



SOS URGES VOTERS TO SEEK PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITMENT FROM PARTIES AND CANDIDATES

Election period a unique opportunity to voice public safety concerns and demand action

VICTORIA, B.C. (Oct. 1, 2026) – With provincial and municipal elections underway in B.C., Save Our Streets (SOS) says now is the perfect time for British Columbians to share their concerns with the candidates who want their vote and to ask them and their parties to say how they plan to address the public safety issues in their communities.

In the weeks ahead, candidates for both levels of government will be participating in all-candidates forums, appearing on talk radio shows and reaching out to voters through email and door-to-door visits. Each of these activities presents an opportunity for residents to make candidates aware of just how serious an issue public safety is for residents across B.C.

The latest [Save Our Streets poll on public safety](#) showed:

- 48% of British Columbians said they fear for the safety of their families in their own community;
- 43% said the level of criminal activity in their community has increased;
- 37% said they've been the victim of a recent crime;
- 53% said there are areas in their own community they actively avoid for fear of their own safety; and
- 87% said addiction and mental illnesses are to blame for many public safety issues.

"The heightened level of interaction between British Columbians and the men and women who want to be their next municipal and provincial leaders makes elections unique opportunities for B.C. residents to make themselves heard," says Jess Ketchum, Co-founder, SOS. "At the recent Union of BC Municipalities convention, we asked mayors and councillors to sign on to a "Contract with Communities", which called on the provincial government to carry out five critical actions that can make a measurable difference on key issues affecting public safety. Now, we're urging British Columbians to ask their local candidates where they stand on these critical issues and how they plan to address public safety if they're elected."

The Save Our Streets "**Contract With Communities**" included:

1. **Ensure Safe Public Spaces** with provincial policy that stipulates homeless encampments CANNOT become established in communities that have adequate shelter options.
2. **Immediately Move Beyond Harm Reduction** with detoxification beds within Health Ministry facilities in ALL BC communities.
3. **Addictions and Mental Health Services Must Be a 2026 Priority** with government-operated addiction and mental illness treatment and recovery to be established on a regional basis throughout the province NOW.
4. **Properly Locate Public-Facing, Low-Barrier Services** to ensure NO negative impact to surrounding neighbourhoods.

5. **Justice Services Must Be Funded to Serve the Public Good** with enough judges, sheriffs, Crown prosecutors and correctional staff to adequately hold people ACCOUNTABLE for criminal acts.

“These two elections are a perfect time for British Columbians to demonstrate that their votes must be earned and that candidates who want their vote must place as high a priority on public safety as they do,” adds Clint Mahlman, Co-founder, SOS. “At the same time, if British Columbians want government representatives who understand their concerns and share their priorities, the onus is on them to call in to radio shows, have frank discussions with the candidates who come to their door, write and email candidates and political parties and urge their friends and neighbours to do the same.”

On the Save Our Streets [elections webpage](#), SOS has provided a handy reference pdf with the recent SOS poll results, provincial parties contact information, and the Contract with Communities critical actions for B.C. residents to print and share.

About Save Our Streets

Save Our Streets is a coalition of 120-plus community and business organizations representing every corner of British Columbia. SOS members are committed to seeing governments bring order and public safety back to communities across British Columbia. Concerned citizen groups, and B.C. businesses interested in joining or supporting SOS are invited to submit online at SaveOurStreets.ca or contact info@saveourstreets.ca.

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