

MANITOBANS UNCERTAIN ABOUT FEDERAL ELECTORAL REFORM, REFERENDUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Winnipeg – Most Manitobans feel they do not know nearly enough about proposed changes to Canada's voting system, and they are split on whether a national referendum on electoral reform is needed.

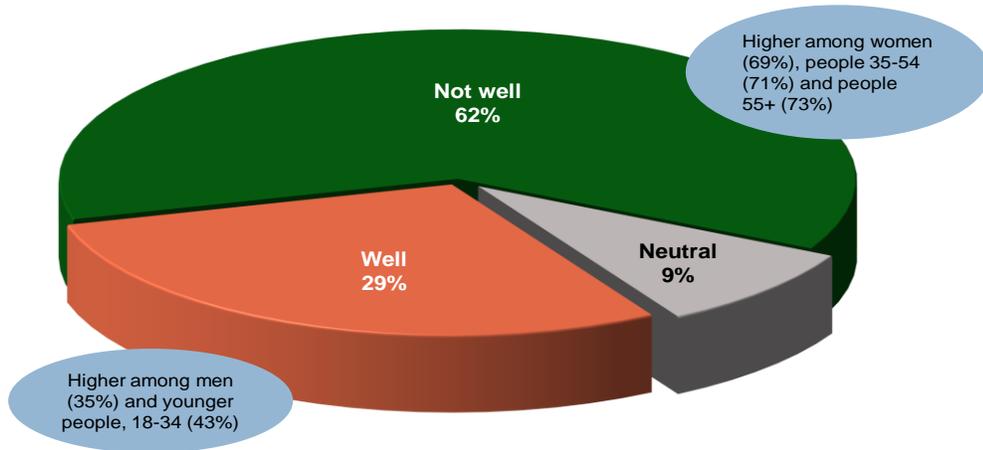
In a new Probe Research Inc. survey, 62 per cent of Manitoba adults agreed they do not know enough about proportional representation and the various options to replace Canada's first-past-the-post system. Fewer than one-third (29%) claimed to have an adequate understanding of the reform options, such as a single transferable vote.

A parliamentary committee is studying electoral reform and must report back to the House of Commons by December. Legislation is expected in 2017. The Conservative Party of Canada has argued a referendum must be held before a new voting system can be adopted, but the Liberals have said a referendum is not necessarily the best way to consult Canadians.

Manitobans seem similarly uncertain. Among those surveyed, 44 per cent agreed a referendum is needed. However, 28 per cent do not favour a referendum. A significant proportion - 28 per cent- are unsure.

Perceived Understanding of Proportional Representation

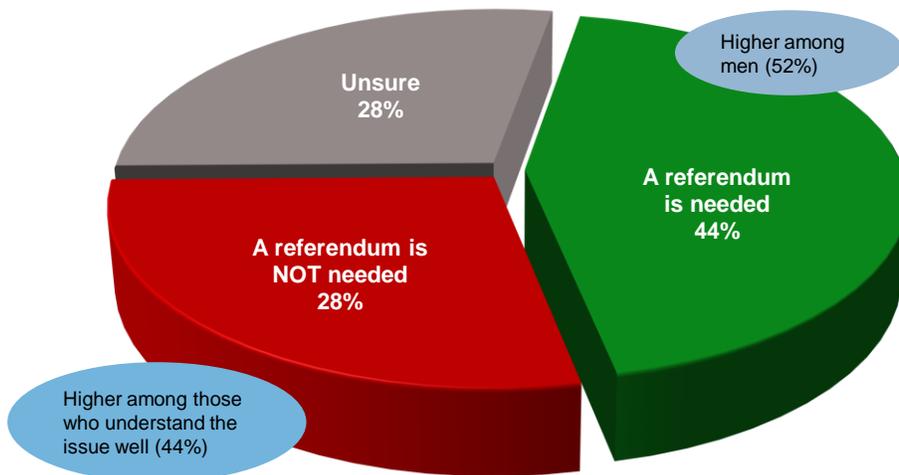
Q.1 "Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has promised to replace Canada's current voting system with some form of proportional representation. How well do you feel you understand the options, such as a mixed member proportional system or a single transferable vote?" (n=653)



Base: All Respondents

Views Regarding a Referendum

Q.2 "The Conservative Party says Canadians must be allowed to vote in a national referendum on any proposed changes to the voting system. The Liberals say a referendum is not necessarily the best way to consult with Canadians. Which statement most closely reflects your views?" (n=653)



Base: All respondents

This survey was conducted with 653 members of Probe Research's proprietary Manitoba online panel between June 30, 2016 and July 4, 2016. Participants in the online panel are recruited through Probe Research's quarterly, random, general population telephone survey. The results have been weighted slightly to reflect the demographic make-up of Manitoba's adult population. Because this is a non-probability sample, no statistical margin of error can be ascribed. However, a margin of error on a probability sample of 653 adults is typically +/- 3.83%, 19 times out of 20.

For more information on this survey, please contact:

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