

Municipal Politics 101

Don't know what the mayor does? Or city council? Read below to find out.

City Council:

- ✓ The main governing and legislative body of the City of Toronto
- ✓ There are 45 members of City Council
 - o 44 Ward Councillors
 - o 1 Mayor

During municipal elections, Toronto votes for...

ONE Mayor

Chief Executive Officer of City Council

- ✓ Leads and represents the city in dealing with residents, elected officials, dignitaries and staff
- ✓ Ensures that the City Council remains accountable and accessible to the public

ONE City Councillor

One Councillor is elected in each of Toronto's 44 municipal wards.

- ✓ Sits on committees and community councils in the area they are elected in and make decisions on behalf of their constituents in the City Council
- ✓ Key part of the everyday work of running the city and achieving council's priorities

ONE School Board Trustee

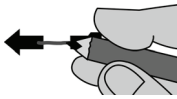
School Boards operate the province's publically funded schools

- ✓ Deliberate and establish policies as authorized by the Education Act; monitor implementation of Ministry of Education policies
- ✓ Approve annual board budget
- ✓ Consult, represent and advocate for the constituents in their ward

- ✓ You are Canadian citizen
- ✓ You are at least 18 years old
- ✓ You live in the City of Toronto (or own property/ rents property in the City of Toronto)

Who can Vote?

How do I vote?

- ✓ If you have any questions call 311 or go to <http://www.toronto.ca/elections/index.htm>
- ✓ You will be assigned a location to vote, indicated in your Voter Information Card*, or go to <http://app.toronto.ca/vote2010/whereToVote.do> and enter your home address; the location will be in the ward you live
- ✓ The ballot officer will ask your name, ask for your identification and give you a ballot
- ✓ Be sure to ask the ballot officers any questions you may have
- ✓ Once you have been given a ballot go to one of the voting screens
- ✓ Remove the ballot from the secrecy folder
- ✓ Using the pencil provided, vote by completing the arrow pointing to the candidate of your choice 
- ✓ You can vote for one candidate for mayor, one candidate for councillor and one candidate for school trustee
- ✓ Once you have finished voting, put the ballot back into the secrecy folder and take it to the election official at the vote tabulator
- ✓ Wait until your ballot has been accepted by the vote tabulator before leaving the voting place
- ✓ Remember – you can only vote once in the City of Toronto

*Don't have a voter information card? You can still vote. When you go to vote, you will need to:

- Show identification and
- Fill out a simple form

What do I bring with me?

- One piece of ID that shows your name, qualifying address and signature (for example an Ontario driver's license)
- OR
- Two pieces of ID:
 - o The first piece with your name and signature (for example credit or debit card)
 - o The second piece with your name and qualifying address (for example a telephone or hydro bill)

If you require an interpreter to assist you in understanding the voting process and the questions being asked of you, you may ask anyone who is not a candidate or a scrutineer (someone who volunteers for a candidate) to act as an interpreter for you.

Election Day
Monday, October 25, 2010



For more information on this initiative contact

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Unison would like to thank the Scarborough Civic Action Network for their support in creating this material.

 **Unison**
Health & Community Services

What does the municipal election on October 25 mean for your neighbourhood, your family and your health? And how can you make a difference? Find out here!

The mayor, city councilors and school board trustees we choose on October 25 will have a direct impact on our daily lives. Our community recreation centres. Our water. Our buses and subways. Our schools. Our child care. Our youth programs. Our parks. Our streets and our homes.

If you don't know who your candidates are go to: <http://app.toronto.ca/vote2010/index.jsp>

Why vote?

- √ Because you care about these issues
- √ Because voting only takes 10 minutes
- √ Because you do not want others to vote on your behalf
- √ Because you care about who represents you on city council and makes decisions that affect your quality of life
- √ Because the policies made in city hall affect your life and the future of our city

Unison Health and Community Services asked the top 3 mayoral candidates to comment on what healthy communities mean to them and how they plan to support healthy communities with municipal tax dollars. Here are their responses.

Please use this information to help inform your decision on October 25.

The future of your neighbourhood—and all of our neighbourhoods—depends on your vote.



Rob Ford

Rob's plan to reduce the cost of government has identified \$2.8 Billion in savings from reducing waste. That's money that can be used to improve quality services that provide real benefits for residents, begin to rebuild the city's reserves (e.g. emergency funds) and to begin repaying debt. For 10 years, Rob has consistently said that we need to cut waste so that we can spend more on important services such as childcare, seniors, community services.



Joe Pantalone

First, we must defend and enhance our investment in front-line community services, especially in Priority Neighbourhoods. Public services are equalizers and enablers, which give people more freedom to focus on their health. Studies have confirmed a direct link between poverty and anxiety, and community services are crucial in helping to alleviate that burden.

It is in the name of healthy communities that I released *More Seats at the Table*, my plan for food prosperity and food security. I would ensure 40,000 more young people receive healthy breakfasts at school, that the City doubles the number of community gardens and allotment gardens on public land, and that communities will have community food hubs offering nutrition information, health resources, and ways to access more culturally appropriate food .

The construction of affordable, accessible rapid transit reaching all four corners of Toronto is something we can no longer wait for. Increasing people's mobility also expands their mental and emotional horizons, means they do not need to deal with the tension of being trapped in gridlock every day, and gives

us cleaner air. This is why I will champion the completion in full of Transit City.

I also promise to give more direct control of parks operations to communities, by decentralizing their budgets to Community Council. Communities know their own needs, and should be involved in meeting them.



George Smitherman

My vision for creating healthy communities across Toronto rests on providing opportunities for jobs and mobility to everyone, especially those in the 'inner suburbs' who have not seen significant prosperity in the past two decades. I will build new rapid transit to all four corners of the city, and align city resources to build complete neighbourhoods where residents can get to work, shopping, school and recreational activities by bicycle or on foot. They can connect to the larger city by transit, without needing a car to get around.

I will work to deliver supportive programs for the new Canadians, children and youth, seniors and vulnerable communities in full-service community hubs, in partnership with the school boards. This will include integration of public health services into the community so that health promotion becomes a normal part of all city services.

In the run up to the Pan Am Games I will personally champion a 'recreation renaissance' – swimmable beaches, citizen engagement with parks, and new sports facilities where they are needed most. I will launch SwimPass, a program to ensure that every child in our city learns to swim by the age of ten, and put \$15m at the disposal of community groups to spur recreation that is driven by the needs of residents.

