

## Study Overview

The City of Guelph is undertaking a comprehensive Council Composition and Ward Boundary Review which is being led by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. in conjunction with ICA Associates Inc. and Drs. David Siegel and Robert J. Williams.

The current municipal electoral system in Guelph has been in place, without significant modification, since 1991. It consists of a Mayor, who is elected at-large across the entire municipality by all eligible voters, and 12 councillors who are elected from six wards. The 12 councillors serve on a part-time basis.

City Council has determined that the current electoral structure should be reviewed before the next election in 2022. That review is being undertaken in three phases:

Phase 1 will focus on Council composition and employment status. Council composition refers to the number of councillors and the method of election (in wards or at-large). Employment status refers to whether councillors should be part-time (as they have been in the past) or full-time.

Phase 2 will focus on a reconsideration of ward boundaries. The present wards were established in 1990 to allow for the election of two councillors per ward and have not been reviewed since then, despite a significant increase in the City's population from approximately 91,000 in 1991 to over 136,000 in 2016. Since Guelph's population is forecast to grow by an additional 40 per cent over the next two decades, it is appropriate to consider whether the present six wards will provide effective representation to residents over that period.

Following the completion of Phases 1 and 2, City staff will consider councillor compensation and whether the City should adopt a system of ranked balloting for the 2022 municipal election.

The following documents provide context to the various topics that will be explored through Phases 1 and 2 of this Review.