

Advocacy Toolkit for Members

ELECTION OVERVIEW

The 2022 Ontario provincial election will be held on Thursday, June 2, 2022. The official campaign period (known as "the writ period") will begin on May 5.

You may remember from last election that riding boundaries shifted to accommodate the now 124 seats in the legislature. For more information on riding boundaries, you can visit <u>Elections Ontario's website</u>, or to view a map of your electoral district, you can <u>click</u> here.

ELECTION 2022

Election 2022 will be marred by the impact of the pandemic. It will come as no surprise that COVID-19 and the long-lasting effects on our society will have a huge impact at the ballot box. Voters will look to government and opposition responses to the pandemic and use this to determine how to vote in 2022.

Each party has their own hurdles to overcome during this election, the PCs will have to answer for the choices and decisions they made during a difficult and tumultuous two years of governing. While the PCs are still favored to win a second mandate, it remains unclear how strong that mandate will be and whether Doug Ford will secure another majority government or be reduced to a minority.

The vote rich GTA will be a focus for all parties. The PCs formed their majority government by picking up seats in Peel Region, Scarborough, North York, and York Region. They will need to win these seats to maintain government. The Liberals will need to win seats in every region of the province to make any significant gains since they come into the election with only 2 incumbents standing for re-election. For the NDP to advance beyond the official opposition they will need to make gains in both the 905 region and southwestern Ontario as well as holding several seats in the GTA that had traditionally been Liberal strongholds until the 2018 election.

We anticipate seeing a return to more standard voting norms in this provincial election, despite the changes COVID has forced on us.



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WHY ENGAGE DURING AN ELECTION?

Provincial elections provide an excellent opportunity to engage political decision-makers. It is generally held that voters have limited engagement in policy issues outside of an election; and so, when the public's focus is squarely on the future direction of the provincial government, advocacy for increased wages, standardized workloads, and full-time jobs, will find an especially receptive audience among both voters and the political decision-makers who are seeking their support.

During an election, issues impacting local constituents – including those who are RPNs – will weigh more heavily with local MPPs. At the core of any MPP's job is addressing the concerns of constituents to ensure they have the best possible shot at being reelected; making this a prime opportunity to seek support to implement WeRPN's advocacy asks.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CANDIDATES

To find out which riding you live in and who your local MPP is, please type in your postal code on the Elections Ontario website <u>here.</u>