

Special Council Meeting Number 2018-06
Addendum
Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Communication

The consent of Council is requested for the **addition** of Communication number 06-159 through 06-159

Referred to Council

- 06-159 Correspondence from Barbara Schlafer, dated February 6, 2018 with respect to 2018 Municipal Election – Referendum Question on the Ballot – Ranked Ballot Voting
(Distributed to all members of Council on February 6, 2018)
(File Number CSU-C07-000-2018)

Jaynes, Janet

From: Bolognone, John
Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2018 11:19 AM
To: 'schlafeb@queensu.ca'
Cc: Jaynes, Janet; Wallace, George; Sargeant, Lorie
Subject: FW: Questions re

Importance: High

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: February 6, 2018 COMMUNICATION NUMBER: 06-159

Good Morning Ms. Schlafer: We acknowledge receipt of your email below. I have reviewed your email and offer the following response in **bold** below. I have also distributed your email, including my response, to all members of council and listed your item as a communication in the council addendum.



John Bolognone

City Clerk
City Clerk's Department

City of Kingston
City Hall
216 Ontario Street, Kingston, ON K7L 2Z3
613 546 4291 ext. 1247

jbolognone@cityofkingston.ca



-----Original Message-----

From: Barbara L Schlafer <schlafeb@queensu.ca>
Date: February 6, 2018 at 8:41:54 AM EST
To: "jbolognone@cityofkingston.ca" <jbolognone@cityofkingston.ca>
Subject: **Questions re**

Please consider the following email to The Mayor and Councillors Official Correspondence.

Good morning Mayor Paterson and Members of Council,

I've not attended the meetings explaining how ranked balloting would work in the municipal setting, however I followed the discussions federally so do understand ranked ballots. I have a question about ranked ballots, in particular with respect to district Councillors, as follows:

Historically, in how many districts and in how many elections have there been more than two candidates? If it is not usual for there to be three or more candidates running in each district then ranking ballots serve no purpose.

2017 By-Election for District Councillor in Countryside – 7 candidates;

2014 Election – 6 candidates for Mayor, 1 District had 5 candidates, 6 Districts had 4 candidates, 2 Districts had 3 Candidates, and 3 Districts had 2 candidates;

2010 Election – 6 candidates for Mayor, 1 District had 6 candidates, 3 Districts had 4 candidates, 2 Districts had 3 candidates, 5 Districts had 2 candidates and 1 District acclaimed;

2006 Election – 3 candidates for Mayor, 1 District had 5 candidates, 1 District had 4 candidates, 7 Districts had 3 candidates, and 3 Districts had 2 candidates;

2003 Election – 6 candidates for Mayor, 1 District had 6 candidates, 3 Districts had 4 candidates, 4 Districts had 3 candidates, 3 Districts had 2 candidates and 1 District acclaimed.

I can see that a ranked ballot in the case of the "at large" election of a mayor would do what it is designed to do.

I strongly support district election of councillors. Suspecting that ranked ballots to elect District Councillors makes no sense as seldom do three or more candidates run in a district, I wonder the following:

Were the community to vote for ranked ballots for Mayor and Councillors in a referendum, would the impetus then be to argue for "at large" election of Councillors so that there are enough candidates to make ranking make sense? As I understand from Whig articles, there is a desire on the part of some in Kingston for "at large" elections. I can imagine making ranked ballots for District Councillors make sense could be an argument for "at large" election of Councillors.

Any change from the current Districts to “at large” elections has not been discussed to date in the context of Ranked Ballot Voting. Changes to District boundaries or moving from Districts to “at large” elections would be subject to the provisions and requirements of the *Municipal Elections Act* and would be a separate process from Ranked Ballot Voting. Ultimately any decision with respect to “at large” elections rests with City Council.

The Whig this morning reports the referendum question, "Are you in favour of using ranked ballot voting to elect the mayor and district councillors in the city of Kingston? Yes? No."

I am not in support of changing the current process nor spending a lot of money on a referendum to change a system that works just fine now. However, if there is to be a referendum (and I would encourage you to vote No), there must be TWO QUESTIONS.

"Are you in favour of using ranked ballot voting to elect the mayor in the city of Kingston? Yes? No."

Are you in favour of using ranked ballot voting to elect district councillors in the city of Kingston? Yes? No."

If Ranked Ballot Voting is used the *Municipal Elections Act* requires that it must be used for all members of Council. There cannot two questions as stated above.

Barbara Schlafer
Ps

Interesting the the City website assumes there will be a referendum when Council has yet to vote on that question. "Why Kingston is having a 2018 referendum on Ranked Ballot Voting"

The direction from Council to staff was to initiate the process for submitting a Question to the electors with respect to Ranked Ballot Voting. Based on that direction of Council Staff expect that the Referendum Question will be on the ballot. However, the final decision rests with Council whether to place the Question on the ballot or not and Council has until March 1, 2018 to pass the required By-law to authorize the Clerk to place the Question on the ballot.