

Angus Reid Institute
Floor Crossing
Feb. 19-22, 2026

Some questions have already been released.

[Text box – updated]

We want to talk today about “floor-crossing” in Canadian politics. This happens when a member of the federal parliament, or provincial legislature, switches allegiances from one party to another after they were elected as a member of the first party. For example, being elected as a Liberal and switching to the Conservatives, or vice-versa. They still serve the same constituency to which they were elected, but as a member of a different party until the next election is held.

QFC1. [T]
Base=All
Single choice

Some people say that if an elected politician cannot work with his or her party in good conscience and has irreconcilable differences, they should be allowed to change parties, or “cross the floor”.

Others say politicians changing parties between elections is a betrayal of the constituents who voted for that person because they were a candidate representing a specific party, and this should not be allowed.

Which would you say is closest to your view?

[Rotate top two options]
Floor crossing should be allowed
Floor crossing should not be allowed
[Anchor] Not sure/Can't say

QFC2. [T]
Base=All
Single choice

Imagine your own member of parliament decided they wanted to switch party affiliations in between elections, what would you like to see done in this case?

[Randomize]
They should step down and re-contest their seat in a by-election
They should vacate the seat until the next election
They should serve out their term as an Independent until the next election
They should be allowed to switch parties and serve out their term

QFC3.
Base=All
Single Choice

Recently, Conservative MP Matt Jeneroux, the MP for Edmonton Riverbend since 2015, crossed the floor to join the federal Liberals. Jeneroux says he wants to help address the “national unity crisis”. Would you say you are pleased or upset with Jeneroux’s decision?

[Rotate top two]

Pleased

Upset

[Fixed] Not sure/Can’t say

QFC4.

Base=All

Single Choice

Jeneroux is the third Conservative MP to join the Liberals since the election last April. The Liberal Party is now within 3 seats of a majority, with 3 vacancies yet to be filled through by-elections. Suppose the Liberals were able to attain a majority, partially gained through floor-crossing, would this be...?

[Rotate top two]

A bad thing, Canadians did not elect a majority government

A good thing, it will mean a more stable government going forward

[Fixed] Not sure/Can’t say