

THE SAMARA CENTRE'S BILL 5 TIMELINE

A.K.A. What's happening in #ONpoli with #TOelxn



JULY 30th

The Ontario Legislature introduces Bill 5, the Better Local Government Act, which reduces the number of wards from 47 to 25.

JULY 30th - AUG. 14th

First, Second, and Third Reading of Bill 5 takes place and Royal Assent is given on August 14th. Changes to the number of wards and their boundaries happen immediately.

AUGUST 31st

The province, the City, and others who oppose Bill 5 present their arguments to Ontario's Superior Court.

SEPTEMBER 10th (2pm)

Premier Ford says that the province will appeal the Judge's decision and invoke the notwithstanding clause.*

SEPTEMBER 19th

The stay is granted. Associate Chief Justice Alexandra Hoy, Justice Robert Sharpe, and Justice Gary Trotter rule that Judge Belobaba's decision will likely be overturned, and should be placed on hold until the appeal hearing (likely after the municipal election). Bill 5 stands for the time being. Toronto's election proceeds with a 25-ward model.

MAY 1st

Nominations open for the offices of mayor, councillor, and school board trustees for Toronto's municipal election.

JULY 30th

Toronto City Council candidate Rocco Achampong applies to have Bill 5 reviewed by the Ontario Superior Court.

AUGUST 20th

Toronto City Council votes 27-15 to join Achampong's legal challenge.

SEPTEMBER 10th (8am)

Justice Edward Belobaba rules that the province crossed the line, finding that changing the number of wards during the election violated candidates' and voters' Charter rights to freedom of expression.

SEPTEMBER 12th

The Ontario legislature meets to debate and vote on the use of the notwithstanding clause. Bill 31, the Efficient Local Government Act, is introduced to reinstate the 25-ward model.

ADVANCE VOTING:

OCTOBER 10th - 14th

Polls are open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Electors can vote at one of two locations in their ward or at City Hall.

ELECTION DAY:

MONDAY, OCT. 22nd

Polls are open from 10am to 8pm. Voters must vote in the ward they live in and present ID that shows their name and Toronto address (ex. licence, bills).

* The notwithstanding clause (Section 33 of the Charter) allows federal or provincial governments to pass a law that overrides sections of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms for a five-year period.

**AGREE OR
DISAGREE?
TAKE
ACTION!**



Call or write the Premier of Ontario, your Member of Provincial Parliament, or your City Councillor to share your views.



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