



MUNICIPALITY *of the*
COUNTY *of* KINGS

Municipal Advisory

May 18, 2023

N.S. Utility and Review Board Approves Municipality's Boundary Review Application

KINGS COUNTY, NS – The Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) has given the Municipality of the County of Kings the green light to update polling district boundaries for the 2024 municipal election and maintain the current number of Council positions.

The *Municipal Government Act* requires every municipality in Nova Scotia to formally review Council size and polling district boundaries every eight years. The NSUARB recently approved the Municipality's Boundary Review 2022 application seeking permission to:

- Maintain the number of councillors and polling districts at nine; and
- Alter the boundaries of polling districts to ensure relative parity of voting power throughout the Municipality, while respecting communities of interest.

The approved changes to District Boundaries will result in:

- Four of the seven Villages being included within individual polling districts. (Currently, only two of the seven Villages are in individual districts.)
- A boundary change in Districts 1 and 2 that allows for the historical African Nova Scotian community of Gibson Woods to be included within a single polling district. (This community is currently divided between two districts and adjacent to a third.)
- The reorganization of Districts 1 and 2 to run along a north-south orientation, rather than east-west, with the intent of having only one village in each district. (Currently, District 1 has two villages and District 2 has none. The revised district boundaries group Canning and Centreville in District 1, and Port Williams and North Kentville in District 2.)
- The inclusion of Keddy's Corner in the new District 3 for voter parity, and the boundary for the Department of National Defence's military base in Aldershot becoming the new western boundary for District 2.
- The inclusion of both the Village of Kingston and Village of Greenwood (except for 14 Wing Greenwood) in District 4. Due to reasons relating to voter parity, communities of interest and future growth potential, the Villages of Kingston and Greenwood are combined into one district in the new scenario. (Currently, the Village of Greenwood is divided between Districts 4 and 5.)

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- The inclusion of the Village of Aylesford, 14 Wing Greenwood, and the rural areas to south of East Dalhousie within District 5. (Currently, the Village of Aylesford and 14 Wing Greenwood are divided between Districts 4 and 5.)
- Six General Service Areas (GSAs) of the 142 total retaining electors (4.2%) being divided among polling districts. (Currently, 24 of the 142 (16.2%) are divided among polling districts.)
- Areas around Deep Hollow Road now located in District 7 being added to the new District 9 to include 99.7% of the elector population in the GSA of White Rock in one district. (Currently, White Rock is divided between three districts – 7, 8 and 9.)
- The expansion of District 6 to the Town of Berwick’s eastern boundary to create a more natural divide, and a slight extension of the southern boundary of District 6 to address some voter confusion. (These areas are currently in District 7. Some areas included in District 5 and 6 will be added to District 7 to achieve voter parity.)

Public engagement was an important part of the Boundary Review consultation process. The Municipality’s Boundary Review 2022 Study included input from residents who contributed to the related Public Engagement series by attending public meetings, completing an online survey, or submitting comments and ideas in writing.

“The Board commends the Municipality on the extensive consultation and study process followed. Both staff and Council worked diligently to ensure the views of the public were properly solicited and that relative parity of voting power was achieved among the polling districts, while respecting communities of interest,” the NSUARB Board’s decision released on May 12 states.

The NSUARB hosted a Public Hearing regarding the Municipality’s Boundary Review application in Council Chambers on April 13, 2023. The full NSUARB decision regarding the Municipality’s Boundary Review application can be found [here](#).

The Boundary Review Study, including district maps showing current polling district boundaries and the revised boundaries as of the 2024 Municipal Election, is [here](#).

Contact

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