

B.C. Election 2026: BC Conservatives lead slightly as two-way race narrows and campaign enters final days

BC NDP must fight to lock in more uncertain, less enthusiastic supporters

October 19, 2026 – As the 2026 BC election campaign enters its final days, the parties and their leaders attempt the arduous multitasking assignment of balancing three priorities: expanding their base, if possible, at this late stage, solidifying support among undecided or wavering voters, and ensuring their existing supporters turn out to vote.

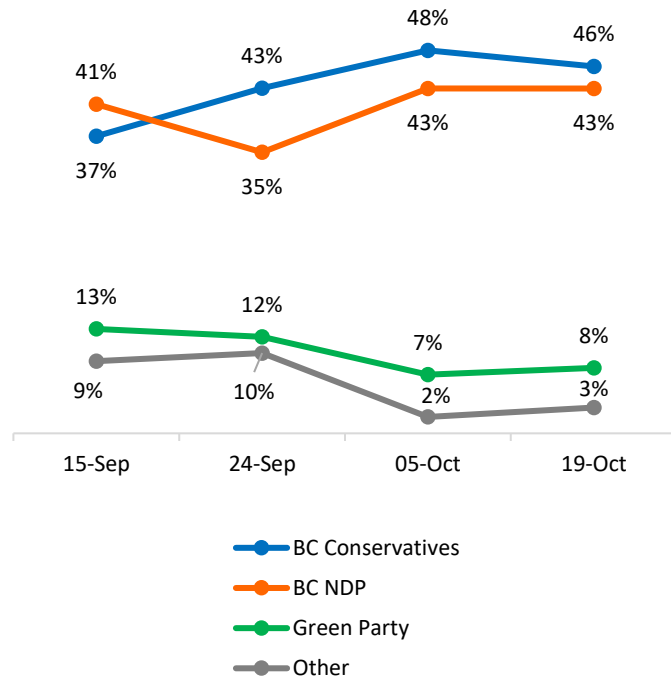
Amid this spinning of political plates, the non-partisan, not for profit Angus Reid Institute finds an electorate indicating a narrowing race based on vote preference, while also suggesting noticeable differences in the level of retention and certainty between the two main parties vying to form government.

The B.C. Conservatives hold a narrow three-point lead over the B.C. NDP, 46 per cent to 43 per cent, a margin that amounts to a statistical tie after the New Democrats clawed back support following a rocky start to the campaign.

But beyond the headline vote numbers, indications suggest the incumbent New Democrats, who called the election, face a tougher task in securing their support and getting voters to the polls on Oct. 24, amid greater uncertainty and weaker voter retention than their Conservative rivals.

Three-quarters of BC Conservative voters say they're very certain in their support (73%), compared to closer to half of BC NDP voters (54%). Further, 89 per cent of 2024 Conservatives say they're supporting the party again, while the proportion of 2024 BC NDP voters returning to the fold drops to 74 per cent.

**BC provincial vote intention over time
(Decided and leaning voters)**



METHODOLOGY:

The Angus Reid Institute conducted an online survey from October 15 - 19, 2026, among a randomized sample of 793 British Columbian adults. Respondents are drawn from the [Angus Reid Forum](#), a large-scale online panel developed to include Canadian residents in each of the 343 federal ridings in Canada and representative of the Canadian population by age, gender, family income, ethnic status and education. The sample was weighted to be representative of adults nationwide according to region, gender, age, household income, and education, based on the Canadian census. For comparison purposes only, a probability sample of this size would carry a margin of error of +/- 3 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding. The survey was self-commissioned and paid for by ARI. Detailed tables are found at the end of this release.

For more information on our polling methods, [click here](#).

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Add to this weaker momentum for B.C. NDP Leader David Eby, even among his own party's supporters, compared with that of B.C. Conservative Leader Lorne Doerksen, and a key question emerges: will less enthusiastic New Democrat supporters turn out to vote, or stay home?

More Key Findings:

- Asked which of the two main party leaders would make the best premier, Doerksen leads Eby by the slightest of margins – 36 per cent to 34 – while three-in-10 say “neither of them” (30%).
- On the debate over ICBC auto insurance, close to equal numbers support both keeping (41%) and removing (37%) the no-fault policy.
- On DRIPA, 44 per cent would follow the Conservative approach of repealing, while others would maintain (24%) or expand (11%) it.

About ARI

*The **Angus Reid Institute (ARI)** was founded in October 2014 by pollster and sociologist, Dr. Angus Reid. ARI is a national, not-for-profit, non-partisan public opinion research foundation established to advance education by commissioning, conducting and disseminating to the public accessible and impartial statistical data, research and policy analysis on economics, political science, philanthropy, public administration, domestic and international affairs and other socio-economic issues of importance to Canada and its world.*

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Part One: Vote outlook

Vote certainty favours Conservatives

There were no shortages of opportunity for British Columbians to exercise their franchise this weekend as advanced voting began for the provincial election while overlapping with municipal contests across the province. The provincial election has proven an unpopular decision and comes on the heels of [a wave of incumbent losses](#) in last weekend's municipal elections. This perhaps bodes ill for the BC NDP. There was little enthusiasm from British Columbians to vote in the provincial election at the outset of the campaign, and a majority (54%) said that they believed it was time for a change in government.

Related:

- [Ballot Backlash: BC Conservatives open 8-point lead after snap election call, but electorate far from locked in](#)
- [BC Election: As voters begin to lock in, Conservatives hold five-point lead over gaining NDP](#)

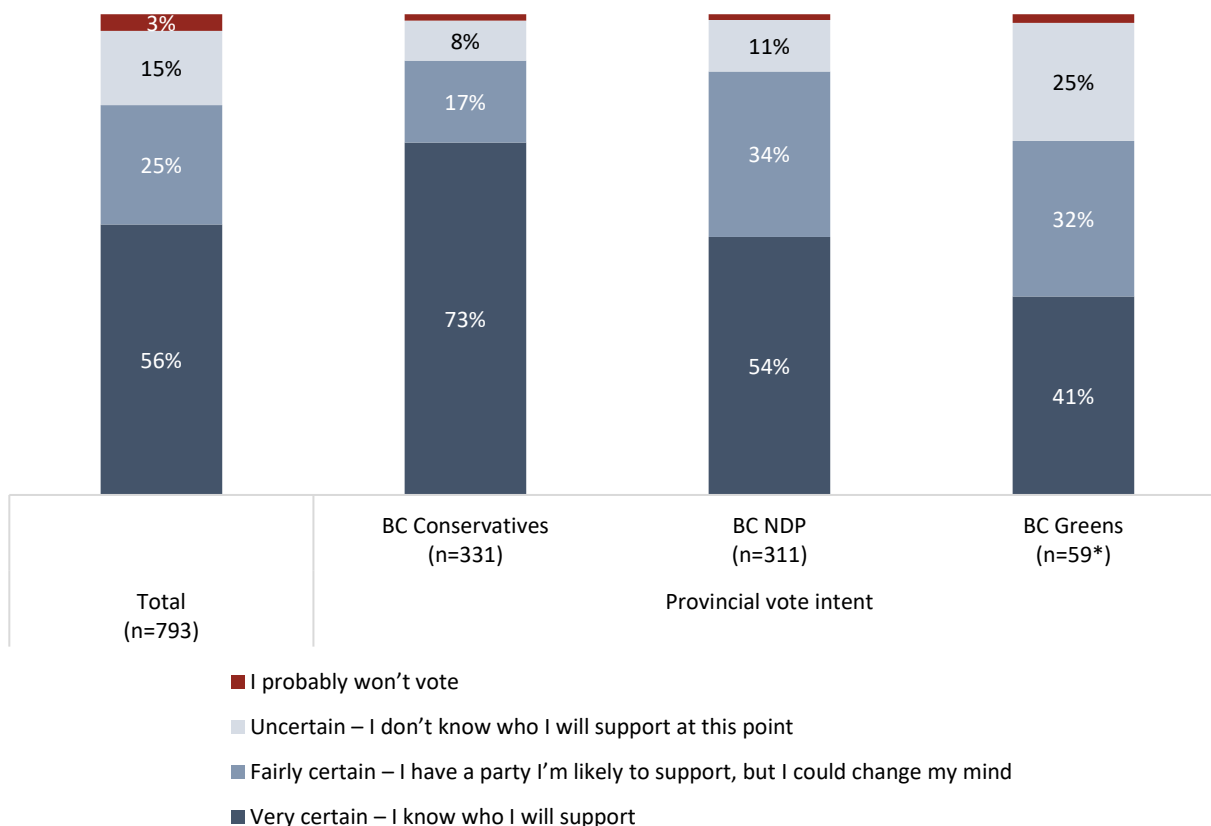
Enthusiastic, grumpy or neither, voters' minds are becoming more set on their preferred choice. A majority (56%) say they are "very certain" they know who they will support, compared to 46 per cent who said the same two weeks ago. The uncertain portion of the electorate has shrunk from one-in-five (19%) to fewer than one-in-six (15%).

But the certainty is not equal across the three parties running the most candidates in this election. There are more "locked in" Conservative voters (73% very certain) than there are those who are dead set in their choice of the BC NDP (54%) or BC Greens (41%):

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At this stage, how certain are you about which party's candidate you will support in the election?



**Smaller sample size, interpret with caution*

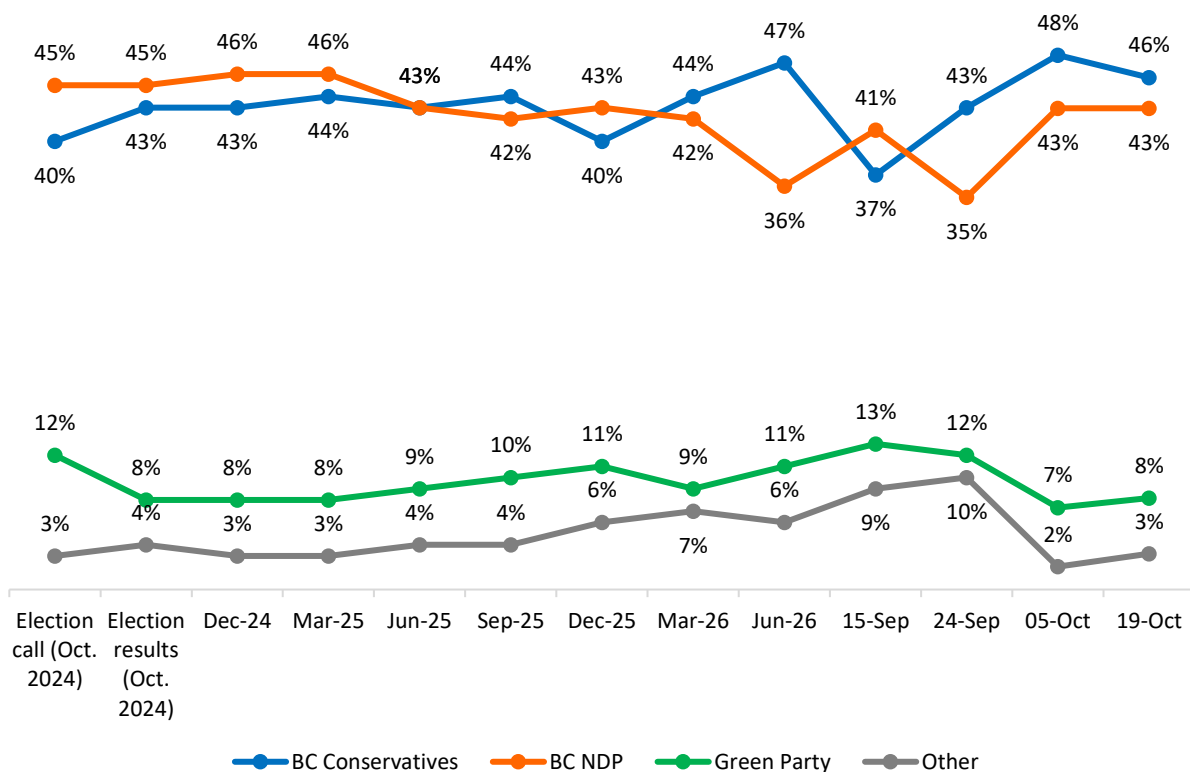
Gap narrows but Conservatives lead by three

The BC Conservatives continue to hold an advantage in vote intention as well, though the gap between them and the BC NDP has narrowed as the campaign has gone on. More than two-in-five (46%) decided and leaning voters say they support the BC Conservatives, 43 per cent say they will support the BC NDP. There are one-in-12 (8%) who say they support the BC Greens:

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BC provincial vote intention over time (Decided and leaning voters)



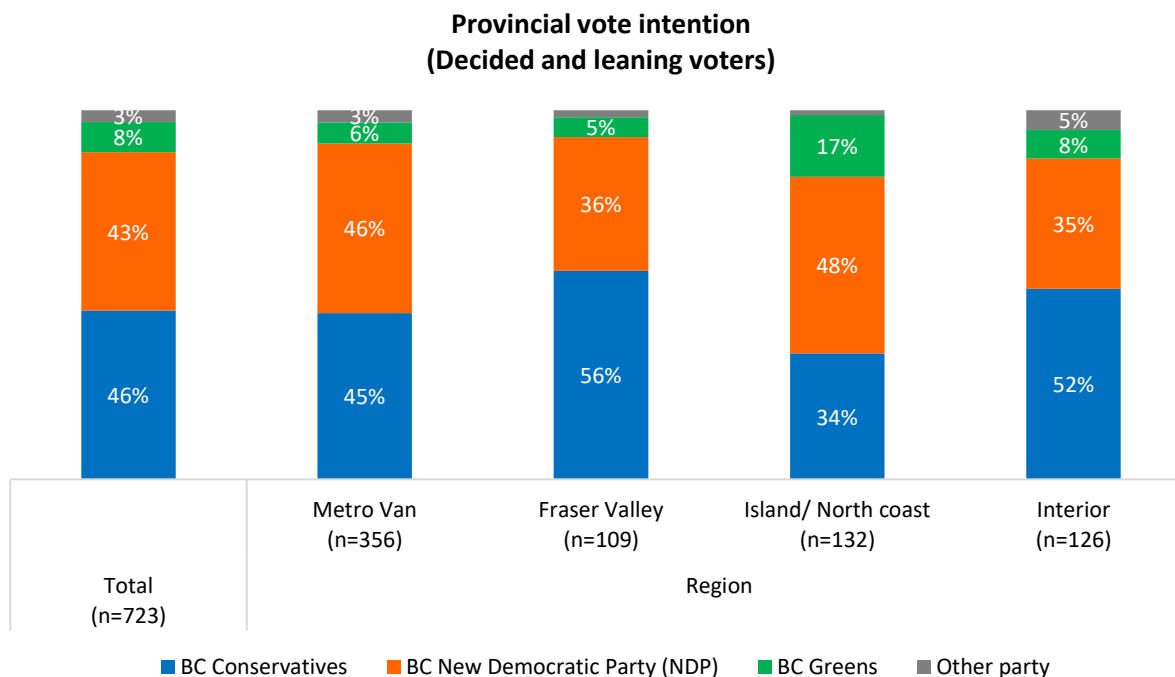
Region

The Metro Vancouver region is a tight race, with the BC NDP (46%) and the BC Conservatives (45%) statistically tied. In 2024, the BC NDP carried that region by 10 points.

The Conservatives hold a decided advantage in Fraser Valley (+20 over second place BC NDP) and the Interior (+17), while the BC NDP perform best on the Island and North Coast (+14 over second place BC Conservatives):

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Vote by age and gender

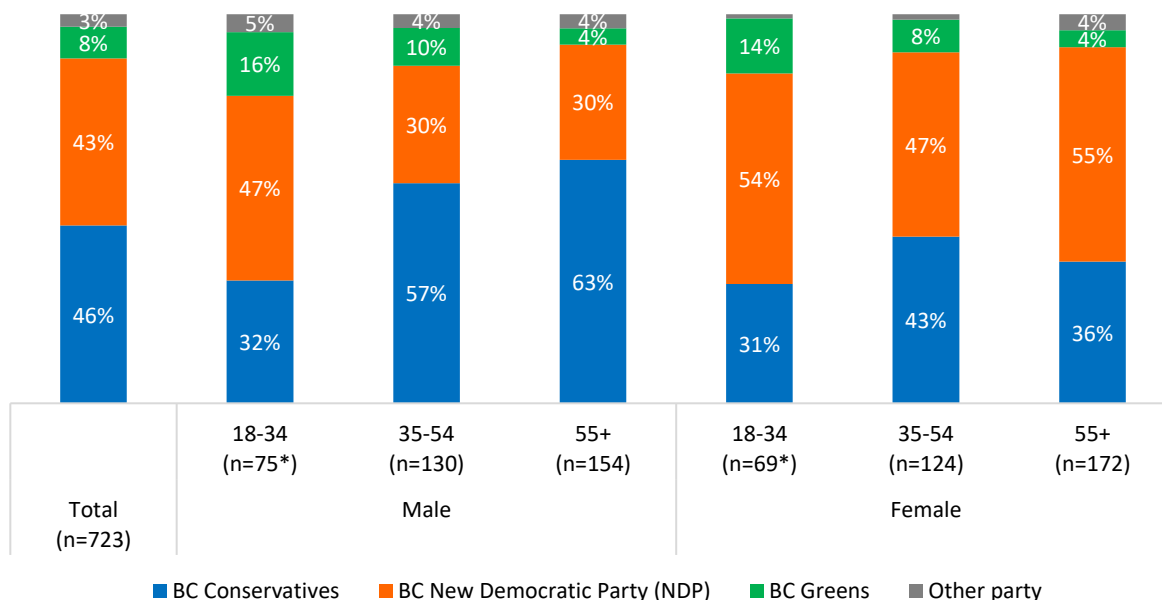
The BC Conservatives are the majority choice for men older than 34 while women that age are more likely to support the BC NDP.

The Greens perform best among British Columbians under the age of 35:

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Provincial vote intention (Decided and leaning voters)



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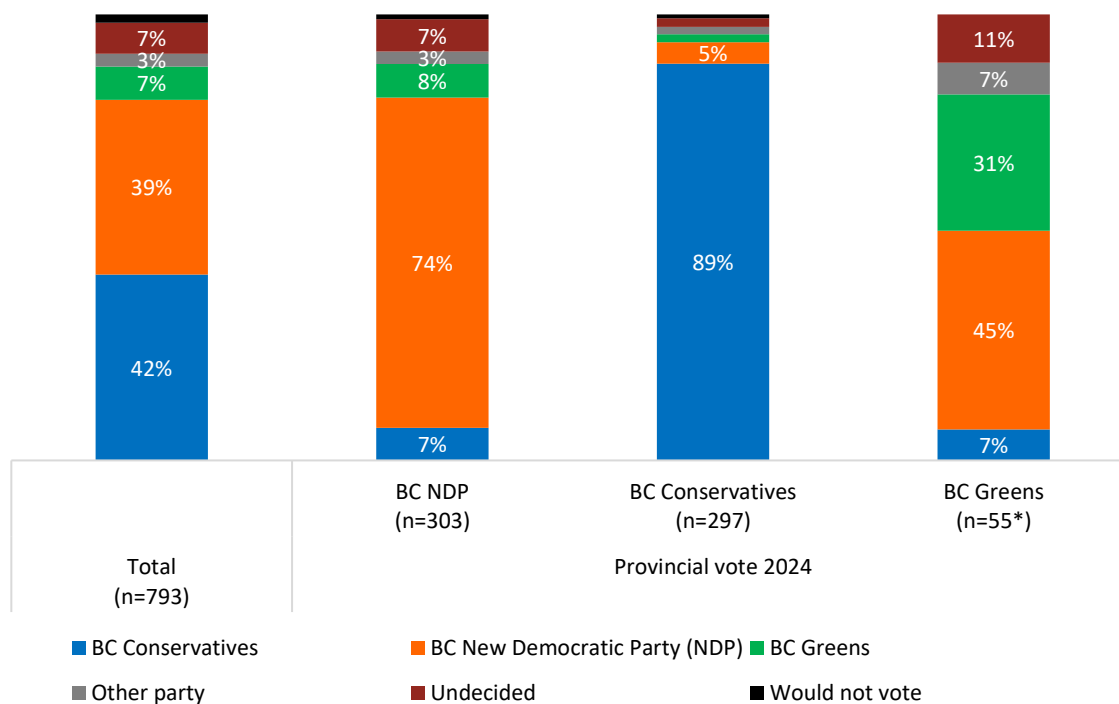
Vote retention

The BC NDP (74% staying with party) are facing more of a challenge to retain their 2024 voters than the BC Conservatives (89%). The one-quarter of BC NDP voters who voted the party in 2024 but aren't supporting the party now are split between moving to the Greens (8%), the Conservatives (7%), and undecided (7%). Comparatively, one-in-10 (11%) BC Conservatives are supporting another party from 2024:

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2024 vote retention by party including undecideds



Part Two: Leadership

Eby finds little momentum as Doerkson and Lowan increase profiles

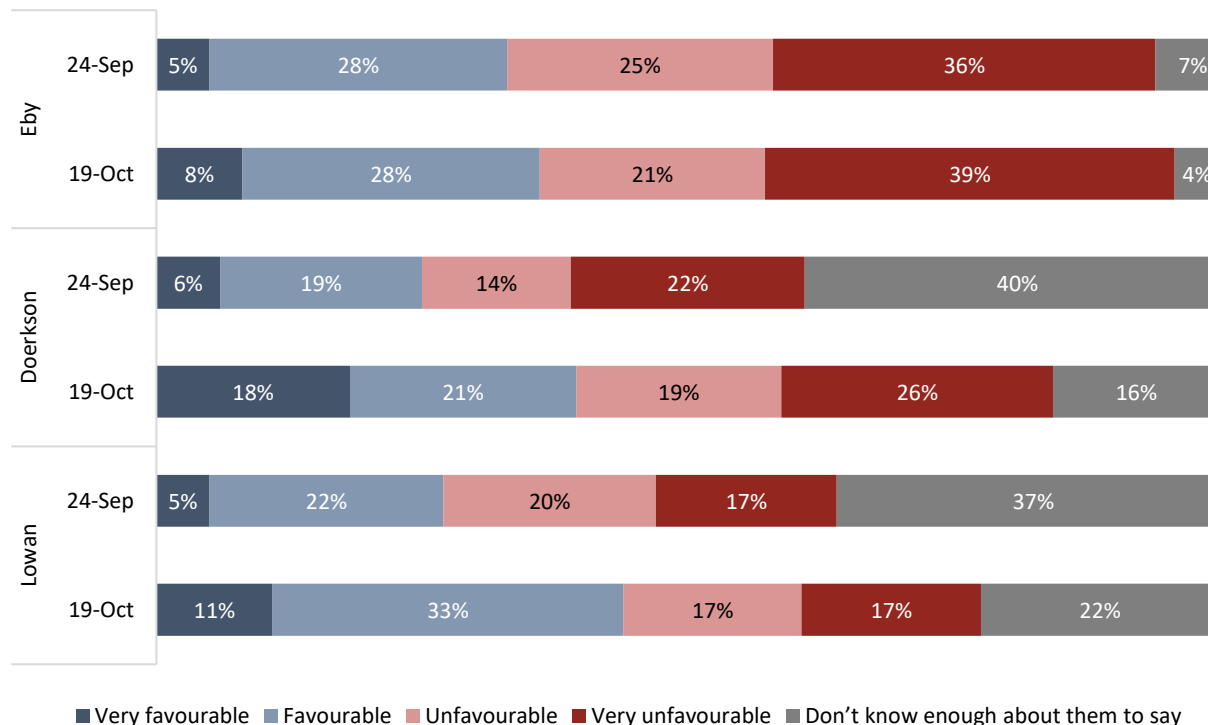
NDP leader David Eby has garnered little increase in favour as the campaign has worn on. His favourability now sits three-points higher than that registered in the last week of September (36% vs 33%). His net favourability sits at minus 24. For his debate stage counterparts, awareness has grown and positive assessments have improved.

BC Conservative leader Lorne Doerkson has seen his favourability increase from 25 to 39 per cent over that period, though his unfavourable views outpace the favourable ones (-6 overall). Green Party leader Emily Lowan is viewed favourably by 44 per cent and unfavourable by 34, leaving her with a plus 10 net score.

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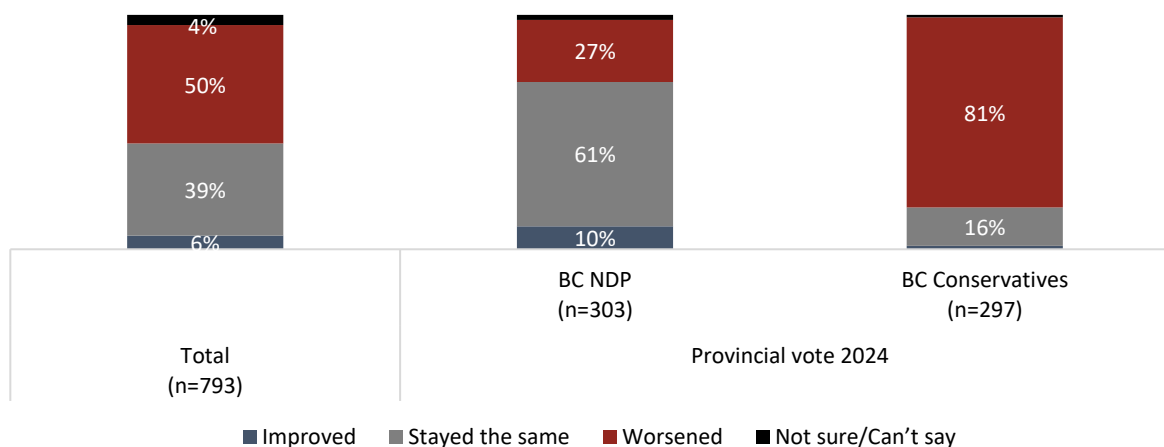
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Would you say you have a favourable or unfavourable view of the following leaders:



Asked how their opinions of each leader have changed over the past week, which includes the leaders' debate, the reviews for David Eby are poor. Half overall, and one-quarter of 2024 BC NDP voters, say their opinion of him has worsened, while few say it has improved:

Based on what you've seen, read and heard over the last week or so, has your opinion of BC NDP leader David Eby improved, worsened or stayed the same?

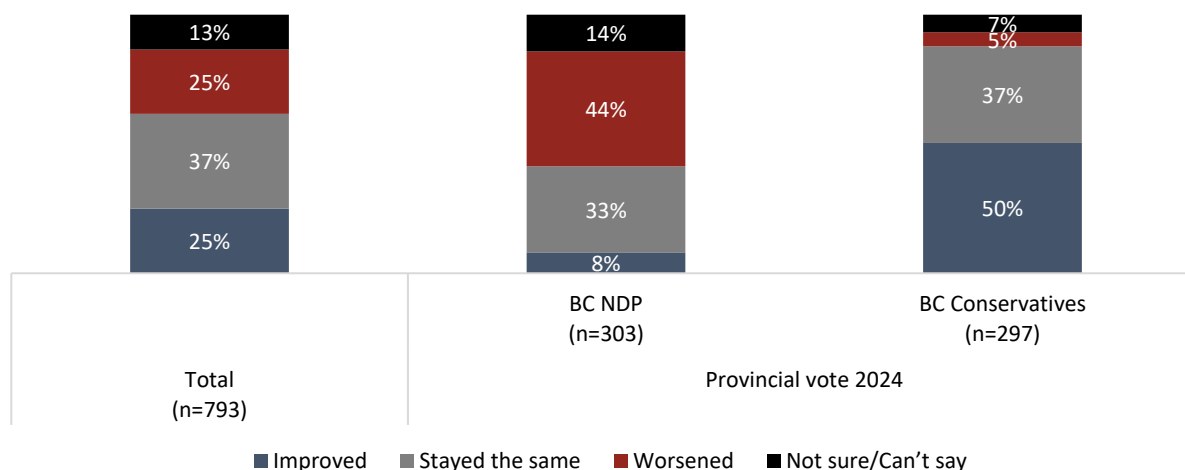


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For Lorne Doerkson, the improvement in opinion among his party's 2024 voters is significant. Half say their view of him has improved. Overall, British Columbians are equally likely to feel better (25%) or worse (25%) about him this week compared to last:

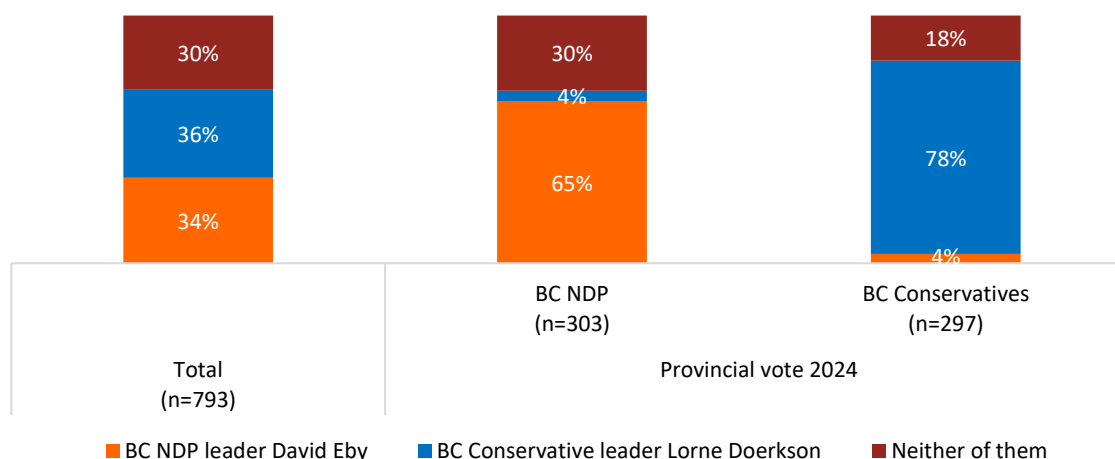
Based on what you've seen, read and heard over the last week or so, has your opinion of BC Conservatives leader Lorne Doerkson improved, worsened or stayed the same?



Best premier

On the question of which party leader would be best to serve as premier (among the two with the likeliest chance of having that opportunity) there is a three-way logjam between Doerkson (36%), Eby (34%), and neither of them (30%). Notably three-in-10 past BC NDP voters (30%) choose "neither", as do one-in-five past Conservatives (18%):

Which of these would you say would make the best premier of British Columbia?



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Part Three - Policy positions

Angus Reid Institute asked British Columbians about several policy positions, in order to ascertain which positions, if any, are resonating with potential voters. In most cases there are no clear winners. The one standout is the debate over the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA), which has become a source of debate and unrest in recent years. On that issue, 44 per cent would repeal it and approach reconciliation in a different way, while 24 per cent would maintain it. The challenge for the incumbent BC NDP on this series would appear to be the lack of a clear “winner” when it comes to policy offerings.

**Note – policy summaries are presented as approximations of public campaign positions.*

Health care:

The three major political parties in British Columbia have proposed different approaches to improving the province's health-care system. Thinking about the following priorities, which approach comes closest to what you believe the next provincial government should focus on?	
Expanding publicly funded health care through community health centres in every riding, improved nurse staffing levels and coverage for mental-health services	32%
Increasing taxes on high-income earners to help fund expanded health services, including 20 new primary care clinics, more health-care workers and additional diagnostic equipment	31%
Maintaining current health-care funding, establishing a \$50-million emergency fund for rural medical practices, and reducing wait times through changes to how health care is delivered	24%
Not sure / Can't say	13%

Addiction and overdose:

British Columbia's major political parties have proposed different approaches to addressing drug addiction and overdose deaths. Which of the following comes closest to what you believe the next provincial government should prioritize?	
Ending prescribed safer supply programs, expanding mandatory addiction treatment, and increasing investment in residential recovery services and drug enforcement	39%
Expanding addiction treatment and recovery services, including more treatment beds, faster access to care, and both voluntary and involuntary treatment for people with severe addictions	36%
Expanding harm reduction services and access to regulated alternatives to toxic street drugs, while investing in voluntary treatment, supportive housing and community-based care	14%
Not sure / Can't say	11%

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Taxation:

British Columbia's major political parties have proposed different approaches to taxation, including reducing income taxes, increasing taxes on high-income earners, and introducing new taxes on wealthy households. Thinking about these approaches, which comes closest to what you believe the next provincial government should prioritize?	
Increasing the basic personal income tax exemption to \$32,000, reducing taxes for most working British Columbians, while promising no new taxes or increases to existing ones	36%
Increasing income taxes on people earning more than \$1 million annually, along with higher rates for other high-income earners, to generate additional revenue for public services	31%
Introducing a wealth tax on households with a net worth of more than \$50 million, with the revenue used to fund expanded public services and programs	24%
Not sure / Can't say	10%

DRIPA:

In 2019, British Columbia passed the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA), which requires the provincial government to work with Indigenous peoples to bring B.C. laws into alignment with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. There has been considerable debate about the future of this legislation, with political parties proposing different approaches. Which of the following comes closest to what you believe the next provincial government should do?	
Repeal DRIPA and pursue reconciliation through direct partnerships and agreements with First Nations, including on economic development projects	44%
Maintain DRIPA while working with First Nations to address concerns about how the legislation is interpreted and implemented	24%
Strengthen the implementation of DRIPA through additional legislation and independent expert oversight to clarify Indigenous rights and government responsibilities	11%
Not sure / Can't say	21%

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ICBC:

British Columbia's major political parties have proposed different approaches to auto insurance through ICBC. The current system, introduced in 2021, generally limits the ability of people injured in vehicle accidents to sue for compensation, while providing benefits through ICBC. Thinking about the following approaches, which comes closest to what you believe the next provincial government should prioritize?	
Maintaining the current no-fault insurance system, which limits lawsuits over vehicle accidents, while freezing basic ICBC insurance rates for another three years	41%
Replacing the current system with a hybrid model that restores the right to sue for serious injuries, but could result in higher insurance premiums due to increased legal and claims costs	37%
Not sure / Can't say	22%

Housing:

British Columbia's political parties have proposed different approaches to addressing housing affordability, including measures aimed at increasing the supply of homes, reducing housing costs and protecting renters. Thinking about the following priorities, which approach comes closest to what you believe the next provincial government should focus on?	
Reducing the cost of building and buying homes by lowering taxes and regulatory barriers to encourage more housing construction and make homeownership more affordable	39%
Discouraging housing speculation and vacant properties by increasing taxes on empty homes and unsold condominiums, while using additional revenue to support affordable housing	30%
Expanding publicly supported affordable housing, strengthening protections for renters, and limiting rent increases between tenants	21%
Not sure / Can't say	9%

For detailed results by age, gender, region, education, and other demographics, [click here](#).

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