

National Electors Study on the 43rd Canadian Federal General Election

Report on Voter Experience

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**National Electors Study on the 43rd Canadian Federal General Election: Report on Voter Experience
Final Report**

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This public opinion research report presents the results of the voter experience research conducted to help evaluate the October 21, 2019 federal election.

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Executive Summary

Elections Canada (EC) is the independent, non-partisan agency responsible for conducting Canadian federal elections. In the context of the 43rd federal general election (GE) held on October 21, 2019, EC conducted the 2019 National Electors Study (NES), the largest public opinion study of electors ever conducted by EC for a federal election. This study measures electors' attitudes and experiences of the GE to inform evaluation and development of EC policy, programs and services to electors.

The NES consisted of two components: 1) a national longitudinal survey of electors conducted between June and December 2019, and 2) a series of post-election focus groups and interviews. The survey component was conducted by telephone and online with eligible electors (i.e. Canadian citizens at least 18 years of age on election day), and involved three waves of surveys conducted before, during, and after the election period. Respondents to each survey were as follows: n=49,993 for the pre-election survey; n=23,880 for the election period survey; and n=21,435 for the post-election survey.

Two-thirds of initial respondents were obtained via random sampling; the remainder were sourced from an online panel of volunteer participants. The inclusion of this non-random sample means no estimate of sampling error can be calculated for the entire sample. When only the random samples are considered, all samples are of a size such that overall results across all waves would have a margin of sampling error less than $\pm 1\%$, 19 times out of 20.

This report presents the survey results on electors' perspectives on the administration of the 43rd GE and their experience of the voting process. Presented below is a summary of the findings, following the same thematic organization of the [detailed findings](#).

Two other reports present the findings of the NES on other topics, including a report on the voter information campaign and elector awareness during the 43rd GE and a report on electors' views on election-related policy issues.

Attitudes and Past Voting Behaviour

- Among respondents to the pre-election survey, a substantial majority (80%) said they are at least somewhat interested in politics, with just over one-third (35%) saying they are very interested.
- Nearly three-quarters (73%) of electors said they view voting primarily as a duty, while one-quarter (25%) said they view it primarily as a choice.
- Approximately half (52%) of electors surveyed reported voting in all elections since they have been eligible to vote, compared to three in 10 (30%) who said they voted in most elections they have been eligible to vote in, and approximately one in 10 (12%) who said they voted in some elections.
- Just over eight in 10 (83%) respondents said they had voted in the previous (42nd) federal general election held on October 19, 2015.¹

Voter Registration

- Nine in 10 (89%) electors in the pre-election survey said they were already registered to vote in a Canadian federal election.
- Most often, registered electors in the pre-election survey said they knew they were registered based on their experience in the 42nd GE: Two-thirds (66%) said they knew they were registered from

¹ See [Notes to Readers](#) for a discussion on historical over-reporting of voter turnout in public opinion surveys.

voting in the last federal election; nearly half (48%) said their information had not changed since the last election; four in 10 (40%) said they knew because they had received a voter information card (VIC) before.

- Post-election, approximately nine in 10 (93%) of those aware of the 43rd GE said they received a VIC in the mail addressed to them personally, which serves to notify electors of their registration. This represents a slight increase from the 2015 Survey of Electors when 90% recalled receiving a VIC. Virtually everyone who recalled receiving a VIC said their name (98%) and address (98%) on the card were correct.
- Regardless of whether or not they received a VIC, electors were asked what, if anything, they did during the election period to make sure they were registered to vote in the 43rd GE. Half (50%) said they checked and made sure that they were already registered to vote. Other actions were identified infrequently: 7% said they updated their registration information; 3% said they registered to vote. In all, 38% reported taking none of these actions.
- A majority (57%) of respondents who made sure they were registered to vote in the 43rd GE said they did this by checking that the information on their VIC was correct. Just over one in five (22%) used the online voter registration system, while one in 10 (10%) said they contacted Elections Canada through the agency's website.
- Among those who were not registered as of the pre-election survey, three-quarters (75%) expected that it would be easy for them to register, although only about a quarter (28%) expected it would be very easy. In actual experience, electors found it easier than expected to register: In the post-election survey, 92% of those who registered to vote during the election said they found the experience to be easy, with two-thirds (67%) saying it was very easy.

Contact with Elections Canada

- Just over one in 10 (12%) electors said they contacted Elections Canada during the election period, an increase from the 7% who said this in the 2015 Survey of Electors following the 42nd GE.
- Electors who contacted Elections Canada during the election period were most likely to do so through a form on the agency's website (39%) or by phone (36%). Approximately one in five (21%) visited a local Elections Canada office, while just over one in 10 (11%) used email. Smaller numbers used social media (5%) and mail (4%).
- The vast majority (89%) of those who contacted Elections Canada said they were at least somewhat satisfied with the service they received (two-thirds or 66% said they were *very* satisfied).
- Just over one-third of electors (35%) said they visited Elections Canada's website during the election period, up from 23% in the 2015 Survey of Electors. Most of those who visited Elections Canada's website said they were somewhat (40%) or very (52%) satisfied with their experience using it.

Voter Participation

- In the post-election survey, nine in 10 (90%) electors aware of the 43rd federal general election held on October 21, 2019 said they voted in the election.²
- Electors aware of the election who said they did not vote most often pointed to political reasons to explain why (43%; up from 37% in 2015), followed at a distance by everyday life or health reasons (29%; down from 45%) and reasons related to the electoral process (12%).
- The majority (57%) of electors who said they voted in the recent federal election reported doing so at a polling station on election day, while nearly four in 10 (37%) reported going to an advance

² See [Notes to Readers](#) for a discussion on historical over-reporting of voter turnout in public opinion surveys.

polling station to vote. This represents a considerable decrease in self-reported election-day voting and an increase in advance voting compared to the 2015 Survey of Electors, where 73% reported voting on election day compared to 25% who voted at an advance poll. This is consistent with the trend, if not the degree, of increasing advance voting that has been observed across previous surveys and official results through multiple past elections.

Getting to the Polling Place

- Among those who voted at an advance poll, over one-third (37%) took advantage of the new extended advance voting hours for the 43rd GE and reported that they went to vote before noon.
- In the post-election survey, over half (54%) of in-person voters said it took them five minutes or less to get to the polling station, better than electors expected: Only 28% of electors expected it would take this long when asked in the pre-election survey.
- Nearly everyone (98%) said the voting place was located a reasonable distance from their home, with 88% saying the distance was very reasonable. This is similar to 2015 results, when 97% said the polling place was a convenient distance from their home.
- Nearly all (93%) of those who voted in person said the polling place was in a location that was at least somewhat familiar to them, with three-quarters (73%) saying the location was very familiar to them.
- In the beginning phases of the election period, two-thirds (67%) of electors with a disability said they expected it would be very easy for them to enter and access the polling place. In the post-election survey, the actual experience of voters with a disability exceeded their expectations: 85% of those who voted in person found it very easy to access the polling place. An additional 12% said it was somewhat easy.
- Virtually all voters (98%) said the building where they voted was at least somewhat suitable for holding an election, with a substantial majority (83%) describing it as very suitable. This represents no change from 2015, when 97% said suitable and 82% said very suitable.

Experience at the Polling Place

- Nine in 10 (91%) electors who received a VIC and voted in person said they brought their VIC with them to the polling place, which could allow them to bypass the registration desk and proceed directly to the polling station in a streamlined voting process for the 43rd GE. A similar proportion (89%) of voters brought their VIC to the polls in 2015.
- Voters said it took less time to cast their ballot than they had expected: During the pre-election survey, only about a third (35%) of electors said they expected it would take five minutes or less to vote. In the post-election survey, nearly two-thirds (63%) of voters said it took them no more than five minutes to vote once they arrived at the polling place.
- Voters in the 2019 election reported taking an overall average of eight minutes to cast their ballot, a four-minute improvement from the 12-minute average reported for the 2015 election.
- Differences in the time it took to vote across voting methods narrowed considerably in 2019 compared to those reported in 2015: The average time to vote was eight minutes for both advance polls and local EC offices, versus averages of 21 and 19 minutes in 2015, respectively.
- Ninety-five percent (up from 92% in 2015) of in-person voters said the time it took for them to vote was reasonable. Among advance voters, 93% said the time it took to vote was reasonable, up from 80% of advance voters who said the same in 2015.

Voter Identification

- Nearly all voters (94%) reported using one piece of government-issued photo ID to prove their identity and address when they voted: 89% used their driver's licence, while 5% used a general provincial or territorial photo identification card.³ Another 4% used two authorized pieces of ID that together could establish identity and address for the purposes of voting. Less than 1% had to declare their identity and address in writing and have another elector from their polling station vouch for them in order to vote. Overall, the distribution of voters who used each option for meeting the identification requirements was similar to 2015.
- Among voters who presented two pieces of ID to meet the identification requirements for voting, the health card was the most common piece of ID used that could satisfy the proof of identity requirement (used by 53% of voters who used two pieces). The VIC was the most common piece used to satisfy proof of address (used by 43% of voters who used two pieces), which is notable, considering this was the first general election in which the VIC was authorized as an acceptable proof of address for the purposes of voting.
- During the election period survey, nearly nine in 10 (87%) electors expected it would be very easy for them to prove their identity and address if they were to vote; 10% expected it would be somewhat easy. In the post-election survey, an even greater proportion (94%) of voters reported that they found it actually very easy to prove their identity and address when they voted, and another 5% said it was somewhat easy. These proportions are similar to 2015.

Accessible Voting Services

- Half (50%) of electors with a disability said they were aware of the voting tools and services Elections Canada offers to make voting more accessible, an increase in awareness from 2015, when 43% said they were aware.
- Seven percent of electors with a disability who voted in person said someone assisted them in marking their ballot. Among these, more than eight in 10 (85%) indicated that Elections Canada staff assisted them, while one in 10 (10%) said they were assisted by someone they knew, such as a family member, friend, or personal support worker.
- Approximately eight in 10 (82%) voters with a disability indicated that Elections Canada staff were at least somewhat sensitive to their needs when voting, with a majority (56%) indicating that staff were very sensitive to their needs.

Satisfaction with the Voting Process

- Of those who voted in person, nearly everyone (98%) said they were at least somewhat satisfied with the services provided by Elections Canada staff, and a substantial majority (85%) said they were very satisfied. These proportions are similar to 2015, when 97% were satisfied and 86% were very satisfied.
- Nearly everyone said they found it was overall easy for them to vote: 85% of voters found it very easy to vote, while another 13% found voting to be somewhat easy.
- Most voters (97%) said they were at least somewhat satisfied with their voting experience, with a substantial majority (80%) expressing strong satisfaction with the experience. These proportions are similar to 2015, when 96% were satisfied and 81% very satisfied.

³ For simplicity, this proportion includes use of the BC Services card, which also includes photo, name, and address.

Overall Satisfaction with Elections Canada and the Election

- Nine in 10 (90%) respondents felt that Elections Canada ran the election at least somewhat fairly (with 70% saying very fairly). These proportions are effectively the same as results from 2015, when 92% said EC ran the election fairly and 67% said very fairly.
- There was also widespread trust in the accuracy of the election results in respondents' respective ridings: 89% had at least some level of trust in the accuracy of the results, with 61% saying their trust was very high. This represents a slight decrease from the 2015 Survey of Electors, when 92% had at least some trust and 65% had a very high level of trust in the accuracy of the results.
- Over the course of the election, the proportion of electors who had confidence in Elections Canada increased measurably from the pre-election baseline of 85% up to 92% in the post-election survey. Most notably, the proportion who said they have a great deal of confidence increased from a third (35%) of electors to more than half (58%) following the 43rd general election.
- Satisfaction with the way democracy works in Canada increased among electors from the election period survey to the post-election survey: Just over three-quarters (78%) of post-election respondents indicated that they are at least somewhat satisfied with the way democracy works in Canada, including one-third (33%) who are very satisfied (up from 71% and 23% of election period respondents, respectively).

Introduction

Elections Canada commissioned Phoenix Strategic Perspectives Inc. (Phoenix SPI) and Advanis to conduct research to help evaluate the 43rd federal general election.

Background and Objectives

Elections Canada (EC) is an independent, non-partisan agency that reports directly to Parliament. The agency is mandated to conduct federal general elections, by-elections, and referendums; administer the political financing provisions of the *Canada Elections Act*; monitor compliance; and enforce electoral legislation.

In the context of a federal general election (GE), EC conducts studies of electors that are used as part of the evaluation and development of EC's programs and services and to inform the Chief Electoral Officer's reports to Parliament.

The 2019 National Electors Study (NES) is EC's primary public opinion research study conducted for the 43rd GE held on October 21, 2019. The NES measures electors' values, opinions, and attitudes toward various election-related policy issues; their knowledge of, expectations toward, and experience with the electoral process; and their satisfaction with the agency's communications, services, and programs.

Many measures in the 2019 NES provide continuity with previous EC surveys conducted in 2015 for the 42nd GE, including the Survey of Electors, Evaluation of the Electoral Reminder Program, and the National Youth Survey.

The NES consisted of two components: 1) a national longitudinal survey of electors, and 2) a series of post-election focus groups and interviews. For the first time, the survey of electors included: a large-scale longitudinal sample in addition to a discrete random sample; integrated use of mixed online and telephone surveying; and three waves of data collection conducted before, during, and after the election period.

This report presents the survey results on electors' perspectives on the administration of the 43rd GE, in terms of:

- perceptions and experiences with registration and voter identification
- expectations and experiences with voting
- experiences and satisfaction with Elections Canada services
- overall confidence in Elections Canada and trust in the fair administration of the election

Two other reports present the findings of the NES on other topics, including a report on the voter information campaign and elector awareness during the 43rd GE and a report on electors' views on election-related policy issues.

The results from all reports will be used to assist in evaluating and refining Elections Canada's programs and services to the electorate.

Methodology

A brief overview of the 2019 NES quantitative methodology is provided in this section. A detailed description of the research methodology, including the research instruments, can be found under separate cover.

The National Electors Study was conducted by telephone (by live interviewers) and online (via Advanis’s online survey platform) between June and December 2019 in three survey waves. All respondents were eligible electors—Canadian citizens who were at least 18 years of age on polling day (October 21, 2019). The questionnaires varied in length from 15 to 20 minutes.

The longitudinal sample was recruited for the pre-election survey (W1) in June 2019 using probability sampling (random-digit dial phone recruitment using an overlapping dual frame, including landlines and cellphones) and non-probability sampling (web panel). Two-thirds of respondents were obtained using probability sampling. Electors were recruited in proportion to the population by province, age, and gender. To ensure sufficient final sample sizes, the recruitment targets took into consideration expected attrition across each sample source. Respondents in the longitudinal sample were invited back to participate in subsequent survey waves. A discrete random-digit dial sample was recruited solely for the post-election survey wave to offset attrition in the longitudinal sample.

The table below presents technical information about each wave of surveying:

Wave	Sample	Method of data collection	Field period	Sample size
W1	Longitudinal	Online, telephone	Pre-election: June 12 to July 14, 2019	49,993
W2	Longitudinal	Online	Election period: September 3 to October 20, 2019	23,880
W3a	Longitudinal	Online, telephone	Post-election: October 23 to December 9, 2019	19,435
W3b	Discrete	Telephone	Post-election: October 22 to November 12, 2019	2,000

The W2 election period survey was fielded as a rolling cross-section and divided into five phases. Questions changed based on the survey date to correspond with milestones in the election period, as follows:

- September 3 to 17: Early election phase (W2a)
- September 18 to October 1: Registration phase (W2b)
- October 2 to 8: Voter information card phase (W2c)
- October 9 to 15: Early voting phase (W2d)
- October 16 to 20: Election day phase (W2e)

The survey data have been weighted to correspond to the demographic composition of the full population of electors. Weighting was done in two stages: adjustments for factors related to the study design, including differences in probability of selection between sample frames, the in-scope rate, non-response, and household size; followed by post-stratification/calibration to align the results with known population characteristics of age, gender, and province/territory. Different weights were calculated at each wave to account for attrition in the longitudinal sample over the course of the study.

The inclusion of the non-random web panel means no estimate of sampling error can be calculated for the entire sample, and results are not statistically projectable to the entire elector population. A margin of sampling error and statistical estimations can be obtained if the panel is excluded and only the random samples are considered, in which case all samples are of a size such that overall results across all

waves would have a margin of sampling error less than $\pm 1\%$, 19 times out of 20. The margins of error for subsamples would be larger.

Notes to Reader

- This research relies on self-reported voter turnout, which historically is over-reported in public opinion surveys: In this survey, self-reported turnout was 90%, while the official turnout rate for the 43rd GE among registered electors was 67%. A limitation of this current research, therefore, is that it over-represents voters in the survey sample. Two factors may be responsible for the over-representation of voters: 1) people who vote may be more likely than non-voters to participate in a study about voting (response bias); and 2) people who did not vote may report doing so because they think to present themselves in a more positive light (social desirability bias).
- The term *elector* denotes survey participants who were eligible to vote in the 43rd GE (i.e., all respondents). The term *voter* denotes survey participants who reported that they voted in the 43rd GE.
- All results in the report are expressed as percentages, unless otherwise noted. Percentages may not always add up to 100% due to rounding or multiple mentions.
- The number of respondents varies where questions were asked of sub-samples of the survey population and during different survey waves.
- Statistically significant subgroup differences are identified in the report. Subgroup reporting includes a variety of demographic, behavioural, and attitudinal variables. Particular subgroups were defined as follows:
 - Indigenous: Electors who self-identified as First Nations, Inuit, or Métis
 - new Canadians: Immigrants to Canada who became citizens after the 42nd GE, and therefore were newly eligible to vote in the 43rd GE
 - NEET youth: Electors 18 to 34 years old who were “Not Employed, in Education or in Training” during the fieldwork, compared to youth attending school (i.e. 18 to 34, full-time or part-time secondary or post-secondary students) and youth working full-time or part-time (and not attending school)
 - electors with disabilities: These respondents were identified using a functional disability approach based on reported difficulty with various activities, combined to a single measure of overall level of disability, on a scale ranging from no disability to mild to very severe disability
- The results of significance tests establish the extent of relationships among variables, but cannot be generalized to the population, given the inclusion of respondents collected from a non-probability sample. When reporting subgroup variations, only differences that are significant at the 95% confidence level and that pertain to a subgroup sample size of more than $n=30$ are discussed. If one or more categories in a subgroup are not mentioned in a discussion of subgroup differences, it can be assumed that significant differences were found only among the categories reported.
- Comparisons to results from the 2015 [Survey of Electors Following the 42nd General Election](#) are included when possible.

Detailed Findings

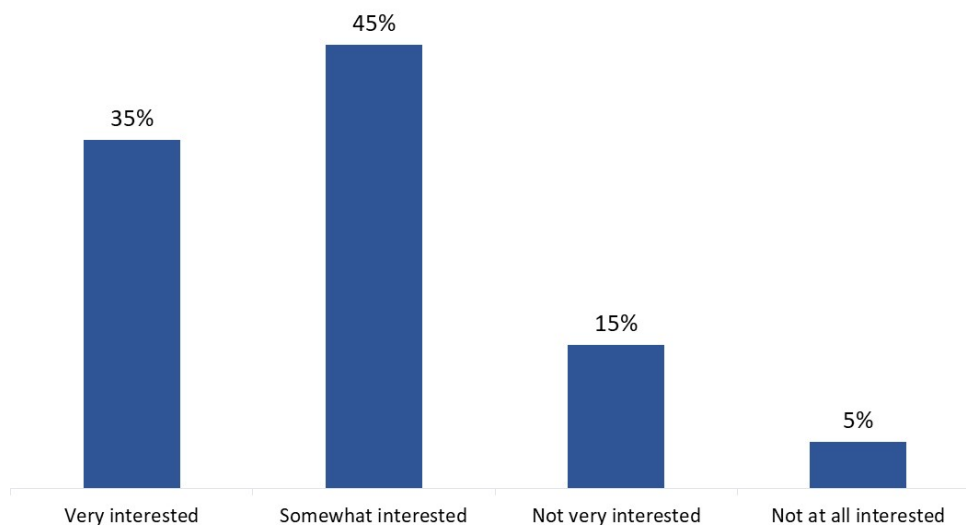
1. Attitudes and Past Voting Behaviour

This section of the report presents findings related to electors' pre-election views on politics and voting along with their past voting behaviour.

Substantial majority have at least some interest in politics

Among respondents to the pre-election survey, a substantial majority (80%) said they are at least somewhat interested in politics, with just over one-third (35%) saying they are very interested. Conversely, 15% said they are not very interested in politics, and 5% said they are not at all interested.

Figure 1: Interest in politics



Q. In general, how interested are you in politics? Base: n=49,993; all respondents. [DK/NR: 1%] [Wave 1]

The following were less likely to be very interested in politics:

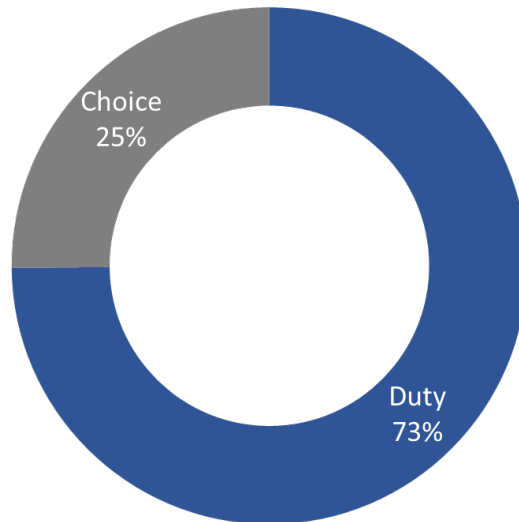
- women (28%) compared to men (43%)
- new Canadians (31%) compared to other Canadians (35%)
- 18- to 24-year-olds (30%) compared to Canadians aged 25 and older (36%)
- NEET youth (22%) compared to youth in school (34%) or working full-time (33%)

In addition, the likelihood of being very interested in politics decreased as the severity of a disability increased, from 37% of those with no disability to 28% of those with a severe or very severe disability.

Nearly three-quarters described voting first and foremost as a duty

Asked if they personally think voting is first and foremost a duty or choice, nearly three-quarters (73%) of respondents said they view voting as more of a duty, while one-quarter (25%) said they view it as more of a choice. Two percent did not know or chose not to provide a response.

Figure 2: Is voting a duty or choice?



Q. For you personally, is voting first and foremost a duty or a choice? Base: n=49,993; all respondents. [DK/NR: 2%] [Wave 1] [Split sample presented Q55 or Q56]

The following were less likely to view voting as a duty compared to a choice:

- Indigenous electors (61% versus 74% of non-Indigenous electors)
- electors aged 18–24 (64% versus 74% of ages 25 and older)
- NEET youth (57%) compared to youth attending school (67%) and youth working full-time (70%)
- those uninterested in politics (54% versus 78% of those who are interested)

In addition, the likelihood of viewing voting as a duty more than a choice:

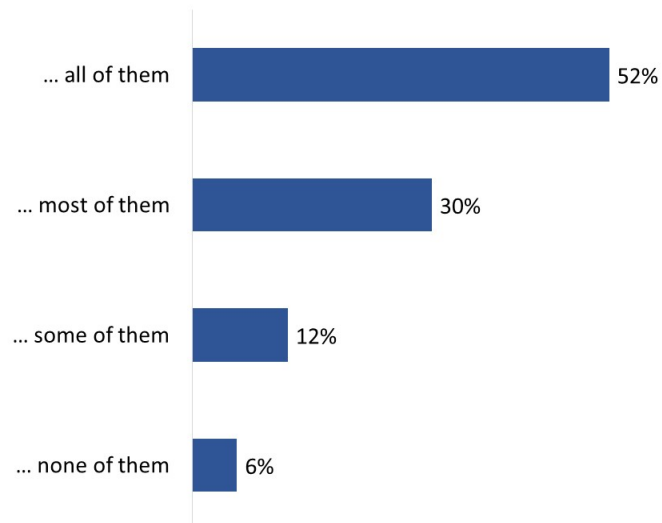
- decreased as the severity of a disability increased, from 76% of those without a disability to 62% of those with a severe or very severe disability
- increased with age, from 64% among ages 18–24 to 83% among ages 75 and up
- increased with level of education, from 61% of electors with up to a high school diploma to 79% of electors who completed university

Just over half claimed to have voted in all elections

Just over half of electors (52%) reported voting in all elections since they have been eligible to vote. Close to one-third (30%) said they voted in most elections they have been eligible to vote in, and 12% said they voted in some elections. Few (6%) said they did not vote in any elections.

Figure 3: Participation in previous elections

Thinking about previous elections where I've been eligible to vote, I recall voting in ...



Q. In each election, many people don't or can't vote for a variety of reasons. Thinking about all elections since you have been eligible to vote, have you voted in none of them, some, most, or all of them? Base: n= 49,993; all respondents. [DK/NR: 1%] [Wave 1]

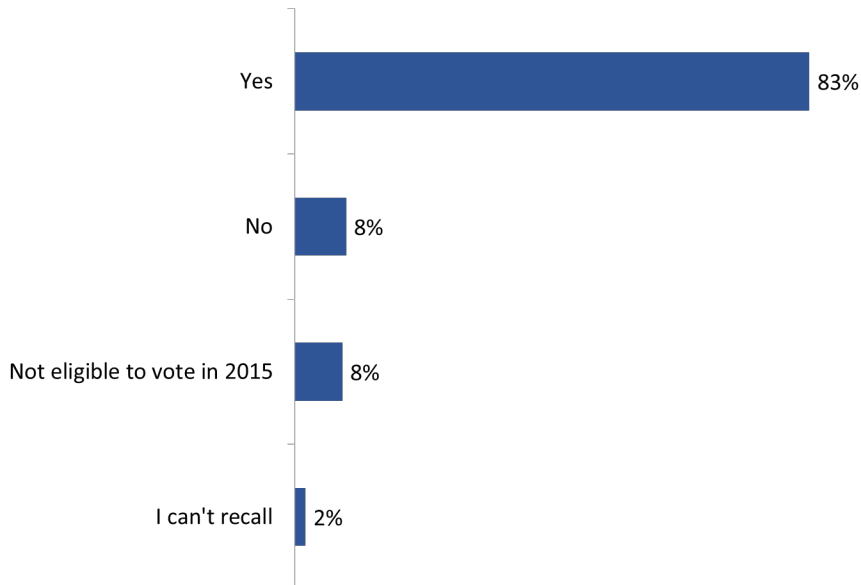
Members of the following subgroups were less likely to say they had voted in all elections:

- electors with a severe/very severe disability (38%) or a mild/moderate disability (48%) compared to those without a disability (55%)
- Indigenous electors (38%) compared to non-Indigenous electors (53%)
- immigrants who became citizens before the 42nd GE (48%) and those who became new citizens after the 42nd GE (32%), compared to non-immigrants (53%)
- Canadians aged 18–24 years (43%) compared to those aged 25 and older (53%)
- NEET youth (30%) compared to 18- to 34-year-olds working full-time (46%) or attending school (43%)
- those uninterested in politics (32%) compared to those who are interested (57%)
- those who view voting as more of a choice (28%) compared to those who view voting as more of a duty (61%)

Eight in 10 voted in the previous federal election

Just over eight in 10 (83%) respondents said they voted in the previous federal election held on October 19, 2015; nearly one in 10 (8%) were new electors in 2019, having been ineligible to vote in 2015.

Figure 4: Voting in the 2015 federal general election



Q. Did you vote in the previous federal election held on October 19, 2015? Base: n=49,883; all respondents. [Wave 1]

The following were less likely to say they voted in the 2015 federal general election:

- electors with a severe/very severe disability (71%) compared to those with no disability (85%) or a mild/moderate disability (81%)
- Indigenous electors (75%) compared to non-Indigenous electors (83%)
- those uninterested in politics (65%) compared to those who are interested (87%)
- those who view voting as more of a choice (67%) compared to those who view voting as more of a duty (89%)

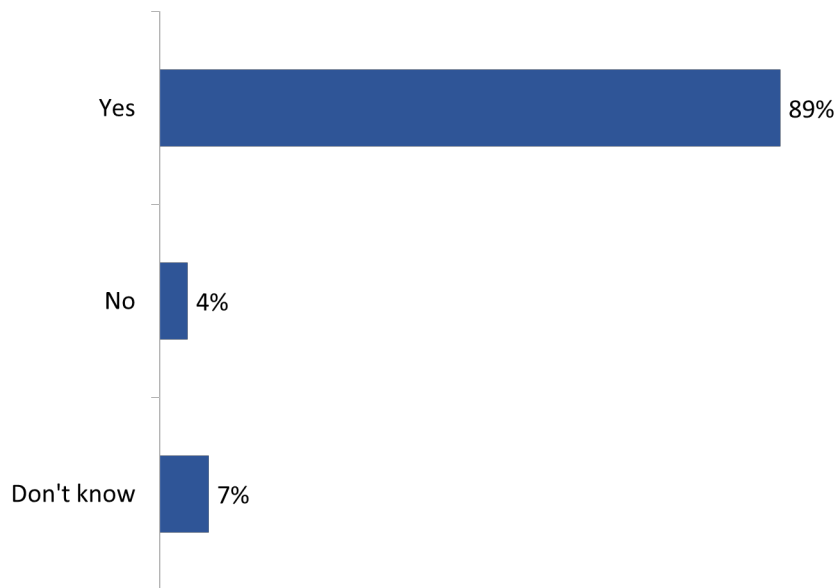
2. Voter Registration

This section of the report details electors' experience with voter registration prior to and during the 2019 federal election.

Nine in 10 electors said they were already registered before the election

Nine in 10 (89%) electors in the pre-election survey said they were already registered to vote in a Canadian federal election. Four percent said they were not registered, and 7% said they did not know.

Figure 5: Registration status



Q. Are you personally registered to vote in a Canadian federal election? Base: n=49,993; all respondents. [Wave 1]

The following were less likely to say they were registered:

- respondents with a severe or very severe disability (82%) compared to those with no disability (90%) or a mild or moderate disability (87%)
- Indigenous electors (84%) compared to non-Indigenous electors (89%)
- new Canadians (60%) compared to immigrants who became Canadian citizens before the 42nd GE (88%) and non-immigrants (90%)
- Canadians 18–24 years of age (64%) compared to those aged 25 and older (92%)
- youth attending school (70%) and NEET youth (70%) compared to youth working full-time (83%)
- non-binary/transgender electors (79%) compared to 89% of men and 90% of women

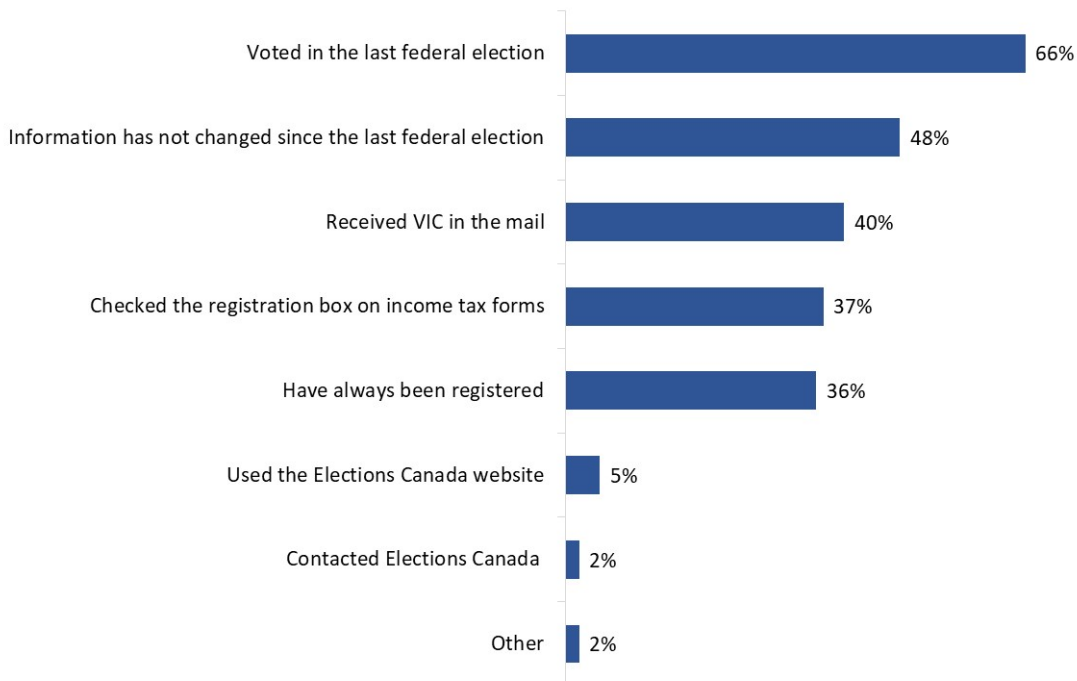
Two-thirds knew they were registered to vote because they voted in the last election

Most often, registered electors in the pre-election survey said they knew they were registered based on their experience in the 42nd GE: Two-thirds (66%) said they knew they were registered from voting in the last federal election; nearly half (48%) said their information had not changed since the last election; four in 10 (40%) said they knew because they had received a voter information card (VIC).

Just over a third (36%) said they knew they had always been registered, suggesting their knowledge of being registered pre-dated the 42nd GE. Another third (37%) said they had checked the registration box on their income tax forms, which is notable considering the pre-election survey took place in June,

shortly after income tax season. Few mentioned having used the Elections Canada website (5%) or contacted Elections Canada (2%).

Figure 6: Source of information on registration status



Q. How do you know that you are registered to vote? [Multiple responses accepted] Base: n=44,559; those who knew they were registered. [DK/NR: 2%] [Wave 1]

Majority recalled receiving a VIC and virtually everyone said the address and name were correct

Post-election, approximately nine in 10 (93%) of those aware of the federal election said they received a voter information card (VIC) in the mail addressed to them personally, which serves to notify electors of their registration. This represents a slight increase from the 2015 Survey of Electors, when 90% recalled receiving a VIC.

The following groups were less likely to recall receiving a VIC:

- electors with a severe/very severe disability (89%) compared to those with a mild/moderate disability (92%) or no disability (93%)
- Indigenous electors (86%) compared to non-Indigenous electors (93%)
- new Canadians (89%) compared to other Canadians (93%)
- Canadians aged 18–24 (83%) compared to Canadians aged 25 and older (94%)

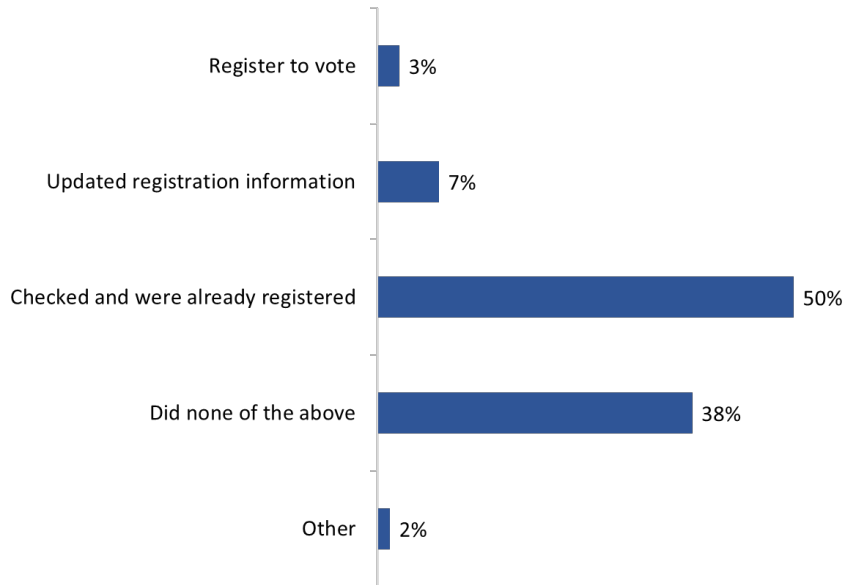
Virtually everyone who recalled receiving a VIC said their name (98%) and address (98%) on the card were correct. Electors with a severe/very severe disability were less likely than those with a mild/moderate disability or no disability to have reported that their name (96% compared to 98% of those with a mild/moderate or no disability) and address (97% compared to 98% of those with a mild/moderate or no disability) were correct. Canadians 18 to 24 years of age were less likely than Canadians aged 25 and older to have reported that their name (97% versus 98%) and address (96% versus 98%) were correct.

Half said they made sure they were registered correctly for the 43rd GE

Regardless of whether or not they received a VIC, electors were asked what, if anything, they did during the election period to make sure they were registered to vote in the 43rd GE.

Half (50%) said they checked and made sure that they were already registered to vote with the correct information. Other actions were identified infrequently: 7% said they updated their registration information; 3% said they registered to vote. In all, 38% reported taking none of these actions.

Figure 7: Registered or updated information during the election



Q. What, if anything, did you do to make sure you were registered to vote in this election? Did you...? Base: n=21,403. [DK/NR: 1%] [Wave 2 + Wave 3]

The following groups were more likely to have updated their registration information:

- Indigenous electors (11% versus 7% of non-Indigenous electors)
- new Canadians (11% versus 7% of other Canadians)
- 18- to 24-year-olds (11% versus 7% of those 25 years and older)
- youth working or attending school full-time (12% each versus 7% of NEET youth)
- those who did not receive a VIC (16% versus 7% of those who did)

The following were more likely to have registered to vote:

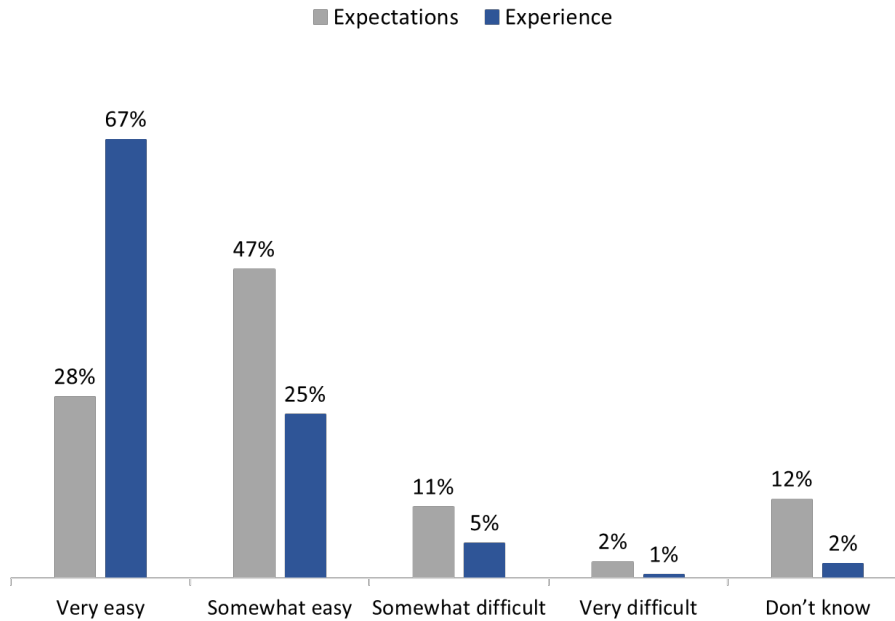
- new Canadians (15% versus 2% of other Canadians)
- 18- to 24-year-olds (11% versus 2% of those 25 years and older)
- youth attending school (9%) compared to youth working full-time (4%)
- those who did not receive a VIC (9% versus 2% of those who did)

Electors found it easier to register than they expected

Among those who were not registered as of the pre-election survey, three-quarters (75%) expected that it would be easy for them to register, although only about a quarter (28%) expected it would be very easy.

In actual experience, electors found it easier than expected to register: In the post-election survey, 92% of those who registered to vote during the election said they found the experience to be easy, with two-thirds (67%) saying it was very easy.

Figure 8: Ease of registering to vote – expectations versus experience



Q. If you wanted to vote, how easy or difficult do you think it would be to register to vote? Base: n=5,434; respondents who were not registered to vote. [Wave 1]

Q. How easy or difficult was it to make sure you are registered? Base: n=459; respondents who registered. [Wave 2 + Wave 3]

It was very easy for electors to make sure they were registered

The vast majority (96%) of electors who made sure they were registered to vote said it was easy to do so, with three-quarters (77%) saying it was very easy.

How easy electors found this to be varied depending on the action electors had to take: electors who had to register (67%) or update their registration information (64%) were less likely to say it was very easy to make sure they were registered to vote in the GE compared to those who only had to check that they were already registered with the correct information (79%).

Figure 9: Ease of having to register versus updating or checking registration

Ease of making sure elector was registered by action taken	Registered	Updated registration	Checked registration	Overall
Very easy	67%	64%	79%	77%
Somewhat easy	25%	29%	18%	19%
Somewhat difficult	5%	5%	1%	2%
Very difficult	1%	1%	<0.5%	<0.5%

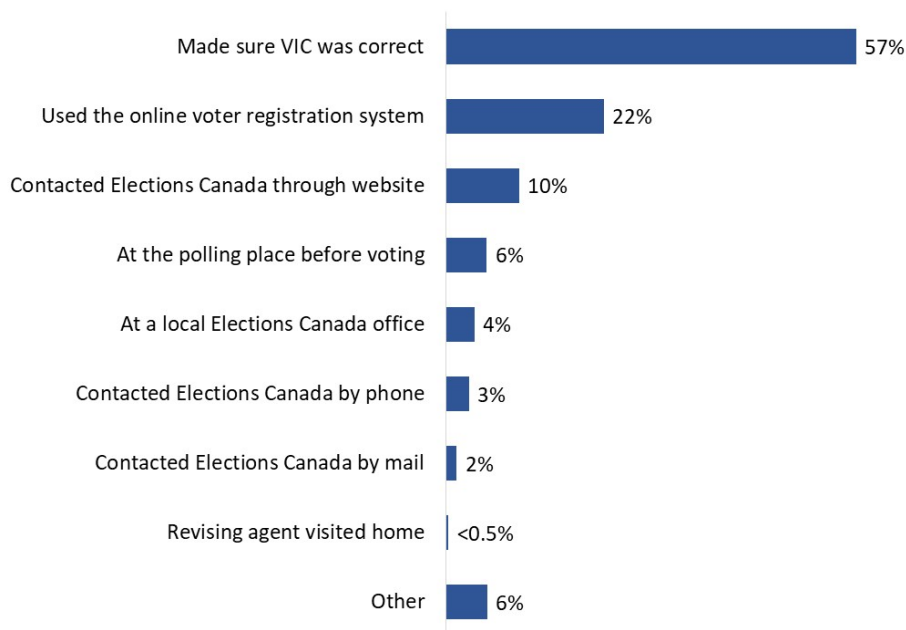
Q. How easy or difficult was it to make sure you are registered? Base: n=12,232; respondents who made sure they were registered. [DK/NR: 2%]
[Wave 2 + Wave 3]

Majority used the VIC to make sure they were registered correctly

A majority (57%) of respondents who made sure they were registered to vote in the 43rd GE said they did this by checking that the information on their VIC was correct. Just over one in five (22%) used the online voter registration system, while one in 10 (10%) said they contacted Elections Canada through the agency’s website.

Other actions were taken by smaller proportions of electors and included checking at the polling station before voting (6%), checking at the local Elections Canada office (4%), and contacting Elections Canada by phone (3%) or mail (2%).

Figure 10: Method used to check or update voter registration



Q. How did you make sure you were registered to vote? Base: n=6,092; respondents who registered, checked, or updated their voter registration. [DK/NR: 4%] [Wave 3]

The following subgroup variations were notable:

- Use of the **online registration system** was more likely among the following:
 - new Canadians (37% versus 22% of other Canadians)
 - electors 18–24 years of age (45% versus 19% of those 25 and older)
 - youth attending school (44% versus 37% of youth working full-time and 33% of NEET youth)
- **Contacting Elections Canada through its website** was more likely among new Canadians (21% versus 10% of other Canadians).
- **Checking at the polling station** before voting was more likely among 18- to 24-year-olds (11% versus 5% of those 25 and older).

3. Contact with Elections Canada

This section reports on electors' interaction with Elections Canada and its website during the election period, including their level of satisfaction with the service received during these interactions.

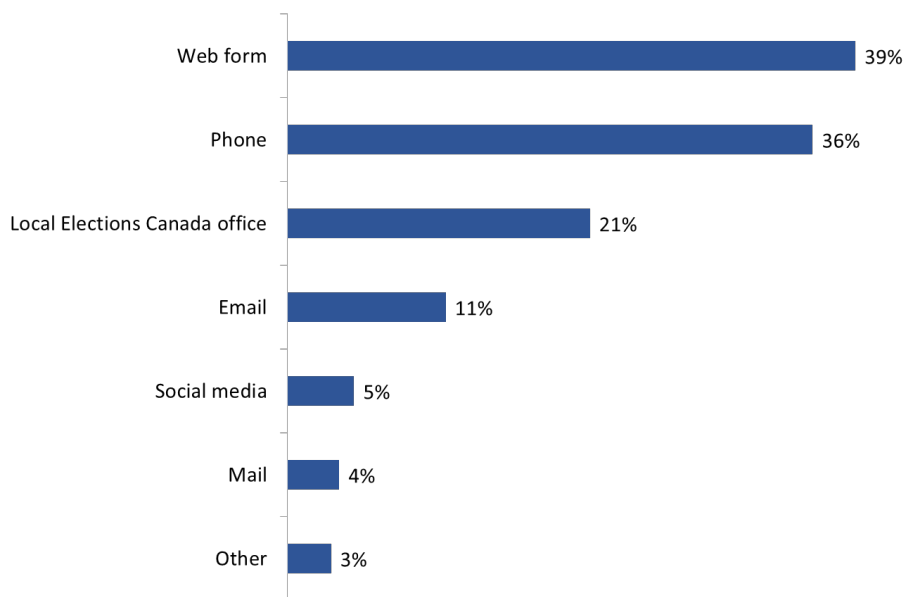
Few contacted Elections Canada during the election period; most who did, did so by web or phone

Just over one in 10 (12%) electors said they contacted Elections Canada during the election period, an increase from the 7% who said this in the 2015 Survey of Electors following the 42nd GE.

The likelihood of contacting Elections Canada was higher among Indigenous electors (18% versus 12% of non-Indigenous electors), new Canadians (20% versus 12% of other Canadians), and youth attending school (16% compared to 10% of youth working full-time and 8% of NEET youth). The likelihood of contacting Elections Canada also increased with the severity of a disability, from 11% of those with no disability to 18% of those with a severe or very severe disability.

Electors who contacted Elections Canada were most likely to do so through a form on the agency's website (39%) or by phone (36%). Approximately one in five (21%) visited a local Elections Canada office, while just over one in 10 (11%) used email. Smaller numbers used social media (5%) and mail (4%).

Figure 11: Method of contact with EC during the election period

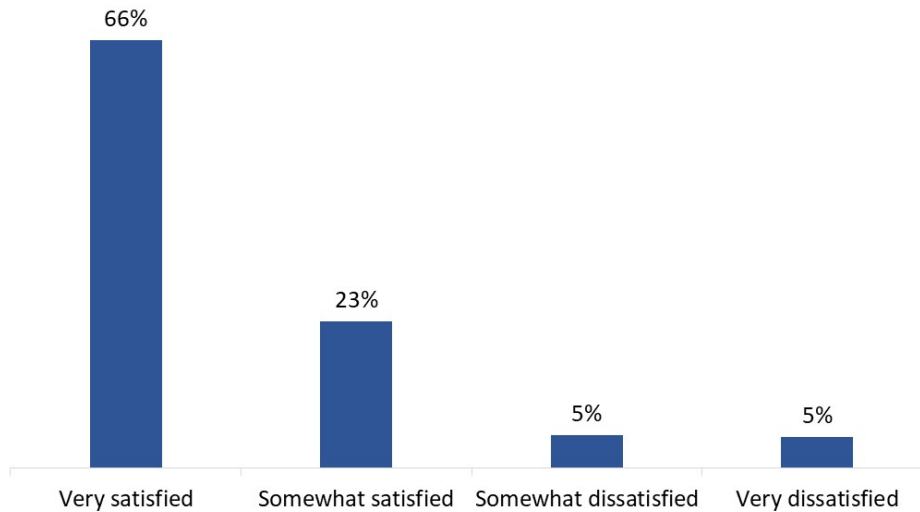


Q. How did you contact Elections Canada? Base: n=2,423; online survey respondents who contacted EC during the election period. [DK/NR: 2%]
[Wave 2 + Wave 3]

Vast majority were satisfied with service received from EC

The vast majority (89%) of those who contacted Elections Canada during the election period said they were at least somewhat satisfied with the service they received, and two-thirds (66%) said they were very satisfied. One in 10 expressed some degree of dissatisfaction (5% said they were somewhat dissatisfied and 5% said they were very dissatisfied).

Figure 12: Satisfaction with service received from contacting EC



Q. How satisfied were you with the service you received when you contacted Elections Canada? Base: n=2,423; online survey respondents who contacted EC during the election period. [DK/NR: 1%] [Wave 2 + Wave 3]

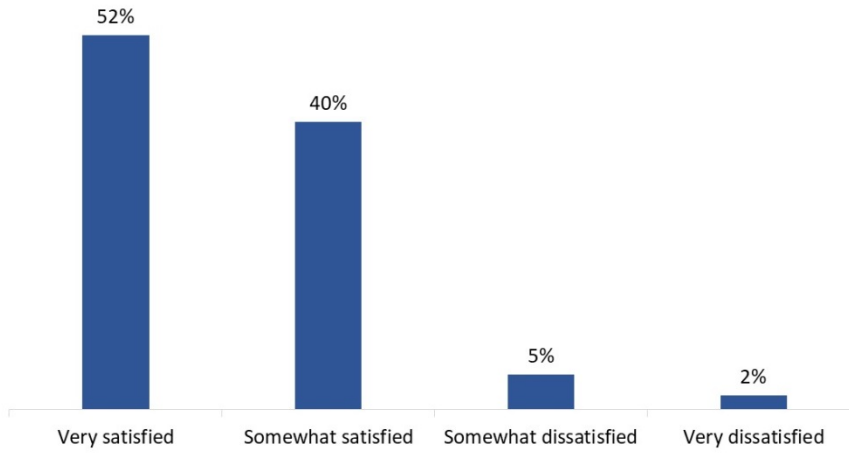
Those less likely to be very satisfied with the service they received from Elections Canada included Indigenous electors (59% versus 67% of non-Indigenous electors) and electors 18 to 24 years of age (54% versus 68% of electors aged 25 and older). In addition, the likelihood of being very satisfied decreased as the severity of a disability increased, from 69% of those with no disability to 57% of those with a severe or very severe disability.

Approximately one-third visited EC's website during the election period; those who did were satisfied

Just over one-third (35%) of electors said they visited Elections Canada's website during the election period, up from 23% in the 2015 Survey of Electors. The likelihood of visiting the website was higher among Indigenous electors (40% versus 35% of non-Indigenous electors), new Canadians (56% versus 35% of other Canadians), 18- to 24-year-olds (64% versus 32% of those 25 and older), and youth attending school (67% versus 50% of youth working full-time and 46% of youth not attending school, not working, and not taking training).

Most of those who visited Elections Canada's website said they were somewhat (40%) or very (52%) satisfied with their experience using it. There were no noteworthy differences in satisfaction levels by subgroup.

Figure 13: Satisfaction with EC's website



Q. How satisfied were you with your experience using Elections Canada's website? Base: n=6,413; online survey respondents who visited EC's website. [DK/NR: 1%] [Wave 2 + Wave 3]

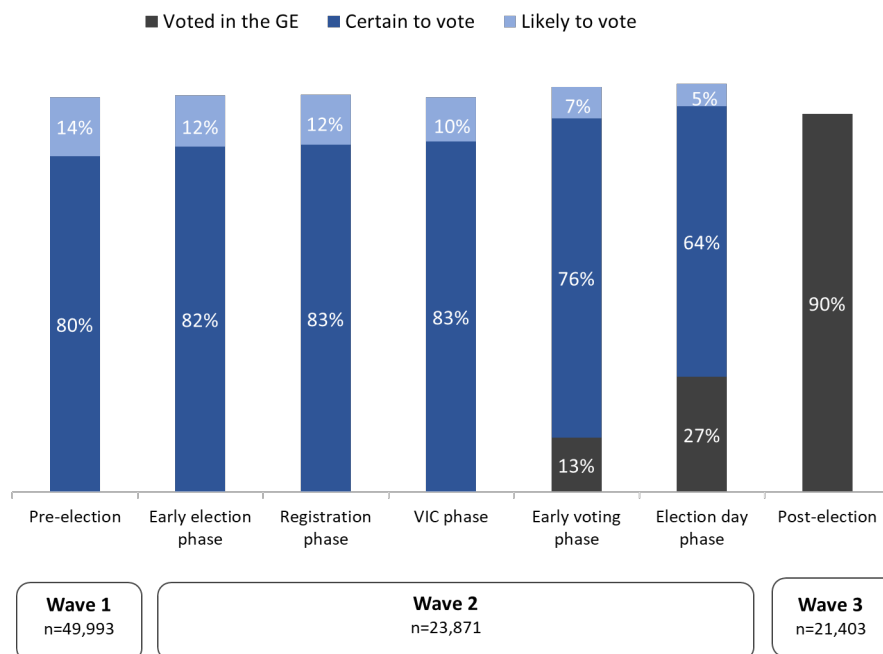
4. Voter Participation

This section reports on issues related to voter participation.

Nine in 10 said they voted in the 2019 general election

In the post-election survey, nine in 10 (90%) electors aware of the 43rd GE said they voted in the election. As is often the case, self-reported voter turnout was overstated compared to Elections Canada’s official turnout figure, which was 67% of registered electors.⁴ This was also the case in 2015 following the 42nd general election, when self-reported turnout was 90%, while the actual turnout rate among all eligible voters was 68% as reported by Elections Canada in the official voting results.⁵

Figure 14: Voting intention and participation for the GE



Q. Are you certain to vote, likely to vote, unlikely to vote, or certain not to vote in the 2019 federal election? [DK/NR: <2%] [Wave 1, Wave 2]

Q. Many people don't or can't vote for a variety of reasons. Which of the following statements describes you? [DK/NR: <2%] [Wave 2 + Wave 3]

Electors less likely to report having voted include:

- Indigenous electors (84% versus 91% of non-Indigenous electors)
- NEET youth (80% compared to 90% of youth working full-time and 89% of youth attending school)
- those who did not receive a VIC during the election (73% versus 92% of those who did)
- those uninterested in politics (77% compared to 94% of those interested)
- those who view voting as more of a choice (79%) compared to a duty (95%)
- those who were eligible but did not vote in the 42nd GE in 2015 (57%) versus those who voted (95%)

In addition, the likelihood of reporting having voted decreased as the severity of a disability increased, from 92% of those with no disability to 80% of those with a severe or very severe disability.

⁴ Official voting results for the 43rd general election: <https://www.elections.ca/res/rep/off/ovr2019app/51/table4E.html>.

⁵ See [Notes to Readers](#) for a discussion on historical over-reporting of voter turnout in public opinion surveys.

Across the pre-election and election period surveys, electors were asked how likely it was that they would vote in the GE. Throughout the study, at least eight in 10 (80%) electors said they were certain to vote or that they had already voted using an early voting method. By the final week of the election period leading up to election day,⁶ 92% of electors indicated they were either certain to vote (64%) or had voted early (27%); another 5% said they were likely to vote. This indicates a gap between stated vote intention and actual participation despite high self-reported turnout among respondents.

In the pre-election survey, electors from Alberta and Quebec were more likely to say they would be likely or certain to vote in the 2019 federal election (95% each).

The following groups were less likely to say in the pre-election survey that they would be likely or certain to vote:

- Indigenous electors (88% versus 94% non-Indigenous electors)
- 18- to 24-year-olds (87% versus 95% of those 25 and older)
- NEET youth (81%) compared to youth working (93%) or attending school (90%)
- those uninterested in politics (80% compared to 98% of those interested)
- those who view voting as more of a choice (84%) compared to a duty (99%)
- those who were eligible but did not vote in 2015 (62%) compared to those who voted (98%)

In addition, the likelihood of respondents saying they would be likely or certain to vote in the 2019 federal election:

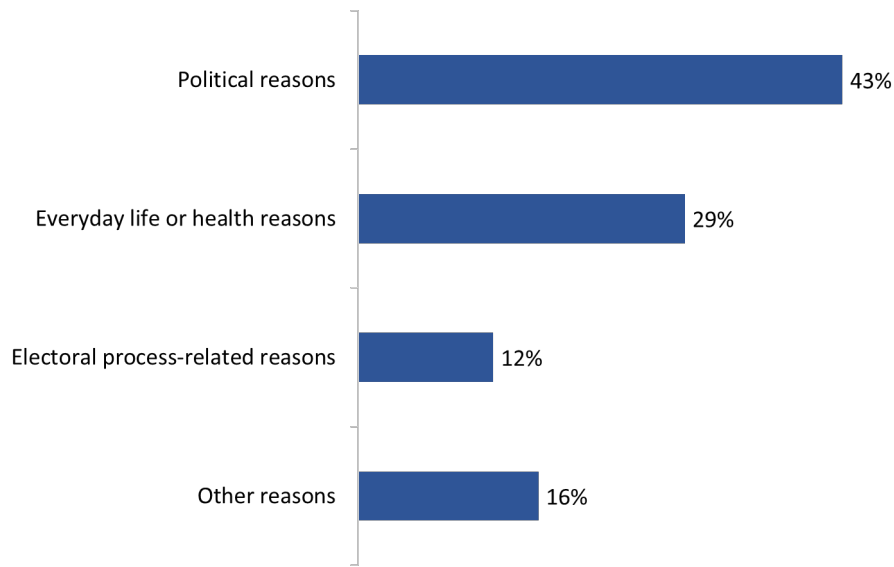
- decreased as the severity of a disability increased, from 95% of those with no disability to 84% of those with a severe or very severe disability
- increased with education, from 87% of electors who completed high school or less to 97% of electors who completed university

⁶ The election day phase of the Wave 2 survey corresponds to the final week of the election period, beginning after the close of advance polls.

Many who did not vote said it is due to political reasons

Electors aware of the election who said they did not vote (n=1,751) most often pointed to political reasons to explain why (43%), followed at a distance by everyday life or health reasons (29%) and reasons related to the electoral process (12%). Included in the “other” category are forgetting to vote, not voting due to religious or other beliefs, work conflicts and last-minute commitments, and poor weather, among other reasons.

Figure 15: Reason for not voting – themes



Q. What is the main reason you did not vote? Base: n=1,751; respondents aware of the election but did not vote. [DK/NR: 2%] [Wave 3]

For the 43rd GE, the following subgroup differences were noteworthy:

- Among those who identified **everyday life or health reasons** for not voting:
 - Being too busy to vote was mentioned more often by electors aged 18–54 (13%) compared to those who are 55 and older (4%).
 - Not voting due to illness/disability was higher among electors aged 55 and older (14%) compared to those 18–54 (6%).
 - The likelihood of non-voters saying they were too busy decreased as the severity of a disability increased, from 14% of non-voters with no disability to 5% of those with a severe or very severe disability, as did the likelihood of saying they were out of town/away from home, from 13% of those with no disability to 6% of those with a severe or very severe disability.
 - By contrast, the likelihood of identifying an illness or disability as a reason for not voting increased with the severity of a disability, from 6% of those with no disability to 13% of those with a severe or very severe disability.
- **Electoral process-related reasons** for not voting were more likely to be identified by the following:
 - electors with a severe/very severe disability (24% versus 10% of those with a mild/moderate disability and 10% of those with no disability)
 - Indigenous electors (21% versus 12% of non-Indigenous electors)
 - new Canadians (30% versus 12% of other Canadians)
 - electors who did not receive a VIC (17% versus 11% of those who did)

- **Political reasons** for not voting were more likely to be identified by the following:
 - non-Indigenous electors (44% versus 29% of Indigenous electors)
 - established Canadians (43% versus 27% of new Canadians)
 - NEET youth (50%) and youth working full-time (41%) compared to youth attending school (30%)
 - non-voters with a high school education or less (46%) or some post-secondary or college (45%) compared to those with a university degree (37%)
 - non-voters who were eligible to vote in 2015 but did not (52% compared to 35% of non-voters who did vote in 2015)

The table below provides a detailed breakdown of the reasons why respondents did not vote during the 43rd GE in 2019, alongside reasons given for the 42nd GE in the 2015 Survey of Electors.⁷ Those who gave political reasons for not voting increased to 43% in 2019 up from 37% in 2015, with observable differences in the proportions who said they did not like the candidates, parties, or campaign (14%) and those who did not know who to vote for (7%). In 2015, these two reasons combined accounted for 10% of non-voters. In contrast, those who gave everyday life or health reasons decreased to 29% down from 45%, with the most visible decrease being those who said they were too busy (down to 11% from 25%).

Figure 16: Reasons for not voting – breakdown

Reasons for not voting (%)	2019 (n=1,751)	2015 (n=283)
Political reasons	43	37
Did not like candidates/parties/campaign	14	10 ⁸
Felt voting would not make a difference	10	9
Not interested in politics	9	9
Did not know who to vote for	7	- ⁸
Lack of information about campaign issues and parties' positions	4	7
Everyday life or health reasons	29	45
Too busy (details provided below)	11	25
Out of town (details provided below)	10	15
Illness or disability	8	5
Electoral process–related reasons	12	11
Transportation problem/polling station too far	3	2
Not on voters list	2	3
Polling station was not accessible	2	<1

⁷ The 2019 categories of reasons for not voting were lightly modified from the 2015 survey. To the extent possible, 2015 survey results have been adjusted to correspond to the 2019 categories and therefore are slightly different from those published in the 2015 survey report. In addition, proportions may not add up due to rounding or categories being excluded from the table.

⁸ In 2015, a single category was used to report reasons of “did not like candidates/parties/campaign” combined with “did not know who to vote for.”

Reasons for not voting (%)	2019 (n=1,751)	2015 (n=283)
Issues with VIC	1	1
Could not prove identity or address	1	2
Lack of information about voting process (e.g. when/where to vote)	1	1
Lineups were too long	1	2
Voting process was not accessible	1	-
Other reasons	16	5
Religious or other beliefs	2	- ⁹
Forgot to vote	2	1 ¹⁰
Other reasons	10	-
Don't know	2	1

Reasons given by respondents who said they were too busy to vote (n=177) included having other priorities that day (40%), unexpected plans that deterred them from voting (36%), and not having time in their daily schedule to vote (20%).

Among those who did not vote because they were out of town (n=187), more than half (58%) said their travel was for personal reasons, while approximately one-third (34%) said they were away due to work commitments. Of those who were out of town for personal reasons (n=112), two-thirds (67%) said they had previously planned their trip.

Majority voted at a polling station on election day

The majority (57%) of electors who said they voted in the federal election held on October 21, 2019, reported doing so at a polling station on election day, while more than one-third (37%) reported going to an advance polling station to vote. This represents a considerable decrease in election-day voting and increase in advance voting compared to the 2015 Survey of Electors, where 73% reported voting on election day compared to 25% who voted at an advance poll.

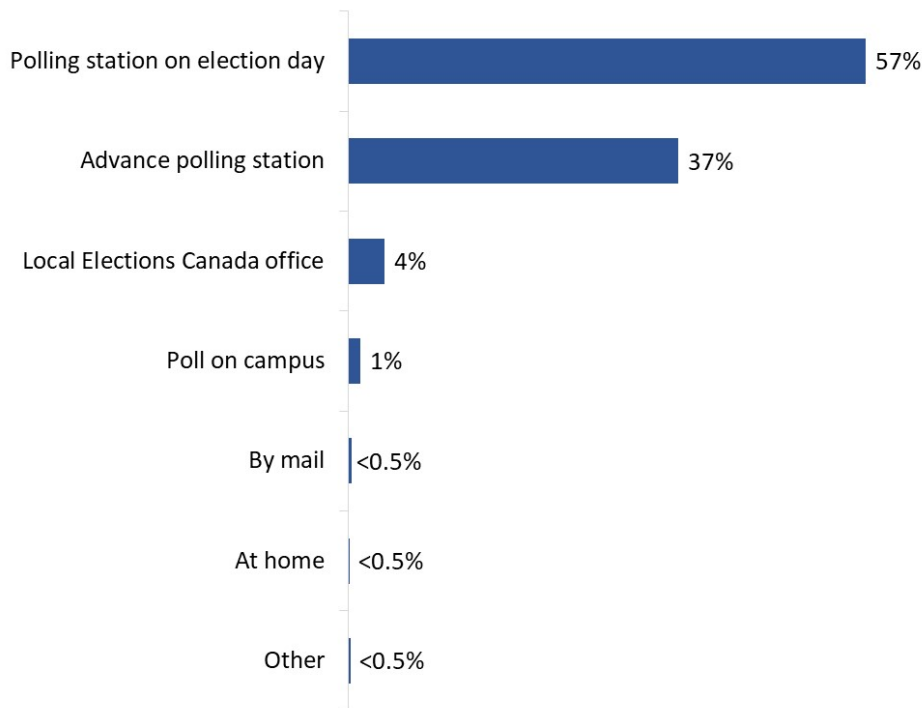
It must be said that self-reported voting at advance polls in 2019 is over-reported considering the official voting results for the 43rd GE, where 26% of valid votes were cast at an advance polling station. Still, the increase in self-reported advance voting is consistent with the trend, if not the degree, of increasing advance voting that has been observed across previous surveys and official results through multiple past elections.

As the accompanying graph shows, few electors used other methods to vote, although the percent of those who reported voting at a local EC office increased to 4% up from 1% in the 2015 Survey of Electors.

⁹ In 2015, reasons related to religious beliefs were included in the broader “other reasons” category.

¹⁰ In 2015, “forgot to vote” was categorized under “everyday life reasons.”

Figure 17: Method used to vote in the GE



Q. Which method did you use to vote? Base: n=19,426; respondents who voted in the federal election. [DK/NR: <0.5%] [Wave 2 + Wave 3]

The following groups of voters were more likely to say they voted at a polling station on **election day**:

- Indigenous electors (64% versus 57% of non-Indigenous electors)
- new Canadians (63% versus 57% of other Canadians)
- electors aged 18–54 (62% versus 50% of those age 55 or older)
- NEET youth (76% versus 65% of youth working full-time and not attending school, and 53% of youth attending school)

Voting at an **advance polling station** was more likely to be identified by the following:

- non-Indigenous electors (37% versus 30% of Indigenous electors)
- electors with no disability (37%) or a mild/moderate disability (36%) compared to those with a severe/very severe disability (31%)
- electors 55 and older (43% versus 32% of 18- to 54-year-olds)
- youth working full-time (31%) and youth attending school (30%) compared to NEET youth (21%)

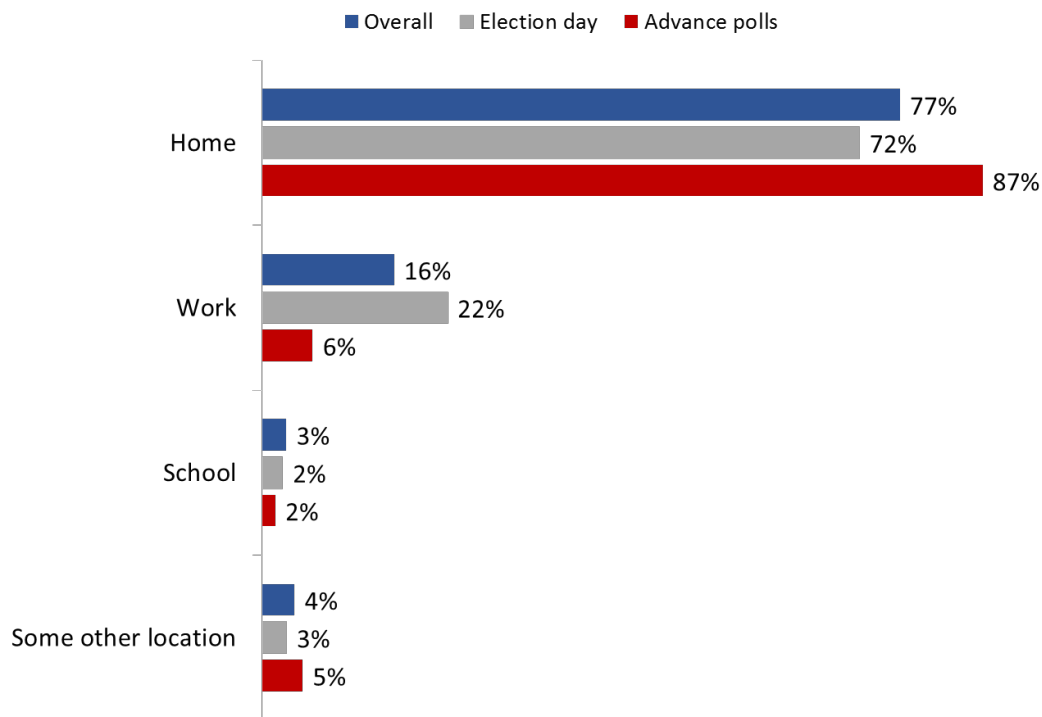
5. Getting to the Polling Place

This section reports on issues related to the experience of voters in getting to and accessing the polling place.

Most went to the voting place from home

Of those who voted in person (n=19,270), just over three-quarters (77%) said they went to the voting place from home. Most (16%) of the rest said they went to vote from work, while 3% said they went from school, and 4% from some other location.

Figure 18: Went to vote from home, work, or another location



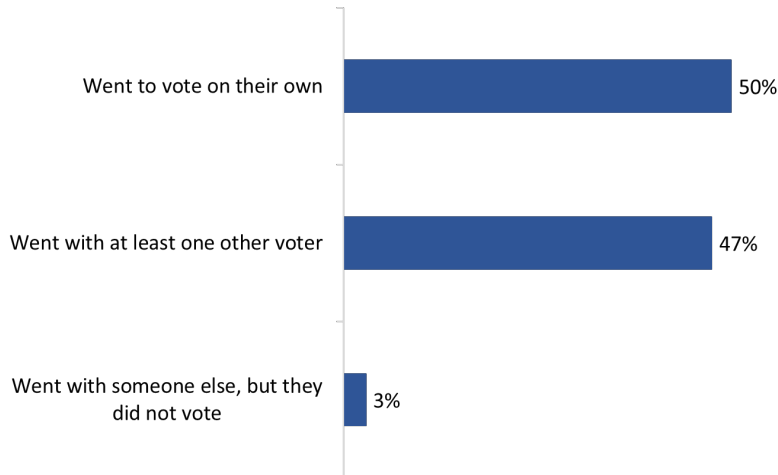
Q. Did you go to the [polling station/advance polling station/local Elections Canada office/poll on campus] from home, work, school, or another location? Base: n=19,270; respondents who voted in person. [DK/NR: 1%] [Wave 3]

Electors who voted at an advance poll were more likely to have gone to the polling station from home (87% versus 72% of those who voted on election day and 74% who voted at a local EC office), and less likely to have gone to vote from work (6% versus 22% of those who voted on election day and 15% who voted at a local EC office).

Half voted on their own and half went to vote with others

Half (50%) of in-person voters went to vote on their own. The other half went to vote with someone else, nearly all of whom (47%) went with at least one other person who also voted.

Figure 19: Voting with others



Q: When you did vote, did you go....? Base: n=19,271; all respondents who voted in-person. [DK/NR: <0.5%] [Wave 3]

The following were more likely to have gone to vote on their own:

- those aged 18–54 (53%) compared to those aged 55 and up (46%)
- those who were eligible but did not vote in 2015 (58%) compared to those who voted in 2015 (49%)
- those who voted at a poll on campus (73%), local EC office (61%), or on election day (53%) compared to advance poll voters (42%)
- those who went to vote from work (71%) or from school (64%) compared to those who went from home (45%)

The following were more likely to have gone to vote with another voter:

- those aged 55 and up (53%) compared to those aged 18–54 (43%)
- those who voted in 2015 (48%) compared to those who were eligible but did not vote (38%)
- advance voters (55%) compared to election-day voters (44%), EC office voters (36%), and campus voters (24%)
- those who went to vote from home (53%) compared to those who went from work (27%) or from school (30%)

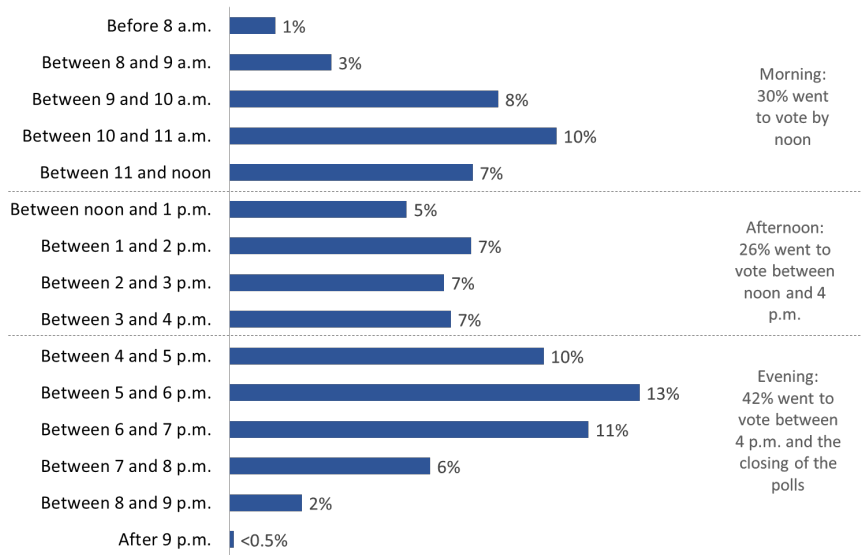
Four in 10 election-day voters went to the polls in the evening

Polls on election day were open for 12 hours across the country that varied based on time zone.¹¹

Electors who went to vote on election day (n=11,127) did so throughout the day, with the plurality (42%) going in the evening period between 4:00 p.m. and the closing of the polls. Three in 10 (30%) said they went to vote at some point in the morning, i.e. between the opening of the polls and noon. A quarter (26%) went between noon and 4:00 p.m.

¹¹ Poll hours across the time zones were as follows: Newfoundland (8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.), Atlantic (8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.), Eastern (9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.), Central (8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.), Mountain (7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.), and Pacific (7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.).

Figure 20: Time of the day electors voted – election day



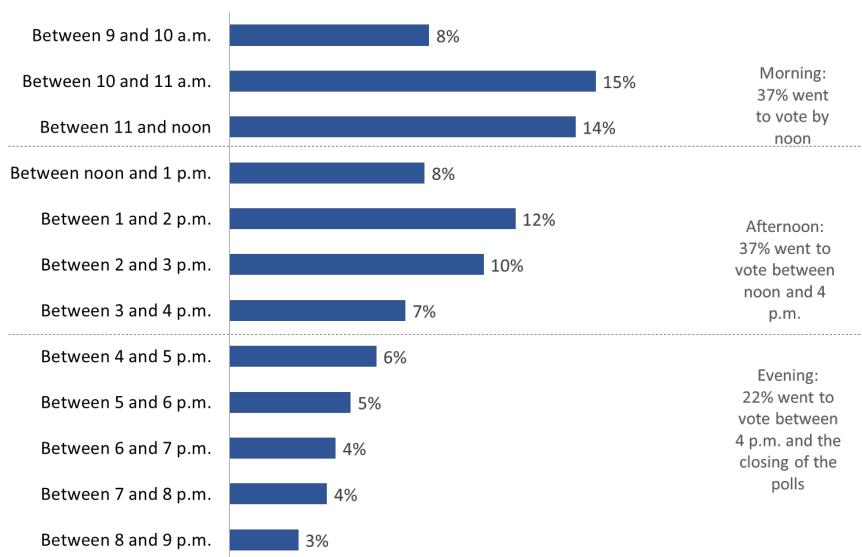
Q. Do you remember approximately what time it was when you went to vote? Base: n=11,127; voters who voted on election day. [DK/NR: 2%]
[Wave 2 + Wave 3]

More than a third of advance voters did so during the new voting hours in the morning

For the 43rd GE, advance voting hours across the country were expanded to 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. (local time), compared to the hours of noon to 8:00 p.m. that were offered in previous elections.

Among those who voted at an advance poll (n=7,165), over one-third (37%) took advantage of the extended voting hours and reported that they went to vote in the morning before noon. The same proportion (37%) went to vote between noon and 4:00 p.m. In contrast to election day voters, just over one in five (22%) went to vote between 4:00 p.m. and the closing of the polls.

Figure 21: Time of the day electors voted – advance poll



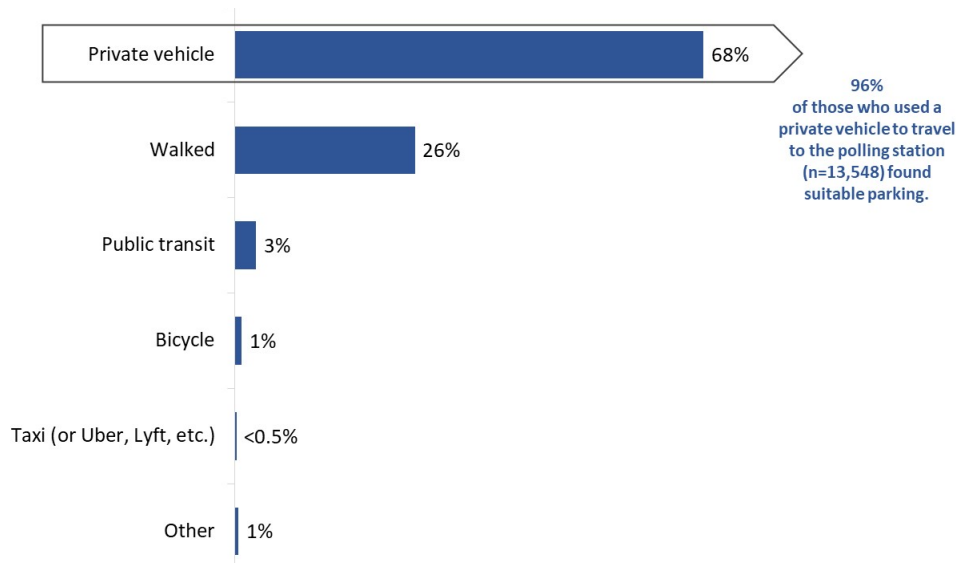
Q. Do you remember approximately what time it was when you went to vote? Base: n=7,165; those who voted at an advance poll. [DK/NR: 3%]
[Wave 2 + Wave 3]

Two-thirds used a private vehicle to get to the polling place

Just over two-thirds (68%) of those who voted in person said they used a private vehicle to get to the polling place. One-quarter (26%) said they walked to the voting place.

The vast majority (96%) of those who used a private vehicle to travel to the polling place reported finding suitable parking, although voters with a severe/very severe disability were more likely to say they did not find suitable parking (5%) compared to voters with no disability (3%).

Figure 22: Means of transportation used when going to vote



Q. What kind of transportation did you take to get there? Base: 19,271; those who voted in person. [DK/NR: <0.5%] [Wave 3]

The following were more likely to say they **walked** to the polling place:

- 18- to 24-year-olds (33% versus 26% of those 25 and older)
- non-Indigenous electors (27% versus 21% of Indigenous electors)
- new Canadians (35% versus 26% of others)
- youth attending school (37% versus 30% of youth working full-time and not attending school and 29% of youth not attending school, not working, and not taking training)

The likelihood of walking to the polling place also decreased as the severity of a disability increased (from 27% of those with no disability to 23% of those with a severe/very severe disability).

Use of **public transportation** was more likely among 18- to 24-year-olds (10% versus 2% of those 25 and older), and among youth attending school (12% versus 5% of youth working full-time and not attending school and 2% of youth not attending school, not working, and not taking training).

Use of a **private vehicle** was more likely among the following:

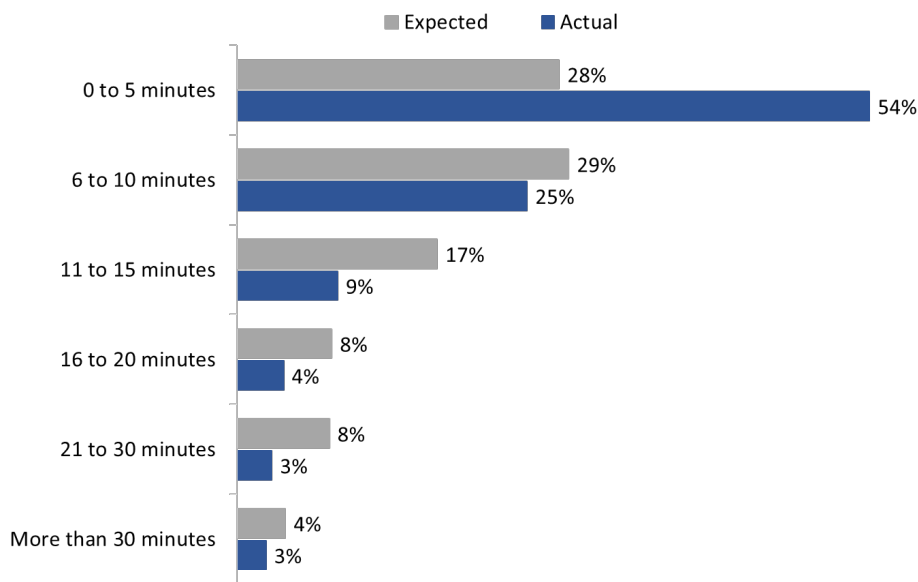
- electors 25 and older (70% versus 54% of those 18–24 years of age)
- Indigenous electors (73% versus 68% of non-Indigenous electors)
- established Canadians (69% versus 58% of new Canadians)
- youth not attending school, not working, and not taking training (68%) and youth working full-time (63%) compared to youth attending school (47%)

Just over half said it took no more than five minutes to get to the polling place; virtually everyone said the distance from their home was reasonable

In the post-election survey, over half (54%) of in-person voters said it took them only five minutes or less to get to the polling station, better than electors expected: Only 28% of electors expected it would take this long when asked in the pre-election survey. One-quarter (25%) of voters said their actual travel time was six to 10 minutes, and almost one in five (19%) said it took them more than 10 minutes.

For both election day and advance polls, the average amount of time voters spent travelling to the polling place was nine minutes, and the median time was five minutes. Those who voted at a local EC office reported taking longer to get there, with an average travel time of 14 minutes and a median time of 10 minutes.

Figure 23: Time it took to get to the polling place: expected versus actual



Q. How much time do you think it would take you to go to the polling station? Base: n=49,993; W1 respondents. [DK/NR: 6%]
Q. To the best of your knowledge, how long did it take you to travel to the [polling station/advance polling station/local Elections Canada office/poll on campus]? Base: n=19,271: voters. [DK/NR: 2%] [Wave 3]

The following were less likely to report that actual travel to their voting location took **5 minutes or less**:

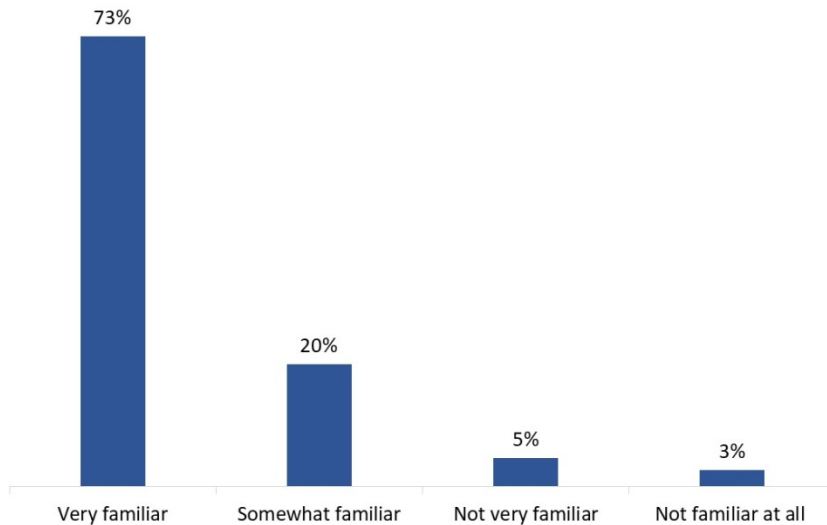
- electors with a disability (52%) compared to those with no disability (55%)
- new Canadians (47%) compared to other Canadians (55%)
- youth 18 to 34 years of age attending school full-time (51%) compared to NEET youth (59%)
- electors aged 18–24 (52% versus 55% of electors 25+ years of age)

Nearly everyone (98%) said the voting place was located a reasonable distance from their home, with 88% saying the distance was very reasonable. This is similar to 2015 results, when 97% said the polling place was a convenient distance from their home.

Widespread agreement that the polling place was in a familiar location

Nearly all (93%) of those who voted in-person said the polling place was in a location that was at least somewhat familiar to them, with three-quarters (73%) saying the location was very familiar to them.

Figure 24: Familiarity of the polling place location



Q. Was the [polling station/advance polling station/local Elections Canada office/poll on campus] in a location that was very familiar, somewhat familiar, not very familiar, or not familiar at all to you? Base: 19,271; respondents who voted in person. [DK/NR: <0.5%] [Wave 3]

The following were less likely to say the polling place was in a very familiar location:

- voters 18–24 years of age (65% versus 74% of those aged 25 and older)
- new Canadians (65% compared to 73% of other Canadians)
- those with a severe/very severe disability (69% versus 73% of voters with no disability)

One in 10 electors with some level of mobility or vision limitation needed level access

In-person voters who have at least some difficulty seeing, using stairs and/or experience recurring pain (n=7,583) were asked if they needed level access to enter the polling place. One in 10 (12%) overall said they did require level access.

Need for level access was higher among those who reported having a lot of difficulty or higher in a single disability category¹² as follows:

- 16% among those who have a lot of difficulty seeing
- 41% among those who have a lot of difficulty using stairs
- 23% among those who have a lot of difficulty with chronic or recurring pain

Among all respondents, need for level access:

- increased with severity of disability, from 10% of those determined to have no functional disability¹³ up to 24% of those with a severe/very severe disability

¹² Having a lot of difficulty or higher in a single disability category corresponds to an elector with a moderate to severe disability from just that disability category alone.

¹³ Respondents could indicate they had some difficulty performing an activity such as using stairs but were not determined to have a functional disability overall unless they had at least some other difficulty in another area.

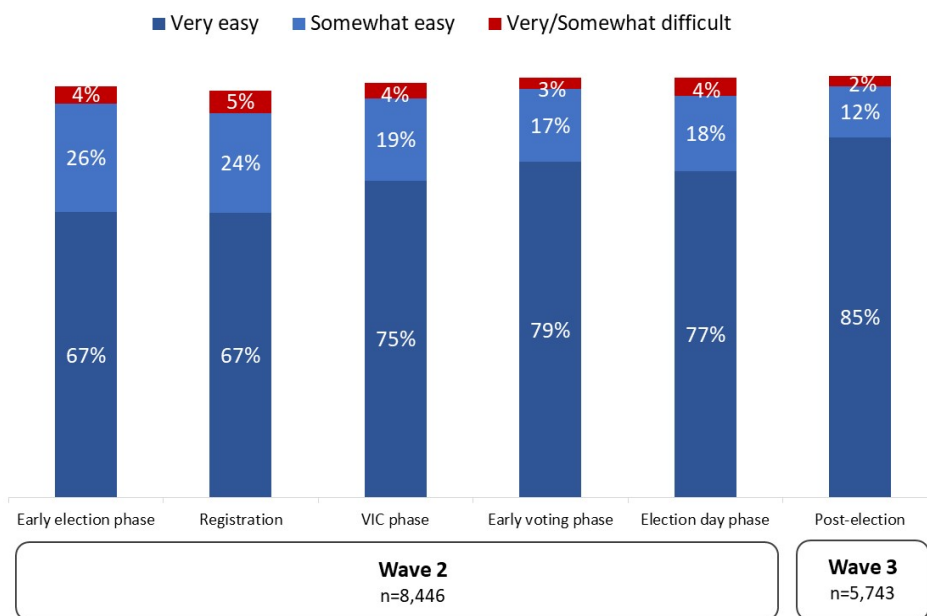
- increased with age, from 7% among respondents aged 18–24 up to 19% of those aged 75 or older

Most voters with a disability said it was easy to access the polling place

In the beginning phases of the election period, two-thirds (67%) of electors with a disability said they expected it would be very easy for them to enter and access the polling place. The perception that accessing the polling place would be easy increased measurably over the election period: By the final phase marking the week leading up to election day, three-quarters (77%) of electors with a disability expected it would be very easy.

In the post-election survey, the actual experience of voters with a disability exceeded their expectations: 85% of those who voted in person found it very easy to access the polling place. An additional 12% said it was somewhat easy.

Figure 25: Ease of entering and accessing the polling place



Q. If you do vote, how easy or difficult do you think it will be to access the polling station? Base: electors who have difficulty seeing or using stairs or experience chronic pain. [DK/NR: 2%] [Wave 2]

Q. How easy or difficult was it for you to enter and access the [polling station/advance polling station/local Elections Canada office/poll on campus]? Base: voters with a disability who voted in person. [DK/NR: <0.5%] [Wave 3]

Voters with a severe/very severe disability (79%) were less likely than those with a mild/moderate disability (87%) to say they found it very easy to enter and access the polling place. In addition, those who indicated they needed level access were less likely to say it was very easy to enter the polling place (71%) compared to those who said they did not need level access (88%).

Nearly everyone said the building where they voted was suitable for holding an election

Virtually all voters (98%) said the building where they voted was at least somewhat suitable for holding an election,¹⁴ with a substantial majority (83%) describing it as very suitable. This represents no change from 2015, when 97% said the building was suitable and 82% said it was very suitable. Among the few

¹⁴ Q: Overall, would you say that the building where you voted was...? Base: n=19,270; those who voted in person. [Wave 3]

who said the building was not suitable for holding an election,¹⁵ lack of parking and accessibility issues were mentioned with the greatest frequency.

Those who voted at an advance poll (84%) or an ordinary poll on election day (83%) were more likely to say the building was very suitable compared to those who voted at a local EC office (72%) or at a poll held on campus (74%).

New Canadians (77%) were less likely than other Canadians (83%) to say the building was very suitable for an election. In addition, the likelihood of describing it as very suitable decreased as the severity of a disability increased (from 84% of those with no disability to 77% of those with a severe/very severe disability).

¹⁵ The sample size for this follow-up question is n=52 phone respondents.

6. Experience at the Polling Place

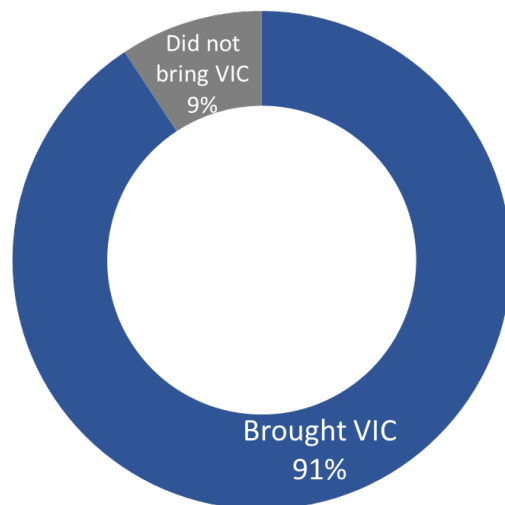
This section reports on voters' experience at the polling place.

Vast majority brought their VIC to vote

Nine in 10 (91%) electors who received a VIC and voted in person said they brought their VIC with them to the polling place, which could allow them to bypass the registration desk and proceed directly to the polling station in a streamlined voting process for the 43rd GE. A similar proportion (89%) of voters brought their VIC to the polls in 2015.

Nine percent did not bring their VIC to the polling place. Voters 18 to 24 years of age (21%) were more likely to say they did not bring their VIC than those aged 25 and older (8%).

Figure 26: Brought VIC to vote



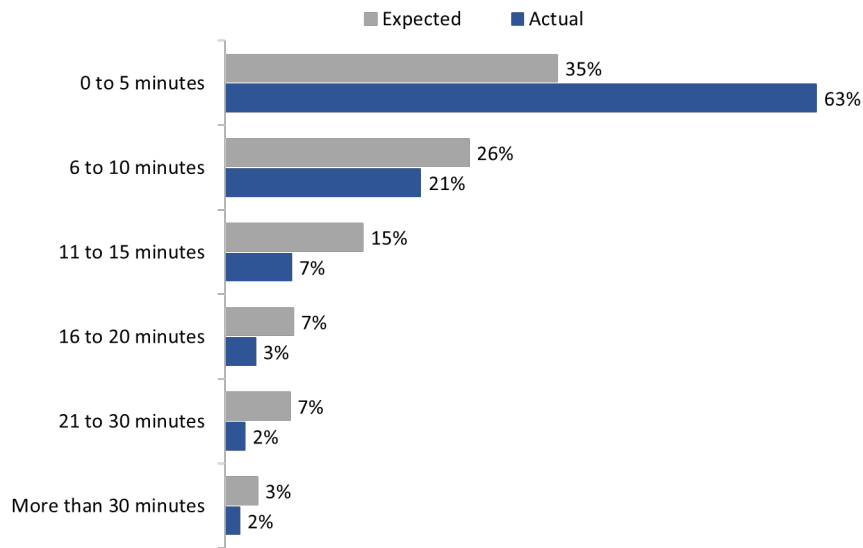
Q. Did you bring your voter information card with you to the [polling station/advance polling station/local Elections Canada office/poll on campus]? Base: n=12,900; respondents who voted in person. [DK/NR: <0.5%] [Wave 2 + Wave 3]

Nearly two-thirds said it took no more than five minutes to vote

Voters said it took less time to cast their ballot than they had expected: During the pre-election survey, only about a third (35%) of electors said they expected it would take only five minutes or less to vote. Another one-third (32%) expected voting would take more than 10 minutes.

In the post-election survey, nearly two-thirds (63%) of voters said it took them no more than five minutes to vote once they arrived at the polling place. Another one in five (21%) said it took six to 10 minutes to vote. Only 14% said it took longer than 10 minutes.

Figure 27: Time it took to vote – expected versus actual



Q. How much time do you think it would take you to vote once you arrive at the polling station? Base: n= 49,993. [DK/NR: 6%] [Wave 1]

Q. To the best of your knowledge, how long did it take you to vote once you arrived at the [polling station/advance polling station/local Elections Canada office/poll on campus]? Base: n=19,271; respondents who voted in-person. [DK/NR: 2%] [Wave 2+ Wave 3]

Average voting times improved considerably from 2015

Voters in the 2019 election reported taking an overall average of eight minutes to cast their ballot, a four-minute improvement from the 12-minute average reported for the 2015 election. In the 2019 pre-election survey, respondents estimated that it would take an average of 13 minutes to vote once they arrived at the polling station, suggesting their expectations may have been based on the experiences of the 2015 election.

Differences in the time it took to vote across voting methods narrowed considerably in 2019 compared to those reported in 2015:

- Average time to vote on election day was seven minutes, versus nine minutes in 2015.
- Average time to vote at an advance poll was eight minutes, versus 21 minutes in 2015.
- Average time to vote at a local EC office was also eight minutes, versus 19 minutes in 2015.

Across all in-person voting methods, electors with a VIC reported spending less time than those who did not: Those who brought their VIC to the polling place took seven minutes to vote on average, compared to eight minutes for those who received a VIC but did not bring it. Those who did not receive a VIC reported an above-average voting time of 11 minutes.

Ultimately, 95% of voters said the time it took for them to vote was reasonable, up slightly from 2015 when 92% said the wait time before voting was reasonable. Voting at advance polls improved the most in this regard: 93% of advance voters in 2019 said the time it took to vote was reasonable, up from 80% of advance voters in 2015.

7. Voter Identification

This section reports on issues related to voter identification.

Most used a driver's licence to meet the identification requirements

Nearly all voters (94%) reported using one piece of government-issued photo ID to prove their identity and address when they voted: 89% used their driver's licence, while 5% used a general provincial or territorial photo identification card.¹⁶ Another 4% of voters used two authorized pieces of ID that together could establish identity and address for the purposes of voting. Less than 1% had to declare their identity and address in writing and have another elector from their polling station vouch for them in order to vote.¹⁷ Overall, the distribution of voters who used each option for meeting the identification requirements was similar to 2015 (93% used one piece, 3% used two pieces, and less than 1% had someone attest to their address).

Those more likely to have used two pieces of ID include:

- voters aged 18–24 (6%), 25–34 (5%), and 75 or older (5%), compared to 4% of voters aged 35–74
- youth attending school (6%) compared to youth working full-time (4%)
- Quebec voters (11% compared to 3% of voters from Ontario and Atlantic Canada, 2% in other provinces, and 1% in the territories). This difference is notable when considering that Quebec is the only jurisdiction in Canada that does not issue a general photo identification card containing address for non-drivers

In addition, the likelihood of using two pieces of ID increased as the severity of a disability increased (from 4% of those with no disability to 9% of those with a severe/very severe disability).

Voters who used two pieces of ID most often used the VIC to establish proof of residence

Among voters who presented two pieces of ID to meet the identification requirements for voting (n=756), the most mentioned pieces were:

- a health card (used by 53% of voters who used two pieces of ID, representing 2% of all voters)
- the VIC (43% of voters who used two pieces; nearly 2% of all voters)
- a Canadian passport (24% of voters who used two pieces; 1% of all voters)
- a utility bill (20% of voters who used two pieces; 1% of all voters)

The health card therefore, was the most common piece of ID used that could satisfy the proof of identity requirement.¹⁸ The VIC was the most common piece used to satisfy proof of address, which is notable considering this was the first general election in which the VIC was authorized as an acceptable proof of address for the purposes of voting.¹⁹

¹⁶ For simplicity, this proportion includes use of the BC Services card, which also includes photo, name, and address.

¹⁷ To establish the method and pieces of ID voters used to meet the identification requirements, the survey asked a series of questions designed to accept the fewest possible pieces of ID needed to satisfy both proof of address and identity requirements, and minimize the over-reporting of pieces that provide only proof of identity that occurred in the 2015 Survey of Electors. The results of the 2019 and 2015 approaches are considered comparable when comparing the proportions that used each of the three ID options; proportions of the use of individual documents are not considered comparable between 2019 and 2015. Across all voter ID questions, base: n=19,417; respondents who voted in the 43rd GE. [DK/NR: 1%] [Wave 2+ Wave 3]

¹⁸ Manitoba and Yukon health cards can also satisfy the proof of address requirement, but use of the health card by voters from these areas was negligible.

¹⁹ To minimize potential over-reporting of use of the VIC as proof of address, mentions of the VIC could only be accepted as an answer if the respondent was already ruled out of using one piece of ID, and then only if they reported receiving and bringing their VIC to the polls.

Among all voters, use of the VIC as proof of address was higher among:

- Quebec voters (5% compared to 1% or less in the other provinces and territories)
- unemployed voters (5%) and caregivers/homemakers (4%) compared to 2% of employed and retired voters
- voters with a high school education or less (3% compared to 2% of those with at least some post-secondary education or higher)

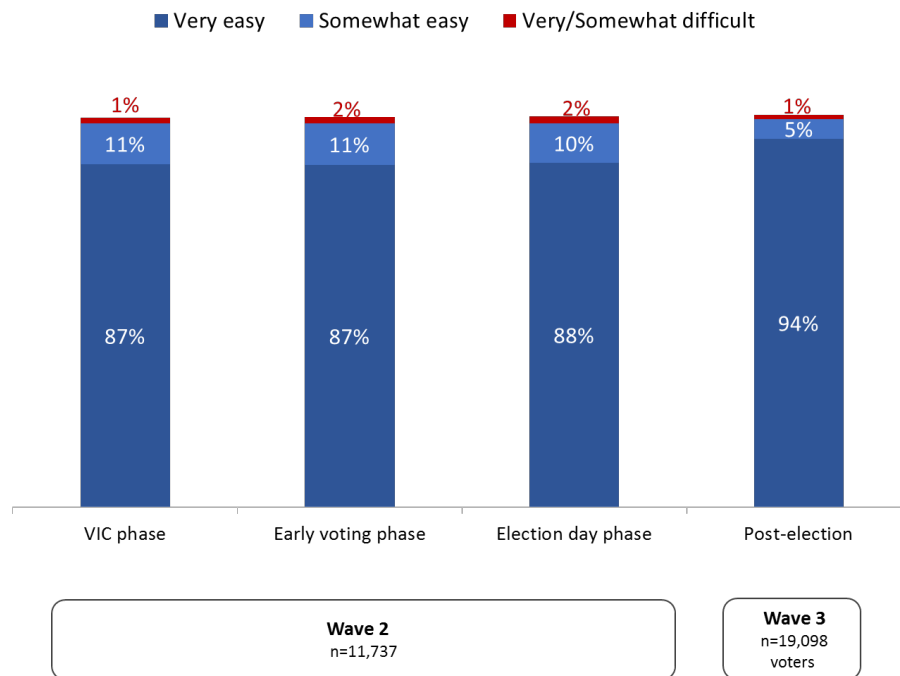
In addition, use of the VIC increased as the severity of a disability increased (from 2% of voters with no disability to 4% of those with a severe/very severe disability).

Virtually everyone said it was easy to meet voter identification requirements

During the election period survey, nearly nine in 10 (87%) expected it would be very easy for them to prove their identity and address if they were to vote; 10% expected it would be somewhat easy.

In the post-election survey, an even greater proportion (94%) of voters reported that they found it actually very easy to prove their identity and address when they voted, and another 5% said it was somewhat easy. These proportions are similar to 2015, when 92% said meeting the voter identification requirements was very easy and another 7% said it was somewhat easy.

Figure 28: Ease of meeting ID requirements: expectations versus experience



Q. If you wanted to vote, how easy or difficult do you think it would be to prove your identity and address? [DK/NR: <1%] [Wave 2]

Q. Overall, how easy was it to meet the identification requirements? [DK/NR: <0.5%] [Wave 2 + Wave 3]

The likelihood of voters finding it very easy to meet the ID requirements decreased as the severity of one's disability increased, from 95% of those with no disability to 89% of those with a severe/very severe disability.

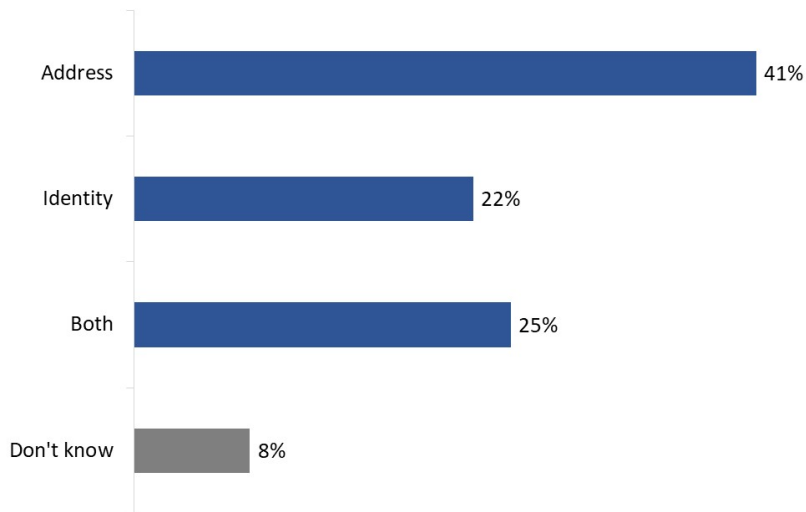
The likelihood of finding it very easy was lower among Indigenous voters (91% versus 94% of non-Indigenous voters), new Canadians (89% versus 94% of other Canadians), and 18- to 24-year-olds (90% versus 94% of electors aged 25 and older).

Voters who used one piece of ID (94%) were more likely than those who used two pieces of ID (83%) to have said it was very easy to meet the ID requirements.

Electors had more difficulty proving their address than their identity

Respondents who said they had difficulty meeting the identification requirements (n=93) were more likely to say they had trouble proving their address (41%) than their identity (22%), though one-quarter (25%) said they had difficulty proving both.

Figure 29: Nature of difficulty encountered proving identity or address



Q. Was it your identity or your address that was difficult to prove? Base: n=93; respondents who said they had difficulty proving their identity or their address. Refused: 4%. [Wave 3]

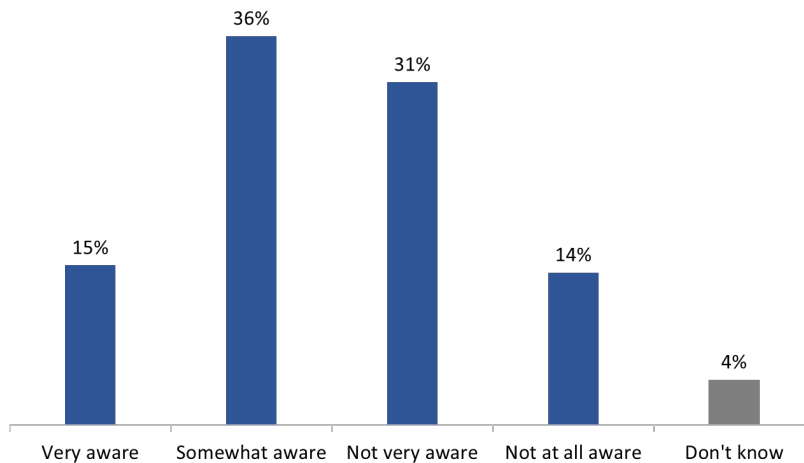
8. Accessible Voting Services

This section reports on awareness and use of Elections Canada’s accessible voting services among electors with a disability.

Half of electors with a disability were aware of accessible voting tools and services

Half (50%) of electors with a disability said they are at least somewhat aware of the voting tools and services Elections Canada offers to make voting more accessible. This represents an increase in awareness from 2015, when 43% said they were aware of the available tools and services. Those with a severe/very severe disability (55%) were more likely to be aware of the tools and services available than those with a mild/moderate disability (49%).

Figure 30: Awareness of accessible tools and services



Q. Elections Canada offers a number of voting tools and services to make voting more accessible; for example, for Canadians with disabilities. How aware are you of the accessible tools and services that are available? Base: n=6,694; electors with a disability. [Wave 3]

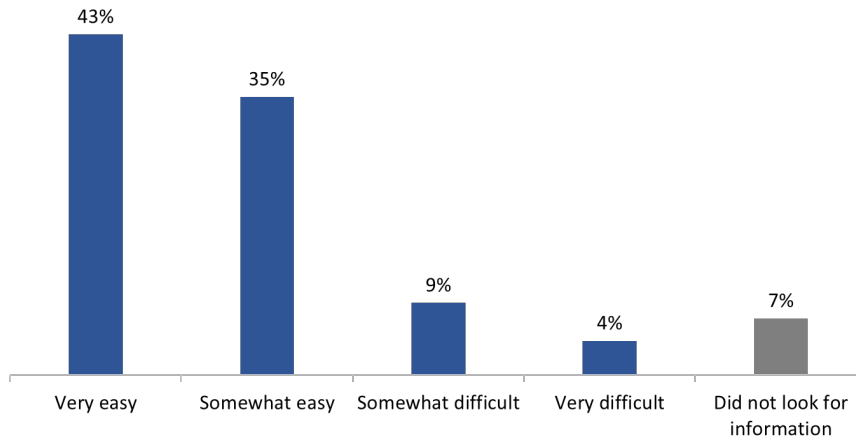
Most who needed information on accessibility found it easy to find

Relatively few electors with a disability said they needed information on the accessibility of the voting place (15%) or accessible voting tools and services (12%) for this election.²⁰ Those with a severe/very severe disability were more likely than those with a mild/moderate disability to need information on the accessibility of the polling place (23% versus 13%) and on accessible voting tools and services (20% versus 10%).

More than three-quarters (78%) of those who needed information on accessibility said it was very (43%) or somewhat (35%) easy to find this information. Seven percent of those who said they needed information also said they did not look for information.

²⁰ Q. For this election, did you need information on ... the accessibility of your polling place? ... accessible voting tools and services to assist you with voting? Base: n=6,679; electors with a disability. [Wave 3]

Figure 31: Ease of finding information on accessibility



Q. How easy or difficult was it to find the information you needed on accessibility for the election? Base: n=1,193; electors with a disability who required information. [DK/NR: 2%] [Wave 3]

Large-print lists was the tool most commonly used by electors with disabilities

Consistent with the finding that one in 10 (12%) electors with a disability said they needed information on accessible voting tools and services, use of these tools and services to assist with voting was relatively limited:²¹

- The only tool used with any frequency was large-print lists of candidates, used by one in 10 (10%) voters who have difficulty with seeing, a cognitive activity such as concentrating, and/or a developmental disability (n=4,444).
- Language or sign language interpretation was used by 5% of voters who have a lot of difficulty hearing or are unable to hear (n=215).
- The braille lists of candidates were used by 3% of voters who have a lot of difficulty seeing or are unable to see (n=251).
- Use of other tools (signature guide, magnifiers, tactile and braille template, a personal smart phone to read the ballot) ranged from 1% to 2% among their respective intended users.

Most who received assistance marking their ballot were assisted by Elections Canada staff

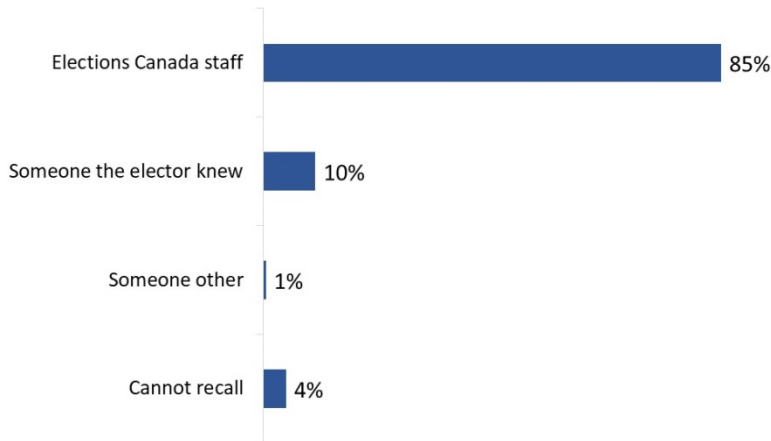
Seven percent of electors with a disability who voted in person said someone assisted them in marking their ballot.²² Those with a severe/very severe disability were more likely to need assistance (10% compared to 7% of those with a mild/moderate disability).

Among respondents who received assistance marking their ballot, more than eight in 10 (85%) indicated that Elections Canada staff assisted them, while one in 10 (10%) said they were assisted by someone they knew, such as a family member, friend, or personal support worker. A few (4%) could not recall who assisted them.

²¹ Q. Did you use any of the following tools or services to help you vote? Base: voters with disabilities. [DK/NR: < 2%] [Wave 3]

²² Q. When you voted, did someone assist you with marking your ballot? Base: 5,743; voters with a disability. [DK: 1%] [Wave 3]

Figure 32: Assistance marking ballot



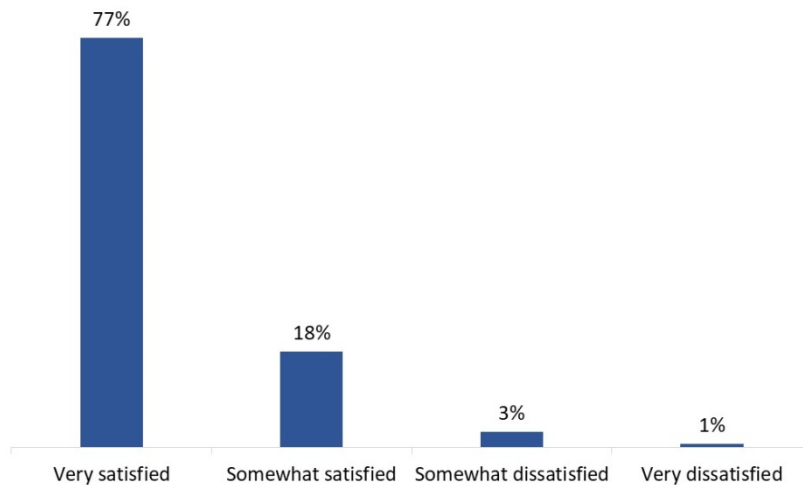
Q: Who gave you assistance marking your ballot? Base: n=375; voters with a disability who needed assistance marking their ballot. [Refused: <0.5%] [Wave 3]

Voters with a severe/very severe disability (18%) were more likely than those with a mild/moderate disability (7%) to have received help from someone they knew.

Most who received assistance marking their ballot were satisfied with the assistance

Among respondents with a disability who received assistance when voting, most (95%) said they were at least somewhat satisfied with the assistance, including just over three-quarters (77%) who were very satisfied with it.

Figure 33: Satisfaction with assistance received when voting



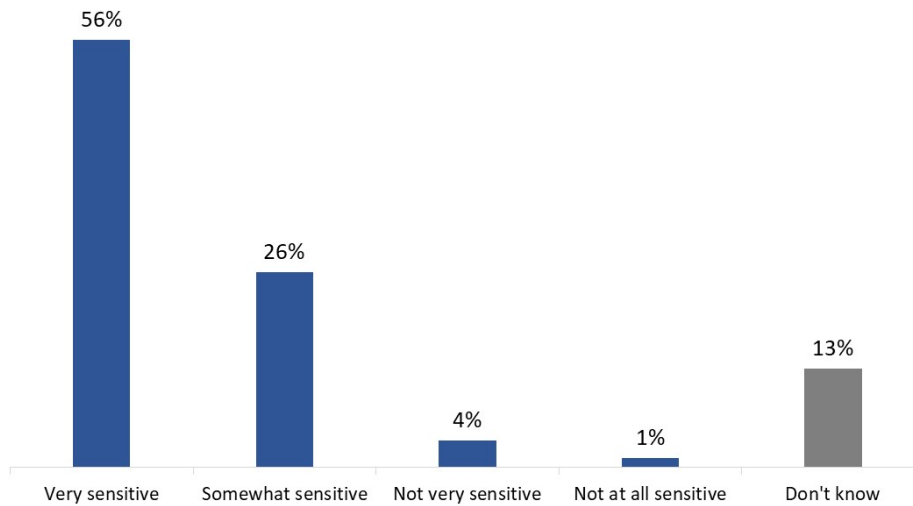
Q: How satisfied were you with the assistance you received marking your ballot? Base: n=375; electors with a disability who needed assistance marking their ballot. [DK/NR: 2%] [Wave 3]

The likelihood of being very satisfied with the assistance received was higher among those aged 55 or over (88%) compared to 18- to 54-year-olds (73%).

Eight in 10 said EC staff were sensitive to their needs when voting

Approximately eight in 10 (82%) voters with a disability indicated that Elections Canada staff were at least somewhat sensitive to their needs when voting, with a majority (56%) indicating that staff were very sensitive to such needs. Those who did not indicate that Elections Canada staff were sensitive to their needs were more likely to offer no response to this question (13%) than to indicate that staff were insensitive to their needs (5%).

Figure 34: Sensitivity of EC staff in regard to elector's disability



Q. Overall, how sensitive would you say Elections Canada staff were regarding your needs when voting? Base: n=5,743; voters with a disability who voted in person. [Refused: <0.5%] [Wave 3]

The likelihood of saying that Elections Canada staff were very sensitive to their voting needs increased with age, from 50% of voters with a disability aged 18–24 to 70% of those aged 75 and older, and was higher among women (58% versus 55% of men).

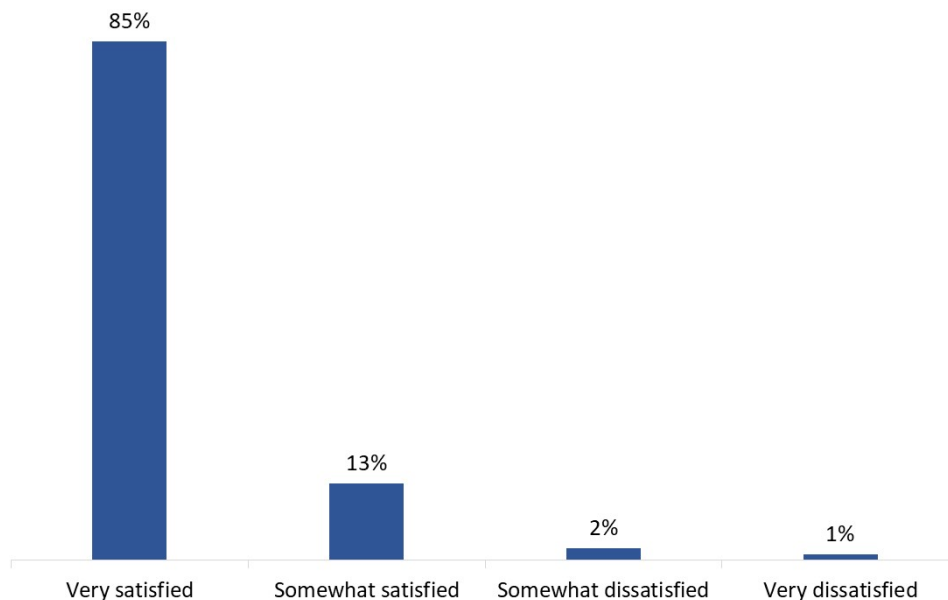
9. Satisfaction with the Voting Process

This section reports on satisfaction with the voting process.

Strong and widespread satisfaction with the service provided by Elections Canada staff

Of those who voted in person, nearly everyone (98%) said they were at least somewhat satisfied with the services provided by Elections Canada staff, and a substantial majority (85%) said they were very satisfied. These proportions are similar to 2015, when 97% were satisfied and 86% were very satisfied.

Figure 35: Satisfaction with services provided by EC staff when voting



Q. Overall, how satisfied were you with the services provided by Elections Canada staff when you voted? Were you...? Base: n=19,299; respondents who voted in person. [DK/NR: <0.5%] [Wave 3]

The likelihood of being very satisfied decreased as the severity of a disability increased (from 86% of those with no disability to 79% of those with a severe/very severe disability).

Majority were served in English; all were satisfied with the official language in which they were served

Over three-quarters of respondents who voted in person (76%) said they were served in English, one in five (20%) said they were served in French, and 3% said they were served in both of Canada's official languages.²³ As was the case in 2015, virtually all (99%) voters in the 2019 GE were satisfied with the official language in which they were served.²⁴

²³ Q. Voters can choose to be served in either official language, English or French. In which language were you served? Base: n=19,300; voters. [DK/NR: <0.5%] [Wave 3]

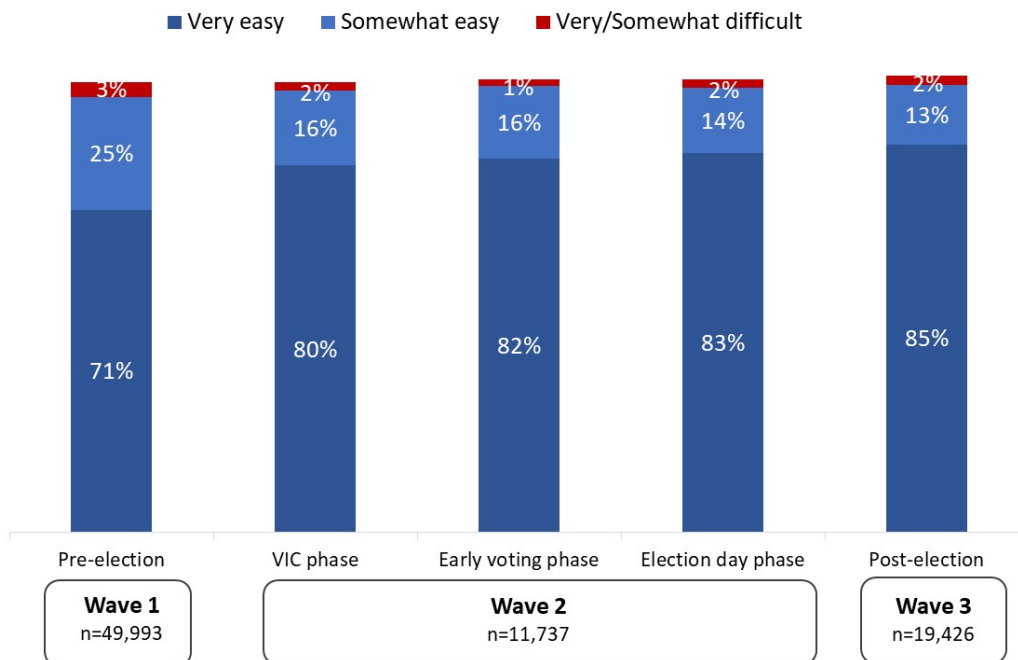
²⁴ Q. Were you satisfied with the official language in which you were served? Base: n=19,250; voters. [DK/NR: <0.5%] [Wave 3]

Nearly everyone found it easy to vote overall and the perception that voting was easy increased over the election period

In the pre-election survey, seven in 10 (71%) electors said they expected it would be very easy for them to vote at the polling place if they wanted to vote. The perception that it would be easy to vote increased measurably over the election period: During the period when VICs were being delivered to electors, 80% of electors expected it would be very easy to vote; by the final week of the election period leading up to election day, 83% of electors expected it would be very easy to vote.

In the post-election survey, the actual experience of voters matched their final expectations: 85% of voters found it very easy to vote, while another 13% found voting to be somewhat easy.

Figure 36: Ease of voting – expectations versus experience



Q. If you wanted to vote, how easy or difficult do you think it would be to vote once you arrive at the polling station? [DK/NR: 1%] [Wave 1, Wave 2]

Q. Overall, how easy was it to vote? Would you say it was...? [DK/NR: <0.5%] [Wave 3]

The following subgroups were less likely to have said it was very easy to vote:

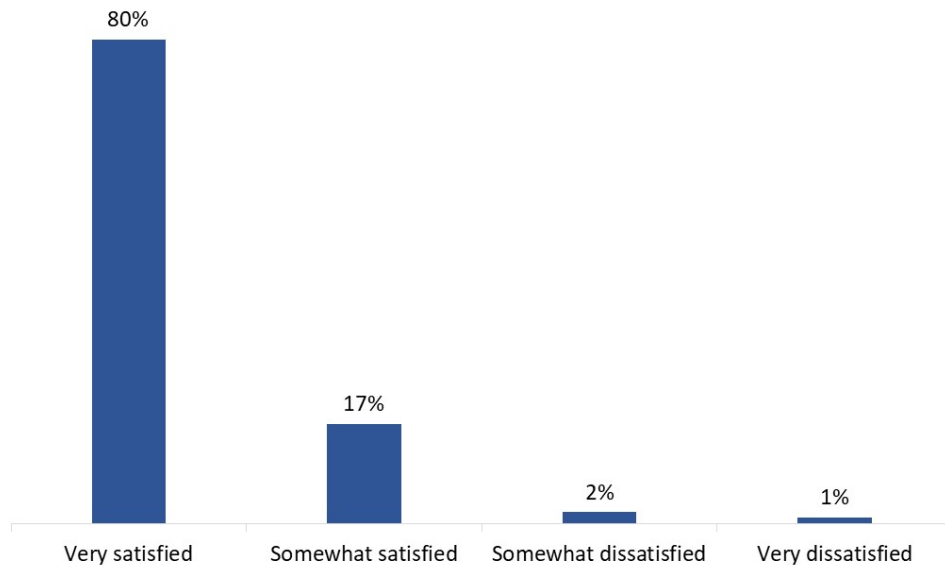
- Indigenous voters (82%) compared to non-Indigenous voters (85%)
- new Canadians (81%) compared to other Canadians (85%)
- 18- to 24-year-olds (77%) compared to Canadians aged 25 and older (86%)
- youth attending school (76%) compared to youth working full-time (81%)
- voters who did not receive their VIC (71%) compared to those who did (86%)
- those who voted at a local Elections Canada office (84%) or on election day (85%) compared to those who voted at an advance poll (87%)

In addition, the likelihood of finding it very easy to vote decreased as the severity of a disability increased (from 87% of those with no disability to 78% of those with a severe/very severe disability).

Widespread and strong overall satisfaction with voting experience

Most voters (97%) said they were at least somewhat satisfied with their voting experience, with a substantial majority (80%) expressing strong satisfaction with the experience. These proportions are similar to 2015, when 96% were satisfied and 81% very satisfied.

Figure 37: Satisfaction with overall voting experience



Q. Overall, how satisfied were you with your voting experience? Were you...? Base: n=19,426; voters. [DK/NR: <0.5%] [Wave 3]

The following subgroups were less likely to have been very satisfied with their voting experience:

- Indigenous voters (73%) compared to non-Indigenous voters (81%)
- 18- to 24-year-olds (76%) compared to Canadians aged 25 and older (81%)
- voters who did not receive their VIC (67%) compared to those who did (81%)
- those who voted on election day (79%) compared to those who voted at an advance poll (82%) or at a local Elections Canada office (84%)

In addition, the likelihood of being very satisfied decreased as the severity of a disability increased (from 82% of those with no disability to 72% of those with a severe/very severe disability).

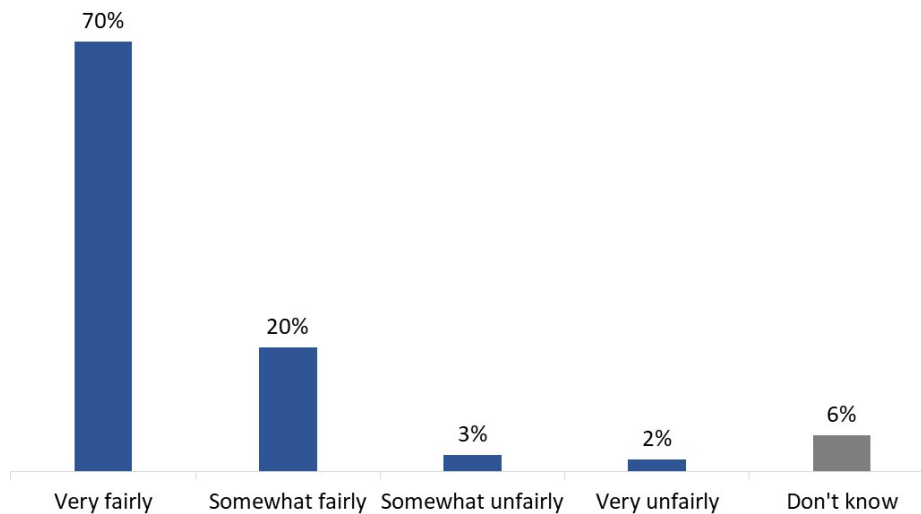
10. Overall Satisfaction with Elections Canada and the Election

This section reports on issues related to satisfaction with the administration of the democratic process in Canada.

Widespread impression that Elections Canada ran the election fairly

Nine in 10 respondents (90%) felt that Elections Canada ran the election at least somewhat fairly, with 70% indicating that they believe Elections Canada ran the election very fairly. These proportions are effectively the same as results from 2015, when 92% said EC ran the election fairly and 67% said very fairly. Other respondents in 2019 were almost equally divided between those who believe the election was run somewhat or very unfairly (5%), and those who do not know (6%).

Figure 38: Perception that EC ran the election fairly



Q. Thinking about the October 21 federal election, how fairly would you say Elections Canada ran the election? Base: n=21,435; all respondents. [Wave 3]

The following were less likely to say that the election was run very fairly:

- Indigenous electors (59% versus 70% of non-Indigenous electors)
- Youth aged 18–24 (64% compared to 70% of electors 25 and older)
- NEET youth (53%) compared to youth attending school (66%) and youth working full-time (63%)
- women (68% compared to 72% of men)
- those who did not vote in the 2019 GE (35%) compared to voters (73%)²⁵

In addition, the likelihood of saying that the election was run very fairly:

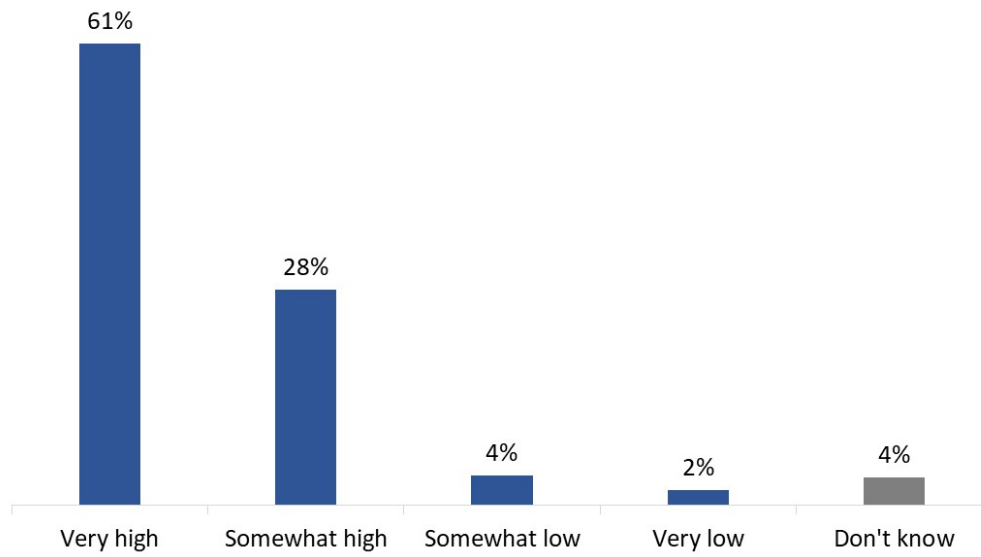
- decreased as the severity of a disability increased (from 72% of electors with no disability to 56% of those with a severe/very severe disability)
- increased with education, from 59% of those with high school or less to 76% of electors who completed university

²⁵ Some part of this difference can be attributed to a higher proportion of “don’t know” responses to this question among non-voters – 20% of non-voters said they did not know how fairly EC ran the election, compared to 4% of voters.

Widespread confidence in accuracy of the election results in their riding

There was widespread trust in the accuracy of the election results in respondents' respective ridings—89% had at least some level of trust in the accuracy of the results, with 61% saying their trust was very high. This represents a slight decrease from the 2015 Survey of Electors, when 92% had at least some trust and 65% had a very high level of trust in the accuracy of the results.

Figure 39: Trust in the accuracy of the election results in the riding



Q. What level of trust do you have in the accuracy of the election results in your riding? Base: n=21,435; all respondents. [Wave 3]

A very high level of trust in the accuracy of results was more likely among the following:

- non-Indigenous electors (61% versus 53% of Indigenous electors)
- electors 25 and older (62% versus 55% of those 18–24 years of age)
- youth attending school (57%) and youth working full-time (56%) compared to NEET youth (44%)
- men (65% compared to 58% of women)
- 2019 voters (64%) compared to non-voters (29%)
- those who voted at a local Elections Canada office (72% versus 65% of those who voted at an advance poll and 63% of those who voted on election day)

In addition, the likelihood of expressing very high trust in the accuracy of results:

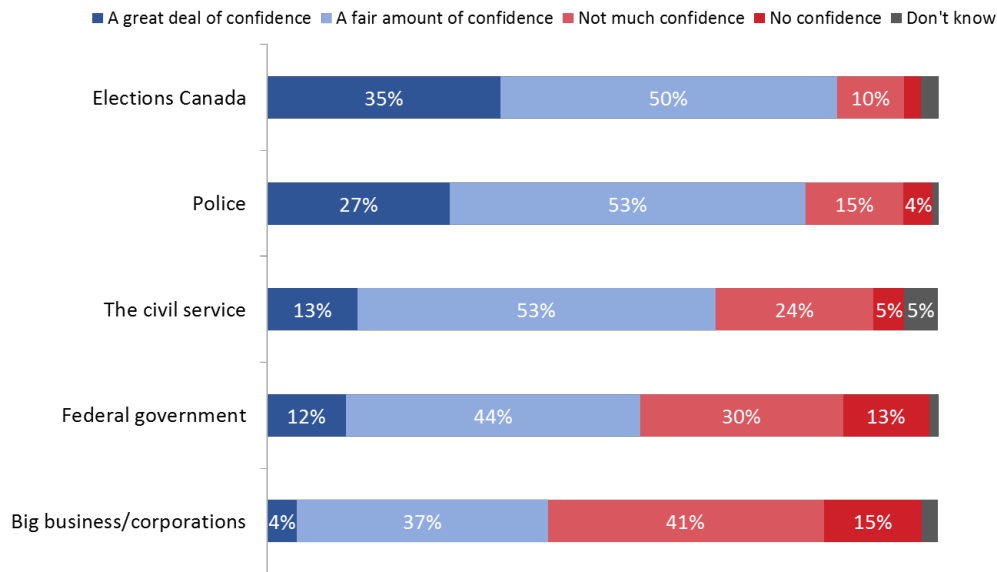
- decreased as the severity of a disability increased (from 64% of electors with no disability to 46% of those with a severe/very severe disability)
- increased with education, from 47% of those with high school or less to 70% of electors who completed university

Low trust in the accuracy of results was notably more likely among non-voters (19% versus 5% of voters) and Indigenous electors (14% versus 6% of non-Indigenous electors), and increased with the severity of a disability (from 5% of those with no disability to 14% of those with a severe/very severe disability).

Confidence in Elections Canada was high before the election

In the pre-election survey, respondents were asked about their base level of confidence in various institutions in Canada, including Elections Canada. As the graph below indicates, electors reported having a comparatively high level of confidence in Elections Canada. Specifically, more than eight in 10 (85%) electors said they had a great deal or fair amount of confidence in EC, followed by the police (80%), civil service (66%), federal government (56%), and big business or corporations (41%).

Figure 40: Confidence in Canadian institutions

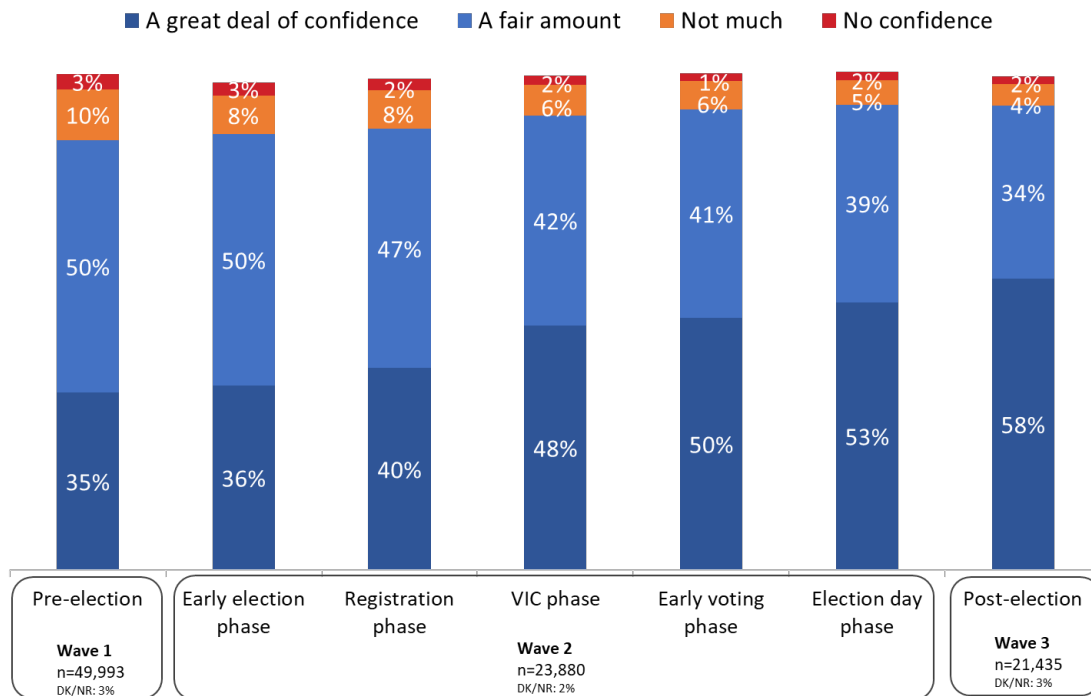


Q. How much confidence, if any, do you have in the following institutions in Canada? Base: n=49,993; all respondents. [Wave 1]

Confidence in Elections Canada increased overall and in intensity through the election period

Over the course of the election, the proportion of electors who had confidence in Elections Canada increased measurably from the pre-election baseline of 85% up to 92% in the post-election survey. Most notably, the proportion who said they have a great deal of confidence increased from a third (35%) of electors to more than half (58%) following the 43rd general election.

Figure 41: Confidence in Elections Canada



Q. How much confidence, if any, do you have in Elections Canada? Base: all respondents. [Wave 1–3]

Post-election, the likelihood of saying they have a great deal of confidence in Elections Canada was lower among:

- electors with a severe/very severe disability (43%) compared to those with a mild/moderate disability (54%) or no disability (61%)
- Indigenous electors (47%) compared to non-Indigenous electors (58%)
- Canadians aged 18–24 (51%) compared to those 25 and older (58%)
- NEET youth (40%) compared to youth attending school (54%) or working full-time (53%)

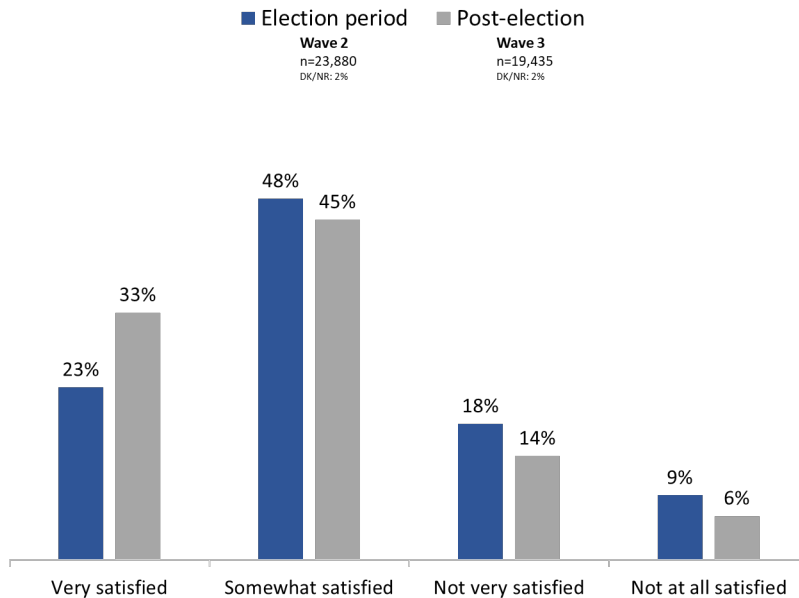
Having a great deal of confidence in Elections Canada was higher among:

- university graduates (67% versus 53% of electors with college or some post-secondary education and 44% of those with high school or less)
- men (62% compared to 54% of women)
- those who received their VIC (59% versus 39% of those who did not get a VIC)
- those who voted in 2019 (61% versus 29% of non-voters)

Moderate satisfaction with the way democracy works in Canada

Satisfaction with the way democracy works in Canada increased among electors from the election period survey to the post-election survey: Just over three-quarters (78%) of post-election respondents indicated that they are at least somewhat satisfied with the way democracy works in Canada, including one-third (33%) who are very satisfied (up from 71% and 23% of election period respondents, respectively). By contrast, one in five (20%) expressed some degree of dissatisfaction with this (down from 27% in the election period survey).

Figure 42: Satisfaction with the way democracy works in Canada



Q. Overall, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in Canada? Base: all respondents. [Wave 2, Wave 3]

Among post-election respondents, satisfaction with the way democracy works in Canada was more likely among the following:

- new Canadians (86% versus 78% of other Canadians)
- electors in Quebec (83%) compared to electors in other parts of Canada
- electors who completed university (83% compared to 73% of those who completed high school or less and 75% of those who completed college or some post-secondary education)
- those who voted in 2019 (80% compared to 61% of non-voters)

Those less likely to express satisfaction with the way democracy works in Canada include:

- Indigenous electors (64% versus 79% of non-Indigenous electors)
- 18- to 24-year-olds (70% versus 79% of electors 25 and older)
- NEET youth (58%) compared to youth in school (73%) and working full-time (72%)

In addition, the likelihood of expressing satisfaction with how democracy works in Canada decreased as the severity of a disability increased (from 81% of electors with no disability to 66% of those with a severe/very severe disability).

Dissatisfaction with how democracy works in Canada was more likely among non-voters (31% compared to 19% of voters), along with electors in Alberta (33%) and the Prairies (29%) compared to those elsewhere in Canada. In addition, the likelihood of expressing dissatisfaction with how democracy works in Canada increased with the severity of a disability (from 18% of electors with no disability to 30% of those with a severe/very severe disability).

Profile of Survey Respondents

	Weighted base	Wave 1 n=49,993	Wave 2 n=23,880	Wave 3 n=21,435
Province/territory				
Newfoundland and Labrador		1%	2%	1%
Prince Edward Island		1%	1%	1%
Nova Scotia		3%	3%	3%
New Brunswick		2%	2%	2%
Quebec		24%	23%	24%
Ontario		39%	38%	37%
Manitoba		3%	4%	3%
Saskatchewan		3%	3%	3%
Alberta		11%	11%	11%
British Columbia		13%	14%	14%
Nunavut		<0.5%	<0.5%	<0.5%
Northwest Territories		<0.5%	<0.5%	<0.5%
Yukon		<0.5%	<0.5%	<0.5%
Indigenous				
First Nations		2%	2%	2%
Métis		2%	2%	2%
Inuit		<0.5%	<0.5%	<0.5%
Non-Indigenous		97%	96%	96%
Gender				
Female		52%	51%	51%
Male		46%	48%	48%
Non-binary/transgender		1%	1%	1%
Prefer not to answer		1%	1%	1%
Language spoken at home				
English		75%	77%	76%
French		21%	19%	20%
Other		3%	3%	3%
Prefer not to answer		1%	<0.5%	<0.5%
Marital status				
Married		45%	45%	45%
Living common-law		14%	14%	13%
Widowed		4%	3%	4%
Separated		3%	3%	3%
Divorced		8%	7%	7%
Single, never married		25%	27%	28%
Prefer not to answer		1%	1%	1%

	Wave 1 n=49,993	Wave 2 n=23,880	Wave 3 n=21,435
Weighted Base			
Education			
Some elementary	<0.5%	<0.5%	<0.5%
Completed elementary	<0.5%	<0.5%	<0.5%
Some high school	4%	3%	3%
Completed high school	12%	10%	13%
Some community college/vocational/trade school/CEGEP	10%	9%	8%
Completed community college/vocational/trade school/CEGEP	19%	19%	20%
Some university	10%	11%	10%
Completed university	28%	29%	29%
Post-graduate university/professional school	16%	17%	15%
Other	<0.5%	<0.5%	<0.5%
Don't know	<0.5%	<0.5%	<0.5%
Prefer not to answer	1%	1%	<0.5%
Level of functional disability			
No disability	68%	69%	69%
Mild disability	16%	16%	16%
Moderate disability	8%	8%	8%
Severe disability	6%	6%	5%
Very severe disability	2%	2%	2%
Refused	<0.5%	--	--
Age			
18 to 24	10%	10%	10%
25 to 34	16%	17%	17%
35 to 54	33%	33%	33%
55 to 74	36%	36%	36%
75+	4%	4%	5%
Youth			
Youth 18–34 attending school	8%	8%	9%
Youth 18–34 working full-time and not attending school	13%	14%	13%
NEET youth	2%	1%	2%
All other youth	3%	4%	3%
New Canadians			
Immigrants who became citizens <i>before</i> the 2015 GE	14%	13%	13%
Immigrants who became citizens <i>after</i> the 2015 GE	2%	2%	2%
Non-immigrants	84%	85%	85%