

Stronger voters lead to better government

What you can do right now to help make politics and government better:

1. Learn more at STV.ca
2. Tell your friends and family about BC-STV
3. Get a lawn sign at STV.ca

Need more information?

Call
1-866-835-7612

Visit
www.stv.ca

The provincial government is remaining neutral in the referendum. They are providing fact sheets in a range of community languages.

Visit
www.gov.bc.ca/referendum_info/
français 中文 ਪੰਜਾਬੀ

Vote for BC-STV on May 12th

British Columbians for BC-STV are ordinary citizens who support the recommendation of the BC Citizens' Assembly because BC-STV is a fairer voting system that delivers stable, accountable governments.

Authorized by Jamie Deith, financial agent, British Columbians for BC-STV, 604-484-2979.

BC-STV The Peoples Choice

In 2004 a group of 160 ordinary people were asked to fix our broken electoral system. Our politicians knew they couldn't fix it themselves, and voted unanimously to turn the task over to an independent Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform.

Drawn at random, these committed citizens spent 11 months learning and listening to the people of BC. What they heard led 95% of the Assembly to back BC-STV.

Their choice went to the people in a referendum on May 17th 2005. It won majorities in 77 out of 79 constituencies, but despite backing from 58% of voters fell just short of the required 60% threshold. For the Citizen's Assembly, who had worked hard to meet the needs of both urban and rural BC, this broad based support was proof that ordinary people can take on an extraordinary task on behalf of their fellow citizens.

This May 12th the choice is yours

"We did our work with a level of respect, integrity and commitment that was unequal to anything I've been involved with before or since."

**Anna Rankin,
Quesnel,
Citizens'
Assembly**



In 2005 almost a million British Columbians chose BC-STV

Compare the choices and you'll know why:

	BC-STV*	First Past the Post
Accuracy	Votes translate into seats fairly	Distorted outcomes
Do votes matter?	80-90% of voters elect an MLA	Minority of voters elect an MLA
Accountability	Strong	Compromised
Representation	Effective	Weak
Stability	More enduring legislation	Wild policy swings
Party control	Moderate	Excessive
Style	Cooperative	Confrontational

*as recommended by the Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform

Choose BC-STV in the referendum on MAY 12

RECOMMENDED BY THE CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY ON ELECTORAL REFORM

POWER UP YOUR VOTE



BC-STV

www.powerupyourvote.ca

www.stv.ca

On May 12th you have a choice – between the new politics and the old.

On Provincial Election Day you will cast a vote in a referendum. Your decision will decide whether we stick with a 'first-past-the-post' system beloved by parties, or the people's choice, the BC Single Transferable Vote.

We think you should choose BC-STV.

What's wrong with our current system?

It cheats the voters We do not get the government or opposition that we voted for, and whole regions are often not represented in Cabinet.

It makes government unaccountable When 40% of the votes can win 60% of the seats and 100% of the power, the government believes it has a mandate to do what it likes, when it likes.

It favors parties over people Where parties have "safe seats", nomination meetings count more than elections. And political parties would rather keep a weak, elected MLA than risk replacing one.

It weakens our province It fuels polarized policy-making, seesaw governments and partisan posturing. The result: instability.

How will STV Power Up Your Vote?

Fairer elections When parties win only the number of seats that they earn and nearly all votes help elect someone, then government actually works for you.

Effective representation Greater choice means more competitive contests and an end to "safe" seats. MLAs know their jobs depend on what they can do for you.

Responsive government You can choose between the candidates of your preferred party – or indeed from any party, or independents. Parties large and small will win seats with STV, and the legislature you get will better reflect the views of BC.

It works for voters In Ireland, the politicians have twice asked voters to get rid of STV. Each time the people turned them down flat.

'Made in BC' Ordinary people, not the politicians, have tailor-made a system to suit your best interests as a B.C. voter.



What is BC-STV?

BC-STV is a form of Single Transferable Vote, versions of which are used in Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Northern Ireland, and Scotland. It is a modern system designed to ensure voters have an effective voice in their government.

BC-STV will look different in two ways:

A new political map

Each region will have the same number of MLAs as before, but they will be grouped together into 20 multi-member districts across the province. So there will be 4 MLAs who represent the Kootenays as a whole, instead of one MLA for Nelson-Creston, another for Cranbrook, and so on.

In a typical 5 seat district, a party with a fifth of the vote will generally get one seat; a party with two fifths of the vote will get two seats, and so on.

As winner no longer 'takes all' nearly every voter will get an MLA they helped elect. Our current system can just as easily hand a party that gets a minority of the vote in a region, all the seats, or none at all. STV puts voters in control, giving them the mix of MLAs they actually voted for.

The result – more views represented and more voices heard

A new way to vote

Simplicity On the ballot, voters can rank as many candidates as they like - it's as easy as 1,2,3. Voters decide

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which candidate best represents their chosen party. They can even vote for candidates from several different parties, or for an independent.

Real Choice Political parties hoping to win more than one seat will put forward a diverse slate of candidates to maximize their appeal with voters.

More bang for your buck. STV allows voters to 'spend' their vote efficiently. If your first choice doesn't have enough votes to get elected, and is eliminated, your vote goes to your next choice. If less than your whole vote is needed, then we get 'change' to spend on our next choice.

The end of 'safe seats'. People not politicians have the final say with STV. Voters can vote honestly, rather than 'strategically', knowing that their vote has meaning – wherever they live.

