



FOR THE RESOURCES TO BUILD A LIVEABLE, SUSTAINABLE & EQUITABLE CITY

VOTE ON
June 26

The City needs to raise more funds, prioritize investment in critical services and infrastructure, and fight for a new deal with the Province and the Feds to build a better city.

For years, the City has failed to adequately invest in affordable housing, public transit, community services, parks and recreation programs, and other essential services.

The upcoming mayoral by-election is an opportunity to elect a leader who will maximize the City's revenue tools, prioritize critical services and infrastructure, and work with City Council and communities to get a fair deal for Toronto to build a better city for all.

What's the Problem?

A Lack of Adequate Investment in Key Services Delivers Dire Consequences

Toronto residents are struggling more than ever. The City needs substantially more resources and supports for communities impacted by lack of investment and inequitable policies – a situation exacerbated by the pandemic:

The [waitlist](#) for social housing is

over 80,000 households,

while [only a few thousand households from the waitlist](#) get affordable housing each year.



Food bank use has quadrupled since the pandemic, rising from about 65,000 client visits per month prior to COVID-19, to nearly 270,000 in March 2023.

Since the beginning of the pandemic the number of people who have died from [opioid poisoning](#) **has increased by**

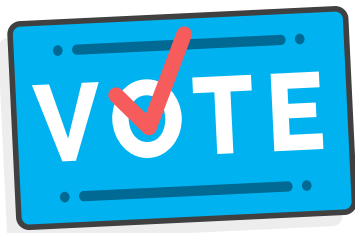


Billions Invested in Infrastructure and Policing that Do Not Meet Community Needs

Despite its limited revenues, City Council continues to prioritize the [police budget](#) and the unnecessarily expensive Gardiner Expressway rebuild. This year, the police budget is \$1.16 billion — including a \$68.2 million increase — taking up **23.6% of the revenue** raised from [property taxes](#). Proactive, evidence-based, [non-police interventions](#) that promote public safety, prevent crime and violence, and get to the root of the problem receive a fraction of the budget.

The Gardiner Expressway rebuild is funded at a staggering **\$2 billion**, while the transit system is set to [decline further](#) in the decade ahead. Transit services are being cut and **TTC riders** are facing longer wait times, more overcrowding, and higher fares.

Ten years from now, [City figures](#) show the **TTC will be short \$6.285 Billion** — funds needed to properly maintain transit vehicles and facilities. The TTC's state of good repair backlog will be **more than 78 times larger** than the Gardiner Expressway's at \$80 Million.



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The City Has Not Used the Revenue Tools to Raise the Revenue It Needs to Create a Better City

- A **Commercial Parking Levy**, a fee paid by commercial parking lot owners, could raise over **half a billion dollars** annually, according to [City estimates](#). [Advocates](#) have recommended that the funds be used for public transit which would help riders and advance the City's climate action goals.
- The City's **Vacant Home Tax** could be raised to 3% of the assessed value of a vacant home, up from its current 1% tax. Vancouver increased its [Empty Homes Tax](#) to 3% after finding that 1% wasn't high enough to persuade owners to rent out or sell their vacant units. Amidst a housing crisis, no home should be left empty. A higher tax rate encourages more owners to rent out or sell their vacant units and can raise more revenue to build affordable housing.
- A **Luxury Homes Tax** could generate millions for affordable housing. It would be charged through the City's Municipal Land Transfer Tax (MLTT), and paid by people buying an expensive home. In 2021, the City estimated it could raise **\$18.7 million** on homes worth \$2 million or more, if the MLTT was raised to 3.5% of the assessed value of those homes.
- There are many [other revenue tools](#) available to the City that are not being used to pay for needed services.

The Provincial and Federal Governments Aren't Paying Their Fair Share

The City hasn't done enough to pay for the services that Torontonians need, but the provincial and federal governments haven't either:

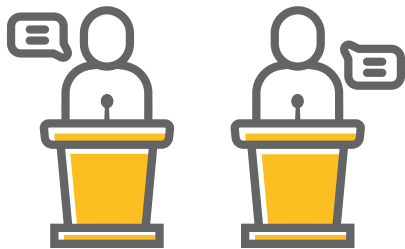
- The Ontario government and the City of Toronto used to contribute [50-50](#) to TTC operating costs. But it's been more than 25 years since the provincial government abandoned that arrangement, leaving riders covering most of the costs.
- [Homelessness has increased](#) since the introduction of the federal government's [National Housing Strategy](#). The federal government is not moving in the right direction to make good on [its promise to decrease chronic homelessness by 50% by 2027-28](#).
- The provincial government recently made changes to the Planning Act that are projected to cost the City [\\$230M annually due to lost revenue](#) from development charges and parkland dedication fees – funds the city needs to build services to support new development.

[Toronto needs a new financial arrangement with the provincial and federal governments. The new Mayor will need to fight for the resources to build a more affordable, equitable, and sustainable city.](#)

Take Action!

1. Ask the Mayoral Candidates If They Will Commit to The Following Actions:

- Implement the revenue tools available to generate more funds for critical programs, services, and infrastructure.
- Reallocate police funding to support non-police services that are evidence-based, proactive, and effective at promoting community safety and preventing crime and violence.
- Prioritize key programs, services, and infrastructure, including affordable housing, public transit, and community services, that will help to realize a liveable, equitable, and sustainable city.
- Reject the damaging decades-long practice of prioritizing low property taxes above all else.
- Work with City Council, community leaders, and residents to launch a bold, compelling, and strategic campaign to achieve a fair financial deal for Toronto with the provincial and federal governments.



2. Learn More About the Candidates

Check out [our election resources](#) and attend an event, such as a Mayoral Debate, to learn more about the election issues, and where candidates stand.



3. Pledge to Vote

[Election day](#) is on June 26.

[Advanced polls](#) are from June 8-13.

[Apply to vote](#) by mail from May 1-26.