

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs**

Office of the Minister

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17-74433

Dear Clerk:

I am writing you on behalf of the Honourable Bill Mauro, Minister of Municipal Affairs, regarding recent changes to the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 under Bill 68 (Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act, 2017).

We heard from a number of municipalities that the requirement to collect 25 signatures endorsing a candidate's nomination, which comes into force on April 1, 2018, may present a challenge to candidates in certain municipalities.

At Standing Committee on Social Policy, the government brought forward an amendment to the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 to provide an exemption to this requirement for candidates in municipalities with fewer than the prescribed number of electors. As a part of that process, we committed to consulting with municipalities to understand any challenges that they anticipate candidates within their municipality may face in meeting this requirement.

To help municipalities attract suitable candidates for their elections, we are looking for your council's feedback regarding the following two questions:

1. Would potential candidates in your municipality have any challenges in fulfilling the requirement to have their nomination endorsed by 25 electors?
2. The Minister of Municipal Affairs now has the authority to provide an exemption from the requirement for municipal council candidates to have their nomination endorsed by 25 electors in a municipality with less than the prescribed number of electors. What number of electors in a municipality is the appropriate threshold for the exemption to apply?

We look forward to hearing back from you by September 15, 2017. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

Lou Rinaldi
Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs