



## SAMPLE BC-STV BALLOTS

The following ballot samples are designed to illustrate what ballots might look like under BC-STV. Please note that official ballot design is usually set in law and may not resemble the sample demonstration ballots below.

A fictional electoral district, known as the Pretend District, will elect four members to represent it as MLAs in the Legislative Assembly. The candidates and their party affiliation are listed below, followed by a blank sample ballot. Following the blank sample ballot are examples of how this ballot might correctly and incorrectly be filled out.

***Reminder: BC-STV is not the electoral system British Columbians will use for the provincial election in May 2009. The current First Past the Post system will be used for the election. These examples are intended to help voters understand how a BC-STV ballot might look if BC-STV is adopted in the referendum.***

### Candidate / Party Affiliations – Pretend Electoral District

<u>Fruit Party</u>	<u>Spice Party</u>	<u>Vegetable Party</u>	<u>Independent</u>
Christy Blueberry	Jenn Basil	Anne Cauliflower	Angie Diamond
Dennis Grapes	Phyllis Oregano	Cathy Kale	Joe Roses
Jeff Kiwi	Wayne Paprika	Len Pepper	David Seaman
Marg Mango			

### **Sample Ballot Instructions:**

*This ballot will used to elect four members (MLAs) to represent the Pretend Electoral District. Select your preferred candidates, in numerical order of preference (1, 2, 3 etc.), starting with 1 for your first choice. You may make as many or few selections as you wish, but must indicate at least a first preference for your ballot to be valid. Candidates are listed on the ballot in random order, but grouped within political party affiliation. Independent candidates (not affiliated with any party) also appear in random order on the ballot.*

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## Sample Ballot

Party	Candidate	Rank
Fruit Party	MANGO, Marg	
Fruit Party	KIWI, Jeff	
Fruit Party	GRAPES, Dennis	
Fruit Party	BLUEBERRY, Christy	
Independent	DIAMOND, Angie	
Spice Party	PAPRIKA, Wayne	
Spice Party	BASIL, Jenn	
Spice Party	OREGANO, Phyllis	
Independent	SEAMAN, David	
Vegetable Party	PEPPER, Len	
Vegetable Party	CAULIFLOWER, Anne	
Vegetable Party	KALE, Cathy	
Independent	ROSES, Joe	

There are many different ways voters might express their preferences in this hypothetical electoral district. Here are a few examples of choices voters might make.

### Example 1 – Valid Ballot

In this example, the voter has ranked preferences for all thirteen candidates. There are no gaps or repetitions in the numerical ranking, so this ballot would be valid.

Party	Candidate	Rank
Fruit Party	MANGO, Marg	2
Fruit Party	KIWI, Jeff	13
Fruit Party	GRAPES, Dennis	4
Fruit Party	BLUEBERRY, Christy	3
Independent	DIAMOND, Angie	10
Spice Party	PAPRIKA, Wayne	6
Spice Party	BASIL, Jenn	8
Spice Party	OREGANO, Phyllis	7
Independent	SEAMAN, David	1
Vegetable Party	PEPPER, Len	12
Vegetable Party	CAULIFLOWER, Anne	11
Vegetable Party	KALE, Cathy	9
Independent	ROSES, Joe	5

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### **Example 2 – Valid Ballot**

In this example, the voter has decided to make only one selection. This ballot would be valid.

<b>Party</b>	<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Rank</b>
Fruit Party	MANGO, Marg	
Fruit Party	KIWI, Jeff	
Fruit Party	GRAPES, Dennis	
Fruit Party	BLUEBERRY, Christy	
Independent	DIAMOND, Angie	
Spice Party	PAPRIKA, Wayne	
Spice Party	BASIL, Jenn	
Spice Party	OREGANO, Phyllis	
Independent	SEAMAN, David	1
Vegetable Party	PEPPER, Len	
Vegetable Party	CAULIFLOWER, Anne	
Vegetable Party	KALE, Cathy	
Independent	ROSES, Joe	

### **Example 3 – Valid Ballot**

In this example, the voter has decided to list preferences from one to four. This ballot would be valid.

<b>Party</b>	<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Rank</b>
Fruit Party	MANGO, Marg	2
Fruit Party	KIWI, Jeff	
Fruit Party	GRAPES, Dennis	4
Fruit Party	BLUEBERRY, Christy	3
Independent	DIAMOND, Angie	
Spice Party	PAPRIKA, Wayne	
Spice Party	BASIL, Jenn	
Spice Party	OREGANO, Phyllis	
Independent	SEAMAN, David	1
Vegetable Party	PEPPER, Len	
Vegetable Party	CAULIFLOWER, Anne	
Vegetable Party	KALE, Cathy	
Independent	ROSES, Joe	

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There are also several ways that a voter could invalidate a ballot, causing it to not be counted. Here are a couple of examples of invalid, or partially invalid, ballots.

**Example 4 – Invalid Ballot**

In this example, the voter has not used numbers to select preferences. This ballot would be invalid because the voter's intentions are not clear (who would be the first choice, second choice, etc.) and it would be rejected and not counted.

Party	Candidate	Rank
Fruit Party	MANGO, Marg	
Fruit Party	KIWI, Jeff	
Fruit Party	GRAPES, Dennis	
Fruit Party	BLUEBERRY, Christy	
Independent	DIAMOND, Angie	
Spice Party	PAPRIKA, Wayne	X
Spice Party	BASIL, Jenn	X
Spice Party	OREGANO, Phyllis	X
Independent	SEAMAN, David	
Vegetable Party	PEPPER, Len	
Vegetable Party	CAULIFLOWER, Anne	
Vegetable Party	KALE, Cathy	
Independent	ROSES, Joe	

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### **Example 5 – Partially Invalid Ballot**

In this example, the voter has indicated two **third** choices (Jeff Kiwi and Christy Blueberry). Because the voter's **first** and **second** choices are clear, the ballot would be valid and may be counted for those first two choices. If the ballot became eligible for transfer to a third candidate choice, it would be set aside as invalid at that time because the voter's intended third choice is not clear.

<b>Party</b>	<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Rank</b>
Fruit Party	MANGO, Marg	2
Fruit Party	KIWI, Jeff	3
Fruit Party	GRAPES, Dennis	4
Fruit Party	BLUEBERRY, Christy	3
Independent	DIAMOND, Angie	
Spice Party	PAPRIKA, Wayne	5
Spice Party	BASIL, Jenn	
Spice Party	OREGANO, Phyllis	
Independent	SEAMAN, David	1
Vegetable Party	PEPPER, Len	
Vegetable Party	CAULIFLOWER, Anne	6
Vegetable Party	KALE, Cathy	
Independent	ROSES, Joe	

### **Want more information?**

Contact the Referendum Information Office:

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