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Ontario Municipal Elections 2022

The Ward-by-Ward Historical Report — turnout, mayoral races, every council ward winner, margins, school-board structures and strategic takeaways from Ontario's ten largest cities.

Prepared by **Votera** · July 2026

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Next municipal election: Monday, October 26, 2026 · votera.ca/elections-report

Ontario Municipal Elections 2022 — The Ward-by-Ward Historical Report

Turnout, full mayoral results, every council ward winner with margins, school-board trustee structures — and what the numbers mean for candidates running on **Monday, October 26, 2026**.

Prepared by **Votera** · July 2026 · All figures from official city clerk results and cited public sources

10 cities

140 council seats analysed

132 ward races

2018 → 2022 turnout deltas

2026-ready takeaways

START HERE

How to Use This Report

This report is built for people thinking about running — or already running — in Ontario's **October 26, 2026** municipal elections. It compiles what actually happened in 2022, ward by ward, in the province's ten largest cities. Nominations for 2026 opened on May 1, 2026 and close at **2 p.m. on August 21, 2026** (a filing fee is required everywhere, plus 25 endorsement signatures in municipalities of 4,000+ electors), so the window to enter a race is open right now.

If you're a first-time candidate

1. Jump to your city from the table of contents and find your ward in the **ward winners table**.
2. Look at the **winner's vote count** — that's your baseline target. In 2022 it took as few as **532 votes** to win a Kitchener ward and a median of **11,149** to win a Toronto ward. The "win number" is smaller than most people assume.
3. Check the **status column**. Incumbents almost always win (87% of council incumbents who ran in these ten cities were re-elected), so open seats are where newcomers break through.
4. Read the **margin**. Dozens of 2022 races were decided by under 300 votes — a few weekends of canvassing.

How to read the numbers

Turnout is ballots cast as a share of eligible electors. It collapsed almost everywhere in 2022 — plan your vote goal on low turnout, not on registered voters.

Margin is the winner's vote lead over the runner-up. **Status** flags whether the winner was a returning incumbent, a newcomer in an open seat, or unseated a sitting councillor.

Acclamation means a seat was filled with no vote because only one candidate filed. None of the 150 mayor/council seats in these ten cities was acclaimed in 2022 — but several school-board trustee seats were.

Where a figure could not be verified against official records, you'll see **[DATA TO BE VERIFIED — source: city clerk records]** rather than a guess. Every section lists its sources.

Turning this into a ground game

The pattern across all ten cities: **low turnout + small margins = door-knocking decides races**. Take your ward's winning vote count, multiply by 1.5–2× for a safety buffer, and that's roughly how many identified supporters you need. Votera was built for exactly this workflow — cut turf, knock doors, tag supporters, and pull them out on advance-poll days and election day. Learn more at votera.ca or start a free trial at app.votera.ca.

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Toronto

25 wards · Election day October 24, 2022 · 372 certified candidates city-wide (31 for mayor)

Toronto's 2022 election was a record-low-turnout landslide. Just 563,124 of 1,898,750 eligible electors voted — **29.7%**, the lowest turnout in the amalgamated city's history and down from 40.9% in 2018 (the election-night tally was reported as 29.17%; the city's final report rounds to 30%). Candidate nominations fell roughly 40% from 2018. John Tory cruised to a third term with 62.0% — then resigned in February 2023, triggering the June 2023 by-election won by Olivia Chow, who is seeking re-election in 2026. In other words: the 2022 numbers below are the last full ward-by-ward baseline before a substantially reshuffled 2026 race.

29.7%

TURNOUT 2022

▼ **11.2 pts vs 2018**
(40.9%)

25

COUNCIL WARDS

11,149

MEDIAN WINNING
VOTES

9 of 25

SEATS CHANGED
HANDS

Mayoral race — 2022 (31 candidates; top 6 shown)

CANDIDATE	VOTES	SHARE	NOTES
John Tory	342,158	62.0%	Incumbent · re-elected (resigned Feb 2023)
Gil Peñalosa	98,525	17.9%	Urbanist, 8-80 Cities founder
Chloe Brown	34,821	6.3%	Policy analyst
Blake Acton	8,893	1.6%	Retired police officer
Sarah Climenhaga	6,729	1.2%	Transit/safety advocate
Tony Luk	6,662	1.2%	Businessman

2018 comparison: Tory won 63.5% (479,659 votes) against Jennifer Keesmaat — his 2022 share held steady even as total votes collapsed with turnout.

Ward-by-ward winners — Toronto council, 2022

WARD	WINNER	VOTES	SHARE	MARGIN VS RUNNER-UP	STATUS
1 · Etobicoke North	Vincent Crisanti	6,815	41.1%	+3,406 vs Minhas	New · open seat
2 · Etobicoke Centre	Stephen Holyday	18,559	72.3%	+15,906 vs Yanuziello	Re-elected
3 · Etobicoke—Lakeshore	Amber Morley	15,271	46.4%	+2,013 vs Grimes	Unseated Grimes
4 · Parkdale—High Park	Gord Perks	11,149	35.5%	+1,230 vs Lhamo	Re-elected
5 · York South—Weston	Frances Nunziata	10,077	47.6%	+94 vs Padovani	Re-elected
6 · York Centre	James Pasternak	12,187	75.5%	+10,271 vs Arkin	Re-elected

WARD	WINNER	VOTES	SHARE	MARGIN VS RUNNER-UP	STATUS
7 · Humber River—Black Creek	Anthony Perruzza	8,707	61.3%	+5,492 vs C. Mammoliti	Re-elected
8 · Eglinton—Lawrence	Mike Colle	17,109	70.3%	+13,662 vs Sambasivam	Re-elected
9 · Davenport	Alejandra Bravo	17,009	70.7%	+13,817 vs Gonzales	New · open seat
10 · Spadina—Fort York	Ausma Malik	8,033	36.6%	+3,343 vs Engelberg	New · open seat
11 · University—Rosedale	Dianne Saxe	8,614	35.4%	+123 vs Di Pasquale	New · open seat
12 · Toronto—St. Paul's	Josh Matlow	22,670	84.7%	+20,625 vs Ashworth	Re-elected
13 · Toronto Centre	Chris Moise	10,457	48.5%	+6,517 vs Ward	New · open seat
14 · Toronto—Danforth	Paula Fletcher	20,305	74.0%	+18,323 vs Abro	Re-elected
15 · Don Valley West	Jaye Robinson	16,142	74.2%	+13,362 vs Sharp	Re-elected
16 · Don Valley East	Jon Burnside	8,147	44.7%	+4,369 vs Ksiazek	New · open seat
17 · Don Valley North	Shelley Carroll	12,897	71.8%	+10,468 vs Christoff	Re-elected
18 · Willowdale	Lily Cheng	8,337	41.7%	+1,628 vs O'Brien Fehr	New · open seat
19 · Beaches—East York	Brad Bradford	15,169	54.7%	+8,878 vs Worden	Re-elected
20 · Scarborough Southwest	Gary Crawford	8,216	35.1%	+1,280 vs Kandavel	Re-elected
21 · Scarborough Centre	Michael Thompson	9,977	55.3%	+7,499 vs Ayub	Re-elected
22 · Scarborough—Agincourt	Nick Mantas	8,228	48.9%	+5,075 vs Wu	Re-elected
23 · Scarborough North	Jamaal Myers	5,315	51.1%	+2,560 vs Francis	New (incumbent died pre-vote)
24 · Scarborough—Guildwood	Paul Ainslie	12,483	76.5%	+10,663 vs Parker	Re-elected
25 · Scarborough—Rouge Park	Jennifer McKelvie	14,168	72.3%	+10,719 vs Kanakaratnam	Re-elected

17 incumbents ran; 16 won. Ward 1's Crisanti and Ward 16's Burnside are former councillors who returned via open seats. Ward 23 incumbent Cynthia Lai died three days before election day; under the Municipal Elections Act the race proceeded and votes cast for her were not counted.

Notable ward battles

WARD 5 · 94 VOTES

The closest council race in the city

Speaker Frances Nunziata — on council since 1988 — survived organizer Chiara Padovani's second run by just 94 votes, 10,077 to 9,983 (47.6% vs 47.2%). A handful of streets decided a 34-year career.

WARD 3 · THE ONLY INCUMBENT DEFEAT

Amber Morley unseats Mark Grimes

Morley beat the five-term councillor 15,271 to 13,258 (46.4% vs 40.3%) in Etobicoke—Lakeshore — the lone incumbent loss in all 25 wards, and proof it takes a multi-cycle organizing effort to crack an entrenched seat.

WARD 11 · 123 VOTES

Saxe vs Di Pasquale photo finish

In the open University—Rosedale seat vacated by Mike Layton, former environmental commissioner Dianne Saxe edged school trustee Norm Di Pasquale 8,614 to 8,491 — 35.4% to 34.9% in a crowded progressive field.

WARD 23 · A RACE LIKE NO OTHER

Scarborough North's sombre open seat

Incumbent Cynthia Lai died on October 21; her votes were not counted. Jamaal Myers won with 5,315 votes (51.1%) — the lowest winning total in Toronto, in the ward that illustrates how small Scarborough electorates really are.

School-board trustees

Toronto voters also elected trustees for four boards. **TDSB** (English public) has 22 trustee wards that do not match council wards — some align to a single council ward, others combine two. All 22 were contested in 2022 and **10 of 22 had no incumbent running**; sitting chair Alexander Brown lost Ward 12 to Weidong Pei 7,023–6,791. **TCDSB** (English Catholic) elects 12 trustees, each covering roughly two council wards; its Ward 1 race was certified at a *one-vote* margin (Joseph Martino 2,148, Robert Pella 2,147) and went to a court-ordered recount in 2023; the recount, completed April 20, 2023, left the result unchanged (Martino 2,148, Pella 2,147). The French boards are tiny electorates: **CS Viamonde** acclaimed two of its three Toronto-area seats and **CSC MonAvenir** acclaimed one, while one seat on each board was *voided* over candidate-eligibility issues and refilled in January 2023 by-elections. Trustee races are the cheapest entry point into Toronto politics — several were won with under 3,000 votes.

Key takeaways for 2026 candidates — Toronto

- **Know your win number: the median ward was won with 11,149 votes** (range: 5,315 in Scarborough North to 22,670 in Toronto—St. Paul's). Bank 10,000–12,000 identified supporters and you're competitive almost anywhere in the city.
- **Open seats are the on-ramp.** Eight of nine new councillors won seats with no incumbent; only one incumbent lost. Track retirements and resignations before the August 21, 2026 nomination deadline — that's where 2026's real openings will be.
- **Margins reward field work.** Two wards were decided by fewer than 125 votes. With 115,899 advance ballots cast in 2022, banking your vote early is a core tactic, not a nice-to-have.
- **Turnout fell in every single ward** — as low as 22.1% in Humber River—Black Creek. The 2026 electorate will be small and identifiable: a disciplined canvass-and-GOTV operation outperforms broadcast persuasion.
- **Consider the trustee route:** 10 of 22 TDSB wards were open in 2022 and one TCDSB seat came down to a single vote. It's a genuine pipeline to council.

Sources: City of Toronto certified results, 2022 Municipal Election Official Report & City Clerk's TCDSB Ward 1 recount notice, April 2023 (toronto.ca); Wikipedia, "2022 Toronto municipal election" (results tables cite the City Clerk); Spacing turnout analysis (city open data); CBC News; The Local. Turnout note: 29.17% was the election-night figure; 29.7% reflects the final voters' list (563,124 / 1,898,750).

Ottawa

24 wards (new map — a 24th ward was added for 2022) · First open mayoral race since 1997

Ottawa bucked the provincial trend: turnout went up. 316,260 of 722,227 eligible electors voted — **43.79%**, versus 42.55% in 2018, with advance-poll ballots jumping to nearly 85,000 from about 56,000. The election came months after the convoy occupation and Jim Watson's retirement, and it produced the closest mayoral result since 2006: broadcaster Mark Sutcliffe defeated Somerset councillor Catherine McKenney by 42,438 votes. Council turned over massively without a single incumbent losing — nine retirements, McKenney's mayoral run and a newly created ward (Barrhaven East) opened 11 of 24 seats.

43.8%

TURNOUT 2022

▲ **1.2 pts vs 2018**
(42.55%)

24

 WARDS (1 BRAND
NEW)

7,688

 MEDIAN WINNING
VOTES

11 of 24

 SEATS WENT TO NEW
MEMBERS

Mayoral race — 2022 (14 candidates; top 6 shown) · open seat

CANDIDATE	VOTES	SHARE	NOTES
Mark Sutcliffe	161,679	51.4%	Broadcaster/entrepreneur · first elected office
Catherine McKenney	119,241	37.9%	Somerset ward councillor
Bob Chiarelli	15,998	5.1%	Former mayor (2001–2006)
Nour Kadri	7,496	2.4%	uOttawa professor
Mike Maguire	2,775	0.9%	Repeat candidate
Graham MacDonald	1,629	0.5%	

2018 comparison: Jim Watson took 71.0% (188,960 votes). Sutcliffe's 42,438-vote margin was a fraction of Watson-era blowouts — Ottawa's mayoralty is competitive again.

Ward-by-ward winners — Ottawa council, 2022

WARD	WINNER	VOTES	SHARE	MARGIN VS RUNNER-UP	STATUS
1 · Orléans East-Cumberland	Matthew Luloff	11,919	74.2%	+9,543 vs Cantave	Re-elected
2 · Orléans West-Innes	Laura Dudas	11,821	71.4%	+8,512 vs Stinson	Re-elected
3 · Barrhaven West	David Hill	6,230	44.0%	+1,493 vs Simmonds	New · open seat
4 · Kanata North	Cathy Curry	8,827	76.8%	+7,244 vs Copil	Re-elected
5 · West Carleton-March	Clarke Kelly	2,550	27.4%	+243 vs Duguay	New · open seat
6 · Stittsville	Glen Gower	7,758	58.7%	+5,066 vs Duchesne	Re-elected

WARD	WINNER	VOTES	SHARE	MARGIN VS RUNNER-UP	STATUS
7 · Bay	Theresa Kavanagh	12,398	82.8%	+10,739 vs Hill	Re-elected
8 · College	Laine Johnson	8,899	52.6%	+3,247 vs McGarry	New · open seat
9 · Knoxdale-Merivale	Sean Devine	4,812	39.2%	+2,248 vs Dean	New · open seat
10 · Gloucester-Southgate	Jessica Bradley	4,927	42.2%	+2,118 vs Mahmoud	New · open seat
11 · Beacon Hill-Cyrville	Tim Tierney	7,617	82.0%	+6,352 vs Gray	Re-elected
12 · Rideau-Vanier	Stéphanie Plante	4,621	37.2%	+323 vs Shantz	New · open seat
13 · Rideau-Rockcliffe	Rawlson King	8,481	80.1%	+7,622 vs Fitzsimmons	Re-elected
14 · Somerset	Ariel Troster	8,669	61.3%	+3,963 vs MacKay	New · open seat
15 · Kitchissippi	Jeff Leiper	11,055	72.0%	+7,808 vs Fitzgerald	Re-elected
16 · River	Riley Brockington	9,595	73.1%	+7,199 vs Sabourin	Re-elected
17 · Capital	Shawn Menard	11,358	78.8%	+9,372 vs Bromwich	Re-elected
18 · Alta Vista	Marty Carr	6,088	47.1%	+1,981 vs Kropp	New · open seat
19 · Orléans South-Navan	Catherine Kitts	9,466	76.5%	+6,750 vs Ashiri	Re-elected
20 · Osgoode	George Darouze	4,353	40.8%	+238 vs Thompson	Re-elected
21 · Rideau-Jock	David Brown	6,901	66.6%	+5,247 vs Brunet	New · open seat
22 · Riverside South-Findlay Creek	Steve Desroches	5,682	67.9%	+4,149 vs Alsalihiy	Open seat (ex-councillor)
23 · Kanata South	Allan Hubley	5,334	33.9%	+1,723 vs Coffin	Re-elected
24 · Barrhaven East	Wilson Lo	4,403	36.8%	+1,423 vs Garrick	New ward

All 13 incumbents who ran were re-elected. The 2020 ward boundary review added Barrhaven East (Ward 24) and renamed six wards for 2022.

Notable ward battles

OSGOODE · 238 VOTES

The comeback that almost worked

Incumbent George Darouze survived a challenge from Doug Thompson — the ward's long-time former councillor — 4,353 to 4,115 (40.8% vs 38.6%). Ottawa's closest race, and proof rural incumbents can bleed.

WEST CARLETON-MARCH · 243 VOTES

Winning a ward with 2,550 votes

In a seven-candidate open field, Clarke Kelly won with just 27.4% — 2,550 votes to Sasha Duguay's 2,307. Ottawa's rural wards have the smallest win numbers in the city.

RIDEAU-VANIER · 323 VOTES

Core open seat, split field

Stéphanie Plante took the open downtown ward 4,621 to 4,298 (37.2% vs 34.6%) over Laura Shantz after Mathieu Fleury retired — one of two open-seat races decided by under 350 votes.

MAYORAL GEOGRAPHY

Two cities, one ballot

McKenney won the convoy-affected core decisively (73.3% in Somerset, 62.2% in Capital) while Sutcliffe swept rural and suburban wards (74.7% in Osgoode, 73.4% in Rideau-Jock) — a reminder that Ottawa campaigns are won ward map first, message second.

School-board trustees

Ottawa elects trustees for four boards, each on zone maps that group the 24 wards. **OCDSB** (English public) has 12 zones of 1–3 wards; all 12 were contested in 2022 (no acclamations) and seven of twelve trustees were new. **OCSB** (English Catholic) has 10 zones — all contested in 2022 versus six acclamations in 2018, and two incumbents were defeated. The French boards lean heavily on acclamation: **CEPEO** filled three of its seven Ottawa zones without a vote, and **CECCE** five of eight. One storyline drew national attention: Lyra Evans, Canada's first transgender school trustee, was re-elected in OCDSB Zone 6 with 54.5% against a field that included an anti-trans campaigner. For a first run in Ottawa, contested OCSB zones were won with roughly 1,300–4,900 votes; OCDSB zones took 5,800–14,300.

Key takeaways for 2026 candidates — Ottawa

- **Win numbers vary 5× across the city:** the median winner took 7,688 votes, but West Carleton-March was won with 2,550 while Bay's incumbent took 12,398. Budget your field plan per-ward, not per-city.
- **Incumbents went 13-for-13.** The 2022 turnover came entirely from 11 open seats. For 2026, monitor retirement signals — an open Ottawa ward is very winnable (two were decided by under 350 votes, and Osgoode's incumbent held on by just 238).
- **Ottawa turns out.** At 43.8% city-wide — and over 50% in Kitchissippi and Capital — Ottawa's electorate is the largest per ward in this report. Advance voting (~85,000 ballots) is where organized campaigns bank their lead.
- **Message must match the map.** The 2022 mayoral race split cleanly core-vs-suburban. Pull ward-level results before writing your literature — the same pitch does not work in Somerset and Osgoode.
- **Growth areas create seats:** Barrhaven East didn't exist before 2022 and was won with 4,403 votes. Fast-growing suburbs have the youngest voter files and weakest incumbency roots.

Sources: City of Ottawa official results (app06.ottawa.ca, as tabulated by Wikipedia's "2022 Ottawa municipal election," CBC and Capital Current); CBC Ottawa "by the numbers"; Capital Current; CTV Ottawa (trustee results); OCDSB/OCSB post-election releases; ottawa.ca ward & school-zone maps.

Mississauga

11 wards · Councillors also sit on Peel Regional Council · 107,310 ballots cast

Mississauga re-elected almost everyone — on the second-lowest turnout in this report. Just 21.84% of 491,260 registered voters cast a ballot, down from 26.49% in 2018. Bonnie Crombie took 78.5% for a third term, and seven of eight incumbent councillors won. The exception was Ward 6, where Ron Starr — docked 60 days' pay after an integrity-commissioner finding that he keyed a fellow councillor's car, a finding he denied — lost badly to Joe Horneck. Note for 2026 planning: Crombie has since left for provincial politics, and Ward 5 councillor Carolyn Parrish won the June 2024 mayoral by-election, so the 2026 ballot starts with a reshaped top of ticket and open-seat ripple effects.

21.8%

TURNOUT 2022

▼ 4.7 pts vs 2018
(26.49%)

11

COUNCIL WARDS

5,631

 MEDIAN WINNING
VOTES

4 of 11

 SEATS CHANGED
HANDS

Mayoral race — 2022 (8 candidates; top 6 shown)

CANDIDATE	VOTES	SHARE	NOTES
Bonnie Crombie	82,736	78.5%	Incumbent · re-elected (resigned 2024 for Ontario Liberal leadership)
David Shaw	7,202	6.8%	
George Tavares	5,613	5.3%	
Derek Ramkissoon	4,012	3.8%	
Mohsin Khan	2,866	2.7%	
Melodie J. Petty	1,464	1.4%	

2018 comparison: Crombie won with 76.7% — her share actually rose in 2022 while raw votes fell with turnout. Carolyn Parrish won the June 2024 mayoral by-election (43,494 votes to Alvin Tedjo's 35,005) after Crombie's resignation.

Ward-by-ward winners — Mississauga council, 2022

WARD	WINNER	VOTES	SHARE	MARGIN VS RUNNER-UP	STATUS
1	Stephen Dasko	5,552	70.1%	+3,950 vs Goss	Re-elected
2	Alvin Tedjo	3,733	41.1%	+1,174 vs Shanly	New · open seat
3	Chris Fonseca	6,767	72.3%	+5,232 vs Tagidou	Re-elected
4	John Kovac	5,748	67.8%	+4,106 vs Pace Jakobsen	Re-elected
5	Carolyn Parrish	5,631	67.8%	+4,625 vs Akbar	Re-elected
6	Joe Horneck	7,085	60.2%	+4,115 vs Starr	Unseated Starr

WARD	WINNER	VOTES	SHARE	MARGIN VS RUNNER-UP	STATUS
7	Dipika Damerla	4,969	55.2%	+2,988 vs Zurek-Silvestri	Re-elected
8	Matt Mahoney	8,002	80.3%	+6,828 vs Mehta	Re-elected
9	Martin Reid	2,793	26.0%	+241 vs Dakroub	New · open seat
10	Sue McFadden	6,960	61.0%	+3,663 vs Bempong	Re-elected
11	Brad Butt	3,864	41.2%	+1,527 vs Hasan	New · open seat

Open seats: Ward 2 (Karen Ras resigned mid-term), Ward 9 (Pat Saito retired) and Ward 11 (George Carlson retired). No acclamations in mayor or council races.

Notable ward battles

WARD 6 · THE SCANDAL SEAT

Horneck unseats Ron Starr

The only incumbent defeat in Mississauga: Joe Horneck won 7,085 to 2,970 (60.2% vs 25.3%) after Starr was placed on leave amid an integrity probe into the repeated keying of councillor Karen Ras's car. Scandal — not challenger strength alone — is what breaks incumbency here.

WARD 9 · 241 VOTES

An 11-way free-for-all

Martin Reid, endorsed by retiring councillor Pat Saito, won with just 2,793 votes (26.0%) over school trustee Nokha Dakroub (2,552). Former MPP Bob Delaney managed only third, and Peter McCallion — Hazel's son — took 636 votes. Open Mississauga seats are wide open.

WARD 5 · MALTON'S FIXTURE

Parrish, by a mile

Carolyn Parrish took 67.8% (5,631 votes) against 12.1% for her nearest challenger — the base that later powered her 2024 mayoral by-election win. Her move up opened Ward 5 itself, a chain reaction 2026 candidates should study.

WARD 2 · OPEN LAKEFRONT SEAT

Tedjo wins a plurality

Alvin Tedjo won the seat vacated by Karen Ras with 41.1% (3,733 votes) over Sue Shanly's 28.2%. Two years later he was runner-up for mayor — Mississauga ward wins travel.

School-board trustees

Peel District School Board elects six Mississauga trustees, five on paired council wards (e.g., Wards 1&7, 2&8, 6&11) plus a single-ward Ward 5 seat; contested 2022 winners took between 2,190 and 5,069 votes. **Dufferin-Peel Catholic DSB** elects seven Mississauga trustees — one seat (Wards 5, Thomas Thomas) was *acclaimed*, and the Wards 2&8 race was decided by just **44 votes** (888 to 844). Both French-board seats covering the city — **CS Viamonde** (Yvon Rochefort) and **CSC MonAvenir** (Estelle Ah-Kiow) — were *acclaimed outright*. Trustee contests in Peel are the lowest-vote-count elected offices available: several hundred committed voters can decide one.

Key takeaways for 2026 candidates — Mississauga

- **The median ward was won with 5,631 votes** — and open seats went for 2,793–3,864. At ~22% turnout, roughly 3,500–4,500 identified supporters wins an open Mississauga ward; 6,000+ makes you nearly unbeatable.
- **Don't run at a healthy incumbent.** Seven of eight were re-elected with 55–81%. The one defeat required a scandal. Wait for — or scout — the open seat.
- **Split fields collapse the win number:** Ward 9 was won at 26.0% in an 11-candidate race, by 241 votes. In a crowded open seat, a disciplined 3,000-vote base beats seven better-known rivals.
- **Chain reactions are live for 2026:** Crombie's exit made Parrish mayor in 2024 and cascaded open seats behind her. Watch councillors eyeing higher office — their wards are your opening.
- **The trustee ladder is real:** two French-board seats and a DPCDSB seat went by acclamation, one Catholic race closed at 44 votes, and trustee Dakroub nearly jumped straight to council. It's the cheapest credible first campaign in Peel.

Sources: City of Mississauga Official Election Results 2022 (city clerk-certified PDF, mississauga.ca); Wikipedia, "2022 Mississauga municipal election"; City of Mississauga results release (2018 turnout); CBC News / Wikipedia, "2024 Mississauga mayoral by-election" (post-2022 context).

Brampton

10 wards electing 5 City Councillors + 5 Regional Councillors on paired wards (1&5, 2&6, 3&4, 7&8, 9&10) · 87,155 ballots cast

Brampton's structure is unique in this report: every voter elects two councillors — a City Councillor and a Regional Councillor for their ward pair. In 2022, turnout fell hard to **24.56%** from 34.5% in 2018. Patrick Brown — months removed from his mid-campaign disqualification from the federal Conservative leadership race — won a second term with 59.7% over city-hall whistleblower Nikki Kaur. Down-ballot, four of the five regional incumbents on the ballot won; the fifth, Gurpreet Singh Dhillon, lost Wards 9&10 by just 227 votes. Three open city-council seats produced tight, crowded races.

24.6%

TURNOUT 2022

▼ 9.9 pts vs 2018
(34.5%)

5 + 5CITY + REGIONAL
SEATS**6,503**MEDIAN WINNING
VOTES**4 of 10**SEATS CHANGED
HANDS

Mayoral race — 2022 (6 candidates)

CANDIDATE	VOTES	SHARE	NOTES
Patrick Brown	50,652	59.7%	Incumbent · re-elected
Nikki Kaur	21,693	25.6%	Former city staffer/whistleblower
Bob Singh	7,166	8.4%	
Tony Moracci	3,775	4.5%	
Vidya Sagar Gautam	1,398	1.7%	
Prabh Kaur Mand	235	0.3%	

2018 comparison: Brown first won the mayoralty with 44.4%, defeating incumbent Linda Jeffrey. His 2022 share rose 15 points against a weaker field.

Seat-by-seat winners — Brampton council, 2022

SEAT	WINNER	VOTES	SHARE	MARGIN VS RUNNER-UP	STATUS
Regional · Wards 1&5	Paul Vicente	7,832	55.7%	+4,189 vs Orughu	Re-elected
Regional · Wards 2&6	Michael Palleschi	9,675	56.6%	+7,580 vs Pabla	Re-elected
Regional · Wards 3&4	Martin Medeiros	7,693	53.5%	+4,766 vs Barrett	Re-elected
Regional · Wards 7&8	Pat Fortini	6,919	44.5%	+4,212 vs R.S. Dhillon	Re-elected
Regional · Wards 9&10	Gurpartap Singh Toor	6,086	29.4%	+227 vs G.S. Dhillon	Unseated G.S. Dhillon
City · Wards 1&5	Rowena Santos	5,143	36.1%	+2,051 vs Brooks	Re-elected

SEAT	WINNER	VOTES	SHARE	MARGIN VS RUNNER-UP	STATUS
City · Wards 2&6	Navjit Kaur Brar	4,983	28.9%	+1,097 vs Chambers	New · open seat
City · Wards 3&4	Dennis Keenan	4,912	34.1%	+313 vs Sanderson	New · open seat
City · Wards 7&8	Rod Power	4,069	26.1%	+1,220 vs Sandhu	New · open seat
City · Wards 9&10	Harkirat Singh	9,076	45.3%	+4,499 vs Gordon-Daniels	Re-elected

Regional Councillors sit on both Brampton council and Peel Regional Council ("double direct" election). No council acclamations in 2022.

Notable ward battles

REGIONAL 9&10 · 227 VOTES

The lone incumbent to fall

Gurpartap Singh Toor edged sitting regional councillor Gurpreet Singh Dhillon 6,086 to 5,859 (29.4% vs 28.3%) in a seven-way race — the only incumbent defeat in Brampton, and it happened in the city's fastest-growing wards.

CITY 3&4 · 313 VOTES

Newcomer holds off a comeback

With incumbent Jeff Bowman out, first-timer Dennis Keenan beat former regional councillor John Sanderson 4,912 to 4,599 (34.1% vs 32.0%) — open seats invite comeback bids, but ground game beat name recognition.

CITY 7&8 · A 13-WAY SCRAMBLE

Winning with 26.1%

After Charmaine Williams left for Queen's Park, 13 candidates piled in. Rod Power won with just 4,069 votes; the field even included Williams's sister and her former assistant. The lower the barrier, the more the vote splits.

MAYORAL SUBPLOT

Brown's turbulent double campaign

Brown entered the federal Conservative leadership race in March 2022, was disqualified in July, then pivoted back and won re-election with 50,652 votes (59.7%) over Nikki Kaur — an unusually low-drag race for a city with this much political churn.

School-board trustees

Peel District School Board elects five Brampton trustees on the same ward pairs as council (winners took 2,482–6,461 votes). **Dufferin-Peel Catholic DSB** elects three Brampton trustees on grouped wards — and its Wards 1, 3&4 seat was decided by just **20 votes** (Anisha Thomas 1,429, Theresa Laverty 1,409), the closest race anywhere on Brampton's 2022 ballot. The **CS Viamonde** (French public) Peel-wide seat was acclaimed — Yvon Rochefort, per the city's election news release (the certified PDF lists no name) — and the **CSC MonAvenir** (French Catholic) contest drew only 328 Brampton votes in total (Grenier 263, O'Neil 65).

Key takeaways for 2026 candidates — Brampton

- **Pick your lane: every ward pair elects two councillors.** City Councillor races were generally cheaper to win (4,069–9,076 votes) than Regional ones (6,086–9,675) — same doors, different bar.
- **The median winner took 6,503 votes at 24.6% turnout.** Open city seats fell to candidates with 4,000–5,000 votes and pluralities as low as 26.1%. That's a knockable universe in one season.
- **Wards 9&10 are Brampton's swing territory:** the regional seat flipped by 227 votes in 2022. High-growth subdivisions mean thin incumbent roots and thousands of new voters every cycle.
- **Turnout fell ~10 points — the steepest drop in the GTA outside Toronto.** Set your 2026 vote goal off the 2022 baseline (roughly 8,700 ballots per ward-pair race), not 2018's.
- **The trustee rung is nearly free:** a Catholic trustee seat turned on 20 votes and the French-board seats drew a few hundred voters or none at all. If you're building a bench for 2030, start here.

Sources: City of Brampton 2022 Municipal Election Official Results (brampton.ca certified PDF); Wikipedia, "2022 Peel Region municipal elections"; City of Brampton election news release (trustee acclamations); The Pointer (2018 turnout & Brown 2018 result).

Hamilton

15 wards · Open mayoralty (Fred Eisenberger retired) · 142,058 mayoral votes cast

Hamilton had 2022's marquee change election. Former Ontario NDP leader Andrea Horwath became the city's first woman mayor by just **1,663 votes** over chamber-of-commerce head Keanin Loomis (41.7% to 40.5%), with ex-mayor Bob Bratina a distant third. Council transformed: nine of fifteen ward seats went to new councillors — **three sitting incumbents were defeated**, six seats were open, and two races were decided by fewer than 85 votes. Turnout slipped to 35.38% from 38.36%, still among the healthiest in this report.

35.4%

TURNOUT 2022

▼ **3.0 pts vs 2018**
(38.36%)

15

COUNCIL WARDS

4,239

 MEDIAN WINNING
VOTES

10 of 16

 NEW FACES (INCL.
MAYOR)

Mayoral race — 2022 (9 candidates; top 6 shown) · open seat

CANDIDATE	VOTES	SHARE	NOTES
Andrea Horwath	59,216	41.7%	Former Ontario NDP leader · first woman mayor of Hamilton
Keanin Loomis	57,553	40.5%	Former Chamber of Commerce CEO
Bob Bratina	17,436	12.3%	Former mayor & MP
Ejaz Butt	1,907	1.3%	
Solomon Ikhuwu	1,867	1.3%	
Jim Davis	1,433	1.0%	

2018 comparison: Eisenberger won with 54.0% (74,093 votes). Note: Loomis's share is 40.51% by vote math (CBC); one Wikipedia table prints 40.41%.

Ward-by-ward winners — Hamilton council, 2022

WARD	WINNER	VOTES	SHARE	MARGIN VS RUNNER-UP	STATUS
1 · Chedoke–Cootes	Maureen Wilson	6,610	75.0%	+5,224 vs MacPherson	Re-elected
2 · Downtown	Cameron Kroetsch	3,619	49.3%	+1,207 vs Farr	Unseated Farr
3 · Hamilton Centre	Nrinder Nann	4,334	50.3%	+1,386 vs Furlan	Re-elected
4 · East Hamilton	Tammy Hwang	2,101	23.0%	+285 vs Tuck	New · open seat
5 · Red Hill	Matt Francis	4,239	43.6%	+2,641 vs Lukasik	New · open seat
6 · East Mountain	Tom Jackson	6,326	63.5%	+4,787 vs Slye	Re-elected

WARD	WINNER	VOTES	SHARE	MARGIN VS RUNNER-UP	STATUS
7 · Central Mountain	Esther Pauls	6,043	50.9%	+217 vs Duvall	Re-elected
8 · West/Central Mountain	John-Paul Danko	5,274	62.2%	+3,338 vs Brown	Re-elected
9 · Upper Stoney Creek	Brad Clark	3,622	51.6%	+1,160 vs Lanza	Re-elected
10 · Lower Stoney Creek	Jeff Beattie	4,236	39.7%	+800 vs Milojevic	Unseated Pearson (3rd)
11 · Glanbrook	Mark Tadeson	2,829	38.0%	+83 vs Lauwers	New · open seat
12 · Ancaster	Craig Cassar	4,960	38.8%	+2,359 vs Alkerton	New · open seat
13 · Dundas	Alex Wilson	7,038	57.9%	+1,928 vs VanderBeek	Unseated VanderBeek
14 · West Mountain	Mike Spadafora	2,610	28.5%	+79 vs Damptey	New · open seat
15 · Flamborough	Ted McMeekin	3,091	43.8%	+640 vs Jawed	New · open seat

Ward 10: incumbent Maria Pearson (on council since 2003) finished third with 3,000 votes (28.1%). Ward 14 opened when incumbent Terry Whitehead withdrew on nomination day.

Notable ward battles

WARD 14 · 79 VOTES

The closest race in the city

Mike Spadafora beat organizer Kojo Damptey 2,610 to 2,531 (28.5% vs 27.6%) for the open West Mountain seat — 79 votes in a splintered field. One more canvass weekend could have flipped it.

WARD 11 · 83 VOTES

Glanbrook goes down to the wire

Mark Tadeson edged Nick Lauwers 2,829 to 2,746 (38.0% vs 36.9%) in the open rural-suburban ward. Two of Hamilton's six open seats were decided by fewer than 85 votes.

WARD 7 · 217 VOTES

Pauls vs Duvall, a two-way heavyweight bout

Incumbent Esther Pauls held off former NDP MP and councillor Scott Duvall 6,043 to 5,826 — 50.9% vs 49.1% in one of only two two-candidate ward races (Dundas was the other). Even star challengers need a bigger field program than name ID.

THREE INCUMBENTS DOWN

Downtown, Stoney Creek and Dundas fire their councillors

Cameron Kroetsch beat Jason Farr (since 2010) 49.3%–32.8%; Jeff Beattie toppled Maria Pearson (since 2003), who fell to third; and Alex Wilson — among the youngest and the first openly non-binary councillor — unseated Arlene VanderBeek 57.9%–42.1% in Dundas.

School-board trustees

HWDSB (English public) elects 11 trustees on redrawn 2022 boundaries: council wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 13 and 15 each elect their own trustee, and ward pairs 5&10, 6&9, 8&14 and 11&12 share one. Contested winners ranged from 2,979 to 7,661 votes.

HWCDSB (English Catholic) elects nine trustees on its own groupings; the Wards 1, 2&15 seat was *acclaimed* (Mark Valvasori), and long-time chair Patrick Daly was returned in Ward 7 with 1,491 votes (50.8%); contested Catholic winners ranged from 1,467 to 3,436 votes. One **CS Viamonde** and one **CSC MonAvenir** trustee also represent Hamilton within wider regional seats — in 2022 Pierre Gregory was acclaimed (Viamonde) and Marcel Levesque won the MonAvenir seat with 70.5%.

Key takeaways for 2026 candidates — Hamilton

- **The median ward was won with 4,239 votes**, and Tammy Hwang took Ward 4 with just 2,101 (23.0%). In lower-city wards, 2,500–4,500 identified supporters is a winning universe.
- **Hamilton actually fires incumbents** — three lost in 2022 (tied with London for the most here). A serious, early-starting challenge is viable, especially where an incumbent's base has aged out.
- **Open seats go razor-thin:** 79 and 83-vote margins in 2022. If a retirement opens your ward in 2026, assume the race will be decided inside the margin of one good canvass week.
- **Citywide races are ward math:** Horwath won by 1,663 votes out of 142,058 — roughly 110 votes per ward. Mayoral and trustee campaigns need the same door-level discipline as council runs.
- **Watch the generational seats:** Tom Jackson has held East Mountain since 1988 and won with 63.5%. When long-tenure wards finally open, they draw the biggest fields — build your organization before the retirement announcement, not after.

Sources: Wikipedia, "2022 Hamilton, Ontario municipal election" (City of Hamilton-sourced tables) cross-checked with CBC Hamilton (mayoral margin, new-council count), City of Hamilton open-data poll-by-poll trustee results, insauga (French-board winners) and CHCH (winners incl. trustees); Wikipedia, "2018 Hamilton, Ontario municipal election." Turnout note: the city's official 2018 figure is 38.36% (its election-night release rounded to 38.4%).

London

14 wards · Open mayoralty (Ed Holder retired) · 71,678 ballots cast — a record low

London swung from electoral pioneer to turnout floor. In 2018 it was the first Canadian city in decades to use ranked ballots; the province then banned them, and the 2022 return to first-past-the-post came with a record-low **25.50%** turnout (71,678 of 281,073 eligible) versus roughly 40% in 2018 — a comparison that spans two different voting systems. Deputy mayor Josh Morgan won the open mayoralty in a landslide, but the ward map churned: **three incumbents were defeated** — one by 34 votes — and eight of fourteen seats changed hands.

25.5%

TURNOUT 2022

▼ ~14.0 pts vs 2018
(39.46%*)

14

COUNCIL WARDS

2,855

MEDIAN WINNING
VOTES

8 of 14

SEATS CHANGED
HANDS

Mayoral race — 2022 (10 candidates; top 6 shown) · open seat

CANDIDATE	VOTES	SHARE	NOTES
Josh Morgan	46,283	65.7%	Sitting deputy mayor & Ward 7 councillor
Khalil Ramal	15,912	22.6%	Former Liberal MPP
Sandie Thomas	2,297	3.3%	
Sean O'Connell	1,432	2.0%	
Johanne Nichols	1,339	1.9%	
Daniel Jeffery	810	1.2%	

2018 comparison (*different system): Ed Holder won under ranked ballots with 34.2% of first preferences, elected in round 13 of the count. Morgan's 30,371-vote margin made him London's 65th mayor.

Ward-by-ward winners — London council, 2022

WARD	WINNER	VOTES	SHARE	MARGIN VS RUNNER-UP	STATUS
1	Hadleigh McAlister	1,415	37.7%	+362 vs Van Holst	Unseated Van Holst
2	Shawn Lewis	3,310	88.8%	+2,891 vs Yohnicki	Re-elected
3	Peter Cuddy	1,433	36.2%	+407 vs Wright	New · open seat
4	Susan Stevenson	1,064	28.3%	+295 vs Fisher	New · open seat
5	Jerry Pribil	3,982	64.5%	+1,792 vs Pierotti	New · open seat
6	Sam Trosow	2,082	48.1%	+299 vs Hamou	Unseated Hamou

WARD	WINNER	VOTES	SHARE	MARGIN VS RUNNER-UP	STATUS
7	Corrine Rahman	3,910	55.0%	+1,747 vs Caldwell	New · open seat (Morgan ran for mayor)
8	Steve Lehman	3,669	69.6%	+2,831 vs McCauley	Re-elected
9	Anna Hopkins	4,281	62.1%	+2,712 vs Jozic	Re-elected
10	Paul Van Meerbergen	2,400	41.9%	+939 vs May	Re-elected
11	Skylar Franke	3,616	57.7%	+1,885 vs McCall	New · open seat
12	Elizabeth Pelosa	3,400	77.2%	+2,859 vs Godwin	Re-elected
13	David Ferreira	1,885	41.2%	+34 vs Fyfe-Millar	Unseated Fyfe-Millar
14	Steve Hillier	1,766	46.0%	+228 vs S. Lehman	Re-elected

All figures from the City Clerk's certified results (October 26, 2022). No council acclamations.

Notable ward battles

WARD 13 · 34 VOTES

Downtown flips by a classroom's worth of voters

David Ferreira unseated incumbent John Fyfe-Millar 1,885 to 1,851 (41.2% vs 40.5%) — the closest council race in any of the ten cities in this report. Thirty-five more door-knocks might have saved the seat.

WARD 4 · WINNING WITH 1,064 VOTES

The cheapest big-city ward in southwestern Ontario

Susan Stevenson won the open East London seat with 1,064 votes (28.3%), 295 ahead of Jarad Fisher. At 25% turnout, a few streets of committed supporters is literally a winning coalition.

WARD 6 · 299 VOTES

A professor topples an incumbent

Western University professor Sam Trosow defeated appointed incumbent Mariam Hamou 2,082 to 1,783 (48.1% vs 41.2%) — one of three incumbent defeats, the most (with Hamilton) of any city here.

WARD 1 · 362 VOTES

Van Holst's nine lives run out

Hadleigh McAlister beat two-term councillor Michael van Holst 1,415 to 1,053 (37.7% vs 28.1%) in a split field — proof that even modest vote totals can end long careers when turnout craters.

School-board trustees

Thames Valley DSB (English public) elects six London trustees across three combined-ward regions, two per region — 2022 winners took 5,142–6,900 votes, and all races were contested. **London District Catholic School Board** elects five London trustees on grouped wards; the Wards 8, 9 & 10 seat was *acclaimed* (Linda Steel), and contested seats were won with as few

as 484 votes. The French boards are the smallest electorates on the ballot: **CSC Providence's** London seat was *acclaimed* (Philippe Morin), and the **CS Viamonde** multi-county seat was decided by **17 votes region-wide** (405–388) — with the London portion literally tied 190–190.

Key takeaways for 2026 candidates — London

- **London has the lowest ward entry costs of any large Ontario city after Kitchener:** median winner 2,855 votes, and Ward 4 was won with 1,064. An identified universe of 1,500–3,000 supporters wins most wards.
- **Incumbents are genuinely vulnerable here** — three lost in 2022, by 34, 299 and 362 votes. If you're challenging, the gap is closable; if you're the incumbent, treat every cycle like an open race.
- **Only ~5,100 ballots were cast per ward on average.** Persuasion universes are tiny; the campaign that IDs and pulls its vote wins. Advance-poll banking matters disproportionately at 25% turnout.
- **Open seats went for pluralities as low as 28–36%** — crowded fields split badly in London. Consolidate one neighbourhood coalition early rather than campaigning thin city-wide.
- **Trustee races here are micro-elections:** an acclaimed Catholic seat, a 484-vote win, and a French-board race tied 190–190. For a first campaign or a bench-building play, this is the lowest rung in the province's southwest.

Sources: City of London Certified Election Results, Oct 26, 2022 (london.ca PDF — all council/trustee figures); Wikipedia, "2022 London, Ontario municipal election" & "2018 London, Ontario municipal election" (ranked-ballot context); Global News (turnout history, new-council count).

Windsor

10 wards · 50,078 ballots cast · 130 of 130 polls reported

Windsor's races are small, sharp and unforgiving. Turnout slipped to **31.57%** (from 35.21% in 2018) as Mayor Drew Dilkens won a third term with 52.5% over Ward 4 councillor Chris Holt — a two-way contest that cost Dilkens seven points off his 2018 share. Down-ballot, three wards changed hands: two open seats were won by 28 and 75 votes, and Ward 7's incumbent didn't just lose — he fell to third.

31.6%

TURNOUT 2022

▼ 3.6 pts vs 2018
(35.21%)

10

COUNCIL WARDS

2,120

 MEDIAN WINNING
VOTES

3 of 10

 SEATS CHANGED
HANDS

Mayoral race — 2022 (7 candidates; top 6 shown)

CANDIDATE	VOTES	SHARE	NOTES
Drew Dilkens	26,018	52.5%	Incumbent · re-elected (margin 6,841)
Chris Holt	19,177	38.7%	Ward 4 councillor
Matthew Giancola	2,091	4.2%	
Benjamin Danyluk	875	1.8%	
Ernie "The Baconman" Lamont	684	1.4%	
Aaron Day	511	1.0%	

2018 comparison: Dilkens won with 59.4% (31,201 votes). A consolidated single challenger in 2022 cut his share by 6.9 points.

Ward-by-ward winners — Windsor council, 2022

WARD	WINNER	VOTES	SHARE	MARGIN VS RUNNER-UP	STATUS
1	Fred Francis	3,481	55.7%	+712 vs Renaud	Re-elected
2	Fabio Costante	2,181	73.9%	+1,855 vs Romano	Re-elected
3	Renaldo Agostino	1,075	29.6%	+75 vs Yeomans	New · open seat
4	Mark McKenzie	1,285	22.3%	+28 vs Rondot	New · open seat (Holt ran for mayor)
5	Ed Sleiman	1,949	48.8%	+697 vs Acton	Re-elected
6	Jo-Anne Gignac	3,318	48.2%	+1,055 vs Renaud	Re-elected
7	Angelo Marignani	2,678	36.8%	+430 vs Lemay	Unseated Gill (3rd)
8	Gary Kaschak	2,059	60.7%	+727 vs Grey-Hall	

WARD	WINNER	VOTES	SHARE	MARGIN VS RUNNER-UP	STATUS
					Re-elected
9	Kieran McKenzie	3,261	72.4%	+2,391 vs Cheema	Re-elected
10	Jim Morrison	1,377	29.7%	+138 vs Masanovich	Re-elected

Ward 7 incumbent Jeewen Gill (elected in a 2020 by-election) finished third with 1,893 votes (26.0%) behind Marignani and Greg Lemay. (Official city PDF figure; one Wikipedia table contains a 1,983 typo.)

Notable ward battles

WARD 4 · 28 VOTES

The narrowest open-seat win in the report

With Chris Holt running for mayor, Mark McKenzie won the eight-candidate scramble 1,285 to Jake Rondot's 1,257 — 22.3% vs 21.8%. Twenty-nine more voters would have rewritten the result.

WARD 3 · 75 VOTES

Downtown decided street by street

Renaldo Agostino took the open downtown ward 1,075 to 1,000 (29.6% vs 27.5%) over Brian Yeomans after Rino Bortolin's exit. Barely a thousand votes wins core Windsor wards.

WARD 7 · INCUMBENT FALLS TO THIRD

Marignani over a split field

Angelo Marignani (2,678, 36.8%) beat Greg Lemay (2,248) while incumbent Jeewen Gill sank to third (1,893). When challengers split an anti-incumbent vote, the winner is whoever organizes first.

WARD 10 · 138 VOTES

An incumbent survives by inches

Jim Morrison held on 1,377 to 1,239 (29.7% vs 26.7%) over Mark Masanovich in a fractured field — a reminder that South Windsor's seat is competitive every cycle.

School-board trustees

Greater Essex County DSB (English public) elects six Windsor trustees, two each from three ward groupings (1/2/9, 3/4/10, 5/6/7/8); 2022 winners took 4,005–8,393 votes. **Windsor-Essex Catholic DSB** elects one trustee per ward pair; the Wards 2&9 race was decided by **28 votes** (Joe Iacono 1,121, 50.6%), while the 5&8 and 6&7 pairings were acclaimed — Jason Lazarus and incumbent Kim Bouchard respectively. The French boards are minuscule electorates: **CS Viamonde's** city-wide seat was decided by **18 votes** (Badrieh Kojok, 158 votes, 34.7%), and **CSC Providence's** seat went to Christine Brooks with 307 of 399 votes.

Key takeaways for 2026 candidates — Windsor

- **The median Windsor ward was won with just 2,120 votes**, and open seats went for 1,075–1,285. A canvass universe of 2,000 doors covers your whole win number.
- **Margins are microscopic:** 28, 75 and 138 votes decided three of ten wards. Bank advance votes and run a real election-day pull — that alone is the margin.
- **Split fields punish the unorganized:** Ward 7's incumbent fell to third as challengers divided the vote. If multiple candidates share your lane, the first to lock in 1,500 IDs wins.
- **Two-way mayoral races change the math:** Holt's consolidated 38.7% shows a single credible challenger gets much further than a crowded field — relevant to anyone weighing a 2026 mayoral run.
- **Trustee seats turn on double digits:** a Catholic seat by 28 votes, a French seat by 18 (the winner needed just 158 votes). For first-time candidates in Windsor-Essex, these are the most winnable offices on the ballot.

Sources: City of Windsor Official Results EL220 (citywindsor.ca certified PDF — all races incl. trustees); Wikipedia, "2022 Windsor municipal election" & "2018 Windsor municipal election"; WECDSE trustee roster & local reporting (acclaimed seats); CBC Windsor (ward-flip coverage).

Markham

8 ward councillors + 4 Regional Councillors elected at-large (top finisher becomes Deputy Mayor) · ~68,600 mayoral votes cast

Markham votes online — and re-elects. Fully **93% of 2022 ballots were cast over the internet** in Canada's longest-running online municipal voting program (since 2003). Turnout was 32% per the city's certified release (Wikipedia lists 31.17%), down from 38.26% in 2018. Frank Scarpitti won a fifth term in a straight two-way fight against his own deputy mayor, Don Hamilton — and every ward incumbent on the ballot won. The only movement came in two open wards and the at-large regional race, where former Ontario cabinet minister Michael Chan topped the poll to become Deputy Mayor.

32%

TURNOUT 2022 (CITY-CERTIFIED)

▼ ~6.3 pts vs 2018
(38.26%)**8 + 4**WARD + AT-LARGE
SEATS**5,254**MEDIAN WINNING
VOTES (WARDS)**93%**

BALLOTS CAST ONLINE

Mayoral race — 2022 (2 candidates)

CANDIDATE	VOTES	SHARE	NOTES
Frank Scarpitti	44,172	64.4%	Incumbent · 5th term
Don Hamilton	24,469	35.7%	Sitting Deputy Mayor/Regional Councillor

2018 comparison: Scarpitti won with 74.9% (55,553 votes) — a two-way race and lower turnout trimmed nearly 11 points off his share.

Ward-by-ward winners — Markham council, 2022

WARD	WINNER	VOTES	SHARE	MARGIN VS RUNNER-UP	STATUS
1	Keith Irish	6,095	74.4%	+3,994 vs Shore	Re-elected
2	Ritch Lau	3,012	36.4%	+1,146 vs Wang	New · open seat
3	Reid McAlpine	5,007	56.8%	+3,984 vs Tam	Re-elected
4	Karen Rea	8,563	92.2%	+7,841 vs Sansanwal	Re-elected
5	Andrew Keyes	5,120	72.9%	+3,748 vs Sivasubramaniam	Re-elected
6	Amanda Yeung Collucci	4,921	78.7%	+3,590 vs Soo	Re-elected
7	Juanita Nathan	5,388	47.8%	+2,740 vs Patel	New · open seat
8	Isa Lee	6,549	80.8%	+5,909 vs Ratnasingham	Re-elected

Regional Councillor (at-large, 4 elected of 11): **Michael Chan** 30,095 (new · Deputy Mayor) · **Jim Jones** 26,578 (re-elected) · **Joe Li** 25,823 (re-elected) · **Alan Ho** 24,735 (moved up from Ward 2). Fifth place: Nirmala Armstrong, 23,183 — 1,552 short.

Notable ward battles

MAYOR · A FAMILY FEUD AT CITY HALL

Scarpitti vs his own deputy

Don Hamilton gave up the deputy mayoralty to challenge his long-time colleague and lost 44,172 to 24,469 (64.4% vs 35.7%). Even a sitting deputy mayor couldn't dent a five-term incumbent's machine.

AT-LARGE · 1,552 VOTES FOR THE LAST SEAT

Alan Ho squeaks into the fourth chair

Ward 2's councillor jumped to the regional race and took the final at-large seat with 24,735 votes, keeping former regional councillor Nirmala Armstrong out — her second straight fifth-place finish.

WARD 2 · THE SEAT HO LEFT BEHIND

Ritch Lau wins the only crowded open ward

Lau won with 3,012 votes (36.4%) over Yan Wang's 1,866 — the lowest winning total in Markham and the clearest 2026 template: when a councillor moves up, the ward opens at a fraction of the usual cost.

WARD 4 · 92.2%

The most lopsided ward in this report

Karen Rea took 8,563 of 9,285 votes in a two-way race. Some Markham wards are effectively uncontestable until the incumbent leaves — spend your energy where the map is open.

School-board trustees

York Region DSB elects four Markham trustees on ward pairs (1&8, 2&6, 3&4, 5&7); 2022 winners took 3,595–6,647 votes, with the closest race decided by 315. **York Catholic DSB** elects two Markham trustees (Carol Cotton, Wards 1/2/3/6, 2,355 votes; Frank Alexander, Wards 4/5/7/8, 3,015 votes — both three-way races, per the city's certified results). The French boards elect one shared York Region trustee each: **CS Viamonde's** seat was contested (Stefania Sigurdson Forbes won), while **CSC MonAvenir's** was *acclaimed* (Donald Blais).

Key takeaways for 2026 candidates — Markham

- **Campaign for the inbox, not just the doorstep:** 93% of Markham ballots are cast online. Your canvass must capture emails/phones and push the voting link during the advance window — that *is* election day here.
- **The median ward was won with 5,254 votes**, but the open Ward 2 went for just 3,012 (36.4%). Roughly 3,500 identified supporters makes you competitive in any open Markham ward.
- **Ward incumbents went 6-for-6 — with shares of 57–92%.** Do not burn a cycle challenging them; track who runs for regional council or retires, because those wards open at half the price.
- **The at-large regional race is a different sport:** ~24,700 votes citywide to take the fourth seat, with a 1,552-vote cut line. Only attempt it with a city-wide organization or serious name recognition.
- **Trustee entry points:** YRDSB seats went for 3,600–6,600 votes and a French-board seat was acclaimed outright. A strong school-community network is a real launchpad in Markham.

Sources: City of Markham certified election results release (markham.ca); Wikipedia, "2022 York Region municipal elections" & "2018 York Region municipal elections" (certified tables); Markham Review. Turnout note: city-certified 32% vs Wikipedia infobox 31.17%.

Vaughan

5 ward councillors + 4 Local & Regional Councillors at-large (expanded from 3 for 2022) · 60,685 ballots cast

Vaughan delivered the closest big-city mayoral race in Ontario by raw votes. (Hamilton's was closer in percentage terms.) With Maurizio Bevilacqua retiring, former Ontario Liberal leader Steven Del Duca beat five-term Ward 4 councillor Sandra Yeung Racco by just **851 votes** — 38.06% to 36.64% — on 27.03% turnout (one of only two cities in this report where turnout rose, up 0.14 points). Vaughan's first internet-voting rollout saw **60.4% of all ballots cast online during the advance period**. And unusually for the GTA: two of the four ward incumbents on the ballot were defeated.

27.0%

TURNOUT 2022

▲ 0.1 pts vs 2018
(26.89%)

5 + 4

 WARD + AT-LARGE
SEATS

6,643

 MEDIAN WINNING
VOTES (WARDS)

851

 MAYORAL MARGIN
(VOTES)

Mayoral race — 2022 (7 on ballot; top 6 shown) · open seat

CANDIDATE	VOTES	SHARE	NOTES
Steven Del Duca	22,699	38.1%	Former Ontario Liberal leader · endorsed by outgoing mayor
Sandra Yeung Racco	21,848	36.6%	Five-term Ward 4 councillor
Danny DeSantis	7,591	12.7%	
Paul Donofrio	2,697	4.5%	
Lino Mancinella	2,427	4.1%	
Parveen Bola	1,492	2.5%	

2018 comparison: Bevilacqua won with 70.7%. Nine candidates registered for 2022; Deb Schulte withdrew after a cancer re-diagnosis and endorsed Del Duca.

Ward-by-ward winners — Vaughan council, 2022

WARD	WINNER	VOTES	SHARE	MARGIN VS RUNNER-UP	STATUS
1	Marilyn Iafrate	8,771	64.7%	+6,751 vs Scaramuzzo	Re-elected
2	Adriano Volpentesta	7,229	53.9%	+3,187 vs Carella	Unseated Carella
3	Rosanna DeFrancesca	6,643	51.6%	+4,236 vs Nguyen	Re-elected
4	Chris Ainsworth	2,705	38.7%	+1,132 vs Weinberg	New · open seat (Yeung Racco ran for mayor)
5	Gila Martow	6,601	54.6%	+1,104 vs Shefman	Unseated Shefman

Local & Regional Councillor (at-large, 4 elected of 9): **Linda D. Jackson** 28,398 (re-elected · Deputy Mayor) · **Mario Ferri** 27,937 (re-elected) · **Gino Rosati** 27,457 (re-elected) · **Mario G. Racco** 19,564 (new — the seat added by council expansion). Fifth place: Nick Pinto, 18,467 — 1,097 short.

Notable ward battles

MAYOR · 851 VOTES

Del Duca by a whisker

22,699 to 21,848 — 1.42 points. On 27% turnout, the mayoralty of a city of 320,000+ came down to fewer than a thousand ballots. The definitive Ontario case study in why GOTV wins citywide races.

WARD 5 · THORNHILL UPSET

Martow retires a council fixture

Former PC MPP Gila Martow beat Alan Shefman — one of Vaughan's longest-serving councillors — 6,601 to 5,497 (54.6% vs 45.4%). Provincial-level name recognition plus ground game flipped a "safe" seat.

WARD 2 · THIRD TIME'S THE CHARM

Volpentesta unseats Carella

After finishing third in 2018, Adriano Volpentesta returned and beat veteran incumbent Tony Carella 7,229 to 4,042 (53.9% vs 30.1%). Multi-cycle persistence is a legitimate strategy in Vaughan.

THE RACCO SPLIT-SCREEN

One household, two results

Sandra Yeung Racco lost the mayoralty by 851 votes the same night her husband, Mario G. Racco, won the newly created fourth at-large seat with 19,564 votes — 1,097 ahead of Nick Pinto.

School-board trustees

York Region DSB covers Vaughan with three trustee areas: Area 1 (King + Vaughan Ward 1) went to incumbent Nadeem Mahmood with 3,601 votes in the closest YRDSB race locally (240-vote margin); Areas 2 (Wards 2&3) and 3 (Wards 4&5) were won with 7,292 and 6,148 votes. **York Catholic DSB** elects four Vaughan trustees across three areas (Angela Saggese, Michaela Sonya Barbieri, Angela Grella, Jennifer Wigston) — vote totals

[DATA TO BE VERIFIED — source: city clerk records] . **CS Viamonde's** region-wide seat (administered by Vaughan) was contested; **CSC MonAvenir's** was *acclaimed* (Donald Blais).

Key takeaways for 2026 candidates — Vaughan

- **851 votes decided the mayoralty — and 38.1% won it.** In split fields on 27% turnout, the campaign with the best supporter file and pull operation takes city hall. Every ID matters.
- **Vaughan fires incumbents:** two of four ward incumbents on the ballot lost in 2022. Unlike Markham next door, a well-built challenge here is genuinely viable.
- **Bank votes early:** 60.4% of all 2022 ballots were cast online during the advance period. By election day, most of Vaughan has already voted — front-load your persuasion and GOTV.
- **Ward win numbers:** median 6,643, but the open Ward 4 was won with 2,705 (38.7%). When a councillor runs for mayor or regional seat, their ward opens cheap — watch the 2026 nomination list closely.
- **The at-large race rewards persistence and coalition:** ~19,600 votes took the new fourth seat, with a 1,097-vote cut line. Down-ballot at-large campaigns live or die on name recall across the whole city.

Sources: City of Vaughan official certified results (Clerk Todd Coles, Oct 25, 2022 release) and Vaughan 2022 Returning Officer's Report (turnout, online-voting share); Wikipedia, "2022 York Region municipal elections"; Global News; CP24.

Kitchener

10 wards · Two-tier: voters also elect Waterloo Regional Chair & 4 regional councillors · Lowest turnout in this report

Kitchener is where Ontario's turnout collapse hit hardest — and where a council seat costs the least. Just **20.26%** of eligible voters cast ballots, down from 28.22% in 2018. Berry Vrbanovic cruised to a third term with 80.0%, all seven incumbent councillors were re-elected, and the three open wards went to newcomers in races decided by 115–184 votes. Ward 3 was won with **532 votes** — the smallest council-seat winning total in this report. Kitchener voters also elected the Waterloo Regional Chair (Karen Redman re-elected region-wide with 72.3%) and four Kitchener regional councillors.

20.3%

TURNOUT 2022

▼ 8.0 pts vs 2018
(28.22%)

10

COUNCIL WARDS

1,913

MEDIAN WINNING
VOTES

532

LOWEST WINNING
TOTAL (W3)

Mayoral race — 2022 (5 candidates)

CANDIDATE	VOTES	SHARE	NOTES
Berry Vrbanovic	26,846	80.0%	Incumbent · 3rd term (margin 23,749)
Val Neekman	3,097	9.2%	
Manikantan Nair	1,817	5.4%	
Rehman-Ullah Khan	1,067	3.2%	
Milos Sokollu Posavljak	742	2.2%	

2018 comparison: Vrbanovic won with 85.5% (34,983 votes). Kitchener's regional councillors elected in 2022: Colleen James 13,519 · Michael Harris 11,628 · Kari Williams 10,703 · Robert Deutschmann 10,102.

Ward-by-ward winners — Kitchener council, 2022

WARD	WINNER	VOTES	SHARE	MARGIN VS RUNNER-UP	STATUS
1	Scott Davey	2,375	68.7%	+1,671 vs Guthrie	Re-elected
2	Dave Schnider	3,284	82.0%	+2,868 vs Rabethge	Re-elected
3	Jason Deneault	532	29.7%	+184 vs Richardson	New · open seat
4	Christine Michaud	1,638	57.9%	+796 vs Vandonk	Re-elected
5	Ayo Owodunni	844	31.5%	+120 vs Massimi	New · open seat
6	Paul Singh	2,060	74.9%	+1,371 vs Arkani	Re-elected
7	Bil Ioannidis	1,620	41.6%	+404 vs McCrea	Re-elected

WARD	WINNER	VOTES	SHARE	MARGIN VS RUNNER-UP	STATUS
8	Margaret Johnston	2,596	88.3%	+2,252 vs Aftab	Re-elected
9	Debbie Chapman	2,276	59.9%	+1,302 vs Wallis	Re-elected
10	Aislinn Clancy	1,765	36.2%	+115 vs Stretch	New · open seat

All figures from the City Clerk's certified results. Ward 10 note: Clancy has since departed council; runner-up Stephanie Stretch now holds the seat per the city's current council listing.

Notable ward battles

WARD 3 · 532 VOTES WINS A SEAT

The lowest winning total in this report

Jason Deneault won the open six-way race with 532 votes (29.7%) over Bryan Richardson's 348. At 20% turnout, a Kitchener ward race is decided by a universe smaller than one apartment tower.

WARD 10 · 115 VOTES

Clancy edges Stretch downtown

Aislinn Clancy beat Stephanie Stretch 1,765 to 1,650 (36.2% vs 33.8%) for the open seat — and after Clancy's later departure, Stretch ended up on council anyway. Tight losses build name equity for next time.

WARD 5 · 120 VOTES

Owodunni wins the southwest

Ayo Owodunni took the open ward 844 to 724 (31.5% vs 27.0%) — all three of Kitchener's open wards were decided by fewer than 200 votes.

THE TWO-TIER BALLOT

Same doors, four races

Kitchener voters chose a mayor, ward councillor, regional chair and four regional councillors at once. Regional seats needed ~10,000+ votes across the city — a completely different operation from a 2,000-vote ward campaign.

School-board trustees

Waterloo Region DSB elects four Kitchener trustees *at-large city-wide* (2022: Joanne Weston 9,302 · Mike Ramsay 9,238 · Meena Waseem 9,104 · Maedith Radlein 7,693, from a 17-candidate field, per the clerk's certified results). **Waterloo Catholic DSB** elects four trustees for Kitchener+Wilmot: Tracey Weiler 3,660 · Kathy Doherty-Masters 3,327 · Wendy Ashby 2,788 · Renée Kraft 1,833. **CSC MonAvenir's** multi-county seat drew 420 winning votes (just 91 from Kitchener); the **CS Viamonde** five-county seat was certified by the City of London: David O'Hara won 405–388, a 17-vote margin (Kitchener's certified share: 46–37). At-large trustee races reward city-wide school-community networks over street-level canvassing.

Key takeaways for 2026 candidates — Kitchener

- **This is the most accessible council in the report:** median win 1,913 votes; Ward 3 went for 532. One dedicated canvasser can personally knock the entire win number before Labour Day.
- **Open seats are everything:** incumbents went 7-for-7 (with 42–88% shares) while all three open wards flipped to newcomers by under 200 votes. Watch the 2026 nomination list for retirements — then move fast.
- **Plan for 1-in-5 turnout.** Roughly 33,600 Kitchener voters showed up in 2022. Vote goals built on registered-voter counts will massively over-budget your field program.
- **Margins of 115–184 votes mean advance voting decides races.** Bank every confirmed supporter in the advance window; election day is for pulling the stragglers.
- **Know which race you're actually running:** ward ($\approx$ 2,000 votes), regional council ($\approx$ 10,000+), or at-large trustee. Same city, three different campaign architectures.

Sources: City of Kitchener official results certificates (kitchener.ca, incl. WRDSB/WCDSB/MonAvenir schedules); City of London certified results (CS Viamonde five-county seat); Wikipedia, "2022 Waterloo Region municipal elections" & 2018 edition; CBC Kitchener-Waterloo (turnout).

Province-Wide Patterns — and What They Mean for October 26, 2026

1 · Turnout fell almost everywhere — plan for it

Across all Ontario municipalities, average turnout fell to **32.9%** in 2022 from 38.30% in 2018 — a record low, per the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO). Across the ten cities in this report the simple average was ~29.2%, down ~6 points. Only Ottawa and Vaughan rose.

Turnout, 2018 vs 2022			
CITY	2018	2022	CHANGE (PTS)
Toronto	40.9%	29.7%	-11.2
Ottawa	42.55%	43.79%	+1.24
Mississauga	26.49%	21.84%	-4.7
Brampton	34.5%	24.56%	-9.9
Hamilton	38.36%	35.38%	-3.0
London*	39.46%	25.50%	-14.0
Windsor	35.21%	31.57%	-3.6
Markham	38.26%	32%	-6.3
Vaughan	26.89%	27.03%	+0.14
Kitchener	28.22%	20.26%	-8.0
Ontario average (AMO)	38.30%	32.9%	-5.4

*London's 2018 election used ranked ballots (since banned provincially), so its delta spans two voting systems. Markham shown at the city-certified 32%.

2 · Incumbency is a fortress — but retirement opens the gates

Province-wide, AMO counted 1,791 incumbents seeking the same office in 2022: **80.1% won** (up from 76.5% in 2018). First-time candidates won just 28.5% of their races. In our ten cities the fortress was even stronger: **93 council incumbents ran and 81 were re-elected — an 87% success rate** — and all six incumbent big-city mayors won. Yet turnover still averaged 42% province-wide (41% across these ten cities' 140 council seats), because the seats that changed hands were overwhelmingly *open*. The twelve big-city incumbents who did lose — from Mark Grimes in Toronto to Tony Carella and Alan Shefman in Vaughan — mostly faced multi-cycle challengers, scandal, or shifted electorates.

3 · Races are won at the margins — literally

Across these ten cities, **17 council races were decided by 250 votes or fewer** — including 28 votes in Windsor Ward 4, 34 in London Ward 13, 79 and 83 in Hamilton, and 94 in Toronto's York South—Weston. Vaughan's mayoralty turned on 851

votes. One trustee seat in Toronto was certified at a one-vote margin, and a Brampton Catholic trustee seat closed at 20. At 2022 turnout levels, the gap between winning and losing is one good month of canvassing.

4 · Acclamations: zero in the big cities, hundreds everywhere else

AMO's final post-election data recorded **553 positions filled by acclamation** (of 2,842 elected positions — roughly one in five). Its pre-election data release counted 548 acclaimed council positions including **139 mayors and reeves**, up 15–16% over 2018, and **32 councils acclaimed in their entirety** — all in municipalities of 10,000 or fewer residents. None of the 150 mayor/council seats in these ten cities was acclaimed — but several *school-board* seats were, even in Toronto and Mississauga. Ontario averaged only ~2.2 candidates per elected position (6,325 candidates for 2,842 seats): local democracy has room for you.

5 · What it means if you're running in 2026

The 2026 playbook, in six lines

- **The clock is running:** nominations opened May 1, 2026 and close at **2 p.m. on Friday, August 21, 2026** (filing fee, + 25 endorsement signatures where 4,000+ electors). Election day is Monday, October 26, 2026. Serious campaigns are already at the doors.
- **Set your win number from 2022 ballots cast, not the voters' list.** Median winning totals ranged from 1,913 (Kitchener) to 11,149 (Toronto). Multiply your ward's 2022 winner by 1.5× and make that your ID target.
- **Hunt open seats.** 80–87% of incumbents win; ~42% of seats still turn over. The difference is retirements — watch nomination filings ward-by-ward through August 21 and be ready to pivot.
- **Bank votes before election day.** Markham cast 93% of ballots online, Vaughan 60% online in advance, Toronto took 115,899 advance ballots, Ottawa ~85,000. The winner is usually decided before e-day morning.
- **In crowded open fields, 22–38% wins.** Don't chase everyone — consolidate one coalition of 2,000–5,000 (mid-size cities) or 8,000–12,000 (Toronto/Ottawa) committed voters and pull every one of them.
- **The trustee ladder is wide open:** acclamations and double-digit margins even in the biggest cities. It's a legitimate first campaign — and a bench for 2030.

Methodology & Sources

How this report was compiled. All results were gathered in July 2026 from (in order of precedence): official city-clerk certified results; Wikipedia's 2022 municipal-election pages for each city (whose result tables cite official municipal returns); and contemporaneous news coverage for context and cross-checks. Medians, margins, averages, incumbency rates and the 17-races-under-250-votes count are computed directly from the cited tables. Where sources conflicted we used the official/certified figure and noted the variance (e.g., Windsor Ward 7's third-place total is 1,893 in the official PDF vs a 1,983 typo in one Wikipedia table; Toronto's turnout is 29.17% on the election-night basis and 29.7%/30% on the final voters' list; Hamilton runner-up share 40.51% by vote math vs 40.41% in one printed table; Markham turnout 32% city-certified vs 31.17% on Wikipedia; Vaughan 27.03% official vs 26.96%; 2018 turnout baselines follow official city figures — Hamilton 38.36%, London 39.46%, Mississauga 26.49% — where secondary sources print rounded or variant numbers). Percentages in tables are rounded to one decimal. Where a figure could not be verified, it is flagged **[DATA TO BE VERIFIED — source: city clerk records]** rather than estimated. No vote count, percentage or candidate name in this report was invented or extrapolated.

Primary sources

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16. City of Vaughan — certified results release (Oct 25, 2022) & 2022 Returning Officer's Report; Global News; CP24
17. Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) — "Analysis of 2022 Municipal Post Election Data" (turnout 32.9% vs 38.30%; incumbent success 80.1%; 553 acclamations; 6,325 candidates / 2,842 positions; 42.0% turnover)
18. AMO / Newswire — "Municipal Election Data Now Available" (548 acclaimed positions incl. 139 heads of council; 32 fully acclaimed councils)
19. Global News / AMO 2026 election hub / Wikipedia — "2026 Ontario municipal elections" (May 1 – Aug 21, 2026 nomination window; Oct 26, 2026 election day)
20. ontarioschooltrustees.org — 2022 trustee election results query (HWCDSD and others)

Prepared by Votera, July 2026. Votera is an independent software company; this report is a public research resource, is not affiliated with or endorsed by any municipality or school board, and should not be treated as official election records. Please verify current ward boundaries and nomination requirements with your municipal clerk before filing.

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Next Ontario municipal election: Monday, October 26, 2026. Nominations close 2 p.m., August 21, 2026. © 2026 Votera.