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## Smitherman narrowly leads Ford in Toronto mayoralty race Almost half express indecision

George Smitherman holds a modest lead over Rob Ford in the race for mayor of Toronto, as almost half of Toronto residents are undecided as to how they would vote according to a survey released by Environics Research Group. The telephone survey of 1,000 Greater Toronto Area residents was conducted from April 19 to May 8 and includes a sub-sample of 485 City of Toronto residents.

George Smitherman, with the support of 19 percent of Toronto residents likely to vote if an election were held today, holds a four-point lead over Rob Ford, who has the support of 15 percent of those likely to vote. Several other candidates also garner support at this stage including Sarah Thomson (8%), followed by Rocco Rossi (7%), Joe Pantalone (5%) and Giorgio Mammoliti (2%).

A notable finding of this survey is the high level of indecision among Toronto residents as almost half (44%) remain undecided.

Table 1: And if the municipal elections were held today, who would you be most likely to vote for Mayor?

<i>Most likely to vote for...</i>	%
George Smitherman	19
Rob Ford	15
Sarah Thomson	8
Rocco Rossi	7
Joe Pantalone	5
Giorgio Mammoliti	2
Other	1
None/no one	*
<b>dk/na</b>	<b>44</b>

Subsample: City of Toronto residents likely to vote if an election were held today (n=406).

## **Ford scores points among dissatisfied**

Smitherman and Ford generally garner support from similar proportions of Toronto residents across socio-demographic groups. However, Ford's supporters are much more likely to be among those *very* dissatisfied with the current municipal government (37% vs. 11% of those likely to vote for Smitherman if an election were held today).

## **Support for proposed policies**

Environics asked Torontonians if they support or oppose a variety of policy options that have been discussed so far in the campaign.

The policy proposal with the highest level of support is changing the TTC board so that the majority of members would be from the private sector rather than politicians. Seven in ten (69%) Torontonians support this idea.

There is also strong support for re-zoning industrial lands that are not being used to commercial and residential land (68%). Slimmer majorities support cutting the number of Toronto City Council members in half (58%) and using half of the development fees coming from downtown Toronto projects on suburban neighbourhoods facing challenges (57%).

Opinion is more divided on charging a \$5 toll on the Gardiner and DVP during peak business hours to pay for more subways across the city (45% support) and banning future bike lanes from major roads (44% support). There is much lower support for selling City of Toronto assets, like Toronto Hydro – only one-quarter (24%) of Torontonians support this idea (66% oppose), with opposition rising steadily with age (those aged 55 and over are most likely to oppose this idea).

**Table 2: Support for proposed policies**

Proposed Policy	%Support*
Changing the TTC board so that the majority of members would be from the private sector rather than politicians.	69
Re-zoning industrial lands that are not being used to commercial and residential land	68
Cutting the number of Toronto City Council members in half	58
Using half of the development fees coming from downtown Toronto projects on suburban neighbourhoods facing challenges	57
Charging a \$5 toll on the Gardiner and Don Valley Parkway during peak business hours to pay for more subways across the city	45
Banning future bike lanes from major roads	44
Selling City of Toronto assets, like Toronto Hydro	24

\*Subsample: City of Toronto residents (n=485).

*For further information, please contact:*

Sonya Kunkel, Vice President – Environics Research Group

(416) 969-2832, [sonya.kunkel@environics.ca](mailto:sonya.kunkel@environics.ca)

### ***Methodology***

- Results for this research are based on a subsample of 485 City of Toronto residents drawn from 1,000 telephone interviews with a random sample of GTA residents aged 18 years and older. A sample of this size produces results considered accurate to within +/-4.4 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.
- Interviews were conducted between April 19 and May 8, 2010.

Questions (English):

*And if the municipal elections were held today, who would you be most likely to vote for Mayor?*

*Several ideas have been raised in the Toronto mayoral race. Do you support or oppose the following proposed ideas?*

1. *Charging a \$5 toll on the Gardiner and Don Valley Parkway during peak business hours to pay for more subways across the city*
2. *Selling City of Toronto assets, like Toronto Hydro*
3. *Banning future bike lanes from major roads*
4. *Cutting the number of Toronto City Council members in half*
5. *Re-zoning industrial lands that are not being used to commercial and residential land*
6. *Using half of the development fees coming from downtown Toronto projects on suburban neighbourhoods facing challenges*
7. *Changing the TTC board so that the majority of members would be from the private sector rather than politicians.*