



# 2022 Student Parliament Election Information Booklet

THE QUEEN'S  
PLATINUM JUBILEE



LE JUBILÉ DE PLATINE  
DE LA REINE



## Background:

Waterdown's Student Parliament was established in 2008 when the Honourable David C. Onley, 28th lieutenant governor of Ontario, opened its first session on February 13th, 2008. During that historic opening, the lieutenant governor also presented the WDHS mace to the school. On January 18th, 2017, Waterdown District High School held a school-wide referendum to replace the 2008 Constitution that originally established the school's Student Parliament.

The 2017 Constitution made the following changes:

- Students can form their own political parties that will offer candidates during student elections (held in May)
- A Student House was created with 20 seats filled by elected representatives (2 other seats will have Grade Nines appointed to them).
- The party that commands the confidence of the Student House forms the Student Government of WDHS. The leader of that party becomes prime minister. Coalitions are permitted.

Members of the Electoral Reform Committee: Selah Bishop, Adam McKenzie, Cameron Ramolla and Alison Smoke.



WINDSOR CASTLE

15<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Dear Mr Tidridge,

The Queen wishes me to write and thank you for the letter which you have sent on behalf of your students, Selah Bishop, Adam McKenzie, Cameron Ramolla and Alison Smoke.

Her Majesty was interested to hear about the special Committee which these students have recently formed in honour of Canada's commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Confederation and, although unable to reply to you personally, The Queen greatly appreciated your kind thought in writing as you did.

I hope the first election under this new system goes well in May, and I am to thank you very much once again for your letter.



### Important Dates:

May 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2022	Pre-election meeting with candidates
May 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2022	Principal Sgambato will sign the Writ triggering the 2022 election for next year's Student Parliament. <b>There can be no campaigning until the Writ has been signed and party lists submitted.</b>
May 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2022	Party lists are due to Mr. Tidridge. Once your list has been submitted and approved, your party may begin officially campaigning. Once party lists have been posted (online at <a href="http://www.waterdowncivics.org">www.waterdowncivics.org</a> ) they cannot be altered.
May 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2022	ELECTION DAY. A polling booth will be set up in the atrium during the Common Lunch for people to come and cast their ballots. Candidates are invited to set up information booths <u>inside</u> the atrium.

### Important Notes:

- Make sure to check [www.waterdowncivics.org](http://www.waterdowncivics.org) regularly for election updates. Copies of the constitution, this booklet and other resources can be found there.
- All posters and other campaigning within the school are subject to approval by administration – please make sure you have approval before putting up, or handing anything out, in the school.
- Online campaigning (during and outside of school hours) is subject to the WDHS Code of Conduct – bullying behaviour will not be tolerated and should be immediately reported to Mr. Tidridge AND the Main Office.
- If in doubt of anything, see Mr. Tidridge.
  
- REMEMBER, the party that wins the most seats does not necessarily form the next government. Coalitions and other partnerships are a regular occurrence in this system of Government. We may not know who will form the next government until days after the election.



## Important Documents:

### ARTICLE IV – ELECTION OF THE STUDENT HOUSE

#### Section One

i) Once an election has been called by the Principal, finalized party lists must be submitted to the teacher advisor to be posted in a public place at least two weeks before the election. These lists will have each member of the party ranked in order of their desired appointment to Parliament. Parties must include at least one current representative from the following grade levels: Grade Nine, Grade Ten, and Grade Eleven.

Example list for “Party A”:

- 1.) Selah (party leader)
- 2.) Cameron
- 3.) Alison
- 4.) Adam
- 5.) Robert
- 6.) Terrence
- 7.) Evan
- 8.) Nathan
- 9.) Gerard
- 10.) Murray
- 11.) Amy
- 12.) Erin
- 13.) Elizabeth
- 14.) Pam
- 15.) Jobina
- 16.) Patricia
- 17.) Carl
- 18.) Jen
- 19.) John
- 20.) Jeannine

\*Two seats are reserved for the following semester’s Grade Nine students, and are therefore not up for election at the end of May.

\*\*If “Party A” receives 63% of the popular vote, then they will be awarded 13 of the available seats in the Student House (filled by Numbers 1-13 on their publicized party list).

ii) A description of Cabinet positions must be posted for the Student Body, at least one week before nominations.

iv) Parties may campaign during the election period.

v) Party elections for the Student House will be held during the last week of May.

vi) After a general election, the member elected to the Student House who is the leader of one political party (the name listed as “No.1” on the posted party list), or a coalition of parties which commands the confidence of the House shall be invited to be appointed as the Prime Minister by the Principal.

viii) At the end of the election, the Prime Minister will select their Cabinet from the elected members of Parliament.



## Section Two

i) Students must have a current academic average of at least 60% in order to be written on a party list for Student Parliament.

## Section Three

i) The Executive Council, or Cabinet, members shall hold their positions for the school year for which they were elected, on the condition that they fulfill all obligations required.



# The WDHS Party System



Blue Party	Purple Party	Green Party	Red Party
1. Jill 2. Dave 3. Donald 4. Hilary 5. Barack 6. Justin 7. Henry 8. William 9. Joe 10. Elizabeth 11. Sophie	1. Drake 2. Ashely 3. Miley 4. Robert 5. Amy 6. George 7. Muhammad 8. Aiden 9. Kim 10. Norman	1. Selah 2. Alison 3. Cam 4. Adam 5. Nathan 6. Harrison 7. Fatima 8. Sino 9. Snora 10. Luke 11. Elyse	1. Colin 2. Paul 3. Oliver 4. Reilly 5. Clayton 6. Shane 7. Holly 8. Dylan 9. Brendan 10. Nate 11. Christine

**1** Party lists are created by various student political parties. The composition of a party list is completely up to its members. Once an election is called, the lists cannot be altered and must be posted in a public location.

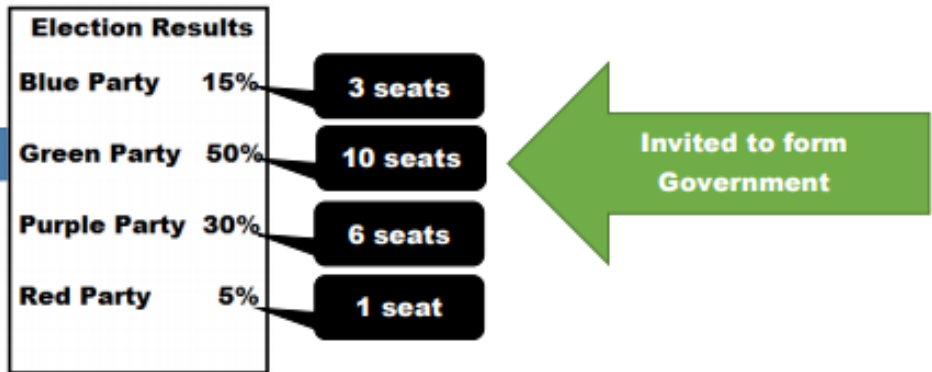
**2** On **Election Day** students vote for the political party that best represents their ideology.

Ballot	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Blue Party
<input type="checkbox"/>	Green Party
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Purple Party
<input type="checkbox"/>	Red Party

**3** Election results are determined, based on the popular vote. Seats in the Student House are distributed based on popular vote.

Election Results	
Blue Party 15%	<b>3 seats</b>
Green Party 50%	<b>10 seats</b>
Purple Party 30%	<b>6 seats</b>
Red Party 5%	<b>1 seat</b>





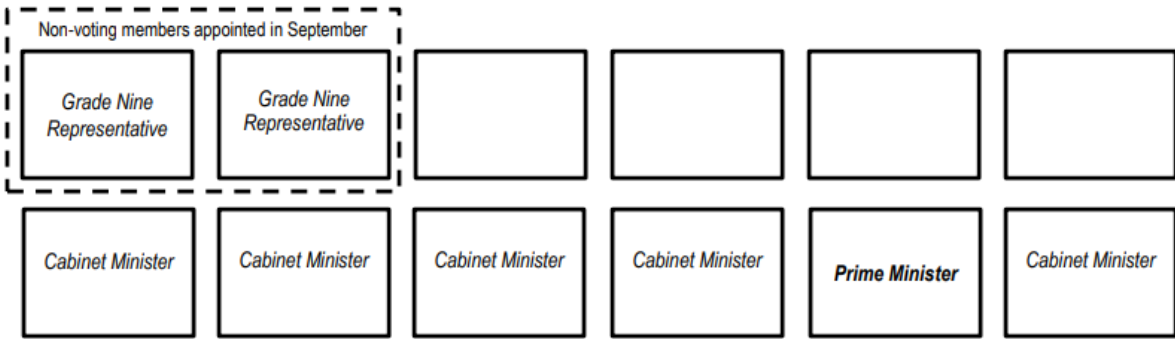

**4** The political party that has the confidence of the Student House (the best chance of getting their agenda passed) is invited by the principal to form the Student Government.

**5** The leader of the political party that is invited by the principal to form government becomes **prime minister**



**6** The **prime minister** selects a cabinet (ministers) from the elected members that must work with the rest of the Student House to represent the will of the student body.



### The Student House

- Student Parliament consists of the Principal and the Student House
- Student House comprises twenty elected *Members of Student Parliament* and two appointed *Grade Nine Members of Student Parliament*
- Government formed by the party that commands the confidence of the Student House
  - Leader of governing party appointed as prime minister by the Principal



Speaker

