







About our Research


<i>RESEARCH QUESTION</i>	<p>What various external resources on municipal civics help fill the gaps in the provincial curriculum, and how can the provincial government improve the quality of civic education to aid teachers in their lesson plans?</p>
<i>BACKGROUND</i>  	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Political participation is the only way democratic societies can function. The rights and responsibilities of the people determine how their community is shaped and how it should be run by political leaders.• This research is in regard to how the youth demographic engages in municipal politics, how they learn through government curriculum and external influences, as well as the possible reasons why there is disinterest.• Promoting youth participation in politics is the focus so that they can form and run a political society. Also, targeting younger generations in this endeavor is important because democracy requires contributions from all people to remain strong, so ensuring that young people are educated on the topic is essential for them to become confident in the institution of democracy.

Research Specifics

<i>WHAT WE DID</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Utilized several resources, such as documents from the government of Ontario, including the high school civics curriculum, to provide us with the basis of what exactly students are learning based on what the government outlines.
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 #	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gathered data from non-government resources.• Surveyed former students from Ontario high schools about their experiences with civic education and whether they thought there was sufficient education about the municipal level of government.• Gathered testimonies from grade 10 civics teachers on their experiences teaching the course, their opinions on the curriculum, and how they incorporate it into their lesson plans.
<p><i>OUR FINDINGS</i></p>  #	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As noted by the testimonies of the respondents, there is a common sentiment that the lack of emphasis on municipal policies could be a contributing factor to the low rates of youth engagement and voter turnout.• Conclusion: the civics curriculum is not written to teach students about all levels of government equally substantially and the lack of municipal civics education directly impacts young voters' understanding of how local politics functions and the services it provides.• Informed voters feel more comfortable placing the ballot in the ballot box on voting day. These voters also feel more confident and more inclined to vote than their uninformed counterparts, as they can recognize how their vote directly impacts their municipality or other governmental jurisdiction.• The findings from two exploratory interviews conducted with high school teachers in Mississauga indicate that although the province offers guidance in the classroom, it may not be sufficient.• Issues: teachers frequently supplement their teaching with external resources, including local newspapers, textbooks, online materials, and guest speakers.

Conclusion

<p><i>FUTURE RESEARCH</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In our study, we emphasized that active involvement in municipal politics and increased voter turnout are essential for the well-being of a municipality, particularly youth engagement.
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- Resources such as the City of Toronto's 'Ready, Set, Learn How to Vote' are important for young voters to develop a good foundation to engage in municipal politics.
- An emphasis placed on municipal studies can be a stepping stone to an increase in future voter turnout for other municipalities with lower youth political engagement.
- It is important to note that while we do believe that an emphasis on municipal studies is important to uplift future voters, we recognize that it is not the sole determinant of voter engagement.
- Our study identifies limitations, such as the need to establish stronger statistical links between civic education and political participation, as well as highlights the urgency of addressing gaps in municipal education to foster more active and informed voters.