

# Ontario at a Crossroads



A provincial election has been called for Thursday, February 27, 2025. As Ontarians, we have an opportunity to elect leaders who will address the multiple crises before us. As Anglicans, we understand we are called by scripture and our baptismal covenant to care for our neighbours and the Earth.

Participating in elections is one of the ways in which we live out that call. They also give us the opportunity to have conversations about how we can best build up our common life. We have prepared a resource to highlight some of the issues our Diocese has advocated for at the provincial level in recent years.

Ontario is at a crossroads. We face political and economic uncertainty both at home and around the world. Climate-related disasters are increasing in number and severity. We need Ontario communities to be strong, resilient, and cohesive in the face of these challenges. Yet our communities are already facing deepening crises of affordability, inequality, and opioid toxicity, farmland and ecosystem loss, and a failure to meet even our modest emissions targets.

Will we invest in helping people meet their basic needs in housing, public health, clean energy, healthy farmland, and ecosystems? Or will we leave more and more Ontarians behind, fracturing communities and exacerbating the climate crisis, leaving us more vulnerable to existing and future threats?

# HOW ARE WE CALLED TO PARTICIPATE?

**Learn about the issues.** Much current attention is focused on the potential impact of US tariffs on Ontarians. While this is an important issue, it is not the only one. Issues of poverty, inequality, and environmental health often take a back seat to macro-economic issues like tariffs. Yet failing to address these underlying issues will increase our vulnerability to tariffs and other shocks.

**Pray** that all candidates and voters may be guided by genuine concern for the well-being of all, especially those who are most marginalized and vulnerable in our communities.

**Engage in dialogue:** Use the materials in the full election resource, developed with our neighbours in the Diocese of Niagara, to engage with candidates at your doorstep, on the phone, or through social media. Talk with your neighbours, friends, family, and fellow parishioners about your concerns and how your values are informing your vote.

**Vote:** It has been said, “A winter election is cruel and unusual punishment.” It may seem difficult or unnecessary but don’t let the winter weather allow others to make this important decision for you! Only 44% of eligible voters – a record low turnout – cast ballots in the 2022 provincial election. Visit the Elections Ontario website to find out how to get on the voters’ list, where and when to cast your ballot, and more. Offer a ride to those who need transportation to the polls. Encourage students 18 and over to vote for the first time. Unhoused Ontarians are also able to vote.

Find our full Election Bulletin at [www.toronto.anglican.ca/sjac](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/sjac)

To learn more about our diocesan advocacy on these issues, please contact:

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