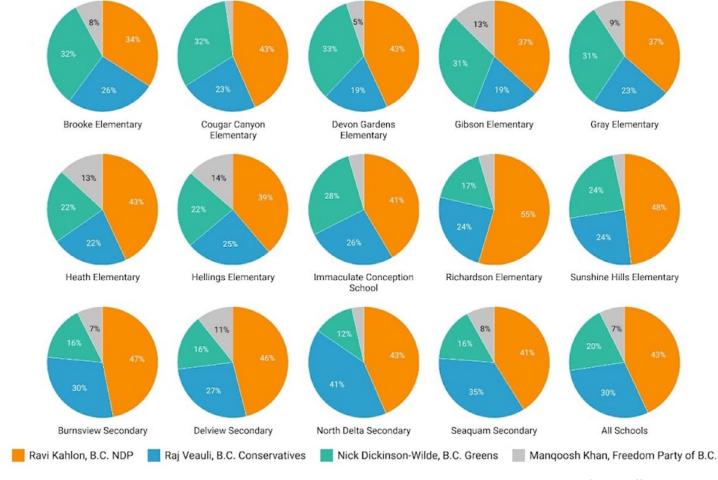
NORTH DELTA REPORTER

North Delta students re-elect NDP's Khalon in mock B.C. election



James Smith Oct 25, 2024 3:40 PM



4,605 elementary and secondary students in North Delta participated in Student Vote BC, casting ballots for the official candidates running in the 2024 provincial election in the riding of Delta North. The result mirrored that of the actual election, though candidates' share of the total ballots cast was different. | James Smith/North Delta Reporter image via Datawrapper

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Had they been able to vote in last week's provincial election, elementary and high-school students in

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North Delta would also have re-elected incumbent Ravi Kahlon.

More than 4,600 students in the community participated in Student Vote BC 2024, an experiential civic literacy program by Civix Canada in collaboration with Elections BC that provides students under the voting age with the opportunity to learn about democracy, government and the electoral process, then cast ballots in a parallel election.

After learning about government and democracy, researching the parties and platforms, and discussing the future of the province, more than 180,000 students B.C.-wide cast ballots on Oct. 17 and 18 for the official candidates running in their school's electoral district. The results were not disclosed until after voting closed on election night (Oct.19).

Nine of North Delta's 14 public elementary schools took part in Student Vote BC 2024 (Brooke, Cougar Canyon, Devon Gardens, Gibson, Gray, Heath, Hellings, Richardson and Sunshine Hills), as did four of the five secondary schools (Burnsview, Delview, North Delta and Seaquam) and one independent elementary (Immaculate Conception).

Annieville, Chalmers, Jarvis Traditional, McCloskey and Pinewood elementaries did not participate, nor did Sands Secondary.

The results largely mirrored those in the election proper, with B.C. NDP candidate Ravi Kahlon finishing first, B.C. Conservative Raj Veauli second, B.C. Green Nick Dickinson-Wilde third and Manqoosh Khan with the Freedom Party of B.C fourth. However, each candidate's share of the student vote was quite different.

(See interactive infographic below)

After all advance, out-of-district and final voting day ballots were counted, preliminary election night results had Kahlon finishing with 10,695 votes (52.52%) to Veauli's 8,223 (40.43%), Dickinson-Wilde's 1,259 (6.18%) and Khan's 176 (0.86%).

READ MORE: NDP incumbent Ravi Kahlon wins third term as Delta North's MLA

In the student vote, Kahlon's share was lower (43.09%, or 1,984 of 4,605 valid ballots) though his lead over Veauli (29.55%, or 1,361 votes) was proportionately slightly bigger (+13.54% vs. +12.09%).

Meanwhile, Dickinson-Wilde took more than three times the vote share he did in the provincial election (19.96%, 919 valid ballots), and Khan received more student votes than actual election ballots (341, 7.4%).

Interestingly, more elementary than secondary students voted Green (500 vs 419) even though 931

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more high-schoolers participated in Student Vote BC 2024.

Looking at the elementary and high-school votes separately, the first- and fourth-place results are virtually identical — NDP with 42.24% and 43.64% of votes, respectively; Freedom Party with 7.46% and 7.37% of votes, respectively — but second- and third-place results are flipped, with the younger students voting Green over Conservative (27.22% to 23.08%) and the older ones voting Conservative over Green (33.85% to 15.14%).

Provincially, the students elected the NDP as a minority government with 36.7% of the popular vote and 44 seats won. The Conservative party got 36.2% of the vote and won 40 seats, while the Greens received 19.2% of the popular vote and won nine seats. Party leaders David Eby John Rustad and Sonia Furstenau all won their ridings.

In the actual provincial election, the results are much closer. Preliminary election night counts have the NDP leading in 46 ridings with 44.59% of the popular vote, while the Conservatives are leading in 44 ridings with 43.57% of the vote. The Greens currently lead in two districts and have 8.19% of the vote. Eby and Rustad were re-elected, while Furstenau lost her bid for another term.

The final count, which will include vote-by-mail ballots received after advance voting ended and absentee ballots not considered in the initial count, will take place Oct. 26-28. By law, the final cannot begin until at least the fourth day after general voting day and candidates cannot officially be declared elected until final count is complete.

In two ridings, the top two candidates are separated by 100 votes or fewer, triggering an automatic recount. Results in other districts are also very close but over that threshold. And with an estimated 49,000 ballots still to be counted this weekend, some ridings could change hands once the official results are announced.

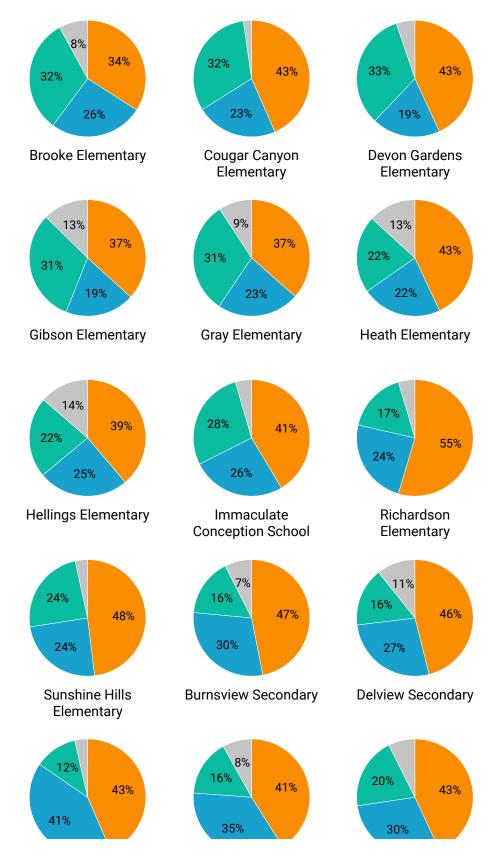
- with files from Sobia Moman and Wolf Depner

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Student Vote BC 2024: Results in Delta North

4,605 elementary and secondary students in North Delta participated in Student Vote BC, casting ballots for the official candidates running in the 2024 provincial election in the riding of Delta North. The result mirrored that of the actual election, though candidates' share of the total ballots cast was different. Preliminary results after election night had Kahlon ahead with 52.52% of the vote, Veauli second with 40.43%, Dickinson-Wilde third with 6.18%, and Khan fourth with 0.86%.

Ravi Kahlon, B.C. NDP Raj Veauli, B.C. Conservatives Nick Dickinson-Wilde, B.C. Greens Mangoosh Khan, Freedom Party of B.C.



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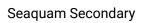




Chart: James Smith/North Delta Reporter • Source: Civix Canada • Get the data • Created with Datawrapper



About the Author: James Smith

James Smith is the founding editor of the North Delta Reporter. $\mbox{\bf Read more}$

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