

# Canada Votes 2021

## Election in September

Canada is holding a general election. The election is on September 20.

### What are we voting for?

Voters elect 338 Members of Parliament (MPs). Most MPs belong to a political party.

The party with 170 or more elected MPs forms the government.

The leader of the party becomes the Prime Minister.

### Why should I vote?

When you vote, you are taking a stand on issues that are important to Canadians.

You are choosing a person or a political party that shares your views on:

- health care
- economy
- education
- environment
- human rights
- security
- taxes

Sometimes a MP wins by only a few votes. Your vote could decide the winner.

### Who can vote?

You can vote in this federal election if you:

- are a Canadian citizen
- will be 18 or older on election day
- register to vote in advance or when you go to vote

## How to vote

The first thing you need to do is check to see if you are registered to vote. You can check at [elections.ca/register](https://elections.ca/register). You can also check to make sure your address is correct.

### How do I register to vote?

You can register online, by mail or by calling 1-800-463-6868. You will receive a voter information card in the mail. It will tell you where your polling station is.

You can still register at your polling station on Election Day. It just takes a bit longer.

### Where do I vote?

Go to your polling station. Polls are open for 12 hours. Bring your government ID with your photo, name and address.

### What happens at the polling station?

Election workers will check to see if you are registered. They will check your ID. Then they will write their initials on a ballot. They will fold it and hand it to you.

### How do I vote?

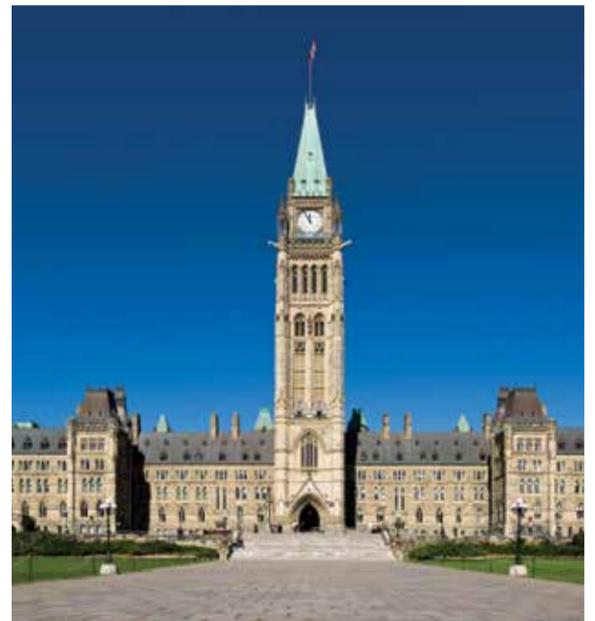
1. Take your ballot behind a voting screen.
2. Mark an X for the candidate you want to elect.
3. Fold your ballot.
4. Give your ballot back to the election worker. They will tear off a tab and give your ballot back to you.
5. Put your ballot in the box.

Congratulations. You just voted!

Learn more at [elections.ca](https://elections.ca)

**Adapted from *A Guide to Voting: A literacy practitioner workbook for voting in the Canadian Federal Election***

**Photos: [wikimediacommons/Saffron Blaze](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Saffron_Blaze), [Wikimedia Commons/Canada Votes 2008](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Canada_Votes_2008), [Flickr/ishmael n. daro](https://www.flickr.com/photos/ishmael_n_daro/)**



This is Parliament Hill in Ottawa.



This is a ballot.



This is a polling station.

### Did you know?

- You can vote before Election Day. This is called advance voting.
- Your employer must make sure you have three hours off in a row to vote.
- You can ask for an interpreter in your own language to be at the polling station. You must ask before September 14.