

Taylor, Laura

From: Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Sent: November 4, 2020 10:46 AM
To: Standing Committee on Justice Policy
Cc: Teng, Deborah
Subject: Webform submission: Submission of material 25156

Submitted on Wed, 11/04/2020 - 10:19

Application ID: 25156

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

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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.

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. Covid 19 has shown us that our society is not as equitable as it could be. The most vulnerable among us are being hit the hardest with this disease. Our democracy needs to be strengthened, not weakened. So why is the government seeking to ban municipalities from using this superior system that most effectively represents the will of the people?

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. As current events in the United States demonstrate, democracy cannot be taken for granted, but must be protected. Americans cast their ballots in record numbers this year because they understood that exercising their right to vote demonstrates their committed belief in democracy, in the rule of the people for the people. Ranked ballots represent a fairer way to reflect that will in our elections. Please vote to provide our municipalities with the capacity to support the democratic expression of the will of the people and against any bill that would strip municipalities of their ability to improve their democracy.

Would you like to add any other information?

No thank you.