

Battleground BC

Islands

ISLAND POTENTIAL LIBERAL GAINS

- North Island
- Nanaimo
- Cowichan Valley
- Saanich South

Vancouver Island has been increasingly NDP over time but increasing Green support creates 3-way splits that may result in surprise Liberal victories. As Liberals are strong north of the Malahat and the Greens stronger in the south, the NDP need a significant lead across-island to avoid large losses. Cowichan valley is the only seat on both lists, a true three-way race.

ISLAND POTENTIAL GREEN GAINS

- Saanich North and the Islands
- Victoria-Beacon Hill
- Cowichan Valley
- Esquimalt-Metchosin

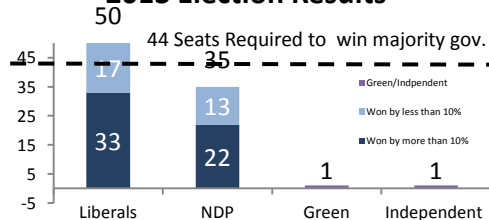
The first-past-the-post system generally works against the Green's. The exception is the South Island where the Green's have a strong pocket of support. Saanich North and the Islands appears to be an almost certain Green pick-up. The others are less certain.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Two ridings were won by an independent in the last election. Andrew Weaver appears destined for re-election in Oak Bay Gordon Head. However in Delta South, two term independent MLA Vicki Huntington is retiring and the seat appears likely to return to the BC Liberal fold.

Nelson also stands out for special mention. If the Green's win a seat anywhere outside of the South Island, Nelson is most likely to be that seat.

2013 Election Results



Lower Mainland

LOWER MAINLAND LIBERAL MUST-WINS

- Surrey-Panorama
- North Vancouver-Lonsdale
- Vancouver-Langara
- Vancouver-False Creek
- Coquitlam-Burke Mountain

Panorama and Lonsdale are historically close races. Vancouver has been shifting against the Liberals but Langara and False Creek have been won by more than 10% over the past two elections. Coquitlam Burke Mountain has historically been strong for the Liberals but was lost in a by-election to the NDP.

WATCH OUT FOR:

LOWER MAINLAND NDP MUST-WINS

- Maple Ridge-Mission
- Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows
- Port Moody-Coquitlam
- Surrey-Guildford
- Delta North
- Burnaby North
- Vancouver-Fraserview

If the Liberals lose all of these seats (their closest wins in the Lower Mainland) with no offsetting wins, they drop to 43 seats and likely lose office.

LOWER MAINLAND NDP CAN'T LOSE

- Surrey-Fleetwood
- Burnaby-Lougheed
- Burnaby-Deer Lake
- Vancouver-Fairview

The NDP can't afford to lose seats they would have won in the last election. Fleetwood starts in the NDP column due to redistribution but is contested by BC Liberal Cabinet Minister Peter Fassbender. The Liberal challenger in Burnaby-Lougheed is Steve Darling, a popular former news anchor. Deer Lake and Fairview are historic swing seats.

Interior

INTERIOR POTENTIAL LIBERAL GAINS

- Skeena
- Stikine
- Columbia River – Revelstoke

The Average NDP margin of victory in Skeena and Stikine has been less than 10% across the last two elections. Both seats have local First Nations leaders running for the BC Liberals, which could shift the dynamic; given First nations have been critical to the NDP support base. The Revelstoke riding has given the NDP stronger margins but the local NDP candidate has been involved in a legal controversy.

INTERIOR POTENTIAL NDP GAINS

- Fraser-Nicola
- Cariboo North
- Boundary-Similkameen
- Penticton

All of these seats have had margins of less than 10% over the past two elections. NDP gains here take the pressure off the need for gains in the Lower Mainland. In the last election in Cariboo North, the two-term incumbent NDP member ran as an independent and came second. The election in Fraser-Nicola is a rematch between former NDP MLA Harry Lali and current Liberal MLA Jackie Tegart. Boundary-Similkameen has been more consistently Liberal but the threatened closing of Oyosoos Secondary School may leave voters more open to the NDP. Penticton was won by the Liberals by just 5% in 2013.

THE RULES

In BC, we count seats, not overall voters. BC has a parliamentary system with elections that use the first-past-the-post electoral system to select the winner in each of 87 districts. One of the 87 members serves as the speaker of the Legislature, and since the Speaker makes key rulings and breaks ties, the government party prefers to elect one of its own members as speaker. That means for a party to be sure of forming government, they must win 45 seats. The NDP must gain 10 seats more than they lose in this election to form majority. The Liberals need to lose 7 seats more than they gain to lose a bare majority.