



It's red in Mississauga – so far

Torstar Network | Sep 25, 2011 - 11:33 AM

Premier Dalton McGuinty's Liberals are leading in five of six Mississauga ridings with just over a week to go until the provincial election.

That's according to the results of an extensive poll published on the weekend by The Toronto Star. Forum Research surveyed more than 40,000 Ontario voters last week and found we're headed for a minority government because the Liberals and Conservatives are in a dead heat right across the province.

The survey — one of the largest polling samples in Canadian political history — has the Liberals and Tories each holding down 35 per cent of support.

Of those who took part in the survey, 14,064 said they'll vote Liberal, while 13,957 selected the Conservatives.

Meanwhile, the New Democrats were at 23 per cent and the Green Party at five per cent.

Because of the large number of voters surveyed, Forum was also able to provide the riding-by-riding results.

If those numbers hold true on Oct. 6, the Liberals and Tories will both win 47 seats, with the NDP taking 13 seats in the Ontario Legislature. That translates to the first minority government since 1985, since a party needs 54 seats to hold a majority.

If that's the case, the NDP would be in a position to sign an accord to determine who becomes the provincial leader.

Locally, Bramalea-Gore-Malton is the lone riding where the Grits are not currently in a position to retain control. There, incumbent Dr. Kuldip Kular (35.3 per cent) trails Tory candidate Sanjeev Maingi (36.3 per cent) by one per cent. NDP's Jagmeet Singh has the support of 23.7 per cent of committed voters, the survey found.

It looks as though the Liberals might have similar trouble in Mississauga South. There, Labour Minister Charles Sousa is barely hanging on, leading Tory candidate Geoff Janoscik by just half a per cent. Sousa has 40.7 per cent of the vote in the riding, according to the poll.

In Mississauga-Erindale, Liberal incumbent Harinder Takhar leads Tory candidate David Brown by just two per cent.

Mississauga East-Cooksville is shaping up as another close call. Right now, Liberal Dipika Damerla tops Tory Zoran Churchin, who has 35.2 per cent, by 4.1 per cent.

The Liberals lead by 8.9 per cent in Mississauga-Brampton South where incumbent Amrit Mangat is seeking a second term. The PCs trail with candidate Amarjeet Gill.

It's a similar story in Mississauga-Streetsville, where Liberal incumbent Bob Delaney leads by 8.2 per cent with 42.8 per cent of the poll support. PC candidate Wafik Sunbaty trails with 34.6 per cent.

Visit <http://www.thestar.com/staticcontent/1058980> to view the map.

Story up dated Sept. 26, 2011, 12:08 p.m.