

Making Votes Count Where We Live

People living on low income are less likely to vote. The result is that politicians are less likely to listen to them and to people in the communities where they live.

Whether or not you can vote you can make a difference:

- Tell others why voting matters
- Organize an event to make it fun to vote
- Support a candidate of your choice
- Let the candidates know the issues that matter to you
- Support others in getting to the polls

Creating a City for All

... where everyone has a home

... where everyone has access to healthy food

... where everyone has a chance to make a living

... where everyone has access to safe and affordable public transit



CREATING A CITY FOR ALL

MUNICIPAL ELECTION OCT 2014



**Making Votes Count
Where We Live Project**

www.cawi-ivtf.org

www.coalitionottawa.ca



Ontario
Trillium Foundation



Fondation Trillium
de l'Ontario

CELEBRATING 10 CÉLÉBRONS
— Years! — — Ans! —



City for All Women Initiative

Initiative: une ville pour toutes les femmes



COALITION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
AND RESOURCE CENTRES OF OTTAWA

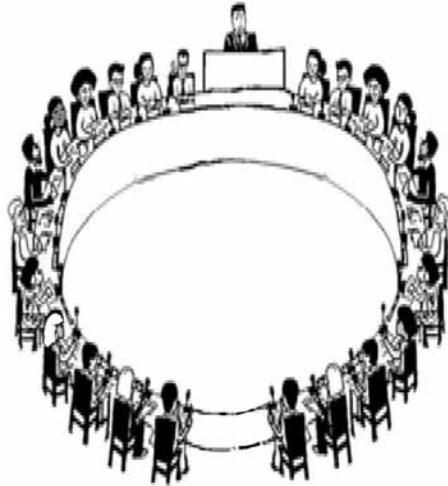
COALITION DES CENTRES DE RESSOURCES
ET DE SANTÉ COMMUNAUTAIRES D'OTTAWA

Why Municipal Elections Matter

On **October 27th, 2014**, citizens in Ottawa will go to the polls.

We will choose the men and women who will represent us at City Council (24 members: Mayor plus 23 councillors, 1 councillor per ward) for the next 4 years. We will also select a School Board Trustee for a school board.

City Council makes decisions about services that affect our everyday lives



- housing and shelter
- public health
- employment and financial assistance
- parks and recreation
- libraries
- paramedic and fire services
- long term care
- police and crime prevention
- community funding
- transit and roads
- protection of environment
- water and sewage
- cultural services
- garbage and recycling
- childcare

Which of these services are of concern to you and your community?

Whether or not you can vote, you can raise your concerns with the candidates in this election.

Who Can Vote

To be able to vote in the municipal election, you must be:

- a resident of the City of Ottawa, or owner or tenant of land in the City, or the spouse of such an owner or tenant;
- a Canadian citizen;
- at least 18 years old; and
- not prohibited from voting by law.

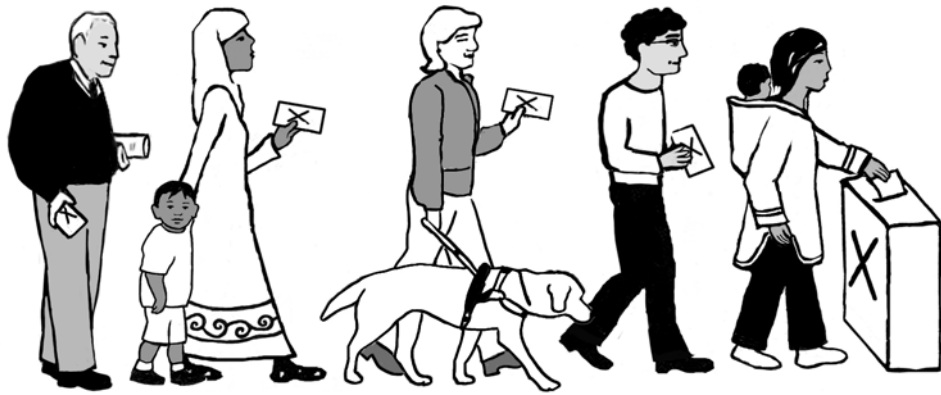
To make voting easy on election day, make sure your name is on the Voters List:

- To find out, visit voterlookup.ca or call 1-866-296-6722.
- If you are on the list, you will receive a voter notification letter in the mail after September 2, 2014 informing you when and where to vote. Bring this notification with you when you go to vote.
- To sign up on the list, pick up the form, "Application to Add or Amend Voters' List", at the City's Elections Office, a City Client Service Centre or print one from ottawa.ca/vote after September 2, 2014. You can also change/update your school support for electoral purposes and add names to your property address.

You can still vote if you are not on the Voters List:

You will be asked to complete a form and present a piece of identification with your name and address, such as a driver's license or household bills.

When To Vote



Election Day is Monday, October 27, 2014

Advance Voting – Open to everyone

In a few locations in the city:

Wednesday, October 1, 2014, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Thursday, October 2, 2014, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Friday, October 3, 2014, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Across the city at regular voting locations, plus some OCH and long term care facilities:

Thursday, October 9, 2014, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday, October 18, 2014, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Voting locations:

Your voting locations will appear on your voter notification or can be found on Ottawa.ca/vote after September 2, 2014.

More Information on the Election:

- Contact the City's Elections Office 613-580-2660 (TTY: 613-580-2401), elections@ottawa.ca
- Visit the City's Elections website at www.ottawa.ca/vote

Learning About Candidates

To find a list of candidates, visit ottawa.ca/vote

Find out which candidate will best represent you and address your concerns.

- Ask others what they know about the candidates.
- Visit candidate's website.
- Read newspaper to see what candidates say.
- Listen on Radio and TV.
- Observe candidates already on City Council by watching City Council meetings on Rogers Cable 22 (Cable 23, in French) or attend a City Council meeting.
- Attend candidate meetings to hear what they say.
- Invite them to community activities.
- Ask them questions.

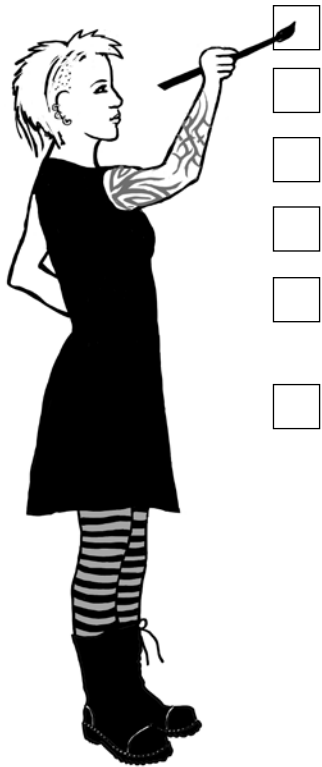


Choosing A Candidate

Each ward will have at least one candidate running for City Council, plus the candidates for Mayor.

Start by asking yourself, what kind of person you would like to see represent you:

Someone who is...



- Honest
- Listens to the community
- Participates in community events
- Works with community partners
- Communicates with all members of the community
- Understands and values the perspective of you and your community

Second, ask yourself, what concerns you would like to see him or her address?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Influencing Candidates

By raising concerns with candidates, we educate them and influence their electoral platform.

Ask the candidates what they will do if elected:

My name is... I live in the ward where you are running for City Council. I am concerned about... This concern is important to my community (family, organization) because...What will you do about this, if elected?



Where can I ask this question?

- In a phone call, e-mail, letter or tweet to the candidates.
- When a candidate or someone from their campaign comes to your door.
- At a community event.
- At an all-candidate's meetings to be held in your ward.
- Invite people you know to ask the question (give them a sample phone message or letter).

VOLUNTEER FOR A CANDIDATE'S CAMPAIGN

Volunteers are needed to organize and go door to door. Whether or not you can vote, this is a way you can influence candidates and get great experience.

Affordable Housing

In a City for All, everyone has an affordable, safe place to live.

In Ottawa:

- Given the rising cost of rent and purchasing a place to live, a home is out of reach for thousands of people.
- Over 9500 households are on the social housing waiting list, with a wait time of 5 years.
- The City approved “A Home for Everyone” — a 10-year plan to eliminate chronic homeless and ensure everyone access to an affordable home.



Sample Questions:

- Will you aggressively pursue the implementation of the City’s 10-year Housing and Homelessness plan, “A Home for Everyone”?
- Will you ensure that new housing initiatives are distributed equitably across the city so that rural residents are able to remain in their homes or stay in their communities?

Safe and Affordable Transit

In a City for All, everyone has access to safe, affordable transit, so they can access jobs, services and participate in their communities.

In Ottawa:

- Rising bus fares make it challenging for people on low incomes to afford public transit.
- The Community Bus Pass provides subsidized transit to people on ODSP and registered Para users.
- At least nine cities in Canada have a low-income transit pass, including two Ontario communities that use Presto (Oakville and Burlington). It can be done.
- OC Transpo has initiated a safety plan in response to community concerns.



Sample Questions:

- Will you extend the existing Community Bus Pass to all residents whose income is less than the Low Income Cut-Off (LICO)?
- Will you ensure that OC Transpo follows through on their commitment to increase safety for residents such as women, young people and persons with a disability?

Good Food For All

In a City for All, everyone can access and eat enough nutritious food so they can lead active, healthy lives. This is **food security**.

In Ottawa:

- An alarming 1 in 3 Ottawa households don't have **food security**.
- People should not have to choose between fixed expenses and nutritious food.
- The City has shown leadership on Good Food initiatives across Ottawa.



Sample Questions:

Will you champion Good Food for All by:

- Sustaining funding for Good Food initiatives
- Promoting economic development focused on food and farming
- Using a Good Food lens to inform planning and policies

Employment

In a City for All, everyone has a chance to earn a living that will give them and their families a quality of life.

In Ottawa:

- Unemployment is especially high for youth, Aboriginal people, immigrants, and people with disabilities.
- Many people are underemployed in jobs that do not provide a livable wage.
- The City has made a commitment to hiring under-represented groups and supporting job growth in the local economy.



Sample questions:

- What would you do to ensure the City honours its commitment to be inclusive in the employment of under-represented populations (such as Aboriginal people, immigrants, people living with disabilities, and youth)?
- How would you enhance Ottawa's economy to make the best use of people's skills in stable and fair employment?