

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT

2007 ONTARIO PROVINCIAL ELECTION

OCTOBER 10, 2007

In 2003, only 56.9% of eligible voters turned out to the polls during the Ontario Provincial Election. While for some, political apathy may have been the trouble, for others the issue runs deeper than plain disinterest. For the millions of Canadians functioning at a low level of literacy, becoming informed about the complicated subjects of politics and voting is difficult. Even once this is achieved, the act of voting itself can be intimidating or impossible for those unable to read. The following information is intended to help adult literacy learners make informed decisions and get access to their fundamental democratic rights.

WHO CAN VOTE?

You may vote if, on Election Day, you are:

- 18 years of age or older
- A Canadian citizen
- A resident of the electoral

If you fit these requirements, you should get a **Notice of Registration** card in the mail before the Election. If you haven't, you may not be on the **Voters List**. To ensure you are on the list, call **Elections Ontario** at 1-800-677-8683.

WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?

As a democracy, every citizen of Canada has a say in the selection of their leadership.

The Ontario **Elections Act** ensures this. **Your employer must allow you time to vote** if you don't have your own time during voting hours. Everyone is entitled to three consecutive hours to vote.

YOUR AMOUNT OF TIME TO VOTE...

- Must be requested by the employee,
- Must be at a convenient time to the employer, and,
- Once requested by the employee, must be allowed by the employer

Information from Elections Ontario (electionsontario.on.ca), Referendum Ontario (referendumontario.on.ca) and Elections Canada (electionscanada.ca)

ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF VOTING

Ontario's **Elections Act** also has alternative methods of voting for those who read at a lower level. After taking an oath to verify their inability to vote in the standard manner, voters may choose to have a substitute voter fill out their ballot. They may choose to have:

- **A deputy returning officer:** He or she will check the voter's choice on the ballot privately and drop it in the ballot box.
- **A friend:** A friend, spouse, sibling or even a tutor of the voter may fill out the voter's ballot after taking an oath, promising never to share the contents of the ballot.

This election, citizens will also vote on a **referendum**.

WHAT IS A REFERENDUM?

A referendum is a direct vote. Voters are asked to answer a question regarding a particular government proposal.

Voters will get two ballots. One is for choosing a candidate in the general election. The other is to choose your decision on the referendum question about keeping or changing the way we elect members of the provincial government (see below).

For more information and a brief video explaining the two choices, click on "Billy Ballot" at www.citizenassembly.gov.on.ca

FIRST-PAST-THE-POST

The system currently used: Ontario is divided into **electoral districts**

Instead of voting directly for the premier, citizens vote for the **political party** by voting for the candidate representing that party in their district

The person with the **most votes**, even if it isn't the majority, wins that district's **seat**

The party whose candidates won the **most seats** wins the election and the leader becomes Ontario's premier

MIXED MEMBER PROPORTIONAL

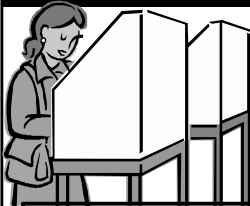
The system proposed by the **citizens' assembly:**

Combines proportional representation with first-past-the-post

Each voter has **two votes**; one for the **party** of their choice, and one for the **candidate** in their district of choice

The two votes are combined to create a **total vote** to determine how many seats each party gets

Parties must win a certain percentage of votes to be eligible for seats



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WHO AM I VOTING FOR?

This election, the **first-past-the-post** system is being used. You are voting for the candidate in your district of choice.

To find out what electoral district you are in, visit **Elections Ontario** (electionsontario.on.ca) and click on "Find Your Electoral District."

LIBERAL

Currently in office

LEADER: Dalton McGuinty



EDUCATION/JOBS

- Lowering class sizes and hiring more teachers
- \$6.2 billion to post-secondary education; more class space and funding for student aid
- Greater opportunities for newcomers, Aboriginals and persons with disabilities
- Legislation to make learning mandatory until age 18

HEALTH

- \$614 million since 2004 in Ontario's Wait Time Strategy
- Expanded services and replaced old machines with new ones
- Funding for 5400 more nurses, 65 new hospitals and 9.5% more doctors
- \$286 million for cancer research
- Junk food removed from all vending machines in elementary schools

ENVIRONMENT

- Committed to cleaner, renewable sources of energy

WEBSITE

ontarioliberal.ca

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE

LEADER: John Tory



EDUCATION/JOBS

- Help immigrants get the jobs they are qualified for; help to train overseas for those waiting for entry, and improve settlement and employment for those who have arrived
- Increase support for farmers by \$150 million
- Investing in public education

HEALTH

- Improve doctor shortage with recruitment and attracting doctors outside Canada
- Oppose two-tier health care
- Invest \$8.5 billion more in health care in four years

ENVIRONMENT

- Work with businesses to reduce toxins used in products
- Reduce Ontario's greenhouse gas emissions to 10% below 1999 levels by 2020

WEBSITE

ontariopc.com

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

LEADER: Howard Hampton



EDUCATION/JOBS

- Tuition Hike Ban bill to freeze tuition in 2007 and then give working families a chance to vote on the issue in the next provincial election
- Job Protection Act to help at-risk companies overcome financial difficulties and sustain good manufacturing jobs
- Raise the minimum wage to 10 dollars

HEALTH

- Establish a minimum standard of care for seniors
- Stop creeping privatization of health care
- Solve emergency room crisis

ENVIRONMENT

- Clean, green power; safe, clean and affordable supply of publicly owned and controlled electricity, focused on renewables, energy efficiency, and energy conservation

WEBSITE

ontariondp.com

GREEN PARTY

LEADER: Frank de Jong

EDUCATION/JOBS

- Community-based economics; businesses must contribute to and help build communities, not just earn profits from them



HEALTH

- Ecological sustainability to ensure future generations know the pleasure of clean air and water

ENVIRONMENT

- Development of a sustainable human economy and society, in balance with nature
- Personal and global responsibility for the environment; take care of ourselves, families, communities and the planet

WEBSITE

greenparty.on.ca

FOR TEACHERS

Elections Ontario offers teaching kits to help you effectively teach learners about provincial politics. Visit: electionsontario.on.ca