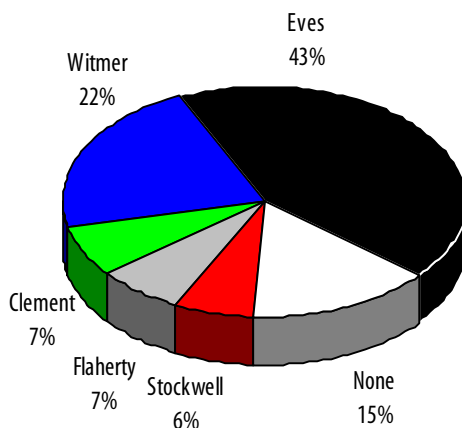


LEADERSHIP PREFERENCE**Commentary**

Among Ontarians, Ernie Eves currently enjoys a comfortable lead, with Elizabeth Witmer emerging as the clear second choice.

For women voters, Eves' lead over Witmer drops from 21% to 5%. Profiling of the support for the two leading campaigns shows different core constituencies. Eves does well among men, voters 30 to 39 years of age and those over 60. Witmer's support is driven by women, middle aged individuals and to a lesser extent people who have urban postal codes.

Readers should note that the data presented should not be considered an indicator of the opinions of PC members voting in the leadership but of the Ontario voting populace.

THE METHODOLOGY

On January 26 and 27, 2002, SES conducted a total of 500 telephone interviews across Ontario with eligible voters. Aggregate results of the survey are accurate to within 4.5 percentage points, plus or minus, 19 times out of 20. The results for the sub-sample of 291 voters is accurate to within 5.8 percentage points, plus or minus, 19 times out of 20.

Validation of the demographic profile of respondents indicates that the poll is a fair representation of the voters of Ontario.

Plus/minus index scores are based on the difference between the sub-group and the sample average.

THE QUESTION

The candidates running for the PC leadership are: (rotate) Tony Clement, Ernie Eves, Jim Flaherty, Chris Stockwell and Elizabeth Witmer. Regardless of how you vote provincially, who would be your first choice as the next Premier of Ontario.

Readers should note that all 500 respondents were prompted on this question. 195 individuals were unsure and another 14 refused to answer.

Candidate	All 500 (P)	291 Responses (P)
Ernie Eves	25.2	43.3
Elizabeth Witmer	12.6	21.6
Tony Clement	4.2	7.2
Jim Flaherty	4.0	6.9
Chris Stockwell	3.6	6.2
None of them	8.6	14.8
Unsure	39.0	
Refuse to say	2.8	
Total	100.0	100.0

Target Groups (+/- index)	Eves	Wit	Clem	Flah	Stock	None
Men	+6	-6	+3	0	0	-3
Women	-8	+8	-4	+1	0	+3
18 to 29 years old	-7	-9	+19	0	+2	-5
30 to 39 years old	+10	-2	-2	+5	-3	-8
40 to 49 years old	-3	+6	-7	0	-1	+5
50 to 59 years old	-8	+7	-5	-2	+2	+7
60 plus	+15	-6	-5	-3	+1	-2
Homeowners	+1	+1	+1	+1	-2	-1
Renters	0	-4	-1	-1	+4	+2
Urban Postal Code	+1	+3	-3	+2	0	-2
Rural Postal Code	-3	-8	+11	-3	0	+4

ABOUT SES

Established in 1987, SES Canada Research Inc. is a full service public opinion research and management consulting firm.

In order to maximize turn-around time and increase efficiency, SES has a 110-line call centre complete with a predictive dialer. SES is regularly called upon by corporate, government and para-public clients in Canada and the United States to conduct research and provide strategic advice.

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