

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)

... Regardless of the effectiveness of these constitutional questions, they do highlight real grievances that have caused many to support independence (see question 10).

Question 6 addresses an issue where Alberta judges are overlooked to serve on Alberta's courts because of French language requirements set by Central Canada. In effect, liberal judges are appointed by Ottawa in a conservative province.

Question 7 addresses the imbalance of the senate which favors Central Canada. Alberta, with more than 5 million people, has six senators appointed by Ottawa. Ontario and Quebec have 24 senators each. Atlantic Canada, with 2.7 million people, has 30 senators. Stephen Harper's government sought to reform the senate but his efforts were blocked by the Supreme Court. Senate reform has been the desire of Albertans for decades who seek a more equitable arrangement within Canada. An elected senate or proportional senate has been resisted by Central Canada which causes many to look to independence as the only answer to these constitutional disparities.

Questions 8 and 9 seek to give Albertans real tools to resist federal overreach. Provincial governments have won elections in the past by promising Albertans protection from Ottawa's harmful policies and overreach. This constant imposition of Ottawa over the people and industries of Alberta have led many to conclude that constitutional change is impossible and independence is the only solution for meaningful change to benefit all citizens across our country.

SEPARATION QUESTION

10

SHOULD ALBERTA REMAIN A PROVINCE OF CANADA, OR SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA COMMENCE THE LEGAL PROCESS REQUIRED UNDER THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION TO HOLD A BINDING PROVINCIAL REFERENDUM ON WHETHER OR NOT ALBERTA SHOULD SEPARATE FROM CANADA?

Option 1: Alberta should remain a province of Canada.

Option 2: The Government of Alberta should commence the legal process required under the Canadian Constitution to hold a binding provincial referendum on whether or not Alberta should separate from Canada.

Biblically, a government should be limited and local—a government of the people and for the people it represents (Deut 1:9–18). The most important job of a government is justice (Rom 13:4). When these are not upheld, the people groan.

The independence question is not just a discussion about dollars. It is a discussion about religious ideas that express themselves in society. The antichristian ideas of Marxism, socialism, globalism, totalitarianism, and a host of other “isms” are promoted and pushed by the intelligentsia of Central Canada. The independence movement is closer to the biblical principles of liberty, justice, vocation, and morality more than the current direction of our nation.

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For the Good of the Province

VOTER GUIDE FOR THE 2026 REFERENDUM

JEREMIAH29.ORG

On October 19, Albertans are being asked to vote on ten important questions about the future of our province. This voter guide covers each question from a Christian perspective to help Christians cast an informed vote. The referendum is non-binding.¹ Whether a vote is successful or not does not force the government to act either way. However, a majority decision will signal a political mandate to the government as they put future policies in place.

IMMIGRATION QUESTIONS

01

DO YOU SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA TAKING INCREASED CONTROL OVER IMMIGRATION FOR THE PURPOSES OF DECREASING IMMIGRATION TO MORE SUSTAINABLE LEVELS, PRIORITIZING ECONOMIC MIGRATION AND GIVING ALBERTANS FIRST PRIORITY ON NEW EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES?

Christ calls us to have compassion and care for those in need. Immigrants and refugees come to Canada and other Western countries because of our Christian foundation. The substance of this question is not whether we support immigration, but whether we support *sustainable* immigration.

Adoption is a wonderful picture of Christlike love, but a couple could not adopt 50 children and still sustain their household and care for their current children. Therefore, sustainability is an important consideration as we help or welcome others.

02

DO YOU SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA INTRODUCING A LAW MANDATING THAT ONLY CANADIAN CITIZENS, PERMANENT RESIDENTS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH AN ALBERTA APPROVED IMMIGRATION STATUS WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR PROVINCIAL-FUNDED PROGRAMS, SUCH AS HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION AND OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES?

03

ASSUMING THAT ALL CANADIAN CITIZENS AND PERMANENT RESIDENTS CONTINUE TO QUALIFY FOR SOCIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS AS THEY DO NOW, DO YOU SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA INTRODUCING A LAW REQUIRING ALL INDIVIDUALS WITH A NON-PERMANENT LEGAL IMMIGRATION STATUS TO RESIDE IN ALBERTA FOR AT LEAST 12 MONTHS BEFORE QUALIFYING FOR ANY PROVINCIAL-FUNDED SOCIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS?

04

ASSUMING THAT ALL CANADIAN CITIZENS AND PERMANENT RESIDENTS CONTINUE TO QUALIFY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION AS THEY DO NOW, DO YOU SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA CHARGING A REASONABLE FEE OR PREMIUM TO INDIVIDUALS WITH A NON-PERMANENT IMMIGRATION STATUS LIVING IN ALBERTA FOR THEIR AND THEIR FAMILY'S USE OF THE HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION SYSTEMS?

These questions relate to the issue of sustainability mentioned in Question 1. It is important to understand that the proposals in questions 2–4 for sustainability are not proposals unique in Canada. Ontario and Quebec already have similar policies compared to what the Alberta government is proposing. In both central provinces, temporary residents are not eligible for social assistance and residency rules apply for accessing health care. To vote yes for these questions brings greater alignment between provinces such that social services can be sustained. It is not unchristian to ask people to contribute to services they use or pay for services provided. We can welcome the sojourner while expecting the sojourner to contribute to the place he now resides. Equality before the law, neither favoring the poor or rich, the local or foreigner, is an important biblical principle.

When you welcome a guest into your home, you don't expect him to help himself to your refrigerator or grab your car keys to run an errand. You are not inhospitable when you distinguish a guest from a member of your own household. Likewise, guests to our country should be welcome *as guests*.

¹According to the Referendum Act, the constitutional questions (#6–9) are binding and forces the provincial government to act. However, Alberta cannot change the constitution by itself, and it is nearly impossible that other provinces will pursue that change.

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05

DO YOU SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA INTRODUCING A LAW REQUIRING INDIVIDUALS TO PROVIDE PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP, SUCH AS A PASSPORT, BIRTH CERTIFICATE OR CITIZENSHIP CARD, TO VOTE IN AN ALBERTA PROVINCIAL ELECTION?

There is currently no evidence of widespread voter fraud involving non-citizens. The voter list used by Elections Alberta does validate eligible voters to ensure they are a Canadian citizen, at least 18 years old, and a resident of Alberta. A successful vote would require proof of citizenship to be presented *at the time of voting*. Christians understand that voter integrity is important to the democratic process. Presenting another piece of identification may be inconvenient, but that inconvenience must be tempered with safeguarding the electoral process.

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

06

DO YOU SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA WORKING WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF OTHER WILLING PROVINCES TO AMEND THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION TO HAVE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS, AND NOT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, SELECT THE JUSTICES APPOINTED TO PROVINCIAL KING'S BENCH AND APPEAL COURTS?

07

DO YOU SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA WORKING WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF OTHER WILLING PROVINCES TO AMEND THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION TO ABOLISH THE UNELECTED FEDERAL SENATE?

08

DO YOU SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA WORKING WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF OTHER WILLING PROVINCES TO AMEND THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW PROVINCES TO OPT OUT OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS THAT INTRUDE ON PROVINCIAL JURISDICTION SUCH AS HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES, WITHOUT A PROVINCE LOSING ANY OF THE ASSOCIATED FEDERAL FUNDING FOR USE IN ITS SOCIAL PROGRAMS?

09

DO YOU SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA WORKING WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF OTHER WILLING PROVINCES TO AMEND THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION TO BETTER PROTECT PROVINCIAL RIGHTS FROM FEDERAL INTERFERENCE BY GIVING A PROVINCE'S LAWS DEALING WITH PROVINCIAL OR SHARED AREAS OF CONSTITUTIONAL JURISDICTION PRIORITY OVER FEDERAL LAWS WHEN THE PROVINCE'S LAWS AND FEDERAL LAWS CONFLICT?

These constitutional questions are largely moot. On October 18, 2021, more than 61% voted in favor of removing equalization from the constitution. The Alberta Legislature initiated a process to negotiate but that was simply ignored by the federal government and other provinces. In fact, Ottawa went ahead and renewed the equalization formula through 2029 without consulting the provinces.