

Partnership Spotlight - MASS LBP Democracy Initiatives

Know Your Vote, Celebrate Democracy, & Civic Life Programming

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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



partnerships



modernization



evaluation & accountability



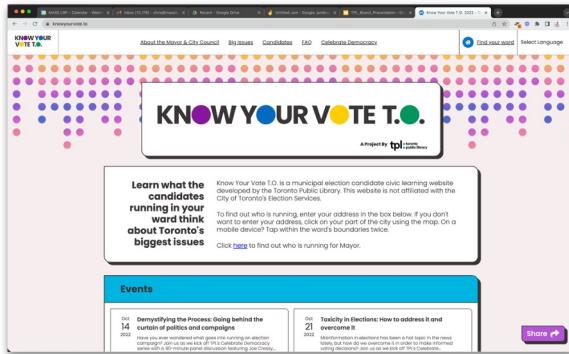
What success looks like for individual Torontonians when they use the library



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

The response.

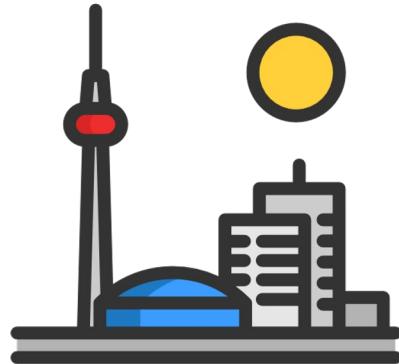
Knowyourvote.to



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 with the 2022 election cycle, featuring the

Oct
21
2022

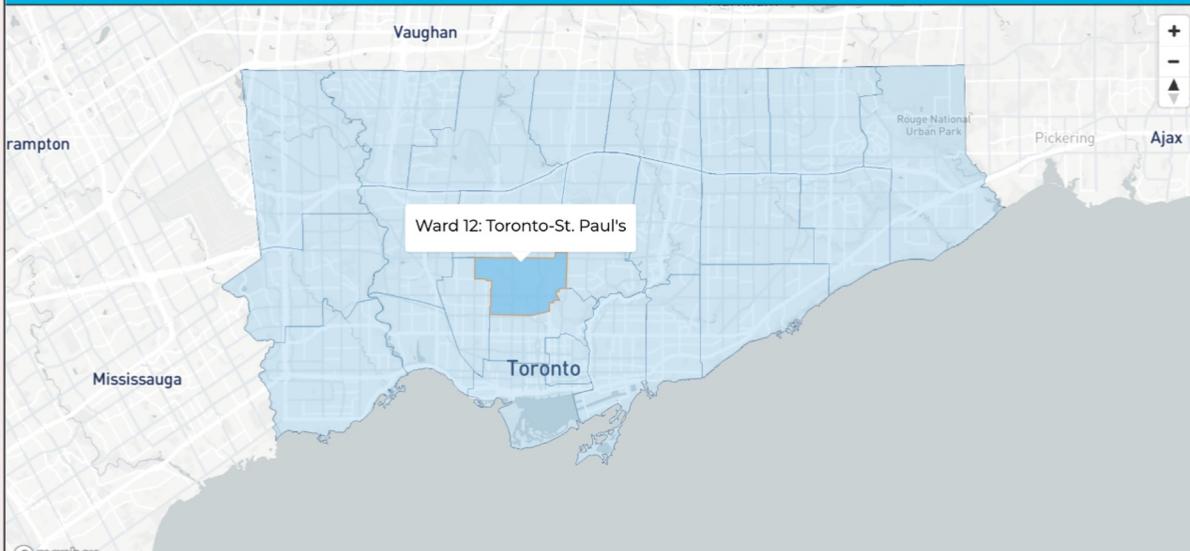
Toxicity in Elections: How to address it and overcome it

Misinformation in elections has been a hot topic in the news lately, but how do we overcome it in order to make informed decisions? Join us for a discussion with TPL's Celebrate

Share

Browse Wards

See Mayoral Candidates



Ward 12: Toronto-St. Paul's

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

Learn About 5 Big Issues in the City

Share 

Toronto-Danforth

[Make this my Ward](#)

Ward 14: Toronto-Danforth Data

2021 Population

105,472

19th of 25

Population growth
2016-2021**-1.3%**

21st of 25

Population under 15
years old**15.4%**

9th of 25

Population over 64
years old**15.7%**

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.

The Role of City Councillors is to:



Council
members serve a
4-year term.

- 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

 Share

tpl: toronto public library

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Celebrate Democracy Programs and resources for the 2022 municipal election

Celebrate Democracy with us! The municipal election is coming up. To help check out our programs, resources and read democracy and civic engagement.

Know Your Vote
To learn more about the candidates in your ward and find out about Toronto's biggest issues, visit [knowyourvote.toronto.ca](#)

Launch Events
Demystifying the Process: Going behind the curtain on how elections work
Toxicity in Elections: How to address it and overcome it

More Upcoming Events

Elections 101
Wed Oct 12, 2022 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Location: Barbara Frum Auditorium
Presented by: Election Officer
Learn about the requirements of government, voting to vote, identification, the different citizens lists.

Elections 101
Fri Oct 14, 2022 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Location: Oakwood Village Auditorium
Learn about different what to expect when requirements, how to levels, job opportunities

2022

celebrate democracy

great reads for everyone



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

We should design roads for people and bicycles, not cars. This means lower speed limits, more stop signs and speed bumps, and putting in more speed cameras. Speed cameras get people to slow down, and this helps everyone. We can also have new kinds of technology to tell us more people better information about where to get to and when the next bus is coming!

CULTURE: use our land in environmentally sound ways

It can be pretty hard on the environment to grow food for ourselves and then ship it to the city. Toronto should help communities build more gardens, so that the whole neighbourhood can use and teach people who have front and back yards how to grow food. Grass lawns use a lot of water and do not help humans or animals, so Toronto should not have them, nor animals, so Toronto

HOUSING: more new buildings, use empty buildings

Developers, the companies that build houses and condo buildings, should pay less taxes to the city for buildings that can't house people who don't have a home.



Candidates for the Mayorship of Torontoville

Democracy

Anita
My biggest issue is addressing climate change.

Dennis
My biggest issue is improving public transit.

Tasha
My biggest issue is affordable housing.

Trenton
My biggest issue is fixing the economy.

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

Toronto needs to put more energy into its Vision Zero plan, an idea that is trying to make our city safe for everyone, including pedestrians, school children, older adults, and cyclists. We can do this by lowering speed limits, creating more bike and walking paths, and it should be easier and less expensive to take the TTC.

CLIMATE: plant more trees, increase use of green technology

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

HOUSING: better renter protections

Toronto needs to have better recycling facilities so that less garbage ends up in landfills. Toronto should make sure we produce and use products that are reusable and create stronger rules for packaging. We should give local businesses more 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 parks and conservation areas are very important ways of supporting our green jobs to build our economy while helping our planet!

Candidates for the Mayorship of Torontoville
A voting tool for Toronto Public Library Kids

Dennis Selected
Tasha
Anita
Trenton

Dennis
My biggest issue is improving public transit
Vote for Dennis

In the Spotlight

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DEMOCRACY | **OPINION**

Libraries play important role in promoting democracy

Toronto Public Library continues to support a vibrant democracy by supporting civic engagement and providing access to information.

By Vicki Burman Contributor | Thu, Sept. 29, 2022 | 0.3 min. read | Article was updated 5 hrs ago



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Toronto

Toronto library hopes to educate voters with new election website

Interested voters can explore candidate views using interactive map

CBC News | Posted: Sep 29, 2022 2:51 PM ET | Last Updated: September 29



Toronto's municipal election is happening on Oct. 24 (Grant Unton/CBC)

The Toronto Public Library has launched a new election website with the aim of informing people about their options ahead of the municipal vote on Oct. 24.

The site, *Know Your Vote TO*, lets people find out who is running in their ward and where they stand on key issues through an interactive map.

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Toronto library's new election site aims to help voters make an informed choice



There's never been a more important time to be an engaged in an informed citizen. LIBRARY LAUNCHES ELECTION-FOCUSED WEBSITE

By Dilshad Burman

The Toronto Public Library has launched a dedicated website, that includes Q&As with all candidates, to help voters make an informed decision this upcoming municipal election. Dilshad Burman reports.

OperationBlackVoteCA @blackvotecanada · 2m

Check out some of the awesome programs celebrating democracy.

MASS LBP @masslbp · 2h

Thanks to our amazing advisors who helped pull this and all the other Celebrate Democracy programming together! @apathyisborning @TheExchange_TMU @heyitissoher @blackvotecanada @SamaraCentre @dxcsummit

Check it all out here: torontopubliclibrary.ca/programs-and-c...

Show this thread

Check it out! A lot of eyes are on this post

First 48 hours



11.5k Total views

65 In the past hour

Figure showing the number of views over a 48-hour period, with a peak around 11.5k total views and 65 views in the past hour.

toronto.com

HOME NEWS EVENTS THINGS TO DO OPINION LIFE

18°C | Wednesday, October 12, 2022

Toronto library launch website, hosting events ahead of municipal election

Website features interactive map so visitors can find out who is running in their ward, and where they stand on key issues

By NANCY LULLA | SCARBOROUGH MIRROR | OCT 4, 2022



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

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