NEWS RELEASE

FORUM RESEARCH INC.

MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ranked Ballot strongly preferred to FPTP in Toronto

Ranked ballot draws higher approval as well

TORONTO April 13th, 2016 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 858 Toronto voters, the ranked ballot electoral system is strongly preferred to the current first past the post system when the two are directly compared (46% to 29%). Those who prefer the ranked ballot are especially likely to be the youngest (50%), males (49%), the wealthy ($80K to $100K - 59%), York residents (caution: small base - 66%) and those who voted Olivia Chow last time (56%).

Those who prefer the first past the post system include mid income groups ($60K to $80K - 36%), in Scarborough (32%) and among Ford and Tory voters (33% each), but not Chow voters (20%).

These findings are comparable to those noted in November, 2014, when we last polled this issue in Toronto (Approve First Past The Post - 45%, approve of Ranked Ballot - 64%).

Higher approval for Ranked ballot than First Past The Post

Two thirds of voters approve of the ranked ballot, when it is briefly described to them (63%), where just one quarter disapprove (26%). Fewer approve of First Past The Post, however (43%) and the same proportion disapproves (44%).

"It is clear the voting public has no difficulty understanding or, indeed, preferring the ranked ballot to first past the post. Those municipal politicians who don't favour the ranked ballot because of its complexity, may just find it too complex to get re-elected under a new system," said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

Lorne Bozinoff, Ph.D. is the president and founder of Forum Research. He can be reached at lbozinoff@forumresearch.com or at (416) 960-9603.

TORONTO
April 13th, 2016

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The ranked ballot electoral system is strongly preferred to the current first past the post system when the two are directly compared (46% to 29%).
- Two thirds of voters approve of the ranked ballot, when it is briefly described to them (63%), where just one quarter disapprove (26%).
- "It is clear the voting public has no difficulty understanding or, indeed, preferring the ranked ballot to first past the post. Those municipal politicians who don't favour the ranked ballot because of its complexity, may just find it too complex to get re-elected under a new system," said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

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Methodology

The Forum Poll™ was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 858 randomly selected voters in Toronto, Ontario. The poll was conducted on April 12th, 2016.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 3%, 19 times out of 20. Subsample results will be less accurate. Margins of error for subsample (such as age, gender) results are available at www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp

Where appropriate, the data has been statistically weighted by age, region, and other variables to ensure that the sample reflects the actual population according to the latest Census data.

This research is not necessarily predictive of future outcomes, but rather, captures opinion at one point in time. Forum Research conducted this poll as a public service and to demonstrate our survey research capabilities. Forum houses its poll results in the Data Library of the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto.

With offices across Canada and around the world, 100% Canadian-owned Forum Research is one of the country's leading survey research firms. This Forum Poll™and other polls may be found at Forum's poll archive at www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp

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First Past The Post Approval

'Currently, elections in Toronto are decided by a "first past the post" system, where the candidate with the most votes, no matter how few, is the winner. The result is often a winner with a minority of the total votes. Do you approve or disapprove of this system?'

[All Respondents]

TORONTO
April 13th, 2016

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	858	184	135	168	182	189	461	397
Approve	43	44	46	41	41	40	42	43
Disapprove	44	48	41	42	44	46	46	43
Don't know	13	8	13	17	15	15	12	14

Region

%	Total	The former City of Toronto + East York	North York	Etobicoke + York	Scarborough
Sample	858	351	164	191	152
Approve	43	40	40	39	53
Disapprove	44	49	43	50	33
Don't know	13	10	16	11	14

Last Mayoral Vote

%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample	858	143	359	133	65
Approve	43	50	50	25	46
Disapprove	44	39	39	61	47
Don't know	13	12	11	14	7

3

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TORONTO
April 13th, 2016

Ranked Ballot Approval

'With a ranked ballot, voters indicate their first, second and third choices, and if no candidate wins a majority on first choice votes, second choice votes are counted, and so on. This way, the winner always has more than 50%. Would you approve or disapprove of this system?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	858	184	135	168	182	189	461	397
Approve	63	64	65	60	59	64	64	62
Disapprove	26	28	23	28	26	23	27	24
Don't know	11	8	11	12	15	14	9	14

Region

%	Total	The former City of Toronto + East York	North York	Etobicoke + York	Scarborough
Sample	858	351	164	191	152
Approve	63	70	59	59	62
Disapprove	26	22	24	32	27
Don't know	11	9	17	10	10

Last Mayoral Vote

%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample	858	143	359	133	65
Approve	63	56	63	73	65
Disapprove	26	29	26	19	24
Don't know	11	16	11	7	10

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Electoral System in Toronto

'Overall, which electoral system would you like to see in Toronto, First Past The Post, or the Ranked Ballot?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	858	184	135	168	182	189	461	397
First Past The Post	29	31	27	29	29	27	31	27
Ranked Ballot	46	50	44	41	47	47	49	43
Neither	11	9	18	7	8	11	10	11
Don't know	15	10	12	24	17	14	10	19

Region

%	Total	The former City of Toronto + East York	North York	Etobicoke + York	Scarborough
Sample	858	351	164	191	152
First Past The Post	29	26	30	28	32
Ranked Ballot	46	53	39	53	37
Neither	11	12	10	9	12
Don't know	15	9	21	10	19

Last Mayoral Vote

%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample	858	143	359	133	65
First Past The Post	29	33	33	20	20
Ranked Ballot	46	39	46	56	58
Neither	11	11	7	9	10
Don't know	15	18	14	15	12

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