

## **2020 Leadership Contest Voting Information**

Voting in the GPC Leadership Contest will take place from Sept. 26-Oct. 3, 2020, with a preferential ballot using the Single Transferable Vote system. This election is being managed through Simply Voting, an online voting system that the GPC has used in previous elections.

### **Mail-in ballots**

The deadline for requesting a mail-in ballot was 5pm August 27 (ET). Mail-in ballots must be sent back in the return envelope provided and received by the GPC no later than 5pm September 28 (ET). They will be counted on Oct. 1, 2020, with all campaigns invited to send a scrutineer.

Return envelopes include the member's Elector ID; all electors whose returned ballots have been received will be marked in the Simply Voting system as having voted offline. The envelopes will then be opened, the ballots extracted, and the votes entered manually. The GPC's Auditor will be present to guarantee the integrity of the mail in ballots from the time they arrive in the mailbox to the time they are delivered to the returning officer and scrutineers. The auditor will also be present during the counting of mail-in ballots to independently verify the validity and transparency of the process.

### **Online voting**

Online voting will begin at 1:00 PM Atlantic time (9:00 AM Pacific) on Sept 26th, 2020 and end at 7:30 PM Atlantic (3:30 PM Pacific time) on Oct 3rd, 2020.

All members who can be reached by email will receive an email from Simply Voting (sender: [vote@simplyvoting.com](mailto:vote@simplyvoting.com)) with voting information, their unique PIN, and a link to access the ballot directly. Members who have not requested a mail-in ballot but do not have emails on file will receive a letter with information necessary to vote online.

Contestants will appear on the ballot in alphabetical order by last name. "None of the above" will be an option, and will be treated the same as any other contestant.

Members may rank as many options as they choose. If all their selected contestants are eliminated, their vote will be considered to be exhausted.

The ballot, in its current draft form, can be previewed using the following links: [EN](#) and [FR](#).

A vote cannot be changed once submitted.

### **Voting period**

The GPC Leadership Contest rules do not set any special restrictions on campaigning or blackouts during the voting period.

Several reminders are scheduled during the voting period, currently set for Sept. 26, Oct. 1, and Oct. 3, though this may be subject to change. Each email blast from Simply Voting will be paired with an e-mail from the GPC reminding members to check their inboxes for the message from [vote@simplyvoting.ca](mailto:vote@simplyvoting.ca). Updated lists indicating who has cast their ballot will be provided to contestants on a daily basis throughout voting.

We encourage campaigns to inform the GPC of their GOTV plans, so that we can estimate how many messages members are likely to be receiving during this time and manage GPC communications accordingly.

No ballots may be submitted after 7:30 PM Atlantic (3:30 PM Pacific time) on Oct 3rd, 2020; the cut-off is absolute.

### **Voting difficulties**

Members can sometimes become confused by the online voting process. This may occur for a number of reasons, but is often due to a ballot being sent to a member's spam or junk folder; a ballot being sent to a different address from a member's current preferred e-mail; or a member having previously unsubscribed from Simply Voting e-mails.

The GPC will have a team of staff dedicated to providing assistance with voting inquiries like these from Sept. 26-Oct. 3. If you are contacted by a member who is having trouble voting, please send their information immediately to [elections@greenparty.ca](mailto:elections@greenparty.ca) or [elections@partivert.ca](mailto:elections@partivert.ca) so that we can help them as quickly as possible.

We encourage you to urge your supporters to vote early, so that there is ample time for us to help troubleshoot well before voting closes, and to check their spam or junk folders if they do not locate their ballot right away. However, we recommend that campaigns do not attempt to troubleshoot ballot issues individually.

### **Tabulation**

The voting results will be calculated using STV (Single Transferable Vote), applying the Droop quota (number of valid votes / (number of winners + 1) + 1). Single Transferable Vote votes are counted as follows:

1. On the first round of counting, each option shall receive a first preference vote for each vote indicating it as first preference.
2. Should an option meet the quota of first preference votes after any round, it shall be declared elected.

3. If no option is elected, then the option with the fewest number of first preference votes shall be eliminated from the question. Should there be a tie for the fewest number of first preference votes, then among these, the option with the fewest number of second preference votes shall be eliminated. Should a tie persist, the procedure shall continue with third preference votes, et cetera. Should a tie still persist, the option with the fewest number of original first preference votes, shall be eliminated. Should a tie still persist, the procedures shall continue with original second preference votes et cetera. Should a tie still persist, an option shall be eliminated by random draw. Options are never eliminated simultaneously, even when it is acceptable to do so (you would reach the same result eliminating one-by-one).
4. When an option is eliminated, all first preference votes for that option shall be replaced by the vote's first preferred option that is not yet eliminated. All second preference votes for that option shall be replaced by the vote's next preferred option that is not yet elected or eliminated, and so on.
5. This procedure of electing and eliminating option(s) shall continue until a winner is elected or there is only one option left (and that option shall be declared elected).