

## Voter Turnout – City of Burlington 2006 Municipal Election

Canadians are more engaged in federal elections than provincial/territorial or municipal elections as indicated by voter turnout rates. However, voter turnout in all government elections has been declining in the past few decades.

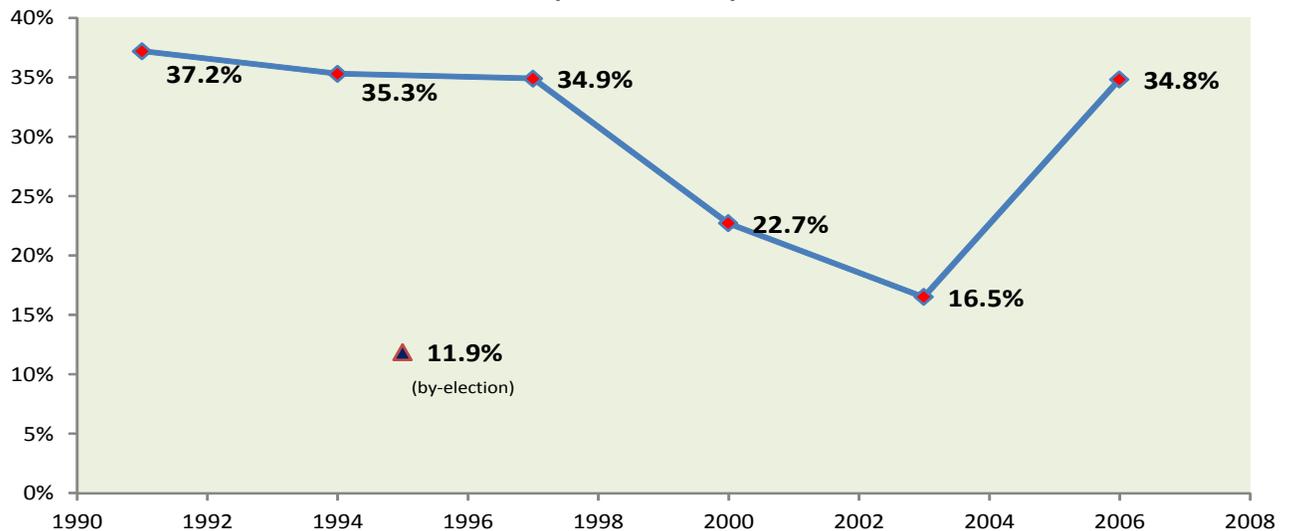
Elections



For the City of Burlington, the voter turnout for the last federal election (2006) was 73% of eligible voters, the last provincial election (2007) was 58.9% and the last municipal election (2006) was 34.8%.

The graph below illustrates that voter turnout showed a sharp drop in the 2000 and 2003 municipal elections. In the 2003 municipal election, less than 17% of the all eligible electors cast a ballot. The voter turnout rate then recovered to 34.8% in the 2006 election. The 1995 by-election in Ward 5 recorded a voter turnout rate of 11.9%.

**Voter Turnout, Municipal Election, City of Burlington (1991-2007)**



Source: City of Burlington

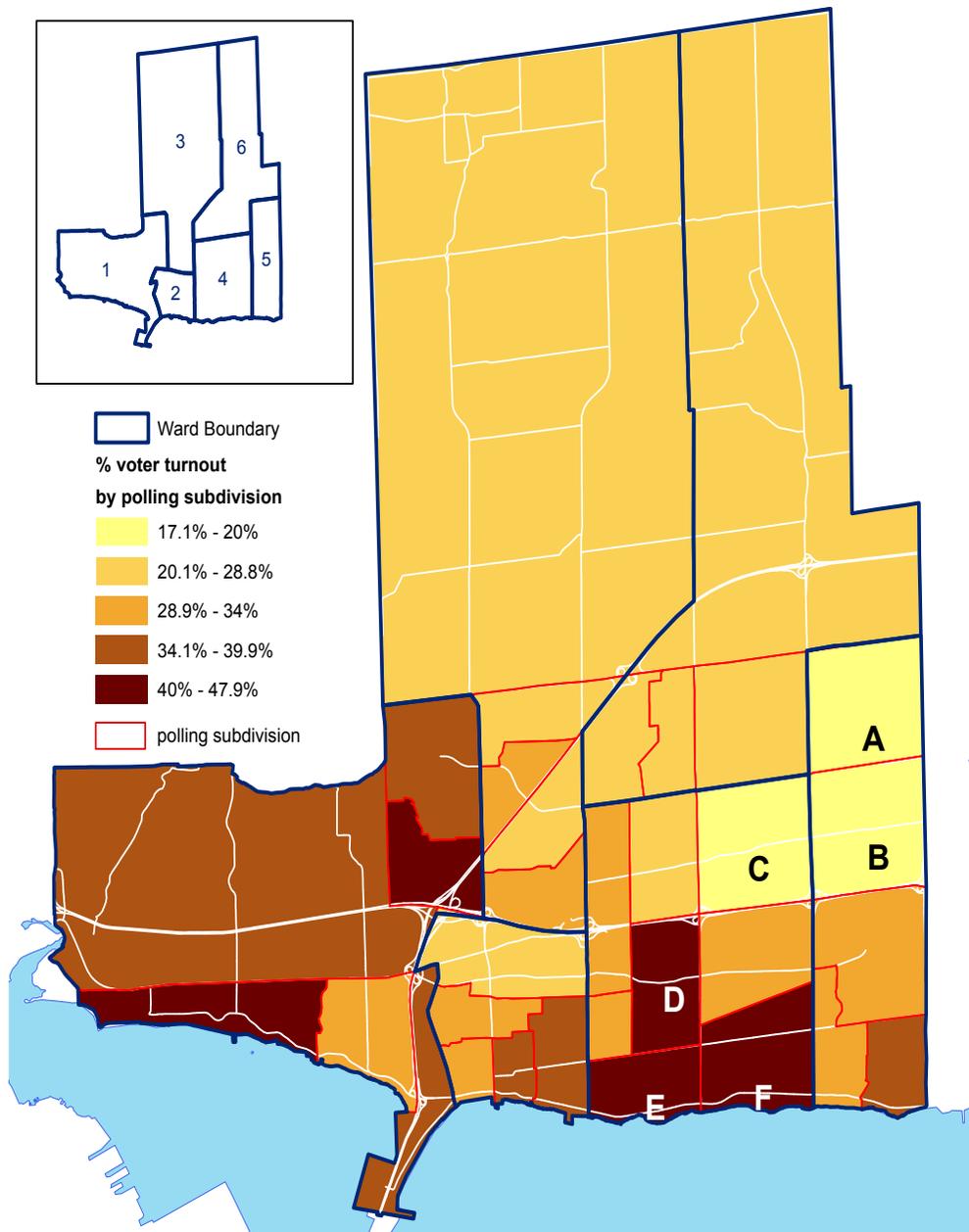
Ward	Voter Turnout
1	39.42%
2	35.35%
3	29.56%
4	36.68%
5	29.51%
6	27.45%
Total	34.84%

In the 2006 municipal election, half of the municipal wards recorded voter turnout rates above and half recorded rates below the city's overall rate of 34.8%. Ward 6 had the lowest voter turnout at 27.5% and Ward 1 had the highest at 39.4%.

The voter turnout rate at the polling subdivision level exhibited a wider range (i.e. from 17% to 48%) than at the ward level. This means that within wards, the voting participation of people is different.

There are three polling subdivisions with turnout rate below 20% - less than 1 in five eligible electors voted. Two of the polling subdivisions are located in Ward 5 (polling subdivision # 501 (A) – 19.9% and polling subdivision # 502 (B) – 17.1%).

## Voter Turnout, 2006 Municipal Election City of Burlington



It is interesting to note that polling subdivision #501 had the second highest number of registered voters among all polling subdivisions. The other subdivision is located in Ward 4 (polling subdivision # 408 (C) – 19.7%).

On the other hand, there are five polling subdivisions with a turnout rate over 40% - 4 in 10 eligible electors cast a ballot. Three of the top five polling subdivisions are located in Ward 4 (polling subdivisions # 405 (D) – 41%, # 406 (E) – 47.8%, and # 407(F) – 40.1%).

Source: Statistics Canada, City of Burlington

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