

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Surrey Polling and Election Outcome

Toronto, Canada, October 18, 2026 – Canada Toronto, Canada, October 19, 2026 – Canada Pulse Insights today offered perspective on its Surrey polling release and the outcome of the 2026 municipal election.

Owning the poll results

“Our Surrey data collection concluded on October 9, just two days after the advance polls opened and eight days before election day. The poll recorded a clear lead for Brenda Locke, alongside clear dissatisfaction with the incumbent administration: 53% said it was time for a change of mayor, and 68% said the mayor and council were out of touch with residents’ wants and needs,” said John Wright, CEO of Canada Pulse Insights.

The city’s overall voter turnout rate was the highest recorded since 1990, driven by a massive wave of participation during advance voting. Advance voting in Surrey jumped by 47% compared to the 2022 election. The 52,600 advance ballots cast in 2026 represented a significantly higher total than normal for Surrey, marking a 47% increase from 2022 and nearly quintupling the early turnout seen a decade ago.

“One in six residents—16%—were initially undecided. About half expressed a leaning when prompted and were included in the candidate-support figures. Those leanings were not firm commitments, leaving a broader pool of potentially unsettled voters than the final 8% undecided figure alone might suggest.

“The desire for change appears to have surged in the final days, flipping the script and delivering a McCallum victory. Movement among these voters, combined with shifts among supporters of other candidates and McCallum’s campaign mobilization, likely contributed to an election outcome that differed from the levels of support recorded during our polling snapshot more than a week before election day.”

The original poll release qualified its assessment in both the subhead—“Barring major voter shift”—and the opening paragraph, which described Locke as headed for apparent re-election.

“We own what we released and said, including the caveats. We take responsibility for the findings we published and for how we communicated them, including their timing and limitations,” he said.

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For further information:

John Wright, CEO,

Canada Pulse Insights

Email: johnwright@canadapulseinsights.com

Phone: 416-700-4218

Website: CanadaPulseInsights.com