

QUESTION

Thinking of the current provincial party leaders [rotate order] Ernie Eves (2002/3 wave)/Mike Harris (2001 wave), Dalton McGuinty and Howard Hampton. . . who, in your opinion, would make the best Premier of Ontario?

Commentary

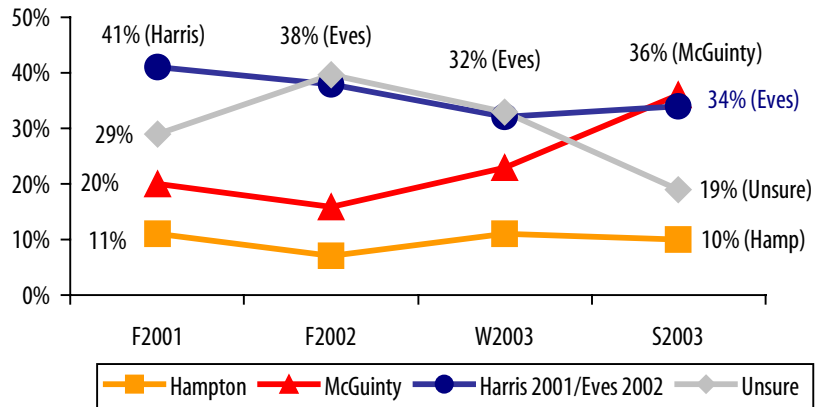
Over the past 120 days, the percentage of Ontarians unsure of who would be the best Premier has dropped from 32% to 19%.

While the trend lines for Ernie Eves and Howard Hampton have remained relatively steady over time, McGuinty has registered a noticeable increase in the number of Ontarians who consider him the best choice for Premier.

Currently, McGuinty marginally beats Ernie Eves by two percentage points. This compares to SES polling in the Fall of 2001. Prior to the resignation of Premier Mike Harris, twice as many Ontarians still preferred Mike Harris (41%) over Dalton McGuinty (20%).

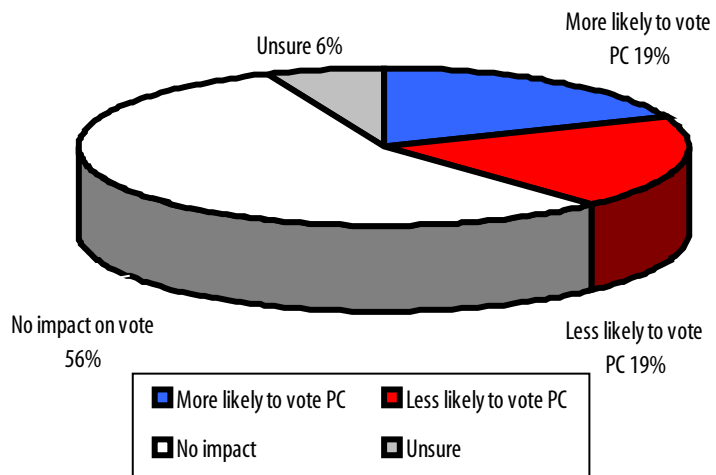
At this point in time, the change in leadership for the PCs from Mike Harris to Ernie Eves has resulted in no net gain in support. Fifty-six percent of Ontarians said the change had no impact while the Eves pick-up and loss is a wash.

BEST PREMIER TRACKING



LEADER IMAGE COMPARISON

Since the selection of Ernie Eves as the new leader of the PCs and Premier of Ontario, are you more likely to vote PC locally, less likely to vote PC locally or has this change in leadership had no impact on your local voting preference.



THE METHODOLOGY

On May 26th and May 27th, 2003, 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.

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

ABOUT SES

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

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