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**From:** Hardeman, Ernie <ernie.hardeman@pc.ola.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 2:21 PM  
**To:** Tammy Lepage  
**Subject:** Municipal Elections Modernization Act

As you know last week the government introduced Bill 181, the *Municipal Elections Modernization Act*. This afternoon we are beginning second reading debate on this bill.

If you have not yet had a chance to read the bill it is available at:  
[http://ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills\\_detail.do?locale=en&Intranet=&BillID=3873](http://ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&Intranet=&BillID=3873)

I would appreciate hearing your thoughts and recommendations on the bill when you have had a chance to review it.

While we believe there are some positive aspects to this bill, we are very disturbed by the fact that this bill allows changes to the electoral system with no requirement for public consultation. We believe it is undemocratic for a government to change the voting system without approval from the people and for this reason unless the government accepts our amendment to make a referendum part of the process we will be unable to support the bill.

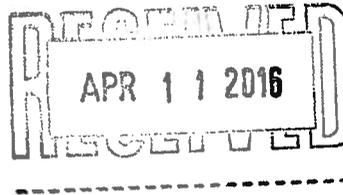
We are also concerned that making changes to the electoral system without a referendum puts municipal councils in a difficult situation where there is the appearance of a conflict of interest.

I would appreciate your thoughts on whether the threshold for the referendum should be a simple majority or 60%, the same threshold used in the provincial referendum on electoral reform.

In addition, I would appreciate your thoughts on Bill 181's proposed dates for the municipal campaign – registrations are to open on May 1<sup>st</sup> and the nomination cutoff is the fourth Friday in July. While we agree with the idea of shortening the campaign we want to ensure that the timing recognizes the challenges of municipal campaigns, such as fundraising.

I look forward to hearing from you and as always if I can be of assistance please feel free to contact me.

Ernie Hardeman, MPP Oxford  
PC Critic for Municipal Affairs and Housing



- File  Incoming  Other
- Mayor
- Council  I  A
- CAO
- Building
- Finance  S  C
- Ec Dev  S  C
- Parks & Rec  S  C
- Planning  S  C
- Public Works  S  C
- PPP
- Social Services
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