

From: Matt Jelly - In the Neighborhood
Sent: May-16-16 2:58 PM
To: Caterini, Rose
Cc: Pilon, Janet
Subject: Re: Correspondence

To Members of Hamilton City Council:

LRT discussions have recently included suggestions that a referendum should be held to decide whether to accept the \$1 Billion allocated by the Province and Metrolinx for LRT, with some councillors suggesting we've never had a "front and centre" debate during municipal elections. In fact, three consecutive successful Mayoral campaigns championed the idea, a Liberal government was re-elected to a Majority, and exactly all of the re-elected incumbents voted in favour of LRT over the course of 8 years. The \$1 Billion Provincial investment has been allocated as per council's request.

Holding a referendum now, considering that context does seem like an absurd request, but as council knows, when silly season starts I'm always keen to play along.

If in fact the majority of council deems it necessary to re-litigate the debate over LRT through a referendum at the cost of \$1 Million, I would suggest we ask a whole host of questions that have never been "front and centre" during election campaigns and merit consideration by the general public - on a wide range of issues affecting Hamiltonians - my suggestions are attached in the form of a mock ballot.

Plebiscites shouldn't simply be a targeted political tactic against projects or initiatives that some people don't like - especially so selectively without consideration of other large issues in the same way.

Adding multiple questions on a wide range of policies would be a more genuine approach for council to take, and make the most effective use of \$1 Million, if in fact council wants to set a stunning precedent for abdicating leadership and discard the function of representative democracy.

Thanks
Matt Jelly