

Exclusive: Poll suggests health top issue, ranks party support

ADAM HURAS Legislature Bureau

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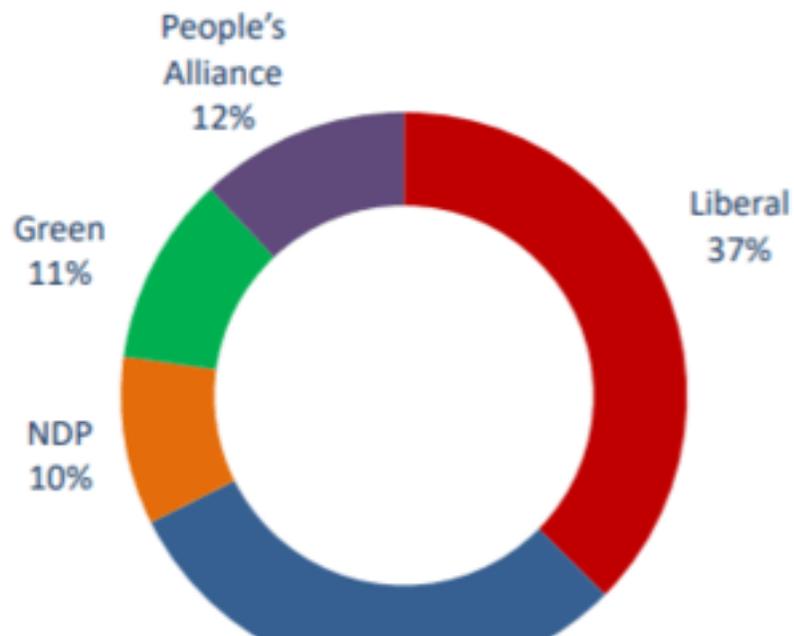
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Telegraph Journal/Nanos Research, RDD dual frame random telephone survey, September 17 to 20, 2018, n=431 DECIDED VOTERS, accurate 4.8 percent



A new poll maintains health care is the number one issue among N.B. voters as they rate their top choice for Premier and party.

The exclusive poll, a partnership between Brunswick News and Nanos Research, has the Gallant Liberals leading with the support of 37 per cent of decided voters entering the final weekend of the New Brunswick provincial election campaign.

Support for the Progressive Conservatives is second, at 30 per cent.

Meanwhile, the poll pegs the People's Alliance in third with 12 per cent, although within the margin of error of the Greens (11 per cent) and New Democrats (10 per cent).

After health care, the findings suggest education and the deficit as other issues most important issue to voters.

Horse race

Pollster Nik Nanos says the new numbers capture the last week of the campaign, but may shift on the closing weekend. Likewise, the survey estimates popular support - not the number of ridings which are influenced by vote splits and the distribution of support.

"This is three days out and sometimes things can change the last weekend," Nanos said. "Voters are a bit like Christmas shoppers: some people shop in advance of the Christmas season, some during the season, and some on Christmas Eve."

A question put to New Brunswickers polled suggests some movement could happen.

Those polled were asked if it was likely, somewhat likely, somewhat unlikely or unlikely whether they would change who they would vote for.

A total of 10 per cent said they were likely to change their vote and another 11 per cent said they were somewhat likely to change.

Nanos has been in the field asking New Brunswickers this week their political party preference in efforts to present the freshest possible voting picture entering the home stretch of the race - culminating Sept. 24.

The results are part of a random telephone survey (landline and cellphones) of 500 New Brunswick voters, 18 years of age or older, conducted between Sept. 17 and 20. Results are considered accurate to within plus or minus 4.4 percentage points, 95 out of 100 times. The margin of error for the subset of 431 decided voters is 4.8 percentage points.

The study was commissioned by the Telegraph-Journal and the research was conducted by Nanos Research.

Considering others?

New Brunswickers polled were also asked - regardless of how they would actually vote - if there are other parties they would consider, or not consider, voting for.

Fifty per cent said they would consider voting Liberal, the same percentage as the number of people who said they would consider voting Progressive Conservative.

That number dropped to 39 per cent for the Greens, 31 per cent for the New Democrats, and 27 per cent for the People's Alliance.

Meanwhile, 55 per cent of those polled suggested they are not considering voting for the People's Alliance. That total is 53 per cent for the New Democrats, 49 per cent for the Greens, 37 per cent for the Liberals and 34 per cent for the Progressive Conservatives.

Preferred leader

The poll also sought to find who respondents prefer as premier.

A total of 25 per cent polled said Liberal Leader Brian Gallant, 22 per cent said Progressive Conservative Leader Blaine Higgs, 12 per cent Green Leader David Coon, seven per cent People's Alliance Leader Kris Austin, and seven per cent for the NDP's Jennifer McKenzie.

Five per cent said they preferred none and 23 per cent were unsure who they preferred.

The issues

Meanwhile, the top issues facing voters have changed little.

Those polled ranked health care (16 per cent), education (12 per cent), the deficit (11 per cent), the economy (11 per cent), and jobs (8 per cent) as the most important election issue.

This ranking roughly mirrors results recorded earlier on in the campaign.

Full poll results are available [here](#).

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Telegraph Journal

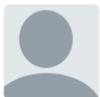
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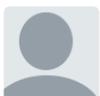
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Join the discussion...



DONALD MOFFATT • 7 days ago

Carefully crafted - 37% of DECIDED VOTERS. Let's see how the decided voters vote on Monday.

5 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



JEAN GUY RICHARD → DONALD MOFFATT • 7 days ago - | v

14 % undecided. Which means the Liberals have 32 %, the PC's 26 %, The other 3 parties app: 9.5 % each . Anything can happen.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



DIANNE MACPHERSON • 7 days ago - | v

Think TWICE before voting !!!!

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



ANDREW HOWARTH • 7 days ago - | v

Tell me the real poll results Tuesday morning.

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Lenmcl • 7 days ago - | v

Did they ask a question on bilingualism? If not, why not?

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



LEANNE DOW-CAMPBELL • 7 days ago - | v

At least Higgs said, he would get rid of "billing numbers" which is crippling our access to health care.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



PAM BYRNE • 7 days ago - | v

It will be sad to see the PC's wondering where they went wrong come Monday night! Perhaps fielding a unilingual candidate in a bilingual province was a mistake?! Should not be much surprise, there!

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



GERALD CLARKE • 7 days ago - | v

And we will pay, and pay, and pay some more.....

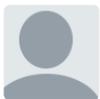
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Lenmcl → GERALD CLARKE • 7 days ago - | v

So we better pray and pray some more.

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



MILES GAHAN • 7 days ago - | v

People like Bell will be wiping egg off their face Tuesday morning.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



PAM BYRNE → MILES GAHAN • 7 days ago - | v



We will see WHO has egg on their face come Tuesday!

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Raymond Bungay • 7 days ago

So the voters are indeed totally fed up with old two main parties. The splinter parties according to this poll has syphoned away about 20% of voters. But what part of the province? I would say maybe a minority government?

But the only poll to trust is the final count is Monday night!

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



JEAN GUY RICHARD → Raymond Bungay • 7 days ago

A vote for any of the third parties is a vote to re-elect Brian Gallant.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



JEAN GUY RICHARD • 7 days ago

The deficit, economy and jobs are all about the economy and add up to 30 %. Health is at 16 % and education at 12 %.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



RAYMOND S SPEIGHT • 7 days ago

I certainly believe most parties if not all basically have the "same " platform . The main difference is " how" they will achieve those goals. I find minimal differences in the issues but IMO the candidate running in your particular area , who will do the most for your area is of the main importance.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



JEAN GUY RICHARD → RAYMOND S SPEIGHT • 7 days ago

What about paying for their impossible promises for 4 of the 5 parties.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Lenmcl • 7 days ago

We need a party with new vision and the only ones that come close are the minority parties. Blaine seems afraid to make a promise he cant keep but with the liberals ahead, its obvious broken promises are acceptable. Unfortunately it seems that only the liberals can get away with lying.

I think people (non-liberal) want to see a party that recognizes that our political system is not working, maybe being just out-dated. Ive argued that Blaine could show vision w/o a financial commitment in exploring possible changes , such as pr, (which got Trudeau elected) hallothox questions and term limits with longer

traced streets), sandwich questions and term limits with longer terms for mlas.

Today the 4 yr cycle is too short as evidenced by the liberals making 6 yr promises at both federal and provincial levels. Pr is needed because voting blocks will continue to elect govt, that being one reason voter turnout is so low

Since most municipalities tend to overspend because of poor planning, simply giving them more money isn't the sole answer. Another step in the right direction would be to make renewable term limits mandatory for most managers. etc etc....

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



JEAN GUY RICHARD → Lenmcl • 7 days ago

— | v

4 Parties have made promises the province does not have the money to pay for. Only Blaine Higgs had been responsible is not making a ton of promises.

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Lenmcl → JEAN GUY RICHARD • 6 days ago

— | v

I agree, but the polls don't reflect that reality.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



GUY BASTARACHE → JEAN GUY RICHARD
• 6 days ago

— | v

I agree that Higgs is *responsible*. He is responsible for his affiliation with the CoR party; he is responsible for his past disrespect of bilingualism and duality, thus NB language rights: he is responsible for the cuts he proposed and made within the Alward govt; he is responsible for having clawed back pension from already retired persons (who in the world does that kind of thing???) he is responsible for NOT having respected language rights enough to learn a few words during this campaign; and now he is responsible for expecting NB voters to forget all of the above, and vote for him. Nope! Dianne Bastarache

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



PAM BYRNE → Lenmcl • 7 days ago

— | v

If you know how to fix things why don't you run?

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



VICKI WILLIS → PAM BYRNE • 6 days ago

— | v

My question to you is why would anybody vote for a party and leader who promises to take the province

further into debt? I know I've said it before but a lot
of people must really hate our children to leave them