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Fri, February 11, 2005

Voters have little choice

LIBERALS, TORIES IN DEAD HEAT

By [ANTONELLA ARTUSO](#), QUEEN'S PARK BUREAU CHIEF

A NEW poll puts the provincial Liberals and Tories in a virtual dead heat but also reveals that Ontario voters are "grumpy and disenchanted with their choices," according to SES Research president Nikita Nanos. In a new SES poll obtained by Sun Media, the Liberals have the support of 40% of decided voters, compared to the Conservatives at 38% and the NDP at 19%.

But when asked which of the provincial parties is best described as promise keepers, responsible with tax dollars and having a vision for the future, Ontarians' most popular choice was "none."

Nanos said voters have seen provincial and federal politicians break their word, and people's perceptions about politicians in general have suffered.

"None of the parties has the moral high ground," Nanos said. "We've got a grumpy electorate that are not happy with what's on the menu."

SES asked Ontarians if they believe that the provincial Liberal government, led by Dalton McGuinty, is on the right track.

While 33% agreed the government was heading in the right direction, that number was down from 49% a year ago.

The poll found that 36% believe the government is on the wrong track.

"I think the Liberals created certain expectations

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Toronto's Other Voice

and in the first part of their mandate they haven't been able to meet those expectations," Nanos said. "To the contrary, they've had to break a number of major promises."

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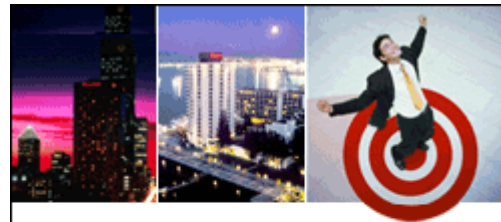
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