Ranked Ballot Election

Special Committee of Whole

May 14, 2019
Presentation Outline

1. Background
2. The City of London’s (Ontario) experience
3. Considerations for Newmarket
4. Public Consultation
5. Timelines & Next Steps
6. Questions & Discussion
Background

- Bill 181 Municipal Modernization Act, 2016
- Council direction received January 30, 2017 to report back following the 2018 election
- London 1st municipality in Canada to use a Ranked Ballot Election
What are “Ranked Ballots”?  

• Winners must achieve 50% + 1 of votes cast  
• All municipal offices must be elected using ranked ballots  
• School boards elections must still be first-past-the-post & referendum questions may not be ranked choice  
• Voters rank candidates in order of preference  
• By-law determines number of choices & if not specified, voter ranks top 3 candidates  
• Regulation provides for interpretation rules, reporting requirements for Clerk  
• Different from first-past-the-post  
  – Method used in federal and provincial elections
Ranked Ballots

VOTE

COUNT all ballots

Have any candidates reached 50%+1?

- YES
  - WINNER

- NO
  - ELIMINATE last place & distribute votes
Ranked Ballots Cont’d

List Style Ballot
Column Style Ballot

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st choice</th>
<th>2nd choice</th>
<th>3rd choice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monkey bars</td>
<td>Monkey bars</td>
<td>Monkey bars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic table</td>
<td>Picnic table</td>
<td>Picnic table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandbox</td>
<td>Sandbox</td>
<td>Sandbox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slide</td>
<td>Slide</td>
<td>Slide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swings</td>
<td>Swings</td>
<td>Swings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treehouse</td>
<td>Treehouse</td>
<td>Treehouse</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Must be DIFFERENT from your 1st choice*

*Must be DIFFERENT from your 1st and 2nd choice*
Ranked Ballots Cont’d

Grid Style Ballot

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidates</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
<th>4th</th>
<th>5th</th>
<th>6th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monkey bars</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic table</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandbox</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ranked Ballots Cont’d

Skipped Ranking

Highest ranking to two Candidates

Two Candidates lower preference
London’s Experience

• 1st in Canada to use ranked ballots
• Used vote tabulators to count paper ballots
• Significant cost increase from 2014
  • Budget: $1.3 M
  • Actual: $1.8 M
• Results available by 3 PM the following day
• 31% of voters only ranked one candidate, leaving their other choices blank.
• 22% of voters ranked a first & second choice, and 47% ranked all 3 candidates
Considerations for Newmarket

• Voter Impact:
  – Online & telephone implemented in 2018
  – New ballot type for Members of Council
  – School Board would remain first-past-the-post

• Technology is new, requires impartial review of code to ensure compliance & algorithm certification

• Comprehensive, multi-channel public & candidate education program & community outreach required

• dedicated staff would be required.

• Potential cost increases
Public Consultation

- Open House & Public Meeting required by legislation prior to adopting implementing By-law
- Council must consider cost, availability of technology & administrative impacts
- The following information must be provided to the public:
  - detailed description of how the elections would be conducted, including a description of how votes would be distributed to candidates based on the rankings marked on ballots
  - estimate of the costs of conducting the elections
  - description of the voting equipment and vote-counting equipment that is being considered
  - description of any alternative voting method being considered
Timelines

**Summer 2019**
- Further research & development of materials & information for the public.

**Q3 2019**
- Open House & Public Meeting to consult with the community.

**Q4 2019**
- Present public consultation results & seek Council direction:
  - Should Council direct to remain with first-past-the-post, then plan 2022 Municipal Election as per usual schedule (around 1 to 1.5 years in advance of October 2022).
  - Should Council direct to proceed with RBE, see below RBE timeline.
Preliminary timelines for Ranked Ballot Election

2020
- Council to pass Ranked Ballot Election By-law & determine voting method (still voting online?)
- Election Administration to develop policies & Request for Proposal documents.
- Election Administration to select vendors & work with vendors to customize the platform based on the policies developed.

2021
- Additional Open Houses, Public Meetings & Public Information Sessions.
- Election Administration to hire additional staff to work on change management and communication plan for electorate.
- Conduct source code testing & begin certification process.

2022
- Continuation of testing & certification process (London's certification took approximately 8 months)
- Execution of administration planning & communication plan.
- Mass education of electorate.
Next Steps

• Council to provide direction on whether to proceed with engaging the public on a Ranked Ballot Election
  – If so, staff to report back in Q4 2019 with results of public consultation
  – If not, staff to proceed with normal timelines for 2022 Municipal Election planning
    • January 2021 staff would report back to determine voting method.
Thank you

Questions?