

Quebec Mandate

What happened in the 2026 Quebec provincial election and where do we go from here?

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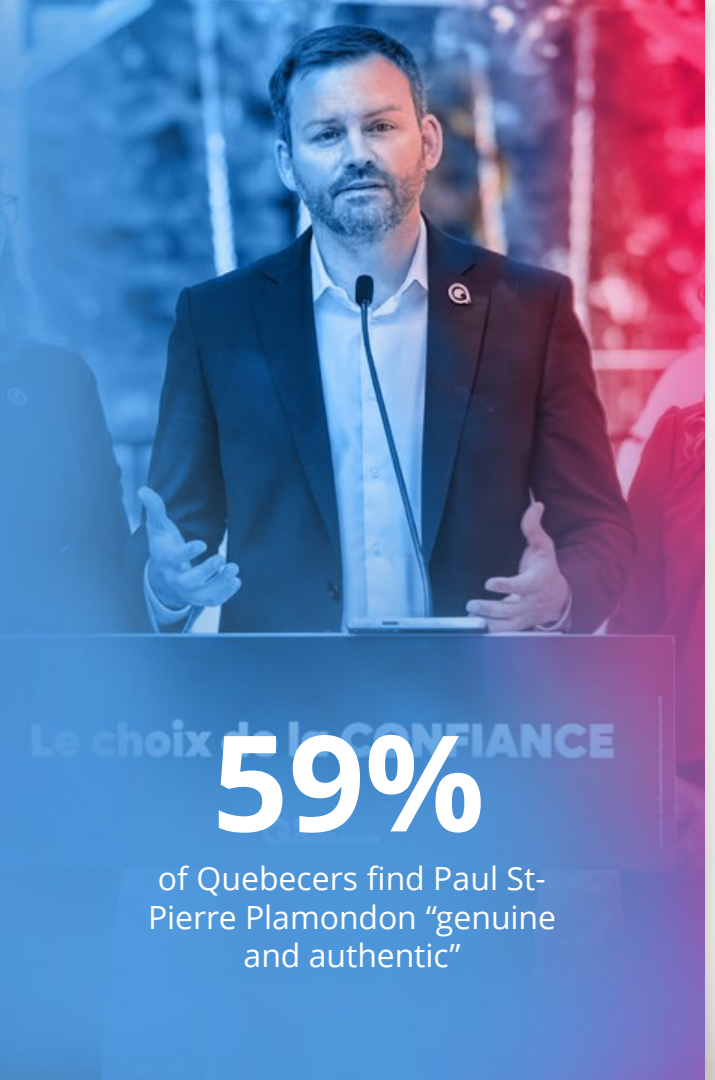
Methodology

Field Window	October 16th to November 4th, 2026
Sampling	Online survey of 769 eligible voters in Quebec. Respondents were recruited from the Canadian Viewpoint research panel
Language	Respondents could complete the survey in English or French.
Weighting	Data has been weighted based on language, gender, education and age, then based on past vote so as to be representative of the 2026 Quebec provincial electorate.
Reliability*	Online surveys cannot be assigned a margin of error. As a guideline, a probability sample of this size carries a margin of error of ± 3.5%, 19 times out of 20. The margin of error is larger for sub-segments.
Comparison	In some instances, results have been compared to past Pollara Mandate surveys fielded shortly after other elections using the same question wording and methodology.

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Key Findings

- **Change drove the vote**: Change was the top vote driver overall and among Parti Québécois voters.
  - 50% of PQ voters supported that party because they wanted change, compared to just 28% who voted for them because of their position on independence.
- **Quebecers feel positive about the election outcome**: 56% feel positive about the result, one of the higher figures Pollara has recorded on election exit surveys in recent years.
  - This goodwill leaves Plamondon enjoying more positive sentiment (net sentiment score: +20) among Quebecers than during the campaign (+10).
  - Plamondon scores well on “genuine and authentic” (59% say it describes him well), “ethical” (56%), and “honest” (54%). Quebecers are less certain he “cares about people like me” (42%) or “shares my values” (41%).
  - Plamondon could find minority partners among the Conservatives as 64% of their voters feel positive about the election outcome and their net sentiment towards Plamondon is +20.



4%

of Quebecers say “preparing for an independence referendum” should be one of Plamondon’s top priorities

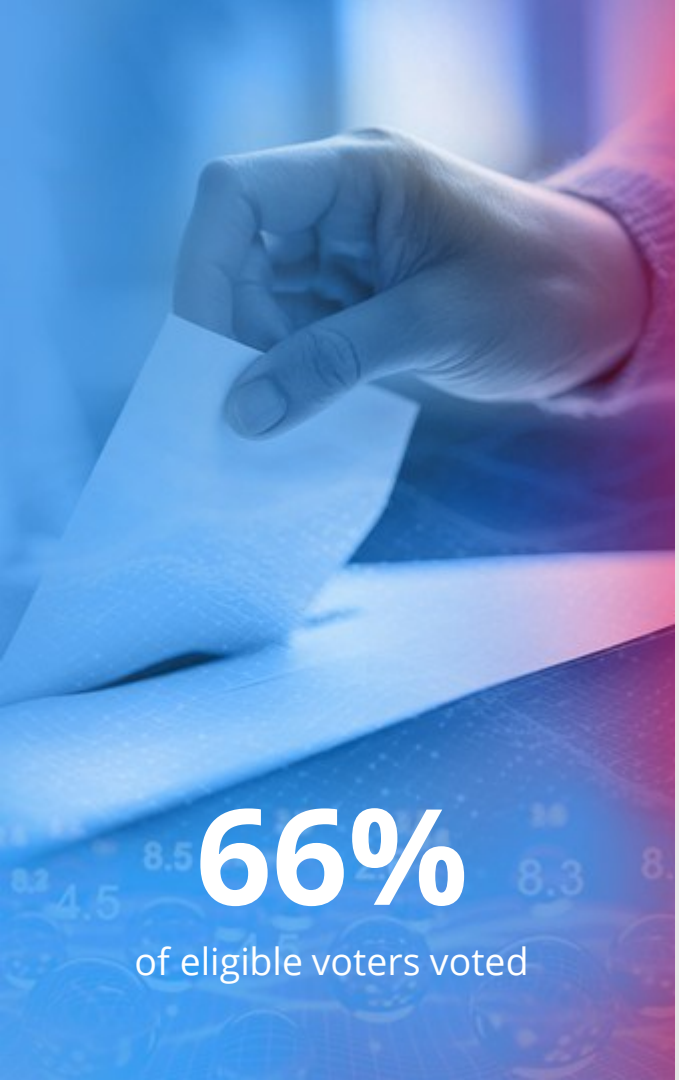
Key Findings

- **Plamondon does not have a mandate to call a referendum:** The cost of living (49%) and health care (42%) rank as the top priorities for the new PQ government, compared to just 4% who say preparing for an independence referendum and 4% who say strengthening Quebec’s powers and autonomy.
  - Even among PQ voters, the story is similar. Reducing the cost of living (42%) and improving health care (34%) are the top priorities, while independence (9%) and autonomy (11%) are far down the list.
  - When asked directly about Plamondon’s promise to call a referendum, only 9% of Quebecers (and 18% of PQ voters) say he should definitely keep that commitment. That said, there is some openness to Plamondon holding a referendum if public support for independence grows (22%) or only considering one closer to the next election (16%).

What Happened?

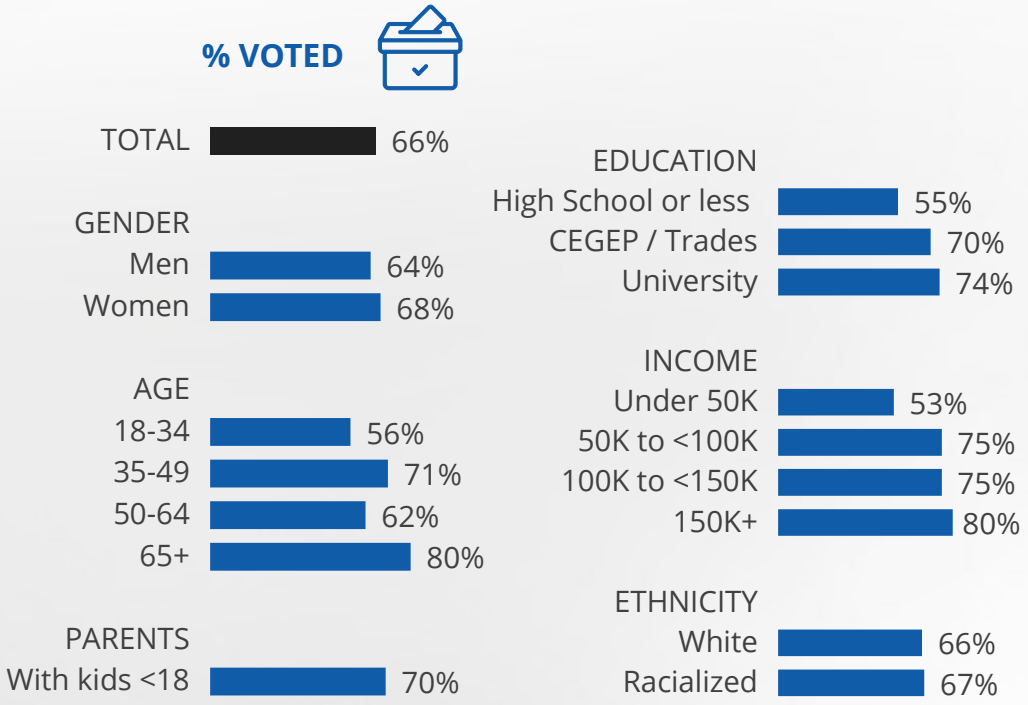
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Turnout Patterns: Older, higher-income and university-educated Quebecers were the most likely to vote



66%

of eligible voters voted



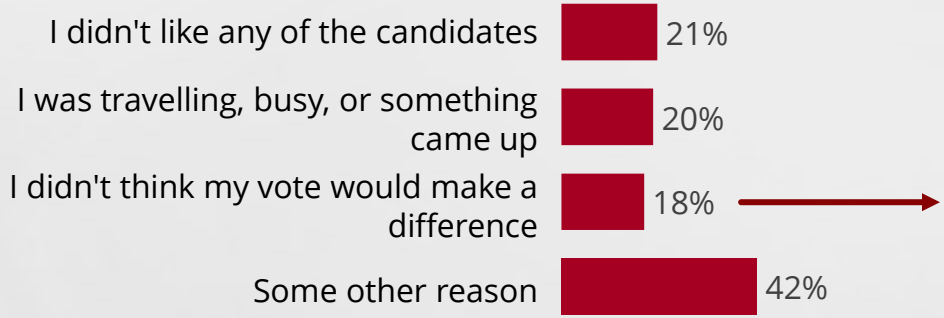
Q Millions of eligible voters in Quebec did not vote in the recent provincial election. Were you able to vote in this election? Base: All Quebec Respondents (n=769)

Non-Voters: Plurality of non-voters would have voted PQ

PARTY WOULD PROBABLY HAVE VOTED FOR				
Among Non-Voters				
Parti Québécois	CONSERVATEUR	Parti Libéral du Québec	Québec solidaire	Coalition Avenir Québec
23%	14%	14%	8%	3%

- Non-voters follow a similar voting pattern as actual voters, with the PQ picking up a plurality, followed by the Conservatives and Liberals. This suggests most parties turned out a similar share of their vote and no one would have inherently benefited from higher turnout.
- Only 3% of non-voters say they would have voted CAQ. This suggests the CAQ's losses weren't just a case of their voters staying home.

Reason For Not Voting



The share of non-voters who say they didn't vote because they felt their vote wouldn't make a difference (18%) is lower than in the 6 other mandate surveys Pollara has fielded over the past two years.

BC 2024	23%	NS 2024	35%
NB 2024	23%	ON 2025	24%
SK 2024	26%	CAN 2025	33%

Millions of eligible voters in Quebec did not vote in the recent provincial election. Were you able to vote in this election? Base: All Quebec respondents (n=769)
If you had voted, who would you have been most likely to vote for? Base: Did not vote (n=91)



52%

of Parti Québécois voters voted in advance

Voting Method: Seniors and CAQ voters led the advance vote

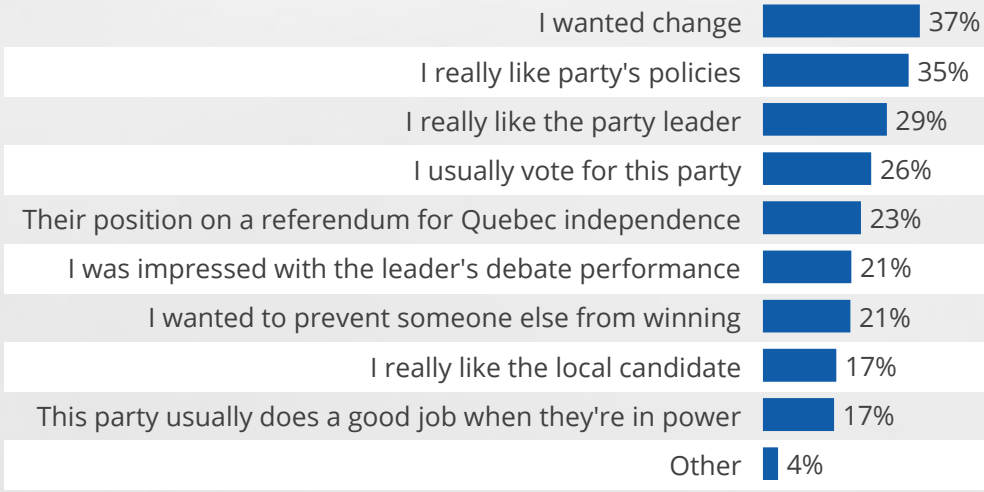
	YES, I VOTED...		I DID NOT VOTE
	In Advance	Election Day	
TOTAL	**32%**	**34%**	**34%**
GENDER			
Men	31%	32%	36%
Women	34%	34%	32%
AGE			
18-34	22%	34%	44%
35-49	33%	38%	29%
50-64	29%	33%	38%
65+	50%	30%	20%
VOTE			
Parti Québécois	52%	48%	
Quebec Liberal Party	44%	56%	
Conservative Party of Quebec	46%	54%	
Coalition Avenir Québec	65%	35%	
Québec solidaire	45%	55%	

Q Millions of eligible voters in Quebec did not vote in the recent provincial election. Were you able to vote in this election? Base: All Quebec Respondents (n=769)

Vote Drivers: PQ and Conservative voters wanted change; Very few PQ voters cited referendum as key to their vote

- Liberal voters were driven by the party's referendum position and by wanting to stop another party from winning (38% each). QS voters were the most likely to be policy-driven.

Main Reasons for Choosing This Party

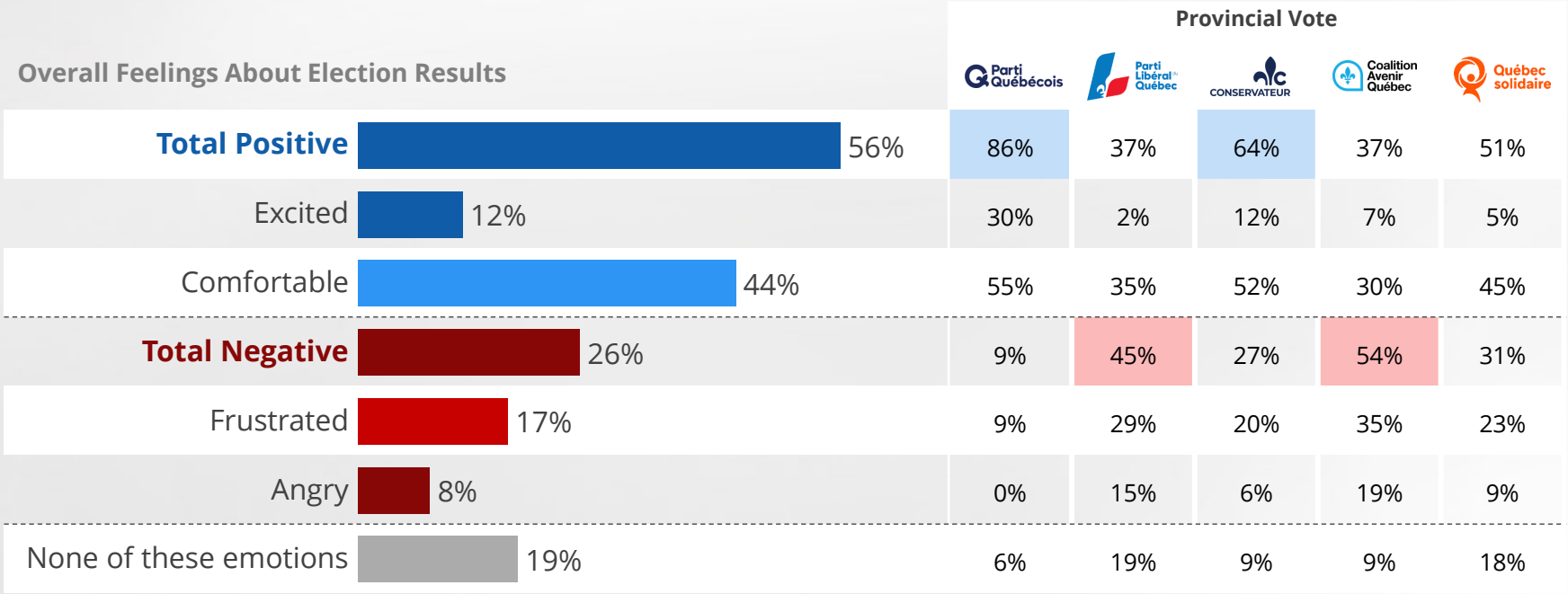


		Provincial Vote				
		Parti Québécois	Parti Libéral Québec	Conservateur	Coalition Avenir Québec	Québec solidaire
I wanted change	37%	50%	23%	61%	3%	34%
I really like party's policies	35%	38%	22%	43%	23%	50%
I really like the party leader	29%	38%	17%	29%	35%	30%
I usually vote for this party	26%	32%	32%	10%	17%	37%
Their position on a referendum for Quebec independence	23%	28%	38%	19%	13%	3%
I was impressed with the leader's debate performance	21%	31%	11%	27%	7%	22%
I wanted to prevent someone else from winning	21%	11%	38%	21%	17%	13%
I really like the local candidate	17%	20%	14%	17%	19%	18%
This party usually does a good job when they're in power	17%	23%	16%	8%	30%	6%
Other	4%	3%	6%	1%	1%	9%

Q What were your main reasons for voting for this party? Select all that apply.
Base: All Quebec voters who chose a listed party (n=633); Not sure: 1%

Feelings About Election Outcome: 56% feel positive about the result, including a majority of Conservative voters

- CAQ (54%) and Liberal (45%) voters were the most likely to feel negative about the election outcome.



How do you feel about the result of the provincial election?
Base: All Quebec respondents (n=769)

Feelings About Election Outcome – Comparison

- The sentiment in Quebec coming out of this election is more positive than most other elections Pollara has conducted exit surveys on over the past two years. Total positive sentiment matches Holt's win in New Brunswick in 2024 – the only other election on this list where the government flipped. New Brunswick 2024 and Quebec 2026 are also the two elections where the winning party's voters show the most excitement.

Overall Feelings About Election Results

	BC 2024	NB 2024	SK 2024	NS 2024	ON 2025	CAN 2025	QC 2026
Positive Sentiment (Overall)	38%	56%	47%	52%	43%	48%	56%
Excitement (Winning Party's Voters)	8%	32%	17%	23%	21%	26%	30%

Q How do you feel about the result of the provincial election?

Where do we go from here?



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Paul St-Pierre Plamondon:
Takes office with net positive sentiment score

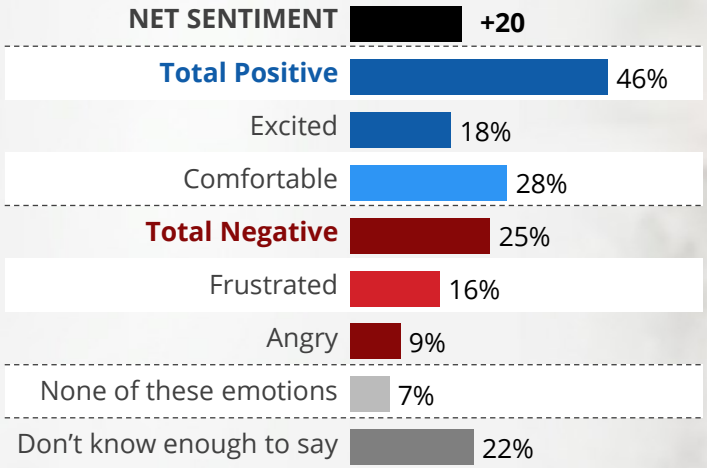
- This marks an improvement from Pollara's polling *during* the election, where Plamondon had a +10 sentiment score. His negative scores are mostly unchanged from the writ period, but the share of Quebecers "excited" about him is up 5 points and the share "comfortable" is up 7 points.

78%

are familiar with

Paul St-Pierre Plamondon

(know a lot or something about him)





How familiar are you with each of the following people? Would you say you know a lot, something, or very little about them? Or have you not heard of them before? Which of the following words best describes how you feel when you hear the following individuals speak? If you don't feel any of these feelings or you aren't familiar with the person, just say so. Base: All Quebec respondents (n=769)

Perceptions of Plamondon: Genuine, authentic, ethical and honest are Plamondon's strongest attributes



Thinking about Quebec Premier Paul St-Pierre Plamondon, how well does each of the following words describe him?
Base: All Quebec respondents (n=769)

Priorities for New Government: Cost of living and health care lead; Referendum and autonomy are lower priorities

49%
Reducing the cost of living

42%
Improving Quebec's health care system

20%
Improving housing affordability

19%
Strengthening Quebec's economy and creating jobs

17%
Reducing immigration levels

10%
Protecting the French language and Quebec culture

9%
Reducing the size of the deficit

4%
Preparing Quebec for a referendum on independence

4%
Strengthening Quebec's powers and autonomy within Canada

What should be the top priorities of the new Parti Québécois government? You can select up to two items on this list.
Base: All Quebec respondents (n=769)
Not shown: Other 4%, Not sure 4%

Priorities by Vote: Cost of living and health care are dominant priorities across the political spectrum

Parti Québécois

Reducing the cost of living	**42%**
Improving Quebec's health care system	**34%**
Reducing immigration levels	**26%**

Parti Libéral du Québec

Improving Quebec's health care system	**59%**
Reducing the cost of living	**43%**
Strengthening Quebec's economy and creating jobs	**32%**

Conservateur

Reducing the cost of living	**49%**
Improving Quebec's health care system	**38%**
Reducing immigration levels	**29%**

Coalition Avenir Québec

Improving Quebec's health care system	**57%**
Strengthening Quebec's economy and creating jobs	**34%**
Reducing the cost of living	**33%**

Québec solidaire

Reducing the cost of living	**54%**
Improving Quebec's health care system	**52%**
Improving housing affordability	**37%**

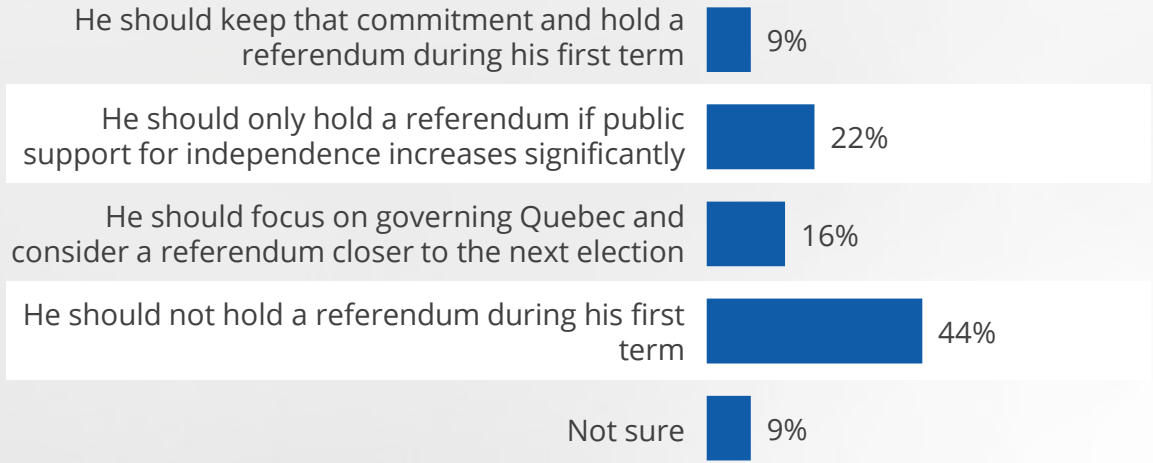
Q What should be the top priorities of the new Parti Québécois government? You can select up to two items on this list.
Base: All Quebec respondents (n=769)

Referendum: Limited appetite for Plamondon to call a referendum

- Among PQ voters, 18% want Plamondon to keep his commitment to holding a referendum, 35% feel he should only call one if public support rises, 21% want him to focus on governing and consider a referendum closer to the next election and 21% feel he should not consider a referendum.



Plamondon's Referendum Promise



Q During the election campaign, Paul St-Pierre Plamondon pledged that a Parti Québécois government would hold a referendum on Quebec independence during its first term. Which of the following comes closest to your view? Base: All Quebec respondents (n=769)

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