



CITY COUNCIL REFERRAL OF MEMBER MOTION

Preserving Ranked Ballot Elections

Date: November 2, 2020
To: Executive Committee
From: City Council
Wards: Ward: All

CITY COUNCIL DECISION

City Council on October 27, 28 and 30, 2020, referred Motion MM25.10 to the Executive Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Councillor Shelley Carroll, seconded by Councillor Joe Cressy, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Government of Ontario to withdraw its amendment to the Municipal Elections Act as it relates to ranked ballot elections.

SUMMARY

On October 20, 2020, the Provincial government tabled Bill 218, Supporting Ontario's Recovery and Municipal Elections Act, 2020. This Bill revokes the framework in place as part of the Municipal Elections Act to allow municipalities to elect Council members using ranked ballots.

As the level of government that most directly interacts with residents everyday lives, municipalities are best positioned to decide whether ranked ballots make sense in their jurisdiction. Several Ontario municipalities have already completed significant work to proceed with ranked ballots. The Government of Ontario should respect that work and the will of those people and their elected representatives.

In Toronto, Council has voted several times on the matter of ranked choice voting, most recently, to proceed with the consultations required under the current framework for the use of ranked ballots for the 2026 election. The rationale that ranked ballots will interfere with the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic surely does not apply.

Communications (City Council)

(October 26, 2020) E-mail from Deborah Chalmers (MM.Supp.MM25.10.1)