

**Taylor, Laura**

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**From:** Legislative Assembly of Ontario  
**Sent:** November 4, 2020 4:45 PM  
**To:** Standing Committee on Justice Policy  
**Cc:** Teng, Deborah  
**Subject:** Webform submission: Submission of material 25601

Submitted on Wed, 11/04/2020 - 16:25

**Application ID: 25601**

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**

It is unconscionable that the Provincial Government has set out legislation to override municipalities passage of Ranked Ballots for municipal elections, in the omnibus Bill 218 which is ostensibly to do with recovery from the pandemic.

I am aware that the Ford government does not care about democratic values or strengthening our institutions, restoring co operation to political culture and creating a place for candidates of greater diversity. Overriding municipalities' ability to choose their own system of voting is needless and demonstrates another reason why our larger cities should become Charter cities.

Every major Canadian federal political party has, for nearly a decade, used some manner of ranked ballots to elect its leaders. Doug Ford was duly elected leader of the Provincial Tories with a ranked ballot and won because of it. The hypocrisy of this government is not lost on this voter.

Ranked ballots for municipal elections are not the concern of the province. Just because the Ford Govt CAN control municipalities as its 'creatures does not mean it should do so.

Ranked ballots will usher in a more diverse group of municipal politicians to represent us and create a more co operative political culture. If the provincial government is afraid of these changes - diversity, co operation, its a sad day for Ontarians.

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. 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?**

I would like to see candidates for leadership of provincial political parties successfully pass a 3 hour exam on the fundamentals of good governance, such as what is provincial jurisdiction, what constitutes a conflict of interest. Front line staff at City shelters for the homeless have to pass such an exam. I think Doug Ford and other leadership should have to, too.