



Purpose of this Material

Albertans will vote in a province-wide referendum on October 19, 2026. This material is intended to support public education and informed civic engagement. We will be sharing information related to the 5 immigration referendum questions that most directly affect communities' lives and the systems they interact with every day.

ActionDignity is non-partisan and does not endorse any referendum outcome or voting position. We examine the referendum through an equity and inclusion lens, consistent with our organizational mandate. Audiences are encouraged to consider multiple perspectives and reach their own informed decisions.

Glance at Questions on the Ballot

Question #	Questions on the Ballot	What This is Asking	Context and Facts
Question 1 Immigration Cap	"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?"	Should Alberta try to take over more of the immigration decisions that Ottawa currently makes, with a goal of fewer newcomers?	The national goal had decreased since 2025. In Q1 2025 – there was a negative net migration of non-permanent residents in Alberta. ¹
Question 2 Program Eligibility	"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 provincially-funded programs, such as health care, education and other social services?"	Should the province cut off health care, schooling, and social services for people living in Alberta on temporary permits (like students, TFWs, asylum seekers) unless the province separately approves their status?	Poor mental health outcomes for people who do not have federal, provincial or territorial health care coverage are reported in multiple studies. ²
Question 3 12 month Waiting Period	"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 provincially-funded social support programs?"	Should the province make people on temporary permits wait a full year in Alberta before they can access any provincial social support program?	Without provincial medical coverage, migrants often rely on private insurance or make out of pocket payments, which can be costly to low-income individuals. ³ Multiple studies have reinforced how lack of health care coverage negatively impacts health care use among uninsured populations. ⁴
Question 4 Non- permanent Resident Fees and Premiums	"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?"	Should the province charge fees or premiums for health care and schooling to non-permanent residents, even though they pay provincial income tax, GST, fuel tax and other taxes?	Policies that restrict educational access therefore have implications that extend well beyond schools and affect the long-term well-being of children, families, communities, and society. ⁵
Question 5 Citizenship Voter ID	"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?"	Should Alberta voters be required to show proof of citizenship (passport, birth certificate, citizenship card) to cast a ballot?	

1. Statistics Canada Table-17-10-0040-01.

2. Salami, A., et. Al. The health of temporary foreign workers in Canada: a scoping review. Can J Public Health. 2015. Nov; 106(8).

3. Caulford, A. Health care for Canada's medically uninsured immigrants and refugees. Can Fam Physician. 2012;58;725-7.

4. Garasia S, Bishop V, Clayton S, Pinnington G, Arinze C, Jalil E. Health outcomes, health services utilization, and costs consequences of medicare uninsurance among migrants in Canada: a systematic review. BMC Health Serv Res. 2023;23(1): Article 427 [27 p.]. doi: 10.1186/s12913-023-09417-4.

5. OECD. Deborah Nusche. What Works in Migrant Education? A Review of Evidence and Policy Options; OECD Education Working Papers No. 22.

Context of Referendum



"..the disastrous open border immigration policies...have caused an unprecedented strain on our health care, education, and other social programs...throwing the doors wide open to anyone and everyone across the globe has flooded our classrooms, emergency rooms, and social support systems with far too many people, far too quickly."

Premier Danielle Smith's Address to the Province, February 19, 2026

Video: Learn More About the Immigration Questions on the Ballot
<https://albertareferendum2026.ca>



What is at Stake in this Referendum?

Albertans are asked to vote on referendum questions regarding immigration and the constitution. The outcome of the referendum can impact individuals, families, and communities.

(Scan the QR code or click to learn more)



[The Nonprofit Chamber](#)



[Calgary Alliance for the Common Good](#)

Critical Considerations



01

Every Albertan in the workforce contributes to Alberta's economy.
 Let's consider how our policies and systems can support everyone in continuing to contribute to Alberta's economy.

02

Multiple factors are creating stress to public system.
 An equity lens asks: What factors are creating the pressure besides immigration, and how do we strengthen the systems?

Get Involved



For Organizations

- Share referendum information and educational resources with community members
- Organize information sessions to spread the word (Reach out to ActionDignity if you need a resource person)
- Encourage, organize and support community members to vote

For Individuals

- Learn about the referendum information
- Share the educational resources with your network
- Make informed decisions and vote

Additional Resources >>>

Basic referendum information: [Referendum – Elections Alberta](#)
 Where to vote? [Voter Information Service – Where do I vote?](#)
 Am I a registered voter? [Voter Registration – Elections Canada](#)
 Special Ballot Requests (Vote by Mail): [Referendum – Elections Alberta](#)