

THE TORONTO PARTY

FOR A BETTER CITY

THIS IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TORONTO PARTY FOR A BETTER CITY. THE TORONTO PARTY WAS CREATED IN OCTOBER 2006 AND IS CURRENTLY TORONTO'S ONLY CIVIC ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION.

EYE ON COUNCIL

FALL 2015 ISSUE

CITY REJECTS RANKED BALLOT VOTING

PROVINCE SHOULD DO SAME

A few years ago, City Councillors voted in favour of asking the provincial government to give it the power to introduce ranked-ballot voting for municipal elections.

Recently, the City voted in favour of not recommending to the provincial government that it be given the power to introduce ranked ballot voting.

More inside!



No Ranked Choice Motion

1. City Council amend Executive Committee Recommendation 3 by including the following comments in the City Manager’s submission being made to the Province related to the Municipal Elections Act:

- a. That the Province should not proceed with amendments to the Municipal Elections Act to provide for Ranked Choice Voting.**
- b. That if the Province does amend the Municipal Elections Act to provide for Ranked Choice Voting:**
 - 1. the use of Ranked Choice Voting be optional for the City of Toronto; and**
 - 2. the City of Toronto only be permitted to implement Ranked Choice Voting after holding public consultations and a referendum.**

2. City Council request the City Clerk to report to City Council, through the Executive Committee on any new Municipal Elections Act provisions and options for Council’s consideration.



How council voted

<u>No Ranked Ballot</u>	<u>Want Ranked Ballot</u>
Augimeri	Mayor Tory
Berardinetti	Ainslie
Burnside	Bailao
Campbell	Carroll
Carmichael Greb	Cho
Crawford	Colle
Crisanti	Cressy
De Baeremaeker	Davis
Di Ciano	Doucette
Di Giorgio	Filion
Fletcher	Lee
Fragedakis	Matlow
Grimes	McConnell
Holyday	Margaret McMahon
Karygiannis	Mihevc
Kelly	Pasternak
Mammoliti	Perks
Minnan-Wong	Wong-Tam
Moeser	
Nunziata	
Palacio	
Perruzza	
Robinson	
Shiner	
Thompson	

About the Toronto Party



The Toronto Party was created in October 2006 and was later incorporated under Ontario’s Corporations Act as a corporation without share capital or not-for-profit entity.

The primary mandate of the Toronto Party has been to achieve the formal recognition of municipal political parties in Ontario and to have party affiliation included on municipal election ballots.

cont.

Toronto Party Announcements

The Toronto Party is working in conjunction with the Green Party of Toronto to permit party affiliation to be included on municipal election ballots.

The Toronto Party agrees with the latest decision of City Council.

Ranked ballot voting is not a great panacea that will cure the ills of municipal democracy. As stated by Councillor Justin DiCiano, who moved the recent motion, ranked ballot voting is more complex and confusing than our current first-past-the-post (“FPTP”) system.

PROS and CONS of ranked ballot voting

The table below lists some of the various pros and cons of ranked ballot voting. The table is compiled from research conducted on the internet and uses various sources. Some of the pros and cons are contentious.

Voters disenfranchised

In jurisdictions where ranked ballot voting is used, studies suggest that this complex voting system disenfranchises less-educated, low-income, immigrant and elderly voters.

In addition, ranked ballot voting has been criticized because the outcome is dependent on mathematics rather than actual voter intent.

In our view, democracy is about ensuring that those who are qualified to vote are easily able to exercise their right to vote. This is best accomplished by using a voting system that is easy to understand by the vast majority of electors.

PROS	CONS
Permits greater voter expression	Procedures can be confusing and thus disenfranchise voters
In theory, permits greater overall plurality	“Compromise candidate” not necessarily elected
May encourage less negative campaigning because candidates will want to chase second and third preferences	Can produce “lowest common denominator” winner
May prevent the election of extremists	Can be prone to “Donkey voting”
May increase voter turnout	Voters required to engage in extensive research of candidates

U.K. voters rejected ranked ballot voting



In 2011, voters in a United Kingdom referendum rejected replacing the First-Past-The-Post electoral system with the “Alternative Voting” (i.e. ranked ballot) electoral system. The referendum question was: “At present, the U.K. uses the first past the post system to elect MPs to the House of Commons. Should the alternative vote system be used instead?”.

19.1 million votes were cast in the referendum.

67.9% voted “No”. 32.1% voted “Yes”.

THE FOLLOWING JURISDICTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE REPEALED INSTANT RUN-OFF (I.E.RANKED BALLOT) VOTING

Burlington, Vermont

Pierce County, Washington

Sunnyvale, California

Aspen, Colorado

Cary, North Carolina



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www.thetorontoparty.com

Recommended Reading and Searches

In order to understand the controversies surrounding ranked ballot voting, The Toronto Party recommends that the reader conduct extensive research on the topic.

An example of a useful internet search is: “instant run-off voting pros cons”.

The Toronto Party also recommends the following academic article by Professors Craig Burnett and Vladimir Kogan: “Ballot (and Voter) ‘Exhaustion’ under Instant Runoff Voting: An Examination of Four Ranked-Choice Elections”.

The Toronto Party

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