

Canadians' Views About the 2025 Federal Election Process

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August 29, 2025

Summary Report

The 2025 Canadian Election Study (CES) included several questions in its post-election wave (fielded between April 29-May 13, 2025) that are likely to be of direct interest to election management bodies, as they relate to Canadians' experience with and attitudes toward the electoral process. Topics covered include questions about electoral administration, information access and experience with the election process, as well as general opinion about elections. The survey instrument was programmed and administered through the Qualtrics online platform. In total, the sample includes 14,075 members of the Canadian general population who agreed to take a second wave of the CES. The size of the first wave (campaign period) was 20,180.

Respondents in the 2025 CES were recruited from Leger Opinion Panel. They needed to be aged 18 or over, and Canadian citizens or permanent residents to be eligible. To ensure the representativeness of the sample, sampling balanced on gender and age within five regions: Atlantic (Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island), Quebec, Ontario, West (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia), and Territories (Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Yukon). With quotas, the survey was programmed to aim for 50% men and 50% women. Likewise, 27% of respondents should be aged 18-34, 32% should be aged 35-54, and 41% should be aged 55 or higher. The quotas aimed for 80% French and 20% English within Quebec, 10% French within the Atlantic region, and 10% French nationally.

To account for the overrepresentation of some social groups in the dataset, the results are weighted by province, gender, age, and education level based on the population data provided by the 2021 Canadian census¹. As in the 2019 and 2021 reports, the results reported below include breakdowns by gender (man or woman), age groups (18-34, 35-54, 55-75, or 75-99), province (Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, or Saskatchewan), and electoral participation (abstained or voted). Since a very small number of respondents come from the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Yukon, they are excluded from these breakdowns.

The following sections outline some of the highlights that emerged from the data. The results are rounded to the nearest integers. For this reason, some percentages do not add up to 100%.

¹ Weights have been created for the dataset using an iterative "raking" process, as provided by the *ipfraking* command in STATA15.

1. Electoral administration

The 2025 CES includes questions about Canadians' satisfaction with the way Elections Canada (EC) conducts federal elections (see Figure 1), how fair they consider EC in conducting the 2025 election (see Figure 2), and the extent to which this organization can be trusted (see Figure 3).

As in previous elections, a large majority of respondents consider themselves satisfied with EC's administration (45% fairly satisfied/29% very satisfied). Similarly, while **most believe that EC ran the election fairly** (75%), women are more uncertain in their evaluation than men, being less likely to say the election was conducted very fairly. Older respondents are more likely to say the election was conducted very fairly (49% among those aged 55-74; 59% among those aged 75 or older), compared to younger respondents (30% among those aged 18-34; 35% among those aged 35-54). Evaluations of EC's fairness are also higher in certain Atlantic provinces, such as Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia. People who abstained from voting are less able to assess EC's fairness (28% DK/Refused) and report lower evaluations compared to voters (56% somewhat/very fairly vs. 79% of voters).

About **67% of Canadians trusted EC** in administering the election, which is a slight increase compared to the results from the 2021 CES (62%). Distrust is higher among the 18-34 age group (33%), residents of the Prairie provinces (36% in Alberta; 32% in Manitoba and 42% in Saskatchewan) and people who abstained from voting (46%).

2. Electoral information

Receiving a voter information card appears an important tool for participation, as **91% of Canadians who chose to vote reported receiving one by mail, compared to 59% of those who abstained** (28% of abstainers also reported not receiving theirs and another 10% did not know or preferred not to answer the question). Overall, 86% of Canadians received a voter information card, while 10% reported they did not receive one, and a small portion (around 2%) received a card with incorrect information (see Figure 4). However, among the 18-34 age group, many did not receive one (18%), some had incorrect information (3%), and more of them were not able to answer the question (6%). Also, a relatively high proportion of Nova Scotia residents indicated they did not receive their card (19%), compared to other provinces.

Mail is still the preferred mode for receiving the voter information card overall (44%). Still, for young Canadians and people who abstained from voting, an electronic format might be preferable (see Figure 5). Canadians were also able to access information they needed to vote through a vast array of sources (see Figures 6 to 18). The voter information card is by far the most consulted one (63%), followed by radio or television (36%) and EC flyers (26%). Other information sources mentioned were:

- Advertisements from Elections Canada (24%)
- Elections Canada website (21%)

- Word of mouth (16%)
- Newspapers (13%)
- Candidates or political parties (11%)
- Facebook (10%)
- Website other than EC's (6%)
- YouTube (5%)
- Twitter (3%)
- Other social media sites (2%)

As can be seen in Figure 19, like with the voter information card, **Canadians prefer receiving official information about where and when to vote via mail (53%)**, although many of them also selected email as their preferred method (33%). This is the case especially for 18-34 year-olds (37%) who were also more likely to indicate that they would prefer text messages (12%). Interestingly, this latter option also seems more popular in Atlantic provinces such as Nova Scotia (11%) and Prince Edward Island (15%). The preference for obtaining information via mail is also much lower for people who decided to abstain from voting (33%), suggesting the need to rethink how to reach and inform this group effectively.

Another set of questions concerns the accuracy of information circulated during elections (see Figures 20 and 21). First, **when it comes to the accuracy of voting results in their electoral districts, most Canadians say they are confident (77%)**, whereas fewer people who decided not to vote feel the same (52%). Men, people over the age of 55, and residents of several Atlantic provinces and Quebec also have greater confidence in the accuracy of the results in their electoral district (see Figure 20). These groups are also less likely to believe voter fraud happens frequently (see Figure 21). **Voter fraud is an issue on which many Canadians are reluctant to take a stand, with 17% choosing not to answer the question or indicating they don't know. Only 57% indicate it is an infrequent occurrence, compared to 26% who believe the opposite.**

Participants of the 2025 CES were also invited to indicate if, given the rise of AI, they still felt confident about the information circulating about the election (see Figure 22). Results indicate that **most Canadians are still "somewhat confident" (49%) or even "very confident" (17%) that they can trust the information they received, despite the rise of AI**. Trust is especially high among the 75-99 year-olds (76% are "somewhat" or "very" confident). On the contrary, Canadians who indicated abstaining from voting show more distrust (34%) and potentially more uncertainty (19% DK/Refused).

3. Electoral experience

In 2025, **91% of voters decided to cast their ballot in person either at the polling station on Election Day (46%) or at an advance polling station (45%; see Figure 23)**. Only 5% voted in person at an Elections Canada office and 3% by mail. This continues a trend observed in 2021, as an increasing number of voters are choosing to vote in advance rather than on the day of the election. In 2021, 44% of voters did so at the polling station and 43%

at an advance polling station. In comparison, in 2019, 58% of Canadians voted on Election Day and 37% voted in advance polls.

Of those who abstained from voting in 2025 (about 11% of the sample), **31% thought that voting would not make a difference, 21% had no interest or did not care and another 21% did not have time to vote.** In 2021, the percentages were 26%, 21% and 18%, respectively, while in 2019 they were 29%, 22% and 21%, respectively. Men and age groups 35-54 and 55-74 were among those who most often mentioned that voting would make no difference (see Figure 24). A high proportion of abstainers from Alberta also mentioned this reason (39%). Other reasons for not voting were:

- Physical reasons (16%)
- Could not prove ID or address (4%)
- Did not know when/where to vote (2%)
- Requested a mail ballot that did not arrive in time (4%)

4. General opinion about elections

This last section covers some general opinions about the elections. One of the issues stated was related to the voting age. **71% of Canadians (45% strongly and 26% somewhat) disagree with the proposition of lowering the voting age in a federal election from 18 to 16 years old.** Only 15% of Canadians would be in favour (10% somewhat, 5% strongly). Canadians over the age of 55 strongly oppose reducing the voting age (54% for 55-74, 52% for 75 or older). Among the 18-34, less of them are strongly opposed to the idea (34%), but the percentage of approval remains low at about 21% (13% somewhat, 8% strongly). This is a notable reduction compared to 2019, when 35% of this age group felt that the voting age should be lowered. As can be seen in Figure 25, Canadians who abstained are more ambivalent, as less of them disagree with lowering the voting age.

A large majority of Canadians, 75%, also share the view that low turnout weakens democracy (38% somewhat agree and 37% strongly agree). As can be seen in Figure 26, this view is even stronger among people aged 75 years old and over (44% somewhat agree and 40% strongly agree). The most striking difference is between Canadians who voted in 2025, 79% of whom agree with the statement, and those who abstained. Among abstainers, a large share neither agree nor disagree (29%), and fewer than half (47%) agree that low turnout weakens democracy.

Respondents in the 2025 CES were asked about their support for online voting, their willingness to vote online in different elections, and the riskiness associated with this potential option (see Figures 27 to 33). **In federal elections, Canadians are split on the idea of online voting: 39% oppose it (25% strongly, 14% somewhat), while an equal share of 39% support it (19% strongly, 20% somewhat).** People tend to support online voting slightly more at other levels of government, especially the municipal level. Overall support is at 42% for provincial elections (20% strongly, 22% somewhat) and at 45% for municipal elections. Across types of elections, there is stronger opposition in the Prairies (Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan) and Prince Edward Island. On the contrary, in Nova Scotia, where online voting is permitted and increasingly used at the municipal level,

more than half of respondents are in favour of the idea across all types of elections. Abstainers express greater support for online voting than Canadians who participated in the last election.

Interestingly, a larger share of Canadians indicate they would be willing to vote online if this option were implemented. In the federal election, this represents 57% of Canadians who would be likely to try it (37% very, 20% somewhat). The share is similar for provincial elections at 56% (37% very, 19% somewhat) and rises to 60% for municipal elections (37% very, 23% somewhat). Older Canadians are less willing to vote online compared to the younger age group. Similar to the previous question on online voting, there are differences between provinces, with residents of the Canadian Prairies being more divided, while a large majority of citizens in Nova Scotia say they are likely to vote online. This time, both voters and non-voters show a willingness to vote online, with 59% of abstainers and 56% of voters in 2025 expressing support in the context of federal elections, for example.

When assessing the riskiness of online voting, 54% of Canadians view it as risky and 38% view it as safe (see Figure 33). Contrary to the 2021 CES report, the distribution is quite similar across age groups. Once again, respondents in the Prairie region view online voting as riskier than other Canadians, whereas in Nova Scotia opinions on the risks are more evenly divided (44% risky, 45% safe). Canadians who abstained in 2025 were more likely than voters to select “Don’t know/Prefer not to answer,” yet roughly 38% of both groups considered online voting to be safe.

Another set of questions on the safety of Canadian elections concerns foreign interference in both the voting process and the campaign. **64% of Canadians are confident about the safety of the voting process (27% very, 37% somewhat) and 27% are not (11% not at all, 16% not very)** (see Figure 34). However, **Canadians are not as confident that the campaign is safe from foreign interference, with 40% reporting they are either not at all confident (15%) or not very confident (25%)** (see Figure 35). Interestingly, younger Canadians appear more concerned with foreign interference than those aged 55 and older.

Supporting Information

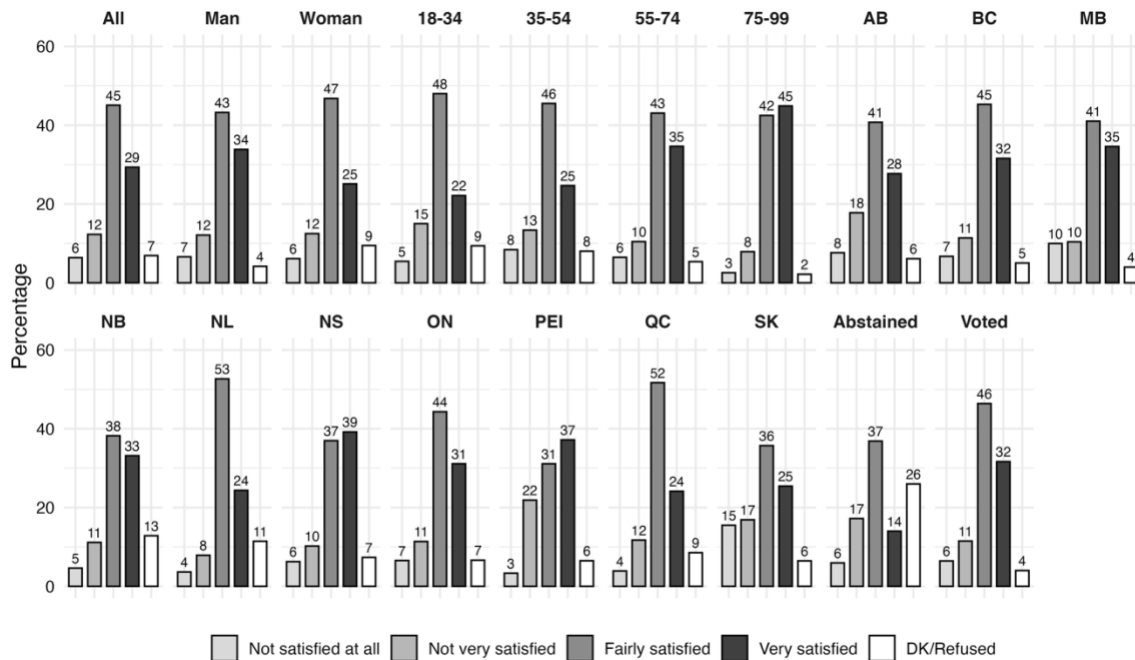
1. Electoral administration

How satisfied are you with the way Elections Canada runs federal elections?

- Very satisfied
- Fairly satisfied
- Not very satisfied
- Not satisfied at all
- Don't know/ Prefer not to answer

The order of the response options is reversed in the figure below.

Figure 1. Distribution of satisfaction with the way Elections Canada runs federal elections.

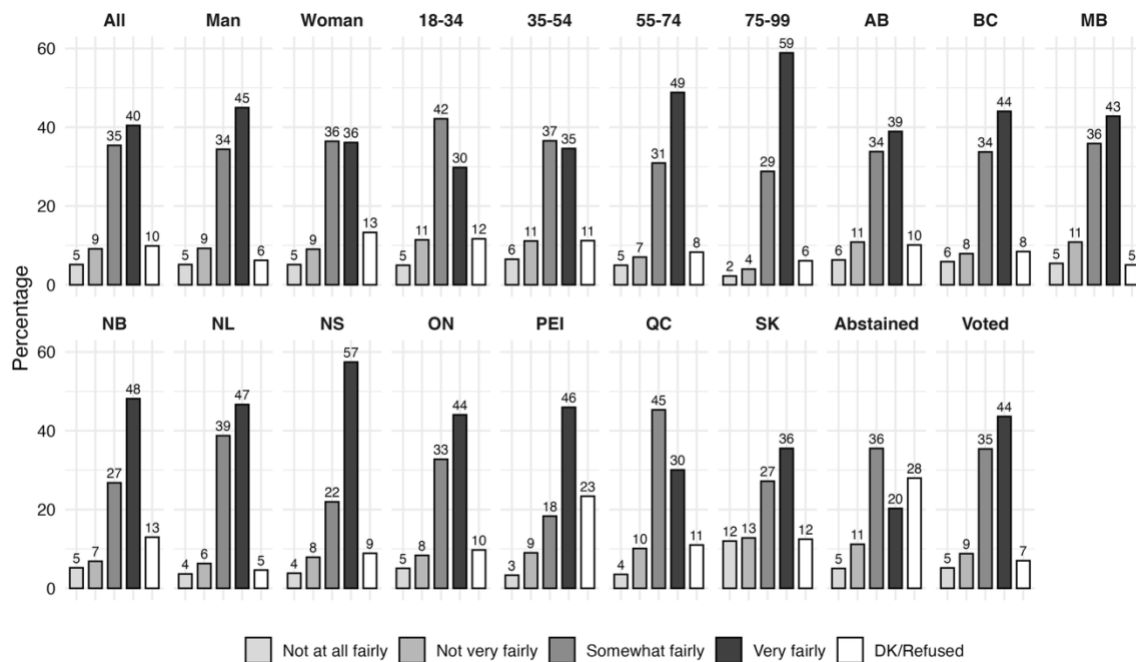


Thinking about this election, would you say that Elections Canada ran the election...

- Very fairly
- Somewhat fairly
- Not very fairly
- Not at all fairly
- Don't know/ Prefer not to answer

The order of the response options is reversed in the figure below.

Figure 2. Distribution of how fairly Elections Canada ran the 2025 election.

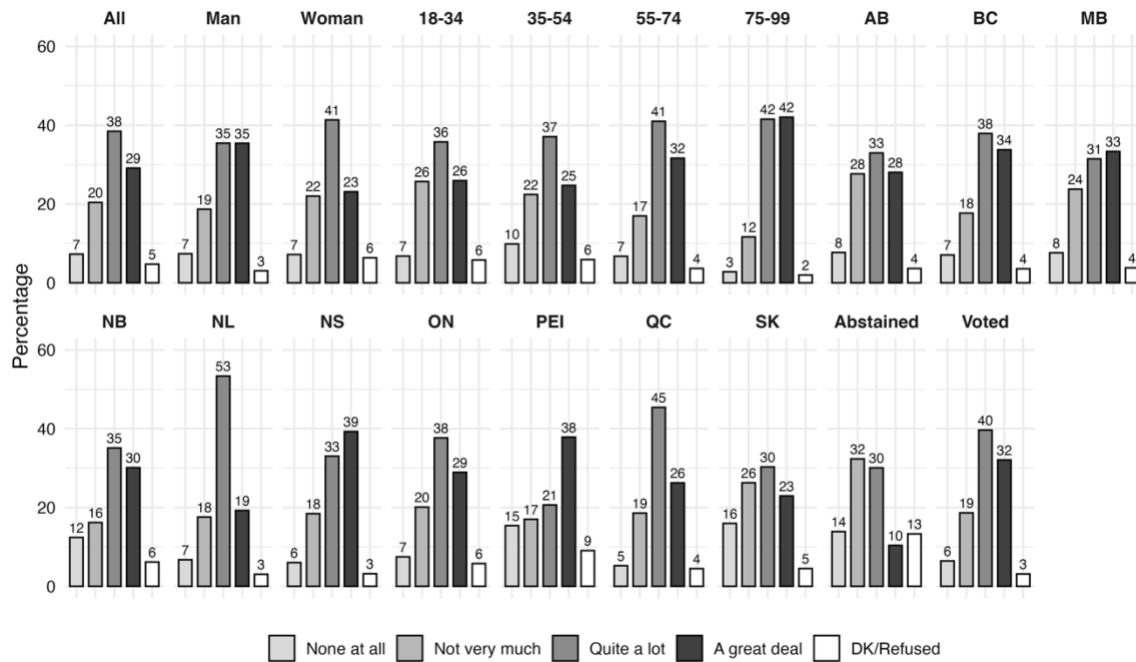


Please indicate how much confidence you have in the following: Elections Canada

- A great deal
- Quite a lot
- Not very much
- None at all
- Don't know/ Prefer not to answer

The order of the response options is reversed in the figure below.

Figure 3. Distribution of trust in Elections Canada.



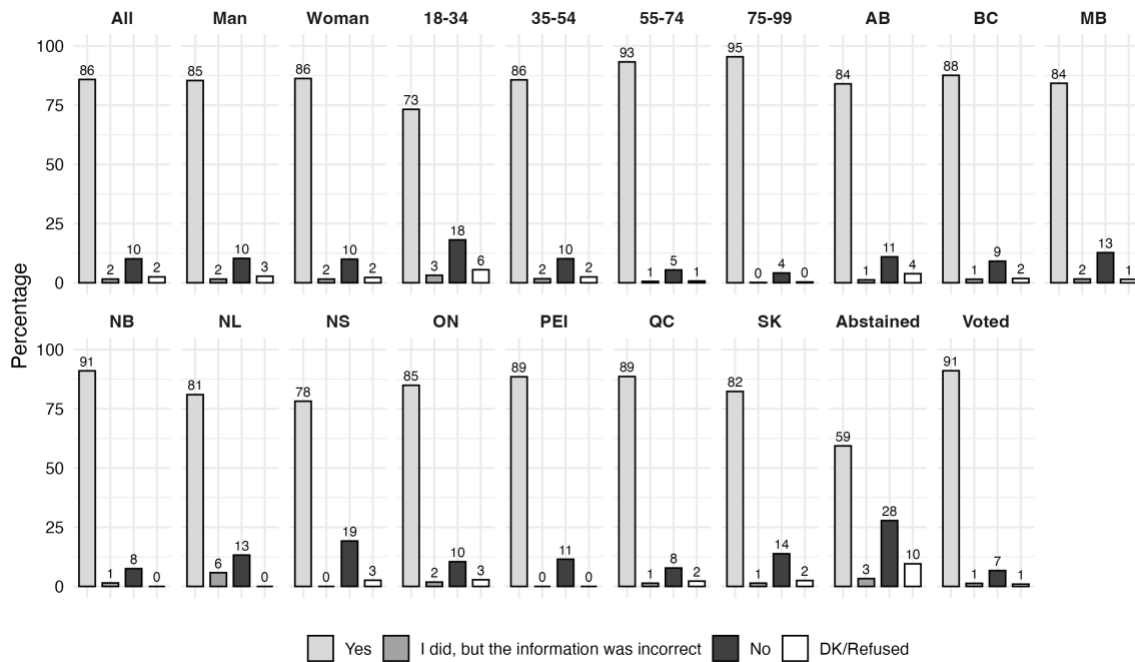
2. Electoral information

Did you receive a voter information card in the mail?

- Yes
- I did, but information was incorrect
- No
- Don't know
- Prefer not to answer

Don't know/ Prefer not to answer are grouped together in the figure below.

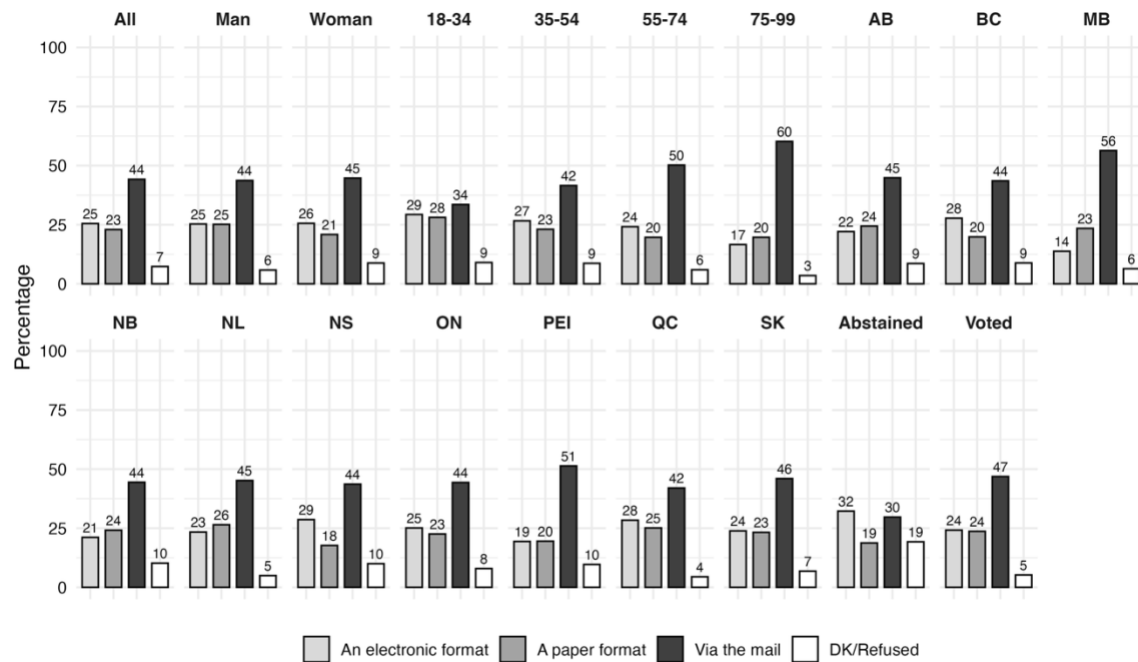
Figure 4. Distribution of whether one received a voter information card in the mail.



Would you prefer to receive your voter information card in:

- An electronic format
- A paper format
- Via the mail
- Don't know/ Prefer not to answer

Figure 5. Distribution of preference to receive the voter information card.



From which of the following sources did you get information about voting in the federal election? (Select all that apply)

- Elections Canada flyer
- Voter Information Card
- Advertisements from Elections Canada
- Radio or Television
- Newspaper
- Elections Canada website
- Word of mouth
- Facebook
- X (formerly Twitter)
- Youtube
- Other social media
- From internet website other than Elections Canada
- From candidates or political parties
- Other source
- None of these
- Don't know/ Prefer not to answer

Figure 6. Distribution of information acquisition by Elections Canada's flyer.

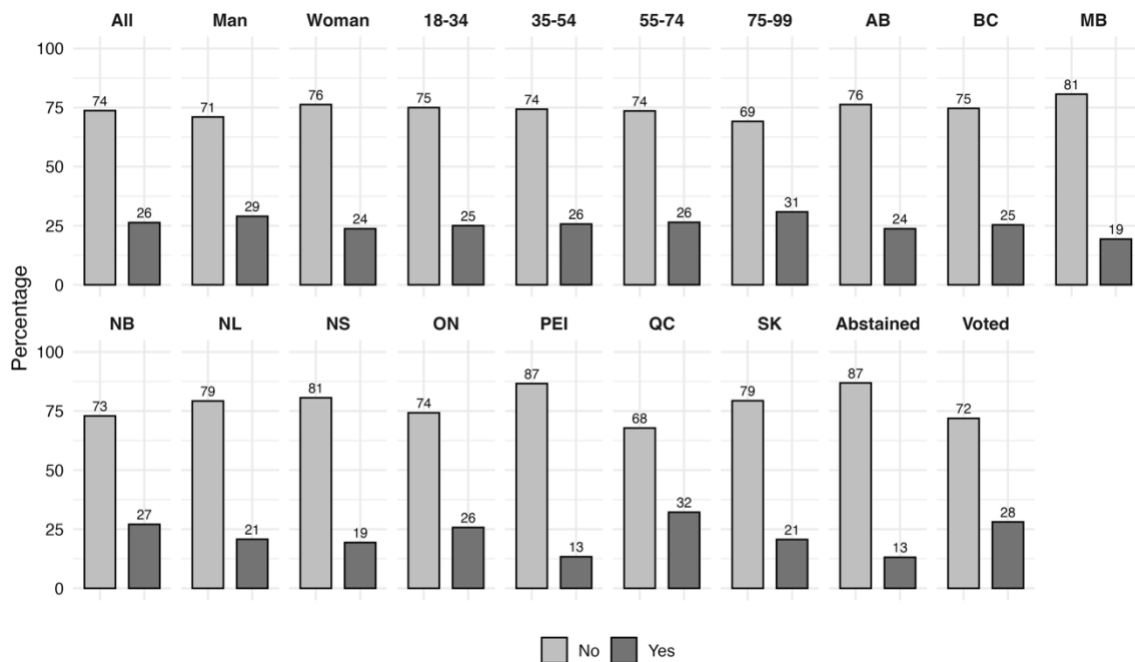


Figure 7. Distribution of information acquisition by voter information card.

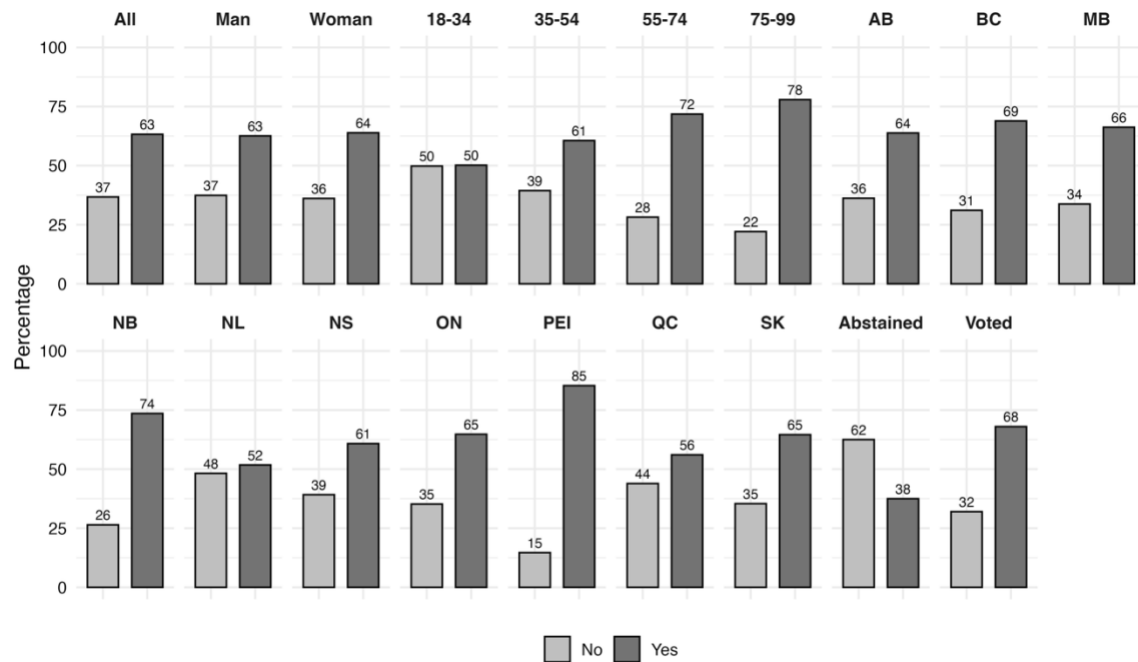


Figure 8. Distribution of information acquisition by Elections Canada's ads.

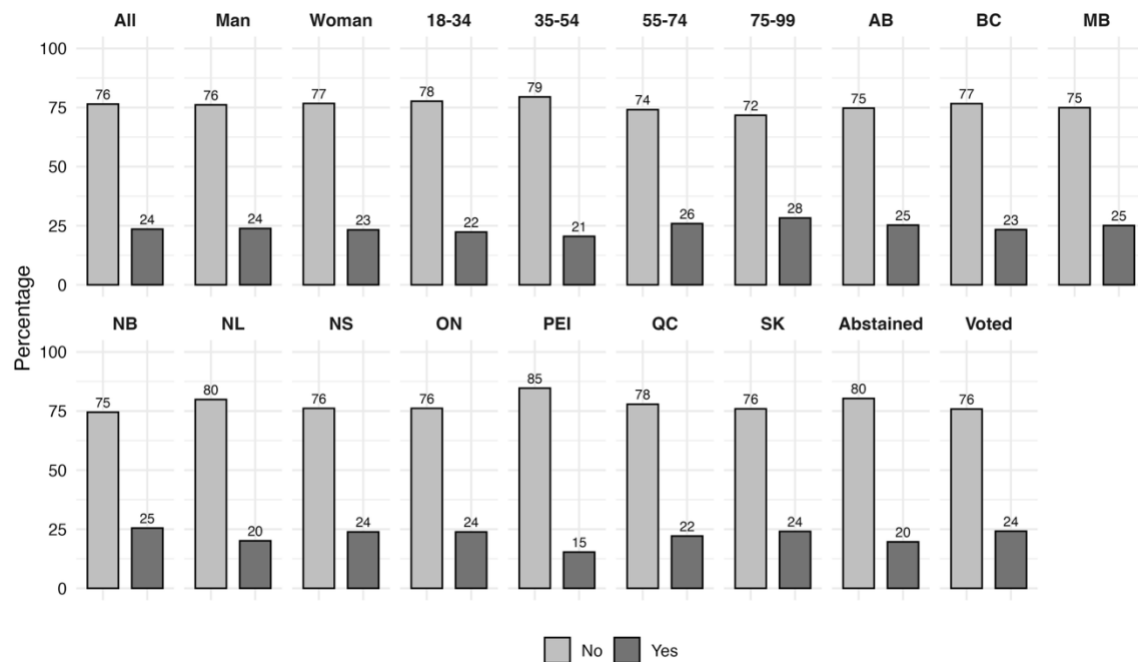


Figure 9. Distribution of information acquisition by radio or television.

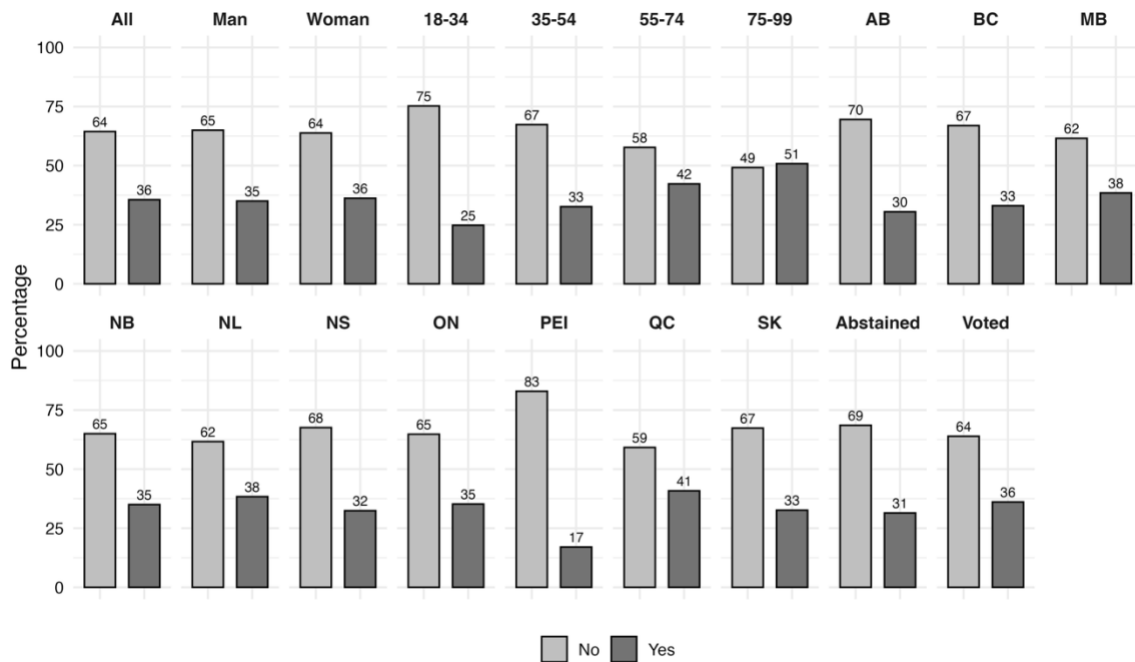


Figure 10. Distribution of information acquisition by newspapers.

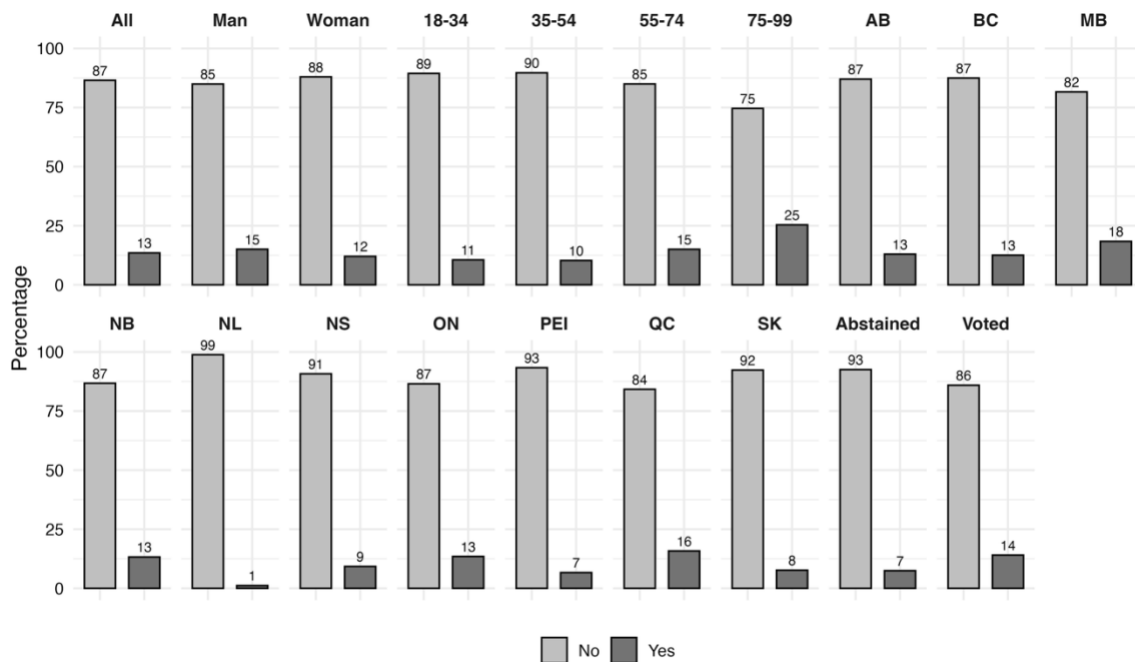


Figure 11. Distribution of information acquisition by Elections Canada's website.

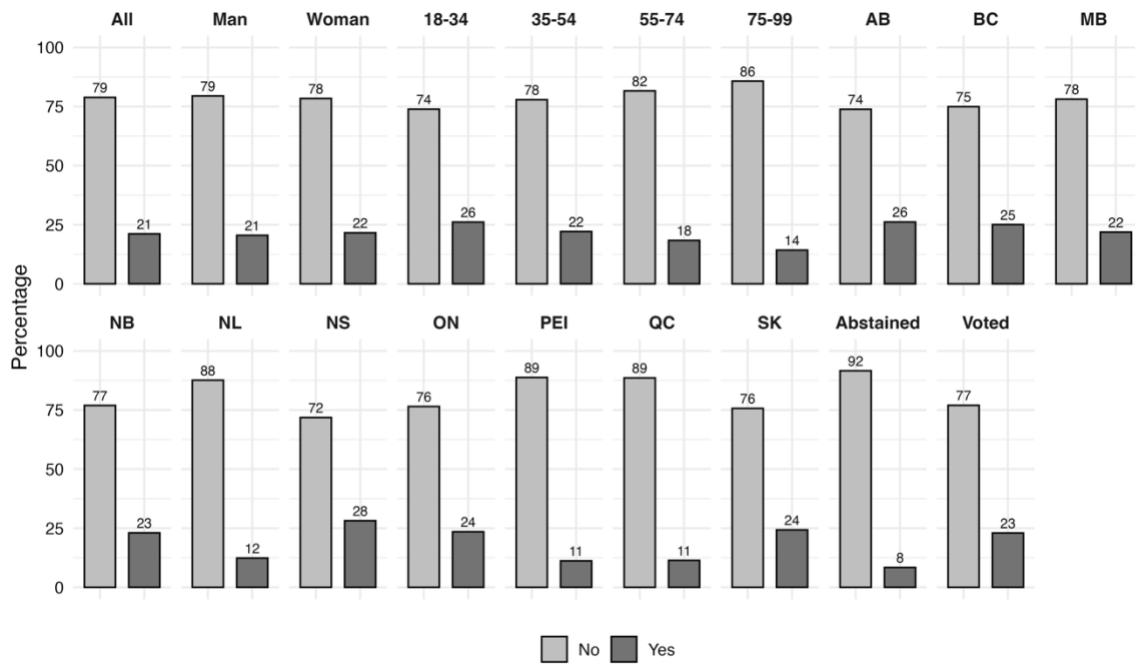


Figure 12. Distribution of information acquisition by word of mouth.

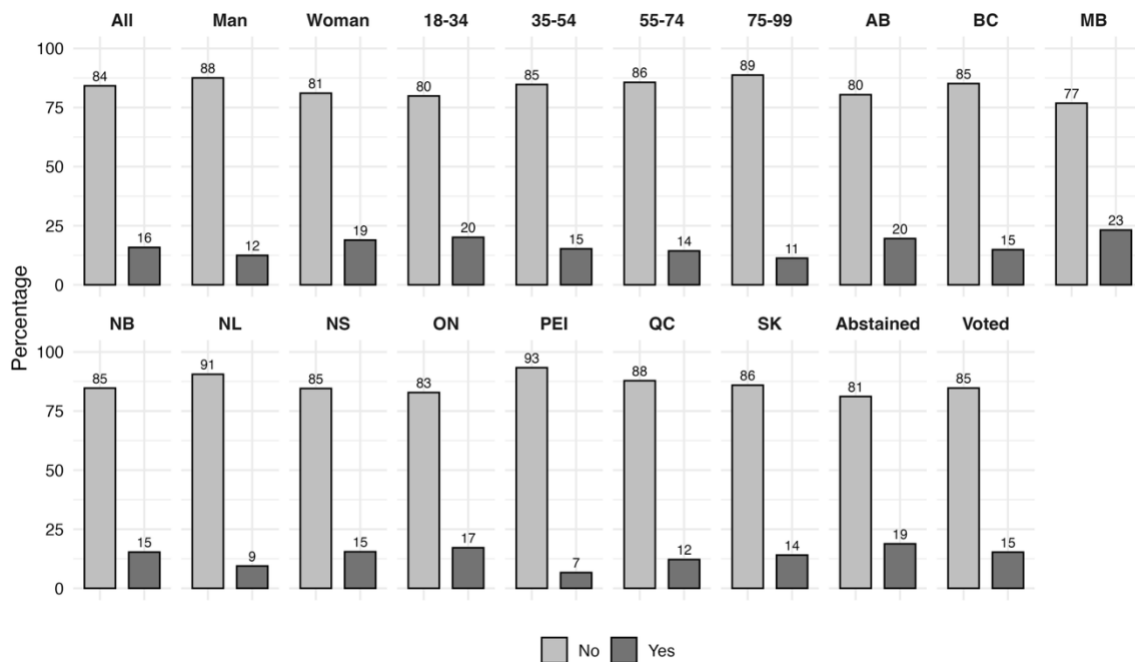


Figure 13. Distribution of information acquisition by Facebook.

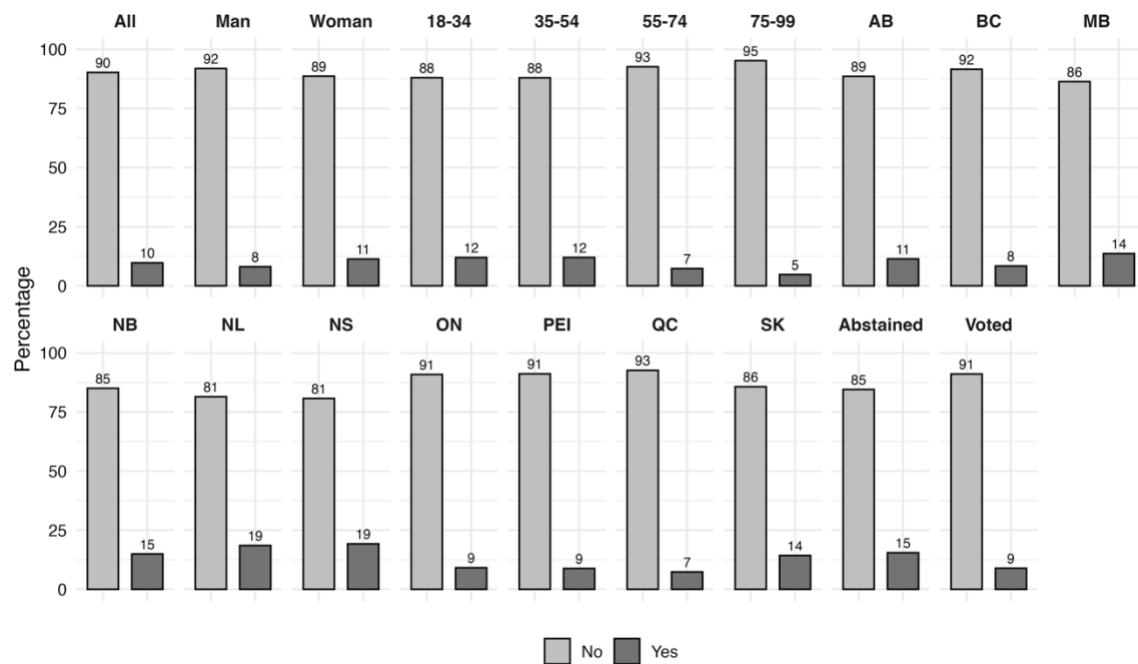


Figure 14. Distribution of information acquisition by Twitter.

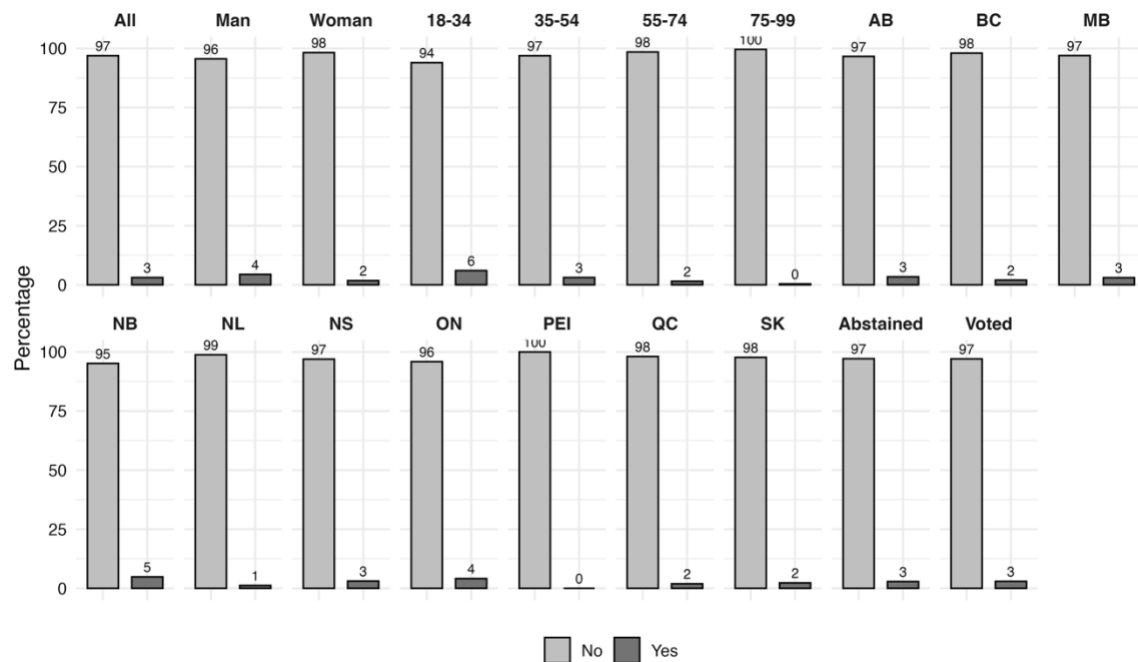


Figure 15. Distribution of information acquisition by YouTube.

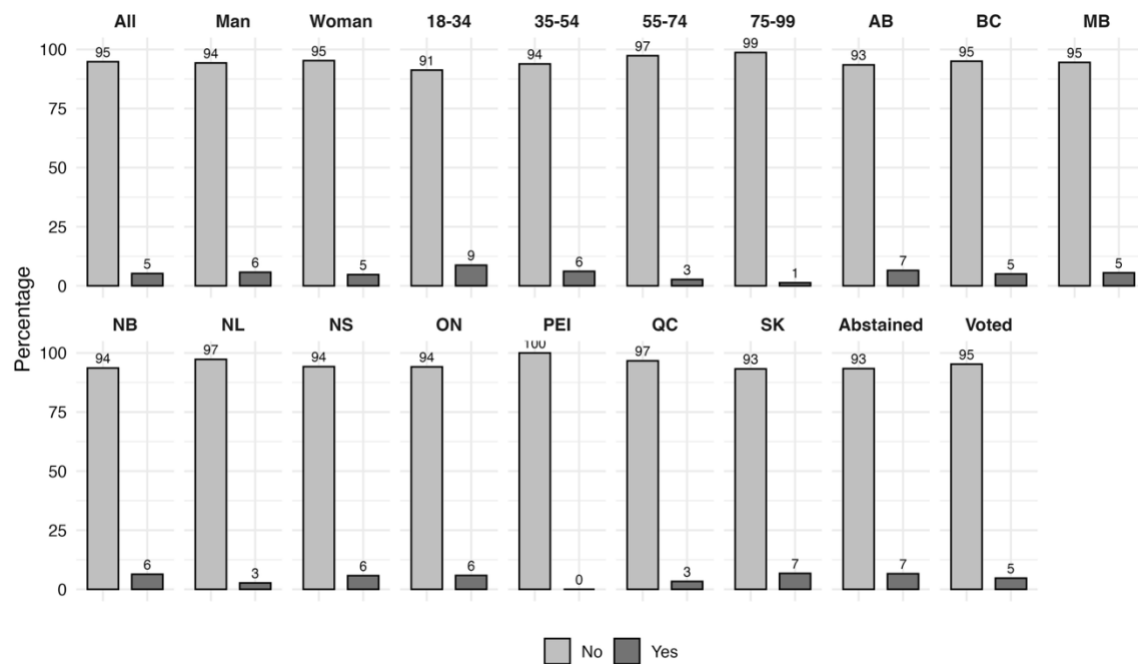


Figure 16. Distribution of information acquisition by other social media.

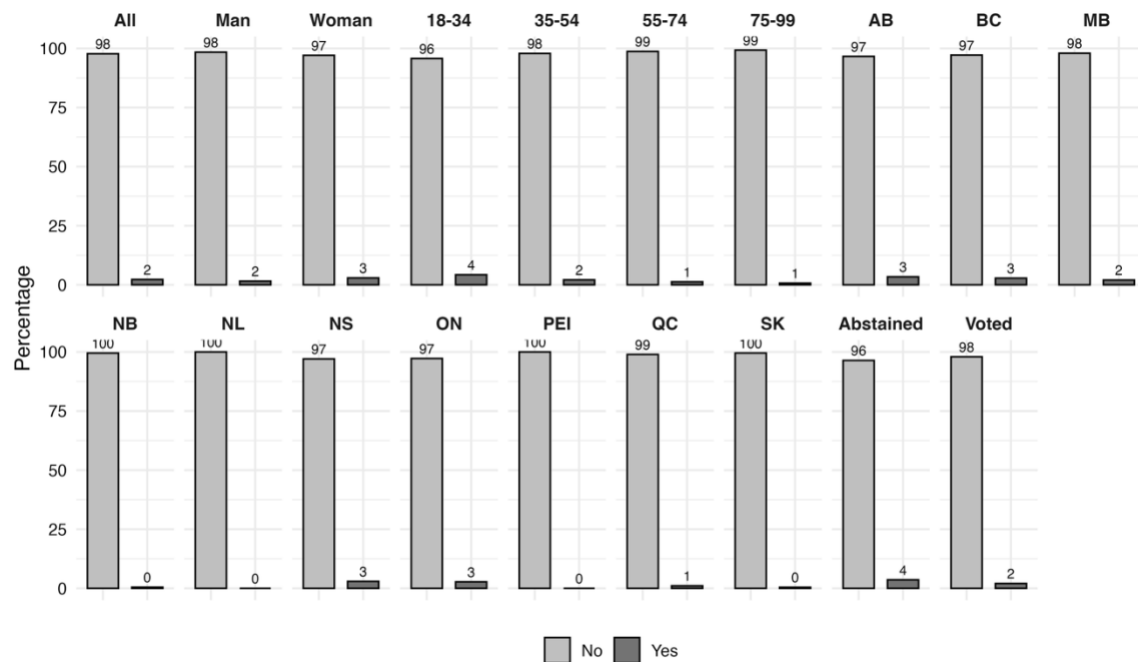


Figure 17. Distribution of information acquisition by website other than Elections Canada's.

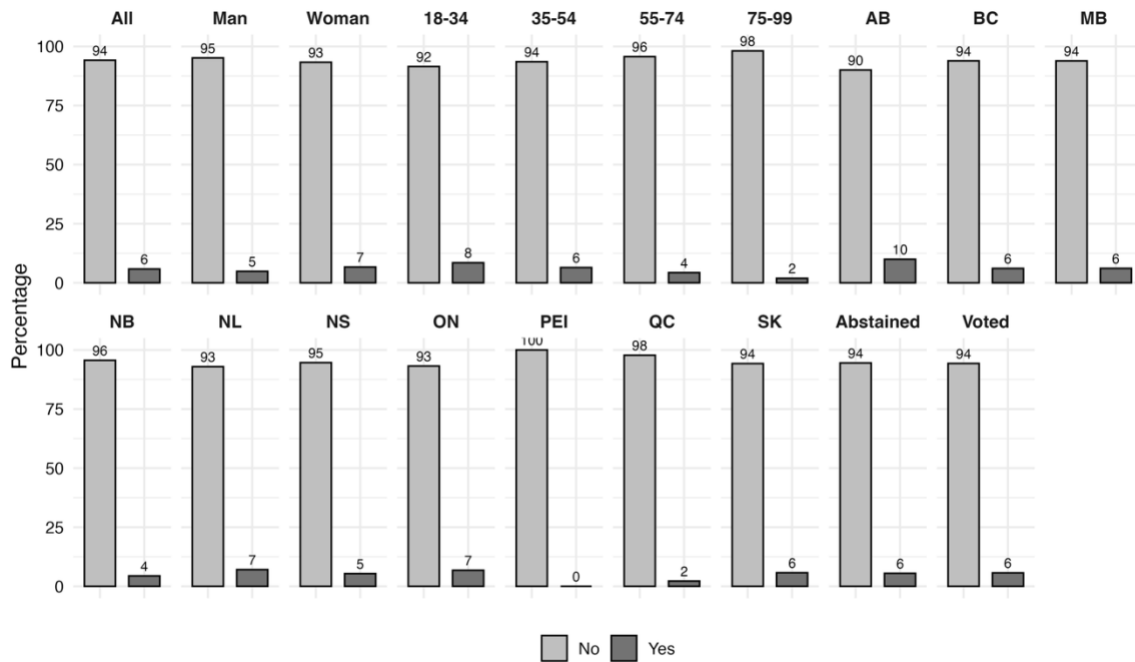
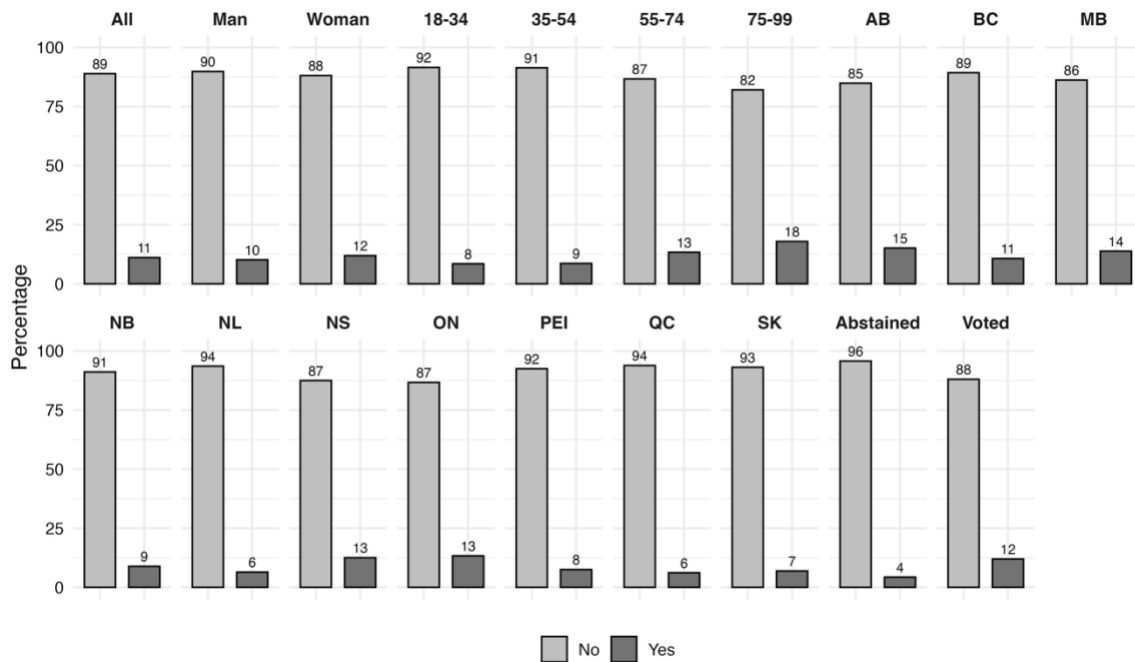


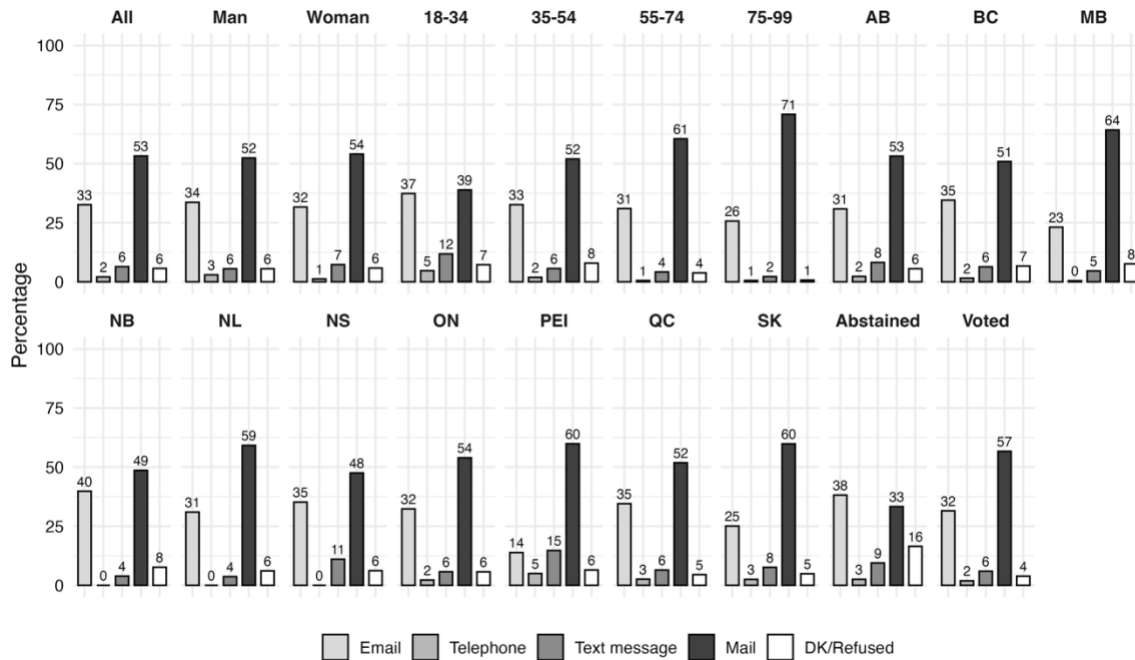
Figure 18. Distribution of information acquisition by candidates or parties.



What would be your preferred way to receive official information about where and when to vote in an election?

- Email
- Telephone
- Text message
- Mail
- Don't know/ Prefer not to answer

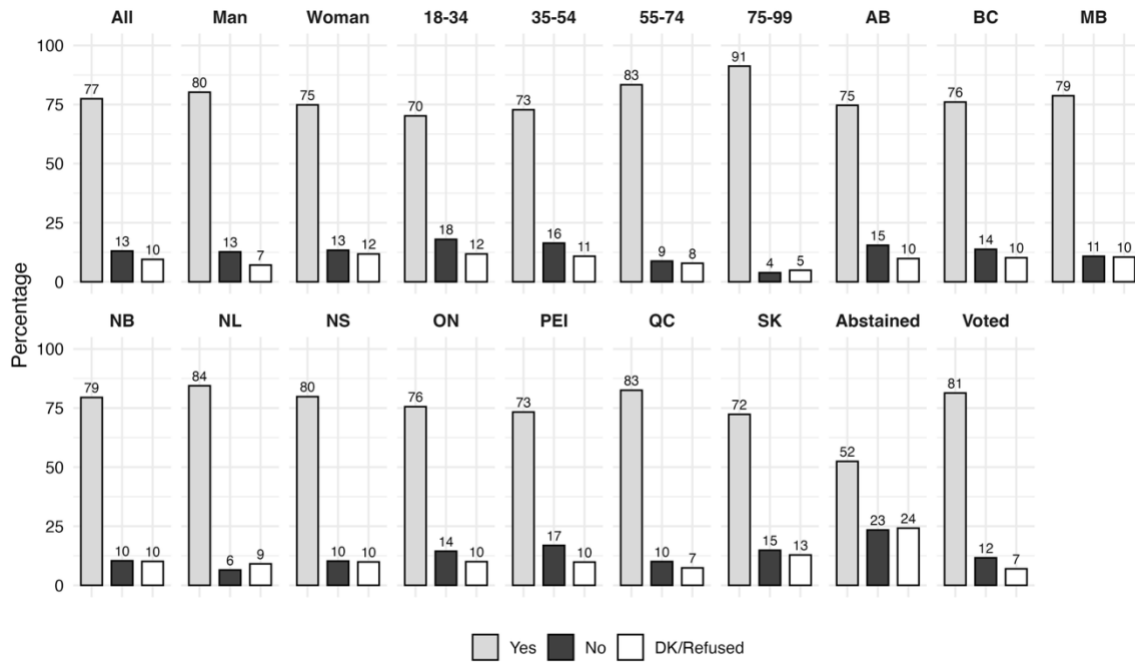
Figure 19. Distribution of preference for receiving official information about where and when to vote in an election.



Do you trust the accuracy of the voting results in your electoral district?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know/ Prefer not to answer

Figure 20. Distribution of trust of the accuracy of the voting results in their electoral district.

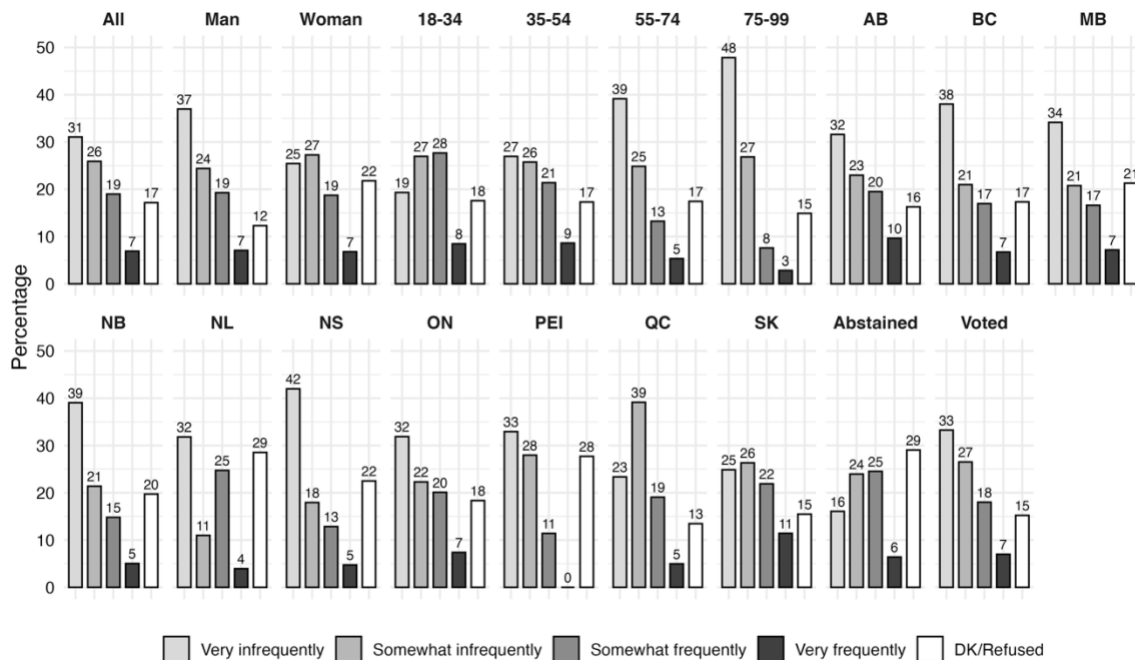


In your opinion, how frequently, if at all, does voter fraud (including things like a person voting multiple times or an ineligible person voting) occur in Canadian elections?

- Very frequently
- Somewhat frequently
- Somewhat infrequently
- Very infrequently
- Don't know/ Prefer not to answer

The order of the response options is reversed in the figure below.

Figure 21. Distribution of opinion on the frequency of voter fraud.

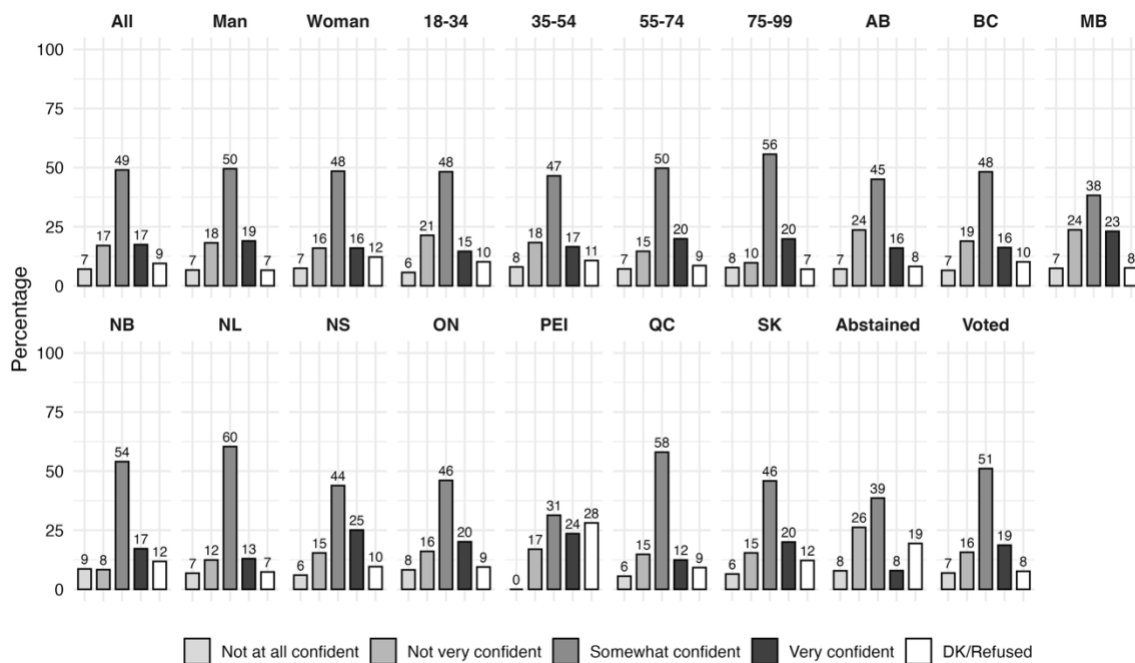


Given the rise of AI, how confident are you in the information you received about the election?

- Very confident
- Somewhat confident
- Not very confident
- Not at all confident
- Don't know/ Prefer not to answer

The order of the response options is reversed in the figure below.

Figure 22. Distribution of trust in information about the election given the rise of AI.



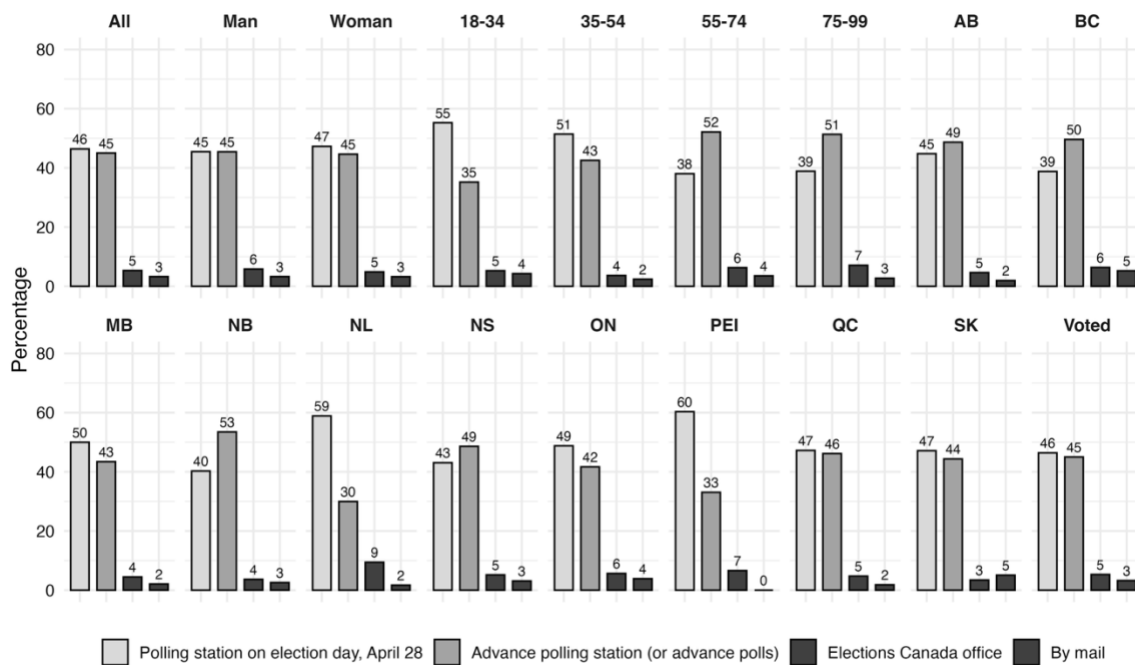
3. Electoral experience

There are many options for people wanting to vote in an election. How did you vote?

- At a polling station on election day, April 28
- At an advance polling station (or advance polls)
- At a local Elections Canada office
- By mail
- At home
- On campus
- Other (please specify)
- Don't know/ Prefer not to answer

Since less than 1% of respondents indicated that they voted at home, on campus, or in some other way, these response options are not shown in the figure below.

Figure 23. Distribution of voting in the 2025 election.

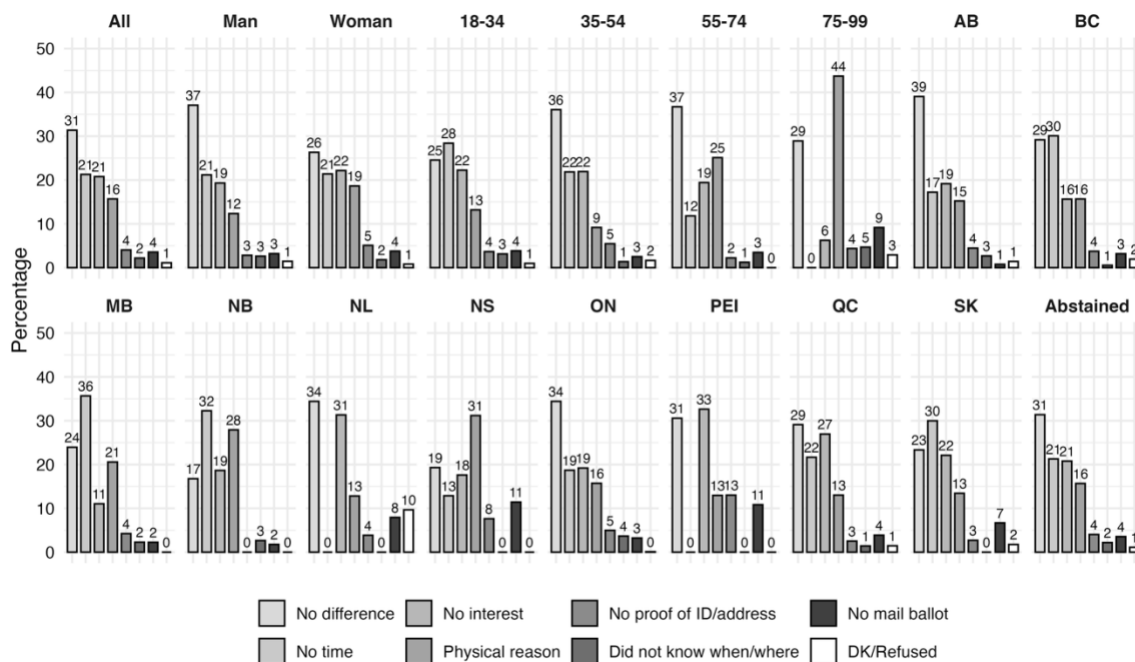


What is the main reason you did not vote?

- My vote will not make a difference, nothing will change, etc.
- No time, too busy, etc.
- No interest, did not follow election or issues, etc.
- Physical limitations, mobility issues, sick or ill, aged, etc.
- Not able to prove ID or address
- Did not know when/ where to vote
- My requested mail ballot did not arrive in time
- The line to vote was too long
- Don't know/ Prefer not to answer

Since less than 1% of respondents indicated that the line to vote was too long, this response option is not shown in the figure below.

Figure 24. Distribution of reasons for abstaining in 2025.

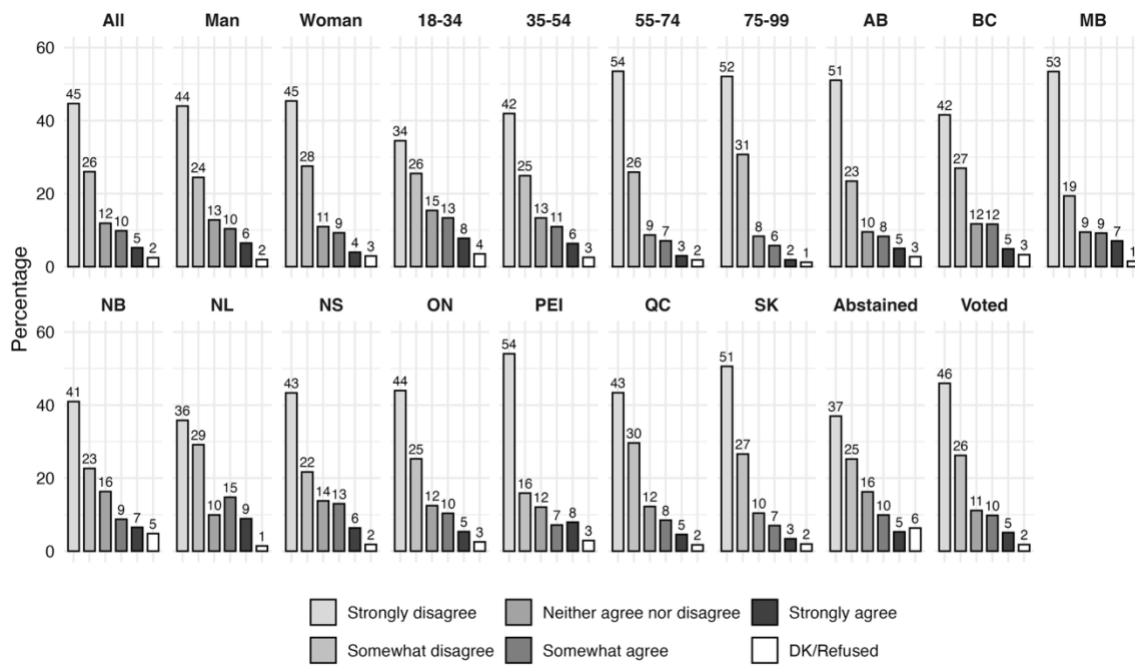


4. General opinion about the elections

The voting age for voting in a federal election should be lowered from 18 to 16 years old

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know/ Prefer not to answer

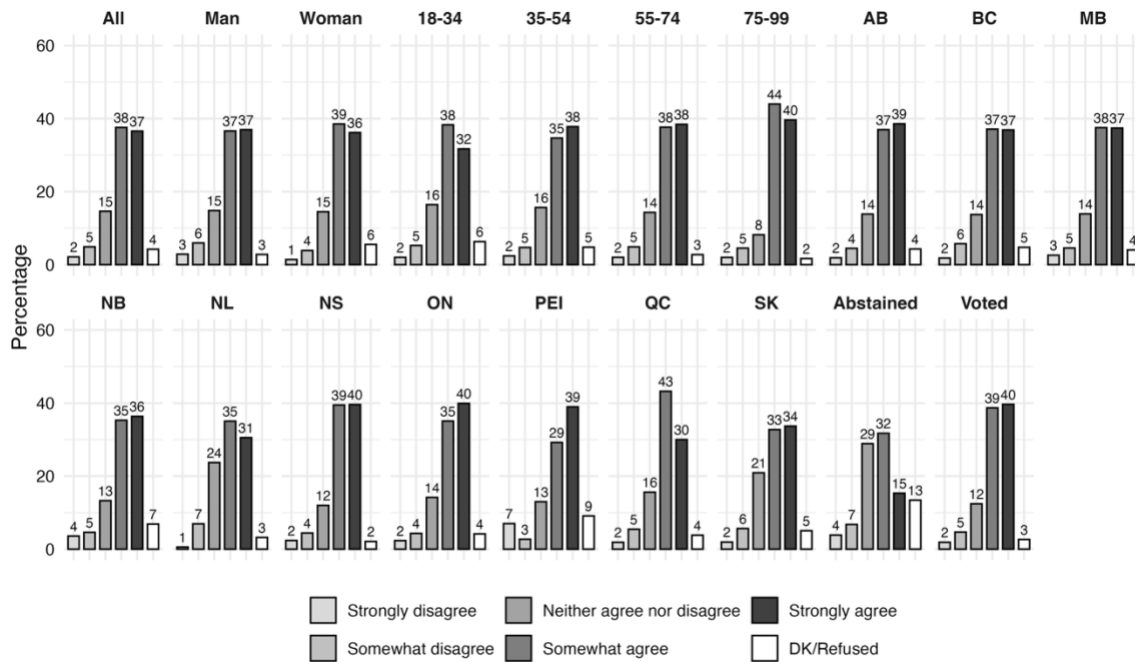
Figure 25. Distribution of support for lowering the voting age to 16 years old.



Low voter turnout weakens Canadian democracy.

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know/ Prefer not to answer

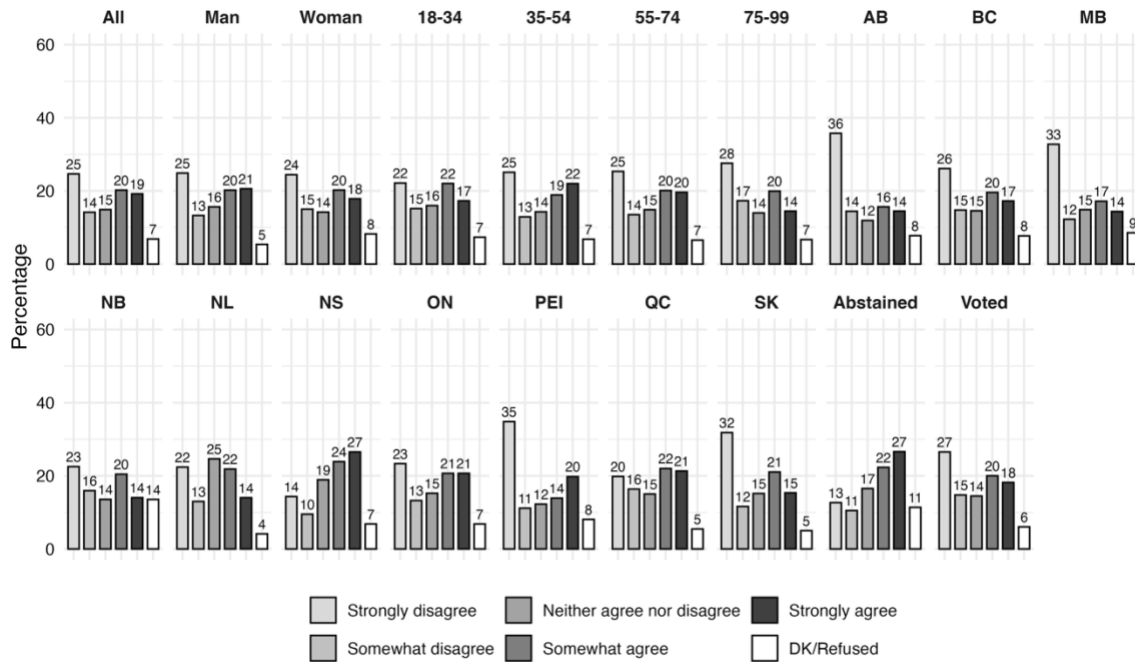
Figure 26. Distribution of view that low turnout weakens democracy.



All Canadians should have the option to vote over the Internet in: Federal elections

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know/ Prefer not to answer

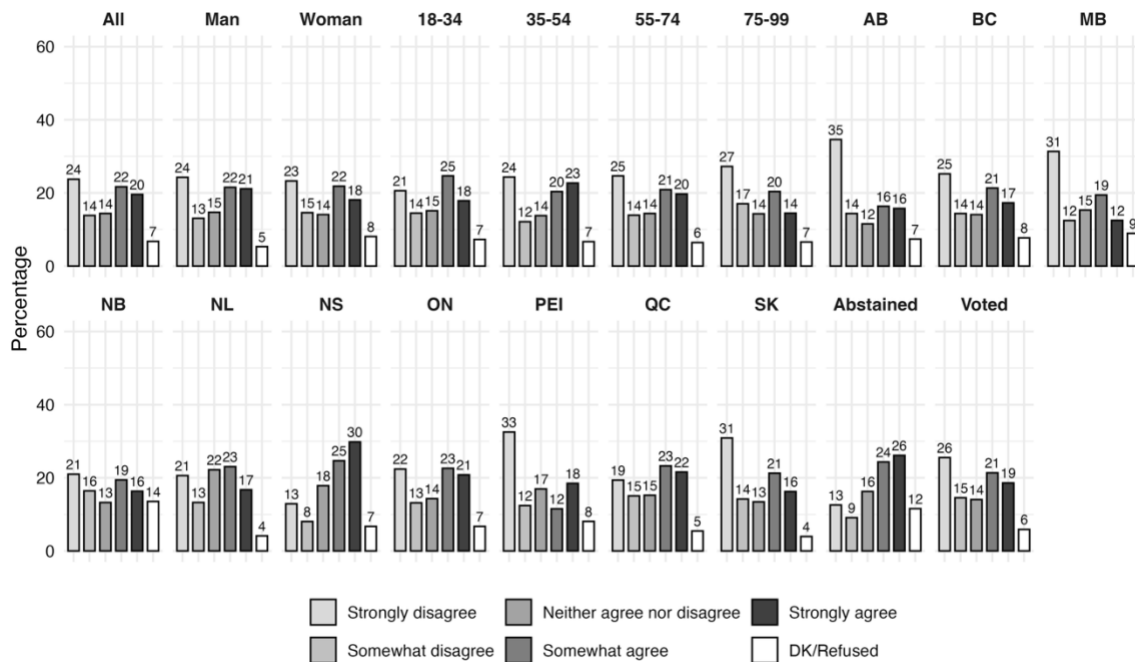
Figure 27. Distribution of support for online voting in federal elections.



All Canadians should have the option to vote over the Internet in: Provincial elections

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know/ Prefer not to answer

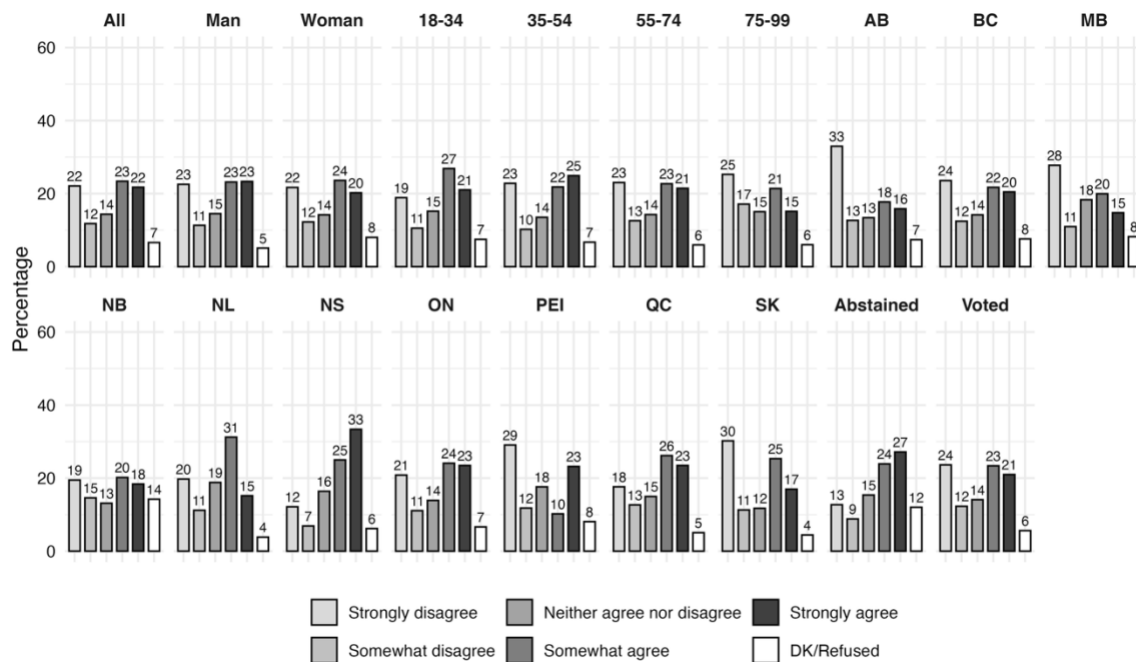
Figure 28. Distribution of support for online voting in provincial elections.



All Canadians should have the option to vote over the Internet in: Municipal elections

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know/ Prefer not to answer

Figure 29. Distribution of support for online voting in municipal elections.



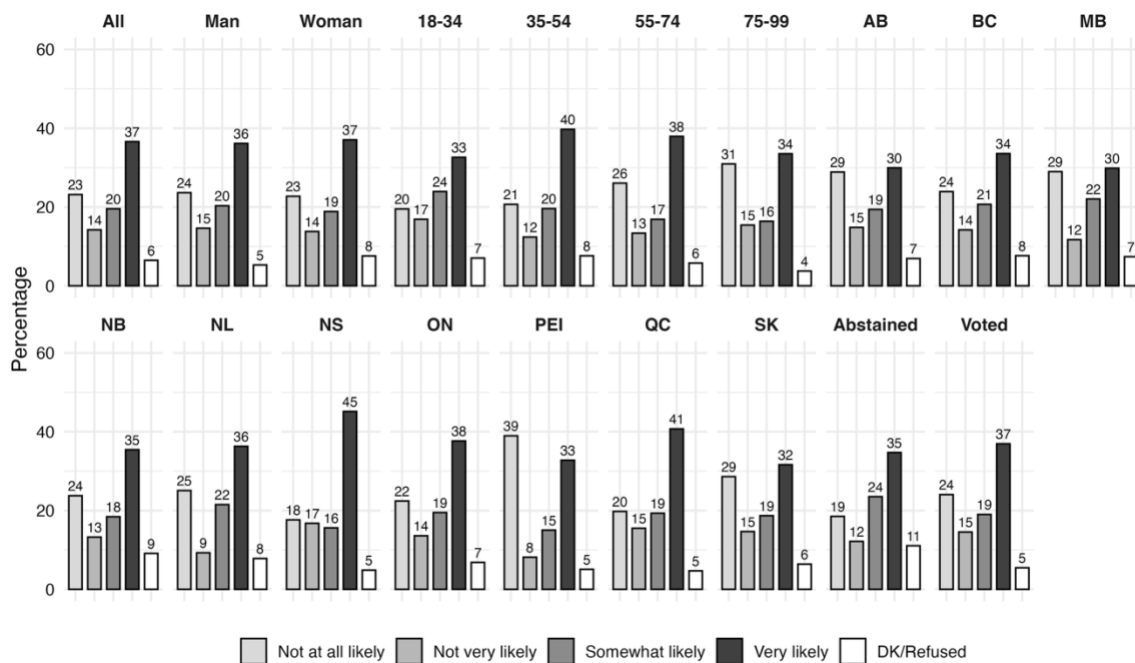
If you could vote over the internet, how likely would you be to do so for each of the following elections?

Federal elections

- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Not very likely
- Not at all likely
- Don't know/ Prefer not to answer

The order of the response options is reversed in the figure below.

Figure 30. Distribution of willingness to vote online in federal elections.



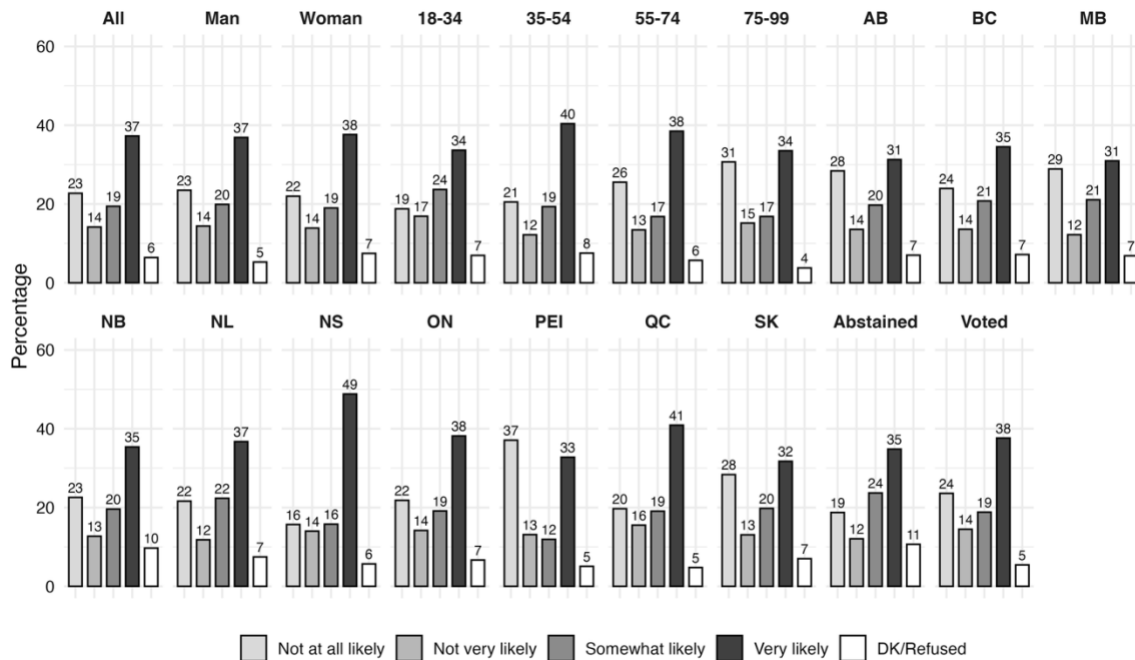
If you could vote over the internet, how likely would you be to do so for each of the following elections?

Provincial elections

- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Not very likely
- Not at all likely
- Don't know/ Prefer not to answer

The order of the response options is reversed in the figure below.

Figure 31. Distribution of willingness to vote online in provincial elections.

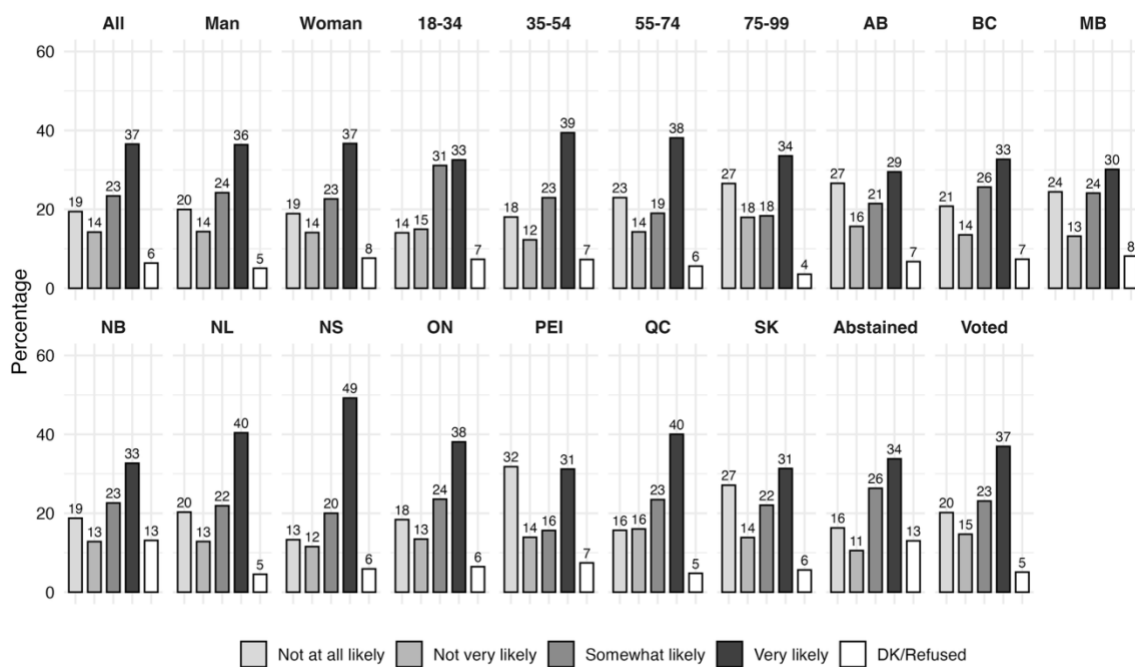


Some municipalities have the option of voting by internet and some do not. If the option is or was made available to you, how likely are you to vote by the internet in the next municipal election?

- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Not very likely
- Not at all likely
- Don't know/ Prefer not to answer

The order of the response options is reversed in the figure below.

Figure 32. Distribution of willingness to vote online in municipal elections.

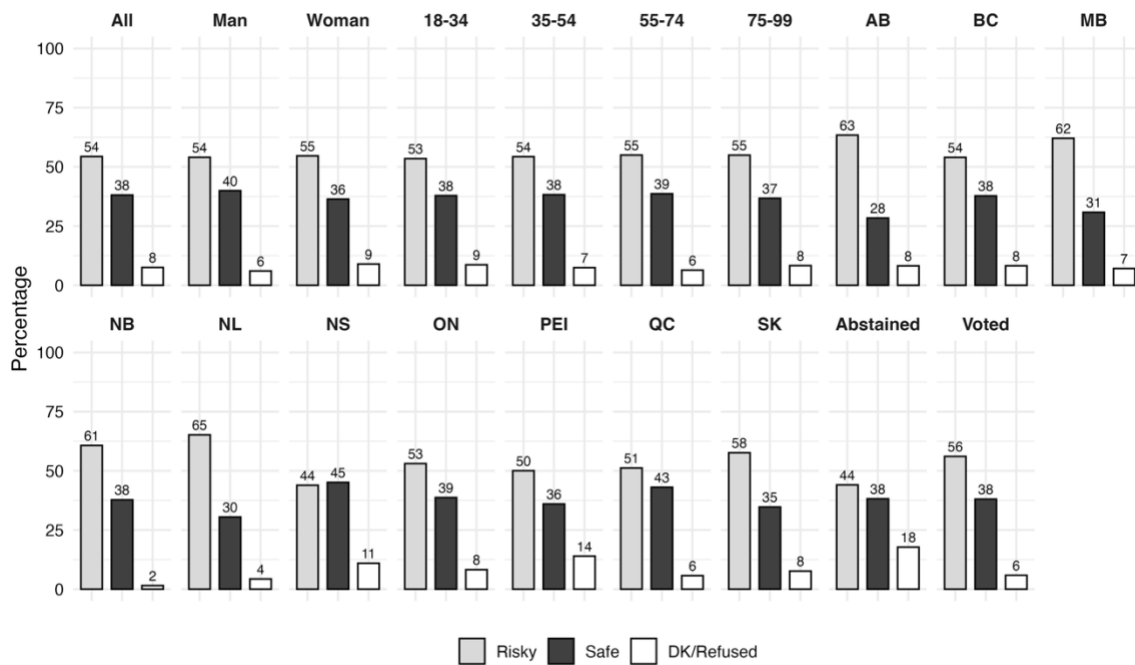


Which statement comes closest to your own view?

- Voting on the Internet is risky (0) to Voting on the Internet is safe (10)
- Don't know/ Prefer not to answer

The original 0-10 scale is recoded as: 0-5 = Risky, 6-10 = Safe and Don't know/ Prefer not to answer = DK/Refused.

Figure 33. Distribution of view that online voting is safe/risky.

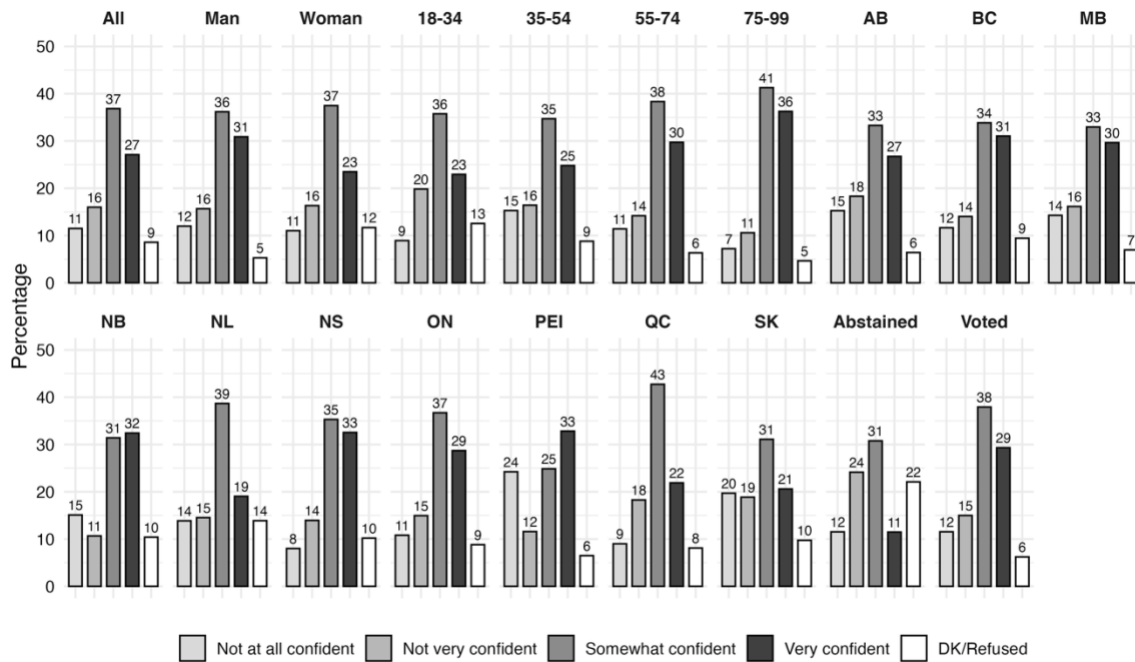


How confident are you that this federal election was safe from foreign interference in:
The voting process

- Very confident
- Somewhat confident
- Not very confident
- Not at all confident
- Don't know/ Prefer not to answer

The order of the response options is reversed in the figure below.

Figure 34. Distribution of how safe Canadian elections are with respect to foreign interference in the voting process.



How confident are you that this federal election was safe from foreign interference in:
The campaign

- Very confident
- Somewhat confident
- Not very confident
- Not at all confident
- Don't know/ Prefer not to answer

The order of the response options is reversed in the figure below.

Figure 35. Distribution of how safe Canadian elections are with respect to foreign interference in the campaign.

