

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING COMMENTS

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING – Ranked Ballot Model

- B. Brock – providing the attached presentation.
- S. Basta, 85 Fourwinds Road, representing the Urban League of London – reiterating the Urban League of London's attached statement encouraging the City of London to pilot the ranked-choice ballot format in the 2018 Municipal Election.
- G. Cooper, 16 Thorncrest Crescent – suggesting that the City “keep it simple” and that he doesn't like London being a guinea pig; noting that no one can guarantee the ranked ballot model will work, but acknowledging that maybe sometimes it could work; and stating that the City has bigger fish to fry and should not be a scape goat.
- A. Cantel, 44 Alexandra Street – stating she is a big believer in democracy and has voted in every federal and provincial election since she was of voting age, but her vote has counted to the extent as if she had never been born; indicating she believes that the first past the post model is largely what has driven the lack of effectiveness of her vote; advising that a lot of the Council Members she voted for have been appointed to office, but that she is sure that a lot of other Londoners couldn't say that; noting that every person who is eligible to vote should be able to have that vote mean something and at least with ranked vote ballots she believes that everyone's vote gets considered at least to some extent; suggesting that there is a growing interest in the country for electoral reform, Canadians are getting better informed but we are still in early days; also stating that you often need to say here is proof of concept and this is how it is used and it works in order to get things going and for people to believe you can make change for the better; and indicating that it is very rare for a municipality to do something great for its nation and that she thinks London has a chance to do that and urges the City to do so.
- A. Stark, 1535 Trossacks Avenue – echoing everything said by the previous speaker; indicating she is a newly-engaged Londoner in the municipal level; noting it is exciting to be able to have the opportunity to create change; advising she was brought up in a very conservative environment: not the politics, but the mentality and that now she is at a stage of life where she is making decisions for herself and it is exciting to see the changes you can make as a young person; indicating she totally respects her elders, and the things they have seen and experiences they have had, but that she wants to encourage them to open their eyes to the awesome opportunities we can have; saying she is excited about what we can do to build on what has been done in the United States and we can maybe use that to even make money in Canada; and concluding that we are in 2017 and that this is a new generation of people coming up who want to be heard and that she wants to be part of that and is willing to go out and spread the word.
- E. Palozza, 62 Westwinds Drive – stating that she is a Mom of three and also started behind the scenes in politics 10 years ago when her son was born as she was wondering what was happening and who was making the decisions; indicating that she is glad that London is considering this and that so many things are important; reiterating that people should not assume that people cannot count to three; noting she has knocked on several doors with various candidates and it broke her heart that people in late middle age were upset that their vote never counted in federal and provincial politics; indicating that here in London we have a chance to be a leader, yes it means being brave and maybe costing a little bit more money, but that is what happens when you go first; and asking that London please consider being first.
- V. van Linden, 431 Ridgewood Crescent – stating that she really wants ranked ballots; noting that older folks are eager for change too, maybe because they have waited longer for change; advising that we should not change for the sake of change, but neither should we stay the same because this is what we are used to; stating that ranked ballots wouldn't work for the federal election, but they would work well for municipalities; as to the additional cost, asking what could be more important to us than how we elect our government because everything else follows from that; suggesting that you can be penny wise but a pound foolish to pinch pennies on this; advising that first past the post is the absolute worst method that could be invented and that as good as we Canadians are we can be stuck in the mud and resistant to change and are therefore not as successful as we could be; pointing out that when you look at Scandinavian countries who rank in some of the most stable governments in the world and rank in the most stable economies, they do not use majoritarian voting; reiterating that Canadians are not so simple that they can't count to three; encouraging us to expect more from citizens; pointing out that the London Free Press used to have people complain about matters who didn't want to do anything about fixing what they were complaining about; stating that with regard to fear of special interest groups taking over, she belongs to a special

interest group and everything good that comes forward has come from a special interest group (e.g. civil rights, voting for women); and asking that we not be afraid and let's just proceed with ranked ballots.

- D. Levac, 64 Villeneuve Crescent – stating that he agrees with ranked ballots for all the reasons stated; and asking London to take a leadership in technology and of the opportunity here.
- A. Sanchez and S. Lewkowitz, Women in Politics – providing the presentation appended to the Agenda, in support of ranked ballots.
- W. Rogers, 675 St. James Street – thanking the last presenters; indicating he is the proud father of 3 daughters and 3 granddaughters and welcomes any opportunity to bring diversity or gender into the election process; stating this is his third opportunity to hear about ranked ballots and that he does not believe that this should be a pilot; advising that this Council has the leadership needed to move this forward and that London can be an example for the nation; and advising that he supports moving forward with a ranked ballot for 2018.
- G. Brown, 59 Ridout Street South – stating that perpetuating a system does not address the problem; noting that he was helping a friend run an election campaign where there was a four-way split and his candidate lost by about 23 votes; commenting that this made him think that there must be a better way of taking the temperature of the electorate as three out of four people voted for someone else; suggesting that there is not a better way than ranked ballots to take the temperature of the electorate; advising that it was well known that if you run for office under the current system the incumbent is mostly likely to win so candidates have to step aside to avoid vote splitting and that ranked ballots would allow more people more conversations running into an election; advising that during the last election there were behind the scenes meetings to determine who would run for office and unofficial primaries, and the voters never got to decide who would run for office and hear everyone's voice; stating that this Council has a choice to make for the next election to determine if we try something different and consider the indications; suggesting that according to most people ranked ballots are not a big change and there is a possibility of bringing diversity to the electoral process, which could be our gift to Canada on its 150th birthday; and urging Council to support ranked ballots.
- J. Lucas, 85 Wilson Avenue – indicating his support for ranked ballots and thanking everyone for what has been brought forward and for providing a forum for people to make their views known.
- J. Hunt, 31 Milver Crescent – noting London is the only municipality poised to make ranked ballots a reality for 2018 and that would make it a leader in Canada, and a leader in democracy; urging Council to do what is right and not just what is easy; and stating that ranked ballots are right and easy and that it is what London should do.
- S. Sharma, 363 Colborne Street – indicating that she is in favour of ranked ballots, but as the City moves ahead communication needs to be kept at the heart of the process; noting that the City needs to engage more than the group of citizens that are here today as we are a City of 380,000 people; and advising that if we are making this change we need to take the right steps to communicate this change to people.
- D. Meslin, 15 Lauder Avenue, Toronto – indicating that he is not in London to tell London what to do, but to say that he is jealous that Toronto isn't doing this; thanking the City for leading this---staff have led and Council has led; suggesting that we are living in a time of apathy, disengagement and cynicism and while the private sector constantly innovates the City is still using the same voting system we used 150 years ago and we should be innovative with our voting system and keep moving things forward and making things better; advising that there is data from other jurisdictions that indicates that a ranked ballot system allows for greater stability, diversity and fairer results; advising that he is attempting to debunk some of the myths out there, including confusion; suggesting you can't go back to 2014 and see if someone else would win---because you can't determine who else might have run if it had been a ranked ballot election; quoting a statement by a vendor indicating that their tabulators were ready for a ranked ballot election and that running a ranked ballot election would be pretty straight forward; indicating that a recent Minneapolis ranked ballot race resulted in only 1 ballot being completed incorrectly; pointing out that City Council used a ranked ballot process to elect its own Deputy Mayor; and stating that he recognized that ranked ballots won't fix everything, but London should give it a whirl, make it a pilot; and asking if London is ready to lead.
- S. Adamsson, Ward 11 – noting that in 2014 London lost a great candidate in Ward 4 and that she was one of London's best and should have remained on the ballot; observing that he sees only 4 women sitting on a Council of 15 and that a ranked ballot process would be the single best policy change to move diversity forward; and asking London to show that it innovates and it leads.

- E. Michaels, 31 Lyndbrook Court – indicating that she understands that ranked ballots are very tempting and that first past the post has faults that cannot be rectified, but ranked ballots also have some faults; noting that some numbers can have different interpretations that could create different results and therefore won't necessarily reflect the true opinion of the people if you can get different results with different interpretations; noting that there was some discussion about vote splitting and that can also happen with a ranked ballot as if you split votes between candidate 1 and candidate 2 both of those candidates will still be eliminated; stating there are severe mathematical problems with ranked ballots; advising that if you tally two areas individually and both come up with a winner and then you tally at the same time you can achieve a different winner so that does not make sense and is mathematically incorrect; suggesting that it is not as simple as counting to 3, it is knowing how that counting to 3 will change the election results and with a ranked ballot system you don't have the proper intuitive interpretation to be able know how your rankings will affect the election outcome; also advising that accountability is a severe problem as you cannot vote against a candidate and get rid of someone who is not doing their job; indicating that she understands how tempting ranked ballots are and that she is personally fond of accurate representation, but there is another theoretical system out there that solves the problems while maintaining representation and doesn't require additional resources as it is additive and you can add the votes from various sectors and you don't need an advanced algorithm that takes into account all votes at the same time; further stating that the systems already exists out there and you can take it from popular culture and other areas, it just hasn't been applied to voting yet; advising that the system uses all votes and no ballot is exhausted, every opinion is used and accountability is maintained as you can vote in a way to move people out; also advising that there are no draws or ties, it is a statistically incredibly unlikely that this would happen; advising it does not increase the likelihood that recounts or challenges will be required as you can tally the votes using such a simple methodology; and it is time effective because you can add the various regions together and then add them at the end, you don't have to wait until every vote is tallied together and you don't have to recount after somebody is removed from the race; suggesting that there is no training required because by the Grade 5 level not only will people be able to understand how to vote, they will be to able understand how that vote could change the election process: there is no confusion and no debating amongst yourselves how to vote; purporting that it has the same deciding power as first past the post and the same power to express your opinion as a ranked ballot; summarizing that the only cons about the system is that it has not been done before, it is completely new and no system in the world has ever tried to accomplish this and that the reason she hasn't described it is she didn't want to muddle it, but would ask for indulgence to speak with more time to inform Council about the exact methods as to how this system would work.
- Mohammed Moussa, 155 Thornton Avenue – stating that “a whirl” is not something we need to take for electing our Councillors; indicating that he has heard so much about London leading the pack...this is not about being first, it is about making sure the system we use to elect our government is the best system; noting he has attended a Ranked Ballot Open House and showed in about two minutes how a third place finisher could possibly be the only one to get over 50% of the vote; asking that Council take time to review this as a ranked ballot system is not without its faults and to read Mr. Levin's submission to this Committee and that he does not agree with ranked ballots; noting that there are some voters out there who are functionally illiterate and a 1-2-3 ranked ballot model may make those individuals less likely to vote as it may be more confusing for them; and concluding that he believes that the ranked ballot system has a lot of faults to it.
- Former Trustee, 2012 Toronto School Board, residing outside of London – advising that he was on the Toronto School Board in 2012 and won that seat with only 18% of the vote and was never able to shake off that fact throughout his entire term on the Board; and advising that he thinks you have to implement ranked ballots to demonstrate that the successful candidate does have the confidence of the constituencies that they represent.