

Innovative Research Group, Inc.

www.innovativeresearch.ca

Toronto :: Vancouver



Public Opinion Research ▶▶

Ontario This Month



Provincial and Federal Politics

Field Dates: September 11th to 18th, 2017

Sample Size: n=600; MoE ±4.0%

September 2017

© 2017 Copyright Innovative Research Group Inc.

Methodology

- This survey was conducted by telephone among 608 randomly-selected Ontario residents, 18 years of age and older, from September 11th to September 18th, 2017.
- Only one respondent per household was eligible to complete this survey. The final sample includes both landline and cell phone respondents, so that individuals who don't have a landline are represented.
- The sample has been weighted (n=600) by age, gender and region using the latest available data, 2011 Census, to reflect actual demographic composition of the population.
- This survey is compared with previous studies since April 2000. Prior to April 2003, approximately 650 Ontario adults were randomly selected. Since April 2003, approximately 600 adults are surveyed.
- The margin of error is approximately ± 4.0 (before April 2003: approximately ± 3.84)
- Prior to February 2003, the data is weighted according to the 1996 Census.
- In the analysis, **net** impression or satisfaction refers to the two "positive" measures (i.e. "excellent" and "good") minus the two "negative" measures ("fair" or "poor") to create a single number. If there is a neutral measure ("made no difference"), it is not included in the calculation.

Note: *Graphs and tables may not always total 100% due to rounding values rather than any error in data. Sums are added before rounding numbers.*

The PCs are more firmly in the driver's seat this year

1.

PCs have moved from trailing Liberals by eight points to leading by five

- In the 2014 election, Ontario Liberals won with 39% of the vote to OPC's 31% with 24% voting NDP.
- Over the last three years, both the Liberals and NDP have lost significant ground. In our latest quarterly tracking the PCs lead with 40% support among decided voters, Liberals are in second at 35%, and the NDP have dropped five points since the election to just 19%.

2.

The PCs have narrowed the gap on brand loyalty

- Before the start of the 2014 campaign (March 2014), nearly a third (31%) identified as Liberal, 2-in-10 (21%) as PC, 3-in-10 (29%) did not identify with any party.
- In 2017, Ontario Liberals hold onto their partisans (2017: 31%), but OPCs have grown their pool (27%), likely from non-partisans, which decline to 23%.

3.

The Liberals are fishing from a smaller, more conflicted voter pool

- In the 2014 pre-writ period, 1-in-4 (26%) were Core Ontario Liberals: they *disagreed* that it was time for a change of government and *agreed* that the Ontario Liberals were still the best party to run it. Time-for-a-change Ontario Liberals who *agreed* it was time for a change, but also *agreed* that the Liberals are the best to run government made up 1-in-8 (14%).
- By September 2017, the Core Ontario Liberal group has shrunk to just 16%, while the more conflicted Time for a Change Liberals have risen to 18%.

4.

Brown has much lower negatives than Hudak but is still widely unknown

- Current OPC leader Patrick Brown favourable are in the black: 1-in-4 (26%) Ontarians view him favourably and just 17% feel unfavourably towards him. This is a net improvement on previous OPC leader Tim Hudak ("Favourable": 30%; "Unfavourable": 45%).
- But Brown is still unknown to nearly half (49%) of Ontarians, including 38% who did not recognize his name.

5.

Wynne has the worse negatives of any leader we have tracked in 17 years

- A majority (63%) of Ontarians feel unfavourably towards Wynne, including nearly half (49%) who feel "strongly unfavourable". Less than 1-in-4 (23%) Ontarians feel favourably towards Wynne and just 1-in-20 have a *strongly* favorable opinion.
- Wynne's net favourable numbers have dropped 50 points since the 2014 pre-writ period, from +10 to -40.

Provincial Vote

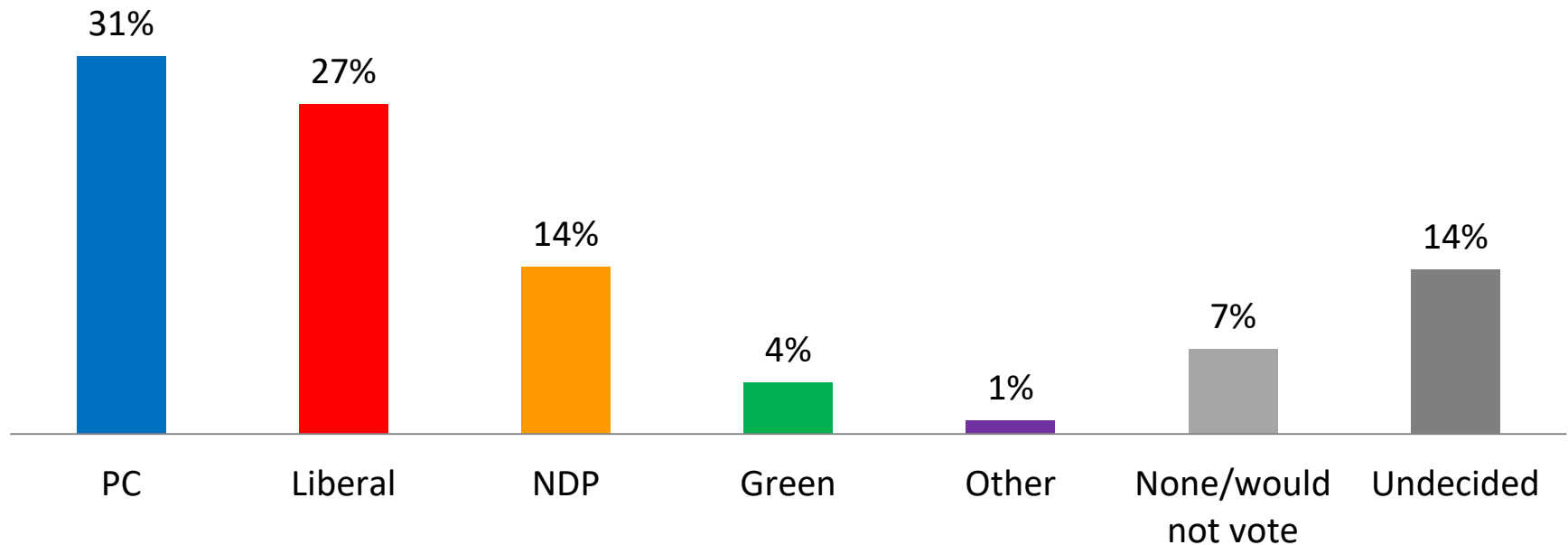
Provincial Vote: PCs (31%) lead Liberals (27%) by four points;⁵ NDP (14%) 13 points behind Liberals, 14% undecided



If a provincial election were held today, which party would you vote for: the Progressive Conservative Party, the Liberal Party, the New Democratic Party, the Green Party or another party?

... In that case, which party's candidate do you lean toward slightly? [**Vote + Lean**]

[asked of all respondents; n=600]



Note: 'Refused' (2%) not shown.
(Current data: September 2017)

Provincial Vote Tracking: PCs (31%) lead over Liberals (27%)

narrows to four points, undecided (14%) highest since Dec '15

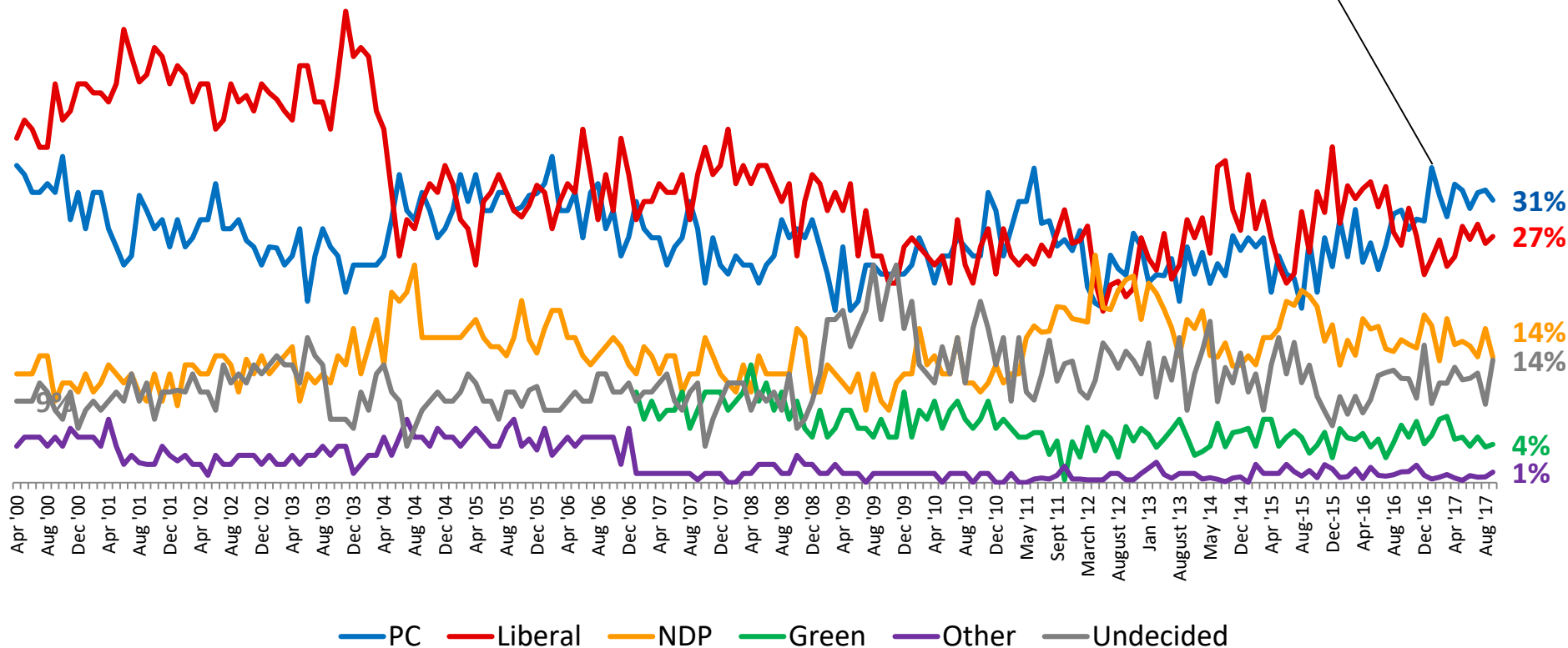


If a provincial election were held today, which party would you vote for: the Progressive Conservative Party, the Liberal Party, the New Democratic Party, the Green Party or another party?

... In that case, which party's candidate do you lean toward slightly? [**Vote + Lean**]

[asked of all respondents; n=600]

March 2, '17: 'Fair Hydro Plan' Announced
April 20, '17: 'Fair Housing Plan' Announced



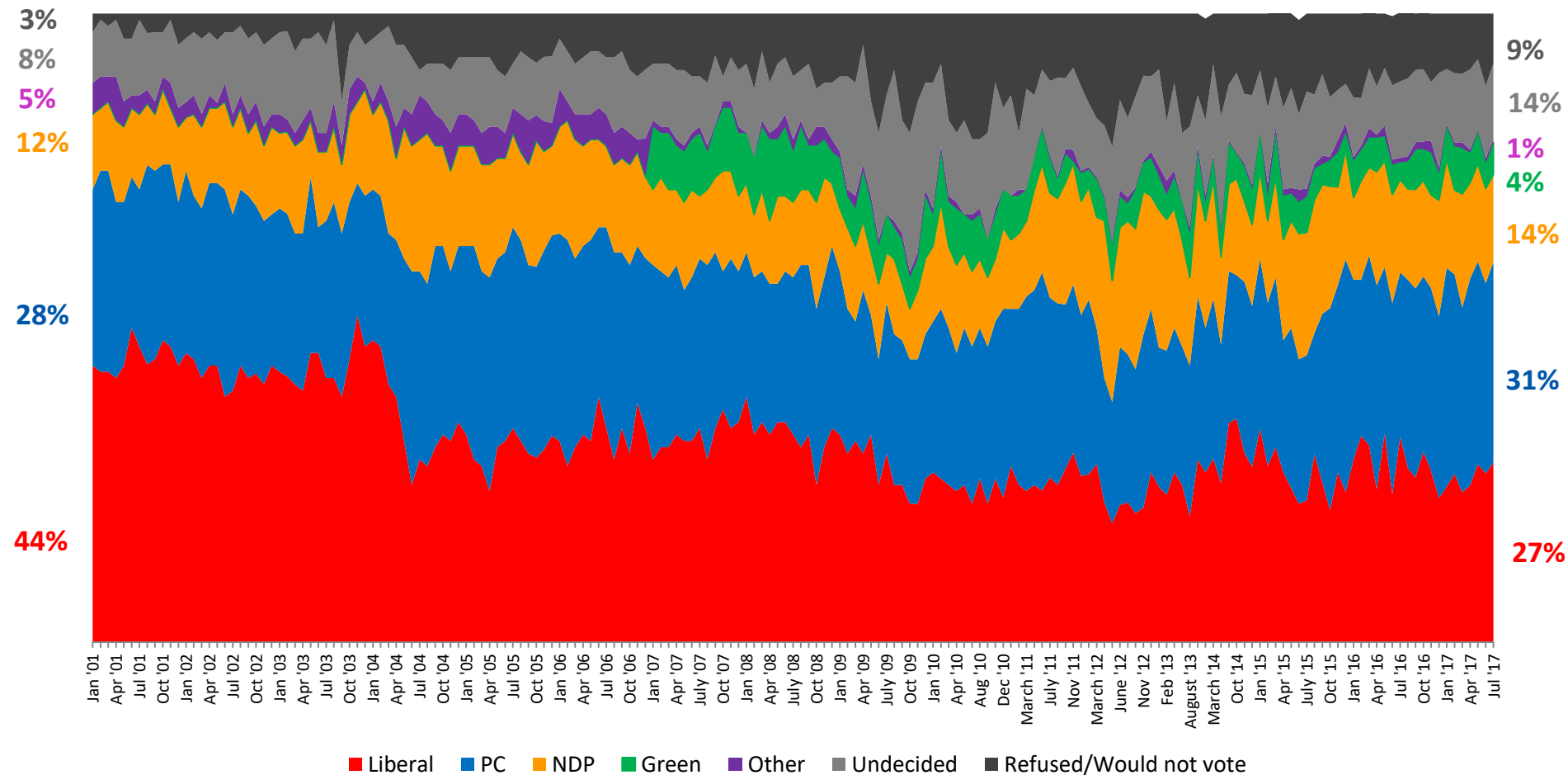
(Current data: September 2017)

Note: 'Refused/Would not vote' not shown

Combined Vote: Liberals (27%) now 4 points back; PCs hold at 31%, undecided up 5 points to 14%



If a provincial election were held today, which party would you vote for: the Progressive Conservative Party, the Liberal Party, the New Democratic Party, the Green Party or another party?
... In that case, which party's candidate do you lean toward slightly? [**Vote + Lean**] [asked of all respondents; n=600]



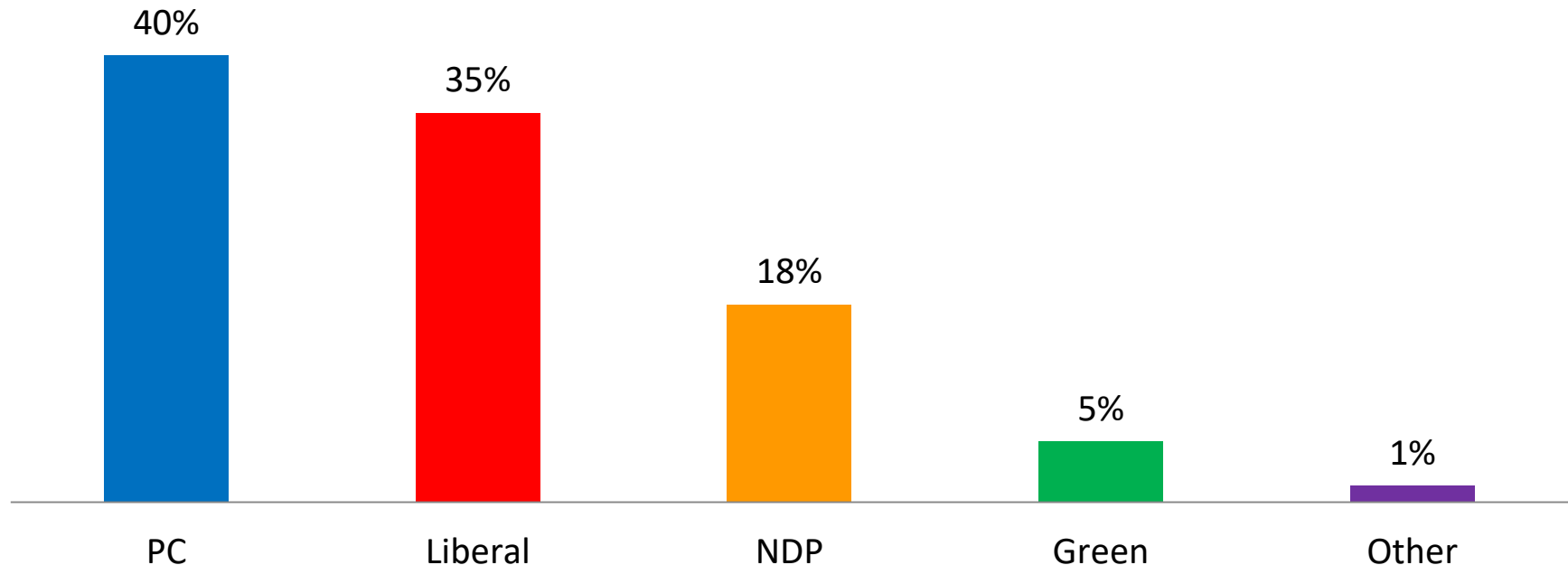
(Current data: September 2017)

Provincial Decided Vote: 4-in-10 (40%) decided voters would choose PC today, 35% for Liberals, 18% for NDP⁸



If a provincial election were held today, which party would you vote for: the Progressive Conservative Party, the Liberal Party, the New Democratic Party, the Green Party or another party? In that case, which party's candidate do you lean toward slightly? [DECIDED VOTE]

[only decided voters, n=465]

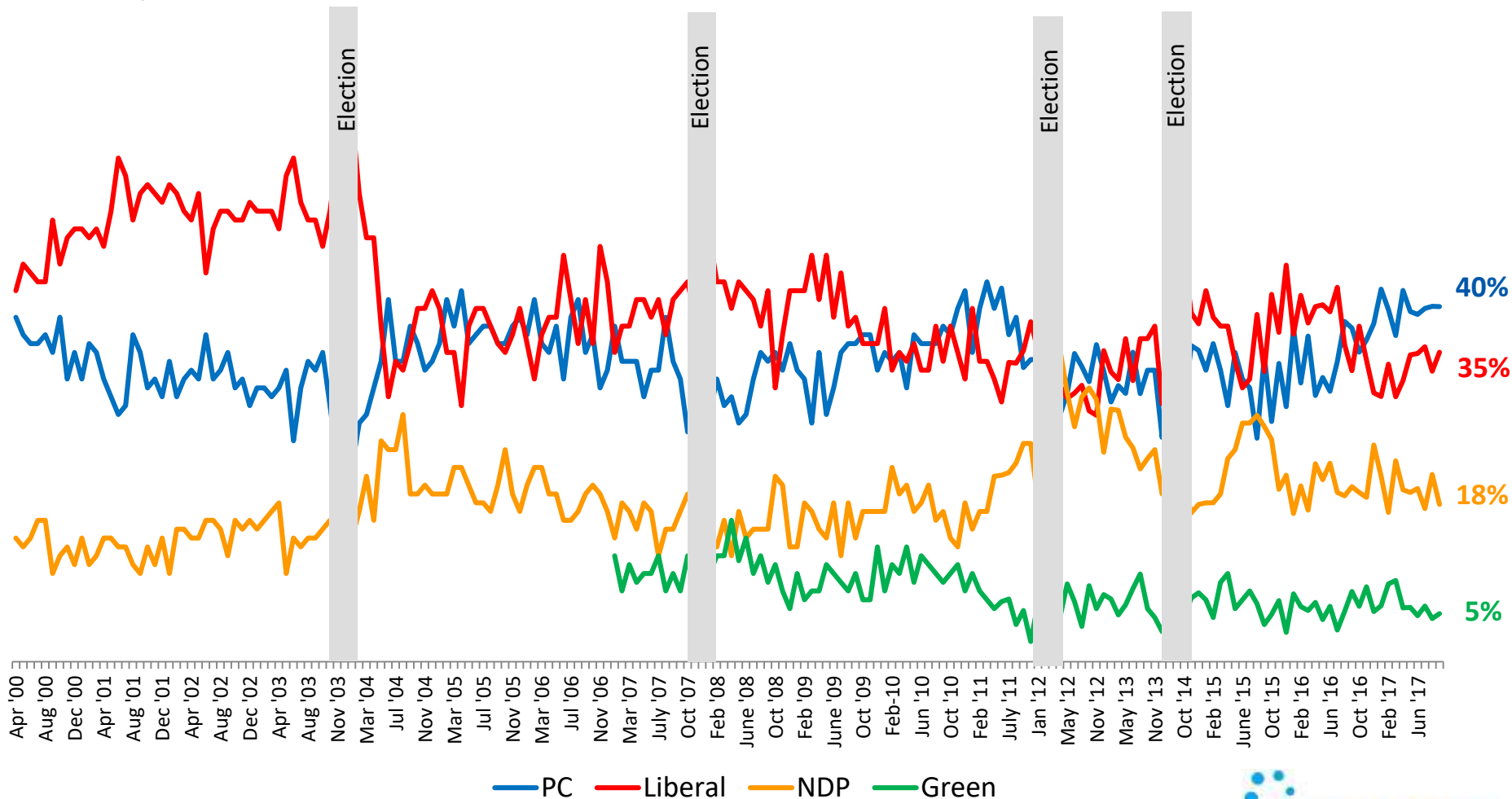


Provincial Decided Vote Tracking: PCs (40%) grow lead to 5 points over Liberals (35%), NDP (18%) down two points

Q

If a provincial election were held today, which party would you vote for: the Progressive Conservative Party, the Liberal Party, the New Democratic Party, the Green Party or another party? In that case, which party's candidate do you lean toward slightly? [DECIDED VOTE]

[only decided voters, n=465]



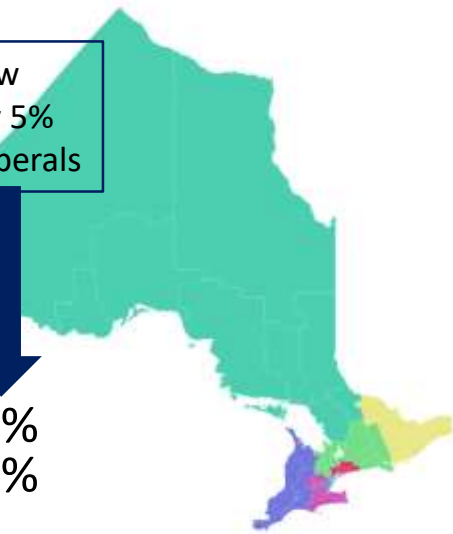
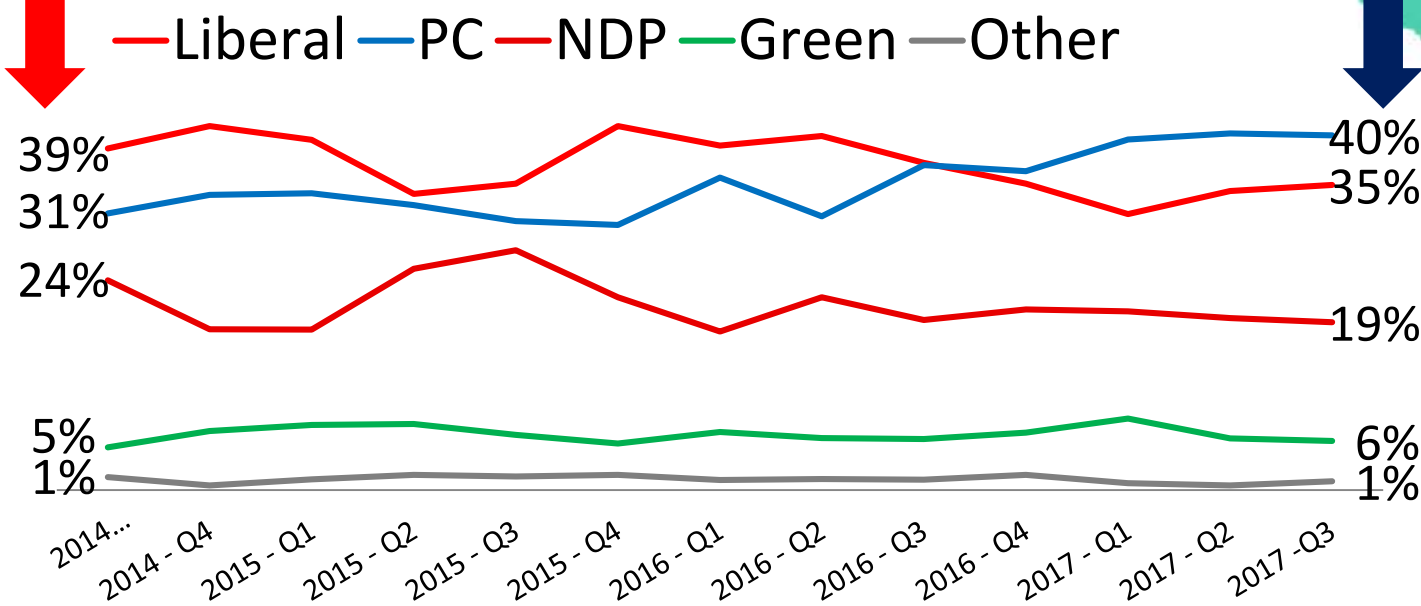
(Current data: September 2017)

Note: 'Other' not shown

Vote Intent by Quarter | Overall

Liberals won by 8% over PCs

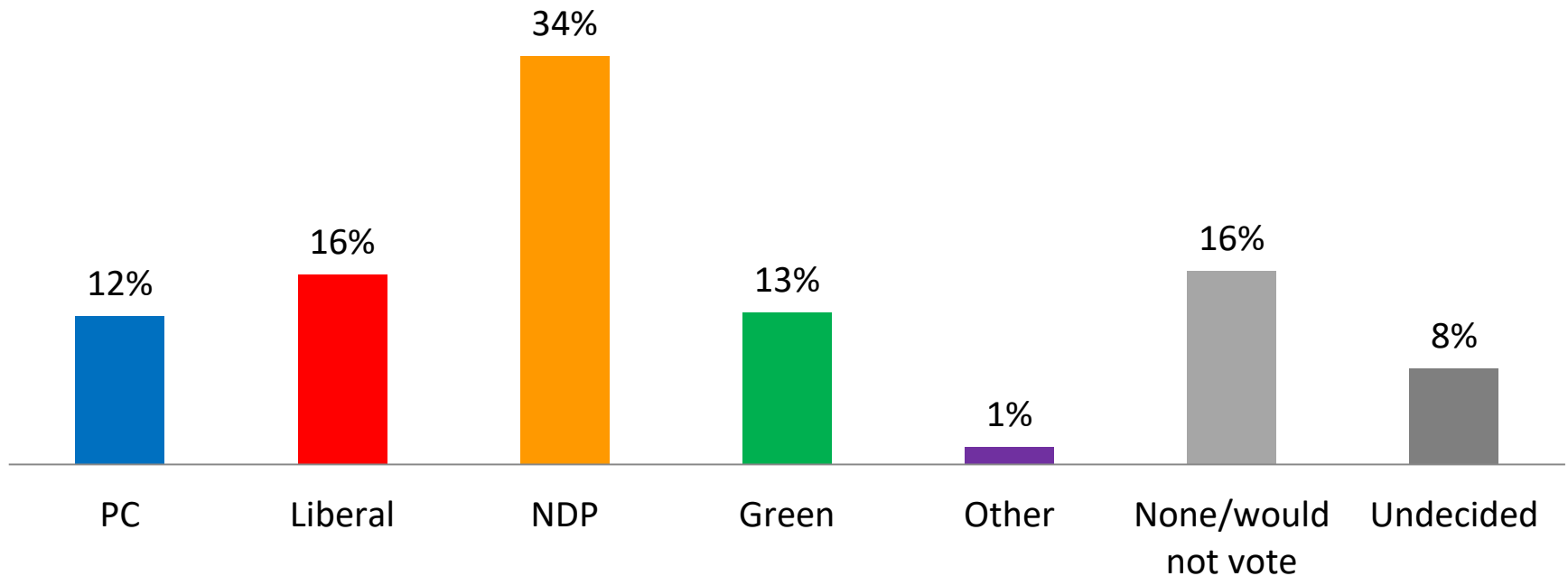
PCs now lead by 5% over Liberals



Provincial 2nd choice: 1-in-3 (34%) would vote NDP as second¹¹ choice

Q And which party would be your second choice?

[asked only of decided voters, does not include 1st choice party, n=465]



Note: 'Refused' (<1%) not shown

(Current data: September 2017)

Provincial 2nd choice: a plurality of Liberal voters (45%) choose NDP as their 2nd choice; PCs choose NDP (37%)

Q

And which party would be your second choice? **BY** [Vote+Lean]

[asked only of decided voters, does not include 1st choice party, n=465]

	PC 1 st choice	Liberal 1 st choice	NDP 1 st choice	Green 1 st choice *
PC 2 nd choice		24%	17%	8%
Liberal 2 nd choice	17%		39%	32%
NDP 2 nd choice	37%	45%		46%
Green/Other 2 nd choice	13%	10%	29%	
WNV/Undecided	32%	20%	15%	14%

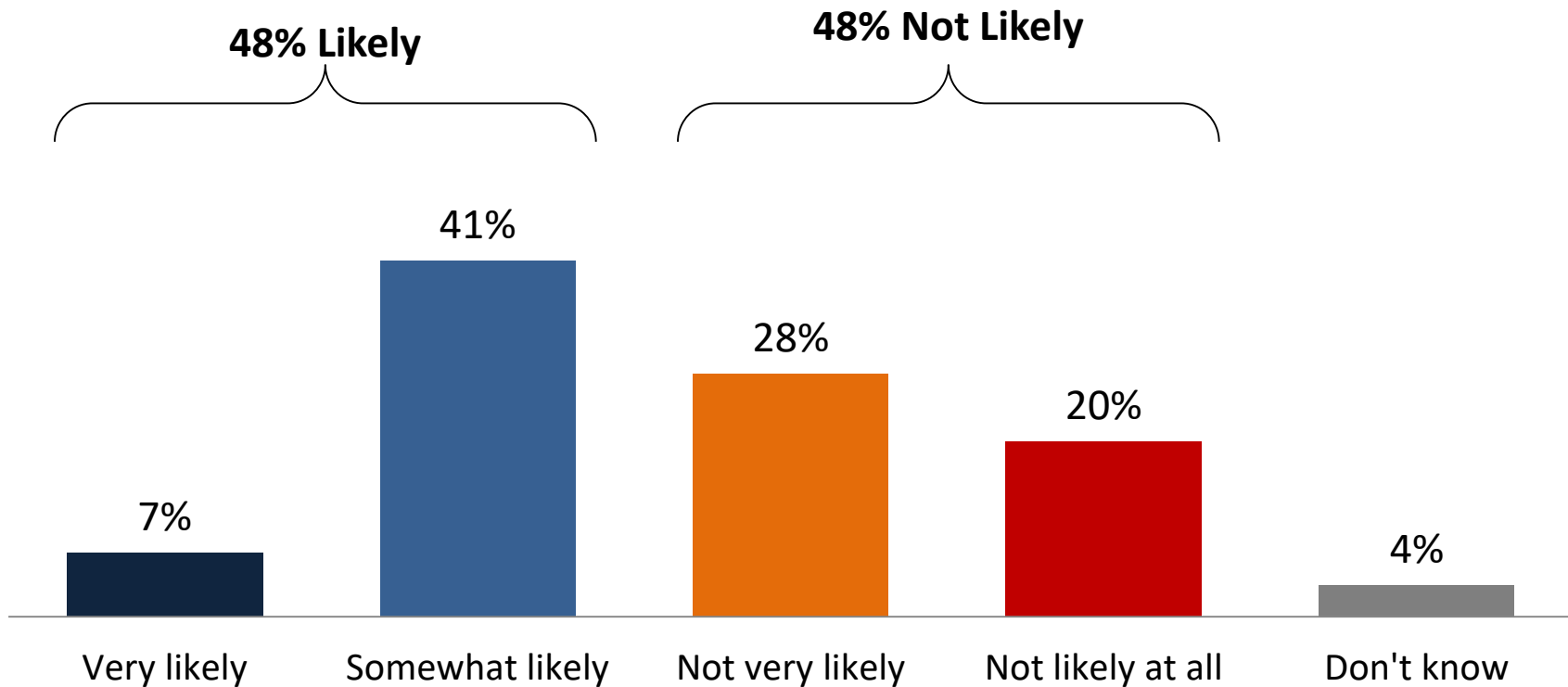
Note: 'Other' in Combined Vote not shown due to insufficient sample size, 'Refused' not shown.

(Current data: September 2017)

* Due to small n-size, the results should be treated with caution.

Likelihood to Switch to 2nd Choice: Ontarians split (48/48) on whether or not they are likely to vote for their 2nd choice

Q How likely is it you may change your mind and vote for your second choice?
[asked only of respondents who have a 2nd choice, n=352]



Provincial Likelihood to Switch by 2nd Choice: PC mostly likely to benefit; 6-in-10 (60%) 2nd-choice PCs are likely to switch

Q

How likely is it you may change your mind and vote for your second choice?

BY And which party would be your second choice?

[asked only of respondents who have a 2nd choice, n=352]

	PC 2 nd choice	Liberal 2 nd choice	NDP 2 nd choice	Green 2 nd choice
Very likely	7%	7%	5%	13%
Somewhat likely	53%	47%	39%	28%
Not very likely	28%	27%	29%	25%
Not likely at all	8%	15%	25%	28%
Don't know	4%	3%	3%	6%
TOTAL LIKELY	60%	55%	44%	41%

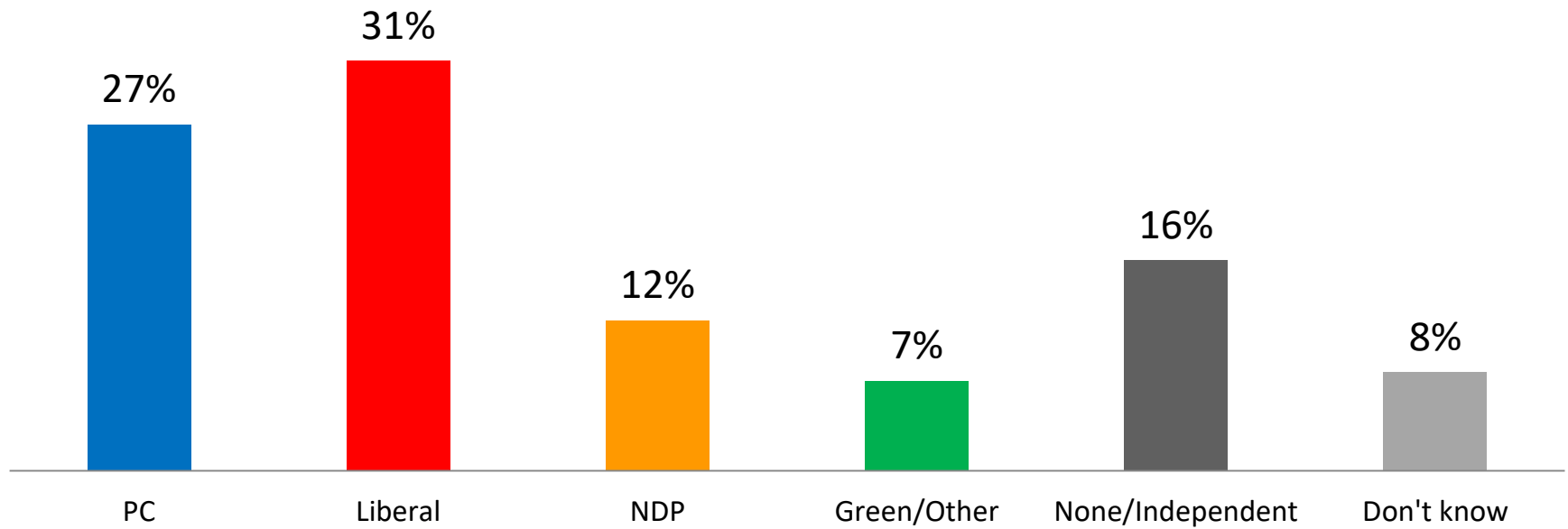
Note: 'Other' in 2nd Choice Vote not shown due to insufficient sample size, 'Refused' not shown.

(Current data: September 2017)

Provincial Party ID: 3-in-10 (31%) identify as Liberal, more than 1-in-4 (27%) as PC; only 12% identify as NDP



Thinking about politics in Ontario, generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a....[PARTY ID]
[asked of all respondents, n=600]



Combined Vote by Party ID: PC-identifiers (83%) most partisan; 7-in-10 Liberals, NDP say they will vote for their party

Provincial Combined Vote	Provincial Party Identification					
		Progressive Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green/Other *	Unaligned
	Progressive Conservative	83%	11%	6%	14%	17%
	Liberal	3%	71%	5%	3%	14%
	NDP	4%	7%	70%	5%	9%
	Green/Other	2%	3%	7%	39%	2%
	Undecided/WNV	6%	9%	12%	33%	52%

(Current data: September 2017)

* Due to small n-size, the results should be treated with caution.

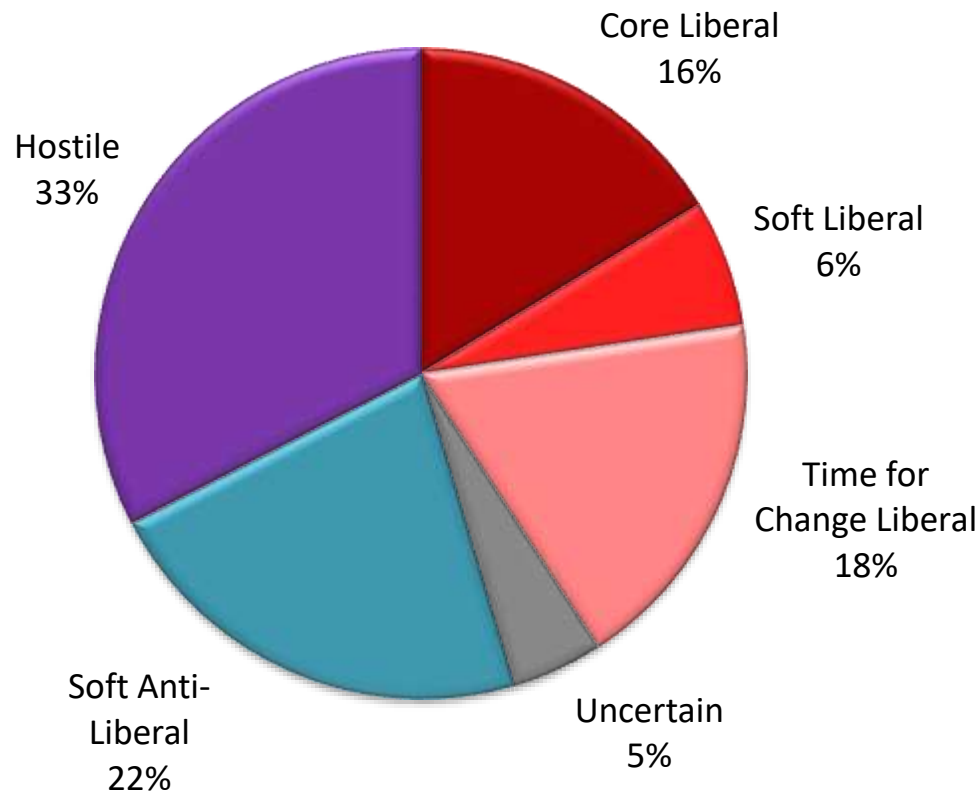
Time-for-a-Change Segments

Q

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

1. It is time for a change in government here in Ontario.
2. The Liberals may have their problems but they are still the best party to form government.

[asked of all respondents; n=600]

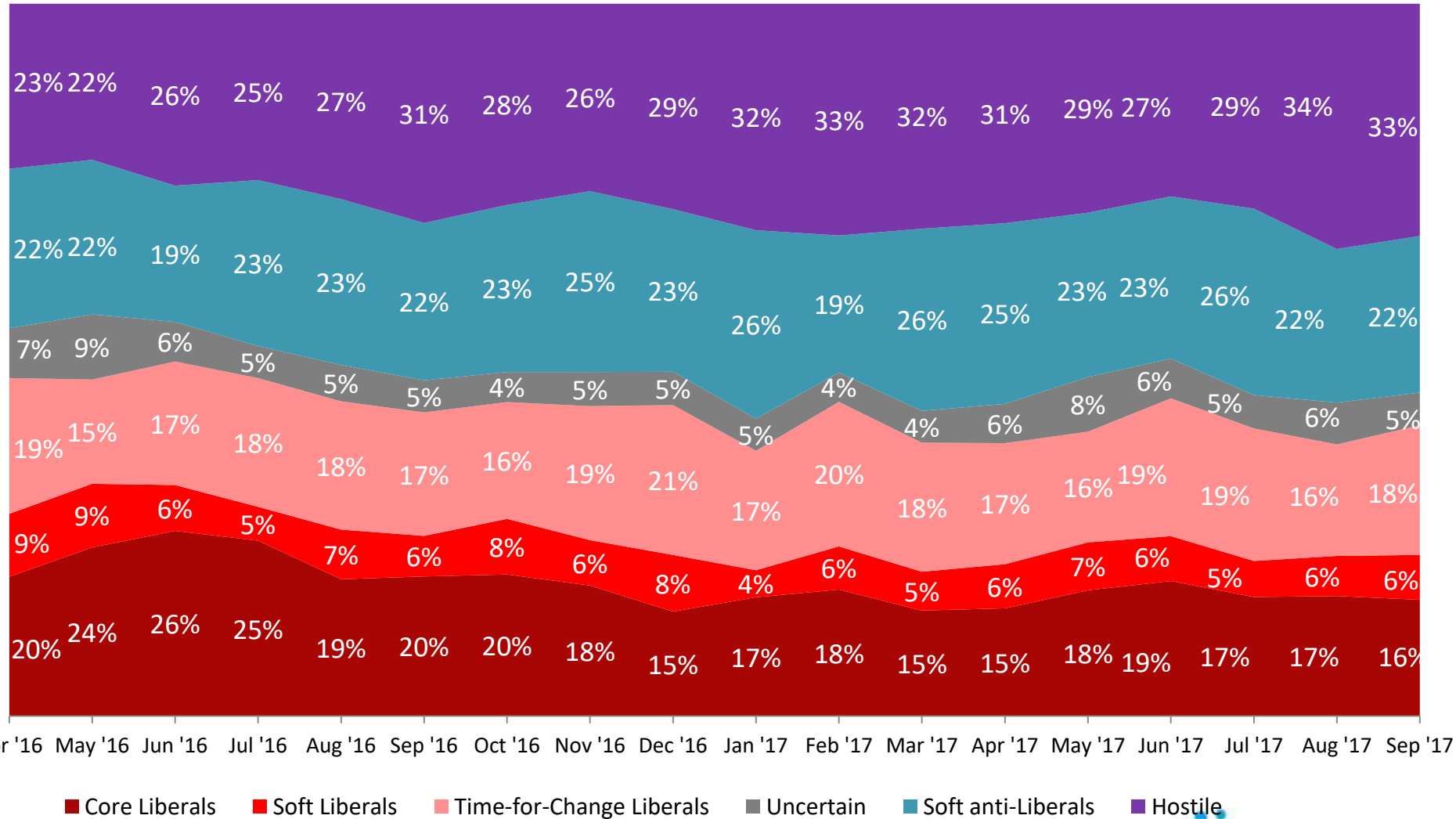


In additional analysis, the segments of 'Core/Soft' Liberal and 'Soft Anti-Liberal' and 'Uncertain' have been combined

Time-for-a-Change tracking: Time-for-a-change Liberal segment (18%) up two points month-to-month



Time for a change segmentation tracking.
[asked of all respondents; n=600]



Core Liberals Soft Liberals Time-for-a-Change Liberals Uncertain Soft anti-Liberals Hostile

Pre-writ Snapshot vs. 2017, Parties: Core/Soft base has shrunk 11 points since Pre-writ

March 2014, Pre-writ

Party ID

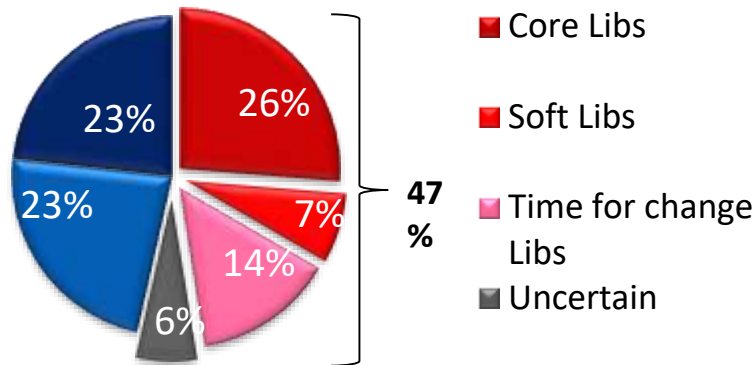


Thinking about politics in Ontario, generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as: a Progressive Conservative, a Liberal, a New Democrat, or something else or none of these?



■ Liberal
 ■ Progressive Conservative
 ■ NDP
 ■ Undecided/DK
 ■ None/Other

Time for a change segmentation*



■ Core Libs

■ Soft Libs

■ Time for change Libs

■ Uncertain

September 2017

Party ID

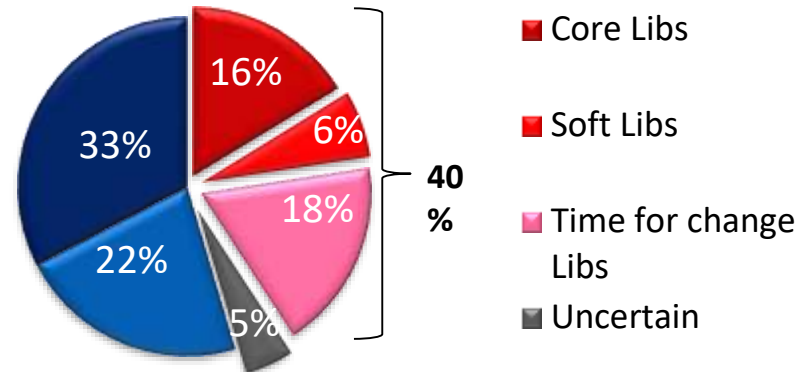


Thinking about politics in Ontario, generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as: a Progressive Conservative, a Liberal, a New Democrat, or something else or none of these?



■ Liberal
 ■ Progressive Conservative
 ■ NDP
 ■ Don't know
 ■ None/Other

Time for a change segmentation*



■ Core Libs

■ Soft Libs

■ Time for change Libs

■ Uncertain

*Note: 2014 "Time for change" question worded as follows: "Now thinking about Kathleen Wynne and the Liberal government - do you think that Kathleen Wynne and the Liberal government have done a good enough job to deserve re-election, or is it time to give a new person and party a chance?".

68% of Core/Soft and 47% of Time-for-Change Liberals would vote Liberal; majority (66%) of 'hostile' would vote PC

Q

If a provincial election were held today, which party would you vote for: the Progressive Conservative Party, the Liberal Party, the New Democratic Party, the Green Party or another party?

... In that case, which party's candidate do you lean toward slightly? [**Vote + Lean**]

BY Time for a Change Segments

[asked of all respondents; n=600]

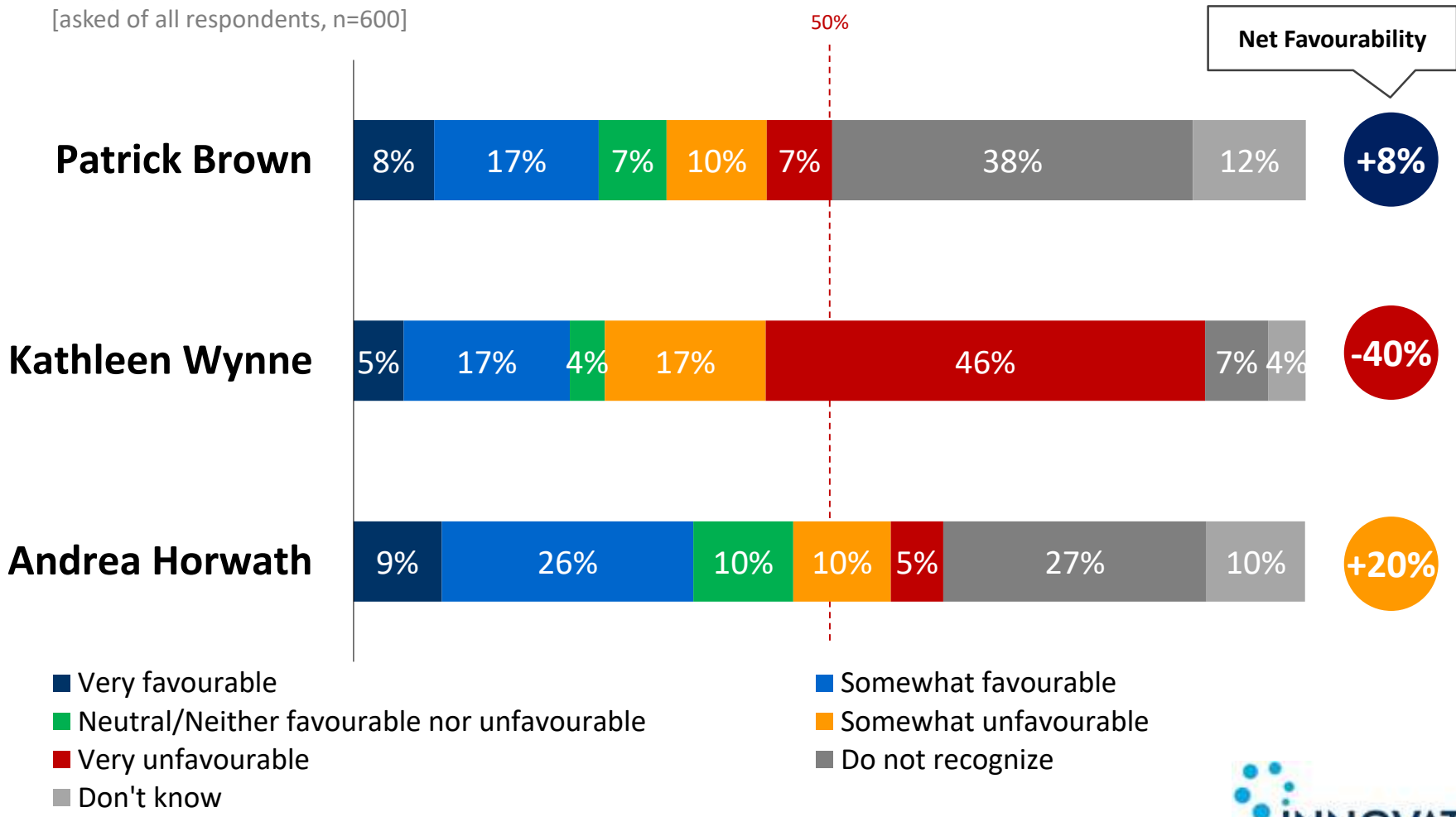
	Core/Soft Liberal	Time for Change Liberal	Soft Anti Liberal/ Uncertain	Hostile
PC	4%	10%	26%	66%
Liberal	68%	47%	10%	2%
NDP	6%	16%	17%	15%
Green/Other	3%	5%	8%	5%
Undecided/WNV	16%	22%	34%	12%

Leader Image (1709 OTM)



Leadership Favourability: strongly unfavourable ratings for Wynne; Brown, Horwath appear favourably, although unknown

Q Now, I would like to read you the names of several individuals who have been mentioned in the news recently. For each one, please tell me whether you have heard of that person and, if so, whether you have a very favourable, somewhat favourable, somewhat unfavourable or very unfavourable impression of that person. If you do not recognize the name, just say so. How about...
[asked of all respondents, n=600]



Note: 'Refused' not shown

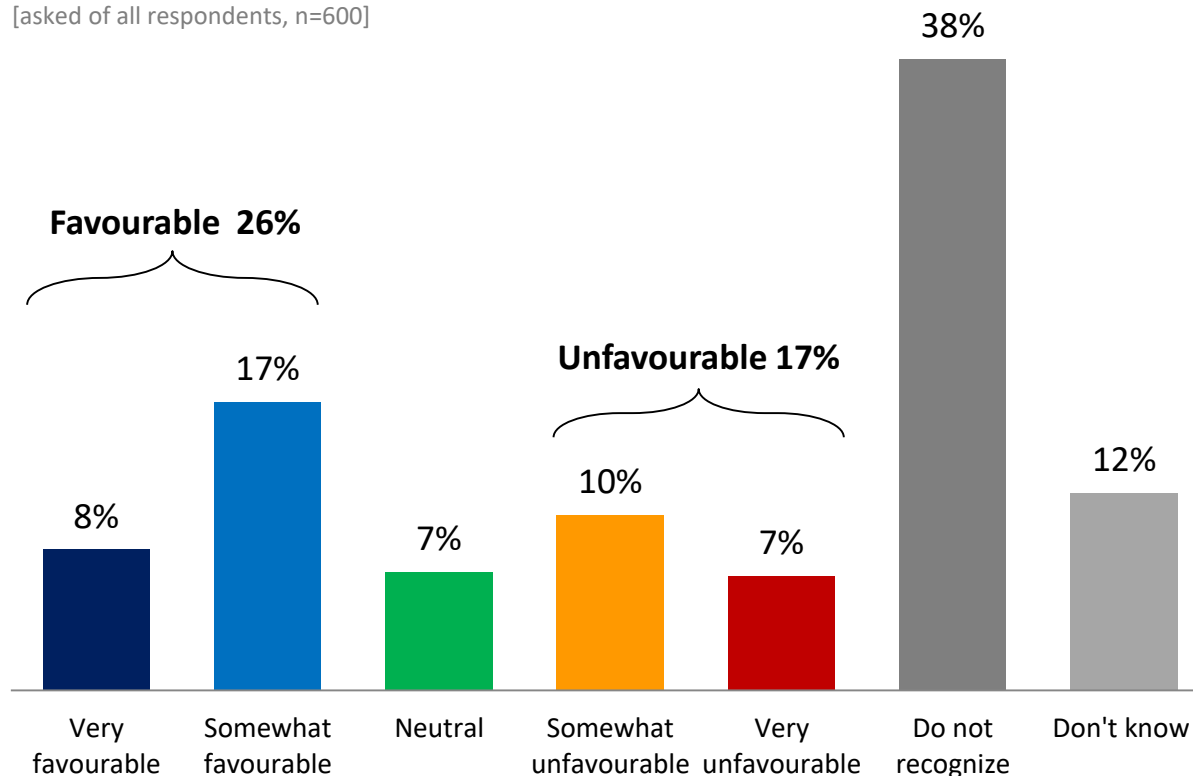
Patrick Brown largely unknown; 46% of Hostile, 51% of PC-identifiers have a favourable impression of Brown

23

Q

Now, I would like to read you the names of several individuals who have been mentioned in the news recently. For each one, please tell me whether you have heard of that person and, if so, whether you have a very favourable, somewhat favourable, somewhat unfavourable or very unfavourable impression of that person. If you do not recognize the name, just say so. How about...**Patrick Brown**

[asked of all respondents, n=600]



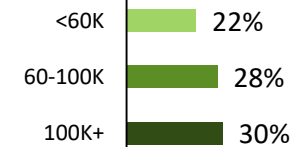
Sample Breakdown ▶▶

Those who say "favourable"

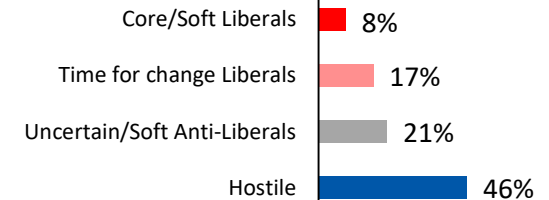
Mood



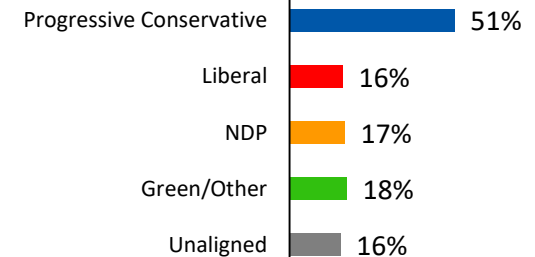
Income



TfC Liberals



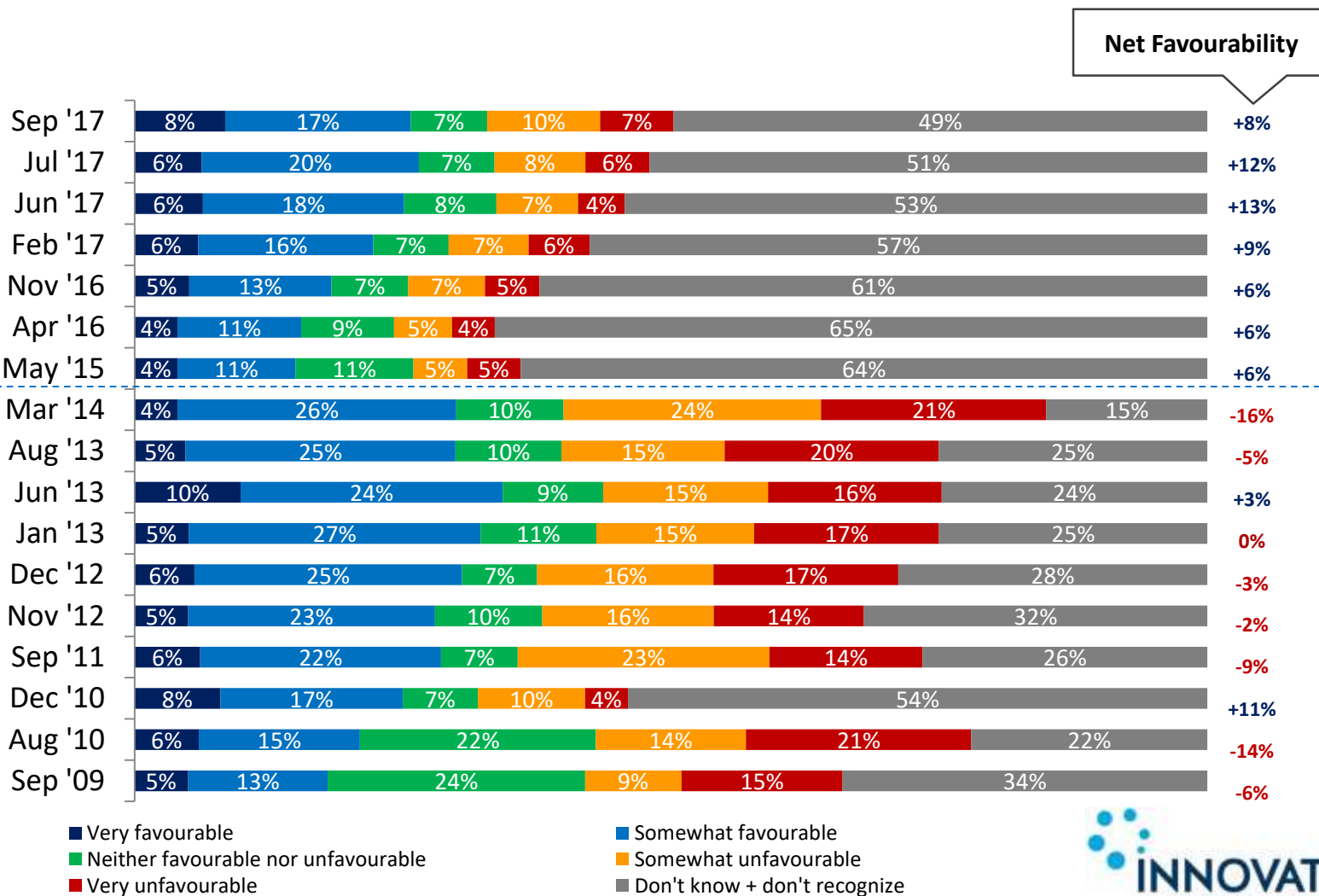
Party ID



Patrick Brown tracking: Brown's net favourability down slightly, still positive; nearly half (49%) unaware of him

Q

... please indicate whether you have heard of that person and, if so, whether you have a very favourable, somewhat favourable, neither favourable or unfavourable, somewhat unfavourable or very unfavourable impression of that person. If you do not recognize the name, just indicate. **Patrick Brown [Tim Hudak]**

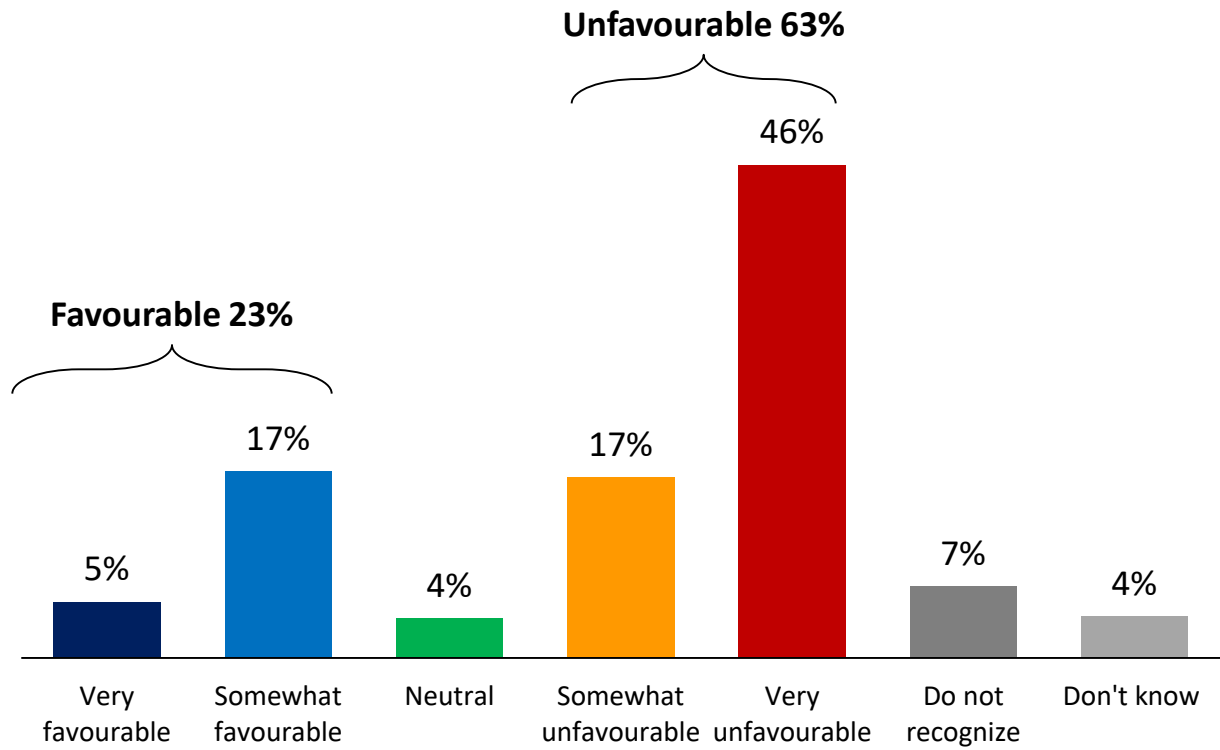


Kathleen Wynne: more than 6-in-10 (63%) feel unfavourably towards Wynne; less than half (47%) of Liberals feel favourably

Q

Now, I would like to read you the names of several individuals who have been mentioned in the news recently. For each one, please tell me whether you have heard of that person and, if so, whether you have a very favourable, somewhat favourable, somewhat unfavourable or very unfavourable impression of that person. If you do not recognize the name, just say so. How about...**Kathleen Wynne**

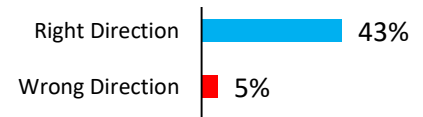
[asked of all respondents, n=600]



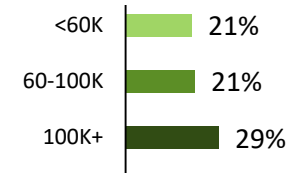
Sample Breakdown ▶▶

Those who say "favourable"

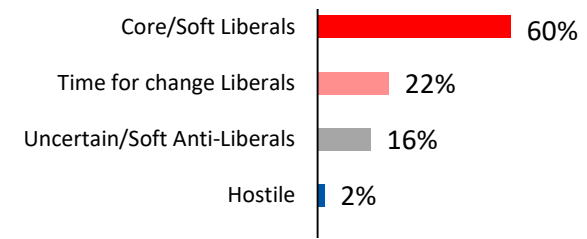
Mood



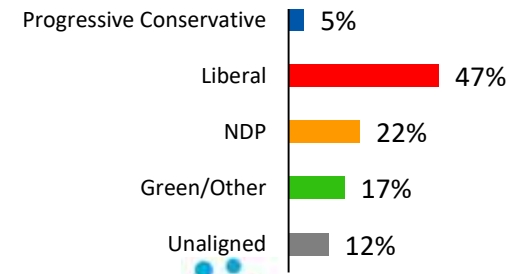
Income



TfC Liberals



Provincial Party ID

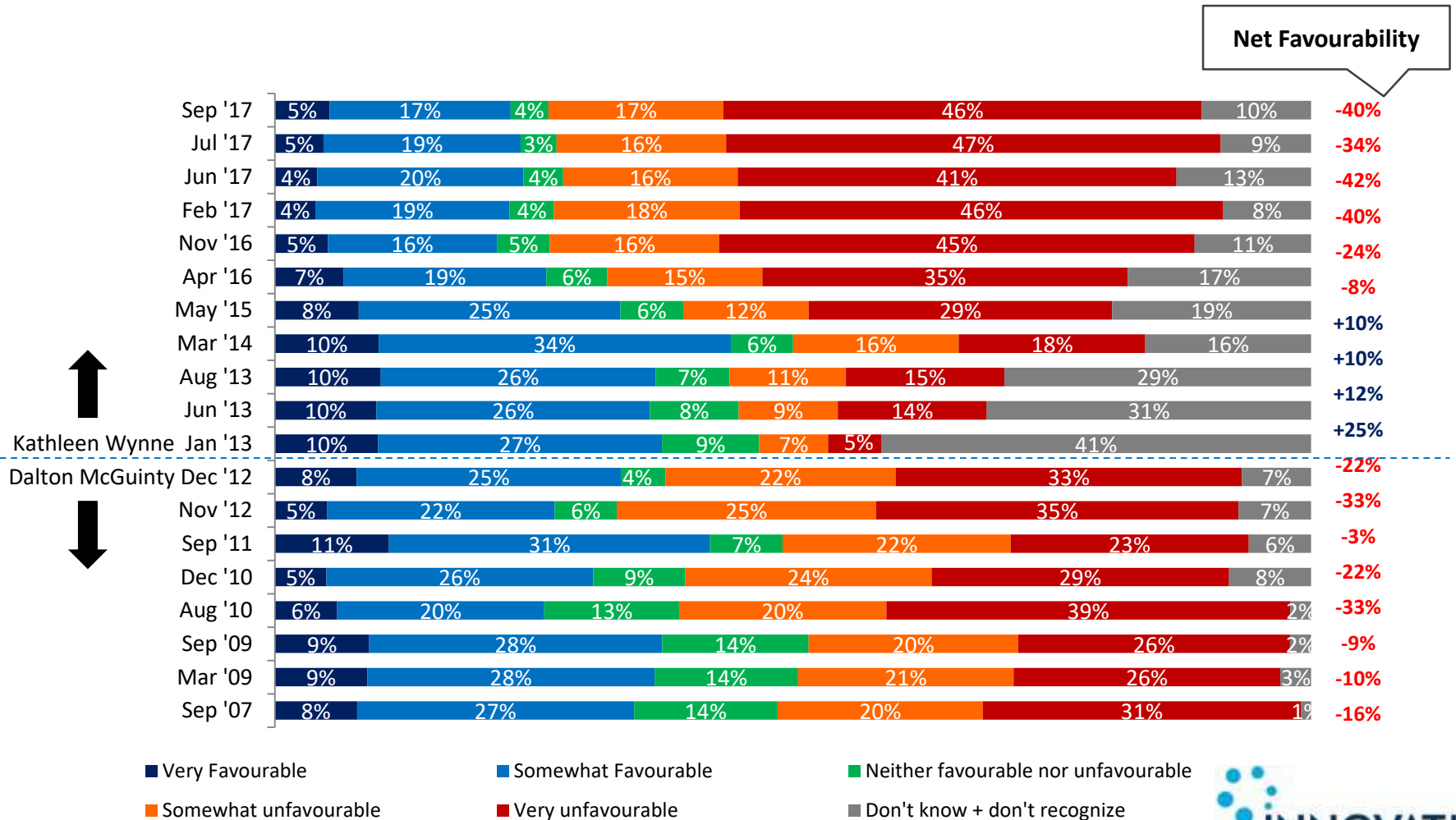


Note: Refused (1%) not shown.

Kathleen Wynne tracking: favourables haven't budged since Nov '16 - a strong majority still feel negatively about her ²⁶

Q

... please indicate whether you have heard of that person and, if so, whether you have a very favourable, somewhat favourable, neither favourable or unfavourable, somewhat unfavourable or very unfavourable impression of that person. If you do not recognize the name, just indicate. **Kathleen Wynne [Dalton McGuinty]**



Wynne Favourability by Provincial Party ID (Column %): just 27

5% of TfC Liberals feel “very favourable” towards Wynne

Wynne Favourability	Provincial Party ID						
		PC	Liberal	NDP	Green/Other	Unaligned	Total
	Very Favourable	1%	14%	1%	0%	2%	5%
	Somewhat favourable	3%	33%	21%	17%	11%	17%
	Neutral	2%	4%	3%	0%	6%	4%
	Somewhat unfavourable	8%	21%	19%	15%	20%	17%
	Very unfavourable	81%	16%	50%	56%	41%	46%
	Do not recognize	3%	6%	3%	11%	12%	7%
	Don't know	1%	6%	3%	0%	6%	4%

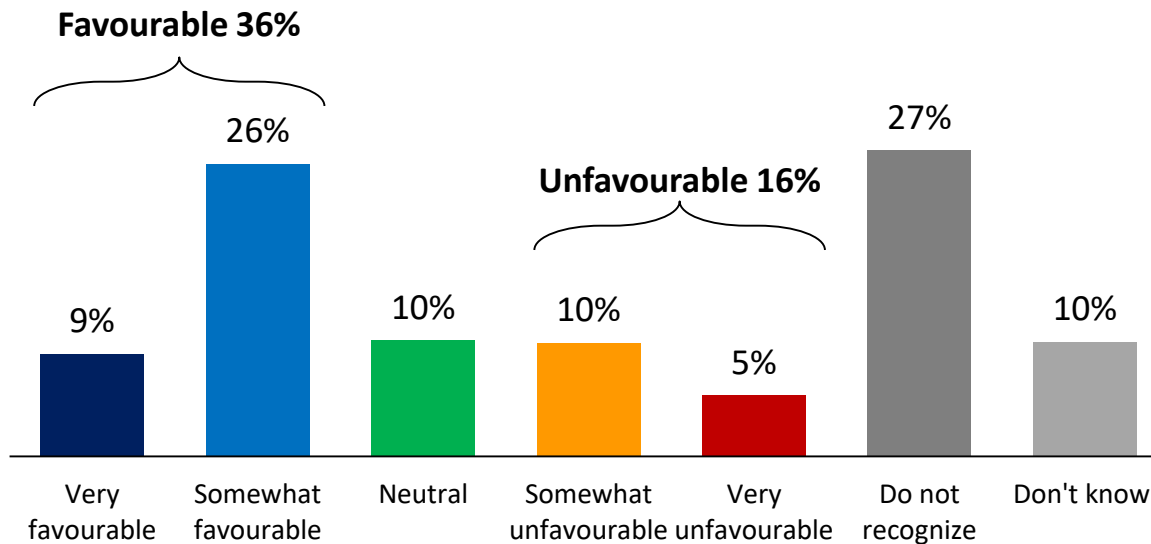
Wynne Favourability	Time for a change Liberal segmentation				
		Core/Soft Liberals	Time for change Liberals	Uncertain/ Soft Anti-Liberals	Hostile
	Very Favourable	17%	5%	0%	2%
	Somewhat favourable	43%	17%	16%	0%
	Neutral	3%	2%	8%	2%
	Somewhat unfavourable	18%	29%	21%	6%
	Very unfavourable	5%	31%	39%	88%
	Do not recognize	8%	12%	9%	1%
	Don't know	7%	3%	6%	1%

Andrea Horwath: 36% have a favourable impression; highest with NDP-identifiers (58%), Green/Other (47%), Hostile (48%)

Q

Now, I would like to read you the names of several individuals who have been mentioned in the news recently. For each one, please tell me whether you have heard of that person and, if so, whether you have a very favourable, somewhat favourable, somewhat unfavourable or very unfavourable impression of that person. If you do not recognize the name, just say so. How about... **Andrea Horwath**

[asked of all respondents, n=600]



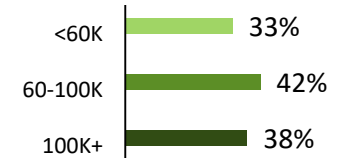
Sample Breakdown ►►

Those who say "favourable"

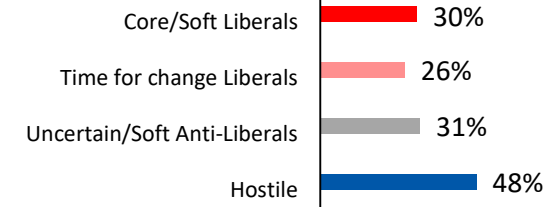
Mood



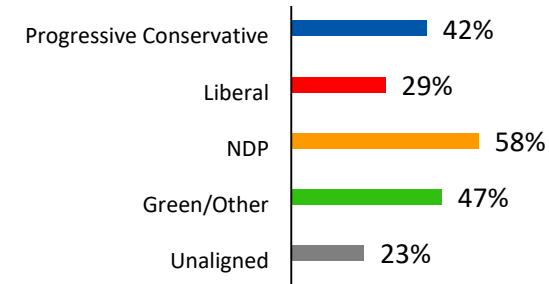
Income



TfC Liberals



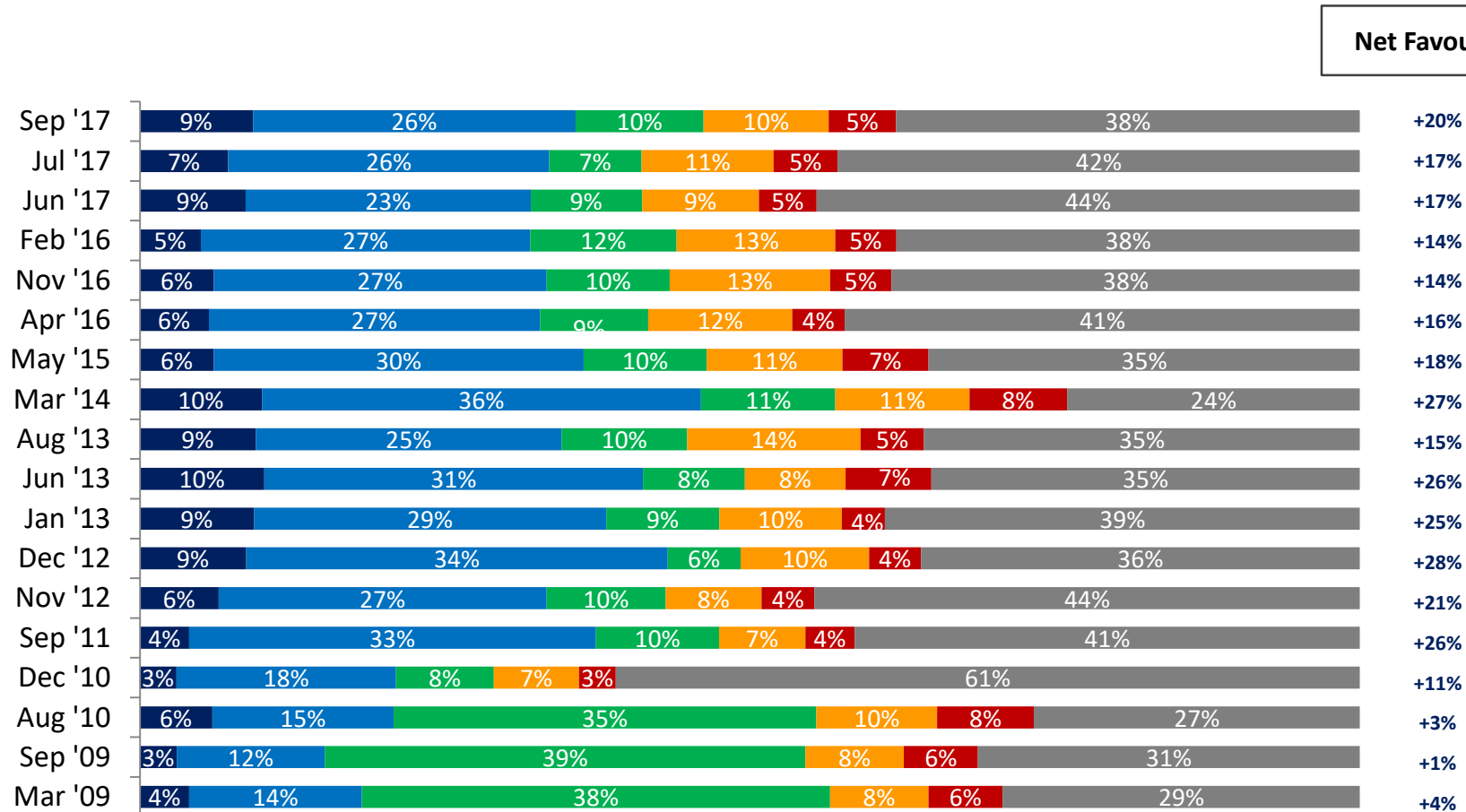
Provincial Party ID



Andrea Horwath tracking: net favourability positive and up 3 points, highest since March 2014

Q

... please indicate whether you have heard of that person and, if so, whether you have a very favourable, somewhat favourable, neither favourable or unfavourable, somewhat unfavourable or very unfavourable impression of that person. If you do not recognize the name, just indicate. **Andrea Horwath**



■ Very Favourable ■ Somewhat Favourable ■ Neither favourable nor unfavourable
 ■ Somewhat unfavourable ■ Very unfavourable ■ Don't know + don't recognize

Pre-writ Snapshot vs. 2017, Leaders: Wynne's leadership attitudes have dropped sharply since pre-writ

March 2014, Pre-writ

Best Premier



Which of the following leaders would make the best Premier of Ontario?

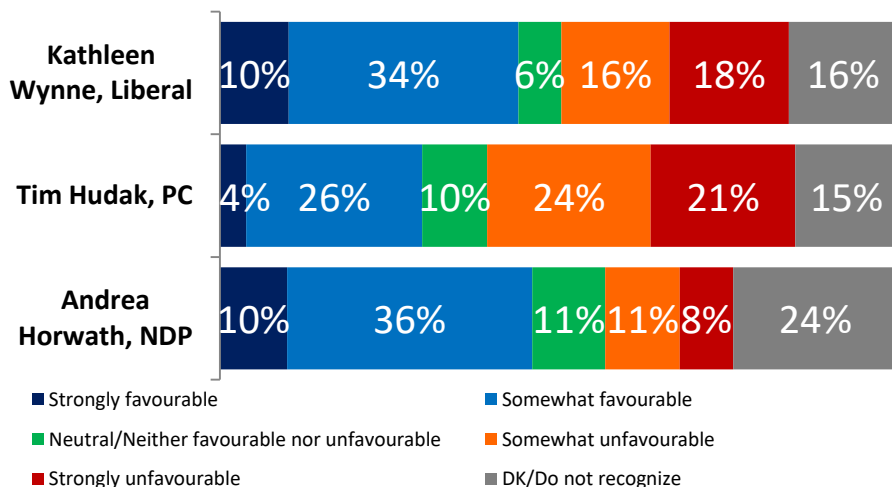


■ Kathleen Wynne, Liberal ■ Tim Hudak, PC
■ Andrea Horwath, NDP ■ Undecided/DK

Leader Favourables



Below are the names of several individuals who have been mentioned in the news recently...



September 2017

Best Premier



Which of the following would make the best Premier of Ontario?

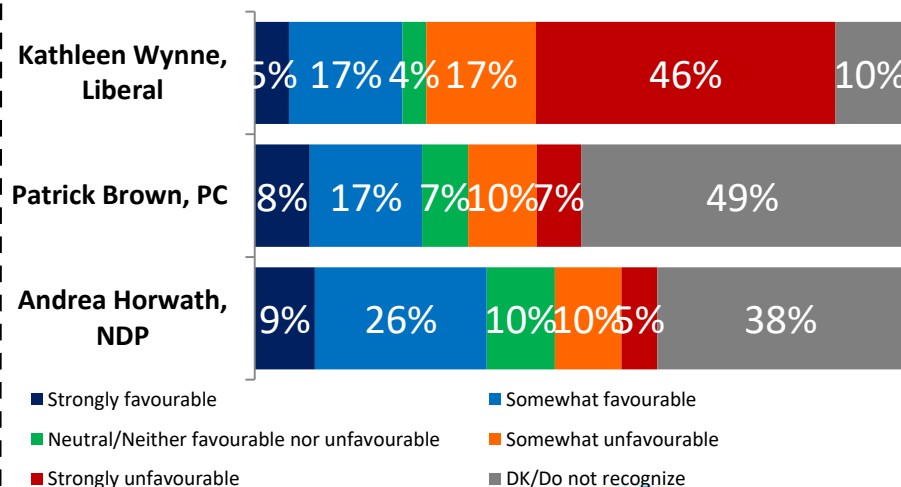


■ Kathleen Wynne, Liberal ■ Patrick Brown, PC
■ Andrea Horwath, NDP ■ Undecided/DK

Leader Favourables



Below are the names of several individuals who have been mentioned in the news recently...



Leader Audience (1709 OTM)

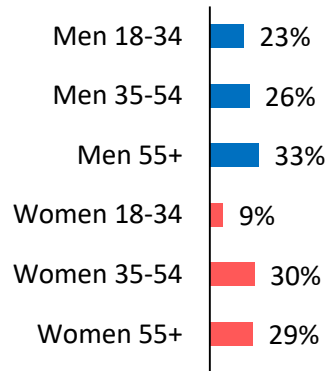


Brown most favourable among pessimistic ('wrong track': 38%), PC-identifiers and highly educated

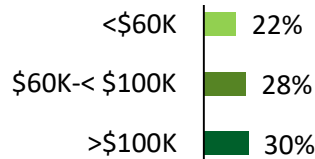


Now, I would like to read you the names of several individuals who have been mentioned in the news recently. For each one, please tell me whether you have heard of that person and, if so, whether you have a very favourable, somewhat favourable, somewhat unfavourable or very unfavourable impression of that person. If you do not recognize the name, just say so. How about...**Patrick Brown - favourable**

Age/gender



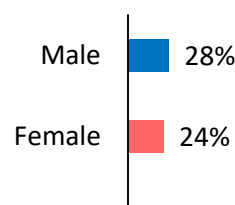
Income



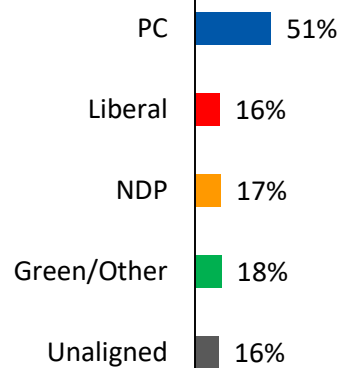
Gender/employment status



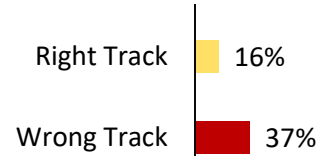
Gender



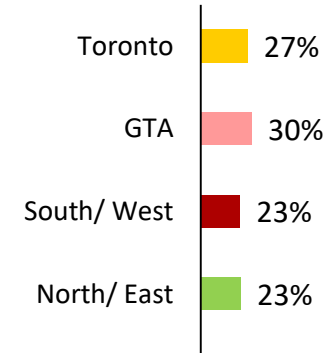
Party ID



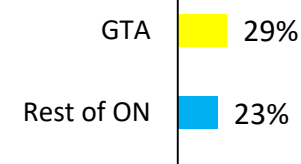
Mood



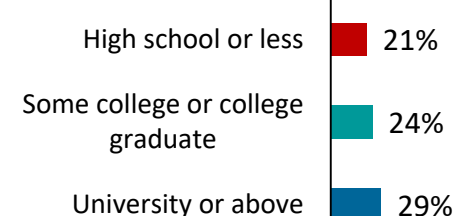
Region



GTA vs. Rest of ON



Education

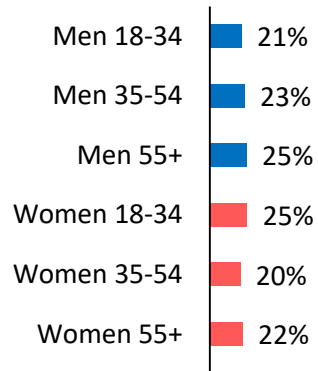


Wynne's favorability highest among Liberal base, Toronto, highly educated, those who think Ontario on right track

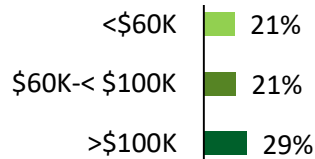


Now, I would like to read you the names of several individuals who have been mentioned in the news recently. For each one, please tell me whether you have heard of that person and, if so, whether you have a very favourable, somewhat favourable, somewhat unfavourable or very unfavourable impression of that person. If you do not recognize the name, just say so. How about...**Kathleen Wynne - favourable**

Age/gender



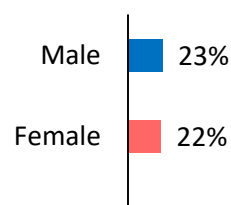
Income



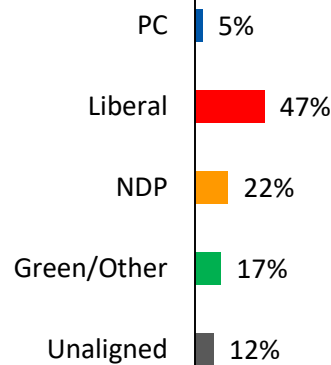
Gender/employment status



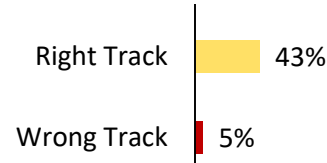
Gender



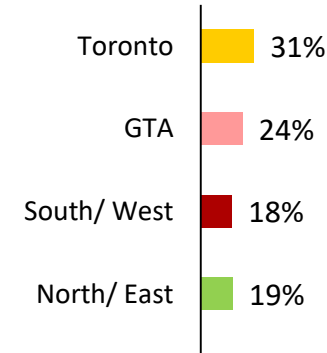
Party ID



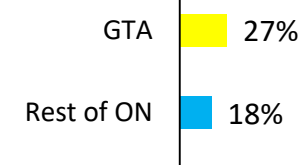
Mood



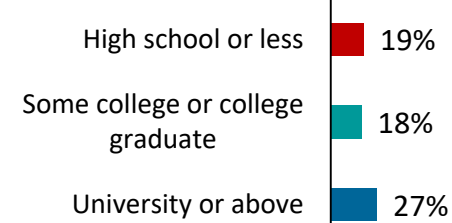
Region



GTA vs. Rest of ON



Education

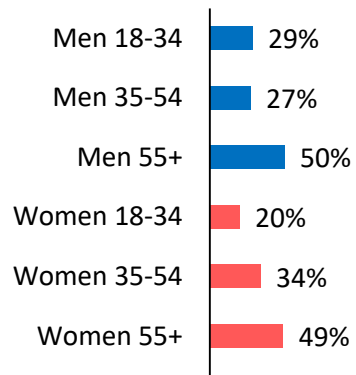


Horwath favourability highest among NDP voters, those aged 55+, and middle-income Ontarians

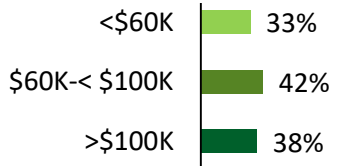


Now, I would like to read you the names of several individuals who have been mentioned in the news recently. For each one, please tell me whether you have heard of that person and, if so, whether you have a very favourable, somewhat favourable, somewhat unfavourable or very unfavourable impression of that person. If you do not recognize the name, just say so. How about...**Andrea Horwath - favourable**

Age/gender



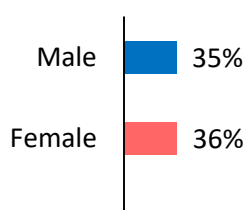
Income



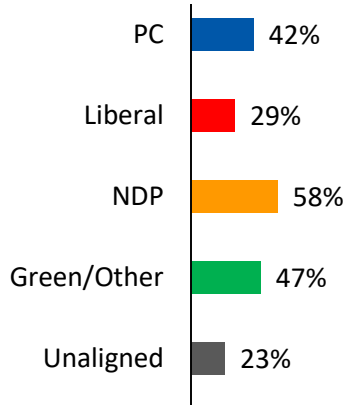
Gender/employment status



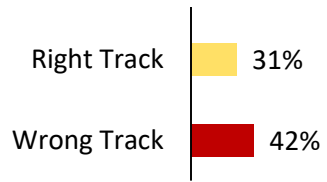
Gender



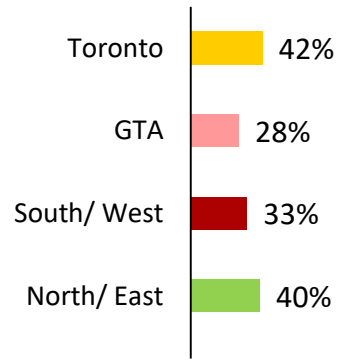
Party ID



Mood



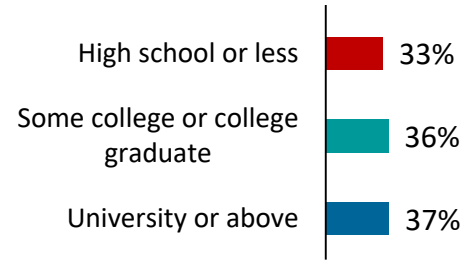
Region



GTA vs. Rest of ON

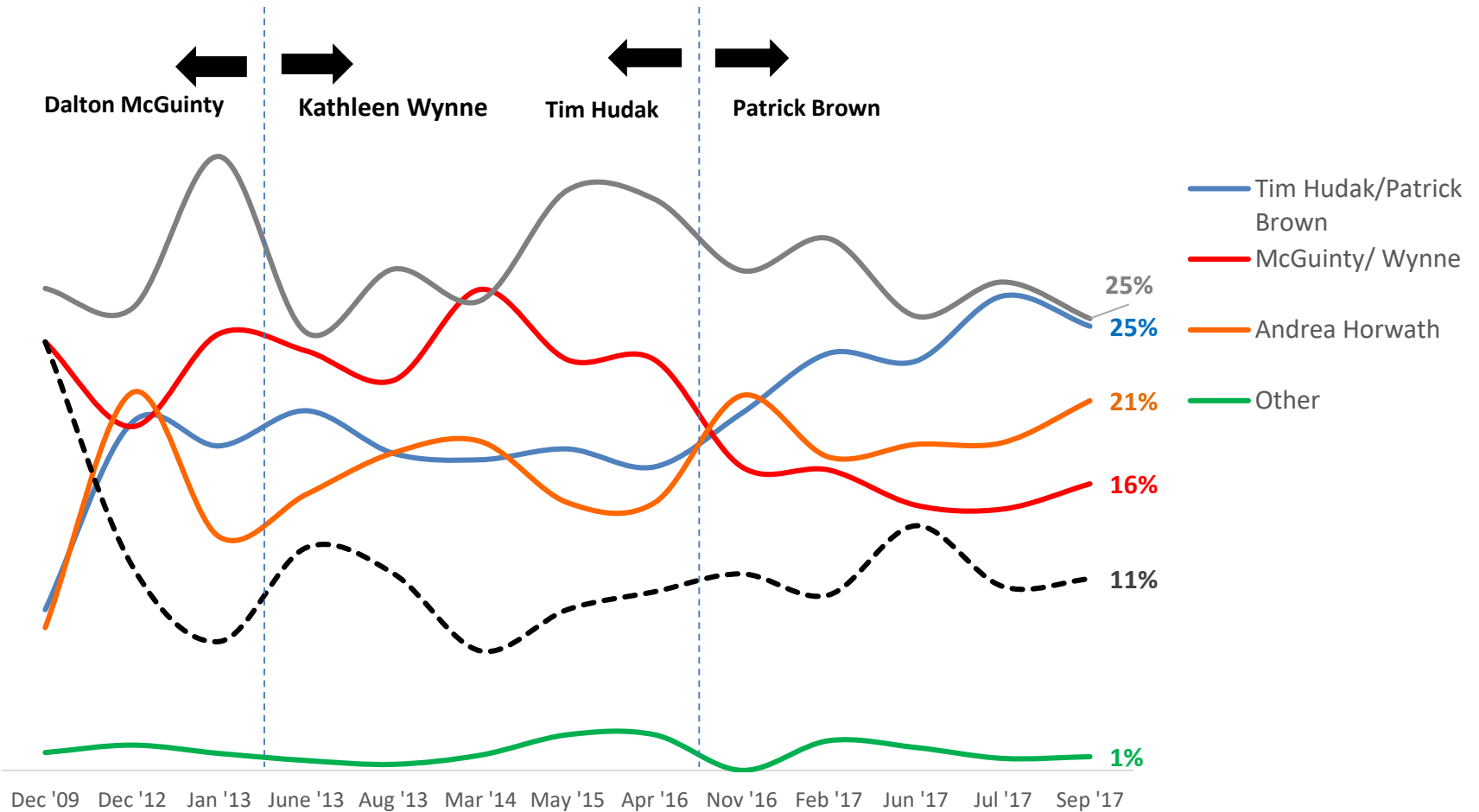


Education



Brown leads on Best Premier at 25%, Horwath (21%) in 2nd, up 3 points and Wynne trails in 3rd at 16%

Q Which of the following leaders would make the best Premier of Ontario?
[asked of all respondents, n=600]



Best Premier by Provincial ID (Column %): Only 18% of TfC Liberals, 36% of Liberal ID'ers think Wynne best for Premier

Best Premier	Provincial Party ID						
		PC	Liberal	NDP	Green/Other	Unaligned	Total
	Patrick Brown	54%	15%	12%	12%	15%	25%
	Kathleen Wynne	4%	36%	10%	12%	7%	16%
	Andrea Horwath	17%	13%	54%	34%	16%	21%
	None of the above	11%	9%	6%	9%	16%	11%
	Undecided/ Don't Know	13%	25%	17%	24%	43%	25%

Best Premier	Time for a change Segmentation				
		Core/Soft Liberals	Time for change Liberals	Uncertain/ Soft Anti-Liberals	Hostile
	Patrick Brown	9%	10%	23%	45%
	Kathleen Wynne	42%	18%	12%	0%
	Andrea Horwath	13%	25%	19%	25%
	None of the above	8%	9%	11%	14%
	Undecided/ Don't Know	28%	36%	32%	12%

Best Premier by Wynne Favourability (Column %): A plurality of those who feel “very unfavourable” think Brown is best

Best Premier	Kathleen Wynne, Favourability							
		Very favourable	Somewhat favourable	Neutral	Somewhat unfavourable	Very unfavourable	Do not recognize	Total
	Patrick Brown	12%	5%	10%	21%	39%	6%	25%
	Kathleen Wynne	70%	55%	10%	9%	0%	3%	16%
	Andrea Horwath	5%	19%	15%	23%	26%	6%	21%
	None of the above	3%	5%	15%	11%	12%	22%	11%
	Undecided/DK	9%	15%	49%	36%	19%	62%	25%

Note: ‘Refused’ not shown



Building Understanding.

Personalized research to connect you and your audiences.

For more information, please contact:

Greg Lyle

President

(t) 416-642-6429

(e) glyle@innovativeresearch.ca

Jason Lockhart

Vice President

(t) 416-642-7177

(e) jlockhart@innovativeresearch.ca

Susan Oakes

Vice President

(t) 416-642-6341

(e) soakes@innovativeresearch.ca