



Liberals set to win reelection in Canada's Ontario province

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Dalton McGuinty (R) shakes hands with Arnold Schwarzenegger

Liberals in Ontario, Canada's economic engine and most populous province, are likely to win reelection Wednesday, according to the latest polls.

The centrist Liberals led with 42.6 percent support over the weekend, followed by the rightist Progressive Conservative Party at 30.5 percent and the leftist New Democratic Party at 17.5 percent, said SES Research.

The Green Party trailed at 9.4 percent, but its support typically drops at the ballot box, the pollster said.

A Strategic Counsel survey conducted for the daily Globe and Mail, meanwhile, also suggested the Liberals with 42 percent support would win a second majority.

The Conservatives trailed by 15 points, at a historic low of 27 percent.

And almost half of voters surveyed pointed to a PC pledge to fund religious schools as their main concern, the Globe and Mail said.

The pledge was dropped by the Conservatives in the dying days of the election.

But Liberal leader Dalton McGuinty campaigned vigorously against the plan, which he said would threaten the stability of Ontario's public education system.

The SES Research survey is accurate within a 4.7 percent margin of error, 19 times out of 20.

The Strategic Counsel poll is accurate to within 3.4 percentage points, 95 percent of the time.

The province of 12.8 million will also hold a plebiscite on election reform. A proposal to introduce proportional representation in the legislature, however, is widely expected to fail.