

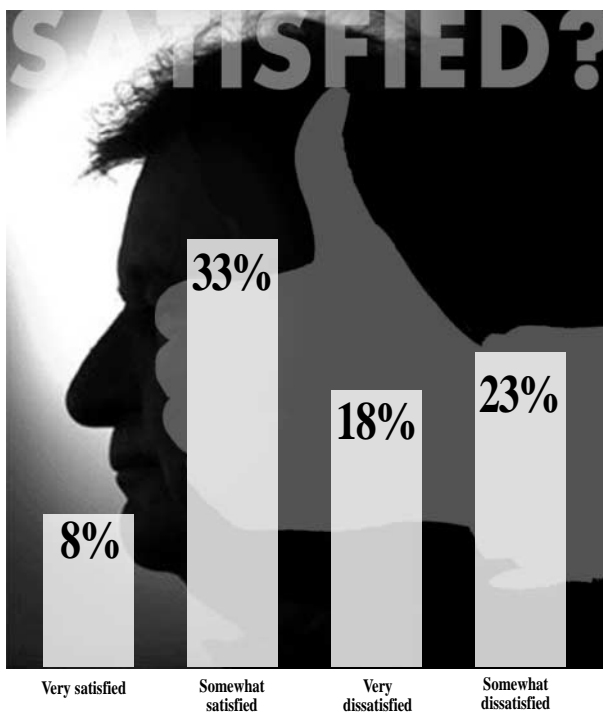


Edmontonians' poll station

By Linda Banister

With a minority federal government in place and an upcoming mayoral election, there remains only one level of government that is yet to have an election this year. That may soon change. With rumors stirring about an impending provincial election, the *Poll Station* asked Edmontonians for their views and opinions on the current provincial government.

HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH PREMIER KLEIN'S PERFORMANCE?



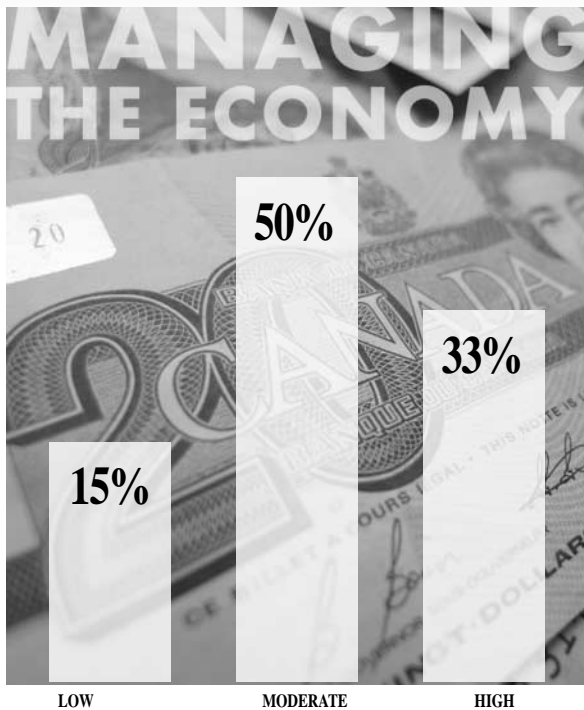
Respondents were asked how satisfied they were with Ralph Klein's performance as Alberta's premier. Just under half (41 percent) of respondents stated they were satisfied with his performance, with eight percent very satisfied, and 33 percent somewhat satisfied. Of those satisfied, 33 percent cited the elimination of the provincial debt, 17 percent felt he had accomplished what he said he was going to do, 12 percent felt he was generally doing a good job and 12 percent felt he was making the province a better place to live and work.

The exact same percentage of respondents (41 percent) were dissatisfied with Mr. Klein's performance, with 18 percent very dissatisfied and 23 percent somewhat dissatisfied. Of the dissatisfied respondents, 15 percent felt he made bad decisions, 10 percent were concerned about the state of education, 10 percent were dissatisfied with health care, and 10 percent felt the leader had a poor attitude.

The remaining 18 percent were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with Mr. Klein's performance as premier.

HOW DO YOU RATE CERTAIN ASPECTS OF PREMIER KLEIN'S PERFORMANCE?

All respondents were then asked to rate Mr. Klein's performance in running certain aspects of the government. In terms of managing the economy, 15 percent rated his performance as low, 50 percent as moderate, and 33 percent as high. With respect to healthcare, 35 percent gave a low performance rating, 52 percent a moderate rating, and eight percent a high rating. Regarding education, 33 percent said low, 61 percent moderate, and four percent high.



IS IT TIME TO CALL AN ELECTION?

Respondents were then asked if it is the right time for Mr. Klein to call an election. Just over two-thirds (68 percent) wanted an election called soon, 23 percent felt now was not a good time and nine percent were not sure.

SHOULD MR. KLEIN CONTINUE AS LEADER OF THE PC PARTY?

When asked if Klein should continue as leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, 50 percent felt he should step aside, while 38 percent thought he should remain as leader. Respondents were asked what qualities they will be looking for in a new leader. Just over one-quarter (26 percent) stated that honesty was the primary quality, 12 percent wanted an individual concerned about the lower/middle classes, nine percent looked for someone focused on healthcare, and seven percent wanted an individual who was accountable for his/her actions.

WHERE SHOULD GOVERNMENT FOCUS ITS ATTENTION?

When asked where the provincial government should focus its attention during the next three to four years, healthcare was the most frequently cited at 52 percent followed closely by education at 50 percent. Taxes and improving the economy were each mentioned by nine percent of the respondents.

The *Poll Station* surveyed 100 City of Edmonton residents on the topic and, while the results of the research are not statistically reliable, they do provide a qualitative indication of what Edmontonians are thinking. ✓

Linda Banister is a certified management consultant and the owner of Banister Research & Consulting Inc., a full service provider of market research and program evaluation services. If you have a question you would like included in the Edmontonians Poll, contact Linda at 780.451.4444 or e-mail at research@banister.ab.ca. For further information on the firm visit banister.ab.ca.