

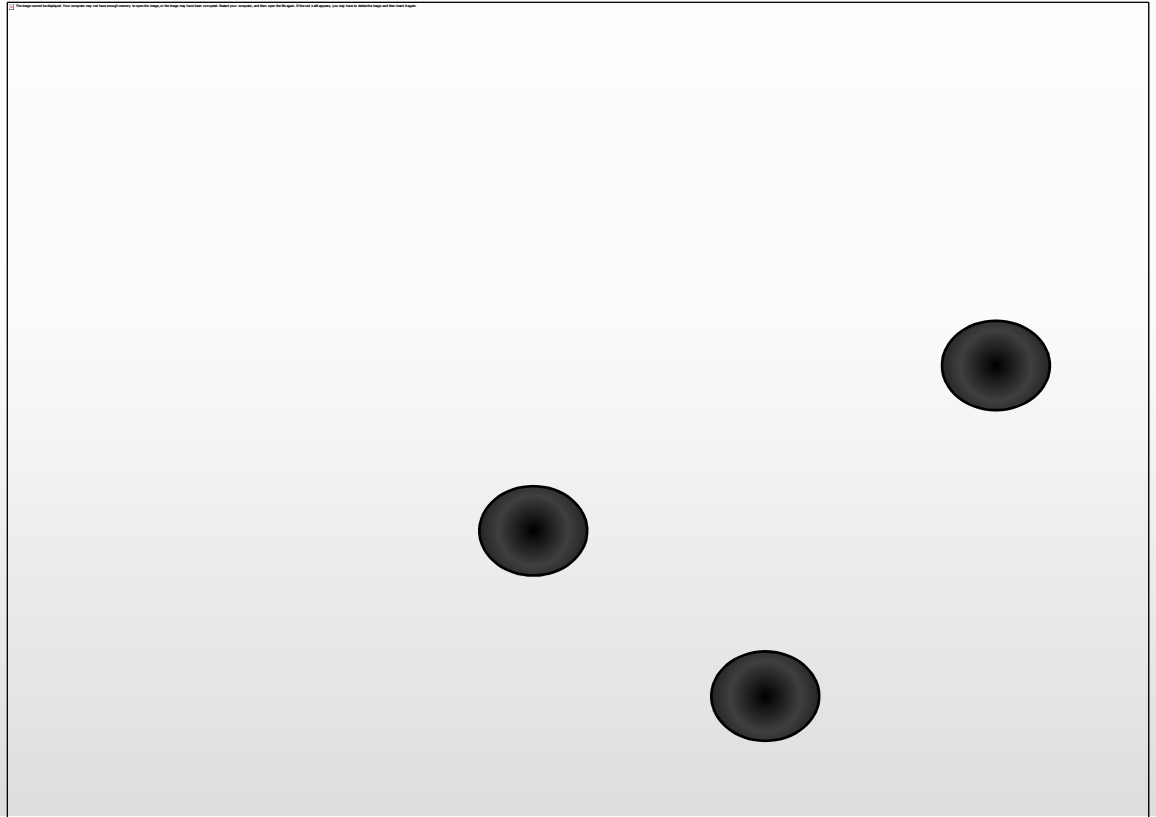
# What is Ranked Choice Voting?

- The City of London is exploring the option to use **Ranked Choice Voting** (a ranked ballot system).
- This is a system that has been used around the world to tally votes on voting day.
- Instead of voting for only one candidate, you can choose up to three candidates in order of preference.

# How does Ranked Choice Voting work?

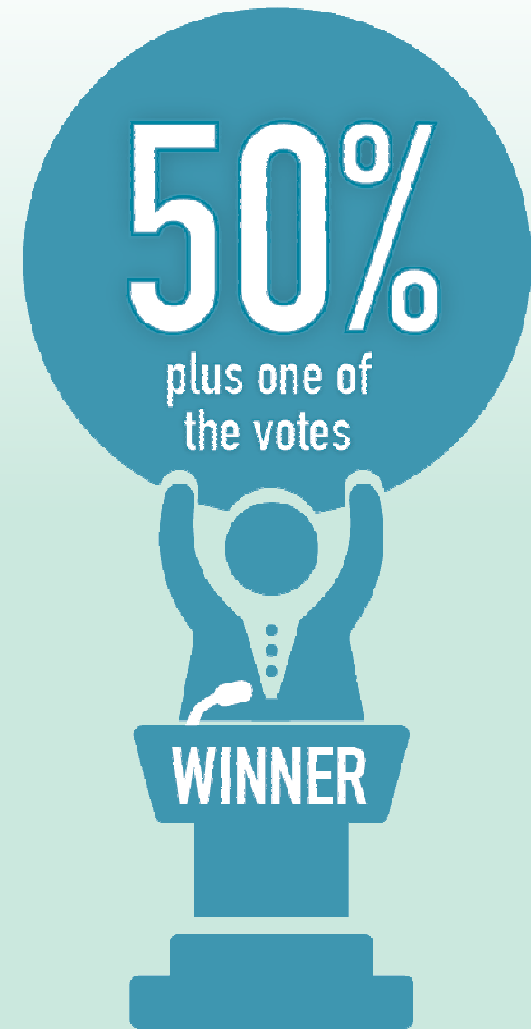
Voters rank the candidates in order of preference on the ballot –

- **1<sup>st</sup> choice,**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> choice, and**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> choice.**



# Determining a winner

- To win, it's not enough to get the most votes:
  - **The candidate who receives 50% plus one of the votes wins.**
- This is achieved through a process of elimination.



# Claims made in support of Ranked Choice Voting

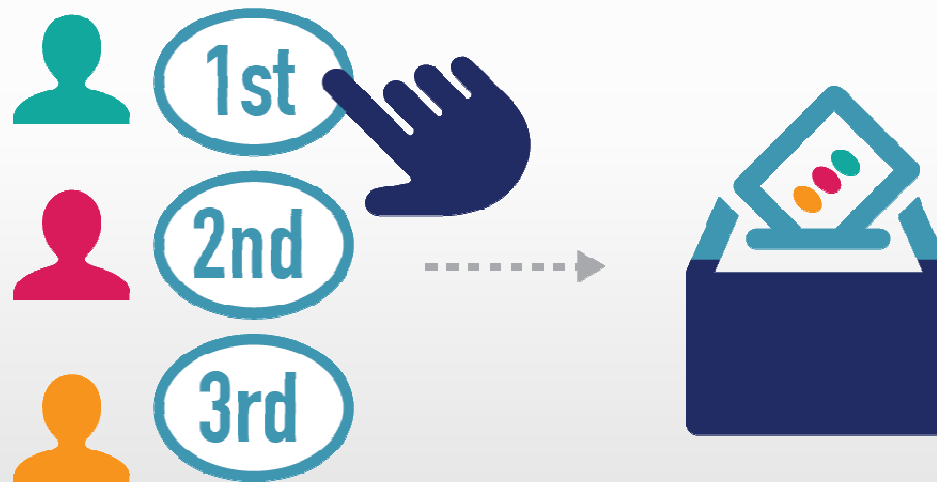
- Reduces strategic voting
- Reduces negative campaigning
- The winning candidate may better reflect the desires of the majority of the voters
- Encourages more candidates to remain in the race until voting day without the threat of “vote splitting” between like-minded candidates

# Claims made against Ranked Choice Voting

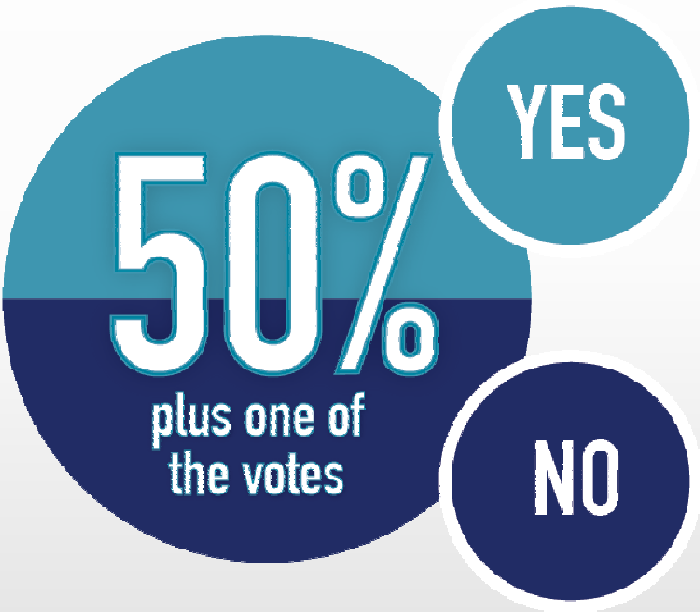
- There is no proven and tested method of tabulating Ranked Choice ballots in an Ontario election
- Results could take longer to determine
- Developing new technology and creating new ballots will raise the cost of the election

# How are votes tallied in a Ranked Choice Voting system?

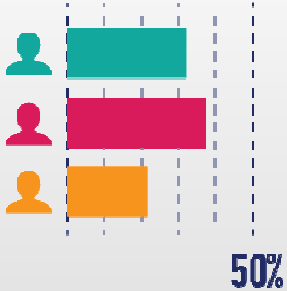
All of the first-choice votes are added up.




# How is a winner declared?



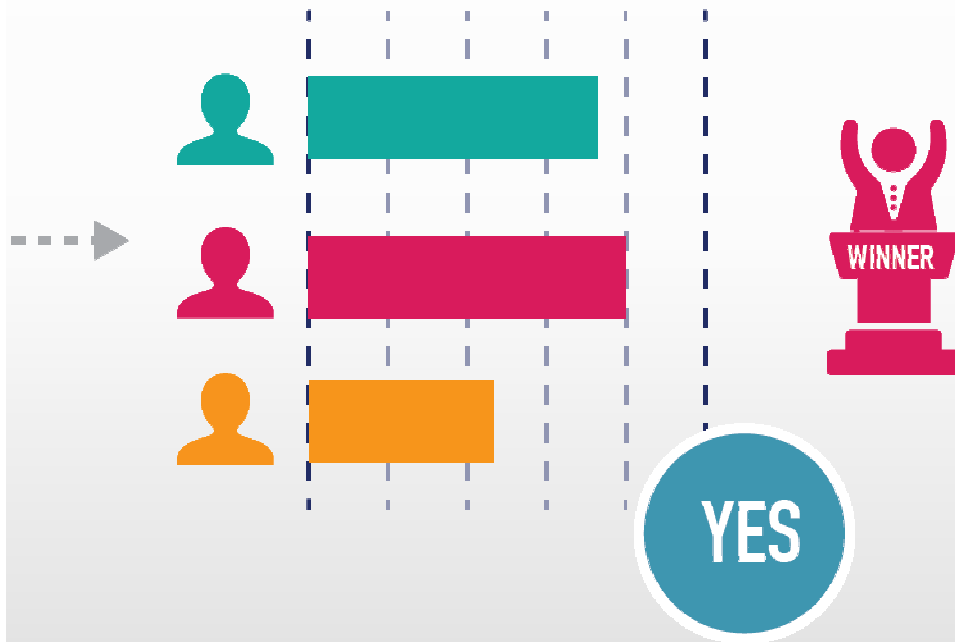
**50% plus one** of the votes, the candidate is declared the winner.



If not, the **fewest votes candidate is eliminated**. A new count begins. 

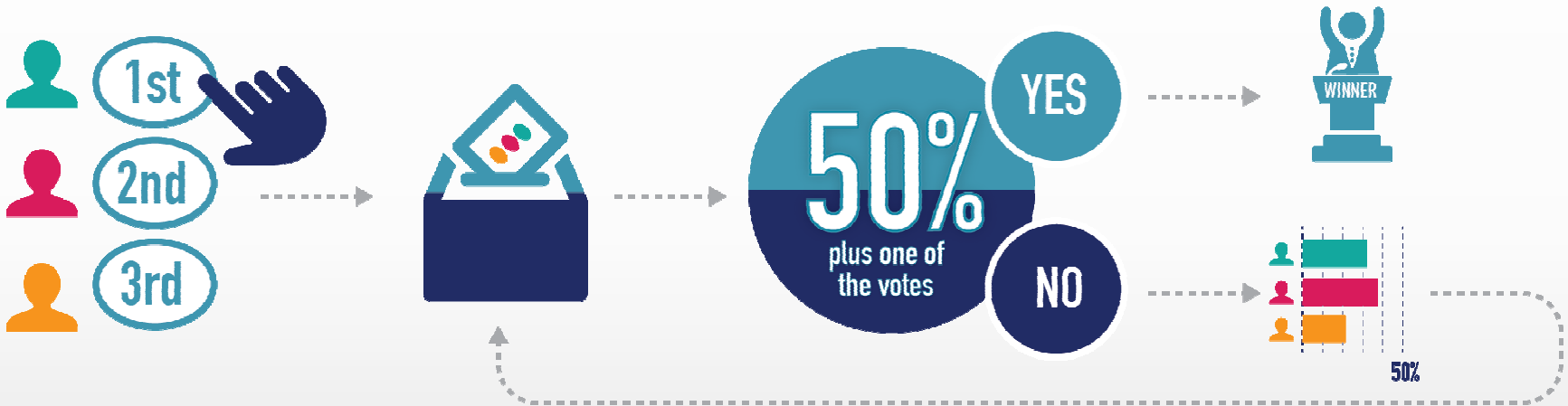


# What happens to my vote when my candidate is eliminated?



- The ballots that ranked the eliminated candidate as the first choice, are now counted again **but,** this time using the **second-choice votes.**
- This process is repeated until a **winner can be declared with 50% plus one of the vote.**

# Overview of how Ranked Choice Voting works



**This process is repeated until a winner can be declared.**

# How will Ranked Choice Voting be implemented?

## Advance Touchscreen Election:

- By 2018, voters may have the use of accessible touchscreen devices at polling locations during advance voting, replacing paper ballots.



# How will Ranked Choice Voting be implemented?

## Tabulators on Voting Day:

- In-poll tabulation occurs for every voting day poll.
- Marked ballots are fed through the tabulation equipment and into the ballot box.
  - The elector receives visual confirmation that their ballot has been counted.
- When the polls close and results have been verified, they will be uploaded and posted on our website.



# How much will Ranked Choice Voting cost?

- The current budget for conducting elections is \$1.9 million.
- In 2014, the cost was \$1.3 million.
- The increase between 2014 and 2018 is attributed to:
  - rising costs for poll staffing
  - remuneration
  - communications
  - postage
  - technology improvements

# How much will Ranked Choice Voting cost?

- It is estimated, in addition to the budgeted amount elections will cost the following:

Consultation	\$ 150,000
Tabulators	-
Paper Ballots	\$ 42,500*
Vendor Cost	\$ 10,000†
Staff Resources	\$ 70,000
Poll Workers	\$ 50,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 322,500</b>

\* 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.

[London.ca/Elections](http://London.ca/Elections)



# Frequently Asked Questions?

- What happens if a person only votes for one candidate?
- What happens in the event of a tie?
- Can someone be elected without a majority of votes or 50% plus 1?
- Where is ranked balloting being used?

# Further Considerations - Staff

The City Clerk's Office takes its statutory responsibility for running the Municipal Election very seriously, and puts an extraordinary amount of time and effort into the election process.



# Further Considerations - Staff

We have an obligation to Londoners, and of course to Council, to fully examine all aspects of the election process so that any decisions are made in an informed manner, the election runs as smoothly as possible, and is run in the best interests of Londoners.

# Further Considerations - Staff

Based upon the information we have examined to date, the following matters remain of concern to staff:

- **Equipment Testing and Results**
- **Election Recount**
- **Voters**
- **Maximizing the Objective of a Ranked Ballot**
- **Financial Investment**

# Further Considerations - Staff

## Equipment Testing and Results

- No vendor has tested and certified software that supports the algorithms set out in the Ontario provincial legislation for municipalities.
- This leaves staff with no assurance that vendors will be able to fulfill the requirements of a ranked ballot process for 2018.

# Further Considerations - Staff

## Election Recount

- Based upon experience, it is possible that the results of any new counting process may be challenged and there could be a need for a recount.
- The recount process could be very challenging and costly to the municipality.
- Timing for completing a recount could impact when Council Members are able to be sworn into office.

# Further Considerations - Staff

## Voters

- A significant investment in public education is important if the City were to move to ranked ballots, in order to ensure the voting system is well understood and the election runs as smoothly as possible.
- However, even with additional public education, it is likely that movement through the polls may be slower than what people may have previously been used to as they adjust to the new process.

# Further Considerations - Staff

## Maximizing the Objective of a Ranked Ballot

- A common observation throughout the various Open Houses was that, in a number of instances, people's resistance to a change to a ranked ballot system was alleviated when they found out they could just select one candidate and were not obliged to rank multiple candidates.
- While voting for just one candidate is certainly any voter's right, voting for just one candidate mitigates the intended benefits of a ranked ballot "ensuring majority support".

# Further Considerations - Staff

## Financial Investment

- It is fully expected that additional funds may be required to run a ranked ballot election in order to put the necessary supports and systems in place.
- Additional costs will be incurred for any recounts or by-elections, should those situations arise under a ranked ballot process.

# Contact us:

**City Hall – Elections Office**  
**Lower Level**  
 300 Dufferin Avenue

## Elections Office Numbers

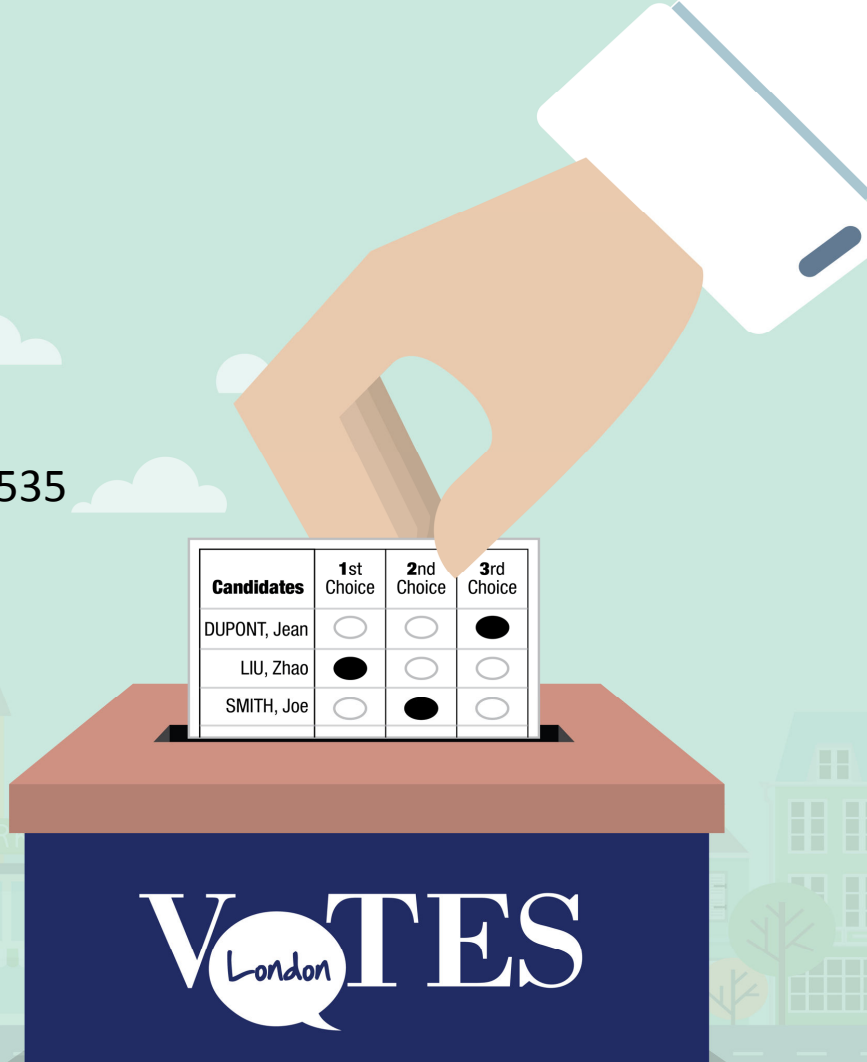
Municipal Election Office number: 519-661-4535

Fax number: 519-661-4892

TTY phone number: 519-661-4500

## Mailing Address

City Clerk's Office - Elections Division  
 P.O. Box 5035, London ON N6A 4L9



Candidates	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice
DUPONT, Jean	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
LIU, Zhao	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SMITH, Joe	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**VOTES**  
 London

