5 Getting Involved

Welcome to the fifth explainer in the What to Expect When You’re Electing series. This week: How to join a campaign, volunteer, and make a difference on the issues you care about.

For more explainers, go to samaracanada.com/what-to-expect

LEARN ABOUT:
- What volunteers do during a political campaign
- Non-partisan ways to become involved
- Elections Canada as an independent agency

Reach out to this party or candidate, and we guarantee you’ll be given something to do. Volunteers are essential to political parties, especially during elections. As a volunteer, you may be able to:

- Distribute flyers
- Put up election signs
- Knock on doors in your community
- Volunteer at events
- Drive constituents to the polls
- Scrutinize the actual counting of the ballots

You can also donate to an official party or candidate. Just remember that there are limits to how much you can donate, and that contributions over $200 are posted on the Elections Canada website.

It’s likely that an advocacy organization or community group is already organizing around the issues you’re concerned with, so seek them out! Some will be looking for volunteers or financial support, while others simply need help gathering signatures for petitions or spreading the word.

Yes! There are plenty of other ways you can get involved during the election. You can:

- Organize an all-candidates meeting in your constituency
- Drive people to the polls (ask your neighbours or residents of a local retirement home if they need a ride for advance voting or on election day)
- Make an election sign—not for a candidate or party, but to encourage the act of voting itself
- Gather a group of friends, neighbours, and family and vote together (as long as you’ve been assigned the same polling station)
- Start conversations that will make people think about their role as citizens (and keep in mind last week’s explainer)

There’s a political party or candidate that I really like. How can I help them win?

If you’re under the voting age or not yet a citizen you can still volunteer with parties. Some parties will even allow you to become a member. In fact, youth and non-citizens can do everything mentioned in the answers above!

The act of casting a ballot is an important right for citizens—for some, it’s the only way they participate in the political process. But it’s only one of a number of ways to get involved! Participating regularly in civic life (like taking part in government consultations, signing petitions, or contacting your elected representatives) can be just as meaningful as casting a ballot, if not more!