

NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Few approve of Ontario budget

Infrastructure spending best liked measure

TORONTO May 1st, 2015 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 912 Ontario voters, just one quarter approve of the Ontario budget (24%), while as many as one half disapprove (49%). One quarter don't offer an opinion (27%).

Budget not seen to be good for economy

Fewer than one quarter of voters think the Ontario budget is good for the economy (22%), and just more think it bad for the economy (26%). Close to half don't know one way or another (44%). The budget is seen in its most positive light by lower income groups (\$20K to \$40K - 28%), mid income groups (\$60K to \$80K - 28%), in Eastern Ontario (28%), Liberal voters (42%) and those who approve of the Premier (45%).

Infrastructure spending liked the best

Among specific budget measures tested, the promise of \$130 billion on infrastructure spending is liked the best (77% approve), followed by auto insurance discounts for those with winter tires (70%), beer sales in grocery stores (65%) and the new \$1 tax on cases of 24 beers (50%).

Few think budget will be balanced in 2018

Fewer than one fifth believe the government will balance the budget by the target date of 2018 (19%), and close to two thirds explicitly believe this won't happen (61%). In fact, it is only among Liberal voters that there is any realistic expectation of a balanced budget (39%), and, even among these partisans, an equal proportion think the budget will not achieve balance in 2018 (37%).

"We see a similar pattern with respect to the Federal budget; while the document as a whole is not well-liked, its constituent parts are appreciated. It's curious that the measure liked best involves the greatest amount of public spending, which makes it clear there is a genuine public hunger for new infrastructure in Ontario," 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

May 1st, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Just one quarter approve of the Ontario budget (24%), while as many as one half disapprove (49%).
- Fewer than one quarter of voters think the Ontario budget is good for the economy (22%), and just more think it bad for the economy (26%).
- Among specific budget measures tested, the promise of \$130 billion on infrastructure spending is liked the best (77% approve).
- "We see a similar pattern with respect to the Federal budget; while the document as a whole is not well-liked, its constituent parts are appreciated. It's curious that the measure liked best involves the greatest amount of public spending, which makes it clear there is a genuine public hunger for new infrastructure in Ontario," 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 912 randomly selected Ontarians 18 years of age and older. The poll was conducted on April 24-30th, 2015.

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

Budget Elements Approval - Summary

%	Approve	Disapprove	Don't know
Overall Budget	24	49	27
Infrastructure	77	15	8
Auto Insurance Discounts	70	23	8
Beer Sales in Grocery Store	65	29	6
Beer Tax	50	42	8

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Budget Approval

'The Ontario budget was just released, Do you approve or disapprove of this budget?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	912	127	116	188	204	277	527	385
Approve	24	26	22	23	22	27	22	26
Disapprove	49	38	55	53	54	50	55	44
Don't know	27	36	23	24	24	23	23	30

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	912	150	217	242	459	175	128
Approve	24	29	24	27	26	23	15
Disapprove	49	47	45	51	49	47	55
Don't know	27	24	31	22	25	30	30

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	912	74	119	124	112	92	212
Approve	24	16	23	29	27	28	25
Disapprove	49	47	48	50	50	46	49
Don't know	27	37	29	21	24	26	26

Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	912	349	266	163	73	30
Approve	24	10	51	18	15	9
Disapprove	49	67	25	55	62	41
Don't know	27	23	24	27	23	50

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Budget: Good, Bad, or Neither for the Economy

'Is this budget good for the economy, bad for the economy or neither good nor bad for the economy?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	912	127	116	188	204	277	527	385
Good for the economy	22	24	21	21	21	21	21	22
Bad for the economy	26	17	23	30	36	29	32	20
Neither good nor bad for the economy	44	48	45	43	37	45	37	50
Don't know	8	11	11	6	6	5	9	8

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	912	150	217	242	459	175	128
Good for the economy	22	28	22	25	24	17	15
Bad for the economy	26	30	16	30	24	26	27
Neither good nor bad for the economy	44	35	54	39	45	47	47
Don't know	8	7	8	7	7	10	11

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	912	74	119	124	112	92	212
Good for the economy	22	14	28	32	28	17	23
Bad for the economy	26	28	27	26	22	19	27
Neither good nor bad for the economy	44	39	37	35	48	57	44
Don't know	8	19	7	8	2	7	6

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Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	912	349	266	163	73	30
Good for the economy	22	10	42	14	24	17
Bad for the economy	26	43	12	23	19	34
Neither good nor bad for the economy	44	41	37	58	52	22
Don't know	8	6	9	5	5	26

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Budget: Auto Insurance Discounts for Using Winter Tires

‘One of the measures in this budget will offer auto insurance discounts to motorists who use winter tires. Do you approve or disapprove of this?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	912	127	116	188	204	277	527	385
Approve	70	73	71	73	66	61	66	73
Disapprove	23	18	21	21	28	32	26	20
Don't know	8	10	8	6	5	7	8	8

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	912	150	217	242	459	175	128
Approve	70	78	71	62	66	69	77
Disapprove	23	19	19	26	23	25	20
Don't know	8	3	10	12	11	6	4

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	912	74	119	124	112	92	212
Approve	70	69	63	67	64	81	76
Disapprove	23	19	30	21	31	15	19
Don't know	8	12	7	12	5	3	5

Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	912	349	266	163	73	30
Approve	70	60	82	66	78	58
Disapprove	23	35	10	23	17	25
Don't know	8	5	8	11	4	17

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Budget: Beer Tax

‘One of the measures in this budget will place a tax of \$1 per case of 24 beers across 4 years. Do you approve or disapprove of this?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	912	127	116	188	204	277	527	385
Approve	50	53	45	53	44	52	45	54
Disapprove	42	40	47	40	46	38	47	37
Don't know	8	7	8	7	10	11	8	9

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	912	150	217	242	459	175	128
Approve	50	51	56	47	50	51	45
Disapprove	42	42	31	46	40	43	46
Don't know	8	7	13	8	10	6	9

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	912	74	119	124	112	92	212
Approve	50	40	54	53	45	48	54
Disapprove	42	48	39	41	47	51	38
Don't know	8	12	7	6	9	1	7

Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	912	349	266	163	73	30
Approve	50	34	72	45	42	54
Disapprove	42	58	22	40	49	42
Don't know	8	7	5	15	9	4

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Budget: Beer Sales in Grocery Stores

‘One of the measures in this budget will allow beer to be sold in up to 450 grocery stores in Ontario. Do you approve or disapprove of this?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	912	127	116	188	204	277	527	385
Approve	65	69	71	58	62	62	67	63
Disapprove	29	28	21	36	30	33	27	32
Don't know	6	3	8	5	8	5	7	5

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	912	150	217	242	459	175	128
Approve	65	73	64	66	65	62	62
Disapprove	29	23	28	28	28	35	32
Don't know	6	4	9	7	8	3	6

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	912	74	119	124	112	92	212
Approve	65	64	54	64	64	80	70
Disapprove	29	30	40	28	30	18	27
Don't know	6	6	6	8	6	2	4

Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	912	349	266	163	73	30
Approve	65	66	67	65	74	48
Disapprove	29	28	29	29	24	48
Don't know	6	6	5	6	2	4

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Budget: Infrastructure Investment

‘One of the measures in this budget will see \$130 billion dollars spent over 10 years on infrastructure, including transit and highways. Do you approve or disapprove of this?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	912	127	116	188	204	277	527	385
Approve	77	82	76	75	75	73	77	77
Disapprove	15	10	16	13	20	18	16	14
Don't know	8	8	8	12	5	8	7	9

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	912	150	217	242	459	175	128
Approve	77	79	85	75	79	74	72
Disapprove	15	14	9	16	13	17	17
Don't know	8	7	6	9	8	9	11

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	912	74	119	124	112	92	212
Approve	77	66	73	75	77	83	83
Disapprove	15	20	19	20	14	9	12
Don't know	8	14	8	5	9	8	5

Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	912	349	266	163	73	30
Approve	77	66	89	79	78	72
Disapprove	15	22	6	12	18	21
Don't know	8	13	5	9	4	7

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Budget: Government is Able to Balance the Budget by 2018

‘The \$130 billion dollar budget includes a deficit of about \$9 billion dollars. Do you agree or disagree the provincial government will balance the budget by 2018?’

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	912	127	116	188	204	277	527	385
Agree	19	20	18	20	18	16	19	18
Disagree	61	63	60	59	63	61	65	58
Don't know	20	18	23	20	19	23	17	24

Region

%	Total	E. Ont	416	905	GTA	SW. Ont	N. Ont
Sample	912	150	217	242	459	175	128
Agree	19	22	21	17	18	16	19
Disagree	61	60	53	65	60	62	66
Don't know	20	18	26	18	21	22	15

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	912	74	119	124	112	92	212
Agree	19	16	18	22	22	11	22
Disagree	61	58	62	63	61	67	60
Don't know	20	26	19	15	17	22	18

Provincial Party Preference

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	912	349	266	163	73	30
Agree	19	6	39	13	16	9
Disagree	61	81	37	66	66	63
Don't know	20	12	24	21	18	28

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