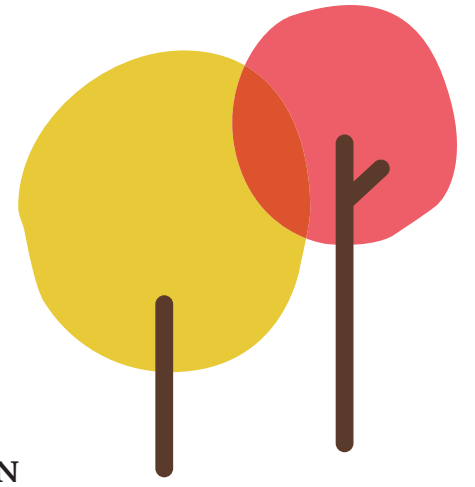


# BOUNDARY REVIEW 2022 - INFORMATION

## for the Municipality of the County of Kings



### MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Municipal Council governs the Municipality and has prescribed responsibilities as detailed in the Nova Scotia Municipal Government Act. Council is elected by residents of the Municipality (those eligible to vote) to represent the best interests of its residents, businesses, and organizations. Council makes decisions about municipal services, by-laws, policies, and programs.

The current Council is comprised of a Mayor and nine Councillors. Councillors are elected in each of the nine Districts. The Mayor is elected by residents throughout the Municipality (all nine Districts), while the Deputy Mayor is elected by Council.

### COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

Members of Council attend monthly Council and Committee of the Whole meetings. In addition, they serve on an average of seven boards and committees each, attend public hearings and public information meetings, and communicate almost daily with constituents in their districts.

Council also develops a Strategic Plan to pinpoint Key Strategic Priorities for the coming years and outline which projects staff carry out. These include projects in the areas of accessibility, diversity, active transportation, green energy, economic development, broadband, and more. The [current Strategic Plan](#) is for 2021-2024.

### LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

Different levels of government have different responsibilities and jurisdictions: federal, provincial, or municipal. The Municipality provides a variety of services, either directly or through third parties, including parks and recreation, sewer and water, waste collection, community grants, public transportation, land use planning, building inspections, animal control, fire and emergency services, and roads and sidewalks (some roads in the County of Kings are the responsibility of the Municipality, but most are provincial roads).

These municipal services have a direct impact on people who live and work in the Municipality, and those who have businesses here. The cost for providing these services is covered by revenue from residential and commercial property taxes.

### RELATIVE PARITY OF VOTING POWER

Relative parity of voting power is an important factor in Boundary Reviews and in the decision of the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB). It means that all districts have roughly the same number of electors so that each vote in municipal elections carries the same weight. The NSUARB requires that the number of electors in each district be no more than + or - 10% of the average number of electors per district. Greater variances up to +/- 25% will be allowed only in extraordinary circumstances.

Table 2 (on the back) shows the number of voters per district (based on 2020 municipal election numbers), the share of the total number of voters in the Municipality per district, and the variation from the average number of voters. In the current situation, the variances are close to 10%, with 12.2% being the greatest variance.

### BUDGET INFORMATION

Council is responsible for a \$54 million Operating Budget (2022-2023) for the delivery of municipal services to residents and businesses. These dollars are spent on for example: education contribution, RCMP contribution, salaries and benefits, fire protection and grants, and more.

In addition to the Operating Budget, the Capital and Project Budget of the Municipality for fiscal year 2022-2023 is \$21.2 million for things like information technology, roads and sidewalks, parks and recreation infrastructure, municipal sewer infrastructure, etc.

### HISTORY OF COUNCIL SIZE

Table 1 below shows how the size of Council (the number of Councillors) has changed (or not changed) in the past 30 or so years as a result of previous Boundary Reviews. District boundaries were adjusted accordingly.

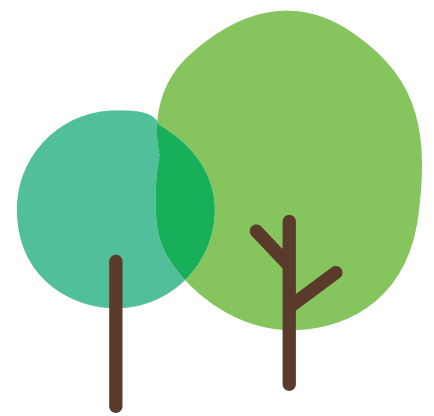
YEAR	COUNCIL SIZE
1993	Maintained at 12
2000	Maintained at 12
2004	Reduced from 12 to 11
2007	Maintained at 11
2013	Maintained at 11
2015/2016	Reduced from 11 to 9 Warden changed to Mayor
Current	Mayor and 9 Councillors (one of whom serves as Deputy Mayor)

Table 1. Past Boundary Reviews



# BOUNDARY REVIEW 2022 - INFORMATION

for the Municipality of the County of Kings



ELECTORAL DISTRICT	LAND AREA (KM <sup>2</sup> )	VOTERS	SHARE OF TOTAL VOTERS	VARIATION FROM AVERAGE	
				No.	%
District 1	246.6	4,404	11.5%	140	+3.3%
District 2	55.4	4,674	12.2%	410	+9.6%
District 3	436.8	4,436	11.5%	172	+4.0%
District 4	34.4	4,367	11.4%	103	+2.4%
District 5	677.1	3,993	10.4%	-271	-6.4%
District 6	33.8	4,176	10.9%	-88	-2.1%
District 7	402.3	4,193	10.9%	-71	-1.7%
District 8	19.6	4,150	10.8%	-114	-2.7%
District 9	274.6	3,984	10.4%	-280	-6.6%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2180.5</b>	<b>38,377</b>	<b>100.0%</b>		
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>242.3</b>	<b>4,264</b>			

Table 2. Land Area and Voters by Polling District (2020 Municipal Election Numbers)

## NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD: PROCESS

Once all feedback from members of the public has been gathered and presented to Council, Council will make a decision to confirm or alter the number of Councillors and polling district boundaries. Council will then submit an application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) outlining the desired changes, if any. Once the application is submitted (it is due before the end of 2022), the NSUARB will schedule a Public Hearing. Members of the public are invited to participate in the Hearing or to comment on the application. The final decision on the number of Councillors and the district boundaries is made by the NSUARB and is normally issued within 60 days of the Hearing.

## NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD: DEFINITIONS

To help you understand the Boundary Review process and the role of the NSUARB, the following definitions may be helpful.

**Communities of Interest** - A neighbourhood, community, or group of people who have common concerns and shared interests and would benefit from being grouped together in a single district. A community of interest can be characterized by factors such as historical connections, recreational activities, water and sewer boundaries, traffic infrastructure and patterns, language and ethnic origin, school districts, shopping patterns and business centres.

**Elector** - A person who has the right to vote in an election.

**Electoral Boundaries or Polling District Boundaries** - the geographic boundaries of electoral/polling districts.

**Population Density** - The number of people per square kilometre who live in a polling district.

**Relative parity of voting power** - All districts having roughly the same number of electors so that each vote in municipal elections carries the same weight.

