

# NEWS RELEASE



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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Opinion Split on Tolls for Gardiner, DVP**

#### **Mayor Tory's approval down**

TORONTO November 25<sup>th</sup> – In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 730 Toronto voters the evening after Mayor John Tory announced his support for tolling the Gardiner Expressway and the Don Valley Parkway to pay for transit projects, there is an exactly even split in opinion on the idea. Just fewer than a half approve (46%) and the same proportion disapprove (45%). One tenth don't have an opinion (9%).

Approval of tolls is characteristic of the oldest (59%), the very wealthiest (\$100K to \$250K - 57%), the best educated (post grad - 52%), those who commute by public transit (50%), those who approve of John Tory (58%) and who voted for him or Olivia Chow (56% each).

Disapproval is common to the mid aged (45 to 54 - 52%), the least wealthy (50%), mothers with children under 18 (50%), private vehicle commuters (60%), those who disapprove of John Tory (67%) and those who voted for Doug Ford in 2014 (61%).

Of those who approve of the mayor, 3-in-10 oppose the tolls (31%), as do 4-in-10 of those who voted for him (38%).

#### **More than half would use these highways less or not at all**

In total, more than half (54%) would use these two highways less (31%) or not at all (23%) if they were tolled. The plurality, close to 4-in-10, claim their usage would not change (38%).

#### **4-in-10 less likely to vote Tory in 2018 if tolling occurs**

Just less than 4-in-10 voters are less likely now to vote for John Tory for mayor in the municipal elections of 2018 if the tolling occurs (38%), while about one fifth are more likely to vote for him (21%). The plurality, one third, are no more nor less likely to vote for the mayor than they were before the tolling was brought up (36%). In other words, more than one half won't change their vote or will change it to Tory (57%).

Being more favourable to the mayor is typical of the oldest (31%), males (25%) rather than females (18%), the wealthiest (28%), the best educated (post grad - 29%), those who already approve of the mayor (29%) and those who voted for him (30%).

#### **MEDIA INQUIRIES:**

Lorne Bozinoff, President  
lbozinoff@forumresearch.com  
416.960.9603

#### **TORONTO**

**November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

#### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- There is an exactly even split in opinion on the idea of road tolls - just fewer than a half approve (46%) and the same proportion disapprove (45%)
- In total, more than half (54%) would use these two highways less (31%) or not at all (23%) if they were tolled
- Just less than 4-in-10 voters are less likely now to vote for John Tory for mayor in the municipal elections of 2018 if the tolling occurs (38%), while about one fifth are more likely to vote for him (21%)

180 Bloor Street W., #1400  
Toronto, ON M5S 2V6  
T 416.960.9600  
F 416.960.9602  
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Saying one is less likely to vote John Tory if the tolling occurs is characteristic of mid aged voters (35 to 54 - 46%), lower income groups (\$20K to \$40K - 46%), those with the least education (46%), private vehicle commuters (49%), those who disapprove of the mayor (62%) and Doug Ford voters (62%).

## **Mayor's approval down**

The mayor now has the approval of just more than 6-in-10 Toronto voters (61%), compared to more than two thirds approval just ten days ago (November 16 - 68%). Approval is common to the oldest (69%), the wealthiest (\$100K to \$250K - 69%), mothers of children under 18 (61%), those with college or university degrees (65%) and those who voted for him (77%). Among these Tory voters, just more than one quarter now disapprove of his performance (23%).

“This is good news for the mayor. For a perennially unpopular idea like road tolls to receive approval from almost half the voters, and to be tied with those who disapprove is unheard of. And while the mayor has seen some of the shine come off his lofty approval ratings with this announcement, he really doesn't risk losing that much of his past vote in the coming election, and he still manages more than half the electorate's support. It may be that Torontonians have finally come to realize this city has to start paying for itself,” 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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Lorne Bozinoff, President  
[lbozinoff@forumresearch.com](mailto:lbozinoff@forumresearch.com)  
416.960.9603

## **TORONTO November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- The mayor now has the approval of just more than 6-in-10 Toronto voters (61%), compared to more than two thirds approval just ten days ago (November 16 - 68%)
- “This is good news for the mayor. For a perennially unpopular idea like road tolls to receive approval from almost half the voters, and to be tied with those who disapprove is unheard of. And while the mayor has seen some of the shine come off his lofty approval ratings with this announcement, he really doesn't risk losing that much of his past vote in the coming election, and he still manages more than half the electorate's support. It may be that Torontonians have finally come to realize this city has to start paying for itself,” 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 730 randomly selected Toronto voters. The poll was conducted on November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 4%, 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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**TORONTO**  
**November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

## John Tory Approval

*'Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the job John Tory is doing as mayor?'*

[All Respondents]

### Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	730	141	123	155	141	170	365	350
Approve	61	66	51	56	65	69	60	63
Disapprove	39	34	49	44	35	31	40	37

### Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	730	77	102	98	83	76	149
Approve	61	54	55	62	60	67	69
Disapprove	39	46	45	38	40	33	31

### Transportation Mode

%	Total	Private vehicle	Public transit	Bicycle	Walking	Some other way	Don't travel to work or school
Sample	730	303	193	29	36	25	144
Approve	61	58	59	80	70	68	63
Disapprove	39	42	41	20	30	32	37

### Past Mayoral Vote Preference

%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample	730	131	302	115	44
Approve	61	35	77	56	49
Disapprove	39	65	23	44	51

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**November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

## Road Tolls

Mayor Tory has called for tolls on the Don Valley Parkway and the Gardiner Expressway, with the proceeds going to fund transit projects. Do you approve or disapprove of this?

[All Respondents]

## Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	730	141	123	155	141	170	365	350
Approve	46	45	46	35	50	59	47	44
Disapprove	45	45	47	52	43	33	45	45
Don't know	9	10	8	14	7	8	8	11

## Income

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	730	77	102	98	83	76	149
Approve	46	30	38	56	44	53	57
Disapprove	45	50	48	39	46	38	41
Don't know	9	20	14	5	9	9	3

## Transportation Mode

%	Total	Private vehicle	Public transit	Bicycle	Walking	Some other way	Don't travel to work or school
Sample	730	303	193	29	36	25	144
Approve	46	35	50	81	63	56	47
Disapprove	45	60	39	14	23	27	38
Don't know	9	6	11	5	14	17	15

## Past Mayoral Vote Preference

%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample	730	131	302	115	44
Approve	46	30	56	56	43
Disapprove	45	61	38	36	47
Don't know	9	9	6	8	10

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**Road Toll Effect on Usage**

*The toll being considered for these highways is two dollars per trip. How would a two dollar toll affect your usage of these highways?*

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	730	141	123	155	141	170	365	350
Would not change your usage of these highways	38	35	40	26	45	49	37	38
Would use these highways less frequently	31	35	28	31	31	27	33	29
Would no longer use these highways	23	23	23	34	20	13	24	22
Don't know	8	8	9	9	4	10	5	11

**Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	730	77	102	98	83	76	149
Would not change your usage of these highways	38	29	31	37	36	40	47
Would use these highways less frequently	31	20	28	30	37	33	34
Would no longer use these highways	23	26	30	25	25	19	17
Don't know	8	24	11	8	2	8	2

**Transportation Mode**

%	Total	Private vehicle	Public transit	Bicycle	Walking	Some other way	Don't travel to work or school
Sample	730	303	193	29	36	25	144
Would not change your usage of these highways	38	30	37	67	64	27	40
Would use these highways less frequently	31	37	26	24	24	31	30
Would no longer use these highways	23	29	25	9	7	31	12
Don't know	8	4	12	0	5	11	18

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*Past Mayoral Vote Preference*

%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample	730	131	302	115	44
Would not change your usage of these highways	38	23	46	47	36
Would use these highways less frequently	31	29	32	28	10
Would no longer use these highways	23	40	17	17	32
Don't know	8	7	5	8	22

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**Road Toll Effect on Likelihood of Voting for John Tory**

*If tolls are imposed on the Don Valley Parkway and the Gardiner Expressway as Mayor Tory wishes, will this make you more likely, less likely or neither more nor less likely to vote for John Tory in the mayoral election of 2018?*

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	730	141	123	155	141	170	365	350
More likely to vote for John Tory	21	18	20	19	24	31	25	18
Less likely to vote for John Tory	38	36	46	46	34	21	40	36
Neither more nor less likely to vote for John Tory	36	39	28	32	41	43	31	40
Don't know	5	7	6	3	1	5	4	6

**Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	730	77	102	98	83	76	149
More likely to vote for John Tory	21	11	21	19	22	23	28
Less likely to vote for John Tory	38	37	46	35	44	39	31
Neither more nor less likely to vote for John Tory	36	40	32	43	33	35	37
Don't know	5	13	1	3	2	3	4

**Transportation Mode**

%	Total	Private vehicle	Public transit	Bicycle	Walking	Some other way	Don't travel to work or school
Sample	730	303	193	29	36	25	144
More likely to vote for John Tory	21	15	24	36	21	31	26
Less likely to vote for John Tory	38	49	36	14	22	15	30
Neither more nor less likely to vote for John Tory	36	33	37	44	44	35	35
Don't know	5	3	2	7	13	20	9

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*Past Mayoral Vote Preference*

%	Total	Doug Ford	John Tory	Olivia Chow	Someone else
Sample	730	131	302	115	44
More likely to vote for John Tory	21	11	30	26	14
Less likely to vote for John Tory	38	62	27	34	39
Neither more nor less likely to vote for John Tory	36	25	39	38	38
Don't know	5	3	3	2	9

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For more information:

Lorne Bozinoff, Ph.D.

President

Forum Research Inc.

Tel: (416) 960-9603

Fax: (416) 960-9602

E-mail: [lbozinoff@forumresearch.com](mailto:lbozinoff@forumresearch.com)

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