



CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT
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City of Belleville

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BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO
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November 10, 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier's Office, Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Delivered by e-mail
premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford:

RE: **Bill 218 – Proposing Changes to the Municipal Elections Act –
Extension of Nomination Period
New Business
10, Belleville City Council Meeting, November 9, 2020**

This is to advise you that at the Council Meeting of November 9, 2020, the following resolution was approved.

“WHEREAS municipalities in Ontario are responsible for conducting fair and democratic elections of local representatives; and

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario, with Bill 218, Supporting Ontario's Recovery and Municipal Elections Act, 2020 is proposing changes to the Municipal Elections Act, 1996; to extend nomination day from the end of July to the second Friday in September; and

WHEREAS municipal elections are governed by the Municipal Elections Act which was amended in 2016 to include shorter nomination periods; and

WHEREAS the operation, finance and regulatory compliance of elections is fully undertaken by municipalities themselves; and

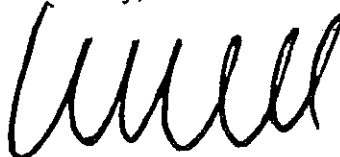
WHEREAS local governments are best poised to understand the representational needs and challenges of the body politic they represent, and when looking at alternative voting methods to ensure voters have options in an effort to increase voter participation and are able to vote safely, it becomes more difficult to implement these alternatives with the proposed shorter period between Nomination day and the October 24, 2022 Election day;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Corporation of the City of Belleville send a letter to the Premier, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Minister of the Attorney General urging that the Government of Ontario respect Ontario municipalities' ability to apply sound representative principles in their execution of elections; and,

THAT the Corporation of the City of Belleville Council recommends that the Government of Ontario supports the freedom of municipalities to run democratic elections within the existing framework the Act currently offers without amendment; and THAT this resolution be circulated to all Ontario Municipalities, AMO and AMCTO."

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours truly,



Matt MacDonald
Director of Corporate Services/City Clerk

MMacD/nh

Pc: AMO

Todd Smith, MPP Prince Edward-Hastings
Daryl Kramp, MPP Hastings – Lennox & Addington
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Minister of the Attorney General
Councillor Kelly, City of Belleville
Councillor Thompson, City of Belleville
Ontario Municipalities