

# VOTING IN ONTARIO



If you are at least 18 years of age, a Canadian citizen and resident of Ontario, you can participate in the democratic process as a voter or a candidate.

[elections.on.ca](https://elections.on.ca)

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## What is the process?

The Premier of Ontario informs the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario that he or she would like to call an election. The Chief Electoral Officer of Ontario then prepares the writs of election. The Lieutenant Governor signs the writs, which starts an election.

During a general election, people can vote for a local candidate in their electoral district. The candidate who wins the most votes in each electoral district becomes its Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP). The political party with the most elected MPPs usually forms the new provincial government.

When all MPPs meet in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, they make the laws that govern the province.

In between general elections, a by-election can be held to replace an MPP who has left the Legislative Assembly before the end of a term. A by-election is held only in the electoral district the MPP represented and only electors who reside in that electoral district can vote.

## Who can vote?

To be eligible to vote in a provincial election, you must be:

- at least 18 years of age on election day; **AND**
- a Canadian citizen; **AND**
- a resident of Ontario.

## How do I register to vote?

If you are eligible to vote, you need to add your name and address to the Voters List. Go to [elections.on.ca](https://elections.on.ca) and upload ID that proves your name and where you reside.

During an election, you can register at a voting location or at the returning office for your electoral district. Once registered, you can vote.

## How do I vote?

- **In person on election day**  
Polls open for 12 hours on election day—from 9 A.M. to 9 P.M. (ET)
- **In person at an advance poll**
- **In person at your local returning office or by mail using a special ballot**
- **Using Assistive Voting Technology**  
These are available at advance polls in returning offices and satellite offices from the first day of the advance polls through to the day before election day. Options include the audio tactile interface (ATI), paddles and a sip & puff device. Audio instructions are available for each choice.

## What happens at the poll?

- An election official greets you and directs you to your poll.
- Show your identification to the poll officials.
- You are given a ballot that has the poll official's initials on it.
- Go behind a voting screen to mark your ballot. Choose only **one** candidate on the ballot.
- Take your marked ballot to the poll official to be put into a ballot box or to be scanned.
- Congratulations! You have voted successfully!

## What if I'm under 18?

If you are 16 or 17 years old, and a Canadian citizen and reside in Ontario, you can add yourself to the Ontario Register of Future Voters. Go to [elections.on.ca](https://elections.on.ca) and upload ID that proves your name and where you reside.

Elections Ontario will automatically move you to the Voters List when you turn 18. Get on the register early and be ready to vote!