

# Prince Edward Island Ballot Results

Issue: Municipal Voting Rights For  
Businesses

Tabulation Date: July 20, 2018  
Issue #271

## Question 1:

**Should business owners be permitted to vote in the municipality where their business is located in addition to the municipality where they live?**

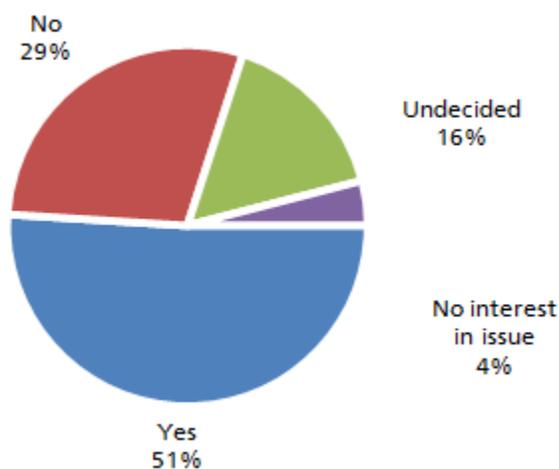
**Background:** Many business owners operate their businesses in a different municipality from where they live. Business owners that operate a business in the Resort Municipality of Stanley Bridge, Hope River, Bayview, Cavendish and North Rustico are entitled to vote in municipal elections. In all other PEI municipalities, the right to vote is limited only to residents. This means that many business owners don't have a vote in the municipality where their business is located.

### Supporters say:

- ▶ Business owners should have the right to vote in the municipality where they pay their business property taxes;
- ▶ Business owners should have a vote in local decisions that can affect their business.

### Opponents say:

- ▶ It would be unfair to other voters that business owners could vote twice - once in the municipality where they reside and again in the municipality where they own their business;
- ▶ In most democracies the right to vote is accorded by citizenship, not by property ownership.
- ▶



# National Ballot Results

Issue: Parental leave

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Issue #271

## Question 2:

**Should parents be allowed to spread their regular maternity/parental benefits over a shorter period (e.g., 6 months)?**

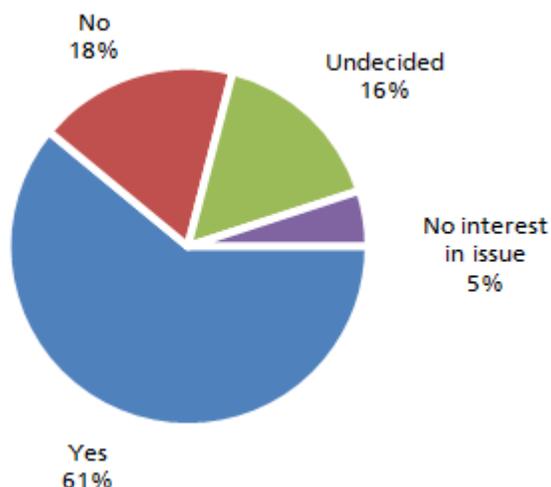
**Background:** Currently, in all provinces except Quebec, new parents can choose between a standard Employment Insurance leave of 12 months with higher benefits and an extended leave of 18 months with lower benefits. Quebec has a similar program under the 'QPIP' that offers a shorter leave of approximately nine and a half months and another at approximately one year. Some suggest that parents be allowed to spread maternity/parental benefits over a shorter period of time (e.g. six months). This would bear no additional cost to the EI system as the benefit rate would be modified according to the selected option.

### Supporters say:

- ▶ This model would allow parents to return to work faster;
- ▶ Workplace disruption would be minimized as employers may not need to hire additional staff due to the shorter duration of the leave.

### Opponents say:

- ▶ This would not be useful as it is difficult to replace an employee for a shorter period of time;
- ▶ Shorter leave periods would not provide new parents sufficient time to bond with their children.



# National Ballot Results

Issue: Competitiveness with the US

Tabulation Date: July 20, 2018  
Issue #271

## Question 3:

**Should the federal government act quickly to create an economic plan to keep Canada competitive with the U.S.?**

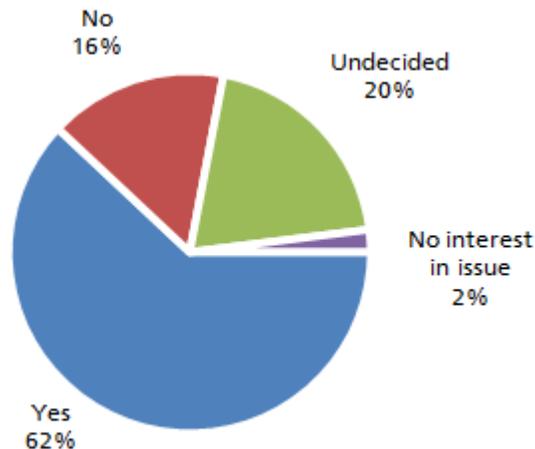
**Background:** The US has recently passed a sweeping tax reform, which includes a drastic reduction of the corporate tax rate and a generous expense deduction for businesses. They are also taking steps to significantly cut red tape with a new 2-for-1 initiative which removes two regulations for every new one implemented. The most recent Canadian budget contained very little to offset these US changes and help make Canada more competitive. With uncertainties around NAFTA negotiations, some suggest Canada needs to quickly implement a plan to ensure Canadian businesses can stay competitive with their American counterparts.

### Supporters say:

- ▶ Without immediate action, there could be a significant negative impact on the Canadian economy;
- ▶ It will be increasingly difficult for Canadian businesses to remain competitive with their US counterparts.

### Opponents say:

- ▶ The cost of implementing similar tax reforms in Canada could be as high as \$8 billion annually;
- ▶ To understand what is in the best interest of Canada, the government should continue to evaluate the US reforms before implementing any changes.



# National Ballot Results

Issue: Tax Rate Limit

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## Question 4:

**Should the combined federal and provincial/territorial marginal personal income tax rates be limited to 50%?**

**Background:** The marginal tax rate is the percentage of tax paid on an additional dollar of income. In 2017, the combined federal-provincial marginal personal income tax rate rises above 50% for income earned above the highest tax bracket (\$202,800 and over) in seven provinces: Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, PEI and Newfoundland & Labrador. The top rates in the remaining provinces/territories are slightly below 50%. Some experts suggest that tax rates should not exceed 50%.

### Supporters say:

- ▶ A 50% or higher tax rate acts as a psychological barrier that discourages greater efforts to work, invest or save;
- ▶ It would reduce the loss of Canadian talent to lower-taxed countries such as the US (brain drain).

### Opponents say:

- ▶ It would only benefit high income earners and lead to higher tax rates for low and middle income earners;
- ▶ It is unlikely that the federal and provincial & territorial governments would agree on how to limit the combined tax rate to 50%.

