

# BUREAU OF MUNICIPAL RESEARCH

TORONTO'S CITIZENS CAN CONTROL TORONTO'S AFFAIRS ONLY  
THROUGH FREQUENT, PROMPT, ACCURATE AND PERTINENT INFOR-  
MATION WITH REGARD TO TORONTO'S BUSINESS

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TORONTO,  
CANADA

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## Are You as a Householder “All Set” for the Civic Elections January 1st, 1945?

If not it will soon be too late to exercise  
fully your municipal franchise.

## TWO STEPS IN CITIZEN CONTROL THROUGH THE MUNICIPAL FRANCHISE

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Every elector has the right to participate in the

1. Selection of Candidates.
2. Choice between Candidates

Most people confine their civic activities—if they have any at all—to the second step.

Nomination day is on December 21st, but if one waits till then to assure oneself that there will be among the candidates for the City Council and School Boards men and women for whom one can vote with satisfaction one may and probably will be disappointed. More important than choosing between candidates nominated by others is to take one's part in choosing candidates who meet one's approval. In practice those who really govern the city are those who choose, not merely choose between, candidates.

Under our system, the plan of current expenditures of the City for 1945, the estimates, will be decided after eight or ten weeks of 1945 are over. This will be the most important document of the year, but most voters will have nothing to say about it except indirectly through choosing those who will determine its character.

For obvious reasons, the choice of representatives is the only way the voter can control expenditure in the provincial and national fields. Not so in the municipal field. If the budget for the ensuing year, in draft form, is not made available for public

discussion during civic elections, at the first of the year, and if, as a result, discussion of civic public questions deals with generalities only, it is because the voters are content with the present conditions or do not want a change sufficiently to do anything about it.

**Why not ask Candidates if they believe in the Preparation of the Draft Budget before the end of the year, so that it can be made the subject of Public Discussion and Questioning of Candidates during the Civic Campaign?**

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### OTHER QUESTIONS

1. Should the City establish in 1945 a reserve for deferred maintenance or should it continue to load on future years the costs that under normal conditions would be borne by the 1945 budget?
2. Should all commercial and industrial undertakings, irrespective of ownership, pay their full shares of local taxes?
3. Should scales of salaries and wages be raised or lowered except at budget making time?
4. Why should people living in wards with populations of 118,000 or 93,000 have only the same representation in City Council as wards of 47,000 or 48,000 population?
5. Does the city need two city planning organizations?



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