

Views of Politicians

Q1. Changing topics now, we want to get a sense of how people feel about politicians and people who run for elected office.

First, have you or anyone you know ever run for an elected office in Canada? This could mean running for parliament or your provincial legislature, or running for a municipal office such as mayor, city/town council, school board, etc.

Yes, I have run for office

Yes, I know someone who has run

No, I don't know anyone who has run for office

Q2. [ASK THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER PERSONALLY RUN FOR OFFICE] And, is running for office something you yourself have ever considered doing?

Yes, looked into it/seriously considered it

Thought about it, but never seriously considered it

No, never even considered it

Q3. Suppose you were going to run for elected office. Which of these offices, if any, would you be interested in running for? (Select all that apply)

Municipal board/commission (e.g. school board)

Town/City council

Mayor

Member of the provincial legislature

Member of Parliament

Q4. Let's think about the candidates who ran for office in the most recent elections where you live. Overall, would you say the quality of candidates in each of the elections listed was generally good or poor?

[ROWS – THIS ORDER]

The last municipal elections (i.e. for mayor/council, etc.) where you live

The last provincial election in your province

The last federal election, held in October 2015

[COLUMNS]

Candidates in my area were very good

Candidates were good

Candidates were poor

Candidates in my area were very poor

Not sure/Don't know enough to say

Q5. And, over the last 5 – 10 years or so, would you say the quality of candidates in each of these elections in your area has been improving or worsening?

[ROWS – THIS ORDER]

Municipal elections (i.e. for mayor/council/school board, etc.)

Provincial elections (i.e. for premier/MLAs, etc.)

Federal elections (i.e. for Prime Minister/MPs)

[COLUMNS]

Quality of candidates has improved

About the same

Quality of candidates has worsened

Not sure/Don't know enough to say

Q6. In general, would you say you have a positive or negative opinion of people who choose to run for office in each of these types of elections?

[ROWS – THIS ORDER]

Municipal elections (i.e. for mayor/council/school board, etc.)

Provincial elections (i.e. for premier/MLAs, etc.)

Federal elections (i.e. for Prime Minister/MPs)

[COLUMNS]

Very positive

Positive

Neither positive nor negative

Negative

Very negative

Q7. Some people say that those who run for office in Canada mostly do so out of a desire to serve the public and their community.

Others say that those who run for office in Canada mostly do so out of a desire for personal gain and career advancement.

Which of these perspectives is closer to your own? Would you say Canadian politicians generally run for office ...?

[RANDOMIZE]

To serve their communities

For personal gain

[ANCHOR] About equal numbers are motivated by each reason

Q8. For people running for office, do you think it is an advantage or a disadvantage to have had jobs or careers previously outside of politics?

Advantage
Disadvantage
Makes no difference
Not sure/Can't say

Q9. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

[ROWS – RANDOMIZE]

More people would run for office if politics wasn't so nasty
Most politicians can't be trusted
Political parties in Canada have too much influence
In general, women and men make equally good political leaders
You're less likely to get elected in Canada if you're a woman or a visible minority

[COLUMNS]

Agree strongly
Agree
Disagree
Disagree strongly
Not sure/Can't say

[EXCLUDE THOSE WHO SAY "YES, I HAVE RUN FOR OFFICE" AT Q1]

Q10. Coming back to your own personal experiences, now, have you yourself run as a candidate in ANY kind of election? This could include things like parent-teacher associations, student government, church or community groups, corporate or non-profit boards, etc.

Yes, have run in an election like this
No, have not

[ASK ALL]

Q11. And, have you ever been a member of a political party in Canada, whether at the local, provincial, or federal level?

Yes, currently a member of a party/parties
Have been in the past, but not currently
No, have never been a member of a political party