

From: [Comox Council of Canadians](#)
To: [Citizen Engagement GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: Submission on electoral reform
Date: February 23, 2018 11:49:32 AM

The Comox Valley Council of Canadians appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the upcoming referendum on electoral reform.

We support a single specific question requesting a public mandate to adopt proportional voting. Voters should have the opportunity to express support either for the province's plan to shift our voting system to proportional representation or for continuing to use the existing first-past-the-post system.

The choice of a specific proportional system should be made through a transparent public process by an independent entity, such as Elections BC. That public process must involve significant public input and engagement.

The timing of the referendum is important. To avoid conflict with the fall municipal elections, the mailing-out of the referendum ballot should take place shortly after October 20 and not in the summer months prior to the municipal elections.

Regulations around campaign finance and third party advertising must be put in place to limit the influence of big money on either side of the referendum question. It is important that the debate on this issue be a public debate that serves the broad public interest and that it not be dominated by the clearly vested interest of a political party.

We hope that every effort will be made to ensure the referendum process is accessible to the widest range of BC voters, taking into account literacy levels, language barriers and persons without a permanent address.

Sincerely,

Kathie Woodley

Comox Valley Council of Canadians