

City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM8.22	ACTION			Ward: All
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Request to Review the Nomination Requirements for Mayoral Candidates - by Councillor Stephen Holyday, seconded by Councillor Nick Mantas

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Stephen Holyday, seconded by Councillor Nick Mantas, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to review the nomination filing fee and number of endorsements required to be nominated as a Head of Council candidate in light of Toronto's recent by-election experience, and their suitability for elections in a large urban centre.

Summary

On June 26, 2023 the City of Toronto held a Mayoral By-Election. The ballot contained 102 candidate names listed onto a single page in three columns.

I have heard from numerous residents who have expressed concerns over the number of candidates on the ballot and the confusion and voter frustration that it caused. Some have raised questions about the proportionality of the entry requirements for mayoral candidates in a large city, and have argued that this process may have contributed to voting errors, or caused some citizens not to vote at all.

Some candidates resorted to advertising their number as listed on the ballot as a means to reduce voter confusion because of the number of names.

According to media, one candidate registered along with a dog to run for Mayor.

While it is important to ensure that barriers to participation in the democratic process are minimized, paradoxically the ease of registering so many candidates with very few minimum qualifications itself could ultimately reduce participation by countless voters in the process. Maintaining public confidence in the electoral system is critical to democracy and this balance should be examined.

The refundable \$200 nomination filing fee and the 25 endorsement signatures are required by the Municipal Elections Act. I am therefore recommending that Council request the Minister to

review the required nomination filing fee and number of endorsements required to register as a head of council candidate, in light of Toronto's experience.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM8.22