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Majorities in Calgary (67%) and Edmonton (64%) Support Requiring Proof of Citizenship to Vote in Alberta

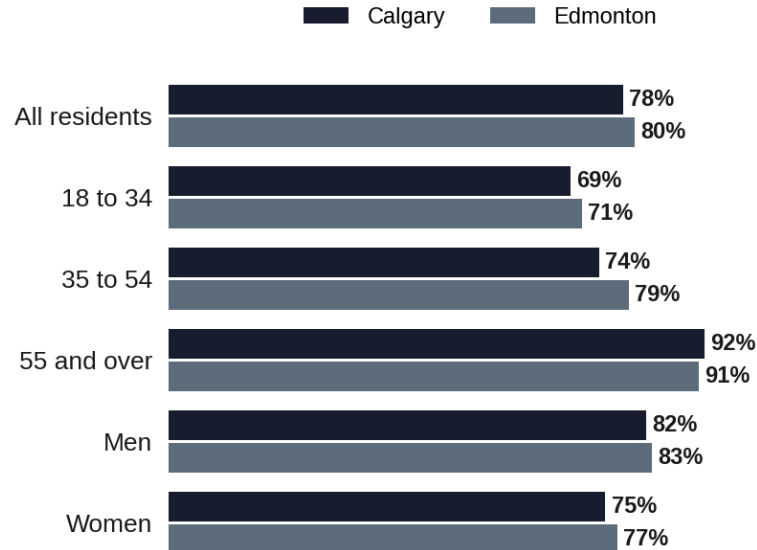
Nearly six in ten (59%) in each city support increased provincial control over immigration

Calgary and Edmonton, Canada, October 16, 2026 – A new Canada Pulse Insights poll conducted for Rogers CityNews finds majority support in Alberta's two largest cities for all five immigration questions on the ballot in the October 19 provincial referendum, all of them non-binding. Requiring proof of citizenship to vote is the most widely supported proposal in both cities, and while turnout could temper support for it, it would not reverse the balance.

Two-thirds (67%) of Calgarians and nearly two-thirds (64%) of Edmontonians support the Government of Alberta introducing a law requiring individuals to provide proof of citizenship, such as a passport, birth certificate or citizenship card, to vote in an Alberta provincial election.

In both cities, about eight in ten residents say they will very definitely vote in the referendum (Calgary 78%, Edmonton 80%). Another 16% in Calgary and 14% in Edmonton say they will possibly vote, and 5% in each city say they are not likely to. Residents 55 and over are the most likely to say they will very definitely vote (92% in Calgary and 91% in Edmonton), compared with 69% and 71% of those 18 to 34.

Q. As you likely know, there will be a referendum in Alberta on October 19, 2026 ... Do you intend to vote on these questions by mail or in person, either on October 19 or in the advance polls running from Tuesday, October 13 through to Saturday, October 17? Percent saying "Very definitely will vote".



Source: Canada Pulse Insights for Rogers CityNews, September 30–October 9, 2026 (Calgary n=401; Edmonton n=383). Online sample and data management by Sago. Base: All respondents: Calgary n=401; Edmonton n=383.

The other four proposals receive support ranging from 56% to 59% in Calgary and from 54% to 59% in Edmonton:

1. **Increased provincial control over immigration:** Taking increased control over immigration to reduce it to more sustainable levels, prioritize economic migration and give Albertans first

priority on new employment opportunities receives 59% Yes in each city, with 41% saying No.

2. **Fees for health care and education:** Charging non-permanent residents a fee or premium for using health care and education receives 59% Yes in Calgary and 57% in Edmonton.
3. **A residency requirement for social supports:** Requiring non-permanent residents to live in Alberta for 12 months before qualifying for social supports receives 58% Yes in Calgary and 57% in Edmonton.
4. **Eligibility for provincially funded programs:** Limiting these programs to citizens, permanent residents and those with Alberta-approved status receives 56% Yes in Calgary and 54% in Edmonton.

On requiring proof of citizenship to vote, support is lower among residents who say they will very definitely vote than among those who say they will possibly vote or are not likely to vote:

1. **Calgary:** 64% of definite voters say Yes, compared with 77% of those less likely to vote.
2. **Edmonton:** 60% of definite voters say Yes, compared with 80% of those less likely to vote.

The bottom line: compared with residents overall, support for proof of citizenship falls from 67% to 64% among definite voters in Calgary and from 64% to 60% in Edmonton. This suggests that turnout could temper support for this proposal but not reverse the balance: clear majorities of those most likely to cast a ballot still favour it in both cities.

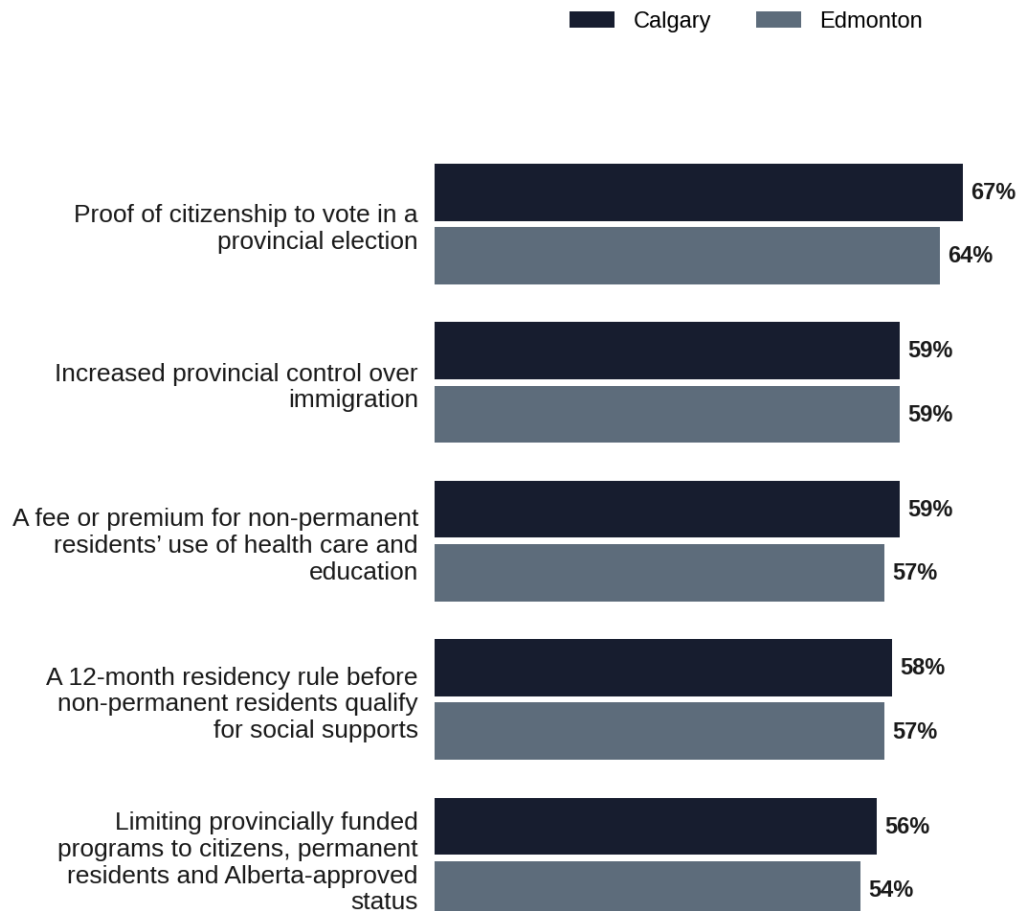
Key findings

- **67%** of Calgarians and 64% of Edmontonians support requiring proof of citizenship to vote in an Alberta provincial election — the highest of the five immigration questions on the October 19 ballot.
- **59%** of Calgarians and 59% of Edmontonians support the Government of Alberta taking increased control over immigration; 41% in each city do not.
- **59%** of Calgarians and 57% of Edmontonians support a fee or premium for non-permanent residents' use of health care and education; 58% and 57% support a 12-month residency rule before non-permanent residents qualify for social supports; 56% and 54% support limiting provincially funded programs to citizens, permanent residents and those with Alberta-approved status, on which Edmontonians are divided.
- **64%** of Calgarians who say they will very definitely vote support proof of citizenship to vote, against 77% of those who say they will possibly vote or are not likely to; in Edmonton, 60% against 80%.
- **78%** of Calgarians and 80% of Edmontonians say they will very definitely vote in the referendum; among those 55 and over, 92% and 91%, against 69% and 71% of those 18 to 34.

Proof of citizenship to vote draws the most support of the five questions: 67% in Calgary and 64% in Edmonton

Two-thirds (67%) of Calgarians and nearly two-thirds (64%) of Edmontonians support requiring proof of citizenship to vote in a provincial election, the highest of the five. A majority in Calgary supports all five questions and a majority in Edmonton supports four of the five questions; Edmontonians are divided on limiting eligibility for provincially funded programs (54% Yes). Support in the two cities is similar on every question.

Q. The following questions will appear on the October 19, 2026, ballot, but are non-binding. Do you support the Government of Alberta ...? Percent Yes. Full wording of each question is in the detailed tables.

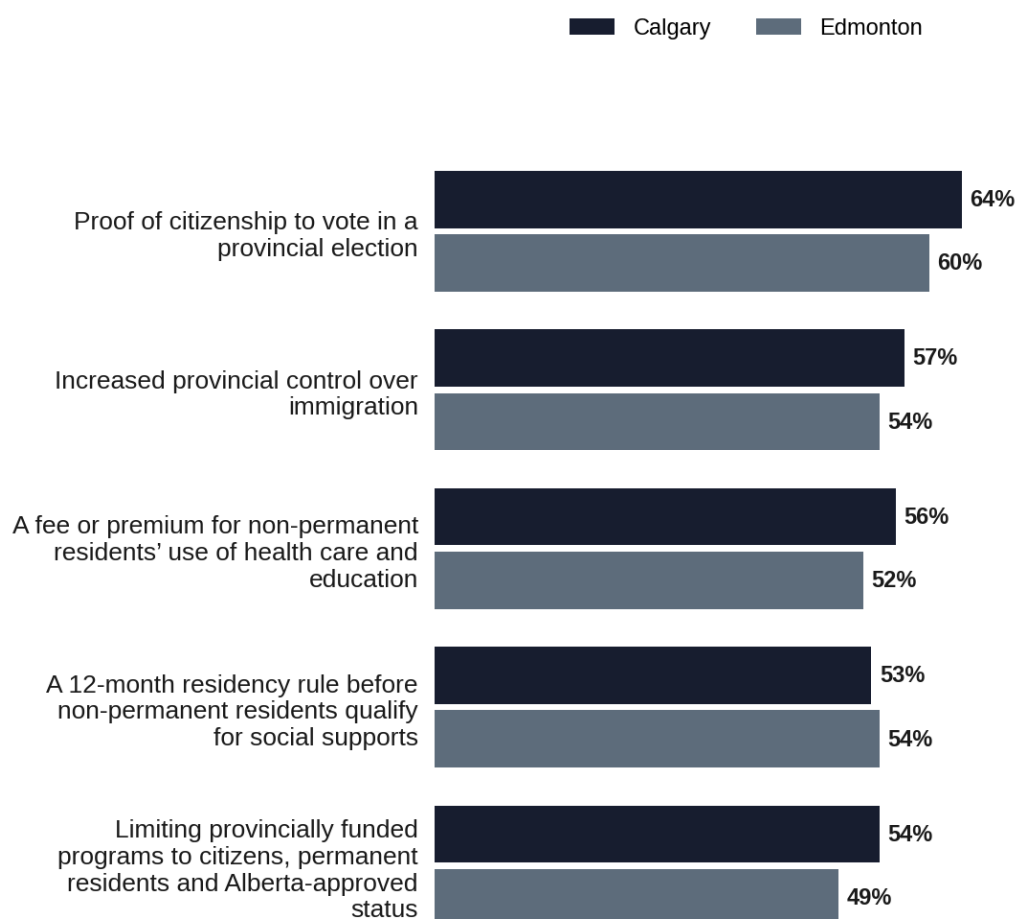


Source: Canada Pulse Insights for Rogers CityNews, September 30–October 9, 2026 (Calgary n=401; Edmonton n=383). Online sample and data management by Sago. Base: All respondents: Calgary n=401; Edmonton n=383.

Those who say they will definitely vote are less likely to support proof of citizenship to vote: 64% in Calgary and 60% in Edmonton

Among Calgarians who say they will very definitely vote in the referendum, 64% support proof of citizenship to vote, against 77% of Calgarians who say they will possibly vote or are not likely to. In Edmonton, it is 60% of definite voters against 80% of others. On increased provincial control over immigration, 57% of definite voters in Calgary and 54% in Edmonton say Yes.

Q. The following questions will appear on the October 19, 2026, ballot, but are non-binding. Do you support the Government of Alberta ...? Percent Yes. Full wording of each question is in the detailed tables.



Source: Canada Pulse Insights for Rogers CityNews, September 30–October 9, 2026 (Calgary n=401; Edmonton n=383). Online sample and data management by Sago. Base: Those who say they will very definitely vote in the referendum: Calgary n=312; Edmonton n=313.

Residents 55 and over are less likely than those 18 to 34 to support increased provincial control over immigration and proof of citizenship to vote

In Calgary, increased provincial control over immigration is supported by 65% of those 18 to 34, 62% of those 35 to 54 and 50% of those 55 and over; in Edmonton, by 68% of those 18 to 34, 63% of those 35 to 54 and 45% of those 55 and over. Proof of citizenship to vote is supported by 75% of those 18 to 34, 68% of those 35 to 54 and 59% of those 55 and over in Calgary, and by 69% of those 18 to 34, 70% of those 35 to 54 and 54% of those 55 and over in Edmonton.

About the Survey

This survey was conducted among adult (18+) residents of the City of Calgary (n=401) and the City of Edmonton (n=383), Alberta, by Canada Pulse Insights between September 30 and October 9, 2026. A random sample of adult respondents was invited to complete the survey through an online panel platform managed by Sago, one of the world's largest and most respected sample and panel suppliers. The data were weighted to 2021 Census benchmarks by age and gender within each city; the two cities are reported separately and are not combined. The margin of error for a probability-based sample of this size is ± 4.9 percentage points for Calgary and ± 5.0 for Edmonton, 19 times out of 20. Any discrepancies between the detailed tables and published results are due to rounding.

Both Canada Pulse Insights and Sago are accredited members of the Canadian Research Insights Council (CRIC) and adhere to its Canadian Code of Market, Opinion, and Social Research and Data Analytics, which incorporates international ESOMAR standards and Canadian public opinion disclosure requirements. The detailed tables and full question wording for this survey are posted on the Canada Pulse Insights website as a companion to this release, consistent with CRIC's transparency standards for research released into the public domain.

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