

INITIAL COUNT

In a provincial election, initial count is the count of ballots that takes place on election night.

Initial count happens as soon as possible after voting closes at 8 p.m. (Pacific time) on Final Voting Day. If voting hours are extended at a voting place under the *Election Act*, initial count for that voting place starts after the extension ends.

Almost all ballots are counted at initial count. This includes all ballots where it is possible to verify, before the count begins, that the voter was eligible to vote and only voted once.

Electronic tabulators are used to count paper ballots at initial count. Tabulators are tested for accuracy prior to use and are tested again after initial count. As well, voter-marked ballots from a randomly selected tabulator in each district and at headquarters are hand-counted after initial count to ensure the tabulators produced an accurate result. A small number of ballots may be counted by hand in remote voting places that do not use tabulators.

Following initial count, preliminary results reported on election night are verified and any corrections to reporting errors are made.

For more information about initial count, see the [Guide for Campaigns](#).