



BC REFERENDUM

On PR v FPTP

SURVEY AUGUST 2018

BUSINESSINSURREY.COM



Surrey Board of Trade

WHO WE ARE

The Surrey Board of Trade supports, promotes, and advocates for commercial and industrial interests of Surrey businesses — the city’s economic drivers. With Surrey’s rapidly growing significance in the Lower Mainland, the role of the Surrey Board of Trade has never before been more important to champion a strong vibrant business community.

OUR MEMBERSHIP

Surrey Board of Trade is a powerful link between business, government, and community with a membership of nearly 2,500 businesses and organizations, large and small, representing over 6,000 member contacts and 60,000 employees.

WHAT WE DO

Since 1918, the Surrey Board of Trade provides businesses and organizations with

1. Economic opportunity
2. Workplace development and education
3. International trade
4. Government advocacy
5. Business connections

Members can further expand their client base with our numerous networking opportunities throughout the year. And we provide multiple levels of opportunity for members to promote their brand through business-to-business engagement.

ADVOCACY

We are an independent voice of business that develops positions on relevant topics of concern to our members. We do, at times, partner with government stakeholders and other business organizations at local, regional, provincial and federal levels if it serves the purpose of supporting our members.

No individual can succeed alone, nor any business can thrive without colleagues and support. The Surrey Board of Trade is here to help you. With our many connections with government representatives, we will advocate on your behalf.

PURPOSE OF SURVEYS

The Surrey Board of Trade periodically implements surveys, either voluntary opt-in or scientifically rigorous, on a range of topics. Member participation is voluntary and anonymous; however, the data is an invaluable tool for our advocacy and policy development.

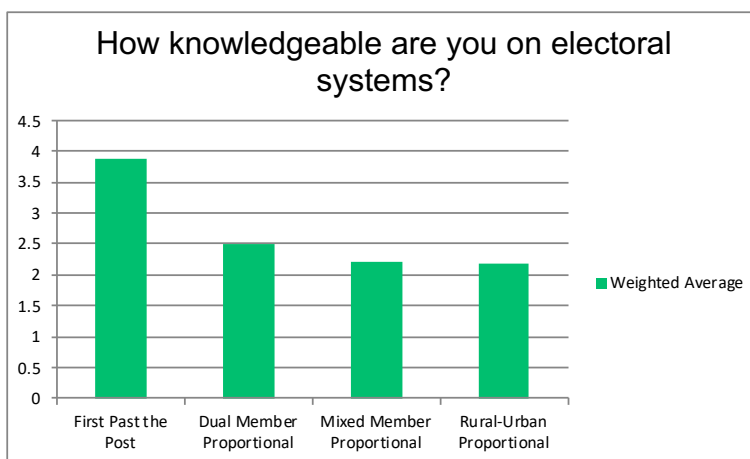
We thank all those who give a few minutes of their time to provide information and direction on our surveys, as well as those volunteers who assist in their design and analysis.

FPTP v PR Survey: A Brief Summary

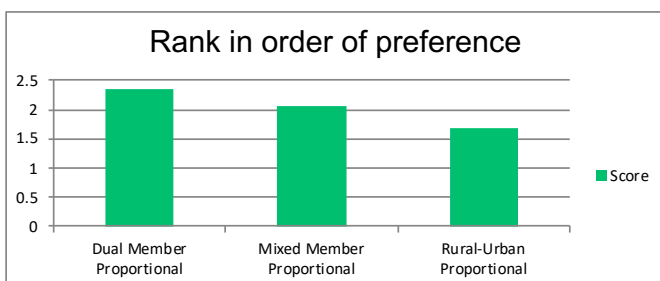
This Fall, BC voters will be asked to participate in a referendum on what electoral system we will use when we vote for the next two provincial elections. Prior to the Surrey Board of Trade Hot Topic Dialogue on *Voting for our Economic Future: First Past the Post (FPTP) or Proportional Representation (PR)*, we asked our members for their opinions.

The survey provided the link to Elections BC where they were able to access all the information provided by the provincial government on the different systems.

All but one were aware of the upcoming referendum. When asked how knowledgeable they were on the various systems, most had a “good handle” (4) on FPTP, but had only “read something somewhere” (2) on the PR systems.



The survey included the actual question to be used on the referendum and respondents were asked how they would vote. In response to Part One, “Which system should British Columbia use for provincial elections?” **just over 60% favoured the current FPTP.**



Part Two of the referendum question is, “If British Columbia adopts a proportional representation voting system, which of the following voting systems do you prefer?” Nearly 60% chose Dual Member Proportional as their first choice; 74% chose Mixed Member as their second choice; and Rural-Urban came third with 62%.

All but a handful intend to vote in the referendum. Of the comments given, the prevailing view is that not enough information is given on the Elections BC site or that the information doesn’t really explain the systems sufficiently. Several would like clear examples to show, exactly, what it is they are voting for. Other concerns include whether more MLAs would be elected and how costly the whole thing will be. A couple commented on the low (50% plus1) threshold.

“Public (voters) need a lot more information. I think most people... are going to vote with the NDP/Greens or against them with no real understanding about what is at stake.”



inclusive | innovative | independent

| | | |
|--|----------|--|
| | Contact: | Surrey Board of Trade |
| Anne Peterson, Policy & Research Manager | | 101 – 14439 104 Avenue |
| Anne@businessinsurrey.com | | Surrey BC V3R 1M1 |
| Anita Huberman, CEO | | 604.581.7130 |
| Anita@businessinsurrey.com | | info@businessinsurrey.com |