

STAND WITH UKRAINE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

2026 Election Questionnaires: Template for BC Communities

For mayor and council, school trustee and MLA candidates, in any BC community

How to use this template

This template has three questionnaires: one for mayor and council candidates, one for school trustee candidates, and one for MLA candidates. Replace everything in [square brackets] with your local details. Use the ones that fit your community.

- BC municipal and school trustee elections are on Saturday, October 17, 2026. The BC provincial election is on Saturday, October 24, 2026, with advance voting from October 16. Provincial nominations close at 1 p.m. on October 3.
- Part A of each questionnaire is yours to write: 5 to 9 questions on your community's own concerns. Draw them from a local report, your council's strategic plan, or a community meeting.
- Send the same questions to every candidate, with a clear deadline of at least one week. Publish every answer in full and unedited, and list candidates who do not reply as "no response."
- Do not score, rank or endorse. The purpose is to let residents read what candidates think, in their own words, so each person can decide for themselves.
- Invite every candidate to your gatherings, before and after the election. Whoever is elected, offer to meet and keep working together.
- Check Elections BC's rules on third-party election advertising before you publish candidates' answers.
- Local details worth checking: whether your municipality has a memorial bench or tree program, which First World War internment camp is nearest to you, and whether your city already has a sister city.

Opening letter for every questionnaire

Since [date your gatherings began], residents of [community] have [gathered / organized / raised funds] in solidarity with Ukraine. We will keep standing no matter who is elected,

and we want to work with our next [mayor and council / school board / MLA] to stand with Ukraine, and with the about 1.4 million Canadians of Ukrainian origin and their many supporters.

How it works

- Please answer each question in 100 words or fewer. You may type your answers directly into this document.
- Please reply by [deadline date] to [return email].
- Candidates who do not reply will be listed as "no response."

How your answers will be shared

Your answers will not be scored or ranked. We will share every candidate's answers with our community and publish them in full, unedited, side by side, so every resident can read candidates' own words and make up their own mind.

Questionnaire 1: Mayor and Council

Part A: Our community's concerns

[Write 5 to 9 questions on your community's own priorities here, such as housing, safety, the toxic drug crisis, reconciliation, climate and wildfire, the local economy, accessibility, and trust at city hall.]

Part B: Standing with Ukraine

B1. Have you ever attended a Stand with Ukraine event in [community]? If not, you are warmly welcome at [time and place].

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

B2. If elected, how will you stand with Ukraine through your role on council?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

B3. Would you support [community] recognizing February 24 (the anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion) and August 24 (Ukrainian Independence Day) each year, for example through a proclamation or a statement at council?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

B4. Would you support a memorial bench, tree or plaque at [gathering place], through [the local memorial program, if one exists], honouring our community's solidarity?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

B5. Taras Shevchenko (1814 to 1861) is Ukraine's national poet. Lesya Ukrainka (1871 to 1913) is a poet and playwright whose name means "Lesya the Ukrainian." Would you support working with the community on a statue or public artwork honouring one of these poets?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

B6. Would you support continued access to public space for peaceful community gatherings?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

B7. What should the municipality do to help Ukrainian families who arrived since 2022, and all newcomers, find housing, work in their professions, childcare and community?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

B8. The Holodomor (from holod, hunger, and mor, mass death) was the 1932 to 1933 famine-genocide in Ukraine. Since 2019, BC law has recognized the fourth Saturday of November as Holodomor Memorial Day. Between 1914 and 1920, Ukrainian Canadians and others were interned in BC camps including [nearest camp: Vernon, Mara Lake, Monashee, Mount Revelstoke, Field, Edgewood, Nanaimo or Fernie-Morrissey]. Would you support marking Holodomor Memorial Day, and a local memorial or plaque honouring the victims of the Holodomor and the internment?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

B9. Vancouver and Odesa have been sister cities since 1944, and New Westminster and Ivano-Frankivsk formalized theirs in September 2026. Would you support exploring a community-led friendship or sister city relationship between [community] and a Ukrainian city?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

B10. Would you use the municipality's voice through UBCM and FCM (the provincial and national associations of municipalities) to support Ukraine and Ukrainian newcomers, and support donating retired municipal equipment through established charities?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

B11. How will you stay in contact with the Ukrainian community after the election, and how can we reach you?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

Questionnaire 2: School Trustees

Part A: Our community's concerns for schools

[Write 5 to 8 questions on your district's priorities here, such as communication with families, student mental health, reconciliation, accessibility and inclusion, newcomer families, safe schools, and budgets.]

Part B: Ukrainian students, families and history

B1. Have you ever attended a Stand with Ukraine event in [community]? If not, you are warmly welcome at [time and place].

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

B2. Many Ukrainian students have lived through war, displacement and interrupted schooling. How should [school district] support them academically and emotionally, including trauma-informed support?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

B3. Would you support students keeping their Ukrainian language, for example by recognizing Ukrainian language learning for credit or partnering with community heritage language classes?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

B4. Would you support teaching the history of the Holodomor (1932 to 1933) and of the 1914 to 1920 internment in BC, including learning resources and visits to local internment sites where possible?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

B5. Would you support schools marking Ukrainian cultural days, such as Vyshyvanka Day (a day for wearing the traditional embroidered shirt) in May, and Shevchenko Day on March 9?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

B6. Would you support virtual exchanges or pen-pal programs between classrooms in [school district] and schools in Ukraine?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

B7. Some newcomers were teachers and educational assistants in Ukraine. How could [school district] help them work in schools while they complete BC certification?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

B8. How will you stay in contact with Ukrainian families after the election, and how can we reach you?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

Questionnaire 3: MLA Candidates

Part A: Our community's concerns

[Write 5 to 9 questions on provincial issues in your riding here, such as housing, health care, the toxic drug crisis, safety, reconciliation, climate and wildfire, education and the economy.]

Part B: Standing with Ukraine

B1. Have you ever attended a Stand with Ukraine event in [community]? If not, you are warmly welcome at [time and place].

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

B2. If elected, how will you stand with Ukraine as an MLA?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

B3. Would you mark February 24 and August 24 in the Legislature, for example through a member's statement?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

B4. Since 2019, BC law has recognized the fourth Saturday of November as Holodomor Memorial Day. How would you help British Columbians, including students, learn about the Holodomor and mark this day each year?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

B5. Would you support a formal provincial acknowledgement of the 1914 to 1920 internment, including the BC camps, and teaching this history in BC schools?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

B6. Many Ukrainians who arrived in BC since 2022 hold temporary status. What would you do to help them access settlement services, health care and housing, have their professional credentials recognized, and find pathways to permanent residence in BC?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

B7. Would you support partnerships between BC and Ukraine, for example between BC post-secondary institutions and Ukrainian universities, or in trade and rebuilding?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

B8. How will you stay in contact with the Ukrainian community in [community] after the election, and how can we reach you?

Your answer (100 words or fewer):

Closing for every questionnaire

Whoever is elected, we will offer to meet with you and work together so [community] and British Columbia continue to stand with Ukraine.

With respect,

[Your name and your group's name]