

NEWS RELEASE



FORUM RESEARCH INC.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Third Think Economy Should be Focus of Ontario Budget

Six-in-ten think budget balance more important than spending

Toronto, April 3rd – In a random sampling of public opinion taken by The Forum Poll™ among 884 Ontario voters, (33%) respond that the economy should be the priority in the 2017 budget. Healthcare (21%) was the second most popular response, followed by the Environment (12%), Infrastructure (10%), Other (10%), and Education (9%). Only a small proportion of respondents said they do not know (5%) what the priority should be.

Those most likely to respond that the economy should be the priority include respondents aged 45-54 (40%) and 55-64 (38%), males (43%), the most wealthy (41%), living in Eastern Ontario (38%), and supporting the Progressive Conservatives (50%).

Respondents most likely to say healthcare should be the priority include those that are aged 65 and over (31%), the least wealthy (32%), the least educated (32%), living in Southwestern or North Eastern Ontario (27%), and supporting the NDP (26%).

Balanced Budget Key

More than six-in-ten (61%) believe that a balanced budget is more important than spending on programs and services (39%).

Those most likely to support a balanced budget include respondents that are aged 45-54 (70%) or 55-64 (67%), earning \$40,000-\$60,000 (65%), \$60,000-\$80,000 (63%), or the most wealthy (63%), living in Southwestern (64%) or Northeastern Ontario (64%), and supporting the Progressive Conservatives (85%).

Respondents most likely to say spending on programs and services is more important include those aged 34 or less (43%) or 35-44 (46%), the least wealthy (56%), with a post-graduate degree (47%), and supporting the NDP (62%).

“Money issues are top of mind for many voters right now, with almost two-thirds holding the opinion that a balanced budget is more important than spending on programs and services. When looking at overall issues of concern to most voters, the Economy and Healthcare are clearly the frontrunners,” said Dr. Lorne Bozinoff, President of Forum Research.

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 884 randomly selected Ontario Voters. The poll was conducted on March, 28-30 2017.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 3.3%, 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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Budget Priority

What should be the provincial government's priority in the 2017 budget?

Age/Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	884	139	120	150	220	255	465	402
Education	9	16	12	4	3	4	6	12
Healthcare	21	11	22	21	30	31	17	25
The Environment	12	18	11	10	4	10	11	12
The Economy	33	29	32	40	38	30	43	26
Infrastructure	10	10	6	13	9	10	12	7
Other	10	12	11	7	10	10	9	11
Don't know	5	3	6	3	6	7	3	6

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	884	62	127	138	105	98	163
Education	9	11	6	7	5	17	11
Healthcare	21	32	24	26	18	19	16
The Environment	12	7	17	9	14	13	10
The Economy	33	11	29	36	33	33	41
Infrastructure	10	5	12	9	12	11	12
Other	10	22	8	9	13	6	10
Don't know	5	11	5	4	4	3	1

Region

%	Total	Eastern Ontario	Toronto 416	905	South-western Ontario	North-eastern Ontario	North-western Ontario
Sample	884	159	181	228	196	109	11
Education	9	8	15	12	2	4	4
Healthcare	21	18	17	20	27	27	25
The Environment	12	15	12	8	12	17	23
The Economy	33	38	34	30	37	28	38
Infrastructure	10	7	14	10	7	11	9
Other	10	11	7	14	10	6	0
Don't know	5	3	2	7	5	7	0



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Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	884	124	227	372	161
Education	9	3	8	8	17
Healthcare	21	32	19	23	15
The Environment	12	8	13	9	17
The Economy	33	37	37	34	25
Infrastructure	10	4	9	9	14
Other	10	8	11	11	8
Don't know	5	7	4	5	4

Voter Ballot Intention

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Other Parties
Sample	884	374	173	179	75	27
Education	9	5	17	11	6	12
Healthcare	21	20	21	26	18	17
The Environment	12	4	15	17	29	5
The Economy	33	50	22	22	28	22
Infrastructure	10	11	12	9	3	5
Other	10	7	6	11	16	19
Don't know	5	3	8	3	1	19



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Budget Priority: balance or spending

Which of the following is more important to you: a balanced budget or more spending on programs and services?

Age/Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	884	139	120	150	220	255	465	402
Balanced budget	61	57	54	70	67	63	70	54
More spending on programs and services	39	43	46	30	33	37	30	46

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	884	62	127	138	105	98	163
Balanced budget	61	44	59	65	63	53	63
More spending on programs and services	39	56	41	35	37	47	37

Region

%	Total	Eastern Ontario	Toronto 416 905	South-western Ontario	North-eastern Ontario	North-western Ontario
Sample	884	159	181	228	196	11
Balanced budget	61	65	60	59	64	46
More spending on programs and services	39	35	40	41	36	54

Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	884	124	227	372	161
Balanced budget	61	63	65	62	53
More spending on programs and services	39	37	35	38	47



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Voter Ballot Intention

%	Total	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	New Democratic	Green	Other Parties
Sample	884	374	173	179	75	27
Balanced budget	61	85	42	38	61	72
More spending on programs and services	39	15	58	62	39	28

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