

Ottawa Compass

August

Field Dates: August 14-19, 2026

Generally speaking, do you think homelessness in Ottawa has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same over the past year?

TOTAL + GENDER + AGE + REGION

	Total	Female	Male	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Central	East	South	West
Weighted Sample Size	1,250	629	585	36	367	310	310	264	325	323	312	290
Unweighted Sample Size	1,250	660	555	35	351	309	337	253	296	314	338	302
Gotten better	5%	6%	5%	5%	6%	4%	4%	7%	6%	6%	5%	5%
Gotten worse	70%	69%	72%	57%	67%	73%	69%	72%	70%	70%	70%	69%
Stayed about the same	18%	19%	17%	30%	20%	17%	19%	16%	18%	18%	16%	22%
Not sure	6%	6%	6%	8%	7%	5%	8%	5%	6%	6%	8%	4%

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Do you approve or disapprove of how the City of Ottawa is addressing homelessness and addiction?
TOTAL + GENDER + AGE + REGION

	Total	Female	Male	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Central	East	South	West
Weighted Sample Size	1,250	629	585	36	367	310	310	264	325	323	312	290
Unweighted Sample Size	1,250	660	555	35	351	309	337	253	296	314	338	302
Approve	23%	24%	21%	31%	24%	21%	22%	24%	23%	21%	25%	22%
Disapprove	63%	63%	64%	57%	59%	66%	66%	63%	63%	67%	59%	63%
Not sure	14%	13%	15%	12%	16%	13%	12%	13%	14%	12%	15%	15%

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In your opinion, what is the biggest obstacle to reducing homelessness in Ottawa?
TOTAL + GENDER + AGE + REGION

	Total	Female	Male	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Central	East	South	West
Weighted Sample Size	1,250	629	585	36	367	310	310	264	325	323	312	290
Unweighted Sample Size	1,250	660	555	35	351	309	337	253	296	314	338	302
A shortage of affordable and supportive housing	26%	27%	25%	22%	25%	25%	25%	31%	26%	26%	27%	26%
Insufficient addiction and mental-health treatment	25%	24%	26%	34%	25%	25%	23%	27%	23%	25%	26%	26%
A shortage of emergency shelter space	7%	8%	7%	7%	7%	9%	7%	7%	8%	6%	8%	7%
Insufficient enforcement of existing laws and bylaws	10%	9%	11%	18%	11%	9%	12%	7%	8%	13%	9%	9%
Poor coordination among governments and service providers	9%	11%	7%	6%	9%	8%	10%	6%	11%	9%	8%	7%
Broader economic and affordability pressures	16%	15%	18%	11%	16%	18%	16%	15%	17%	17%	14%	17%
Something else	3%	3%	3%	0%	4%	3%	3%	2%	2%	3%	4%	4%
Not sure	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%	5%	4%	2%	4%	4%

Which one of the following should governments prioritize most when responding to homelessness and severe addiction?
TOTAL + GENDER + AGE + REGION

	Total	Female	Male	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Central	East	South	West
Weighted Sample Size	1,250	629	585	36	367	310	310	264	325	323	312	290
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Building more affordable and supportive housing	25%	25%	25%	31%	28%	23%	22%	27%	26%	25%	25%	25%
Expanding voluntary addiction and mental-health treatment	20%	20%	21%	7%	20%	19%	23%	18%	16%	23%	22%	20%
Expanding emergency shelters and outreach services	9%	10%	9%	7%	9%	10%	9%	10%	10%	8%	9%	10%
Increasing enforcement concerning public drug use and encampments	11%	11%	11%	21%	9%	12%	13%	10%	13%	10%	12%	9%
Allowing mandatory treatment in limited, high-risk circumstances	18%	18%	19%	10%	18%	19%	17%	19%	18%	19%	17%	19%
Expanding prevention and harm-reduction services	10%	10%	9%	16%	11%	9%	11%	9%	11%	9%	9%	10%
Something else	2%	3%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	0%	3%	2%	2%
Not sure	4%	4%	5%	6%	2%	7%	4%	5%	7%	3%	4%	5%

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One proposal would allow a court, following an assessment by qualified health professionals, to require a person with a severe addiction to undergo treatment without their consent when they pose a serious risk to themselves or others. Would you support or oppose this proposal?

TOTAL + GENDER + AGE + REGION

	Total	Female	Male	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Central	East	South	West
Weighted Sample Size	1,250	629	585	36	367	310	310	264	325	323	312	290
Unweighted Sample Size	1,250	660	555	35	351	309	337	253	296	314	338	302
Strongly support	42%	39%	44%	51%	43%	39%	46%	40%	43%	46%	38%	41%
Somewhat support	27%	29%	25%	27%	29%	30%	26%	23%	28%	24%	28%	29%
Somewhat oppose	10%	11%	9%	5%	10%	11%	9%	11%	8%	10%	12%	10%
Strongly oppose	10%	10%	9%	5%	8%	9%	8%	15%	10%	9%	9%	10%
Not sure	11%	10%	12%	12%	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%	12%	10%

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Which comes closer to your view?
TOTAL + GENDER + AGE + REGION

	Total	Female	Male	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Central	East	South	West
Weighted Sample Size	1,250	629	585	36	367	310	310	264	325	323	312	290
Unweighted Sample Size	1,250	660	555	35	351	309	337	253	296	314	338	302
Ottawa should place greater emphasis on expanding housing, treatment and outreach services	24%	24%	24%	27%	24%	26%	25%	22%	22%	22%	26%	27%
Ottawa should place greater emphasis on enforcing laws and bylaws concerning public drug use and encampments	17%	18%	17%	13%	17%	17%	16%	19%	17%	19%	16%	17%
Ottawa should place equal emphasis on both approaches	49%	49%	50%	51%	49%	52%	48%	48%	53%	48%	49%	47%
Neither	3%	3%	4%	2%	3%	3%	3%	5%	3%	3%	4%	4%
Not sure	6%	6%	5%	7%	6%	2%	8%	6%	5%	7%	5%	5%

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Which candidate for mayor do you trust most to address homelessness and addiction in Ottawa?
TOTAL + GENDER + AGE + REGION

	Total	Female	Male	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Central	East	South	West
Weighted Sample Size	1,250	629	585	36	367	310	310	264	325	323	312	290
Unweighted Sample Size	1,250	660	555	35	351	309	337	253	296	314	338	302
Mark Sutcliffe	26%	24%	27%	38%	26%	25%	26%	27%	26%	21%	29%	29%
Jeff Leiper	15%	14%	16%	15%	17%	11%	17%	14%	18%	16%	17%	9%
Neil Saravanamuttoo	8%	9%	6%	5%	5%	9%	8%	10%	7%	8%	7%	9%
Alex Lawson	21%	22%	20%	14%	20%	22%	21%	21%	17%	21%	22%	24%
Someone else	2%	1%	3%	3%	2%	2%	1%	4%	3%	2%	2%	2%
None of these candidates	12%	13%	12%	12%	15%	13%	12%	9%	13%	14%	11%	12%
Not sure	16%	16%	15%	14%	15%	17%	15%	14%	16%	18%	12%	16%

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Which candidate for mayor do you trust most to address crime and public safety in Ottawa?
TOTAL + GENDER + AGE + REGION

	Total	Female	Male	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Central	East	South	West
Weighted Sample Size	1,250	629	585	36	367	310	310	264	325	323	312	290
Unweighted Sample Size	1,250	660	555	35	351	309	337	253	296	314	338	302
Mark Sutcliffe	35%	35%	36%	44%	39%	34%	35%	31%	37%	34%	35%	35%
Jeff Leiper	10%	10%	10%	11%	11%	8%	10%	12%	11%	13%	8%	10%
Neil Saravanamuttoo	9%	9%	9%	7%	8%	6%	9%	14%	6%	12%	9%	9%
Alex Lawson	17%	17%	17%	10%	14%	17%	17%	19%	17%	16%	14%	21%
Someone else	2%	2%	1%	11%	1%	3%	2%	2%	2%	1%	3%	2%
None of these candidates	11%	11%	12%	13%	11%	13%	11%	10%	12%	10%	13%	10%
Not sure	15%	16%	15%	5%	15%	18%	14%	12%	16%	14%	17%	13%