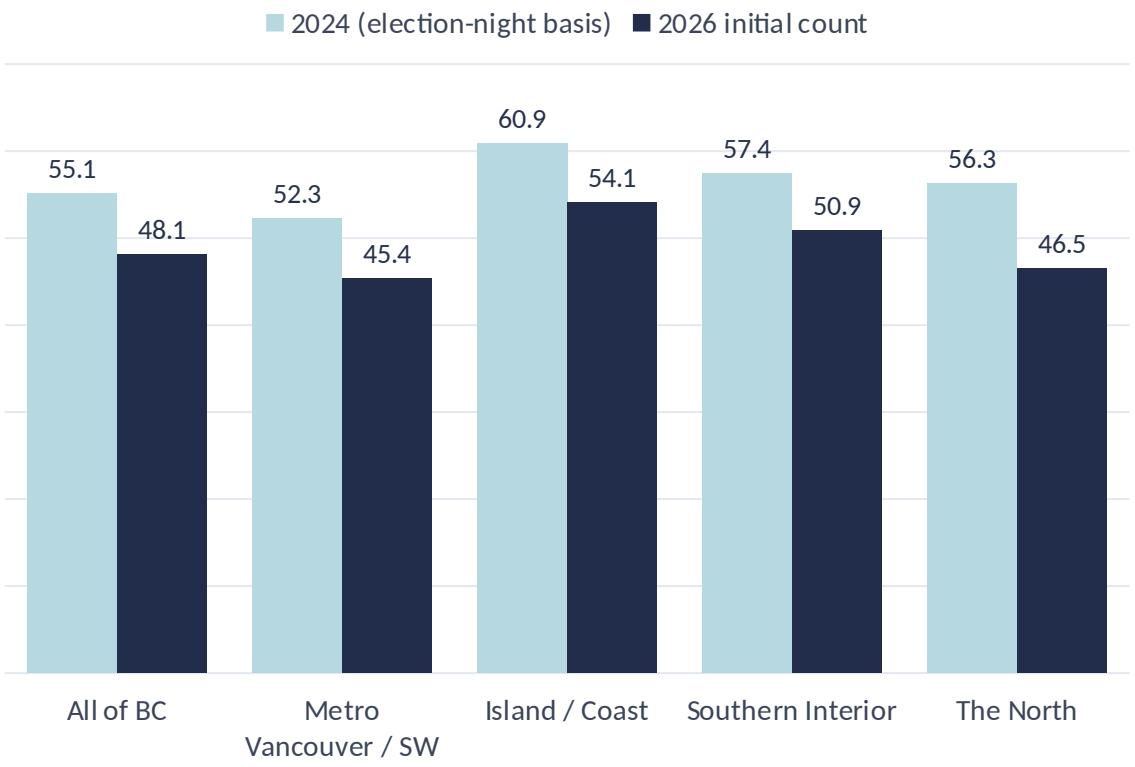
Where the 20 seats changed hands: 11 in the suburbs from Burnaby and Coquitlam to Richmond, Delta and Surrey, 3 in the City of Vancouver, 3 on Vancouver Island and one each in Maple Ridge, North Vancouver and Vernon.

Close seats. If the NDP's switchers had stayed with it, the model suggests the NDP would have kept about 15 of the 20 (14 to 17 with other methods).

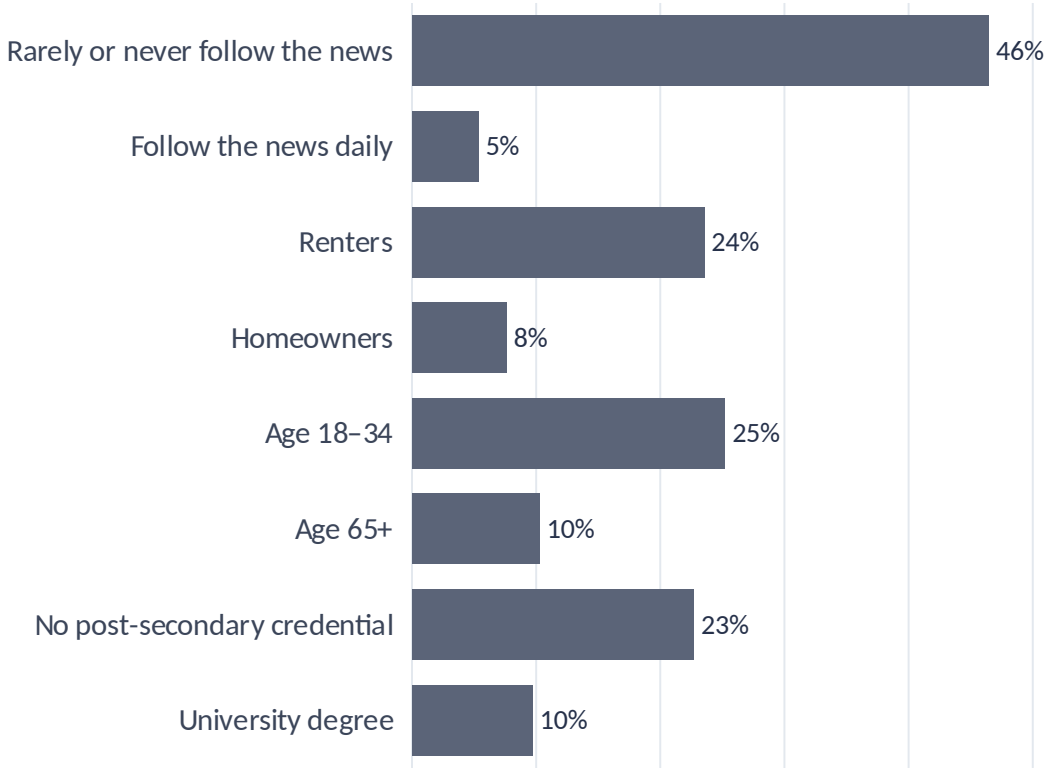
Riding-level model estimates, summed by area; the switching and stayed-home shares are the least certain parts. Fraser Valley includes Langley and Maple Ridge; Burnaby to Surrey includes New Westminster, Coquitlam, Port Moody, Richmond and Delta. Turnout: election-night ballots as a share of registered voters, 2026 vs 2024 (2026 registration by riding estimated from the province-wide total).

Turnout fell in every region; people unsure about voting were younger, renting and less tuned in to the news

Turnout, % of registered voters



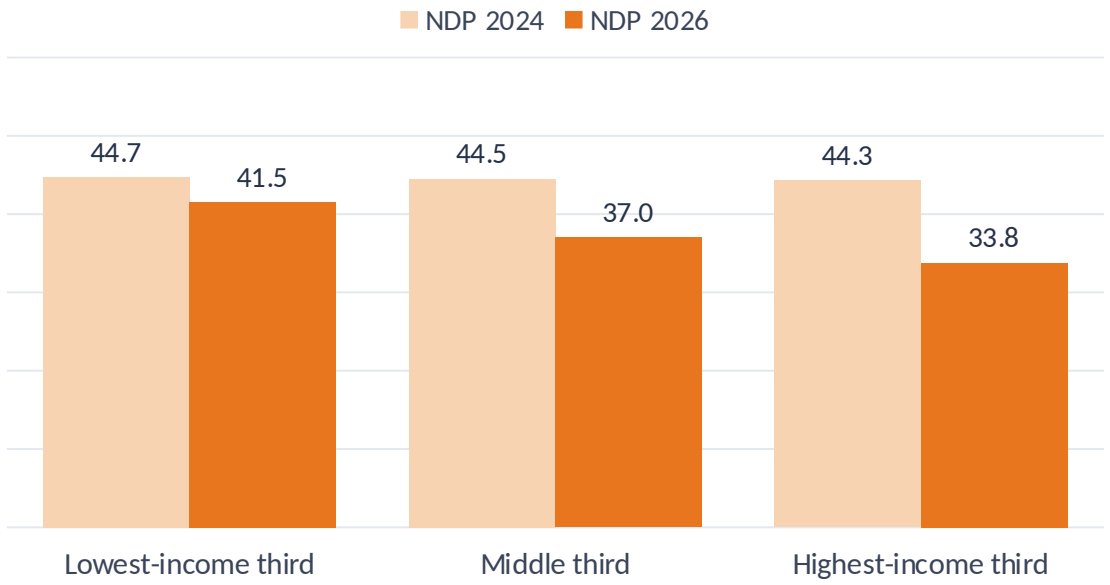
Not sure or not planning to vote, % of each group (our poll)



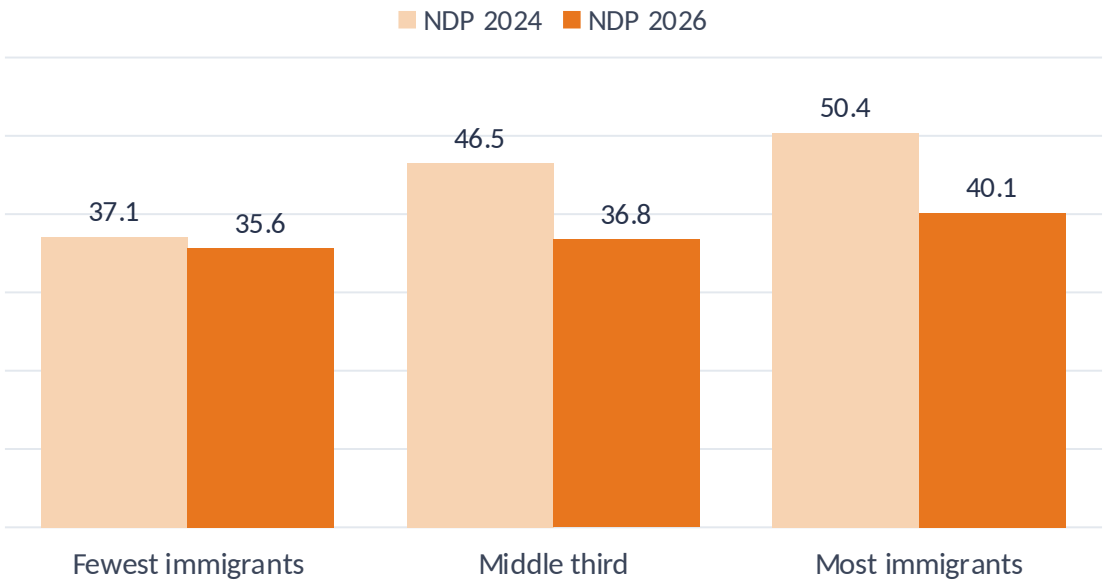
Turnout: election-night ballots ÷ registered voters; 2026 by region uses 2024 registration grown by the province-wide change (+3.6%), since Elections BC has not yet published 2026 registration by riding. 2026 uses the October 14 voters list; if the 2024 total includes people who registered when they voted, the drop is a little larger than shown. Poll: all respondents (n=1,959), weighted. Among 2024 NDP voters, renters were three times as likely as homeowners to be less than certain to vote (18% vs 6%).

The NDP lost the most ground in higher-income ridings and in ridings with more immigrants

NDP share of the vote, by riding income (thirds of ridings)



NDP share of the vote, by the riding's share of immigrants (thirds)



Our poll shows the same pattern at the street level. 2024 NDP voters in the third of neighbourhoods with the fewest renters switched to the Conservatives at about twice the rate of those in the third with the most renters (18% vs 9%). In the highest-income third of ridings the Conservative share rose 5.9 points.

Ridings grouped into thirds (31 each) using 2021 Census dissemination areas assigned to ridings by address. Income thirds (average of neighbourhood median household incomes): $66,800–84,100, $84,300–97,200, $98,200–130,900. Immigrant thirds: 8–14.7%, 14.7–37.1%, 37.3–68.2% of residents. Vote shares: election-night ballots, 2024 vs 2026. Neighbourhoods: each respondent's postal code linked to its census dissemination area; renter thirds are up to 17.4% and over 38.2% of households renting.

Conservative voters are mostly homeowners who wanted a change of government; NDP voters are more urban and approved of the NDP government

Conservative voters

48.1% of the vote

Homeowners in the suburbs, the Interior and the North who think the BC government is on the wrong track

70% own their home

84% say the BC government is on the wrong track

49% say their finances are worse than a year ago

60% are men

77% voted Conservative federally (17% Liberal)

81% have a positive view of Lorne Doerkson

Top issues: cost of living 72% · health care 44% · taxes and the economy 43% · crime 34%

"Green lighting resource development, getting product to market, reaping the financial rewards to help bring down the deficit."
Conservative in 2024 and 2026 · woman, 65+, Vancouver Island

NDP voters

37.4% of the vote

Urban and suburban voters who approved of the government and trust it, and who mostly vote Liberal federally

77% say the BC government is on the right track

75% trust the BC government (Con voters: 18%)

67% voted Liberal federally (25% NDP)

51% are women

35% rent their home

83% have a positive view of Mark Carney

Top issues: cost of living 72% · health care 53% · housing 28% · taxes and the economy 24%

"Want a provincial govt to work collaboratively with the federal govt to ensure we create an inclusive and safe province for all."
NDP in 2024 and 2026 · woman, 50–64, Metro Vancouver

Decided voters who had voted or were certain to vote: Conservative n=657, NDP n=494; weighted. Top issues: named among their three most important issues.

Green voters are younger, often renting and unhappy with the NDP; people unsure about voting were younger, renting and financially stretched

Green voters

11.0% of the vote

Younger, more often university-educated and renting, many on Vancouver Island, and unhappy with the NDP government

30% are aged 18 to 34 (all voters: 22%)

41% rent their home

43% have a university degree

59% say the BC government is on the wrong track

90% have a positive view of Emily Lowan

42% live in a union household

Top issues: cost of living 61% · health care 52% · housing 30% · nature and the environment 29%

"Taxing the rich, the disparity between the rich and everyone else has gone too far"
Green in 2026 · woman, 35–49, Vancouver Island

Unsure or not voting

16% of adults

People not sure they would vote, or not voting: younger, renting, with less formal education and under financial strain

44% are aged 18 to 34

57% rent their home

60% have no post-secondary credential

69% are falling behind or just getting by

54% are confident the election is fair (voters: 77%)

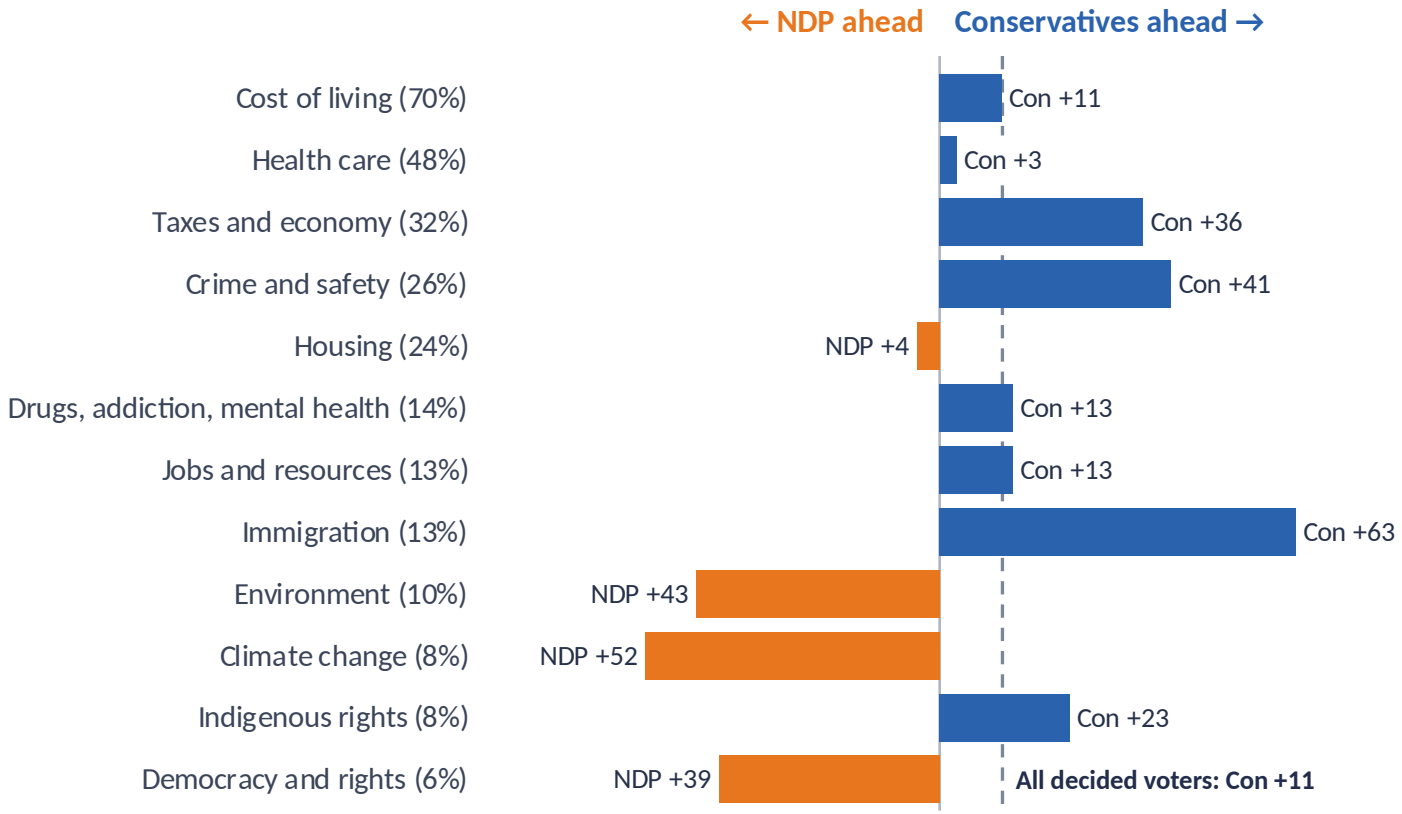
61% are women

Top issues: cost of living 80% · health care 41% · housing 36%

"The population has expanded, housing and resources can not keep up and prices have skyrocketed. Local people can no longer afford to live where they grew up."
NDP in 2024, not sure about 2026 · woman, 35–49, the North (shortened)

Green: decided voters who had voted or were certain to vote (n=131). Unsure or not voting: respondents not sure they would vote, or not voting (n=244; 16% weighted). OneBC's voters (n=49, treat with caution) were the most negative: 95% said wrong track and 27% were confident the election was run fairly.

Cost of living, the top issue, leaned Conservative; taxes and crime were strongly Conservative and health care was close to even



How to read this. Each bar shows which party was ahead, and by how many points, among voters who named that issue in their top three. The dashed line is the Conservatives' 11-point lead among all decided voters: issues to its right leaned more Conservative than voters overall. The % after each issue is how many voters named it.

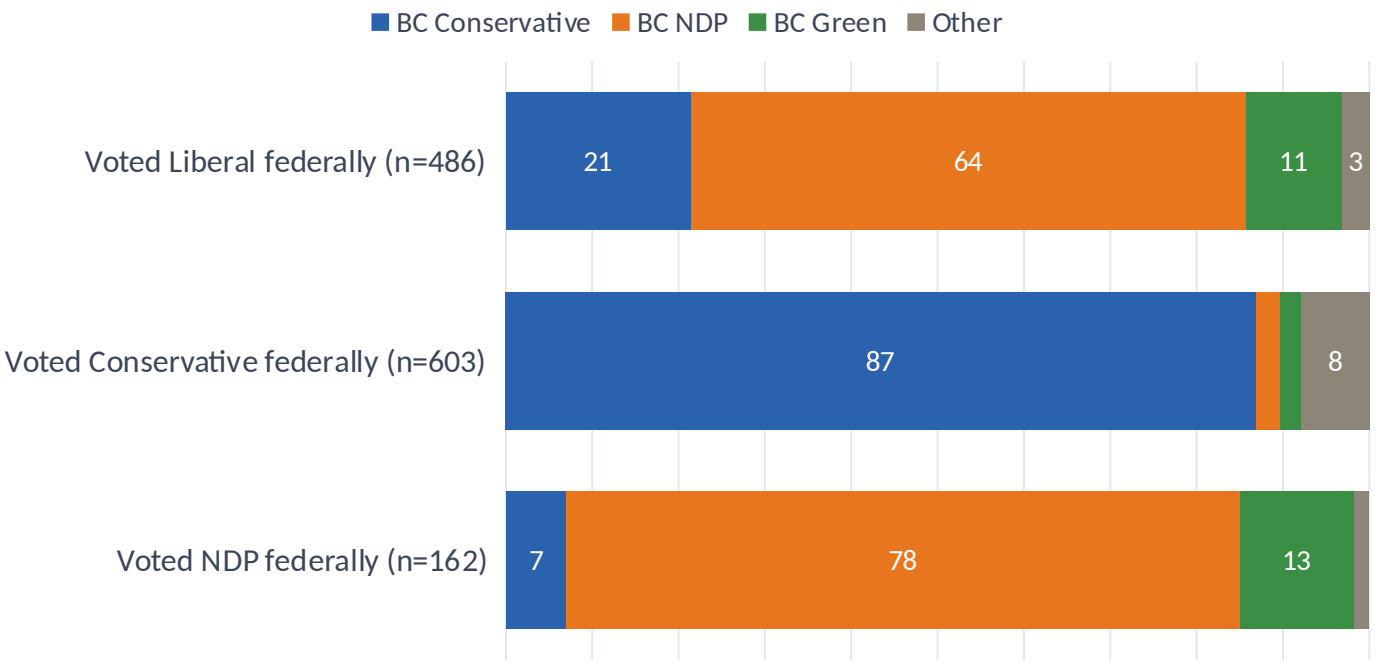
Shared goals often decide elections. Donald Stokes, a University of Michigan political scientist, coined the term 'valence issues' in 1963 for goals nearly everyone shares, such as prosperity. Voters then pick the party they trust most to deliver. Health care and the cost of living work this way.

Cost of living was named by 70% of voters; they favoured the Conservatives by 11 points, about the same as voters overall. Health care, the second-biggest issue, was close to even (Con +3).

Decided voters who had voted or were certain to vote (n=1,353), weighted. E1: 'Which issues are MOST important to you in this election? Select up to 3.' Not shown: building wealth for people who live here (7%, Con +27), wildfire and emergencies (6%, NDP +32), sustainability (4%).

About 1 in 5 federal Liberal voters backed the BC Conservatives, and nearly all of them like Mark Carney

How 2025 federal voters voted in BC in 2026



17% of BC Conservative voters voted Liberal federally in 2025 (20% in Metro Vancouver).

97% of these Liberal–Conservative voters have a positive view of Mark Carney; 65% have a negative view of David Eby.

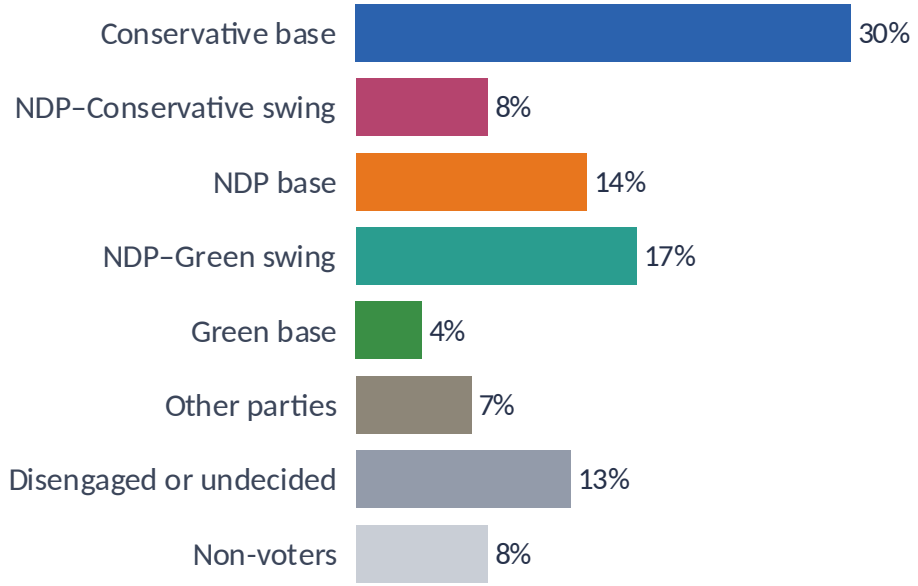
49% federal Liberal support in BC in mid-October (Abacus Data, October 16–21; Conservatives 31%, NDP 14%).

What it may mean: the new government's majority rests partly on voters who like the federal Liberal prime minister, and keeping their support will matter. Two-thirds of the NDP's own voters also vote Liberal federally, so both BC parties are competing for the same federal Liberals.

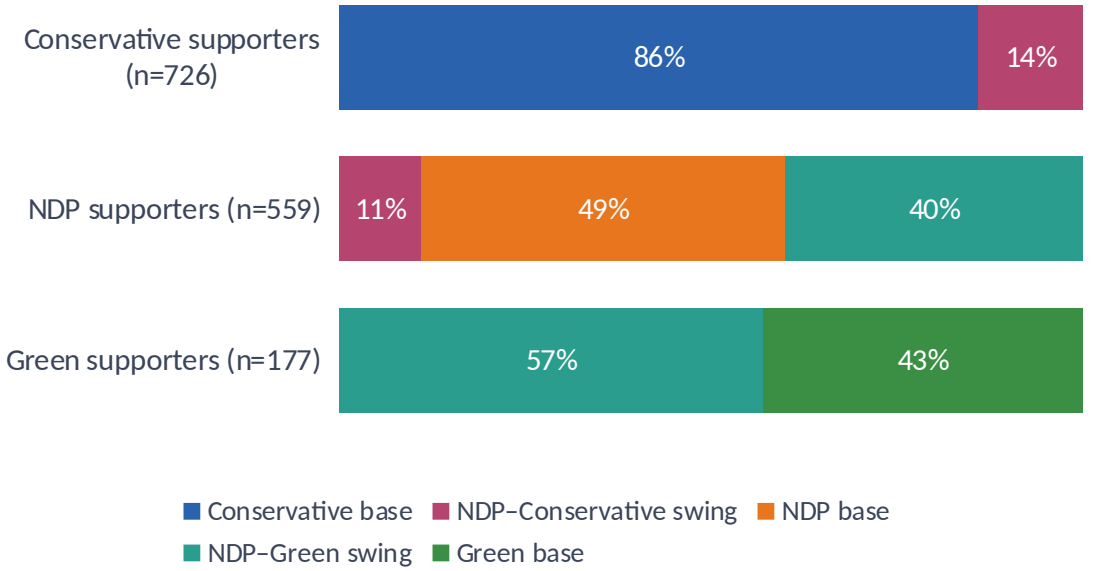
Our poll: decided voters who had voted or were certain to vote, by recalled 2025 federal vote; Liberal–Conservative voters n=89. Federal poll: Abacus Data, fielded October 16–21, 2026 (BC subsample; small sample).

One BC adult in four is a swing voter, two in three swing voters between the NDP and the Greens; one Conservative supporter in seven has a link to the NDP

Share of BC adults



How each party's supporters divide



Base. Supports the Conservatives, the NDP or the Greens, with no link to the other party in its swing group (for NDP supporters, neither the Conservatives nor the Greens).

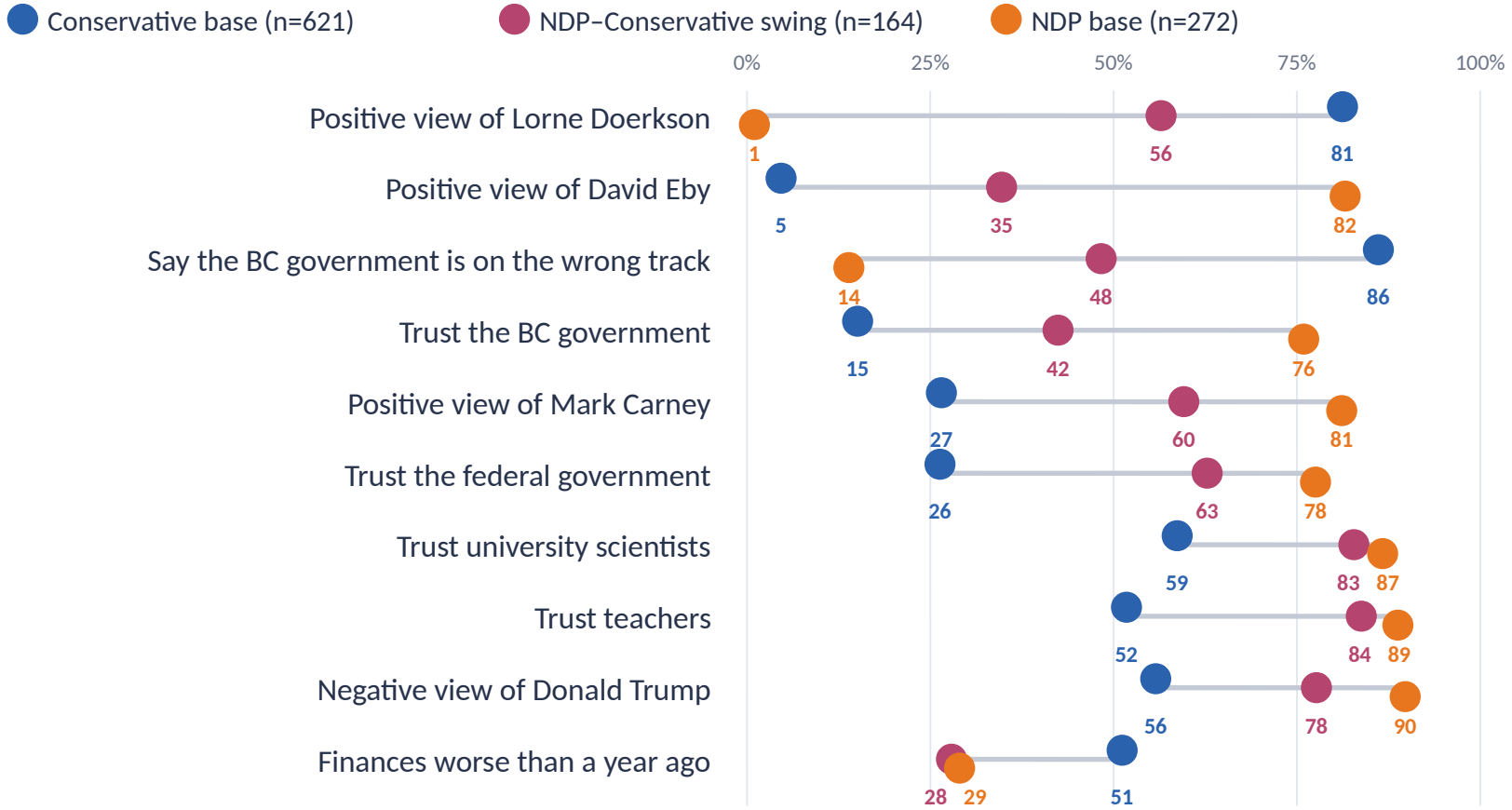
NDP–Conservative swing. Supports one of the two and has a link to the other: second choice, 2024 vote, or 2025 vote for its federal counterpart.

NDP–Green swing. The same for the NDP and the Greens. Only these two pairs are tracked, and swing voters are not part of any base.

Disengaged or undecided. Not sure they will vote, or named no party. Non-voters: not voting or not eligible. Other parties: OneBC, CentreBC, others.

All adults (n=1,959), weighted; shares may not add to 100 because of rounding. Supporters: likely voters by first choice, as stated (before the ballot check). Only NDP–Conservative and NDP–Green links count: a Conservative whose second choice is OneBC, for example, is Conservative base. The 12 people linked both ways count as NDP–Conservative swing.

NDP–Conservative swing voters are closer to the NDP base on trust in scientists, teachers and the federal government, but they rated Doerkson well above Eby



Who they are

8% of BC adults

62% chose the Conservatives this time (38% the NDP)

68% voted NDP in 2024

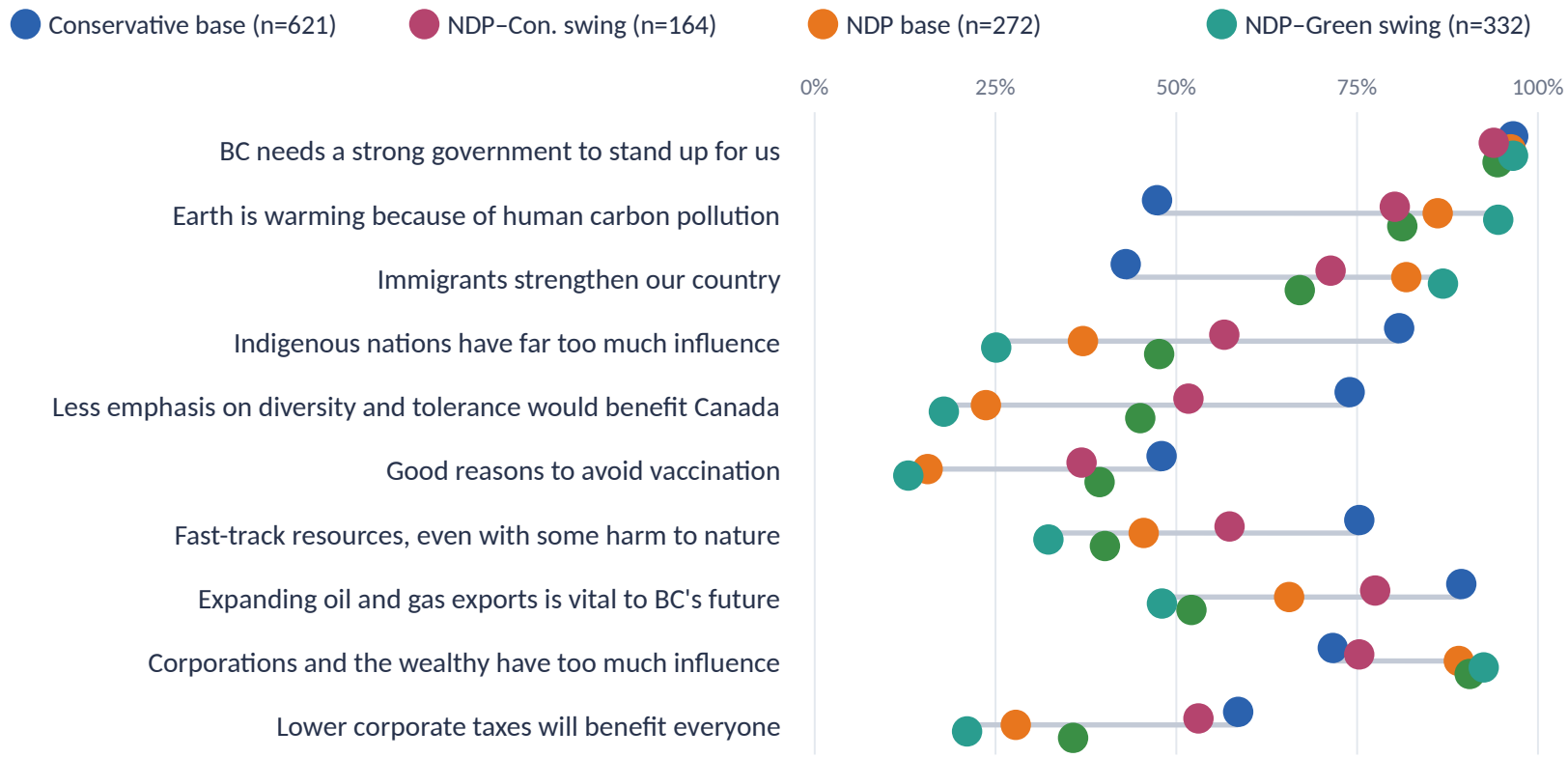
41% voted Liberal federally in 2025

15% are financially precarious (all adults: 26%)

They differ most from NDP base voters on the BC government, Eby and Doerkson. On Carney and Trump they sit between the two bases.

All adults in each group, weighted. Positive or negative: very or somewhat (C9). Trust: a lot or somewhat (F1). Wrong track: mostly or totally (B5). With 164 swing voters, gaps of about 10 points or less are within the margin of error. Financially precarious: see the economic precarity slide.

NDP–Conservative swing voters are closer to the NDP base on climate and to the Conservative base on corporate taxes, and in between on most others



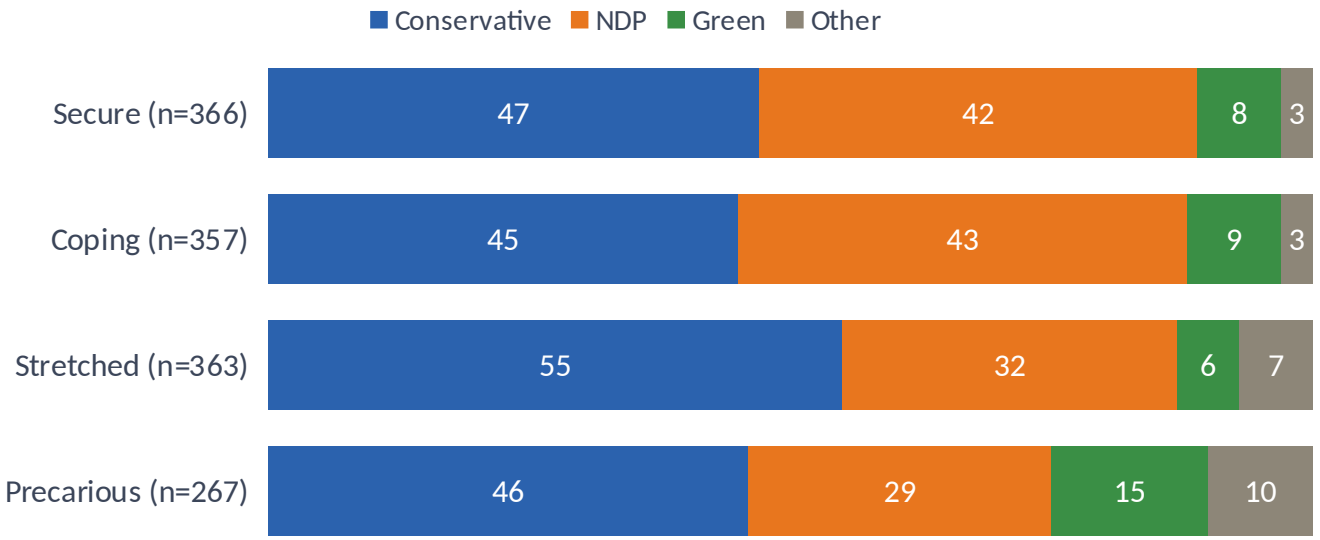
	Con. base	NDP–Con. swing	NDP base	NDP–Green swing	Green base*	All adults
BC needs a strong government to stand up for us	97	94	96	97	94	94
Earth is warming because of human carbon pollution	47	80	86	95	81	69
Immigrants strengthen our country	43	71	82	87	67	63
Indigenous nations have far too much influence	81	57	37	25	48	55
Less emphasis on diversity and tolerance would benefit Canada	74	52	24	18	45	46
Good reasons to avoid vaccination	48	37	16	13	39	35
Fast-track resources, even with some harm to nature	75	57	45	32	40	53
Expanding oil and gas exports is vital to BC's future	89	77	66	48	52	70
Corporations and the wealthy have too much influence	72	75	89	93	91	81
Lower corporate taxes will benefit everyone	59	53	28	21	36	43

Also: 94–97% of each group want a strong BC government. On the other nine, NDP–Green swing voters are furthest from the Conservative base, by 2 to 12 points over the next group.

% who agree strongly, agree or somewhat agree (7-point scale; B4 and E2). All adults in each group, weighted; *Green base n=73 (indicative only). Dots are offset slightly so equal values stay visible. Statements shortened; full wording in the questionnaire.

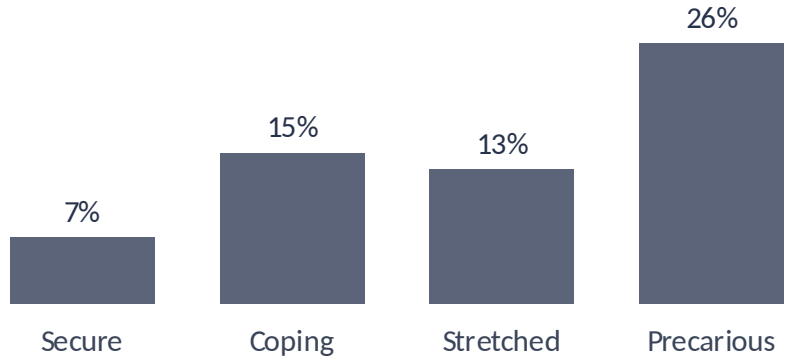
The NDP drew 42–43% of secure and coping voters but only 29–32% of stretched and precarious ones; precarious adults were also the least likely to vote

How decided voters voted, by economic precarity



How precarious voters voted: 15% Green and 10% smaller parties, against 8% and 3% of secure voters. The Conservative share was 45% to 55% in every group.

Not sure about voting, or not voting (% of adults)



How we measured it. Each person scores 0 to 4: one point for not owning their home; one for 'just getting by' or two for 'falling behind'; one if their finances are worse than a year ago.

Secure 0 (21% of adults) · Coping 1 (28%) · Stretched 2 (26%) · Precarious 3–4 (26%); rounded.

Vote: decided voters who had voted or were certain to vote (n=1,353), weighted. Not sure or not voting: all adults (n=1,959). The NDP's 13.6-point gap between secure and precarious voters has a 95% range of 4.7 to 22.5 points. Home ownership: A7; finances: D1 and D2.

Working-class identity cuts across party lines; 'traditional' and 'progressive' separate the bases, with NDP–Conservative swing voters in between

% who say 'yes, I think of myself as ...'

	Conservative base	NDP–Con. swing	NDP base	NDP–Green swing	Green base*	All adults
Working class	**63**	**57**	**57**	**62**	**63**	**60**
Middle class	44	45	36	34	26	38
Traditional	**51**	39	29	16	17	36
Progressive	21	30	37	**56**	41	32
A nature lover	**62**	**62**	**53**	**75**	**76**	**63**
A conservationist	33	23	16	35	35	27
A hunter or angler	22	19	6	9	12	15
An immigrant or new Canadian	9	17	11	9	11	12
Optimistic about the future	19	28	28	23	22	22

Shared ground. About six in ten in every group call themselves working class (Conservative base 63%, NDP base 57%).

The land. Conservative base voters are twice as likely as NDP base voters to call themselves conservationists (33% vs 16%), and more likely to call themselves hunters or anglers (22% vs 6%).

Progressives. NDP–Green swing voters are more likely than NDP base voters to call themselves progressive (56% vs 37%).

B3: 'Yes' only ('somewhat' not counted). All adults in each group, weighted: Conservative base n=621, NDP–Conservative swing n=164, NDP base n=272, NDP–Green swing n=332, *Green base n=73 (small group: indicative only). Hunter or angler: yes to either.

Facebook and YouTube each reach at least four in ten of every voter type, including the disengaged or undecided; TV news reaches most NDP base and swing voters (59–68%)

% who follow the news daily, and % who regularly use each source for news and information

	Conservative base	NDP–Con. swing	NDP base	NDP–Green swing	Green base*	Disengaged / undecided	Non-voters	All adults
Follow the news daily	**55**	46	41	45	35	22	13	43
Rarely or never follow it	6	12	11	6	8	36	37	14
Facebook	**55**	**64**	48	49	**58**	**56**	44	**53**
YouTube	46	45	43	46	45	45	43	46
Television news	**51**	**59**	**68**	**59**	38	43	40	**52**
Instagram	37	36	28	40	40	36	34	36
Newspapers (print or online)	32	37	39	49	26	25	20	34
Radio news	30	32	29	33	22	17	20	28
Podcasts	20	16	10	21	24	8	13	17
X / Twitter	20	16	13	13	19	10	9	16
TikTok	15	20	13	17	34	21	19	17
Reddit	11	8	13	20	30	15	13	14

By vote: Conservative voters follow the news more often than NDP voters (58% vs 46% daily), but fewer use TV news (51% vs 65%) or newspapers (33% vs 47%).

B1 and B2 (select all that apply). All adults in each group, weighted; *Green base n=73 (indicative only). Other parties (n=147) not shown. By vote: decided voters who had voted or were certain to vote.

Three things shaped the result: an election called two years early, a Conservative vote that held together and a mood for change

1 An early election

- Called September 22, two years early and two days after the Conservative leader resigned. Eby framed it around U.S. trade threats: “this is an existential moment.”
- Election analyst Éric Grenier (The Writ) called it “a wholly unnecessary own-goal.”
- In our poll, Eby was viewed more negatively than positively (44% vs 30%). A few 2024 NDP voters said the call itself drove them away.

2 A Conservative vote that held

- The party split during 2025–26 (OneBC, CentreBC) and changed leaders five weeks before election day.
- Yet 86 in 100 of its 2024 voters stayed with it. CentreBC and OneBC together won 3.1% and no seats.
- Most of the MLAs who had left returned to the party around the election call.

3 A mood for change

- 53% said the BC government was on the wrong track; 42% said their household finances were worse than a year ago.
- Among 2024 NDP voters who felt the government was on the wrong track, 35% switched to the Conservatives (5% of those on the right track).
- 7 in 10 voters put the cost of living among their top three issues; they favoured the Conservatives by about the same margin as voters overall.

What it adds up to: with an early election and a sour mood about costs, about 10 in 100 of the NDP's 2024 voters moved to the Conservatives and others stayed home, while the Conservative vote, split for more than a year, came back together before the vote.

Sources: our poll (all respondents for direction and finances; 2024 NDP voters who had voted or were certain to vote for switching); riding-level model; Elections BC; Global News and The Canadian Press (September 20–22, 2026, including Eby's announcement); É. Grenier, 'Conservative landslide in B.C.', The Writ, October 25, 2026.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Switchers pointed to debt, the NDP's record and the early call; loyal voters to the economy or fear of a Trump-style government

> *Our debt we can't afford to leave this for our children. It's ridiculous.*

NDP in 2024 → Conservative in 2026 · woman, 65+, Southern Interior

> *Don't love everything about the Conservatives, I'm more moderate but cannot support any more failures by NDP*

NDP in 2024 → Conservative in 2026 · woman, 35–49, Vancouver Island

> *The hubris of calling an unnecessary election is mind boggling.*

NDP in 2024 → Green in 2026 · man, 65+, Vancouver Island

> *Deregulation, tax reform and fast resource development and approval are critical to advancing the Canadian economy and society.*

Conservative in 2024 and 2026 · man, 35–49, Metro Vancouver

> *That the Conservatives do not win, they are too much like Trump and I have faith in the NDP.*

NDP in 2024 and 2026 · woman, 65+, Metro Vancouver

> *I don't pay much attention to government and news because it's to much mental stress and it gives me anxiety knowing I can't do anything about it no matter what they say*

Did not vote in 2024; not voting in 2026 · woman, 18–34, the North

Answers to C8 ('In your own words, what is the single most important issue to you in this election?') and to 'Any final comments?', reproduced as typed; one long answer shortened to its first sentence.

WHAT TO WATCH

The final count could still flip a close seat; the new government's first moves are a tax cut, a review of the books and a plan to repeal DRIPA

The final count, November 6–10

Mail-in and out-of-district ballots are added; results become official on November 18. The closest seats, and how late ballots split there in 2024:

Riding	Lead now	2024 late
Ladysmith-Oceanside	NDP +13	NDP +390
Burnaby South-Metrotown	NDP +66	NDP +86
Kelowna Centre	Con +132	NDP +68
Cowichan Valley	Con +151	NDP +135
Burnaby East	NDP +241	NDP +238
Port Coquitlam	NDP +386	NDP +271
Vancouver-Fraserview	Con +387	NDP +408
Surrey City Centre	Con +395	NDP +124

If late ballots split as they did in 2024, Vancouver-Fraserview could change hands and Cowichan Valley would be very close. Ladysmith-Oceanside is within the margin for an automatic judicial recount.

The new government

- Premier-designate Lorne Doerkson; Kim Henderson, a former deputy minister to the premier, chairs the transition.
- First big bill: raise the basic personal exemption to $32,000, which must pass by January 1 to apply in 2027.
- An independent review of the province's finances before any budget; the September forecast put this year's deficit at $13.8 billion.
- Repeal of DRIPA, likely in the spring session; First Nations leaders have warned of conflict.
- Support for the proposed Pacific Link pipeline, which he says will be the subject of his first calls as premier, to Prime Minister Mark Carney and Alberta Premier Danielle Smith.

The opposition and beyond

- David Eby resigned as NDP leader on election night; no leadership timetable yet.
- The Greens kept two seats, and leader Emily Lowan is now in the legislature.
- The soft middle: NDP–Conservative swing voters (8% of adults, 41% of them federal Liberals) and the disengaged or undecided (13%, half of them renters) could swing the next election.
- Switchers are not locked in: only 31% of 2024 NDP voters who went Conservative say they would never vote NDP (loyal Conservative voters: 77%), and 33% are open to any party.

Sources: Elections BC (initial count; 2024 results by voting opportunity); BC Ballot (October 25); Vancouver Sun and CP24 (October 25); Global News and The Canadian Press (October 26); Global News, first-quarter fiscal update (September 14, 2026).

TAKEAWAYS

Eight takeaways from BC's 2026 election

1 The NDP lost a quarter of its 2024 vote, while the Conservative vote held

NDP votes fell by 213,000 (−24%) from 2024; the Conservative vote barely moved. The Conservatives won 63 of 93 seats with 48.1% of the vote. Slides 3, 9

2 Most of the change came in Metro Vancouver and the Southwest

The region accounts for 72% of the NDP's lost votes and 16 of the 20 seats it lost to the Conservatives. Across BC, the NDP fell most in higher-income ridings and in ridings with more immigrants. Slides 8–9, 12, 14

3 About 10 in 100 of the NDP's 2024 voters switched to the Conservatives, and turnout fell

The switchers largely replaced the Conservative voters who stayed home or moved to smaller parties such as OneBC. Turnout fell in every region, from 55% to 48% of registered voters overall. Slides 10–11, 13

4 Switchers are not locked in: most have not ruled out voting NDP again

Only 31% of 2024 NDP voters who went Conservative say they would never vote NDP, against 77% of loyal Conservative voters. A third say they are open to any party (loyal voters: 6%). Slides 10, 27

5 One federal Liberal voter in five backed the BC Conservatives

Nearly all of them (97%) view Mark Carney positively. Two-thirds of NDP voters are federal Liberals too, so both BC parties are competing for the same voters. Slide 18

6 One BC adult in four is a swing voter, and two in three swing voters sit between the NDP and the Greens

8% swing between the NDP and the Conservatives and 17% between the NDP and the Greens. Four in ten NDP supporters have a link to the Greens; one Conservative supporter in seven has a link to the NDP. Slide 19

7 NDP–Conservative swing voters are closer to the NDP base on climate, and to the Conservative base on corporate taxes

80% agree human carbon pollution is warming the Earth (NDP base 86%, Conservative base 47%); 53% agree lower corporate taxes will eventually benefit everyone (Conservative base 59%, NDP base 28%). Slide 21

8 The NDP did worse among voters under financial strain; the most precarious were the least likely to vote

The NDP drew 42–43% of secure and coping voters but 29–32% of stretched and precarious ones. 26% of precarious adults were unsure about voting or not voting, against 7% of secure adults. Slide 22

Based on our final poll of 1,959 BC adults (October 20–24, 2026), which came within 1 point of the Conservatives' winning margin, and on Elections BC's initial count. Vote changes compare the same kinds of ballots in 2024 and 2026; how voters moved is estimated from the riding results.

“

The people are a sovereign whose vocabulary is limited to two words, ‘Yes’ and ‘No.’

E.E. Schattschneider, Party Government (1942)

Schattschneider (1892–1971) was an American political scientist who studied parties and elections. His point: on election day, voters can only say yes or no to the choices in front of them. The count shows who won. It cannot show why. This research looks at the why: what moved voters in 2026, and where they could move next time.

McAllister Opinion Research

Sources and notes

Election results. Elections BC, 2026 Provincial General Election, initial count, all 93 ridings, 100% of ballot boxes (results.elections.bc.ca, as of 10:34 a.m. Pacific time, October 26, 2026). Preliminary; final count November 6–10; writs returned November 18.

2024 comparison. Elections BC 2024 results by voting place and voting opportunity; registered voters by electoral district. 'Election-night basis' removes mail-in, assisted telephone and out-of-district election-day ballots.

Census and geography. Statistics Canada 2021 Census by dissemination area; National Address Register (June 2026) to place postal codes and areas in ridings; BC electoral district and census boundaries (BC Data Catalogue).

Vote-flow model. Constrained ecological regression across the 68 ridings with the same main parties on the ballot both years, then fitted to every riding's exact totals (iterative proportional fitting). Net flows; uncertainty from 200 bootstrap re-runs and an independent re-estimate with other methods (switching and staying home are the least certain flows).

Our poll. McAllister Opinion Research, online survey of BC adults, October 20–24, 2026, n=1,959 after quality control (panel 1,281; social media 678). Weighted by region, gender, age, education, 2024 BC vote in each of four regions and 2025 federal vote (weights revised October 26). Design effect 1.57.

Public polls. The six polls fielded October 20–23 by Forum, Ipsos, Leger, Mainstreet, Pallas Data and Research Co., as published. Federal: Abacus Data, fielded October 16–21 and published October 25, 2026.

Reporting cited. É. Grenier, The Writ (October 25); Global News; The Canadian Press; Vancouver Sun; CP24; BC Ballot (September 14 to October 26, 2026).

Quote. E.E. Schattschneider, Party Government (New York: Farrar & Rinehart, 1942), p. 52.

Voter types and precarity. Voter types combine likelihood to vote (C1), first choice or lean (C2, C3), second choice (C4), 2024 BC vote (G1) and 2025 federal vote (G2). Economic precarity combines home ownership (A7) with household finances (D1, D2). Definitions are on slides 19 and 22.

Photos. Adobe Stock (cover; method); iStock (closing).