



Greenbelt Protection in the GTA
Telephone Survey Report



November 2022

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Methodology & Logistics

Overview

The following represents the results of a November 2022 telephone survey of N=900 Greater Toronto Area (GTA) residents, 18 years of age or older. The poll was conducted by Oraclepoll Research Ltd for the North Gwillimbury Forest Alliance. The objective of the poll was to gather opinions from residents on issues related to proposals by the government of Ontario to develop the Greenbelt and conservation areas as well as building the Holland Marsh Highway.

Reporting

This report contains the executive findings from the survey and presents the results in the order they were asked. Some results presented may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Study Sample

A total of N=900 interviews were completed, with residents across the four Regions of the GTA that surround the City of Toronto. All respondents were screened to ensure that they were 18 years of age or older and residents of each Region. The sample was stratified to ensure a representative breakdown and the adjacent table provides a breakdown of the total sample by Region.

Peel	N=342	38%
York	N=261	29%
Halton	N=135	15%
Durham	N=162	18%
Total	N=900	100%

A randomized dual sample frame database was used that was inclusive of cellular and land line telephone numbers.

Logistics

The poll was conducted by telephone with live person-to-person operators at the Oraclepoll call centre facility using computer-assisted techniques of telephone interviewing (CATI) and random number selection (RDD). A total of 20% of all interviews were monitored and the management of Oraclepoll Research supervised 100%.

Interviews were conducted between the days of November 15th to November 19th, 2022.

Confidence

The margin of error for the N=900 sample is $\pm 2.5\% \frac{19}{20}$ times. Error rates vary and are larger for geographic and demographic sub-samples of the survey population.

Peel	N=342	± 4.2
York	N=261	± 5.1
Halton	N=135	± 7.8
Durham	N=162	± 7.0

Vote Intent

Respondents were first asked about their provincial vote intent. The charts below illustrate the total vote intent, that of decided voters, and a breakout of the results by Region.

VOTE INTENT INCLUDING UNDECIDEDS

Q1. If a provincial election were held today in Ontario, which Party would you vote for or be leaning towards?

PC	35%
Liberal	25%
NDP	19%
Green	3%
Other (New Blue)	1%
Unsure	17%

DECIDED VOTE EXCLUDING UNDECIDEDS

Q1. If a provincial election were held today in Ontario, which Party would you vote for or be leaning towards?

PC	42%
Liberal	30%
NDP	23%
Green	4%
Other	1%

DECIDED VOTE BY REGION

	PC	NDP	Green	Liberal	Other
Peel	42%	24%	3%	30%	1%
York	48%	18%	3%	29%	2%
Durham	36%	28%	6%	28%	2%
Halton	38%	21%	6%	34%	2%

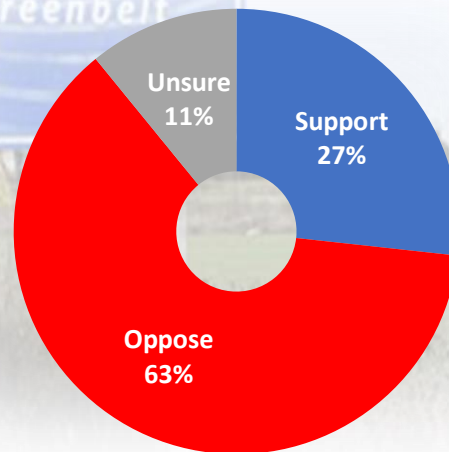
Among decided voters, the PC's are supported by 42%, with the Liberals trailing with 30% and the NDP by 23%. The Green Party is backed by 4%, and other Parties (New Blue) were named by 1%. There are 17% that said they were undecided. PC support is strongest in York, followed by Peel and then Halton and Durham.

Greenbelt Development

All respondents were read the following statement about the creation of the Greenbelt and the recent announcement to allow development on it. They were then asked if they supported or opposed the building of residential homes on the Greenbelt.

In 2005 the Greenbelt was created by the Government of Ontario to permanently protect farmlands, forests and wetlands in Southern Ontario and the Golden Horseshoe. While in 2020 the provincial government of Doug Ford pledged not to allow development in these areas, they recently announced that they will turn over 7,400 acres of the Greenbelt to developers for housing.

Q2. Do you support or oppose building houses on the Greenbelt?



	Support	Oppose	Unsure
Peel	27%	61%	11%
York	34%	57%	8%
Durham	17%	68%	15%
Halton	21%	70%	8%

	Support	Oppose	Unsure
PC	65%	18%	17%
NDP	3%	93%	4%
Green	-	100%	-
Liberal	3%	93%	4%
Undecided	12%	74%	14%

	Support	Oppose	Unsure
18-34	10%	86%	5%
35-44	16%	73%	12%
45-54	36%	52%	12%
55-64	38%	50%	11%
65-74	42%	49%	8%
75+	32%	43%	25%

Sixty-three percent of GTA voters oppose the proposal to build houses on the Greenbelt, compared to only 27% that support the plan. Eleven percent were unsure or undecided.

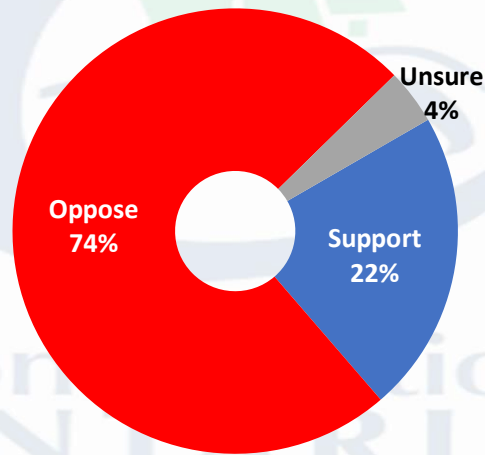
Support for development is concentrated among PC voters, although more than one-third of them are either unsure or opposed to the plan. The youngest voters 18-34 and 35-44 are most opposed. While support is higher among age cohorts from 45-74, they are still split, with more being opposed. Sixty-four percent of females are opposed as are 62% of males.

Conservation Areas

The following brief statement about the Ford government and Conservation Authorities was read, after which respondents were asked if they support or oppose selling conservation lands to developers for housing developments.

Citing the housing crisis, the Ford government is also asking Conservation Authorities to identify their conservation areas, nature reserves and park lands that could be used for housing.

Q3. Do you support or oppose selling our conservation areas, nature reserves and park lands to developers for housing?



	Support	Oppose	Unsure
Peel	22%	73%	5%
York	29%	70%	2%
Durham	14%	81%	5%
Halton	20%	76%	4%

	Support	Oppose	Unsure
PC	54%	38%	7%
NDP	1%	97%	2%
Green	-	100%	-
Liberal	2%	97%	1%
Undecided	12%	86%	2%

	Support	Oppose	Unsure
18-34	5%	94%	1%
35-44	8%	89%	3%
45-54	30%	68%	3%
55-64	37%	58%	5%
65-74	37%	57%	6%
75+	30%	55%	14%

Nearly three-quarters oppose selling conservation areas, nature reserves and park lands for housing developments. Support sits at only 22% with 4% being unsure.

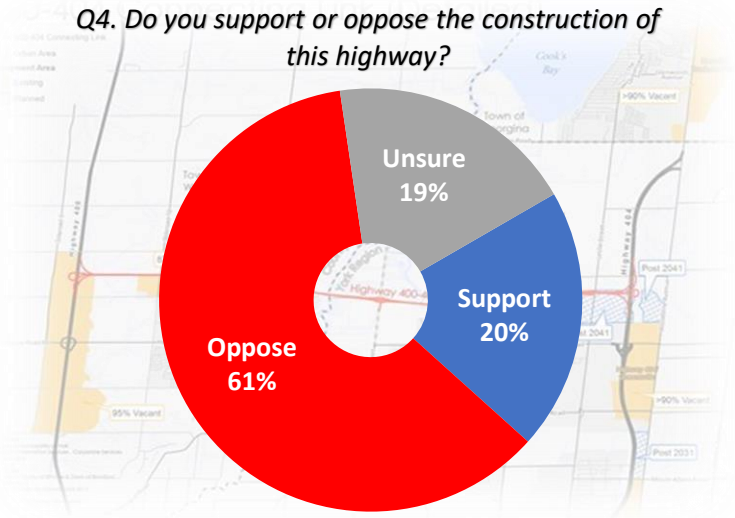
While a majority in all Regions and age groups oppose the plan, the youngest continue to be most resistant. More females or 77% are opposed in relation to males (71%).

Support among Tories even drops to only slightly more than half or 54%.

Holland Marsh Highway

Background information about the proposed Holland Marsh Highway and environmental concerns surrounding it were read to all respondents. They were then asked if they support or oppose the construction of the Highway.

The Government of Ontario is planning to build a 16 km, four-lane Holland Marsh Highway in the Greenbelt to link Highways 400 and 404 that it claims will reduce traffic congestion. The proposed highway would increase phosphorus pollution and road salt pollution runoff to Lake Simcoe, endanger fish spawning habitat, eliminate 23 acres of provincially significant wetlands, and eliminate 81 acres of wildlife habitat.



	Support	Oppose	Unsure
Peel	21%	60%	20%
York	27%	57%	16%
Durham	12%	65%	23%
Halton	18%	65%	17%

Slightly more than six in ten or 61% oppose the construction of the highway, while support drops to only 20%, with a significant 19% being unsure or undecided.

	Support	Oppose	Unsure
PC	50%	12%	38%
NDP	2%	93%	4%
Green	-	100%	-
Liberal	2%	93%	4%
Undecided	9%	74%	17%

Only half of PC's said they support the Highway, while a high 38% of Tories remain unsure and 12% are opposed.

	Support	Oppose	Unsure
18-34	3%	81%	16%
35-44	8%	67%	26%
45-54	28%	52%	19%
55-64	33%	51%	16%
65-74	40%	51%	10%
75+	30%	41%	29%

A majority from all Regions and most ages except the oldest 75+ (29% are unsure) are opposed. More females (63%) are opposed compared to males (59%).