

NEWS RELEASE



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Half Now Opposed to Cutting Council Size

Majority disagree Province should have power to redraw wards

Toronto, August 28th 2018 – In a random sampling of public opinion taken by The Forum Poll™ among 1242 Toronto voters, half (BTM2: 52%) say they are opposed to reducing the size of council, with 4 in 10 (41%) saying they are strongly opposed. Opposition to the cut has risen five points since the end of July (July 27, BTM: 47%).

A third (TOP2: 36%) say they are in favour of reducing the size of council, with a quarter (27%) saying they are strongly in favour.

About 1 in 10 (9%) say that they neither support, nor oppose, while few (2%) say they do not know.

Opinion divided on the City's legal challenge

Just over 4 in 10 (BTM2: 44%) say they are opposed to the legal challenge, with a third (34%) saying they are strongly opposed.

A similar proportion say they support the legal challenge, with 4 In 10 (TOP2: 39%), with a third saying they strongly support the legal challenge.

1 in 10 (11%) say they neither support nor oppose, while few (5%) say they do not know.

Opinion divided on the City's legal challenge

Just over 4 in 10 (BTM2: 44%) say they are opposed to the legal challenge, with a third (34%) saying they are strongly opposed.

A similar proportion say they support the legal challenge, with 4 In 10 (TOP2: 39%), with a third saying they strongly support the legal challenge.

1 in 10 (11%) say they neither support nor oppose, while few (5%) say they do not know.



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Opinion also split on Toronto imposing taxes and tolls

4 in 10 (TOP2: 40%) say they agree that Toronto should have the power to impose its own taxes, with one-fifth (21%) saying they strongly agree.

A similar proportion (BTM2: 38%) say that they disagree that Toronto should have the power to impose its own taxes, with a quarter (27%) saying they strongly disagree.

About one-sixth (17%) say they neither agree nor disagree, while few (5%) say they do not know whether Toronto should be able to impose its own taxes or not.

Results for whether the City should be able to impose its own tolls see a similar divide to taxes, with 4 in 10 (TOP2: 42%) saying the City should be able to impose its own tolls, with a quarter (25%) saying they strongly agree.

A similar proportion (BTM2: 41%) say that they disagree that the City should be able to impose its own tolls, with a third (31%) saying they disagree strongly.

One-sixth (14%) say they neither agree nor disagree, and few (4%) say they do not know whether Toronto should be able to impose its own tolls or not.

Many say cities in Ontario should have more independence of Province

A quarter (23%) say cities in Ontario should have much more power independent of the province, while a third (30%) say it should have somewhat more power.

About 1 in 10 (9%) say cities should have less power independent of the province, while a similar proportion (12%) say it should have somewhat less power.

About one-fifth (22%) say the power balance between cities and the province is okay as it is currently, feeling cities neither need more, nor less power.

Few (5%) say they do not know.



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Two-thirds say council should focus on gun crime, not size

The majority (68%) says council should focus on gun crime, while a third (32%) says the focus should be on council size.

Respondents most likely to say that council should focus on gun crime include those aged 55-64 (76%) or 65+ (73%), females (72%), living in East York (74%), and Liberal voters (77%).

Respondents most likely to say size of council should be the focus include those aged 34 and younger (32%) or 35-44 (36%), males (36%), living in York (42% n=57), and NDP Voters (42%).

“Opposition to the reduction of Toronto city council is growing, with more voters saying they are opposed than at this time last month,” said Dr. Lorne Bozinoff, President of Forum Research. “However, opinions on the city’s legal challenge are roughly evenly divided, with more or less equal numbers saying they support and oppose it. Might some of those opposed to the cut see it as a done deal?”

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.

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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 1242 randomly selected Toronto Voters. The poll was conducted on August 27th 2018.

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 forumpoll.com.



Top2/Btm2 (or 3 or 4 where applicable) refers to the combined results of the most answered positive and negative responses:

Age/Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	631	112	91	133	119	176	303	315
NET: TOP3	66	57	60	68	78	86	67	64
NET: BTM3	34	43	39	32	21	14	32	36
Very satisfied	9	9	6	6	13	20	11	8
Satisfied	28	17	29	35	32	45	25	31
Somewhat satisfied	28	31	26	28	32	20	31	25
Somewhat dissatisfied	12	11	16	14	11	8	13	12
Dissatisfied	11	15	15	9	5	3	9	13
Very dissatisfied	11	18	9	8	5	3	9	12
Don't know	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0

Top 3 here collects very satisfied, satisfied, and somewhat satisfied into one category, and Btm 3 collects very dissatisfied, dissatisfied, and somewhat dissatisfied.

Due to rounding some numbers may not add up to 100

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Reduction in council

Overall, are you in favor or opposed to reducing the size of city council from 44 seats to 25 seats?

Age/Gender

%	Total	< 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over	Male	Female
Sample	1242	133	107	171	208	623	622	600
NET: TOP2	36	32	30	45	41	36	44	28
NET: BTM2	52	54	57	47	46	54	48	56
Strongly in favor	27	26	21	35	32	23	36	19
Somewhat in favor	9	6	9	10	9	13	9	9
Neither in favor nor opposed	9	11	9	6	11	8	6	12
Somewhat opposed	12	14	9	11	9	14	12	12
Strongly opposed	41	41	48	36	37	41	36	45
Don't know	2	2	5	2	2	2	1	3

Region

%	Total	Former City of Toronto	East York	North York	Etobicoke	York	Scarborough
Sample	1242	441	109	258	192	57	185
NET: TOP2	36	26	26	39	52	39	32
NET: BTM2	52	58	69	45	42	56	59
Strongly in favor	27	20	21	27	40	26	26
Somewhat in favor	9	7	4	11	12	13	6
Neither in favor nor opposed	9	13	5	13	6	4	6
Somewhat opposed	12	9	22	11	12	19	12
Strongly opposed	41	48	46	34	30	37	48
Don't know	2	3	1	4	0	1	2



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Voter intent

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1242	413	362	310	75	15
NET: TOP2	36	73	13	18	32	49
NET: BTM2	52	21	69	73	58	26
Strongly in favor	27	59	6	14	15	33
Somewhat in favor	9	13	7	4	18	16
Neither in favor nor opposed	9	4	16	6	9	24
Somewhat opposed	12	6	15	16	12	4
Strongly opposed	41	15	53	57	46	22
Don't know	2	3	2	3	1	0



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Legal challenge

Do you support or oppose Toronto city council's decision to legally challenge the provincial law reducing its size?

Age/Gender

%	Total	< 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over	Male	Female
Sample	1242	133	107	171	208	623	622	600
NET: TOP2	39	37	47	39	39	39	37	42
NET: BTM2	44	46	36	43	50	45	47	41
Strongly support	31	26	42	33	29	31	28	33
Somewhat support	9	11	5	6	10	7	9	8
Neither support nor opposed	11	10	14	15	8	12	11	12
Somewhat opposed	11	13	12	10	8	9	5	16
Strongly opposed	34	33	24	33	42	36	42	25
Don't know	5	6	4	4	3	5	5	5

Region

%	Total	Former City of Toronto	East York	North York	Etobicoke	York	Scarborough
Sample	1242	441	109	258	192	57	185
NET: TOP2	39	45	46	36	39	43	35
NET: BTM2	44	45	41	44	46	32	47
Strongly support	31	36	30	27	28	33	30
Somewhat support	9	8	16	9	11	10	4
Neither support nor opposed	11	7	11	15	10	18	12
Somewhat opposed	11	16	13	10	4	5	13
Strongly opposed	34	29	29	34	42	27	34
Don't know	5	3	2	6	5	7	6



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Voter intent

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1242	413	362	310	75	15
NET: TOP2	39	14	47	57	55	24
NET: BTM2	44	71	36	30	24	22
Strongly support	31	9	36	49	42	15
Somewhat support	9	5	11	9	13	9
Neither support nor opposed	11	11	11	9	13	54
Somewhat opposed	11	10	21	5	8	3
Strongly opposed	34	61	15	25	17	19
Don't know	5	4	6	3	8	0



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Provincial powers over cities

Do you agree or disagree that the province of Ontario should have the power to redraw city ward boundaries for municipalities in the province?

Age/Gender

%	Total	< 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over	Male	Female
Sample	1242	133	107	171	208	623	622	600
NET: TOP2	28	19	24	37	39	29	36	20
NET: BTM2	52	57	58	41	45	51	43	59
Strongly agree	18	12	15	25	26	19	24	12
Somewhat agree	10	7	10	12	13	10	11	8
Neither in agree nor disagree	15	17	13	17	12	13	17	13
Somewhat disagree	15	18	18	12	12	13	9	21
Strongly disagree	36	39	40	29	33	38	34	38
Don't know	6	7	4	5	4	7	4	7



Region

%	Total	Former City of Toronto	East York	North York	Etobicoke	York	Scarborough
Sample	1242	441	109	258	192	57	185
NET: TOP2	28	17	30	31	38	26	28
NET: BTM2	52	68	52	46	37	39	54
Strongly agree	18	9	16	24	25	13	18
Somewhat agree	10	8	14	7	12	13	10
Neither in agree nor disagree	15	11	17	15	17	32	11
Somewhat disagree	15	21	16	15	10	15	14
Strongly disagree	36	48	37	31	27	24	40
Don't know	6	3	1	7	7	3	8

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Voter intent

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1242	413	362	310	75	15
NET: TOP2	28	57	13	10	32	24
NET: BTM2	52	20	67	77	48	51
Strongly agree	18	44	8	3	10	7
Somewhat agree	10	13	6	7	22	17
Neither in agree nor disagree	15	16	14	12	20	11
Somewhat disagree	15	8	22	19	7	22
Strongly disagree	36	12	44	58	41	29
Don't know	6	7	6	2	1	14



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Tax power

Do you agree or disagree that the city of Toronto should have the power to impose its own taxes?

Age/Gender

%	Total	< 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over	Male	Female
Sample	1242	133	107	171	208	623	622	600
NET: TOP2	40	33	40	44	44	46	40	40
NET: BTM2	38	48	35	32	37	30	41	36
Strongly agree	21	15	21	25	27	24	22	20
Somewhat agree	19	18	19	19	17	21	19	20
Neither in agree nor disagree	17	15	18	18	14	20	17	16
Somewhat disagree	11	14	8	10	8	10	12	11
Strongly disagree	27	33	27	22	29	20	29	25
Don't know	5	4	6	6	5	4	2	7

Region

%	Total	Former City of Toronto	East York	North York	Etobicoke	York	Scarborough
Sample	1242	441	109	258	192	57	185
NET: TOP2	40	43	33	41	46	30	36
NET: BTM2	38	39	44	36	33	48	41
Strongly agree	21	25	14	20	28	16	15
Somewhat agree	19	18	18	21	18	13	21
Neither in agree nor disagree	17	15	22	18	16	13	17
Somewhat disagree	11	16	11	11	5	15	10
Strongly disagree	27	22	33	25	29	33	32
Don't know	5	4	1	5	5	9	5

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Voter intent

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1242	413	362	310	75	15
NET: TOP2	40	25	50	44	50	9
NET: BTM2	38	55	30	33	28	54
Strongly agree	21	11	29	24	25	6
Somewhat agree	19	14	22	20	25	3
Neither in agree nor disagree	17	16	16	17	20	37
Somewhat disagree	11	10	5	20	9	12
Strongly disagree	27	45	25	13	19	42
Don't know	5	4	4	6	2	0



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Toll power

Do you agree or disagree that the city of Toronto should have the power to impose its own tolls?

Age/Gender

%	Total	< 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over	Male	Female
Sample	1242	133	107	171	208	623	622	600
NET: TOP2	42	38	46	43	42	42	40	43
NET: BTM2	41	47	38	33	41	36	46	35
Strongly agree	23	19	26	28	24	24	25	22
Somewhat agree	18	19	20	15	18	18	15	21
Neither in agree nor disagree	14	11	12	19	11	16	11	16
Somewhat disagree	9	9	6	9	11	11	8	10
Strongly disagree	31	38	32	24	29	26	38	25
Don't know	4	3	4	4	6	6	3	6

Region

%	Total	Former City of Toronto	East York	North York	Etobicoke	York	Scarborough
Sample	1242	441	109	258	192	57	185
NET: TOP2	42	50	44	39	38	44	37
NET: BTM2	41	39	40	37	48	38	41
Strongly agree	23	29	13	25	23	22	18
Somewhat agree	18	21	32	14	14	22	19
Neither in agree nor disagree	14	9	10	17	10	17	18
Somewhat disagree	9	5	8	11	14	14	9
Strongly disagree	31	34	31	27	34	24	32
Don't know	4	2	6	7	5	1	4



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Voter intent

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1242	413	362	310	75	15
NET: TOP2	42	27	46	53	49	13
NET: BTM2	41	52	37	34	40	69
Strongly agree	23	14	27	30	25	13
Somewhat agree	18	14	19	23	24	0
Neither in agree nor disagree	14	18	12	11	9	18
Somewhat disagree	9	9	9	12	7	25
Strongly disagree	31	43	28	22	33	44
Don't know	4	3	5	3	2	0



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More or less power for cities

Generally, the province has the power to control and shape municipal governments. In your opinion, should cities in Ontario have more power or less power to make decisions independently of the provincial government?

Age/Gender

%	Total	< 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over	Male	Female
Sample	1242	133	107	171	208	623	622	600
Much less power	9	7	7	10	10	10	11	6
Somewhat less power	12	12	10	9	14	11	11	12
Neither more nor less power	22	24	22	25	21	19	24	21
Somewhat more power	30	32	35	27	25	27	27	33
Much more power	23	21	19	24	24	26	25	20
Don't know	5	4	7	5	6	6	3	7

Region

%	Total	Former City of Toronto	East York	North York	Etobicoke	York	Scarborough
Sample	1242	441	109	258	192	57	185
Much less power	9	5	14	7	16	12	8
Somewhat less power	12	14	9	16	11	4	7
Neither more nor less power	22	16	31	20	25	32	26
Somewhat more power	30	32	24	28	21	26	37
Much more power	23	30	20	22	22	23	15
Don't know	5	4	2	7	5	4	7



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Voter intent

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1242	413	362	310	75	15
Much less power	9	19	5	2	4	7
Somewhat less power	12	14	15	8	8	8
Neither more nor less power	22	30	13	18	36	6
Somewhat more power	30	20	33	39	31	7
Much more power	23	10	28	31	20	61
Don't know	5	7	7	2	0	11



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Council focus

In your opinion, which of the following should be Toronto city council's focus?

Age/Gender

%	Total	< 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over	Male	Female
Sample	1242	133	107	171	208	623	622	600
Gun crime	68	64	64	70	76	73	64	72
Size of council	32	36	36	30	24	27	36	28

Region

%	Total	Former City of Toronto	East York	North York	Etobicoke	York	Scarborough
Sample	1242	441	109	258	192	57	185
Gun crime	68	67	74	67	72	58	70
Size of council	32	33	26	33	28	42	30

Voter intent

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Another Party
Sample	1242	413	362	310	75	15
Gun crime	68	67	77	58	71	73
Size of council	32	33	23	42	29	27



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