

A How-To Guide

AN ELECTION IS COMING — GET READY!



ABOUT SOCIAL PLANNING TORONTO

Social Planning Toronto is a nonprofit, charitable community organization that challenges inequity in our city — through knowledge generation, debate, civic engagement, advocacy, and collaboration — to spark social and policy change.

To learn more about us, visit socialplanningtoronto.org

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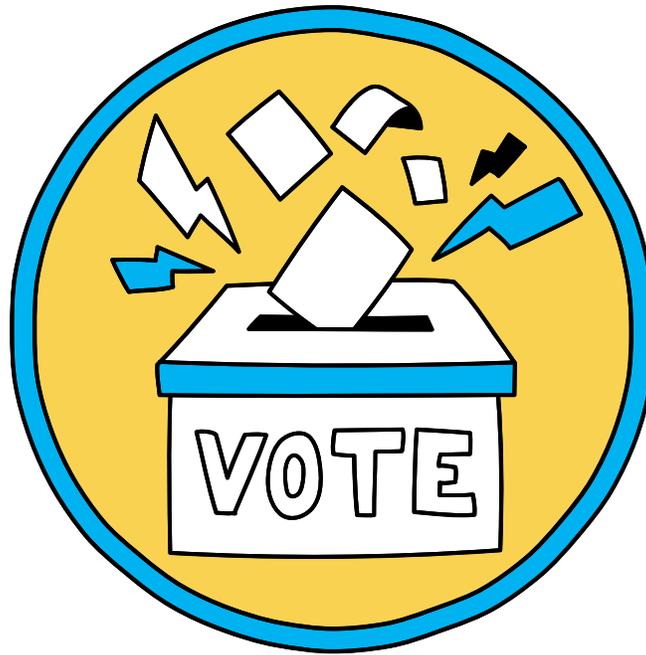
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INTRODUCTION



Communities have tremendous power to shape their future, and the upcoming Toronto municipal election offers residents the opportunity to shape their city and its growth.

As Toronto residents continue to deal with the impacts of the pandemic, the election provides an important platform for residents to talk about their priorities for building a just and equitable recovery in Toronto — one that focuses on communities and residents who are struggling the most.

We hope this toolkit encourages discussion among residents about their concerns and local issues, and that it inspires individuals to vote in this year's municipal election.



TOOLKIT OBJECTIVES

- To encourage people to talk about issues and concerns in their community
- To encourage people to vote in the municipal election
- To support the civic engagement efforts of residents, community groups, and organizations to advance local issues in the municipal election

WHO WILL BENEFIT

- residents
- community organizers
- frontline community development workers
- election enthusiasts
- community organizations supporting residents



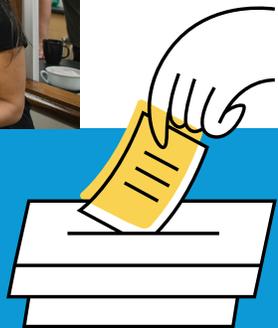
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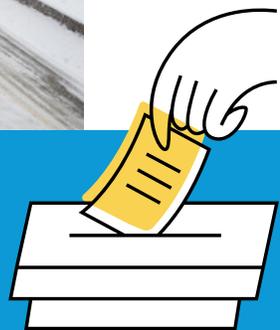
WHAT IS AT
STAKE?

WHAT IS THE CITY'S ROLE IN OUR LIVES?

Water, road safety and repairs, libraries, parks, festivals and events, garbage collection, emergency services — these are just a few of the [services that the City provides](#). We all access City services in one way or another.

The City also plays an important role in creating the conditions that allow everyone to thrive — by, for example, engaging youth, building and maintaining affordable housing, fighting climate change, protecting tenants, encouraging vaccination, and tackling poverty.

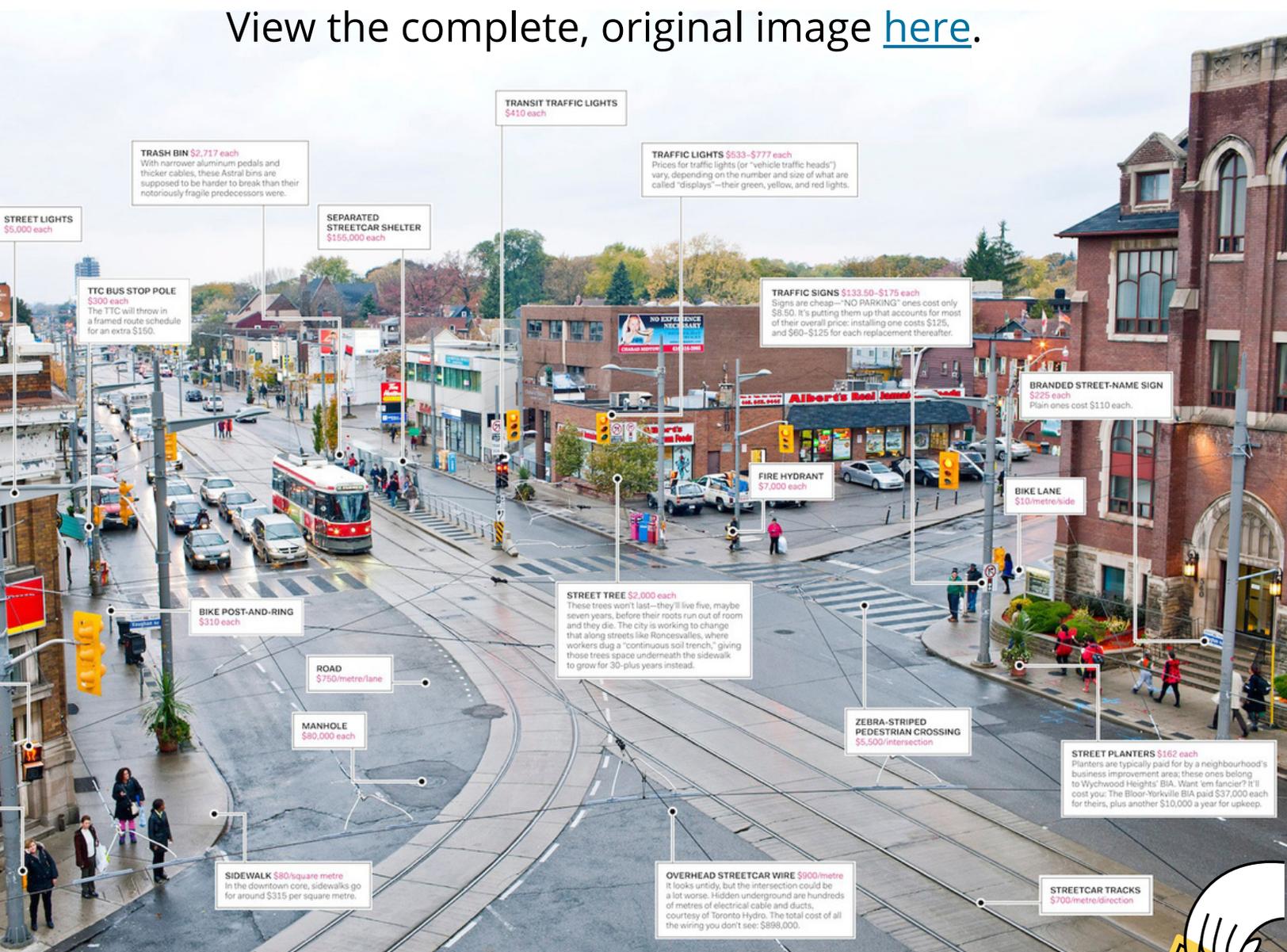




In November 2013 *The Grid* published a photo illustration of the St. Clair and Vaughan intersection detailing everything the City needs to provide in just one intersection.

To create order while creating an attractive and functional streetscape takes everything from curbs and concrete to bike lanes, planters, and special signage.

View the complete, original image [here](#).



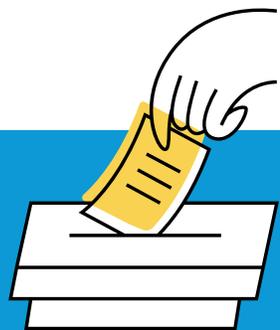
WHY VOTE?

In a municipal election, you can vote for

- the Mayor,
- your local City Councillor, and
- your local School Board Trustee.

City Councillors and the Mayor make important decisions on how municipal services are planned, delivered, and funded. School Board Trustees shape our children's education and school communities.

Voting allows us to **have a say** in who makes decisions about services that we all access. If we don't vote, we are giving up that power.



PLEDGE TO VOTE!

Your vote in the upcoming municipal election matters!

You can play a role in building a better Toronto by pledging to vote and encouraging community members, neighbours, friends, or family to vote too.

Pledging to vote is a great way to make a personal commitment to exercise your democratic rights.

Sign the [pledge on our website](#) and you'll receive reminders to vote! Share the link and get your neighbours, friends, and family to sign the pledge with you.

After you've taken the pledge, print the reminder on the next page, show it to friends and family, and explain why voting matters to you.



October 24, 2022 is ELECTION DAY in Toronto!

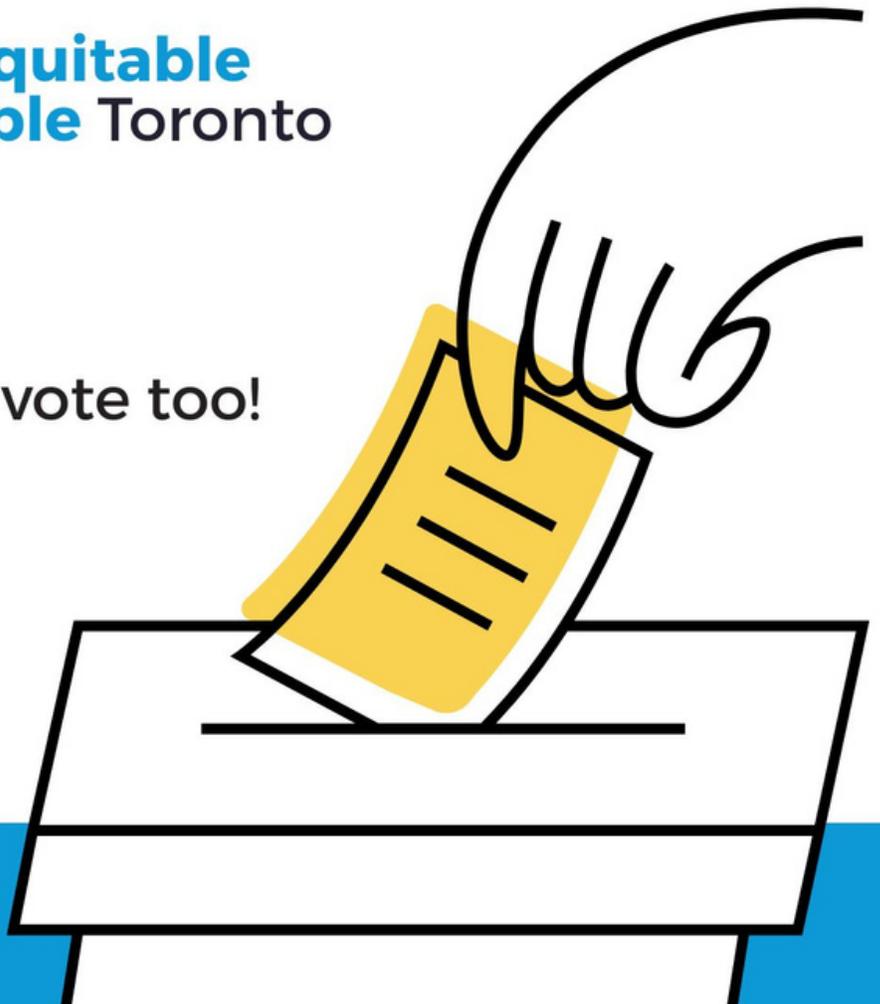
I've pledged to:

1 VOTE

for a more **equitable**
and **affordable** Toronto

2 ASK

2 friends to vote too!



03

LET'S TALK
ELECTIONS

WHO CAN VOTE?

To vote in a Toronto municipal election, you must be:

a Canadian citizen



at least 18 years old



a resident in the city of Toronto
or

you/your spouse own/rent property in the city



not prohibited from voting under any law

Learn more, including where and how to vote if you are a student, on the [Toronto Elections website](#).



GET INFORMED

How can you learn more about the election and specific issues relevant to our city's government?

- Read issue-based fact sheets prepared by researchers ([like ours!](#))
- Read local newspaper articles, research reports, and social media posts
- Explore local or issue-based advocacy groups and join the actions and campaigns they organize

Here are just a few community-based organizations to check out:

- [Social Planning Toronto](#)
- [Toronto Neighbourhood Centres](#)
- [Right2Housing](#)
- [ACORN](#)
- [TTCriders](#)
- [Toronto Environmental Alliance](#)
- [Toronto Community for Better Childcare](#)
- [StreetHealth](#)
- [The Neighbourhood Group – Rethink Policing project](#)



GET INVOLVED

For our municipal government to understand what communities need coming out of the pandemic, they need to hear from you! Getting involved in the election is a great way to have your voice heard.

Talking about community issues allows us to **identify gaps in services** and where services need to be expanded. Before the election, talk to your friends, family, and community members about issues that are important to you. There are many ways to engage others:

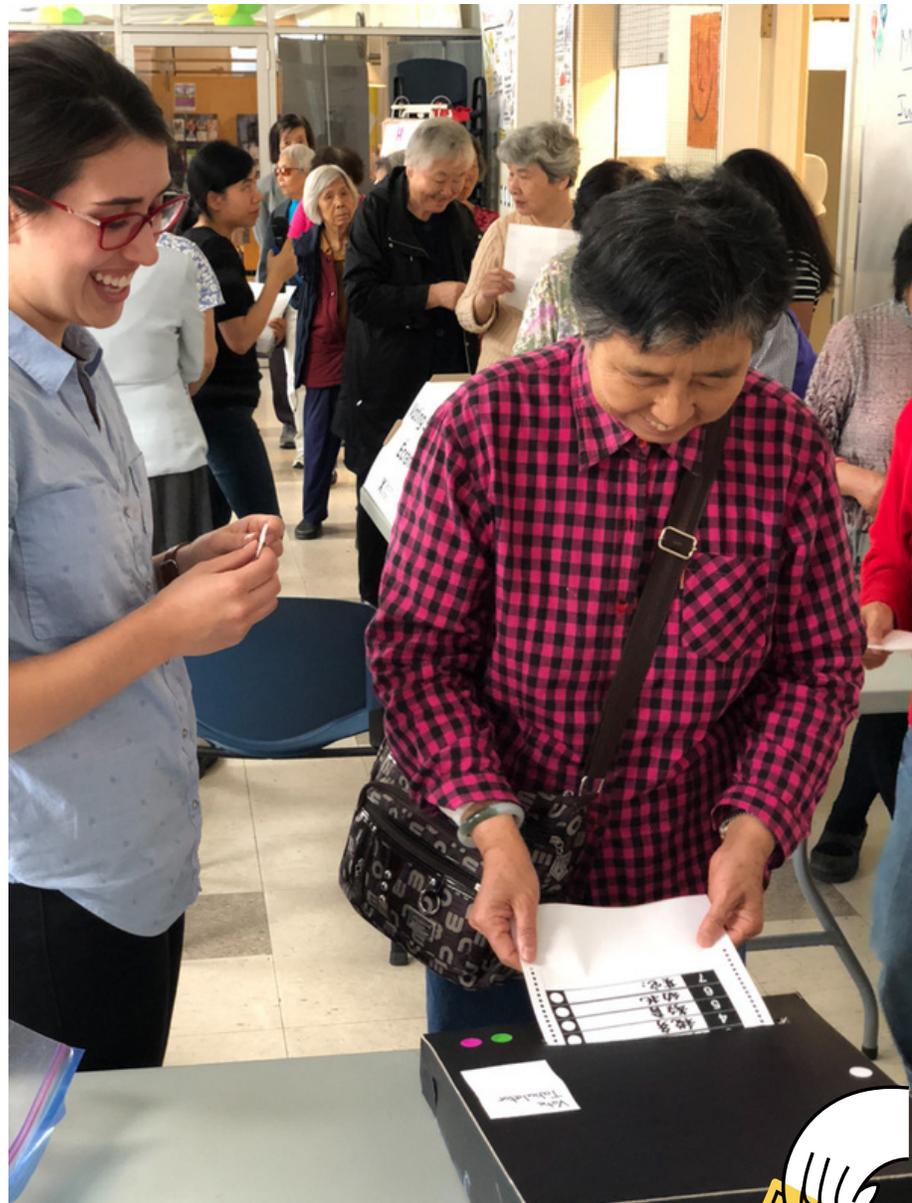
- Have a dinner table or sidewalk conversation with friends about what's most important in your city/community
- Host an event where neighbours can talk about voting and community issues
- Invite someone to speak to your community about an issue that's important to you, or organize a round table/expert panel discussion (check out [our list of expert speakers](#))
- [Organize a campaign](#) to address an issue



HANDS-ON LEARNING: VOTE POPUP

The Democratic Engagement Exchange's Vote PopUp Toolkit lets you show community members who are new to voting what to expect on election day.

Interested organizers and community groups can [order a free Toolkit](#) to organize and set up your own simulated voting station for your community!



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DECIDING WHO
TO VOTE FOR

LEARN WHO'S RUNNING

In a municipal election, you can vote for

- the Mayor,
- your local City Councillor, and
- your local Schoolboard Trustee.

Check out the list of [all registered candidates](#) to find out who's running in your Ward.

LEARN ABOUT INCUMBENTS

It's important to know what any *incumbent* (a current City Councillor running for office again) supports or opposes.

All City Council votes are recorded and available to the public, making it easy to look at the [official voting record](#) for any incumbents running in your ward.



ENGAGE WITH CANDIDATES

How can we inform candidates in our Ward about the concerns we have in our communities? How can we learn a candidate's position on or solutions to the issues that matter to us most. Here are some ideas:

- Explore candidate websites and review their platforms (you can find a link to a candidate's website beside their name on the [list of registered candidates](#))
- Form your own questions about the issues that matter to you for candidates (or their volunteers) knocking on your door
- Write to or call candidates, or visit their campaign offices
- Speak to candidates' election teams



You can also invite candidates to an event* in your community to outline their position on local issues. Some ideas:

- Host an all-candidates meeting or debate
- Set up a meet-and-greet with candidates

* Notes:

- **If you spend money on election activities**, you could be considered a "third party advertiser." Learn more [here](#), or contact the City at 416 395 0025 or thirdpartyinfo@toronto.ca
- **If your event is being held in a City-owned property** (like a library or community centre), or if you are a City-funded agency, read [the City's rules](#).



05

GET-READY-
TO-VOTE
RESOURCES

KEY DATES

Option	Date	Notes
Mail-in vote application open	Thursday, Sept. 1, to Friday, Sept. 23	Learn more.
Deadline for completed mail-in vote packages	Friday, Oct. 21, at noon (12 p.m.)	Learn more.
Advance Voting Days	Friday, Oct. 7, to Friday, Oct. 14	Learn more.
Election Day	Monday, Oct. 24	Learn more.

ASSISTANCE IN OTHER LANGUAGES

If English is not your first language, [help is available](#), including a “How to Vote” booklet available in 25 different languages.



VOTING READINESS CHECKLIST

- Get on the [voters' list](#) (not required, but recommended to avoid confusion)
- Gather the [proof of identity you need](#) to vote
- Find out [where to vote](#) (contact elections@toronto.ca for more information)
- Set aside a time to vote (and learn about [taking time off work](#) to vote)
- Know the [candidates running in your Ward](#)
- Learn about [voting options and accessibility accommodations](#) including mail-in and curbside voting



VOTING WITHOUT AN ADDRESS/ID

If you do not have a permanent address or identification, you can still vote.

If there is a place, like a shelter or a drop-in, where you have recently spent time, you can use this as your most recent address.

Drop-in and shelter staff can help you find the closest voting location. When you go to the voting location, tell the elections staff that you do not have ID and share the address of the drop-in or shelter. Elections staff will provide you with a declaration form that you sign to affirm your identity.



06

LAST WORD

For the most accurate and up-to-date information on voting, contact the City of Toronto's Election Services:

- visit their [website](#)
- email elections@toronto.ca
- call 311 or 416 338 1111

Remember, voting is the number one way to have a say in who makes decisions about your city.

So **have a say in building a better Toronto:** vote, encourage others to vote with you, and [take our pledge!](#)

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