



Editorial: Star's selections for Wards 23-44

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Toronto needs able councillors who are determined to make this city work. The challenges are great, and some incumbents have excelled in meeting them. Others have performed adequately; still others don't deserve to be re-elected in Monday's municipal election.

Yesterday, we listed our choices in Wards 1 to 22. Today, we present our endorsements for Toronto's remaining wards.

Ward 23 Willowdale: Incumbent John Filion has a reputation for good constituency work, but his performance in council is underwhelming. He receives a lukewarm endorsement in hope that he will do better.

Ward 24 Willowdale: David Shiner was acclaimed in the last election but this uninspiring councillor has some worthy opponents this time. The best challenger is Ed Shiller, an author, media relations instructor and former *Toronto Star* staffer who is also a community activist and volunteer of distinction. Shiller has our endorsement.

Ward 25 Don Valley West: Cliff Jenkins has been a thoughtful, if staid, councillor who has a good record on electoral reform. To his credit, he is one of the few local politicians to actually ride the TTC to work. Jenkins deserves re-election, but needs to make a greater mark on council.

Ward 26 Don Valley West: Mayoral candidate Jane Pitfield represented this ward and 15 candidates have squared off in a bid to replace her. Best among them is Mohamed Dhanani. He is a Yale graduate in public health administration, a skilled government administrator and a successful business person. Dhanani has lived in the ward's Flemingdon Park area and promises to serve residents there as well as those in the more upscale Leaside area. He has our enthusiastic backing.

Ward 27 Toronto Centre-Rosedale: Long-serving and high-profile Kyle Rae is a master of constituency work and deserves to return.

Ward 28 Toronto Centre-Rosedale: We did not endorse Pam McConnell in the last election, feeling that she was overly strident and disappointing on ward issues. Since winning the last election, McConnell seems less abrasive than before and has helped deliver a community centre and other benefits to this area. She has earned our backing

Ward 29 Toronto-Danforth: Although solid and politically savvy, as befits a former deputy mayor, Case Ootes has not lived up to his full potential. A conservative on most issues, he had been expected to spearhead opposition to Mayor David Miller in council. Somehow, though, Ootes never rose to that task. Still, he is a good worker and deserves to return.

Ward 30 Toronto-Danforth: Paula Fletcher is strong on ward issues, advocating loudly for her constituency. She should pay more attention to the needs of Toronto as a whole, though. A tepid endorsement here.

Ward 31 Beaches-East York: Incumbent Janet Davis has been a welcome spokesperson on daycare issues. Toronto needs a clear and expert advocate on city council covering this vitally important file, and the city has found that in Davis. She should be returned.

Ward 32 Beaches-East York: Deputy Mayor Sandra Bussin wins praise for her constituency work and has toned down a personal style that had been criticized as being overly bitter and divisive. She is our choice.

Ward 33 Don Valley East: Shelley Carroll has been a bright and hard-working presence on council. She could have a great future in municipal politics and deserves resounding support from voters in this riding.

Ward 34 Don Valley East: Denzil Minnan-Wong is a smart, articulate lawyer who, when he chooses, can be a decisive force on city council. Sadly, he rarely lives up to his potential. He merits only a tepid endorsement.

Ward 35 Scarborough Southwest: It's an open race here with some worthy contenders. Our nod goes to Michelle Berardinetti. She is a political insider who is married to former city councillor and now MPP Lorenzo Berardinetti. That has caused some resentment on the campaign trail but she remains the best candidate. As a former Liberal

staffer at Queen's Park, she knows government and should be a strong voice on council.

Ward 36 Scarborough Southwest: Brian Ashton did yeoman's work on Toronto's failed quest for Expo 2015 and deserves re-election.

Ward 37 Scarborough Centre: Michael Thompson grew up in this ward and knows its issues well. He works hard, but must learn to think before he speaks. Thompson's call last year for racial profiling by police was hurtful and wrong. He receives a reluctant endorsement.

Ward 38 Scarborough Centre: Concern that environmentalist Glenn De Baeremaeker would become a green-obsessed, one-issue councillor has proven to be unfounded. He is a seasoned member of city council, able to make judicious choices on an array of issues and should return.

Ward 39 Scarborough-Agincourt: In many ways John Wong is an ideal candidate. He is an accountant and knows how Toronto's bureaucracy works having served for 17 years as a city manager. Incumbent Mike Del Grande is a disappointment. But we cannot endorse Wong because he lives in Thornhill, although he vows to move to Toronto if he wins.

Ward 40 Scarborough-Agincourt: For the second election in a row, we are not backing anyone in this ward. Incumbent Norm Kelly does not deserve a seat on council, but none of his rivals is a credible alternative.

Ward 41 Scarborough Rouge River: Scarborough needs new and effective leaders and a bright hope in that regard is Hratch Aynedjian. He is skilled at politics and understands city hall having spent 16 years as a political assistant, municipally and at Queen's Park. He has our nod.

Ward 42 Scarborough Rouge River: Ineffective and weak, Raymond Cho no longer deserves a place at city hall. The way he made himself conveniently absent for a crucial vote on increasing city councillors' pay underlines his unwillingness to make hard decisions. Torontonians deserve better. Sadly, none of his three challengers inspires an endorsement.

Ward 43 Scarborough East: When Paul Ainslie was appointed to temporarily represent nearby Ward 41 he vowed not to run for council in this election. But he is running, here in Ward 43. Ainslie says his

pledge only applied to his old ward. Clearly, this is a case of political opportunism and should not be rewarded. A better choice here is Jim Robb, who has sound credentials in working on the environment and in community service.

Ward 44 Scarborough East: We like Diana Hall. As an assistant to departing councillor Gay Cowbourne, she knows the ward well and has good ideas on incinerating waste and better property standards enforcement.