



TORONTO
DROP-IN
NETWORK

MUNICIPAL ELECTION TOOLKIT 2026

A Support Guide for Drop-In programs



MUNICIPAL ELECTION TOOLKIT 2026

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2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Get Ready to Vote in the October Municipal Election:

- Election day is **Monday, October 26** from 10:00am to 8:00pm
- Advance voting is **Tuesday, October 6 to Sunday, October 11** from 10:00am to 7:00pm

This toolkit provides Drop-in staff with information about how they can assist program participants and community members to cast their votes in the upcoming Toronto Municipal Election, on **Monday, October 26th, 2026**.

WHY BOTHER?

Well, elections are one of the many ways to become involved in addressing issues that are important to everyone involved with your Drop-in and community. Elections are also a great time to start up conversations and actions around certain topics and issues, and that involvement can keep going after the elections.

We've provided election resources and links for finding further information, as well as ideas about how to engage and assist Drop-in participants with the voting process.

For the most up-to-date information about the Municipal Election, please visit the City of Toronto website: www.toronto.ca/city-government/elections/

CONTACT INFORMATION

Toronto Elections

Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
1st floor, Permit Alley

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday to Friday (except holidays)

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

TTY: [Use 711](tel:711)

Telephone: 416-338-1111

Email: elections@toronto.ca



MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The City of Toronto is your local government, also known as the municipal level of government. In Canada, we also have a federal government and provincial government. Each of these levels has different responsibilities but they often work together. The City of Toronto provides services that have a direct impact on our daily lives and City Council serves as the decision-makers at the municipal level.

MUNICIPAL CITY OF TORONTO

As your local government the municipal level of government is responsible for:

- water treatment
- parks
- libraries
- garbage collection
- public transit
- land use planning
- traffic signals
- police
- paramedics
- fire services
- sewers
- homeless shelters
- childcare
- recreation centres





THE ROLE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

The Toronto City Council is made up of 26 members: the mayor, who is elected city-wide, and 25 City Councillors who are elected in each ward across Toronto. The Mayor and Councillors each have one vote at City Council and a majority vote decides on most issues and/or plans. Unlike at other levels of government, the Mayor and Councillors are not elected to represent a political party. Each member of Council is independent and can choose how they vote on any issue.

The mayor provides leadership to City Council and also

- represents Toronto across Canada and around the world
- works with the Provincial and Federal government on issues that impact Toronto
- determines the committees and committee mandates for City Council
- chairs the Executive Committee
- appoints Councillors to chair and vice chair the standing committees of City Council
- appoints the senior leadership for the Toronto Public Service
- has the power to veto some matters in order to advance provincial priorities
- has other 'strong mayor powers (PDF),' as granted in the 2022 Strong Powers legislation

Unlike in the Provincial or Federal election, where you vote for one candidate, in the Municipal election you will be voting for:

- **City Councillor**
- **The Mayor**
- **School Board Trustee**

There are 12 Trustee wards in the Toronto District School Board. Each area elects a Trustee who is a voice for school communities.

Please note that during provincial supervision, the powers of Trustees rest with the provincially appointed Supervisor. As such, Trustees have no official duties with the Toronto District School Board at this time. This also applies to Trustees elected during the October 2026 municipal election.



TORONTO WARDS

The City of Toronto is divided into areas called wards. Each ward is identified by a name and number, and has an elected official called a councillor. The councillor in your ward represents you and the mayor represents the whole city.

WARD PROFILES:

[Ward 1 Etobicoke North](#)

[Ward 2 Etobicoke Centre](#)

[Ward 3 Etobicoke-Lakeshore](#)

[Ward 4 Parkdale-High Park](#)

[Ward 5 York South-Weston](#)

[Ward 6 York Centre](#)

[Ward 7 Humber River-Black Creek](#)

[Ward 8 Eglinton-Lawrence](#)

[Ward 9 Davenport](#)

[Ward 10 Spadina-Fort York](#)

[Ward 11 University-Rosedale](#)

[Ward 12 Toronto-St. Paul's](#)

[Ward 13 Toronto Centre](#)

[Ward 14 Toronto-Danforth](#)

[Ward 15 Don Valley West](#)

[Ward 16 Don Valley East](#)

[Ward 17 Don Valley North](#)

[Ward 18 Willowdale](#)

[Ward 19 Beaches-East York](#)

[Ward 20 Scarborough Southwest](#)

[Ward 21 Scarborough Centre](#)

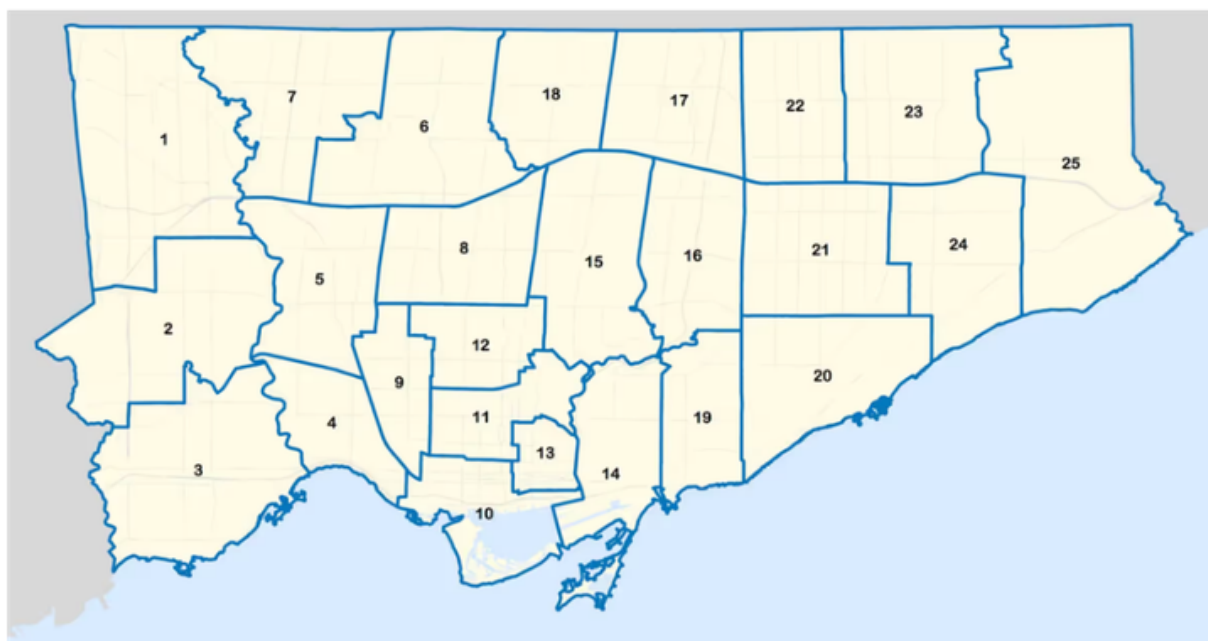
[Ward 22 Scarborough-Agincourt](#)

[Ward 23 Scarborough North](#)

[Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood](#)

[Ward 25 Scarborough-Rouge Park](#)

To learn more about the candidates in each ward, [click here](#)





GETTING READY TO VOTE

WHO CAN VOTE?

Individuals experiencing homelessness are eligible to vote in Toronto's 2026 municipal election if they are:

- a Canadian citizen; and
- at least 18 years old; and
- a resident of the City of Toronto; and
- not prohibited from voting under any law.

WHEN AND WHERE TO VOTE

Advance Voting

Tuesday October 6th to Sunday October 11th
10:00am to 7:00pm

Election Day

Monday October 26th
10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

An individual's voting place is determined by their address. For those without a permanent address, the place they most often slept or ate in the past five weeks, such as a shelter, a drop-in centre, a park or intersection, is the address to use for voting purposes.

Drop-In Staff can help find a voting place by:

- Calling 311 or visiting toronto.ca/Elections and using the MyVote tool to determine the closest voting place.
- Displaying the provided poster that identifies the closest voting place to your shelter or drop-in.
- Printing an official letter using the provided template noting that the individual receives services at your shelter or drop-in. This can make the voting experience smoother but is not required ([there is a template on page 11](#)).



THE VOTING PROCESS

What Individuals Experiencing Homelessness Can Expect at the Voting Place

Voting places are in schools, community centres, libraries, places of worship and other community spaces. Quieter voting times are usually between 1:00pm to 5:00pm.

Step 1: Arrive at the Voting Place

An election official will ask if the voter has a voter information card and identification. If they do not have a permanent address or ID, they will be directed to a revising officer.

Step 2: Speak with the Revising Officer

The revising officer will fill out a form that will allow the individual's name to be added to the voters' list so a ballot can be issued. They will ask the voter to confirm their eligibility to vote, as well as for their name, birth date and an address for voting purposes (the place they most often slept or ate in the last five weeks).

At this point, an official letter from a shelter or drop-in is helpful, if available.

The revising officer will ask the voter to review the form and sign a declaration confirming they are eligible to vote and their information is correct. A copy of the form will be provided, and they will be directed to a ballot officer.

Step 3: Get a Ballot

When the copy of the form is presented to the ballot officer, the voter will receive a ballot in a secrecy folder. The ballot is marked behind a voting privacy screen.

Step 4: Submit the Ballot

The secrecy folder is presented to the tabulator officer. The marked ballot is fed privately and securely through the tabulator.

The voting process is complete.



VOTERS IDENTIFICATION

To vote in the municipal election, you must show an election official at the polling station one piece of acceptable identification (ID) with your name and qualifying Toronto address. Photo ID is not required.

- You cannot use your voter information card as ID.
- You cannot use your passport as ID, as it does not show your address.

ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION:

- You can show a document on your mobile device as ID if that document was issued electronically (for example a digital phone bill or credit card statement).
- You cannot show a photo, photocopy or scan of a document as ID if that document was not issued electronically (for example a photo of your driver's licence).

EXAMPLES OF ACCEPTED ID

- Ontario issued photo card, driver's licence or motor vehicle permit (vehicle portion).
- Cancelled personalized cheque, credit card or bank account statement.
- Cheque stub, T4 statement or pay receipt issued by an employer.
- Statement of direct deposit for Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support Program.
- Property tax assessment, income tax assessment notice, Child Tax Benefit statement.
- Mortgage statement, lease or rental agreement.
- Transcript or report card from a post-secondary school.
- Document showing campus residence, issued by the office or officials responsible for student residence at a post-secondary institution.

NOTE: There is a letter template on page 11 that can be used by shelters or drop-ins to confirm that someone uses their services regularly. For those without a permanent address, the place they most often slept or ate in the past five weeks, such as a shelter, a drop-in centre, a park or intersection, is the address to use for voting purposes.



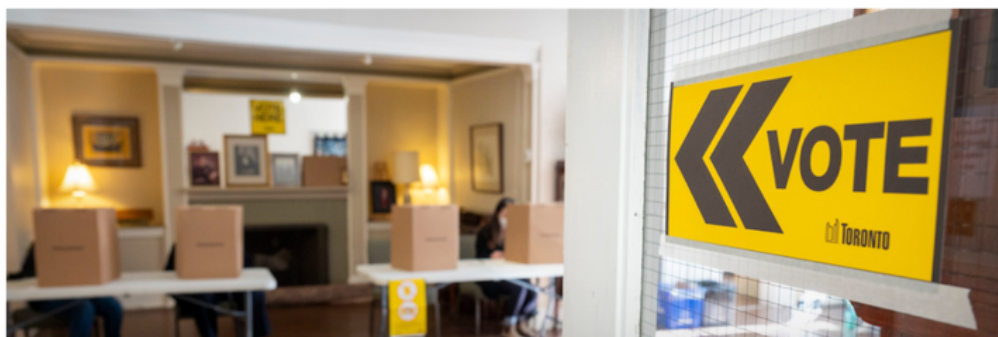
VOTERS IDENTIFICATION, CONTINUED

EXAMPLES OF ACCEPTED ID, CONTINUED

- Any other document from the government of Canada, Ontario or a municipality in Ontario or a document issued or certified by a court in Ontario.
- Any document from a Band Council in Ontario established under the Indian Act (Canada).
- Insurance policy or insurance statement.
- Utility bill for hydro, water, gas, telephone or cable TV.
- Loan agreement or other financial agreement with a financial institution.
- Statement of Employment Insurance Benefits Paid T4E.
- Statement of Old Age Security T4A (OAS), Canada Pension Plan Benefits T4A (P), Canada Pension Plan Statement of Contributions.
- Workplace Safety and Insurance Board Statement of Benefits T5007.
- CNIB card or a card from another registered charitable organization that provides services to persons with disabilities.
- Document showing residence at a long-term care home under the Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021, issued by the Administrator for the home.

For a printable list of Accepted Identification, [click here](#) it will link you to a PDF from the City of Toronto's website.

PDF Link: www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/98ac-Acceptable-Identification-2023.pdf



CONFIRMATION OF ADDRESS FOR TORONTO MUNICIPAL ELECTION LETTER TEMPLATE

<Shelter / Drop-In Centre Letterhead>

Date:

Confirmation of Address for Toronto Municipal Election Voting Purposes

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter confirms that <Name of Individual> uses the services of <Shelter / Drop-In Centre Name>, located at: <Shelter / Drop-In Centre Address>.

Under the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, eligible voters who do not have a permanent residence may establish a qualifying address for voting purposes based on the location where they most frequently returned to eat or sleep during the previous five weeks.

Election officials may use the address on this letter to update or confirm an eligible voter's information on the voters' list for the 2026 Toronto municipal election.

Sincerely,

<Shelter / Drop-In Centre Name>



ACTIVITIES DROP-INS CAN DO

1. Find out your Drop-in's Ward Candidates; Elections information for your ward
<https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/elections/candidate-list/>

You can find out answers to questions such as:

- Which municipal ward is your Drop-in located in?
- Who are your candidates?
- Where are the nearest voting places?
- What are the advance voting dates?

2. Share information with your program participants.

- Keep your staff and volunteers up to date with information and resources.
- Make a schedule. Plan for assisting participants on Voting Day, on Advance Voting dates, and/or with Mail-In Voting.
- Decide how to share information:
 - Can you print flyers to hand out?
 - Can you hang posters in the window, or on a bulletin board?
 - Is your drop-in equipped for you to be able to provide information digitally to participants, through e-mail or social media?

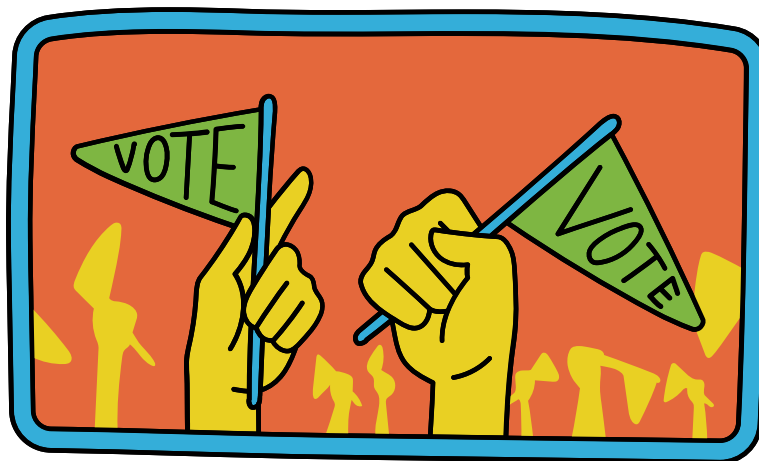
3. Programming Suggestions:

- Create opportunities for discussion, both amongst your participants and with election candidates – this may encourage people to:
 - Speak about the issues that are important to them
 - Learn about which candidate could best represent them
 - Get out to vote

ACTIVITIES DROP-INS CAN DO

Ballot Box Exercise about Current Issues:

- Have a ballot box present in the Drop-in for participants to submit any election topics-of-interest such as housing, food security, policing, shelters, drop-ins, etc.
- This exercise will give participants an opportunity to speak about their concerns regarding various issues.
- Ballots can be left blank so that participants can submit their own ideas, or can present a list of issues that participants can check off or rank in order of importance.
- Pick a day and time for a group discussion and advertise it on the ballot box. Encourage participants to ask questions both before, during and after the day.
- If possible, have accessible information available for participants to see which political party they align with.



Communicate Issues to Candidates:

- Either as a group, or individually:
- Develop a petition for people to sign
- Write letters to candidates, from participants, about their concerns
- Create an event where these letters can be written, or a general time when they can be submitted to the Drop-in. Participants can either write these letters on their own and bring them in, or participate as part of a planned group activity.
- Make posters explaining the event. Keep envelopes handy for the letters so that they can be enclosed privately. Provide names of candidates and pens.
- Schedule a time for these letters to be mailed/emailed/delivered

ACTIVITIES DROP-INS CAN DO

Invite Candidates to Your Drop-in:

Find out who your candidates are and invite them to the Drop-in or to a nearby outdoor venue to meet with participants to discuss relevant issues.

- 2026 Municipal Election List of Certified Candidates link:

<https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/elections/candidate-list/>

- Email invitations to candidates and then follow up with phone calls.
- Include a message about your Drop-In's role in your community and why you are inviting candidates to spend time there.
- If possible, offer to show them around your Drop-in.
- When a meeting is scheduled, re-confirm the details well before the actual date.
- Promote the event with posters and invite other Drop-ins in your ward.



Put up Posters:

- Place plain-language posters in and around the Drop-in which encourage the importance of voting, and how staff can assist with preparing to vote.
- Post infographic-style posters that explain the voting process.
- Use posters to encourage people to ask you questions about voting.



MUNICIPAL ELECTION EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The City of Toronto will be hiring thousands of people who will work together and help Toronto vote on October 26.

To be eligible to apply for an election official position, you must meet the qualifications and eligibility criteria outlined in the job descriptions listed on the City of Toronto website:

www.toronto.ca/city-government/elections/about-election-jobs/

You are **not** eligible to work the October 26 election if you are:

- a candidate or registered third party advertiser,
- an immediate family member of a candidate, or
- actively working to support or oppose a candidate in the Toronto municipal election.

If you do not have access to a computer or internet to apply online, attend a virtual interview or complete online training, there may be equipment and access available to you through the [Toronto Public Library](#), [Toronto Employment Social Services locations](#) or community employment hubs. If you require assistance, call the Toronto Elections recruitment line at 416-392-9121, or TTY 711 (relay service).

The City will be hiring for the following positions:

- Access Officer
- Customer Service Officer
- Tabulator Officer
- Voter Assist Terminal Officer
- Ballot Officer
- Revising Officer
- Standby Officer
- Deputy Returning Officer
- Managing Deputy Returning Officer

For information on how to apply and details on each position, please visit the City's website: www.toronto.ca/city-government/elections/about-election-jobs/