

General Committee
City of Barrie
70 Collier Street, PO Box 400
Barrie, ON L4M 4T5

RE: GENERAL COMMITTEE (NOVEMBER 2), ITEM 8.3

Dear Mayor Lehman and Members of Council,

I am writing to you to urge you to support the motion included in Item 8.3 on the November 2 agenda of the General Committee.

As you may be aware, in 2018 the City of London became the first and only municipality in Ontario to implement ranked ballots. This was enabled by the passing of *Bill 181, Municipal Elections Modernization Act, 2016*. London's Clerk and the election staff did an excellent job explaining the new voting system and administering the election. This was Canada's first election outside of the First-Past-the-Post (FPTP) system, and it was both a success as well as an example to all municipalities in Ontario. Since then several municipalities, including Cambridge and Kingston, have adopted ranked ballots for future elections and others, such as Barrie, are preparing for the question to be brought to people. That was until *Bill 218 (2020)*.

Bill 218, Supporting Ontario's Recovery Act, 2020 would not only force London to switch back to the FPTP system, it would also prevent other municipalities and their residents from having the choice. This bill will be a strike to local democracy if passed, and it is on track to be passed swiftly after the current committee stage unless we act. As such, this is an urgent matter for the City of Barrie and for all residents. The Government of Ontario has the ability to fast-track and pass this Act before Barrie, and the people, even have a chance to have a say on the matter. In Barrie, the people are the city, so I am urging you to support this motion.

London, Kingston, Mono, and other municipalities have formally spoken out against Bill 218. Barrie should join them, so too should the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and member municipalities. We will have time to argue the merits of ranked ballots later, but right now we need to ensure that the question can remain with the people. Our local democracy is depending on it.

Kindly,



Brandon Rhéal Amyot