

Times Colonist Letters, July 12, 2019

Ward system would help fix council

Re: "Municipal councils need to be reined in," editorial, July 10.

Contrary to the immediate responses to the editorial, I agree with the assertion that many Victorians are unhappy with the way their council is conducting its business.

Reducing the four-year terms back to three could help, but I think there is another solution which would partially resolve the voters' frustrations.

As one letter-writer said, there is indeed a core of about 10,000 who will always vote for the six councillors who are linked formally or informally by a common political agenda and mission of social engineering.

But that leaves 20,000 other voters with only one or possibly two voices to represent them at the council table, not to mention the many business owners, professionals, government workers, police and firefighters, patrons of the arts, hospitality and tourism operators etc., who all have a vested interest in a well-governed city, but have no vote at all because they happen to reside in a neighbouring municipality.

A ward system for municipal elections would partially resolve the problem. Eight wards, roughly following the boundaries of the neighbourhood associations, would allow voters in different parts of the city to elect their own representative on council.

The city-wide, multi-vote election is first-past-the-post gone rampant with a minority of voters, representing one section of the population, electing not one but six councillors.

Perhaps with a ward system we would have a better mix of views and more local representation.

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