

VOTE



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

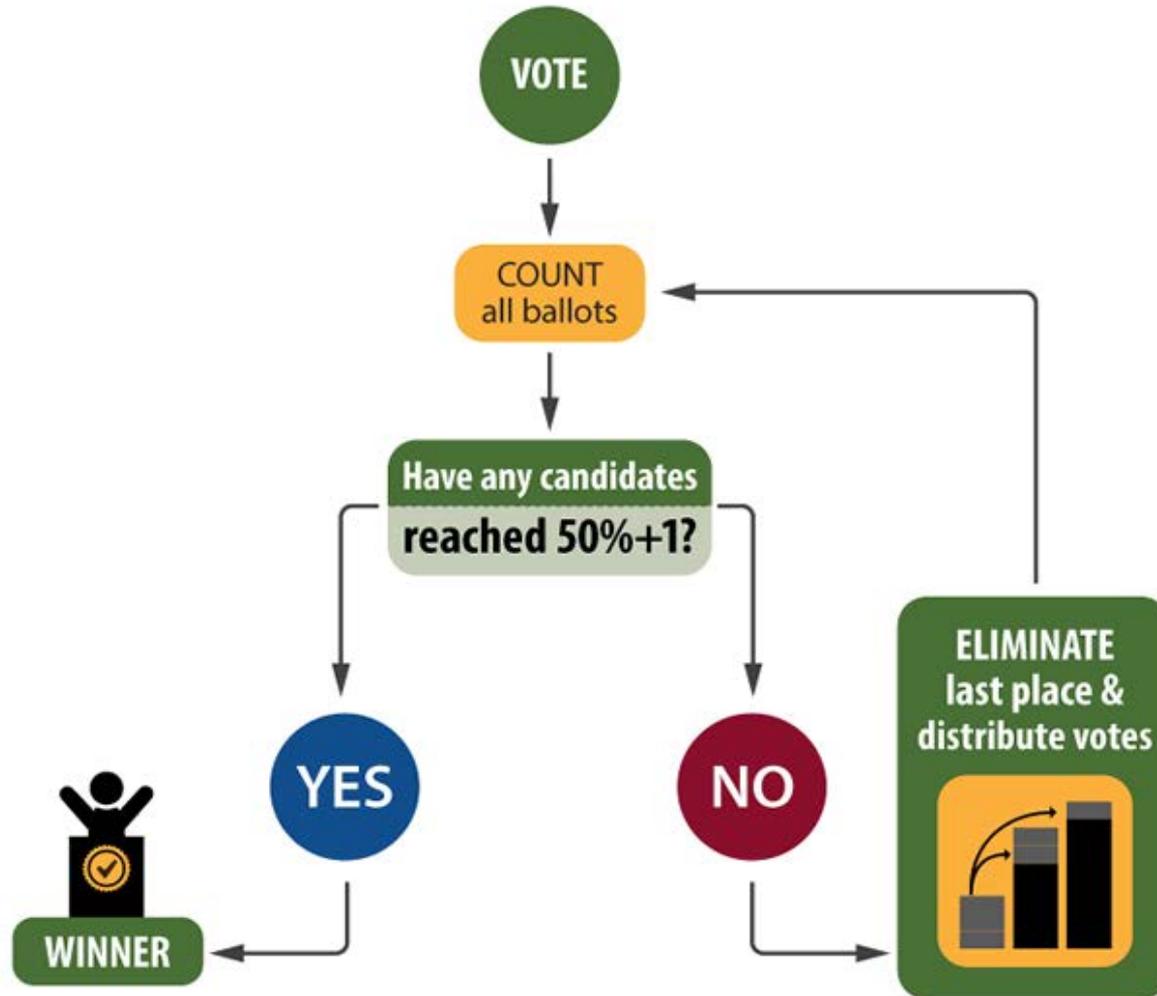
Background

- 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



Ranked Ballots Cont'd

List Style Ballot

SAMPLE BALLOT

| | |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Monkey bars | <input type="text" value="3"/> |
| Picnic table | <input type="text" value="1"/> |
| Sandbox | <input type="text"/> |
| Slide | <input type="text" value="2"/> |
| Swings | <input type="text"/> |
| Treehouse | <input type="text"/> |

Ranked Ballots Cont'd

Column Style Ballot

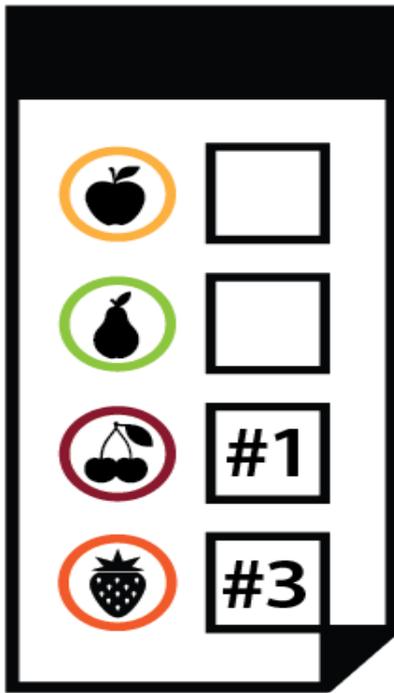
| SAMPLE BALLOT | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1 st choice | 2 nd choice Must be DIFFERENT from your 1st choice | 3 rd choice Must be DIFFERENT from your 1st and 2nd choice |
| Select One | Select One | Select One |
| Monkey bars <input type="checkbox"/> | Monkey bars <input type="checkbox"/> | Monkey bars <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Picnic table <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Picnic table <input type="checkbox"/> | Picnic table <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sandbox <input type="checkbox"/> | Sandbox <input type="checkbox"/> | Sandbox <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Slide <input type="checkbox"/> | Slide <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Slide <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Swings <input type="checkbox"/> | Swings <input type="checkbox"/> | Swings <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Treehouse <input type="checkbox"/> | Treehouse <input type="checkbox"/> | Treehouse <input type="checkbox"/> |

Ranked Ballots Cont'd

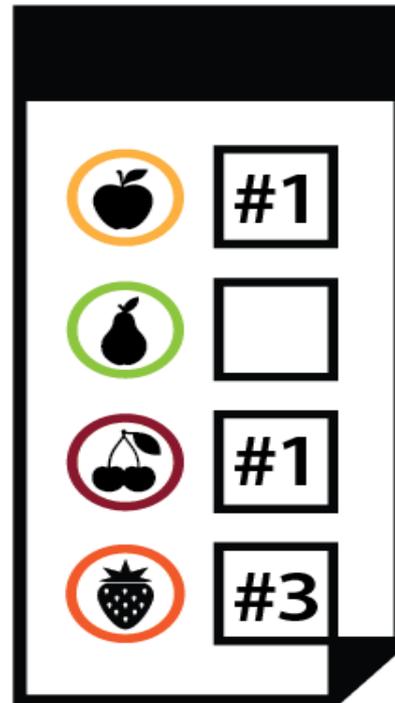
Grid Style Ballot

| SAMPLE BALLOT | | | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Candidates | 1 st | 2 nd | 3 rd | 4 th | 5 th | 6 th |
| Monkey bars | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Picnic table | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sandbox | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Slide | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Swings | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Treehouse | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

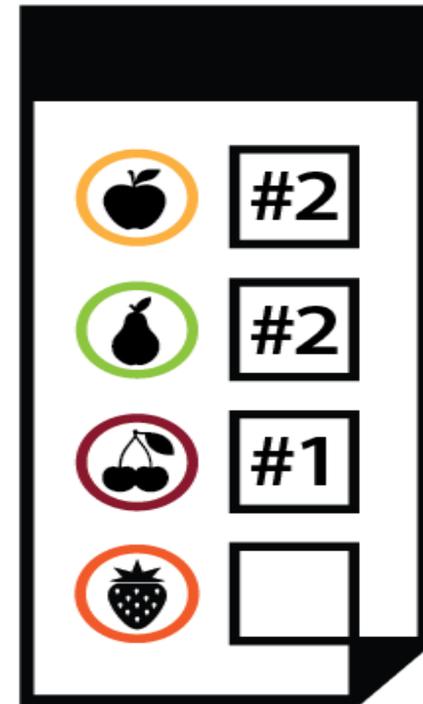
Ranked Ballots Cont'd



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?