

AMCTO PRESENTATION *on*  
**Bill 181, MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS MODERNIZATION ACT**  
THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

May 12, 2016



## ABOUT AMCTO

- 2,200 members located in almost every municipality in Ontario
- Ontario's largest voluntary association of local government professionals
- Dedicated to providing management and leadership services to local government professionals through learning opportunities, member support, and legislative advocacy
- Represents Municipal Clerks in almost every municipality in Ontario

# AMCTO SUBMISSION ON THE *MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS ACT (MEA)*

- 23 recommendations focusing on modernization and better administration
- Close to 3/4 of AMCTO's recommendations reflected in Bill 181
- Pleased to see positive changes to:
  - Election modernization
  - Election administration
  - Accessibility
  - Campaign finance
  - Election calendar
  - Option to ban corporate and union donations

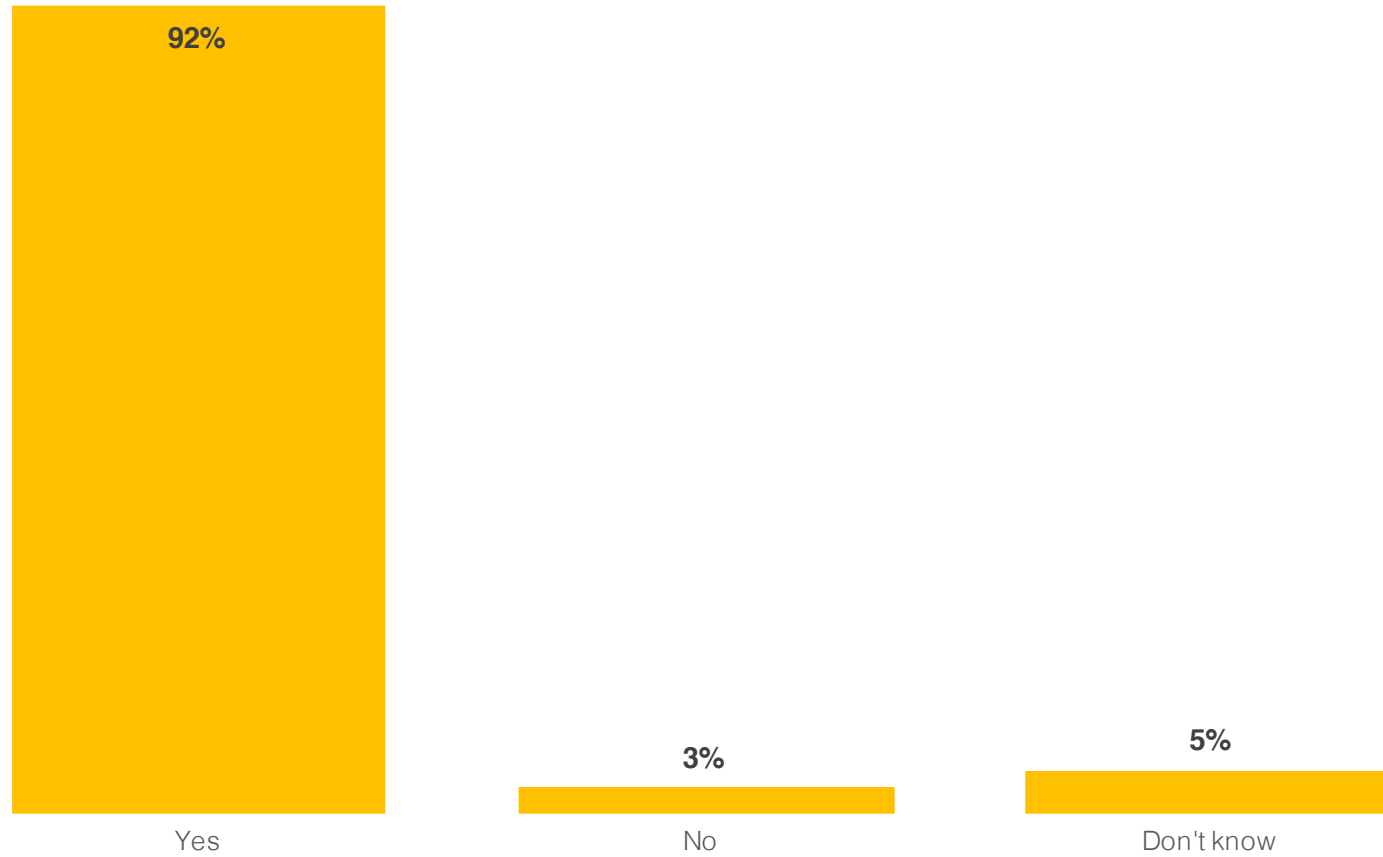
AMCTO SUBMISSION *on the*  
**MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS ACT**  
JULY 2015



 **AMCTO**  
THE MUNICIPAL EXPERTS

# VOTERS' LIST

In your opinion, does Ontario need a new approach for creating the voters' list? (n=279)

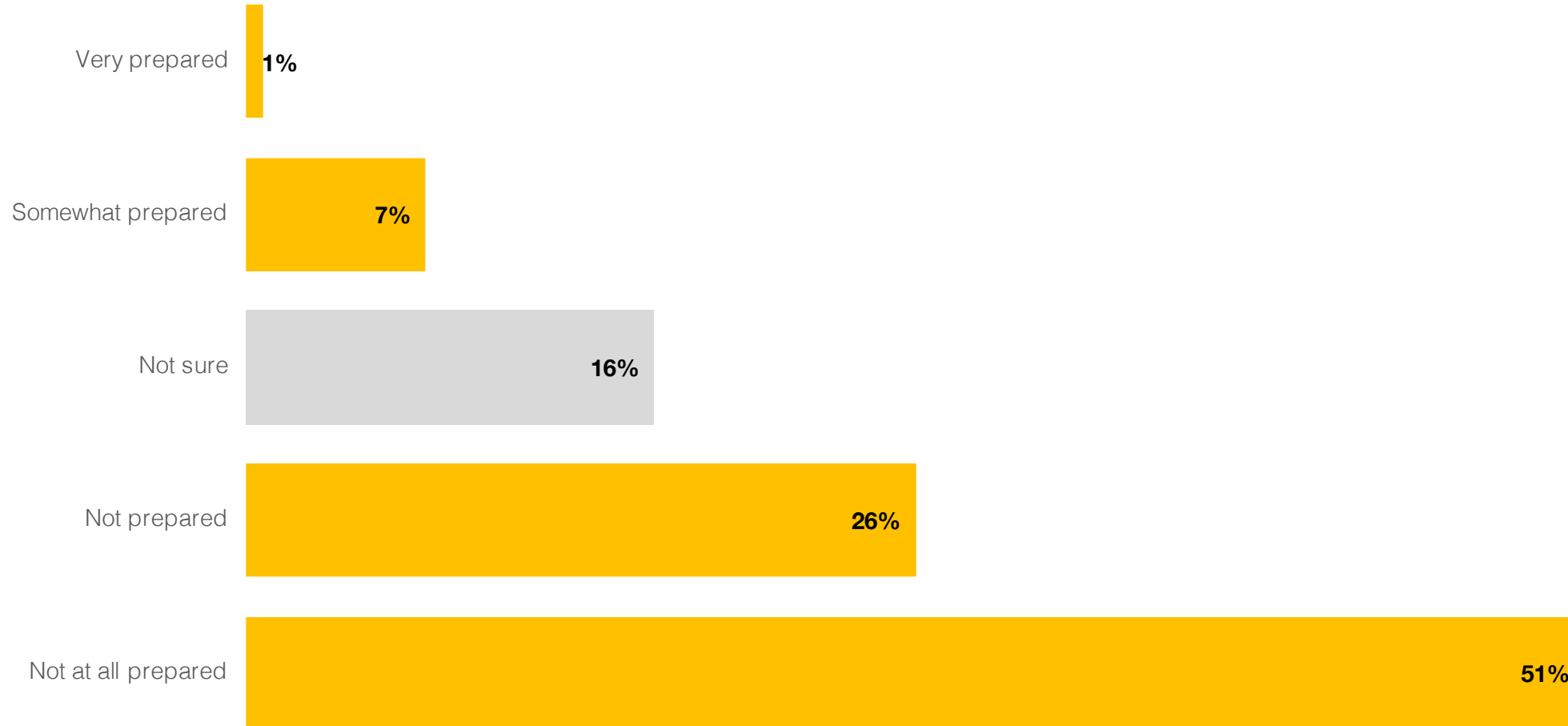


Source: AMCTO Voters' List Survey, May 2015, n = 279

## VOTERS' LIST

- One of the biggest priorities for clerks
- Changes in Bill 181 will lead to small improvements for election in 2018
- AMCTO has been working with the government since the fall of 2015 on long-term transformational change as part of the Voters' List Working Group
- Keys to improvement include better cooperation, collaboration, and data sharing amongst provincial ministries

# **RANKED BALLOTS I** If your council decided in favour of using ranked ballots for the 2018 election, how prepared would you feel?



Source: AMCTO Bill 181 Survey, April 2016, n = 165

# RANKED BALLOTS

Administrative considerations include:

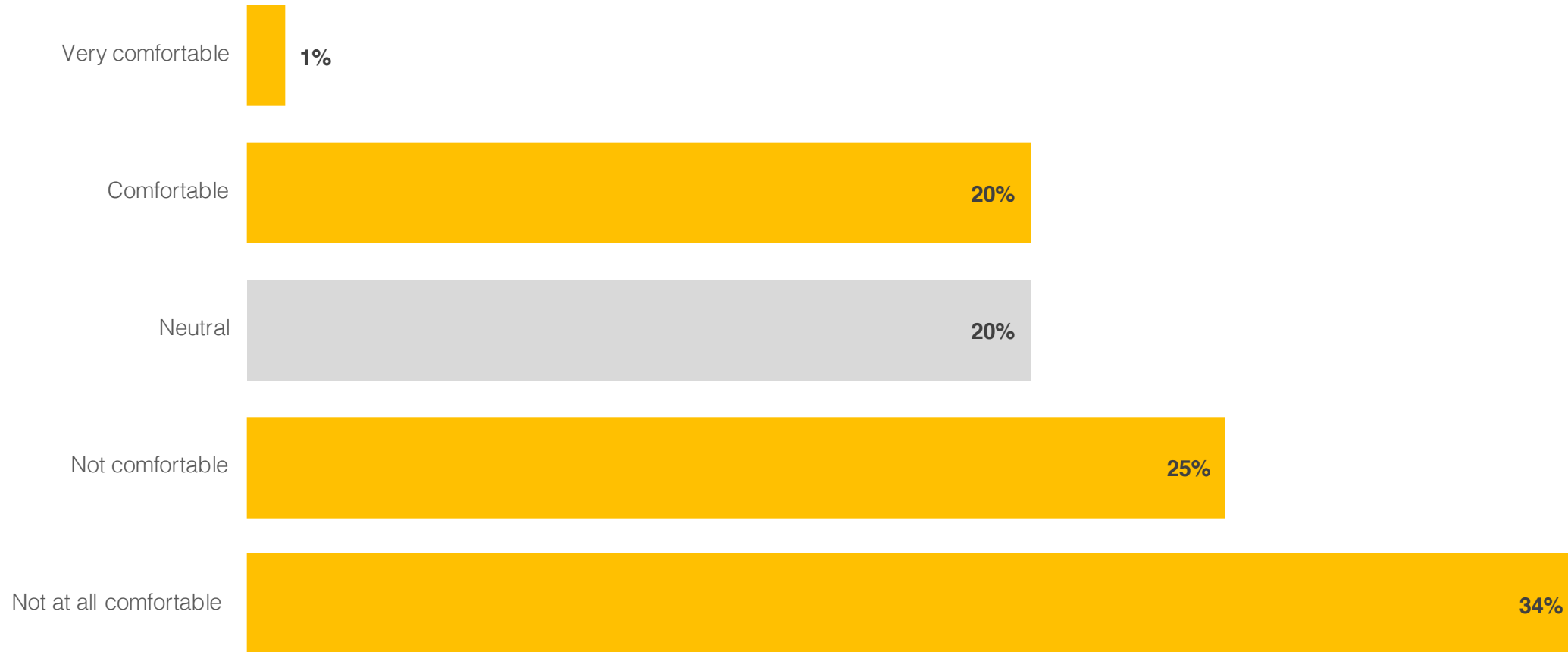
- Public engagement and education
- Resources
- Voting technology
- Deadlines/ timing
- Logic, accuracy and audit testing
- Ballot design

# ENFORCEMENT

- Sec. 88.35 of Bill 181 states that “the clerk shall review the contributions reported on the financial statements submitted by candidates...to determine whether any contributor appears to have exceeded any of the contribution limits...”
- A problematic provision for clerks:
  - Jeopardizes independence and impartiality during an election
  - Places the clerk in a potential conflict with council members
  - There is already a body, the Compliance Audit Committee, which is designed to review candidates’ financial statements
  - Most municipalities don’t have sophisticated electronic filing system for candidates’ financial statements
  - Imposes an additional resource burden on clerks during an already-busy time
- **AMCTO Recommendation:** Amend Sec. 88.35 and Sec.88.37 of Bill 181 to state that the compliance audit committee shall review all contributions reported on financial statements

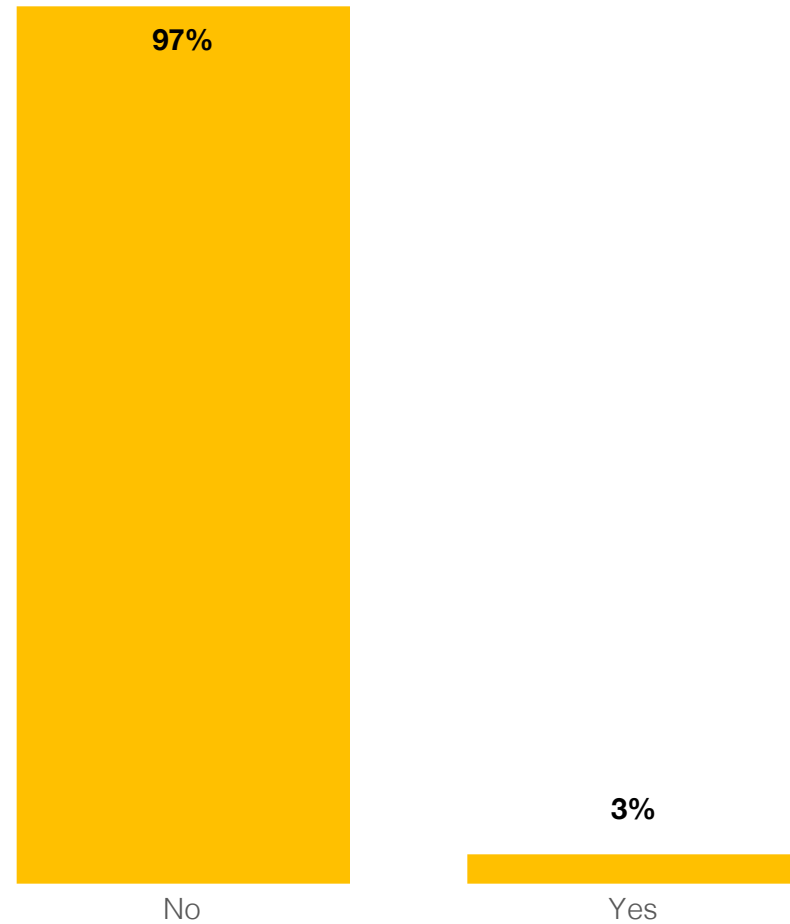


**ENFORCEMENT I** One of the new provisions proposed in Bill 181 would require the clerk to review all campaign contributions reported on financial statements. How comfortable would you feel fulfilling this responsibility? (n=165)



Source: AMCTO Bill 181 Survey, April 2016, n = 165

**ENFORCEMENT I** Does your municipality have an electronic filing system for financial filings? (n = 165)



Source: AMCTO Bill 181 Survey, April 2016, n = 165

## FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PRESENTATION

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