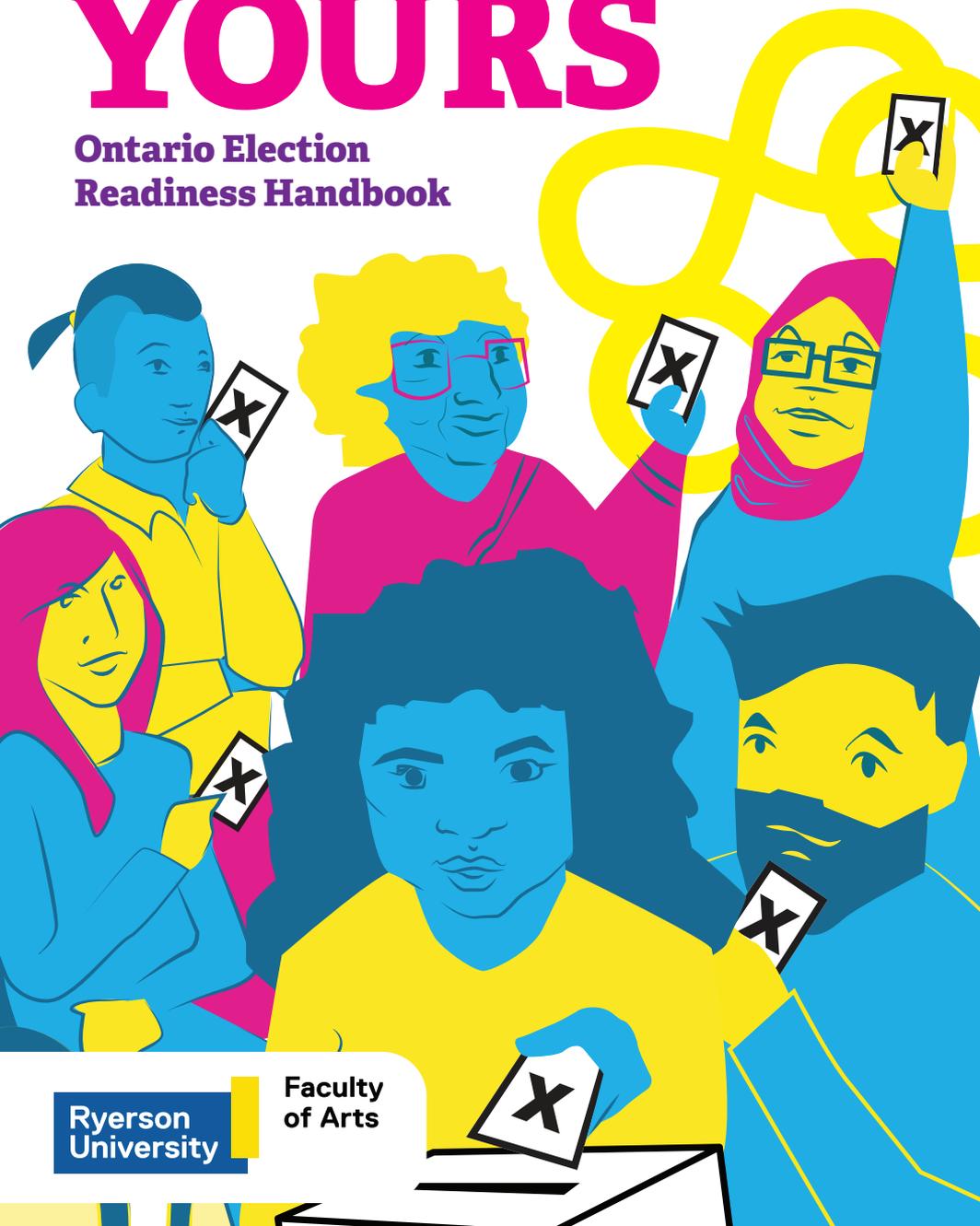


The Power is YOURS

Ontario Election
Readiness Handbook


democratic
engagement
exchange
at Ryerson University



Ryerson
University

Faculty
of Arts



**What
matters
to you?**

**What's
important
to you in
your life?**

**What's
important
for your
friends and
family?**

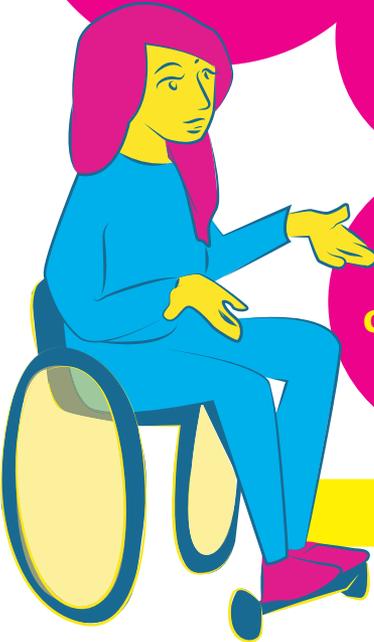
**What's
important
for your
community?**

**Your
opinion
matters.**

**In a
democracy,
every voice
must count.**



**Your
Vote is
Your
Voice**



Why Vote?

Because
you
matter.

When you vote,
you are playing a part
in shaping your
own future.

Because
your
community
matters.

When you vote,
you are building a
community where
people have the ability
to make decisions
affecting their lives.

Vote because **you matter.**

The Power is **YOURS**

Using this handbook

This handbook was made for you.

It is designed to give you all the information to participate in the 2022 Provincial Election on **June 2, 2022.**



**IT STARTS WITH YOU —
your priorities, voice and opinions**

**Everything you need to know
ABOUT THE ELECTION**



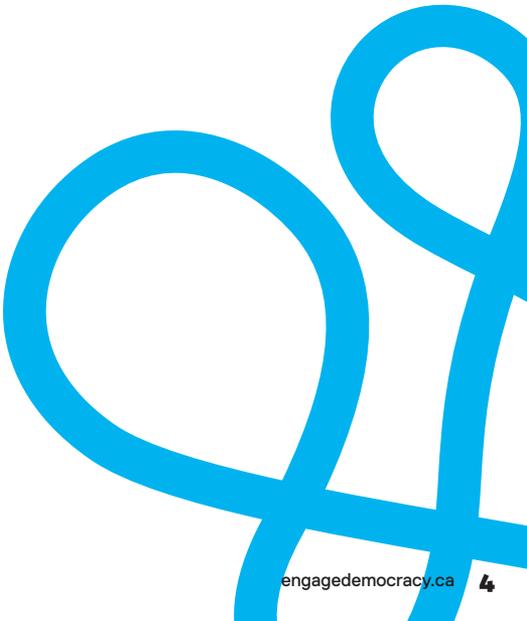
**Help to make
YOUR OWN CHOICE**



**Everything you need to know
TO GO OUT AND VOTE**

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Start with what matters to you

Your vote gives you the power to choose a representative who will work for what is important to you. What matters for your life, your friends and family and your community.

**Governments make decisions
about the things that impact all of us.**

The Ontario provincial government is responsible for things that touch our lives every day.

Do you care about... ?

- Education
- Health care
- Community safety
- Work and wages
- Housing
- Taxes
- Child care
- Transit
- Environment



Figuring out what matters to you

When it comes to your life, **you're the expert.**

You know what worries you and what you need – for yourself, your family and your community.

You know your hopes for and fears about the future.

Making choices about voting is about your priorities.

Take a moment to write these down here.

Priorities for Yourself	
Now	In the future
Priorities for Family & Friends	
Now	In the future
Priorities for Community	
Now	In the future

Voting, it's easier than you think



I have never voted before and I am so nervous.

It's easy!



Really?

Sure, it is easier than cooking dinner and you are a great cook. It is way easier than commuting and you do that every day.

Your vote – it's quick and easy.



When you voting?

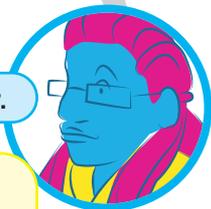
Can't. Gonna be away on Election Day.

That's cool. You can vote in person at advance polls from May 19 to May 28, 2022.

But I'll be gone by then.

You're covered. You can vote-by-mail. All you have to do is apply. You can do it online.

Your vote – so many ways for you to choose.





I can't vote. I am working all day!



Dude, if you work all day, your employer must give you at least 3 hours off to vote.

Amazing, see you at the polls.

Your vote – You have time



I really wanted to vote on Election Day, but I'm not registered. I didn't get a voter card.



Don't worry. You can still vote. Elections Ontario will register you at your polling place. Just take the right ID and something with your address (details on page 29-30).

Your vote – You can register when you go to vote.



Mine could be the deciding vote. No way I'm wasting it.



As if. You're just one person.

Get this – In a Yukon election one single vote changed the result of the election – who controlled the territorial assembly

Read about it here: <https://bit.ly/3KCFaS3>

Your vote – it can make all the difference.

Trust your vote

You have the right to use your vote to elect a representative who will work to bring your hopes and needs to life.

When you vote, you put faith in yourself.

Your trust and your needs are important.
Your voice and your opinions matter.

And you show that your community matters.

Your vote is something you can trust.



Election Integrity



Elections Ontario

Elections Ontario runs the provincial election.

The officials at Elections Ontario have to swear to run the elections fairly – by law.

All the steps have to be open and transparent. Each of the steps are watched by Elections Ontario officials and by people who represent the political parties.

Elections Ontario uses paper ballots, with unique serial numbers, printed on special paper. This ensures tracking of the ballots.

The votes are counted by a tabulating machine. If there is any disagreement about how the votes are counted, the ballots can be counted by hand. Representatives from all political parties get to observe and have their point of view written down.

A free and fair election is guaranteed under the *Election Act*



Our vote is **OUR VOICE**

If **we** don't use our voice, someone will speak for **us**.

In a democracy, **voting is a meaningful way for us to be heard.**

It means playing an important part in
decisions that affect our future.

It means building **a community where we are all
able to shape the decisions affecting our lives.**

That is why so many groups of Canadians
have fought to win the right to vote
over the centuries. They know

**if we want a chance
to build the future we want,
we need to vote.**

The election is coming!

An election is a defined period of time during which all political parties and candidates ask for your vote.

Election campaigns are run by parties with the goal of getting as many votes as possible for their candidates. The end date is Election Day.

Now What?

Read ahead for everything you need to know to get out and vote.



What are ways I can vote?

In Person

On Election Day from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Thursday, June 2, 2022

During advance polling from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
on May 19 to May 28, 2022

At any Elections Ontario local office



By Mail

Voting by mail is a good option for people who cannot vote in person at advance polls or on Election Day. But it involves advance planning and requires you to upload or copy and mail your ID.

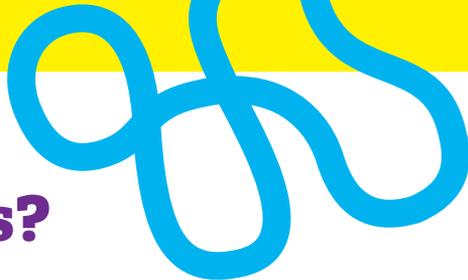
You can apply to vote by mail any time after the election is called.

- Elections Ontario must receive all application forms/ID by 6 p.m. EST on May 27, 2022.
- Elections Ontario must receive all completed voting kits by 6 p.m. EST on Election Day, June 2, 2022.

For more information, visit
Elections Ontario at elections.on.ca.



Who are the election players?



Political parties

These are organized groups of people who share values and ideas. Political parties run candidates in elections.

In Ontario, there are more than 23 registered political parties. At this time, there are four political parties that have elected representatives in the Ontario Legislature:

**Conservative
Party**

**Green
Party**

**Liberal
Party**

**New
Democratic
Party**

Party leaders:



**Doug
Ford**

*Conservative
Party*



**Mike
Schreiner**

*Green
Party*



**Steven
Del Duca**

*Liberal
Party*



**Andrea
Horwath**

*New
Democratic Party*

Candidates:

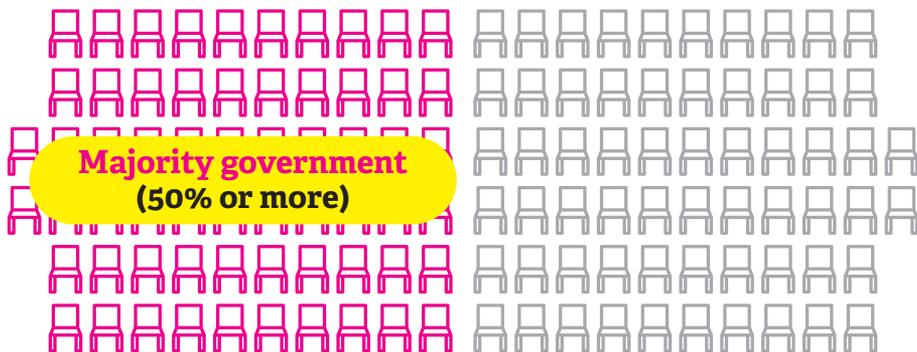
Run to be Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP)

How does **my vote** decide how the government is formed?

Your vote is to choose a Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) for your own riding (electoral district or constituency). There are 124 MP seats in the Ontario Legislature.

If a party wins 63 or more of the seats (50%), it forms a **majority government**. This is what the parties aim for because it means they can pass laws without compromise or opposition.

If the party with the most seats wins 62 or fewer seats (50% or less), it has an opportunity to form a **minority government** with the support of other political parties. If they are unable to gain the support of other political parties, other political parties may work together to try to form a government.

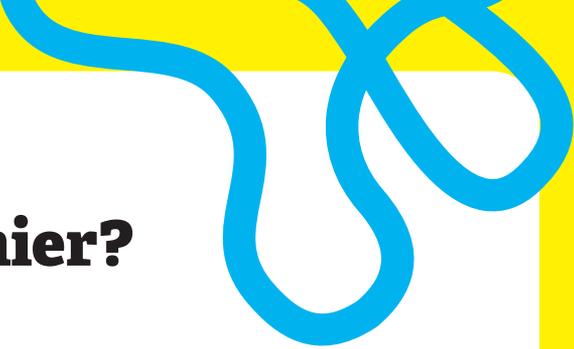


First Past the Post:

This is the voting system in Canada. It means the candidate who gets the most votes in a riding gets a seat in Parliament.

The winner doesn't need to get 50% of the total votes.

To get elected, a candidate only needs to have one or more votes than the second-place candidate.



Do I vote for the Premier? **NO.**

When you vote, you are choosing a Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) for your own riding (electoral district or constituency).

The leader of the political party that forms the government is the Premier of the province.

The leader of the party is elected by the members of the party.

So, **who** do I vote for?

You vote for candidates that are the representatives of the political parties in each riding in the province.

They run to be elected a Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP).

MPPs sit in the Ontario Legislature.

Who **chooses** the candidates?

Political parties choose candidates for MPP in a riding through local nomination meetings.

Candidates are chosen by a vote of the local riding members. Each party sets its own rule for nominations.

Anyone can join a political party and vote in local nomination meetings.

So, how do I decide who to vote for?

You know your own life, your own needs and your concerns. By focusing on what you care about, you are able to choose someone who can represent you.

The next step is figuring out what the people asking for your vote are saying about what matters to you.



Candidates criticize
each other – a lot.

To make up your own mind,
focus on
**what the parties
and candidates
stand for.**

Watch out for debates

- **All leaders' debates**

Televised leaders' debates are a great way to hear directly from the party leaders. This will give you key information about where the parties stand on what matters to you.

- **Local candidates debates**

In many ridings, there will be a debate of all or most of the candidates.

This is where you get to learn more about the person asking for your vote.

**In your own riding,
it is easy to contact your candidate.**



Phone their campaign office
or send an email.

Talk to them at debates
or at an event.



It is important to say what matters to you.

Share your opinion. Tell them what you want and need
for yourself and your community.

Ask what they plan to do about it.



I'm thinking about voting in this election. What about you?



I don't know enough about politics to vote.

You know what matters to you.

True. But how can I figure out which parties care about what's important to me?

What's worked for me? It's listening to what the leaders are saying they will do.

They make announcements during the campaign and I listen for what's important to me.

Will the leaders be on the ballot?
Do I vote for a leader I like?

No, your ballot will give you the choice of a local candidate representing one of the parties.

Got it. But then, how do I know which candidate represents what I care about?

I talk with my friends, family and neighbours. People I trust. Ask them what they think.

I also read the news to learn or find out what the party leaders are saying.

I could do that.
One of my friends loves politics.

Great!
Remember, they work for us!

Thanks!
I think I will vote.
How about we go together?





How do I figure out if they're talking about what's important to me?

So many things are said and written in an election.
It's easy to get a bit lost.

But once you know what matters to you, all you have to do is listen – here are some tips for you to figure out if the people asking for your vote are speaking to your interests and concerns:

Are they specific about the promises and the choices they are going to make?

Specific promises aren't the same as describing the problem or criticizing the other parties or leaders. Specific promises describe exactly what the parties and candidates promise to do about the problem.

When they are elected, the MPPs and their leader will have to make choices.

For example, if they make a new program, will they keep funding services we already have? Or does a promise to do one thing mean cutting something else?

If they promise to spend more on services, do they also say how they will raise the money to pay for them (taxes)? Or will they make a cut somewhere else?

Find your own vote priorities

The most important part about making your choice is knowing what matters to you most.

Take a moment to write down what is most important to you. Then listen to the parties, leaders and candidates.

Finally, write down what you think:

What I care about most	What parties are saying	My take

**Trust yourself and your own opinions.
Then vote for what matters. Because **YOU** matter.**

Dude, where's my information?

Before looking at news or opinions of others, focus on what matters to you, what you need.

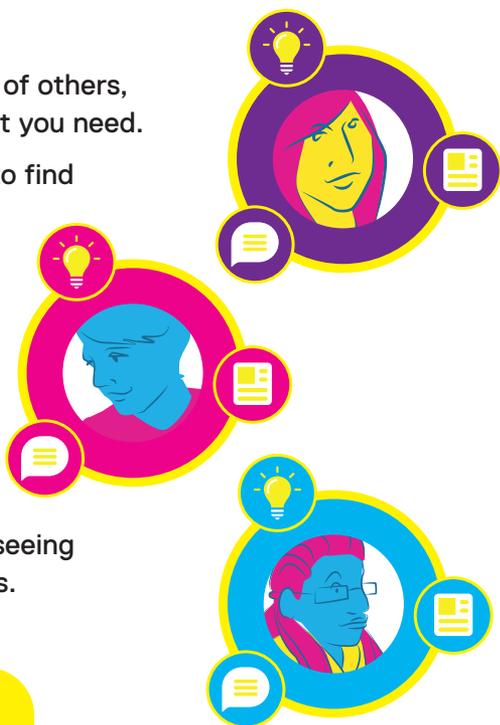
Here are some tools to know how to find useful information you can rely on to make your voting choice.

Beware of being put into an info bubble.

Social media's business model is to feed you content that keeps you scrolling. This stops you from seeing a range of views, stories and voices.

Misinformation is spreading. What can I do?

Almost half of people feel they regularly read online news with deliberately false info.



STOP



CHECK



THINK



Have doubts? **Check the source.**

Where did it come from? Do you know the person or website?

If you're not sure, don't share.



I was thinking about voting but I don't feel like I can trust the information I'm getting.

I know how you feel. A lot of people are finding misleading information almost every day.

So, how are we supposed to know what to trust?

Good question. For me it starts with stopping to check who posted and the source of information. If I don't know the source, I don't share it.

Good advice. What else can I do when I see something that looks like false info?

I reported it to the social media platform. Most people who do this find it works.

The good thing about the internet is that it is really easy to check sources and find out more information. I use news sites to see if they have stories on the topic.

You know what else would make a difference?
Hearing more good things.

We all need that, I think. We could think
about voting *for* something, instead of
just thinking about what we're against.

Well we could start by sharing stuff from
people we admire. Or actions that inspire us.

That's a great idea!

We could also click on stories or posts we don't
agree with. It might get us out of our info bubble.

It helps to talk with someone I trust.
I feel more confident that I can check
sources and make an informed choice.

**Same here.
We can be
confident voting
for something
we believe in.**



It's voting time!



BOOM!

You've decided to use your power to shape the future.

In this section, you will find everything you need to vote for someone to represent you.

In Person

On Election Day from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, June 2, 2022

During advance polling from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
on May 19 to May 28, 2022

At any Elections Ontario local office

By Mail

Voting by mail is a good option for people who cannot vote in person at advance polls or on Election Day. But it involves advance planning and requires you to upload or copy and mail your ID.

You can apply to vote by mail any time after the election is called.

- Elections Ontario must receive all application forms/ID by 6 p.m. EST on May 27, 2022.
- Elections Ontario must receive all completed voting kits by 6 p.m. EST on Election Day, June 2, 2022.

For more information, visit Elections Ontario at elections.on.ca.

Make a plan to vote

Choose a date and location

Date:

Location:

Bring your people —

Make a list of your family/friends to vote together

Figure out how you will get there

Walk

Transit

Cycle

Drive

Go one step further. Make a commitment to yourself and your community.

Yes, I pledge to vote!

I, _____

(write your name)

promise to vote in the 2022 Ontario Provincial Election.

I vote because:

I Am Ready to Vote

I am eligible to vote because I am:

- 18 years of age or older
- a Canadian citizen
- a resident of Ontario

My Electoral District is:

I will be voting:

- On Election Day, June 2, 2022
- During Advance Polling between May 19 and May 28, 2022
- By mail - apply at www.elections.on.ca or my local Elections Ontario office before May 27, 2022

- I am registered to vote (check www.elections.on.ca)
- I will register when I go to vote

- I have the ID I need (see list on page 29 and 30)

I am a student and I will vote

- Where I live while I am in school
- Where I live when I am not in school

Voting By Mail

Voting by mail is a good option for people who cannot vote in person at advance polls or on Election Day. But it involves advance planning and requires you to upload or copy and mail your ID.

To vote by mail, you will need to complete a Vote by Mail application and **provide a copy of at least one piece of government-issued ID**. You can apply to vote by mail starting May 4, 2022.

CAUTION: Once you apply to vote by mail, you will NOT be able to vote in person at advance polls or on Election Day.

You can apply to vote by mail:

- Online at www.elections.on.ca
- By downloading and printing an application
- By picking up an application at your returning office

If you choose to print your application, you must submit your signed and completed application form, along with a copy of one piece of ID, in one of two ways:

- Email to sb@elections.on.ca
- Mail to Elections Ontario, Special Ballot, 51 Rolark Drive, Toronto, Ontario M1R 3B1

Applications must be received by 6 p.m., May 27, 2022.

Once your Vote by Mail application has been reviewed and approved, a voting kit with a write-in ballot will be mailed to you at the mailing address provided.

You can use the prepaid envelope to return your voting kit or you can drop it off at your returning office.

The completed voting kit must be received by 6 p.m. (Eastern Time) on Election Day, June 2, 2022 to be counted.

You can track the status of your voting kit using the confirmation code received after submitting your online application. If you provided an email address when applying online, your confirmation code was also emailed to you.

Voter ID

If you have a government issued ID like a driver's license that includes your current address, you are all set.

If you don't, there are lots of other options.

**If you have a voter information card,
you need to show one piece of ID with your name on it.**

- Any document issued by:
 - the Government of Canada
 - the Government of Ontario
 - a municipality
 - a government agency
- Birth certificate
- Canadian citizenship card
- Canadian Forces ID card
- Canadian passport
- Credit/debit card
- Employee card
- Hospital card/bracelet
- Old Age Security card
- Ontario health card
- Professional licence
- SIN card
- Status card
- Student card
- Union card
- Veterans Affairs health card
- **OR any document from the list on the the next page**

If you don't have a voter information card, you need to show one piece of ID with both your name and CURRENT ADDRESS.

- Any document with your name and current address issued by:
 - the Government of Canada
 - the Government of Ontario
 - a municipality
 - a government agency
- Band council documentation
- Band membership card
- Bank statement
- Blood donor card
- Certificate of Identity & Residence (E0824)
- CNIB ID card
- Correspondence letter
- Credit card statement
- Credit union statement
- Firearms licence
- Government cheque or cheque stub
- Government statement of benefits or EI
- Hospital documentation
- Hospital record
- ID issues by Inuit authority
- Indian status card
- Income tax assessment
- Insurance certificate, policy or statement
- Letter from a public curator, public guardian or public trustee
- Letter of confirmation of residence from a First Nations band or reserve or an Inuit local authority
- Liquor identity card
- Medical clinic card
- Métis card
- Mortgage contract or statement
- Ontario driver's licence
- Ontario motor vehicle permit
- Parolee card
- Pay stub
- Pension plan statement
- Personal cheque
- Property tax assessment
- Public transportation card
- Residential lease or sub-lease
- T4 tax slip
- Transcript or report card
- Tuition statement
- Utility bill
- Vehicle ownership

Access for everyone

Students vote!



OR



Elections Ontario is working to make voting more accessible.

Assistance at **voting locations** includes:

- Bringing ballot box outside
- Voters can be accompanied by a support person or animal
- Voters can book supports through Canadian Hearing Services or the CNIB DeafBlind Community Services

If you are **unable to go to a voting location**, you can:

- **Vote by mail** – when you submit a Vote by Mail application
- **Vote by home visit** or in **vote in hospital** – once an election has been called, contact your returning office

 **Elections Ontario**



How to vote — step-by-step for marking the ballot

- An election worker hands you a ballot before you go behind a privacy screen. The ballot is secret.
- The normal way to mark your ballot is by filling in the circle next to the name of the candidate you choose with an X. You can put an X or a checkmark there.



Don't worry! What counts is showing your intention.

To vote, mark an 'X' in the circle next to your choice.
Pour voter, faites un «X» dans le cercle à côté de votre choix.

1	BUMBLE BEE Insect Party Parti Insecte	<input type="radio"/>
2	RIVER OTTER Mammal Party Parti Mammifère	<input type="radio"/>
3	TRUMPETER SWAN Bird Party Parti Oiseau	<input type="radio"/>
4	RAINBOW TROUT Fish Party Parti Poisson	<input type="radio"/>
5	SNAPPING TURTLE Reptile Party Parti Reptile	<input type="radio"/>
		<input type="radio"/>
		<input type="radio"/>

Voting breakthroughs and firsts

Getting to the right to vote was a long road – and it wasn't easy.

Shoutout to everybody who got us here!



1500s

Formed by five First Nations, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy is one of the earliest examples of a participatory democracy in the world.



1918

Many (*but not all*) Canadian women can vote in federal elections. First Nations women are denied the vote (*unless they give up their status and treaty rights*).



1867

Men over the age of 21 who own certain kinds of property can vote.



1948

Race is no longer grounds to deny people the right to vote in federal elections.



1960

First Nations peoples receive the right to vote in federal elections. *(However, they are still excluded from voting in some provinces.)*

1970

Voting age is lowered to 18. *(Before this the voting age was 21.)*

1988

People with intellectual disabilities can vote.

2002

Prisoners can vote.



Election

Frequently Asked Questions

When is the next provincial election?

Ontario has a fixed election date. The next provincial election is June 2, 2022.

Who gets to work at the election? How can I apply?

All Election Day workers are paid employees of Elections Ontario. If you are interested in working as an election official at an advance voting location or on Election Day, apply at www.elections.on.ca.

What if I make a mistake on my ballot?

If you make a mistake on your ballot, then simply let the poll worker know, and ask for a new one. They are happy to provide you with a new ballot in this case. But you are only given one replacement ballot.

When and where does advance polling take place?

Advance voting May 19-May 28, 2022.

New this year, during advance polling, you can vote at any polling location in your electoral district. You can find the dates and locations of advance polling at www.elections.on.ca.



What if I am travelling or can't attend advance polling?

There are many options for voting, including special provisions for voting abroad, voting by mail, voting at Election Ontario offices or voting during advance polling days. All these options will take advance planning. For more information, visit www.elections.on.ca.

Where do I vote?

During advance polling, you can vote at any location in your electoral district. On Election Day, your voting location is determined by your address. This is done to ensure that there is a voting location in every community. As the election approaches, you can find voting options by using the tool on the Elections Ontario website (www.elections.on.ca).

What if the website does not recognize my address?

This can happen for a variety of reasons, for example, if you live in a new development, on a reserve or in certain rural areas. If you have any problems using the Elections Ontario website tool, please call Elections Ontario at 1-888-668-8683 for assistance.

Are Elections Ontario materials available in other languages?

Yes. Elections Ontario provides voting information in various Indigenous languages and dozens of other languages.



Want to keep flexing that democratic muscle?

Join a political party

Members of political parties can choose local party candidates (nomination contests). That means more voice, more power.

Anyone can join a political party! This is a great way for people who aren't able to vote to participate in democracy. You don't need to be a citizen and you don't need to be 18 years old.

Only a small number of people (about 4%) are party members. This could be you!

Work for Elections Ontario



If you are interested in working as an election official at an advance voting location or on Election Day, you can begin to apply in March 2022. All positions will be posted on the Elections Ontario website www.elections.on.ca.

Acknowledgements

Elections Ontario

The Democratic Engagement Exchange was enlisted to deliver Vote PopUp in support of Elections Ontario's strategic priorities: 1) Elector awareness and knowledge; 2) Stakeholder outreach and engagement; 3) Engaging new electors and those facing barriers. Vote PopUp is a tool to engage first time or infrequent voters by explaining where, when and ways to vote and making voting more accessible to citizens.

The Faculty of Arts at Ryerson University

None of the work of the Democratic Engagement Exchange would be possible without the ongoing support of the Faculty of Arts. We are grateful to the entire team for their commitment to building a vibrant and inclusive democracy.

Credits

The Democratic Engagement Exchange drives engagement by building partnerships with academic institutions, community organizations and government agencies to create tools and to champion policies and programs that promote a more inclusive democracy.

Visit engagedemocracy.ca for more information.



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See you **AT THE POLLS!**

Ontario General Election Day
June 2, 2022

