

SUMMARY OF BC GENERAL ELECTIONS 1996-2024 WITH WEIGHTED-MEMBER PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

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This workbook provides a summary of what would have occurred in recent general elections in British Columbia if WMPR had been adopted. In addition to the summary sheet that you're currently reading, there are eight more sheets in the workbook, one for each of the general elections held in BC since 1996.

Figures in black on the left side of those sheets are the election results as published by Elections BC. The blue figures in the center of each sheet show what the outcome would have been if WMPR were implemented as I presented it to the Special Committee on Democratic and Electoral Reform in July 2025 – i.e., with a 5% electoral threshold, and a minimum of 2 seats in the Legislature for each party which meets that threshold. The teal figures on the right represent where I hope we may get to after WMPR has been implemented for a few election cycles. It features a lower electoral threshold (3%, which should be acceptable to voters once they've lived with PR for a while and gotten over their fears about excessive fragmentation of the Legislature); and instead of granting a minimum number of seats to each party which meets the threshold, it caps members' weights at 2.0.

These variables can be changed in the section immediately below in the current sheet if you want to play "what if". They should be changed here rather than in the individual election sheets so the averages in the table below will still make sense. (The individual election sheets have been password protected to prevent inadvertent changes. If you want to make changes to them, the password is "bbb".)

I've added some comments in a few places regarding the formulas I'm using, but I hope for the most part they're clear. If you have any questions about the formulas or anything else, just ask! I'll be delighted to help out in any way I can.

Cheers,
Bob Bright
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VARIABLES:

WMPR with no restriction on member weights:

- electoral threshold = 5.0%
- minimum seats = 2

WMPR with restricted member weights:

- electoral threshold = 3.0%
- member weights ≤ 2.00

SOME AVERAGES:

	Wasted Votes Under WMPR (electoral threshold = 0.05)		LIB Seats	LIB Votes under WMPR	LIB +/- under WMPR	NDP Seats	NDP Votes under WMPR	NDP +/- under WMPR	GREEN Seats	GREEN Votes under WMPR	GREEN +/- under WMPR	CON Seats	CON Votes under WMPR	CON +/- under WMPR
1996	58849	3.72%	33	33.01	0.01	39.00	31.14	-7.86						
2001	134031	8.42%	77	50.96	-26.04		19.07	17.07	0	10.96	10.96			
2005	61593	3.49%	46	38.44	-7.56	33	34.85	1.85	0	7.71	7.71			
2009	52724	3.21%	49	40.97	-8.03	35	37.69	2.69	0	7.34	7.34			
2013	132959	7.38%	49	40.78	-8.22	34	36.70	2.70	1	7.52	6.52			
2017	49660	2.51%	43	36.03	-6.97	41	35.95	-5.05	3	15.02	12.02			
2020	64949	3.45%	28	30.43	2.43	57	42.98	-14.02	2	13.59	11.59			
2024	76232	3.62%				47	43.29	-3.71	2	7.95	5.95	44	41.76	-2.24
Average:	78875	4.48%			-7.77			-0.79		8.87				-2.24
Ave. Top-up (threshold = 0.05, min. seats = 2):					1.00	seats								
Not including 2001:					0.86	seats								
Ave. Top-up (threshold = 0.03, max. weight = 2):					5.78	seats								
Not including 2001:					4.00	seats								

SOME OBSERVATIONS:

- There were 7 majority governments and 1 minority government from 1996-2024. Unsurprisingly, under WMPR this would be reversed – one majority government (2001, when the Liberals won 97% of the seats with 58% of the popular vote) and 7 minority governments.
- Only once in the past 30 years have more than 3 parties been represented in the BC Legislature (1996: NDP 39, LIB 33, RP 2, PDA 1). That remains true under WMPR with a 5% threshold. For the most part the exact same parties would have been represented in the House, only their weightings would have changed. (The exceptions are 2001, 2005, and 2009, when the Greens failed to elect a member despite receiving 12.39%, 9.18%, and 8.21% of the popular vote respectively. In those years, WMPR would have increased the number of parties represented in the Legislature from 2 to 3.) So WMPR with a 5% threshold clearly wouldn't lead to serious fragmentation of the House.
- If we were to adopt WMPR with a 4% threshold, it would have increased the number of parties represented in the House on only one occasion: in 2013 the Conservatives failed to elect a member with 4.75% of the popular vote.
- If we were to reduce the threshold to 3%, it would have resulted in two more parties being represented in the Legislature in 2001 (the BC Marijuana Party, with 3.22% of the popular vote, and the Unity Party of BC with 3.23%).
- Reducing the electoral threshold from 5% to 3% decreases the average number of wasted votes from 4.48% of the total votes cast to 3.08% (an average gain of 25,534 votes). That's a significant improvement. It's important to note, however, that it flows entirely from 2001 and 2013 – in six of the past eight general elections, reducing the threshold to 3% would have resulted in no improvement whatsoever.
- The NDP would have lost legislative votes under WMPR in 4 of the last 8 elections, and gained votes in the other 4. Their average +/- would be -0.79.
- The Liberals would have been fairly consistent losers under WMPR, with an average loss of -7.77 votes in the House. Note, however, that this number rises to -4.72 if we omit the bizarrely disproportional results of the 2001 election, whereas the NDP's average +/- drops to -3.34. I take this to be fairly strong evidence that WMPR in British Columbia is not especially partisan.
- The Greens would have been consistent winners, gaining legislative votes in every election in which their share of the popular vote exceeded the threshold, with an average gain of 8.87 votes. This shouldn't be interpreted as evidence that WMPR is partisan after all, however – it's simply a reflection of the fact that FPTP is dramatically biased against small parties. If the Conservatives had received popular vote shares similar to the Greens over this period, they would have realized similar gains in legislative votes.

BC General Election 1996 – Summary of Results by Political Party

					WMPR with no restriction on member weights				WMPR with restricted member weights			
					▸ electoral threshold =		5.0%		▸ electoral threshold =		3.0%	
					▸ minimum seats =		2		▸ member weights <=		2.00	
Party		Total Valid Votes	% of Popular Vote	Candidates Elected	Adjusted % of Popular Vote	Top-up Members	Legislative Votes	Member Weights	Adjusted % of Popular Vote	Top-up Members	Legislative Votes	Member Weights
British Columbia Liberal Party	LIB	661,929	41.82%	33	43.44%		33.01	1.00	43.44%		34.32	1.04
British Columbia Libertarian Party	LBN	2,041	0.13%									
British Columbia Social Credit Party	SC	6,276	0.40%									
The Family Coalition Party of British	FCP	4,150	0.26%									
Green Party Political Association of	GP	31,511	1.99%									
Natural Law Party	NLP	2,919	0.18%									
New Democratic Party of B.C.	NDP	624,395	39.45%	39	40.97%		31.14	0.80	40.97%		32.37	0.83
Progressive Democratic Alliance	PDA	90,797	5.74%	1	5.96%	1	4.53	2.26	5.96%	2	4.71	1.57
Reform Party of British Columbia	RP	146,734	9.27%	2	9.63%		7.32	3.66	9.63%	2	7.61	1.90
*Other Affiliations		11,952	0.76%									
Totals		1,582,704	100.00%	75	100.00%	1	76.00		100.00%	4	79.00	
					Wasted Votes:		58849 3.72%		Wasted Votes:		58849 3.72%	

* Common Sense, Community, Family Party (CCF); Communist Party of British Columbia (COMM); Progressive Conservative Party of British Columbia (CP); Western Canada Concept Party of B.C. (WCC); Independent (IND); No Affiliation (N.A.)

BC General Election 2001 – Summary of Results by Political Party

		WMPR with no restriction on member weights							WMPR with restricted member weights				
		▸ electoral threshold = 5.0%							▸ electoral threshold = 3.0%				
		▸ minimum seats = 2							▸ member weights <= 2.00				
Party		Total Valid Votes	% of Popular Vote	Candidates Elected	Adjusted % of Popular Vote	Top-up Members	Legislative Votes	Member Weights	Adjusted % of Popular Vote	Top-up Members	Legislative Votes	Member Weights	
British Columbia Liberal Party	LIB	916,888	57.62%	77	62.92%		50.96	0.66	58.78%		58.19	0.76	
British Columbia Marijuana Party	BCM	51,206	3.22%										
Green Party Political Association of	GP	197,231	12.39%										
New Democratic Party of B.C.	NDP	343,156	21.56%	2	23.55%		19.07	9.54	22.00%	9	21.78	1.98	
Unity Party of British Columbia	UPBC	51,426	3.23%										
*Other Affiliations		31,399	1.97%										
Totals		1,591,306	100.00%	79	100.00%	2	81.00		100.00%	20	99.00		
						Wasted Votes:		134031 8.42%			Wasted Votes:		31399 1.97%

*Other Affiliations: Party of British Columbia (PBC), British Columbia Party (BCP), British Columbia Citizens Alliance Now (BCCA), British Columbia Conservative Party (CP), British Columbia Patriot Party (BCPA), British Columbia Social Credit Party (SC), The Central Party (CENT), Citizens Commonwealth Federation (CFED), Communist Party of BC (COMM), Council of British Columbians (COBC), The Freedom Party of British Columbia (FREE), Party of Citizens Who Have Decided To Think For, Themselves And Be Their Own Politicians (POC), People's Front (PF), Reform Party of British Columbia (RP), Western Reform (WR), Independent (IND), No Affiliation (NA)

BC General Election 2005 – Summary of Results by Political Party

					WMPR with no restriction on member weights				WMPR with restricted member weights			
					▸ electoral threshold = 5.0%				▸ electoral threshold = 3.0%			
					▸ minimum seats = 2				▸ member weights <= 2.00			
Party		Total Valid Votes	% of Popular Vote	Candidates Elected	Adjusted % of Popular Vote	Top-up Members	Legislative Votes	Member Weights	Adjusted % of Popular Vote	Top-up Members	Legislative Votes	Member Weights
BC Conservative Party	CP	9,623	0.55%	46	47.46%		38.44	0.84	47.46%		39.39	0.86
BC Liberal Party	LIB	807,118	45.80%									
British Columbia Marijuana Party	BCM	11,449	0.65%									
DR BC	DRBC	14,022	0.80%	33	9.52%	2	7.71	3.85	9.52%	4	7.90	1.97
Green Party of BC	GP	161,849	9.18%									
New Democratic Party of B.C.	NDP	731,783	41.52%									
Independent	IND	16,152	0.92%		43.03%		34.85	1.06	43.03%		35.71	1.08
*Other Affiliations		10,347	0.59%									
Totals		1,762,343	100.00%	79	100.00%	2	81.00		100.00%	4	83.00	
					Wasted Votes: 61593 3.49%				Wasted Votes: 61593 3.49%			

* BC Youth Coalition (BCYC), The Bloc BC (BLOC), Libertarian (LBN), British Columbia Party (BCP), B.C. Patriot Party (BCPA), Social Credit (SC), BC Unity Party (UPBC), Communist Party of BC (COMM), Emerged Democratic Party of B.C. (EDBC), The Freedom Party (FREE), Moderates (MDM), People's Front (PF), The Platinum Party (PLAT), Reform BC (RP), The Sex Party (SEX), Western Canada Concept (WCC), Refed BC (REFD), Work Less Party (WLP), Your Party (YPBC), No Affiliation (NA)

BC General Election 2009 – Summary of Results by Political Party

		WMPR with no restriction on member weights							WMPR with restricted member weights			
		▸ electoral threshold = 5.0%							▸ electoral threshold = 3.0%			
		▸ minimum seats = 2							▸ member weights <= 2.00			
Party		Total Valid Votes	% of Popular Vote	Candidates Elected	Adjusted % of Popular Vote	Top-up Members	Legislative Votes	Member Weights	Adjusted % of Popular Vote	Top-up Members	Legislative Votes	Member Weights
BC Liberal Party	LIB	751,661	45.82%	49	47.64%		40.97	0.84	47.64%		41.92	0.86
BC NDP	NDP	691,564	42.15%	35	43.83%		37.69	1.08	43.83%		38.57	1.10
Conservatives	CP	34,451	2.10%									
Green Party of BC	GP	134,616	8.21%		8.53%	2	7.34	3.67	8.53%	4	7.51	1.88
Independent	IND	17,253	1.05%	1**			1	1			1	1
Other affiliations*	-	10,997	0.67%									
Totals		1,640,542	100.00%	85	100.00%	2	87.00		100.00%	4	89.00	
		Wasted Votes: 52724 3.21%							Wasted Votes: 52724 3.21%			

* BC Marijuana Party (BCM), BC Refed (REFD), BC Reform (RP), Communist Party of BC (COMM), Libertarian (LBN), N.A.P. (NAP), People's Front (PF), The Sex Party (SEX), Western Canada Concept (WCC), Work Less Party (WLP), YPP-of-BC (YPBC), No Affiliation

** Vicki Huntington, Delta South

BC General Election 2013 – Summary of Results by Political Party

					WMPR with no restriction on member weights				WMPR with restricted member weights				
					▸ electoral threshold = 5.0% ▸ minimum seats = 2				▸ electoral threshold = 3.0% ▸ member weights <= 2.00				
Party		Total Valid Votes	% of Popular Vote	Candidates Elected	Adjusted % of Popular Vote	Top-up Members	Legislative Votes	Member Weights	Adjusted % of Popular Vote	Top-up Members	Legislative Votes	Member Weights	
BC First	FP	1,275	0.07%										
BC Liberal Party	LIB	795,274	44.13%	49	47.97%		40.78	0.83	45.61%		41.05	0.84	
BC NDP	NDP	715,855	39.72%	34	43.18%		36.70	1.08	41.06%		36.95	1.09	
Conservatives	CP	85,637	4.75%						4.91%	3	4.42	1.47	
Green Party of BC	GP	146,685	8.14%	1	8.85%	1	7.52	3.76	8.41%	3	7.57	1.89	
Libertarian	LBN	2,050	0.11%								1	1	
Independent	IND	42,559	2.36%	1**			1	1					
Other affiliations*	-	12,814	0.71%										
Totals		1,802,149	100.00%	85	100.00%	1	86.00		100.00%	6	91.00		
						Wasted Votes:		132959 7.38%			Wasted Votes:		47322 2.63%

* BC Marijuana Party (BCM), BC Refed (REFD), BC Reform (RP), Communist Party of BC (COMM), Libertarian (LBN), N.A.P. (NAP), People's Front (PF), The Sex Party (SEX), Western Canada Concept (WCC), Work Less Party (WLP), YPP-of-BC (YPBC), No Affiliation

** Vicki Huntington, Delta South

BC General Election 2017 – Summary of Results by Political Party

		WMPR with no restriction on member weights							WMPR with restricted member weights				
		▶ electoral threshold = 5.0% ▶ minimum seats = 2							▶ electoral threshold = 3.0% ▶ member weights <= 2.00				
Party		Total Valid Votes	% of Popular Vote	Candidates Elected	Adjusted % of Popular Vote	Top-up Members	Legislative Votes	Member Weights	Adjusted % of Popular Vote	Top-up Members	Legislative Votes	Member Weights	
BC Conservative Party	CP	10,421	0.53%										
BC Green Party	GP	332,331	16.83%	3	17.26%		15.02	5.01	17.26%	5	15.88	1.99	
BC Liberal Party	LIB	797,194	40.37%	43	41.41%		36.03	0.84	41.41%		38.10	0.89	
BC NDP	NDP	795,527	40.29%	41	41.32%		35.95	0.88	41.32%		38.02	0.93	
Christian Heritage Party of B.C.	CHP	3,398	0.17%										
Libertarian	LBN	7,743	0.39%										
Independent	IND	20,971	1.06%										
Other*	-	7,127	0.36%										
Totals		1,974,712	100.00%	87	100.00%	0	87.00		100.00%	5	92.00		
						Wasted Votes:		49660 2.51%			Wasted Votes:		49660 2.51%

* 4BC (FBC), BC Action Party (BCAP), BC Cascadia Party (BCC), BC Citizens First Party (CFP), BC First (FP), BC Refed (REFD), BC Social Credit Party (SC), Communist Party of BC (COMM), Land Air Water-The L.A.W. (LAW), Republican Party (NRP), The Vancouver Island Party (VIBC), Your Political Party of BC (YPBC)

BC General Election 2020 – Summary of Results by Political Party

					WMPR with no restriction on member weights				WMPR with restricted member weights			
					▶ electoral threshold = 5.0% ▶ minimum seats = 2				▶ electoral threshold = 3.0% ▶ member weights <= 2.00			
Party		Total Valid Votes	% of Popular Vote	Candidates Elected	Adjusted % of Popular Vote	Top-up Members	Legislative Votes	Member Weights	Adjusted % of Popular Vote	Top-up Members	Legislative Votes	Member Weights
BC NDP	NDP	898,384	47.69%	57	49.40%		42.98	0.75	49.40%		45.94	0.81
BC Liberal Party	LIB	636,148	33.77%	28	34.98%		30.43	1.09	34.98%		32.53	1.16
Green Party of BC	GP	284,151	15.09%	2	15.62%		13.59	6.80	15.62%	6	14.53	1.82
Conservatives	CP	35,902	1.91%									
Libertarian	LBN	8,360	0.44%									
Christian Heritage Party of B.C.	CHP	3,895	0.21%									
B.C. Vision	BCV	761	0.04%									
Communist Party of BC	COMM	786	0.04%									
Rural BC Party	RURL	754	0.04%									
Wexit BC	WEX	673	0.04%									
Independent	IND	13,818	0.73%									
Totals		1,883,632	100.00%	87	100.00%	0	87.00		100.00%	6	93.00	
					Wasted Votes: 64949 3.45%				Wasted Votes: 64949 3.45%			

BC General Election 2024 – Summary of Results by Political Party

		WMPR with no restriction on member weights							WMPR with restricted member weights			
		▸ electoral threshold = 5.0%							▸ electoral threshold = 3.0%			
		▸ minimum seats = 2							▸ member weights <= 2.00			
Party		Total Valid Votes	% of Popular Vote	Candidates Elected	Adjusted % of Popular Vote	Top-up Members	Legislative Votes	Member Weights	Adjusted % of Popular Vote	Top-up Members	Legislative Votes	Member Weights
BC Green Party	GP	173,377	8.24%	2	8.54%		7.95	3.97	8.54%	3	8.20	1.64
BC NDP	NDP	944,579	44.87%	47	46.55%		43.29	0.92	46.55%		44.69	0.95
Christian Heritage Party of B.C.	CHP	365	0.02%									
Communist Party of BC	COMM	639	0.03%									
Conservative Party	CP	911,153	43.28%	44	44.90%		41.76	0.95	44.90%		43.11	0.98
Freedom Party of BC	FPBC	1,267	0.06%									
Independent	IND	47,117	2.24%									
Libertarian	LBN	1,380	0.07%									
Unaffiliated		25,464	1.21%									
Totals		2,105,341	100.00%	93	100.00%	0	93.00		100.00%	3	96.00	
		Wasted Votes: 76232 3.62%							Wasted Votes: 76232 3.62%			