

Mayor and Councillors
Council

Dear colleagues:

In 2018, London was the only municipality in Ontario to implement ranked ballots.

As you know from being a candidate, the City Clerk and the election staff team did an excellent job explaining how ranked-choice voting works and administering the election itself. It was an award-winning example of successfully implementing electoral reform at the municipal level.

There were one-time startup costs associated with this change, including consultation in advance and education about how ranked-choice voting works. Through negotiations with one of the suppliers, city staff were able to secure a lower price by committing to two election cycles.

The proposed *Bill 218, Supporting Ontario's Recovery Act, 2020* would force London to switch back to the first-past-the-post system.

Normally, we would direct a letter like this to the appropriate standing committee. However, this matter is considered urgent because the Government of Ontario has the ability to fast-track and pass this Act before the next Corporate Service Committee meeting.

We are therefore seeking support of the following emergent motion:

1. Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to communicate to the Province of Ontario that the City of London:
 - a. does not support these proposed changes to the *Municipal Elections Act*;
 - b. does support the principle that each municipality should be able to choose whether or not it uses first-past-the-post or ranked-choice voting;
 - c. encourages the provincial government to meaningfully consult with municipalities on municipal issues before introducing legislative changes of this magnitude.
2. The Mayor BE REQUESTED to ask the Premier and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to exempt London from the proposed changes, if the province proceeds with the legislation as drafted.
3. Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to report back with an estimate of the costs of being forced by the province to switch to first-past-the-post for the 2022 election.

Regards,

Jesse Helmer
Deputy Mayor
Councillor, Ward 4

Josh Morgan
Councillor, Ward 7