

## Issue: Electoral Reform Referendum

### Position

As a non-partisan community organization, the Chamber **remained neutral** on the question of electoral reform. The Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce made it a priority to remain an impartial and non-partisan source of information for all the options on the ballot, so that our membership and the Tri-Cities community could make an informed decision in the referendum.

### Background

During the 2017 provincial election, the campaign platform for the current provincial government included a promise to revisit the issue of electoral reform in British Columbia. As a result, on October 4, 2017, the provincial government introduced Bill 6, the Electoral Reform Referendum 2018 Act, to require a provincial referendum be held no later than November 30, 2018, on whether B.C. should keep its current voting system (First Past the Post or FPTP) or move to a system of proportional representation (PR). The referendum was held from October 22nd until December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 via mail-in ballot.

### Who is affected?

All residents of B.C.

### Outcome

Referendum results indicated that over 1.4 million ballots were cast (42.6% turnout), with 61.3% voting to maintain the First Past the Post (FPTP) system currently used in BC, while 38.7% opted for a switch to proportional representation (PR).

### Chamber Actions

**9/25/2018** – The Chamber released an [issue notice](#) to our members about the upcoming electoral reform referendum.

**9/2018 to 11/2018** - The Chamber shared [educational material](#) that assesses the merits and mechanics of each of the proposed systems.

**10/24/2018** - The Chamber held a panel discussion/debate featuring representatives from both the official proponent and opponent groups at Douglas College in Coquitlam. Media coverage from the Tri-City News can be found [here](#).

### More Information

For more information on the Electoral Reform Referendum, please visit Elections BC's website [here](#).

### Contact Info

Alex King  
Public Policy Advisor  
604-634-0105  
[policy@tricitiechamber.com](mailto:policy@tricitiechamber.com)