

# Citizen Control of the Citizen's Business

TORONTO'S CITIZENS CAN CONTROL TORONTO'S AFFAIRS ONLY THROUGH FREQUENT, PROMPT, ACCURATE AND PERTINENT INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO TORONTO'S BUSINESS.

ISSUED BY THE



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## On January 1st, 1925

Ratepayers and Electors of Toronto will vote on "water works extension" and "applying for special legislation in respect of the Consumers' Gas Company."

But these are not the only questions which must be answered.

The following decisions must also be made:

1. Who are to decide on next year's current expenditure out of taxes, amounting to, say, \$24,000,000?
2. Who are to control this expenditure?
3. Who are to deal with the matters of (a) co-operative purchasing by Civic Departments and "Outside Boards"; (b) an administrative study of the civic service, and (c) a civic pension scheme, all of which have been before recent Councils and should undoubtedly come before next year's Council for action?
4. Who are to present the City's position in case a Bill is presented to the Legislature to tax Toronto for municipal services outside of the City's limits?
5. Who are to have an opportunity to formulate plans for the simplification of the City's unwieldy legislative and administrative organization?

The members of next year's City Council will deal with these questions, which are sufficiently important to warrant any voter in investing some time in the selection and election of Aldermen, Controllers and a Mayor.

In 1905, 34.8 per cent. of the possible vote was cast for Aldermen, and, after making an estimated allowance for duplications, it is estimated that 60.8 of the possible vote was cast for Controllers, and 73.4 for Mayor.

In 1922, the percentage for Aldermen was 20 and for Controllers 29.3 per cent. The Mayoralty was decided by acclamation. The percentage for Mayor fell as low as 41.8 in 1916, but steadily increased until 1925. With some exceptions the same tendency is noticeable in regard to elections of Aldermen and Controllers. In 1923 there was a sudden jump in percentages, the percentages for all places in Council being the highest since 1909. A live public issue in 1923 brought about this result. In 1924, the percentage for Aldermen dropped from 35.4 to 22.5; for Controllers from 49.1 to 34.3; and for Mayor from 64.6 to 47.9. The total vote for Mayor in 1924 exceeded that of 1923 by only about 2,000 votes, although women's votes were added in large numbers to the lists for that year's elections. This year there are said to be over 125,000 names of women on the lists. Allowing for duplications, there are probably 80,000 women voters. In 1924 the votes cast by both sexes for Mayor numbered only 82,551.

Ward	Population	Names on List 1924	Possible votes for Aldermen (Est.)	Votes cast for Aldermen, 1924	Per cent. of possible	Names on List 1925	Possible votes for Aldermen (Est.)	Votes cast for Aldermen	Per cent. of possible
1	68,122	31,052	93,156	24,846	26.7	32,843	98,529		
2	71,084	31,431	94,293	20,059	21.3	33,601	100,803		
3	50,491	38,338	116,114	20,018	17.5	40,275	120,825		
4	64,683	27,118	81,354	15,264	18.8	27,899	83,697		
5	80,334	34,245	102,735	22,787	22.2	35,507	106,521		
6	107,329	49,576	148,728	36,862	24.8	51,321	153,963		
7	39,537	18,132	54,396	13,525	24.9	19,785	59,355		
8	60,607	28,481	85,443	21,407	25.1	31,862	95,586		
Total	542,187	258,373	775,119	174,768	22.5	273,093	819,279		

In order to determine the efficiency of voting for Mayor and Controller, it will be necessary to allow for duplications. Perhaps an estimate of 182,000 for individual voters entitled to vote for Mayor and Board of Control would be as good a guess as any.

Is anything needed to show the fundamental unsoundness of the ward system further than examination of this table, which shows that one ward, which has almost one-fifth of the total population, elects only one-eighth of the Aldermen, and one ward, which has less than one-thirteenth of the population, elects one-eighth of the Aldermen. Any division that starts right will in a growing city soon become obsolete. If it is changed as often as it should be, confusion results; and, if not, injustice results. If anything further is needed, examine on the map the outlines of wards 2 and 3. After that, attendance at the proceedings of the City Council and Board of Education for a few months will help still further in forming an opinion. Recently the people of London, Ontario, voted in favour of a Council of eight, elected at large for overlapping terms.

The year 1925 will be an important year in the history of Toronto. None more so. The ratio of actual voters to the total number of voters should be greater than in 1923.

Please retain this paper and fill out the blanks in the table on the third page.