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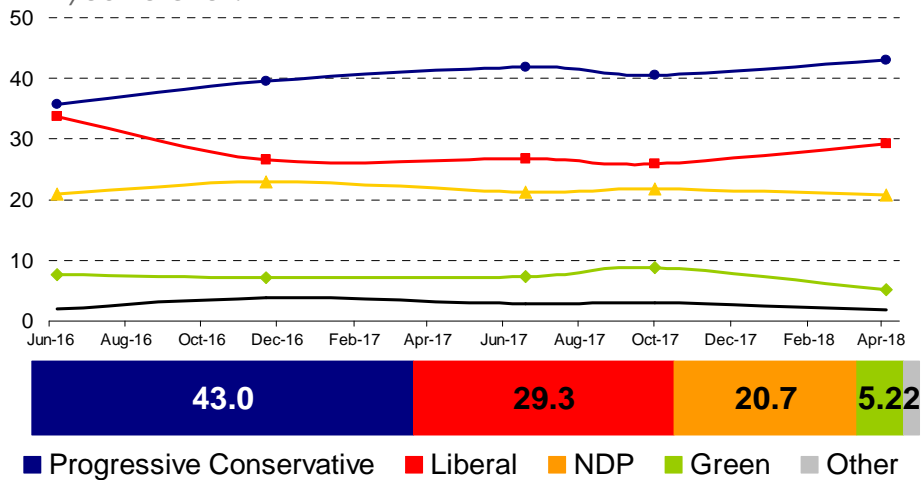
ONTARIO PCS ENJOY CLEAR LEAD:

ONTARIO LIBERALS IN 2ND AND NDP WELL BACK IN 3RD

[Ottawa – April 6, 2018] Doug Ford’s Progressive Conservatives have a clear lead which would produce a majority if there were to be an election tomorrow. However, current polling does not provide the basis for a comfortable forecast of the next Ontario election; there isn’t an election tomorrow and the Ontario Liberals have shown surprising resilience in the last three provincial elections.

Ontario vote intention

Q. If a provincial election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?



Note: These figures are based on decided and leaning voters only; 11.8% of respondents say they are undecided, are ineligible to vote, or skipped the question.

Copyright 2018 No reproduction without permission **BASE:** Residents of Ontario; March 20-April 5, 2018, n=1,067, MOE +/- 3.0%, 19 times out of 20

The Ontario Liberals have a daunting challenge in closing a 14-point gap, but the NDP find themselves mired at the same inauspicious levels they achieved in the last election. Without a major disruption, the NDP may serve only to split enough of the centre-left vote to assist a Doug Ford majority. This could, of course, change.

There is a huge gender gap in voter preference. Neither the Liberals nor the NDP have any strength with male voters. Doug Ford has a huge lead here. If the election was going to be based on women’s vote, it would be a highly competitive race between the PCs and Liberals. To have any chance of winning, the Ontario Liberals have to do considerably better with male voters.

The Ontario Liberal vote skews heavily to those with higher socioeconomic status. The PC vote is very strong among middle class voters and they have a huge lead with working class, as well as a modest lead with the poor. They also do much better with college and high school educated. This mirrors the populist constituency that propelled Donald Trump to victory in the United States.



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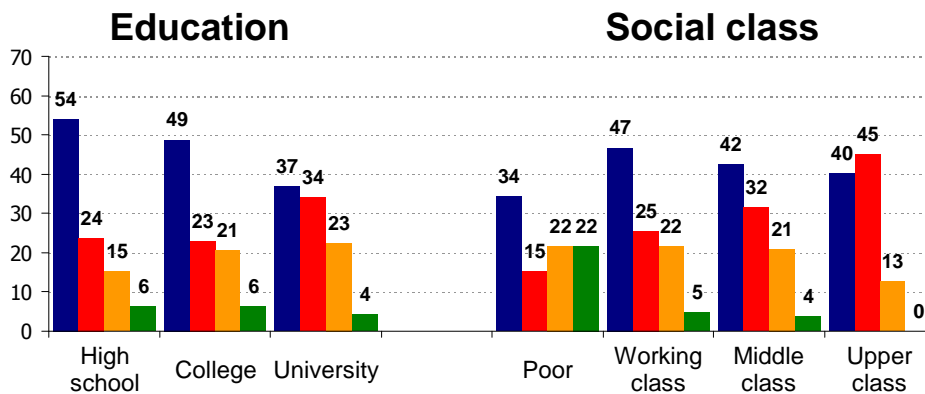
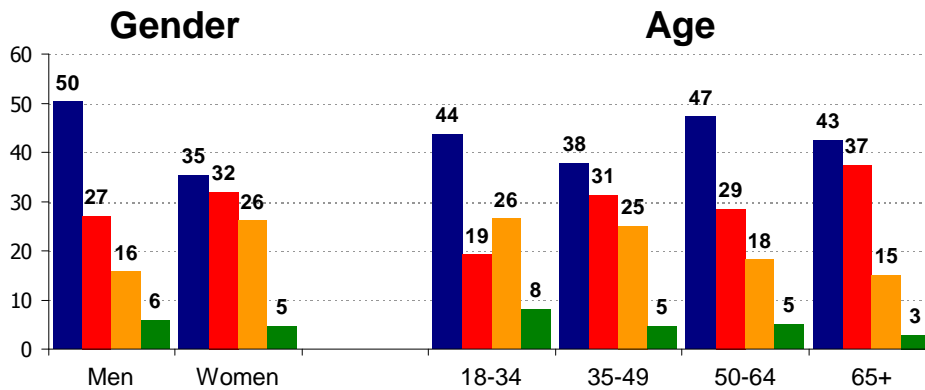
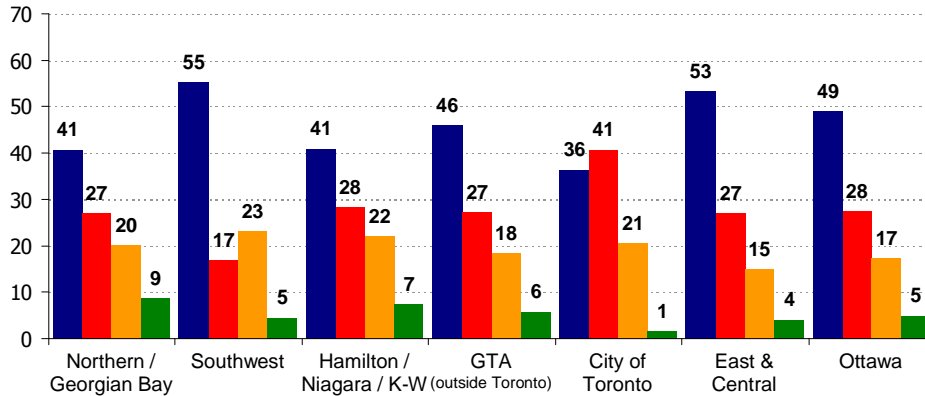
Doug Ford is also doing surprisingly well with younger voters, but they may not be highly engaged at this point.

The Tories lead across the province except in Toronto, where they are still in a statistical tie with the Liberals. Within Toronto, the Liberals are ahead in the central part of the city, while the PCs are ahead in the suburbs, which is the heart of "Fordnation". The NDP doesn't lead in any region, though they are a distant second place in Southwestern Ontario.

The Tories' best regions are their heartlands of Eastern and Central Ontario and Southwestern Ontario, which is where they won a bulk of their seats in 2014. Of note, they also have large leads in the seat-rich outer Greater Toronto Area (i.e., outside of the city itself). This area of the province is key for any party to win in order to form government. The Tories also have a significant lead in Ottawa, another area the Tories haven't won since last winning government.

Vote intention by region/key demographics

Q. If a provincial election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?



■ Progressive Conservative
 ■ Liberal
 ■ NDP
 ■ Green
 ■ Other

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Detailed Results:

Ontario Vote Intention (decided and leaning voters only)							
<i>Q. If a provincial election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for? [If undecided] Even if you do not have a firm idea, are you leaning towards a party? [If yes] As it stands, towards which party are you leaning?</i>							
	Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Other	Sample Size	Margin of Error (+/-)
NATIONALLY	43.0%	29.3%	20.7%	5.2%	1.8%	940	3.2
REGION							
Northern Ontario/Georgian Bay	40.6%	27.0%	20.1%	8.7%	3.6%	101	9.8
Southwest Ontario	55.3%	17.0%	23.2%	4.5%	0.0%	85	10.6
Hamilton/Niagara/Kitchener/Waterloo	40.9%	28.2%	22.1%	7.4%	1.4%	121	8.9
Greater Toronto Area	46.0%	27.2%	18.4%	5.7%	2.6%	121	8.9
City of Toronto	36.3%	40.7%	20.6%	1.4%	0.9%	258	6.1
East and Central Ontario	53.2%	27.0%	15.0%	4.1%	0.7%	93	10.2
Ottawa	49.0%	27.5%	17.4%	4.9%	1.2%	104	9.6
GENDER							
Male	50.3%	27.1%	15.7%	5.9%	1.0%	497	4.4
Female	35.3%	31.9%	26.1%	4.7%	2.0%	423	4.8
AGE							
<35	43.7%	19.1%	26.4%	8.0%	2.8%	89	10.4
35-49	37.7%	31.3%	25.0%	4.7%	1.2%	173	7.5
50-64	47.3%	28.5%	18.1%	5.1%	1.1%	306	5.6
65+	42.5%	37.4%	15.0%	2.8%	2.3%	365	5.1
EDUCATION							
High school or less	54.2%	23.7%	15.2%	6.4%	0.5%	158	7.8
College or CEGEP	48.8%	23.0%	20.6%	6.2%	1.3%	277	5.9
University or higher	36.9%	34.2%	22.6%	4.4%	1.9%	500	4.4



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 March 20-April 5, 2018. In total, a random sub-sample of 1,067 residents of Ontario aged 18 and over responded to the survey. The margin of error associated with the total sample is +/- 3.0 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.