



Are people advancing democracy through political institutions, organizations and activities?

Key Facts:

Voter turnout in federal elections¹



Voter turnout in the 2014 Municipal Elections²

Region	Voter Turnout
Asphodel-Norwood	58%
Cavan Monaghan	47%
City of Peterborough	47%
North Kawartha	46%
Selwyn	40%
Trent Lakes	38%
Havelock-Belmont-Methuen	38%
Douro-Dummer	32%
Otonabee-South Monaghan	30%

In municipal elections voter turnout is often impacted by the number of candidates on the ballot.



In the Eastern Ontario region, 3.0% of citizens participate directly in the democratic process by volunteering for a law, advocacy, or political group, compared to 3.8% in Ontario. This level of engagement has decreased from previous years.³





Women elected in politics

2 of 3

Peterborough area MPs

1 of 2

Peterborough area MPPs

2 of 9 (22%)

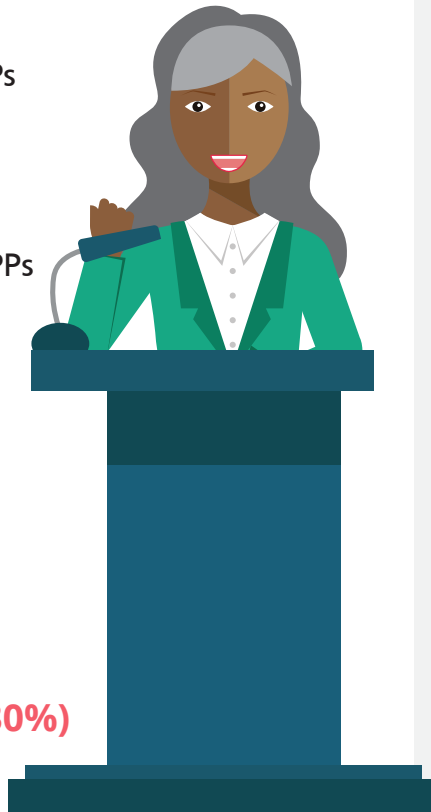
Mayors/Reeves

1 of 9 (11%)

Deputy Mayors/Reeves

10 of 33 (30%)

Councilors



31.4%

Ontario (MPs)

34.6%

Ontario (MPPs)

18%

Across Canada
(Mayor/Reeves)

28%

Across Canada
(Councilors)

Local activity:

In 2016/17 the City of Peterborough implemented a pilot participatory budgeting process.⁴ The goals for the project were to:

1. Open up government
2. Expand civic engagement
3. Develop new community leaders
4. Build community

The pilot kicked off in February with a public information session followed by ward brainstorming meetings and a number of informal community meetings. There was a voter turnout of 2.7% or 901 votes. Based on 33 participatory budgeting processes across North America in 2014-15 the average voter turnout was 2.6%.⁽⁴⁾

56%

of people engaged in participatory budgeting were not involved in any other municipal process in the last 12 months.

(1) www.elections.ca

(2) Compiled from township offices

(3) Smale, B. (2016). A Profile of Wellbeing in Ontario: East Region. Waterloo, ON: Canadian Index of Wellbeing and University of Waterloo.

(4) My Peterborough 12016 Participatory Budgeting Evaluation report <https://pub-peterborough.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=12594>