

ELECTION 2026

What Social Workers Need to Know

B.C. Provincial General Election | Final Voting Day: Saturday, October 24, 2026



Official Elections BC information

NON-PARTISAN MEMBER RESOURCE

BCASW does not endorse political parties or candidates. This guide supports informed civic engagement and respectful dialogue.

Key dates

OCT 16-21

ADVANCE VOTING

8 a.m. - 8 p.m. local time. No special reason is needed to vote in advance.

OCT 18

VOTE-BY-MAIL

Last day to request a vote-by-mail package online or by phone.

OCT 24

FINAL VOTING DAY

8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Pacific time. Vote-by-mail packages must also be received by 8 p.m.

Election FAQ

How do I find my riding?

Use Elections BC's My District tool and enter your home address: mydistrict.elections.bc.ca.

Who is running?

Candidate nominations are closed. Elections BC has the final candidate list organized by electoral district: elections.bc.ca/candidates.

Where do I vote?

Check wheretovote.elections.bc.ca or your Where to Vote card. You do not need the card to vote, but all voters must prove identity and residential address.

Who can vote - and can I still register?

You must be a Canadian citizen, 18 or older on October 24, and a B.C. resident since April 23, 2026. Eligible voters can also register in person when they go to vote.

How can I engage candidates?

Attend local forums, review platforms, email or call candidates, or speak with them while they campaign. Keep questions clear, courteous and consistent across candidates.

Social work lens: examples of what to ask

These are examples only - not an exhaustive list. Members may ask candidates about any issues that matter to them and their communities.

1 Workforce

How will you strengthen recruitment and retention of social workers across B.C., including workload, workplace safety, compensation and access to supervision?

2 Mental health & substance use

How will you improve timely, evidence-informed and culturally safe services across prevention, harm reduction, treatment, recovery and community support?

3 Children, youth & families

What will you do to strengthen prevention, early intervention, child welfare and transition supports so families can get help before needs reach crisis?

4 Housing & income security

What concrete steps will you take to expand safe, affordable housing and address poverty, food insecurity and income insecurity?

5 The profession, regulation & public policy

How will you support effective social work regulation, strong professional standards and recognition of social work expertise, while including social workers in policy development?

6 Seniors

How will you improve access to housing, health care, home and community supports, and social work services that help older adults age with dignity and safety?

7 Social work education

How will you support accessible, high-quality social work education, field placements and pathways that prepare and grow B.C.'s future social work workforce?

A SIMPLE ADVOCACY APPROACH

Introduce yourself as a constituent and social worker. Choose one or two issues that matter to you, ask the same question of each candidate, listen to the response, and compare commitments before deciding how you will vote.