

# Dinner+Politics

# Host Guide

## Thank you.

Thank you for hosting a dinner. **Dinner+Politics** is designed for people in Black communities across Canada to engage over a meal with each other in the place of their choice (homes, offices, libraries, restaurants, barbershops, recreation rooms) to discuss and share ideas for engagement in the lead up to the next election. Become a [host](#).

## Together we inspire.

Our hope is that in providing this opportunity, members of Black communities across the country will engage in civic conversation while thinking about upcoming elections. Whether it be voting, supporting a campaign, deciding to run, supporting a cause or creating your own initiative, **Dinner+Politics** is meant to encourage civic engagement.

## Together we take action.

**Dinner+Politics** is a way to amplify voices across Black communities and share our experiences.

## Together we lead.

As a host, you have the opportunity to bring people together for this civic engagement. Create the space for creating opportunities to empower your community, be creative and drive solutions, individually, as well as collectively. As a host, **Dinner+Politics** is one of many opportunities to lead and take action during and beyond the next election.

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## Start the conversation.

Dinner + Politics is time to share some food and bring people in Black communities together from coast to coast to coast to engage, reflect and inspire action in the lead up to the next election. The conversation begins with you. Host your own dinner, breakfast, brunch or lunch and start a conversation.

## Pick a place.

It can be your home, office, restaurant or your community space - your local library, church or your kitchen table. Choose a place where you can create a safe space where people gather, talk and eat. Maybe get some people together and brainstorm about a place to host. Wherever one can inspire engagement, participation and civic action is the space for the conversation to begin.

## Get together around the table.

Tap into networks or gather friends, family and colleagues. When we as Black communities meet to discuss, we strengthen our communities and inspire action. Together—face-to-face sharing a meal—in conversation, we can find common ground and common cause on issues and challenges that matter to people across generations, identities and borders. Powerful things happen when we get together.

## Set intentions and take action.

From your discussions, actionable ideas may arise. If you are ready to take action, then take the next step! Begin with setting your political intention and making sure your guests also share theirs. Work collectively, build your network or host another dinner. Join a campaign, vote or write a letter. Join a community group or nonprofit organization working on an issue that matters to you! Take action and inspire change.

# How to get started.

## Step 1: Planning your dinner.

### 1. Invite your guests

Your guest list is up to you. Here are few tips to get you started:

- Start with people you know - friends, family, colleagues and your neighbours - then broaden your circle.
- Create an engaging table. Invite people from your network who may not know each other or ask your guests to bring a friend.
- You can also consider co-hosting an event with a local nonprofit organization, local restaurant or community space.
- Gathering 8 to 12 guests for a dinner is ideal. If you are co-hosting with an organization, see what the possibilities are. In this case, try to aim for no more than 30 guests. This is a great opportunity to have smaller groups of guests at separate tables during the dinner and reserving part of the event for groups to share points from their smaller group discussions.
- Use online tools such as Eventbrite or Facebook events to manage your RSVPs.
- Check out our FAQ for more information.

### 2. Register your event

When you register as a host, you will receive all the key information about Dinner+Politics. We'll also get to learn more about you and your event. You can register today, it should take a few minutes. [Register](#) your event.

### 3. Plan your conversation

Time to think about a theme for your discussion. Consider how you will use your Dinner+Politics event to inspire action in your colleagues, friends, family and neighbours to participate or lead change in your organization or community during the election? Give your guests some time to ponder before they attend. Here are a few questions to get them started:

- What is your political intention for the next election?
- What does that look like?
- Where will we take or inspire action? How can we support each other in taking these actions?

### 4. Promote and share your event

Don't forget to promote and share your event. You can find tools on [Operation Black Vote Canada's](#) website to help. Download the logo to use on your invitation or grab some graphics for Facebook,

Twitter, Instagram or through text to share with your invited guest. Post your event on social media and make sure to use the hashtag #DinnerandPolitics.

## Step 2: During your dinner.

### 1. **Prompt conversation**

The fundamental question is: What is your political intention for the next election, and how can we support each other? Our discussion guideline [link to document or page] offers tips on encouraging productive discussion.

### 2. **Generate Solutions**

After your group discusses issues and challenges that concern them, transition the discussion to possible solutions and how you plan to take action. After all, that's why Dinner+Politics was created—to inspire action and participate in the election.

### 3. **Plan for Action**

Let your dinner take you places. Dinner and Politics is all about figuring out how to move ideas from the dinner to the campaign to make powerful things happen. We've created a *Intention Meets Action* worksheet that can help you or your group brainstorm and plan next steps to participate in the election and take action.

### 4. **Share your intentions**

Share your intentions, photos and connections using the hashtag #DinnerandPolitics.

## Step 3: Share your experiences.

One last thing: we want to hear from you! We want to know how your dinner discussion has inspired you to take action. Dinner+Politics is a forum for conversation to take place. We hope that it sparks more empowerment and civic pride, collaboration and greater participation during the next election and beyond. Share your political intentions, success stories, actions and ideas with us:

- At [Operation Black Vote Canada Website](#)
- On social media through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram by using the hashtag #DinnerandPolitics
- Or send us a note at [dinner+politics@obvc.ca](mailto:dinner+politics@obvc.ca)

# Dinner+Politics FAQ

**Q: Where should Dinner + Politics events take place?**

**A:** You can host a Dinner + Politics event in any place that inspires people to talk. It could be your local library or office breakroom, a neighbourhood restaurant or a church, or recreation centre. Many people will host at home, around their own kitchen table. What matters most is that people come together, share some food, and have a conversation.

**Q: How many people should I invite?**

**A:** As many or as few as you like. We recommend about 8 to 12 people per table. This way, everyone has a chance to listen and contribute to the conversation.

**Q: Does the event I host have to be a dinner?**

**A:** Not at all. If it works better for your attendees feel free to get creative with a brunch, a lunch, or a breakfast! We do encourage you to host this discussion over a meal for sharing.

**Q: What is the theme of the conversations?**

**A:** Ideas and conversation starters will be provided in the host toolkit, but typically the host will choose the focus of the conversation or let the topic arise organically from the group around the table.

**Q: Who provides the food?**

**A:** Each Dinner+Politics host provides the food—or asks their guests to bring something to share. It's entirely flexible, and up to each host how big or small they want their event to be.

**Q: I'm hosting another event I'd like to combine with Dinner + Politics, is this ok?**

**A:** Yes, of course! If you already have an event planned feel free to include Dinner + Politics as part of it! Just ensure that the Dinner + Politics portion of your event is not used in anyway to generate a profit (eg. fundraising).