

Criteria	The Current FPTP Electoral System	BC-STV, as Proposed by the Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform
Accuracy	<p>Almost always provides distorted election results.</p> <p>Votes are inaccurately translated into seats.</p>	<p>Results are proportional.</p> <p>Votes translate into seats accurately.</p>
The Ballot	You can only put a single "X" next to a single candidate.	You can rank as few or as many candidates as you want according to your choices.
# of MLAs per District	<p>Only one MLA per district.</p> <p>There is only one MLA per district, so unless the MLA received 100% of the votes there will always be people whose views are not represented.</p>	<p>2 to 7 MLAs per district; with most having 4 or 5.</p> <p>There is a much greater chance that most citizens will have at least one MLA who represents their political views.</p>
Strategic Voting	<p>Very Common.</p> <p>Voters often vote not for their favourite candidate, but for the candidate most likely to defeat the candidate they do not want to get elected.</p>	<p>Unheard of.</p> <p>Voters can safely vote for their favourite candidate with the knowledge that if that candidate is not elected, their vote is transferred to their second or subsequent choices.</p>
<p>Wasted Votes</p> <p>(Votes cast for candidates who were not elected. These voters have no local MLA who represents their views)</p>	<p>Common.</p> <p>In the past four elections, an average of 50% of all votes cast did not contribute to electing a single MLA.</p>	<p>Rare.</p> <p>80-90% of all votes cast lead to the election of an MLA.</p>

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<p>Surplus Votes</p> <p>(Votes cast for candidates who were elected but were extra votes not needed to elect that candidate.)</p>	<p>Wasted.</p> <p>These votes are not needed and do not contribute to the election of any further MLAs.</p>	<p>Effective.</p> <p>The portion of these votes that was not necessary to elect the First choice is transferred to the voters' second choice and subsequent choices to contribute towards electing other MLAs from the district.</p>
<p>Ineffective Votes</p> <p>(The total of all wasted and surplus votes.)</p>	<p>Wasted.</p> <p>These votes do not at all contribute to the election of a single MLA in the Legislative Assembly.</p> <p>In 2005, 1,124,266 (64% of all valid votes cast) votes were ineffective.</p>	<p>80-90% of all votes cast contribute to the election of at least one MLA in an electoral district.</p>
<p>Effective Votes</p> <p>(Votes that actually directly contributed to the election of an MLA.)</p>	<p>Very few.</p> <p>In 2005, only 36% of all votes were effective in electing an MLA.</p>	
<p>Voter Turnout</p>	<p>Low.</p> <p>Turnout for British Columbia provincial elections has declined from 75% in 1991 to 62% in 2005.</p> <p>Turnout in federal elections has declined from 75% in 1988 to 59% in 2008.</p>	<p>Higher.</p> <p>While turnout has declined worldwide, it has not fallen as much (and remains higher) in those countries that use STV.</p>

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Choice	<p>None.</p> <p>With only one candidate from each political party, a voter has to blindly support their party's nominee or risk electing another party's candidate.</p>	<p>Many.</p> <p>By ranking their preferred candidates, a voter is able to vote for their favourite candidates from their own party, other parties, and independents.</p>
Effective Representation	<p>Poor.</p> <p>Unless your choice wins, you do not have an MLA that represents your political views.</p>	<p>Effective.</p> <p>With more than a one MLA representing your district, you are much more likely to have at least one MLA representing your political views in the Legislature.</p>
Stability	<p>Unstable.</p> <p>The endless back and forth of majority governments of two ideological parties results in wild public policy swings.</p>	<p>Increased stability.</p> <p>Public policy has broad support from across the political spectrum, leading to more enduring legislation and less drastic changes when a new government takes power.</p>

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Party Discipline	<p>Dominant.</p> <p>Because it is so difficult for independents to get elected, MLAs can only get elected under the party banner. As a result, MLAs must always tow the party line to get reelected, and are more likely to represent their party in the district instead of representing their district in the Legislature.</p>	<p>Moderate.</p> <p>Because candidates are also competing against other candidates from the same political party, they will compete to provide the best degree of local representation.</p> <p>As a result, local issues often take priority over the party line and you are far more likely to have more independents (and independent-minded) candidates elected.</p>
Local Representation	<p>Poor.</p> <p>Because a candidate only needs one more vote than the second-place finisher to get elected, candidates only campaign in the major population centres of the riding and focus their campaigns more on rallying their partisan base as opposed to cultivating broad support.</p>	<p>Strong.</p> <p>Because candidates are competing against members of their own party and other parties, they must serve the interests of everyone in the district.</p> <p>Candidates must campaign all over the district in order to get as many first choice votes as possible. They also have to appeal to a broad range of groups in the district instead of their narrow partisan base in order to be other voters' second or subsequent choices to increase their chances of being elected.</p>