





Councillor Paul Ainslie
Toronto City Council
Scarborough East - Ward 43
Chair, Government Management Committee
Chair, Toronto Public Library Board

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Date: April 23, 2013
To: Government Management Committee Members
Re: Amendment to Municipal Elections Act

Recommendation:

1. That the Government Management committee recommend that Toronto City Council request the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to amend the necessary legislation to permit Toronto City Council to use ranked ballots and instant runoff voting in municipal elections.

In an effort to promote positive campaigns and encourage a wider discussion on City issues during municipal elections, there has been a discussion to introduce a ranked ballot and instant runoff voting system to the City of Toronto. The movement behind this option would be to ensure that voters were confident that their vote reflected how they want the City to move forward.

A rank ballot and instant runoff system brings with it elected members who receive a minimum of 50% of the vote in their Wards, signifying a strong mandate for each district to serve the citizens needs in a more democratic and community based fashion. I believe that we at the City of Toronto can build a great City by ensuring that each Ward is strong in its own right, having an elected official with 50% or more of the residents support would positively contribute to this goal.

In order for the City of Toronto to consider a change to use ranked ballots and instant runoff voting in municipal elections, a request is to be made to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing for permissive legislation. This request on its own would not change the City of Toronto's voting system, it provides the City of Toronto with the opportunity to explore and consider this option. The legislative requirement would be an amendment to the Municipal Elections Act.

Sincerely,
Councillor Paul Ainslie
City of Toronto
Scarborough East Ward 43