

Municipal Election Preview 2026



BRADFORD LEADS CHOW BY 27%, CONVERGENCE FINDS

ANDRE CANTO CUBAS

SURVEY CREATED BY ANDRE CANTO CUBAS & FERRARI ZHANG

BETWEEN OCTOBER 5 AND 8, *Convergence* polled 232 members of the UCC community, including students of all ages and faculty, on their opinions regarding the upcoming Toronto mayoral election and the issues surrounding it. Based on weighted poll results, **53.0%** of the community would vote for City Councillor Brad Bradford, while **26.0%** would vote for Mayor Olivia Chow. Former Conservative immigration minister Chris Alexander, who dropped out, is far behind in third place with **8.1%** of the vote, and perennial candidate Edward (Xiaohua) Gong displayed a solid showing with **5.7%** of the vote. A variety of other smaller candidates took up 7.3% of the vote. Weighting in the poll adjusted the MYP/DP/Faculty ratio according to *College Times* 2026, and the resulting poll has a margin of error of 5.6%.

UCC's voting patterns are highly distinct from that of the city of Toronto in general. In polling from firms such as Liason Strategies, Nanos, and Mainstreet, the city is sharply divided between Councillor Bradford and Mayor Chow. Polls have shown both candidates leading within the margin of error, with the result far from a foregone conclusion. In addition, Gong's true support is near negligible, and support for other candidates is in the 1-2% range.

Who would you vote for as the mayor of Toronto?

Weighted on 232 UCC community responses, margin of error $\pm 5.6\%$ with 95% confidence.



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Cost of living is the top issue for the UCC Community, chosen by 79% of respondents.

In the realm of the issues facing Toronto, the UCC community had two main concerns. Voters are still focused on the cost of living, with 79% of respondents choosing it. Closely behind at 71% is the housing crisis. At roughly 50% each, transit infrastructure, substance abuse, and crime/safety are some of the secondary issues for voters. Less at hand are the trade war / tariffs, and immigration, which seem to be seen more as federal issues with around 40% of respondents selecting it. Finally healthcare and climate change are far down, with only 29% and 23% of respondents selecting it as a main issue facing Toronto.

Low Approval Rates for Trump and Chow contrast with those of Carney and Bradford.

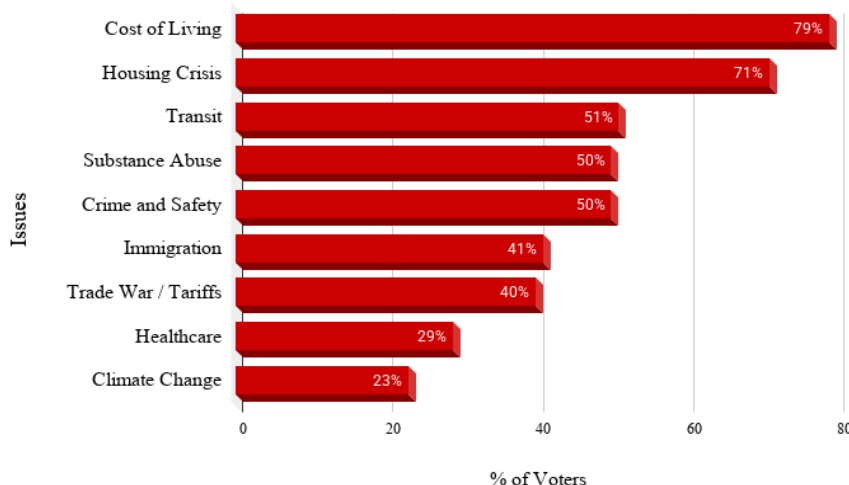
Respondents were also asked to rate the job performances of five major politicians, which were Mayor Chow, Councillor Bradford, Premier Doug Ford, Prime Minister Mark Carney, and US President Donald Trump.

Prime Minister Carney leads the five with a net +35% approval rating, with 27% of respondents strongly approving. He is closely followed by Councillor Bradford, with a net +26% approval rating. Feelings are ambivalent towards Premier Doug Ford, with only a net +3% approval rating and 29% of respondents neutral or unsure.

By contrast, Mayor Chow sits at a -20% net approval rating, with 36% of respondents strongly disapproving. Trailing the rest of the pack by a significant margin, though, is Trump, with a -56% net approval rating and 62% of respondents expressing strong disapproval.

What are the main issues facing Toronto?

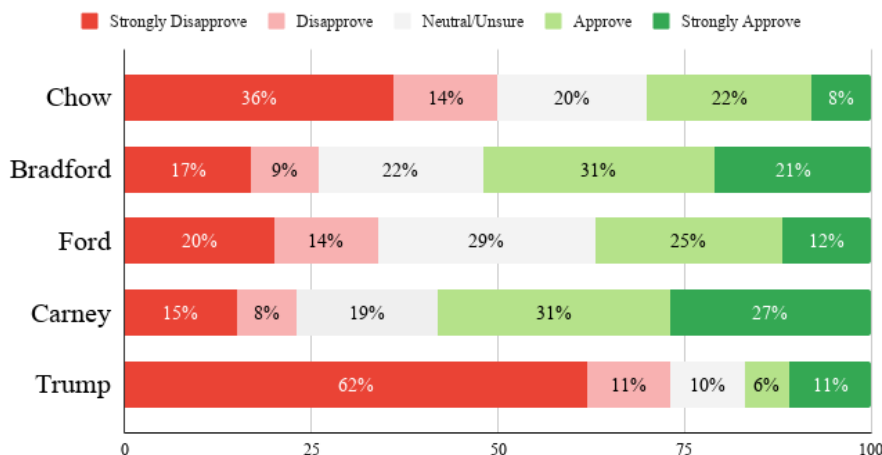
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Approval Rating of Major Politicians

Weighted on 232 UCC community responses, margin of error $\pm 5.6\%$ with 95% confidence.

A rating of 1-2 indicated strong disapproval, 3-4 disapproval, 5-6 neutral / unsure, 7-8 approval, and 9-10 strong approval.



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Convergence has as per tradition asked students and faculty for their comments on the election. *Convergence* is committed to representing all voices, aiming to reflect different sentiments of the UCC community without bias. Thus, all responses will be displayed below without alteration, and do not necessarily reflect *Convergence's* political stance. We sincerely appreciate everyone who participated in the poll and shared insightful comments.

"Vote for Gong"

"I vote for Xiao Hua Gong."

"I would vote for Xiao Hua Gong"

"In a weird way, Donald Trump helps us by pushing us towards the EU (if we're being SUPER abstract)"

"I love Pavel Begun"

"I LOVE TRUMP"

"I hate Donald Trump I do not approve of him"

"go Brad Bradford"

"The world needs efficiency and advancement, not illogical ethics."

"BRAD BRADFORD"

"thank you"

"olivia chow is the goat but lowk short"

"I like President Donald J. Trump's confidence"

".,/"

"Tax is an issue as well, high taxes"

"God save the King!"

"Brad Bradford for life"

"I am voting for myself as only I can defeat the many issues facing toronto. These voters are anonymous right?"

"I hate trump"

"67 i hate donald duck"

"Appoint me as Mayor and PM of Toronto and Canada"

"I wanna be head of canada"

"Chow is anti-Semitic and trump is good if he didn't hate Canada"

"Most of my views come from the aspect that I am jewish and people like prime minister Carney support the people who try and kill my people everyday."

"I would give the last question a o if possible"

"I think that voting for me would be good because I would be a good mayor and put bad guys in jail"

"Transit x2"

"Trump is the worst us president of all time"

"I think Tommaso An-cliche should run for prime minister."

"Vote Gong or your wrong"

"Chow style of mayoring is about equality and punishes the wealthy"

"I HATE DONALD TRUMP HONESTLY I THINK HE SHOULD BE A NEGATIVE 100 ON THE SPECTRUM"

"Can we make the Donald Trump approval include negatives in the range or do I just need to boost everyone else's scores."

"Donald Troomp"

"Gong for mayor."

"On paper I agree with Brad Bradford on most issues. However I can not look past his extreme lack of principles. He has never stood by something he has said. Career politician at its worst."

"I approved of him before Iran"

"daniel pei for prime minster, daniel pei for mayor"

"Donald Trump has destroyed the fabric of Western liberal democracy. It will be a welcome day for all sides of the political spectrum when he is finally out of office."

"Next time you should add a negative 500 option for trump."

"from the most objective standpoint, we should be more left"

"Olivia chow is doing too much for equality, it hurts innocent rich people who spent their time and effort being rich"

"The traffic congestion in Toronto is one of the worst in Canada, and there seems to be bandaid solutions for years in this regard. It also is very hard to ignore the homelessness and struggle that our city of Toronto is facing at the moment, which creates a ripple affect to substance abuse, mental health issues and bigger crime rates then ever before."

"I think we should vote for Tommaso An-Cliche"

"I dislike Trump very much and think Carney has dealt with the tariffs and Trump in a good professional manner."

"andre is the goat"

"i love carney"



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UCC'S BESTEST SOURCE OF NEWS

Edward Gong Is Toronto's Ray of Hope

KIMI ZHAO

BLUE PAGE EDITOR-HUMORIST

AS WE RAPIDLY APPROACH the Toronto mayoral election on October 26th, one can easily become disillusioned with the current state of municipal politics. The underwhelming platforms and half-baked policies professed by mainstream candidates, combined with the unspectacular performance of Her Worship Olivia Chow as mayor of Canada's first city over the past three years, are indicative of the unpromising future of this city for many of its residents. Every mainstream candidate seems to babble about ameliorating the lives of Torontonians or realizing the city's full potential, yet it seems all too clear that none of them, being career politicians whose livelihood is based on duck-speak rather than action, will undertake any substantial steps to manifest their promises. However, there is one glimmer of hope for the city which may yet guarantee its future: standing proudly outside the domain of conventional politicians is Edward Gong, the one candidate who has the potential to rescue Toronto from stagnation and decline.

Despite widespread mockery of him on numerous social media platforms, Gong's qualifications for becoming mayor of Toronto should not be in question. The generous amount of blue-and-yellow signs with which he has carpeted the city is more than sufficient indication of his industry, creativity, and career success,



The one and only Edward Gong (above) while his mere presence on the ballot in the past three major elections in Toronto, despite never receiving more than one percent of the vote, is ample evidence of his perseverance in the face of adversity. Indeed, despite being devoid of the backing of any major party and subject to wholly unjustified attacks and ridicule online, Gong single-handedly received the same number of votes as the People's Party candidate in the 2025 federal election for Don Valley North, a testament to his tenacity and capability. Although lacking in popular charm compared to the other candidates in the mayor race, Gong possesses all the qualities necessary to become a highly competent administrator of government, which is what this great metropolis sorely needs, not a gabbling, otiose demagogue who has no capacity for organization or coordination.

Gong's platform, easily accessible on his website, is overflowing with simple and practical policies designed to both spur on Toronto's economy and improve the lives of its citizens. The multifaceted nature of his policies shows that Gong is both pragmatic and empathetic in regards to municipal government. His promise of a three percent property tax reduction and the deliverance of one thousand dollars in economic relief to Torontonians families is more concrete by far than any guarantees made by other mainstream candidates, and the remainder of his policies are equally actionable and directed. It should be self-evident from his platform alone that Gong would bring innumerable benefits to Toronto if its citizens would have the sense to elect him as mayor. It is a veritable pity that such a great number of voters fail to recognize the genius and vision of this great man.





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Gong's life outside of politics, far from incriminating him as a swindler as some malicious actors claim, only further affirms his business acumen and suitability for the important post of mayor. His own website lists a plethora of commercial successes and achievements that should leave no doubt as to his capacity for strategizing and efficiently substantiating policies for the betterment of Toronto. A cursory glance at Gong's corporate undertakings also speaks to the strength of his character: his establishment of Chinese-language television networks in Canada embodies our core value of multiculturalism; his acquisition of properties in the United States evidences his global mindset; and his naming of a hotel after himself displays his self-confidence and pragmatism. Although no records were found corroborating his claim to have received the honoured Order of the British Empire and the "Canada Strong Medal", it is almost certain that this is due to the reporter's lack of research skills than Gong's dishonesty.

It is impossible to expound upon Gong's career, however, without discussing the scandal which colours it and, amplified by malicious actors, hangs like a shadow over his campaign. The verdicts of His Majesty's courts have left little doubt as to the fact that Gong, in the 2010s, established a pyramid scheme involving stocks which laundered money from mainland China and stored it in banks in Canada and New Zealand.

Again, the triple affirmations of the government of China and His Majesty's governments of Canada and New Zealand make it absolutely certain that such an operation was committed, but, with a plethora of sources all harping on the negative aspects of this, it is extremely important to look at this affair from a different angle. Besides reconfirming Gong's business acumen, this incident also highlights his immense love for democracy, in removing money from authoritarian China; patriotism, in depositing funds in Canada to aid the Canadian economy; and loyalty to our auspicious and gracious King Charles III, in choosing solely Commonwealth realms in which to store his profits. His compliance with the verdict of the Canadian justice system, despite it being unfavourable to him, shows his respect for the rule of law,

a strength of character absent in virtually all career politicians. Even if this affair were construed to be a wholly bad thing, as so many critics claim, it would provide an invaluable source of humour and jokes for Torontonians in the future, much like how Rob Ford's actions do today.

Edward Gong is much more than the vainglorious laughingstock the majority of Torontonians suppose him to be. His career achievements and political actions more than sufficiently testify to his capacity for administration and conducting operations, while his platform and character outshine those of his mainstream competitors by a substantial margin. His perseverance in the face of hardship, including subpar election results and vilification by political rivals, is unparalleled among the candidates in this election. Edward Gong is the most optimal candidate available for moving this great city forward, and his many blue-and-yellow campaign signs should not be seen as mere objects of mockery but a symbol of hope for Toronto.

