

Quebec Election Guide 2026

What the parties are proposing, and not proposing, on the six questions put to candidates.

Quebec general election · Polling day October 5, 2026 · Current as of September 9, 2026

Six questions, asked by voters

Quebec Life Coalition gives voters a tool that finds the candidates running in their electoral division from their postal code and sends them six questions, one letter per candidate. The answers go straight back to the voter, who forwards them to us.

Every one of these six questions falls to the National Assembly. Not one can be brushed aside as federal: that is precisely why they were chosen. A candidate who dodges them is dodging his own job.

Write to my candidates

en.cqv.qc.ca/elections2026

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The six questions

Here is the exact text sent to candidates. Three of these questions contain two distinct demands, which can receive two different answers: they are flagged below, and the summary table treats them separately. Nine items in all.

1 Since September 1, 2026, Bill 9 has banned religious practice in Quebec's public institutions, including for staff at their place of work, along with prayer in public spaces. Will you commit to repealing these bans, and to tackling instead the probable cause, an immigration made necessary by a falling birth rate, and an integration the state has stopped overseeing seriously?

1a Repeal the bans in Bill 9.

1b Tackle the cause: the birth rate and integration.

2 Abortion is paid for by the Quebec taxpayer, through the RAMQ, the province's public health insurance board. Will you commit to removing it from the list of insured services?

3 No public program exists in Quebec for women who suffer after an abortion: no screening, no follow-up, no trained staff. Will you commit to creating a post-abortion support program available throughout Quebec, as nearly 2,000 petitioners have asked of Ministers Biron and Bélanger?

4 A mother raising her children at home receives nothing, while the state pays out thousands of dollars a year for every subsidized daycare spot. Will you commit to having state support follow the child rather than the spot, so that the parent who chooses to raise his or her own children stops being penalized?

5 Medical assistance in dying falls to Quebec, which, unfortunately, has defined it as health care. The Act respecting end-of-life care has been broadened several times since 2015, as far as advance requests covering people who have become incapable of consenting. Will you commit to refusing any further broadening, and to guaranteeing that no palliative care home and no caregiver is forced to take part?

5a Refuse any further broadening.

5b Guarantee that no palliative care home and no caregiver is forced to take part.

6 The Ministry of Education imposes mandatory content on sexuality education and gender identity on every pupil, with no real possibility of exemption for parents. Will you commit to restoring the right of parents to be informed of this content and to withdraw their child from it?

6a Restore the right of parents to be informed of the content.

6b Restore the right of parents to withdraw their child.

The five parties

Seats held at the dissolution of the National Assembly, which will have 127 electoral divisions on October 5, and share of the vote won in 2022.

CAQ Coalition Avenir Québec	PLQ Quebec Liberal Party	PQ Parti Québécois
Christine Fréchette Leader since April 12, 2026	Charles Milliard Leader since February 13, 2026	Paul St-Pierre Plamondon Leader since October 9, 2020
79 seats · 40.98% in 2022	18 seats · 14.37% in 2022	7 seats · 14.61% in 2022

QS Québec solidaire	PCQ Conservative Party of Quebec
Ruba Ghazal and Sol Zanetti Co-spokespersons; Ruba Ghazal since November 16, 2024	Éric Duhaime Leader since April 17, 2021
11 seats · 15.43% in 2022	1 seat · 12.91% in 2022

Figures: [Wikipedia, 2026 Quebec general election](#). Other authorized parties are running candidates in a limited number of electoral divisions; the official list is kept by [Élections Québec](#).

How this guide was made

We read what the parties publish themselves: election platforms, sectoral plans, commitment pages. Where a party has published nothing on a question, we looked at what its leader or its spokespersons have said publicly, and at what the party did in the National Assembly.

Every statement in this guide points to a verifiable source. The name of the outlet or organization cited is a direct link to the article or document in question, and the full list of addresses appears at the end. We have not attributed a position to any party on the strength of an impression or a reputation.

A word of warning about method

The absence of a published position is not a position. When we write "no published position," that is exactly what it means: we found nothing, and the reader should put the question to the candidate in his own electoral division rather than guess. That is precisely why the six questions were sent to candidates.

The campaign is still running and commitments are being added every day. This guide will be updated if announcements warrant it.

Summary table

Item	CAQ	PLQ	PQ	QS	PCQ
1a Repeal the bans in Bill 9	Opposed	Partial	Opposed	Partial	Opposed
1b Tackle the birth rate and integration	Partial	No position	Partial	Opposed	Supportive
2 Remove abortion from insured services	Opposed	No position	Opposed	Opposed	Opposed
3 Create a post-abortion support program	No position	No position	No position	No position	No position
4 Support follows the child, not the spot	Opposed	No position	No position	Opposed	Supportive
5a Refuse any further broadening of MAID	No position	No position	No position	No position	No position
5b Compel neither palliative care homes nor caregivers	Opposed	No position	No position	No position	No position
6a Right of parents to be informed of content	Opposed	No position	No position	Opposed	No position
6b Right of parents to withdraw their child	Opposed	No position	No position	Opposed	No position

MAID: medical assistance in dying. On a narrow screen, the table scrolls sideways.

Of the forty-five boxes, two are supportive and four partially so. Twenty-four are empty. No party answers supportively on more than two of the nine items, and none has committed on post-abortion support or on refusing a further broadening of medical assistance in dying.

In 2026 the PQ adopted a position on the content of sexuality education programs that runs in the direction of the concern expressed in question 6, but which addresses neither informing parents nor the right of withdrawal. It is explained under [question 6](#).

Bill 9 and religious freedom

The state of the law. The *Act to strengthen secularism in Quebec* (Bill 9) has been in force since April 2, 2026. Since September 1, 2026, religious practice is no longer permitted in premises under a municipal body; the act defines religious practice as any action that could reasonably constitute, in fact or in appearance, the manifestation of a religious conviction, which includes a prayer, a sermon or a ceremony ([Gouvernement du Québec](#)). Collective religious practices on public roads and in parks now require municipal authorization ([La Presse](#)). The act also extends the ban on wearing religious symbols to staff of subsidized daycare services and of the private school network, with acquired rights for staff hired before November 27, 2025, and gradually ends funding for religious schools ([Radio-Canada](#)). The government invoked the notwithstanding clause to shield the act from challenges ([La Presse](#)).

The vote of April 2, 2026: 76 for, 28 against

The CAQ and the PQ voted for it. The PLQ and QS voted against ([Radio-Canada](#), [L'actualité](#)).

1a · Repealing the bans

CAQ **Opposed**

Author of the act, through its minister Jean-François Roberge, who has already described street prayers as gestures that may amount to provocation ([Radio-Canada](#)). No commitment to soften it.

PLQ **Partial**

Opposed the act. Charles Milliard confirmed that a Liberal government would not renew the notwithstanding clause protecting the *Act respecting the laicity of the State* when it expires in 2029, while specifying that he wants first to hear the Supreme Court judgment that is expected ([Parti Québécois](#), citing the 98.5 interview; [Le Devoir](#)). But the PLQ's [commitments page](#) contains no mention of secularism, of Bill 9 or of freedom of conscience. The party opposes the legal instrument without having published any commitment to repeal.

PQ **Opposed**

Voted for the act and means to go further: the party has committed to banning conspicuous religious symbols for elementary school pupils ([L'actualité](#)). Its secularism spokesman, Pascal Bérubé, argues that failing to renew the notwithstanding clause in 2029 would amount to "setting the end date of the Quebec model of secularism" ([Parti Québécois](#)).

QS **Partial**

Opposed the act. Its [2026 election platform](#) is the only one to contain a commitment to withdrawal: a QS government "will withdraw the liberticidal provisions of secularism laws 21 and 94, among others" and will apply "a model of secularism that combines the neutrality of public institutions on matters of belief with freedom of conscience and religion for each individual." Bill 9 is not named there, but it amends precisely the laws targeted. This is the position closest to what item 1a asks for.

PCQ **Opposed**

Its [election platform](#) does not address religious freedom and the party has made no commitment to soften the act. Éric Duhaime commits instead to invoking the notwithstanding clause systematically in every law of a Conservative government: "If we want to review a law, it is the National Assembly that will do it, not the courts, nor the federal government" ([Radio-Canada](#), [La Presse](#)).

1b · Tackling the cause

No party draws the link between the pressure on religious freedom, the falling birth rate and integration. But two parties are acting on the birth rate:

- **PCQ **Supportive**** Éric Duhaime has made it a central plank: he lamented that the birth rate had reached "a historic low of 1.35 children per family, even though every poll tells us that young people want more than two," and his platform praises the birth allowance of the Bourassa government of the 1980s ([Radio-Canada](#)). [Le Devoir](#) described the Conservative platform as "autonomist and natalist."
- **PQ **Partial**** Paul St-Pierre Plamondon has made the low birth rate an issue, to the point where the position was contested in the media ([La Presse](#)).
- **CAQ **Partial**** Acts on work-family balance without framing the measure as natalist (see [question 4](#)).
- **QS **Opposed**** Goes in the opposite direction on the immigration side: its [platform](#) promises to restore the Quebec Experience Program (PEQ), to speed up family reunification and to

end closed work permits.

- **PLQ** **No position** Nothing published on the birth rate; the party commits to "involving the regions in defining their capacity to welcome immigrants" ([PLQ](#)).

QUESTION 2

Public funding of abortion

**None of the five parties commits to removing abortion from the list of insured services.
Four have publicly taken the opposite position.**

CAQ **Opposed**

The outgoing government adopted a *Government action plan on access to abortion 2024-2027*, led by Minister Martine Biron, whose purpose is to reduce waiting times, particularly outside Montreal ([Radio-Canada](#)). In August 2026, Ms. Biron declared: "Let us be clear, the Fréchette government will never back down on the right to abortion" ([Le Soleil](#)).

PLQ **No published position**

Nothing in the [2026 commitments](#). The party has historically sided with unrestricted access. The reader should draw no hope from the silence: nothing points to a change of direction.

PQ **Opposed**

Welcomed the broad lines of the government's access plan, its spokeswoman Méganne Perry-Melançon judging that they lined up with her party's intentions ([Radio-Canada](#)).

QS **Opposed**

Its [2026 platform](#) is explicit: a QS government "will guarantee the right to and access to abortion throughout its territory." The party also wants to make contraception free.

PCQ **Opposed**

The most commented-on position, and the most closed. On August 4, 2026, after past remarks by a candidate resurfaced, Éric Duhaime declared: "We have always been a pro-choice party and that policy will not change in the slightest," adding: "I can tell you there will be no debate within our ranks on this issue," and that members who spoke out would have to "defend the party's position" ([Le Soleil](#), [Radio-Canada](#)). In February 2026, he had indicated that he would not tolerate a candidate speaking against abortion on social media ([Le Devoir](#)). He argues besides that the question falls to the federal government.

Worth noting for the reader

The argument that abortion "falls to the federal government" does not hold for this particular question. It is Quebec, not Ottawa, that decides what appears on the list of services insured by the RAMQ. A candidate who invokes federal jurisdiction here is dodging a responsibility that is very much his own.

QUESTION 3

Support for women after an abortion

No party has a published position. Neither for, nor against.

This is the only one of the nine items on which all five parties are entirely silent. The [2024-2027 government plan](#) deals with access to abortion, not with what comes after. No 2026 election platform touches the subject.

This absence is perhaps the most useful piece of information in the whole guide. A question on which no one has a party line is a question on which a candidate can still be persuaded. It is also the only one of the six that obliges no member to take a service away from anyone: it asks for one to be added. Candidates who refuse to answer it are refusing to offer care, not to remove it, and it is worth pointing that out to them.

QUESTION 4

Let state support follow the child rather than the spot

Only one party commits to it. This is the item that divides most sharply.

PCQ **Supportive, with figures**

The [PCQ election platform](#) commits to "funding every child, rather than only those attending a recognized childcare service, while maintaining funding for the network of subsidized daycares, in order to offer parents fair support, whatever the mode of care chosen."

The [family plan](#) tabled on September 3, 2026 sets out the details: a home childcare allowance of \$100 per child per week, up to \$5,200 a year, plus an enhancement of the childcare expenses tax credit of roughly \$950 per child per year starting April 1, 2027. Estimated net cost: \$280 million a year, \$1.4 billion over five years ([Le Soleil](#)).

The conditions matter, and the reader should know them

The allowance is taxable. It is reserved for parents living in Quebec who hold permanent residence. It requires that at least one of the two parents work full time. It excludes parents who already have a subsidized spot or who claim the childcare expenses tax credit. A mother at home whose spouse works full time is eligible; a household where neither parent holds a full-time job is not. So it is not an unconditional recognition of parental work at home, but it is the only commitment of the campaign that runs in that direction.

CAQ **Opposed, and explicitly**

On September 5, 2026, announcing the conversion of 25,000 spots, Christine Fréchette went straight at the Conservative measure: "With Éric Duhaime, the waiting lists will get longer. More women will have to stay home. And fewer families will have a reduced-price spot" ([Le Devoir](#)). The PLQ replied that 20,000 of those 25,000 spots were already being converted, which brings the announcement down to roughly 5,000 net spots, for \$750 million over four years ([La Presse](#), [Les Affaires](#)).

The CAQ family plan deals with the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan (QPIP): two more weeks of paternity leave, better benefits in cases of perinatal bereavement, more flexibility to involve grandparents and relatives, all presented as self-financing ([Les Affaires](#), August 28, 2026). These are measures for parents in employment, not for the parent who stays home.

QS **Opposed**

The [QS platform](#) banks on the public network: a QS government "will rely on the capacity of the CPE network to develop the missing spots." The money goes to the spot, not to the child. QS also proposes raising the QPIP benefits reserved for the second parent.

PQ **No published position for 2026**

The PQ has announced no commitment on childcare funding in this campaign. In 2022, it proposed a network made up entirely of early childhood centres (CPEs), converting all private daycares, with the exception of home-based services ([Le Devoir](#), 2022). Its candidate in Bellefeuille, who holds a doctorate in family sciences, argued for a longer paternity leave ([La Presse](#)).

PLQ **No published position**

The PLQ's [commitments page](#) contains no section on the family or on childcare services. The party criticized the arithmetic of the CAQ announcement without proposing an alternative.

Medical assistance in dying

The state of the law. Bill 11, passed on June 7, 2023, broadened eligibility for medical assistance in dying and introduced "the obligation for palliative care homes and private hospitals to include MAID in their range of care" ([Gouvernement du Québec](#)). When it was tabled, 12 palliative care homes out of 37 did not offer it ([Radio-Canada](#)). The act also authorizes specialized nurse practitioners to administer medical assistance in dying.

The bill passed by 103 votes. Every party had allowed a free vote. Only two Liberal members, Filomena Rotiroti and Linda Caron, voted against; the Liberal member André A. Morin abstained ([AQDMD](#), citing *La Presse*). No other dissenting voice in the National Assembly.

Advance requests, which cover people who have become incapable of consenting, came into force in Quebec in 2024, the Minister of Justice having given the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions a directive reflecting the Quebec consensus on the question ([Gouvernement du Québec](#)).

Where the next broadening stands

Eligibility for people whose only medical problem is a mental disorder is set for March 17, 2027 in the federal Criminal Code ([Justice Canada](#)). In June 2026, a special joint committee of the federal Parliament recommended excluding these people indefinitely; the Bloc Québécois entered a dissenting opinion in the report, recommending instead that the Supreme Court be asked to clarify its position ([Le Devoir](#)). Quebec is among the societies where recourse to medical assistance in dying is highest in the world, at around 7.9% of deaths ([Vivre dans la Dignité](#)).

5a · Refuse any further broadening No position, in any of the five parties

No 2026 election platform addresses medical assistance in dying. Neither the CAQ, nor the PLQ, nor the PQ, nor QS, nor the PCQ has made a campaign commitment, one way or the other. The file has so far been handled on a cross-party basis in the National Assembly, which partly explains the silence: there is no partisan divide to exploit, so no electoral gain to be had from it.

5b · Compel neither palliative care homes nor caregivers

On this item, the law as it stands says the opposite of what the question asks, and it was a CAQ government that wrote it: the obligation placed on palliative care homes appears in Bill 11,

tabled and passed under the CAQ ([Gouvernement du Québec](#)). None of the five parties proposes to lift it. **CAQ:** **Opposed** . **The other four:** **No published position** .

This is the question on which an individual candidate's answer counts for the most, precisely because his party has dictated nothing to him. Votes on this law have always been free. A member elected on October 5 will vote according to his conscience, and the only way to know what he will do with it is to ask him before the vote.

QUESTION 6 · ITEMS 6a AND 6b

Parents and mandatory school content

The state of the facts. Sexuality education content has been mandatory since 2018. Since July 1, 2024, it has been folded into the program *Quebec Culture and Citizenship*(CCQ), which writes it into the basic school regulation and makes exemption harder to obtain ([Gouvernement du Québec](#); [Le Devoir](#)). In December 2024, the Superior Court ruled inadmissible the application of a father seeking an exemption for his daughter, on grounds of delay among others, without ruling on the substance of the question ([Le Devoir](#)).

The Committee of Wise Persons on gender identity, created by the government in December 2023 and chaired by Diane Lavallée, tabled its [report](#) in May 2025. It makes no recommendations but "open suggestions." Two of them bear directly on item 6a: better identifying the content of sexuality education courses where gender identity is discussed, and better informing parents beforehand about that content ([Radio-Canada](#)). The report also notes that some doctors "prescribe hormones after a single meeting" ([Le Devoir](#)).

A year later, in May 2026, [La Presse](#) found that nothing had been done: "inertia reigns."

CAQ **Opposed on 6a and 6b**

It was the CAQ's Ministry of Education that folded the content into the CCQ program, which cut down the possibility of exemption. The government received the Committee of Wise Persons report in May 2025 and did not act on its suggestions about informing parents. Opposed by action and by inaction.

PQ **No published position on 6a and 6b**

The PQ has made no commitment on informing parents or on the right of withdrawal. It did, however, adopt at its 2026 policy convention positions calling for the notions of sex and gender identity to be distinguished in statistical data, laws, policies and government programs, for the right to single-sex spaces and activities to be reaffirmed, and for "the tools of sexuality education to be reviewed to make sure they rest on science and biology" ([La Presse](#)). This is the position closest to the concern the question expresses, but it bears on the content of the programs, not on parents' rights. It remains to be seen whether it will find its way into the party's official platform.

QS **Opposed on 6a and 6b**

The [QS platform](#) commits to protecting the rights of trans people, to "encouraging access to care, including gender-affirming care," and to basing its answers on "the law and scientific consensus." No opening to a parental right of withdrawal.

PLQ **No published position**

Nothing published on the subject. The party proposes holding an estates-general on education, whose announced mandate covers teacher qualification and the success of boys ([PLQ](#)).

PCQ **No published position**

The [Conservative platform](#) lays down as a principle that "parents must have the autonomy they need to make the choices they want for their family," but the principle is applied to modes of childcare, not to school content. The party announces that further education proposals will be unveiled during the campaign.

Two files to watch after October 5

The Quebec constitution will be back

Bill 1, *Constitutional Act of 2025 respecting Quebec*, contained at section 29 a provision stating that "the State protects the freedom of women to have recourse to a voluntary termination of pregnancy." Minister Simon Jolin-Barrette withdrew it in February 2026, under pressure from groups who feared such wording would weaken access rather than strengthen it ([Radio-Canada](#), [La Presse](#)).

The bill itself died on the order paper on June 11, 2026, for want of support from the opposition parties ([La Tribune](#)). The PCQ was the only party to support it in the form it then had; the PLQ, QS and the PQ opposed it ([Radio-Canada](#), May 2026). All the parties have nonetheless committed to bringing forward a draft constitution in the next legislature.

In other words: the question of writing abortion into a fundamental Quebec text will come back before the National Assembly after October 5, whatever the government.

The 2029 deadline on secularism

The notwithstanding clause protecting the *Act respecting the laicity of the State* expires in 2029, within the next mandate. The PLQ has committed to not renewing it. The other parties represented oppose that or want to widen its use. A Supreme Court judgment is also expected. The make-up of the National Assembly elected on October 5 will decide the outcome.

What to take away

Of the forty-five boxes in the table, two are clearly supportive and four partially so. Twenty-four are empty.

This is not a reason for discouragement, it is information. The questions on which the parties have a settled line are the ones where a candidate will not budge. The questions on which they have said nothing are the ones where a candidate can still think it over, and where a voter's letter genuinely carries weight.

Four of the nine items fall into this second category for most of the parties: post-abortion support, refusing a further broadening of medical assistance in dying, freedom of conscience for palliative care homes, and parents' rights at school. Those are the ones worth pressing your local candidate on between now and October 5.

Write to your candidates

The tool finds the candidates running in your electoral division from your postal code and sends them the six questions, one letter per candidate. The answers come straight back to you.

Forward them to us: we compile what candidates answer, electoral division by electoral division, and we also record who does not answer.

Write to my candidates

en.cqv.qc.ca/elections2026

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