



Letter of Information / Consent

This letter explains the nature of the project and why you are being asked to participate.

A study about the effects of electronic voting on local elections in Ontario

Principal Investigator:

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Why are we doing this study?

The goal of this study is to better understand online voter experiences and opinions towards the technology to better inform municipal policy and election planning.

What will happen to you if you are in the study?

Your participation in the study is voluntary. If you decide to participate, you will be asked to complete an anonymous 5-minute online survey. Consent will be obtained by submission of your survey answers.

You can stop participating in the survey at any time before you have submitted your answers. Data cannot be withdrawn once it has been submitted. To withdraw your participation, you may simply close the webpage or your browser. Should you choose to withdraw your participation, data collected up to the point of withdrawal will not be used.

Risks and Benefits to being in the study

The risks involved in participating are minimal. The questions may raise issues you feel strongly about.

This research may benefit: local elections and administration, governments and election agencies in Canada and internationally, candidates, electors, the academic community, and associations and organizations concerned with elections, technology, and democratic health.

It will help us to better understand the impact of Internet voting on local elections by teaching us about:

- Public satisfaction and concerns with online voting;
- Whether it improves participation;
- Whether COVID-19 is a factor in voting online; and
- Who is likely to vote online compared to by paper ballot at the polls.

What will happen with information collected from the study?

All research and data will be kept strictly confidential. Data will be maintained on password-protected computers after collection for future use and will not be destroyed. Survey data collected in each municipality will be provided to the municipality if requested. Aggregate data of the information collected from all participating municipalities will be maintained for scholarly research.

All data collected from the survey is also subject to AskingCanadians Privacy guidelines, which you can read here: <https://portal.askingcanadiansprojects.com/privacy>

What we find out in this study will inform reports for municipalities and academic publications. Scholarly publications and a larger report summarizing key findings from the data will be made available on Dr. Goodman's research website: nicolejgoodman.com.

If you have questions about this study:

You can ask questions at any time.

If you have any concerns or questions about your participation in this study, please contact:

Office of Research Ethics
Telephone 1-905-688-5550 X 3035
E-mail: reb@brocku.ca

This study has been reviewed and received ethics clearance through the Brock University Research Ethics Board (file #22-071).