



# Elections Ontario

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Elections Ontario reports on transformative election**

TORONTO, April 18, 2019 – Elections Ontario today released its 2018 general election report, [Modernizing Ontario's Electoral Process](#). In the report, the Chief Electoral Officer makes 13 recommendations for legislative change to further enhance elections in Ontario.

Key recommendations include creating a single address authority, taking responsibility for municipal voters lists, and advancing a number of legislative revisions to better ensure the integrity of provincial elections.

The 2018 general election was the first time technology had been used in polls across Ontario for a provincial election. Over 50% of voting locations used electronic poll books (e-Poll books) and vote tabulators to serve 90% of Ontario's voters on election day.

Election officials used e-Poll books to quickly strike names off the voters list, while vote tabulators electronically counted ballots—delivering results within 15 minutes of the close of polls.

### **Recommendations**

- **Establish a single address authority** to standardize addressing across Ontario and improve services that rely on address information.
- **Make Elections Ontario responsible for municipal voters lists** to increase consistency and accuracy between voters lists.
- **Extend the election calendar** to ensure the successful delivery of provincial elections.
- **Allow Elections Ontario to levy administrative penalties** to address minor infractions of the *Election Act* and *Election Finances Act*.
- **Provide a regular, scheduled review of electoral district boundaries** to maintain effective representation for Ontario's growing population.
- **Establish standards for voting technology** to preserve the integrity of the vote for Ontario elections.
- **Change election day to a day when school is not in session** to provide easier access to schools as voting locations, while enhancing the safety and security of school children.



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- **Set a threshold for audit of financial statements from political entities** to reduce the subsidies paid to auditors by Elections Ontario.
- **Subject Ontario's political parties to privacy laws** to protect the personal information of voters.
- **Establish 10 days of rotating advance voting** to support a growing interest in alternative voting options.
- **Make administrative and technical adjustments to the *Election Act* and *Election Finances Act*** to streamline processes and meet changing needs.

## Quote

"I am pleased to share this report and the journey that led to the introduction of technology in the polls. I have made a number of recommendations to build upon this success and to continue improving elections for voters in this province."

– Greg Essensa, Chief Electoral Officer of Ontario

Elections Ontario is the non-partisan agency responsible for administering provincial elections, by-elections and referenda. For more information, visit [elections.on.ca](http://elections.on.ca) or call 1.888.668.8683 (TTY: 1.888.292.2312).

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