

Ranked Balloting

Cameron Kroetsch
General Issues Committee
February 6, 2019

Delegation Outline

- Thanks to Councillor Farr
- Going Back in Time?
- Concerns about Cost
- Staff Report

Thanks to Councillor Farr

- Councillor Farr made a promise to introduce a motion in support of ranked balloting and asking for this staff report is the first step in that process
- Thank you for keeping that promise

Going Back in Time?

- Positions for “Aldermen”, now “Councillors”, were conducted using a voting system (up until 1997) that had voters select more than 1 candidate for each ward

Going Back in Time?

- While this was not a ranked balloting (“plumping”) system it demonstrates that voters were not confused when they were asked to select more than 1 candidate from a field of several

Concerns about Cost

- There will be costs related to educating the public (good as it may increase voter turnout)
- Ranked ballot software/machines have existed for many years and are in use in voting for political parties (RFP)

Concerns about Cost

- We can learn from our neighbours, the City of London, about how we might reduce costs when it comes to implementing and running an election like this (they consulted heavily with Minneapolis, Minnesota when going through their process)

Staff Report: Speed

- The quicker that we hear back from staff the quicker the process of deliberations and decisions can happen so that this can be implemented in time for the next municipal election (including time to hear from public about after the report is complete)

Staff Report: Efficiency

- We should reach out to the City of London, meet with them, read their reports, and talk to them about their experiences so that our reporting on this matter is full, accurate, and thoughtful; we may also wish to reach out to Minneapolis (multiple terms)

What I'm Asking For

- That this Committee, and eventually Council, support this motion and direct staff to study ranked balloting and report back:
 - in a timely manner (report back in 3 months)
 - having consulted with the City of London