

Informed Consent

CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH STUDY - University of Toronto

Study Title: Decisions

Purpose and Background: Michael Cowan from the University of Toronto is conducting a study to learn how individuals make decisions.

Procedures: You have been invited by Qualtrics to participate in a research study. If you agree to be in this study, the following will happen:

- 1) You will perform a computer-based decision task.
- 2) You will complete a survey of your opinions.
- 3) You will answer basic demographic questions.

Participation in this study will take a total of approximately 15 minutes. As a token of our appreciation for your time, you have the option to be entered into a draw to win one of five \$25 Amazon gift cards for participating in this survey.

Potential Risks and Discomforts:

- 1) There are no physical risks associated with this study.
- 2) Please be assured that your participation is completely voluntary, and you may choose to skip any question that makes you feel uncomfortable or withdraw from participating at any time.

Benefits: There will be no direct benefit to you by participating in this study.

Confidentiality: Participation in research will mean a minimal loss of privacy. All records from the information gathering activities associated with this project will be confidential and linked only to an identifying number and not to you by name. Some information may be published in reports or presented at meetings, but will not identify you or any participating individuals. Whenever one works with e-mail or the internet there is always the risk of compromising privacy, confidentiality and/or anonymity. Your confidentiality will be maintained to the degree permitted by the technology being used. It is important for you to understand that no guarantees can be made regarding the interception of data sent via the internet by third parties.

Age: You affirm that you are 18 years of age or older.

Right to Withdraw from the Study: You may refuse to participate in this study. You may change your mind about being in the study and quit after the study has started without penalty.

Questions: If you have any other questions about the study, you may contact Michael

Cowan via email at m.cowan@mail.utoronto.ca, or Professor Renan Levine via email at renan.levine@utoronto.ca. If you have questions about your rights as a participant, you may contact the Research Oversight and Compliance Office - Human Research Ethics Program at ethics.review@utoronto.ca or (416)-946-3273.

Consent: Participation in this research is voluntary. You have the right to decline to participate or to withdraw at any point in this study without penalty (simply close the webpage to exit the survey).

- ☐ I consent, begin the study
- ☐ I do not consent, I do not wish to participate

Demographics

We'd like to start by asking you some questions about your traits and experiences.

What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

- ☐ Black/African-Canadian
- ☐ Asian/Asian-Canadian
- ☐ Indigenous (e.g., First Nations, Métis, Inuit, etc.)
- ☐ White/Caucasian
- ☐ Latino/Latina
- ☐ Arab
- ☐ West Asian (e.g., Iranian, Afghan, etc.)
- ☐ South Asian (e.g., East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, etc.)
- ☐ Multiracial
- ☐ Other (please specify):

(Gender) Do you identify as:

- ☐ a Man
- ☐ a Woman
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☐ Prefer to self-define:
- ☐ Prefer not to say

What is the highest level of school you have completed?

- ☐ Less than 12th grade - no high school diploma
- ☐ High school graduate - high school diploma or equivalent (for example: GED)

- ☐ College/Trade-school degree
- ☐ Bachelor's degree (for example: BA, BSC, BBA, etc.)
- ☐ Advanced degree (for example: MA, MBA, MD, PhD, JD)
- ☐ Other (please specify):

Party ID - General

Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as Liberal party voter, a Conservative party voter, or what?

- ☐ Liberal
- ☐ Conservative
- ☐ NDP
- ☐ PPC
- ☐ Bloc Québécois
- ☐ Green
- ☐ Another party (please specify):
- ☐ None of these

Party ID - Liberal Push

Would you call yourself a STRONG Liberal or a NOT VERY STRONG Liberal?

- ☐ Strong
- ☐ Not very strong

Party ID - Conservative Push

Would you call yourself a STRONG Conservative or a NOT VERY STRONG Conservative?

- ☐ Strong
- ☐ Not very strong

Ideology

In politics, people sometimes talk of left and right. Where would you place yourself from left to right?

- ☐ Extremely left

- ☐ Left
- ☐ Slightly left
- ☐ Centre
- ☐ Slightly right
- ☐ Right
- ☐ Extremely right
- ☐ Haven't thought much about it

Racial Scales & Questions Intro

Next are some questions about different groups in our society. We would like you to place each group on a 7-point scale based on how well you think a particular characteristic applies to people in that group.

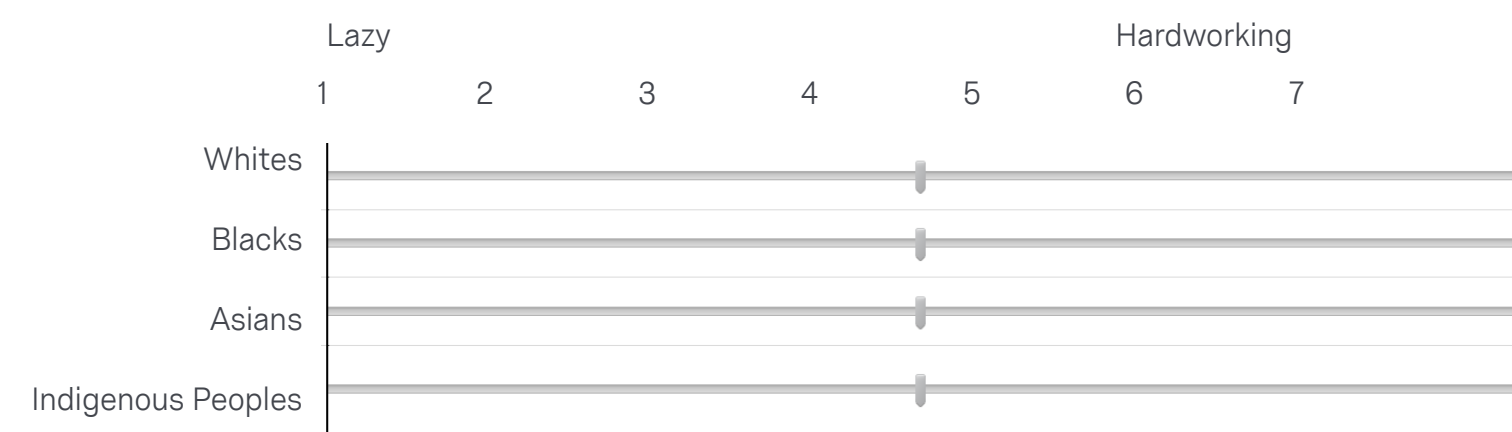
First, think about how **"lazy"** or **"hardworking"** people are.

A score of 1 means that you think almost everyone in the group is "lazy".

A score of 7 means that you think almost all of the people in that group tend to be "hardworking".

A score of 4 means that you think that the group is not towards one end or the other. And, of course, you may choose any number in between that comes closest to where you think people in the group stand.

Where would you rate these groups?



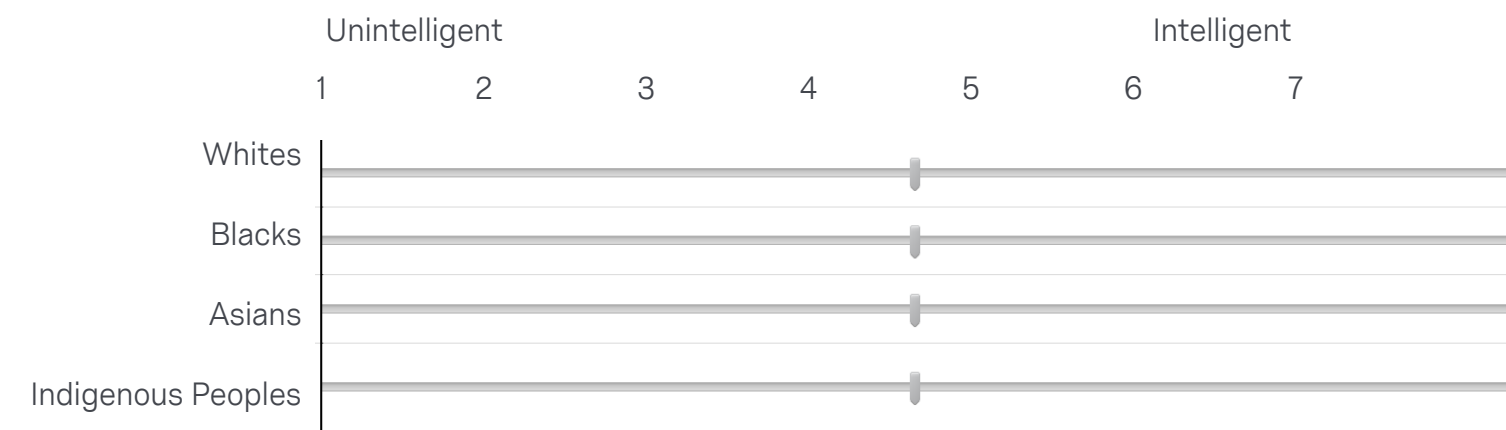
Next, please think about whether people in each group tend to be **"unintelligent"** or **"intelligent"** and rate them again on a 7-point scale.

A score of 1 means that you think almost everyone in the group is "unintelligent".

A score of 7 means that you think almost all of the people in that group tend to be "intelligent".

A score of 4 means that you think that the group is not towards one end or the other. And, of course, you may choose any number in between that comes closest to where you think people in the group stand.

Where would you rate these groups?



Now, please think about whether people in each group tend to be “peaceful” or “violent,” and rate them again on a 7-point scale.

A score of 1 means that you think almost all of the people in that group tend to be “peaceful.”

A score of 7 means that you think almost everyone in the group is “violent.”

A score of 4 means that you think that the group is not towards one end or the other. And, of course, you may choose any number in between that comes closest to where you think people in the group stand.

Where would you rate these groups?



Racial Questions

Next, please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements.

Irish, Italian, Chinese, and many other minorities overcame prejudice and worked their way up. Other minority groups should do the same without any special favours.

- ☐ Agree strongly
- ☐ Agree somewhat
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree somewhat
- ☐ Disagree strongly

More must be done to protect Aboriginal languages.

- ☐ Agree strongly
- ☐ Agree somewhat
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree somewhat
- ☐ Disagree strongly

Generations of oppression and discrimination have created conditions that make it difficult for Black people to work their way out of the lower class.

- ☐ Agree strongly
- ☐ Agree somewhat
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree somewhat
- ☐ Disagree strongly

Indigenous persons are getting too demanding in their push for land rights.

- ☐ Agree strongly
- ☐ Agree somewhat
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree somewhat
- ☐ Disagree strongly

Sexism Questions

Women are not easily offended.

- ☐ Agree strongly
- ☐ Agree somewhat
- ☐ Disagree somewhat
- ☐ Disagree strongly

Feminists are seeking for women to have more power than men.

- ☐ Agree strongly
- ☐ Agree somewhat
- ☐ Disagree somewhat
- ☐ Disagree strongly

Women should be cherished and protected by men.

- ☐ Agree strongly
- ☐ Agree somewhat
- ☐ Disagree somewhat
- ☐ Disagree strongly

Many women have a quality of purity that few men possess.

- ☐ Agree strongly
- ☐ Agree somewhat
- ☐ Disagree somewhat
- ☐ Disagree strongly

A good woman ought to be set on a pedestal by her man.

- ☐ Agree strongly
- ☐ Agree somewhat
- ☐ Disagree somewhat
- ☐ Disagree strongly

Racial Identity Questions

How important is being $\{q://QID204/ChoiceGroup/SelectedChoices\}$ to your identity?

- ☐ Not at all important
- ☐ Slightly important
- ☐ Somewhat important
- ☐ Very important

Gender Identity Questions

How important is being [\\$q://QID208/ChoiceGroup/SelectedChoices](#) to your identity?

- ☐ Not at all important
- ☐ Slightly important
- ☐ Somewhat important
- ☐ Very important

Attention Check

Please select "Strongly agree".

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Ranked-Choice Voting - Have you?

In the next section, we will ask you to participate in some election scenarios.

How familiar are you with Ranked-Choice Voting?

- ☐ I have never heard of Ranked Choice voting.
- ☐ I have heard of Ranked-Choice voting but do not fully understand how it works.
- ☐ I have heard of Ranked-Choice voting and understand how it works.

Have you ever voted in a Ranked-Choice Voting election?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes, I have voted in one Ranked-Choice Voting election.
- ☐ Yes, I have voted in more than one Ranked-Choice Voting election.

Election Rules










ELECTION RULES: PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

The winner of these elections will be determined by **RANKED-CHOICE VOTING**. In a ranked-choice election, voters first rank all of the candidates running for office from their most favorite to their least favorite. Candidates who have enough first-choice votes to win

Races in which it is not possible to determine winners based solely on the first-choice rankings proceed to multiple rounds of tabulation and the candidate with the lowest number of first choice votes in each round is eliminated. This process continues until a candidate receives enough votes to be elected.

For mayoral and city council seats (which we will ask you to participate in), candidates must receive 50%+1 votes to win.

Here's an example of an RCV Ballot:

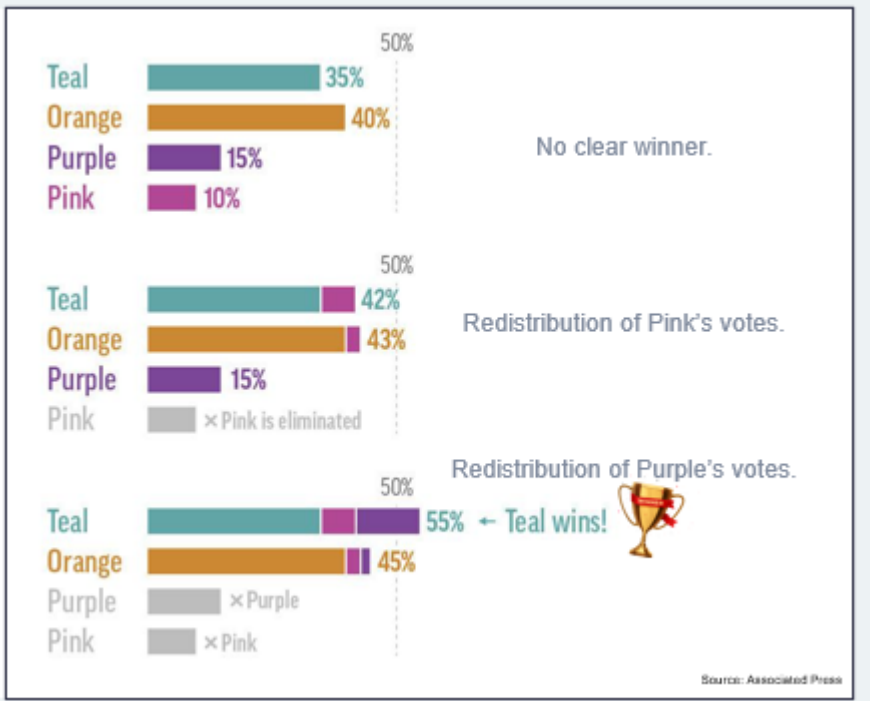
Mark no more than 1 oval in each column.	First Choice	Second Choice	Third Choice
Candidate A			
Candidate B			
Candidate C			

ELECTION RULES: PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Your first choice candidate will receive your vote during the initial count up of all votes, and continue to be counted as your vote as long as they receive enough total votes to avoid elimination in a given round of vote counting. If your first choice candidate is eliminated, then your second, third, and fourth choices will be counted as receiving your vote in subsequent rounds of voting tabulation, by order of preference, for candidates who have not yet been eliminated.

For example, in an election for mayor you might mark Sam Jones as your first choice, Tasha Smith as your second choice, Alexis Williams as your third choice, and Lucas Johnson as your fourth choice. If Sam Jones is eliminated from the race after the first round because he received the lowest number of first-choice votes, your vote goes to Tasha Smith in the next round. If Sam Jones is not eliminated, your first-choice vote remains with him.

Here's an example of an RCV redistribution when no candidate won the 1st or 2nd rounds.



Example RCV Election:

Just for some practice, let's say you wanted to pick:

Sam Jones as your 2nd choice.

Tasha Smith as your 1st choice.

Alexis Williams as your 4th choice.

Lucas Johnson as your 3rd choice.

Please select the boxes that correspond with these preferences.

	1	2	3	4
Sam Jones	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tasha Smith	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Alexis Williams	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lucas Johnson	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

RCV City Council & Mayoral Election 1 - No Labels/Labels

You are now voting in an **Ranked-Choice Voting election for City Council**. The candidate who receives a majority of the votes will win:

Amy Stone

Michelle Wu

Keisha Richardson

Remember, because this is a **RCV** election, your vote will be redistributed from your first to your second (then third, then fourth) choice candidate if your first (then second, then third) choice candidate does not get enough votes from other voters to proceed to the next round of vote counting.

Please rank the candidates:

	1	2	3	4
Michelle Wu	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Keisha Richardson	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Amy Stone	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kateri Littlebear	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

You are now voting in a **Ranked-Choice Voting election for Mayor**. These candidates are known to be affiliated with Canada's political parties. The candidate who receives a majority of the votes will win:

Julie Chang is affiliated with the $\{e://Field/Candidate1Party\}$ party.

Latoya Butler is affiliated with the $\{e://Field/Candidate2Party\}$ party.

Winona Yellowfeather is affiliated with the $\{e://Field/Candidate3Party\}$ party.

Wendy Burns is affiliated with the $\{e://Field/Candidate4Party\}$ party.

Remember, because this is a **RCV** election, your vote will be redistributed from your first to your second (then third, then fourth) choice candidate if your first (then second, then third) choice candidate does not get enough votes from other voters to proceed to the next round of vote counting.

Please rank the candidates:

	1	2	3	4
Latoya Butler	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Julie Chang	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Winona Yellowfeather	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wendy Burns	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

RCV City Council/Mayoral Election 2 - No Labels/Labels

You are now voting in a **Ranked-Choice Voting election for Mayor**. The candidate who receives a majority of the votes will win:

Julie Chang

Latoya Butler

Winona Yellowfeather

Wendy Burns

Remember, because this is a **RCV** election, your vote will be redistributed from your first to your second (then third, then fourth) choice candidate if your first (then second, then third) choice candidate does not get enough votes from other voters to proceed to the next round of vote counting.

Please rank the candidates:

	1	2	3	4
Latoya Butler	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wendy Burns	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Julie Chang	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Winona Yellowfeather	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

You are now voting in a **Ranked-Choice Voting election for City Council**. These candidates are known to be affiliated with Canada's political parties. The candidate who receives a majority of the votes will win:

Michelle Wu is affiliated with the $\{e://Field/Candidate1Party\}$ party.

Keisha Richardson is affiliated with the $\{e://Field/Candidate2Party\}$ party.

Kateri Littlebear is affiliated with the $\{e://Field/Candidate3Party\}$ party.

Amy Stone is affiliated with the $\{e://Field/Candidate4Party\}$ party.

Remember, because this is a **RCV** election, your vote will be redistributed from your first to your second (then third, then fourth) choice candidate if your first (then second, then third) choice candidate does not get enough votes from other voters to proceed to the next round of vote counting.

Please rank the candidates:

	1	2	3	4
Keisha Richardson	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Michelle Wu	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	1	2	3	134
Amy Stone	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kateri Littlebear	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Election Results

The results are in! Your Mayoral candidate won election!

The results are in! Both your Mayoral and City Council candidates won the election!

The results are in! Your City Council candidate won the election!

The results are in. Unfortunately, your candidates lost the election.

Final Questions

The final questions give us an opportunity to learn about your opinions and experiences.

Political Participation & Efficacy

How often do you pay attention to what is going on in government and politics?

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Most of the time
- ☐ About half the time
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Never

Are you eligible to vote in Canadian elections?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Do you intend to vote in your next provincial election?

- ☐ Definitely not
- ☐ Probably not
- ☐ May or may not
- ☐ Probably yes

☐ Definitely yes

Do you intend to vote in the next federal election?

- ☐ Definitely not
- ☐ Probably not
- ☐ May or may not
- ☐ Probably yes
- ☐ Definitely yes

Now, thinking about local elections, do you always vote in those, do you sometimes miss one, do you rarely vote, or do you never vote?

- ☐ Always vote
- ☐ Sometimes miss
- ☐ Rarely vote
- ☐ Never vote

Are there any parties that you would absolutely not vote for? **(Select all that apply)**

- ☐ Liberal Party
- ☐ Conservative Party
- ☐ NDP
- ☐ Green Party
- ☐ People's Party of Canada
- ☐ Bloc Québécois
- ☐ Another party (please specify):
- ☐ I could vote for any of the parties

Religious Preference

With which religion/religious preference do you most closely identify?

- ☐ Christian
- ☐ Islam
- ☐ Hinduism
- ☐ Sikhism
- ☐ Buddhism
- ☐ Judaism
- ☐ Indigenous

- ☐ Other faiths
- ☐ Atheist
- ☐ Nothing in particular

Household Income

What was the total income last year of all the family members in your household combined, before taxes?

- ☐ Under \$15,000
- ☐ \$15000-\$29,999
- ☐ \$30,000-44,999
- ☐ \$45,000-\$59,999
- ☐ \$60,000-\$74,999
- ☐ \$75,000-\$89,999
- ☐ \$90,000-\$104,999
- ☐ \$105,000-\$119,999
- ☐ Over \$120,000

Debrief & Draw

In which province/territory do you live?

- ☐ Alberta
- ☐ British Columbia
- ☐ Manitoba
- ☐ New Brunswick
- ☐ Newfoundland and Labrador
- ☐ Northwest Territories
- ☐ Nova Scotia
- ☐ Nunavut
- ☐ Ontario
- ☐ Prince Edward Island
- ☐ Quebec
- ☐ Saskatchewan
- ☐ Yukon
- ☐ I don't live in Canada

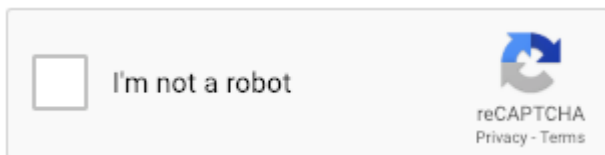
Which age group do you fall into?

- ☐ 18-24 years old
- ☐ 25-34 years old
- ☐ 35-44 years old
- ☐ 45-54 years old
- ☐ 55-64 years old
- ☐ 65+ years old

What type of device did you use to take this survey?

- ☐ Desktop or Laptop
- ☐ Tablet
- ☐ Smart Phone
- ☐ Other (Please specify):

Please confirm you are a human!



Thank you for your participation! We greatly appreciate the time and effort you have contributed to our research study. Your input is invaluable in advancing our understanding of voter decision-making processes and the impact of electoral systems.

Purpose: This study aimed to investigate how Ranked-Choice Voting, biases, and partisanship cues influence Canadian voter preferences – particularly towards candidates from different racial and ethnic groups. By assigning participants to different voting scenarios in a simulated election environment, we were interested in differences in voter preferences for candidates based on minimal candidate information.

By participating, you have contributed to research that seeks to deepen our understanding of electoral dynamics and voter behavior in Canada.

Confidentiality: Your responses were collected anonymously and will be used solely for research purposes. The data collected will be analyzed, but your identity will remain confidential.

Follow-Up: If you have any questions or concerns about the study or your participation, please feel free to contact us at m.cowan@mail.utoronto.ca.

As a token of our appreciation, we invite you to enter a draw for 1 of 5 \$25 Amazon gift cards. To participate in the draw, please click on the following external Google Forms link.

This will prompt you for your email address, which will be used solely for the purpose of the draw:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSePEd35g96gfFqw-ow-Kw74nPSIHeslB55bxP46y7nWa8Zkyg/viewform?usp=sf_link