This research project addresses online voting in Canadian municipal elections, and its effect on voter participation. Online voting is a very new phenomenon worldwide and is currently used for some municipal elections in two Canadian jurisdictions: Ontario and Nova Scotia. While recent research on the Ontarian case has found turnout in municipalities with online voting to be on average 3.5 percentage points greater than in those without, little else is known about the impacts of online voting on election outcomes. In this research project, we aim to expand this growing area of research in two ways: first, we will test the robustness of this turnout finding by expanding it to include more recent elections, as well as the Nova Scotian case. Second, we will investigate who are the people who are most using online voting (age, sex, region, etc.) and if the implementation of online voting changes election outcomes as well as participation (e.g. do more left-leaning candidates win in online elections?).

The students involved in this research project will engage in tasks such as the following:

1. Collecting census data and election results from Canadian municipalities
2. Building an original dataset on online election outcomes
3. Reviewing and succinctly summarising existing literature on online voting

**KEY LEARNING ACTIVITIES:**

- Learning about an emerging topic in political science
- Synthesizing the literature
- Learning about census data and building a novel dataset
- Conducting some simple statistical tests
- Learning how to work independently
- Make sound judgement about the quality of prior research