

<b>TO:</b>	<b>CHAIR AND MEMBERS CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON APRIL 22, 2017</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>CATHY SAUNDERS CITY CLERK</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>RANKED BALLOT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESULTS</b>

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
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That, on the recommendation of the City Clerk, this report dated April 22, 2017 and entitled “Ranked Ballot Community Engagement Results” **BE RECEIVED** for information.

<b>PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER</b>
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- Corporate Services Committee – January 24, 2017 – Ranked Ballot Election Model
- Corporate Services Committee – July 19, 2016 – Amendments to the *Municipal Elections Act*
- Corporate Services Committee – October 20, 2015 – Ranked Balloting Process
- Corporate Services Committee – July 21, 2015 – Province of Ontario Consultation – Municipal Elections Act
- Corporate Services Committee – June 15, 2015 – Submission: Ranked Ballots for Municipal Elections in Ontario
- Corporate Services Committee – June 15, 2015 – Submission: Province of Ontario – Legislation Review Municipal Elections Act, Municipal Conflict of Interest Act and Municipal Act

<b>BACKGROUND</b>
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The purpose of this report is to summarize the various public engagement initiatives undertaken with respect to the potential use of ranked ballots for municipal elections, as well as the public input received through the engagement process, through to April 10, 2017.

The various public engagement initiatives included:

- ‘Rank Your Vote’ Open Houses – Total of 91 participants
  - North London Optimist Community Centre – March 8, 2017
    - 24 participants
  - Medway Community Centre – March 8, 2017
    - 30 participants
  - Earl Nichols Arena Meeting Room – March 9, 2017
    - 25 participants
  - Stronach Community Centre – March 9, 2017
    - 12 participants
- A presentation to the Accessibility Advisory Committee on March 23, 2017
- Various Councillor-led Open Houses, Community Meetings, Drop-in Information Centres, etc.
- Provision of information regarding ranked ballots on the City of London’s website – promoted on the City’s homepage for 5 weeks, with 695 visitors to web page.
- An online survey at <https://getinvolved.london.ca/rank-your-vote>
  - 959 Visitors

- 1,196 Sessions
- 536 Surveys completed
- E-mails received at [elections@london.ca](mailto:elections@london.ca)
- phone calls made to the City of London's Election Office
- Social Media (Twitter and Facebook) – see Appendix 'C' which summarized the discussions on Twitter and Facebook.
  - 6 Facebook posts
  - 81 post shares
  - 14 Tweets
  - 125 Retweets
  - 413 views on YouTube
  - 3 Our City e-newsletter articles

A further update on input received after April 10, 2017, will be provided on the Added Agenda for the May 1, 2017 meeting of the Municipal Council so that it has as much information as possible on which to base its decision with respect to the use of ranked ballots.

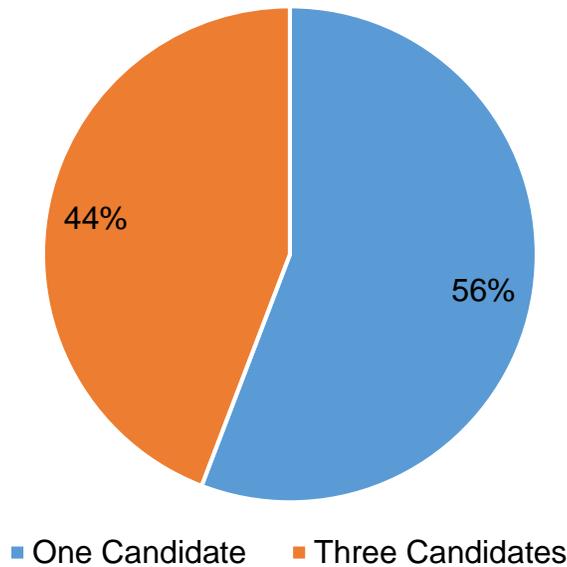
<b>DISCUSSION</b>
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The survey asked three questions and the results of those three questions are provided below. Any comments that were provided outside the survey are summarized in Appendix 'A'. There were 532 online responses between March 8, 2017 and April 10, 2017. There were also paper surveys completed at the open houses and Councillor-lead community meetings. It should be noted that not all questions would have necessarily been answered in all of the survey responses. Any written feedback is provided as Appendix 'B' to this report.

**QUESTION 1: Do you prefer choosing one candidate or being able to choose three?**

One Candidate:	297
Three Candidates:	235

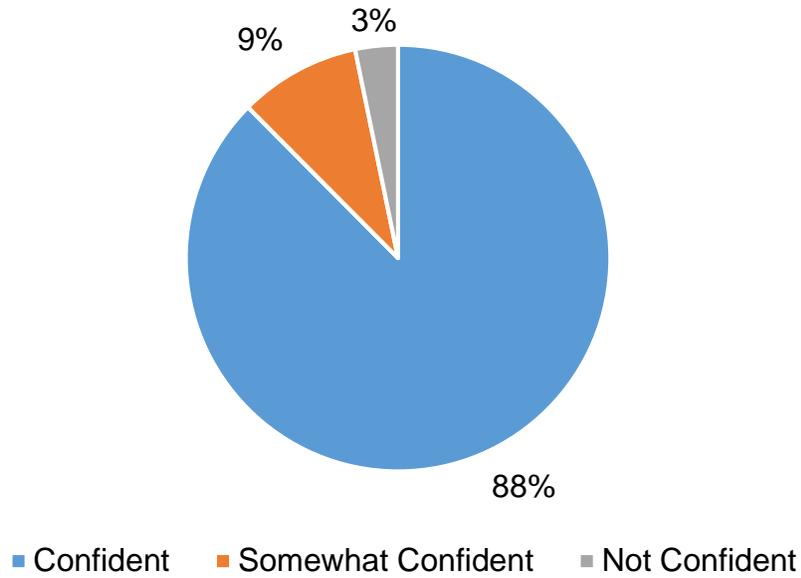
Do you prefer choosing one candidate or being able to choose three?



**QUESTION 2: How confident are you that understand how a winner is determined?**

Confident:	511
Somewhat Confident:	54
Not Confident:	19

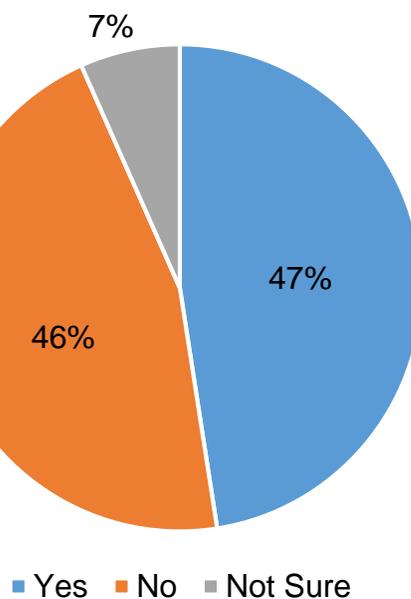
How confident are you that you understand how a winner is determined?



**QUESTION 3: Are you in favour of changing to a Ranked Choice Ballot for the 2018 Municipal Election?**

Yes:	328
No:	316
Not Sure:	46

Are you in favour of changing to a Ranked Choice Ballot for the 2018 Municipal Election?



<b>CONCLUSION</b>
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Should the Municipal Council choose to move ahead with the ranked balloting system in 2018, it became obvious from the current public engagement process that the public outreach and education portion leading up to the election period will be critical to the ranked ballot process running as smoothly as possible. Voters will need to understand how to properly mark a ballot and how the results will be tallied. This will necessitate a comprehensive education and communication plan, with adequate communication resources. In addition, the City Clerk would continue to undertake the usual statutory notice and election communications that are associated with running the election. Effective communication and education will assist with the training of election workers, reducing wait times, reducing voter confusion at polls, as well as making the voting process as efficient as possible.

In accordance with Section 41.2(1) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, if Municipal Council were to decide to implement a ranked ballot election for the 2018 municipal election, a by-law must be passed on or before **May 1, 2017** in order to allow the Civic Administration to implement the change. A draft proposed by-law to implement a ranked ballot process is attached as Appendix 'D' should the Municipal Council wish to proceed in this direction.

The City Clerk would like to acknowledge the assistance of Corporate Communication, Neighbourhood, Children and Fire Services and the City Clerk's Office staff in conducting the community engagement initiatives.

PREPARED AND SUBMITTED BY:	RECOMMENDED BY:
<b>SARAH CORMAN MANAGER, LICENSING &amp; ELECTIONS</b>	<b>CATHY SAUNDERS CITY CLERK</b>

Appendix 'A'

**Online Engagement Survey  
Additional Comments**

Why make voting harder?
I am not sure who is looking to get rich on money or power, switching the system, but it looks like a poorly conceived idea. I would support not spending any further city resources in time and money, investigating and/or considering this change.
The ranked ballot example should have more prominent headings for choices 1, 2, and 3 so that it's more intuitive. The rules around what happens when the ballot is filled out not as intended should be clarified... i.e. if I pick Daffy Duck for BOTH choice 1 and 2 and Porky Pig for choice 3, is my ballot still valid?
Even with the one-time extra cost, I think this method is preferable and can be more representative than the current method.
First-Past-the-Post Ballots are undemocratic and not used anywhere else in the world other than some of the Commonwealth countries and colonies that failed to update their electoral system in the past 100 years. While I support proportional representation, I can actually see the benefit of ranked ballots at local and regional elections. The argument that it will cost a bit of money (or that respective software doesn't exist) is pathetic in light of the fact that this is about democracy. Not running an election at all would be most cost-effective!
Quit beating this long dead horse. Only the losers want to muck around with our established system.
Unnecessary to change to a costly & a not proven more reliable new system - especially when there may be unknown costs involved i.e. Software - that have not yet been factored in.
Why are you raising this issue? Is it elected officials wishing there was another way? "Losers" wishing for another way? Voters protesting the existing way?
Keep present voting system!! Do not implement this proposed system.
Please don't experiment with London's election process. Democracy is too fragile.
This will be a great improvement to our voting system. Thanks for taking the initiative to make London a progressive democracy.
I'm in favour of ranked voting but only if you implement an electronic voting system that includes an on-line voting option to engage more voters. If this can't be done for 2018, then stand pat and implement in 2022.
Let's put London on the map for the first Canadian municipality to adopted Ranked Voting!
We must absolutely have ranked ballots in 2018! If it doesn't work we can go back to regular ballots in 2022.
No changes to balloting method without putting to the electorate via referendum. Politicians should not be able to prefer the method of their re-election.
I view ranked ballots are vert favourable to incumbents. Name recognition is a huge advantage at the Municipal level and voters (even though they don't have to) will undoubtedly feel compelled to rank all of the candidates, regardless of whether they hold a positive or negative opinion about them. As a

result, incumbents will likely score high as 2nd choices, favourably positioning them for any vote count below the 50% threshold. Newcomers will need to work even harder to get over 50% in the initial vote for fear that the subsequent rounds of counts will invariably push the incumbent closer the top. I think that head-to-head remains the best option. Even if a voter gets less than 50%, their majority position is often attained in a crowded field and their victory needs to be respected.

No changes are required.

I'm not seeing a real issue that requires addressing, at this time. The system works effectively and there is no real appetite from the majority of the electorate. A public education campaign will be required for any change in the system. Based on the failures of the BRT communications strategy, I do not believe that the transition will be handled effectively, either.

UPCOMING OUR LONDON ARTICLE I WROTE REGARDING RANKED BALLOTS:

#### Rank and File

In what may be an unprecedented show of bravado London is considering becoming the first Ontario city to use the ranked ballot system to elect our city council as early as or next election. You'd be forgiven if you haven't yet heard about ranked balloting but rest assured this is about to change.

While oversimplified, an explanation of the system may help. In lieu of an X, citizens rank candidates on the ballot in their order of preference, although they are under no obligation to do so. Then, once all the votes are in, all the first-choice ballots are counted and the winner is declared but contingent of them getting over half of the votes. If that condition is not met than the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and we wash, rinse, repeat. The ballots that ranked the eliminated candidate as the first choice are now counted again, but this time using the next candidate choice. This process is repeated until a winner can be declared with 50% plus one of the votes.

Those in favour of this system claim that it will reduce negative campaigning and in the end the winner should, at least in theory, better reflect the views of majority of voters. It may also encourage less popular candidates to remain in the race with a reduced threat of splitting the vote amongst similarly minded campaigns. It seems no less fair than our existing system.

Critics argue results will take longer to tabulate and the costs associated with the election process will likely rise as the technology to tabulate results simply doesn't exist at the moment. Most importantly perhaps is the fact that we have no idea how an untested system plays out. Are the risks too high? Admittedly the possibility of four years of a disastrous council should cause concern. (Insert your own joke about current and/or previous councils here.) Ranked ballots only recently became an option for municipalities and thus far no cities have exactly embraced the idea.

I'm conflicted but leaning towards supporting ranked ballots. Why? Well, why not? While London is notoriously conservative for trying new things we're also a famous test market. If we can do this for businesses than why not try innovating in politics? Anecdotally there seems to be some interest in London shedding its "small town mindset" but whether that opinion is shared by a majority of us is far from certain.

It is no secret that many Londoners were not delighted with the largely rookie and progressive council produced by the last election. In fact, I have heard from multiple sources that work to reverse this started almost immediately by some by selecting and grooming candidates far in advance. Does this proposed system benefit them? There's no way to tell yet of course however ranked ballots do appear to most benefit the voter who want anyone but a certain candidate. Instead of strategically voting for the candidate who has the best odds of beating them you can now rank your favourites and simply exclude them.

Regardless of the reason, if ranked ballots are not in place for the next election I do hope at least the ability to vote on our future voting system will be. Maybe even by ranking them?

<p>Please keep our existing first-past-the-post system.</p> <p>In 2007, when Ontario was considering a major change to our electoral system, the question of doing so was brought to the people directly with a referendum. We voted on it, and the result was extremely clear: nearly twice as many people favoured the existing system, compared to those who wanted the change. The people spoke and the change was abandoned.</p> <p>In the entire history of our Westminster parliamentary system, there have been just two methods of choosing constituency representatives: direct summons by the Crown, or our current system where we elect the candidate with the most votes.</p> <p>I also believe changing to another system will cause confusion amongst the voters who would be faced with different systems provincially and federally.</p> <p>First-past-the-post is the easiest system to understand, is the most transparent and allows the voters to directly hold their elected representatives to account (via the next election). A ranked ballot system could allow for a City Council full of second-choices who no one really wanted but didn't really object to either.</p> <p>This isn't right - we deserve better than second choices.</p> <p>Please keep the existing system.</p>
<p>Please leave it the way it is! We do NOT need more confusion &amp; expense!</p>
<p>In my opinion, Ranked Choice Ballot is the best way to vote in municipal elections where there are more than two candidates. Often the winner in a single choice ballot will not achieve 50% of the vote and thus doesn't have a clear mandate from the electorate (i.e. several councilor elections in 2014). Ranked Choice Ballot ensures the winner has received at least %50 of electors top three choices.</p>
<p>I understand that the City is presently exploring options to use Ranked Choice Voting (a ranked ballot system) for the 2018 Municipal Election. As a homeowner in Ward 9, I am writing to you today to ask you to not support a change to Ranked Choice Voting (a ranked ballot system). The existing electoral process has served the City well in the past. It is a process that is well understood and employed by all municipalities in Ontario, all Provinces in Canada and Federally. London's time, energy and tax dollars would be much better spent on real issues like jobs, the economy, poverty, and affordable housing. Please do not spend my tax dollars on a new system when the existing system is not broken nor in need of repair. Sadly, I suspect that the only ones that you as a councillor will hear from are those that are in support of a change to the Ranked Choice Voting (a ranked ballot system), for whatever reason. I can assure you that the vast silent majority of your constituents and London tax payers do not see this as an issue that needs Council attention. When the times comes, I hope to see that you have voted against pursuing this matter further and against employing Ranked Choice Voting (a ranked ballot system) for the 2018 Municipal Election.</p>
<p>I feel like this is a long overdue change that should be made in order to preserve our multi-party system. It will let constituents vote for the candidate they prefer, rather than feeling like they have to vote for a candidate they only tolerate to prevent the election of a candidate they actively dislike.</p>
<p>First past the post - the voters are never wrong.</p>
<p>Put it on the ballot for 2018 and if there's support add it to 2022.</p>
<p>Online voting would be great</p>
<p>The change will be costly and in my opinion this is a waste of our money to even do this study. Most voters have difficulty even selecting one candidate never mind three.</p>

<p>Why does London need to be the first? Save the money and concentrate on REAL ISSUES.</p>
<p>It just sounds confusing. I find it hard to follow. I would prefer to just listen and follow what each candidate has to say and than on voting day pick your person that would be best suited for the job.</p>
<p>All that I've read so far has not convinced me that changing the system would provide a better result - despite Elizabeth May's tears, and I'm usually sympathetic to May.</p>
<p>I feel Londoners have more important priorities than rank balloting. Special interest groups seem to be steering this issue. Don't rush this for next election council needs more time to discuss.</p>
<p>I think I would prefer a ranged vote if we are electing individual candidates, or I would most prefer a STV system where citizens would rank and vote for a larger group of candidates when it comes to counsellors. I would also prefer a system where we can rank all of the candidates, rather than just three. However, regardless of these other preferences, I would prefer the change suggested in the Ranked Choice Voting system given to what we currently have and support the change.</p>
<p>I am totally against using the ranked ballot system.</p> <p>In my opinion, any system where the person with the most votes is not guaranteed to win is undemocratic. I am unaware of any argument which would convince me that it should matter who is one's second or third choice.</p> <p>Trying to rank order candidates is difficult - you may have one or two favourites and one or two who you want nothing to do with - but ranking the remaining candidates is very difficult. Most voters will not take the time and effort to learn in detail about other candidates once they have determined their favourite.</p> <p>Under ranked balloting, votes that rank more than one candidate carry potentially more weight than votes that rank only one candidate. This is because under certain circumstances second or even third may need to be considered, and votes that rank only one candidate do not have a second choice. All votes should carry the same weight as they do in first past the post.</p> <p>Why is the subject of ranked balloting even being discussed? I am unaware of a hue and cry among London voters for a change in voting system. Just because ranked balloting has been proposed by some wannabe Liberal candidates on city council, this is not a sufficient reason to go ahead with this proposal. At the very least, there should be a referendum on changing the voting method before any change is made.</p> <p>As I understand it, there is no software available in Ontario at this time that has been tested and can provide accurate results using a ranked ballot voting system.</p>
<p>Of the PR options, ranked choice wouldn't be my preference. That said, it's better than FPTP, so if it's the only option being proposed then I'm in favour of using it.</p>
<p>And excellent plan, once which will more accurately represent the needs of Londoners</p>
<p>We, as a community, NEED to do this. It is not difficult to understand, and it is far more democratic, ensuring that the person with the broadest level of support, not just the single largest voting block, is the person elected to represent the people. Further, examples in other jurisdiction have shown ranked balloting increases the participation of women and minority groups in the political process. A more diverse field of candidates will inspire a more diverse range of voters to get out and cast a ballot. Finally, this is part of the strategic plan, and a campaign promise made by many current councillors, there is already a mandate to go ahead with this.</p>
<p>Didn't see what cost to change would be vs cost with first past the post</p>

<p>Is the ballot valid if only a first choice is selected?          What if I vote for the same person as first, second and third choice?</p>
<p>No I am absolutely not in favour of ranked balloting. It complicates the electoral process, it will add expense to the process and it will require the additional expense of machines to enable the counting of ballots. The system will still favour an incumbent of the person with the greatest name recognition. Not sure why the magic number of 50% is required. Why not spend the money on developing an impeachment process to enable us to remove an elected official when appropriate?</p>
<p>I think this is great. It allows people to vote for their candidate(s) of choice instead of voting strategically to perhaps keep someone else from being elected. Well done.</p>
<p>it looks and sounds good to me i hope it works</p>
<p>Stop wasting my tax dollars on stupidity</p>
<p>it is unfortunate that it will cost more, but sometimes that is the price of progress. What about getting rid of paper ballots and doing a completely online vote? Surely that would save money</p>
<p>Fix the roads and stop wasting my tax dollars on this nonsense</p>
<p>The system we have works fine. I don't really know where this "first past the post" nonsense came from, the system we use is "most votes win". The concept of candidates needing a majority to win is a myth and never existed in at any level of government (Municipal, Provincial or Federal), and is the exception not the rule. The ranked ballot system does nothing more than add weight to marginal candidates and changes the premise from voting for whom you prefer, to voting for whom you prefer as well as voting against whom you don't by "favoring" other candidates that couldn't win your vote, but can hurt the chances of someone you don't like. Case in point is our [particular candidate]. I would be curious as to how the results would have turned out if those who wanted anyone but a [particular candidate] could have swayed the vote to a different result under a ranked ballot.</p>
<p>I don't understand why City Council is taking this initiative on when all we hear is how over-worked everyone is. I would recommend ranked ballot be a campaign platform for incumbent or new Councillors in the 2018 municipal election which would gauge support and interest by the voters. Thanks for having a survey on this issue.</p>
<p>No other community in Ontario - large or small - has adopted rank ballots for the very good reason that they are a useless waste of time, will confusing some voters and will negatively impact voter turnout which in London is abysmal anyway. This push for ranked ballots in London is so laden with hidden political agendas it is pathetic. We will be remember at election time when most of this council, including [particular candidate] will be voted out of office.          Let's do the right thing: REFUSE RANKED BALLOTS</p>
<p>Get on to other things more important like reducing the budget year over year.....I have yet to hear any concillor talk about reducing the city expenses by X%, it's always how do we keep spending allocations under 3%.....start reducing costs within the current budget</p>
<p>have yet to hear a good reason for the change.</p>
<p>I am not in support of this change. There is no evidence provided justify the claims made in support of Ranked Choice Voting. There is no evidence that this will improve voter turnout. Further, the costs for the election will increase, and there is no assurance that a new computer system will be in place to handle this election. Finally,</p>

<p>the design of ballots under this system is more complex and complicated, likely leading to additional spoiled ballots and voter frustration.</p>
<p>Put any changes to a referendum.</p>
<p>I think this is a good way to ensure the candidates who are elected have a majority support - even though the vote is not necessarily a direct one.</p>
<p>I believe the way we vote is fine. If there is to be a change it should come from level above government, be it provincial or federal so all municipalities across the board would make the change. I don't feel comfortable with London being the first and only city making this drastic change to the way we vote. Please leave it alone.</p>
<p>More Liberal tomfoolery.... People would rather vote for their preferred candidate. Period.</p>
<p>Leave well enough alone.</p>
<p>Why are we even wasting time discussing this? Doesn't our city have more pressing issues?</p>
<p>Why. Just why?</p>
<p>It is already difficult getting voters out. Complicate the voting process and you'll see less voters and increased spoiled ballots.</p>
<p>I do not believe the majority of people will actually rank a ballot therefore the money spent to do this is wasted.</p>
<p>I had done Ranked Voting before, in elections in other organizations. I prefer it. In Municipal elections, they can be lots of good candidates for one position. Would allow people to vote for who they like to win, not only of those would think might win.</p>
<p>Tell Kathleen Wynne to do the Rank Balloting in Toronto first, and we will all see how it works out. Why should London have to be the guinea pig, and spend all this money as a test, we can't afford to throw money away. We are not very happy with the way we are seemly being forced to change our voting system.</p>
<p>I understand what ranked ballot voting is. What problem this is supposed to solve in London? I do not support this change.</p> <p>What if more than 3 candidates are running - why rank only three? Or if only two candidates are running?</p> <p>I have heard that ranked ballot voting would apply only to municipal candidates, not school board candidates. Therefore, in the election, there would need to be dual or two-part ballots, with separate voting methods for municipal vs. school board candidates. This will increase election costs, increase confusion, and make voting more complicated, and is unlikely to result in increased turnout.</p>
<p>I understand that with the current political landscape in the USA someone might want to change the current system here. But in all honesty - this is just another plight to let "those who didn't study" win the prize. Awards for showing up need to stop. When I was a child - we won the city championship. We worked our asses off. We sweat and suffered. Our award - 1st place !! Now they give trophies for participation. Sad. So it's now happening at the government level ? Ridiculous Time to grow up. Time to learn how to win the RESPECTABLE way !!!</p>

<p>Ranked Ballots have been WELL DEMONSTRATED to produce electoral outcomes skewed towards the middle of the political spectrum. It HEAVILY favours moderate, milque-toasty candidates and strongly DISFAVOURS minority, fringe and disruptive voices. Given these significant failings, the City's decision to nevertheless pursue implementation of such a system is HIGHLY SUSPECT and should be considered with extreme caution. It beggars the imagination to contemplate that such a poor methodology was naively chosen by Council and for that reason alone it should be rejected out of hand. It offers absolutely NOTHING of equitable value to the voter to balance what is lost under the compromises that it also necessarily inflicts upon us.</p>
<p>Ranked voting is a total waste of money!</p>
<p>I would like to see Instant Run-off voting for Mayor and Single Transferable Vote for council.</p>
<p>Anything to get people used to alternate voting systems.</p>
<p>Give it a shot for a couple of elections, and if it doesn't seem to work, go back to the old way.</p>
<p>Stop going against what voters want. We didn't ask for this, we don't want this. When will city hall actually do something the citizens want like over passes for train tracks. You continue to vide for the fringe vote while ignoring the majority of tax paying home owners.</p>
<p>Honestly, don't we have more pressing issues than the re-engineering of balloting?</p>
<p>Limiting choice is the antithesis of democracy. Regardless of partisan opinions, improving our democracy should be the ultimate goal. Please do the right thing.</p>
<p>Never mind changing the election system.. How about those that are elected commit to actual change for this city that benefits more than just the downtown core and Western.</p>
<p>Strongly in favour of ranked ballot system. Make every vote count.</p>
<p>Many more important issues facing London. Leave democracy alone.</p>
<p>The current system favours the incumbents, as it is more difficult for new candidates to get recognition. The current councilors get press coverage and their names are more well known, whereas, it takes effort for new people to be recognized. Sometimes there are a lot of people on the ballot, and we need to have a way of eliminating people through the ranked ballot.  Since incumbents are favored in the current system, it doesn't seem right to have them vote on the changing the system by which they are elected. Let's just change it.</p>
<p>I support ranked ballots. But I want abstentions counted AGAINST ALL candidates ... voters who are uninspired by all the candidates or unimpressed by our only marginally representative democracy or unable to vote because of our antiquated voting system should not be dismissed/excluded/punished for abstaining, nor should they be forced to physically spoil their ballot. The present system is designed to give our politicians the appearance of broad public support by deliberately excluding the majority of citizens from their disingenuous 'calculations'.</p>
<p>Waste of money.</p>
<p>Keep it simple please</p>
<p>The process is moving too fast to allow accurate accounting in the next civic election. Slow down and do it correctly.</p>

I think the first question should read as being able to choose up to three. No one has to choose more than one
Please allow this system to take place. A ranked ballot allows smaller candidate's a chance to show support for their ideas
Thankyou for considering rank choice voting london. Leading the way in honest fair elections.
I would further propose that any proposed changes made to the electoral system or mechanisms not be allowed to take effect for the first (upcoming) election system, and instead be implemented in the subsequent (second upcoming) municipal election. This way the councillors and mayor neither have direct interest in maintaining the current system nor the new proposed system.
Leave the system alone spend your time on worthwhile things
Stop wasting taxpayer money and do your <span style="background-color: black; color: black;">██████████</span> <b>**expletive**</b> jobs.
Why confuse everyone. Change is unnecessary.
If I do not care for any other candidate except one am I forced to pick a second and third in a Ranked Ballot system ? I did look at the material and it appears I would have to choose a second and third...not a fan of that. Reducing negative campaigning is a bad idea...every candidate has different opinions and if the only way I can find out about the views of another candidate is through negative campaigning then so be it. I will decide myself if the claims of the other candidates platforms are valid. As a taxpayer I want the best person for the job and you only achieve that through our current voting system.
Dumb , waste of time and money.
From all of the news reports I've seen , ranked balloting counting machines are expensive and take time to acquire. My problems with a ranked ballot starts with the technology to do the counting effectively at a price that acceptable. My other problems with ranked balloting surround the amount of time to educate the public on how to do it effectively. Lastly I don't like that my third choice could win a majority.
Would this also serve that should there be a mayor or other councillor involved in some political (or other issue) scandal that the runner up becomes the new mayor?
An important step to improving council's credibility with Londoners and improving turnout to municipal elections.
Please don't do this
If you want to introduce this system, have a referendum first. Let the citizens of London decide what they want before making any changes. We voted on and turned down this idea a few years ago.
This is a cosmetic "solution" that ignores the real issue -- voter disengagement. Other than saying, "we've done something" it does nothing to actually improve the environment that creates voter disengagement. We have a hard enough time getting people passionate enough to make one informed choice, that asking them to make three is folly.  And, yes, I'm aware that people don't have to rank all three, but many will. Until we can be sure people won't just "eeny, meeny, miney, moe..." the vote, it's a risk. People currently fill out ballots out of obligation, using "name recognition" or "feeling" for many items. I would hazard a guess that many people vote for school trustees without having any clue as to what the trustee is promising. So while people don't have to vote, they will.

<p>People feel disenfranchised from the system. They feel their opinion doesn't matter and that, once they cast their ballot, that's the end of political engagement. And with the majority of public input sessions taking place a) during work hours and b) downtown, it's easy to understand why they feel that way. Yes, politicians have open doors, but we know that the general population is not going to come to you -- you have to go to them.</p> <p>Fix that, make people feel like their vote matters, and that will work. Even if someone is only elected with 30 per cent of the vote, they still have a mandate to represent their ward to the best of their ability -- the entirety of their ward, not just the selected people who agree with them. I'd argue that a plurality vote would mean that the successful candidate should work harder to bridge that gap and appreciate that there are differing opinions. Our society isn't built on second-best or conformity -- it's built on all sides contributing to the solution, offering perspectives, and working together to find the best solution.</p>
<p>Question 2 is ambiguous. Are you asking people whether they understand their own choice or both types of ballots. The first past the post ballot is straight forward but the ranked ballot is more involved and costs more money. Don't spend tax payers money on ranked ballots when there is no proven or tested method of tabulating ranked ballots.</p>
<p>It is a better way to determine voter intent. Those elections where it is close we are often electing councilors where 2 out of 3 votes were for someone else. It will also lead to a more cordial election and more women running.</p>
<p>I think changing the vote in 2018 is not allowing enough time to provide detailed information to everyone. Detailed information should be provided on line and by mail prior to any public consultation meetings so specific questions can be asked. Then....have the question about ranked balloting on the ballot in 2018 as a referendum item.</p>
<p>This proposal is a rush without any confidence that it can be implemented correctly. Why do we as a city feel we need to be the first to do this? There is enough on the plates of the City and politicians. Please concentrate on work that really matters.</p>
<p>Most 1st choice should win anyway. Winning based on most 2nd place votes is absurd. Also many voters will be guessing after 1st choice and you could get a 2nd place winner based on very uninformed choices.</p>
<p>this system should allow limiting the number of times one can vote.</p>
<p>"First past the post" is the only truly democratic voting method. The only better choice would be a run-off vote, where the candidates with the lowest votes are forced to drop out -- which is NOT the same as a ranked ballot.</p>
<p>Ranked ballots is more fair, and will be easy to adapt to in time. It is not a difficult system to understand. There may be some initial resistance from those who dislike change, but ranking choices as first, second and third is not at all difficult.</p>
<p>the candidate receiving the most votes must win - second place does not count as a win</p> <p>the majority of votes received should win</p>
<p>To me, the most desirable part of this new method is that all voters should be able to feel they have a greater impact in selecting the winner. We all know people have busy lives and are detaching from politics (for a variety of reasons). Why wouldn't we want to adopt a new system that offers enhanced engagement with voters? Yes please!</p>

I think it should remain as is, let the voters have their say. With this new system, I think there is too much room for error by the Municipality. Every vote will have to be scrutinized
I think this would be a great idea, and I am not bothered by the cost or the fact we would be a leader in Ontario if we implemented this. ok i can work with this. lets try it.
This has has has to happen for 2018!!! So excited that London can be a leader and show this will work for city elections.
This is a great idea, I hope it passes and gets the community support! Yay democracy!
I would like to see a reduction in the number of wards with more than one rep per ward, chosen by the RCV method. I believe that we all have a much better chance of electing someone we want and with whom we can communicate using a multi-member ward and ranked choice ballot system. If that is not possible, then RCV with one member is better than the current, for sure!
I have worked the elections in London, I am worried it will not be rolled out to the public in time, along with what is the cost to have the ballots counted by machine. I have seen how many times regular ballots had to be counted
The only problem I have is when my Councillor is always absent, and others on council do nothing about it, we should have another vote in that ward, but this new system you would like to implement does NOT look good to me,
I think adding an alternative to first-past-the-post will only result in a decrease in voter turnout because of the number of people who will not take the time to understand it or else over-deliberate in their second and/or third choices. Not to mention an inevitable further backup at the polling stations.
Let's be a leader for a change and modernize our voting and show Canada and the rest of the world how it should be done.
I'm open to the ranked ballot but it's very confusing.
Straight-up result leaves little room for confusion. Don't mess with the status quo.
I get the ranked choice, but nowhere in your presentation does it explain why the third choice. Choosing 1st and 2nd should be enough and less costly.
I understand this system is not used anywhere else in Canada. Is there a computer system available anywhere has it been tested for an 'real' election.
Do not change anything
I have been involved with ranked ballots before and just hate it. If there is only one person I want to vote for I can't. It is three or it is a spoiled ballot. Not democratic in my opinion.
Whatever system that does not elect deadwood like [REDACTED] or inept councillors like [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
This is a losing proposition that will distort the public will in small jurisdiction such as wards.
We need term limits. I am not sure if [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] were ever effective councillors but they certainly are not now.

<p>extra money for what benefit? None of the reasons shown are significant. Sorry. Please concentrate on more important things.</p>
<p>Why are you not using examples from around the world where ranked ballots are used (some are mentioned in the report to council)? Why not Canadian provincial examples from the 20s through 50s? Why do you not mention that the voter does not have to pick three candidates, when they can pick two or just one (councilors have mentioned this in the media)? Why limit it to a maximum of three choices? Is there a possibility of adding "none of the above" to the ballots, just as a way of clearly tracking voter discontent? I find an underlying bias against ranked ballots in much of the material presented on the site, and that is a shame. Thank you.</p>
<p>It is hard enough for most voters to choose one candidate, especially when voters do not typically know a lot about the candidates running for election. To encourage the highest level of voter participation I believe we should stay with the existing method as it is simpler for voters.</p>
<p>Our system has worked fine for a hundred years or more - there is no reason to change. The people behind this initiative are probably the same [REDACTED] ** expletive** who thought we should get rid of Board of Control. That was a big mistake; as would a change to ranked balloting be a big mistake!</p>
<p>I strongly support moving to Ranked Ballot Voting, will be a huge improvement.</p>
<p>Waste of money and time</p>
<p>This is absolutely absurd and ridiculous you're even trying to bring this forward. Another waste of taxpayers money. FOCUS ON THE REAL ISSUES and stop looking for frivolous reasons to spend money unnecessarily on systems or processes that are fine; and focus on systems and processes that need attending to.</p>
<p>Better things for London to spend its time and money on. Ranked Ballots have been rejected by most municipalities on Ontario as well as the Federal government. Start putting your municipal emphasis on the economy.</p>
<p>As a city London has far more important issues to deal with.</p>
<p>Very clearly illustrated, this is quite simple.</p>
<p>This council has had enough stupid ideas already. Don't need another one.</p>
<p>I worked for Dominion Voting Systems, a tabulator manufacturer based in Toronto, from 2010 to 2014. I have full confidence in this method and truly believe it's worth exploring.</p>
<p>I would prefer the top two engage in a run off election. But I recognize this could be costly. I know in the United States they use run off elections. I will say a ranked ballot is much better than proportional representation which I strongly oppose.</p>
<p>Ranked ballots may force people to vote for candidates that they don't necessarily want to vote for, and that's quite concerning when the aim is to get an accurate representation of the majority's vote.</p>
<p>No to ranked ballots!</p>
<p>Nothing wrong with what we have now. Don't try to change what isn't broken! Leave our tax dollars for important things like homelessness, help for our seniors and children.</p>
<p>I do not think London is capable of implementing the change for the next election.</p>

JUST DO IT. NO PUBLIC INPUT. THE MASSES DON'T UNDERSTAND. SEE THE 2007 PROVINCIAL REFERENDUM!!
Ranked ballot makes a ton of sense in systems where party politics aren't a factor, and would help prevent and true extremists from getting onto council, which is easier to have happen in votes where you can have 10+ candidates on the ballot. And strategic voting is the worst. I am so happy to see London looking at this - it's incredible how often local governments are ahead of the province and feds. This is real leadership here. Please, please do this. Thanks!
I love that you're considering changing to a ranked ballot system and are taking the time to make the system work best for all. Thanks!
Consider adding Voter's feedback on important local issues. An example would be rapid transit that most Londoners do not want and making the results public.
This is a good step forward for London!
I think that there isn't enough time to make sure this is done properly in time for the 2018 election. I would rather see this implemented after a full study and time to educate the voting public on how this will work. The way it is being presented and discussed seems like it is just another example of change for changes sake and because of timelines this is being forced on London voters so it is in place for the 2018 election. The current administration should have started this process right at the beginning of their terms if they were really serious about this change.
We need to take this a step further and have completely transparent voting processes. Public voting for example.
Why waste so much time and money on this, there are so many other things that need attention in this city. It's disgusting sometimes, the ridiculous things you come up with.
Stop trying to change our democracy to suit a small fringe of voters. We did not ask for this. Do what the voters want instead of doing what you want.
I was disappointed that our federal government didn't change the electoral system, but at least other levels of government can benefit from making the switch.
If you do change what's with school board trustees, it is not fair that the outside London candidates are not under the same system
Too confusing for a lot of people.
I'm not a big fan of coloring in the oval, can you streamline that process?
Not sure what the benefit to the voter would be. This is more of a benefit for the candidates only. Not worth the additional expense in my opinion.
please please please please please do this! It will mean so much for London and its people.
This will not help voter turnout. In fact, it will likely make it worse as people are discouraged. How we vote is not the issue.
It is about time! This will allow us to vote for who we want, rather than voting, out of fear, against who we dont!

keep it simple! KISS! London municipal has a way of making a mountain out of mole hill. YOU think too much. WHY do you want to change the voting process! X marks the vote.																				
This is simple common sense. Just do it.																				
Who is the company that would be paid \$150,000 for "consulting fees"? Interesting ideas, but not at all pleased that our tax dollars would be spent on high-priced smooth talkers. Can you trim down the budget that it would cost to implement this change?																				
No. Just No.																				
The sooner the better. We also need Proportional Representation in our federal and provincial elections.																				
WHY MESS WITH A SYSTEM THAT WORKS																				
Ranked ballot means I will be able to vote FOR someone I really support. Sometimes in past I have voted for a candidate only because they had a chance to beat a candidate I really didn't want to win.																				
Municipal elections most voters don't know all the candidates at the most 2 per ballot no way I would give vote to someone I don't know.																				
Unclear as to counting methodology. --- Are 1st choice votes worth more than 2nd choice? Weighted? Not Weighted? --- What happens if voter only has 2 choices (for 1st choice and 2nd choice)?																				
<table> <tr> <td>Candidate A...</td> <td>100 votes(1st)</td> <td>75 votes(2nd)</td> <td>50 votes (3rd)</td> <td>= 225 votes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Candidate B...</td> <td>75</td> <td>100</td> <td>50</td> <td>= 225</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Candidate C...</td> <td>75</td> <td>50</td> <td>100</td> <td>= 225</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total:</td> <td>250</td> <td>225</td> <td>200</td> <td>675</td> </tr> </table>	Candidate A...	100 votes(1st)	75 votes(2nd)	50 votes (3rd)	= 225 votes	Candidate B...	75	100	50	= 225	Candidate C...	75	50	100	= 225	Total:	250	225	200	675
Candidate A...	100 votes(1st)	75 votes(2nd)	50 votes (3rd)	= 225 votes																
Candidate B...	75	100	50	= 225																
Candidate C...	75	50	100	= 225																
Total:	250	225	200	675																
Candidate A... 40% of 1st Choice (100 divided by 250) (not a 50% plus 1) So what happens then???? Which candidate is dropped?? Quite confusing!!!!																				
With other large projects on the go such as BRT, the taxpayer cannot afford to enter into this era of voting practice as of yet																				
Will it get rid of ██████████ for sure? if so then i might like it :D																				
I have experience with ranked balloting and it sucks. If a person does not vote for three candidates, the ballot is spoiled. A person cannot vote for the same candidate three times so the ballot is spoiled. A person likes only one candidate who is running but to have the vote count has to add two other candidates to the vote and by doing that it could defeat the vote for the candidate the person really wanted. So the person decides it is not really worth voting since the number two candidate can beat out the number one candidate. It sucks big time. Also trying to explain this method to voters at polling booths is going to be a nightmare especially for those working at polling stations with a lot of naturalized Canadians who barely speak English and understand less.																				
Sounds good for democracy!																				
This is ridiculous. Changing the way of how someone is elected to power does not change the outcome of elected power, which is what Londoners need. Canadians are slowly coming to term that having a government is costly and inefficient, especially when proposed through manners like this. Instead of providing an option of "no candidates" for the first question, it is immediately assumed that Canadians will want to choose one or three candidates, which is a false dichotomy. Perhaps giving																				

<p>Londoners an option to "Opt out" of having a candidate would have better results?</p> <p>Canadian/ London government has only added to the National Debt , thus sticking future tax payers with the bill. This is a form of abuse on tax payers and should not be apart of the existing system we currently run. Concerned Londoners like myself would rather not have my tax money wasted on projects like this, and I am happy to provide more information if needed.</p>
<p>Let me be clear about this issue: The manner in which we vote is not owned by any political party, public servants, elected officials or advocacy groups. How we vote is not the prerogative of the Federal or Provincial Parliament, or Municipal Government to change or discard as they see fit. Nor is it the purview of the Supreme Court of Canada or the Ontario Superior Court of Justice to rule upon unless it contravenes the Charter of Rights &amp; Freedoms. The vote and the manner in which we vote, is the birthright of every Canadian citizen. Change it if you want. But if you do change it, then you are morally obligated to seek a mandate through a referendum from the citizens on what system they are most comfortable with. If you don't, then whatever new system of voting that is chosen will be illegitimate and undemocratic. And, I add that simply having an open forum type of discussion at City Hall is no mandate. As a first step, each Municipal Councillor must consult with their constituents to determine what they want, and the best way to do this is to campaign on this issue during the municipal election in 2018.</p> <p>I fully understand that elected officials can change many things through the power of legislation. But when it comes to the fundamental ways in which we have organized ourselves as a society, then society as a whole must speak. Not just those who presume to be the political, bureaucratic or judicial elite of our society.</p>
<p>I believe you are naive in thinking that the majority of people would want to choose more than one candidate. In fact, I often find it difficult to select even one qualified candidate. Never three –</p>
<p>Why do you think changing a system that has worked well for centuries is a good idea???</p>
<p>Voters are not so stupid that we will be confused by a ranked choice ballot.</p>
<p>While I have an understanding of Ranked Ballot Voting and would like to see London move in that direction, I know other people do not understand the concept. The wording of this survey could be confusing to those people, as it asks whether participants want to choose three winners, when that's not actually the case. Just thought I'd add my two cents.</p>
<p>Desperately need electoral reform. Let's do it!</p>
<p>Our system is well understood and works just fine. Please leave it alone.</p>

### Open House Comments and Feedback

**Comment:** This process favours; because of lower voter turnout, the 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishes. Does nothing to attract more than 50% eligible [to get] out & vote. Question: Wouldn't it be cheaper and more fair [to get] more voters out. (Paraphrased)

**Comment:** I favour the ranked ballot system. The system is easy to understand

1. Careful planning re: implementation is important for full public understanding
2. This is a problem if the public will not know the results for 2-3-4 days otherwise, the public will likely be less receptive since they are used to relatively quick results.

**Comment:** Question: Would it be better to do this election FPTP Because of what is happening? More or less voters - Use as a base for 2020.

**Comment:** I support ranked ballots mainly to reduce, or hopefully eliminate strategic voting. This system seems to give moderates an advantage and may stifle change, which may be good or bad.

**Comment:** 1. This seems like a lot of extra work for little benefit. This will only affect races with 2 or more close candidates and enough secondary votes equal to more than the difference between the leads.

2. This assumes that all candidates are at least personally worthy. If I cannot find any secondary worth candidate I should have the right to cast my vote for "none of the above"

3. There is no "post" in municipal election so stop calling the existing system by that inaccurate phrase of 'first past the post'

**Comment:** If only one selection is made [is this a] spoiled ballot? Does the technology exist to count the votes using this method? Is this being considered at the federal or provincial level? Why is this not considered for the school trustees? (Paraphrased)

**Comment:** Voters should be informed – hard job – press – Always a difficult issue. Voter should have at least a basic understanding of process. Voters now in many case have difficulty understanding the current systems, including ballots and other issues such as identification.

**Comment:** City election staff must be well informed and able to answer questions. Computer software must work without delays - can't have system glitches or credibility issues. Voters must have confidence in any new system.

**Comment:** Thank you for the opportunity to attend the open house and for taking the time to reach out to electors in London for their input before making a final decision to atop the ranked ballot system. It would be helpful if London could provide at future open houses or meetings on your website a list of Q and as specific to London over and above what is already available.

**Comment:** What pluses and minuses have been reviewed from other communities currently using this proposed system?

**Comment:** I came to the open house to see how ranked voting works. I understand how it works. I however do not think London needs to go there at this time. The total cost of implementing this change is unknown... the costs listed are very misleading it does not reflect the true total cost. I do not think changing the way we vote is needed. I am not in favour of changing the way we vote. Council should spend our money on important things and stop wasting time and money on shiny objects.

**Comment:** Community needs more sessions like this. Also we need city clerk to come to community meeting to help them for signing sheets to get ballot[s] [mailed to] their home.

**Comment:**

1. If system is not broken why change?
2. If implemented please buy tabulators from a Canadian source
3. Bad time to change with all the voting problems in USA
4. Don't think a wise use of city monies. Better to fix transit system and infrastructure

**Comment:** Thank you for putting on this Open house the staff did a great job of explaining how the ranked voting works. I did not understand about this system so I did become aware of this change at the end of the open house. I think the ballots would be very confusing for anyone who had not been given the education of knowing the difference. I did not think we need to change to ranked ballots. I much prefer one person one vote.

**Comment:** What is the full reason to provide this system vs. the existing? What will be gained?

**Comment:** This is very progressive and should be implement[ed]. Rank ballots are the way of the future for equality in elections for all.

**Comment:** Good staff interaction. Simple process working through each stage. Should detail or make clear [if] this is hasn't happened yet. Staff was informative and helpful.

**Comment:** I don't have an opinion about ranked ballots. One way or the other a council will be elected. The thing that worries me is that there is no tried and tested voting technology available to manage the ranked ballot process. A manual hand count will take weeks to complete. Where else in the world uses this? Could you use last election votes as examples.

**Comment:** Strongly supportive of ranked ballots. Spend some time designing and testing an excellent ballot - don't be afraid to engage design experts. Technology that confirms choices, or at least notifies the voter of an error prior to the submission of the ballot is a good idea regardless of the chosen voting system. If certain costs are likely to be "one-time" they should be identified.

**Comment:** I feel second place in the original vote would end up winning more often. But that could be a good thing – a less dramatic, less extreme candidate.

**Comment:** City of London webpage: On a recent arrival in London I had no idea which ward I live in. When I checked on the city of London website I had a long difficult search to find the information - it was not intuitive. Needs improvement before the next election. I like the preferential ballot!

**Comment:** I have worked on many elections and this would be a nightmare - it would take hours and hours to add these ballots. I think it is a terrible system and we are better off with first past the post. However I would be in favour of proportional representation which is what most democratic countries have. I will never want this system and I hope London realizes this is not the best way to go.

**Comment:** Ranked ballots don't make any sense – spending another 322050. We have bigger fish to fry. Sounds like communism to me. This is not going to fix [our] problem at City Hall. Better take a look at bringing back a board of control.

**Comment:** I live in ward 12 and fully support ranked ballots. I would love to see London being progressive in its democracy. I would extol the city for such an accomplishment. With seeing what has happened in the U.S ranked ballots would prevent vote splitting and we would have a candidate that would acceptable and palatable to the majority of citizens.

**Comment:** Internet voting – No. The threat of hacking election software is too great to chance or risk the democratic process over the internet. Within the last year, grade school testing over the internet was a failure. The software was not ready, or pranksters had fun. Ranked ballots could be very confusing. The Australian election of July 1 2016 was ranked/transferrable vote. The Aussie method for over 100 years. The counting process for ranked votes took almost a month to officially complete the count. Although they had more than 20 political parties: liberal, conservative, etc. The Ranking coalition retained power in the legislature by 76 seats against 74; down by more. Change in the voting procedures would not be terrible. But the public needs to be educated. Speed of change must be moderate and incremental. (Paraphrased)

**Comment:** I believe this ranked ballot is what is needed in the city of London – I would ask that councillors support ranked ballots or at least put the question to the public on the next ballot.

**Comment:** I am strongly in support of moving to a ranked ballot system as it encourages more diversity in candidates, and the policies they promote. I believe that the system change could also lead to higher voter turn-out as citizens may see their ideas reflected in the candidate's platforms. This change would also make it easier for first time candidates to enter the race again this can have a positive impact on the diversity of candidates which I believe is important as reflects the diversity of London's population.

**Comment:** Concerns: the equipment software is not currently available to assist with tabulating votes. Costs are unknown. The ability of candidates to split the vote. For example; I may not be your first choice but make me your second choice

**Comment:** Don't agree with ranked balloting trying to fix something that isn't broken, that's going to cost the taxpayer more yet again

**Comment:** Thank you for listening to my comments at the public participation meeting at Stronach Arena. I have come to the conclusion that this new system has many drawbacks and would be opposed to implementation. 1. Voting for multiple candidates for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> choice for city elections and not for the school board would confuse the general public. 2. Since voter turnout is usually low I think this would make it even lower. 3. I believe that majority of voters would still vote for one name as they have done for many elections either provincial federal or municipal. 4. Claims for ranked choice voting – The winning candidate may better reflect the desires of the majority of voters. In a very close race the lowest could have more 2<sup>nd</sup> choice but would be eliminated. 5. Reduces strategic voting – we will still have that. 6. Spending more money that might change the voting is not necessary.

**Comment:** perhaps if you try a parallel system at the next election – people could get a [sense] of how this one works and what the results might have been if it was used.

**Comment:** Concern with privacy and physical changes of the voting machines

**Comment:** It sounds like any feedback is moot and that ranked ballots are inevitable. My concern is that it's a salutation to a symptom not the disease. A 30% voter turnout isn't reflective of issues with how to vote, but rather disenfranchisement from council people feel they're only cared about every 3 years, when the votes are being counted. This change does nothing to improve voting as already people can't be bothered to research one candidate. Much less more. I understand people don't have to vote for multiple candidates, but they will just like many vote for school trustees without no knowledge of policy and position. An eeny-meeny-miney-more vote may be more prevalent than you think. What needs to be fixed is the political attitude that candidates only represent who voted for them. Then have an obligation to work for the betterment of the entire world and work without diverse opinions and find solutions that are improved through criticism, not artificially inflate through the echo chamber. In an ideal world, I support ranked ballots, but we're so far from that here. This feels like a desire to do "something" as opposed to fixing the real problem.

**Comment:** This should be a referendum question.

## Appendix 'C'

### Social Media Outreach and Comments Rank Your Vote

#### Facebook

Post: The City of London is exploring changing the way London Votes to a ranked ballot voting system for the 2018 Municipal Election. Join us, at one of our upcoming community conversations: find out how a ranked ballot system works, ask questions, and provide your feedback.

**(4,203 people reached, 30 post shares)**

Post: Ranked Choice Voting will make a difference to how our councillors and mayor are elected. Come out and tell us whether you think London should change to Ranked Choice Voting for the 2018 Municipal Elections. Tonight's informal, drop-in sessions take place from 6-8 pm at Medway Community Centre (upstairs, above the ice rink) and North London Community Centre. Location details are available here: <http://www.london.ca/.../vote.../Pages/Ranked-Ballot-Voting.aspx>

**(1,865 people reached, 5 post shares)**

Post: Couldn't make it out to one of our Ranked Choice Voting open houses? Learn how Ranked Choice Voting works and provide your feedback here: <http://bit.ly/2n7MqP4>

**(1,138 people reached, 1 post share)**

Post: You've heard about Ranked Choice Voting, but how does it work? Learn more about ranked balloting here: <http://bit.ly/2n7MqP4> Let us know if you think London should move to Ranked Choice Voting. Take our survey online or join us at our Public Participation Meeting on April 22 at City Hall.

**(2,726 people reached)**

Post: Should London move to Ranked Choice Voting? We are exploring changing the way London Votes to a ranked choice ballot voting system for the 2018 Municipal Election. Learn what it is, how a winner is determined, the potential changes and cost and how it will be implemented here: <https://getinvolved.london.ca/rank-your-vote> After reviewing the materials, take our quick survey and let us know what you think.

**(9,060 people reached, 23 post shares)**

Post: SURVEY: Should London move to Ranked Choice Voting for the 2018 Municipal Election? Learn more about ranked ballots and let us know what you think. Give your feedback online or attend the Public Participation Meeting, April 22 at 11 a.m. at City Hall. <https://getinvolved.london.ca/rank-your-vote>

**(10,644 people reached, 49 post shares)**

#### Twitter

Tweet: Changes may be coming to the way London Votes. Join us for a conversation about Ranked Ballot voting. <http://www.london.ca/city-hall/elections/voter-info/Pages/Ranked-Ballot-Voting.aspx> ... #ldnont pic.twitter.com/Cc1zlpHbqI

**(6,891 impressions, 19 Retweets)**

Tweet: Ranked Choice Voting: community conversations taking place next Wed & Thurs. Join us at a location near you <http://www.london.ca/city-hall/elections/voter-info/Pages/Ranked-Ballot-Voting.aspx> ... #ldnont pic.twitter.com/qVeg5eZEG2

**(3,915 impressions, 14 Retweets)**

Tweet: Ranked Choice Voting could change how councillors/mayor get elected. Come, find out more, give feedback: <http://www.london.ca/city-hall/elections/voter-info/Pages/Ranked-Ballot-Voting.aspx> ... #ldnont pic.twitter.com/YsesnYJCqE

**(3,473 impressions, 14 Retweets)**

Tweet: Ranked Choice Voting being talked about tonight at Earl Nichols and Stronach arenas. Stop by and find out more 6-8 pm. #ldnont

**(3,215 impressions, 9 Retweets)**

Tweet: We are here at Stronach & Earl Nichols arena talking Ranked Choice Voting. Stop in to learn more from 6-8 pm. #ldnont pic.twitter.com/81FqaDVKhp

**(2,155 impressions, 3 Retweets)**

Tweet: Couldn't make it out to one of our Ranked Choice Voting open houses? Learn more & provide your feedback here <http://bit.ly/2n7MqP4> #ldnont pic.twitter.com/OdD7rmNhlf

**(2,232 impressions, 1 Retweet)**

Tweet: Should #LdnOnt move to Ranked Choice Voting? Learn more & let us know what you think: <https://youtu.be/5ROkTXOeLMI> <http://bit.ly/2n7MqP4>

**(4,423 impressions, 12 Retweets)**

Tweet: You've heard about Ranked Choice Voting, but how does it work? #LdnOnt learn more & provide your feedback: <http://bit.ly/2n7MqP4> pic.twitter.com/1fpEhnyFug

**(3,166 impressions, 9 Retweets)**

Tweet: Let us know if you think #ldnont should move to Ranked Choice Voting. Join us @ PPM April 22 or take our survey: <http://bit.ly/2n7MqP4> pic.twitter.com/tERrLaTLWh

**(2,056 impressions, 3 Retweets)**

Tweet: What is Ranked Choice Voting? #LdnOnt Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ROkTXOeLMI> ...

**(1,981 impressions, 5 Retweets)**

Tweet: Changes may be coming to the way #LdnOnt Votes. Learn how Ranked Choice Voting works & give your feedback. <https://getinvolved.london.ca/rank-your-vote> <https://twitter.com/CityofLdnOnt/status/842365757170282496> ...

**(2,610 impressions, 7 Retweets)**

Tweet: We are exploring the option to use Ranked Choice Voting for the 2018 Municipal Election. #LdnOnt Give us your input: <https://getinvolved.london.ca/rank-your-vote> pic.twitter.com/ZbLMVQ2zN3

**(2,024 impressions, 7 Retweets)**

Tweet: How does Ranked Choice Voting work? Learn more & let us know if you think #ldnont should move to ranked ballots. <https://getinvolved.london.ca/rank-your-vote> pic.twitter.com/4EwWHq6sbl

**(3,350 impressions, 11 Retweets)**

Tweet: Should #ldnont move to ranked ballots? Let us know! Come to the PPM April 22 at City Hall or take our survey online: <https://getinvolved.london.ca/rank-your-vote> pic.twitter.com/TVf4KCMJB3

**(2,943 impressions, 11 Retweets)**

## TWITTER

Very excited (and jealous!) to see @CityofLdnOnt boldly take the lead on voting reform in Ontario. [unlockdemocracy.ca/ranked\\_ballot\\_...](http://unlockdemocracy.ca/ranked_ballot_...) #ldnont 123  
[REDACTED] @CityofLdnOnt They are so far ahead of us. Even have advance voting at mall locations to help increase voter turnout! Nice! @CityofLdnOnt [REDACTED] #ldnont #civicengagement

### @CityofLdnOnt

Ranked Choice Voting: community conversations taking place next Wed & Thurs. Join us at a location near you [london.ca/city-hall/elec...](http://london.ca/city-hall/elec...) #ldnont

.@CityofLdnOnt Any plans to do an event somewhere a bit more central?

Yes, a Public Participation Meeting will take place April 22nd at City Hall, 11:00 a.m.

@CityofLdnOnt Thank you. Why not include that one on the poster?

@CityofLdnOnt the PPM was originally planned for April 5th and a few of us wanted to push it back so the public had more time.

Went to the info session on #rankedballots 4 @CityofLdnOnt staff was helpful and informative. I hope we as a city move forward with this!

Kudos to [REDACTED] + @CityofLdnOnt - the ONLY city in Ontario hosting public consultations on ranked ballots. More details here:  
[How much discussion of also switching to multi-member wards?](#)

+ Kudos to @CityofLdnOnt Clerk's office for designing great public education materials about fair and friendly elections! #LdnOnt  
As a designer, itakes me happy to see people appreciate the value of information displayed creatively! Looks great!

@CityofLdnOnt is the first city in Ontario to produce a nice video explaining how ranked ballots work. #LondonLeads! [youtube.com/watch?v=5ROkTX...](http://youtube.com/watch?v=5ROkTX...)

Columnist [REDACTED] sees positives in ranked ballots. [bit.ly/2mwzHpt](http://bit.ly/2mwzHpt) #LdnOnt @CityofLdnOnt

Thank you @CityofLdnOnt for helping to educate citizens about different electoral systems. We need more of this in Canada #electoralreform

## FACEBOOK

Post: The City of London is exploring changing the way London Votes to a ranked ballot voting system for the 2018 Municipal Election.

Join us, at one of our upcoming community conversations: find out how a ranked ballot system works, ask questions, and provide your feedback.

<http://www.london.ca/.../vote.../Pages/Ranked-Ballot-Voting.aspx>

Comments: no place for those of us in a central location?

City of London, Ontario - Municipal Government Hi [REDACTED] yes, there will be a Public Participation Meeting on Saturday, April 22 at City Hall, as a Special Meeting of the Corporate Services Committee. This will be a different format than the community conversations, but an equal opportunity to provide feedback and comments.

(4,203 people reached, 30 post shares, 1 comment)

Post: Ranked Choice Voting will make a difference to how our councillors and mayor are elected.

Come out and tell us whether you think London should change to Ranked Choice Voting for the 2018 Municipal Elections.

Tonight's informal, drop-in sessions take place from 6-8 pm at Medway Community Centre (upstairs, above the ice rink) and North London Community Centre.

Location details are available here: <http://www.london.ca/.../vote.../Pages/Ranked-Ballot-Voting.aspx>

(1,865 people reached, 5 post shares)

Post: Couldn't make it out to one of our Ranked Choice Voting open houses? Learn how Ranked Choice Voting works and provide your feedback here: <http://bit.ly/2n7MqP4>

(1,138 people reached, 1 post share)

Post: You've heard about Ranked Choice Voting, but how does it work? Learn more about ranked balloting here: <http://bit.ly/2n7MqP4>

Let us know if you think London should move to Ranked Choice Voting. Take our survey online or join us at our Public Participation Meeting on April 22 at City Hall.

**Comments:** So, the 2nd/3rd choices aren't weighted unless there is a draw?

Is there really such a large issue in London that we need an overstructured tiebreaking method?

COL Reply: Hi [REDACTED], Second and third choices are considered when there is not enough first choice rankings to get a majority (50% plus one of the votes). The candidate with the lowest first choice votes are eliminated and their votes are redistributed to remaining candidates. Thank you!

Reply: That sounds incredibly convoluted? Why not, if you're including multiple ranked choices, just include them as a less than single vote towards their total from the get go?

**Comment:** So what happens if a person only votes for 1 person and doesn't rank any other candidates?

COL Reply: Hi [REDACTED], Great question! If a person decides to only vote for one candidate, their vote will be counted as a first choice vote. If their candidate is eliminated, their ballot is considered "exhausted". Exhausted ballots would be removed from the count, as they could not be redistributed to other candidates.

Reply: Thank you for the answer

**Comment:** Was the Federally-conducted series of consultations with regard to various Proportional Electoral methods not sufficient to illustrate that ranked ballots are possibly the very worst kind of PR, only (very) marginally better than FPtP itself? If you genuinely feel like you need to go to a Proportional voting method on a local basis, then the very LEAST you could do would be to go with a \*genuine\* one!

Given the now well-enumerated insufficiencies of the ranked ballot method, making the decision to nevertheless choose it anyway reeks of either a naive intent to implement change for change's sake, OR more worryingly (and as was the case with [REDACTED] desire for implementing it) being intentionally sneaky and surreptitiously self-serving...

**Comment:** It's a terrific idea. Thankyou so much for considering this. This shows such a great representation for the people. It also can help lead other municipalities and provinces to the same one day. That's real choice..without fear and ensures each voter can feel 100% confident they are voting exactly the way they feel morally ..IE say their fist choice perhaps may not have an assumed large support base but the voter feels they are the most qualified..but don't want to risk voting for that onr person just to lose then the one who they think is the most supported who perhaps isn't most qualified to get the position will get it..so they instead vote for the 3rd option person who they think will beat out that second person. Essentially not voting for their moral candidate at all. Rank choice voting helps fix this issue entirely. Which is totally thinking of the people in your city. ♥

**Comment:** YES!!

(2,726 people reached)

Post: Should London move to Ranked Choice Voting?

We are exploring changing the way London Votes to a ranked choice ballot voting system for the 2018 Municipal Election.

Learn what it is, how a winner is determined, the potential changes and cost and how it will be implemented here: <https://getinvolved.london.ca/rank-your-vote>

After reviewing the materials, take our quick survey and let us know what you think.

**Comment:** Ranked Ballots are a deceptive means of implementing a pseudo-proportional electoral system. Indeed, in the measure of things, democratically speaking, it is the second \*worst\* form of democratically electing a representative government, falling just below PPTP itself. Given that this system has been demonstrated to be quite poor at providing true proportionality, and quite effective at eliminating/silencing all but the most vanilla mainstream political opinions and policies, the question MUST be asked as to why the city has set THIS method as it's target for such change. The Federal Liberal party was driven off of their PR initiative when it became clear that the electorate wasn't going to fall for their attempted power grab, and London subsequently deciding to attempt going down the exact same road that was rejected once for its inherent unfairness, is more than a little troubling. When you go to make your decision on this issue, make sure that you genuinely ask yourself what you think Council's TRUE intention is for selecting and pursuing implementation of the WORST PR methodology on the table and, having done so, whether or not you also TRUST them to have chosen a system that works better for \*YOU\* than it does for \*THEM\*.

Reply: I'm saying this change provides no substantive gains and produces unwanted negative side effects that aren't balanced by commensurate benefits. Either leave the present system as is, or implement a genuine proportional system, not a feckless half measure whose benefit is weighted substantially towards entrenching the status quo in perpetuity...

Reply: You make a lot of bold claims to have not sourced a single one.

Reply: What claims would you say are "bold"? As for unsourced, I can only presume that you live under a rock and avoid reading the news as well as declining to investigate an issue over which you've formed an opinion? Go research the forms of Proportional Representation, they all have issues, but MMP is generally regarded as being the best formulation. Ranked ballots drive candidates towards the middle, and least provocative positions (due to it demanding that they appeal to the broadest possible demographic). This necessarily results in the marginalization of new / fringe ideas which itself leads to systemic calcification and for what benefit are we incurring those faults exactly?

Reply: It is none of those things and it is certainly far superior to fptp. Decreased nastiness from candidates, increased numbers of women and minority candidates, less strategic voting.

Reply: No [REDACTED], it homogenizes the candidates and presents a high barrier to new/fringe elements and for what benefit? I think FPTP is an abomination, but THIS is a &\*\$ - poor alternative. If we're going to change, we should change to a BETTER system, not one that's just broken differently...

Reply: PR is my preferred electoral system, but I'm not sure how it can be implemented on a municipal level. Municipal councilors are not members of a particular political party.

Reply: [REDACTED] Please tell me how it homogenizes anything. Instead of voting for one candidate you can now vote for up to three. Where's the homogenization?

Reply: [REDACTED] -- \*sigh\* -- this is a well-understood condition of ranked ballots and there are numerous sources on the net where you can research this stuff... BUT I'll try to give you a condensed version using three example starkly contrasted groups so as to give a very simplified breakdown:

Party A - is a very left-leaning, progressive socialistic party that believes in providing as much governmental support for as many people as possible so that everyone can live more or less equal lives and the government should always spend whatever's required in order to sustain this economic model without really worrying about balancing the budget.

Party B - is a centrist party that doesn't have particularly strong views about most policies other than that, in general, people shouldn't be forgotten or left out of society, but capitalism is also okay, and some people exploiting others isn't always bad. Fiscally, speaking generally, policies should be as responsible as reasonable, but don't always have to be.

Part C is a very right-leaning party. They believe in survival of the richest and everyone else can fend for themselves. Government should be minimalist and largely exist to protect the ruling class from depredations of the proletariat whose existence is primarily allowed to continue in order to service the needs of the wealthy and corporations. Fiscal policy revolves around moving wealth upwards and minimizing government's ability to control / restrain the rulers.

Again, this is a VERY simplified model strictly for the purposes of illustration.

So, as everyone should know by now, if the voting population that's electing a government from these three parties are subjected to a FPTP system, any one party CAN win election by simply garnering 34% of the vote, and this pretty well paints a picture of extant voting conditions in Canada at the Federal and Provincial levels where it is quite common for Parties to receive majority governments with less than 40% support. This does become a lot murkier at the municipal level as the lack of Party affiliation can make distinguishing the ideologies / priorities / goals of particular candidates more difficult to ascertain and there's no overriding Party discipline or governing philosophy to rein in rogues. Nevertheless, when you move to a ranked ballot system, think about the voters' choices with regard to having their own personal beliefs represented in the resultant government.

For simplicity's sake, and to provide the clearest model to illustrate the problem, let's say that each group is represented equally amongst the population, in which case the first choice vote will split essentially evenly at 33% / 33% 33%.

Now we get to the second choice for each group..

When given the comparative ideological differences, it is \*very\* unlikely that people who identify most with Group A are ever going to want Group C to have power, and

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the reverse is just as true. By this rationale, it is reasonable to presume that the second choice of MOST Group A voters will be for Group B, and the same will also be true for Group C. If we graciously say that a whopping 20% of these fringe groups go rogue and vote for the antithetical group anyway (and the other 80% vote as predicted), and that the centrist Group B population basically splits essentially evenly (50% to A and 50% to B) that means that the second round balloting will break down to: 23.1% / 52.8% / 23.1% which, when halved (second votes counting only 50% to firsts) and added to the first round, gives us a tally of 44.6 / 59.7 / 44.6 and results in the election of the centrist "B" party.

Obviously, the mathematics can get *really* complex, but I'm using this, extremely BASIC, 3-party example in order to dramatically illustrate the inherent problem that a very complicated mathematical model would tend to obfuscate.

Okay, so, with the Candidates from Party A and Party C seeing what's happening, they quickly realise that if they don't look at ways to break B's lock on the system, they're going to be extinct in short order. Obviously, that means that they have to find ways to be more appealing to the voters with the opposite mindset, which gives us the following paradigm:

- 1) Progressive A's will have to start adopting soft-conservative positions to try and lure some C's over,
- 2) Conservative C's will have to start adopting soft progressive strategies to become more appealing to the A group.
- 3) The more broadly cross-platform-friendly either of those groups become, the more likely they will be to get elected.

By this process, eventually, *everyone* ends up getting pulled inexorably into the center and they all end up looking more or less like B's simply by virtue of holding / espousing only the softest (i.e. least provocative) and most broadly popular centrist ideas in order to remain electable by the greatest number of voters from *all* ideologies. Once this model becomes entrenched, it's soon VERY difficult for ideas or representatives from the fringes to find any voice/representation at all within the governing body, as elected officials will go to great lengths to avoid appearing particularly ideological or doing anything that, in any significant way, differentiates them from the rest of the group because they know that the electoral process itself will tend to punish them for doing so. THAT is why / how the system becomes homogenized. Add in the fact that it's much harder to clearly identify City Council members' own personal ideological beliefs, and it's likely that much of the voting public will almost certainly end up voting blind, and more or less just ranking the candidates by who they know / like best because that's by far the easiest thing to do (OR just staying home altogether because the system is so much more complicated/confusing to them now).

I genuinely do NOT see a benefit significant enough, from enacting such a system at the Municipal level, to justify the expense and aggravation and eventual negative outcome of such a change. Because of the effect it has on driving the political system into homogeneity, marginalising/silencing fringe voices and providing only meagrely demonstrable "proportionality", ranked ballots are about the poorest form of genuine PR available and this further makes the City's decision to adopt *it* (instead of *any* of the others) all the more suspicious. This is especially so given that the Federal Liberals have already been forced to abandon electoral reform once people began to understand that a Federal Ranked Ballot system would all but ensure a permanent, nigh-unbreakable, Federal Liberal hegemony and started rejecting that idea in droves. For the Liberals, ranked ballots would have all but destroyed the Conservatives' or NDP's ability to form a government, and when people caught on and rejected it, they fell back to PPTP because, from a purely selfish perspective, it's genuinely the next best electoral system for them...

Reply: Nice stereotype for party C!

Reply: [REDACTED] -- the point was to make stark delineations; nevertheless, the characteristics identified for each of the 3 exemplars roughly approximate the

ideologies of the principle 3 parties of the Canadian political milieu. Furthermore, just because conservatives DON'T LIKE owning their inherent reprehensible attributes doesn't mean they aren't applicable.

Reply: \*sigh\* -- so, in the interest of being completely above-board, I connected directly with [REDACTED] today via FB Messenger and spent some amount of time chatting and explaining the issues, mathematics and concepts to him. Sadly, and, to my mind, \*very\* unfortunately, while he originally started out listening to my explanations, once my points became obvious, he instead elected to childishly and unceremoniously terminate the conversation and block me from any further communication. FWIW, I did ask if he had a hidden agenda, and/or was being paid by the City and he denied that such was the case. If I take him at his word though, I'm left at a complete loss as to understand his seemingly disingenuous, extraordinarily simplistic arguments and unreasonable fervour for such a demonstrably poor electoral system...

Reply: Lol

Reply: [REDACTED]

There is only Two Outcomes to any election.

Option A: Your candidate wins and you violently impose your will onto others.

Option B: Your candidate loses and others violently impose their will onto you.

The number of candidates is irrelevant. You are still fighting over who gets to cage you, extort you, enslave you and kill you so you can feel protected from people who would cage you, extort you, enslave you or kill you.

No matter how you arrange it, unless an election is unanimous, which it never is, even when rigged, somebody is being screwed.

Your system simply allows a smaller group that power.

This is how Democracy becomes oligarchy.

Reply: [REDACTED] -- soo much ignorant selfish stupidity in your post. You either participate in a society as a MEMBER thereof, which \*NECESSARILY\* mandates compromise, or [REDACTED] \*\*expletive\*\* and don't participate AT ALL. The problem with faux-ideologues like yourselves is that you WANT the things society gives you, but you're too self-centered, greedy and stupid to want to actually CONTRIBUTE to having those things. By all means, if you don't want to pay taxes, or have laws to follow, go find yourselves an anarchists paradise where you only get to have what you can hold and nobody will protect you, feed you, or give you \*anything\* that you don't pay for out of your own pocket. Personally, our world would be a MUCH better place if sociopathic, greedy, selfish pathetic whiners like you \*would\* PLEASE take yourselves off our hands, but (SURPRISE!) you always seem to find a reason to stay and keep sucking off the teats of society while incessantly and fecklessly whining about everything that practice gets you...

**Comment:** When I was a kid my team won the city championship. We worked our [REDACTED] of. We trained. We ran. We puked. We sweat and we suffered. Our award - 1st place. These days they give trophies for participation. Sad.

This type of voting is just another level of awarding those who didn't study or gather their constituents effectively.

I get it - in the current landscape of politics in the USA you might want options. But come on. This politically correct bul [REDACTED] \*\*expletive\*\* has to stop. Call people on their [REDACTED] \*\*expletive\*\*!!

And THIS - is [REDACTED] \*\*expletive\*\*

IMO

Reply: And why do you think they give participation trophies? Because the parents couldn't stand to have their "precious snowflakes" go home with nothing! I played hockey for 10 years and we got a medal almost every year, even when I was on the last place team! Did I ask for it? No. Did someone decide it on their own because they wanted to show our "hard" work? You bet your butt they did. We didn't ask for them, but someone's parents sure did!

Reply: Ranked ballots guarantee that the person that gets elected has more than 50% of the vote. There's no comparison to participation trophies here at all.

Reply: Ranked ballots do NOT guarantee that the person who's elected receives more than 50% of the vote. They \*only\* indicate that the person who's ultimately elected has the broadest \*general\* support of the electorate, that is all.

**Comment:** I think ranked voting is an idea that is long overdue. What I'd love to see down the road is the opportunity to cast negative votes as well. I have frequently found myself in elections (not just municipal) where I don't really think any of the candidates are a great choice, but I DEFINITELY don't want a particular candidate to win the position. There needs to be a way to express this in voting.

Reply: A "none of the above" option would be nice.

Reply: None of the above is not strong enough. If Candidate Obnoxious has 100 votes and you vote None of the above he's still got 100 votes. If you can actually vote against him then he would have 99 instead of 100 votes after you vote.

Reply: [REDACTED] I wouldn't support that. You should not be able to deprive anyone else of their vote, which is what you're proposing.

Reply: Open votes do that all the time. Yays and nays cancel each other out and only the yays or nays that are in excess of the others decide the issue.

Reply: [REDACTED] -- Yay and Nay voting is only done when the vote is for a single issue / candidate. When there are multiple options, nobody votes nay, they either vote for an option or they abstain. Your argument is non-analogous.

**Comment:** Excellent idea. London could be a real leader here. There's little to no downside and a whole lot of upside in giving this a trial run in 2018. Let's be leaders.

Reply: You need to do more research as you clearly do not fully understand that ALL electoral systems have weaknesses and this one has the distinction of having nebulous benefit and a significant flaw, your unawareness / incomprehension thereof notwithstanding...

Reply: [REDACTED] We're just going to fundamentally disagree on this so I'm moving on.

Reply: [REDACTED] -- the difference being, my position is backed by facts, and yours appears to be based almost entirely on emotion/opinion...

PS: I didn't miss how, after asking me to explain to you why RB leads to political homogenization and my taking quite a bit of time to answer, you then chose not to comment or acknowledge what has been demonstrated...

Reply: Political homogenisation is a bad thing?

**Comment:** I did the survey voted for Ranked Ballot. I want to vote for who I would like to win; from all the candidates, not just who I think would win.

Reply: That's what you are supposed to do, vote for who you want to win even with first past the post.

Reply: With First Past the Post, a person can win this less than 30% of the votes. That is not really fair.

Reply: [REDACTED] - The dynamics of Ranked Ballot aren't exactly fair either, it's just that their "unfairness" is more easily cloaked than FPTP's. Ranked Ballots favour neutral/middle parties and more or less eliminate fringe elements. It creates a vanilla soft middle where new ideas will have difficulty gaining traction because living on the fringe ideologically becomes a dangerous proposition.

THIS is why [REDACTED] and the Liberal Party of Canada | Parti libéral du Canada so favoured it as a replacement for FPTP federally: In the overwhelming majority of federal electoral circumstances, the SECOND choice of non-Liberal voters in Canada will be for a Liberal Candidate (NDP supporters are very unlikely to select a Con as a second choice and the reverse is just as unlikely). The likely outcome of ranked ballots in Canadian Federal Elections would be the complete marginalisation of non-centrist politics in Canada, GREAT for the Liberals, but ultimately BAD for \*everyone\* else. Frustratingly, when it became clear that the electorate wasn't going to fall for that attempted power-grab, the Liberals, instead of acceding to their will and looking at better PR methods, instead dropped the issue like a red-hot potato and now won't even talk about it in public.

This, of course, makes the question of why, \*exactly\*, the current leaders of the City want to adopt \*this\* same system for municipal elections, given that its particular (and significant) democratic frailties have been exposed?

THAT is the question you must keep asking yourself, because the answer to it is the MOST important condition on whether or not you think it should be adopted... Personally, given its substantial downside, and marginal benefit, I'm tremendously dubious as to the genuine motivations driving this initiative.

Reply: And [REDACTED] its not fair that something this important is not put to a referendum.

Reply: [REDACTED] Ranked ballots "favour" nobody. There's no real downside and SIGNIFICANT upside in terms of taking the nastiness out of campaigning, less strategic voting and increased candidacy for women and minorities.

Reply: [REDACTED] - I've gone to great lengths elsewhere to address your question in this regard and illustrate the statistical problems associated with an RB based system. Because of the mechanics involved, it inevitably homogenizes government and, furthermore, in a municipal / partyless system, can easily lead to calcification as voters end up predominantly ranking names simply by recognizability because the effort of trying to establish genuine, detailed, ideological profiles on each of them is a lot of work that most people just aren't going to undertake...

Reply: [REDACTED] - to address your comment more specifically, Ranked Ballots advantage candidates who represent only the most broadly acceptable positions, and the broader, more vanilla that they can be, the greater their commensurate statistical advantage. The thing is, it's \*very\* difficult to find a provocative position that's broadly popular, the ones that tend to pass muster with the greatest number of people are ideas that are the simplest and least disruptive. New ideas, or ones that may seem radical today, but commonplace down the road will struggle in such an environment, and I still haven't been shown for what \*measurable\* benefit we should adopt such an inherently problematic model. Again, I HATE FPTP, BUT \*this\* is not an alternative whose rewards mitigate its failings, and THAT fact alone should provoke anyone into asking why then Council has gone this way if not for an inherently self-serving reason that they're hoping nobody will notice (the same motivation [REDACTED]'s Liberals had for promoting it, before its effects were exposed) ...

Reply: Well said [REDACTED]

Reply: [REDACTED] -- For clarity, the 30% number under FPTP is an unclear value. The genuine formula for this value is:  $(1/x)\%$  of votes cast + 1 where [x] represents the number of candidates standing for election. Obviously then, the more candidates who run, the smaller the minimum-percentage-to-win becomes. For example: if there are two candidates running, it's 50% + 1 vote, for 5 candidates it's 20% + 1 vote etc.

**Comment:** I find it hilarious how many responses are pretty much "I don't like change"

Reply: When you're 50+ I'm sure you won't like change either

Reply: Change is fine if its for the better.

Reply: Change for the sake of change or to cater to the fringe not such a great idea.

**Comment:** Voting is violence. It is a violation of the NAP.

There are only two outcomes to any election:

Outcome 1: your candidate wins and the State violently forces your views onto others.

Outcome 2: your candidate loses and the State violently forces others views onto you.

Both outcomes are violent force.

Reply: FWIW, you have an egregiously, spurious, nigh-nonsensical, definition of "violence"...

Reply: Comply or die.... Our way or the highway...enforced by threat of law police & gov gun via theft extortion of taxation

Reply: Clearly you don't understand that a functional society NECESSITATES compromise. When there are extraordinarily GREEDY/SELFISH individuals in the mix, it has to fall to the group to enforce those compromises. Your extant, inate, inane, uneducated, and selfish, sociopathy notwithstanding...

Reply: PS: If you don't like paying taxes, then I suggest you [REDACTED] the roads, refuse police, military and fire protections, supply your own hydro and telecommunications infrastructure, pay for ALL of your own medical bills out of pocket and only consume food that you yourself have made.

In actuality, I'd bet you like the BENEFITS you get from society just fine, you just don't want to have to PAY for any of them and so spend your witless efforts and feckless energies whinging about that...

Reply: [REDACTED], if my taxes pays for all of that, why do you pay a monthly bill for it too?

Reply: Assumes people cant do those things...only a gov made of people can...hahaha..

Reply: It costs ALOT of money to talk to a cop that you dont want to talk to.

Reply: Tesla, an anarchist, invented the eletric grid that you use for your infrastructure. You pay a monthly bill. And taxes. Which is it?

Reply: Most fire departments are voluntary. They collect money in a boot on the street corner and survive just fine.

Reply: You arent smart enough to teach a child, so you send your kid to the same institutions that failed to educate you enough to educate a child?

Cuz muh publik.

Reply: Hes like in order for society to be proper we need violation of consent & theft for properness like roads etc...

Reply: ████████ you two are \*entirely\* stupid...

Fire departments are paid for by municipal governments that collect TAXES to pay for them. Even VOLUNTEER fire departments are paid for by these funds because, while the fire FIGHTERS MAY be volunvolunteers, THEY aren't buying the freaking trucks, or building the fire houses, or paying the utility bills to keep the lights on ffThey're not staffing the 911 system or answering the phone 24-7-365. It's the EXACT same thing with Police Departments. Also, hydro ████████? That's a bloody PROVINCIAL Corporation! It's OWNED (for now) by the bloody province you idiots! Furthermore, Tesla did NOT "invent the electric grid": he helped Charles Westinghouse develop technology to effect power distrubution via Alternating Current which was more efficient than GE/Edison's preferred Direct Current system. He did this \*mostly\* As revenge for his belief that Edison screwed him over on payment for technology that he'd invented for GE previously! Nevertheless, Tesla himself STILL died a broken, penniless man, while both Edison and Westinghouse became exceedingly rich people largely on the backs of others' efforts. (So much your your false pseudo-libertarian mythology).

It's plainly evident that you're both witless uneducated morons who don't have the FIRST CLUE about how to operate a FUNCTIONAL society and only really care about yourselves. The truth is, of course, that you'll NEVER find the fantasy "freedom" that you're naively fantasising about, and it DEFINITELY doesn't exist for you \*here\* (or ANYWHERE else in the developed world!) All I'm doing is telling you, that we have an established SOCIETY here, and like ANY functional society, there are RULES that you have to follow in order to participate. That being the case, YOUR choice is one of two options: a: stay and adhere to the rules or b: ████████ \*\*expletive\*\*...

Oddly, no matter HOW MUCH you selfish, loudmouthed, uneducated, sociopathic whiners complain, you still \*ALWAYS\* manage to come up with excuses to keep sucking off the teats of the very same society that you whinge endlessly about being "victimized" by...

**Comment:** Ranked voting enables voters to still have a say in who is elected, even if their first choice comes in last. Other than the extra cost of using it, it is a good idea.

Reply: It has a propensity to homgenize the policies and opinions of the people being elected and to marginalise / silence any new / provocative ideas, a condition that tends to calcify a government and inhibit change over the long term. Given this circumstance, and the contraposed, limited genuine benefit over FPTP, my own preference is that we either select a GOOD form of proportional representation to adopt (which this is NOT), or we dont make any changes until there's sufficient impetus to do it right at a later date. Changing from a bad system to one that's just bad in a different way isn't a useful kind of change and will really only serve to prevent genuinely GOOD changes from being implemented for longer...

**Comment:** Politicians need to get off their asses and talk with the constituents. Then build a platform around the needs of the people and stick to it. The change we need is the ability to kick their ████████ \*\*expletive\*\* when promises are broken. This idea of ranking is crazy and only enforces the idea of any effort gets a ribbon. Absolutely NOT!!!!

Reply: The problem with Recalls is that they tend to prevent politicians from ever doing anything unpopular. Imagine, for example, if your kids could vote you out of the house if you did something they didn't like... Apply the same thing to government. ANY government NECESSARILY has to implement policies that people aren't going to like. Just as you have to send your kids to bed at bedtime, whether or not they want to go, or have to have them take medicine, even if it tastes bad, there are ALSO going to be circumstances where government HAS to do things that will upset people, even

though it's ultimately the best course of action for the overall group. Whether or not they like to admit it, voters tend to behave not unlike children and want to have fits and tantrums when government does something that they themselves don't like, regardless of what the big-picture circumstances are, and giving people the power to recall politicians when this happens only exacerbates the already single-most glaring problem of most modern democracies: short-sightedness.

**Comment:** Yeah if it will unseat each and everyone of these counselors and Mayor and replace with folks who would do the work of London instead of doing the bidding for federal government.

**Comment:** You have a lot to say there [REDACTED] how about listen and reading before putting down someone else and their opinion then have your no need to argue every point every one is entitled to their opinion its a post not an argument

Reply: 1) I'm NOT arguing everyone's point

2) What makes you think I'm not reading what people are writing? (and I'm just going to ignore the complaint about not listening to a written, non-auditory, comment).

3) This \*IS\* a PUBLIC forum where DEBATE about a proposed public policy was INVITED.

4) Contrary to the wishes of the intellectually bereft, NOT ALL opinions are either valid or useful (let alone both).

5) There ARE such things as \*facts\*, which stand fully independent of opinion, and making people aware of FACTS is NEVER a bad thing, especially when it comes to forming public policy and the management of government.

6) You debate facts with reasoned arguments, not by whinging about whether or not people are "entitled to have opinions". Anyone's "opinions" about facts are (and have always been) entirely irrelevant to their truth.

Look, if you want to argue the MERITS of my points, or offer your own, then I am \*MORE\* than happy to engage in that conversaton, but simply trying to witlessly silence me just because you don't like what you're hearing is at BEST an intellectually bankrupt endeavour and at WORST an intentional attempt to impose censorship on elements of the discussion that you don't want aired for some reason. I'll leave it to you to decide which of those \*you're\* guilty of here.

Finally, again, yes, everyone IS entitled to an opinion, but that doesn't make them unassailable or free them of the necessity to comport with reality. Simply HAVING an opinion is NOT a sacrosanct, ennobled condition that makes your thoughts immune to reasonable criticism and it would be truly wonderful if people would remember THAT more often whenever they inanely feel compelled to spout an irrational, pointless argument like "everyone's entitled to an opinion..."

Reply: Not a debate either I am a tax payer and the politician work for us

Reply: [REDACTED] -- so how, \*exactly\*, does THAT either explain, or justify trying to silence erudite discussion of a subject that's directly related to the future operation of that government and the politicians that will work within it?

**Comment:** No. Why does the city of london choose to do what a small fringe of people ask and ignore its larger population?

Reply: It's pretty difficult to argue that a purportedly "representative" government shouldn't be open to embracing policies that \*increase\* their ability to more closely approximate the wishes of their constituents. The only real problem here is that they've inexplicably decided to put their weight behind a methodology that's already been demonstrated to have only limited benefits with regard to the goal of proportionality AND to have significant problems with silencing new or provocative voices / ideas...

**Comment:** I'd rather see a referendum on the proposed transit plan before worrying about this.

Reply: So the car drivers get to determine the future of the city? No thanks. That's a recipe for never improving as a city.

Reply: Not a fan of democracy are you [REDACTED]?

Reply: Sure I am. We elected people, let's let them do their jobs.

Reply: But according to you [REDACTED] these people do not accurately represent the views of the voting public because they were elected using FPTP, so how can they possibly make decisions this important?

Reply: [REDACTED] Did I say they don't represent the views of the voting public? I don't think I did.

Reply: Well if they do, why do we need to change the election process?

**Comment:** Voting in any terms is permission for others to rule you.

"Dissent is always suppressed, violently. The amount of violence that civilians will tolerate is equal to the amount they will receive.

No. London should stop choosing who gets to be masters and who should be slaves and let Londoners decide for themselves, individually.

**Comment:** If a majority fails to keep you safe, what makes you think a plurality vote will make a difference? That just means a ruler can be chosen by an ever decreasing minority. If you have 4 candidates, you only need 25.1% to rule. If you have 5, you only need 20%. It gets smaller from there.

20%~25% is not a majority.

Especially when 46.9% don't even vote.

**Comment:** The idea that a majority can rule a minority practically reduces all politics to a mere contest between two bodies of men over who shall be masters and who shall be slaves.

[REDACTED]

**Comment:** Democracy is perhaps the worst form of government, fails the fastest, violently and always results in oligarchy.

**Comment:** No, spend the money you'd spend looking into this on something useful.

**Comment:** My first choice answer is NO  
My second choice is NO  
and my third choice is NO!!  
Bad bad idea.

Reply: Why is it a bad idea?

Reply: Why? Because it's only \*marginally\* better than FPTP vis a vis proportionality and it has hidden consequential side effects that (as you've demonstrated) aren't clear to superficial examination, but necessarily warrant analysis; esp as to why Council would select a system that's been demonstrated to have significant negative democratic effects when many other better proportional systems exist.

Reply: [REDACTED] You keep saying that but you're not backing it up with anything. And council didn't select this, a bunch of citizens asked for it.

**Comment:** Leave it the same. Don't need conspiracy after the next election.

**Comment:** no, Restrict anyone who has been a tax funded employee from running for office

**Comment:** What this city needs is leadership. Watching the news this week has been back and forth over the bus routes if the mayor could keep his stories straight it would be nice clean out from the top get this city back on track not sure if we need this new bus system yet but to put a tunnel on Richmond to save 900 metres seems a bit dumb.

**Comment:** the only thing that needs to be changed is the honesty of politicians and understand that you are suppose to be working for us and not your future gains out of politics,

Reply: Well said wanna storm everywhere and arrest corrupt politicians with me

Reply: we would need money to get them to come out of the cracks, lol

**Comment:** Like I said before if it isnt broke don't fix it specially if those in office right now will only benefit Leave it alone

Reply: It's broke. Let's fix it.

Reply: [REDACTED] -- yes, lets. But in so doing, select a GOOD method that's a genuine fix, and not one compromised in so many ways as Ranked Ballots are.

Reply: [REDACTED] Tell me how ranked ballots are inferior to FPTP please?

Reply: I didn't SAY they were inferior to FPTP, again, if you ACTUALLY READ ALL of the messages I've posted, you would understand that it's only MARGINALLY better than FPTP with regards to proportionality, but that it ALSO has significant NEGATIVE impacts that make it, overall, a poorer system for creating a good PR outcome! [REDACTED] \*\*expletive\*\*, either READ what you've been told, or admit you're choosing to remain ignorant intentionally! There are NUMEROUS forms of PR, the MAJORITY of which are much better than Ranked Ballots; \*IF\* we're going to make the change, it SHOULD be to a \*GOOD\* form of PR, otherwise it's AT BEST a waste of time, and at worst, can create a dynamic that can be very hard to escape from later... Your apparently SUBSTANTIAL ignorance of these things makes your extreme advocacy highly suspect!!

Reply: [REDACTED] -- PLEASE explain why you're so enamoured of this POOR form of PR as opposed to any number of other, more effective versions, given the significant and well understood downsides of using ranked ballots?

Reply: Well you are entitled to your opinion we have a lot more things in this city fix then how we elect someone let's fix those first then bring this up but not to make it rated I want to vote for someone to win not rank them

Reply: [REDACTED] -- I would have been happy to let this issue go, in fact, I've advocated for keeping the status quo several times here. I agree that this isn't a "solution" worth having for a problem of negligible import. I have no problem at all with your assertion that there are bigger fish to fry, but this issue is here now, and sticking your head in the sand and pretending it isn't won't do anything except keep you from having an actual voice in it's adoption or rejection...

**Comment:** This post is full of statist who support statism...basically people who support slavery in one form or another...

Reply: If \*you\* think you can effect a BETTER form of government, [REDACTED] \*\*expletive\*\* haven't you? Hmmm? C'mon, if YOU have the perfect answer, why is it that neither you, nor ANYONE before you, has implemented it and demonstrated that superiority?

**Comment:** Majority rule aka democracy means 51% oppress rule & dictate the 49%

Reply: Anarchy isn't a system of government, it has NEVER succeeded, your entirely ignorant, selfish fantasies notwithstanding.

**Comment:** I think there are more important issues we should be focusing our time on.

**Comment:** Make sure you all actually fill out the survey to give feedback to the city!

**Comment:** Yeah, why not. Look at the bunch the current system gave us

**Comment:** Put it to a referendum.

Reply: This is a referendum, happening now. But then once every 4 years.

Reply: Really? Where is the ballot? What day do we vote?

Reply: Referendums don't work. You need a large proportion of the population to show up to vote and we don't even get that many people during the actual election. We should pilot this for an election and let the results speak for themselves.

Reply: Then that means its a no.

To use your reasoning how can we let a group of people who were elected under a flawed system that doesn't represent the public views decide something as important as how we elect our leadership?

Reply: Ranked ballots are a proven system. There's not voodoo magic here.

**Comment:** I too have many times not been in favor of any of the candidates. ...so what do you do....no vote.....

**Comment:** We need a leader that's for all the people and connect them with stuff.

**Comment:** Why, present council members [REDACTED] getting worried (paraphrased)!

Reply: [REDACTED] may be at a disadvantage if this goes through. (They) threw (their) hat in the ring so early that other "change candidates" stayed away for fear of splitting the vote. Ranked ballots would have prevented that from happening (paraphrased).

**Comment:** I think it's a great idea.

**Comment:** this was the orig post lolz

**Comment:** NO!!!

**Comment:** No

Reply: Yes.

Reply: Lol

Reply: Lol

Reply: And one more lol

**Comment:** Proportional Rep

Reply: Only works in a party system and those aren't allowed at the municipal election under Ontario's election laws.

Reply: You don't need a Party system to effect proportional representation, it's just that having one makes it EASIER by kind of pigeon-holing candidates' ideologies

into camps of more or less similiarly minded individuals. In a non party system, mapping those ideologies just falls down to being the leg-work responsibility of the electorate itself instead (which is why it's highly unlikely to happen). Furthermore, the City is specifically advancing the whole rationale of switching to Ranked Ballots as a form of PR, so your argument AGAINST PR here, is potentially disingenuous...

Reply: [REDACTED] Ok, I could be wrong. Please show me a city that uses PR without parties. I'd like to see how that works.

**Comment:** If it aint broke don't fix it.

**Comment:** stupid idea

Reply: Awesome idea!

Reply: No it's not... dumbest idea these city politicians ever came up with. You either want this person to be our leader or not. Why rate them

Reply: Broken idea. Adopt a genuine PR system, or leave things as they are. There's no demonstrated advantage to this change that's commensurate to the negatives.

Reply: [REDACTED] PR doesn't work in Ontario municipalities. We have no parties. There are huge advantages to this kind of balloting - increased number of candidate (one candidate won't block others from entering the race), increased candidacy from women and minorities and the elections are less divisive because all candidates want to be your 2nd or 3rd choice even if their not your first. Today a candidate will just discard you if they can't get your one and only vote, not so with ranked ballots.

Reply: [REDACTED] You're not rating them, you're given multiple opportunities to have your vote counted. If your buddy Bill is running you could vote for him even if he didn't have a strong chance. But you can also vote for Jill so when Bill falls off the ballot your vote isn't just gone, it's now counted towards another candidate who holds your same values potentially. Today if you put a Bill sign on your lawn chances are that no other candidate will pay you any attention. With ranked ballots all the candidates want your 2nd or 3rd ranked votes so they aren't as nasty to one another and they're less dismissive of the voters.

Reply: To me it is rating them. I want the person I want....period...no need to put who I want 2nd 3rd etc....it's stupid!. It is a waste. So many issues in London and this...THIS is what our leaders want to tackle... boneheads. The funniest thing is that...you try to say it is not a rating system...then tell me in your explanation...it is a rating system. If I want Dave...and he falls off...oh well...your explanation is something a politician would say...double talk

**Comment:** I don't know how I feel about this.

Reply: What are your concerns?

Reply: Its kinda hard to explain but i'll try. i'll just use the example they put Say Zhao has the most votes in the first vote. and joe has second, jean third. would only the votes jean had go towards either candidate to up their votes? I watched the video and still don't quite understand it. how would this make the voteing process more fair, because it seems like those who voted for jean are having their votes throw at the others even if they don't like the other two candidates policies for what ever reason. its kinda like forcing people to make a choice. maybe i'm not getting it right? could you explain more please?

Reply: [REDACTED] Jean's votes won't go to anyone else. If Jean had the fewest votes on that round her votes would be discarded and the 2nd choice on all those ballots would be tallied and distributed to the other candidates. If those 2nd ranked votes pushed Zhao over 50% of the vote then they would be declared the winner. One

candidates votes are never reassigned, just removed from the count so that the 2nd ranks can be counted on those ballots. Make sense?

Reply: [REDACTED] okay, so it take the votes of the person with the least amount and depending on what the second choice was the votes go to the other chosen candidate. Taking away the "i wish i voted for this person". So everyone still has a say in who wins. Pretty democratic and sounds alright on paper. Thanks for explaining! What are the bad things accociated, ive read it allows for main stream politics to take over. But how so? Cause theres always something negative to a system.

**Comment:** Any other opinion `s [REDACTED]?

Reply: As I told you before, go ahead and MAKE a cogent argument and I'll either agree with your position OR explain \*why\* I disagree. Now if that system is simply too confusing or complex for you to understand, than I'd suggest that you're wasting your time (and others') by continuing to post fecklessly...

**Comment:** How about voting '[REDACTED]' OUT !!

**Comment:** NO!!!!!!!

Reply: YES!!!!!!

(9,060 peopled reached, 443 engagements, 121 Comments, 23 post shares)

Appendix "D"

**By-law Authorizing Ranked Balloting**

Bill No.  
2017

By-law No. E.-

A by-law with respect to ranked ballot for the 2018 municipal election.

WHEREAS subsection 41.1(1) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, provides that the Lieutenant Governor in Council may, by regulation, authorize elections for offices on a municipal council to be conducted in accordance with the following rules: 1. Electors vote by ranking candidates for an office in order of the elector's preference. 2. Votes are distributed to candidates based on the rankings marked on the ballots. 3. The counting of votes is carried out in one or more rounds, with at least one candidate being elected or eliminated in each round.

AND WHEREAS subsection 2(1) of Ontario Regulation 310/16, made under section 41.1(1) of the *Municipal Elections Act*, authorizes ranked ballot elections for offices on the council to be conducted.

AND WHEREAS subsection 41.2(1) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, provides that the council of a local municipality may pass a by-law with respect to ranked ballot elections for offices on the council if such elections are authorized by a regulation made under section 41.1.

AND WHEREAS subsection 5(1) of Ontario Regulation 310/16, made under section 41.2(3) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, requires that before passing a by-law respecting ranked ballots, Council must consider: 1. The costs to the municipality of conducting the elections; 2. The availability of technology, such as voting equipment and vote-counting equipment and software, for conducting elections; and 3. The impact of the proposed by-law would have on election administration .

AND WHEREAS Council has considered the requirements set out in subsection 5(1) of Ontario Regulation 310/16.

AND WHEREAS, sections 10 and 11 of Ontario Regulation 310/16, made under section 41.2(2) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, as amended, require that an open house and a public meeting be held with respect to the proposed by-law to allow the public to review information, ask questions and make representations.

AND WHEREAS open houses were held on March 8, 2017 and March 9, 2017, and a public meeting was held on April 22, 2017, in accordance with sections 10 and 11 of Ontario Regulation 310/16.

NOW THEREFORE the Municipal Council of The Corporation of the City of London enacts as follows:

1. Ranked ballot elections shall be used for all offices on the council for The Corporation of the City of London.
2. An elector is entitled to rank a maximum of three (3) candidates for the office of Mayor and three (3) candidates for the office of Ward Councillor.
3. This by-law applies to all regular elections and by-elections of The Corporation of the City of London.
4. This by-law comes into force and effect in accordance with section 8 of Ontario Regulation 310/16.

PASSED in Open Council on May 1, 2017.

Matt Brown  
Mayor

Catharine Saunders  
City Clerk

First Reading – May 1, 2017  
Second Reading – May 1, 2017  
Third Reading – May 1, 2017