

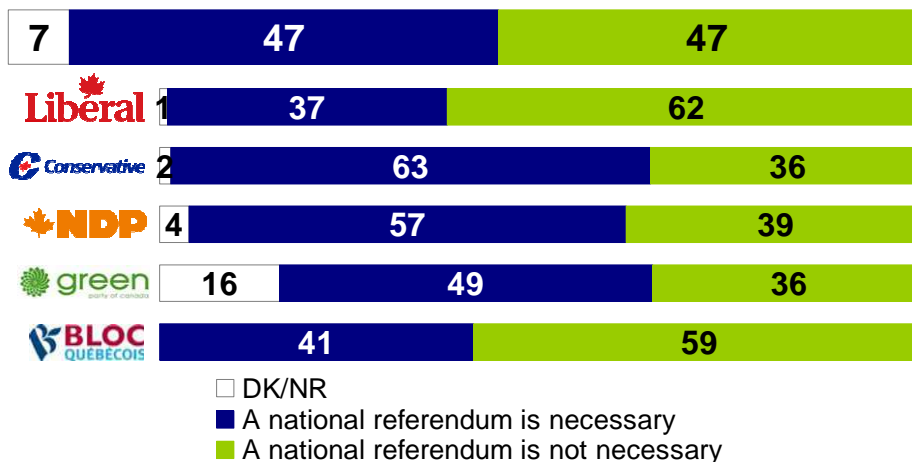
DO WE NEED A REFERENDUM ON ELECTORAL REFORM?

[Ottawa – April 19, 2016] We could speculate that the recent rise in trust in government¹ might dampen the urgency associated with electoral reform, which leads to the question of whether it would be worth the thorny problem of opening up electoral reform at this time. Our research shows that the public at this time are still uncomfortable with the current first-past-the-post system, preferring instead some modified form of proportional representation.² On the question of electoral reform and whether a referendum would be necessary, there is no clear consensus. In fact, quite the opposite – Canadians are dead split between those who think a referendum would be necessary and those who think it would not be necessary. Unsurprisingly, Liberals are content to leave the matter in the hands of the federal government. Conservative and NDP supporters, however, insist that such a fundamental issue should be decided by the people, not Parliament.

Need for a referendum on electoral reform

Q. Some people say that any change to the electoral system is so fundamental that it would require a national referendum. Others say that a rigorous program of public engagement and Parliamentary review should be sufficient. Which statement is closer to your point of view?

Overall



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BASE: Canadians; April 14-15, 2016, n=1,176, MOE +/- 2.9%, 19 times out of 20

¹ EKOS Research Associates, "Liberals Still Feeling the Love, NDP not so Much", April 19, 2016. Available online at: <http://goo.gl/69Mk2x>

² Frank Graves, "Democratic Reform and the Trust Factor", Policy Magazine, Volume 4, Issue 1, pp. 11-14, January-February 2016. Available online at: <http://goo.gl/tWwGiY>

Detailed Tables:

| Need for a Referendum on Electoral Reform | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|--|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Q. Some people say that any change to the electoral system is so fundamental that it would require a national referendum. Others say that a rigorous program of public engagement and Parliamentary review should be sufficient. Which statement is closer to your point of view?</i> | | | | | |
| | A national referendum is necessary | A national referendum is not necessary | Skip | Sample Size | Margin of Error (+/-) |
| NATIONALLY | 46.7% | 46.7% | 6.6% | 1176 | 2.9 |
| REGION | | | | | |
| British Columbia | 43.4% | 46.4% | 10.2% | 202 | 6.9 |
| Alberta | 53.6% | 40.0% | 6.5% | 153 | 7.9 |
| Saskatchewan* | 44.1% | 53.0% | 2.9% | 55 | 13.2 |
| Manitoba* | 44.5% | 51.4% | 4.1% | 50 | 13.9 |
| Ontario | 51.7% | 43.8% | 4.5% | 437 | 4.7 |
| Quebec | 40.2% | 54.0% | 5.8% | 176 | 7.4 |
| Atlantic Canada | 43.6% | 44.8% | 11.6% | 94 | 10.1 |
| GENDER | | | | | |
| Male | 54.3% | 42.5% | 3.2% | 590 | 4.0 |
| Female | 41.7% | 52.7% | 5.6% | 558 | 4.2 |
| AGE | | | | | |
| <35 | 51.5% | 40.8% | 7.7% | 86 | 10.6 |
| 35-49 | 43.7% | 52.1% | 4.2% | 210 | 6.8 |
| 50-64 | 48.4% | 48.8% | 2.8% | 384 | 5.0 |
| 65+ | 47.0% | 50.2% | 2.7% | 468 | 4.5 |
| EDUCATION | | | | | |
| High school or less | 46.2% | 48.5% | 5.2% | 230 | 6.5 |
| College or CEGEP | 53.6% | 42.4% | 4.0% | 388 | 5.0 |
| University or higher | 43.6% | 52.4% | 4.0% | 524 | 4.3 |
| CURRENT VOTE INTENTION | | | | | |
| Liberal Party | 36.5% | 62.4% | 1.1% | 486 | 4.5 |
| Conservative Party | 62.6% | 35.9% | 1.5% | 349 | 5.3 |
| NDP | 57.0% | 39.0% | 3.9% | 105 | 9.6 |
| Green Party | 48.8% | 35.5% | 15.6% | 64 | 12.3 |
| Bloc Québécois | 41.1% | 58.9% | 0.0% | 23 | 20.4 |

*Results for Saskatchewan and Manitoba should be interpreted with caution due to the small sample sizes.

Methodology:

This survey was conducted using High Definition Interactive Voice Response (HD-IVR™) technology, which allows respondents to enter their preferences by punching the keypad on their phone, rather than telling them to an operator. In an effort to reduce the coverage bias of landline only RDD, we created a dual landline/cell phone RDD sampling frame for this research. As a result, we are able to reach those with a landline and cell phone, as well as cell phone only households and landline only households.

The field dates for this survey are April 14-15, 2016. In total, a random sample of 1,176 Canadian adults aged 18 and over responded to the survey. The margin of error associated with the total sample is +/- 2.9 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

Please note that the margin of error increases when the results are sub-divided (i.e., error margins for sub-groups such as region, sex, age, education). All the data have been statistically weighted by **age, gender, region, and educational attainment** to ensure the sample's composition reflects that of the actual population of Canada according to Census data.