



A Young Ontarian's Guide to Participating in the 2011 Provincial Election

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Introduction

Why should I care about the provincial election?

Canadian citizens have the right to vote in elections for three levels of government: federal, provincial and municipal. The federal government is responsible for matters that apply to all of Canada. Provincial and territorial governments look after such matters as education, health care, and highways. Municipal governments are responsible for local matters such as policing, firefighting, libraries, and parks and recreation. Between them, the three levels of government make decisions that affect almost everything we do.

Each province has its own elected assembly or legislature, which is the body of elected officials that makes laws and passes legislation. The legislature in Ontario governs the following areas:

- natural resources and the environment;
- hunting and fishing;
- energy production;
- health care;
- hospitals;
- property and civil rights;
- education;
- post-secondary education;
- justice;
- prisons;
- social services;
- provincial highways;
- and driver's licenses.

Some responsibilities, such as agriculture, immigration, and some aspects of natural resources, are shared between the provincial and federal levels of government.

How does a provincial election work?

A provincial general election – an election in all of Ontario’s electoral districts at the same time – is held every four years, ordinarily on the first Thursday in October.

Ontario is divided into 107 electoral districts or ‘ridings’, and each riding sends one elected official – the Member of the Provincial Parliament or MPP – to the provincial legislature. The voters who live in each riding elect one MPP who will represent them in government.

Individuals who campaign for election to become an MPP may run as Independent Candidates, but usually they run as representatives of one particular political party. There are many political parties in Ontario, but the largest ones are the Liberals, the Progressive Conservatives, and the New Democrats. Although no Green Party candidate has won provincially, the Green Party usually runs candidates in every riding.

In Ontario, we do not vote for our Premier directly, but rather for our MPPs. The leader of the party that has the most candidates elected as MPPs generally becomes the Premier.

How can I vote in the provincial election?

To vote in the Ontario provincial election, you must be a Canadian citizen, 18 years of age or older on election day, ordinarily resident in the riding district in which you will be voting, and registered on the voters list, which is the list of all citizens who are eligible to vote in the election. If you are not included on the voters list, which may be the case if you’ve never voted before, you should arrange to get on it prior to voting.

A few weeks before the election, Elections Ontario will send you a voter information card if your name is on the voters list. The card will tell you where you will vote – your polling station – and when you can vote. If your information on the card is incorrect, you must arrange to have it corrected. You can correct the information on your voter information card, or get registered on the voters list, by contacting your riding’s Returning Office. You can find out the telephone number and address of your riding’s Returning Office from the Elections Ontario website, at www.elections.on.ca.

You can vote on Election Day or before Election Day at an advance poll. Advance polls allow you to participate in the election even in you will be unable to vote on Election Day. Information about how and where to vote in advance can be found on the Elections Ontario website.

If you cannot vote on Election Day or in advance, you can still vote by proxy by having somebody vote at your direction on your behalf. The Returning Officer has the forms and information on how to vote by proxy.

On Election Day, you should take your voter information card with you to your polling station. If you don’t have a voter information card you can still vote, but must show proof of identity and residence. Information about specific identification requirements is available on the Elections Ontario website.

When you vote, you will be given a ballot and directed to go behind a screen. You will have to place an X on the ballot beside the name of the candidate for MPP whom you support. The names of the parties’ leaders will not be indicated, so make sure you know the name of your candidate and party! If you make a mistake, you can hand your ballot back and ask for a new one.

For which candidate should I vote?

Each candidate and each party has different ideas about what rules should govern us and what services we should have. You will need to decide which candidate's and which party's ideas make the most sense to you. So you'll have to do some research.

The candidates and their parties will all try to let you know about their ideas by distributing flyers and placing advertisements on television or radio or in the newspapers. They will also be featured in election stories in the local media. You can check out their websites, which you can find through the Elections Ontario website. You can learn quite a lot from these sources.

If you have specific questions you want to ask the candidates about the specific issues that are most important to you, you can ask them if they come knocking on your door. If they don't contact you, you can contact them directly through their campaign offices. You can find out the telephone numbers and addresses of your candidates' campaign offices from the Elections Ontario website.

Most candidates will also attend community meetings called all candidates debates. These are a great place for you to ask your questions, and also to hear how the candidates respond to other citizens' questions.

This guide provides some sample questions on some of the main issues in this federal election. Feel free to ask them! Or use them as templates to create your own questions.

Natural Resources and the Environment

Greenbelt

In 2005, the government of Ontario passed the Greenbelt Act, which set aside over 1.8 million acres of land – farmland, forests, wetlands and watersheds – in southern Ontario, permanently protecting them from development and ‘freezing’ their permitted uses. The intention of this legislation was to prevent urban sprawl on environmentally sensitive lands, preserve water supplies and biodiversity, and improve Ontarians’ way of life. Although most Ontarians agree that the Greenbelt Act was a good idea, and many believe that the protected area should be expanded, fully half of the farmers whose lands were affected report that the legislation has had a somewhat negative or very negative impact on their livelihoods.

Sixty-three percent of the 1.8 million acres was agricultural land, primarily family-run farms. Although one goal of the Greenbelt Act was to protect valuable agricultural land, a University of Guelph study determined that this has not occurred and that the greenbelt area has actually lost 490 farms and 86,000 acres of farmland. Further, the study revealed that every livestock operation in the greenbelt was experiencing either rapid decline or slower growth than similar operations outside of the greenbelt. With increased competition from globalization, suppressed prices and encroachment from cities, small-scale farming is a challenging and precarious business. While the Greenbelt Act did not cause the farmers’ problems, by preventing the farmers from changing how their land is put to use, it has tied their hands in terms of their ability to respond to those problems. Some farmers claim that they can no longer earn a living from their land, but neither can they sell it, as strict regulations on the property’s use have decreased its resale value by up to 70%.

Question:

1. If elected, what will your party do to balance the needs of the environment with those of local farmers?

Hunting and Fishing

Hunting and fishing regulations in Ontario are developed and overseen by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). The Ministry of Natural Resources works collaboratively with a wide variety of partners, environmental organizations, private resource sector industry, fish and game associations, researchers, and other government agencies of all levels.

Renewable energy projects, developed through the Green Energy and Economy Act, have recently been threatening the maintenance of healthy fishing and hunting resources. The government has appeared reluctant to enforce the legislation intended to protect fish and wildlife, such as the Ontario Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act.

Question:

1. Will you ensure that fish and wildlife are fully protected in the face of new energy developments in Ontario?

Energy Production

In May 2009, the Ontario government introduced the Green Energy Act and with it the goal of generating 13 percent of Ontario's energy from renewable energy and completely eliminating coal production by the end of 2014. With this transition, the government's target is to create up to 50,000 jobs. To do so, the act relies heavily on the feed-in-tariff - or FIT model, whereupon the government pays above-market rates to energy producers that utilize renewable sources such as wind, water or sun. The act stipulates that 25-60 percent of equipment used must be made in Ontario. Since the FIT program began in October 2009, it has offered 21,000 contracts to "clean" energy projects.

While Ontario manufacturers, energy producers and ultimately Ontario employees in this sector are benefiting from these measures, progress nevertheless has been constrained for a number of reasons. These include: a moratorium on offshore wind development due to undetermined environmental impacts; rate reductions for small ground-mounted solar systems; too few government staff to manage the number of applications; and legal action mounted by several countries over potential trade infringements in regards to its "made in Ontario" clause. The main critique, from both opposing political parties and energy producers, is that to date the plan has been largely under-implemented while at the same time, threatens price increases to consumers.

The contract which has generated the most controversy was made in January 2010 between the Ontario government and a South Korean consortium headed by Samsung C&T. This \$7 billion dollar contract is to build four solar and wind power facilities in the province. In response, the Progressive Conservatives have announced that, if elected, they intend to maintain the Energy Act but strongly oppose the awarding of overly generous contracts, particularly to non-Ontario manufacturers.

Another dimension of the Green Energy Act that has stimulated debate is the introduction of smart meters across the province. Smart meters are electricity meters that measure units of energy consumption according to hour of day. The cost of implementing these devices to producers - as well as the effect on consumers - translates into higher energy prices. Meanwhile, the goal of creating a "conservation culture" has not been realized as consumers have reacted by using more of their energy at low peak times of the day instead of actually reducing their overall consumption.

The rising cost of energy for consumers is generally attributed to government subsidies to renewable energy produces. The Progressive Conservatives, for that matter, favour natural gas over - or in addition to - solar, wind, water, or biomass production. However, with American demands for natural gas rising quickly, it has been forecasted that there are no long-term cost savings associated with this energy supply in comparison to renewables.

Questions:

1. How does your party plan to deal with Ontario's increasing energy demands?
2. How will it respond to rising electricity prices?

Health Care

Hospital Funding

Despite a population increase of some four million people, Ontario has cut almost 30,000 hospital beds over the past 30 years, resulting in a severe shortage of beds that compromises patient care. Currently, Ontario has the fewest hospital beds per capita of any province in Canada and the highest bed occupancy rate not only in this country, but among all industrialized countries. Yet Ontario hospitals continue to cut beds in order to meet budgets.

Although the cuts were supposed to be accompanied by enhancements to health care services in the community and other institutions, these enhancements have not been sufficient to offset the loss of beds, and emergency department backlogs, patients languishing on stretchers in hallways, cancelled surgeries and patients being discharged with no post-discharge care in place are now common. Outbreaks of hospital-acquired infections such as *C. difficile* have also been attributed to hospital overcrowding.

Question:

1. With an ageing and increasing population, how will your party, if elected, ensure sufficient hospital beds for today and for the future?

Education and Childcare

In October 2009, Ontario announced its plans to implement its new Early Learning Program (ELP), a full-day, everyday program for children ages four and five attending Junior Kindergarten (JK) or Senior Kindergarten (SK). ELP is to be phased in over a five-year period which began in September 2010.

ELP consists of a core program (i.e., 9:00 am – 3:00 pm) with the option of an extended day program operating before the core day begins and continuing at the end of the day. The extended day program is offered on a fee for service basis. ELP schools with sufficient parent interest will offer the extended day portion.

Although the provincial government announced amendments to the Education Act that would allow third party operators (like the YWCA, YMCA, etc.) to deliver the extended day program, our local school boards (Waterloo Region District School Board and the Waterloo Catholic District School Board) have made the decision to not allow third party providers to offer programs for children 4-7 years of age not just the 4 and 5 year olds.

Quality early learning and care is directly connected to the quality of the Early Childhood Educators teaching in these programs. Child care in the Region is being impacted by the increased demands for qualified Early Childhood Educators as more employment opportunities become available with the implementation of ELP. In 2010 approximately 75 ECE positions were required to meet the mandate of the local school boards to have an ECE in each Early Learning Kindergarten classroom. This demand will increase as the roll out of ELP continues.

As a result, the financial impact for licensed child care programs will be significant. The loss of the 4 and 5 year old program will result in increased costs to operate programs for younger children. As the Early Learning Program continues to be phased in, child care operators will be forced to evaluate their viability to determine if they are able to continue to provide services to their community. In Ontario we cannot afford to lose a single child care space.

Questions:

1. What is your party's plan to stabilize the child care sector?
2. It is estimated that child care fees will rise by 15 - 20% in our Region by 2014. What is your position on public investment for child care?

What is your party's position on the extended day program and working with existing child care operators to offer that service?

Post- Secondary Education

In 2009-2010, Ontario took first place in the race to become the most expensive province in Canada for undergraduate and graduate students to obtain a degree. The province now has the highest tuition fees for undergraduate and graduate students in the country. Under the *Reaching Higher* framework, tuition fees were allowed to outpace inflation by 175%. Since 2006, undergraduate tuition fees in the province have increased by an average of five percent per year. Some undergraduate, graduate and international students continue to face annual tuition fee hikes upwards of eight percent.

Tuition fees remain the most significant barrier that students face when trying to access post-secondary education. This regressive flat tax not only prevents many middle and lower income people from getting a college or university education, but it also restricts the educational choices made by those students who are fortunate enough to be able to attend. As a result, students are increasingly forced to consider financial assistance and the deferral of educational costs through student debt as a means to access higher learning. This has led more students to turn to government-assisted loans programs to fund their education. In the past 15 years, the average student debt for a four-year degree program has increased by 350 percent from \$8,000 to \$22,000. Those students who do not qualify for the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) or who don't receive enough assistance to cover their expenses are often forced to turn to lines of credit, credit cards and private loans to cover their expenses.

While post-graduate earnings have been on the decline for years, tuition fees and average student debt has been on the rise. These realities exacerbate existing social inequalities, stifle the creativity and mobility of Ontario's youth and delay the ability of new graduates to fully participate in the economy.

Questions:

1. If elected, what will your party do to address rising tuition fees?

If elected, what is your party's plan to address the issue of student financial assistance?

Justice

Chain Gangs

The 2010 crime rate in Canada was at a four decade low, and Ontario, along with Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, had the lowest crime severity rate in the country. Despite these facts, popular promises to 'get tough on crime' are often made during election campaigns, and this one is no different.

The Progressive Conservative party has pledged that, if elected, it will force prisoners in Ontario jails to work a 40 hour week on public service 'chain gangs', cleaning graffiti, picking up litter, and cutting grass. Critics of this plan say that it is too unwieldy and will require additional security likely to cost far in excess of the \$20 million the Progressive Conservatives have estimated. They say that it is potentially unsafe to bring thousands of convicted criminals into Ontario's neighbourhoods, and point to the frequent escapes that occur from such 'chain gangs' in the United States. Others note that Ontario's prisons are increasingly full of people with mental illnesses who require treatment more than they do punishment, and suggest the \$20 million would be better spent on such programs within the prisons. And some would rather see that money used to hire unemployed Ontarians to do the work in the community.

Questions:

1. If elected, what will your party do to prevent and reduce crime?
2. Do you believe that 'chain gangs' are a safe and practical way to rehabilitate offenders and combat crime?

Social Services

Social Assistance

In 2010, the government of Ontario embarked on its ongoing review of social assistance in our province. While the review is not yet complete, a broad consensus is emerging that social assistance, and in particular Ontario Works, fails in all of its expressed goals, and desperately needs to be reformed.

The review is revealing that Ontario Works does not provide income supports effectively, as the benefits it pays are grossly insufficient by all measures of poverty. It does not provide supports efficiently, as more of Ontario Works' resources are devoted to surveillance and enforcement than to assisting and supporting those in need. It fails to promote labour market attachment, as fully 40% of recipients who leave assistance for work find only work that is unstable, temporary or inadequate, and are forced to return to assistance within less than one year. And it undermines the values of Ontario's Poverty Reduction Act and Poverty Reduction Strategy, in that its punitive policies assume that financial need is the result of personal flaws rather than of weaknesses in social systems such as the labour market, programs like Employment Insurance, the education system or the mental health system.

The many critics of Ontario Works in Ontario argue that the system must be overhauled to provide benefits that are stable, predictable and adequate; that the focus of the program must change from ensuring that recipients do not get services to which they may not be entitled to ensuring that recipients do get all the benefits to which they are entitled and which they need to stabilize their lives; that eligibility thresholds that require complete impoverishment of recipients, and thus extend and perpetuate deep poverty, must be removed; and that active intervention and real supports to transition to employment are offered.

Questions:

1. Does your party believe that Ontario's social assistance system must be reformed to provide benefits that are more stable, predictable and adequate, delivered in a manner that is less punitive and more supportive?
2. If elected, how will your party change legislation and program design to meet those goals?

Provincial Identification Cards

This year, Ontario introduced a new form of identification called the Ontario Photo Card. Currently only available at select Service Ontario offices, it is aimed at those over the age of 16 who do not drive and thus do not have an Ontario Driver's License.

Many residents of the province without a driver's license need photo identification to access vital government services as well as every day uses such as cashing a cheque. However, the identification required to obtain the new card is still a barrier to many applicants, as it necessitates showing documentation such as a driver's license or passport that proves citizenship, address and full name.

Question:

3. Will you ensure that the requirements to obtain an Ontario Photo Card make it accessible to those who need it to access necessary government services?

Voting Resources

Source: www.wemakevotingeasy.ca

Are you on the List?

When an election is called, Elections Ontario prepares the Voters List for each electoral district in the province using the Permanent Register of Electors of Ontario.

The Permanent Register of Electors for Ontario is an up-to-date list of eligible Ontario electors. It is maintained for election purposes only.

The Register is updated between elections in a number of ways, including an exchange of information between federal, provincial and municipal governments and agencies, and door-to-door visits when necessary.

You can also get confirmation by calling Elections Ontario at 1-888-668-8683 or TTY: 1-888-292-2312.

Notice of Registration Card

Your Card will list your voting location for Election Day.

Remember to bring this important Card when you go to vote.

If your name is on the Voters List, you'll be mailed a Notice of Registration Card shortly after the election is called. Your Card will list your voting location for Election Day, plus the dates, times and places of your advance voting locations.

Please remember to bring your Notice of Registration Card with you when you go to vote.

Please note that the Notice of Registration Card is a proof of residence, not a proof of identity. You will need to bring one piece of identification to prove your identity.

If you do not receive a Notice of Registration Card

Your name may not be on the Voters List, but this will not prevent you from voting if you are an eligible elector.

Special Ballots: General Information

What is a Special ballot?

A Special ballot is a method of voting that allows eligible electors to cast a ballot in person or by mail during the 28-day election period. This means that even if electors are unable to go to the polls on Election Day or stop by one of the advance polls in their area, they can still cast a ballot for the candidate of their choice.

Voting by Special Ballot: In person or by mail

Electors, who wish to vote in person at their local returning office, must complete a Special Ballot Application and provide one piece of identification that includes both their name and residential address.

Special Ballot Applications can be downloaded or picked up at the local returning office. An application can also be sent to electors by mail, email or fax. Please note that the Special Ballot Applications will be available as of September 7, 2011.

You can obtain an application package which includes the full list of acceptable types of identification for Special ballot voting by downloading it or by calling:

- Toll-free in Canada and the United States: 1-855-523-5932
- Collect calls: +1-416-649-1046
- TTY toll-free in Canada and the United States: 1-888-292-2312

Once the completed application form and identification is reviewed and approved by the Special Ballot Officer, the elector is given a write-in special ballot to mark and cast in the returning office.

You can vote in person by Special Ballot at your local returning office from September 8 to October 5, 2011 - On October 5 you must vote by 6:00 PM ET or 5:00 PM CT.

Voting by mail

Electors who wish to vote by mail must send a completed Special Ballot Application Package, along with a copy of one piece of identification that includes both their name and residential address to the local returning office or Elections Ontario.

What happens if you...

Live temporarily outside the province

If you are temporarily living outside of Ontario, you can apply to vote by Special Ballot and also apply to be included on the Register of Absentee Electors list, subject to certain conditions.

How do I vote using the Special Ballot process?

You will need to obtain your Special Ballot Application by:

- Contacting Elections Ontario at
 - Toll free in Canada & USA: 1-855-523-5932
 - Collect: +1- 416-649-1046
 - TTY in Canada & USA: 1-888-292-2312or
- Sending an e-mail to sb@elections.on.ca and they will mail, e-mail or fax an application to you, or
- Downloading an application from www.wemakevotingeasy.ca

Please note that the applications will be available as of September 7, 2011.

Once you have completed the application, make sure you also provide a copy of one piece of identification that includes both your name and residential address. Your application package will contain the full list of acceptable identification.

Your application is now ready to be sent to Elections Ontario, using one of the following options:

E-mail

Scan your application and identification document and e-mail these to sb@elections.on.ca.

Fax

Fax your application and identification document to the attention of Special Ballot at Elections Ontario.

- Toll free in Canada & USA: 1-888-483-4448
- Local Fax: 416-212-8723

Mail or Courier

Send your application and identification to:

*Elections Ontario
Attention: Special Ballot
51 Rolark Drive
Toronto ON M1R 3B1
Canada*

Is there a deadline for applying to vote by mail by Special ballot?

Your application and identification must be received no later than 6:00 PM local time on September 30, 2011.

What happens once my Special Ballot Application and identification document are received?

1. A Special Ballot Officer at Elections Ontario reviews and approves your Special Ballot Application.
2. Once approved, your name is crossed off the List of Electors, indicating that you have voted by Special ballot. This means that you are no longer eligible to vote in person at an advance poll or on Election Day.
3. You will then be sent a Special Ballot Kit, which includes detailed voting instructions, a write-in Special Ballot, a Secrecy Envelope, an Elector Confirmation Envelope and a Return Envelope.

For more information on Special Ballots, please call Elections Ontario at 1-888-668-8683 (Public Enquiries).

What happens if you...

Live inside the province but are temporarily outside of your electoral district

If you are an eligible elector living somewhere in Ontario, away from your permanent residence, you can return home to vote at an advance poll, on *Election Day*, or in your returning office by Special ballot.

If you are unable to vote at an advance poll, on *Election Day*, or at your returning office, you can apply to vote by Special ballot.

How do I vote in person by Special ballot at my local returning office?

To vote in person at your local returning office,

1. Bring one piece of identification that includes both your name and residential address to your local returning office.
2. When you arrive at the returning office, a Special Ballot Officer will assist you in completing your Special Ballot Application. You will show your identification and sign the declaration. Once the Special Ballot Officer reviews and approves your application, you will be able to vote by Special ballot.

You can vote in person by Special ballot at your local returning office from September 8 to October 5, 2011. On October 5, you can vote by 6:00 PM ET or 5:00 PM CT.

What happens if you...

Are in a correctional facility

As an incarcerated elector, you can apply to vote by Special ballot using the vote by mail process.

Voting by Special ballot is a process that provides electors with an opportunity to cast their ballot by mail.

You will need to obtain your Special Ballot Application by:

- Picking up an application from your correctional facility or
- Downloading an Application Package or
- Contacting Elections Ontario:
 - Toll free in Canada & USA: 1-855-523-5932
 - Collect: +1-416-649-1046
 - TTY in Canada & USA: 1-888-292-2312
 - or
 - Sending an e-mail at sb@elections.on.ca and we will mail, e-mail or fax an application to you.

Please note that the applications will be available as of September 7, 2011.

How do I complete the application?

Complete the following sections of the Special Ballot Application:

Section 1 – Applicant Information

Contact Information – provide Last Name/First Name/Middle Name/Date of Birth/Gender

Residential Address – complete all data fields – your residential address is the place you last resided before being incarcerated

Mailing Address – (if different than above) – provide correctional facility address to receive your Special Ballot Kit

Section 2 – Declaration and Signature of Applicant

Provide your signature and the date

Which identification will I need to provide?

Obtain one piece of identification that includes both your name and residential address. Your application kit will contain the full list of acceptable identification documents.

What do I have to do once I have completed the application?

Send your completed Special Ballot Application and a copy of your identification to Elections Ontario by e-mail, fax or mail.

E-mail

Scan your application and identification and e-mail these to sb@elections.on.ca.

Fax

Fax your application and identification to the attention of Special Ballot at Elections Ontario at:

- Toll free fax in Canada & USA: 1-888-483-4448
- Local fax: 416-212-8723

Mail or Courier

Send your application and identification to:

*Elections Ontario
Attention: Special Ballot
51 Rolark Drive
Toronto ON M1R 3B1
Canada*

What happens if you...

Are a post-secondary student

As a post-secondary student elector, you may need to choose a principal residence before you vote. Every eligible elector must vote in the electoral district in which his or her principal residence is located.

For example, as a post-secondary student, you may live in one residence when you're at school, like your dorm room or your off-campus apartment, and in another residence when you're out of school, like your family home. When you choose your principal residence, you are choosing your electoral district and your pool of candidates.

Once you have chosen your principal residence, you can vote in one of the three ways:

- You can vote at an advance poll,
- You can vote at your voting location on *election day*, or
- You can vote by Special ballot.

If you're a post-secondary student with a physical disability and you're unable to vote at your local returning office or satellite office, at an advance poll, or on *Election Day*, you may request a home visit.

What happens if you...

Are temporarily in hospital

If you're temporarily hospitalized and unable to vote at an advance poll, on *Election Day*, at your local returning office or satellite office, you can vote by Special ballot.

Special Ballot Officers will be visiting designated hospitals on September 26, 27 and 28, 2011, from 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM local time.

What if the hospital is not located in my electoral district?

You can still vote even if the hospital in which you are staying is outside your electoral district. If you don't know the name of your electoral district, a Special Ballot Officer will be able to assist you. If you don't know the names of the candidates in your electoral district, a Special Ballot Officer will have access to a list of all the candidates in your electoral district.

What type of identification document is required?

You may use your hospital bracelet as a form of identification or an identification document with both your name and residential address.

What happens if you...

Are unable to leave your home and need to request a home visit

If you're unable to leave your home, you may be eligible to request a home visit. Home visits will take place between September 8 and October 5, 2011, until 6:00 PM ET or 5:00 PM CT. You can ask to vote by Special ballot at home if:

- You're eligible to vote in the October 6, 2011 election,
- It is impossible or unreasonably difficult for you to get to your local returning office or satellite office, and
- You need help completing the Special Ballot Application because of a disability or because you're unable to read or write.

Who do I contact for a home visit?

After September 7, 2011 you may request a home visit by telephone, e-mail, or fax through your local returning office or satellite office.

What is the contact information for Elections Ontario?

You can contact Elections Ontario in the following ways:

- **VIA TELEPHONE**
Toll-free in Canada and the United States: 1-855-523-5932
Collect calls: +1-416-649-1046
TTY toll-free in Canada and the United States: 1-888-292-2312
- **VIA EMAIL**
sb@elections.on.ca
- **VIA FAX – Attention: Special Ballots**
Toll-free in Canada and the United States: 1-888-483-4448
Outside of Canada and the United States: +1-416-212-8723

ID requirements to get on the Permanent Register of Electors/the voters list, or to obtain a certificate to vote

You must have proof of identity and proof of residence.

- Option 1: You may use one of the documents from **List A** to meet this requirement; or,
- Option 2: You must use one document from **List B** AND one document from **List C**.

When applying in person, only originals (or certified or notarized copies) will be accepted. Where the application does not need to be made in person, copies of ID will be accepted.

List A: shows Name, Residential Address, and Signature

- Ontario Driver's Licence
- Ontario Health Card new style (optional to use this card)
- Ontario Motor Vehicle Permit (plate portion)
- Cancelled personalized cheque
- Mortgage, lease, or rental agreement
- Insurance policy
- Loan or financial agreement with a financial institution
- Document issued or certified by a court in Ontario
- A "Certification of Identity and Residence" form allowed by Elections Ontario
- Other documents
 - Any document from the government of Canada, Ontario, or a municipality in Ontario (or from one of their agencies). *A passport does not qualify because the address is not printed on it by the government.*
 - Any document from a Band Council in Ontario (established under the *Indian Act*).

List B: shows Name and Signature

- Ontario Driver's Licence
- Ontario Health Card: old or new style (optional to use this card)
- Ontario motor vehicle permit (the plate portion)
- Canadian passport
- Certificate of Canadian Citizenship
- Certificate of Indian Status
- Veterans Affairs Canada Health Card
- Social Insurance Number Card
- Old Age Security Card
- Credit Card
- Debit Card
- Employee ID Card
- Student ID card issued by a post-secondary institution
- Union ID or professional licence card
- Cancelled personalized cheque
- Mortgage, lease, rental agreement for property in Ontario
- Insurance policy
- Loan or financial agreement with a financial institution
- Document issued or certified by a court in Ontario
- Other Documents
 - Any document issued by the government of Canada, Ontario, or a municipality in Ontario (or one of their agencies)
 - Any document issued by a Band council in Ontario (established under the *Indian Act*)

List C: shows Name and Residential Address**NOTE: The voter's card cannot be used as ID**

- Ontario motor vehicle permit (vehicle portion)
- Income tax Assessment Notice
- Child Tax Benefit Statement
- Statement of Employment Insurance Benefits Paid T4E
- Statement of Old Age Security T4A (OAS)
- Statement of Canada Pension Plan Benefits T4A (P)
- Canada Pension Plan Statement of Contributions
- Statement of Direct Deposit for Ontario Works
- Statement of Direct Deposit for Ontario Disability Support Program
- Workplace Safety and Insurance Board Statement of Benefits T5007
- Property Tax Assessment
- Insurance statement
- Mortgage, lease, rental statement for property in Ontario
- Credit card, bank account, RRSP, RRIF, RHOSP, or T5 statement
- CNIB Card (or card from another registered charitable organization which provides services to persons with disabilities)
- Hospital card or record
- Document showing campus residence issued by the office or officials responsible for student residence at a postsecondary institution
- Utility bill (hydro, water, gas, telephone, cable TV, public utilities commission)
- Cheque stub, T4, or pay receipt issued by an employer
- Post-secondary school transcript or report card
- Document issued or certified by a court in Ontario
- Other Documents
 - Any document issued by the government of Canada, Ontario, or a municipality in Ontario (or one of their agencies)
 - Any document issued by a Band Council in Ontario (established under the *Indian Act*)

I'm not 18 yet, but want to get involved in the provincial election. How can I do that?

You may be too young to vote in this election, but you're not too young to get involved. There are other great ways that you can influence who gets elected and shape the kind of Ontario that you want.

Call or email the candidates to tell them the issues that are important to you. They will listen! Go to an all candidates meeting and ask the candidates questions so that others can hear their responses. Write a letter to the editor of the newspaper about your views. If you've decided that you support a particular candidate or party, volunteer to help out with her campaign. You can answer phones or stuff envelopes or set up lawn signs or even canvas door to door on behalf of your candidate.

Get involved in the provincial election in any way you can! Ontario will be a better place for it.

