

Submission of Material to the Ontario Provincial Parliament's
Standing Committee on Justice Policy at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Regarding Bill 218 and its Attempt to Limit Representative Democracy
by Restricting Ranked Ballot Use

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Ontario Provincial Parliament's Standing Committee on Justice Policy

Re: Bill 218 and attempts to limit representative democracy by restricting ranked ballot use

To Whom it May Concern,

Bill 218 proposes to ban the use of ranked ballots in municipal elections. This is despite the fact that ranked ballots are recognized to produce results more in line with the democratic will of voters. At the best of times such an initiative would be a gross backward step in the progress of our province but to include such a tactic in a bill meant to provide much needed support to Ontarians during this pandemic must be viewed as a blatantly partisan attempt to maintain power. Hamstringing the voting public at the municipal level in this way serves only to ensure an outsized representation by the conservative minority. This is unacceptable. This element does not need to be included in the bill and such a drastically undemocratic shift for our province deserves to be evaluated on its merits rather than be forced down Ontarians' throats like a bitter pill for fear of being denied vital pandemic support. 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.

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.

Sincerely,

Craig Gillespie