Social Planning Toronto

Voter Information

Social Planning Toronto has developed a series of Voter Information Sheets for the 2010 Municipal election. These "fact sheets" are one-page summaries which provide a brief background to the issue, suggested questions for candidates, and a short listing of other resources and information related to the issue.

The topics for the nine sheets are:

- Child Care
- Community Services
- Employment
- Environment
- Health
- Housing
- Role of Municipal Government
- Safety
- Seniors

These nine "fact sheets" have been translated into the following languages:

- Amharic
- Arabic
- Bengali
- Chinese
- Farsi
- French
- Greek
- Gujarati
- Italian
- Korean
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Somali
- Spanish
- Russian
- Twi
- Vietnamese

In addition, seven other "fact sheets" have been developed as background on other issues of concern in the municipal election. They are:

- Arts
- Equity in Education
- ESL
- How and Why Vote
- Recreation
- Transit
- Women

All of these resources are available on the Social Planning Toronto website at www.socialplanningtoronto.org, and can be downloaded and reproduced.

More information on the "mechanics" of the municipal election is available on the City of Toronto website at www.toronto.ca/elections/.

SOCIAL PLANNING TORONTO

Linking Research with Community Action

socialplanningtoronto.org

Creating a more liveable city

Toronto is one of the world's most diverse cities. The city's artists and arts organizations reflect this diversity. The arts bring together communities; able us to share our stories with each other; and to allow creativity to flourish. Arts and culture also make an important contribution to our City's economy. In 2003 Toronto's arts industry generated about $9 billion of our Gross Domestic Product.

Why the arts should be a priority for Torontonians

City investment in Toronto's artists and arts organizations, increases employment in the arts sector and beyond, creates more opportunities for artistic expression, increases tourism and ensures people of all ages can enjoy the arts.

Toronto lags behind other major Canadian cities in municipal cultural investment. Toronto currently invests $18 per resident in arts and culture, while Vancouver and Montreal invest $26 and $33 each.

ASK YOUR CANDIDATE:

... will you support an immediate increase in the City's arts investment to $25 per Torontonian, bringing Toronto closer to the national standard for arts funding?

LEARN MORE

Toronto Arts Council: www.torontoarts.org
Neighbourhood Arts Network: www.neighbourhoodartsnetwork.org
Beautiful City: www.beautifulcity.ca/bcbfpetition.asp
ArtsVote: artsvotetoronto.ca
City of Toronto Cultural Services: www.toronto.ca/culture

It's a long wait for Toronto families without high-quality, affordable child care

Without a national child care strategy, the future of our system is uncertain. Over the past year, child care has been in jeopardy. Why?

- Federal child care funding arrangements expired
- The City of Toronto moved to stop covering rental costs for child care centres in schools

The good news … parents and providers spoke out in large numbers and got the provincial government to replace federal funds. They also got the City of Toronto to maintain rental agreements with school boards.

But the uncertainty is far from over … we need the City of Toronto to maintain its commitment and work with communities and providers to get federal and provincial governments to make permanent commitments on child care.

Early learning and child care are vital to the well-being of all families and the healthy development of every child. Yet there are more than 17,000 children on the waiting list for child care subsidies in Toronto.

We need to expand the system to serve more families. Instead we're working to save the centres and spaces that we have now.

ASK YOUR CANDIDATE:

… will you safeguard municipal child care funding to maintain space and keep school rental agreements in place?

… what will you do to get the provincial and federal governments to do their part for child care, including a national child care strategy?

LEARN MORE

Childcare Resource and Research Unit: www.childcarecanada.org
Toronto Children's Services: www.toronto.ca/children
Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care: www.childcareontario.org

Toronto's nonprofit community services change lives and transform communities

Nonprofit agencies in Toronto serve people from all walks of life, providing emergency shelter, food programs, immigrant settlement, employment and training, supportive housing, seniors support, child care, after-school and youth programs, and much more.

In addition, they provide space and resources to mobilize residents to improve their communities and to advocate for policy change needed to create a better society. Community organizations are important employers of local residents too.

Over 10% of the City of Toronto's operating budget is directed to nonprofit organizations through grants and service agreements so that they can deliver these services and community development activities.

The impacts of the economic downturn, the increase of economic and racialized inequality in our city, and the lack of any significant expansion of community services since Toronto's amalgamation have left many neighbourhoods without adequate levels of local services to meet their needs. These gaps mean missed opportunities, and threaten increased isolation, crime, and poor physical and mental health.

ASK YOUR CANDIDATE:

... how will you ensure that City of Toronto funding for community services is protected, and expanded to meet the needs of all communities?

... how will you ensure that services are delivered equitably, meeting diverse community needs in all areas of the city?

... what can City Council do to get the provincial and federal governments to contribute appropriately to community services?

LEARN MORE

City of Toronto Grants: www.toronto.ca/grants
Social Planning Toronto: www.socialplanningtoronto.org
United Way Toronto: www.unitedwaytoronto.com
Community Social Services Campaign: www.socialplanningtoronto.org/community-social-services-campaign/

SOCIAL PLANNING TORONTO

SOCIAL PLANNING TORONTO links research with community action to improve the quality of life for all people in Toronto. **social**planning**toronto**.org

Leveling the playing field

The provincial government funds Ontario school boards to offer additional supports to students who need it. With this money, schools can offer extra educational assistants, after-school and summer programs, school lunch and snack programs and many other things to make sure kids are ready to learn and do their best. Sadly, most of the money that the TDSB receives through the Learning Opportunities Grant doesn't end up where it belongs. It's used to fund all the other parts of the school system which are also under-funded.

Making sure all students can succeed at school.

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) knows that its students don't all have the same opportunities in life. That's because students face different challenges in their families, in their neighbourhoods, and in their schools. A great school system makes sure every child has the opportunity to do great things.

To help balance out these differences the Learning Opportunity Index was developed. This index shows which schools are most in need of extra supports to level the playing field for students from under-served communities. The money for these supports comes from the Learning Opportunities Grant.

ASK YOUR SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE CANDIDATE:

... do you recognize that some students face challenges that cause them to struggle to achieve compared to their peers and need extra supports to be successful?

... do you support spending the money from the Learning Opportunities Grant on targeted programs that benefit vulnerable students?

... will you ask the provincial government to adequately fund public education?

LEARN MORE

People for Education: www.peopleforeducation.com
Toronto District School Board Equity Foundations Statement:
www.tdsb.on.ca/_site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=15&menuid=682&pageid=546
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives: www.policyalternatives.ca
Ministry of Education: www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/equity.pdf

SOCIAL PLANNING TORONTO

SOCIAL PLANNING TORONTO links research with community action to improve the quality of life for all people in Toronto. **social**planning**toronto**.org

The City needs to promote good jobs and employment opportunities for all residents

Toronto's labour market continues to face numerous challenges:

- The City is experiencing a growth in part-time, temporary and contract work while the number of full-time permanent jobs is declining. These types of jobs offer less protection, lower wages, little to no benefits and few chances to move up. In Toronto, temporary work rose by 68% from 1997 to 2005.
- Newcomers and immigrants are finding it hard to find jobs that match their skill level and education, and are forced to work in entry-level jobs for which they are over-qualified.
- About 1 in 4 people in Toronto are living in poverty. Low-paying jobs leave many workers and their families struggling to make ends meet. Many need to work multiple jobs, leaving no time for family or other activities.

The City needs to develop policies that will attract businesses that are environmentally sustainable, provide fair wages and benefits, and that will improve the quality of life for all Toronto residents.

Finding, keeping, improving work in our city.

Toronto's labour force is the biggest in all of Canada. Approximately 1.3 million people were working in Toronto in 2009. Unfortunately, the recession meant over 18,000 jobs were lost between 2008 and 2009.

Toronto's unemployment rate continues to hover around the 10% mark. In order to rebuild our economy and ensure job opportunities for all Torontonians, the City must take the lead in promoting and supporting industries and businesses which offer good quality jobs that pay decent wages and benefits.

ASK YOUR CANDIDATE:

... what will you do to ensure that current businesses treat workers fairly and offer decent wages and benefits? What will you do to attract businesses and industries that do so?

... how will you promote the creation of good green jobs in Toronto?

... would you support policies such as the City's existing "Fair Wage" policy for the city's own contracting and hiring?

LEARN MORE

Good Jobs for All Coalition: www.goodjobsforall.ca
2009 Trends, Opportunities, Priorities Report: ttb.on.ca
Workers' Action Centre: www.workersactioncentre.org
Toronto Employment and Social Services: www.toronto.ca/socialservices
YMCA Toronto: www.ymcatoronto.org

Making Toronto a greener city

Toronto is home to more than 2.5 million people. All residents and businesses rely on services ranging from water to electricity to gas to waste collection. These all produce waste that affects our climate and our health. To keep Toronto a green and beautiful city, communities and businesses need programs and resources to support efforts to reduce waste and promote a cleaner, safer environment.

Why should the environment be a priority for Torontonians?

- Pollution is bad for our health, The Asthma Society of Canada states that more than 600,000 children suffer from asthma, accounting for more hospitalizations than any other chronic childhood illness. Heavy traffic near schools and homes is directly causing asthma in children.
- We need to reduce our waste. Trucking the city's waste to a landfill site is expensive and further damages the environment.
- Climate change has far reaching effects. Energy use creates CO2 emissions locally through car exhausts, and remotely at the generating station. This greenhouse gas production contributes to climate change and results in worsened air quality, altered ecosystems, and causes the urban heat island effect in Toronto.

ASK YOUR CANDIDATE:

... will you ensure that all apartment buildings in Toronto have Green Bin collection service by the end of 2011?

... will you implement the City's Sustainable Energy Plan, partnering with Toronto Hydro, Enbridge, and others to promote home and business energy retrofits?

... will you create the tools small businesses need to devise pollution prevention plans with clear energy reduction targets?

LEARN MORE

Toronto Environmental Alliance: www.torontoenvironment.org
Environmental Defence: www.environmentaldefence.ca
David Suzuki Foundation: www.davidsuzuki.org
Live Green Toronto: www.toronto.ca/livegreen

SOCIAL PLANNING TORONTO

SOCIAL PLANNING TORONTO links research with community action to improve the quality of life for all people in Toronto. **social**planning**toronto**.org

Why should ESL classes be a priority for Toronto school boards?

- The Ontario government only funds four years of ESL per student, whether they need more support or not. The government also only funds students who are new to Canada. Children who grow up in a home with another language don't get the ESL support they need.
- Learning English means you can find a better job, attend a school meeting with a teacher, or read a newspaper. Knowing English is very important. Students need to learn English so that they have a chance to succeed in school, find part-time work, use a library, or go on to college and university.
- Toronto's International Languages Program is also important. Students do better at learning English if they are also learning in their first language at the same time. The International Languages Program is also an important link between newcomer parents and the school system.

Why should English as a Second Language (ESL) be taught in schools?

More people speak more languages in Toronto than anywhere else. Almost half of us speak another language than English or French and half of us were born outside Canada. Our schools are even more multicultural. But, even with more students speaking more languages, Toronto schools have been cutting back ESL classes and teachers. Now, just when students are more likely to need ESL help, the number of schools giving that added support has dropped.

ASK YOUR SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE CANDIDATE:

... will you work to make sure ESL programs get the supports they need?

... how will you do that - at the Board and with the government?

... do you support the International Languages Program?

LEARN MORE

City of Toronto: www.toronto.ca/toronto_facts/diversity.htm.
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives:
www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/Ontario_Office_Pubs/2007/Missing_the_Mark.pdf
People for Education: www.peopleforeducation.com/adx/aspx/adxGetMedia.aspx?DocID=613
Social Planning Toronto: socialplanningtoronto.org/reports/renewing-toronto%E2%80%99s-esl-programs/

Health inequality is making us sick

Toronto Public Health works to improve the health of Toronto residents and communities through programs, information, and direct service in areas such as health promotion and healthy living, disease prevention and control, food safety, and air quality. However, increased levels of poverty and income inequality in the City are leaving many individuals, families and children at risk of illness and disease.

- In Toronto, life expectancy for men living with low-income was 4.5 years less than men living with high income. For women, there was a 2 year difference.
- There would be 18% or 1,086 fewer premature deaths if everyone in the city was as healthy as those in the highest income group.
- Social assistance recipients have significantly higher rates of poor health on 38 out of 39 health measures such as diabetes, heart disease, bronchitis, arthritis and rheumatism – in some cases, as much as seven times higher.

The City must improve in its efforts to eliminate health inequality by expanding services to low-income communities, and addressing the growing gap between the rich and poor in Toronto.

ASK YOUR CANDIDATE:

... how will you work to reduce the growing health inequalities that are affecting the health and well-being of city residents?

... what will you do to expand health services and programs to individuals and families living in low-income communities?

... do you support Toronto's initiatives to promote access to nutritious food for all residents? How will you support these initiatives?

LEARN MORE

Toronto Public Health: www.toronto.ca/health
Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services: www.accessalliance.ca
The Wellesley Institute: www.wellesleyinstitute.com

Safe, decent and affordable housing is a Human Right

Housing Opportunities Toronto (HOT), the City's 10-year affordable housing action plan, aims to assist over 250,000 households.

The HOT plan includes measures to increase the amount of supportive housing, create new rent supplements to make housing affordable, improve housing conditions in rental and social housing, create new affordable rental homes and make home ownership more affordable for low income homeowners and moderate-income renters.

Sounds good! But where's the money to make it happen? The plan requires funding from provincial and federal government, as well as support from the City of Toronto.

In Toronto, more than 640,000 people – one in four residents – need assistance with housing. More than 100,000 families pay over 50% of their income on rent.

Families are doubling up in cramped quarters to make the rent, while others are living in shelters and on the streets. Children, youth, single parent families, women, racialized groups, immigrants, Aboriginal people, and people with disabilities are the most affected.

ASK YOUR CANDIDATE:

... what will you do to ensure that the HOT plan delivers on its promise to create more safe, decent and affordable housing for Toronto residents?

... do you support the City contributing more funding and land to create affordable housing?

... how can the City work with residents to get the provincial and federal governments to pay their fair share for safe, decent and affordable housing?

... what would you do to ensure construction of new affordable family housing right across Toronto?

LEARN MORE

City of Toronto, HOT plan: www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/ah/bgrd/backgroundfile-21130.pdf
Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations: www.torontotenants.org
Toronto Community Housing Corporation: www.torontohousing.ca
Wellesley Institute: www.wellesleyinstitute.com

SOCIAL PLANNING TORONTO

SOCIAL PLANNING TORONTO links research with community action to improve the quality of life for all people in Toronto. **social**planning**toronto**.org

Equitable access to recreation programs is critical to all Toronto residents

The City of Toronto has a big job ahead to develop a multi-year city-wide Recreation Service Plan by 2011. Its last attempt to adopt a recreation plan failed when it became clear that increased fees were planned to fund expanded recreation programs. Important questions to consider in this new round of planning include:

- How should we decide what recreation programs are offered?
- While many free programs are available, user fees for recreation programs are on the rise. How do we pay for recreation?
- Are the City's programs meeting the needs of women and girls? What about children and youth, immigrant groups, racialized communities, and people with disabilities?
- The City's 'Welcome Policy' is a subsidy program that covers recreation costs. How is it working for low income individuals and families?

Broad-based community participation is key to the development of the City-wide Recreation Service Plan.

It's more than playing games

Recreation is vital to the health and well-being of everyone. It brings us together, providing space to connect, engage and create dynamic, inclusive communities. The City of Toronto's Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division plays a central role, offering a vast range of programs and services, but many people can't access what they need and want.

ASK YOUR CANDIDATE:

... what are your ideas for the City-wide Recreation Service Plan?

... how will you ensure that the City's recreation programs meet the diverse needs of Toronto communities?

... what is your position on recreation user fees?

... how will you work with my community to ensure that we are involved in all aspects of the development of the City-wide Recreation Service Plan?

LEARN MORE

Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division: www.toronto.ca/parks

SOCIAL PLANNING TORONTO

SOCIAL PLANNING TORONTO links research with community action to improve the quality of life for all people in Toronto. **social**planning**toronto**.org

City Services are vital

The City of Toronto has an important role to play in advocating to senior levels of government. High levels of poverty, shortage of child care spaces, and lack of affordable housing are all local problems that require action at the provincial and federal levels. The City's role is to work with local communities to get action on issues affecting Toronto residents, regardless of which level of government is responsible. All of these issues affect you and are reasons why you should go out and vote.

The role of municipal government is critical in the everyday lives of local residents. The City of Toronto provides a vast range of programs and services including:

- Emergency services - fire, ambulance and police
- Garbage, recycling and green bin collection
- Snow removal, repair and maintenance on local roads
- Local transit and Green P parking lots
- Park maintenance and community and recreation programs
- Public health and safety standards enforcement including housing standards
- Children and youth services including some child care provision
- Some emergency shelter programs

ON OCTOBER 25 YOU WILL ELECT:

A Mayor - The mayor is responsible to ensure that City Council remains accountable and accessible to the public, so that Torontonians can be sure they are receiving the highest possible standard of City services.

A Councillor - There are 44 City Councillors, one representing each of the city's wards. The council is the main governing and legislative body for the city. City councillors also sit on committees and on community councils in the area where they have been elected.

A School Board Trustee - The Toronto District School Board is the largest school Board in Canada with nearly 600 schools serving more than 250,000 students each year. The Board is supported by 22 publicly elected Trustees who are advocates for education and are the voice of the public, ensuring concerns pertaining to education are addressed.

LEARN MORE

City of Toronto, Civic Engagement: www.toronto.ca/civic-engagement
City of Toronto, Role of City, Provinces and Federal Governments:
www.toronto.ca/civic-engagement/learning-material/role-governments.htm
City Street View of Services: www.toronto.ca/budget2010/pdf/streetscape2010.pdf
Toronto Catholic District School Board: www.tcdsb.org
Toronto District School Board: www.tdsb.on.ca

SOCIAL PLANNING TORONTO

SOCIAL PLANNING TORONTO links research with community action to improve the quality of life for all people in Toronto. **social**planning**toronto**.org

Everyone deserves to live in a safe environment

Everyone has a right to safety inside and outside the home. While crime rates in Toronto have continued to fall steadily over the years, leaving Toronto with one of the lowest rates of all major urban centres in Canada, residents remain concerned about the problem of guns and gangs in our city. In these tough economic times, service providers are finding more women seeking their assistance because of violence from intimate partners.

What are the best ways to make our communities safer?

There is no shortage of ideas about how to make our communities safer – which leads to lots of questions. Will more police on the streets make us safer? How about community policing? How do we make sure that no young person gets caught up in gangs? What programs and services are needed to prevent violence against women and ensure women facing violence have a real way out? How do we ensure that the police are accountable to the public and that we have good relations between the police and all communities?

Start the discussion with the candidates at your door, in public meetings and online.

ASK YOUR CANDIDATE:

... what strategies would you propose to prevent and respond to violence in our communities?

... how would you deal with issues of guns and gangs and violence against women in our city?

... what ideas do you have to promote positive relationships between the police and all of Toronto's communities?

LEARN MORE

Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence Against Women and Children: www.metrac.org
The Roots of Youth Violence Report: www.ontario.ca/rootsofyouthviolence
Toronto Police Accountability Coalition: www.tpac.ca
Toronto Police Service: www.torontopolice.on.ca
Toronto Ombudsman: www.toronto.ca/ombudstoronto

SOCIAL PLANNING TORONTO

SOCIAL PLANNING TORONTO links research with community action to improve the quality of life for all people in Toronto. **social**planning**toronto**.org

Meeting the needs of Toronto's aging population

As we age we all need to know that our basic needs will be met so we can live with dignity. Uncertain and inadequate pensions, and eroding incomes are a concern for many seniors and their families. Supports from the municipal government are essential. Community consultations with seniors have identified a number of actions the City can take. For housing, there is a need to increase affordable housing for seniors with targets to reduce waiting times. The number of long-term care homes needs to be increased to meet the growing population. A full range of dental care for low-income seniors is also required to prevent long term health concerns. Lowering the cost of the seniors' TTC pass and making buses, streetcars, and stations more accessible would increase opportunities for seniors to participate more in their communities.

Affordable, accessible services across the lifespan

Across Canada the population is aging. This is especially true in Toronto where the city is home to 353,445 seniors, aged 65 and older, representing 14.1% of the total population, up from 13.4% in 1996. The number of increasingly frail seniors over 85 has grown from 31,000 in 1996 to 43,000 in 2006. Between now and 2031, the number of seniors is expected to grow by 38%.

The poverty rate among seniors in Toronto is 24%, which is 50% higher than the national average. It is even greater for seniors who are recent immigrants, Aboriginal, members of racialized groups or people with mobility limitations. Isolation and the lack of support is also a concern, as more than 25% of Toronto seniors live alone.

ASK YOUR CANDIDATE:

... what would you do to make the transit system more accessible to seniors?

... how would you increase the supply of affordable, appropriate housing for seniors?

... how would you make city services more accessible to seniors, particularly those facing language or disability barriers?

LEARN MORE

Social Planning Toronto: socialplanningtoronto.org/reports/torontos-social-landscape/
City of Toronto: Toronto Seniors Forum: www.toronto.ca/seniors/seniorsforum_priorities.htm
CARP: www.carp.ca

SOCIAL PLANNING TORONTO

SOCIAL PLANNING TORONTO links research with community action to improve the quality of life for all people in Toronto. **social**planning**toronto**.org

A well maintained and properly funded transit system is vital for the people of Toronto

The amount of time it takes commuters to get around in Toronto is one of the highest in the world. The need for investment in a reliable, rapid, and integrated public transportation system is crucial for Toronto's economic growth and productivity.

- About 70% of commuters still rely on cars to get to work, which creates smog and air pollution that hurts our health. Traffic congestion costs the City an estimated $3.3 billion per year in lost productivity.
- The TTC is Canada's largest transit system, and more than 70% of its funding comes from fares. The TTC was forced to increase its fares last December in order to maintain its current service levels. Toronto's public transportation system needs secure, stable Provincial and Federal Government funding to remain affordable and to expand its network to less serviced regions of the City. Continued fare hikes will pose increased financial burden on youth, seniors and members of low-income communities.
- A key part of the solution is the "Transit City" plan which will expand rapid, light rail transit to underserved areas in Scarborough, North York and Etobicoke.

Why do we need to invest in Toronto's public transit system?

Each day, 1.2 million people commute in and around the City of Toronto using various means such as public transportation, cars or bicycles. The number of commuters will only increase as our city's population grows and expands across the GTA, causing more strain and congestion on our already overwhelmed system.

ASK YOUR CANDIDATE:

... what will you do to get the Province to pay its fair share of TTC operating costs?

... what will you do to make sure the full Transit City Plan, as promised in spring 2009, is funded by the Province and built as soon as possible?

... what will you do to ensure the TTC remains public?

LEARN MORE

Public Transit Coalition: www.publictransitcoalition.ca
TTC Riders.ca: www.ttcriders.ca
Toronto Environmental Alliance: www.torontoenvironment.org

Did you know that the Toronto Municipal Elections are being held on Monday, October 25th, 2010?

Why should I vote?

The water you drink, the bus that you ride, the school your children attend, the police, fire truck, and ambulance you depend on, are all municipal responsibilities. Municipal elections give Toronto residents the chance to vote for a Mayor, their city councillor and school board trustee. Voting is your opportunity to choose the best person to work for you, to make your City and your community a better place to live. Get involved by attending your local mayoral and councillor debates. Ask the candidates about the key issues you feel deserve the most attention. Don't let others speak on your behalf. Vote!

Who can vote?

In most instances, in order to vote you must be:

- a Canadian citizen
- at least 18 years old
- a resident of the City of Toronto

How do I vote?

Eligible voters on the voters' list will usually be mailed a voter information card in early October, letting you know where and when to vote. To make sure that you, or a family member, are on the voters' list, you can call the elections office at 416-338-1111 or go in person to the City Clerk's Office (at City Hall), starting from September 1st, 2010.

It's almost Election Day and I haven't received a voter information card. What do I do?

If Election Day is approaching and you, or a member of your household, have still not received a voter information card or you do not know where to vote, you can call the elections office at 416-338-1111. If you have not received a voter information card but know where to vote, you can go directly to your voting location.

What do I bring with me on Election Day?

1. Your voter information card (if you have received one).
2. One piece of ID with your name, address and signature OR two pieces of ID, one with your name and signature and a second with your name and address.

LEARN MORE

www.toronto.ca/elections/voters/faq.htm
www.toronto.ca/elections/voters/how-do-i-vote.htm

SOCIAL PLANNING TORONTO

SOCIAL PLANNING TORONTO links research with community action to improve the quality of life for all people in Toronto. **social**planning**toronto**.org

Women are underrepresented on City Council and staff at the City of Toronto

While women make up over half of the City's population, only 22% of Toronto City Council seats are held by women. Women make up only 42% of management positions. Racialized women make up 23% of Toronto's population, but hold just over 5% of management jobs at the City. Almost no Aboriginal women or women with disabilities hold management positions at the City of Toronto. While progress has been made, there are still far too few women firefighters or police officers.

To increase women's participation in local government, the City of Toronto launched the Toronto Regional Champion Campaign, giving young women opportunities to get hands-on experience working with women on City Council. How else can we increase women's representation on City Council and participation in political decision-making? Are city services designed and funded in a way that reflects the needs and priorities of women?

Looking at City policies and programs through women's eyes

Whether it's social housing, public transit, child care, recreation, community programs, emergency shelter or policing, City services touch the lives and shape the opportunities of women and girls across Toronto. But are City services being shaped by the needs of women and girls, and are they meeting these needs?

In the past, the City's Working Group on the Status of Women and Gender Equity played a role in bringing women and girls' issues to the table. Some women's groups want the City to establish a Women's Equalities Office to lead in monitoring and recommending action to ensure that City services are meeting the needs of women and girls.

ASK YOUR CANDIDATE:

... what steps would you take to ensure that City services meet the needs of women and girls, and the diversities of these groups?

... what would you do to ensure that women and girls' concerns are a concrete part of the decision-making process at city hall?

... what changes would you make to improve the representation of women on City Council and civic participation of women and girls?

LEARN MORE

Better Ballots: www.betterballots.to
City of Toronto, Diversity Management and Civic Engagement: www.toronto.ca/diversity
Equal Voice: www.equalvoice.ca
Toronto Women's City Alliance: www.twca.ca
YWCA Toronto: www.ywcatoronto.org

SOCIAL PLANNING TORONTO

SOCIAL PLANNING TORONTO links research with community action to improve the quality of life for all people in Toronto. **social**planning**toronto**.org