

**Taylor, Laura**

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**From:** Legislative Assembly of Ontario  
**Sent:** November 2, 2020 7:26 PM  
**To:** Standing Committee on Justice Policy  
**Cc:** Teng, Deborah  
**Subject:** Webform submission: Submission of material 24401

Submitted on Mon, 11/02/2020 - 18:55

**Application ID: 24401**

Submitted values are:

Bill or item of business: **Bill 218, Supporting Ontario's Recovery and Municipal Elections Act, 2020**

## Choose a topic

**Do you know the bill title or business (e.g., pre-budget consultations) you'd like to speak or submit material about?**

Yes

## Choose an application

**Which application would you like to submit?**

Submit material only

**Which deadline would you like to submit your written material for?**

[Written Submission deadline: 7:00 p.m. \(EST\) on Wednesday, November 4, 2020](#)

## Add your information

**Are you submitting material as an individual or on behalf of an organization?**

I am submitting material as an individual

**Full name**

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**Paste submission**

While I appreciate the want/need to simplify ballots, removing the option of ranked choice ballots for municipal elections is not only not going to simplify the ballot, it also is less democratic than the current method of first past the post.

Firstly the ballots for municipal elections are vastly different than the ones for provincial and federal elections - for one, there are multiple people that everyone has to elect (council, school board, mayor), and there is no confusion on what people are voting for.

Secondly, all elections have come with appropriate and concise instructions on how to properly vote, be it by ranked choice or by ranked choice. Furthermore, any voter is not required to rank their choices. They can choose to only rank one person, and in effect vote the same way as a first past the post election.

Finally, Ranked-Choice ballots also act as a run off in the event of a tie, as the ranking system acts would break any tie as it eliminates candidates with fewer votes. This also ensures a more civil debate, as all candidates are vying for the voters for other candidates to rank them second, in the event of the voters first choice is eliminated and, it forces candidates to try to win voters, rather than depend solely on their base coming out. Making the case of why a candidate should represent the voter is at the heart of democracy. I personally find it interesting that Doug Ford himself one the leadership position of the conservative party on a ranked choice ballot, but is not willing to allow municipalities the option of using this method, despite it being good enough for him.

Politics in general is dominated by a privileged class - primarily white men and women, and as a Person of Colour, I do not see myself represented. Ranked choice ballots open the door for more minority participants as there is greater civility - women are not attacked for being "Nasty" by men, as those men are vying to be ranked on ballots, and an attack like that may be disqualifying for some of the electorate.

Perhaps if you believe that you cannot convince the majority of people that your policies are not in line with what people want, want to maintain power by being elected by a minority, then yes, first-past-the-post is the best system, however the government is supposed to be for the people, and represent the people, and how is that possible, when a winner may only have captured a third of voters? How does a candidate that two-thirds of the electorate voting against them, accurately represent that ward or district? The rank choice ballot allows the best candidate to win, and requires a candidate to acquire a greater percentage of the electorate - which means that the candidate as the broadest public support - they were able to convince the most people they are best for the job.

### **Would you like to add any other information?**

[https://www.thestar.com/news/city\\_hall/2020/10/23/he-gave-ontario-cities-the-right-to-try-a-new-voting-system-now-ted-mcmeekin-cant-understand-why-doug-ford-is-taking-it-away.html](https://www.thestar.com/news/city_hall/2020/10/23/he-gave-ontario-cities-the-right-to-try-a-new-voting-system-now-ted-mcmeekin-cant-understand-why-doug-ford-is-taking-it-away.html)

<https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2020/10/21/doug-ford-suddenly-decided-to-scrap-ranked-ballots-for-elections-what-does-that-mean-for-toronto.html>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ranked-ballots-1.5770845>