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Report

REFORM OF THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM IN ONTARIO

Report presented to *Fair Vote Canada*

Fair Vote Canada / **Représentation équitable au Canada**

DATE 2021-11-03   **PROJECT NUMBER** 16186-003

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CONTEXT, OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

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CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Léger was commissioned by *Fair Vote Canada* to conduct a survey to assess the perceptions and satisfaction towards the electoral system in Ontario.

METHODOLOGY AND RESPONDENTS

In order to meet research objectives, a **Web survey** was conducted from **October 29th to November 1, 2021**, among a sample of 1,002 Ontarians aged 18 and over, who could speak English or French.
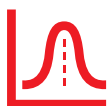
MARGIN OF ERROR

No margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample (Web panel in this case). However, for comparative purposes, a probability sample of 1,002 respondents would have a margin of error of ±3,1%, 19 times out of 20.

WEIGHTING

In order to ensure a representative sample of the population, the results were weighted according to the gender, age, mother tongue, education and the presence of children in the household.

NOTES TO READERS

ROUNDINGS

It should be noted that the numbers presented have been rounded. However, numbers before rounding have been used to calculate the sums presented. For this reason, these sums may not match manual summation of the numbers presented.

SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES

In this report, the numbers in **red** indicate a statistically significantly lower difference, while the numbers in **green** indicate a statistically significant higher difference from the complement.

HOW TO

Reference to "DNK" in the report means "Don't know."
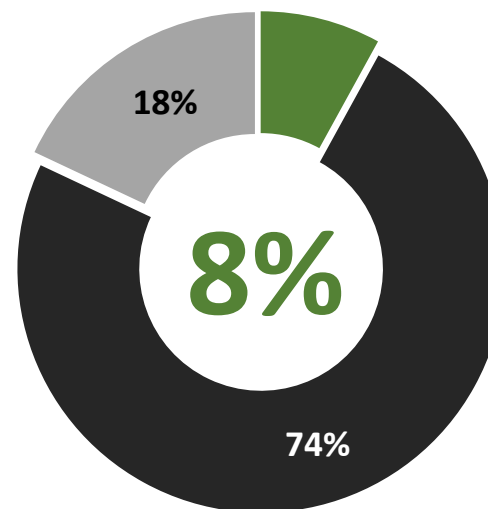
DETAILED RESULTS

CHANGING THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM (1/2)

Q1. Do you think it is okay if one party changes the electoral system in Ontario to the system that suits them, without the agreement of any other party?

Base: All respondents (n=1,002)

■ Yes ■ No ■ DNK / Refusal

8%

18%

74%

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE			REGION				
		Homme	Femme	18-34	35-54	55 +	West	South	Toronto	East	North
n=	1,002	557	445	253	422	327	120	208	452	135	87
Yes, I think it is okay if one party changes the electoral system to suit one party's preference.	8%	12%	5%	18%	6%	4%	8%	7%	11%	8%	1%
No, I do not think it is okay to change the electoral system to suit one party's preference.	74%	74%	73%	57%	75%	84%	71%	75%	73%	69%	79%
DNK / Refusal	18%	15%	21%	25%	19%	12%	21%	17%	16%	23%	19%

Q1. Do you think it is okay if one party changes the electoral system in Ontario to the system that suits them, without the agreement of any other party?

Base: All respondents (n=1,002)

|	TOTAL	Liberal Party	New Democratic Party	Progressive Conservative Party	Green Party	New Blue Party
n=	1,002	222	222	291	43	28*
Yes, I think it is okay if one party changes the electoral system to suit one party's preference.	8%	11%	8%	12%	4%	11%
No, I do not think it is okay to change the electoral system to suit one party's preference.	74%	75%	72%	78%	87%	75%
DNK / Refusal	18%	14%	20%	11%	9%	14%

CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY ON ELECTORAL REFORM (1/2)

Q2. Questions have been raised about the best way to move forward with electoral reform for Ontario. One proposal is to strike a non-partisan, independent citizens' assembly to examine options for electoral systems. On a citizens' assembly, regular people learn, consult with more Canadians and experts, and make recommendations to the government. Do you support or oppose the idea of a citizens' assembly on electoral reform?

Base: All respondents (n=1,002)

Legend: ■ Support ■ Oppose ■ DNK / Refusal

56% (Support)
34% (DNK / Refusal)
9% (Oppose)
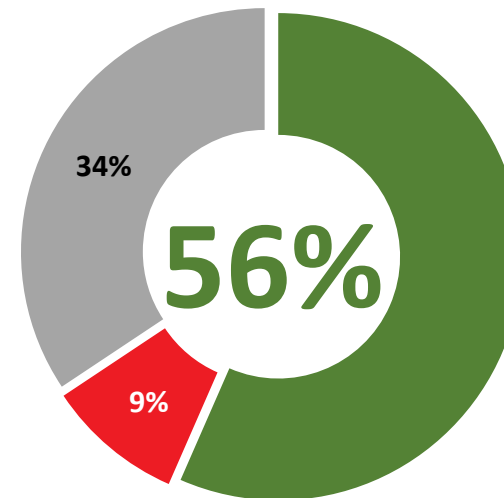
Higher proportion among :
- Respondents who support the proportional voting system (**74%**);
- Respondents who prefer the process of a citizen's assembly rather than the choice of the party in power (**74%**);
- Respondents with a family income of 100K$ and more (**66%**);
- Respondents with a university degree (**62%**).

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE			REGION				
		Homme	Femme	18-34	35-54	55 +	West	South	Toronto	East	North
n=	1,002	557	445	253	422	327	120	208	452	135	87
Support	56%	65%	48%	56%	51%	62%	55%	59%	58%	46%	57%
Oppose	9%	12%	6%	7%	10%	10%	6%	9%	8%	19%	7%
DNK / Refusal	34%	22%	46%	37%	39%	29%	38%	32%	34%	35%	36%

Q2. Questions have been raised about the best way to move forward with electoral reform for Ontario. One proposal is to strike a non-partisan, independent citizens' assembly to examine options for electoral systems. On a citizens' assembly, regular people learn, consult with more Canadians and experts, and make recommendations to the government. Do you support or oppose the idea of a citizens' assembly on electoral reform?
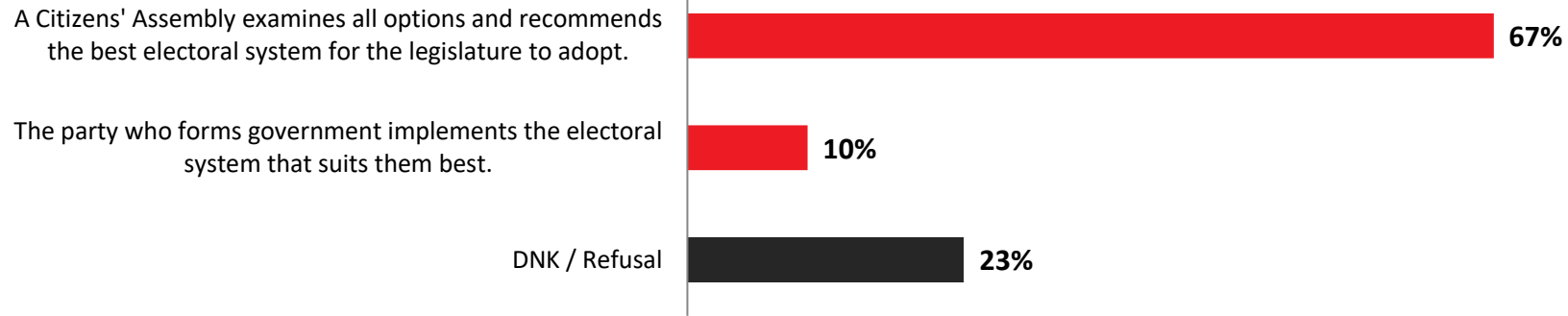
Base: All respondents (n=1,002)

	TOTAL	Liberal Party	New Democratic Party	Progressive Conservative Party	Green Party	New Blue Party
n=	1,002	222	222	291	43	28*
Support	56%	60%	70%	61%	71%	62%
Oppose	9%	12%	5%	12%	4%	12%
DNK / Refusal	34%	28%	25%	27%	25%	26%

PROCESS TO CHANGE THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM (1/2)

Q3. Which process would you be more supportive of?

Base: All respondents (n=1,002)

A Citizens' Assembly examines all options and recommends the best electoral system for the legislature to adopt. — **67%**

The party who forms government implements the electoral system that suits them best. — **10%**

DNK / Refusal — **23%**

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE			REGION				
		Homme	Femme	18-34	35-54	55 +	West	South	Toronto	East	North
n=	**1,002**	*557*	*445*	*253*	*422*	*327*	*120*	*208*	*452*	*135*	*87*
A Citizens' Assembly examines all options and recommends the best electoral system for the legislature to adopt.	**67%**	**70%**	**63%**	62%	**62%**	**74%**	71%	69%	65%	62%	70%
The party who forms government implements the electoral system that suits them best.	**10%**	**15%**	**6%**	**16%**	9%	**7%**	**4%**	10%	12%	11%	9%
DNK / Refusal	**23%**	**15%**	**31%**	22%	**29%**	**19%**	25%	21%	23%	27%	21%

PROCESS TO CHANGE THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM (2/2)

Q3. Which process would you be more supportive of?

Base: All respondents (n=1,002)

	TOTAL	Liberal Party	New Democratic Party	Progressive Conservative Party	Green Party	New Blue Party
n=	1,002	222	222	291	43	28*
A Citizens' Assembly examines all options and recommends the best electoral system for the legislature to adopt.	67%	67%	**77%**	69%	74%	72%
The party who forms government implements the electoral system that suits them best.	10%	**16%**	**6%**	13%	11%	8%
DNK / Refusal	23%	**17%**	**17%**	**18%**	15%	20%

PROPORTIONAL VOTING SYSTEM (1/2)

Q4. It has been proposed that Ontario adopt a more proportional voting system. This means that if a party gets 40% of the vote, about 40% of the Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) elected will be from that party. Do you support or oppose moving to proportional representation in Ontario?
Base: All respondents (n=1,002)

■ Support ■ Oppose ■ DNK / Refusal

49%

33%

18%
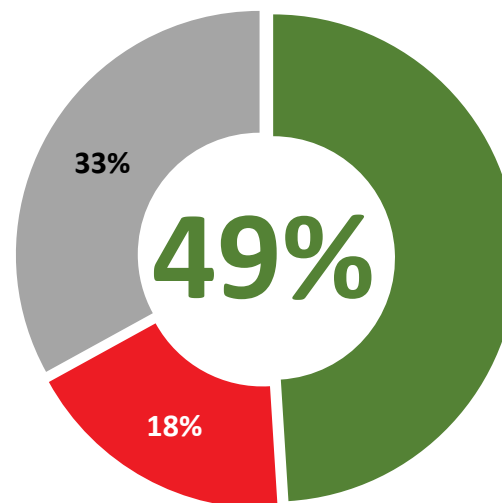
Higher proportion among :
- Respondents who think it is okay if one party changes the electoral system to suit one party's preference (**72%**);
- Respondents who support the electoral reform in Ontario (**63%**);
- Respondents with a family income of 80-99K$ (**57%**) and 100K$ and more (**58%**);
- Respondents with a university degree (**58%**).

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE			REGION				
		Homme	Femme	18-34	35-54	55 +	West	South	Toronto	East	North
n=	1,002	557	445	253	422	327	120	208	452	135	87
Support	49%	55%	43%	57%	48%	44%	46%	52%	49%	46%	49%
Oppose	18%	22%	15%	16%	17%	21%	15%	18%	18%	23%	21%
DNK / Refusal	33%	23%	42%	27%	35%	36%	40%	31%	34%	32%	30%

PROPORTIONAL VOTING SYSTEM (2/2)

Q4. It has been proposed that Ontario adopt a more proportional voting system. This means that if a party gets 40% of the vote, about 40% of the Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) elected will be from that party. Do you support or oppose moving to proportional representation in Ontario?
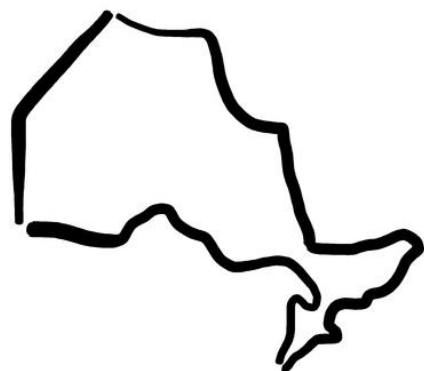
Base: All respondents (n=1,002)

	TOTAL	Liberal Party	New Democratic Party	Progressive Conservative Party	Green Party	New Blue Party
n=	1,002	222	222	291	43	28*
Support	49%	52%	**62%**	51%	53%	59%
Oppose	18%	22%	14%	22%	23%	12%
DNK / Refusal	33%	**26%**	**24%**	**27%**	25%	29%

RESPONDENT PROFILE

RESPONDENT PROFILE (1/2)

REGION

Ontario	
West	9%
South	20%
Toronto	46%
East	13%
North	11%
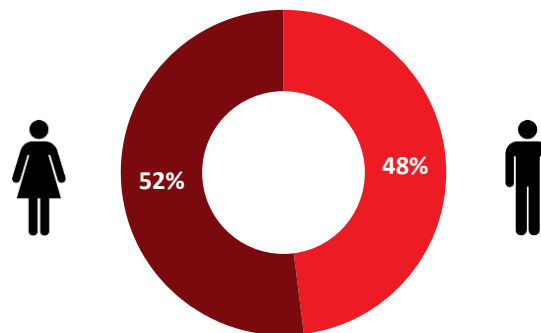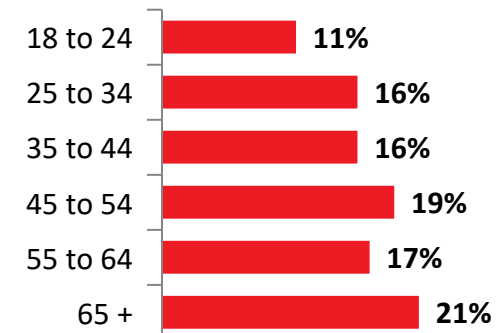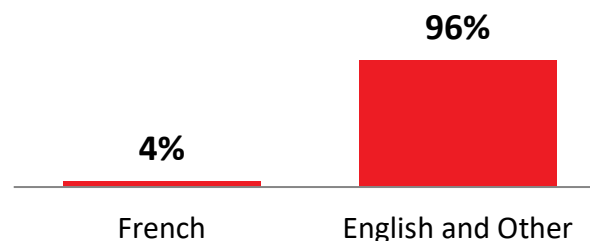
GENDER

52% / 48%

AGE

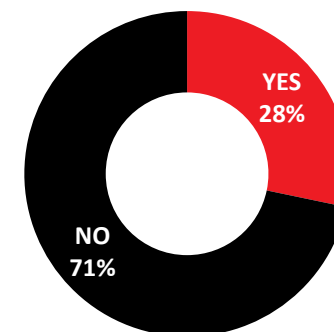|	
18 to 24	11%
25 to 34	16%
35 to 44	16%
45 to 54	19%
55 to 64	17%
65 +	21%

MOTHER TONGUE
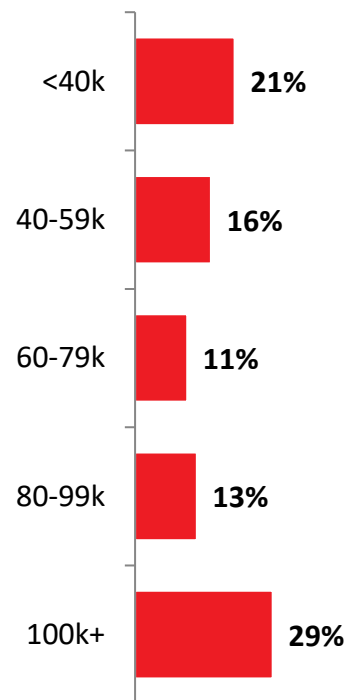
French 4%

English and Other 96%
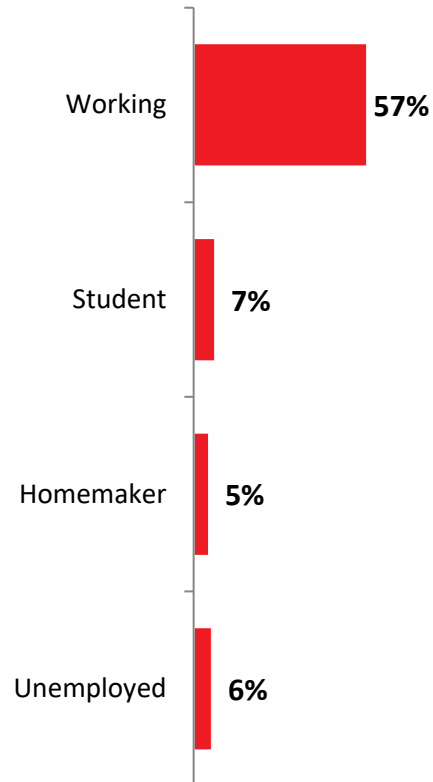
KIDS

YES 28%

NO 71%

Base : All respondents (n=1,002)
Note : For each of the profile categories, the complement to 100% corresponds to "Don't know" and "Prefer not to answer".

RESPONDENT PROFILE (2/2)

INCOME

<40k	21%
40-59k	16%
60-79k	11%
80-99k	13%
100k+	29%

JOB STATUS

Working	57%
Student	7%
Homemaker	5%
Unemployed	6%

EDUCATION

University	29%
College	39%
Elem / HS	30%

Base : All respondents (n=1,002)
Note : For each of the profile categories, the complement to 100% corresponds to "Don't know" and "Prefer not to answer".
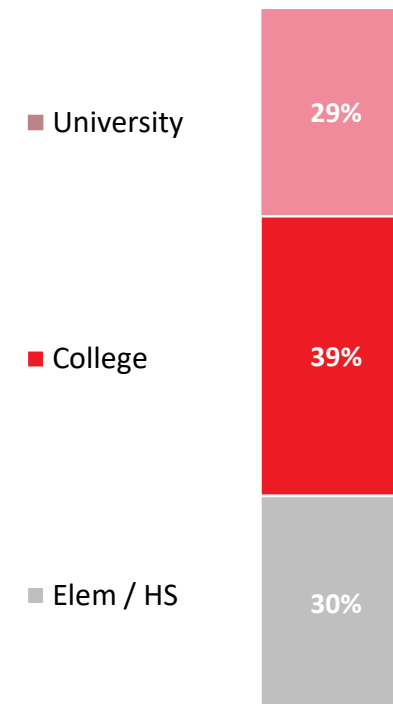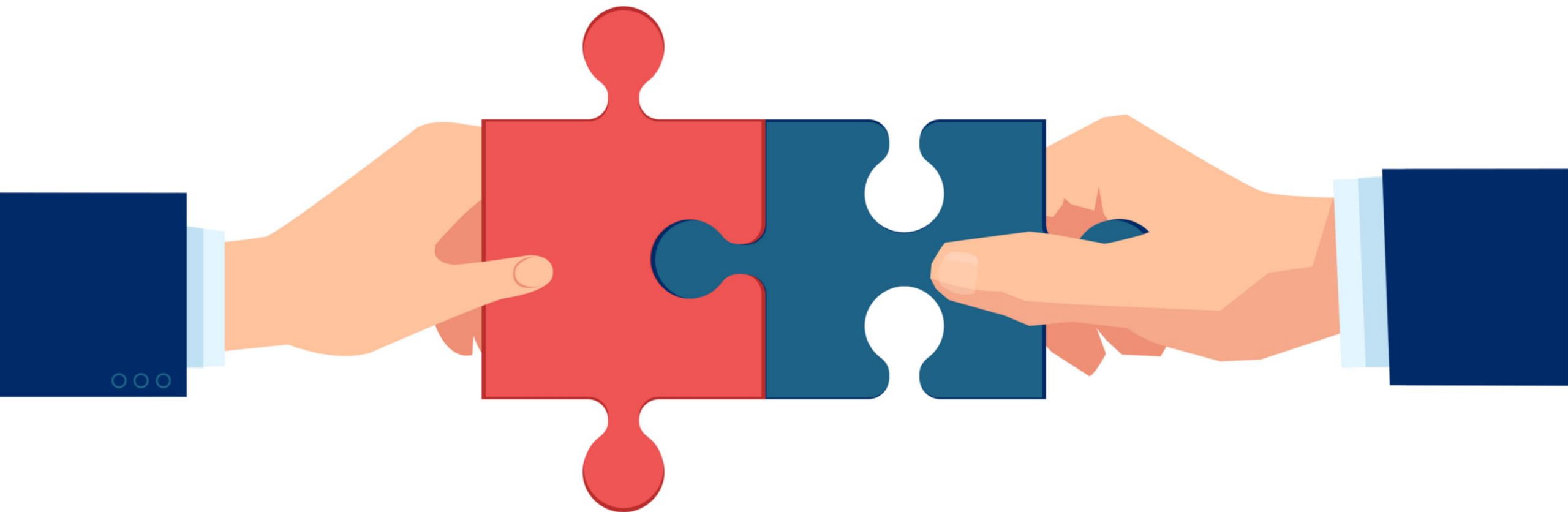
TEAM

TEAM

For more information on this study, please contact :

Éric Normandeau

Strategic advisor

✉ enormandeau@leger360.com

📞 514-982-2464

Project team

Éric Normandeau, Strategic advisor

Catherine Martens, Research Analyst

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Report

OPINION ON THE PROPORTIONAL VOTING SYSTEM IN ONTARIO

Report presented to *Fair Vote Canada*

Fair Vote Canada | **Représentation équitable au Canada**

DATE 2021-11-17   **PROJECT NUMBER** 16186-004

Table of Contents

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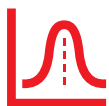
MARGIN OF ERROR

No margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample (Web panel in this case). However, for comparative purposes, a probability sample of 1,001 respondents would have a margin of error of ±3,1%, 19 times out of 20.

WEIGHTING

In order to ensure a representative sample of the population, the results were weighted according to the gender, age, mother tongue, education and the presence of children in the household.

NOTES TO READERS

ROUNDINGS

It should be noted that the numbers presented have been rounded. However, numbers before rounding have been used to calculate the sums presented. For this reason, these sums may not match manual summation of the numbers presented.

SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES

In this report, the numbers in **red** indicate a statistically significantly lower difference, while the numbers in **green** indicate a statistically significant higher difference from the complement.

HOW TO

Reference to "DNK" in the report means "Don't know."

DETAILED RESULTS

PROPORTIONAL VOTING SYSTEM (1/2)

Q1. It has been proposed that Ontario adopt a more proportional voting system. This means that if a party gets 40% of the vote, about 40% of the Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) elected will be from that party. Do you support or oppose moving to proportional representation in Ontario?

Base: All respondents (n=1,001)

- Support
- Oppose

78%

22%
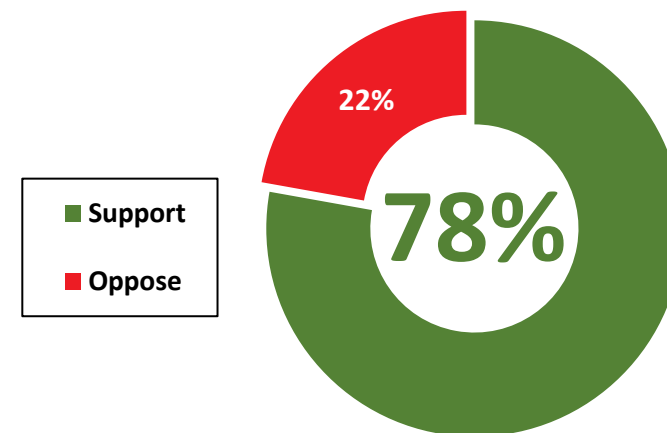
	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE			REGION					
		Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55 +	Toronto	Other GTA	Hamilton Niagara	South	East	North
n=	1,001	556	445	286	432	283	279	172	110	245	135	60
TOTAL SUPPORT	**78%**	**77%**	**78%**	**84%**	**75%**	**77%**	**80%**	**74%**	**79%**	**81%**	**74%**	**72%**
Strongly support	**22%**	**27%**	**15%**	25%	20%	21%	**26%**	22%	19%	20%	19%	18%
Somewhat support	**56%**	**51%**	**63%**	59%	55%	56%	54%	52%	60%	61%	56%	53%
TOTAL OPPOSE	**22%**	**23%**	**22%**	**16%**	**25%**	**23%**	**20%**	**26%**	**21%**	**19%**	**26%**	**28%**
Somewhat oppose	**15%**	14%	16%	14%	17%	13%	14%	17%	14%	13%	18%	18%
Strongly oppose	**7%**	**8%**	**5%**	**2%**	8%	**10%**	5%	9%	7%	6%	8%	10%

PROPORTIONAL VOTING SYSTEM (2/2)

Q1. It has been proposed that Ontario adopt a more proportional voting system. This means that if a party gets 40% of the vote, about 40% of the Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) elected will be from that party. Do you support or oppose moving to proportional representation in Ontario?
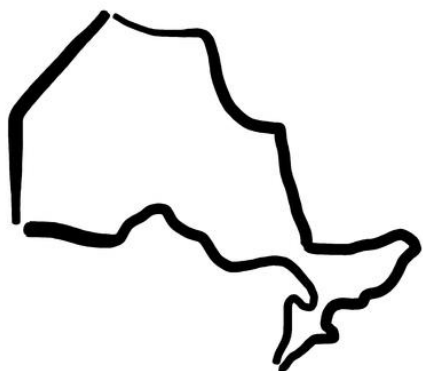
Base: All respondents (n=1,001)

	TOTAL	Liberal Party	New Democratic Party	Progressive Conservative Party	Green Party	New Blue Party
n=	1,001	264	224	278	50	21*
TOTAL SUPPORT	**78%**	**79%**	**86%**	**77%**	**72%**	**76%**
Strongly support	**22%**	22%	29%	21%	24%	29%
Somewhat support	**56%**	57%	57%	55%	48%	48%
TOTAL OPPOSE	**22%**	**21%**	**14%**	**23%**	**28%**	**24%**
Somewhat oppose	**15%**	16%	10%	11%	24%	14%
Strongly oppose	**7%**	5%	4%	12%	4%	10%

*Given the small number of respondents (n<30), data are presented for illustrative purposes only.
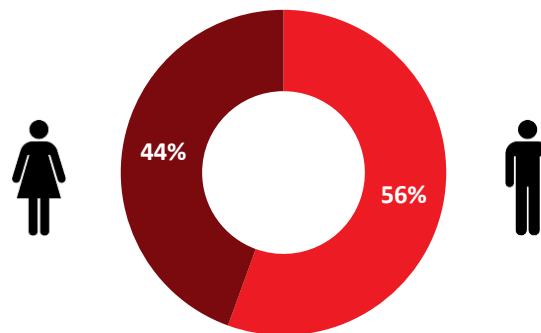
RESPONDENT PROFILE

RESPONDENT PROFILE (1/2)

Leger

REGION

Ontario	
Metro Toronto	**28%**
Other GTA	**17%**
Hamilton/Niagara	**11%**
South	**24%**
East	**13%**
North	**6%**

GENDER

44% 56%

AGE

- 18 to 34 — **29%**
- 35 to 44 — **18%**
- 45 to 54 — **25%**
- 54 to 64 — **14%**
- 65 + — **14%**

AREA

- Urban **45%**
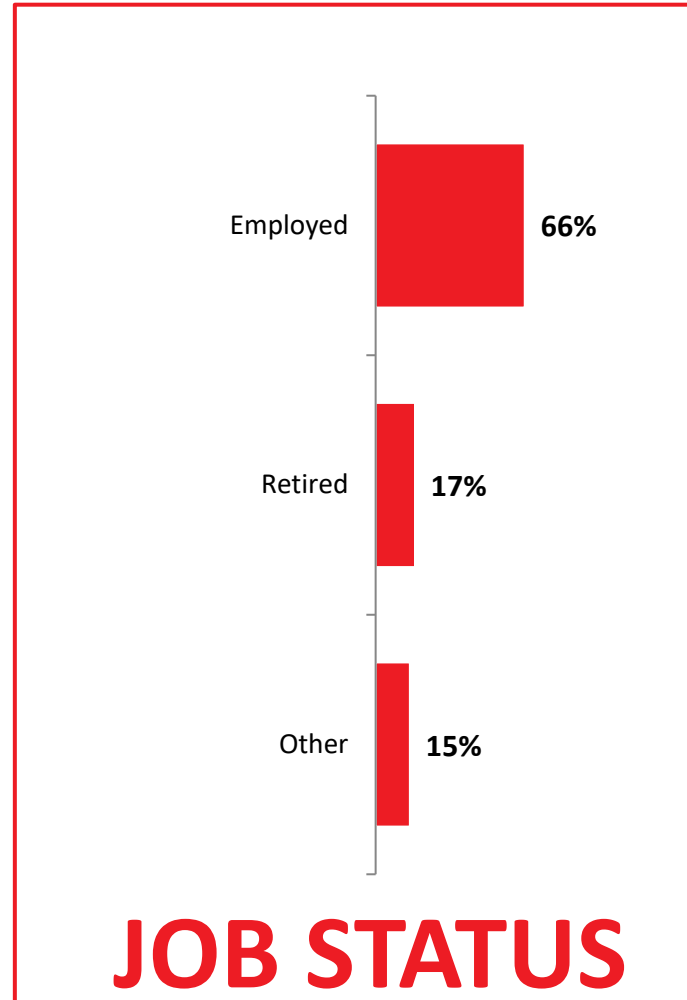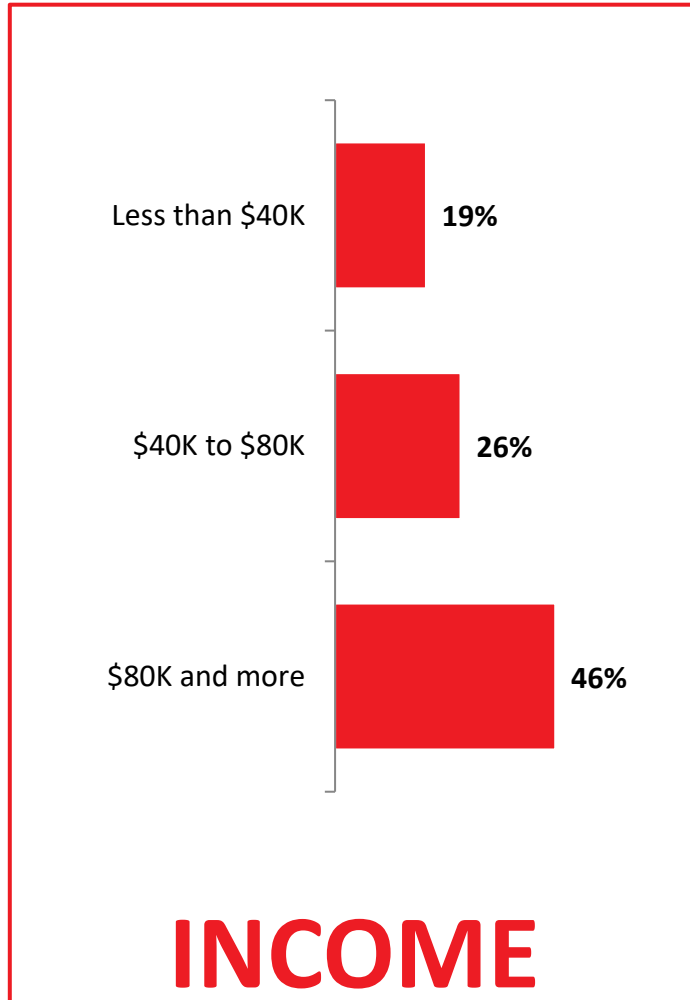- Suburban **40%**
- Rural **14%**

KIDS

YES 30%

NO 69%

Base : All respondents (n=1,001)
Note : For each of the profile categories, the complement to 100% corresponds to "Don't know" and "Prefer not to answer".

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Éric Normandeau

Strategic advisor

✉ enormandeau@leger360.com

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We know Canadians