

Strong(er) Mayors: What Difference Will They Make?

Speakers:

Karen Chapple, Director of the School of Cities, University of Toronto

Matt Elliott, City Hall Watcher publisher and Toronto Star columnist

Gabriel Eidelman, Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream, at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, University of Toronto

Alison Smith, Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Toronto.

Moderator:

Zack Taylor, IMFG Fellow and Associate Professor of Political Science, Western University

October 19, 2022

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Land Acknowledgement

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional lands of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

Questions?

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“If I ever get to the provincial level of politics, municipal affairs is the first thing I would want to change. I think mayors across this province deserve stronger powers.

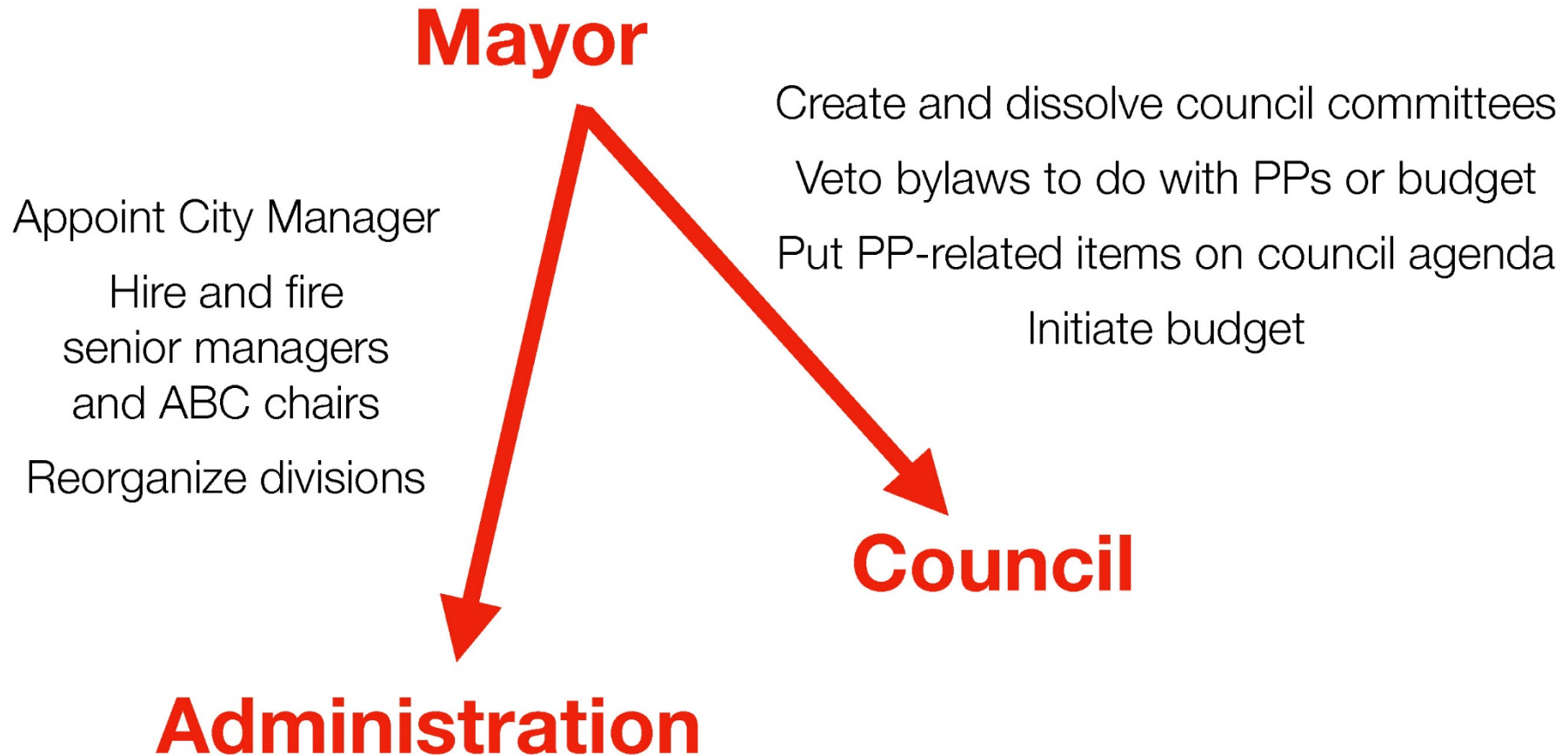
One person in charge, with veto power, similar to the strong mayoral systems in New York and Chicago and LA. I would want our mayors to have strong powers but to be held accountable; if the voters don't like the job he or she is doing, they can fire that mayor in four years. That's how it should work.”

— *Ford Nation: Two Brothers, One Vision*, HarperCollins, 2016, pp. 85–86)

Provincial Cabinet

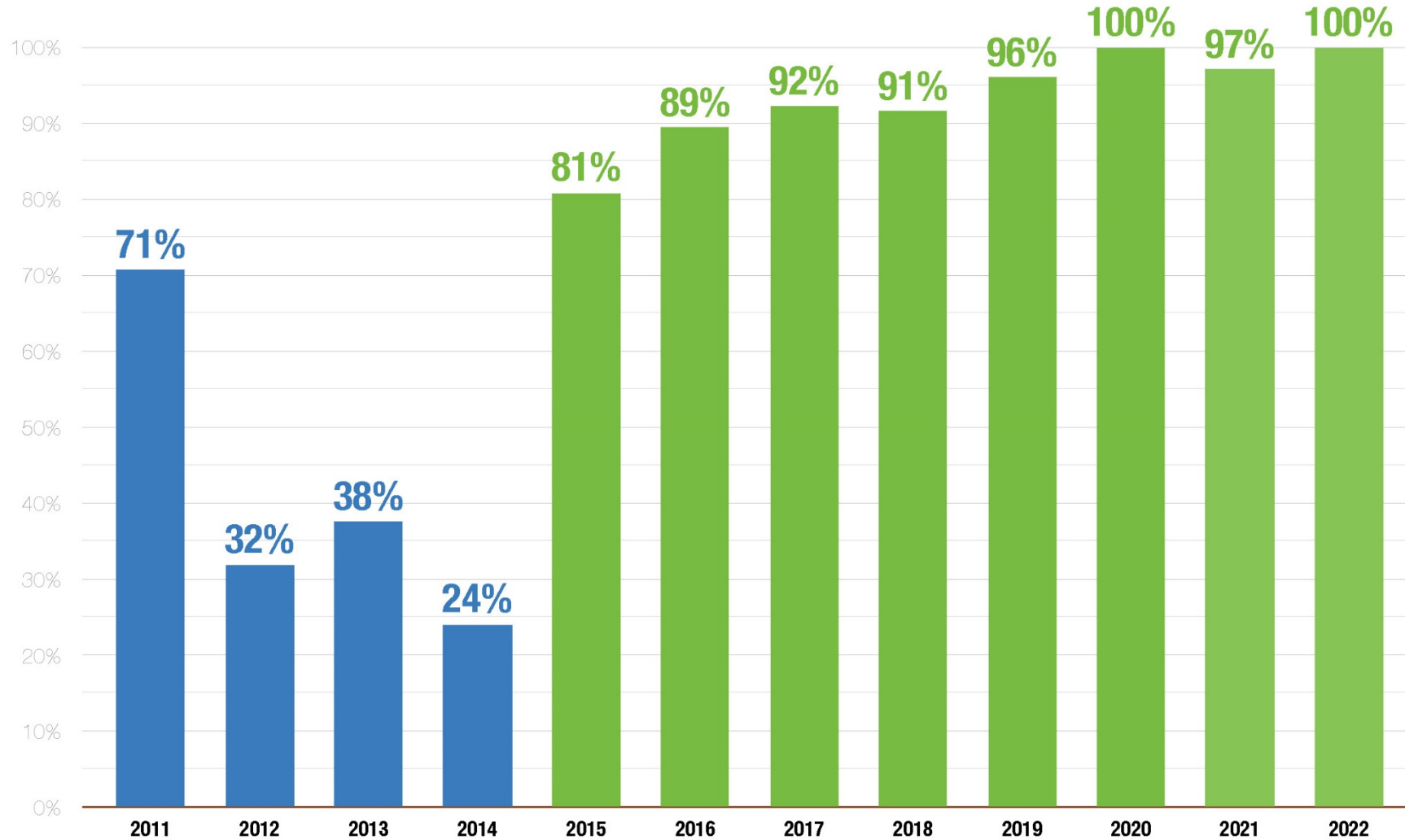
Define provincial priorities (PPs) by regulation:

1. Building 1.5 million new residential units by 2031
 2. Construct and maintain infrastructure to support new housing
-

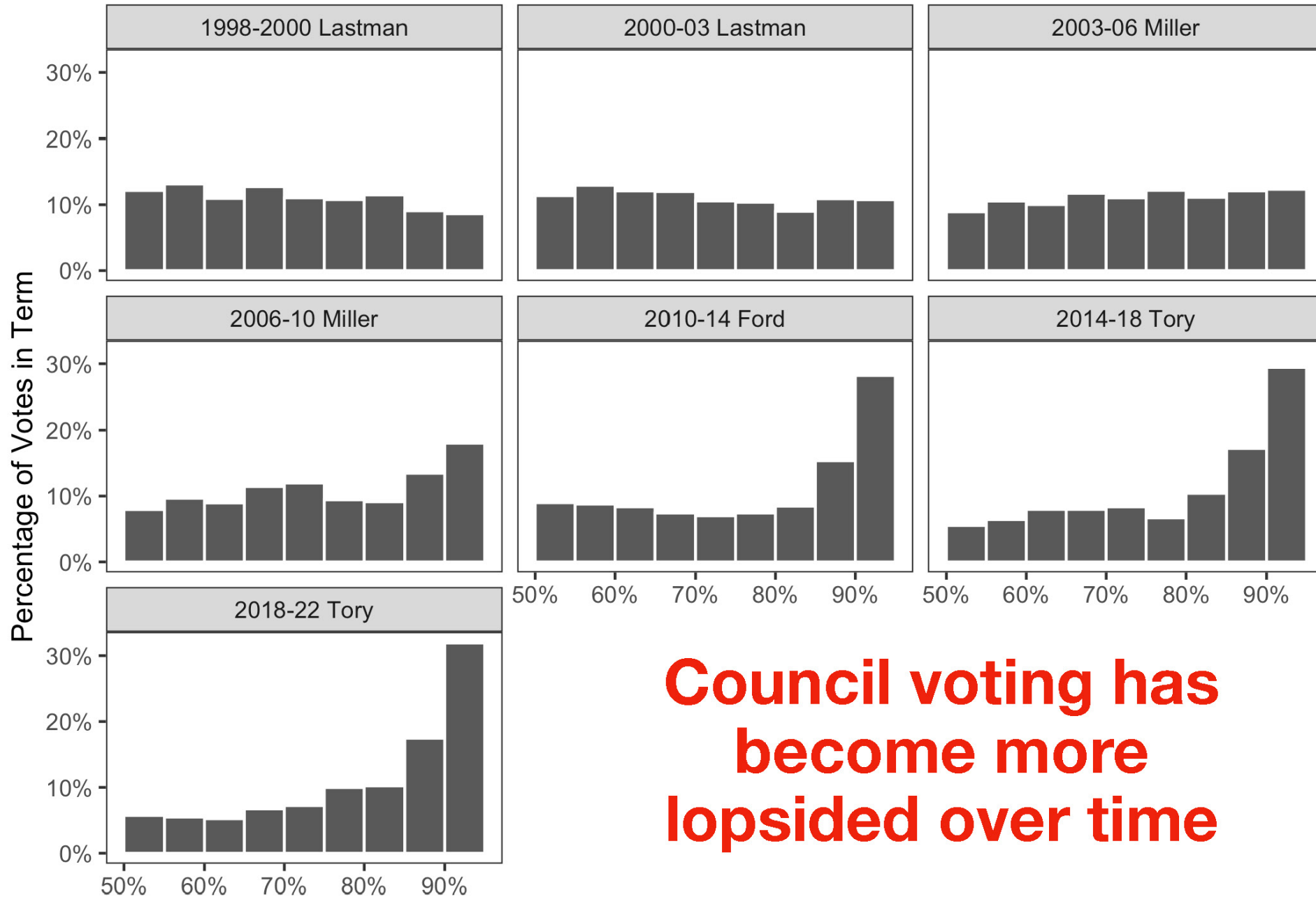


Rob Ford vs. John Tory “Win-Loss” Record

Percentage of key council votes for which the majority of councillors voted with the mayor



Percentage of councillors voting with the majority



Council voting has become more lopsided over time

Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act, 2022

226.14.(2): “The head of council shall... **prepare a proposed budget** for the City and provide the proposed budget to city council for city council’s consideration.”

- Reg. 8 (Oct. 3/22) sets Feb. 1 deadline to propose budget, after which Council has 30 days to amend/approve.

226.4.(2): “[The head of council is assigned] the **power to hire, dismiss** or exercise any other prescribed employment powers with respect to the **head of any division** or the head of any other part of the organizational structure.

- Reg. 2 (Oct. 3/22) defines head of division as “the highest level of senior management.”
- Act lists exceptions: City Clerk, Treasurer/Deputy Treasurer, Integrity Commissioner, Ombudsman, Auditor General, Lobbyist Registrar, Chief Building Official (not to be confused with Chief Planner), Police Chief, Fire Chief, Medical Officer of Health

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