

STAND UP FOR A STRONGER ALBERTA

YOUR GUIDE TO THE 2026 REFERENDUM



**ALBERTA
REFERENDUM**
2026

**FOR A STRONG AND SOVEREIGN ALBERTA
WITHIN A UNITED CANADA**

PAID FOR BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

ABOUT THE REFERENDUM

This October, Albertans are being asked to consider important questions about the future of our province. This booklet explains the nine immigration and constitutional questions that the government announced in April.

These questions come out of the Alberta Next Panel's recommendations following extensive consultations with Albertans, subject-matter experts and policymakers from across the province as part of the Alberta Next town hall process.

This booklet will also discuss a 10th question, which was added as a result of the citizen initiative process, asking whether Alberta should remain in Canada or begin the process for a binding vote on separation.

We need Albertans like you to participate in these important decisions by casting your ballot on October 19th.



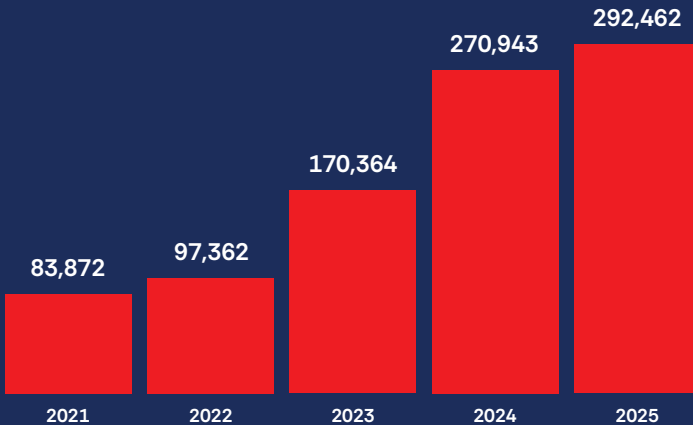
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IMMIGRATION QUESTIONS



Federal policies that tripled the number of temporary residents, including temporary foreign workers, international students and asylum seekers over the last decade, have negatively impacted our immigration system — putting excessive pressure on Albertans’ cost of living as well as our public health care, education and other social services. These irresponsible federal policies have caused higher inflation, delayed access to health care, created larger class sizes for students and put unaffordable cost pressures across public services. It has also adversely affected Albertans and Canadians looking for affordable housing and employment opportunities.

Total non-permanent residents



None of the proposed referendum questions affect Canadian citizens or those with permanent resident status. The Canada Health Act does not require provinces to insure temporary residents. As is the case with all visitors to Alberta, emergency health care would still be provided.

BALLOT QUESTION 1

Do you support the Government of Alberta taking increased control over immigration for the purposes of decreasing immigration to more sustainable levels, prioritizing economic migration and giving Albertans first priority on new employment opportunities?

In the past, Alberta has advocated for a larger say in selecting the kinds of economic immigrants required to support the economic needs of our province and its growth. Instead of cooperating with these requests, Ottawa actually reduced the number of economic immigrants chosen by the province for our economic needs while greatly expanding temporary immigration through other streams such as international students, refugee claimants and those who are fluent in French. Although these other streams of immigration certainly have a legitimate place in our nation's immigration system, when there is a massive influx of people arriving with limited skills in the sectors most relevant to Alberta's economic needs, it puts undue pressure on youth unemployment, lower-cost housing and government programs. Alberta needs a much larger role in creating more sustainable immigration policies that properly support our economy, communities and social services, and that put Albertans first.

BALLOT QUESTION 2

Do you support the Government of Alberta introducing a law mandating that only Canadian citizens, permanent residents and individuals with an Alberta-approved immigration status will be eligible for provincially funded programs, such as health care, education and other social services?

This question asks whether the Alberta government should distinguish between the temporary residents our province has approved and those it has not. Those without provincial recognition would not be eligible to access provincial public social programs. Offering taxpayer-funded services only to those temporary residents our province has approved will better ensure the public services Albertans rely on are financially sustainable.

BALLOT QUESTION 3

Assuming that all Canadian citizens and permanent residents continue to qualify for social support programs as they do now, do you support the Government of Alberta introducing a law requiring all individuals with a non-permanent legal immigration status to reside in Alberta for at least 12 months before qualifying for any provincially funded social support programs?

This question asks whether temporary residents should wait for at least a year to qualify for social programs like child-care subsidies, student aid and other benefits and income supports. Having this kind of waiting period will ensure that temporary residents moving to Alberta are doing so primarily for economic purposes rather than for our world-class social programs. It will also ensure our province can sustain the public services Albertans rely on. Access to health care and education for these individuals is dealt with in Question 4 below. (If Question 2 passes, only those with Alberta-approved immigration status would be eligible after the waiting period.)



BALLOT QUESTION 4

Assuming that all Canadian citizens and permanent residents continue to qualify for public health care and education as they do now, do you support the Government of Alberta charging a reasonable fee or premium to individuals with a non-permanent immigration status living in Alberta for their and their family's use of the health care and education systems?

This question asks whether temporary residents should be charged a reasonable fee (tuition/health premium) to access public education or health care while they are here with temporary status. This fee would, of course, no longer apply in the event they become citizens or permanent residents. Charging a fee up front ensures temporary residents are helping fund the system that they will rely on for health care and education while in Alberta.

Currently, the cost to provide health care and education to temporary residents in Alberta amounts to more than

\$1 billion

annually.

BALLOT QUESTION 5

Do you 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?

Should this policy be adopted, proof of Canadian citizenship will be required to vote in provincial elections. Alberta is adding a citizenship indicator to drivers' licences and ID cards which will also be accepted. Other forms of acceptable identification would include an individual's passport, birth certificate, citizenship certificate or Certificate of Indian Status (CIS) card. Currently, only Canadian citizens are legally eligible to vote, but no proof of citizenship is required. Citizenship must be established prior to voting in dozens of countries, including Czechia, France, Mexico, Poland and Brazil.

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS



The division of powers provisions in the Canadian Constitution have been eroded by federal overreach for decades. However, provinces have evolved significantly over the last 150 years and should have more autonomy from Ottawa, not less. Targeted changes to Canada's Constitution would recognize Alberta's unique culture and empower Albertans to govern themselves without undue interference by Ottawa politicians living thousands of kilometres away.

Constitutional changes generally require the approval of the Legislatures of at least seven provinces representing 50% of the population of Canada as well as the House of Commons and Senate (although some changes can be made for an individual province if approved by that province's Legislature and the federal Parliament).

Albertans voting yes to the referendum questions on the following page will not change the Constitution, but will give the Government of Alberta a clear mandate to build support among other provinces to do so.



BALLOT QUESTION 6

Do you support the Government of Alberta working with the governments of other willing provinces to amend the Canadian Constitution to have provincial governments, and not the federal government, select the justices appointed to provincial King's Bench and Appeal courts?

Alberta's Court of Appeal and Court of King's Bench are vital to the administration of justice in our province. Alberta administers and pays for these courts to operate, but Ottawa appoints the judges. Most federated countries around the world permit their states or provinces to appoint the judges to all of their courts. This referendum question proposes Alberta work with other provinces to change Canada's Constitution to grant provinces the right to appoint judges to a province's Court of Appeal and King's Bench. This proposal already has support from many other provinces in Canada.

BALLOT QUESTION 7

Do you support the Government of Alberta working with the governments of other willing provinces to amend the Canadian Constitution to abolish the unelected federal Senate?

Alberta is unfairly represented in the unelected federal Senate. Alberta has only six seats out of 105, while the Atlantic provinces have a combined 30 Senate seats despite only having half of Alberta's population. This is grossly unjust and undemocratic. Furthermore, senators are not elected, but are appointed by the governing federal party on a generally partisan basis. This regularly leads to the absurdity of senators actively advocating against the interests of their own province. Attempts at Senate reform have consistently failed. It is time for Albertans to decide whether they would rather work with other provinces to abolish it entirely.

THE NUMBERS TELL THE STORY

Half the Population. **Five Times the Senators.**



Alberta has just **6** of Canada's 105 Senate seats.

The Atlantic provinces have **30**, despite having roughly half Alberta's population.

It's time for Albertans to decide whether we should work with other provinces to abolish the unelected Senate.

BALLOT QUESTION 8

Do you support the Government of Alberta working with the governments of other willing provinces to amend the Canadian Constitution to allow provinces to opt out of federal programs that intrude on provincial jurisdiction such as health care, education, and social services, without a province losing any of the associated federal funding for use in its social programs?

Canada is a large country with meaningful differences between regions that have continued to evolve since 1867. It's time to give all provinces more power to more fully control and regulate themselves free from interference from Ottawa politicians and bureaucrats. Often, the federal government will seek to control provincial affairs by offering federal funding in return for allowing them to interfere with a province's laws and policies. If provinces don't acquiesce to federal demands, the federal government pulls the funding. Over time, this has allowed Ottawa to gain more and more power over provincial affairs. Allowing provinces to opt-out of Ottawa's strings-attached demands for control over provincial programs, without risking the same funding that other provinces are receiving for those same programs, would allow each province the autonomy to operate and provide public services based on the unique needs and desires of its population. It would also be a meaningful check on federal constitutional overreach.

BALLOT QUESTION 9

Do you support the Government of Alberta working with the governments of other willing provinces to amend the Canadian Constitution to better protect provincial rights from federal interference by giving a province's laws dealing with provincial or shared areas of constitutional jurisdiction priority over federal laws when the province's laws and federal laws conflict?

There are times when federal laws conflict directly with otherwise constitutionally valid provincial laws. Thanks to the Supreme Court-invented doctrine of paramountcy, federal laws override provincial laws when these conflicts occur. This referendum question offers a proposed path to remedy this recipe for federal meddling in provincial affairs by reversing the doctrine of paramountcy so that constitutionally valid provincial laws override federal laws when the two conflict, thereby ensuring that provincial autonomy is better respected.

SEPARATION REFERENDUM QUESTION

BALLOT QUESTION 10

Should Alberta remain a province of Canada, or should the Government of Alberta commence the legal process required under the Canadian Constitution to hold a binding provincial referendum on whether or not Alberta should separate from Canada?

This question stems from the citizen initiative process, which allows a question to be put to voters if a minimum number of valid signatures are gathered in a petition. Two petitions, one asking to remain in Canada and one asking to leave Canada, each received the number of signatures required.

Voters will be asked to select only one of the following two options:

- **Option 1:** Alberta should remain a province of Canada.
- **Option 2:** The Government of Alberta should commence the legal process required under the Canadian Constitution to hold a binding provincial referendum on whether or not Alberta should separate from Canada.

This referendum question does not directly trigger Alberta separating from Canada. However, if the option to begin the process to hold a binding provincial referendum receives support from the majority of Albertans, the government would start the legal process necessary to hold a binding referendum on separation at a later date.





**Stand up for a strong and sovereign Alberta
within a united Canada.**

**Albertans come together when it matters, and
the October 19th Referendum matters a lot.**

Our votes have the chance to make
immigration levels more sustainable, protect
our health and education systems and
strengthen our provincial autonomy.

We know the last 10 years have been
frustrating, but the tide is turning.
So let's keep the momentum going.

**On October 19th, stand up for change.
Stand up for a strong and sovereign Alberta
within a united Canada.**



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