

**How ready are you to vote in British Columbia's upcoming referendum?
Read the ballot carefully, then answer the following eight questions.**

Which electoral system should British Columbia use to elect members to the provincial Legislative Assembly?	
• The existing electoral system (First-Past-the-Post)	<input type="radio"/>
• The single transferable vote electoral system (BC-STV) proposed by the Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform	<input type="radio"/>

- When will this referendum be held?
 - January 20, 2009
 - May 12, 2009
 - June 30, 2009
 - November 15, 2009
- Our current system, First-Past-the-Post (FPTP), first came into being:
 - by federal decree when B.C. joined confederation in 1871
 - by referendum, in the first provincial election
 - by default, without consultation, advisement, legislation, or referendum
 - in 1953, when Premier W.A.C. Bennett replaced the alternative voting, or AV, system
- The premier of British Columbia must at least do the following to change the electoral system:
 - hold a referendum requiring a 60% yes vote to pass
 - introduce and pass a bill in the legislative assembly
 - get unanimous approval in cabinet before instigating the change
 - direct Elections BC to make the change in time for the next election
- In the single transferable vote electoral system (STV):
 - voters rank candidates by order of preference, within multi-member ridings
 - multiple run-offs are held until the majority of votes transfer to one candidate
 - a single party transfers the popular vote to a list of potential representatives
 - each vote is weighted to give it a single value throughout the province
- The BC part of BC-STV means that:
 - it's a patented system from which B.C. will collect royalties when used elsewhere
 - it's a type of STV tailored to suit B.C.'s geography
 - vote-tallying in B.C. would vary from other STV systems
 - paper Ballots must be used for voting, while Computers may be used for tallying – i.e. no computerized voting
- The Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform is:
 - a grassroots group of Canadian citizens dedicated to electoral reform
 - the B.C. branch of a United Nations pro-democracy assembly
 - a permanent, B.C. government-appointed panel of electoral system advisors
 - a now-disbanded, randomly chosen assembly of 160 B.C. citizens, two per riding
- The BC-STV electoral map looks different from FPTP one. Why?
 - ridings are larger, with watersheds determining the new boundaries
 - current ridings are grouped to allow 2 – 7 candidates to be elected in each
 - ridings are determined by land use, to keep rural with rural, urban with urban
 - ridings are delineated by a grid; rural ridings will elect 3 members, urban 6
- A BC-STV referendum was held in May 2005. The government chose not to implement it because:
 - only 57.7% of all B.C. voters approved
 - only 77 of 79 ridings approved at 50% or more
 - less than 50% of voters approved
 - voter turnout was less than the 75% required for quorum