

Taylor, Laura

From: Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Sent: November 4, 2020 9:53 AM
To: Standing Committee on Justice Policy
Cc: Teng, Deborah
Subject: Webform submission: Submission of material 25101

Submitted on Wed, 11/04/2020 - 09:46

Application ID: 25101

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

Rebecca Chesley

Contact phone number

[6472977332](#)

Email address

rebeccachesley@gmail.com

Paste submission

Bill 218 proposes to ban the use of ranked ballots in municipal elections. This is unacceptable. Not only does such a move by the provincial government show a lack of respect for Ontarians and their ability to make responsible choices for how their communities govern themselves, it also blocks these communities from

adopting a better voting system.

Changing this now is also wasteful of taxpayer dollars, as many municipalities have already spent money undertaking consultations on ranked ballot voting, as well as London that has already shifted to this model. You would be forcing municipalities to abandon the funds already spent, and forcing London to spend additional dollars to switch their system back to first-past-the-post.

In the context of a pandemic, we need more effective local democracy, not inexplicable attacks on local democracy. For example, we know that women and Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour have been harmed the most by the pandemic - exactly the groups of people who have been traditionally marginalized in our society and who are underrepresented on our city councils. Ranked ballots can help to solve this problem by helping women and racialized people get elected at higher rates than under a first-past-the-post system. We need this sort of representation to build back better from this pandemic. So why is the government seeking to ban municipalities from using this superior system?

Now is not the time for the provincial government to meddle in the affairs of municipalities. Now is the time to support municipalities and their ability to improve their democracy. Please vote to provide them with this support and against any bill that would strip municipalities of their ability to improve their democracy.

Would you like to add any other information?

Doug Ford's comment that this system has been in place since 1837 is precisely the point: it's an old, out-dated, unfair method of choosing representatives that the political parties don't use anymore. And stripping away choice from municipalities is undemocratic. Don't do it.