



# By-Election for Mayor

## Introduction

Under the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, Toronto's City Clerk is required to maintain a state of readiness for an electoral event at all times. On February 17, 2023, only a few months into the 2022-2026 term of office, Mayor John Tory resigned from office.

In the best interests of the City, candidates and electors, the City Clerk chose to announce the by-election dates on February 23, in advance of Council declaring the seat vacant and passing a bylaw on March 29. The by-election was set for June 26, 2023, with nominations opening on April 3.

From an administrative perspective, the by-election required the same effort as a general election but within significantly compressed timelines. With only four months of planning time and reduced resources, Toronto Elections coordinated the largest by-election in Canadian history.

Toronto Elections leveraged existing successful plans from the 2022 election to conduct the by-election in a similar manner, while prioritizing equity, accessibility, and security:

- Communications and education plans to engage the public and candidates were revisited with small adjustments.
- Community outreach partners were contacted and again helped reach diverse eligible voters across the city.
- Members of the public and City of Toronto staff answered the call to return, attend training, and take on 15,000 election official positions.
- Voter Information Cards were mailed to 1,888,778 electors who were on the voters' list by May 14.
- After 88,806 additions, corrections and deletions were made to the voters' list, 1,947,242 eligible electors were on the final list.
- Ninety-nine percent of the same voting places were re-booked.
- The streamlined supply distribution model introduced in 2022 to deliver equipment and material to voting places was implemented.
- The secure and reliable vote counting equipment, purchased in 2022, was tested and readied for use.

## 2023 By-Election for Mayor: Supplementary Report

**Contact Toronto Elections if you have questions, comments or require this information in an alternate format.**

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## Candidates

A total of 105 nominations for mayor were filed. Of that number, 3 candidates withdrew. The City Clerk certified 102 candidates, an increase of 229 percent from the general election and the most registered candidates for mayor of the amalgamated City of Toronto. There were seven registered third party advertisers.

## Voting Options

Electors were offered multiple ways to cast their ballot for mayor, including by mail or in person:

- **Mail-in Voting** – starting May 1, electors could request a package online or by phone and return completed packages through Canada Post or a secure drop box located in each ward by June 15.
- **Advance Vote** – from June 8 to 13, electors could vote in person at 50 vote-anywhere locations for 6 consecutive days.
- **Election Day** – on June 26, electors could vote in person at their designated voting location in their ward.
- **Proxy** – electors could appoint an eligible proxy to vote in person on their behalf.

## Voting Places

Toronto Elections secured 50 advance voting places and 1,445 election day voting places for the by-election. Relying on robust site inspections conducted to ensure accessibility requirements were met for the general election, 99 per cent of the same voting places were re-booked for the by-election.

By-election technology and systems included tabulators to scan and automatically count marked ballots, Voter Assist Terminals (VATs) for electors with disabilities, electronic poll books for voters' list strike-offs, and high speed central-count tabulators. An integrated system of applications and databases automated and streamlined administrative tasks.



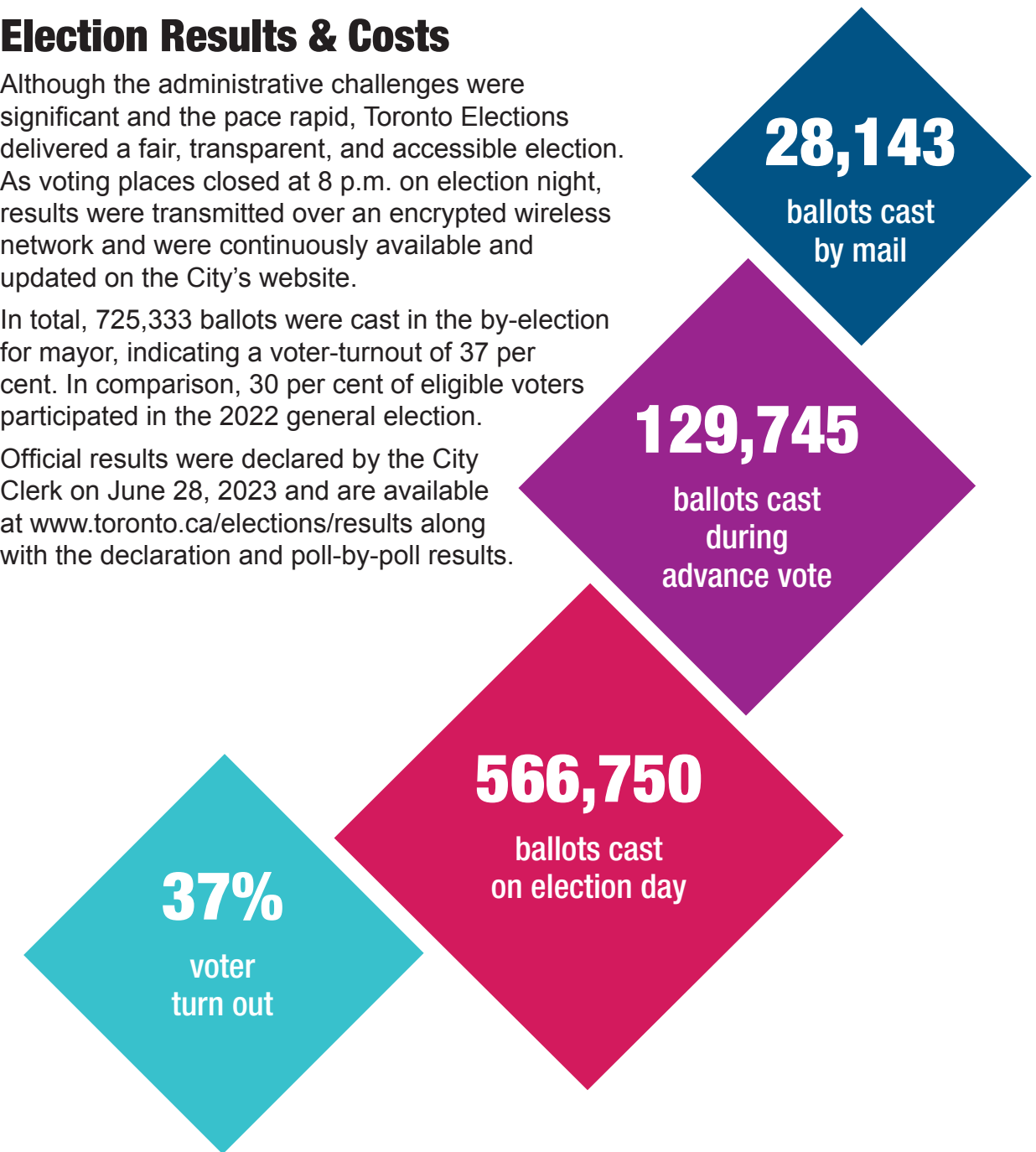
Toronto City Clerk, John D. Elvidge, speaking at Toronto Elections Media Open House on May 24, 2023.

## Election Results & Costs

Although the administrative challenges were significant and the pace rapid, Toronto Elections delivered a fair, transparent, and accessible election. As voting places closed at 8 p.m. on election night, results were transmitted over an encrypted wireless network and were continuously available and updated on the City's website.

In total, 725,333 ballots were cast in the by-election for mayor, indicating a voter-turnout of 37 per cent. In comparison, 30 per cent of eligible voters participated in the 2022 general election.

Official results were declared by the City Clerk on June 28, 2023 and are available at [www.toronto.ca/elections/results](http://www.toronto.ca/elections/results) along with the declaration and poll-by-poll results.



As this was a city-wide by-election at a scale comparable to the general election, budgetary spending was similar to the 2022 budget.

The final cost to administer the 2023 By-election for Mayor was approximately \$11.7 million.

Production and Logistics <sup>1</sup>	\$5,771,479
Recruitment and Training	\$3,244,135
Voting Technology and Results	\$1,171,583
Engagement and Communications	\$929,336
Mail-in Voting	\$495,383
Candidates and Third Party Advertisers	\$81,385
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,693,301</b>

<sup>1</sup> Production and Logistics costs include all expenditures related to ballots, voters' list, advance vote and ward management.