

Comparison of Election Platforms

	Liberal	PC	NDP	Green
Leader	Kathleen Wynne	Doug Ford	Andrea Howarth	Mike Schreiner
Slogan		For the People	Change for the better.	People Powered Change
Website	https://www.ontarioliberal.ca/	https://www.ontariopc.ca/	https://www.ontariondp.ca/	https://gpo.ca/
Candidates	https://www.ontarioliberal.ca/candidates?l=EN	https://www.ontariopc.ca/our_team	https://www.ontariondp.ca/candidates	https://gpo.ca/find-candidate/
Cost of Platform	The Liberals' platform is essentially its 2018 budget, which calls for a \$6-billion-plus deficit for the next few years.	Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford went into this provincial election campaign promising a "solid platform that is fully costed." It is looking doubtful that the Tories will release anything resembling an overview of their financial plan for the province.	The NDP, which is also proposing to run deficits though to 2022-23, also has a fully costed platform that was vetted by the Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy (IFSD), a think tank co-founded by former federal parliamentary budget officer Kevin Page. The plan would be paid for through five years of deficits, starting with a \$3.3 billion in 2018-2019.	
Economy	The Liberals have pledged a bevy of increases to social services, healthcare, and childcare—all of which will send Ontario into the red again after briefly balancing the province's books: With more than \$20.3 billion in new spending planned over the next three years, as announced in Budget 2018, the Liberals project annual deficits of between \$6.5 billion and \$6.7 billion until at least 2020-2021 Under Budget 2018 Ontario isn't projected to return to balance until 2024-2025	In contrast to his opponents, Ford is the only leader campaigning on a promise to quickly balance the books and keep them that way. He noted, however, that a Tory government would not balance the books in its first year. Ford vowed to cut \$6 billion from Ontario's budget without laying off any public employees, but hasn't specified how he'd eliminate "inefficiencies"	NDP vision is to make the province a leader in the development and manufacturing of driverless technology, hybrid and electric vehicles and ensure Ontario consumers can buy made-in-Ontario vehicles that meet the highest standards. It's estimated that the chromite reserves in the Ring of Fire are worth over \$60 billion and thousands of jobs for people across Ontario's north. A New Democrat government will work	Create investment tools, such as Community Bonds for local innovators that are RRSP and TFSA eligible. Set up a social enterprise foundation to foster the development of triple bottom line businesses. The fund will provide grants and loans for young people in post-secondary education settings and in the

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		<p>Convene an “outside audit” to probe spending under the Liberal government of Kathleen Wynne and give more funding to the office of Ontario’s Auditor General</p>	<p>with First Nations, mining and exploration companies, refiners and northerners to get the project moving.</p> <p>Cut hydro bills 30% by bringing Hydro One back in public hands.</p> <p>We will increase the minimum wage to \$15 per hour, and index ongoing increases to inflation, making it more predictable for families and businesses.</p> <p>Along with better pay and Ontario Benefits, we will require employers to provide at least three weeks paid vacation to every full-time employee.</p>	<p>workforce to develop their innovative ideas and bring socially impactful products and services to market.</p>
Infrastructure and Transit	<p>Set aside \$79 billion for different public transit projects—up \$24 billion from the 2017 budget</p> <p>\$11 billion would go to set the groundwork for a high-speed rail line between Toronto to Windsor</p> <p>The rest of the \$79 billion would go to integrating municipal services to allow for broader regional infrastructure</p> <p>Match a federal infrastructure grant of nearly \$5 billion, with a \$4 billion contribution from the provincial infrastructure budgets for public transit projects across Ontario between now and 2028</p>	<p>Doug Ford hasn’t said which infrastructure proposals in the “People’s Guarantee” he’d keep, but has said the PCs would:</p> <p>Open the question of Hamilton’s \$1.3 billion LRT project to a vote, noting that even if voters reject the LRT, Hamilton would receive the money for other infrastructure projects</p> <p>Ford released further details on a plan to fund transit, including \$5 billion for Toronto subways. He also vowed that he would support two-way, all-day GO Transit service to Niagara and Phase 2 of the Ottawa LRT, as well as regional transit projects in Mississauga, Brampton,</p>	<p>Will invest over \$180 billion in infrastructure — without wasteful P3s</p> <p>Will expand Community Benefits Agreements, making them integral to all infrastructure projects</p> <p>Will cover 50% of operating costs for municipal transit</p> <p>Will provide two-way all-day GO rail service between Kitchener—Waterloo and Toronto</p> <p>Will have year-round GO rail service between Niagara and Toronto</p> <p>Will implement a Northern Rail Strategy that restores Ontario Northlander’s passenger service and</p>	<p>We need to invest much more into our transit system in this province, and we need to be honest about how we are going to pay for it.</p>

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		<p>Hamilton, London and Kitchener-Waterloo.</p> <p>Develop new transportation infrastructure to open access to the Ring of Fire mining project in Northern Ontario's James Bay lowlands</p> <p>Cut aviation fuel taxes on interprovincial flights to and from Northern Ontario</p>	<p>supports the Huron Central and Algoma Central Rail Lines</p> <p>Will build Toronto's Downtown Relief Line ASAP</p> <p>Will build Hamilton's LRT right away</p>	
Taxes and Pensions	<p>In their most recent budget, the Liberals:</p> <p>Ditched the provincial surtax (a tax levied on income taxes that kicks in for those earning higher incomes) and readjusted Ontario's tax brackets</p> <p>Tax rates for approximately 8.6 million people would stay roughly the same, but 1.8 million would pay an average of \$200 more while close to 700,000 would see an average tax cut of \$130</p> <p>No change to corporate taxes</p> <p>Another tax hike on cigarettes in 2019 of \$4 a carton, following two years of increases</p>	<p>The PCs under Doug Ford have vowed to shrink government and cut taxes, but questions remain about how many platform policies from Patrick Brown's "People's Guarantee" will be adopted. So far, Ford has promised:</p> <p>Ford, who has pledged to scrap the Liberals' planned minimum wage hike from \$14 to \$15 next year, would introduce an income tax credit for workers earning minimum wage so that anyone making less than \$28,000 a year would pay no income tax.</p> <p>Cut corporate tax rates from 11.5 to 10.5 per cent in an effort to attract new businesses to Ontario</p> <p>Use a tax rebate program to cover up to \$6,750 for childcare costs—lower-income families would receive 75 per cent of child-care costs back</p>	<p>End a corporate income-tax giveaway, returning the tax rate on profits to 13% in a fair manner that allows businesses to plan</p> <p>We will close a loophole that's allowing big corporations to qualify for a small business exemption (businesses with Payrolls over \$3M will no longer qualify)</p> <p>will maintain the one-third reduction to small business corporate income tax rates</p> <p>will ask the wealthiest among us to pay their fair share by raising income tax on amounts earned over \$220,000 by one percentage point, and on earnings over \$300,000 by two percentage points</p> <p>Will add a surcharge for vehicles that cost more than \$90,000</p> <p>Andrea Horwath and the NDP will increase the Pension Benefit Guarantee Fund guaranteed amount to \$3,000 per month indexed to</p>	<p>Our overall goal is to aim for tax reform that will shift taxes off incomes and on to pollution to generate revenue, with the guiding principle that polluters should pay their fair share. We would lower personal income taxes in a progressive way by raising exemption levels for individuals and families. This approach benefits all taxpayers, especially those with lower incomes.</p> <p>Ontario has some of the lowest corporate taxes in Canada. A majority of jobs in this province are created by small businesses. We support raising corporate taxes by 1-1.5% to pay for the services that we need and reducing taxes on small local businesses.</p>

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		Mused he could abolish the 15 per cent non-resident buyer tax on real estate introduced last year	<p>inflation and will make the current benefit retroactive for Sears pensioners.</p> <p>will expand pension coverage to more Ontarians by reducing barriers for workers to join existing public Jointly Sponsored Pension Plans so more people can have a defined benefit pension.</p>	
Procurement			<p>Will ensure the government buys more of what it needs from Ontario small and medium-sized businesses Min % of procurement must go to small and medium sized businesses and 33% of that to small and scaling businesses</p> <p>Will work with First Nations governments to set minimum targets for buying from First Nations-owned and operated businesses</p>	Establish provincial government procurement rules to support made in Ontario cleantech products to facilitate commercialization of Ontario innovation.
Jobs and Skilled Trades	<p>Liberals will invest \$170 million over three years in the new Ontario Apprenticeship Strategy. This investment will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP), providing more high school students with trades-related hands-on learning opportunities; Improved guidance counselling resources and local labour market information for students, parents and educators; A new grant to promote pooled group sponsorship models for apprentices; 	<p>\$850 million for a tax credit for workers making minimum wage.</p> <p>At an event in Gatineau, Que. Ford said that his government would offer more jobs and more opportunities for construction workers.</p>	<p>Andrea Horwath and the NDP will invest \$57 million annually from the Jobs and Prosperity Fund to create opportunities in the trades.</p> <p>We will work to reduce workplace injuries and better support injured workers by making sure WSIB works for them.</p> <p>Will be proactive in enforcement of health and safety standards and will increase the number of jobs covered under Employment Standards and worker safety laws.</p>	<p>Modernize the apprenticeship application process by leveraging the Ontario College Application Service to provide candidates with an electronic, single-entry access to the apprenticeship application and registration process.</p> <p>Expand and invest in apprenticeship and training programs,</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Local Apprenticeship Innovation Fund to increase opportunities for apprentices and encourage engagement within the apprenticeship system across Ontario, as well as support regional, local or sector-specific pilots where there is demonstrated market need; and • Continuing education opportunities for trade professionals. <p>Transform the Apprenticeship Training Tax Credit (ATTC) into the new Graduated Apprenticeship Grant for Employers (GAGE) to encourage employers to ensure that apprentices complete their training;</p> <p>Ontario is launching a new Office of Apprenticeship Opportunity to support apprentices from underrepresented groups and to build an inclusive, diverse apprenticeship system. The budget does not provide details on when the program will become active.</p> <p>The government will invest an additional \$63 million over three years to create the first Ontario Training Bank to serve as a one-stop shop for employers, job seekers and workers to access the skills training that meets their needs.</p>		<p>Will work with tradespeople, employers, and educational institutions to ensure that there are opportunities available for education and apprenticeships, and that tradespeople have the skills and knowledge for a lifetime of building Ontario.</p>	<p>including incentives for businesses to participate in apprenticeship, mentoring and co-op programs. Reduce the ratio of journey people to apprentices to one to one in order to open more jobs and training opportunities for our youth and workers seeking new career options.</p> <p>Establish a progressive fee schedule based on the earnings opportunities for each trade.</p>
Healthcare	<p>Kathleen Wynne is heavily showcasing her plans for this area in the 2018 Ontario's budget. Highlights:</p> <p>Invest \$822 million to bolster hospital care and infrastructure—the largest annual boost in more than a decade</p> <p>Spend \$300 million over three years for registered nurses in every long-term care facility in Ontario and increase the number</p>	<p>The Ontario PCs haven't yet released a comprehensive platform to replace former leader Patrick Brown's "People's Guarantee." But on the health care front, Ford has promised to:</p> <p>Add 15,000 new long-term care beds over the next five years and 30,000 new beds over the next 10 years</p>	<p>The platform includes an immediate 5.3 per cent increase to hospital operational funding. The \$916 million annual bump will ensure all hospitals receive a base funding increase that is above inflation. The NDP will also add 2,000 new hospital beds at a cost of \$312 million in the first year.</p>	<p>Implement a universal dental care program. Dental health is directly linked to an individual's overall health and an important part of a health promotion strategy.</p> <p>Push for a federally funded Pharmacare program, and in the</p>

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	<p>of hours each RN spends with patients by 2022</p> <p>Introducing a drug and dental program to cover 80 per cent of specific drugs and dental costs</p> <p>Expanding OHIP+ program to cover drug costs to seniors 65 and over, which is projected to cost \$575 million</p> <p>Spend \$2.1 billion to “rebuild” Ontario’s mental health system</p>	<p>Put an end to “hallway medicine” (when hospital overcrowding leads to patients being treated outside of more private rooms), although Ford hasn’t provided specifics as to how</p> <p>Spend \$1.9 billion over the next decade on mental health and addiction support</p> <p>Encourage more doctors to move to northern Ontario by cutting their provincial taxes down to as low as zero per cent</p>	<p>The NDP pledged to end the underreporting of surgery wait times, increase funding for community health centres and create 70 new public dental clinics and seven new mobile dental buses for rural and remote regions. The campaign also promises to hire 360 midwives and to guarantee no cuts are made to women’s health centres.</p> <p>The NDP will institute a requirement that all seniors in long-term care homes receive at least four hours of care per day, for an estimated cost of \$257 million per year. It will also create 40,000 new long-term care beds and update the long-term care residents’ “Bill of Rights” to allow elderly couples to stay together.</p>	<p>absence of a federal program, extend a provincially funded Pharmacare program to provide all Ontarians with access to medicine.</p>
Housing	<p>The Ontario Fair Housing Plan includes options to boost housing supply, prevent egregious rent increases and rein in excessive speculation.</p>	<p>Doug Ford: “I just don’t like the government getting involved. I believe in the market dictating. The market, no matter whether it’s the stock market or anything, it will always take care of itself – supply and demand. We’re short on single-dwelling homes,”</p>	<p>The NDP pledged to build 65,000 new affordable homes over 10 years, while overhauling inclusionary zoning regulations and spending \$3 million to revive the province’s co-op housing sector.</p>	<p>We support the mandate that developers include at least one new unit of affordable housing for every 5 new houses or condos that they build.</p> <p>We also need to update zoning laws to allow for alternatives to single-family detached homes, such as tiny homes, secondary suites, and laneway housing.</p> <p>We support protecting tenants from skyrocketing rent prices.</p>

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Hydro	<p>With the decision to sell off 60 per cent of Hydro One and rising hydro costs, the Liberals face an uphill battle to impress voters. Highlights:</p> <p>Through its Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan, the Liberals are offering a 25 per cent cut in hydro bills, with larger savings of 40-to-50 per cent for rural communities</p> <p>The affordability fund, launched last October, would help Ontarians who don't qualify for low-income conservation programs to buy items that improve home energy efficiency, including LED light bulbs, greener appliances, and better insulation</p>	<p>Doug Ford has said that he'd fire the CEO of Hydro One. Since the utility's privatization, however, that power no longer rests with the provincial government. Other highlights:</p> <p>Cut hydro bills by 12 per cent, on top of the Liberals' 25 per cent promised cut and return all Hydro One dividends to Ontario families</p> <p>Use "retroactive legislation" to prevent executives and board members from receiving large payouts if their jobs are terminated</p>	<p>The NDP says its plan would cut hydro bills by 30 per cent. Highlights:</p> <p>Return control of Hydro One to the provincial government by buying back the share of the utility that's been sold to private investors</p> <p>Cut rural electricity rates by about 15 per cent</p> <p>End time-of-use billing; set a flat rate of 10.3¢ per kWh (Currently, rates fluctuate between 6.5–13.2¢ per kWh based on the time of day)</p> <p>Open negotiations with the federal government to remove HST on hydro bills</p>	<p>Our current electricity system is expensive and unsustainable. We can save Ontarians money on their bills by purchasing low-cost hydro power from Quebec, prioritizing energy conservation, and investing in community-based renewable energy projects instead of getting locked into costly and environmentally unsustainable nuclear plants.</p>
Education	<p>Highlights from the Liberals' laundry list of education promises include:</p> <p>A \$625 million boost for education funding and \$300 million to improve special education programs</p> <p>As part of a \$2.2 billion investment, provide free full-day daycare for preschoolers, starting in 2020</p> <p>Offer OSAP grants for lower-income students to cover their tuition</p> <p>Set aside \$411 million to fund a high-school apprenticeship program</p>	<p>Doug Ford has said he wants to "review the curriculum in all core subject areas thoroughly" but hasn't gone into detail:</p> <p>He's pledged to repeal and review Ontario's new sex education curriculum</p>	<p>The NDP has rolled out a 10-year, \$16 billion capital plan which would delve into:</p> <p>Convert all student debt into grants and retroactively forgive interest for anyone with provincial student loan debts</p> <p>End standardized testing</p> <p>Impose a moratorium on school closings</p>	<p>We support properly funding higher education with public subsidies, eventually guaranteeing fully public tuition for all Ontario residents</p>
Energy and Environment	<p>The Liberals say that the province is moving towards a more "competitive and low-carbon economy." To that end, the Liberals would:</p>	<p>Ford has said his platform will have neither a cap-and-trade system nor a carbon tax (despite the \$10-billion hole it would leave in the Tory fiscal plan). Highlights:</p>	<p>The NDP plans to use revenue from Ontario's cap-and-trade program to fund part of its environmental platform, including:</p> <p>\$50 million from cap-and-trade programs for new no-interest and</p>	<p>We support the implementation of community-based renewable energy projects like wind and solar. Energy projects should benefit local</p>

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	<p>Spend \$1.7 billion over three years to support energy-saving programs under the Green Ontario Fund</p> <p>Invest \$52 million over three years for new technologies to deal with toxic chemicals, excessive algae and road salt; better manage sewer system overflow</p> <p>Spend \$15 million over the next three years to protect forests, wetlands and lakes</p> <p>Invest more than \$90 million in 2017–18 to support commuter cycling</p>	<p>Repeal Ontario’s existing cap-and-trade system and oppose the federally-mandated minimum price on carbon emissions</p> <p>End Ontario’s Green Energy Act</p> <p>Briefly supported opening Ontario’s Greenbelt to housing development to help drive down real estate costs in Toronto and the GTA but later walked it back, saying the area would be protected in its entirety</p> <p>Cancel energy projects initiated by the current Liberal government that are in the pre-construction phase</p> <p>Issue a moratorium on new energy contracts and re-negotiating other energy contracts</p>	<p>on-bill home retrofitting to help residents pay for power-saving technology into their homes</p> <p>Direct 25 per cent of cap-and-trade revenue to rural, northern and lower-income homes and trade-exposed industries</p> <p>Clean up the mercury in the English–Wabigoon River in northwestern Ontario and commit an additional \$12 million to a Mercury Disability Fund for people suffering from complications</p> <p>Update the Environmental Bill of Rights and expand parks in consultation with First Nations</p>	<p>communities, not multinational corporations. We would restore local decision-making for energy projects to ensure that benefits flow to the communities hosting energy projects, and prioritize grid access for locally owned renewable energy and community power projects.</p>
Marijuana	<p>The Liberals are pushing full-throttle on the federal plan to legalize recreational pot by this summer.</p> <p>Plan to regulate the sale of marijuana through the Ontario Cannabis Retail Corporation—the LCBO for weed—which was created on Dec. 12, 2017</p> <p>The new LCBO subsidiary is projected to gain a net income of \$100 million in 2020-21 fiscal year, following \$48 million in start-up costs before that</p>	<p>Doug Ford previously said he’d consider privatizing the sale and distribution of weed and alcohol but later softened his stance:</p> <p>Ford: “I don’t believe in the government sticking their hands in our lives all the time. I believe in letting the market dictate”</p> <p>He also said “we got to be super, super, super careful” in regulating the cannabis market</p>	<p>The NDP has remained relatively mum on this issue, but what Horwath has said so far is:</p> <p>The NDP favours restricting the sale of pot to adults aged 19 or older, similar to how alcohol is regulated</p> <p>The leader has endorsed the idea of using the LCBO to distribute pot but has suggested the Liberals’ plan to roll out 40 LCBO-run pot shops by next year (150 by 2020) won’t be enough to curb the black market</p> <p>Prime agricultural land must be preserved from being overrun by marijuana-growing operations</p>	<p>We support regulating and licensing local businesses, local farmers, and Indigenous entrepreneurial groups in opening retail cannabis stores, which will create local jobs and contribute tax dollars to communities across the province.</p>