

From: Samuel E Trosow  
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 8:59 AM  
To: csc <csc@london.ca>  
Cc: Samuel E Trosow  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Filling Council vacancies

Mayor and City Council Members:

I am writing in support of holding a by-election to fill the vacancies in Wards 6 and 13. In the alternative, Council should call for applications to fill the vacancies instead of making an appointment based on past election results.

Now that there are vacancies in two wards, Council should get an update on cost estimates. To what extent would spreading certain fixed costs over a second ward be a relevant consideration for this decision.

Further, Council should consider whether there are any measures that can be taken to further cut election-related costs both for the city and for candidates? Such measures could include:

- Having a short election period
- Using mail-in and drop-off ballots along with advance polling stations. (Using City Hall and other city-facilities could lessen rental costs, and by using a combination of mail-in / drop-off voting along with extended advance voting options, election-day costs can be mitigated.)
- Calling a moratorium on election signs in public roadways, a measure already being considered for future municipal elections. This would decrease the costs to candidates and also level the field between new candidates and those who have run before.
- Imposing a lower donation and expenditure limit on candidates would certainly cut candidate costs, but this would need provincial approval since those limits are set by the Municipal Elections Act.

If there must be an appointment, it should be someone who:

- (1) pledges not to seek re-election in 2022; and
- (2) has a strong knowledge and background in the work of Council and it's procedures.

But on balance, I think the best approach is to hold a by-election with as many cost-cutting measures as possible.

Thank you for your consideration of these points. I consent to having this note included in a public agenda.

Samuel Trosow, Associate Professor  
University of Western Ontario  
(and Ward 6 resident)