

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON JANUARY 24, 2017
FROM:	CATHY SAUNDERS CITY CLERK
SUBJECT:	RANKED BALLOT ELECTION MODEL

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the City Clerk, the following actions be taken with respect to the 2018 municipal election:

- a) the first-past-the-post election (FPTP) model **BE MAINTAINED** for the 2018 municipal election; and
- b) the City Clerk **BE DIRECTED** to continue to monitor developments in Ontario, and other relevant jurisdictions, with respect to use of the ranked ballot election model, and report back to the Municipal Council, after the 2018 municipal election, with a detailed report on the potential use of a ranked ballot election model for future municipal elections.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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- Corporate Services Committee – July 19, 2016 – Amendments to the *Municipal Elections Act*
- Corporate Services Committee – October 20, 2015 – Ranked Balloting Process
- Corporate Services Committee – July 21, 2015 – Province of Ontario Consultation – Municipal Elections Act
- Corporate Services Committee – June 15, 2015 – Submission: Ranked Ballots for Municipal Elections in Ontario
- Corporate Services Committee – June 15, 2015 – Submission: Province of Ontario – Legislation Review Municipal Elections Act, Municipal Conflict of Interest Act and Municipal Act
- Corporate Services Committee – January 21, 2014 – New Initiatives – 2014 Municipal Election

BACKGROUND

Exploring opportunities for electoral reform is linked to the City's Strategic Plan in the strategic area of focus *Leading in Public Service* (open, accountable, and responsive government). This report is in direct response to the strategy: "Explore moving to a ranked ballot voting system".

On May 28, 2015 the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing launched its review of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* (MEA). As part of the 2015 review, the Ministry sought public comments on a series of topics under consideration, including ranked balloting. Feedback was provided from a variety of stakeholders including the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) and members of the general public.

On April 4, 2016, then Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Ted McMeekin, introduced Bill 181, the *Municipal Elections Modernization Act, 2016* (MEMA) which proposed substantial changes to the MEA. The MEMA received Royal Assent on June 9, 2016 and Reg. 310/16 Ranked Ballot Elections was passed on September 16, 2016 under the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*. The MEMA constitutes the most significant update to the MEA and the conduct of municipal elections in Ontario within the last 20 years.

The amendments to the MEA will impact electors, candidates and election administrators. The opportunity for municipalities to use ranked ballots for municipal candidates as an alternative to the current first-past-the-post system is the most extensive change. Ranked ballots allow a voter to rank candidates in order of preference (1st choice, 2nd choice, 3rd choice) instead of just voting

for one candidate in the current first-past-the-post system. At present, no jurisdiction in Canada that uses a ranked ballot election system. However, on November 7, 2016, Prince Edward Island held a non-binding plebiscite on electoral reform using a ranked ballot. The five options on the ballot were to maintain the current first-past-the-post model, or pursue first-past-the-post plus leaders, dual member proportional, mixed member proportional, or preferential voting. The plebiscite received a 36% voter turnout and provided voters with the opportunity to vote online and by phone or cast a paper ballot. Tabulators were used to process paper ballots and were then combined with the online and telephone results. Recent changes to the MEA now give all municipal councils in Ontario the option to pass a by-law to implement ranked ballot elections starting with the next municipal election in 2018.

Section 1(1) of the MEA has been amended to include the following definition:

“ranked ballot election” means, with respect to an office on the council of a municipality, an election authorized under subsection 41.1 (1);

Section 41.1 (1) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may, by regulation, authorize elections for offices on a municipal council to be conducted in accordance with the following rules:

1. Electors vote by ranking candidates for an office in order of the elector's preference.
2. Votes are distributed to candidates based on rankings marked on the ballots.
3. The counting of votes is carried out in one or more rounds with at least one candidate being elected or eliminated in each round.

The Regulation specifies that ranked ballot elections for offices of a single or lower-tier municipality are authorized only if all offices on council are elected this way. In other words, the municipality must decide to elect both the Office of the Mayor and Councillor using a ranked ballot or elect neither offices this way. School board elections are not permitted to use a ranked ballot.

There are two types of ranked ballot elections: single-member ranked ballot elections, also known as instant runoff voting (IRV), and multi-member ranked ballot elections, also known as single transferrable vote (STV). Under the City of London's current governance structure, only a single-member ranked ballot process (IRV) would apply.

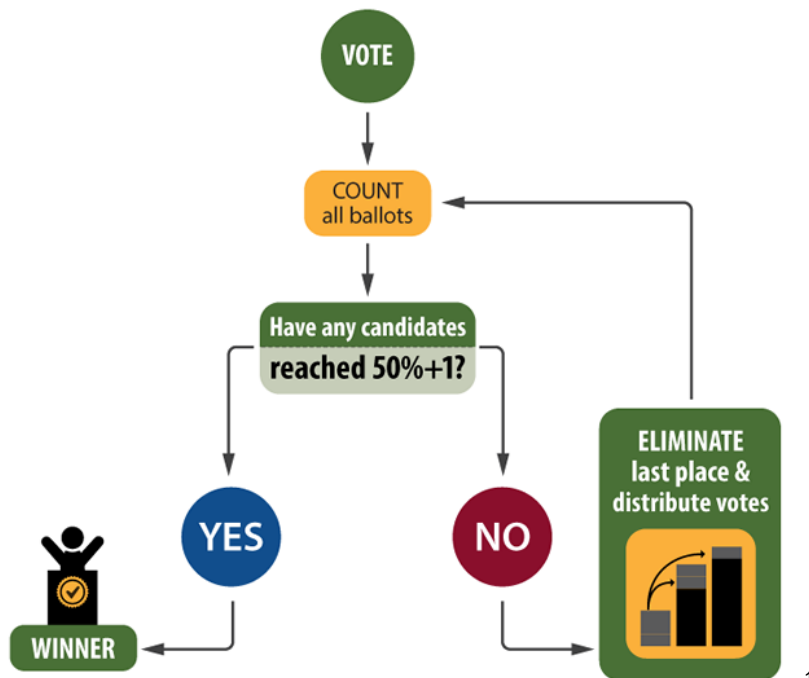
The ranked ballot electoral model requires a candidate to cross a “threshold” of votes to be elected. In a single-member ranked ballot election, a winning candidate must receive 50 percent of the total number of votes plus one, calculated according to the formula below:

$$\text{Threshold} = \left(\frac{100\% \text{ of Votes Cast}}{1 \text{ candidate will be elected} + 1} \right) + 1 = 50\% + 1$$

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs website provides an example of a single-member ranked ballot election, which can be found in Appendix 'A'. This example illustrates how votes are redistributed among candidates to meet the threshold.

Single-Member Ranked Balloting

To pass the threshold in a single-member ranked ballot election, votes are distributed among candidates based on the rankings indicated by the voter on the ballot. The first choice votes are counted for each candidate. If a candidate receives at least 50 per cent plus one of the votes, they are elected. If none of the candidates receive enough first choice votes, subsequent rounds of vote counting would be completed. The candidate in the contest with the fewest votes is eliminated from future rounds of counting and his or her votes are redistributed to one of the remaining candidates on the same ballot according to the next highest choice on the ballot. This process is repeated until a candidate has enough combined votes to pass the winning threshold. Minneapolis Public Radio produced a video concerning vote counting in a single-member ranked ballot election and can be found at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHRPMJmzBBw>.



Based on the 2014 municipal election at the City of London, a total of eight (8) members (including Mayor) of the 15-member council received a percentage of the votes that would fall above the threshold of 50 per cent plus one and would not have required a second round of vote counting to determine the successful candidate. The remaining seven (7) offices would have fallen just below the threshold of 50 per cent plus one and would therefore have been below the required threshold to be elected in the first round of vote counting.

DISCUSSION

Considerations and Impacts of Ranked Balloting

Public Consultation

Extensive public consultation and engagement is strongly recommended before implementing such a significant change to the current electoral process. In fact, for any municipality planning to proceed with a ranked ballot for the 2018 municipal election, the Province has mandated a comprehensive public consultation process to gather public feedback.

The municipality must hold an Open House to provide the public with a description of vote counting, the estimated costs of conducting the election, any voting and vote-counting equipment that is being considered for use in the election, and any alternative voting method being considered for use in the election.

The municipality is then required to hold a Public Meeting to allow the public to speak to Council about the proposed by-law. The Public Meeting must be held at least 15 days after the Open House.

If a Council directs the Civic Administration to pursue the option of a ranked ballot election, significant staff time will be required to conduct and document public consultation and engagement. It is estimated the following staff time will be required, excluding any additional time that will be required to source the necessary resources and develop and implement appropriate processes:

- Communication staff: 38 hours
- Clerk staff: 142 hours
- **Total staff time: 180 hours**

Public consultation timeline:

- Notice of Open House and Public Meeting provided 30 days prior to each
- Open House held at least 15 days prior to Public Meeting
- By-law Passage no later than May 1st, 2017

¹ Ministry of Municipal Affairs 2015. Counting Votes in a Ranked Ballot Election. <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page11121.aspx>

Latest possible dates, assuming the by-law passage must occur at Council prior to May 1st, 2017:

- February 23, 2017 – Notice of Open House
- March 9, 2017 – Notice of Public Meeting (if separate from notice of open house)
- March 27, 2017 – Open House (Sunday)
- April 11, 2017 – Public Meeting
- April 18, 2017 – By-law passage at last Council meeting before May 1st, 2017

Public Education and Voter Turnout

The ranked ballot system is a fundamental departure from the experience of the average elector familiar with selecting one candidate for each office in our current electoral system. Changing to a ranked ballot election may cause confusion to both experienced and new voters. As a result, a significant amount of time, effort, and election funding will be required to notify voters about the new electoral system. At present, there is no relation between ranked balloting and increased voter turnout in other jurisdictions outside of Canada that have implemented ranked balloting. Without adequate public education, there is a significant risk that public confusion may increase the amount of spoiled and/or rejected ballots from voters who have taken the time to cast a ballot.

According to Minneapolis' 2009 election statistics, 4.11% of ballots cast were spoiled (20% voter turnout). In 2013, Minneapolis spent \$1.8 million on voter education (233,351 electors and a 33% voter turnout) and 4.19% of ballots cast were spoiled. Minneapolis is continuing with a ranked ballot election for the next General Election that will occur in November 2017.

Voting Equipment and Systems

Moving to a ranked ballot election system would have an effect on the amount of time needed to prepare and test vote counting equipment and systems, including the testing of accessible devices. Ranked balloting involves multiple rounds of vote counting based on a more complex mathematical formula to determine the winning candidate. Prior to any election, testing has to be conducted on all vote counting equipment and systems to guarantee that votes are counted correctly, as well as, to confirm the security and integrity of the systems. Programming tabulators would be more complex and this would increase vendor costs and, in turn, the cost to the taxpayer. New testing procedures would need to be developed for the logic and accuracy testing phase of testing the vote counting equipment. This testing would take longer than in the previous elections as testing would involve multiple rounds of vote counting and would require additional staffing to complete.

In 2014, it took five (5) days with three (3) vendor staff and ten (10) municipal staff per day to conduct logic and accuracy testing for tabulators based upon the current first-past-the-post election model. It is expected that there will likely be many more combinations of voting scenarios with a ranked ballot election model (over votes, under votes, repeat ranking, skipped ranking, etc.). In addition, if the City of London moves forward with a paper ballot system, additional costs will be incurred in order to ensure there are a sufficient number of ballots for the testing phase of the election process, as well as for instances where voters may require a second ballot to replace a spoiled ballot.

Currently, there is no election software that has been tested and certified with the algorithms in the Ontario Regulation and it is unproven whether vendors can develop, test and certify software compatible with the algorithms in time for the 2018 municipal election. The City of Minneapolis conducted its first ranked ballot election in 2009, which required a full hand-count of all races. In 2013, Minneapolis used tabulators to eliminate the hand count and data entry steps used in 2009. While tabulators did produce more timely election results, it is important to emphasize that there is no fully automated solution available that tabulates an RCV election. There remains no federal or state certified voting equipment able to count the ranked ballots beyond a candidate not receiving the predetermined number of votes for that office to be elected, and no vendor of voting equipment systems has submitted RCV tabulation software for certification at federal or state levels. Until new federal or state certification standards are adopted which recognize alternative voting systems, RCV elections will require some element of hand-counting to tabulate any race where first-choice Election Night results cannot determine a winner.

Ballot

A composite ballot is currently used to display all elected officials on the same ballot face. Offices for Mayor and Councillor may be elected by ranked ballot, however, there are no proposed changes to provincial legislation to permit the school board election to use a ranked ballot. Depending on the number of candidates for the Office of Mayor and Councillor, paper ballots may

need to be larger, may need to use the front and back of the ballot face or a voter may need to use multiple ballots to vote.

A ranked ballot system will have an impact on the speed with which a voter can complete the ballot process at the polls due to the additional time election workers will need to issue, manage, balance and reconcile multiple ballots or dual face ballots and to educate voters with questions at the voting location. Exclusive use of electronic voting could help to mitigate the additional time voters spend at the polls, as could training and deploying additional poll staff. However, both mitigative measures would substantially increase the cost of running the election.

Election Results and Recount

In addition to reporting requirements in the current first-past-the-post electoral model, which includes reporting the candidates who have been elected and the number of ballots cast, a ranked ballot model would necessitate that the Clerk also report on the following, in order to maintain a comparable level of transparency with respect to the voting results:

- The number of ballots that were declined or rejected;
- The threshold for each office;
- The number of votes each candidate received in the first round of vote counting;
- The results of each subsequent round of vote counting, including the number of votes received by each remaining candidate and the number of exhausted ballots.

The Regulation specifies that in the event of a tie, when it cannot be determined which of the candidates has enough votes to meet or exceed the threshold, the following method will be used to determine the successful candidate:

- The tied candidate with the higher number of votes in the previous round will be considered to have the highest number of votes;
- If candidates were tied in the previous rounds, the vote totals in earlier rounds were used;
- If the candidates were to tie in all previous rounds, the name of the candidate who will be considered to have the highest number of votes is chosen by lot in a draw;
- The same process is applied to ties for candidates with the lowest number of votes in determining which candidate will be eliminated.

One of the most significant impacts on election administration will be meeting the expectations of delivering timely reporting of election results. Based upon the experience of other jurisdictions, the tabulation of ranked ballots increases the amount of time before official election results can be announced. With the current voting system, election results are typically generated very quickly with unofficial results announced at the end of Voting Day and official results announced with two to three business days. With ranked voting, unofficial results may still be available same night but the verification of official results would require more time and could take up to more than a week. This delay would be unavoidable in order to ensure the results are accurate. The time to complete this can vary considerably depending on the number of rounds of counting required as a result of the votes cast, and the vote counting systems that would need to be developed to conduct the count.

The final results were available 15 days after the 2009 RCV election in Minneapolis, due to the lengthy process of hand counting and data entry. In 2013, the Minneapolis tabulation team experienced challenges completing seven races where winners could not be declared on Election Night. After thirty-four (34) rounds of tabulation for the mayoral race, the entire election was completed 72 hours after the close of polls on Election Night.

On November 16, 2016, the Ontario Government tabled Bill 68, *Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act* that will introduce a series of reforms to the *Municipal Act*. One of the proposed changes is to reduce the time between the election of councils and their first meetings. The proposed start of a new council term is November 15th. The 2018 Election Day is October 22, 2018, which, if the above-noted legislation passed, would leave only 24 calendar days for municipalities to produce results, certify results, recount (if called for), and transition the new Council into Office and the previous Council out.

Accessibility

In previous municipal elections, the City of London has utilized accessible voting devices at Advance voting locations in an effort to alleviate potential barriers to voting. Accessible devices include a handheld touch pad, "yes/no" paddles and a sip and puff machine. These devices give the voter the opportunity to listen to an audio ballot with candidate options read out over headphones. With the current first-past-the-post ballot, it takes a significant amount of time to be read out in full. One of the

major concerns with accessible ranked ballots is the length of time it will take to have an audio ballot read out if a voter is now presented with the opportunity to rank each candidate three times, or more. Depending on the number of rankings permitted and the number of candidates for an office, this could make the voter experience for marking a ballot using an accessible voting device significantly longer.

Increased Administrative Costs

The Civic Administration is anticipating increased administrative costs that are based on the following:

- Additional staff resources will be needed to support research, planning and implementation of ranked voting to develop new processes and audit procedures.
- Paper ballot production costs are expected to increase based on the size and number of ballot faces required for each voter, as well as, in anticipation of more spoiled/rejected ballots and replacements needed.
- Mandatory Public Meeting and Open House as required by the *Municipal Elections Act*, will result in increased operating costs.
- Extensive public education initiatives will be required to inform and assist voters and this will require additional staff.
- Additional election workers will be needed at each polling location to assist voters who are unclear on the new electoral model and to ensure wait times are not increased.
- Additional training will be required for approximately 1800 election workers to ensure that they are knowledgeable on ranked balloting and can assist voters. In past elections, and not unique to the City of London, the recruitment, hiring, and training of a sufficient number of competent election workers has proven to be challenging (Appendix 'B'). Some workers are unable to complete training or fulfill their duties assigned during the advance period or on Voting Day. The process under a ranked ballot election model will make training and Advance/Voting Day duties that much more complex as there will be multiple ballots (one ranked ballot for Mayoral and Council races and one first-past-the-post ballot for school boards) or a 2-sided ballot with two different electoral models, a confused public, voters dissatisfied with potentially longer wait times, a process to eliminate rankings, etc.

Detailed estimates of the potential increased costs are provided below.

Financial Impact

Public Consultation and Education

If Council directs the Civic Administration to proceed with a ranked ballot election in the 2018 municipal election the following cost estimates have been made to conduct communications and community engagement sessions required under legislation.

- Public meeting provisions – \$2,000
- Communication materials – \$5,000

An estimate of approximately 180 hours of staff time has also been made to carry out the public consultation. It is difficult to predetermine if these hours will have an impact on overtime budgets for the affiliated departments. This estimate does not include the cost and time of phone surveys or fact gathering as other municipalities have indicated in their staff reports on ranked ballots.

Further, if London were to move forward with ranked ballots, an extensive voter outreach and education campaign will need take place to ensure that messaging on voting and tallying results in a ranked ballot election is clear to the voter and candidate. Currently, the City of London has \$150,000 allocated to the budget for a communication plan (\$91,000 was spent in 2014). Based on similar experiences with cities in the United States who have implemented ranked ballots, we estimate another \$150,000 for communications dedicated strictly to ranked balloting. In attending speaking sessions with the City of Minneapolis, and gathering information on their implementation of ranked balloting, they spent \$1.8 million on outreach in 2013 for a population size similar to London.

Implementation

The 2014 municipal election cost for ballots, tabulators, and results software was \$243,762.00 before tax. When asked for an estimate if the same service provided in 2014 were repeated with a ranked ballot system, the City vendor from 2014 advised that the same election would cost an estimate extra

30 to 50 percent (\$322,500) for a total cost of \$566,262. Increased implementation costs are anticipated based on:

- **Tabulators** – There is no additional cost for the ranked ballot feature to be added to the same tabulators used in the 2014 election. The vendor has confirmed that it is their belief that the existing tabulators could handle a ballot containing both a ranked Mayor and Councillor contest in combination with a first-past-the-post contest for school board trustee.
- **Paper Ballots** – The vendor anticipates a 48 percent increase in paper ballot costs. Based on the 2014 ballot quantities, the total additional cost is estimated at \$42,500. The total cost for ballots is estimated at \$130,118 for a ranked ballot election. The expected increase is due to the need to print on the back of ballots and/or make the ballot longer, since ranked contests fill up more space. This estimate is based on the same number of candidates in 2014 and ranking up to three choices. Going beyond ranking three choices, would increase the cost further as the ballot would move to a two page ballot. In addition the ballot layout becomes much more complex and programming and design costs (included in price above) are increased further.
- **Vendor Cost** – The costs for both logic and accuracy testing would increase and would also be dependent on the scale of the ranked ballots. In 2014, we scheduled five project management days with the vendor for logic and accuracy testing. Although we used mainly internal resources, the vendor provided onsite training and coordination. The total cost for onsite vendor support was \$4,000. The vendor recommends increasing the support by 50% to ensure logic and accuracy testing is completed over six days, but also to conduct test elections on the results reporting and algorithm portion. As a result, the estimated cost from the City’s previous vendor was \$10,000 for ranked balloting logic and accuracy testing. The vendor has experience conducting ranked ballot elections, but have acknowledged there are still a great deal of unknowns with the algorithm for Ontario municipal elections. At this time, vendors are unaware what the algorithms will look like and there is potential that it will be different in every jurisdiction depending on the number of rankings. It is understood that this reporting part of the election will have an additional cost, regardless of the vendor, which is also unknown at this time.
- **Staffing/Resources** – The Civic Administration anticipates a 35 percent increase, or an additional \$70,000, based on the 2014 cost for internal staffing. One additional senior election worker would be required to assist with the coordination of the election. The additional staff resource would allow focus on change and vendor management to develop procedures, policies and processes for ranked balloting. At least one additional election worker would be needed at each voting location during the Advance voting period and on Voting Day to assist voters with questions regarding the ranked ballot process. Based on the number of locations, number of Advance voting days, and rate of election staff pay, an additional staffing cost of at least \$50,000 is anticipated if ranked balloting were implemented.

Estimate of Total Ranked Balloting Costs

Consultation	\$	150,000	
Tabulators	\$	-	
Paper Ballots	\$	42,500	*
Vendor Cost	\$	10,000	**
Staff Resources	\$	70,000	
Poll Worker	\$	50,000	
Total	\$	322,500	

* Cost is based on ranking a maximum of three candidates, legal sized ballot, printed double-sided. If the number of candidates or rankings increase, the number of ballots will increase and so will the cost.

** Not including the algorithm development and testing in results software.

Based on public consultation, vendor and staffing costs it is estimated that a ranked ballot election would cost at least an additional \$322,500. This results in an additional cost of \$1.24 per eligible elector according to the number of eligible electors in the 2014 municipal election. A more comprehensive assessment of potential costs could be undertaken once the Request for Proposal process is complete and a more detailed discussion with our vendor of choice could occur.

Question on the Ballot Option

If Council wishes to consider ranked ballot elections as an option for future municipal elections a referendum could be held with a question on the 2018 ballot. An important factor when considering the inclusion of a question on the ballot is whether voter turnout will be high enough to pass the threshold required for a binding decision. In accordance with Section 8(2.1) of the MEA, the results would only be binding if:

If Council

- (a) at least 50 per cent of eligible electors in the municipality vote on the question; and
 - (b) more than 50 per cent of the votes on the question are in favour of those results.
- 2000, c. 5, s. 28.

In 2014 the City of London had a voter turnout of 43 per cent which was the highest voter turnout rate in recent elections. If a question on ranked ballot elections was put on the 2018 ballot, voter turnout would have to be at least seven per cent higher in order to have a binding result.

According to the MEA, a question on the ballot would have to be authorized through a by-law no later than March 1, 2018. In reality, the Civic Administration is of the opinion that an earlier decision would have to be made in order to allow sufficient time for the election staff and vendor to ready their resources and procedures, to coordinate ballot printing and to provide ample time for a public education and awareness campaign.

Service Expansion Options for Future Municipal Elections

There were a number of initiatives undertaken to improve upon the local municipal election processes for 2014. A brief description of those initiatives is provided below:

- a) 2014 brought significant change to the tabulation process through the deployment of in poll tabulation for every Advance voting location and Voting Day poll. When an elector marked their ballot, they immediately fed their own ballot through the tabulation equipment and into the ballot box and received confirmation that their ballot had been counted. When the polls closed, the results were able to be promptly uploaded and provided to the public.
- b) The City of London updated its election management software by obtaining the services of Datafix Municipal Voter View Services. The internet-based application provides election officials with an electronic view of their electoral information, the ability to make corrections to the Voters' List, the ability to access various voter counts needed for electoral planning, and the capability to provide an electronic copy of all changes to the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) post-election.
- c) The City expanded the use of Accessible Voting Machines to every Advance voting location.

To prepare for the 2018 municipal election, the City Clerk's Office is in the final stages of completing an RFP to enquire about the following options as natural evolutions for further expanding election services and accessibility at the City of London:

- a) The use of online voting as an alternative voting method during Advance voting. Eligible voters would be able to cast their ballot from anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day, 7 days per week, during the Advance voting period.
- b) The exclusive use of accessible touchscreen devices at polling locations as the voting method during Advance voting (no paper ballots for Advance polls).

CONCLUSION

In accordance with Section 41.2(1) of the MEMA, Council has the option to pass a future by-law with respect to ranked ballot elections for offices of Council. If the Municipal Council were to decide to implement a ranked ballot election for the 2018 municipal election, a by-law would need to be passed much earlier than the **May 1, 2017** provided for in the governing legislation in order to allow the Civic Administration the time required to properly implement the change.

Option 1: First-Past-the-Post (recommended)

- The City of London would maintain the current first-past-the-post electoral model for the 2018 municipal election and the Civic Administration will consider expansion of the City's current voter technology as a natural evolution for further growth of election services and accessibility at the City of London; or

Option 2: Ranked Ballot

- The City of London would pursue a ranked ballot election as an option for the 2018 election and proceed with the public consultation process. In this case, Council would need to direct the Civic Administration to bring a further decision report back to Council prior to the May 1, 2017 deadline to pass a by-law to implement ranked balloting; or

Option 3: Question on Ballot (in conjunction with Option 1)

- Put a referendum question on the 2018 ballot to determine public interest in moving to a ranked ballot election in 2022.

The City Clerk is recommending that Council maintain the current first-past-the-post election model for the 2018 municipal election for the following reasons:

- **Public Education** – The ranked ballot system is a major departure from the experience of the average voter. No municipality in Ontario currently conducts ranked ballot elections and, as a result, there is a lack of public knowledge of this system among both experienced and new voters. A significant amount of time, effort, and election funding would be required to put towards public education and resources to inform the public about this new system in order to ensure the voting system effectively meets the needs and expectations of the electorate. Public education is critical to avoid public confusion, potential spoiled ballots and negative impacts to voter turnout.
- **Equipment Testing and Results** – In 2014, the City relied on tabulator equipment to count ballot selections at 150 different voting locations. This equipment ensured the consistent and accurate counting of votes, as well as, the timely production of election results. In-depth logic and accuracy testing was undertaken prior to the election to ensure that votes were counted accurately and consistently according to election procedures. No vendor has tested and certified software that supports the algorithms set out in the Ontario Regulation. It is critical to the integrity of an election that the tabulator system can be properly tested and certified.
- **Financial Considerations** - The extra costs associated with implementing a ranked ballot model would significantly impact the election reserve budget. Additional costs for a ranked ballot election have not been approved as part of the current Operating Budget. The election budget covers not only the costs of the municipal election every four years, but also any costs associated with a recount, a compliance audit, and/or a by-election(s).
- **Unavailable Experience** – Currently there are no provinces or municipalities across Canada that are using a ranked ballot election system. According to FairVote, there are six U.S. municipalities that have implemented a single-member ranked balloting process for the Offices of Mayor and Council². With recent amendments to the MEA, 2018 marks the first election year that Ontario municipalities have the option of implementing a ranked ballot election. Vendors and election administrators need to have adequate opportunity to test systems in the absence of actual experience by Canadian municipalities for ranked balloting, and to prepare the necessary procedures to ensure the integrity of the election. Additionally, the electorate needs the opportunity to better understand the election model options in order to make an informed decision as to which model they prefer. As a result, it is highly recommended that the City take the necessary time to make a more informed decision that ensures the proper delivery of the election. Since the Regulations were passed in September, municipalities have begun preparing and submitting information reports on ranked balloting to Council. At this time, Toronto, Mississauga, Brampton, Hamilton, Waterloo, Guelph, Clarington, and Orillia are among the municipalities that have declined to implement ranked balloting for the 2018 municipal election.

² FairVote . Ranked Choice Voting in US Elections. http://www.fairvote.org/rcv_in_us_elections

Opportunities to naturally evolve and expand upon election services are being considered for 2018 and would provide a solid foundation for considering a ranked ballot election in the future. Regardless of whether or not a ranked ballot election is pursued in 2018, staff will continue to monitor its growth and implementation in Ontario for future municipal elections and a comprehensive report will be provided at the appropriate time following the 2018 election.

PREPARED BY:	RECOMMENDED BY:
JACLYN RODRIGUES ELECTIONS INTERN	CATHY SAUNDERS, CITY CLERK
SUBMITTED BY:	
SARAH CORMAN MANAGER, LICENSING & ELECTIONS	

Single-member election: an election where one candidate is elected

In this election, you are being asked to vote on the kind of fruit that will be served as a snack.

Ranking the ballot



With ranked ballots you can rank your choices from your most preferred to least preferred option. You rank the choices as follows:

- Cherry 1
- Pear 2
- Strawberry 3
- Apple 4

Calculate the threshold to be elected

Thirty people voted, and only one fruit can be chosen. Sixteen votes are needed for a fruit to be elected (50 per cent of 30 votes is 15 votes, plus one makes it a majority).

Count the first choice votes

After the ballots are distributed according to first choices, the vote count looks like this:

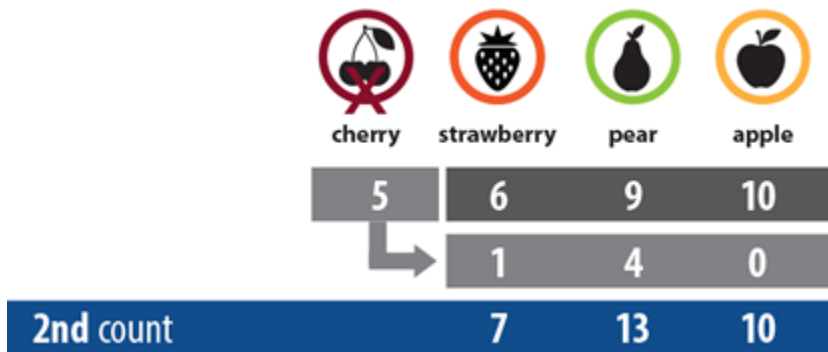


None of the fruits has received enough votes to be elected.

Eliminate the option in last place and redistribute those ballots to other candidates

Your first choice, Cherry got the fewest votes. Your ballot will now be given to your second choice, Pear. (The ballots of everyone else who voted for Cherry as their first choice will also be redistributed to their second choices).

After the 5 Cherry ballots are distributed, the new vote count is:



After the second round of counting, none of the fruits has received enough votes to be elected.

Drop the last place and redistribute those ballots

Strawberry now has the fewest votes. Your ballot stays with your second choice, Pear.

After the 7 Strawberry ballots are redistributed, the new vote count is:



Pear is elected with 17 votes. Even though your first choice didn't get elected, your ballot helped your second choice to win.

<http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page11118.aspx>

Dozens play hooky on city election team

BY JON WILLING, OTTAWA SUN

FIRST POSTED: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2014 10:15 PM EDT | UPDATED: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2014 10:20 PM EDT



Voters arrive to vote during the Ontario election at Ecole elementary le Prelude in Orleans Monday Oct 27, 2014. Tony Caldwell/Ottawa Sun/QMI Agency

Dozens of people scheduled to work at polling stations played hooky on the city's election team Monday.

Catherine Bergeron, the city's elections manager, said 50 to 60 people hired to work at voting locations didn't show up.

"That's unbelievable," Bergeron told the Sun Tuesday.

It was Bergeron's 13th election working behind the scenes and she's prepared for unexpected staffing snafus.

"We already knew we were short people," she said.

"I've been doing elections for a few years. It's called trusting my gut."

Her team trained 53 city staff last Friday as a safety net, plus another 90 members of the public "just in case."

Fifty of those residents were called into action.

Bergeron also dialed up two of the most senior city bureaucrats, deputy city managers Steve Kanellakos and Nancy Schepers, to help at voting stations.

People who previously committed to work, but cancelled, either phoned the elections office to say they were sick (one of many reasons), or they didn't bother telling anyone they weren't coming.

In at least one case, a worker thought the election wasn't until Nov. 27.

About 2,000 workers are involved in the election.

Despite the staffing headache, Bergeron is happy with how the election ran.

New voting machines worked fine and a "revamped" internal system operated without a hitch, she said.

"Turnout is what was expected," Bergeron said of the 39.9% of eligible voters who cast a ballot.

"It's a shame we didn't get more out to the polls."

The elections office did what it could to make voting more flexible.