

Survey of Candidates Following the 44th General Election

Final Report

Prepared for Elections Canada

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Prepared for Elections Canada by Environics Research Group.

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This public opinion research report presents the results of a mixed-mode (telephone and online) survey conducted by Environics Research Group from September 24 to November 18, 2021.

Cette publication est aussi disponible en français sous le titre *Sondage auprès des candidats à la 44e élection générale fédérale. Rapport Final*

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Executive Summary

A. Background and Objectives

Elections Canada (EC) identified the need to conduct a quantitative mixed-mode (online and telephone) survey of candidates for the 44th federal general election (GE) held September 20, 2021.

EC sought to learn about candidates' experiences with the electoral process in general and measure their levels of satisfaction with Elections Canada's services during the 44th GE.

The research objectives were to assess candidates' views and satisfaction regarding:

- nomination requirements and other candidate responsibilities
- administration of the election by EC and local returning officer
- EC's services, tools and products for candidates and their campaigns
- policy issues, technology and innovation

This research was conducted as part of the evaluation and development of EC's programs and services for candidates and to inform the CEO's reports to Parliament. The survey results will assist in the evaluation of EC's programs and services, notably by allowing for comparisons over time with previous federal general elections. It will also assist in identifying areas where EC's various products and services may be improved.

B. Methodology

This post-election survey consisted of 1,075 interviews with candidates from a list of 2,010 unduplicated records accounting for all candidates in the 2021 federal election, for a response rate of 53% overall. By mode, 643 respondents completed the survey online (60%) and 432 completed it by telephone (40%).

Attempts were made to invite all candidates in the election to participate in the survey. As an attempted census of the candidate population, there is no margin of sampling error for this study.

To minimize the impacts of non-response as a source of error, the survey results were weighted by candidate age and party, as well as whether the candidate was an incumbent and whether or not they were elected, to reflect the population characteristics of all candidates. More methodological information is provided in Appendix A.

C. Contract Value

The contract value was \$73,394.98 (including HST).

D. Report

This report begins with an executive summary outlining key findings and conclusions, followed by a detailed analysis of the survey data. A detailed set of banner tables presenting the results for all questions for the total candidate population and identified subgroups of interest is provided under separate cover. These tables are referenced by the survey question in the detailed analysis.

In this report, quantitative results are expressed as percentages unless otherwise noted. Results may not add to 100% due to rounding or multiple responses. Net results cited in the text may not exactly match individual results shown in the report figures or tables due to rounding.

E. Key Findings

Overall Satisfaction

Three-quarters of candidates (76%) were satisfied with Election Canada's administration of the 44th general election in 2021, lower than the result from the 43rd general election held in 2019 (85%). Close to nine in 10 (87%) expressed satisfaction with the way the returning officer ran the election in their riding, similar to 2019's result. The small proportion (12%) of candidates who were dissatisfied with their RO to any extent mainly felt that they had not been sufficiently supported.

Nomination Process

Three-quarters of candidates (77%) said it was at least somewhat easy to comply with the nomination requirements, comparable to 2019. Among those (22%) who said it was at least somewhat difficult, the main challenge they had was obtaining signatures (67%, significantly higher than the 39% obtained in 2019).

Close to nine in 10 candidates (89%) said they felt at least somewhat well-informed about the nomination process. Just over half (54%) said it was at least somewhat easy to collect nomination signatures despite COVID-19 restrictions. Relatively few candidates experienced difficulties in finding an official agent (20%) or auditor (13%); difficulties mainly related to finding someone who was willing or available to take on either task. Almost all candidates (94%) were satisfied with the timeliness of the nomination process (unchanged from 2019).

Political Entity Service Centre

Elections Canada introduced an online portal called the Political Entities Service Centre (PESC) for the 2019 election, providing candidates with an electronic means to access election materials and file nomination papers and financial reports. Fewer than half (47%) of candidates in 2019 used the portal, either personally or through an official agent or delegate. Use of the portal increased in 2021: Two-thirds of campaigns (65%) reported using the portal, including four in 10 (41%) candidates who personally used it.

The candidates mainly used the portal to download election materials (60%), also the top use in 2019. Just under four in 10 used it to submit financial returns (37%) or to access election results (35%), and three in 10 used it to maintain account information (31%) or to submit their nomination (29%). Three-quarters (76%) of candidates whose campaign used the portal were satisfied with their overall user experience to some extent, with just under one-quarter (23%) being very satisfied.

The main reason candidates gave for not using the portal was that they did not need to use it (34% of candidates who did not use it).

EC Products and Services for Candidates

Close to nine in 10 candidates (85%) said EC products were at least somewhat useful to their campaign, the same result as in 2019.

Sixty percent (60%) of candidates reported that they used the lists of polling stations. Among them, just under half (48%) reported paper and electronic formats as being equally useful; the rest were more than twice as likely to prefer electronic lists (33%) over paper lists (14%). However, among the 55% of candidates who used the maps of polling place service areas, 69% preferred the paper format of this product.

Among the 50% of candidates who used them, eight in 10 (82%) candidates were satisfied with the quality of the lists of electors. Of the 12% who used EC's tools to communicate with electors, candidates ranked the *Guide to the Federal Election* booklet (37%) and the infographics (36%) as the most useful communication tools.

Three-quarters (74%) of candidates reported they or someone else from their campaign attended an all-candidates briefing for the 44th GE. Just under half of all respondents attended personally (48%, comparable to 47% in 2019), either in person (31%) or via videoconference (17%). Eight in 10 (79%) who attended or were represented at the briefing found it useful; strong majorities attending by either method were satisfied with the in-person (91%) and online (89%) formats. When asked about Elections Canada's COVID-19 procedures and guidelines, two-thirds (65%) of candidates found them to be useful to some extent.

Almost nine in 10 candidates' campaigns (86%) contacted their local EC office during the election period, an identical proportion to 2019. Close to half contacted EC via email (47%), and one-third (32%) used the toll-free support line, statistically lower than the proportion doing so in 2019 (39%). The proportion of candidates satisfied with the services they received is high (eight in 10 or more) regardless of contact method (through the local office—90%; by email—85%; or the toll-free line—79%).

Candidates' Electoral Campaign

Despite the need for pandemic precautions during the 44th GE, seven in 10 (69%) candidates reported that they interacted with electors by going door-to-door, and almost six in 10 (56%) did other in-person events or outreach.

One-quarter (24%) of candidates provided the returning officer with a list of names of election staff to work at polling stations. The majority (55%) did not, with 28% of those candidates stating that they did not have anyone interested or competent to work at the polling stations.

Of those who reported that they used a voters list (68% of the candidates), almost all (96%) took measures to protect the personal information contained in them, usually by limiting access to them (51%) or by securing them (24%). Over four in 10 candidates (44%) took measures to ensure their campaign was accessible to electors with disabilities, most often by using wheelchair-accessible venues (26%).

Just over one-third (37%) were aware of reimbursement incentives when deciding to run as a candidate, but only few of them (8%) say this had a major or moderate impact on them.

Voting and Reporting Process

Seven in 10 candidates (69%) were satisfied with the locations chosen as polling sites for advance polls and election day, including a third (33%) who expressed strong satisfaction. Both of these proportions are lower than in 2019 (when 84% were satisfied, including 44% who were very satisfied). One-quarter were dissatisfied to some extent; this was mainly due to having too few advance polling stations (29%) or their being too far away (27%). Respondents also mentioned they were dissatisfied due to not enough polling stations being available on polling day (26%).

Overall satisfaction with the way the voting process went was close to eight in 10 (78%), comparable to 2019 (81%). The top reasons for dissatisfaction are long line-ups at the advance polls (31%) or on election day (29%) or issues with EC staff (25%). About one in six candidates (16%) said they or their representatives witnessed problems related to the voter identification requirements in general; half saw these at least somewhat often (50%). Slightly over one in 10 (12%) witnessed problems related to use of the VIC as ID; six in 10 of these (62%) saw this happen at least somewhat often. Just under half (48%) agreed it was harder to observe the election because of COVID-19-related safety measures at the polls.

Attitude Toward EC

Three-quarters (76%) of candidates said Elections Canada ran the election fairly, just under what was reported in 2019 (81%). This includes four in 10 candidates (42%) who believe EC ran the election very fairly, 10 percentage points lower than in 2019 (52%). Two in 10 think it was unfair to some extent (20%).

Most respondents (83%) had a very or somewhat high level of trust in the accuracy of the election results, including over half (55%) who had very high trust. These proportions are similar to the level of trust in 2019 (86% overall, 54% with a high level of trust). Just over one in 10 (13%) said they had low or very low trust in the accuracy of election results, similar to 10% in 2019.

Nine in 10 (90%) expressed some level of satisfaction with their interactions with the RO, with three-quarters (73%) being very satisfied. These results are similar to how candidates felt in 2019 (89% overall satisfaction, 70% very satisfied). A strong majority of candidates expressed some satisfaction with the overall quality of Elections Canada's services (86%, similar to 89% in 2019); nearly half (47%) report being very satisfied, unchanged from 2019 (51%).

Close to six in 10 candidates provided at least one suggestion to improve EC services. The top suggestion was for EC to provide more timely or accessible information (12%); across all three elections since 2015, this has been the most prominent suggestion. Fewer than one in 10 made any other individual mentions; these include improving the website or portal, improving communications, simplifying paperwork and additional staff training.

Elections and Technology

Close to six in 10 candidates (56%) felt that the spread of false information online was a problem in this election, lower than the two-thirds (64%) who felt this way in 2019. Overall, two in 10 candidates (21%) thought it had a major impact on the election outcome. The same proportion (22%) thought it had a moderate impact of the election outcome. These proportions are comparable to the proportions of candidates reporting in 2019 that the spread of false information online had a major (19%) or a moderate (22%) impact on the election outcome.

Nearly four in 10 (38%) believed foreign countries or groups using social media or other means to influence political opinions of Canadians was a problem, slightly less than in 2019 (44%). An equally low proportion of candidates (14%) thought it had a major or a moderate impact on this election's outcome. While the proportion of those thinking this issue had a major impact is slightly on the rise compared to 2019 (9%), the proportion of those thinking it has a moderate impact remained stable (15% in 2019).

One in 10 (10%) thought foreign countries or groups hacking into the computer systems that support the election was a problem in this election, similar to the previous GE (8%). Only 4% of candidates thought it had a major impact on the outcome of the election and 3% thought it had a moderate impact.

One-half of candidates were asked for their opinions about technology at the polls: Of these, just over four in 10 (44%) preferred paper voter lists, just under three in 10 (28%) preferred computerized voter lists, and two in 10 (22%) expressed no preference; these proportions are comparable to 2019. The other half of candidates were asked about their preferred ballot counting method: six in 10 (62%) preferred hand-counted ballots, statistically higher than in 2019 (46%). One in six (17%) preferred machine counting, noticeably lower than the three in 10 (31%) seen in the previous election. Approximately the same number of candidates had no preference for how ballots are to be counted (16%), unchanged from 2019.

A minority of just under four in 10 candidates (38%) said electors should be able to vote by using the Internet, comparable to 2019 (35%). A majority (56%) of candidates in 2021 felt voting online is risky, lower than was the case in 2019 (67%). Just three in 10 said voting online is safe (31%, 9 percentage points higher than the 22% seen in 2019).

Attitudes Toward Democracy in Canada

Over half of candidates (55%) are satisfied to some extent with the way democracy works in Canada, a slight increase since 2019 (50%). One-quarter report being *very* satisfied (24%, up from 16% in the 43rd GE). Just over four in 10 (44%) are dissatisfied to some extent, with two in 10 being not at all satisfied (20%).

The top reasons provided by those who were dissatisfied with the way democracy works in Canada were the lack of proportional representation (29%) and that first-past-the-post does not reflect voter preferences (21%). Additional reasons are the belief the system is unfair (17%) or that there is too much media bias or censorship (16%).

F. Political Neutrality Statement and Contact Information

I hereby certify as a senior officer of Environics that the deliverables fully comply with the Government of Canada political neutrality requirements outlined in the Communications Policy of the Government of Canada and the Procedures for Planning and Contracting Public Opinion Research. Specifically, the deliverables do not include information on electoral voting intentions, political party preferences, standings with the electorate, or ratings of the performance of a political party or its leaders.

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I. Introduction

Elections Canada (EC), headed by the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada, is an independent, non-partisan agency reporting directly to Parliament. EC exercises general direction and supervision over the conduct of elections and referendums at the federal level. Elections Canada periodically commissions public opinion research to evaluate its performance during electoral events.

EC required the services of a public opinion research supplier to conduct a survey of candidates following the 44th federal general election (GE), held on September 20, 2021. This survey aimed to provide information about candidates' experiences with the electoral process in general and measure their levels of satisfaction with Elections Canada's services during the 44th GE. Where possible, results are to be compared to previous candidate surveys.

The research objectives are to assess candidates' views and satisfaction regarding:

- nomination requirements and other candidate responsibilities
- administration of the election by EC and local returning officers
- EC's services, tools and products for candidates and their campaigns
- policy issues, technology and innovation

This research was conducted as part of the evaluation and development of EC's programs and services for candidates and to inform the CEO's reports to Parliament. The survey results will assist in the evaluation of EC's programs and services, notably by allowing for comparisons over time with previous federal general elections. It will also assist in identifying areas where EC's various products and services may be improved.

Overall results are presented in text, charts and tables. Differences between specific segments of the population are presented if statistically and substantively notable. If differences are not noted in the report, it can be assumed they are either not statistically significant in their variation from other groups at the 0.05 level or that the difference was deemed to be substantively too small (i.e., 5% or less) to be notable.

When relevant and possible, the results from this survey are compared with previous results from the 43rd election in 2019 as a point of reference. In certain cases, opinion questions in the 2019 survey were asked of a split sample using two different scales. Any comparisons made to 2019 data reflect the results obtained using a four-point scale to be comparable with how the question was asked in 2021 (which is different from what was reported in the 2019 report based on a five-point scale).

In this report, quantitative results are expressed as percentages unless otherwise noted. Results may not add to 100% due to rounding or multiple responses. Net results cited in the text may not exactly match individual results shown in the figures or tables due to rounding. Charts may not show labels for values under 4%.

II. Detailed Findings

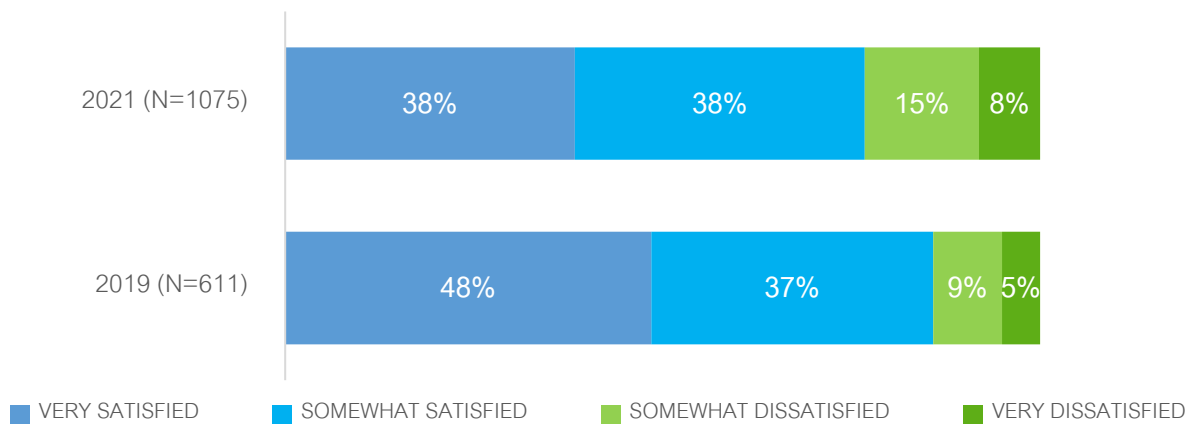
A. Overall Satisfaction

A strong three-quarters majority (76%) were satisfied to some extent with Election Canada’s administration of the 44th GE. Close to nine in 10 (87%) were satisfied with the way the returning officer (RO) ran the election in their riding. The small proportion (12%) dissatisfied with their RO mainly felt they had not been sufficiently supported.

1. Satisfaction with EC’s Administration of the GE

Three-quarters of candidates (76%) expressed some level of satisfaction overall with Elections Canada’s administration of the 44th general election, with just under four in 10 (38%) being very satisfied. These proportions are statistically lower than in 2019 among those candidates who were asked this using a four-point scale. A minority of one-quarter are dissatisfied to some extent.

Chart 01: Satisfaction with EC’s administration of election



*Q1: Overall, how satisfied were you with the way the federal election was administered by Elections Canada in your riding?
Base: all respondents. Includes those respondents (1%) who said “not sure.”*

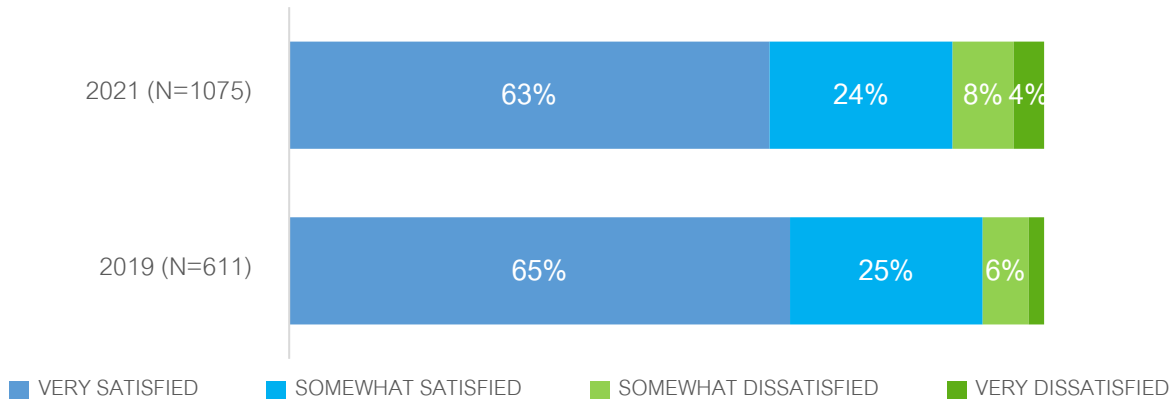
The following subgroups were more likely to be satisfied with Elections Canada’s administration of the election:

- men (79%) versus women (73%)
- candidates without a disability (77%) versus candidates with a disability (68%)
- unelected candidates (78%) versus elected candidates (70%)
- non-incumbents (78%) versus incumbents (69%)

2. Satisfaction with the Way the Returning Officer Ran the Election

Close to nine in 10 (87%) candidates were satisfied to some extent with how the returning officer ran the election in their riding; almost two-thirds were very satisfied. These results are statistically similar to the 43rd GE.

Chart 02: Satisfaction with the way the RO ran the election



Q2: How satisfied were you with the way the returning officer ran it in your riding?
 Base: all respondents. Includes those respondents (1%) who said "not sure."

Overall satisfaction with the way the RO ran the election is similar among subgroups of candidates, although the following groups were more likely to be very satisfied:

- candidates from a party represented in the House of Commons (68%) versus candidates from a non-represented party (60%)
- unelected candidates (65%) versus elected candidates (49%)
- non-incumbents (65%) versus incumbents (50%)
- first-time candidates (67%) versus candidates who ran in a previous election (58%)
- candidates in Alberta (81%) and B.C. (71%) versus candidates in Ontario (59%) and Quebec (55%)
- men (67%) versus women (56%)
- candidates under age 35 (74%) versus older candidates (56% to 65%)
- Canadian-born candidates (64%) versus candidates born outside Canada (55%)

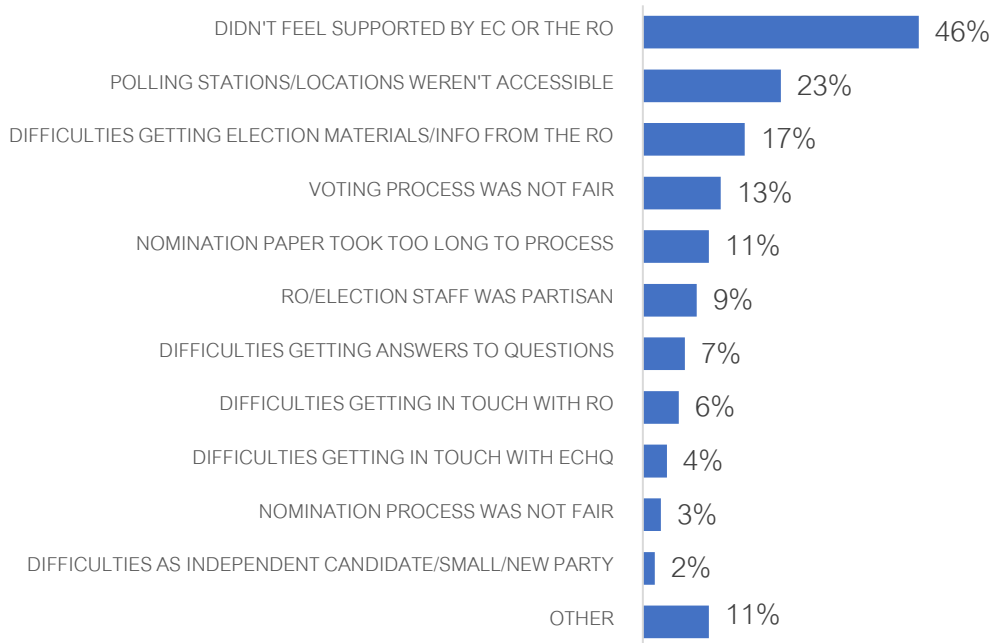
3. Reasons for Dissatisfaction with the Way the Returning Officer Ran the Election

The one in 10 (12%) who expressed dissatisfaction with the way the RO ran the election in their riding (n=130) were asked, in an open-ended manner, to indicate why they felt that way. Responses were not shown online and were unprompted on the telephone.

The most common reason, given by almost half of dissatisfied candidates, was that they did not feel supported by Elections Canada or the returning officer. One-quarter (23%) said they felt the polling stations were not accessible, and around one in six (17%) said they experienced difficulties getting election materials or information from the returning officer. Just over one in 10 each mentioned an unfair voting process or that the processing of the nomination paper was delayed. Fewer made other individual mentions.

Subgroups of this population are generally too small to support deeper analysis.

Chart 03: Reasons for dissatisfaction with the way the returning officer ran the election



Q3: Why were you dissatisfied with the way the returning officer ran the election in your riding?

Base: n=130: Candidates dissatisfied with the way the returning officer ran the election. Includes those respondents (3%) who said "not sure."

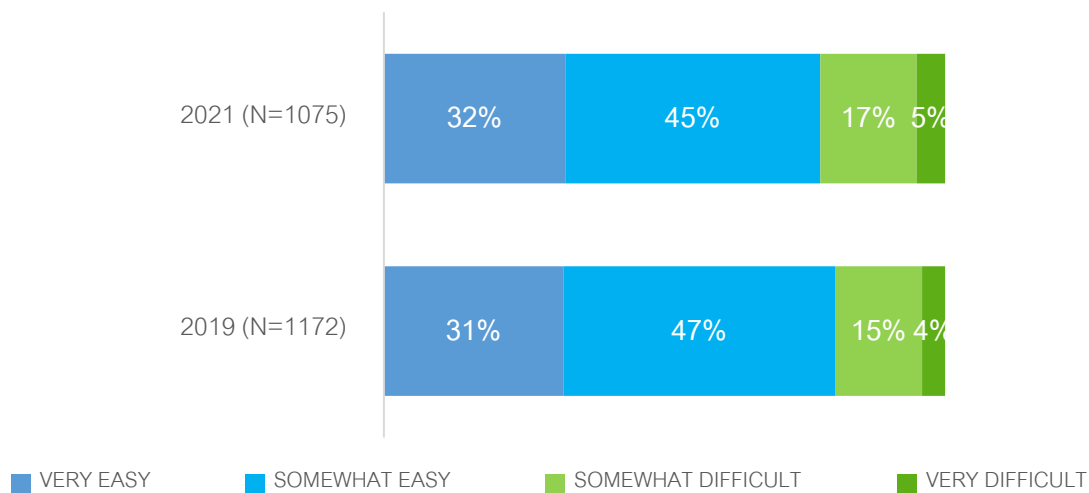
B. Nomination Process

Three-quarters (77%) of candidates said complying with nomination requirements was at least somewhat easy; the main difficulty among those (22%) who said it was at least difficult was in obtaining signatures. Almost all candidates (94%) were satisfied with nomination process timeliness and relatively few experienced difficulties finding an official agent (20%) or auditor (13%). Just over half (54%) said it was at least somewhat easy to collect nomination signatures despite COVID-19 restrictions. Close to nine in 10 (89%) felt well-informed about the nomination process.

1. Ease of Complying with the Nomination Requirements

Three-quarters of candidates said it was very (32%) or somewhat (45%) easy to comply with the nomination requirements, virtually the same as in 2019. Two in 10 expressed some level of difficulty.

Chart 04: Ease of complying with nomination requirements



*Q4: How easy was it to comply with the nomination requirements?
Base: all respondents. Includes those respondents (1%) who said "not sure."*

The following groups were more likely to have found the nomination process to be very easy:

- candidates from a party represented in the House of Commons (36%) versus those from a non-represented party (23%)
- elected candidates (50%) versus unelected candidates (28%)
- incumbents (49%) versus non-incumbents (28%)
- candidates who ran in a previous federal election (36%) versus first-time candidates (28%)

- candidates with upper-range household incomes (37%) versus those with lower- or middle-range household incomes (27%)¹

2. Why the Nomination Process Was Not Easy

Those who said the nomination process was somewhat or very difficult (22% of respondents, n=239) mainly cited difficulties in obtaining signatures (67%), significantly higher than was the case in the 43rd GE (39%). Just under one in five (18%) mentioned difficulties meeting the deadline, similar to 2019, and one in 10 cited unclear or inconsistent information. Candidates in 2021 were somewhat less likely than in 2019 to mention challenges related to being new or an independent/small party candidate, having too much paperwork/bureaucracy, or unexplained requirements.

Table 1: Reasons why it was not easy to comply with nomination requirements

<i>Reasons</i>	2021 (n=239)	2019 (n=223)
Difficult to obtain required number of signatures	67%	39%
Difficult to meet deadline	18%	15%
Unclear/inconsistent information process	9%	9%
Difficulties as independent candidate/small/new party	8%	14%
Too much paperwork/bureaucracy/complexity	7%	24%
Procedures/requirements not explained	5%	20%
Difficult to deal with RO	5%	-
Difficult to provide proof of identity	4%	-
Signatures an unnecessary/unreasonable requirement	n/a	10%
Other	6%	3%
Don't know/no response	3%	4%

Q5: Why was it not easy to comply with the nomination requirements?

Base: Candidates who felt it was difficult to comply.

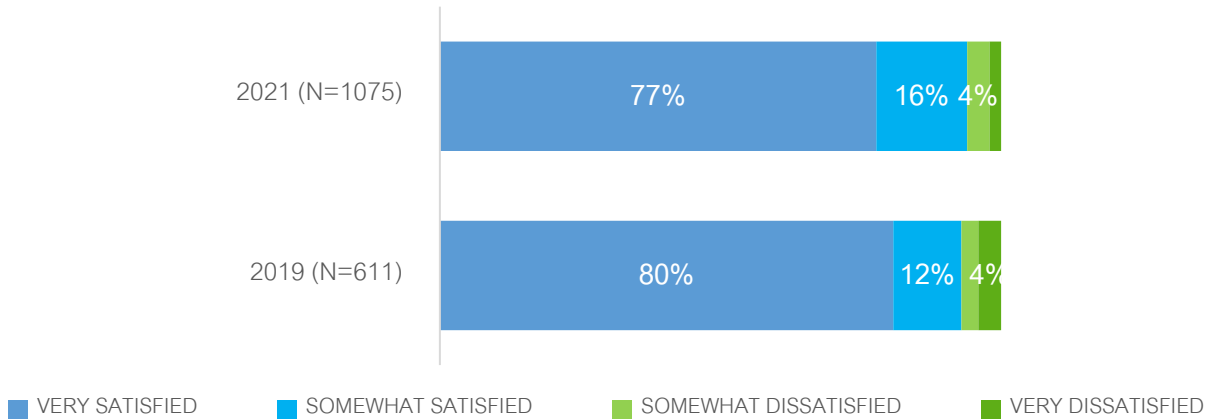
Responses are quite similar across subgroups. Saying it was difficult to obtain the required number of signatures is the top response for all, but is higher among those who ran previously (76%, versus 61% among first-time candidates).

¹ Household income ranges are defined in the socio-demographics section.

3. Satisfaction with RO's Timeliness in Processing Nomination

Almost all (94%) candidates were satisfied to some extent with the timeliness of the returning officer's processing of their nomination, and three-quarters (77%) were very satisfied. This is statistically unchanged from 2019.

Chart 05: Satisfaction with timeliness of processing nomination papers



Q6: How satisfied were you with the returning officer's timeliness in processing your nomination?
 Base: all respondents. Includes those respondents (1%) who said "not sure."

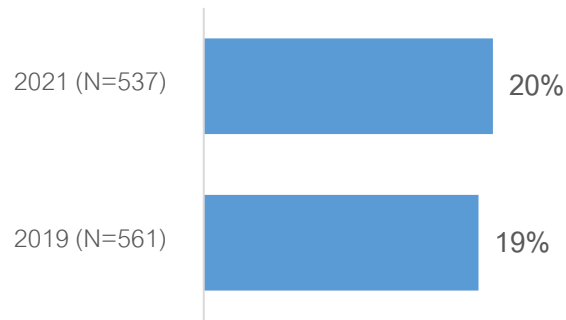
Satisfaction is similar across candidate population subgroups, although the following groups were more likely to be very satisfied:

- candidates from the Atlantic region (86%) and B.C. (85%) versus candidates from Quebec at 70%

4. Finding an Official Agent or Auditor

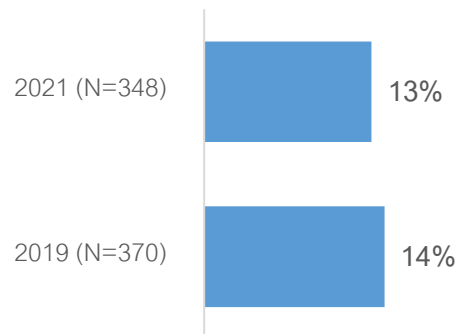
Candidates were asked if they had any difficulties finding either an official agent or an auditor. Small minorities indicated they had difficulties finding an official agent (20% of those asked) or an auditor (13% of those who said they needed an auditor); both of these proportions are similar to responses given following the 43rd GE.

Chart 06: Had difficulties finding an official agent



*Q7A: Did you encounter any difficulties in finding an official agent?
Base: Half sample. Includes those respondents (1%) who said "not sure."*

Chart 07: Had difficulties finding an auditor



*Q7B: Did you encounter any difficulties in finding an auditor?
Base: Those who said they needed an auditor in a half sample.*

While a minority of candidates said they encountered some difficulties finding an official agent, those with less political experience or from smaller parties were more likely to experience some difficulties:

- candidates from a party not represented in the House of Commons (27%) versus those from a represented party (16%)
- unelected candidates (22%) versus elected candidates (9%)
- non-incumbents (21%) versus incumbents (10%)
- first-time candidates (23%) versus candidates who previously ran (15%)

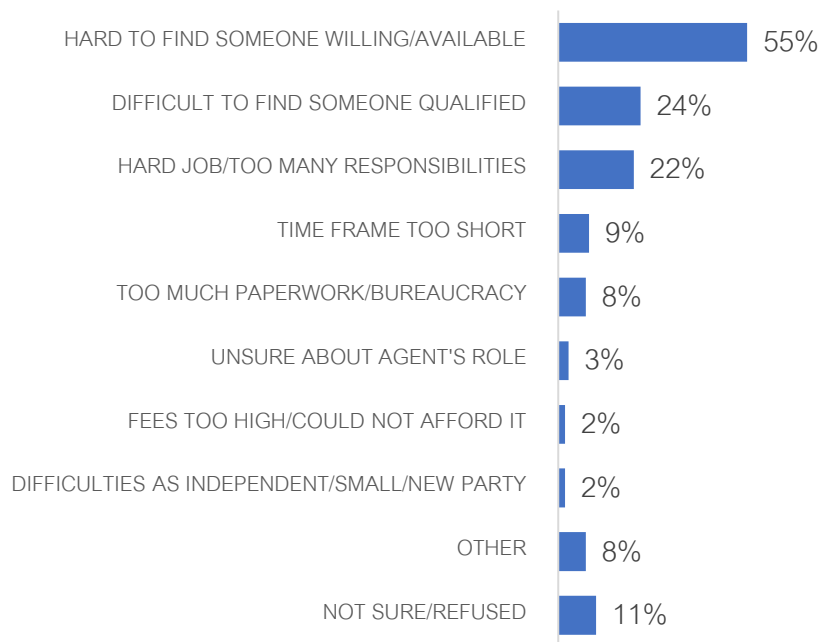
Having difficulties finding an auditor is a low proportion across the board, but higher among first-time candidates (11%) compared to candidates who ran in a previous election (5%).

5. Difficulties Encountered in Finding Official Agent or Auditor

Among those reporting difficulties in finding an official agent (20% of respondents, n=107), a slim majority (55%) simply said it was hard to find someone willing or available to take on the role, which was also the top response in 2019 (67%). Over two in 10 (24%) mention it being hard to find someone with the right qualifications or that it is a hard job with too many responsibilities (22%). One in 10 or fewer provide other top-of-mind responses, including that the time frame was too short (9%) or there is too much paperwork/bureaucracy (8%).

Responses are similar across subgroups; that it was hard to find someone willing or available to take on the official agent role is the top response for all groups.

Chart 08: Difficulties finding an official agent

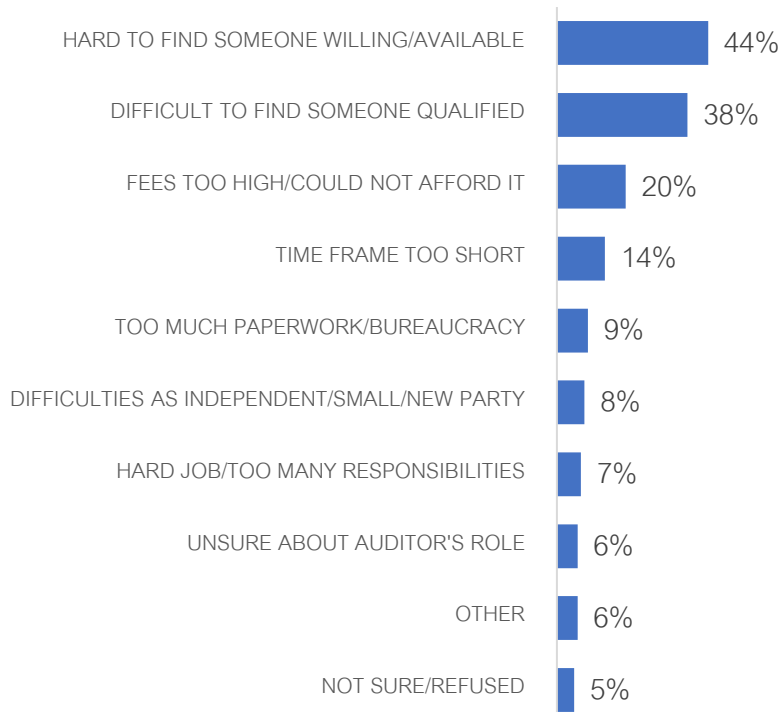


Q8: What difficulties did you encounter in finding an [IF ASKED 7A: official agent/IF ASKED 7B: auditor]?
Base: n=107: Candidates reporting difficulty finding an official agent.

Reasons for having difficulty finding an auditor are similar to those given for finding official agents. Among those of who reported difficulties finding an auditor (13% of those who needed one, n=45), over four in 10 say it was hard to find someone willing or available (44%), and just under four in 10 say it was difficult to find someone qualified (38%). Two in 10 say auditors' fees were prohibitively high/unaffordable. Fewer mention other difficulties.

Subgroup sizes for this population are too small to report differences at that level.

Chart 09: Difficulties finding an auditor

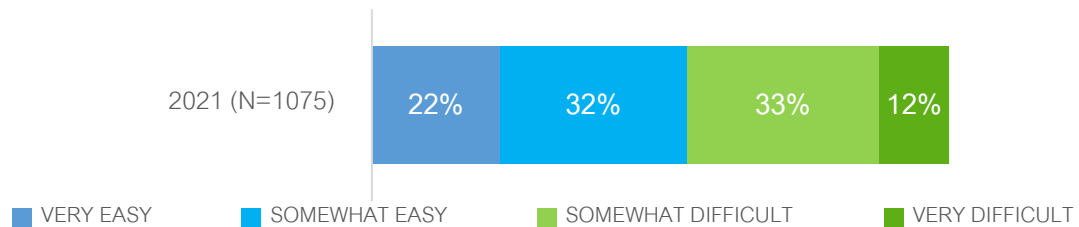


Q8: What difficulties did you encounter in finding an [IF ASKED 7A: official agent/IF ASKED 7B: auditor]?
Base: n=45: Candidates reporting difficulty finding an auditor.

6. Collection of Electors' Signatures

Just over half (54%) of candidates said it was at least somewhat easy to collect nomination signatures despite COVID-19 restrictions; just under half (45%) said it was difficult to some extent.

Chart 10: Ease of collecting signatures for nomination considering COVID-19 restrictions



*Q9: Considering COVID-19 restrictions in your area, how easy or difficult was it to collect electors' signatures for your nomination?
Base: all respondents. Includes those respondents (1%) who said "not sure."*

Candidates with a disability (64%) were more likely to find it difficult to collect electors' signatures for nomination considering the COVID restrictions than those without any disability (43%).

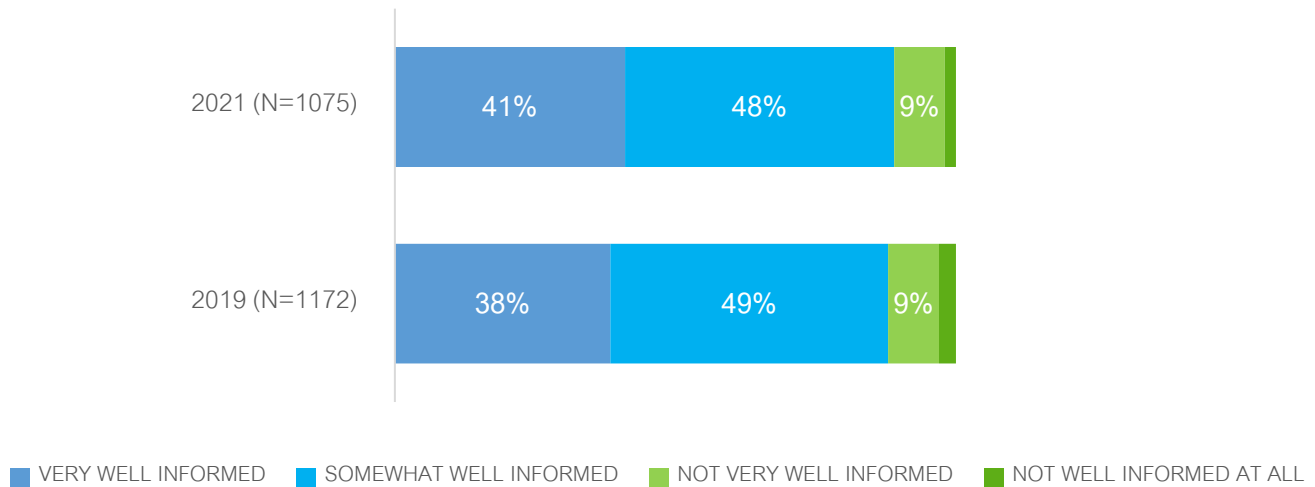
On the other hand, the following groups were more likely to say it was at least somewhat easy to collect electors' signatures for nomination despite COVID-19 restrictions:

- candidates in the Atlantic (62%), Quebec (62%) and the Prairies (63%) versus candidates in Ontario (46%) and British Columbia (47%)
- elected candidates (78%) versus unelected candidates (49%)
- incumbents (78%) versus non-incumbents (50%)
- candidates aged 60+ (63%) versus those under age 60 (52%)
- Canadian-born candidates (56%) versus candidates born outside Canada (47%)
- candidates with upper-range household incomes (60%) versus those with lower-/middle-range household incomes (49%)

7. Level of Feeling Informed About the Nomination Process

Close to nine in 10 (89%) candidates said they felt either very or somewhat well-informed about Election Canada's nomination process, unchanged from the 2019 election. One in 10 felt not very or not at all informed.

Chart 11: How informed candidates felt about EC nomination process



Q10: Overall, how well-informed did you feel about Elections Canada's nomination process?
 Base: all respondents. Includes those respondents (1%) who said "not sure."

Majorities of all candidates subgroups felt at least somewhat well-informed. Having felt *very* informed increases as age of candidate increases (from 31% for those under age 35 up to 49% for those aged 60+), and is higher among the following:

- elected candidates (61%) versus unelected candidates (36%)
- incumbents (62%) versus non-incumbents (37%)
- candidates who ran previously (57%) versus first-time candidates (31%)
- men (45%) versus women (35%)
- candidates with upper-range household incomes (46%) versus those with lower-/middle-range household incomes (36%)

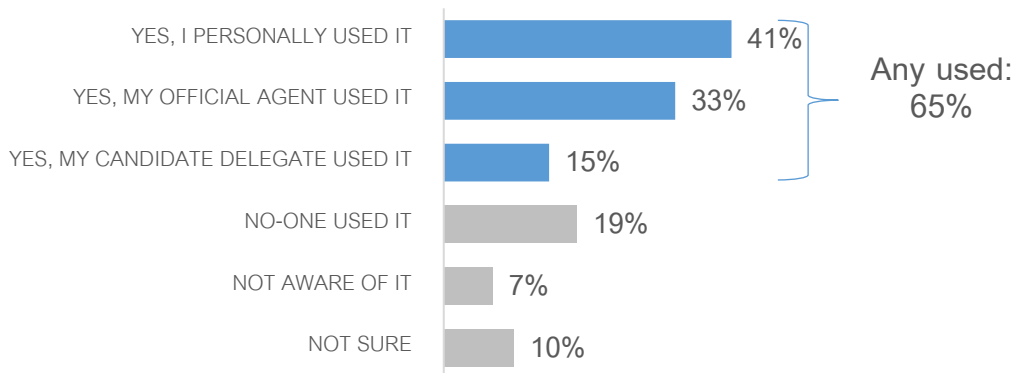
C. Political Entity Service Centre (Online Portal)

Two-thirds (65%) of campaigns used the online portal, usually to download election materials. Nine in 10 (90%) agreed the portal contained useful information; eight in 10 agreed it was easy to create an account (81%) and that it provided easy access to documents (79%). Three-quarters (76%) of users were satisfied with their overall experience to some extent. The main reason candidates gave for not using the portal was that they did not need to use it (34%).

1. Use of Political Entities Service Centre

Two-thirds of campaigns (65%) reported using the Political Entities Service Centre, including four in 10 candidates (41%) who personally used it. Two in 10 (19%) say no one associated with the campaign used it, under one in 10 (7%) were unaware of it, and one in 10 are not sure. This is significantly higher reported use than in the 43rd GE in 2019 (when 47% said someone in the campaign used it and 33% said they did not).

Chart 12: If candidate's campaign used the portal



*Q11: Elections Canada offers a secure web portal called the Political Entities Service Centre that candidates can use to access electoral products and services. Did you, or any of your representatives, use the portal?
Base: n=1,075: all respondents.*

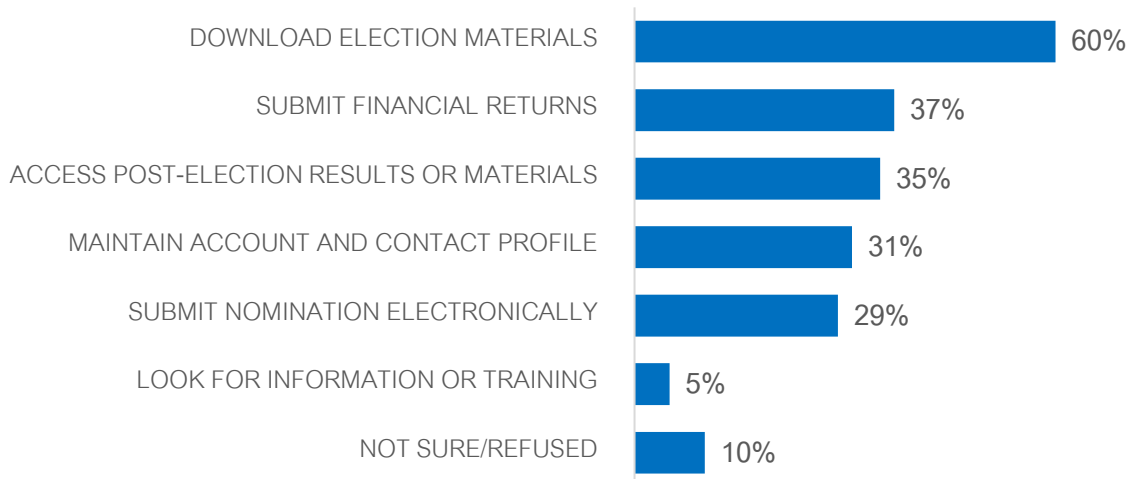
Across most subgroups, a majority of around six in 10 or more reported campaign use of the portal. Candidates' *personal* use of the portal was higher among the following groups:

- candidates from a party not represented in the House of Commons (50%) versus candidates from a represented party (37%)
- unelected candidates (45%) versus elected candidates (24%)
- non-incumbents (44%) versus incumbents (23%)
- first-time candidates (46%) versus candidates who previously ran (34%)
- visible minority (44%) and white candidates (41%) versus Indigenous candidates (26%)

2. Nature of Use of Political Entities Services Centre

Those who reported their campaign used the portal (65% of respondents, n=698) were asked how it was used. Five possible options were shown or read, and candidates could also specify other actions. As in 2019, the primary purpose was to download election materials (60%, comparable to 56%). This is followed by using it to submit financial returns (37%) and to access post-election results or resources (35%, versus 28% in 2019). Around three in 10 used it to maintain their account and contact profile (31%, comparable to 27% in 2019) or to submit their nomination electronically (30%, identical to 2019). Very few used it to look for information or training in general.

Chart 13: Uses of the portal



Q12: What did you, or your representative, use the portal for?

Base: n=698: Candidates whose campaign used the portal.

Responses are generally similar across the population of candidates whose campaigns used the portal. Downloading election materials was the top mentioned use across almost all subgroups.

3. Characteristics of the Political Entities Service Centre

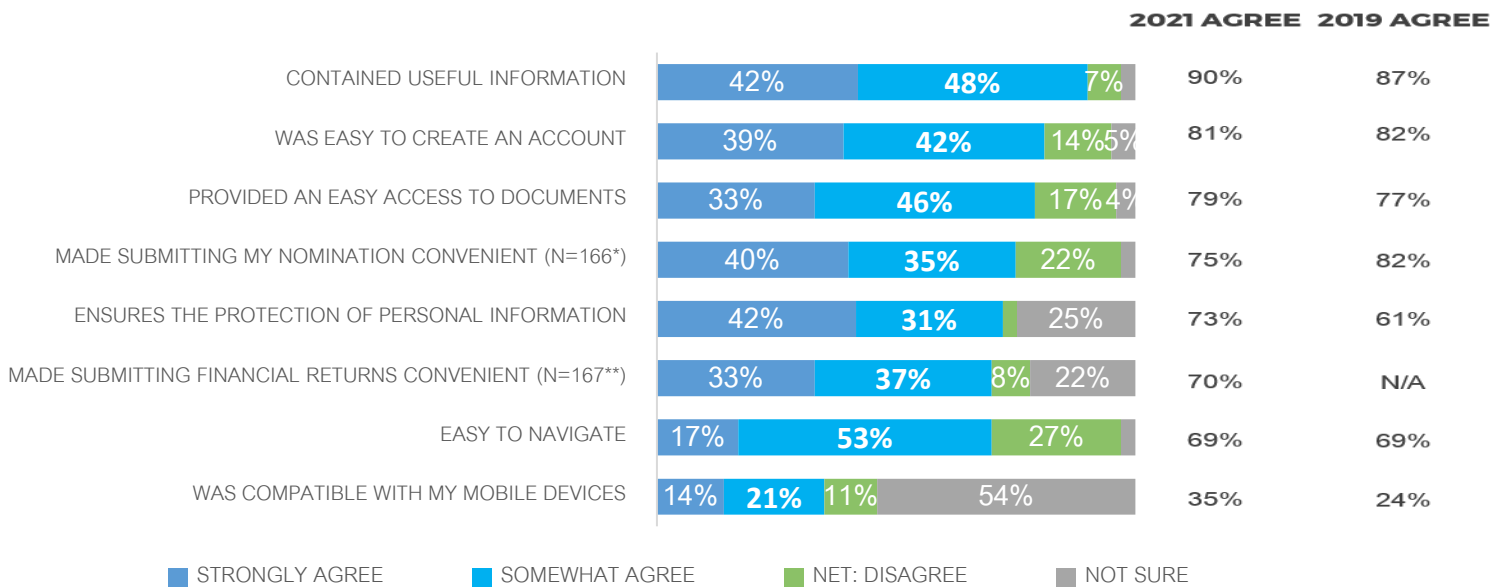
Candidates who personally used the portal (41% of respondents, n=450) were asked their level of agreement with several statements about it. Seven in 10 or more agreed to some extent with most statements, with one exception. Overall agreement is similar to 2019 in most cases (base n=292).

The largest proportion (90%) of candidates who used the portal agreed that it contained useful information; eight in 10 agreed it was easy to create an account (81%) and that it provided easy access to documents (79%). Around three-quarters (73%) said it ensured the protection of candidate and elector personal information and seven in 10 (69%) agreed it was easy to navigate.

Among those who used the portal to submit their nomination, 75% agreed that it made that process convenient (somewhat lower than 82% in 2019). Seventy percent of those who submitted their financial returns using the portal said it made that process convenient, although strong agreement with the latter is notably lower compared to the previous statements.

Only one-third (35%) of respondents agreed that the portal was compatible with mobile devices, but this is because there is a substantial proportion, over half, who said they are not sure, presumably because they did not attempt to access the portal using a mobile device. The proportion who agreed is statistically higher than in 2019 (14%).

Chart 14: Experience with the portal



Q13: How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the portal?
 Base: n=450: Candidates who personally used the portal.

* Base: Candidates who used the portal who submitted nomination electronically.

** Base: Candidates who used the portal who submitted financial returns electronically.

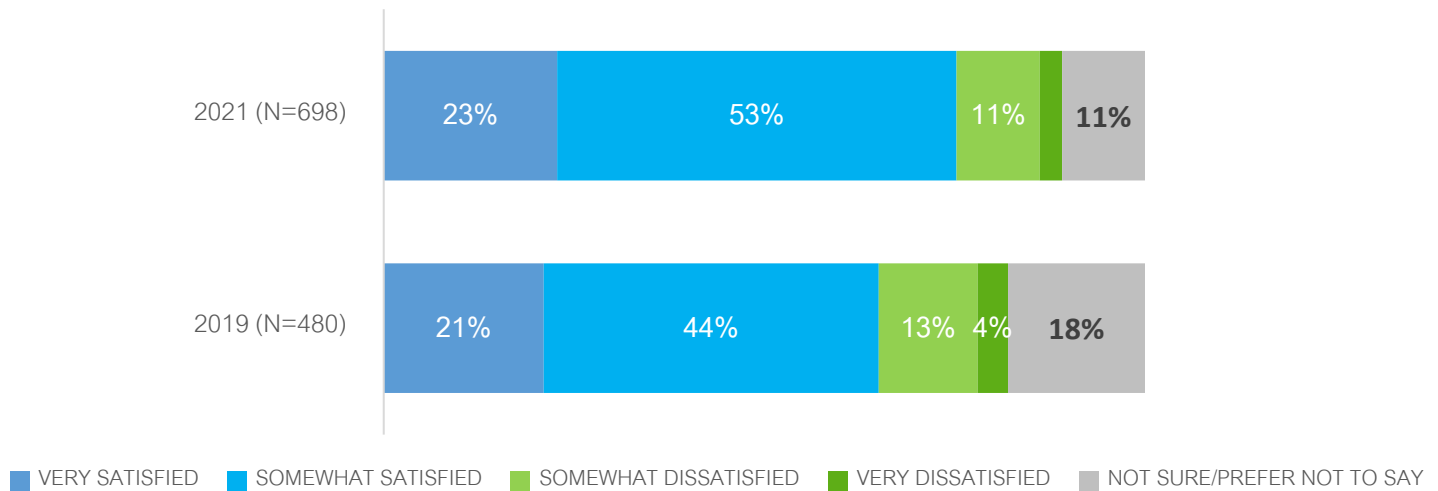
Overall agreement is essentially similar across the candidates’ user population, with few notable patterns (many subgroup sizes are too small to report).

4. Satisfaction with Overall User Experience of the Political Entity Service Centre

Three-quarters (76%) of candidates whose campaign used the portal were satisfied with their overall user experience to some extent, with just under one-quarter being very satisfied; just over one in 10 expressed some level of dissatisfaction, and one in 10 were unable to say. Overall satisfaction is higher than for the 43rd GE (65%).

Satisfaction is quite consistent across subgroups of this population; overall satisfaction is higher in Alberta (87%) than in other jurisdictions (70% to 77%).

Chart 15: Satisfaction with the portal

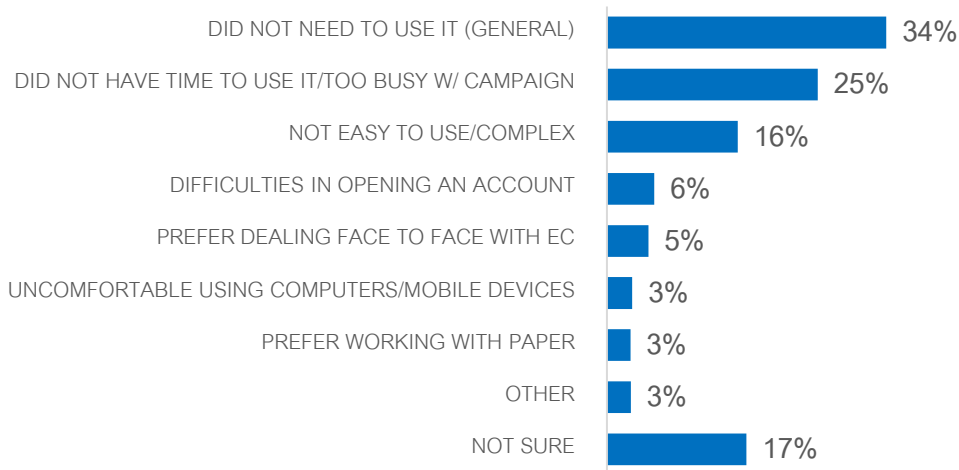


Q14: How satisfied were you/was your representative with the overall user experience of the portal?
 Base: n=698: Candidates whose campaign used the portal.

5. Reasons for Not Using the Political Entities Service Centre

The small proportion of respondents whose campaign did not use the portal (19% of respondents, n=202) were asked why. The main reason, given by one-third, was that they did not need to use it. A quarter of respondents said they did not have time to use it, while one in six said it was not easy to use or too complex. Fewer gave other individual reasons for not using the portal, with just under one in five (17%) not providing a reason.

Chart 16: Reasons for not using the portal



Q15: Why did you not use the portal?

Base: n=202: Candidates whose campaign didn't use the portal.

Responses are generally similar across this limited population (many subgroup sizes are too small to permit analysis at this level). Not having needed to use the portal and not having time/being too busy are the top responses for all.

D. Elections Canada's Products and Services

The top EC products used in 2021 were lists of polling stations (60%), maps of polling place service areas (55%), and lists of electors (50%). Eight in 10 (82%) of those who used lists of electors were satisfied to some extent with list quality. Just under half (48%) of those who used lists of polling stations think paper and electronic formats are equally useful. Among the 12% who used EC's tools to communicate with electors, the most useful ones were the *Guide to the Federal Election* booklet (37%) and the infographics (36%). Close to nine in 10 (85%) said EC products were at least somewhat useful to their campaign.

Three-quarters of campaigns (74%) were represented at an all-candidates briefing. Eight in 10 (79%) of those who attended found these useful and majorities were satisfied with both in-person (91%) and online (89%) formats. Two-thirds (65%) of candidates found EC's COVID-19 procedures and guidelines to be useful to some extent. Eight in 10 or more who contacted EC (through the local office, by email or via the toll-free line) were satisfied with the service they received.

1. Use of EC's Products

Candidates were asked to indicate which EC products they used, from a list. The top items used in 2021 were the lists of polling stations, the maps of polling place service areas, and the lists of electors. Use of all individual products was at least somewhat lower than reported in 2019, and this is especially notable for the maps of polling place service areas (down 15 percentage points), the bingo sheets (down 17 points) and the political financing handbook (down 16 points).

Table 2: EC products used
(multiple responses permitted)

<i>Reasons</i>	2021	2019
n= (all candidates)	1,075	1,172
Lists of polling stations	60%	68%
Maps of polling place service areas	55%	70%
Lists of electors, including preliminary lists, revised lists and official lists	50%	57%
Political financing handbook for candidates and official agents	48%	64%
Bingo sheets	24%	41%
Political financing training videos	20%	n/a
EC's tools to communicate with electors	12%	18%
I did not use any of EC's products/not sure/refused	18%	13%

Q16: Which of the following Elections Canada products did you use?

In general, the groups most likely to report using the top three products or services are those who are more established; that is, candidates for parties represented in the House of Commons, those who were elected or incumbents, those who have run previously, and those who have the highest household incomes. Specific proportions are indicated below:

Lists of polling stations

- candidates from a party represented in the House of Commons (67%) versus candidates from a non-represented party (47%)

- elected candidates (84%) versus unelected candidates (56%)
- incumbents (84%) versus non-incumbents (56%)
- candidates who ran previously (66%) versus first-time candidates (57%)

Maps of polling place service areas

- candidates from a party represented in the House of Commons (63%) versus candidates from a non-represented party (39%)
- elected candidates (72%) versus unelected candidates (51%)
- incumbents (70%) versus non-incumbents (52%)
- candidates who ran previously (60%) versus first-time candidates (53%)

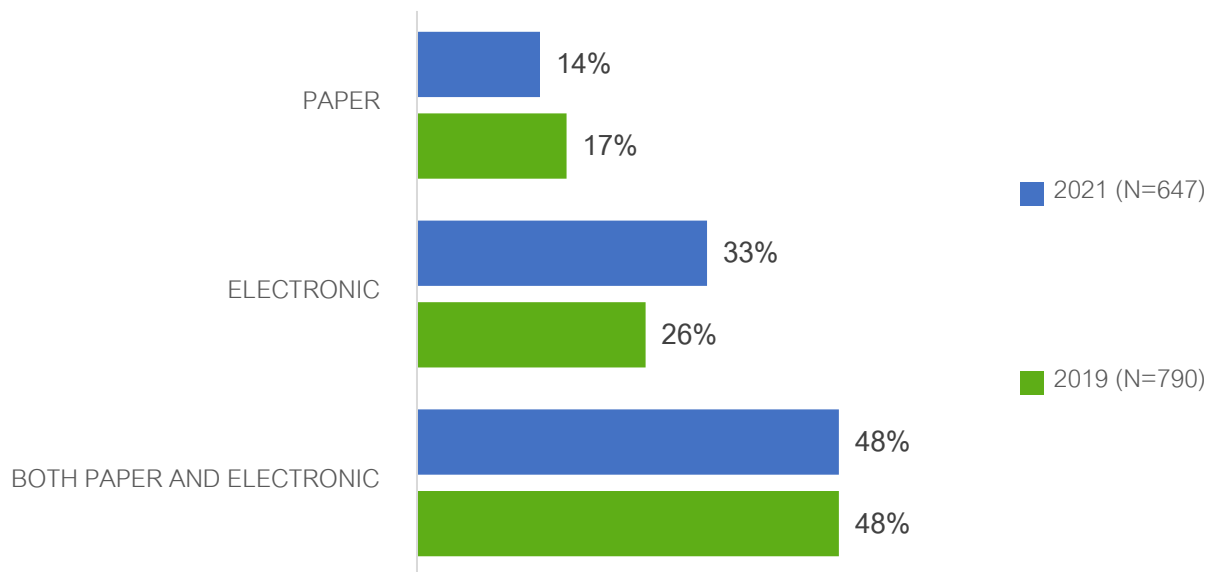
Lists of electors

- candidates from a party represented in the House of Commons (58%) versus candidates from a non-represented party (33%)
- elected candidates (78%) versus unelected candidates (44%)
- incumbents (78%) versus non-incumbents (45%)
- candidates who ran previously (57%) versus first-time candidates (45%)

2. Most Useful Format of Lists of Polling Stations

As in 2019, just under half (48%) of those reporting use of lists of polling stations think paper and electronic lists were equally useful. In 2021, one-third expressed a preference for electronic lists, while one in seven (17%) preferred paper, a lower proportion than in past federal elections.

Chart 17: Most useful format of polling station lists



Q17: In your opinion, which format of the updated lists of polling stations was most useful?

Base: Candidates who used lists of polling stations. Includes 6% of respondents who said "not sure."

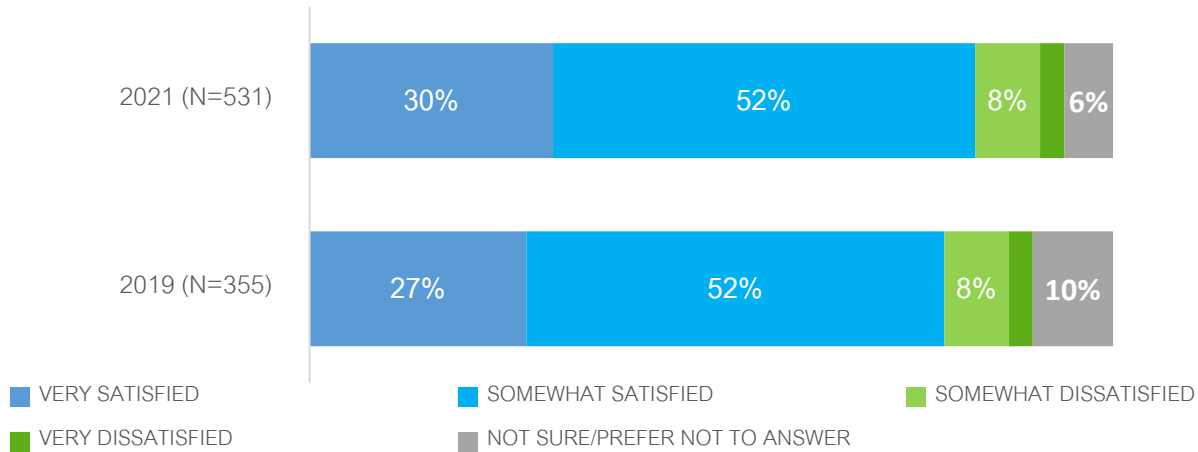
This pattern is echoed across subgroups of this population. A minority of candidates expressed a preference for paper versions of the polling station lists. This preference is slightly higher among the following groups:

- candidates from a party not represented in the House of Commons (22%) versus candidates from a represented party (11%)
- unelected candidates (16%) versus elected candidates (6%)
- non-incumbents (16%) versus incumbents (5%)
- candidates in Quebec (18%), the Atlantic (17%) and Alberta (16%) versus candidates from other jurisdictions (5% to 14%)
- candidates with no disability (14%) versus candidates with a disability (6%)

3. Satisfaction with the Quality of the Lists of Electors

Among those who used the lists of electors (50% of respondents, n=531), eight in 10 (82%) were satisfied to some extent with the list quality; three in 10 were very satisfied. One in 10 were dissatisfied to some extent. These proportions are statistically comparable to those in 2019 who were asked about their satisfaction using the same four-point scale.

Chart 18: Satisfaction with overall quality of list of electors



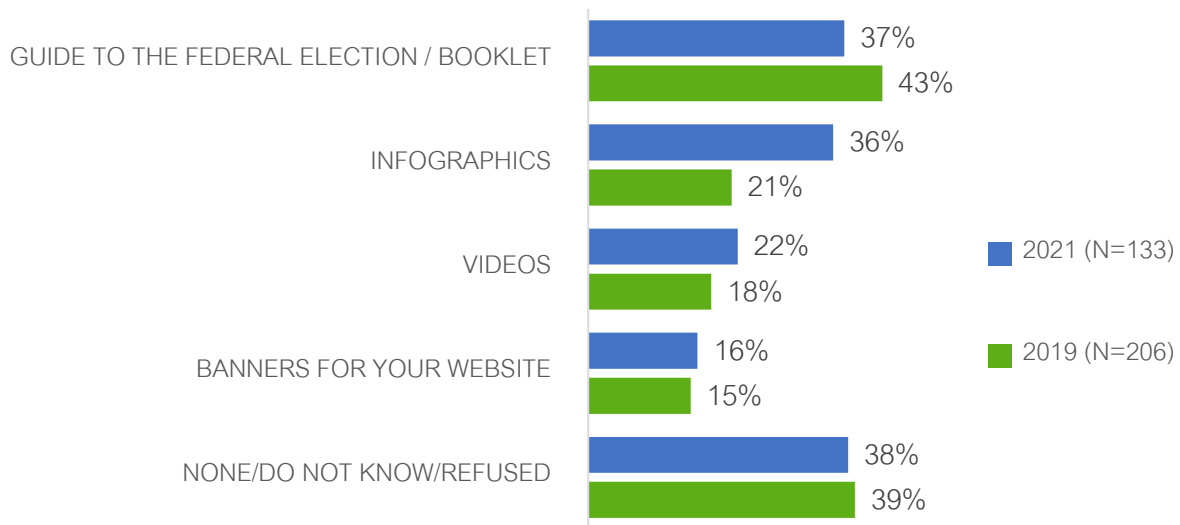
Q18: How satisfied were you with the overall quality of the lists of electors?
 Base: Those who used list of electors.

4. Most Useful Tools to Communicate with Electors

Those who indicated they used EC communications tools (n=133) were asked to indicate which of four tools was the most useful for their campaign (multiple mentions were permitted). The most useful tools were the *Guide to the Federal Election* booklet (37%) and the infographics (36%, statistically higher than in 2019). As before, just under four in 10 do not indicate a communication tool they found to be most helpful.

Opinions are quite similar across subgroups of this population; many subgroup sizes are too small for deeper analysis.

Chart 19: Useful communication tools

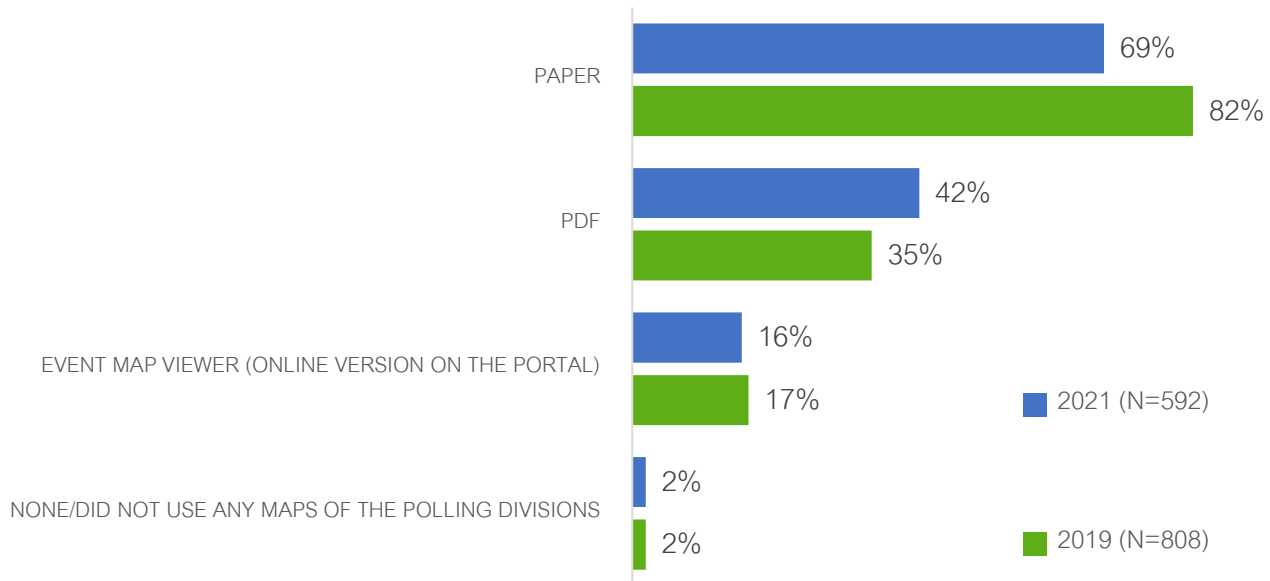


Q19: Which of the following EC tools to communicate with electors were the most useful for your campaign?
 Base: Candidates who used EC's tools to communicate with electors.

5. Format of Maps of Polling Place Service Areas

Candidates who used maps of polling places (55% of respondents, n=592) were asked which of three formats they used; multiple responses were permitted. As in previous years, the top response is paper, used by seven in 10 in this past election. Four in 10 (42%) used PDFs and one in six (16%) used the online event map viewer on the portal. Statistically fewer used the paper format and more used a PDF than in the 43rd GE.

Chart 20: Format of polling place maps



Q20: Which format of the maps of polling place service areas did you use?

Base: Candidates who used maps of polling place service areas. Includes those respondents (8%) who said "not sure."

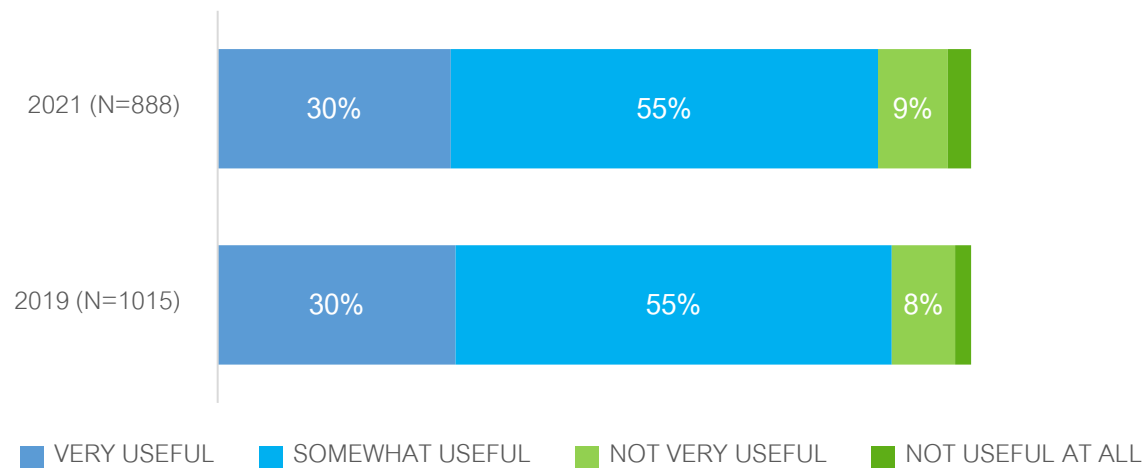
The following are notable differences in format of use:

- Use of paper maps is similar across candidate subgroups, but is higher in the Atlantic region (86%) than elsewhere (69% to 74%).
- Use of PDF maps is higher among candidates of parties represented in the HoC (45% versus 31% of those from non-represented parties), those whose preferred language is English (45% versus 31% of those who preferred French), and candidates under age 35 (51% compared to 35% of those aged over 60).
- The event map viewer was used more by candidates of parties represented in the HoC (18% versus 10% of those from non-represented parties), those who were elected (29% versus 12% of unelected candidates), incumbents (31% versus 12% of non-incumbents), those who previously ran (21% versus 13% of first-time candidates), and candidates over age 35 (18%, versus 7% of candidates under age 35).

6. Usefulness of EC's Products

Those who used at least one EC product (n=888) were asked how useful these were when considering what was needed to run their campaign. A strong majority of close to nine in 10 said these were at least somewhat useful, the same result as in 2019. Just over one in 10 feel they were not very or at all useful.

Chart 21: Usefulness of Elections Canada products in the campaign



*Q21: Thinking about what you needed to run your campaign, how useful were Elections Canada's products?
Base: Candidates who used Elections Canada products. Includes those respondents (3%) who said "not sure."*

The following groups were more likely to find EC's products to be very useful:

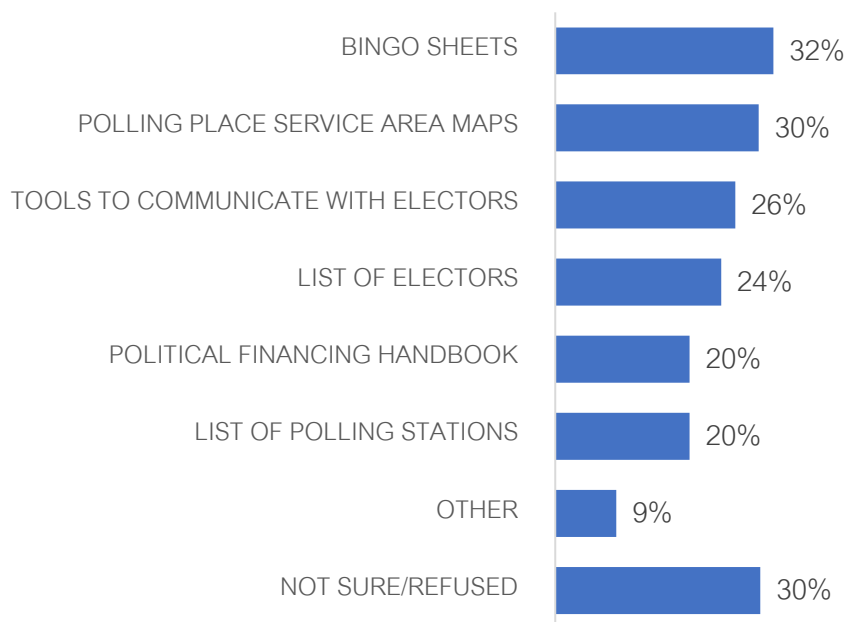
- candidates from a party represented in the HoC (34%) versus candidates from a non-represented party (22%)
- elected candidates (40%) versus unelected candidates (28%)

7. EC Products That Were Not Useful

The small number of EC's products users who did not think these were useful (n=109) were most likely to indicate that the bingo sheets (32%) and polling place service area maps (30%) were not useful, followed by elector communication tools (26%) and lists of electors (24%). Results are quite similar to 2019, with a larger proportion mentioning the polling place service maps than previously (16% in 2019).

Opinions are quite similar across subgroups of this population; most subgroup sizes are too small for deeper analysis.

Chart 22: Elections Canada Products that were not useful



Q22: Which Elections Canada products did you think were not useful?
Base: n=109: Those indicating EC products were not useful.

8. All-Candidates Briefing

Three-quarters of candidates (74%) reported they or someone else from their campaign attended an all-candidates briefing for the 44th GE. Just under half of candidates attended the briefing themselves, either in person or via videoconference, comparable to 2019.

Table 3: Attendance at all-candidates briefing

Attendance	2021	2019
n=(all candidates)	1,075	1,172
Net: Campaign attended	74%	n/a
Candidate attended personally (net)	47%	47%
Candidate attended in person	31%	n/a
Candidate attended via videoconference	17%	n/a
Other in campaign attended (net)	47%	n/a
Campaign delegate/manager attended, in-person or remotely	27%	37%
Official agent attended, in-person or remotely	16%	19%
Other	1%	n/a
No one attended	26%	21%
Don't know/no response	n/a	4%

Q23: The returning officer in your riding organized an all-candidates briefing for the general election. Please indicate which of the following applies.

Attending the briefing personally (either in person or virtually) is higher among the following candidates:

- candidates from a party not represented in House of Commons (56%) versus candidates from a party represented in HoC (43%)
- unelected candidates (51%) versus elected candidates (30%)
- non-incumbent (50%) versus incumbents (33%)
- first-time candidates (53%) versus candidates who previously ran (38%)
- men (51%) versus women (42%)

Having another campaign official (manager or official agent) attend is higher among:

- candidates from a party represented in House of Commons (47%) versus candidates from a party not represented in HoC (13%)
- elected candidates (78%) versus unelected candidates (28%)
- incumbents (76%) versus non-incumbents (29%)
- candidates who previously ran (47%) versus first-time candidates (28%)
- candidates in Ontario (45% and B.C. (43%) versus candidates from other jurisdictions (25% to 38%)

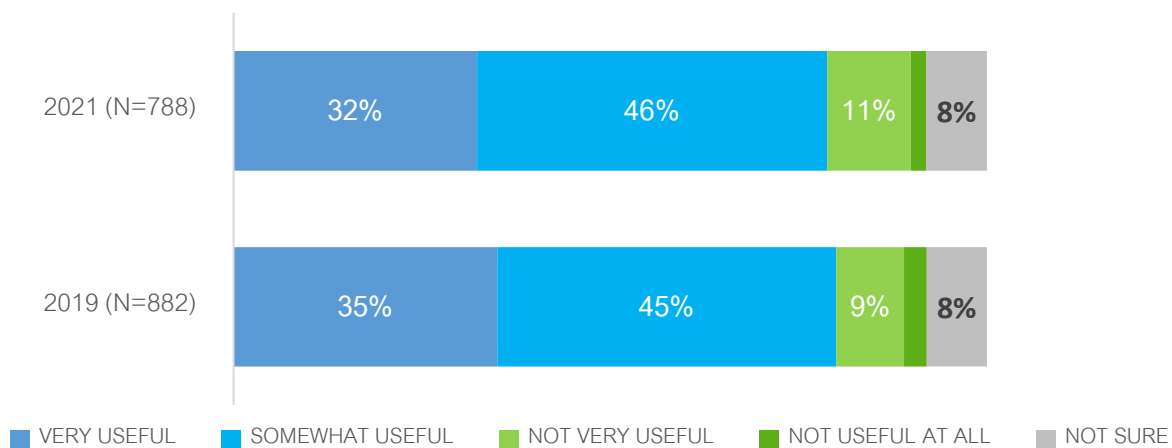
Not having had anyone in the campaign attend the briefing is higher among the following groups:

- candidates from a party not represented in House of Commons (36%) versus candidates from a party represented in HoC (20%)
- unelected candidates (30%) versus elected candidates (4%)
- non-incumbent (29%) versus incumbents (4%)
- candidates with high school or less education (40%) versus those who completed university (24%)

9. Usefulness of All-Candidates Briefing

Those whose campaign was represented at the all-candidates briefing (n=788) were asked how useful it was. Eight in 10 (79%) said it was useful, with one-third saying it was very useful. Just over one in 10 said it was not very or not at all useful.

Chart 23: Usefulness of all-candidates briefing



Q24: How useful was the all-candidates briefing?

Base: Candidates who attended or were represented at the briefing.

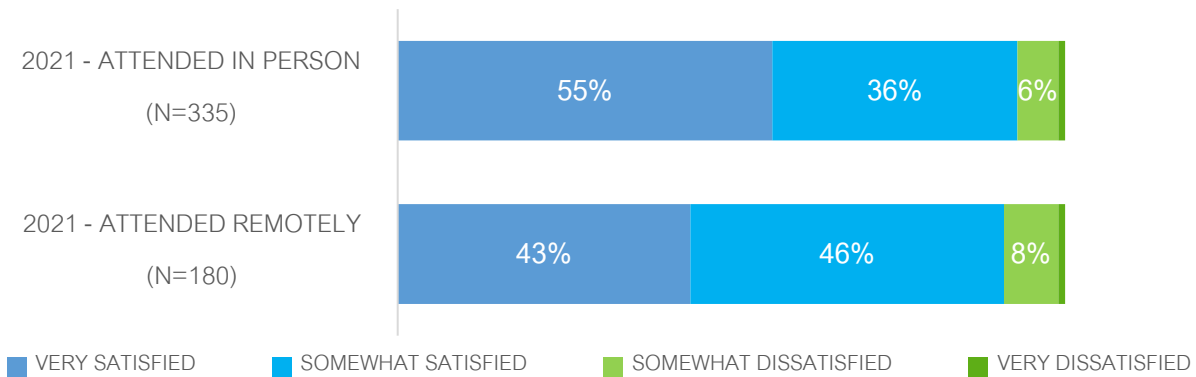
Majorities across all subgroups said the all-candidate briefing was useful to some extent. The following groups were more likely to say it was *very* useful:

- unelected candidates (35%) versus elected candidates (24%)
- non-incumbents (34%) versus incumbents (24%)
- first-time candidates (36%) versus candidates who ran previously (27%)
- Alberta candidates (44%) versus Quebec (77%) and Ontario (80%) candidates

10. Satisfaction with Format of All-Candidates' Briefings

Candidates who attended the all-candidates briefing, either in person or remotely (n=515), were asked how satisfied they were with the format. Both formats have extremely high overall levels of satisfaction (91% for in person, and 89% for online), but the in-person format has the higher level of strong satisfaction.

Chart 24: Level of satisfaction with format of all-candidates briefing



Q25A: How satisfied were you with the format of the in-person all-candidates briefing?

Q25B: How satisfied were you with the format of the all-candidates briefing you attended remotely?

Base: Candidates who personally attended the briefing. Includes 2% "not sure" responses for both in-person and videoconference.

Overall satisfaction is quite uniformly high across subgroups. The following groups were more likely to be very satisfied with each format:

In-person

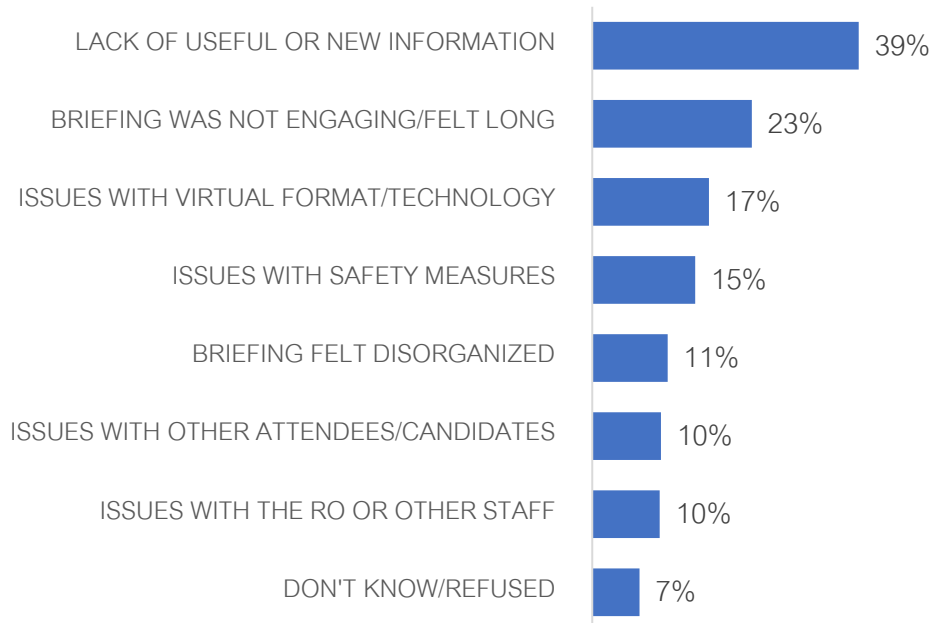
- Alberta (69%) and B.C. candidates (66%) versus Prairies (38%) and Quebec (49%) candidates

Online

- candidates from a party represented in the House of Commons (49%) versus candidates from a non-represented party (33%)
- women (55%) versus men (38%)
- candidates with upper-range household incomes (55%) versus lower- (39%) and middle-range (30%) household incomes

The very small number of candidates who expressed some level of dissatisfaction with either format (n=42) mainly said it was because of a lack of useful information (39%) or that it was not engaging (23%). Smaller proportions give other individual reasons. This population is too small for subgroup analysis.

Chart 25: Reasons for dissatisfaction with the format of the all-candidates briefing



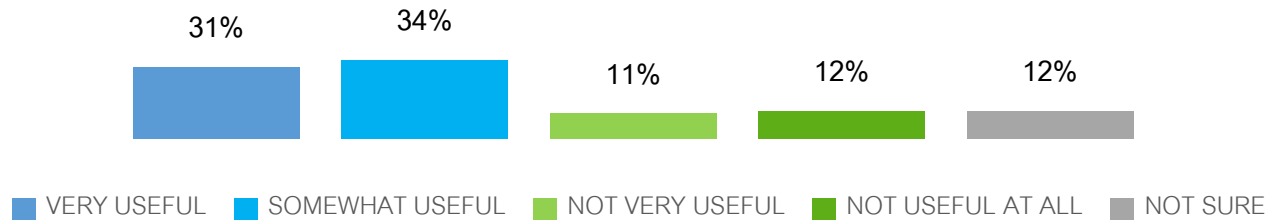
Q26: Why were you dissatisfied with the format of the (IF ONLY A: in person all-candidates briefing? / IF ONLY B: remote all-candidates briefing? / IF BOTH A AND B: the formats of the all-candidates' briefings?)

Base: n=42: Candidates who were dissatisfied with briefing format.

11. Usefulness of COVID-19-Related Procedures/Guidelines

All candidates were asked how useful they felt EC's COVID-19 procedures and guidelines were. Two-thirds (65%) found them useful to some extent, while just under one-quarter said they were not very or at all useful. One in 10 are unable to say. Three in 10 say these were very useful.

Chart 26: Usefulness of COVID-19 procedures and guidelines



Q27: How useful were Elections Canada's procedures and guidelines to avoid the spread of COVID-19?
Base: n=1,075: All respondents.

Majorities across most subgroups say the guidelines and procedures were useful to some extent, with one exception: Those who ran for parties not represented in the House of Commons, who were about equally likely to say they were useful (43%) or not useful (40%).

The following groups were more likely to say that EC's guidelines were *very* useful:

- candidates from a party represented in the House of Commons (36%) versus candidates from a non-represented party (21%)
- elected candidates (43%) versus unelected candidates (28%)
- incumbents (40%) versus non-incumbents (29%)
- candidates born outside Canada (39%) versus Canadian-born candidates (29%)
- visible minority candidates (42%) versus white (28%) and Indigenous candidates (29%)

While men and women were equally likely to say the guidance was *very* useful (31%), women were more likely than men to think it was *at least somewhat* useful (70% versus 61%).

12. Contact with Elections Canada

Candidates were asked if their campaign contacted EC during the election by any of three modes. All candidates completing the survey online and one-third of telephone respondents were asked about contacting EC by the toll-free support line, through the local office, or by email.

A strong majority of candidates (86%) reported their campaign had contacted the local EC office, an identical proportion to 2019. Close to half contacted EC via email (47%), and one-third (32%) used the toll-free support line, statistically less than the proportion who did so in 2019.

Table 4: Contact with Elections Canada during election

Year	Yes	No	Not sure
Local EC office			
2021 (n=787)	86%	10%	3%
2019 (n=611)	86%	12%	2%
EC by email			
2021 (n=787)	47%	37%	16%
1-800 support line			
2021 (n=787)	32%	50%	18%
2019 (n=561)	39%	43%	18%

Q28: During the election, did you, or any of your representatives, contact...:

the local Elections Canada office?

Elections Canada with the 1-800 support line for candidates?

Elections Canada via email?

Base: Online respondents and 1/3 of telephone respondents for each mode.

Proportions for the email and toll-free contact methods are quite similar across subgroups. The following groups were more likely to have contacted the local EC office:

- candidates from a party represented in the House of Commons (88%) versus candidates from a non-represented party (83%)
- elected candidates (98%) versus unelected candidates (84%)
- incumbents (99%) versus non-incumbents (84%)
- candidates who previously ran (93%) versus first-time candidates (82%)
- candidates aged 35 and over (89%) versus candidates under age 35 (76%)
- candidates with upper-range household incomes (91%) versus those with lower- or middle-range household incomes (79%)

13. Satisfaction with Services Received

Those who used each of the contact methods were asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with the services provided. Over six in 10 of those who dealt with their local EC office said they were very satisfied, and nine in 10 (90%) were satisfied overall; this is comparable to 2019. Just under nine in 10 (85%) were satisfied to some extent with contacting EC by email, and eight in 10 (79%) were satisfied with their experience using the toll-free support line (compatible to 2019); strong satisfaction with the latter two methods is lower than for the local EC office.

Table 5: Satisfaction with EC Contact options

<i>Year</i>	Very satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Not very satisfied	Not at all satisfied
Local EC office				
2021 (n=681)	63%	27%	7%	3%
2019 (n=522)	64%	24%	5%	4%
EC by email				
2021 (n=373)	53%	32%	8%	3%
1-800 support line				
2021 (n=253)	44%	35%	10%	5%
2019 (n=185)	42%	32%	11%	11%

Q29: How satisfied were you, or your representative, with the services you received from...

the local Elections Canada office

the 1-800 support line for candidates

your email correspondence with Elections Canada

Base: Those who used each contact option. Includes those (1% for Local EC office, 4% for EC by email and 6% for 1-800 support line) who said "not sure."

Being satisfied with the services via each of these methods is very consistent across subgroups, with few exceptions.

E. Candidates' Electoral Campaign

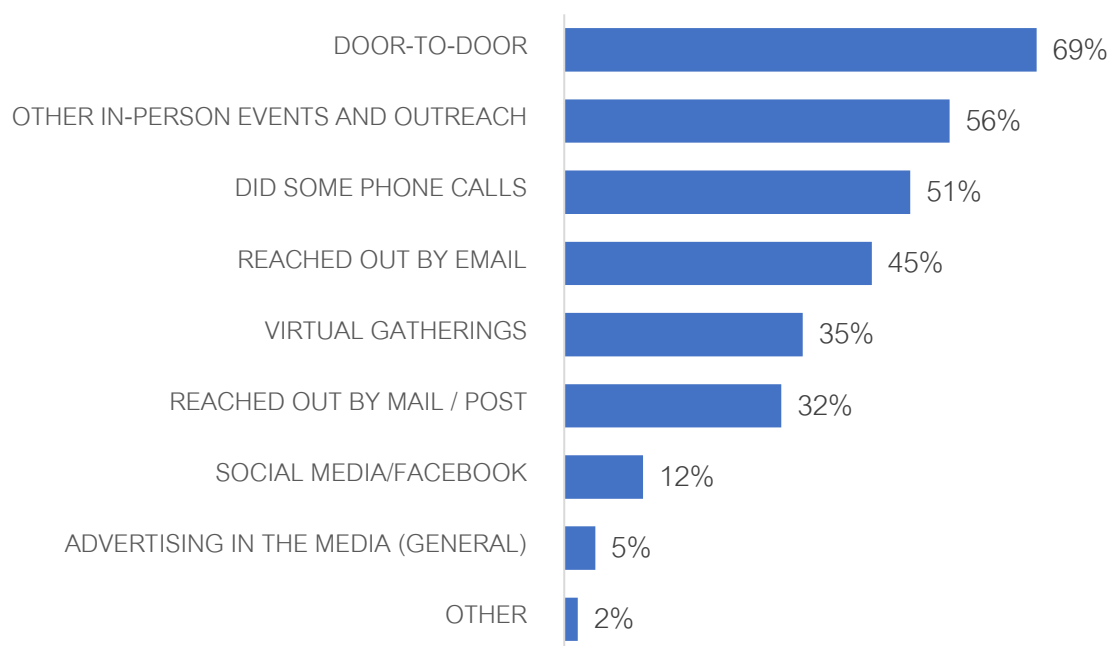
Despite the pandemic, seven in 10 (69%) candidates interacted with electors by going door-to-door and almost six in 10 (56%) did other in-person events or outreach. One-quarter of candidates (24%) provided the returning officer with a list of names of election staff to work at polling stations. Of those who reported that they used voter lists (68% of the candidates), almost all (96%) took measures to protect the personal information contained in them, usually by limiting access to them (51%) or by securing them (24%). Over four in 10 (44%) candidates took measures to ensure their campaign was accessible to electors with disabilities, most often by using wheelchair-accessible venues (26%). Just over one-third (37%) were aware of reimbursement incentives when deciding to run as a candidate, but only a few of them (8%) said this made a difference to them.

1. Campaigning During the Pandemic

Candidates faced special challenges in the 44th GE due to the pandemic. They were asked how they interacted with electors during the campaign, given public health guidelines; possible responses were shown online but not read out on the telephone.

Despite the pandemic, majorities of candidates interacted with electors in person: seven in 10 (69%) went door-to-door, and just under six in 10 (56%) were involved in other in-person events and outreach. Half (51%) made phone calls, and just under half (45%) reached out by email. One-third each reported having virtual gatherings (35%) or sending communications by mail (32%). Relatively few (12%) reported reaching electors via social media.

Chart 27: Interaction with electors during COVID-19



Q30: Considering the public health guidelines about COVID-19, how did you interact with electors during your campaign?

Base: n= 1,075: All respondents. Includes those (2%) who said "not sure."

The groups most likely to have interacted with electors by various methods include:

Door-to-door

- candidates from a party represented in the House of Commons (73%) versus candidates from a non-represented party (61%)
- elected candidates (90%) versus unelected candidates (65%)
- incumbents (90%) versus non-incumbents (65%)
- candidates from the Prairies (82%) and Ontario (78%) versus candidates from Quebec (57%) and British Columbia (61%)
- candidates without a disability (70%) versus candidates with a disability (57%)
- candidates with upper-range household incomes (75%) versus those with lower- (57%) and middle-range (64%) household incomes

Other in-person events/outreach

- candidates from a party not represented in the House of Commons (62%) versus candidates from a represented party (54%)
- candidates from British Columbia (63%) versus candidates from Ontario (52%)

Phone calls

- candidates from a party represented in the House of Commons (64%) versus candidates from a non-represented party (24%)
- elected candidates (81%) versus unelected candidates (44%)
- incumbents (82%) versus non-incumbents (45%)
- candidates who ran previously (60%) versus first-time candidates (44%)
- women (56%) versus men (47%)
- candidates from the Atlantic (60%) Ontario (58%), British Columbia (56%) and the Prairies (51%) versus candidates from Quebec (38%)
- candidates aged 50 and over (55%) versus candidates under age 50 (47%)
- university graduates (54%) versus candidates with high school education or less (36%) and those with some post-secondary education (43%)
- candidates with upper-range household incomes (61%) versus those with lower- (29%) and middle-range (42%) household incomes

Email

- candidates from a party represented in the House of Commons (51%) versus candidates from a non-represented party (32%)
- elected candidates (53%) versus unelected candidates (43%)
- incumbents (58%) versus non-incumbents (43%)
- women (50%) versus men (42%)
- candidates from British Columbia (52%), Ontario (51%) and Alberta (49%) versus candidates from Quebec (35%)
- candidates with upper-range household incomes (52%) versus those with lower- (32%) and middle-range (39%) household incomes

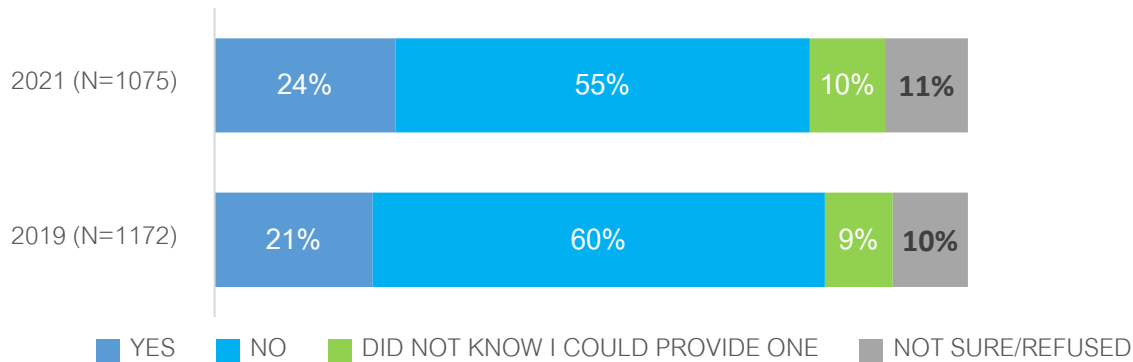
Virtual gatherings

- candidates from a party represented in the House of Commons (41%) versus candidates from a non-represented party (23%)
- candidates from British Columbia (52%) versus candidates from Alberta (38%), Ontario (37%), the Atlantic (33%), the Prairies (31%) and Quebec (26%)
- candidates with upper-range household incomes (40%) versus those with lower- (23%) and middle-range (32%) household incomes

2. List of Names of Election Staff

One-quarter of candidates (24%) provided a list of election staff names to the RO to work at the polling station, statistically comparable to 2019. Over half did not, and one in 10 did not know they could do this.

Chart 28: If campaign provided a list of names of election staff



Q31: Did you provide the returning officer with a list of names of election staff to work at the polling station?
Base: All respondents.

Across many subgroups, only a minority of candidates provided the RO with a list of election staff who would work at the polling station. The proportion is higher among the following groups, several of which indicate candidates with more experience:

- candidates from a party represented in the House of Commons (27%) versus candidates from a non-represented party (18%)
- elected candidates (54%) versus unelected candidates (18%)
- incumbents (56%) versus non-incumbents (19%)
- candidates who ran previously (32%) versus first-time candidates (19%)

3. Reasons for Not Providing List of Names

Those who did not provide the RO with a list of staff names (n=598) were asked why they did not do so. The main reasons, related to not having anyone interested or available, were also the top reason in 2019. Close to two in 10 said there was no need to do this (higher than in 2019), and one in seven said this was difficult to do as a smaller entity (independent candidate or with a small or new party). One in 10 or fewer gave other individual reasons for not providing a list of staff to work the election.

Table 6: Reasons for not providing list of polling station workers

<i>Reason</i>	2021 (n=598)	2019 (n=724)
Did not have anyone (net)	28%	46%
Did not have anyone/unable to find people interested/available	26%	n/a
Did not have anyone/unable to find competent people	2%	n/a
No need to provide a list	18%	3%
Difficulties as independent candidate/small party/new party	14%	8%
Not enough time to find people	10%	10%
Procedures not explained	8%	4%
I did not want to provide a list	7%	5%
Returning officers did not request such a list	3%	4%
Elections Canada/RO should do this	3%	4%
Other (mentions)	6%	2%
Not sure/refused	17%	22%

Q32: Why did you not provide a list of names?

Base: Those who did not provide a list of staff names.

Responses are quite similar across subgroups of this population. Not having anyone or being unable to find someone is similar whether or not the party is represented in the House of Commons, but is higher among the following groups:

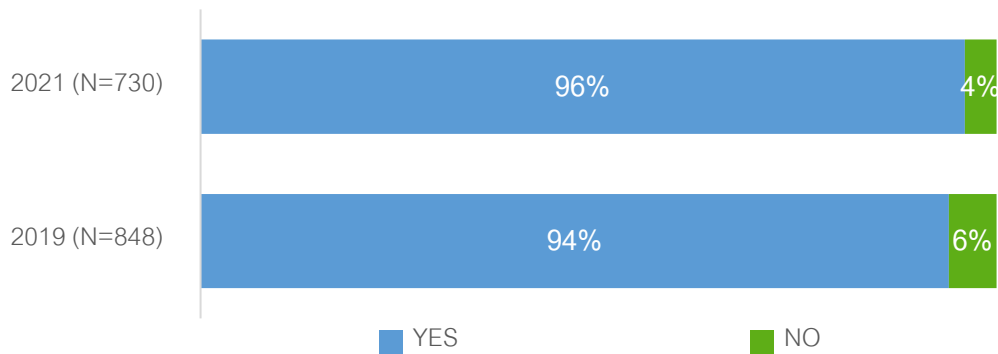
- unelected candidates (27%) versus elected candidates (11%)
- non-incumbents (27%) versus incumbents (9%)

4. Candidates' Protection of Personal Information Contained in the Voters' Lists

Two-thirds of candidates (66%) said they took measures to protect the personal information contained in the voters' lists they received; one-third said they did not use these lists or were unsure. When recalculated to exclude those not using the lists or unsure about their use, almost all (96%) took some measures to protect private information, comparable to 2019.

Nine in 10 or more of subgroups of this population say they took privacy protection measures.

Chart 29: If measures taken to ensure protection of personal information



Q33: Did you take any measures to ensure the protection of personal information contained in the voters' lists that you received?
Base: Those using the lists.

5. Measures Taken to Protect Personal Information

Those who took measures to ensure the protection of personal information contained in the voters' lists they received (n=704) were most likely to indicate they limited access to the lists, stored the lists securely, or ensured the destruction of the lists once the election was over. These were also the top responses in 2019. Candidates were somewhat less likely than previously to indicate they safeguarded or destroyed the lists.

Table 7: Measures taken to ensure personal information was protected

<i>Measure</i>	2021 (N=704)	2019 (N=789)
Ensured limited access to lists	51%	52%
Kept lists in secure place/kept locked away	24%	36%
Ensured the destruction of voters' lists at end of the election	19%	24%
Issued instructions regarding use of voters' lists	9%	8%
Encrypted the lists	9%	4%
Kept at home/office	4%	2%
Issued procedures to re-collect copies of voters' lists after event	2%	2%
Brought voters' lists back to returning officer	2%	3%
Other	2%	-
Not sure/refused	13%	15%

Q34: What measures did you take to ensure the protection of personal information?

Base: Those who took protection measures.

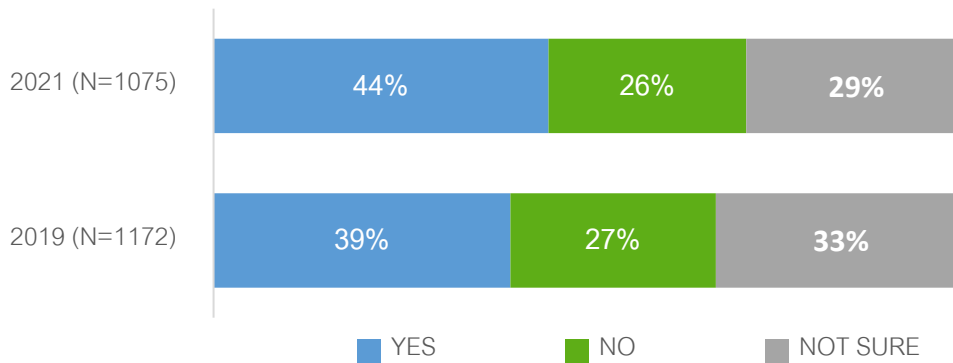
Responses are generally quite similar across the candidate population.

- Ensuring limited access is highest among candidates in Alberta (71%) compared to all other jurisdictions (54% in Prairies to 40% in Atlantic).
- Keeping lists locked away is higher among those from parties not represented in the House of Commons (31% versus 21% of represented candidates), unelected candidates (25% versus 17% of elected candidates), non-incumbents (26% versus 16% of incumbents), first-time candidates (28% versus 19% of repeat candidates), and those with lower- (31%) and middle-range (30%) household incomes (versus 18% upper-range household incomes).
- Ensuring the destruction of lists after the election is higher among those in parties represented in the House of Commons (22% versus 12% of those from non-represented parties), and women (24% versus 16% of men).

6. Accessibility of Candidates' Campaign

Over four in 10 candidates said they took measures to ensure their campaign's materials, events or website were accessible to electors with a disability (slightly higher than in 2019). One-quarter said they did not ensure this, and three in 10 are not sure.

Chart 30: If took measures to ensure campaign's accessibility



Q35: Did you take any measures to ensure that your campaign's materials, events or website were accessible to electors with a disability?
Base: All respondents.

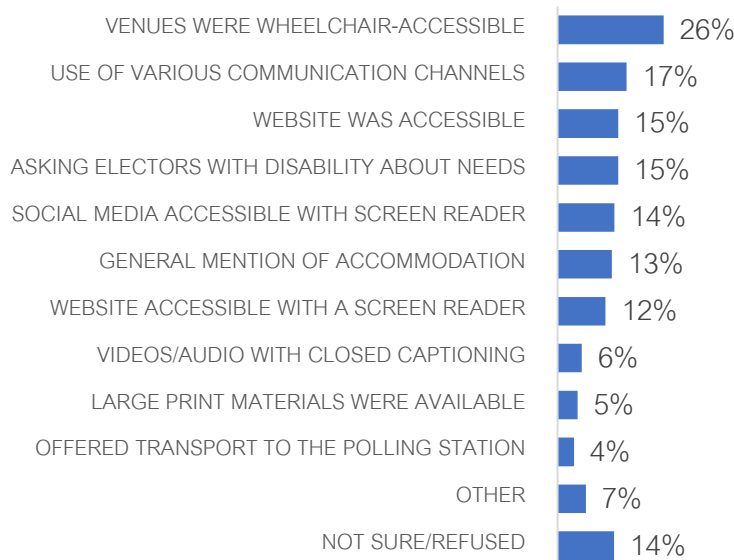
The following groups were more likely to have taken accessibility measures in their campaign:

- candidates from a party represented in the House of Commons (48%) versus candidates from a non-represented party (37%)
- elected candidates (53%) versus unelected candidates (42%)
- candidates in the Atlantic (55%) and Ontario (50%) versus candidates in Alberta (35%) and Quebec (34%)
- candidates aged 35–49 (50%) versus candidates aged 50–59 (41%) and 60+ (39%)
- candidates with a disability (62%) versus candidates without a disability (42%)
- visible minority candidates (51%) versus white candidates (43%)

7. Accessibility Measures Taken in Candidate's Campaign

Those indicating they took measures to make campaign elements accessible (n=474) were asked to indicate what they did, unprompted. They were most likely to indicate they used wheelchair-accessible venues (26%, comparable to 27% in 2019), used various communication channels (17%), had an accessible website (15%) or asked electors how to accommodate their needs (15%).

Chart 31: Accessibility measures



Q36: Which measures did you take to make your campaign accessible?

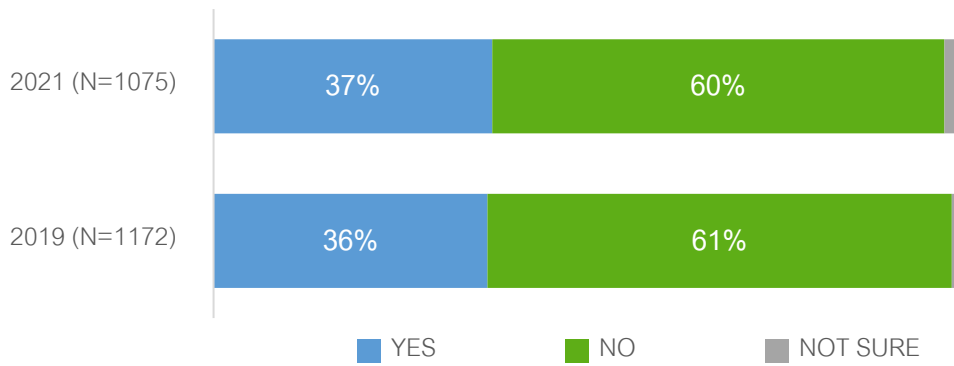
Base: n=474: Those who took measures to make their campaign accessible.

Responses are generally similar across this population. Candidates self-identifying as having a disability cite similar accommodations to others; they are somewhat *less* likely to mention wheelchair-accessible venues (14% versus 28% of others) and *more* likely to mention social media content being accessible to electors with a screen reader (23% versus 12%) or having large-print materials available (13% versus 4%).

8. Awareness of Funding for Candidate's Election and Personal Expenses

Just over one-third of candidates said they were aware of reimbursement incentives when they were deciding to run as a candidate, the same proportion as in 2019. Six in 10 were not aware of this.

Chart 32: Awareness of financial incentives



*Q37: The Canada Elections Act provides for partial reimbursement of elections expenses as well as some personal expenses like childcare costs and expenses related to a disability. When deciding to run as a candidate, were you aware of these financial incentives?
Base: All respondents. Includes those (3%) who said "not sure."*

Awareness of financial incentives is higher among candidates with more resources and experience: Those running for parties represented in the House of Commons (42%, versus 29% from a non-represented party), elected candidates (61% versus 33% of unelected candidates), incumbents (66% versus 32% of non-incumbents), and those who had run in previous elections (59% versus 24% of first-time candidates).

Awareness is also higher among the following:

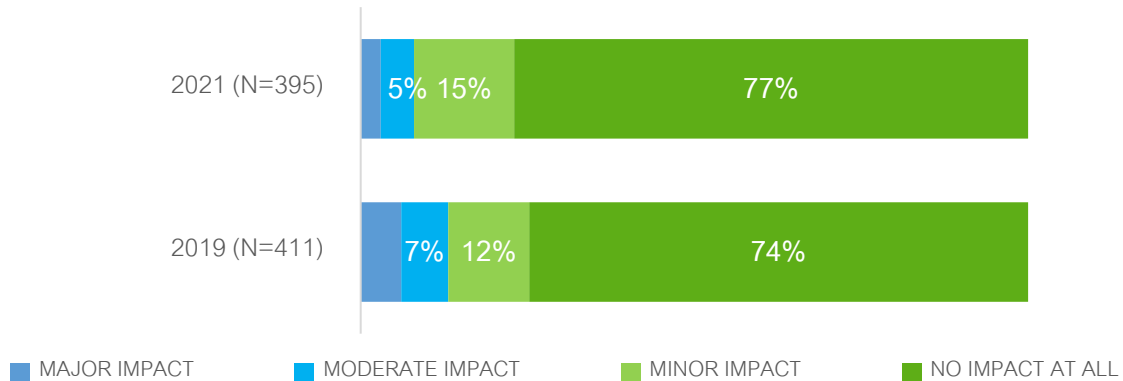
- men (40%) versus women (33%)
- candidates aged 50 and over (42%) versus those under age 50 (33%)
- white candidates (42%) versus visible minority (25%) and Indigenous candidates (21%)
- candidates born in Canada (40%) versus candidates born outside Canada (26%)
- candidates with upper-range household incomes (45%) versus those with lower- (25%) and middle-range (32%) household incomes

9. Impact of Knowing About Financial Incentives

Three-quarters (77%) of those who were aware of financial incentives for candidates (n=395) said these made no impact on their decision to run, a similar proportion to 2019. The incentives at least moderately impacted the decision for around one in 12.

Strong majorities of all subgroups indicate this information did not impact their decision to run.

Chart 33: Impact of financial incentives on decision to run



Q38: What impact, if any, did these financial incentives have on your decision to run in the last general election?
Base: Those aware of financial incentives. Includes those (1%) who said "not sure."

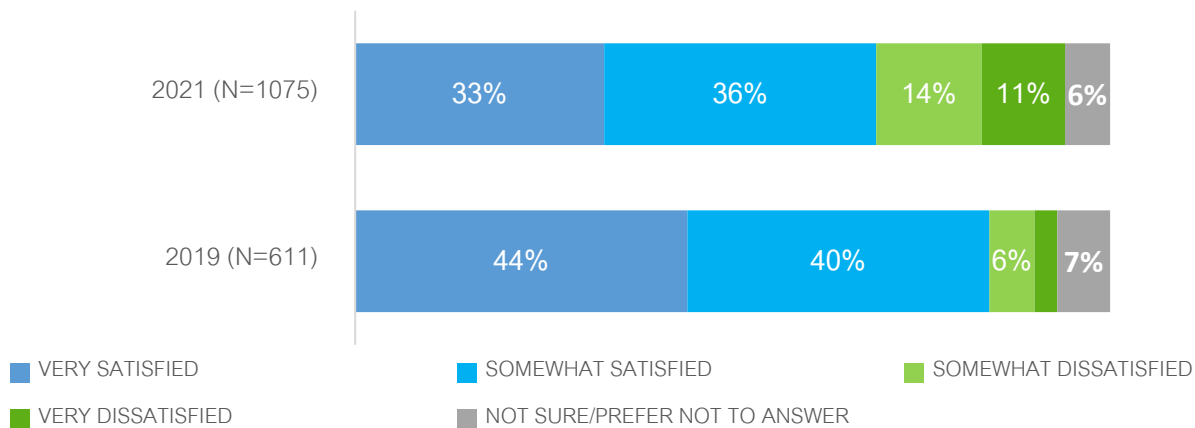
F. Voting and Reporting Process

Seven in 10 candidates (69%) were satisfied with the advance poll and election day polling site locations. One-quarter were dissatisfied to some extent. Being dissatisfied was mainly due to having too few polls or their being too far away. Overall satisfaction with the way the voting process went is close to eight in 10 (78%); top reasons for dissatisfaction are long line-ups or issues with EC staff. About one in six candidates (16%) said they or their representatives witnessed problems related to the voter identification requirements in general (half of them saw these at least somewhat often), and just over one in 10 (12%) saw problems related to use of the VIC (62% of them saw these at least somewhat often). Just under half (48%) agreed to some extent that it was harder to observe the election because of COVID-19-related safety measures at the polls.

1. Satisfaction with Chosen Polling Sites

Seven in 10 candidates (69%) were at least somewhat satisfied with the locations chosen as polling sites for advance polls and on election day, and one-third were very satisfied. Both of these proportions are lower than was the case in 2019 (84% satisfied overall, 44% very). One-quarter were dissatisfied to some extent.

Chart 34: Satisfaction with location of polling sites



Q39: How satisfied were you with the locations chosen as polling sites for advance polls and on election day?
Base: All respondents.

All subgroups of candidates were satisfied with the polling site locations, but satisfaction is higher among the following, including some groups associated with having less experience being a candidate (e.g. non-elected, first time candidates, party not represented in the House of Commons):

- candidates from a party not represented in the House of Commons (77%) versus candidates from a represented party (65%)
- unelected candidates (71%) versus elected candidates (59%)
- non-incumbents (71%) versus incumbents (59%)
- first-time candidates (74%) versus candidates who ran previously (63%)
- men (72%) versus women (65%)

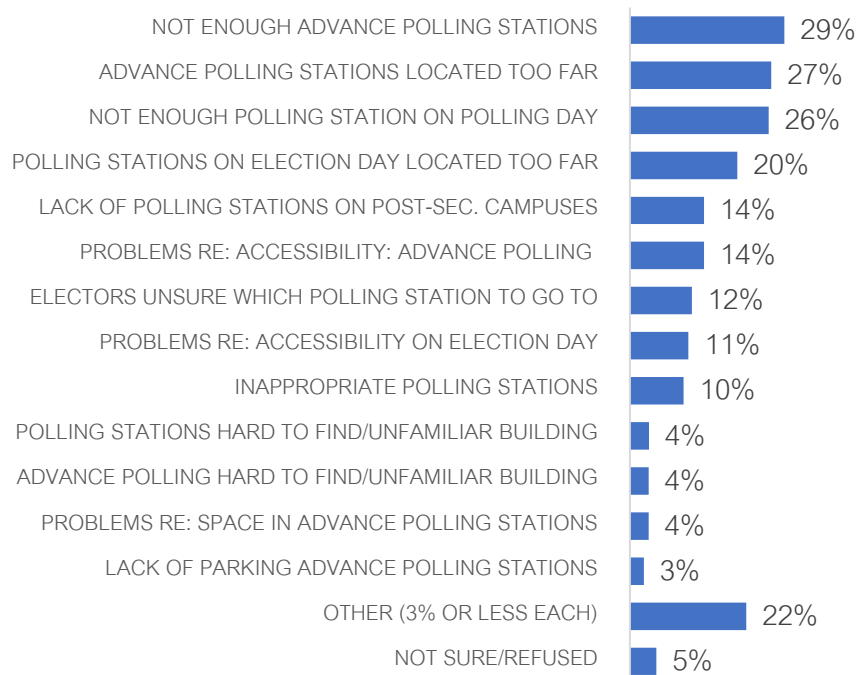
- candidates with no disability (70%) versus those with a disability (60%)
- candidates with middle-range household incomes (78%) versus those with lower- (66%) and upper-range (69%) household incomes

2. Reasons for Dissatisfaction with Chosen Polling Sites

Those dissatisfied with polling station locations (n=269) were asked why, without prompting; multiple responses were permitted. They indicated a number of problems, including not enough polling stations (29% for advance polls and 26% for election day polls) and polling stations being too far away (27% advance, 20% election day). One in seven mentioned either a lack of polling stations on post-secondary campuses or problems with accessibility of advance polls. Around one in 10 or fewer mentioned other specific issues.

There are no important subgroup differences or response patterns to note.

Chart 35: Reasons for dissatisfaction with location of polling sites



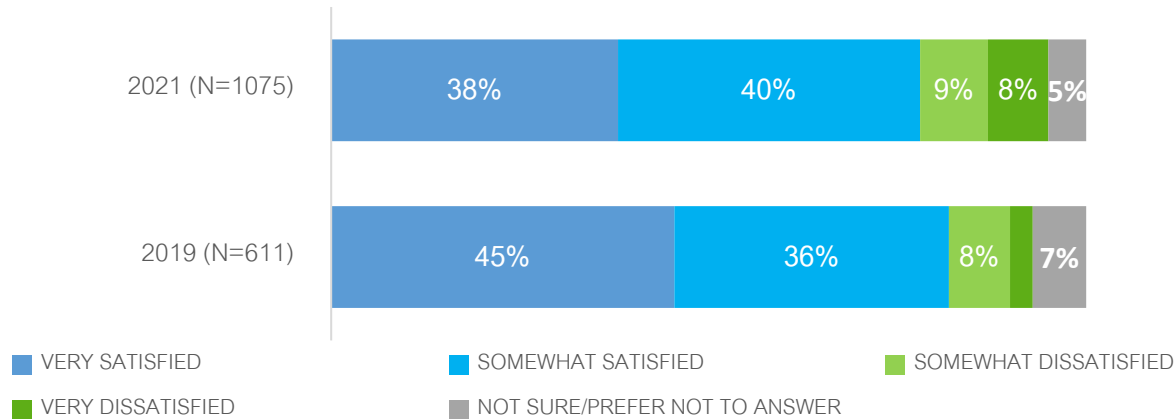
Q40: Why were you dissatisfied with the location of the polling sites?

Base: n=269: Those dissatisfied with polling site locations.

3. Satisfaction with Voting Process

Overall satisfaction with the way the voting process went on advance polls and election day was close to eight in 10 (78%, comparable to 81% in 2019); just under four in 10 (38%) were very satisfied, which is statistically lower than the 2019 election (45%). One in six were dissatisfied to some degree.

Chart 36: Satisfaction with voting process



Q41: How satisfied were you with the way the voting process went on advance polls and election day?

Base: All respondents.

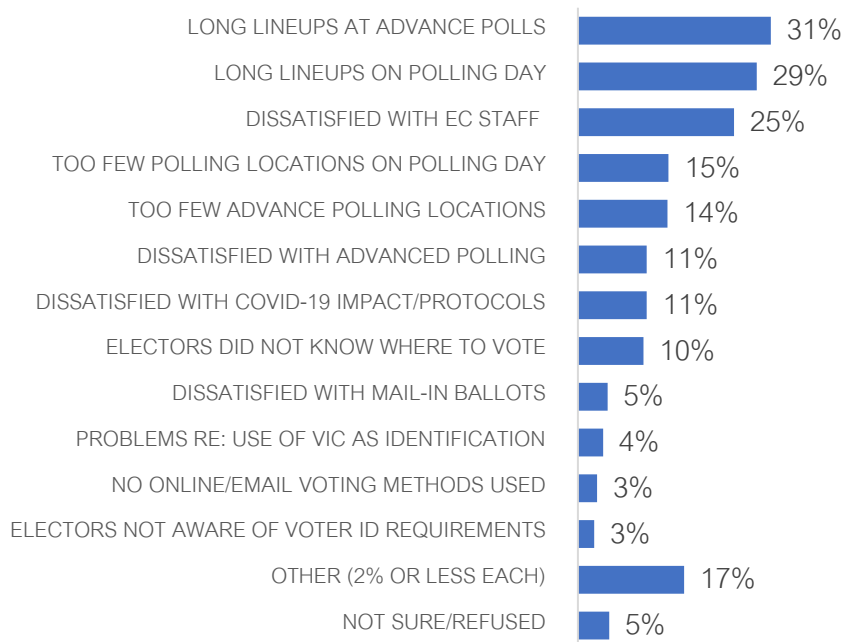
Satisfaction is fairly consistent across candidate subgroups, with the following groups having higher overall satisfaction than others:

- candidates from Alberta (86%) versus candidates from the Prairies (72%), British Columbia (75%), Quebec (77%) and Ontario (77%)
- men (80%) versus women (74%)
- candidates without a disability (79%) versus candidates with a disability (68%)

4. Reason for Dissatisfaction with Voting Process

The small proportion of candidates who were dissatisfied to some extent with the voting process (n=186) were asked, without prompting, to explain why they were dissatisfied. Multiple responses were permitted. The top reasons were long lineups at both advance polls and on election day (three in 10 each); one-quarter had an issue with EC staff. Around one in seven each mentioned there having been too few locations, on either polling day or for the advance polls. One in 10 or fewer mentioned other issues, including one in 10 expressing dissatisfaction with COVID-19 protocols.

Chart 37: Reasons for dissatisfaction with the voting process



Q42: Why were you dissatisfied with the voting process?

Base: n=186: Those dissatisfied with the voting process.

While mentions are similar by subgroups, in general, mentions of almost all issues are at least somewhat higher among those groups with more experience: those with a party represented in the House of Commons, elected candidates and incumbents, and those who ran before:

Long line-ups at advance polls:

- candidates from parties represented in the House of Commons (39%) versus those from a non-represented party (16%)
- elected candidates (62%) versus unelected candidates (26%)
- incumbents (56%) vs non-incumbents (26%)

Long line-ups on polling day:

- candidates from parties represented in the House of Commons (37%) versus those from a non-represented party(13%)
- elected candidates (58%) versus unelected candidates (24%)
- incumbents (53%) versus non-incumbents (24%)
- candidates who ran in a previous election (38%) versus first-time candidates (21%)

Dissatisfaction with EC staff:

- candidates from parties represented in the House of Commons (31%) versus those from a non-represented party (14%)
- incumbents (45%) vs non-incumbents (22%)

5. Voter Identification Requirements

As in 2019, candidates were asked one of two questions about problems experienced with voter identification. The resulting analysis focuses on the responses of those who said they were present at or represented at the polling location.

Relatively few candidates — about one in six (16%) — reported they or their representatives witnessed problems related to the voter identification requirements in general. This is a comparable proportion to 2019, and consistent across subgroups.

Chart 38: If there were problems related to voter identification requirements



Q43: Did you, or your representative, witness any problems related to...
the voter identification requirements?

Base: Those present at the polling location.

When it comes to use of the Voter Information Card (VIC) as a form of ID, just over one in 10 saw some type of problem, statistically similar to 2019 and also similar across subgroups.

Chart 39: If there were problems related to use of VIC as piece of ID



Q43: Did you, or your representative, witness any problems related to...
the use of the Voter Information Card (VIC) as a piece of identification?

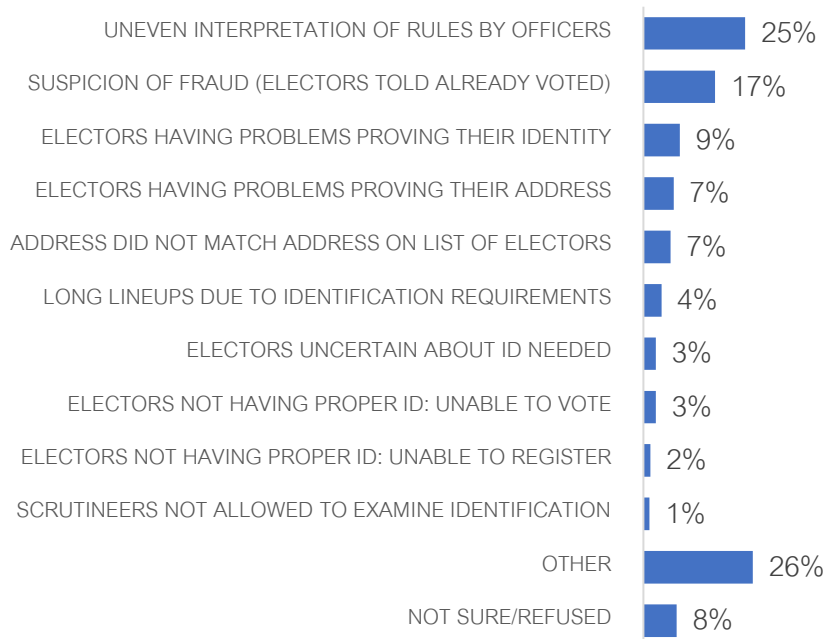
Base: Those present at the polling location.

6. Voter Identification Problems Witnessed

The small number of candidates who reported having seen a general voter identification problem (n=64) were most likely to report there being uneven interpretation of the rules by officers, or suspicion of fraud. One in 10 or fewer mentioned each of a range of other individual issues, including people having problems proving their identity or address, or their address not matching the listed address.

Most subgroups of this population are too small for analysis on that level.

Chart 40: Problems witnessed with voter ID process



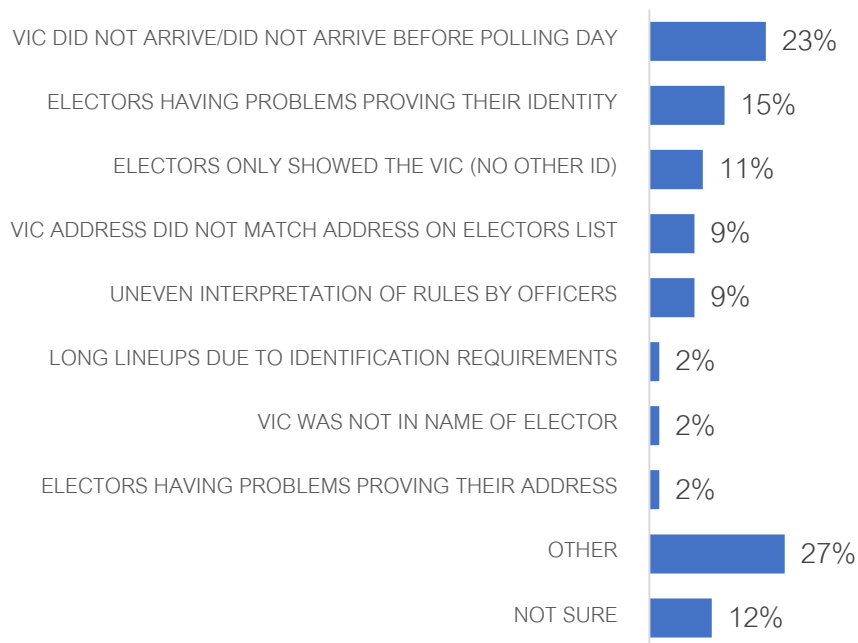
Q44A: What problems were witnessed?

Base: n=64: Candidates who witnessed problems with voter identification process.

The small number of candidates who reported having seen a problem with electors using the VIC for identification (n=43) were most likely to mention that it did not arrive before election day, or that they saw people generally having difficulty proving their identity. One in 10 or fewer mentioned a range of other individual issues, including electors having no ID other than the VIC, the VIC address not matching the list, and an uneven interpretation of identification rules.

Subgroups of this population are too small for analysis on that level.

Chart 41: Problems witnessed with use of the VIC as ID



Q44B: What problems did you witness regarding the use of the VIC (voter information card) as a piece of identification?

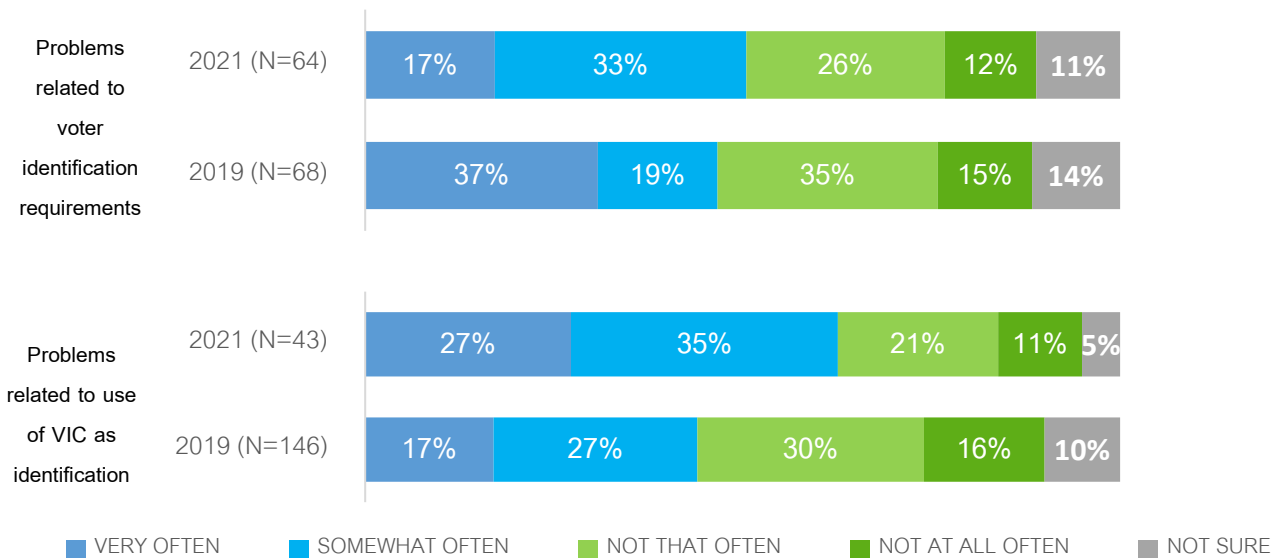
Base: n=43: Candidates who witnessed problems with use of VIC as ID.

7. Frequency of Voter Identification Requirements Problems

Half of those who witnessed voter identification issues said these occurred either very or somewhat often, four in 10 (39%) said these were not that often or often at all, and one in 10 were unable to say. Having witnessed it very often was lower than was the case in 2019.

Among those who witnessed VIC-related problems, six in 10 (62%) witnessed this very or somewhat often, and one-third saw it less frequently. Due to small sample sizes, having witnessed it very often is statistically comparable to 2019.

Chart 42: Frequency of problems with voter identification

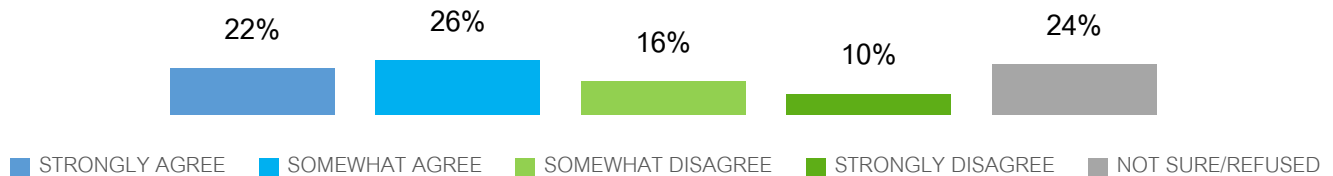


Q45: How often did you observe those problems?
 Base: Those who observed problems related to voter identification.

8. Difficulties with Observational Duties Because of COVID-Related Safety Measures

Just under half of candidates (48%) agreed to some extent that it was harder to observe the election because of COVID-19-related safety measures at the polls. One-quarter disagreed either somewhat or strongly, and one-quarter are unable to say.

Chart 43: Level of agreement that pandemic safety measures made election observation harder



Q46: Candidates and their representatives have the right to observe certain steps of the voting and counting process. How strongly do you agree or disagree that it was harder to observe the election because of COVID-19-related safety measures at the polls?

Base: n=1,075: All respondents.

Overall agreement that the COVID-19 safety measures made election observation harder is higher among the following groups:

- candidates from a party not represented in House of Commons (57%) versus those from a represented party (44%)
- candidates from British Columbia (58%) versus candidates from the Prairies (38%), Alberta (43%), and the Atlantic (44%)
- candidates aged 50+ (54%) versus those aged 18–49 (44%)

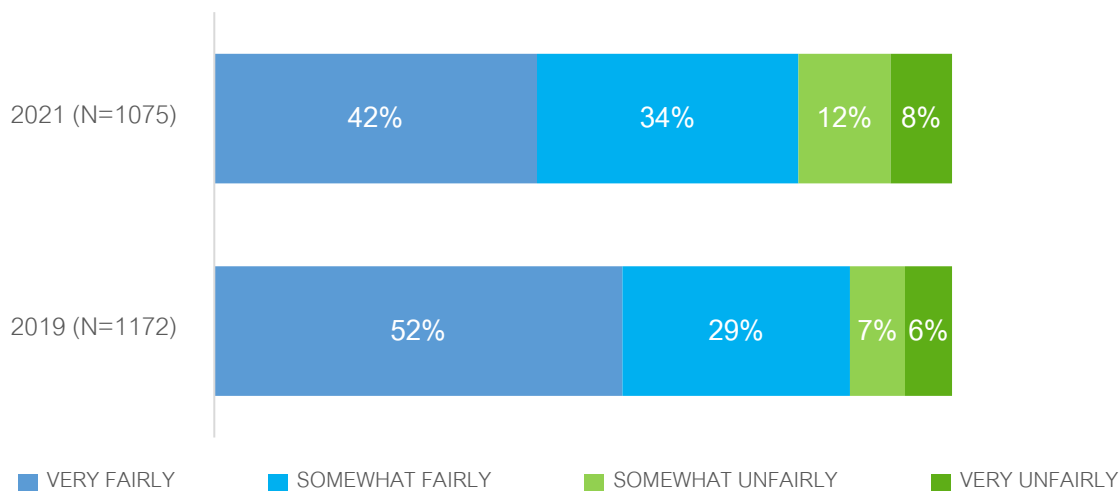
G. Attitude Toward Elections Canada

Three-quarters of candidates (76%) felt EC administered the election either very or somewhat fairly. A strong majority of over eight in 10 (83%) had at least somewhat high trust in the accuracy of the results; over half (55%) had very high trust. Nine in 10 (90%) expressed some level of satisfaction with their interactions with the RO, and close to nine in 10 (86%) are satisfied to some degree with the overall quality of service received from Elections Canada. The top suggested improvement to Elections Canada services is more timely or accessible information.

1. Fairness of EC's Administration of the GE

Three-quarters (76%) of candidates feel EC ran the election either very or somewhat fairly, which is statistically lower than in 2019 (81%). Two in 10 think it was unfair to some extent.

Chart 44: Perceived fairness of EC's administration of the general election



Q47: Thinking about the September 20 federal election, would you say that Elections Canada ran the election...?
Base: All respondents. Includes those (4%) who said "not sure."

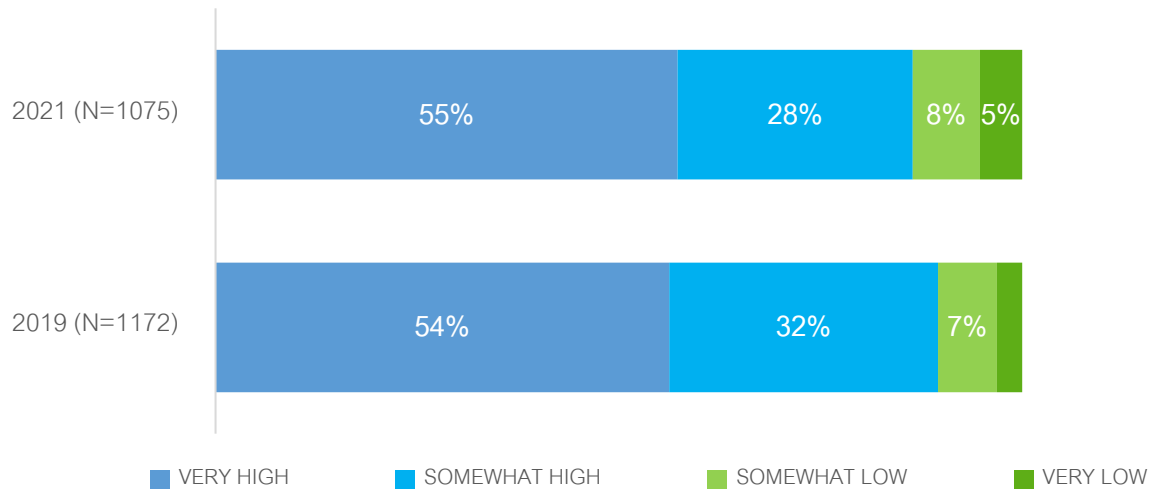
Thinking the election was administered very or somewhat fairly by EC is higher among the following groups:

- candidates from a party represented in the House of Commons (81%) versus candidates from a non-represented party (65%)
- elected candidates (87%) versus unelected candidates (73%)
- incumbents (85%) versus non-incumbents (74%)
- men (79%) versus women (72%)
- candidates without a disability (77%) versus candidates with a disability (65%)
- candidates born in Canada (78%) versus those born outside Canada (68%)
- white candidates (78%) versus visible minority candidates (70%)

2. Trust in Election Results' Accuracy

A strong majority (83%) of candidates in the federal election have at least somewhat high trust in the accuracy of the results, and over half (55%) have very high trust, the same proportion as in 2019 (54%). Just over one in 10 distrust the results to some extent.

Chart 45: Perceived trust in the accuracy of election results in the riding



*Q48: What level of trust do you have in the accuracy of the election results in your riding?
Base: All respondents. Includes those (3%) who said "not sure."*

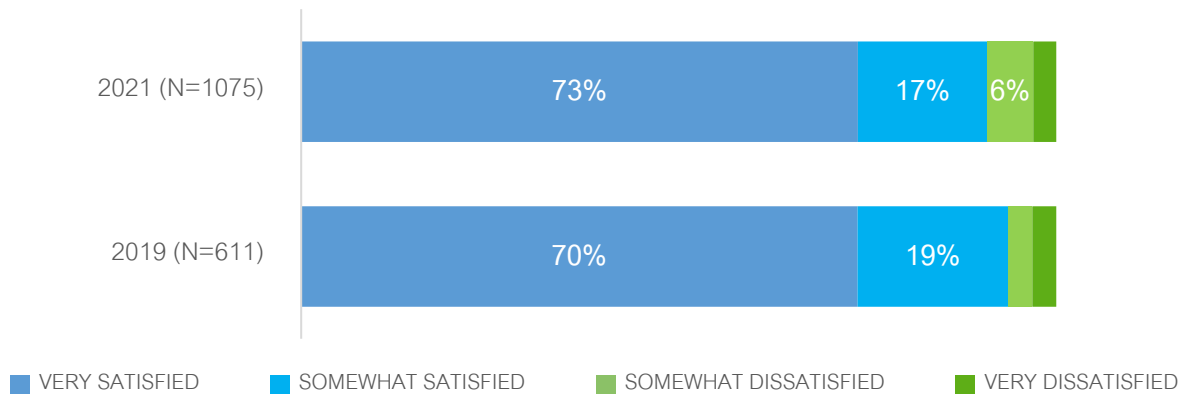
Majorities in all candidate subgroups have at least some trust in the accuracy of results. Having *very high* trust is higher among the following:

- candidates from a party represented in the House of Commons (63%) versus candidates from a non-represented party (39%)
- elected candidates (73%) versus unelected candidates (52%)
- incumbents (68%) versus non-incumbents (53%)
- candidates who ran previously (61%) versus first-time candidates (53%)
- candidates outside of Quebec (63% to 58%) versus candidates from Quebec (44%)
- candidates aged under 35 (63%) versus those aged 35–49 (53%) and those aged 50–59 (51%)
- candidates born in Canada (58%) versus those born outside Canada (47%)
- white candidates (60%) versus visible minority (48%) and Indigenous candidates (46%)
- candidates with upper-range household incomes (63%) versus those with lower- (53%) and middle-range (54%) household incomes

3. Satisfaction with Interactions with Returning Officer

Nine in 10 (90%) candidates expressed some level of satisfaction with their interactions with the RO, and about three-quarters (73%) were very satisfied; these proportions are statistically the same as for the 43rd GE. One in 10 expressed some level of dissatisfaction with their interactions.

Chart 46: Satisfaction with interactions with the returning officer



Q49: Overall, how satisfied were you with your interactions with the returning officer?

Base: All respondents. Includes those (2%) who said "not sure" or had no interactions with the RO.

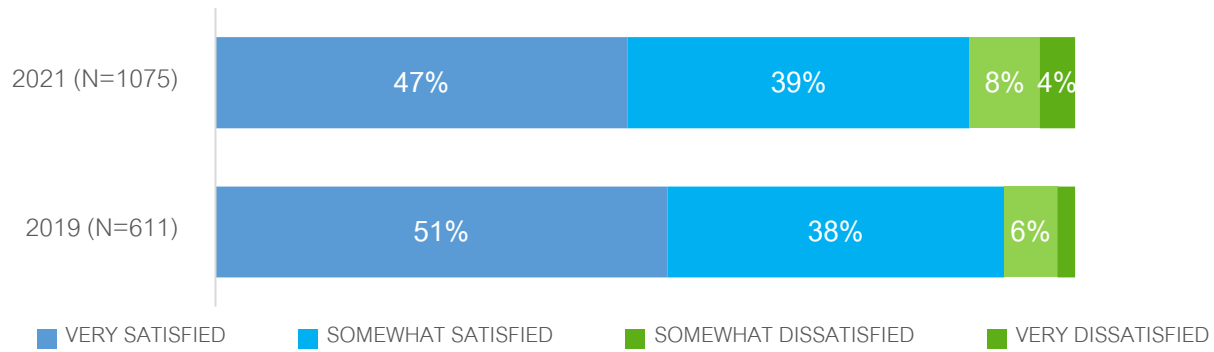
There were no significant differences in overall satisfaction among subgroups.

Quebec candidates were somewhat less likely to be very satisfied (66%) than candidates from other regions of Canada (74–79%).

4. Satisfaction with Overall Quality of Service

Close to nine in 10 (86%) candidates were satisfied to some degree with the overall quality of service they received from Elections Canada in the most recent federal election, and just under half were very satisfied. These results are statistically similar to the proportions of 2019.

Chart 47: Satisfaction with quality of EC services



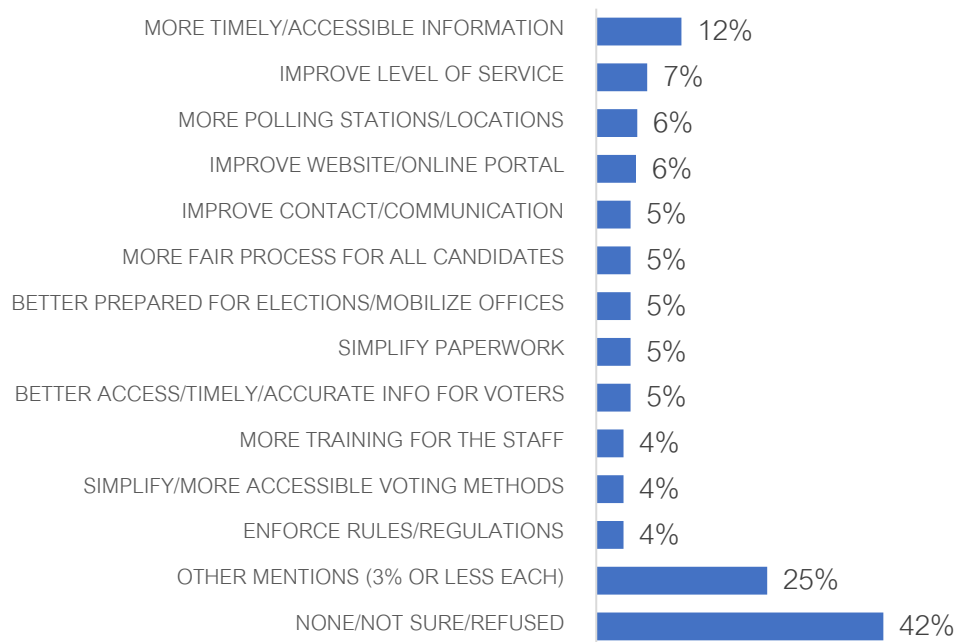
*Q50: How satisfied were you with the overall quality of service you received from Elections Canada in the most recent federal election?
Base: All respondents. Includes those (2%) who said "not sure."*

As with satisfaction with RO interactions, responses are quite consistent across subgroups, with 81% to 91% being at least somewhat satisfied. Strong satisfaction is somewhat lower in Quebec (37%) than elsewhere (47%-56%) and is higher among men (50%, versus 43% of women).

5. Suggestions to Improve Services Received from Elections Canada

All candidates were asked, without prompting, for suggestions about how EC can improve their services to candidates. Close to six in 10 (58%) made at least one suggestion. The top response was to provide more timely or accessible information. Fewer than one in 10 make any other individual mention; these include improving the website or portal, improving communications, simplifying paperwork and additional staff training.

Chart 48: Suggestions for improving EC services



Q51: Thinking about the services you received from Elections Canada during the election, what is your main suggestion, if anything, to improve those services?

Base: n=1,075: All respondents. Includes those (3%) who said "not sure."

Results are generally consistent across candidate subgroups. Mentions of needing more polling stations (e.g. on post-secondary campuses) were somewhat higher in the Atlantic region (13%) and Ontario (10%) than elsewhere (5% to 2%).

H. Elections and Technology

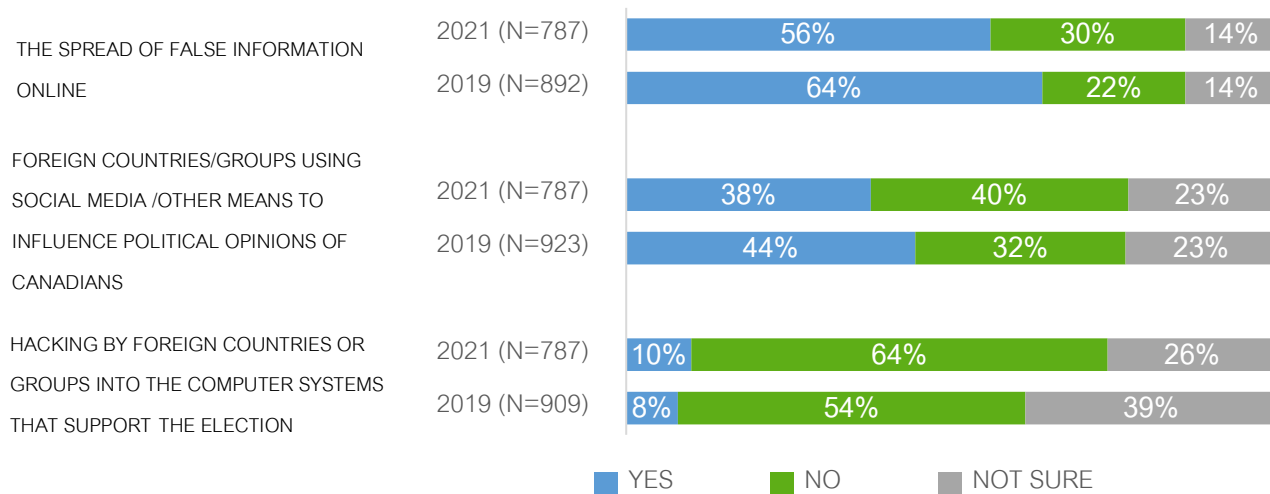
Close to six in 10 candidates (56%) felt the spread of false information online was a problem in this election; nearly four in 10 among them (38%) thought it had a major impact on the election outcome. Nearly four in 10 candidates (38%) said foreign countries or groups using social media to influence the political opinions of Canadians was a problem, with 38% of them feeling this problem had a major impact on the outcome of the election. One in 10 (10%) candidates thought foreign countries or groups hacking into the computer systems that support the election was a problem in this election, and just under half (46%) of them said it had a major impact.

Over four in 10 (44%) still preferred paper voter lists, and over six in 10 (62%) preferred hand-counted ballots. There was minority support (38%) for online voting, but close to six in 10 (56%) felt online voting is risky.

1. Foreign Influence, Interference and False Information

A majority of 56% of candidates thought the spread of false information online was a problem in this election, somewhat down from the two-thirds who felt that way in 2019. As well, candidates were slightly less likely than in 2019 (38%, down 6 percentage points) to think foreign countries or groups using social media and other means to influence the political opinions of Canadians was a problem. Unchanged statistically is the one-in-10 proportion thinking hacking by foreign countries or groups into the computer systems that support the election was a problem.

Chart 49: Agreement that the spread of false information, foreign influence and interference were a problem in the election



Q52: Based on what you have seen or heard recently, do you think any of the following were a problem in this election?

Hacking by foreign countries or groups into the computer systems that support the election.

Foreign countries or groups using social media and other means to influence the political opinions of Canadians.

The spread of false information online.

Base: Online respondents plus 1/3 of telephone respondents.

While the proportions agreeing these were problems are relatively similar across subgroups, the following are the more likely to agree regarding each:

The spread of false information online

- candidates from a party represented in the House of Commons (60%) versus candidates from a non-represented party (49%)
- elected candidates (67%) versus unelected candidates (54%)
- incumbents (71%) versus non-incumbents (54%)
- candidates from British Columbia (73%), the Prairies (65%), the Atlantic (64%), Ontario (63%) and Alberta (60%) versus candidates from Quebec (35%)
- candidates with a disability (77%) versus candidates without a disability (54%)

Foreign countries or groups using social media and other means to influence the political opinions of Canadians

- elected candidates (50%) versus unelected candidates (35%)
- incumbents (52%) versus non-incumbents (35%)
- Alberta (50%) and B.C. (47%) candidates versus candidates from the Atlantic and Quebec (29%)

Hacking by foreign countries or groups into the computer systems that support the election

- candidates from party not represented in the House of Commons (14%) versus those from a represented party (8%)
- Prairies candidates (18%) versus candidates from British Columbia (7%)

2. Impact of Perceived Interference in Election

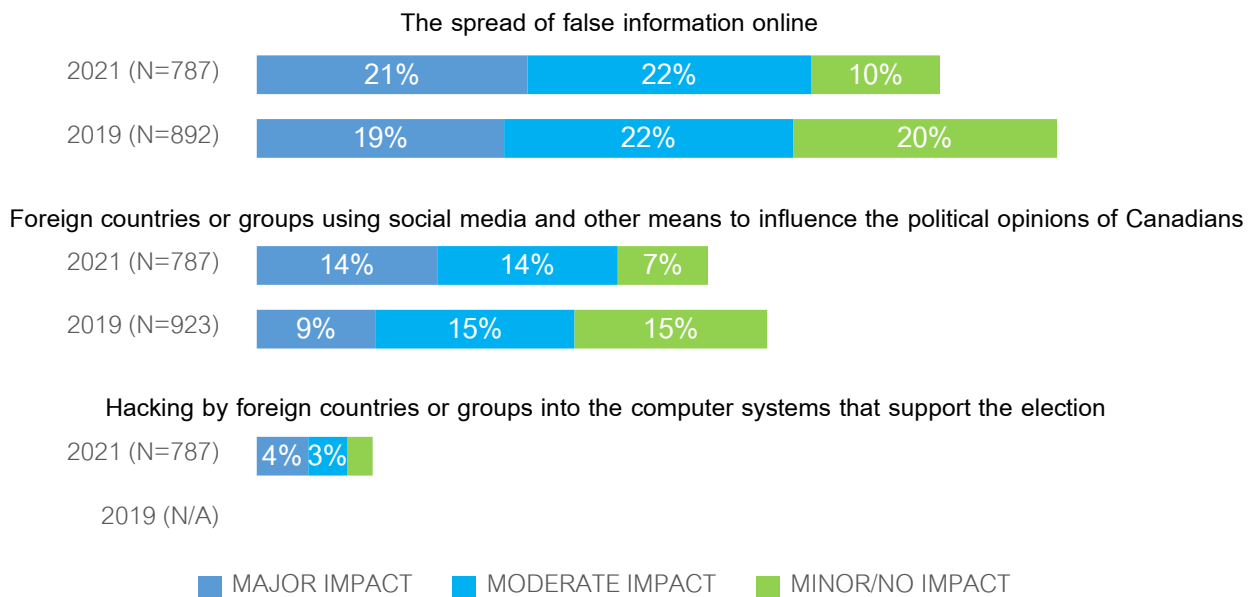
Candidates were asked what actual impact, if any, they thought problems of electoral interference had on the outcome of the election.²

Overall, two in 10 candidates (21%) thought the spread of false information online had a major impact on the election outcome. The same proportion (22%) thought it had a moderate impact of the election outcome. These proportions are comparable to the proportions of candidates reporting in 2019 that the spread of false information online had a major (19%) or a moderate (22%) impact on the election outcome.

An equally low proportion of candidates (14%) thought foreign countries or groups using social media or other means to influence political opinions of Canadians had a major or a moderate impact on this election’s outcome. While the proportion of those thinking it had a major impact is slightly on the rise compared to 2019 (9%), the proportion of those thinking it has a moderate impact remained stable (15% in 2019).

A lower proportion of candidates thought foreign countries or groups hacking into the computer systems that support the election had an impact in this election. Only 4% of candidates thought it had a major impact on the outcome of the election and 3% thought it had a moderate impact.

Chart 50: Impact of perceived interference in election



Q53: [TELEPHONE] What impact, if any, do you think this had on the outcome of the election?

[ONLINE] What impact, if any, do you think the following had on the outcome of the election?

Hacking by foreign countries or groups into the computer systems that support the election.

Foreign countries or groups using social media and other means to influence the political opinions of Canadians.

The spread of false information online.

Base: Online respondents plus 1/3 of telephone respondents.

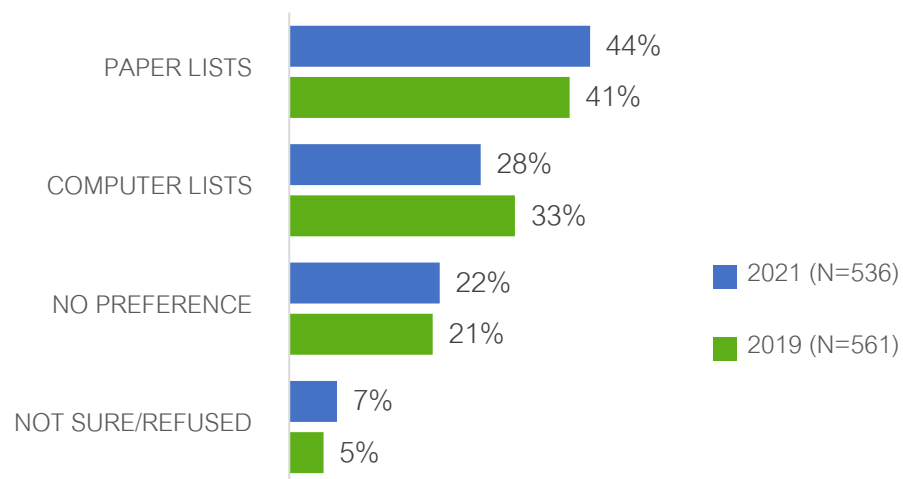
Thinking each of these had a major impact on the election outcome is generally similar across subgroups; thinking that each was a major problem was higher among those whose party is not represented in the House of Commons.

3. Technology at the Polls

Candidates were each asked one of two questions about technology use in elections, either about the lists of electors used at the polls or about the ballot-counting method.

Of those who were asked about their preference between paper or electronic voter lists, over four in 10 (44%) still preferred paper lists; just under three in 10 preferred computerized lists (28%), and two in 10 (22%) didn't have a preference between the two. These results are comparable to 2019.

Chart 51: Preference for paper or electronic lists of electors used at the polls



Q54A: In a Canadian federal election, workers at the polls use paper lists to find a voter's name and keep track of who voted. In some provincial elections, poll workers use computers or tablets to do this electronically. Which method do you prefer?

Base: Half of sample.

Paper lists are preferred by higher proportions of the following groups:

² Only respondents who said that they thought there had been a problem with electoral interference were asked what impact they thought that problem had on the outcome of the election. To allow for comparison of the results across the different forms of electoral interference, the results were rebased to include all respondents, including those who did not think there had been a problem. For example, among the 56% candidates who felt that the spread of false information online was a problem in this election, 38% thought it had a major impact on the election outcome. Of the 38% who believed foreign countries or groups using social media or other means to influence political opinions of Canadians was a problem, 38% thought it had a major impact on the election outcome. Among those (10%) who thought foreign countries or groups hacking into the computer systems that support the election was a problem, just under half (46%) said it had a major impact on the election.

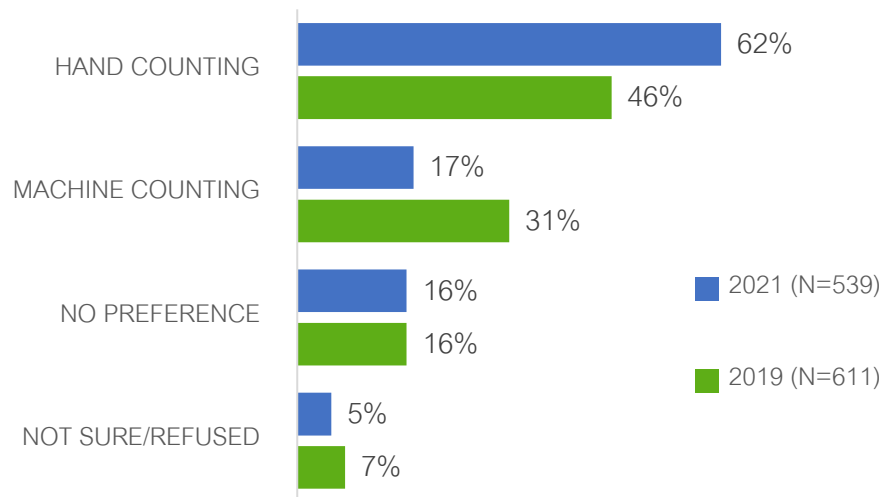
- candidates from a party not represented in the House of Commons (67%) versus candidates from a represented party (33%)
- men (50%) versus women (35%)
- Alberta (55%), Prairies (54%) and Ontario (45%) candidates versus candidates from Quebec (33%)

Computerized lists are preferred by higher proportions of the following groups:

- candidates from a party represented in the House of Commons (35%) versus candidates from a non-represented party (14%)
- incumbents (40%) versus non-incumbents (26%)
- Quebec candidates (37%) versus Alberta (19%), Prairies (20%) and British Columbia candidates (20%)
- women (33%) versus men (24%)
- candidates under age 50 (31%) versus candidates aged 50+ (24%)

Among those who were asked about ballot-counting methods, over six in 10 (62%) expressed a preference for hand-counted ballots, notably higher than the just under half who preferred this in 2019. One in six (17%) preferred machine counting, down 14 percentage points from 2019. One in six expressed no preference (unchanged).

Chart 52: Preference for machine or hand counting of paper ballots



Q54B: In Canadian federal elections, each paper ballot is counted by hand. In some provincial elections, paper ballots are scanned into a machine that counts the votes. Which vote counting method do you prefer?

Base: Half of sample.

Hand-counting is preferred by higher proportions of the following groups:

- candidates from a party not represented in the House of Commons (75%) versus those from a represented party (55%)
- incumbents (74%) versus non-incumbents (60%)
- men (67%) versus women (54%)

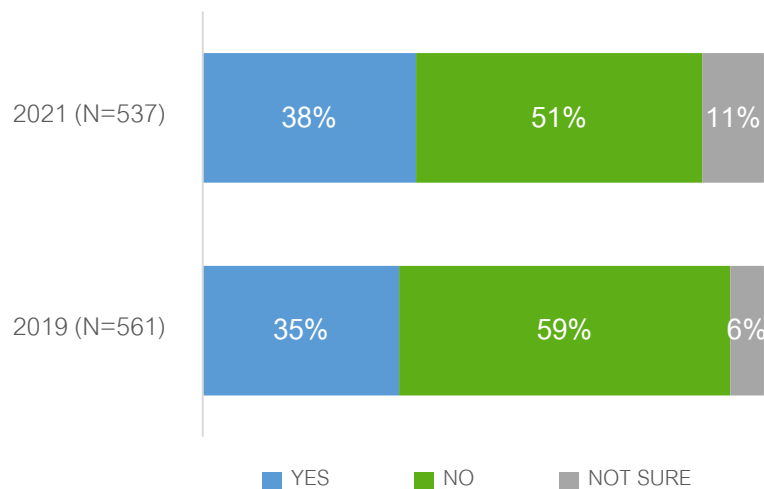
Machine-counting is preferred by those in a party represented in the House of Commons (21% versus 9% in a non-represented party) and those born outside of Canada (25%, versus 16% born in Canada), but is otherwise similar by subgroup.

4. Voting on the Internet

Candidates were asked one of two questions about online voting.

Among those who were asked if they think electors should be able to vote by using the Internet, just under four in 10 said they should, which is comparable to the proportion in 2019, but both are lower than the 54% in favour in 2015.

Chart 53: If electors should be able to vote by using the internet



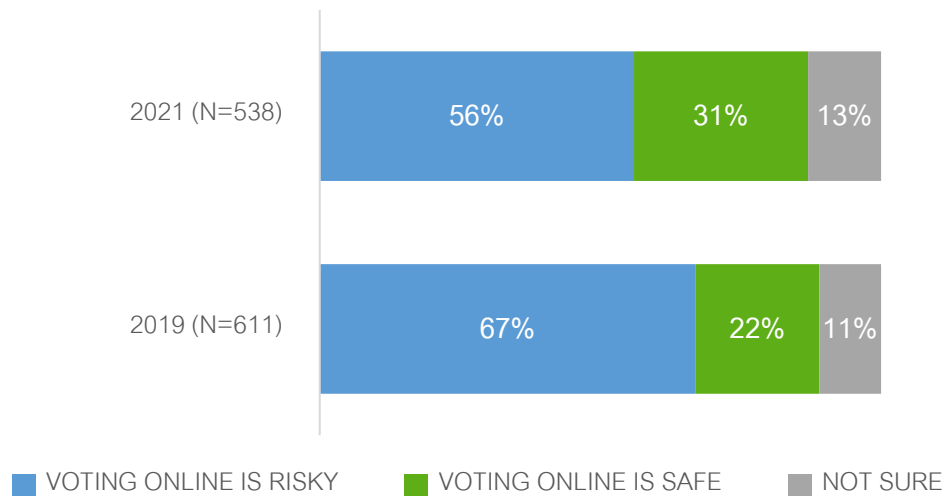
Q55A: Do you think that electors should be able to vote by using the Internet?
Base: Half of sample.

A minority of candidates across all subgroups think electors should be able to vote online but the proportion is higher among the following:

- candidates from a party represented in the House of Commons (47%) versus candidates from a non-represented party (18%)
- unelected candidates (41%) versus elected candidates (24%)
- non-incumbents (41%) versus incumbents (18%)
- women (43%) versus men (34%)

Among those who were asked if online voting is risky or safe, close to six in 10 (56%) feel it is risky, three in 10 (31%) think it is safe, and one in 10 are unsure. The proportion who think it is risky is lower than in 2019, with a corresponding increase in those who think it is safe.

Chart 54: If online voting is risky or safe



*Q55B: Which statement comes closest to your own view?
Base: Half of sample.*

A minority of candidates across all subgroups think online voting is safe, but the proportion is higher among the following groups:

- candidates from a party represented in the House of Commons (39%) versus those from a non-represented party (16%)
- Atlantic region candidates (44%) compared to Quebec (27%) and Alberta (25%) candidates
- women (37%) versus men (28%)

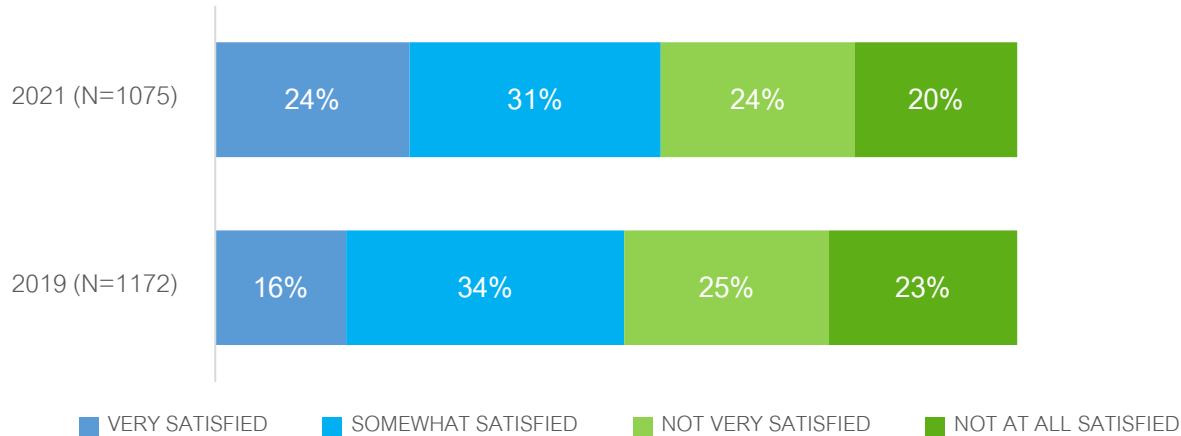
I. Attitudes Toward Democracy in Canada

Over half of candidates (55%) were satisfied to some extent with the way democracy works in Canada; top reasons for dissatisfaction were the lack of proportional representation, or that first-past-the-post does not reflect voter preferences. Candidates are divided about lowering the voting age to 16, but marginally more likely to disagree (53%) than agree (46%). Just over half (54%) thought parties should be required to have more women candidates, but a slim majority (53%) disagreed that there should be financial incentives to accomplish this.

1. Satisfaction with Democracy in Canada

Over half of candidates in the 44th GE (55%) are satisfied to some extent with the way democracy works in Canada, and one-quarter (24%) are very satisfied. Both of these proportions are statistically higher than in 2019. Two in 10 are very dissatisfied.

Chart 55: Level of satisfaction with the way democracy works in Canada



Q56: Overall, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in Canada?
 Base: All respondents. Includes those (<1%) who said "not sure."

A slim majority of most candidate subgroups were at least somewhat satisfied with the way democracy works in Canada, with some exceptions. The following groups were *less often* satisfied:

- candidates from a party not represented in the House of Commons (27%) versus those from a represented party (69%)
- unelected candidates (48%) versus elected candidates (93%)
- non-incumbents (49%) versus incumbents (91%)
- candidates with a disability (39%) versus candidates without a disability (58%)
- high school or less education (42%) or some post-secondary (46%) versus 60% with a university degree

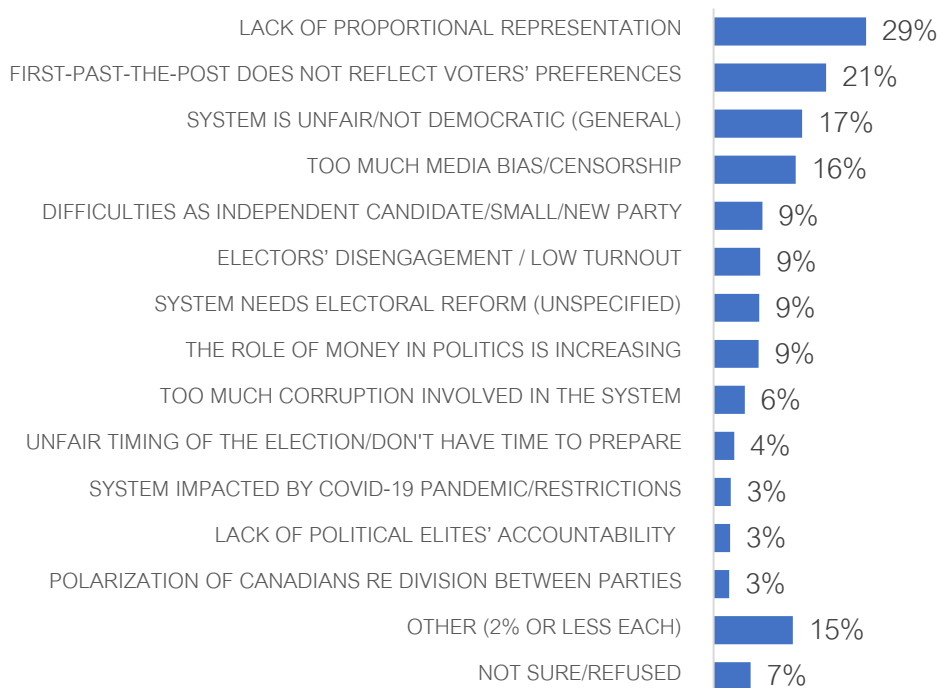
- candidates with lower-range household incomes (38%) versus those with middle- (50%) and upper-range (69%) household incomes

2. Reason Dissatisfied with Democracy in Canada

Those dissatisfied with the way democracy works in Canada (n=475) were most likely to cite the lack of proportional representation, or that first-past-the-post does not reflect voter preferences; these were also top responses in 2019. One in six made a general comment about the system being unfair or undemocratic, and a similar proportion said there was too much media bias or censorship. One in 10 or fewer gave other individual reasons for being dissatisfied with the way democracy works.

Chart 56: Reasons for dissatisfaction with democracy in Canada

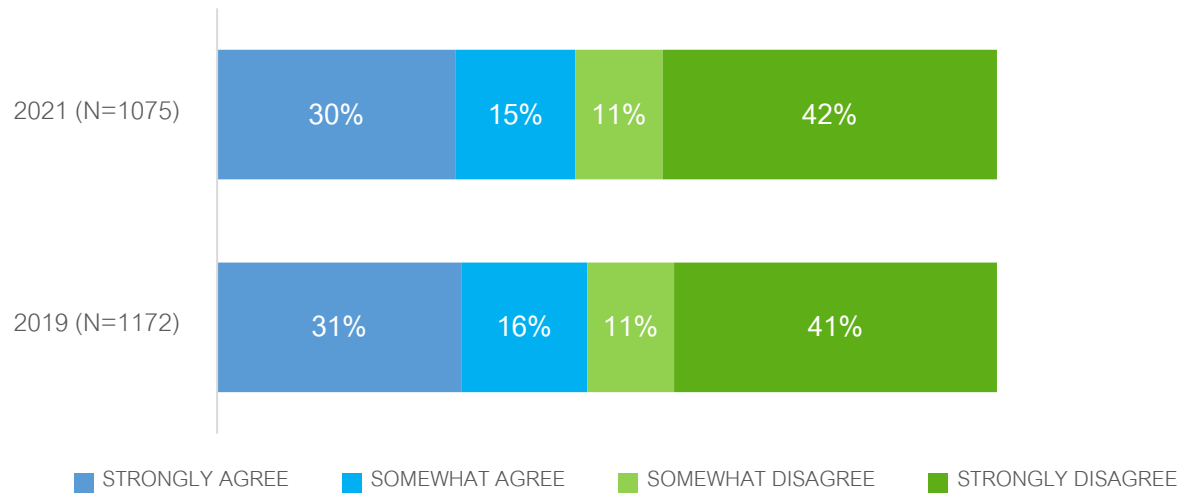
Q57: Is there a specific reason why you are dissatisfied with the way democracy works in Canada?
 Base: n=475: Those dissatisfied with the way democracy works in Canada.



3. Attitude Toward Lowering the Voting Age

On the question of whether the federal voting age should be lowered from 18 to 16, strong disagreement (42%) outweighs strong agreement (30%) by 12 percentage points, no change since 2019.

Chart 57: Level of agreement with lowering the voting age



Q58: How strongly do you agree or disagree that the voting age in a federal election should be lowered from 18 to 16 years old?

Base: All respondents. Includes those (2%) who said "not sure."

Candidates from the following groups were more likely to agree to some extent that the voting age should be lowered to 16:

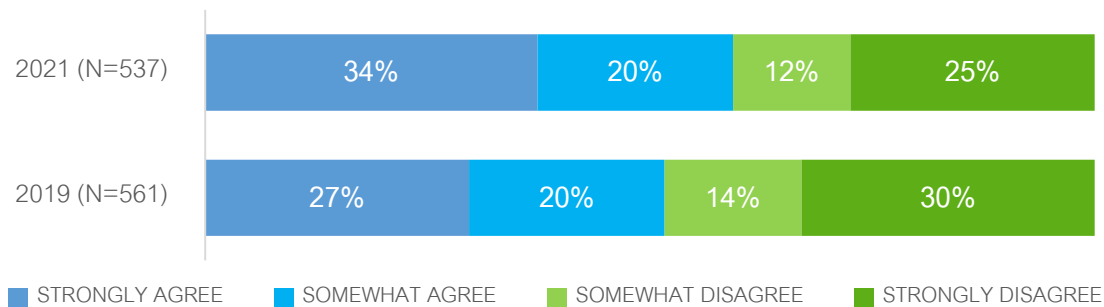
- candidates from a party represented in the HoC (55%) versus those from a non-represented party (26%)
- unelected candidates (48%) versus elected candidates (34%)
- non-incumbents (48%) versus incumbents (34%)
- women (53%) versus men (40%)
- candidates under age 35 (65%) versus candidates aged 35–49 (52%) and 50+ (33%)
- candidates with a disability (58%) versus candidates without a disability (45%)
- candidates with lower-range household incomes (61%) versus those with upper-range household incomes (45%)

4. Attitudes Toward Representation Rules or Incentives

Candidates were each asked one of two questions regarding increasing the proportion of women candidates.

On whether political parties should be required to have more women candidates, just over half (54%) agreed to some extent with this premise, and one-third agreed strongly; both of these measures have increased from 2019.

Chart 58: Level of agreement that political parties should be required to have more women candidates



Q59: How strongly do you agree or disagree that...

political parties should be required to have more women candidates?

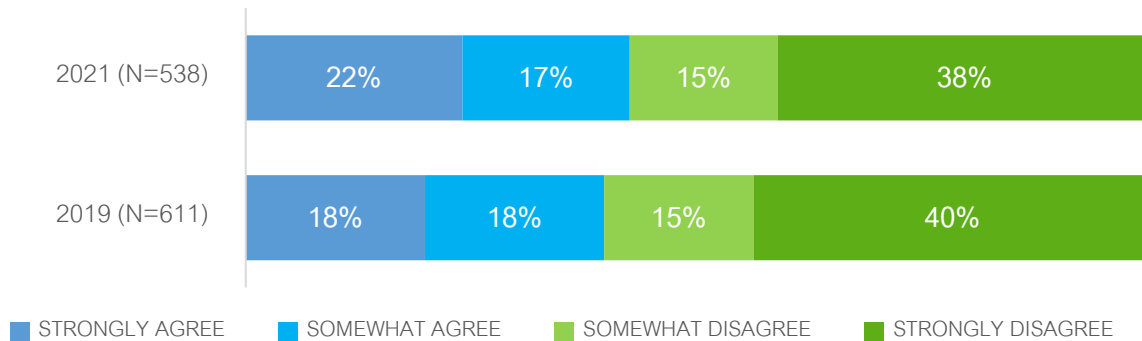
Base: Half of sample. Includes those (9%) who said "not sure."

Overall agreement is higher among the following:

- candidates from a party represented in the HoC (66%) versus those from a non-represented party (26%)
- women (73%) versus men (42%)
- candidates born outside Canada (65%) versus candidates born in Canada (52%)
- visible minority candidates (69%) versus white candidates (52%)

When asked if political parties should receive financial incentives to have more candidates who are women, as in 2019 there is slim majority disagreement (53%, statistically similar to 55%), and close to four in 10 strongly disagree.

Chart 59: Level of agreement that political parties should receive a financial incentive for having more women candidates



Q59: How strongly do you agree or disagree that...
political parties should receive a financial incentive for having more women candidates?

Base: Half of sample. Includes those (8%) who said "not sure."

Overall agreement that financial incentives should be provided to encourage political parties to include more women is the minority view across most subgroups, but higher among the following:

- candidates from a party represented in the House of Commons (50%) versus candidates from a non-represented party (19%)
- women (51%) versus men (31%)
- candidates with some post-secondary or more education (41%) versus candidates with high school education or less (17%)

J. Socio-demographics

The following tables describe the *weighted* socio-demographic characteristics of respondents to the survey.

Region	
British Columbia	11%
Alberta	10%
Prairies/Territories	9%
Ontario	34%
Quebec	28%
Atlantic	8%

# times run	
1	58%
2+	39%

Age	
18–34	19%
35–49	33%
50–59	26%
60+	21%

Gender	
Male	62%
Female	38%

Place of birth	
Born in Canada	81%
Born outside Canada	17%

Ethnicity	
White	72%
South Asian	6%
Black	3%
Latin American	2%
Chinese	2%
Other ethnicity	11%

Indigenous identity	
Indigenous	5%
Non-Indigenous	88%
Prefer not to say	7%

Language at home	
English	71%
French	24%
Other	4%

Disability	
Yes	10%
No	88%
Not sure/not stated	2%

Education	
Less than high school	2%
High school	4%
Some or full college/vocational/trade school	14%
Some university	8%
Completed university	36%
Post grad	33%

Household income		
Lower	<\$20K	4%
	\$20K–\$39K	8%
Middle	\$40K–\$59K	8%
	\$60K–\$79K	9%
	\$80K–\$99K	10%
Higher	\$100K+	44%

Appendix A: Methodology

Background and Research Objectives

Elections Canada (EC), headed by the CEO, an agent of Parliament, is an independent, non-partisan agency that reports directly to Parliament. EC exercises general direction and supervision over the conduct of elections and referendums at the federal level.

EC required the services of a public opinion research supplier to conduct research, to learn about candidates' experiences with the electoral process in general, and to measure their levels of satisfaction with Elections Canada's services during the 44th GE.

The research objectives are to assess candidates' views and satisfaction regarding:

- nomination requirements and other candidate responsibilities
- administration of the election by EC and local returning officers
- EC's services, tools and products for candidates and their campaigns
- policy issues, technology and innovation

This research was conducted as part of the evaluation and development of EC's programs and services to candidates, and to inform the CEO's reports to Parliament. The survey results will assist in the evaluation of EC's programs and services, notably by allowing for comparisons over time with previous federal general elections. It will also assist in identifying areas where EC's various products and services may be improved.

Methodology

Environics conducted a survey of candidates in the 44th federal general election, held September 20, 2021, through a mixed-mode survey: The respondents could choose to do a self-administered online questionnaire or an interviewer-guided telephone survey.

Elections Canada provided Environics with contact information for all 2,010 confirmed candidates in the 2021 federal election. All candidates were invited to participate in the survey. A total of 1,075 candidates completed the survey, representing 53% of all candidates. The telephone survey was conducted from September 24 to November 18, 2021, and the online survey from September 27 to November 18, 2021. By close of fieldwork, 643 (60%) completed the survey online and 432 (40%) completed it by telephone.

As an attempted census rather than a sample survey, no margin of sampling error applies.

The participating respondents have the following regional distribution:

Breakdown/location	Total	BC	AB	Prairies/Terr	ON	QC	ATL
Number of completed interviews	1,075	120	102	91	369	303	90
% of completed interviews	100%	11%	9%	8%	34%	28%	8%
% of total contacts	100%	12%	10%	8%	34%	28%	8%

To minimize the impacts of non-response as a source of error, Environics weighted the survey results by candidate age and party, as well as whether the candidate was an incumbent and whether or not they were elected, to reflect the population characteristics of all candidates. Environics reviewed and coded the open-ended responses and created banner tables to present results by key characteristics (e.g. region, age, gender, language, parties represented in the House of Commons versus those not represented, election outcome, and incumbency status). The survey tables are available under separate cover.

Instrument Design

Environics worked with Elections Canada to update the questionnaire and add questions to address updated study objectives. It underwent numerous iterations prior to approval and translation. Environics also drafted the invitation email and reminders. EC was responsible for translation of all materials.

The survey content was the same across modes. The online survey median length was 15.3 minutes, and the average was 17.7 minutes; the telephone survey median length was 22.3 minutes, and the average was 24.2 minutes. Research instruments are provided in Appendix B.

Pre-test

Prior to the launch of the survey of candidates, Environics arranged to conduct a pre-test in both official languages, using both telephone and online methodologies. Due to the limited number of contacts available, the availability of the respondents, and the fact that the candidates could select their preferred modes, the pre-test took place over several days.

To conduct the pre-test, Environics selected a limited number of candidate records, with a focus on those not having email addresses on file. These candidates were telephoned, using their preferred official language, and offered their choice of either telephone or online survey completion modes.

The telephone pre-test was conducted from September 23 to 27, 2021. Five English and five French interview recordings were provided to EC for review. Following this, some minor technical and interviewer briefing changes were made.

The online pre-test was conducted from September 27 to October 1, 2021. Results from 12 English and five French surveys were provided to EC.

Following review of the top-line results, EC authorized the full launch of both modes of the survey to proceed on October 4, 2021.

Fieldwork

The survey was conducted according to the following procedures:

- Environics programmed the questionnaire using survey software hosted on a secure server. Environics ensured the data were stored on Canadian servers located and only accessible in Canada, and physically independent from all other databases, directly or indirectly, that are located outside Canada.
- Elections Canada emailed a bilingual personalized letter from the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada to inform candidates that they would be contacted for the survey and encourage their cooperation.

- Environics called all candidates for whom a telephone number was provided to ascertain interest and preferred survey mode. Telephone surveys were conducted at a time convenient for the respondents (including immediately).
- Bilingual invitation emails were sent to candidates who requested an online survey link; the link directed respondents to a bilingual landing page that offered an active choice of survey language. The invitations allowed potential respondents to opt out of the survey and unsubscribe from future reminders.
- Reminder emails and telephone calls were made to non-respondents as the survey progressed, to maximize response rate. The invitation and reminder emails also provided an option to opt out of the survey.
- Environics provided technical support to survey respondents as required. Steps were taken to assure (and also guarantee) complete confidentiality and anonymity of survey responses.
- Environics kept the project authority advised on the status of data collection on a regular basis throughout the field period.
- Environics electronically captured all survey responses as they were submitted and created an electronic data file to be coded and analysed.

All respondents were offered the opportunity to complete the survey in their official language of choice. All research work was conducted in accordance with the Standards for the Conduct of Government of Canada Public Opinion Research for Telephone and Online Surveys, as well as applicable federal legislation (Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act, or PIPEDA). Environics registered the survey with the Research Verification Service (RVS) of the Canadian Research Insight Council (CRIC) to allow participants to verify the legitimacy of the survey, register a complaint, get information about the survey industry or ask technical questions about the survey.

Following data collection and prior to analysis, the telephone and online survey data were merged and data analysts performed a data-cleaning and validation process in accordance with industry standards. Open-ended question data were coded, and Environics designed banner tables in consultation with the project authority. Data tables were submitted in Excel and CSV format; verbatim comments were provided to EC in the original official language of the respondent.

Completion Results

This survey consisted of 1,075 interviews with candidates from a list of 2,010 unduplicated records, or 53% of all candidates overall. By mode, 643 respondents completed the survey online (60%) and 432 completed by telephone (40%). Because respondents were offered a choice of mode and there was overlap in invitations by mode, standard GOC response rate calculations cannot be used.

Weighting and non-response bias analysis

In all surveys there is a potential impact of non-sampling error due to uneven non-response among groups. The following table shows unweighted characteristics of respondents compared to the full candidate population. The respondents were weighted to the all-candidates proportions to address any discrepancies.

The distribution of response was extremely close to the universe proportions, with the most notable difference being that a lower proportion of independent candidates took part than their proportion of the candidate population, while smaller parties were more likely to respond.

Characteristic	Respondents	All candidates
Age		
<35	18%	19%
35-49	32%	33%
50-59	28%	26%
60+	23%	21%
Political Party		
Liberal	17%	17%
Conservative	16%	17%
People's Party	16%	16%
NDP	17%	17%
Green Party	15%	13%
Bloc Quebecois (QC only)	4%	4%
Other parties	11%	4%
Independent	4%	13%
Incumbent		
Yes	13%	15%
No	87%	85%
Elected		
Yes	14%	17%
No	86%	83%

Appendix B: Research Instruments

Chief Electoral Officer's Invitation Letter

Our file: 2021-103108

September 17, 2021

Dear candidate,

As in previous elections, and as part of our evaluation of the 44th general election, Elections Canada will be surveying all candidates about their election experience. The survey is in keeping with our commitment to collaborate with parliamentarians, political parties and other stakeholders.

We have commissioned Environics Research, an independent research company, to carry out this survey. After the election, a representative of Environics will contact you by telephone at the number you provided on your nomination paper to verify your email address and invite you to take the survey online. If you prefer, you can contact Environics to schedule an appointment to take it by telephone at 1-866-642-1129 (toll free) or questionnaire-electionscanada@environics.ca.

The survey covers the following topics:

- your perception of the conduct and administration of the 44th general election;
- Elections Canada products and services to candidates, their campaign managers and official agents;
- your experience with various aspects of the electoral process (nomination, voter registration, voting, voter identification, nomination process of election staff and lists of electors)—especially in the pandemic context;
- your opinion about selected policy issues such as the use of technology at the polls.

Please be assured that all the information you provide will be held in strict confidence. Environics Research will only send to Elections Canada an electronic file without any personal identifier, including party affiliation, or any information that would allow responses to be linked to your identity. Each survey participant will be informed when the study is published on Elections Canada's website.

I wish to thank you for devoting your valuable time to this initiative. Your feedback will help us improve the overall conduct of elections and our services to both electors and political entities.

Yours truly,

Stéphane Perrault
Chief Electoral Officer

Follow-up Email Broadcast with Survey Link**EMAIL INVITATION TO SURVEY**

Subject line: *Elections Canada –Candidate Survey/Sondage auprès des candidates.*

First Name Last Name,

You are invited to participate in an important online survey conducted by Environics Research, an independent research company, on behalf of Elections Canada.

The survey will take about 15 minutes to complete. The survey is voluntary and your responses will be anonymous. Your decision on whether or not to participate will not affect any dealings you may have with the Government of Canada.

If you do not have time to complete the survey in one sitting, you can return to it by clicking on the link below again.

Please click on the following link to complete the survey:

INSERT LINK

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Environics at questionnaire-electionscanada@Environics.ca

This study has been registered with the Canadian Research Insights Council's Research Verification Service so that you may validate its authenticity. If you would like to enquire about the details of this research, you can visit CRIC's website <https://www.canadianresearchinsightscouncil.ca/rvs/home/?lang=en>. If you choose to verify the authenticity of this research you can reference project code 20210916-EL813.

September 21, 2021

Elections Canada
Survey of Candidates 2021
ERG PN11152
FINAL Questionnaire

INITIAL CALL SCRIPT AND TELEPHONE/WEB INTRODUCTIONS

PROCEED IN OFFICIAL LANGUAGE ON RECORD

Hello. My name is _____ and I am calling from Environics Research, a national research firm. We have been commissioned by Elections Canada to conduct a survey with candidates who ran in the September 20 federal election. The Chief Electoral Officer of Canada, Stéphane Perrault, [**PRONOUNCED PER-RO**], recently reached out to each candidate via a letter or an email about this initiative. Getting candidate input is very important.

[IF ASKED] The purpose of this survey is to explore the candidate's experiences during the election, including their perceptions of the services and products provided by Elections Canada.

[IF ASKED HOW WE GOT THEIR INFORMATION] Elections Canada shared with Environics each candidate's contact information solely as a part of this research. The information was extracted from the candidates' nomination papers provided to the returning officers. This use of personal information is consistent with the purpose for which it was obtained by Elections Canada, and is also consistent with the Privacy Act.

IF NO EMAIL ON FILE:

A1) May I please speak with ____?

Yes	1	REPEAT INTRO IF NEW PERSON
No	2	SCHEDULE CALLBACK

B1) The purpose of this survey is to explore candidates' experiences during the election, including perceptions of the services and products provided by Elections Canada. Are you willing to take part?

DO NOT READ

Yes	1	SKIP TO E
Not now	2	SCHEDULE CALLBACK
REFUSE	99	ASK C1

C1) The survey can be also done online if that is easier. Are you willing to take part online?

DO NOT READ

Yes	1	SKIP TO QC
REFUSE	99	THANK/DISCONTINUE

IF EMAIL ON FILE:

A2) May I please speak with ____? IF SPEAKING WITH CANDIDATE, CONTINUE TO B2.

Yes	1	REPEAT INTRO IF NEW PERSON THEN GO TO B2
No	2	GO TO C

B2) The survey can be done online, but could also be done by telephone if online is not an option for you. Are you willing to take part?

DO NOT READ

Yes, online	1	SKIP TO QD
Yes, prefer to do by telephone	2	SKIP TO QE
REFUSE	99	THANK/DISCONTINUE

[IF DID NOT RECEIVE LETTER OR EMAIL] We can resend you a copy of the letter by email or fax if you wish. It provides background information about this study. **IF FAX PREFERRED RECORD FAX NUMBER.**

IF CANDIDATE IS NOT AVAILABLE AT A, ASK C

C2) IF EMAIL ON FILE: Can I please confirm the email address Elections Canada provided for the candidate?

CONFIRM EMAIL

**IF CONTACT NOT ABLE TO CONFIRM EMAIL, THANK AND TERMINATE;
WILL BROADCAST TO EMAIL ON FILE**

IF NO EMAIL OR EMAIL IS INCORRECT

Could you provide the candidate's email address where we could send the survey link?

Yes	1	RECORD
No	2	THANK/DISCONTINUE – RECORD CALL ATTEMPT

IF STILL UNSURE ABOUT THE LEGITIMACY OF THE SURVEY]: If you would like to ensure this survey is run by Elections Canada, you can call their toll-free number at 1-800-463-6868, Monday to Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

IF MORE INFORMATION NEEDED: You can also contact Brenda Sharpe, from Environics Research at 613-220-4111 or email questionnaire-electionscanada@Environics.ca

IF AGREE TO DO SURVEY ONLINE

We will send you an email which contains all of the information needed to log into the survey. Your participation is voluntary and all responses will be kept strictly confidential — no individuals or organizations will be identified in any way.

The email with the survey invitation will be from surveys@elementaldc.com. You should receive the survey invitation soon. If you do not receive the email invitation, please double check your spam or junk email folder. If you still have not received the invitation, please call us at 1-866-642-1129

- E) **We can do the survey by telephone, now or at a time more convenient for you.**
- | | | |
|------------------------|----|--|
| Now | 1 | PROCEED TO TELEPHONE INTRODUCTION |
| Later/make appointment | 2 | MAKE APPOINTMENT OR ASK QF |
| REFUSE | 99 | THANK/DISCONTINUE |

IF CANNOT MAKE APPOINTMENT NOW

- F) **Would you like me to give you a 1-800 number to call to schedule an interview at your convenience?**
- | | | |
|------------------------|---|---|
| Yes | 1 | PROVIDE 1-800 NUMBER: 1-866-642-1129 |
| Later/make appointment | 2 | MAKE APPOINTMENT |
| REFUSED | 3 | THANK/DISCONTINUE |

[IF STILL UNSURE ABOUT THE LEGITIMACY OF THE SURVEY]: If you would like to ensure this survey is run by Elections Canada, you can call their toll-free number at 1-800-463-6868 Monday to Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time. You can also contact Brenda Sharpe, from Environics Research, 613-220-4111. Environics is conducting this study on behalf of Elections Canada.

TELEPHONE INTRODUCTION

IF CALLBACK: Hello. My name is _____ and I am calling back from Environics Research for our scheduled interview about your experience as a candidate in the recent federal election.

READ TO ALL ON TELEPHONE

Please note this call may be recorded for quality control or training purposes. Any personal information collected is subject to the federal *Privacy Act* and will be held in strict confidence. By taking part in this survey, you consent to the use of your answers for research and statistical purposes. This study has been registered with the Canadian Research Insights Council's Research Verification Service so that you may validate its authenticity. If you would like to enquire about the details of this research, you can visit CRIC's website. Would you like information on how to do that?

IF YES

www.canadianresearchinsightscouncil.ca/rvs/home/?lang=en and enter reference project code 20210916-EL813.

IF ASKED WHO WILL BE USING THE DATA

The anonymous database of all responses may be shared with external researchers under the strict condition that no personal information is ever distributed or made public.

[IF ASKED ABOUT PRIVACY]: Any personal information collected is subject to the federal Privacy Act and will be held in strict confidence. If you have any reason to believe that your personal information has not been handled in accordance with the Privacy Act, you have a right to complain to the Privacy Commissioner of Canada. Would you like me to give you the contact information?

[IF ASKED]

Toll-free: 1-800-282-1376 / TTY: (819) 994-6591

WEB SURVEY INTRODUCTION

SPLASH PAGE

Please select your preferred language for completing the survey./Veuillez choisir la langue dans laquelle vous préférez répondre au sondage.

English/Anglais	1
Français/French	2

Thank you for participating in this survey for candidates in the 44th general election held on September 20. Your input is important and your participation in this research is much appreciated.

This survey is being conducted on behalf of Elections Canada. The results will be used to report on candidates' experiences during the election, and guide decisions regarding products and services for the next federal election. You can read more about this research initiative on the [Elections Canada website](#).

The survey should take about 15 minutes to complete, depending on your responses.

Your participation is voluntary and completely confidential. All your answers will remain anonymous and will be combined with responses from others. Any personal information collected is subject to the federal *Privacy Act* and will be held in strict confidence. By taking part in this survey, you consent to the use of your answers for research and statistical purposes. The anonymous database of all responses may be shared with external researchers under the strict condition that no personal information is ever distributed or made public.

If you wish to verify the legitimacy of this research or to register a complaint, you can call Election Canada's toll-free number at 1-800-463-6868 and speak to an Elections Canada agent from Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern time. To get information about the survey industry or to ask technical questions about this survey, please contact Environics at brenda.sharpe@environics.ca.

This study has been registered with the Canadian Research Insights Council's Research Verification Service so that you may validate its authenticity. If you would like to enquire about the details of this research, you can visit CRIC's website www.canadianresearchinsightscouncil.ca/rvs/home/?lang=en and enter reference project code 20210916-EL813

Please click on Next to continue.

Section 1 – Overall satisfaction

TELEPHONE ONLY: To begin, I'd like to ask you some general questions about the recent federal election.

Satisfaction with EC's administration of the GE

1. **Overall, how satisfied were you with the way the federal election was administered by Elections Canada in your riding?**

TELEPHONE: Were you... ?

TELEPHONE - READ 01-04

Very satisfied	1
Somewhat satisfied	2
Somewhat dissatisfied	3
Very dissatisfied	4

TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED

Do not know	98
Refusal	99

SHOW ONLINE

Not sure	98
----------	----

Satisfaction with RO's running of the GE in candidate's riding

2. **How satisfied were you with the way the returning officer ran it in your riding?**

TELEPHONE: Would you say that you were...?

TELEPHONE - READ 01-04

Very satisfied	1
Somewhat satisfied	2
Somewhat dissatisfied	3
Very dissatisfied	4

TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED

Do not know	98
Refusal	99

SHOW ONLINE

Not sure	98
----------	----

Reasons for dissatisfaction with the way the RO ran the election

IF Q.2. = 3,4 ASK Q3

3. Why were you dissatisfied with the way the returning officer ran the election in your riding?

[PHONE] (DO NOT READ. ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES. DO NOT PROBE FOR MORE RESPONSES.)

[WEB] (OPEN QUESTION)

Not sure 98

PRE-CODED RESPONSES

I had difficulties getting in touch with the RO	1
I had difficulties getting election materials or information from the RO	2
I had difficulties getting answers to my questions	3
The nomination paper wasn't processed in time/took too long to process	4
I felt that the RO/election staff was partisan	5
I had difficulties getting in touch with ECHQ	6
I felt the nomination process was not fair	7
I felt the voting process was not fair	8
I didn't feel supported by EC or the RO	9
Difficulties as independent candidate/small party/new party	10
Other, specify:	77
Do not know	98
Refusal	99

Section 2 – Nomination process

TELEPHONE ONLY: I'd now like to ask you some questions about your experience with the nomination process with Elections Canada during the recent federal election.

Ease of nomination requirements compliance

4. How easy was it to comply with the nomination requirements?

TELEPHONE: Would you say this was...?

TELEPHONE - READ 01-04

[SHOW ONLINE, IF ASKED ON TELEPHONE: This refers to the Elections Canada nomination process with the returning officer (RO) for any eligible candidate wishing to run in the 44th general election, either as an independent candidate or as a candidate endorsed by a political party.]

Very easy	1
Somewhat easy	2
Not very easy	3
Not easy at all	4
TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED	
Do not know	98
Refusal	99
SHOW ONLINE	
Not sure	98

Reason it was not easy

IF Q.4 = 3,4 ASK Q5

5. Why was it not easy to comply with the nomination requirements?

[PHONE] (DO NOT READ. ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES. DO NOT PROBE FOR MORE RESPONSES.)

[WEB] (OPEN QUESTION)

Not sure 98

PRE-CODED ANSWERS

Difficult to obtain required number of signatures	1
Difficult to provide proof of identity	2
Difficult to meet the deadline	3
Difficult to appoint official agent	4
Difficult to deal with the RO	5
Too much paperwork/bureaucracy	6
Procedures/requirements not explained	7
Difficulties as independent candidate/small party/new party	8
Difficulties with the Political Entity Services Centre (PESC) portal	9
Other, specify:	77
Do not know	98
Refusal	99

Satisfaction with RO's timeliness processing nomination

6. How satisfied were you with the returning officer's timeliness in processing your nomination?

TELEPHONE: Would you say that you were... ?

TELEPHONE - READ 01-04

Very satisfied	1
Somewhat satisfied	2
Somewhat dissatisfied	3
Very dissatisfied	4

TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED

Do not know	98
Refusal	99

SHOW ONLINE

Not sure	98
----------	----

*Finding an official agent/auditor***SPLIT SAMPLE HALF 7A/HALF 7B****7. A) Did you encounter any difficulties in finding an official agent?**

Yes	1
No	2

TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED

Do not know	98
Refusal	99

B) Did you encounter any difficulties in finding an auditor?

Yes	1
No	2

TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED

I did not require one	3
Do not know	98
Refusal	99

SHOW ONLINE

I did not require one	3
Not sure	98

Difficulties in finding official agent/auditor

IF Q.7a = 1 OR Q.7b = 1 ASK Q8

8. TELEPHONE: What were they?**ONLINE: What difficulties did you encounter in finding an [IF ASKED 7A: official agent/IF ASKED 7B: auditor]?****[PHONE] (DO NOT READ ITEMS. ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES. DO NOT PROBE FOR MORE RESPONSES.)****[WEB] (OPEN QUESTION)**

Not sure 98

PRE-CODED ANSWERS

Difficult to find someone qualified	1
Time frame too short	2
Hard to find someone willing/available	3
Hard job/too many responsibilities	4
Unsure about agent's role	5
Too much paperwork/bureaucracy	6
Difficulties as independent candidate/small party/new party	7
Fees were too high/could not afford it	8
Other, specify:	77
Do not know	98
Refusal	99

*Collection of electors' signatures***9. Considering COVID-19 restrictions in your area, how easy or difficult was it to collect electors' signatures for your nomination?**

Very easy	1
Somewhat easy	2
Somewhat difficult	3
Very difficult	4

TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED

Do not know	98
Refusal	99

SHOW ONLINE

Not sure	98
----------	----

*Informed level about becoming a candidate***10. Overall, how well-informed did you feel about Elections Canada's nomination process?**

[SHOW ONLINE, IF ASKED ON TELEPHONE: This refers to the Elections Canada nomination process with the returning officer (RO) for any eligible candidate wishing to run in the 44th general election, either as an independent candidate or as a candidate endorsed by a political party.]

TELEPHONE: Would you say that you were... ?

TELEPHONE - READ 01-04

Very well-informed	1
Somewhat well-informed	2
Not very well-informed	3
Not well-informed at all	4

TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED

Do not know	98
Refusal	99

SHOW ONLINE

Not sure	98
----------	----

Section 3 – Political Entity Service Centre (Online portal)*Use of Political Entities Service Centre***11. Elections Canada offers a secure web portal called the Political Entities Service Centre that candidates can use to access electoral products and services.**

Did you, or any of your representatives, use the portal?

TELEPHONE: DO NOT READ RESPONSE CATEGORIES; ONLY IF NEEDED

MULTIPLE RESPONSES 01-03 ACCEPTED, OTHERS SINGLE PUNCH

Select all that apply

Yes, I personally used it	1	ASK Q.12
Yes, my official agent used it	2	ASK Q.12
Yes, my candidate delegate used it	3	ASK Q.12
No, no one in my campaign used it	4	SKIP TO Q.15
No, I was not aware it existed/that I could access it	5	SKIP TO Q.16

TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED

Do not know	98	SKIP TO Q.16
Refusal	99	SKIP TO Q.16

SHOW ONLINE

Not sure	98	SKIP TO Q.16
----------	----	---------------------

Nature of use of Political Entities Services Centre

IF Q.11 = 1, 2, 3 ASK Q12

12. What did you, or your representative, use the portal for?

TELEPHONE: READ 1-5

RANDOMIZE 01-05

Select all that apply

Submit nomination electronically	1
Download election materials	2
Access post-election results or materials	3
Maintain account and contact profile	4
Submit financial returns	5
Other, specify: _____	77
TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED	
Do not know	98
Refusal	99
SHOW ONLINE	
Not sure	98

*Characteristics of the Political Entities Service Centre***IF Q.11 = 1 ASK Q13**

13. [PHONE] Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements about the portal?

TELEPHONE: DO NOT READ RESPONSE CATEGORIES; ONLY IF NEEDED

[WEB] How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the portal?

- a. It was easy to navigate
- b. It contained useful information
- c. It ensures the protection of candidates and electors' personal information
- d. It provided an easy access to documents
- e. It was compatible with my mobile devices
- f. It was easy to create an account
- g. (IF Q.12 = 1) It made submitting my nomination convenient
- h. (IF Q.12 = 5) It made submitting my financial returns convenient

Strongly agree	1
Somewhat agree	2
Somewhat disagree	3
Strongly disagree	4

TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED

Do not know	98
Refusal	99

SHOW ONLINE

Not sure	98
----------	----

*Satisfaction with overall user experience of the Political Entity Service Centre***IF Q.11= 1, 2, 3 ASK Q14**

14. [IF Q11=1: How satisfied were you with the overall user experience of the portal?

TELEPHONE: Were you... ?

IF Q11 NOT 01: How satisfied was your representative with the overall user experience of the portal?

TELEPHONE: Was he or she...?

TELEPHONE - READ 01-04

Very satisfied	1
Somewhat satisfied	2
Somewhat dissatisfied	3
Very dissatisfied	4

TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED

Do not know	98
Refusal	99

SHOW ONLINE

Not sure	98
----------	----

*Reasons for not using the Political Entities Service Centre***IF Q.11 = 4 ASK Q15**

15. Why did you not use the portal?

[PHONE] (DO NOT READ. ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES. DO NOT PROBE FOR MORE RESPONSES.)

[WEB] (OPEN QUESTION)

Not sure	98
----------	----

PRE-CODED RESPONSES

Difficulties in opening an account	1
Uncomfortable using computers/mobile devices	2
Prefer working with paper	3
Not easy to use/complex	4
Issues with Internet connectivity	5
Prefer dealing face to face with EC	6
Other, specify:	77
Do not know	98
Refusal	99

Section 4 – Elections Canada’s products and services

TELEPHONE ONLY: READ: I'd now like to ask you some questions about the products and services provided by Elections Canada during the election.

Use of EC’s products

16. Which of the following Elections Canada products did you use?

TELEPHONE: Did you use... ?

TELEPHONE - READ 01-07

RANDOMIZE

Select all that apply)

TELEPHONE: IF ASKED, SHOW ONLINE UNDER 03: *A Statement of the Electors Who Voted on Polling Day*, also called the "bingo sheet," was made available to candidates and their representatives. This form was used to record the identifier number of electors who came to vote. It was provided on a regular basis on election day and at the end of advance voting days.)

TELEPHONE: IF ASKED, SHOW ONLINE UNDER 04: Under the "Spread the Word" initiative, Elections Canada provided various tools, including booklets, infographics, videos, informational flyers, icons for websites and advertising, on voting and registration, for the general population, youth and electors with a disability.)

TELEPHONE: IF ASKED, SHOW ONLINE UNDER 07: *Maps of Polling Place Service Areas* included maps of the polling sites, the advance polling districts, and electoral geography documents.)

Lists of polling stations	1
Lists of electors, including the preliminary lists, the revised lists and the official lists	2
Bingo sheets	3
EC’s tools to communicate with electors	4
Political financing handbook for candidates and official agents	5
Political financing training videos	6
Maps of polling place service areas	7
SHOW ONLINE, SINGLE PUNCH: I did not use any of EC’s products	98
SHOW ONLINE, SINGLE PUNCH: Not sure	97
TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED SINGLE PUNCH	
Don’t know/I did not use any of EC’s products	98
Refusal	99

IF CODE 97, 98 OR 99 AT Q16, SKIP TO Q23

Most useful format of lists of polling stations

IF Q.16 = 1 ASK Q17

17. In your opinion, which format of the updated lists of polling stations was most useful?

Paper	1
Electronic	2
Both paper and electronic	3
TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED	
Do not know	98
Refusal	99
SHOW ONLINE	
Not sure	98

Satisfaction with the quality of the lists of electors

IF Q.16 = 2 ASK Q18

18. How satisfied were you with the overall quality of the lists of electors?

TELEPHONE: Would you say that you were...?

TELEPHONE - READ 01-04

Very satisfied	1
Somewhat satisfied	2
Somewhat dissatisfied	3
Very dissatisfied	4
TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED	
Do not know	98
Refusal	99
SHOW ONLINE	
Not sure	98

Most useful tools to communicate with electors

IF Q.16 = 4 ASK Q19

19. Which of the following EC tools to communicate with electors were the most useful for your campaign?

RANDOMIZE 1-4

TELEPHONE: READ 1-4

Select all that apply

Infographics	1
Guide to the federal election/booklet	2
Banners for your website	3
Videos	4
SHOW ONLINE ONLY, SINGLE PUNCH:	
I did not find any of these helpful	97
TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED	
Do not know	98
Refusal	99
SHOW ONLINE	
Not sure	98

Q.20 *Format of maps of polling place service areas*

IF Q.16 = 7 ASK Q20

20. Which format of the maps of polling place service areas did you use?

TELEPHONE: Did you use...

Check all that apply

(TELEPHONE IF ASKED, SHOW ONLINE UNDER 03: The Event Map Viewer is the interactive online version of the polling place service areas which allows candidates to view geographic elements including polling divisions, polling districts and municipalities, as well as print polling division maps.)

Paper	1
PDF	2
Event Map Viewer	3
SHOW ONLINE ONLY, SINGLE PUNCH: Did not use any maps of the polling divisions	4
SHOW ONLINE	
Not sure	98
TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED	
None/Did not use any maps of the polling divisions	4
Do not know	98
Refusal	99

Usefulness of EC's products

21. Thinking about what you needed to run your campaign, how useful were Elections Canada's products?

TELEPHONE: Were they...?

TELEPHONE - READ 01-04

Very useful	1
Somewhat useful	2
Not very useful	3
Not useful at all	4
TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED	
Do not know	98
Refusal	99
SHOW ONLINE	
Not sure	98

EC's products that were not useful

IF Q.21 = 3,4 ASK Q22

22. Which Elections Canada products did you think were *not* useful?

PHONE: DO NOT READ. DO NOT PROBE FOR MORE RESPONSES

Select all that apply

List of polling stations	1
List of electors	2
Bingo sheets	3
Tools to communicate with electors	4
Political financing handbook	5
Polling place service area maps	6
Other, specify: _____	77

SHOW ONLINE

Not sure	98	SINGLE PUNCH
TELEPHONE ONLY Do not know	98	SINGLE PUNCH
TELEPHONE ONLY: Refusal	99	SINGLE PUNCH

All candidates briefing

ASK ALL

23. The returning officer in your riding organized an all-candidates briefing for the general election.

ONLINE: Please indicate which of the following applies:

Select all that apply

TELEPHONE: Could you tell us if...:

TELEPHONE - READ 01-05

You attended the briefing in person	1
You attended the briefing via videoconference	2
Your official agent attended, in-person or remotely	3
Your campaign delegate/manager attended, in-person or remotely	4

SHOW 5 ONLINE, TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED

No one attended	5
-----------------	---

TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED

Other, specify:	77
-----------------	----

Usefulness of all candidates briefing

IF Q.23 = 1, 2, 3, OR 4 ASK Q24

24. How useful was the all-candidates briefing?**TELEPHONE: Was it... ?****TELEPHONE: READ 1-4**

Very useful	1
Somewhat useful	2
Not very useful	3
Not useful at all	4

TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED

Do not know	98
Refusal	99

SHOW ONLINE

Not sure	98
----------	----

Satisfaction with the in-person experience when attending the all-candidates briefing

IF Q.23 = 1 ASK Q25A

25. A) How satisfied were you with the format of the in-person all-candidates briefing?**TELEPHONE: READ 1-4**

Very satisfied	1
Somewhat satisfied	2
Somewhat dissatisfied	3
Very dissatisfied	4

TELEPHONE: VOLUNTEERED

Do not know	98
Refusal	99

Satisfaction with the remote experience when attending the all-candidates briefing

IF Q.23 = 2 ASK Q25B

B) How satisfied were you with the format of the all-candidates briefing you attended remotely?**TELEPHONE: READ 1-4**

Very satisfied	1
Somewhat satisfied	2
Somewhat dissatisfied	3
Very dissatisfied	4

TELEPHONE: VOLUNTEERED

Do not know	98
Refusal	99

Reasons of dissatisfaction with the format of the all candidates briefing

IF Q.25 (A OR B) = 3, 4 ASK Q26

26. Why were you dissatisfied with the format of the (IF ONLY A: in person all-candidates briefing?/IF ONLY B: remote all-candidates briefing?/IF BOTH A AND B: the formats of the all-candidates briefings?)

[PHONE] ((OPEN QUESTION))

[WEB] (OPEN QUESTION)

Not sure	98
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Usefulness of COVID-19-related procedures/guidelines

27. How useful were Elections Canada's procedure and guidelines to avoid the spread of COVID-19?

TELEPHONE: Were they... ?**TELEPHONE: READ 1-4**

Very useful	1
Somewhat useful	2
Not very useful	3
Not useful at all	4

TELEPHONE: VOLUNTEERED

Do not know	98
Refusal	99

Q.30 *Contact with Elections Canada*

SPLIT SAMPLE TELEPHONE ONLY – 1/3 Q28A, 1/3 Q28B, 1/3 Q28C

GRID FOR ONLINE

28. During the election, did you, or any of your representatives, contact...:

- a. the local Elections Canada office?
- b. Elections Canada with the 1-800 support line for candidates?
- c. Elections Canada via email?

Yes	1
No	2

TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED

Do not know	98
Refusal	99

SHOW ONLINE

Not sure	98
----------	----

Satisfaction with services received – Contact with EC’s local Elections Canada Office

IF Q.28A = 1 ASK Q29A

Satisfaction with services received – Contact with EC’s 1-800 support line for candidates

IF Q.28B = 1 ASK Q29B

Satisfaction with services received – Contact with EC’s via email correspondence

IF Q.28C = 1 ASK Q29C

29. How satisfied were you, or your representative, with the services you received from...

- a. the local Elections Canada office
- b. the 1-800 support line for candidates
- c. your email correspondence with Elections Canada?

TELEPHONE: Were you...?

TELEPHONE: READ 1-4

Very satisfied	1
Somewhat satisfied	2
Somewhat dissatisfied	3
Very dissatisfied	4

TELEPHONE: VOLUNTEERED

Do not know	98
Refusal	99

Section 5 – Candidates' electoral campaign

TELEPHONE ONLY: I'd now like to ask you some questions about some dimensions of your electoral campaign.

Campaigning during the pandemic

30. **Considering the public health guidelines about COVID-19, how did you interact with electors during your campaign?**

[PHONE] (DO NOT READ. DO NOT PROBE FOR MORE RESPONSES.)

[WEB] (SHOW RESPONSES 1-77)

PRE-CODED RESPONSES

Reached out by mail/post	1
Reached out by email	2
Did some phone calls	3
Door-to-door	4
Other in-person events and outreach	5
Virtual gatherings	6
Other, specify: _____	77

TELEPHONE: VOLUNTEERED

Do not know	98
Refusal	99

List of names of election staff

31. **Did you provide the returning officer with a list of names of election staff to work at the polling station?**

[SHOW ONLINE, TELEPHONE IF ASKED: The list concerns individuals that the candidate proposes to the returning officer to be hired to work at advance polling stations and at polling stations on election day. This does not include candidates' campaign staff members.]

Yes	1
No	2

TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED

Did not know I could provide one	3
Do not know	98
Refusal	99

SHOW ONLINE

Did not know I could provide one	3
Not sure	98

Reason for not providing list of names

IF Q.31 = 2 ASK Q32

32. Why did you not provide a list of names?

[PHONE] (DO NOT READ. ACCEPT UP TO THREE. DO NOT PROBE FOR MORE RESPONSES.)

[WEB] (OPEN QUESTION)

Not sure 98

PRE-CODED RESPONSES

Not enough time to find people	1
Did not have anyone/unable to find people interested/available	2
Did not have anyone/unable to find competent people	3
List was provided too late	4
Some people on list were not eligible/not allowed/disqualified	5
Difficulties as independent candidate/small party/new party	6
Procedures not explained	7
Returning officers did not request such a list	8
Too much paperwork/bureaucracy	9
I did not want to provide a list	10
Other, specify _____	77
Do not know	98
Refusal	99

Candidates' protection of personal information contained in the voters' lists

33. Did you take any measures to ensure the protection of personal information contained in the voters' lists that you received?

Yes 1

No 2

TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED

I did not use the lists 3

Do not know 98

Refusal 99

SHOW ONLINE

I did not use the lists 3

Not sure 98

Measures taken to protect personal information

IF Q.33 = 1 ASK Q34

34. What measures did you take to ensure the protection of personal information?

[PHONE] (DO NOT READ. ACCEPT UP TO THREE. DO NOT PROBE FOR MORE RESPONSES.)

[WEB] (OPEN QUESTION)

Not sure 98

PRE-CODED RESPONSES

Issued instructions regarding use of voters lists	1
Issued procedures to re-collect copies of voters lists after event	2
Ensured the destruction of voters lists at end of the election	3
Brought voters lists back to returning officer	4
Kept lists in secure place/kept locked away	5
Ensured limited access to lists	6
Encrypted the lists	7
Other, specify:	77
Do not know	98
Refusal	99

Accessibility of candidates' campaign

35. Did you take any measures to ensure that your campaign's materials, events or website were accessible to electors with a disability?

Yes	1
No	2

TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED

Do not know	98
Refusal	99

SHOW ONLINE

Not sure	98
----------	----

Accessibility measures taken in candidate's campaign

IF Q.35 = 1 ASK Q36

36. Which measures did you take to make your campaign accessible?

[PHONE] (DO NOT READ. ACCEPT UP TO THREE. DO NOT PROBE FOR MORE RESPONSES.)

[WEB] (OPEN QUESTION)

Not sure 98

PRE-CODED RESPONSES

Website was accessible to electors with a screen reader	1
Social media content was accessible to electors with a screen reader	2
Braille materials were available	3
Large print materials were available	4
Use of plain language	5
Sign language translation was provided during local events	6
Asking electors with a disability about accessibility needs	7
Venues were wheelchair-accessible	8
Use of various communication channels	9
Offered transport to the polling station	10
Other, specify:	77
Do not know	98
Refusal	99

*Awareness of funding of candidate's election and personal expenses*37. The *Canada Elections Act* provides for partial reimbursement of elections expenses as well as some personal expenses like childcare costs and expenses related to a disability.

When deciding to run as a candidate, were you aware of these financial incentives?

Yes	1
No	2

TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED

Do not know	98
Refusal	99

SHOW ONLINE

Not sure	98
----------	----

Impact of knowing about financial incentives

IF Q.37 = 1, ASK Q38

38. What impact, if any, did these financial incentives have on your decision to run in the last general election?

TELEPHONE: Did they have a...?

TELEPHONE: READ 1-4

Major impact	1
Moderate impact	2
Minor impact	3
No impact at all	4

TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED

Do not know	98
Refusal	99

SHOW ONLINE

Not sure	98
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Section 6 – Voting and reporting process

TELEPHONE ONLY: I'd now like to ask you some questions about your experience with the voting process during the 44th general election.

(NOTE: CANDIDATE MAY HAVE DIFFERENT VIEWS ABOUT SOME OF THE OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR VOTING AND THEREFORE BE UNSURE OF AN OVERALL RATING.)

Satisfaction with chosen polling sites

39. How satisfied were you with the locations chosen as polling sites for advance polls and on election day?

TELEPHONE: Were you...?

TELEPHONE: READ 1-4

Very satisfied	1
Somewhat satisfied	2
Somewhat dissatisfied	3
Very dissatisfied	4

TELEPHONE: VOLUNTEERED

Do not know	98
Refusal	99

Reasons of dissatisfaction with chosen polling sites

IF Q.39 = 3,4 ASK Q40

40. Why were you dissatisfied with the location of the polling sites?**[PHONE] (DO NOT READ. ACCEPT UP TO THREE. DO NOT PROBE FOR MORE RESPONSES.)****[WEB] (OPEN QUESTION)**

Not sure 98

PRE-CODED RESPONSES

Advance polling stations hard to find/in an unfamiliar building	1
Polling stations on election day hard to find/in an unfamiliar building	2
Problems related to space in advance polling stations	3
Problems related to space in polling stations on election day	4
Not enough advance polling stations	5
Not enough polling station on polling day	6
Problems related to accessibility of advance polling stations	7
Problems related to accessibility of polling stations on election day	8
Inappropriate polling stations	9
Electors unsure which polling station to go to	10
Advance polling stations located too far	11
Polling stations on election day located too far	12
Advance polling stations were far from a public transit stop	13
Polling stations on election day were far from a public transit stop	14
Lack of/not enough parking spaces at advance polling stations	15
Lack of/not enough parking spaces at polling stations on election day	16
Lack of security (polling station felt unsafe)	17
Issue with Internet/cell phone connectivity	18
The polling place didn't offer enough space to maintain social distancing	19
Other, specify:	77
Do not know	98
Refusal	99

*Satisfaction with voting process***41. How satisfied were you with the way the voting process went on advance polls and election day?****TELEPHONE: Were you...?****TELEPHONE: READ 1-4**

Very satisfied	1
Somewhat satisfied	2
Somewhat dissatisfied	3
Very dissatisfied	4

TELEPHONE: VOLUNTEERED

Do not know	98
Refusal	99

*Reason dissatisfied with voting process***IF Q.41 = 3,4 ASK Q42****42. Why were you dissatisfied with the voting process?**

[PHONE] (DO NOT READ. ACCEPT UP TO THREE. DO NOT PROBE FOR MORE RESPONSES.)

[WEB] (OPEN QUESTION)

Not sure	98
----------	----

PRE-CODED RESPONSES

Electors were not aware of the voter ID requirements	1
Problems with the "Statement of the electors who voted on polling day" (also called the "bingo sheet")	2
Was not able to take a photo of bingo sheets on advance polling day	3
Too few polling locations on advance polling days	4
Too few polling locations on polling day	5
Electors did not know where to vote	6
No online/email voting methods used	7
Long lineups at advance polls	8
Long lineups on polling day	9
Scrutineers were not allowed to examine elector's identification	10
Problems related to the use of the Voter Information Card as identification	11
Other, specify:	77
Do not know	98
Refusal	99

*Voter identification requirements***SPLIT SAMPLE – ASK HALF Q43A AND HALF Q43B**

43. Did you, or your representative, witness any problems related to...
- a. the voter identification requirements?
 - b. the use of the Voter Information Card (VIC) as a piece of identification?

[SHOW ONLINE, TELEPHONE IF ASKED: This question is about voter identification at the polls, when the election officer is verifying the proof of identity and residence of an elector.]

[NOTE TO INTERVIEWER: Please select the option “was not there” if a candidate's response is similar to “I don't know, I wasn't present/there”]

Yes	1
No	2
TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED	
I was not there	3
Do not know	98
Refusal	99
SHOW ONLINE	
I was not there	3
Not sure	98

*Voter identification problems witnessed**Voter identification problems witnessed – Use of VIC***44. IF Q.43A = 1 ASK Q44A/IF Q.43B = 1 ASK Q44B****A) What problems were witnessed?****[PHONE] (DO NOT READ. ACCEPT UP TO THREE. DO NOT PROBE FOR MORE RESPONSES.)****[WEB] (OPEN QUESTION)**

Not sure 98

PRE-CODED RESPONSES

Address on piece of identification did not match address on the list of electors	2
Electors not having proper identification: not able to register on polling day	5
Electors not having proper identification: not able to vote on polling day	6
Long lineups due to identification requirements	7
Electors having problems proving their identity	8
Electors having problems proving their address	9
Uneven interpretation of the rules by election officers	10
Electors uncertain about ID needed	11
Scrutineers were not allowed to examine electors' identification	12
Other, specify:	77
Do not know	98
Refusal	99

B) What problems did you witness regarding the use of the VIC (voter information card) as a piece of identification?

[PHONE] (DO NOT READ. ACCEPT UP TO THREE. DO NOT PROBE FOR MORE RESPONSES.)

[WEB] (OPEN QUESTION)

Not sure 98

PRE-CODED RESPONSES

Electors only showed the VIC (no other piece of identification)	1
VIC address did not match address on the list of electors	2
VIC was not addressed personally or in the name of the elector	3
Election officer did not accept the VIC as a piece of identification	4
Electors not having proper identification: not able to register on polling day	5
Electors not having proper identification: not able to vote on polling day	6
Long lineups due to identification requirements	7
Electors having problems proving their identity	8
Electors having problems proving their address	9
Uneven interpretation of the rules by election officers	10
Electors uncertain about ID needed	11
Scrutineers were not allowed to examine electors' identification	12
Other, specify:	77
Do not know	98
Refusal	99

Voter identification requirements problems – frequency of

IF Q.43A OR Q43B = 1, ASK Q45

45. How often did you observe those problems?

TELEPHONE: READ 1-4

Very often	1
Somewhat often	2
Not that often	3
Not often at all	4

TELEPHONE: VOLUNTEERED

Do not know	98
Refusal	99

Difficulties with observational duties because of the COVID-19-related safety measures

46. **Candidates and their representatives have the right to observe certain steps of the voting and counting process.**

TELEPHONE: How strongly do you agree or disagree that it was harder to observe the election because of COVID-19-related safety measures at the polls? Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree?

ONLINE: How strongly do you agree or disagree that it was harder to observe the election because of COVID-19-related safety measures at the polls?

Strongly agree	1
Somewhat agree	2
Somewhat disagree	3
Strongly disagree	4
TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED	
Do not know	98
Refusal	99
SHOW ONLINE	
Not sure	98

Section 7 – Attitude toward Elections Canada

Fairness of EC's GE administration

47. **Thinking about the September 20 federal election, would you say that *Elections Canada* ran the election...?**

[TELEPHONE: EMPHASIZE “ELECTIONS CANADA”]

TELEPHONE: READ 1-4

Very fairly	1
Somewhat fairly	2
Somewhat unfairly	3
Very unfairly	4
TELEPHONE: VOLUNTEERED	
Do not know	98
Refusal	99

Trust in election results' accuracy

48. What level of trust do you have in the accuracy of the election results in your riding?

TELEPHONE: Is it...?

TELEPHONE: READ 1-4

Very high	1
Somewhat high	2
Somewhat low	3
Very low	4

TELEPHONE: VOLUNTEERED

Do not know	98
Refusal	99

Satisfaction with interactions with returning officer

49. Overall, how satisfied were you with your interactions with the returning officer?

TELEPHONE: Were you...?

TELEPHONE: READ 1-4

TELEPHONE: ACCEPT "DOES NOT APPLY" IF CANDIDATE HAD NO INTERACTIONS WITH RETURNING OFFICER

Very satisfied	1
Somewhat satisfied	2
Somewhat dissatisfied	3
Very dissatisfied	4

SHOW ONLINE, TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED:

I had no interaction with the returning officer	97
---	----

TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED

Do not know	98
Refusal	99

SHOW ONLINE

Not sure	98
----------	----

Satisfaction with overall quality of service

50. How satisfied were you with the overall quality of service you received from Elections Canada in the most recent federal election?

TELEPHONE: Were you...?

TELEPHONE: READ 1-4

Very satisfied 1

Somewhat satisfied 2

Somewhat dissatisfied 3

Very dissatisfied 4

TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED

Do not know 98

Refusal 99

SHOW ONLINE

Not sure 98

Suggestions to improve services received from Elections Canada

51. **Thinking about the services you received from Elections Canada during the election, what is your main suggestion, if anything, to improve those services?**

[PHONE] (DO NOT READ. ACCEPT UP TO THREE. DO NOT PROBE FOR MORE RESPONSES.)

[WEB] (OPEN QUESTION)

Not sure 98

PRE-CODED RESPONSES

More timely/accessible information	1
More training for the staff	2
More accurate voting lists/boundaries/maps	3
Improve level of service	4
Better access/timely/accurate information for voters	5
Voting electronically	6
Increase voter turnout	7
Better prepared for advanced voting turnouts	8
Enforce rules/regulations	9
Simplify/more accessible identification requirements	10
Less paper waste (more use of electronics)	11
Ensure follow-up regarding complaints filed over the electoral period	12
Provide more information about available products or tools that are available to candidates	13
Better observance of COVID-19-related health and safety measures	14
Other, specify:	77
Do not know/None	98
Refusal	99

Section 8 – Elections and technology

TELEPHONE ONLY: The next questions are about technology and the way federal elections are conducted.

Foreign influence/interference/false information

52. **A: PHONE** Based on what you have seen or heard recently, do you think [*insert statement*] was a problem in this election?

B: ONLINE: Based on what you have seen or heard recently, do you think any of the following were a problem in this election?

[PHONE] SPLIT SAMPLE : 1/3 A, 1/3 B, 1/3 C

[ONLINE] GRID. ROWS/ROTATE A-C.)

- a. Hacking by foreign countries or groups into the computer systems that support the election.
- b. Foreign countries or groups using social media and other means to influence the political opinions of Canadians.
- c. The spread of false information online.

Yes 1

No 2

TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED

Do not know 98

Refusal 99

SHOW ONLINE

Not sure 98

Impact of statement in the previous question

53. [TELEPHONE: IF Q.52A, 52B or 52C = 1 ASK Q53] What impact, if any, do you think this had on the outcome of the election?

[ONLINE] GRID. ROWS/SHOW ANY 1 AT Q52 IN ORDER ASKED) What impact, if any, do you think the following had on the outcome of the election?

- a. Hacking by foreign countries or groups into the computer systems that support the election.
- b. Foreign countries or groups using social media and other means to influence the political opinions of Canadians.
- c. The spread of false information online.

TELEPHONE: READ 1-4

Major impact	1
Moderate impact	2
Minor impact	3
No impact at all	4

TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED

Do not know	98
Refusal	99

SHOW ONLINE

Not sure	98
----------	----

Technology at the polls

SPLIT SAMPLE: ASK HALF 54A, HALF 54B

54. A) In a Canadian federal election, workers at the polls use paper lists to find a voter's name and keep track of who voted. In some provincial elections, poll workers use computers or tablets to do this electronically. Which method do you prefer?

[SHOW ONLINE, TELEPHONE IF ASKED: This refers to lists used by poll staff during the voter identification process, not the lists of electors that are provided to candidates.]

Paper lists	1
Computer lists	2
SHOW ONLINE, TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED: No preference	97

TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED

Do not know	98
Refusal	99

SHOW ONLINE

Not sure	98
----------	----

B) In Canadian federal elections, each paper ballot is counted by hand. In some provincial elections, paper ballots are scanned into a machine that counts the votes. Which vote counting method do you prefer?

Hand counting	1
Machine counting	2
SHOW ONLINE, TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED: No preference	97
TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED	
Do not know	98
Refusal	99
SHOW ONLINE	
Not sure	98

Voting on the Internet

SPLIT SAMPLE: ASK HALF 55A, HALF 55B

55. A) Do you think that electors should be able to vote by using the Internet?

Yes	1
No	2
TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED	
Do not know	98
Refusal	99
SHOW ONLINE	
Not sure	98

B) Which statement comes closest to your own view?

RANDOMIZE 1 AND 2

Voting online is risky	1
Voting online is safe	2
TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED	
Do not know	98
Refusal	99
SHOW ONLINE	
Not sure	98

Section 9 – Attitudes towards democracy in Canada

TELEPHONE ONLY: Now we'll move on to some questions about Canadian democracy.

Satisfaction with democracy in Canada

56. Overall, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in Canada?

TELEPHONE: Are you...

TELEPHONE: READ 1-4

Very satisfied	1
Somewhat satisfied	2
Not very satisfied	3
Not satisfied at all	4
TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED	
Do not know	98
Refusal	99
SHOW ONLINE	
Not sure	98

Reason dissatisfied with democracy in Canada

IF Q.56 = 3, 4 ASK Q57

57. Is there a specific reason why you are dissatisfied with the way democracy works in Canada?

[PHONE] (DO NOT READ. ACCEPT UP TO THREE. DO NOT PROBE FOR MORE RESPONSES.)

[WEB] (OPEN QUESTION)

Not sure 98

PRE-CODED RESPONSES

First-past-the-post does not reflect voters' preferences	1
Lack of proportional representation	2
The role of money in politics is increasing	3
Too many political financing requirements	4
Too little political financing requirements	5
Electors' disengagement/low turnout	6
Difficulties as independent candidate/small party/new party	7
Lack of representation of minority groups	8
Lack of representation of women	9
I did not get elected	10
Concern about the constitution	11
Polarization of Canadians as a result of the division between political parties	12
Lack of contact between political elites and electors	13
Lack of political elites' accountability towards electors	14
Other, specify:	77
Do not know	98
Refusal	99

Attitude towards lowering the voting age

58. [PHONE] Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree that the voting age in a federal election should be lowered from 18 to 16 years old?

[ONLINE] How strongly do you agree or disagree that the voting age in a federal election should be lowered from 18 to 16 years old?

TELEPHONE: DO NOT READ

Strongly agree	1
Somewhat agree	2
Somewhat disagree	3
Strongly disagree	4

TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED

Do not know	98
Refusal	99

SHOW ONLINE

Not sure	98
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*Attitudes towards representation rules or incentives***SPLIT SAMPLE – HALF ASK 59A, HALF ASK 59B**

59. [PHONE] Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree that...

[ONLINE] How strongly do you agree or disagree that...

- political parties should be required to have more women candidates?
- political parties should receive a financial incentive for having more women candidates?

[SHOW ONLINE, TELEPHONE IF ASKED: In some countries, there are rules or incentives in place to ensure political parties run candidates from certain groups

TELEPHONE: DO NOT READ

Strongly agree	1
Somewhat agree	2
Somewhat disagree	3
Strongly disagree	4

TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED

Do not know	98
Refusal	99

SHOW ONLINE

Not sure	98
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Section 10 – Socio-demographics

The last few questions are for classification purposes only. Please be assured that your answers will remain completely confidential.

Number of times running as candidate

60. Including the September 20 election, how many times have you run as a candidate at the federal level?

[MINIMUM 1; MAXIMUM 20]

ACCEPT ABSOLUTE NUMBER ONLY; NOT A RANGE

SHOW ONLINE, TELEPHONE IF ASKED: This would include federal general elections and by-elections.

[Number]	77
Not sure	98
TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED	
Refusal	99
SHOW ONLINE	
Prefer not to say	98

Language spoken at home

61. What language do you speak most often at home?

English	1
French	2
Other: specify _____	77
TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED	
Do not know	98
Refusal	99
SHOW ONLINE	
Prefer not to say	98

Disability identification

62. Do you identify as having a disability?

Yes	1
No	2
TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED	
Do not know	98
Refusal	99
SHOW ONLINE	
Prefer not to say	98

*Type of disability***IF Q.62= 1 ASK Q63****63. Please indicate whether you have any of the following conditions?****TELEPHONE: READ 1-77****Select all that apply**

Blind or visual impairment	1
Impaired coordination or dexterity	2
Deaf or hard of hearing	3
Impaired mobility	4
Cognitive impairment	5
Developmental or intellectual disability	6
Emotional/psychological/mental health condition	7
Chronic pain	8
Any other condition you would consider a disability (please specify)	77
SHOW ONLINE: Prefer not to say	99
TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED	
Do not know	98
Refusal/I prefer not to answer	99

*Canadian born***64. Were you born in Canada?**

Yes	1
No	2
TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED	
Do not know	98
Refusal	99
SHOW ONLINE	
Prefer not to say	98

Year became Canadian citizen

IF Q.64 = 2 ASK Q65

65. In what year did you become a citizen of Canada?

(Please specify year): [NUMBER] 97

TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED

I was born a Canadian citizen, but outside of the country 1

Do not know/Do not remember 98

Refusal 99

SHOW ONLINE

I was born a Canadian citizen, but outside of the country 1

Prefer not to say 98

Indigenous

66. Are you First Nations, Métis or Inuk (Inuit), or not?

TELEPHONE: DO NOT READ

First Nations 2

Métis 3

Inuit/Inuk 4

Not First Nations, Métis or Inuk (Inuit) 1

TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED

Refusal 99

SHOW ONLINE

Prefer not to say 98

Ethnic or cultural background

IF Q.66 = 1 OR 99 (NOT INDIGENOUS) ASK Q67

67. What is your ethnic or cultural background?

Select any that apply

TELEPHONE: DO NOT READ / ONLINE SHOW 01-11

White (e.g. English Canadian, Québécois, German, Italian)	1	
South Asian (e.g., East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan)	2	
Chinese	3	
Black	4	
Filipino	5	
Arab	6	
Latin American	7	
Southeast Asian (e.g., Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Thai)	8	
West Asian (e.g., Iranian, Afghan)	9	
Korean	10	
Japanese	11	
Mixed background	95	SINGLE PUNCH ONLY
Other group, please specify _____	96	
TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED		
Refusal	99	SINGLE PUNCH ONLY
SHOW ONLINE		
Prefer not to say	98	SINGLE PUNCH ONLY

*Level of Education***68. What is the highest level of education that you have reached?****TELEPHONE: DO NOT READ**

Some elementary	1
Completed elementary	2
Some high school	3
Completed high school	4
Some community college/vocational/trade school/commercial/CEGEP	5
Completed community college/vocational/trade school/ commercial/CEGEP	6
Some university (No degree or diploma obtained)	7
Completed university (diploma or bachelor degree)	8
Post-graduate university/professional school (master's, PhD, or any professional degree)	9
Other (specify)	77

TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED

Do not know	98
Refusal	99

SHOW ONLINE

Prefer not to say	98
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*Annual Income***69. What was the total annual income of all members of your household combined, before taxes?****TELEPHONE: DO NOT READ**

Under \$20,000	1
\$20,000 to just under \$40,000	2
\$40,000 to just under \$60,000	3
\$60,000 to just under \$80,000	4
\$80,000 to just under \$100,000	5
\$100,000 to just under \$150,000	6
\$150,000 to just under \$200,000	7
\$200,000 to just under \$250,000	8
\$250,000 and above	9

TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERED

Do not know	98
Refusal	99

SHOW ONLINE

Prefer not to say	98
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THANKS

This concludes the survey. Elections Canada will publish a report on its website at www.elections.ca once completed. You will be able to access the report there.

If you wish, we can inform you once the study is published on Elections Canada and Library and Archives' websites.

01 - Interested in receiving results/report

02 - Not interested in report

ONLINE: IF 01: Please provide us with an email address where we can send the notice?

TELEPHONE: IF INTERESTED: In this case, could you provide us with an email address where we can send the notice?

RECORD EMAIL FOR REPORT:

TELEPHONE IF ASKED: Elections Canada did not indicate the exact date when the results would be published.

Thank you for your time and feedback.