

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

Ernie Eves continues to be considered the leader who would make the best Premier. Since the fall however, his 22 point lead over Dalton McGuinty has narrowed to 9 points. Over the past four months NDP leader Howard Hampton has also registered an improvement.

Readers should note that one of every three voters are unsure who would make the best premier.

Of concern to all the party leaders should be the fact that a fundamental disconnect exists between them and the average Ontario voter. Clearly one of every two voters does not identify with the provincial party leaders or is unsure.

Eves and McGuinty are, in effect, tied on a number of variables. The only variable where Eves has a noticeable advantage is as a strong leader.

Even with the close results between Eves and McGuinty, McGuinty does very marginally nudge ahead of Eves as the party leader with views like the average Ontarian.

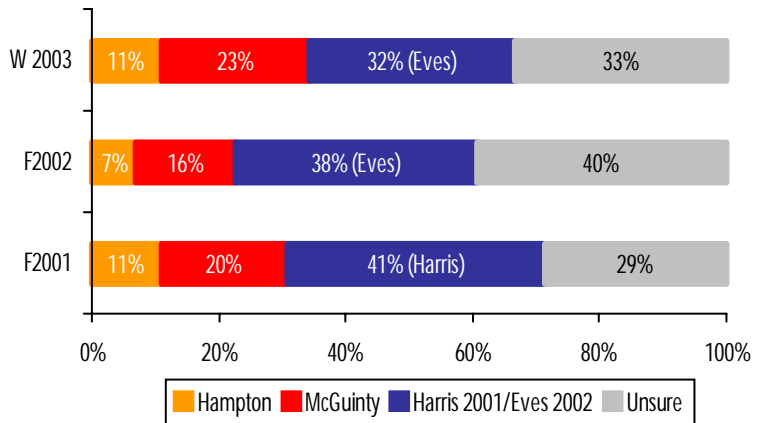
Although Howard Hampton trails both McGuinty and Eves on all four measures, he does best on trust and his views.

THE METHODOLOGY

Between January 23rd and 27th, 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.

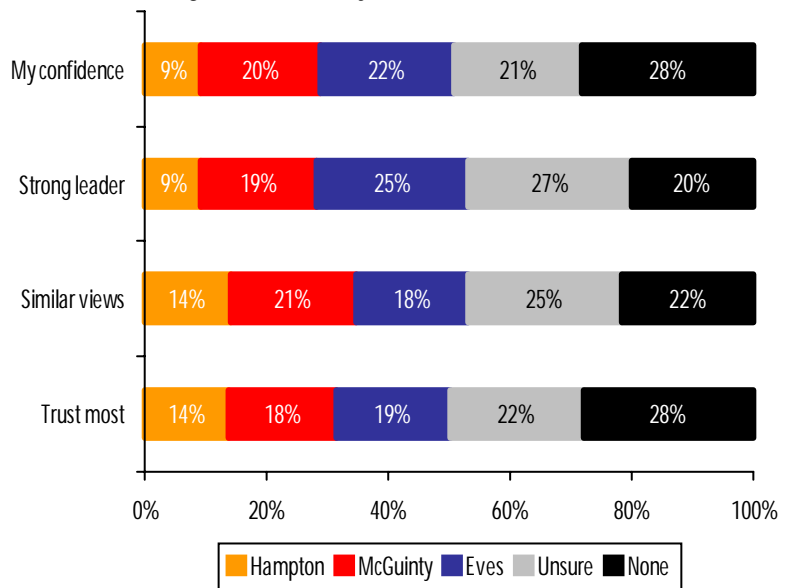
Validation of the demographic profile of respondents indicates that the poll is a fair representation of the voters of Ontario.

BEST PREMIER TRACKING



LEADER IMAGE COMPARISON

Thinking of the current provincial party leaders [rotate order] Ernie Eves, Dalton McGuinty and Howard Hampton. . . which of these leaders. . . [rotate questions] do you trust most. . . has views like your own. . . is a strong leader. . . has your confidence?



ABOUT SES

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