2019 Canadian Federal Election Results in Toronto

Making the Case for Proportional Representation

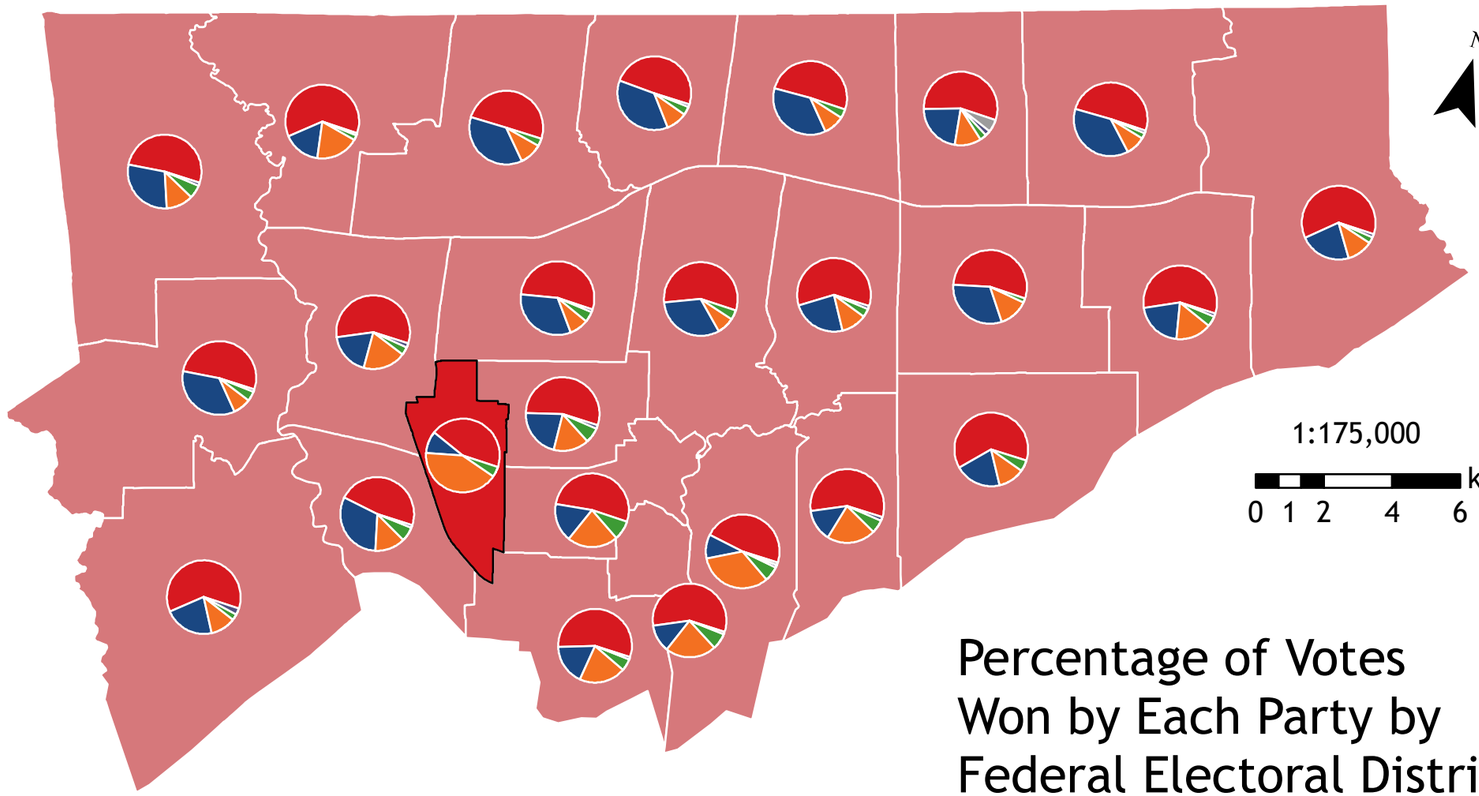
Context

During the 2019 Canadian Federal Election, all 25 federal electoral districts in the City of Toronto voted Liberal. However, some ridings came close to electing their New Democratic or Conservative candidate. The percentage of votes won by political party in each district are displayed in a thematic symbol map to the right. One district in particular came very close to voting NDP, and that district was Davenport (displayed in darker red). The voting split between the Liberals (22,813 votes) and the NDP (21,341 votes) amounts to a difference of only 1,472 votes. The split is visualized in a dot density map at the bottom right. While the spatial distribution of these dots is inaccurate because the geography is only based on the district, it clearly shows that support for both parties was almost equal. Yet, only the Liberal party was elected.

Canada uses the First-Past-the-Post (FPTP) electoral system. Imagine the results if Canada adopted Proportional Representation (PR) as its official system, where voters could potentially cast two votes: one for their local candidate and one for the ruling political party. It would likely better represent their political opinions, and Davenport may have elected an NDP candidate instead. It is difficult to predict PR outcomes because an entirely new voting system would have to be implemented, but the 2019 Election results in this map poster do indicate that FPTP does not accurately represent voters' political opinions when electing MPs. Therefore, the ultimate purpose of this map poster is to educate on and advocate for a PR electoral system.

Data & Maps

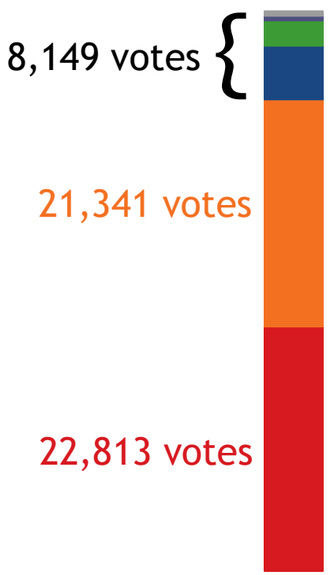
At the time of creating this map, official 2019 datasets were not yet made available by Elections Canada. Therefore, percentage and raw vote count data were obtained from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) website. District shapefiles were obtained from Statistics Canada, and the data were manually added as new fields to each shapefile. Data were visualized using thematic symbols (pie charts) and dot density symbology. Relevant political party colours were used.



Percentage of Votes Won by Each Party by Federal Electoral District

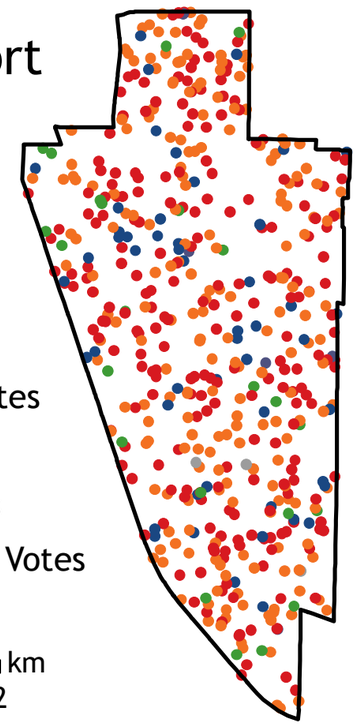
- Liberal Party of Canada
- Conservative Party of Canada
- New Democratic Party
- Green Party of Canada
- People's Party of Canada
- Other Parties/Independents

Voting Split by Party in Davenport



1 DOT = 100 VOTES

- Liberal Votes
- Conversative Votes
- New Democratic Votes
- Green Party Votes
- People's Party Votes
- Other/Independent Votes



Data Source: Elections Canada; Canadian Broadcasting Corporation; Statistics Canada 2016
Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N

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