



**CANADIAN  
MUNICIPAL  
BAROMETER**

**LE BAROMÈTRE  
MUNICIPAL  
DU CANADA**

**Politician Survey  
2025**

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# Background and Programming Qs

**position** To which of the following positions were you elected?

- Mayor / Reeve (1)
- Deputy Mayor (2)
- Councillor (3)
- Other (4)

**terms** For how many terms have you held your current office?

- This is my first term (1)
- This is my second term (2)
- This is my third term (3)
- This is my fourth term (4)
- Five or more terms (5)

**atlarge** Were you elected at-large (that is, in a municipality-wide race) or in a ward?

- At Large (1)
- Ward (2)

**acclaimed** In your most recent municipal election, were you elected by acclamation?

- No (0)
- Yes (1)

**party** In your most recent municipal election, did you run with a party or slate?

- Yes (1)
- No (0)

## Issue Importance

*Each participant completed a random draw of nine of the items below.*

**issnb\_preamble** How important is each of these policy areas to life in your community?

*Matrix question: response options: Not at all important (1), Slightly important (2), Moderately important (3), Very important (4), Extremely important (5), Don't Know (-99)*

- **issnb\_1** Electricity and natural gas supply
- **issnb\_2** Homelessness
- **issnb\_3** Parks and recreation
- **issnb\_4** Public health
- **issnb\_5** Culture and the Arts
- **issnb\_6** Economic development
- **issnb\_7** Emergency planning
- **issnb\_8** Housing
- **issnb\_9** Immigrant settlement

- **issnb\_10** Land use planning and regulation
- **issnb\_11** Policing
- **issnb\_12** Public Transit
- **issnb\_13** Roads, Bridges, and Highways
- **issnb\_14** Solid waste (collection and disposal)
- **issnb\_15** Indigenous relations / Indigenous affairs
- **issnb\_16** Water supply
- **issnb\_17** Climate change policy
- **issnb\_18** Poverty reduction
- **issnb\_19** Drug use

## Core Policy Attitudes

*Question order randomized.*

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

**issue\_livingwage** Municipalities should require that all municipal contractors pay their employees a living wage, even if it means increased costs for the municipality.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
- Somewhat Disagree, (2)
- Somewhat Agree (3)
- Strongly Agree (4)
- Don't Know / No Opinion (-99)

**issue\_climatechange** Municipalities should play a strong role in reducing the effects of climate change, even if it means sacrificing revenues and/or expending financial resources.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
- Somewhat Disagree, (2)
- Somewhat Agree (3)
- Strongly Agree (4)
- Don't Know / No Opinion (-99)

**issue\_socialservices** Municipalities should prioritize keeping taxes low, even if it means low-income residents have access to fewer social services.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
- Somewhat Disagree, (2)
- Somewhat Agree (3)
- Strongly Agree (4)
- Don't Know / No Opinion (-99)
- 

**issue\_activetrans** Municipalities should make their roads accessible to active transportation (walking, cycling) even if it means sacrificing driving lanes and/or parking.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
- Somewhat Disagree, (2)

- Somewhat Agree (3)
- Strongly Agree (4)
- Don't Know / No Opinion (-99)

**issue\_density** Municipalities should encourage increased housing density in established neighbourhoods, even if some local residents object.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
- Somewhat Disagree, (2)
- Somewhat Agree (3)
- Strongly Agree (4)
- Don't Know / No Opinion (-99)

**issue\_subsidies** Municipalities should provide subsidized programs to low-income residents, even if doing so comes at the expense of businesses and/or wealthy residents.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
- Somewhat Disagree, (2)
- Somewhat Agree (3)
- Strongly Agree (4)
- Don't Know / No Opinion (-99)

**issue\_landmarks** Municipalities should keep historic street names, statues, and other heritage landmarks, even if some of the historical individuals being commemorated were prejudiced or racist.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
- Somewhat Disagree, (2)
- Somewhat Agree (3)
- Strongly Agree (4)
- Don't Know / No Opinion (-99)

## FCM Revenue

**revenue\_sources** If you could choose any of the following options for raising revenue, which would you prefer? **Please select up to three items.**

- Collect a portion of the income tax, with the rate set by municipal governments (1)
- Collect a portion of the sales tax, with the rate set by municipal governments (2)
- Increase user fees (3)
- Implement and/or increase development charges (4)
- Increase grants from provincial or federal governments (5)
- Increase property taxes (6)
- My municipality does not need more revenue (7)

**revenue\_onesource** {Displayed if **revenue\_sources** != 7 and its response count was greater than 1} If you could only choose one of these options for raising revenue, which would you choose?

- Selected responses from revenue\_sources

**fischealth** Thinking about the overall fiscal health of your municipality on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is the worst (fiscal crisis) and 10 is the best (perfect fiscal health), how would you rate your municipality's overall fiscal health today?

- 0 (Fiscal crisis)
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10 (Perfect fiscal health)

## Theories of Voting Behavior

*A subset of three items were randomly displayed with equal probability.*

**elec\_blame** Some say that voters often blame or reward politicians for events that are totally outside the politician's control. Others say that voters are good at knowing which events politicians are and are not responsible for. Where would you position yourself in this debate?

- 0 (Unfairly Blame or Reward)
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10 (Correctly Blame or Reward)

**elec\_policy** Some say that voters make their decisions based on their policy preferences. Others say that voters' choices have much more to do with their deeply held partisan or other group identities. Where would you position yourself in this debate?

- 0 (Policy Preferences)
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10 (Deeply Held Identities)

**elec\_pastfuture** Some say that voters make decisions based on candidates' policy commitments and promises for the next term. Others say that voters base their decisions on "rewarding" or "punishing" their mayor or councillor for how well they have performed in the previous term. Where would you position yourself in this debate?

- 0 (Look to the Past)
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10 (Look to the Future)

**elec\_improvedlives** Some say voters judge governments on whether they've improved everyone's lives. Others say voters judge governments on whether they've improved their own personal lives. Where would you position yourself in this debate?

- 0 (Everyone's Lives)
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10 (Personal Lives)

**elec\_shortterm** Some say that voters are impatient and think about the short term when they vote. Others say that voters are able to ignore short-term distractions and focus on the long term. Where would you position yourself in this debate?

- 0 (Think about the short term)
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10 (Think about the long term)

## Politician Implicit Theories

We are going to show you profiles of three possible constituents in your municipality. Please consider each of their attributes and then answer the questions on the page.

### conjoint

*The order of the rows in the conjoint were randomized at the respondent level.*

*Each respondent completed three instances of the conjoint. To encode each task, variables are prefixed with "1", "2", or "3".*

Attribute	Levels
Age	25, 45, 65
Gender	Man, Woman
Racial Identity	White, South Asian, Chinese, Latin American
Immigrant Status	Non-Immigrant (born in Canada), Immigrant (born outside Canada)
Years in Municipality	Less than 1 year, 3 years, 7 years, More than 10 years
Education	High school diploma, College diploma, Skilled trade, Bachelor's degree, Professional degree or doctorate
Housing Situation	Renter, Home owner, Temporarily staying with relatives or friends
Federal Party Affiliation	No party affiliation, Conservative, NDP, Liberal, Green

**{1-3}\_cj\_turnout** How likely do you think it is that this person will vote in the next municipal election?

- 0 (No Chance)
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4



- 5 (50-50 Chance)
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10 (Absolutely Certain)

**{1-3}\_cj\_ideol** In politics people sometimes talk of left and right. If you had to guess, where do you think this person would place themselves on a 0-10 left-right scale, where 0 is “left” and 10 is “right”?

- 0 (Left)
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10 (Right)

**{1-3}\_cj\_policy** If you had to guess, how do you think this person would respond to the following policy statement?

*Randomly inserted policy statement from **cj\_policy\_text***

- They would strongly disagree (1)
- They would somewhat disagree (2)
- They would somewhat agree (3)
- They would strongly agree (4)
- They would have no opinion (5)

**cj\_policy\_text**

- Municipalities should require that all municipal contractors pay their employees a living wage, even if it means increased costs for the municipality. (1)
- Municipalities should play a strong role in reducing the effects of climate change, even if it means sacrificing revenues and/or expending financial resources. (2)
- Municipalities should prioritize keeping taxes low, even if it means low-income residents have access to fewer social services. (3)
- Municipalities should make their roads accessible to active transportation (walking, cycling) even if it means sacrificing driving lanes and/or parking. (4)
- Municipalities should encourage increased housing density in established neighbourhoods, even if some local residents object. (5)

- Municipalities should provide subsidized programs to low-income residents, even if doing so comes at the expense of businesses and/or wealthy residents. (6)
- Municipalities should keep historic street names, statues, and other heritage landmarks, even if some of the historical individuals being commemorated were prejudiced or racist. (7)

## Public Transit

**transit\_preamble** What is your opinion about the following statement?

**transit\_iss1** Governments should invest more money in new public transit infrastructure, even if it means a slight increase in taxes.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
- Somewhat Disagree, (2)
- Somewhat Agree (3)
- Strongly Agree (4)
- Don't Know / No Opinion (-99)

**transit\_iss2** If governments invest in new public transit infrastructure, which level of government should provide the funding?

- Municipalities should provide all of the funding (1)
- Municipalities should provide most of the funding (2)
- Funding should be split equally between municipalities and senior governments (provincial and federal) (3)
- Senior governments should provide most of the funding (4)
- Senior governments should provide all of the funding (5)
- Don't know (-99)

**transit\_iss3\_preamble** If governments invest in new public transit infrastructure, where should the investment go?

**transit\_iss3b** Funding should go:

- Entirely to areas with high existing transit usage (1)
- Mostly to areas with existing high transit usage (2)
- Equally to areas with existing high and low transit usage (3)
- Mostly to areas with existing low transit usage (4)
- Entirely to areas with low existing transit usage (5)
- Don't know (-99)

**transit\_iss3c** Funding should go:

- Entirely to lower-income areas (1)
- Mostly to lower-income areas (2)
- Equally to lower and higher-income areas (3)
- Mostly to higher-income areas (4)
- Entirely to higher-income areas (5)

- Don't know (-99)

## Harassment

**h\_exp** While campaigning or in office, some municipal politicians experience harassment, intimidation and threats to their security.

During your current term on council or in the campaign period that preceded it, have you, your family or staff experienced any of the following because of your work in municipal politics?

*Matrix question. Response options: Yes (1), No (0)*

- **h\_exp\_1** Insults or demeaning language in-person or at public events
- **h\_exp\_2** Insults or demeaning language via telephone, email, physical mail, or social media
- **h\_exp\_3** Threats of harm
- **h\_exp\_4** Interference with personal or office property (e.g., defacing literature, destruction of property)
- **h\_exp\_5** Harassment (i.e., persistent and uninvited behaviour that causes fear or distress)
- **h\_exp\_6** Physical attacks and/or sexual violence

**h\_id** {displayed if any h\_exp == 1} Did these insults, harassment, or harm target you, your family, or your staff based on any of these characteristics? Please select all that apply.

- Gender (1)
- Sexuality (2)
- Race, country of origin, accent (3)
- Religion (4)
- None of these characteristics were targeted (5)

**h\_clim** As a municipal officeholder, how would you characterize the general climate of municipal politics?

- 1 (Not at all inclusive and welcoming)
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 (Very inclusive and welcoming)

**h\_preamble** How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following?:

*One of **h\_cost** and **h\_benefit** were randomly presented with equal probability.*

**h\_cost** The costs of political involvement outweigh the benefits.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
- Somewhat Disagree (2)
- Somewhat Agree (3)

- Strongly Agree (4)
- Don't Know / No Opinion (-99)

**h\_benefit** The benefits of political involvement outweigh the costs.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
- Somewhat Disagree, (2)
- Somewhat Agree (3)
- Strongly Agree (4)
- Don't Know / No Opinion (-99)

**h\_wellbeing** Experiences of harassment have negatively impacted my mental wellbeing and affected my ability to do my job.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
- Somewhat Disagree, (2)
- Somewhat Agree (3)
- Strongly Agree (4)
- Don't Know / No Opinion (-99)

**h\_problem** Would you say threats, harassment, or violence toward members of your local council is:

- A big problem in my municipality (1)
- Somewhat of a problem in my municipality (2)
- Not a problem at all in my municipality (3)
- Don't know / No opinion (-99)

**h\_response** How would you rate your municipality's response to harassment in politics?

- Very effective (1)
- Somewhat effective (2)
- Not effective at all (3)
- Don't know / No opinion (-99)

**h\_strat** {displayed if any h\_exp == 1} Which of the following strategies have you employed to address the harassment, intimidation, or harm that you experienced in your current term on council or the campaign period that preceded it? Please select all that apply.

- Ignored it (1)
- Called it out (2)
- Blocked on social media (3)
- Reported it to municipal clerk (4)
- Reported it to police (5)
- Reported it to social media platform (6)
- Put a safety plan in place (e.g., extra security) (7)
- Other [TEXT] \_\_\_\_\_ (8)

**h\_strat\_8\_TEXT** Open-ended responses to **h\_strat (8)**

## Perceptual Accuracy (Regular Questions)

### proposal\_text{1-4}

- Municipal governments should reallocate a portion of their police budgets to fund social programs and mental health services, even if it means reducing the number of active police officers. (1)
- Municipal governments should prioritize hiring more community outreach workers over expanding police forces, as a way to address the root causes of crime. (2)
- Municipal governments should reduce funding for immigrant-focused programs and instead prioritize services that benefit all residents equally, regardless of immigration status. (3)
- Municipalities should expand funding for language and job training programs targeted at immigrants to help them integrate into the local economy, even if this reduces funding for other municipal services. (4)
- Municipalities should focus on improving economic development rather than implementing costly climate change mitigation strategies that could limit business growth, even if it leads to higher emissions. (5)
- Municipal governments should ban single-use plastics in all public spaces, even if this creates inconvenience for local businesses and residents. (6)
- Municipalities should allow private companies to handle waste management and recycling services to reduce public spending, even if it results in lower environmental standards. (7)
- Municipal governments should mandate that all new developments meet strict environmental standards, even if it increases the cost of housing and construction. (8)
- Municipal governments should prioritize economic growth and development over strict environmental regulations, even if it results in increased pollution or environmental degradation. (9)
- Municipalities should relax environmental regulations to attract businesses, even if it increases pollution in lower-income neighbourhoods. (10)
- Municipal governments should reduce funding for bike lanes and focus on road expansion for vehicles, even if it makes the municipality less bike-friendly. (11)
- Municipal governments should stop subsidizing public transit fares and instead focus on improving road infrastructure, even if it leads to fewer people using public transportation. (12)
- Municipal governments should invest heavily in expanding bike lanes, even if it means reducing the number of lanes for cars on major roads. (13)
- Municipalities should prioritize protecting existing neighbourhoods from high-density developments, even if it makes housing less affordable for new residents. (14)
- Municipalities should prioritize zoning policies that protect single-family homes, even if it restricts the development of more affordable housing options like duplexes or townhouses. (15)
- Municipalities should offer tax breaks and incentives for green businesses, even if it increases taxes for other industries. (16)

- Municipalities should require large companies to contribute to local infrastructure and social programs, even if it makes them less likely to set up offices in the area. (17)
- Municipalities should require developers to include affordable housing units in new luxury developments, even if it reduces the overall profitability of those projects. (18)
- Municipalities should reduce business taxes to stay competitive with other regions, even if it means cutting funding for public infrastructure projects like transit and road repairs. (19)
- Municipal governments should increase user fees for public services like garbage collection and parking, rather than raising property taxes across the board. (20)
- Municipal governments should raise property taxes on second homes to fund affordable housing projects. (21)
- Municipal governments should allocate more resources to reconciliation programs for urban Indigenous communities, even if it means reducing funding for other local services. (22)
- Municipal governments should maintain historical statues and monuments, even if some figures had controversial or prejudiced views. (23)
- Municipal governments should remove all statues of controversial historical figures, even if it angers some long-term residents. (24)
- Municipalities should ensure equal representation of women and minorities on council, even if it requires changing current election rules. (25)
- Municipalities should not allocate additional funds for inclusion and diversity programs if it means cutting resources for economic development. (26)

We would like to know a little about the views of residents in your municipality on three policy ideas or proposals. We'll show you three policy proposals in total.

*{0-100 Feeling thermometers with "Don't know"}*

Proposal 1: **proposal\_text1** *(one of the statements listed above was randomly inserted)*

**percep1\_p1** What percentage of residents do you think have an opinion on this issue?

**percep1\_p2** Of those who have an opinion, what percentage agree with this statement?

Proposal 2: **proposal\_text2** *(one of the statements listed above was randomly inserted)*

**percep2\_p1** What percentage of residents do you think have an opinion on this issue?

**percep2\_p2** Of those who have an opinion, what percentage agree with this statement?

Proposal 3: **proposal\_text3** *(one of the statements listed above was randomly inserted)*

**percep3\_p1** What percentage of residents do you think have an opinion on this issue?

**percep3\_p2** Of those who have an opinion, what percentage agree with this statement?

## Perceptual Accuracy (Tokens Module)

*50% of politicians completed the tokens module before the regular module, while the other 50% completed the tokens module after the regular module.*

**tokens\_preamble** We'd like to learn more about the distribution of attitudes on policy issues in your municipality.

Please consider the policy statement listed below. Imagine that you have twenty tokens, each representing 5% of the residents in your municipality. Please place each token in a bin to indicate where different residents in your municipality stand on this issue.

To place a token in a bin, click on the bin. To remove a token from a bin, click the "remove" button under the bin.

Once you've placed 20 tokens, a "Submit" button will appear. Click the "Submit" button to move on to the next page.

**percep4\_token** Using the tokens below, how would you characterize the distribution of attitudes on this statement among residents in your municipality?

## Perceptual Accuracy (Opinions)

**percep\_preamble2** What is your own opinion on the following statements?

**percep1** {**proposal\_text1** *displayed*}

- Strongly Disagree (1)
- Somewhat Disagree, (2)
- Somewhat Agree (3)
- Strongly Agree (4)
- Don't Know / No Opinion (-99)

**percep2** {**proposal\_text2** *displayed*}

- Strongly Disagree (1)
- Somewhat Disagree, (2)
- Somewhat Agree (3)
- Strongly Agree (4)
- Don't Know / No Opinion (-99)

**percep3** {**proposal\_text3** *displayed*}

- Strongly Disagree (1)
- Somewhat Disagree, (2)
- Somewhat Agree (3)
- Strongly Agree (4)
- Don't Know / No Opinion (-99)

**percep4** {**proposal\_text4** *displayed*}

- Strongly Disagree (1)
- Somewhat Disagree, (2)
- Somewhat Agree (3)
- Strongly Agree (4)
- Don't Know / No Opinion (-99)

## Neighbouring Municipalities

**nm\_1** To your knowledge, how does your municipal economic health compare to neighbouring Canadian municipalities of roughly similar size?

- Much lower than average (1)
- Somewhat lower than average (2)
- About average (3)
- Somewhat higher than average (4)
- Much higher than average (5)
- Don't know (-99)

## Being an Elected Official

**job** Would you say that being an elected official is:

- A job like any other job (0)
- A vocation or calling (1)
- Don't Know / No Opinion (-99)

**resign** A number of municipal elected officials have resigned from their positions in recent years. In your opinion, what are the reasons for these resignations? **Please select all that you think may apply.**

- Too many demands from citizens (1)
- Relations with the provincial government (2)
- Work-life balance (3)
- Lack of privacy (4)
- Low pay for municipal elected officials (5)
- Difficulty working with other members of council (6)
- Personal Health (7)
- Lack of Training / Information (8)

**training** In your opinion, which of the following areas should be prioritized for training provided to municipal elected officials? **Please select up to three priority areas.**

*Up to 3 selections were permitted*

- Ethics (1)
- Governance (2)



- Management (3)
- Human resources (4)
- Municipal law (5)
- Leadership (6)
- Accounting (7)
- Work-life balance (8)
- Work climate (9)
- Citizen relations (10)
- Media relations (11)

**trust** In order for a citizen to trust a municipal elected official, what qualities must the elected official have? **Please select up to two qualities that you think are most important.**

- Honesty (1)
- Keeps Promises (2)
- Policy Expertise (3)
- Good relationships with constituents (4)
- Hard Working (5)
- Shared values with constituents (6)

## Indigenous-Municipal Relations

**ind\_1** In your opinion, which statement best describes efforts in your municipality to build positive relationships with indigenous people?

- Should be doing more (1)
- Should be doing about the same (2)
- Should be doing less (3)
- Don't know (-99)

**ind\_2** Is your municipality treated (that is, covered by one or more treaties with an Indigenous nation)?

- Yes (1)
- No (0)
- Don't Know (-99)

**ind\_3** Do you know which Indigenous nations are the traditional stewards of the territory upon which your municipality is built?

- Yes (1)
- No (0)

**ind\_4** Are you aware of any initiatives that the municipality has taken to build positive relationships with Indigenous nations, communities, and/or peoples?

- Yes (1)
- No (0)

**ind\_5** {Only displayed if **ind\_4** == 1} Could you please briefly describe these initiatives? [OPEN TEXT]

**ind\_6** In your opinion, who would be the appropriate target for municipal initiatives in the area of Indigenous affairs? Please select all that apply.

- Specific indigenous nations or communities (1)
- Indigenous peoples in the municipal boundaries (2)
- Indigenous peoples in the metropolitan area/adjacent to the municipality (3)
- Indigenous peoples in general (4)
- Don't know (-99)

## Who Does What: Policy Jurisdiction

*Each respondent answered this question twice. In each case, a policy item was drawn from **wdw1\_policy/wdw2\_policy** and piped into the question. The same applies for the second iteration of the module.*

**wdw1\_policy, wdw2\_policy** Policies piped into the question.

- *housing* (1)
- *economic development* (2)
- *climate policy* (3)
- *public health* (4)
- *policing* (5)
- *transportation* (6)
- *long-term care* (7)
- *child care* (8)
- *immigration* (9)
- *mental health and addictions* (10)

In your opinion, what should be the primary role of each of the following governments **in the area of** {piped text: **wdw1\_policy/wdw2\_policy**}? For each government, please select all of the roles that you feel are appropriate.

*Matrix Question. Response options: Set policy (1), Fund services (2), Deliver services (3), Provide oversight (4), Should not be involved (5), No strong preference (6)  
Should not be involved could not be combined with other responses.*

- **wdw1\_fed, wdw2\_fed** Federal government
- **wdw1\_prov, wdw2\_prov** Provincial government
- **wdw1\_mun, wdw2\_mun** Municipal government

## AI and Public Policy Experiment

*Random assignment with equal probability to either question set 1A or 1B with equal probability*

## QUESTION SET 1A: PRIVATE SECTOR

Artificial Intelligence (AI) involves machines and software that can perform tasks typically requiring human intelligence, such as learning, problem-solving, and decision-making.

As AI becomes more common, municipal governments will need to consider how or if they would like to see AI integrated into local economies and public services. For this reason, we are interested in your thoughts on the effects of AI.

Consider a company that is thinking about adopting new AI tools like ChatGPT. Some of the daily tasks they think workers can use these technologies for include report writing and editing, drafting emails, analyzing company data to identify trends, and communicating with customers in real-time.

Based on this information, we're interested in knowing *your thoughts* on the potential effects of this new technology. Do you think that introducing the new technology will ... ?

*Matrix question. Response Options: Increase (1), No Change (2), Decrease (3), Don't Know (-99)*

- **ai\_priv\_1** increase or decrease the quality of the services/products the company provides?
- **ai\_priv\_2** increase or decrease the price consumers pay for the services/products the company provides?
- **ai\_priv\_3** increase or decrease demand for the company's services/products?
- **ai\_priv\_4** increase or decrease the company's profits?
- **ai\_priv\_5** increase or decrease wages for some of the company's workers?
- **ai\_priv\_6** increase or decrease company hiring of new workers?

**ai\_priv\_com** Do you think AI tools like ChatGPT complement the workers' skills (makes them better at their jobs) or substitute the worker's skills (replaces them in their jobs)?

- Complement (1)
- Neither (2)
- Substitute (3)
- Don't know (-99)

## QUESTION SET 1B: PUBLIC SECTOR

Artificial Intelligence (AI) involves machines and software that can perform tasks typically requiring human intelligence, such as learning, problem-solving, and decision-making.

As AI becomes more common, municipal governments will need to consider how or if they would like to see AI integrated into local economies and public services. For this reason, we are interested in your thoughts on the effects of AI.

Consider a local government that is thinking about adopting new AI tools like ChatGPT in its departments. Some of the daily tasks it thinks municipal workers can use these technologies for

include report writing and editing, drafting emails, analyzing municipal data to identify trends, and communicating with residents in real-time.

Based on this information, we're interested in knowing *your thoughts* on the potential effects of this new technology: Do you think that introducing the new technology will ... ?

*Matrix question. Response Options: Increase (1) / No Change (2) / Decrease (3) / Don't Know (9)*

- **ai\_pub\_1** increase or decrease the quality of the services the municipality provides to residents?
- **ai\_pub\_2** increase or decrease the cost to the taxpayers for delivering municipal services?
- **ai\_pub\_3** increase or decrease demand for municipal services?
- **ai\_pub\_4** increase or decrease the municipality's budget savings (i.e., the difference between revenues and expenses )?
- **ai\_pub\_5** increase or decrease wages for some municipal workers?
- **ai\_pub\_6** increase or decrease municipal hiring of new workers?

**ai\_pub\_com** Do you think that AI tools like ChatGPT will complement municipal workers' skills (make them better at their jobs) or substitute workers' skills (replace them in their jobs)?

- Complement (1)
- Neither (2)
- Substitute (3)
- Don't Know (-99)

## QUESTION SET 2

*Respondents in 1A above received the private sector "companies" treatment below.*

*Respondents in 1B above should receive the public sector treatment ("government workers") below.*

**ai\_policy** Imagine you have the opportunity to craft a policy plan to help with the challenges of technological change, including new artificial intelligence technologies. You can choose no more than three of the policies from the list below. If it were up to you, which three or fewer policies would you like to see implemented?

- Expand social spending, such as unemployment benefits, to support workers facing potential job loss (1)
- Reduce the number of immigrants entering the country and your communities for work (2)
- Ban the use of generative AI for [government workers / companies] (3)
- Make it harder for [governments / firms] to adopt new technologies or machines, if they reduce salaries or jobs (4)
- Give trade unions or workers more power to decide whether new technologies are adopted at work (5)

- Invest in education and other programs to re-skill workers for new jobs (6)

## Young Elected Officials

**young\_1** Was your age an advantage, a disadvantage, or a neutral factor in your election campaign?

- Advantage (1)
- Neutral (2)
- Disadvantage (3)
- Don't Know (-99)

**young\_2** To the best of your knowledge, during your most recent municipal election campaign, were all of the other candidates older than you?

- No (0)
- Yes (1)
- Don't Know (-99)

**young\_3** During your most recent municipal election campaign, were all of the other candidates in the same age group as you?

- No (0)
- Yes (1)
- Don't Know (-99)

**young\_4** What is your opinion on this statement? In this municipality, established politicians tend to exclude younger politicians.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
- Somewhat Disagree, (2)
- Somewhat Agree (3)
- Strongly Agree (4)
- Don't Know / No Opinion (-99)

## Strong Mayor: Mayor Questions

*This module displayed to Ontario Mayors in a municipality with strong mayor powers.*

**sm** Indicator of elected officials in a municipality with strong mayor powers.

- strong mayor (1)
- not strong mayor (0)

**sm\_1** Have you used "strong mayor" powers since they were granted?

- No (0)
- Yes (1)
- Don't Know (-98)
- Prefer not to disclose (-99)

**sm\_2, sm\_3, sm\_4, sm\_5** displayed if **sm\_1** = 1.

**sm\_2** In which areas of policy have you used these powers? Please select all that apply.

- Housing and land use planning (1)
- The budget (2)
- Staffing (3)
- Changing the administrative structure of the municipality (4)
- Transportation (5)
- Waste (6)
- Water (7)
- Emergency Services (8)
- Public Transportation (9)
- Legal services (10)
- Economic development (11)
- Tourism (12)
- Customer service (eg. 311 services) (13)
- Social services (14)
- Planning and development (15)
- Court services (16)
- By-law (17)
- Parks and recreation (18)
- Revenue collection and finance (19)
- Other. Please describe: [TEXT BOX] (20)

**sm\_2\_20\_TEXT** Open-ended responses to **sm\_2 (20)**

**sm\_3** What was your rationale for using these powers? Please select all that apply.

- To overcome disagreement on council (1)
- To end council debate (2)
- To speed up the legislative process (3)
- To ensure you could fulfil your election promises (4)
- To do what you believed was best for the community (5)
- Other:[TEXT BOX] (6)

**sm\_3\_6\_TEXT** Open-ended responses to **sm\_3 (6)**

**sm\_4** Which powers did you use? Please select all that apply.

- Appoint or Dismiss the CAO (1)
- Determine Admin structure of municipality (2)
- Hire or Dismiss municipal department heads (3)
- Delegate powers related to organizational structure (4)
- Establish committees of council (5)
- Appoint chairs/vice-chairs of council committee (6)
- Assign functions to council committees (7)
- Veto by-laws and legislation (8)
- Choose not to exercise veto powers (9)
- Shorten the veto period (10)

- Direct the preparation of the municipal budget (11)
- Provide written approval for budget-related by-laws (12)
- Propose amendments to budget (13)
- Direct staff to present budget (14)
- Issue directives to staff (15)
- Provide written approval of by-laws (16)
- Decisions related to special meetings and budget timeline (17)
- Other [TEXT BOX] (18)

**sm\_4\_18\_TEXT** Open-ended responses to **sm\_4 (18)**

**sm\_5** {display if sm\_1==no} Why haven't you used these powers? Please select all that apply.

- I believe myself and the rest of council can and should reach consensus (1)
- We operate as a council fine without them (2)
- It would be too divisive (3)
- The public would not like to see these powers used (4)
- Staff objected to their use (5)
- I do not agree with the legislation (6)
- Other: [TEXT BOX] (7)

**sm\_5\_7\_TEXT** Open-ended responses to **sm\_5 (7)**

**sm\_6** How would you characterize the relationship between yourself and Council since the introduction of "strong mayor" powers?

- Better (1)
- About the same (2)
- Worse (3)
- Don't know (-99)

## Strong Mayor: Councillor Questions

*This module displayed to Ontario councillors in a municipality with strong mayor powers.*

**smc\_1** Has the Mayor of your municipality used "strong mayor" powers since having them granted by the provincial government?

- No (0)
- Yes (1)
- Don't Know (-98)
- Prefer not to disclose (-99)

**smc\_2** In which areas of policy has the Mayor used these powers?

Please select all that apply.

- Housing and land use planning (1)
- The budget (2)
- Staffing (3)
- Changing the administrative structure of the municipality (4)

- Transportation (5)
- Waste (6)
- Water (7)
- Emergency Services (8)
- Public Transportation (9)
- Legal services (10)
- Economic development (11)
- Tourism (12)
- Customer service (eg. 311 services) (13)
- Social services (14)
- Planning and development (15)
- Court services (16)
- By-law (17)
- Parks and recreation (18)
- Revenue collection and finance (19)
- Other. Please describe: [TEXT BOX] (20)

**smc\_2\_20\_TEXT** Open-ended responses to **smc\_2 (20)**

**smc\_3** Why do you think the Mayor used these powers? Please select all that apply.

- To overcome disagreement on council (1)
- To end council debate (2)
- To speed up the legislative process (3)
- To ensure they could fulfil their election promises (4)
- To do what they believed was best for the community (5)
- Other: [TEXT BOX] (6)

**smc\_3\_6\_TEXT** Open-ended responses to **smc\_3 (6)**

**smc\_6** How would you characterize the relationship between the Mayor and Council since the introduction of “strong mayor” powers?

- Better (1)
- About the same (2)
- Worse (3)
- Don’t know (-99)

## Barriers to Entry

**be\_1** On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means very easy and 10 means very difficult, how would you rate the administrative process you followed to become a candidate in your most recent municipal election?

- 0 (Very easy)
- 1
- 2
- 3



- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10 (Very difficult)

**be\_2** Which of the following influenced your response to the above question? Please select all that apply.

- Required number of signatures (1)
- Filing fees (2)
- Access to information (3)
- Wait period (4)
- Obtaining the support of a party or slate {displayed if **party** = 1} (5)
- Other [TEXT BOX] (6)

**be\_2\_6\_TEXT** Open-ended responses to **be\_2** (6)

**be\_3** If you could change one of these requirements to make the process of running for office easier, which would you choose?

- Required number of signatures (1)
- Filing fees (2)
- Access to information (3)
- Wait period (4)
- Obtaining the support of a party (5) {displayed if **party** = 1}
- Other [TEXT BOX] (6)
- No major changes are necessary (7)

**be\_3\_6\_TEXT** Open-ended responses to **be\_3** (6)

## Ambition, Ideology, PID

**amb\_stat** Do you plan to run again for municipal office?

- Yes (1)
- No (0)

**amb\_prog** After you leave municipal politics, would you consider running for federal or provincial office?

- Yes (1)
- No (0)

**ideol** In politics people sometimes talk of left and right. Where would you place yourself on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means left and 10 means right?

- 0 (Left) (0)
- (1)
- (2)
- (3)
- (4)
- (5)
- (6)
- (7)
- (8)
- (9)
- (Right) (10)
- Don't know (-99)

Using the same scale, where would you place the following people or groups?

*Matrix question. Response options the same as above in **ideol***

- **ideol\_matrix\_1** The runner-up candidate in your last municipal election *{displayed if **acclaimed**==0}* (1)
- **ideol\_matrix\_2** The average resident in your ward *{displayed if **atlarge**==2}* (2)
- **ideol\_matrix\_3** The average resident in your municipality (3)
- **ideol\_matrix\_4** Your Current Provincial Premier (4)
- **ideol\_matrix\_5** Conservative Party Leader Pierre Poilievre (5)
- **ideol\_matrix\_6** Liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (6)

**pid** In federal politics, do you usually think of yourself as a:

- Bloc Québécois (1) *{displayed if **province** = Quebec (24)}*
- Conservative (2)
- Green (3)
- Liberal (4)
- NDP (5)
- Other (please specify): (6) \_\_\_\_\_
- None of the above (7)
- Don't know (-99)

**pid\_6\_TEXT** Open-ended responses to **pid (6)**

**pid\_str** How strongly do you identify with the *{pipe **pid** response}* Party?

- Very strongly (1)
- Fairly strongly (2)
- Not very strongly (3)
- Don't know (-99)

# Demographics

**age** In what year were you born?

*Dropdown menu, 1900 to 2006 with "Prefer not to say" (9999)*

**gender** How would you describe your gender?

- Man (0)
- Woman (1)
- Non-binary/Two-Spirit (2)
- Another gender (please specify) (3) [TEXT]\_\_\_\_\_

**gender\_4\_TEXT** Open-ended responses to **gender (4)**

**education** What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

- Did not complete high school (1)
- Completed high school (2)
- Some postsecondary (no diploma/degree) (3)
- Completed apprenticeship / skilled trade (4)
- Completed technical/community college degree or diploma (5)
- Bachelor's degree (6)
- Master's degree (7)
- Professional degree or doctorate (8)

**child\_1** Do you have children?

- No (0)
- Yes (1)
- Prefer not to say (-99)

How many of your children fall into the following age categories?

- **child\_2\_1** Under six [OPEN] (1)
- **child\_2\_2** 6-11 [OPEN] (2)
- **child\_2\_3** 12-16 [OPEN] (3)
- **child\_2\_4** Over 17 [OPEN] (4)

**dur\_mun** How long have you lived in your current municipality?

- Less than 1 year (1)
- 1 year to less than 5 years (2)
- 5 years to less than 10 years (3)
- 10 years or more (4)
- Don't know (-99)

**housing** Which of the following best describes your current living situation?

- I live in a residence owned by myself or my partner/spouse (1)
- I live in a residence owned by someone else but do not pay rent (2)
- I live in a residence owned by someone else and pay rent (3)

- I am temporarily staying with relatives or friends, or living in housing provided by a school or employer (4)
- Prefer not to say (-99)

**immigrant** Were you born in Canada?

- No (0)
- Yes (1)
- Prefer not to say (-99)

**trans** Are you transgender?

- Yes (1)
- No (0)
- Don't know / Prefer not to say (-99)

**sexual** Which of the following best represents how you think of yourself?

- Straight or heterosexual (1)
- Gay or lesbian (2)
- Bisexual (3)
- Queer (4)
- Something else: (5) [TEXT]
- I am not sure yet (6)
- I don't know what this question means (-98)
- Prefer not to answer (-99)

**sexual\_5\_TEXT** Open-ended responses to **sexual (5)**

## Race Experiment

*Respondents were randomly assigned to either **race\_single** or **race\_multiple** with equal probability, followed by the same **indig** follow-up if (5) was selected.*

**race\_single** Thinking about your background, do you consider yourself:

{Multiple selections not allowed}

- Arab (1)
- Black (2)
- Chinese (3)
- Filipino (4)
- Indigenous (Inuit, Métis, First Nations) (5)
- Japanese (6)
- Korean (7)
- Latin American (8)
- South Asian (e.g. East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, etc.) (9)
- Southeast Asian (e.g. Vietnamese, Cambodian, Malaysian, Laotian, etc.) (10)
- West Asian (e.g. Iranian, Afghan, etc.) (11)
- White (12)

- Other (13)

**race\_single\_13\_TEXT** Open-ended responses to **race\_single (13)**

**race\_multiple** Thinking about your background, do you consider yourself:

*Multiple selections allowed*

- Arab (1)
- Black (2)
- Chinese (3)
- Filipino (4)
- Indigenous (Inuit, Métis, First Nations) (5)
- Japanese (6)
- Korean (7)
- Latin American (8)
- South Asian (e.g. East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, etc.) (9)
- Southeast Asian (e.g. Vietnamese, Cambodian, Malaysian, Laotian, etc.) (10)
- West Asian (e.g. Iranian, Afghan, etc.) (11)
- White (12)
- Other (13) [OPEN]

**race\_single\_13\_TEXT** Open-ended responses to **race\_single (13)**

*If race\_single/race\_multiple==5*

**indig** Are you:

- First Nations (1)
- Metis (2)
- Inuit (3)
- Mixed Heritage (either Indigenous and non-Indigenous or different Indigenous nations) (4)
- Prefer not to say (-99)