

# Ontario School Board Trustees & Government Funding

*Survey & Analysis Conducted for  
CUPE Ontario*

September 15, 2025



# Methodology

The survey was conducted with 2,000 Ontario residents from September 11 to 13, 2025. A random sample of panelists were invited to complete the survey from a set of partner panels based on the Lucid exchange platform. These partners are typically double opt-in survey panels, blended to manage out potential skews in the data from a single source.

The margin of error for a comparable probability-based random sample of the same size is +/- 2.19%, 19 times out of 20.

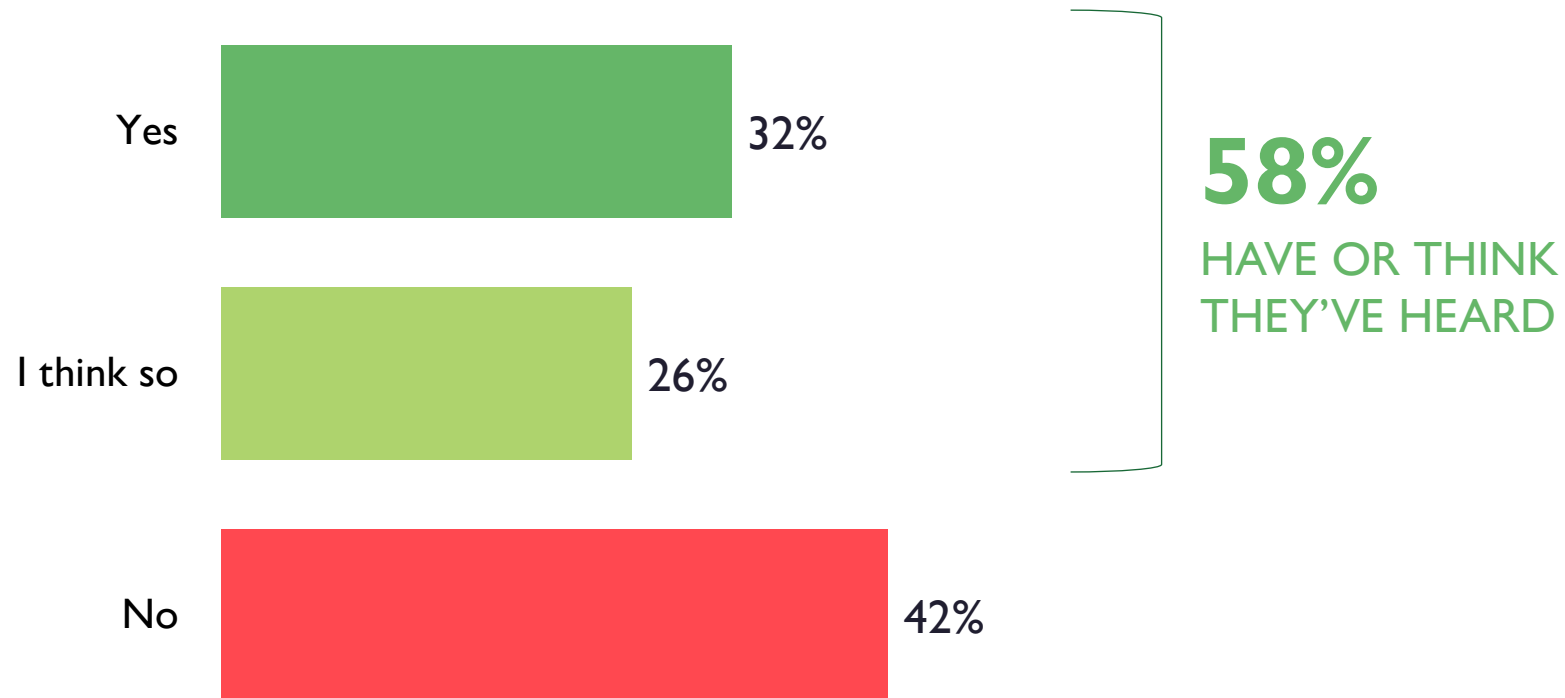
The data were weighted according to census data to ensure that the sample matched Canada's population according to age, gender, and region. Totals may not add up to 100 due to rounding





Before today, had you heard anything about proposals from the Ontario government to change or eliminate elected school trustees or to restructure local school boards?

## 6 in 10 Ontarians Have Heard About Proposal to Eliminate/Restructure School Boards & Trustees



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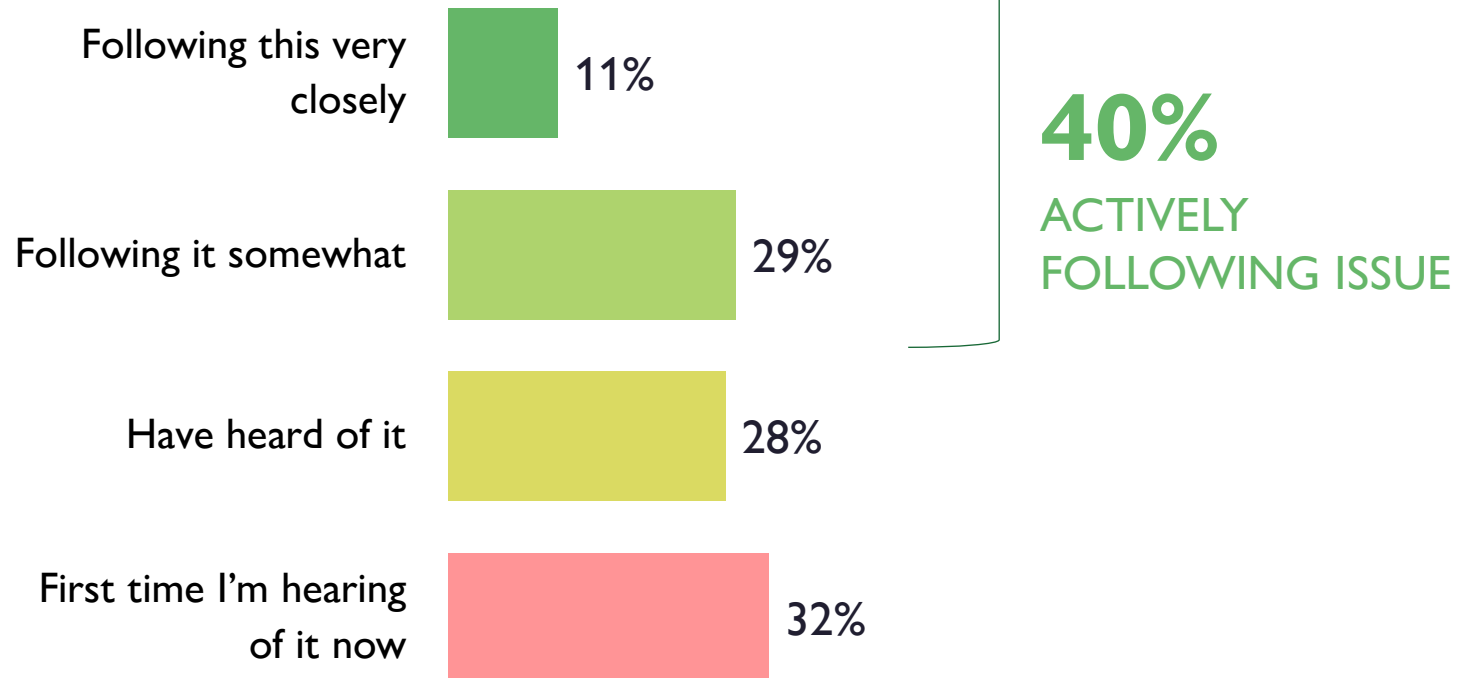


...How closely have you been following this issue?\*

## 4 in 10 Ontarians are Following the Issue

**\*Preamble text:** *In Ontario, public schools are organized into school boards. Each board is responsible for managing schools in its area, including decisions about budgets, staffing, and programs. School boards are overseen by elected trustees, who are chosen by local voters during municipal elections. Trustees are meant to represent the views of parents and community members, set policies, and hold the board managers (e.g. directors of education, superintendents) accountable for how schools are run. The Ontario government, through the Ministry of Education, sets province-wide funding levels and standards, while school boards and trustees make decisions about how that funding is used locally.*

*Some Ford government figures (led by Education Minister Paul Calandra) have discussed changes that could include eliminating elected school board trustees, and potentially restructuring or eliminating school boards...*



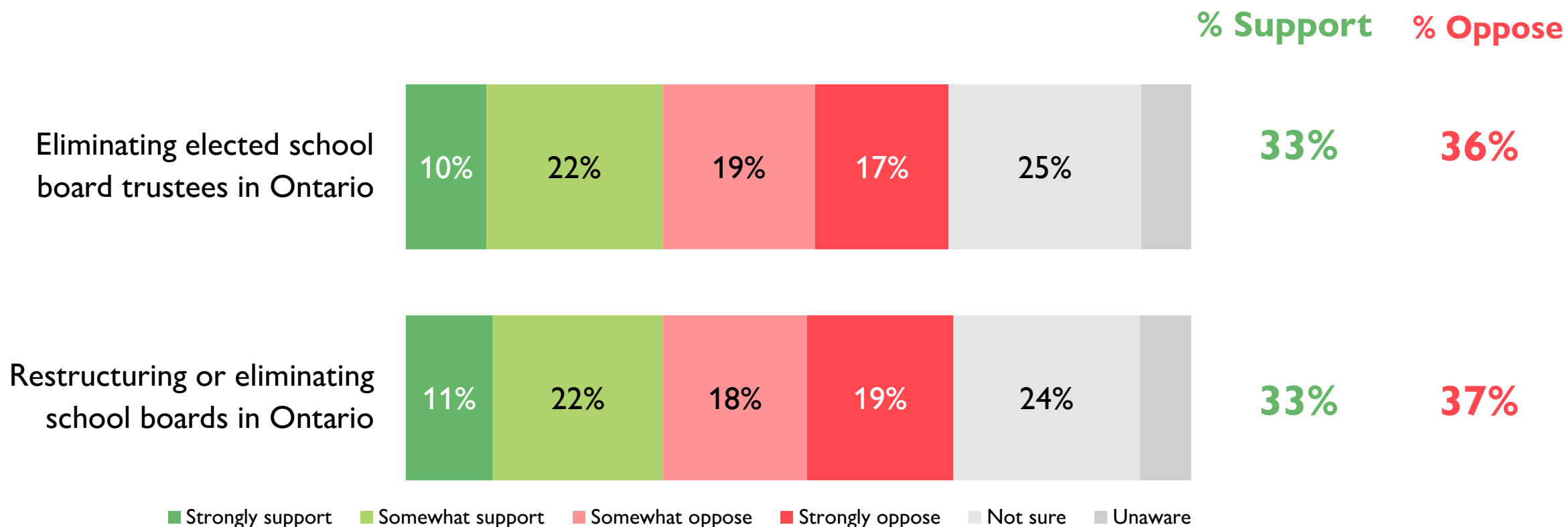
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Based on what you know right now, do you support or oppose...

## Only 1 in 3 Support Changes – Most Oppose or Unsure



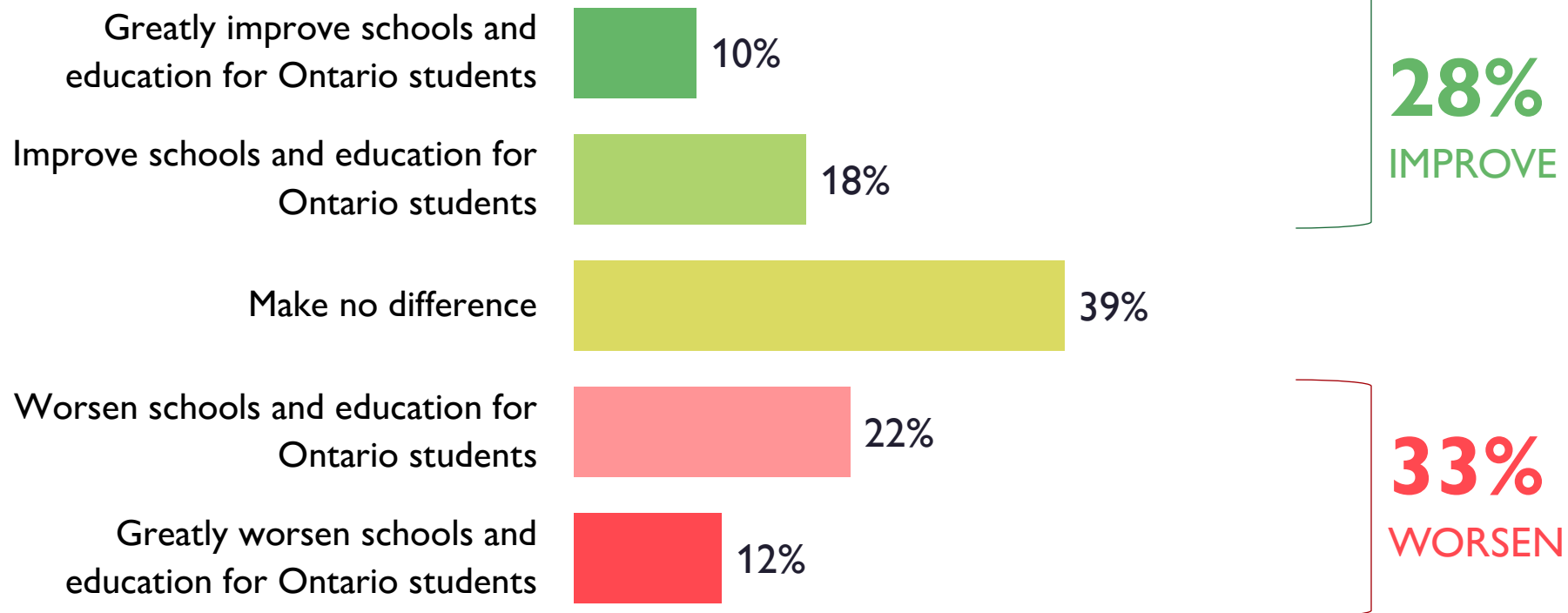
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Both approaches would result in more direct provincial government control of schools across the province by removing voters' ability to influence board decisions through the election of local trustees. Based on what you know, do you believe making these sort of governance changes would:

## 7 in 10 Assume Changes Will Results in Worse or No New Outcomes



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Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

## Most Ontarians Assume the Problem is Underfunding, Not Board Structures; Removing Trustees Won't Help Resourcing or Infrastructure

The main problem for Ontario schools is underfunding, not school board trustees.



School trustees provide local accountability and give parents and communities a voice in education.



Eliminating trustees will not add resources, such as more educational assistants or early childhood educators (ECEs) in classrooms, nor will it reduce class sizes or fix crumbling school infrastructure.



■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Not sure

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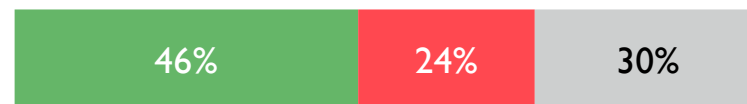
Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

## Far More Assume Ford Government Has Underfunded Schools by Billions & Is Manufacturing A Controversy

The Ford government has underfunded schools by billions of dollars since they first took power seven years ago in 2018.



The Ford government is manufacturing a controversy about school boards now to distract from their own poor record.



The Ford government's goal is to grab power and control to make it easier for them to sell off land, that's owned by school boards, to their rich developer buddies.



■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Not sure

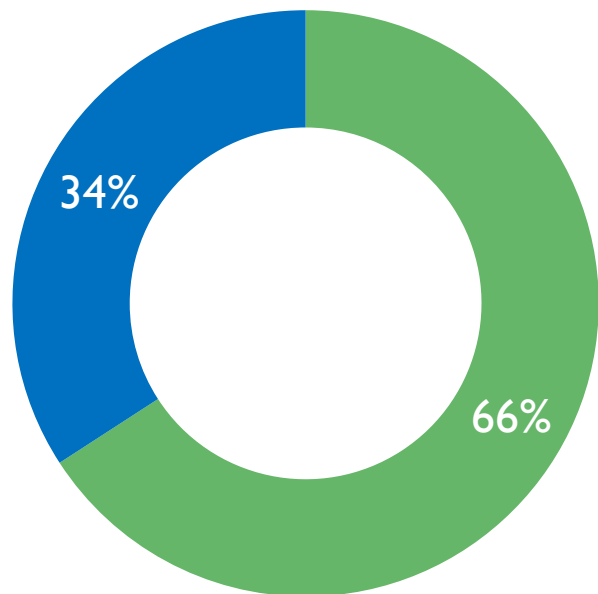
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Which of the following is closer to your own view?



■ Just a few months ago, Premier Doug Ford campaigned on “protecting Ontario” from Donald Trump, not centralizing power in his own hands like the American president. Education Minister Paul Calandra should resign or be fired by the premier for his attempts to undermine Ontario democracy through this anti-parent power grab to eliminate local school trustees.

■ The Ford government is following through on a plan they clearly put to the people of Ontario during the election earlier this year. They should eliminate school board trustees and/or dismantle local school boards.

**When Forced Between Two Perspectives on Board Elimination as Good Faith Follow Through vs. Undermining Democracy, The Majority Side w/ Anti-Democratic Intent, With Progressive Conservative Voters Splitting 50/50**

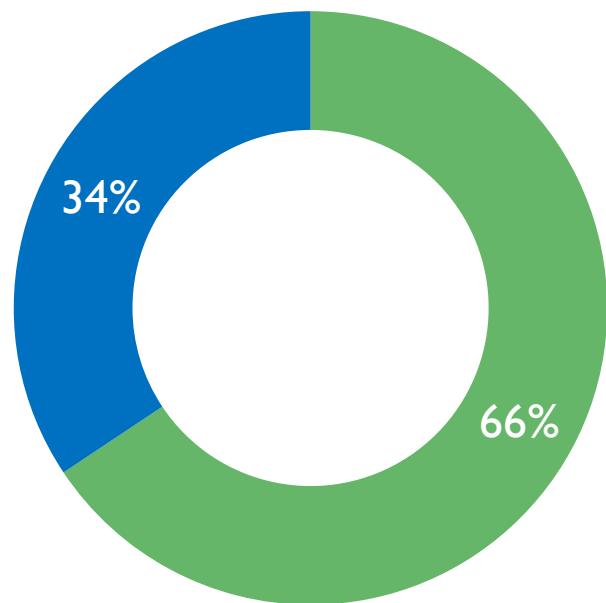
| Column % | OLP | PCP | NDP |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|
| ■        | 78% | 49% | 83% |
| ■        | 22% | 51% | 17% |

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Which of the following is closer to your own view?



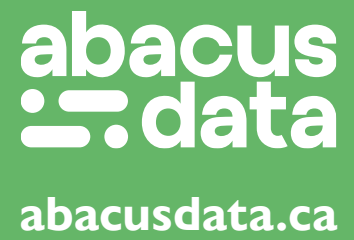
■ I want the Ford government to immediately increase per-student funding by at least \$260 per student this year to start filling the gap in funding they've made worse over the last seven years and stop meddling in my local school boards' affairs.

■ I want the Ford government to keep funding for schools as it is and continue with its plan to eliminate school trustees and/or dismantle local school boards.

**When Forced Between Two Perspectives on Wanting the Ford Government to Immediately Increase Per-Student Funding vs. Keeping Funding As-is & Dismantling Trustees & Board, The Majority Sides w/ Increased Funding, Again Splitting Progressive Conservatives 50/50**

| Column % | OLP | PCP | NDP |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|
|          | 73% | 50% | 87% |
|          | 27% | 50% | 13% |

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# Thank You