



Partnership Spotlight – **MASS LBP Democracy Initiatives**

Know Your Vote, Celebrate Democracy, & Civic Life Programming

Alex Carruthers
Manager, Innovation, Learning and
Service Planning, TPL

Chris Ellis
Sr. Director, MASS LBP





Alex Carruthers

Manager, Innovation, Learning
and Service Planning, TPL



Chris Ellis

Sr. Director, MASS LBP

Who is MASS LBP?



MASSLBP

MASS LBP is a Toronto-based organization that focuses on working with public institutions and governments to enable them to better involve people in policy- and decision-making processes.

We build democratic principles into all of our projects and partner with other organizations to try to support and promote healthy democracies.

Democracy is at a precipice.

In Toronto and in our world, we are seeing an increasing divide politically, economically, and socially. There is an overwhelming amount of information available to us and, at the same time, not everyone has equal access to it or the ability to critically assess it.

How do we, as a community, as a city, or as individuals confront these challenges without a strong and healthy democracy?

tpl: vital to toronto

strategic priorities

Where we will focus and invest over the next five years

enablers

Foundational and organizational supports that allow us to deliver on our outcomes

focus on equity:

Our commitment to understanding and breaking down barriers to access and increasing inclusion

1 public space

2 digital inclusion & literacy

3 workforce development

4 a democratic society

5 public service excellence

outcomes & impacts

short

medium

long-term



short

medium

long-term



short

medium

long-term



short

medium

long-term



short

medium

long-term



city impact

partnerships



modernization



evaluation & accountability



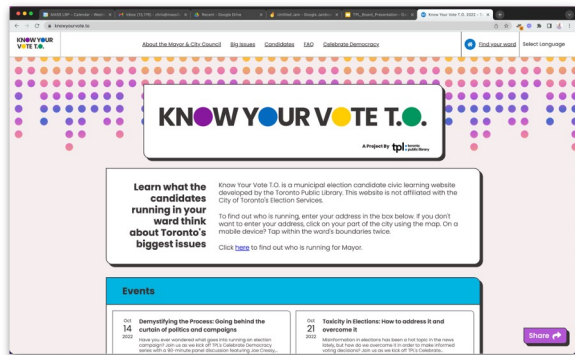
What success looks like for individual Torontonians when they use the library



The transformational change that helps make our city successful, resilient and well

The response.

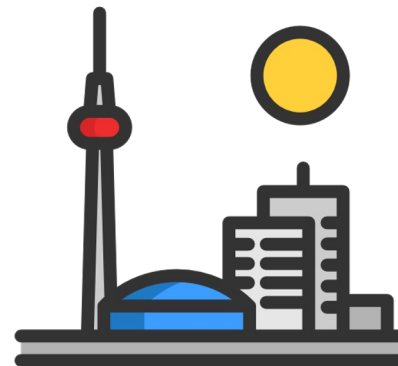
Knowyourvote.to



Celebrate Democracy



Civic Life





KNOW YOUR VOTE T.O.

A Project By **tpl** | toronto
public library

Learn what the candidates running in your ward think about Toronto's biggest issues

Know Your Vote T.O. is a municipal election candidate civic learning website developed by the Toronto Public Library. This website is not affiliated with the City of Toronto's Election Services.

To find out who is running, enter your address in the box below. If you don't want to enter your address, click on your part of the city using the map. On a mobile device? Tap within the ward's boundaries twice.

Click [here](#) to find out who is running for Mayor.

Events

Oct
14
2022

Demystifying the Process: Going behind the curtain of politics and campaigns

Have you ever wondered what goes into running an election campaign? Join us as we kick off TPL's Celebrate Democracy

Oct
21
2022

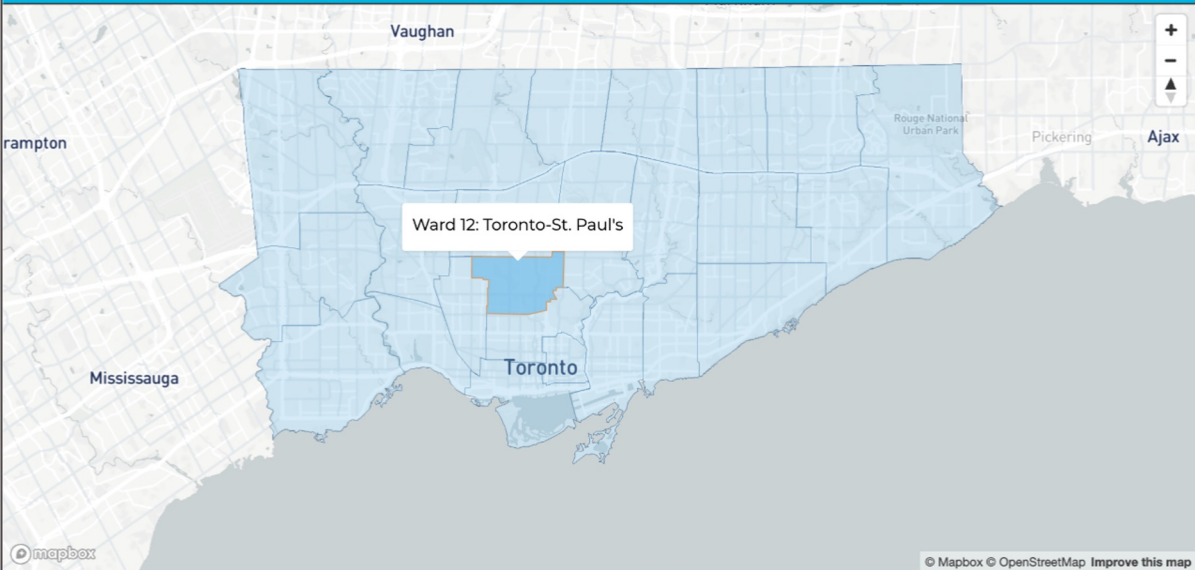
Toxicity in Elections: How to address it and overcome it

Misinformation in elections has been a hot topic in the news lately, but how do we overcome it in order to make informed

Share

Browse Wards

[See Mayoral Candidates](#)



Not sure which Ward you're in? Enter your address or postal code to find your Ward:

Your address...

Learn About 5 Big Issues in the City



[Share](#)

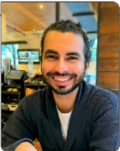
Toronto-Danforth

🏠 Make this my Ward

Ward 14: Toronto-Danforth Data


2021 Population	Population growth 2016-2021	Population under 15 years old	Population over 64 years old
105,472	-1.3%	15.4%	15.7%
19th of 25	21st of 25	9th of 25	19th of 25

Toronto-Danforth Candidates




Wali Abro

Toronto-Danforth




James Dyson

Toronto-Danforth

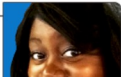


Paula Fletcher

Toronto-Danforth



John De Marco



Denise Walcott

Share ➡



Candidates



Wali Abro

Toronto-Danforth



James Dyson

Toronto-Danforth



Paula Fletcher

Toronto-Danforth



John De Marco

Toronto-Danforth



Denise Walcott

Toronto-Danforth



Toronto-Danforth

Wali Abro



(647) 624-1140

Responses by Wali Abro

If elected as a City Councillor, what would be your top priority, and how will you address it?

General Question

In a nutshell, it would be to help organise and empower the working class by removing the obstacles we face in that pursuit. The troubles we face today - in housing, poverty, employment, debt, climate change, mental health, healthcare, hate, crime, et cetera - are all symptoms of the system that produced them: rabid capitalism. I will centre on guaranteeing decent housing and basic needs for all so we can stop focusing on bare survival, and can instead begin to build towards a much-needed revolution for an equitable society free of repression.

What should the next City Council do about housing in Toronto? Why?

Housing

Housing is a basic human right, and all levels of government - including the City - have failed to uphold it. The City spends more money criminalising homelessness and poverty than it would cost to house and provide for every homeless person. Rents are unaffordable for nearly half of Toronto renters. This means people are driven from their communities into unsafe living conditions, the shelter system, and extreme debt. This perpetuates the exploitation of the destitute, debt-enslaved working class. For details on solutions, do visit my website.



Big Issues

The Big Issues of the 2022 Municipal Election

Every municipality, and therefore every municipal council, is faced with 'big issues' that stand out among others they most deliberate on and address. Know Your Vote T.O. has created briefing notes for five of the most significant issues that could be important during this municipal election. Each is a concisely-written, balanced description of a problem or topic supported by facts, figures, and source material.

Know Your Vote T.O. hopes these will contribute to your research that will inform your vote or other ways you become engaged in this election.

Learn About 5 Big Issues in the City



Housing



Climate Action



Getting Around the
City



Taxes and Spending



Policing and
Community Safety

About the Mayor of Toronto and Toronto City Councillors

Understanding the Role of the Mayor of Toronto and Toronto City Councillors

The City of Toronto is the responsibility of the Toronto City Council. The City Council is made up of 26 members, including the Mayor ([Go to information source](#)).

Of the 26 members, 25 are elected by voters in their ward, a geographically defined voting district in the city. The Mayor is the only member elected by all Toronto voters.



Council
members serve a
4-year term.

The Role of City Councillors is to:

- Represent the public;
- Consider the well-being of the City;
- Develop and evaluate City policies and programs;
- Decide what services the City provides;
- Uphold accountability and transparency of how the City operates;
- Maintain the financial integrity of the City.

This includes indirectly overseeing major City services provided by the Toronto Transit Commission, the Toronto Police Service and the Toronto Public Library.

The Role of the Mayor of Toronto

2022

Search books, events, branches, programs & more

Home > Programs > Program Series

Celebrate Democracy

Programs and resources for



Celebrate democracy with us!

The municipal election is coming up. To help you check out our programs, resources and events, we've created a new series of programs and resources to help you learn more about the election and how you can get involved.

Know Your Vote

To learn more about the candidates in your ward and find out what the city's biggest issues are, visit [Know Your Vote](#).

Launch Events

Demystifying the Process: Going behind the curtain to see how the election process works. Toxicity in Elections: How to address it and what you can do.

More Upcoming Events

Elections 101
Wed Oct 12, 2022 | 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Location: Barbara Frum Library
Presented by Election of government, voting to vote, identification, the different citizens.


Elections 101
Fri Oct 14, 2022 | 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Location: Oakwood Village Library
Learn about different what to expect when requirements, how to levels, job opportunities.

celebrate democracy

great reads for everyone



Candidates for the Mayorship of Torontoville



Anita

My biggest issue is addressing climate change.

TRANSIT: lower speed limits, use speed cameras and new kinds of technology.


We should design our roads for people and bicycles, not for cars. This means lower speed limits, more stop signs and speed bumps, and get people to drive slower, and this helps save fuel. We can also use other kinds of technology to help people better information about where traffic is bad and when the next bus is coming!

CLIMATE: use our land in environmentally sound ways, support sustainable food.

It can be pretty hard on the environment to grow food for away and then ship it to the city. Toronto should help communities build more gardens that the whole neighbourhood can use and teach grow food in them. Grass lawns use a lot of water and do not help humans or animals, so Toronto should not have them.

HOUSING: more new buildings, use empty buildings.

Developers, the companies that build apartment and condo buildings that can house people who don't have a place to live.



Dennis

My biggest issue is improving public transit.


TRANSIT: improve public transit, more bike/walking paths.

We need to improve public transportation so that people can get around the city safely and quickly. We also need fewer cars on the roads since climate-friendly options. There should be lots of great bike and walking paths, and it should be easy and not too expensive to take the TTC.

CLIMATE: plant more trees, increase use of green technology.

We can help the environment by using more "green" options like solar panels on our buildings and electric vehicles on our roads. Trees help reduce pollution in the air, so we should also plant more trees, especially in parts of the city where there aren't as many right now.

HOUSING: better renter protections.



Tasha

My biggest issue is affordable housing.

TRANSIT: invest in Vision Zero, lower speed limits.


Toronto needs to put more energy into its Vision Zero plan, an idea that is trying to make our streets safe for everyone, including pedestrians, school children, older adults, and cyclists. We can do this by lowering speed limits, creating more school and senior safety zones, and making some changes to how our roads are designed.

CLIMATE: improve recycling, reduce waste.

Toronto needs to have better recycling facilities so that less garbage ends up in landfills. Toronto that are reusable, and create stronger rules to make sure fewer businesses use disposable packaging. We should give local businesses money to make their buildings more energy efficient and environmentally friendly.

CLIMATE: maintain parks and conservation areas, more green jobs.

The City should protect our land and our green spaces. Maintaining our parks and conservation areas are very important ways of supporting our climate. We also need to focus on creating more green jobs to build our economy while helping our planet.



Trenton

My biggest issue is fixing the economy.

TRANSIT: build more roads, use technology to reduce traffic.

Traffic is a big problem! We need to build more roads and highways so we can get people around faster and easier. We should use "smart" technology to improve the way our streets are designed and reduce the time it takes to get places using public transportation.



Candidates for the Mayorship of Torontoville

A voting tool for Toronto Public Library Kids



Dennis

Selected



Tasha

Select



Anita

Select



Trenton

Select

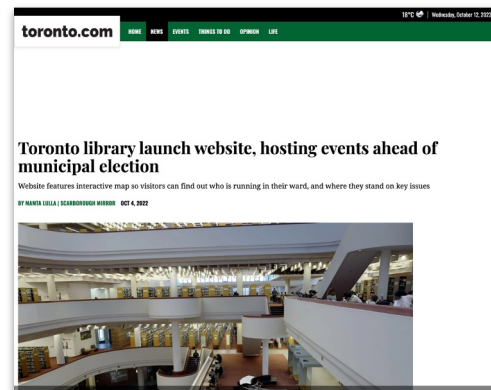
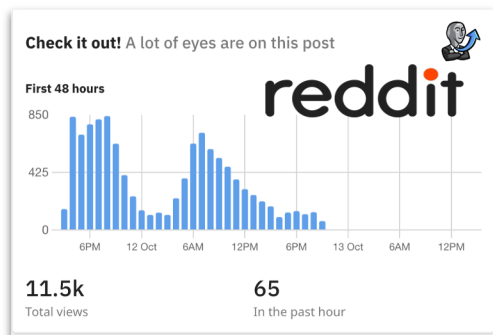
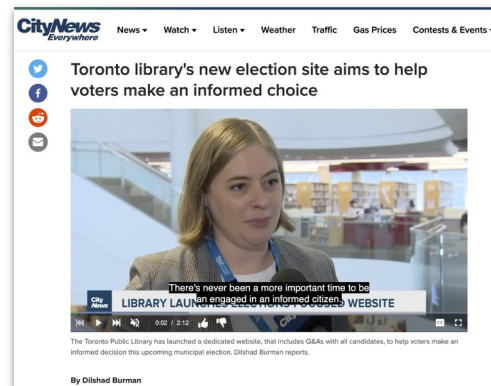
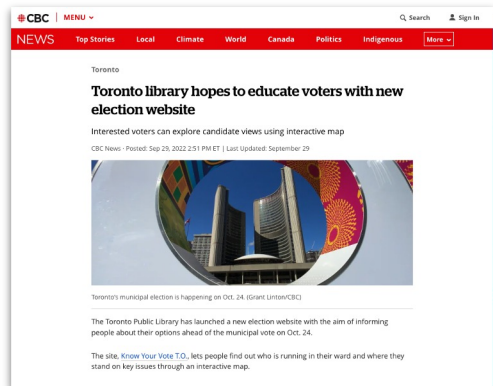


Dennis

My biggest issue is improving public transit

Vote for Dennis

In the Spotlight



What is next.

Evaluations of:

- Knowyourvote.to usage
- Celebrate Democracy programming
- And best practices for future collaborations

Expansion of Civic Life programming



Thank you for sharing your time

Alex Carruthers

Manager, Innovation, Learning
and Service Planning, TPL

acarruthers@tpl.ca

Chris Ellis

Sr. Director, MASS LBP

chris@masslbp.com