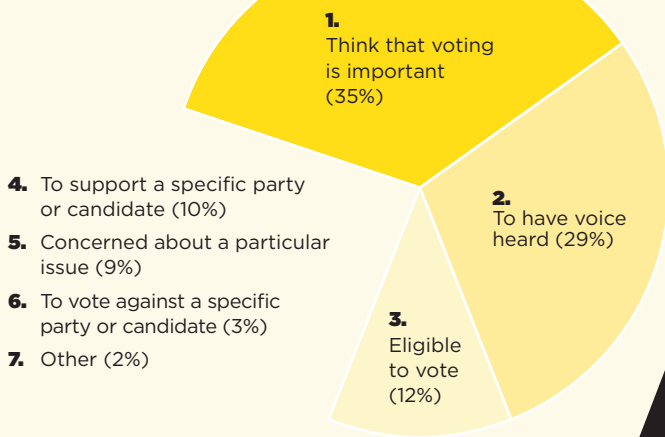


Ballots & belonging

New Citizens on Political Participation

A new national study by the Institute for Canadian Citizenship that explores Canadian democracy through the eyes of more than 2,300 of Canada's newest citizens – a growing group that is keen to participate and give back to their new home. **Here's what they had to say.**

REASONS FOR VOTING



REASONS FOR NOT VOTING

1. Displacement
46%

lack of knowledge of the candidates/issues, lack of knowledge of the process

2. Distraction
40%

out of town, too busy, ill, family emergencies

3. Dissociation
6%

lack of interest, lack of engagement with the campaign issues, dissatisfaction with the government or political system, belief that their vote does not matter

61% of survey participants had already voted in a Canadian election

88% think that voting is an effective way to create change

ELECTION REFORMS

Should permanent residents be able to vote in municipal elections?

Yes 48% | **No 52%**

Support for other reforms

60%
Internet voting

59%
Referendums on important public issues

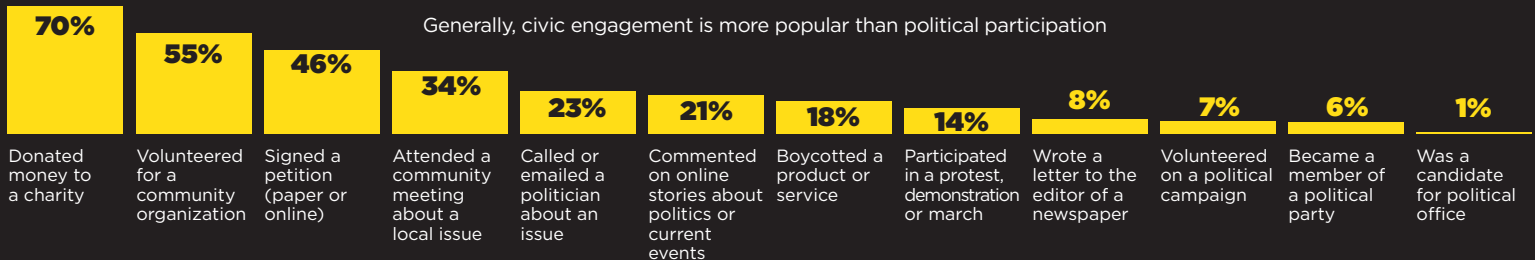
37%
Changes to Canada's political system (e.g. proportional representation)

25%
Mandatory voting

9%
Lower voting age

BEYOND THE BALLOT BOX

Generally, civic engagement is more popular than political participation



NEW CITIZENS SHARE THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS TO EASE THE WAY FOR FIRST-TIME VOTERS

MAKE VOTING MORE CONVENIENT

- Make election day a weekend or a holiday
- Longer poll hours
- Internet voting
- Voting places that are more convenient to work/home

HELP ME GET MY VOTERS' CARD

- Coordination between municipal, provincial and federal election agencies

HAVE CENTRALLY LOCATED INFORMATION

- Central online space to compare candidates and their platforms
- Workshops offered to new citizens on the political system
- Give new citizens more information on voting at citizenship ceremony