

# NEWS RELEASE



**FORUM RESEARCH INC.**

## **MEDIA INQUIRIES:**

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## **TORONTO**

**August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Proportional Representation system of electing governments draws the approval of a majority of voters (54%) when a simple description is given
- When these three electoral systems are described in more detail, and their drawbacks explained, however, ratings for PR stay the same (52%), those for FPTP decline sharply (from 44% approval to 30% approval), while approval for Ranked Ballots vaults into first place at almost 6-in-10 (56%)
- More than one half of Canadian voters agree voting should be mandatory in Canada (55%)

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Ranked Ballot Preferred Over PR, FPTP**

#### **Majority agrees with mandatory voting, online ballots**

In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1345 Canadian voters, the Proportional Representation (PR) system of electing governments draws the approval of a majority of voters (54%) when a simple description is given, while Canada's current First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) system draws approval from about 4-in-10 (42%) and the Ranked Ballot system receives approval from just more than a third (35%).

When these three electoral systems are described in more detail, and their drawbacks explained, however, ratings for PR stay the same (52%), those for FPTP decline sharply (from 44% approval to 30% approval), while approval for Ranked Ballots vaults into first place at almost 6-in-10 (56%).

#### **PR preferred overall**

Canadians are asked, after rating each system for approval twice, which of the three they preferred. PR wins this direct measure with one third of the vote (33%), while Ranked Ballot comes in second at a quarter (23%) and FPTP is third with just less than a fifth of the vote (18%). One tenth like none of these three (10%) and one sixth don't have an opinion (15%).

PR is especially preferred by the youngest (42%), mid income groups (\$40K to \$60K - 43%), in BC (40%), among New Democrats (46%) and among college grads (38%).

Ranked Ballot is preferred especially by younger voters (under 45 - 27%), the wealthy (\$80K to \$100K - 35%), in Atlantic Canada (29%), among Liberals (30%) and among the best educated (post grad - 26%).

FPTP is preferred by the oldest (23%), males (23%) rather than females (14%), the wealthiest (\$100K to \$250K - 25%), in Alberta (22%) and among Conservatives (28%).

#### **Majority agree with mandatory voting**

More than one half of Canadian voters agree voting should be mandatory in Canada (55%), more than a third think it should not (38%) and fewer than a tenth have no opinion (7%). Approving of mandatory voting is characteristic of the youngest (59%), females (58%) rather than males (51%), the least wealthy (67% - often a proxy for age), in Quebec (67%), among New Democrats (60%), among

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the least educated (secondary school or less - 64%) and among Francophones (67%).

## **One half agree with online voting**

One half of Canadian voters agree the country should use online voting in federal elections (51%), and this is especially common to the youngest (61%), the wealthy (\$80K to \$100K - 65%), in Ontario and Quebec more than elsewhere (54% each), among Liberals (57%), mothers of children under 18 (55%) and among college grads (57%).

"We have found electoral reform notoriously difficult to poll, because explaining each system adequately is challenging. We found, when the simple facts were presented, PR is favoured, as usual, because it sounds the most representative. When respondents are presented with the reality of small parties and coalition governments, they change their minds, and many who supported FPTP previously, move into the Ranked Ballot column, presumably because this system always results in a majority, and voters value that. In other news, Canadians are ready for mandatory voting, especially the younger voters, where the impact will be felt the most. They are not quite as enthusiastic about online voting, but this system still draws majority support" 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](mailto:lbozinoff@forumresearch.com) or at (416) 960-9603.

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## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- One half of Canadian voters agree the country should use online voting in federal elections (51%)
- "We have found electoral reform notoriously difficult to poll, because explaining each system adequately is challenging. We found, when the simple facts were presented, PR is favoured, as usual, because it sounds the most representative. When respondents are presented with the reality of small parties and coalition governments, they change their minds, and many who supported FPTP previously, move into the Ranked Ballot column, presumably because this system always results in a majority, and voters value that. In other news, Canadians are ready for mandatory voting, especially the younger voters, where the impact will be felt the most. They are not quite as enthusiastic about online voting, but this system still draws majority support"

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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 1345 randomly selected Canadian adults. The poll was conducted on August 6th, 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](http://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](http://www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp)

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**Mandatory Voting in Canada**

*Do you agree or disagree voting in federal elections should be mandatory in Canada?*

[All Respondents]

**Age/Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1345	237	184	217	350	357	715	607
Agree	55	59	55	51	53	52	51	58
Disagree	38	35	37	41	39	41	43	34
Don't know	7	5	7	8	7	7	5	8

**Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	1345	160	234	210	151	136	247
Agree	55	67	58	62	58	46	44
Disagree	38	23	35	34	37	49	47
Don't know	7	10	7	4	6	5	8

**Region / Language**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1345	96	311	486	106	155	191	1046	299
Agree	55	51	67	50	51	54	52	51	67
Disagree	38	42	25	43	41	42	42	43	24
Don't know	7	8	8	7	8	4	6	6	8

**Current Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1345	406	573	143	84	46	40
Agree	55	51	56	60	50	78	45
Disagree	38	43	39	32	43	15	36
Don't know	7	6	6	8	7	7	19

**Education**

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1345	264	367	493	221
Agree	55	64	55	53	48
Disagree	38	28	37	40	46
Don't know	7	8	8	6	5

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**Online Voting**

*Do you agree or disagree Canada should use online voting in federal elections?*

[All Respondents]

**Age/Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1345	237	184	217	350	357	715	607
Agree	51	61	57	51	43	34	51	51
Disagree	41	33	39	39	48	54	42	40
Don't know	8	7	4	10	9	12	7	9

**Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	1345	160	234	210	151	136	247
Agree	51	45	45	44	50	65	58
Disagree	41	41	47	48	42	30	38
Don't know	8	14	8	8	9	6	5

**Region / Language**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1345	96	311	486	106	155	191	1046	299
Agree	51	55	54	54	48	43	43	50	52
Disagree	41	34	39	40	46	47	46	42	39
Don't know	8	11	8	6	6	10	11	8	9

**Current Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1345	406	573	143	84	46	40
Agree	51	41	57	52	46	67	54
Disagree	41	52	36	40	44	25	34
Don't know	8	7	7	7	10	7	12

**Education**

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1345	264	367	493	221
Agree	51	39	48	57	53
Disagree	41	48	44	38	37
Don't know	8	13	9	4	10

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**Electoral Systems**

*Do you approve or disapprove of each of the following electoral systems?  
 The Proportional Representation, or PR system, where all parties are  
 awarded seats according to their percentage of the popular vote  
 [All Respondents]*

**Age/Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1345	237	184	217	350	357	715	607
Approve	54	60	57	49	53	49	57	52
Disapprove	25	25	21	25	28	27	31	19
Don't know	21	16	22	26	19	25	12	30

**Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	1345	160	234	210	151	136	247
Approve	54	45	52	58	56	56	55
Disapprove	25	21	20	21	29	31	31
Don't know	21	33	28	21	15	13	14

**Region / Language**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1345	96	311	486	106	155	191	1046	299
Approve	54	31	59	54	52	54	62	53	59
Disapprove	25	39	17	26	32	30	20	27	17
Don't know	21	30	24	20	16	16	18	20	24

**Current Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1345	406	573	143	84	46	40
Approve	54	46	56	70	60	55	38
Disapprove	25	35	21	15	27	18	36
Don't know	21	18	23	15	13	27	27

**Education**

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1345	264	367	493	221
Approve	54	51	51	55	60
Disapprove	25	19	29	24	27
Don't know	21	30	20	21	13

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## **Electoral Systems**

*Do you approve or disapprove of each of the following electoral systems?  
Canada's current First-Past-The-Post system, where the party that wins the  
largest number of votes wins the seat, even if there is no majority*

*[All Respondents]*

## **Age/Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1345	237	184	217	350	357	715	607
Approve	42	32	44	51	43	45	47	38
Disapprove	40	53	36	34	39	33	42	38
Don't know	18	15	20	15	18	23	11	24

## **Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	1345	160	234	210	151	136	247
Approve	42	33	44	45	40	31	49
Disapprove	40	36	32	44	48	53	38
Don't know	18	31	24	11	12	16	14

## **Region / Language**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1345	96	311	486	106	155	191	1046	299
Approve	42	33	36	46	45	47	38	44	34
Disapprove	40	38	45	36	40	39	47	39	46
Don't know	18	29	18	18	14	14	15	17	20

## **Current Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1345	406	573	143	84	46	40
Approve	42	49	41	34	31	35	44
Disapprove	40	36	39	52	59	50	35
Don't know	18	15	20	14	10	16	21

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**Education**

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1345	264	367	493	221
Approve	42	42	46	40	40
Disapprove	40	29	38	45	45
Don't know	18	29	16	15	15

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**Electoral Systems**

*Do you approve or disapprove of each of the following electoral systems? The Ranked Ballot system, where voters pick first, second and third choices, etcetera, and second choices are added to first choices, and third choices to second, and so on, until there is a majority*

[All Respondents]

**Age/Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1345	237	184	217	350	357	715	607
Approve	35	47	32	29	31	31	36	34
Disapprove	38	30	44	40	41	38	41	34
Don't know	27	23	25	31	28	31	23	32

**Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	1345	160	234	210	151	136	247
Approve	35	41	34	38	31	38	39
Disapprove	38	25	33	39	42	44	42
Don't know	27	34	33	23	27	19	18

**Region / Language**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1345	96	311	486	106	155	191	1046	299
Approve	35	33	42	30	34	32	41	33	42
Disapprove	38	39	32	38	45	49	34	40	30
Don't know	27	27	26	32	21	18	25	27	28

**Current Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1345	406	573	143	84	46	40
Approve	35	26	42	38	32	47	34
Disapprove	38	51	31	35	44	29	29
Don't know	27	23	27	28	24	23	37

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## Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1345	264	367	493	221
Approve	35	33	35	33	42
Disapprove	38	32	43	39	35
Don't know	27	35	23	28	23

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**Proportional Representation Approval**

The Proportional Representation system means many parties are represented, and coalitions often have to be formed to create governments. Do you approve of disapprove of Proportional Representation?

[All Respondents]

**Age/Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1345	237	184	217	350	357	715	607
Approve	52	58	57	49	50	44	52	53
Disapprove	27	24	26	27	33	29	35	19
Don't know	20	18	17	24	17	27	13	28

**Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	1345	160	234	210	151	136	247
Approve	52	50	54	56	51	53	51
Disapprove	27	19	21	26	33	30	37
Don't know	20	30	25	18	15	17	12

**Region / Language**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1345	96	311	486	106	155	191	1046	299
Approve	52	40	54	51	56	52	57	52	54
Disapprove	27	26	21	29	33	36	26	30	19
Don't know	20	34	24	20	11	12	17	18	27

**Current Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1345	406	573	143	84	46	40
Approve	52	41	54	76	63	44	47
Disapprove	27	43	24	14	19	16	24
Don't know	20	16	22	10	17	40	29

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**Education**

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1345	264	367	493	221
Approve	52	46	50	54	59
Disapprove	27	23	28	28	28
Don't know	20	31	22	18	13

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**First Past the Post Approval**

*The First-Past-The-Post system means that winning parties often govern without the support of the majority. Do you approve or disapprove of First-Past-The-Post Representation*

[All Respondents]

**Age/Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1345	237	184	217	350	357	715	607
Approve	30	27	30	30	31	34	38	24
Disapprove	52	61	50	48	53	43	51	53
Don't know	18	11	20	22	16	23	12	23

**Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	1345	160	234	210	151	136	247
Approve	30	32	28	30	28	28	37
Disapprove	52	38	52	59	56	54	50
Don't know	18	29	20	11	16	18	13

**Region / Language**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1345	96	311	486	106	155	191	1046	299
Approve	30	21	36	32	30	29	23	28	36
Disapprove	52	56	45	51	57	57	61	54	45
Don't know	18	23	20	18	14	14	16	17	19

**Current Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1345	406	573	143	84	46	40
Approve	30	39	29	25	25	31	12
Disapprove	52	44	52	62	63	54	62
Don't know	18	17	19	13	13	16	26

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**Education**

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1345	264	367	493	221
Approve	30	32	29	29	33
Disapprove	52	41	54	55	53
Don't know	18	27	17	15	14

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## TORONTO

August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016

### Ranked Ballot Approval

The Ranked Ballot system means that the winning party is always elected with the support of the majority. Do you approve or disapprove of the Ranked Ballot system?

[All Respondents]

### Age/Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1345	237	184	217	350	357	715	607
Approve	56	60	47	55	58	56	56	55
Disapprove	24	24	29	24	23	20	30	19
Don't know	20	17	23	21	18	24	14	26

### Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	1345	160	234	210	151	136	247
Approve	56	63	55	59	59	49	53
Disapprove	24	14	24	24	20	32	30
Don't know	20	23	21	17	21	18	17

### Region / Language

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1345	96	311	486	106	155	191	1046	299
Approve	56	57	60	53	50	56	58	55	59
Disapprove	24	16	21	26	32	33	19	25	22
Don't know	20	27	19	22	18	12	23	21	19

### Current Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1345	406	573	143	84	46	40
Approve	56	49	62	54	54	52	53
Disapprove	24	32	17	24	33	25	24
Don't know	20	18	21	23	13	23	23

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## Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1345	264	367	493	221
Approve	56	60	55	55	53
Disapprove	24	18	26	25	26
Don't know	20	21	19	20	21

**TORONTO**  
**August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

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***Electoral System Preference***

*Which of the three electoral systems do you prefer?*

*[All Respondents]*

***Age/Gender***

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1345	237	184	217	350	357	715	607
Proportional Representation, or PR	33	42	29	27	34	28	36	30
First-Past-The-Post	18	12	18	21	20	23	23	14
Ranked Ballot	23	27	27	17	22	21	23	24
None of these	10	9	8	12	11	13	9	12
Don't know	15	9	17	22	13	16	10	21

***Income***

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	1345	160	234	210	151	136	247
Proportional Representation, or PR	33	21	28	43	35	36	32
First-Past-The-Post	18	13	19	19	19	15	25
Ranked Ballot	23	27	23	18	23	35	26
None of these	10	15	14	11	9	7	4
Don't know	15	25	15	9	14	7	13

***Region / Language***

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1345	96	311	486	106	155	191	1046	299
Proportional Representation, or PR	33	17	36	31	39	31	40	33	34
First-Past-The-Post	18	15	17	20	15	22	16	19	16
Ranked Ballot	23	29	25	23	21	20	22	23	25
None of these	10	22	8	10	12	9	9	11	10
Don't know	15	17	14	16	13	18	13	15	15

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**Current Federal Vote Preference**

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1345	406	573	143	84	46	40
Proportional Representation, or PR	33	25	33	46	54	38	19
First-Past-The-Post	18	28	15	11	14	17	2
Ranked Ballot	23	18	30	22	10	17	28
None of these	10	15	5	13	13	6	31
Don't know	15	14	16	8	9	23	20

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**Education**

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1345	264	367	493	221
Proportional Representation, or PR	33	24	31	38	34
First-Past-The-Post	18	17	20	16	21
Ranked Ballot	23	21	22	24	26
None of these	10	16	13	6	10
Don't know	15	22	14	16	9

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