PRESS RELEASE

# SCORE Round 2 finds AAP ahead but slipping in Punjab; SAD and Waris Punjab De gain ground

**BANGALORE, 16 November 2026:** The Aam Aadmi Party would win Punjab if elections were held today, despite a 3-percentage point drop in vote-share from a month ago, found SCORE Punjab Opinion Poll Round 2.

The opinion poll has found AAP potentially winning 66-79 seats if elections were held on 15 November, down from 69-82 seats on 15 October, well past the majority mark of 59. The vote share drop is a significant three percentage points, from 38% to 35%.

> "The AAP is still holding ground due to support from women, even as support among men has slipped further. But it is not just welfare schemes that are helping AAP but also a divided opposition. That's because an Akali-BJP alliance could change things dramatically," said Naresh Arora, founder of SCORE.

The full results for every constituency are on the SCORE website www.scoreintelligence.in.

The SCORE Punjab Opinion Poll, Round 2, shows an incumbent government that remains ahead but is losing ground, particularly among men, younger voters and Sikh voters, and in Majha. With more than a quarter of voters undecided and 39 seats within a narrow margin, the findings describe the current political landscape rather than predicting the final result. SCORE will release Round 3 of its Punjab Tracker Poll on 15 December 2026.

## What if the SAD and BJP join hands?

The poll specifically asked 28,186 respondents between 15 October and 13 November if they would vote for the Akali-BJP alliance if one were to be announced. Looking at responses separately for each seat, the poll found that if there was an alliance today, the combined seats for Akali-BJP could increase from their current 15 seats (BJP 8, SAD 7) to 34 seats (range 24-39), with a combined vote share of


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29.4%, marginally up from the 28.5% the two parties' poll separately. The AAP would still win but its seat range would reduce to 62-74 seats.

Together as an alliance, SAD-BJP could wrest 5 seats from AAP, 6 from the Congress, seven of the currently tied seats and one from the Akali Dal (Waris Punjab De). The alliance would lead AAP in Majha (33.3% against 31.3%) and among men (33.6% against 21.3%). It would also lead in seven of Punjab's 23 districts: Amritsar, Pathankot, Tarn Taran, Fazilka, Firozpur, SAS Nagar and Sri Muktsar Sahib.

> "These numbers are hypothetical estimates if elections were held on 15 November. As the changes from Round 1 show, this election is in a state of flux. A lot could change and we will be tracking the change every month," said Naresh Arora.

## The big shifts from last month

AAP's vote share stands at 35%, down from 38% in October and 42% in the 2022 assembly election. Its vote share has fallen in 99 of the 117 constituencies since Round 1.

The Congress remains second at 23.5% and 12–29 seats.

The SAD has moved up to 14.5% and 5–9 seats, from 12.5% and 2–6 seats in October, and is now marginally ahead of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on vote share.

The BJP holds steady at 14% and 4–12 seats.

The Amritpal Singh-led Akali Dal (Waris Punjab De) has risen from 8.5% to 11%, although its vote is spread thinly, giving it 0–4 seats.

Voters are also sticking more firmly with the parties they backed in 2022. The BJP now keeps 69% of its 2022 voters, up from 49% in October; the SAD keeps 54% (45% in October) and the Congress 52% (44%).

## Majha sees the biggest shift; Doaba holds firm for AAP

Majha has seen the sharpest movement of any region. AAP's vote share there has fallen from 40.8% to 31.4%, while the SAD has risen from 9.6% to 15.3% and the Congress from 21.6% to 25.0%. Six of the nine tied seats in Punjab are now in Majha. This is also where the gender gap advantage for the AAP is the narrowest, but still a substantial 21 percentage points.

Doaba remains AAP's strongest region, with its vote share steady at 44.3%. In Malwa, which accounts for 69 of Punjab's 117 seats, AAP stands at 33.4%, while the Akali Dal (Waris Punjab De) has risen to 12.1%. Malwa contains 17 of the 30 close contests identified by the poll.

## Men move away from AAP; women stay with it

The gender divide has widened. AAP retains 51.5% support among women, against 19.0% for the Congress, and leads among women in every age group, rising to 62.7% among women aged 60 and above.

Among men, however, AAP has fallen from 27.4% to 21.2%, and the Congress now leads at 27.3%. The shift is sharpest among young men: among men aged 18–24, the Akali Dal (Waris Punjab De) leads with 26%, followed by the Congress at 24.7%.

Across all voters aged 18–24, AAP's support has dropped from 39% to 27.5%.

Among Sikh voters, the SAD (18.9%) and the Akali Dal (Waris Punjab De) (15.7%) together reach 34.6%, ahead of AAP at 31%. Among Jat Sikh voters, the SAD now leads at 26%.

## Bhagwant Mann remains the preferred Chief Minister

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann is the preferred Chief Minister for 37.1% of respondents, ahead of Congress leader Charanjit Singh Channi at 15.9%, SAD leader Sukhbir Singh Badal at 10.5% and Amritpal Singh at 8.7%. Amritpal Singh is the only leader whose support has risen notably since October, from 6.8%.

Mann's personal approval rating stands at 59.5%, down from 63.9%, while approval of the AAP government has fallen from 57.7% to 51.7%.

## Drugs remain the biggest concern

Drugs are the most frequently cited failure of the state government, named by 29.9% of respondents, up from 22.2% in October. Drugs also remain the biggest local problem, named by 33.7% of respondents and 40.5% in Majha. The rise comes in the wake of the killing of anti-drug activist Parvinder Singh ‘Jhota’ in Mansa on 13 October.


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The share naming law and order as the government's biggest failure has risen from 4.5% to 7.2%.

Roads (13.6%) remain the second-biggest local concern, followed by drainage and sanitation, which has risen from 7.1% to 10.6%.

## Welfare reach has grown

84.8% of households now report receiving at least one state government scheme, up from 79.7% in October. The Mawan Dheeyan Satkar cash transfer is reported by 64.0% of households and by 74.8% of women. Free electricity of up to 300 units now reaches 61.6% of households, up from 49.9%, and the Ghar-Ghar Ration scheme 50.2%, up from 40.6%.

Free electricity remains the most frequently cited success of the state government, named by 23.8% of respondents. The wider reach of these schemes remains AAP's main strength, even as its ratings on governance have slipped.

## Thirty-nine seats could decide the outcome

The poll identifies 39 constituencies where the margin is narrow, up from 22 in October. Among these, nine were too close to be called for any party: These tied seats are Qadian, Amritsar Central, Amritsar East, Tarn Taran, Khem Karan, Patti, Jalandhar North, Ludhiana North and Firozpur City. Eight of them are a toss-up between the AAP and another party; in Jalandhar North, the BJP and the Congress are tied.

The share of undecided voters has risen from 22.5% to 26.8%, leaving considerable room for the picture to change.

## Key findings at a glance

- AAP: 35% vote share; estimated 66–79 seats (October: 38%, 69–82 seats).
- Congress: 23.5% vote share; estimated 12–29 seats.
- SAD: 14.5% vote share; estimated 5–9 seats.


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- BJP: 14% vote share; estimated 4–12 seats.
- Akali Dal (Waris Punjab De): 11% vote share; estimated 0–4 seats.
- Bhagwant Mann: 37.1% preferred Chief Minister; 59.5% approval.
- AAP support: 51.5% among women, against 21.2% among men.
- Biggest shift: Majha, where AAP's vote share has fallen from 40.8% to 31.4%.
- Seats in play: 39 (9 tied, 30 close contests).
- Biggest public concern: Drugs, named as the state government's biggest failure by 29.9% of respondents (22.2% in October).
- Undecided voters: 26.8%.
- If the SAD and BJP ally: Alliance 34 seats (24–39), AAP 64 (62–74), Congress 9 (8–13).


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