

## Special City Council Revised Meeting Agenda

Thursday, November 5, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

Remote meeting live streamed  
on [guelph.ca/live](https://guelph.ca/live)

Changes to the original agenda are noted with an asterisk "\*".

To contain the spread of COVID-19, City Council meetings are being held electronically and can be live streamed at [guelph.ca/live](https://guelph.ca/live).

For alternate meeting formats, please contact the City Clerk's Office at [clerks@guelph.ca](mailto:clerks@guelph.ca) or 519-822-1260 extension 5603.

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### Pages

#### 1. Notice - Electronic Participation

##### 1.1. City Council

This meeting will be held by Electronic Participation in accordance with the City of Guelph Procedural By-law (2020)-20515.

#### 2. Call to Order

#### 3. Open Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

##### 3.1. O Canada

##### 3.2. Silent Reflection

##### 3.3. First Nations Acknowledgement

##### 3.4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

#### 4. City Council Composition and Ward Boundary Review, Phase One - City Council Composition and Employment Status, 2020-179

1

\*Summary of Council and Senior Staff Interviews from Watson and Associates Economists Ltd. has been included with the revised agenda.

**Presentation:**

Scott Stewart, Chief Administrative Officer  
Stephen O'Brien, General Manager, City Clerk's Office/City Clerk  
Dr. Robert Williams

**Delegations:**

- \*Peter Hamtak
- \*Susan Watson
- \*Claudia Espindola
- \*Ron East, The Council of Canadians
- \*Morgan Dandie-Hannah
- \*John Lawson, Old University Neighbourhood Residents' Association
- \*Horeen Hassan, Central Students' Association, University of Guelph
- \*Lin Grist
- \*Ken MacKay, Fair Vote Guelph
- \*Hugh Whiteley
- \*Jason Blokhuis
- \*Tanja Gevaert
- \*Adriano Salvatore
- \*Diane Hurst
- \*Steve Dyck

**Correspondence:**

\*Wynne Wright, \*Phyllis Paroshy, \*Susan Watson, \*Ted Bangay,  
\*Dan Maitland, \*Sheila O'Reilly, \*Marsaye Treen, \*Natasha Pravaz,  
\*Gordon Framst, \*Jane Thornton, \*Katie Saunders, \*Barbara  
Mathews, \*Will Lenssen, \*Karen Morris, \*Margaret Abbink, \*Janet  
Wood, \*David J.A. Douglas, \*Lorraine Pagnan, \*Wade A. Van Der  
Kraak, \*Dr. G. Brent Angell, \*Elly Pond, \*Teresa McKeeman, \*Francis  
Papillon, \*Kevin Bowman, \*Gillian Maurice, \*Sam Stevenson, \*Scott  
Frederick, \*Hugh Whiteley, \*Dunja Lukic, \*Diane Hurst, \*Steve Dyck

**Recommendation:**

The following recommendations have been provided by Watson and Associates Economists Ltd., the independent third-party expert contracted by the City of Guelph to complete the City Council Composition and Ward Boundary Review:

1. That Guelph City councillors be elected in a ward system.
2. That one City councillor be elected per ward.
3. That Guelph City Council be comprised of eight councillors plus the Mayor.
4. That the employment status of City councillors be full time.

The following recommendations have been provided by City staff:

5. That phase two of the City Council Composition and Ward Boundary Review, being the Ward Boundary Review, proceed based on the establishment of eight wards.

6. That staff be directed to bring forward a City Council composition by-law prior to the 2022 municipal election following the adoption of a ward boundary by-law and the expiration of the ward boundary by-law appeal period.

**5. By-laws**

Resolution to adopt the By-laws (Councillor Allt)

**Recommendation:**

That By-law Numbered (2020)-20538 is hereby passed.

**\*5.1. By-Law Number (2020)-20538**

420

A by-law to confirm proceedings of a meeting of Guelph City Council held November 5, 2020.

**6. Adjournment**

# Staff Report



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To	<b>City Council</b>
Service Area	Corporate Services
Date	Thursday, November 5, 2020
Subject	<b>City Council Composition and Ward Boundary Review, Phase One – Composition and Employment Status</b>

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## Recommendation

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## Executive Summary

### Purpose of Report

To present the findings of the independent review on phase one of the City Council Composition and Ward Boundary Review project, City Council composition and employment status.

### Key Findings

The independent team reviewing City Council composition and employment status is recommending the following:

- That the number of City councillors be reduced to eight.
- That the number of City councillors elected per ward be reduced to one.
- That the employment status of City councillors be changed to full time.
- That, as part of the ward boundary review coming before City Council in the second quarter of 2021, City Council establish eight wards.

## **Project Connections and Dependencies**

The ward boundary review phase is based directly on the recommendations passed by City Council regarding Council composition.

If by the December 31, 2021 legislated deadline for the passing of a ward boundary by-law for the 2022 municipal election, a ward boundary by-law has not been passed by City Council, or is under appeal at the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT), City staff will bring forward a report seeking to align City Council composition and ward boundaries.

If City Council adopts the recommendations of Watson and Associates Economists Ltd., and a ward boundary by-law is not approved by December 31, 2021, City staff will recommend maintaining the existing City Council composition and ward boundaries for the 2022 municipal election.

If City Council adopts a composition structure other than the one recommended in this report which can be accommodated in the existing six wards, City staff will recommend moving forward with revisions to composition while maintaining the current six wards for the 2022 municipal election.

## **Financial Implications**

A shift to eight full-time City councillors would cost an estimated \$212,700 in additional annual salary and benefits above the \$578,300 currently provided to councillors.

Assuming that eight full-time City councillors will require at least one additional administrative support staff person in addition to the two-existing staff in the Mayor and City Council Office, the additional annual cost in salary and benefits for support staff would be an estimated \$90,350.

Providing offices, meeting space and furniture for eight full-time councillors in City Hall will cost an estimated \$198,000 - \$237,000 in one-time expenses.

The total cost of adopting the recommendations of Watson and Associates Economists Ltd. would be an estimated \$303,050 in additional salary and benefits annually as well as a one-time cost of \$198,000 - \$237,000 to provide offices and meeting spaces in City Hall.

Final recommendations from the City Council Remuneration Advisory Committee regarding salary and benefits for the Mayor and City councillors, and the role and number of support staff for City Council, will be brought forward in 2022. The final costs of a change in City Council composition will be determined by City Council at that time.

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## **Report**

### **Background**

On November 26, 2012 [City Council directed staff](#) to prepare a report with respect to the options and implications of conducting an employment status and composition review for City Council to be in effect for the 2018-2022 term of office.

On December 3, 2013 City staff [brought forward a report to the Governance Committee](#) recommending that an independent third-party subject matter expert

conduct a review of City Council composition and employment status. At that time, City Council approved the following recommendations:

1. That a Council Composition and Employment Status Review be conducted by a third-party subject-matter expert during the 2014-2018 term of Council with the intent that any proposed changes to be subsequently approved by Council take effect for the 2018-2022 term of office.
2. That all costs associated with the review be referred to the 2015 budget process for Council approval.
3. That the Terms of Reference for the Council Composition and Employment Status Review come back to the Governance Committee for approval.

At its July 8, 2014 meeting, the Governance Committee received [report CHR 2014-46 Council Composition and Employment Status Review – Terms of Reference](#). This report identified the scope of the project and reiterated the need for the use of an independent third-party subject matter expert to complete the work.

At its June 30, 2015 Governance Standing Committee meeting, City Council received [report CS-2015-58 Council and Employment Status Review – Update](#) that defined the detailed scope of work, including timelines and milestones, to be conducted as part of the project.

During the 2016 budget process, funding for the project was not approved. Section 222 of the Municipal Act establishes legislated timelines related to the passing of ward boundary by-laws. These timelines prevented consideration of the project during the remainder of the 2014–2018 term of City Council.

Following the 2018 election, on July 22, 2019, City Council again [directed staff to engage an independent third-party subject matter expert](#) to conduct a City Council Composition and Employment Status Review during the 2018-2022 term of City Council.

On December 13, 2019, an information report titled [Council Composition, Ward Boundaries and Voting Systems and Methods Review Update](#) identified Watson and Associates Economists Ltd., partnered with ICA Associates Inc., Dr. Robert J. Williams and Dr. David T. Siegel, as the successful proponents engaged, through a formal request for proposals process, to complete the project.

Phase one of the City Council Composition and Ward Boundary Review project, the City Council Composition and Employment Status Review, was initiated in December 2019.

In April 2020, in response to COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings, the City Council Composition and Employment Status Review was paused prior to the start of in-person community engagement. On July 24, 2020, an information report titled [Council Composition and Employment Status, Ward Boundaries and Voting Systems and Methods Review Update](#) identified that work on the project would resume in August 2020 with a shift from in-person community engagement to online and virtual community engagement. The switch from in-person to online/virtual community engagement required several elements of the project timeline be changed. Those changes are outlined below and summarized in [Attachment-1 of the July 24, 2020 information report](#).

The online engagement plan was developed by leaders in civic engagement from ICA Associates Inc., in consultation with and supported by the City's community

engagement team. While online and virtual engagement was not originally anticipated for this project, the engagement plan was consistent with Guelph's [Community Engagement Framework](#) and the number of residents engaged was consistent with anticipated numbers for in-person engagement. Details on the total number of residents engaged is included in the consultation section of this report. Detailed analysis of the feedback received through the community engagement is outlined in Attachment-1. The feedback provided through the online survey is included in Appendix-G of Attachment-1.

The results of the independent review, including all supporting documents and community engagement results, are included in Attachment-1. The recommendations included in the report are independent and provided directly by Watson and Associates Economists Ltd.

## **Project Timelines**

The decisions made by City Council regarding City Council composition and employment status are the culmination of phase one of the Council Composition and Employment Status and Ward Boundary Review.

Phase two of the project, the ward boundary review, will begin immediately following a City Council decision regarding composition and employment status. As the number of wards is directly dependent upon the number of councillors, ward versus at-large elections and the number of councillors elected per ward, work cannot begin on phase two until final decisions are made as part of phase one. Any delay in decision making regarding the phase one recommendations will cause a delay to phase two.

### **Phase Two Project Timelines**

January/February, 2021: online engagement period.

May/June, 2021: Special City Council meeting to debate phase two recommendations.

May/June – December 31, 2021: six months to allow for a possible appeal of a ward boundary by-law to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT).

December 31, 2021: legislated deadline for the passage of a ward boundary by-law to be in effect for the 2022 municipal election.

Prior to the delay caused by COVID-19, one year was allotted for the hearing of a possible ward boundary by-law appeal to the LPAT. While one year is considered a best practice, it is still possible that appeals (which can vary considerably in size and scope) will be heard by the LPAT and decisions rendered within the six months allotted. A further reduction of this time would reduce the possibility of appeals working through the LPAT prior to December 31, 2021. As the legislated deadline for ward boundary changes in advance of the 2022 municipal election is December 31, 2021, this could result in revised ward boundaries not being in place for the 2022 municipal election.

## **Project Connections and Dependencies**

### **City Council Composition and Ward Boundaries**

If a ward boundary by-law is not passed by City Council by the legislated December 31, 2021 deadline (with no active appeals), then the current ward boundary by-law establishing Guelph's six wards would remain in place.

If the recommendations provided by Watson and Associates Economists Ltd. are approved by City Council, but by December 31, 2021 a ward boundary by-law is not approved (or is pending appeal at the LPAT), staff would bring forward a report seeking to maintain the current composition of City Council for the 2022 municipal election with changes to City Council composition, employment status and ward boundaries delayed until the 2026 municipal election.

If City Council passes resolutions regarding City Council composition which differ from those provided by Watson and Associates Economists Ltd., but which align with a six-ward system, they could be implemented for the 2022 municipal election regardless of the status of the ward boundary by-law.

### **Voting Systems and Voting Methods**

Alternative voting systems, first-past-the-post or ranked ballot, and voting methods, including in-person and remote voting options, can be implemented with the current composition of City Council or with any of the recommendations proposed by Watson and Associates Economists Ltd.

The recommendation that the number of City councillors elected per ward be one, if approved, would make the administration of a ranked ballot election easier in that single-member contests allow for a clear 50 per cent plus one threshold to be elected across all Council offices on the ballot and is likely easier to understand for the public. However, while the [multi-member threshold calculation is more complex and would require a differing calculation consideration for councillor versus Mayoral contests on the ballot](#), it does not make the move to a ranked ballot system impossible.

While there are parts of this review that depend on the outcome of others, it is recommended that City Council decide on composition independent of voting systems and voting methods considerations. City Council composition is a foundational governance structure that lasts for decades, well beyond the voting systems and voting methods which may fluctuate each term before the next municipal election. Based on the composition decision made, a thorough review of options will be provided prior to the legislated May 1, 2021 deadline for voting systems and methods. This work is already underway.

### **Next Steps**

A review of ward boundaries in Guelph will begin immediately following a decision regarding City Council composition. The ward boundary review will only consider options which align ward boundaries with the decisions made by City Council regarding composition. Council will receive a report from Watson and Associates Economists Ltd., and the consultant team, in regards the ward boundary review. This report will be informed by community engagement and by expert knowledge relating to ward boundary reviews in Ontario. City Council will play a role in passing a ward boundary by-law based on input received through engagement and expert recommendations.



City Staff recommend that a ward boundary review be done even if City Council decides to keep the six wards as the current wards have not been comprehensively reviewed since they were created in 1990. Further information on the need to complete a ward boundary review is included as part of section 8, page 34, in Attachment-1.

## **Financial Implications**

### **Councillor Remuneration**

The pay and benefits of City Councillors and the Mayor is set by City Council (as per [Section 283 of the Municipal Act](#)) and, in the case of the City of Guelph, based on the advice of the [City Council Remuneration Advisory Committee](#). For the 2022-2026 term of City Council, the [mandate of the City Council Remuneration Advisory Committee](#) will be expanded to consider the appropriate level of staff support provided to City Council. Final City Council salaries, whether part-time to full-time, will be decided by City Council in 2022 and in advance of the 2022 municipal and school board election. The information provided below is an estimate to ensure the approximate cost of decisions related to City Council composition are known. More complete and accurate costs will be presented and determined by City Council based on the report of the City Council Remuneration Advisory Committee.

A shift to eight full-time City councillors would cost an estimated \$212,700 in additional salary and benefits above the \$578,300 currently provided to Guelph's 12 part-time City councillors.

Current City councillor salaries are \$41,528 + \$6,700 in benefits. To estimate the cost of switching to full-time City councillors, the salaries have been doubled to \$83,056 + \$15,800 in benefits.

The additional cost in benefits would align the benefits package offered to the Mayor with those of City councillors.

### **Support Staff and Considerations**

Full-time City councillors will require support staff. It is contemplated that City Council support staff would fulfill an important role in supporting full-time councillors including scheduling, supporting meeting logistics and booking of travel and accommodations at conferences and education sessions. Customer service, through the ongoing implementation of the [Service Simplified strategy](#) and the [Working Together for our Future](#) priority area of the Strategic Plan, would continue to be supported, delivered and evolved through existing service delivery teams in City departments.

The role and number of support staff has a significant impact on total cost associated with changes to City Council composition. The City Council Remuneration Advisory Committee will provide a recommendation to City Council on the appropriate role and number of support staff in 2022.

The salary and benefit information for three different support positions is provided below as an estimate of the possible future cost of support staffing for full-time councillors.

Executive Assistant: \$86,000 + \$25,800 in benefits

Policy Analyst: \$86,000 + \$25,800 in benefits

Administrative Assistant: \$69,500 + \$20,850 in benefits

Assuming that eight full-time City councillors will require at least one additional administrative support staff person in addition to the two-existing staff in the Mayor and City Council Office, the additional annual cost in salaries and benefits would be \$90,350. Additional support staff, or support staff in roles with higher salaries than administrative assistants, would add to this cost at the rates identified above.

### **City Facility and Office Space Considerations**

It is assumed that full-time councillors would need office space to meet the requirements of their position and host small meetings within the office. Councillors would also likely require two to three meeting rooms for their use to meet with constituents or in larger groups. The meeting rooms have been assumed to be mixed between formal and informal settings with space for six to eight people. Space for support staff has also been contemplated, located in a common area with cubicles. At a maximum, it is expected that approximately 278 - 418 square meters of space would be required for the dedicated use of councillors and support staff. The layout, format and configuration of office space will need to be aware of and informed by the ever-changing landscape of workspaces including telecommuting, hoteling space and shared/co-located workspaces.

Assuming changes in the next two years allow space to be found in City Hall (due to departmental movements, telecommuting or other), a one-time cost ranging from \$198,000 - \$237,000 would be required depending on which of the above mentioned formats or models are identified as the best option and put into place.

### **Consultations**

A robust and City-wide community engagement plan, developed by leaders in civic engagement from ICA Associates Inc., in consultation with and supported by the City's community engagement team, was implemented for this project. The details of that plan, as well as the results and feedback gathered from the community, are included in Attachment-1.

Statistics regarding participation in the community engagement period are included below.

### **Media Coverage**

1. 19 stories in local media outlets.
2. Seven of those 19 stories were letters to the editor or opinion pieces.

### **[haveyoursay.guelph.ca](http://haveyoursay.guelph.ca)**

1. 670 surveys completed.
2. 2,200 visits to the page.
3. 524 total downloads of the project background documents.

### **Project Website**

1. 241 unique visitors to the page and 321 if you count those that returned multiple times.

### **Social Media**

1. 44,485 reached on Twitter.
2. 45,975 reached on Facebook.

3. Organic reach on both platforms (excluding boosted/paid content) was 85,664 people.
4. Total reach between Twitter, Facebook and Instagram (Instagram was added to reach student populations), both boosted and organic, was 99,418.
5. The virtual town hall video on Facebook has over 2,700 views.

### **Strategic Plan Alignment**

This project aligns with the strategic plan priority of Working Together for Our Future by ensuring that Guelph's governance model effectively represents the needs of residents and the Corporation of the City of Guelph.

### **Attachments**

Attachment-1 Watson and Associates Economists Ltd. City Council Composition and Ward Boundary Review – Phase One Report

Attachment-2 – Watson and Associates Economists Ltd. City Council Composition and Ward Boundary Review – Phase One Presentation

### **Departmental Approval**

Jennifer Slater, Manager, Information, Privacy and Elections/Deputy City Clerk

Ian Scott, Manager, Facility Design and Construction

Ronald Maeresera, Senior Corporate Analyst

### **Report Author**

Dylan McMahon, Manager, Legislative Services / Deputy City Clerk

### **This report was approved by:**

Stephen O'Brien

General Manager, City Clerk's Office/City Clerk

Corporate Services

519-822-1260 extension 5644

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### **This report was recommended by:**

Trevor Lee

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# Council Composition and Ward Boundary Review

City of Guelph

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## Phase 1 Report

October 14, 2020

Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.  
905-272-3600  
[info@watsonecon.ca](mailto:info@watsonecon.ca)

In association with: Dr. Robert J. Williams  
ICA Associates Inc.  
and Dr. David Siegel

# Table of Contents

	Page
<b>1. Introduction.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Terms of Reference .....	1
1.2 Municipal Representation in the City of Guelph .....	2
1.3 Study Objectives .....	4
1.4 Project Structure and Timeline.....	5
1.5 Public Consultation .....	6
1.6 Consideration for City Council .....	8
<b>2. The Composition of City Council .....</b>	<b>10</b>
2.1 Context .....	10
2.2 Stakeholder and Public Consultation .....	12
<b>3. Ward System or At-Large System.....</b>	<b>15</b>
3.1 Context .....	15
3.2 Stakeholder and Public Consultation .....	16
<b>4. Ward Magnitude (the Number of Councillors per Ward).....</b>	<b>20</b>
4.1 Context .....	20
4.2 Stakeholder and Public Consultation .....	21
<b>5. The Number of Wards .....</b>	<b>26</b>
5.1 Context .....	26
<b>6. The Role of Councillor: Part-Time or Full-Time? .....</b>	<b>26</b>
6.1 Context .....	26
6.2 Stakeholder and Public Consultation .....	27
<b>7. Recommendations .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>8. Potential Next Step – A Ward Boundary Review .....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Appendix A Public Consultation.....</b>	<b>A-1</b>



# Table of Contents (Cont'd)

	Page
<b>Appendix B Ward-Based Versus At-Large System Advantages and Disadvantages .....</b>	<b>B-1</b>
<b>Appendix C Time Commitment to Council Activities.....</b>	<b>C-1</b>
<b>Appendix D Councillor Compensation.....</b>	<b>D-1</b>
<b>Appendix E Media Coverage .....</b>	<b>E-1</b>
<b>Appendix F Engagement Site Tool – Questions and Answers .....</b>	<b>F-1</b>
<b>Appendix G Survey Responses .....</b>	<b>G-1</b>



# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Terms of Reference

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Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. (Watson), in conjunction with ICA Associates Inc. and Drs. David Siegel and Robert J. Williams, hereinafter referred to as the Consultant Team, was retained by the City of Guelph in January 2020 to conduct a comprehensive Council Composition and Ward Boundary Review.

The study has been organized into two phases:

- Phase 1 – Council Composition and Employment Status Review; and
- Phase 2 – Ward Boundary Review.

Phase 1, which is presented herein, includes a review of council composition and employment status. In the Ontario *Municipal Act, 2001*, section 217 council composition refers simply to the total number of councillors and the method of election (in wards or at-large) but in this study council composition also includes the number of councillors elected in each ward. Employment status refers to whether councillors should be part-time (as they have been in the past) or full-time.

Once Council has made a decision on the recommendations resulting from Phase 1 of the review, the Consultant Team will undertake Phase 2 of the study. Phase 2 will encompass a comprehensive evaluation of the City's ward boundaries and set out alternative ward boundary options to ensure effective and equitable electoral arrangements for the City of Guelph, based on the guiding principles found in the Terms of Reference for the study.

Following the completion of Phase 1 and parallel to Phase 2, City staff will prepare a report for Council on voting systems and methods for the 2022 municipal election and, later, Councillor compensation (that is, the actual salary paid to Councillors) and staff support. These two topics do not form part of this study and will be assessed independently of this assignment.









The current municipal electoral system has been in place, without significant modification, since 1990. At that time, the number of City Councillors (then called aldermen) was increased from 11 to 12 and a ward system was implemented.

Each elector has two votes for councillor and the two candidates who receive the largest number of votes in a ward are elected for that ward. The principle of “one person, one vote” anticipates that the population in each ward would be roughly equal. There are other principles that enter into the drawing of ward boundaries (see Chapter 8), but population parity is a very important consideration.

Figure 2 illustrates the populations in the six wards in Guelph’s current system based on the 2016 Census.<sup>1</sup> Ward 6 has been growing rapidly since these boundaries were established in 2006, meaning that the imbalance in the number of electors per ward would be even greater in 2022 unless some change is made in the ward system.

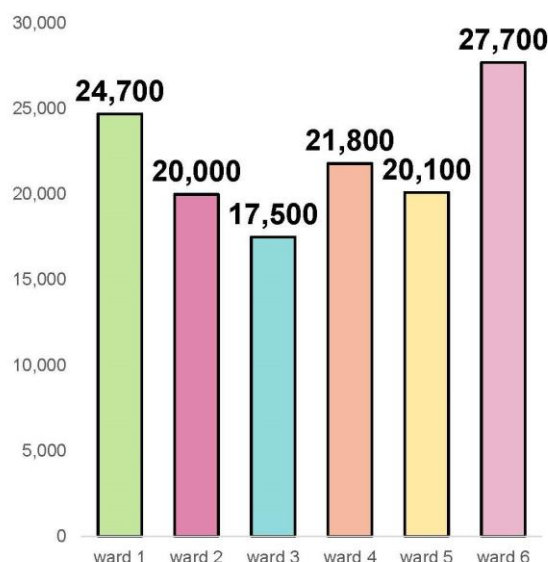
The population metrics presented in Figure 2 make it clear that the wards are at odds with the “one person, one vote” principle. At a minimum, the boundaries of the existing wards need to be changed to bring Guelph into alignment with this principle. Phase 2 of this project will therefore be a ward boundary review, a task which will be conducted to assess the extent to which the present wards constitute an effective and equitable system of representation and, where they do not, to propose alternatives.

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<sup>1</sup> These figures are for illustration only. The Census only partially captures post-secondary students. During the Ward Boundary Review (in Phase 2), more comprehensive data on the post-secondary student population will be collected and included in the design of new wards.



Figure 2  
City of Guelph  
Population per Ward – 2016



## 1.3 Study Objectives

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The primary purpose of Phase 1 of the study is to prepare Guelph City Council to make decisions with respect to:

- How many Councillors are appropriate;
- Whether Councillors should continue to be elected in wards or city-wide;
- If so, how many Councillors should be elected in each ward; and
- Whether the City of Guelph would benefit from having City Councillors who could devote themselves full-time to their Council responsibilities or remain part-time.

Depending on the decisions made by Council at the conclusion of Phase 1, the next Phase would evaluate the suitability of the present or of alternative wards (in the event that Council determines that there will be some other number of wards). The wards recommended to Council at the conclusion of Phase 2 will be designed with reference to locally approved guiding principles to “re-divide” the City (see Chapter 8).



## 1.4 Project Structure and Timeline

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The study started in January 2020 and is expected to be completed by May 2021. It is anticipated that Phase 1 of the study will be completed in November 2020. Phase 1 of the review was to be completed by June after a series of Town Hall meetings across the City in March and April 2020. Restrictions during the COVID-19 global pandemic has delayed and changed this phase of the review and the way it has been conducted.

To achieve the City's deadline that any changes to Council composition and ward boundaries be in place before the 2022 municipal election, the consultants collaborated with City staff to find a way to modify Phase 1 timelines after the project was suspended in March 2020 due to COVID-19. Public consultation and engagement in Phase 1 shifted from three weeks of traditional in-person community engagement, with open houses and events, to three weeks of 24/7 online community engagement to follow physical distancing guidelines and measures. The online engagement period was revised to run three weeks beginning August 17 and ending September 4, 2020.

The focus or hub of online engagement became the City's online engagement platform called: **HaveYourSay.Guelph.ca/council-composition**. It housed information and background research documents to help provide guidance towards more informed input, an interactive survey, a question and answer tool and a mapping activity. It was built using the City's subscription to EngagementHQ service. In addition, a live online panel discussion event was held August 25, where citizens participated remotely in real time (by logging into the webinar, through Facebook live, or by dialing in to listen) to share their questions and comments on the topics and have them answered by the experts involved.

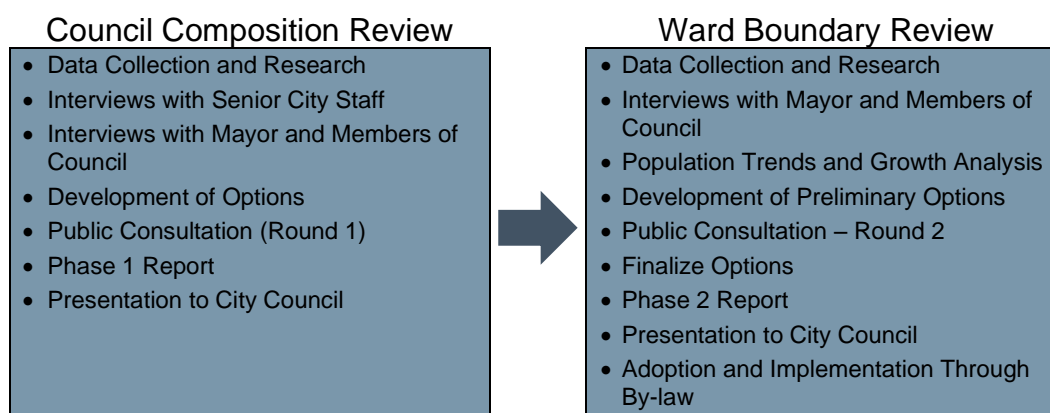
Communication activities and promotional tactics helped drive informing and engaging public and stakeholder participation by reaching diverse audiences and demographics. To note, although a complete shift occurred from already planned in-person to online consultation, there was no financial impact to the City as a result of this move.

The review has reached an important milestone with the release of this Phase 1 Report that will be presented to City Council on November 5, 2020 to seek direction on the four topics noted above.



The study has several main phases as illustrated in Figure 3.

Figure 3  
City of Guelph Council Composition, Employment Status  
and Ward Boundary Review Study Process



## 1.5 Public Consultation

The purpose of Phase 1 public consultation was to inform and educate, then gather insights and advice so the Consultant Team could develop recommendations for the public's and Council's consideration. The topic of council composition and employment status was broken down into five key questions. While these were closed-ended and mandatory questions, there were optional follow-up questions for each so citizens could explain their reasoning.

- How many Councillors should sit on the Council?
- Should elections be at-large or ward-based?
- How many Councillors should be elected per ward?
- How many wards should there be?
- Should the role of Councillors be understood to be (and paid) as full-time or part-time?

As previously mentioned, instead of a series of public meetings in different parts of the City over a few weeks, the online consultation ran 24 hours a day for three weeks. It made ample use of an online engagement platform to which the City subscribes for other projects. In addition, on August 25 there was a livestreamed virtual town hall



structured like a panel discussion designed to help inform participants with useful background information supported by visuals and a 20-minute question period. Citizens were also invited to telephone the City any time and to send emails and letters as they normally might. Further, sixteen hours of dedicated call-in times for live conversations were also provided (2 hours assigned per day over eight days). These additional opportunities were also promoted.

The online engagement platform offered citizens a range of options to meet their needs. If they only wanted to research, there were background documents to download and read. If they wanted to track the project, there was timeline and contact information and they could register for updates. If they had a question, they could ask it and get answers publicly. Most importantly, when visitors to the site felt sufficiently informed about the topic, there was a survey tool for them to add their insights.

City staff pulled out all the stops to promote civic engagement by reaching out to their most comprehensive and up-to-date list of over 200 community organizations and encouraging them to reach their own constituencies, and by providing reminders and updates to Councillors, advertising, promotion on the City's social media accounts, and large signs placed strategically around the City. The City kept track of media exposures like letters to the editor and news stories.

### **Level of Participation**

Generally speaking, the topic of council composition has proven challenging to attract citizen involvement within other communities. In Guelph, the Consultant Team set a target for themselves to engage more than 300 people in the first phase and 1,300 people in total from both phases. With that in mind, the City's communications staff set in motion extensive promotions in collaboration with the Consultant Team. As a result, Phase 1 engagement and consultation significantly exceeded expectations. The following chart is information from the engagement platform itself and does not include the additional telephone calls and emails to City staff or the webinar engagement. It is helpful because it frames visitor activity in terms of levels of engagement.



Level of Engagement	Number of People
Aware	1,729 people visited at least one page of the engagement site.
Informed	949 people viewed multiple pages, downloaded documents, completed surveys, left comments, viewed the timeline, and generally interacted on the site.
Engaged	670 people also completed the survey. A few of them asked questions, added their pin to the map, and/or contributed to news feeds.

Most importantly, 670 citizens shared their detailed insights in the survey. While there were only five “mandatory” key questions, each was followed by optional questions so respondents could explain their reasoning. Almost everyone took the opportunity to explain, generating thousands of data points. Their ideas were well considered and clearly inform the consultant recommendations to Council.

Further details on the public engagement plan and the results from Phase 1 are provided in Appendices A, F, and G. Appendix E summarizes media coverage for Phase 1 of the study.

## 1.6 Consideration for City Council

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The purpose of this Phase 1 Report is to summarize the technical and academic research completed and feedback received from the first round of consultation. The order in which the topics are presented here mirrors the provisions of section 217(1) of the *Municipal Act 2001* by starting with the number of councillors and then considering inter-related aspects of the way councillors are to be elected and concluding with a discussion of how they should be compensated.

The topics are then grouped as recommendations in Section 7 of this report by building on two key principles that emerge from Sections 2 through 6 pertaining to the decisions that City of Guelph Council needs to address:



1. Decide whether to retain a ward system or to dissolve the wards in favour of electing all members of Council at-large;
2. If wards are to be used, determine the number of members of Council to be elected in each ward;
3. If wards are to be used, determine the number of wards; and
4. Establish the employment status of members of Council.

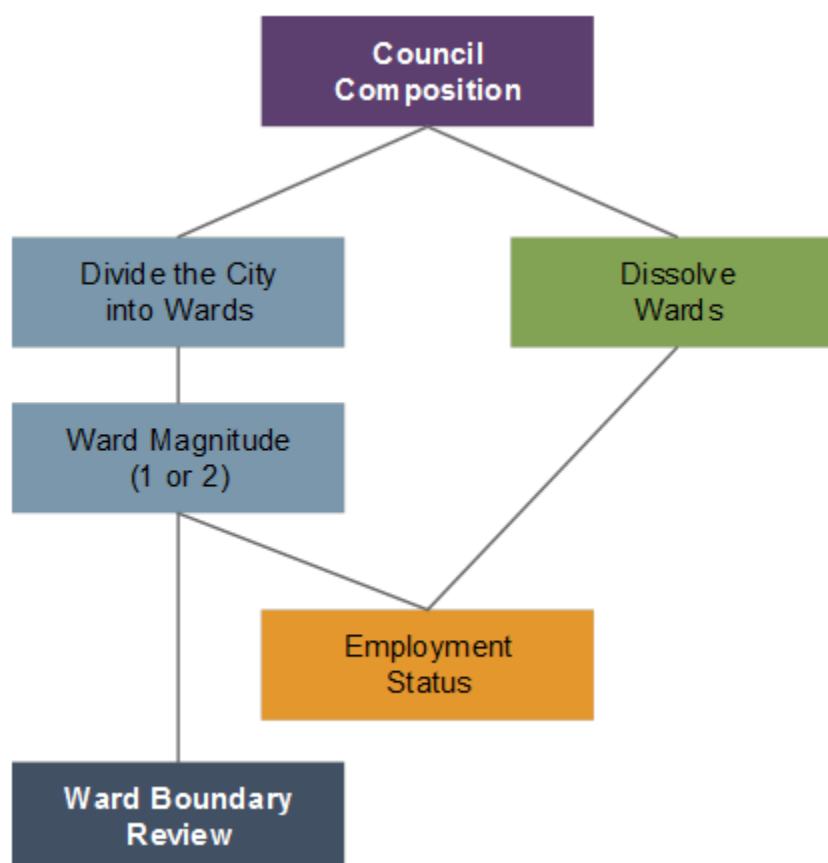
If wards are to be used, the Consultant Team will initiate a review of the boundaries to ensure that the wards constitute an effective and equitable electoral arrangement (Phase 2) of the study. If wards are to be dissolved, Phase 2 of the study is unnecessary.

A more detailed explanation of the separate decisions and some of the implications associated with each of them are provided in the following chapters.

The direction of the review is presented in Figure 4, which visualizes the series of decisions that are to be considered.



Figure 4  
Four “Layers” of Decisions



## 2. The Composition of City Council

This decision involves determining whether Guelph City Council will continue to be composed of a Mayor (a mandatory office under the *Municipal Act, 2001*) and twelve Councillors. The position of Mayor will not be open to change in this review; the decisions to be taken by Council will only involve the number of councillors and the basis for their election.

### 2.1 Context

The *Municipal Act, 2001* s. 217 (1) authorizes a local municipality “to change the composition of its council” subject to five enumerated rules, the most relevant of which





is: “There shall be a minimum of five members, one of whom shall be the head of council.” Although a by-law that changes the ward boundaries (*Municipal Act, 2001* s. 222 (1)) is open to appeal to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT), a by-law that changes the composition of council is not.

Despite this authority granted to councils under the *Municipal Act, 2001*, there are no clear principles, standards, or formulas to apply in determining the appropriate size of a municipal council. As just noted, a municipality must have at least four councillors; there is no maximum set in the Act or any provincial regulation. The composition of local councils in Ontario varies widely and is entirely a matter for each municipality to decide.

Guelph is what is known in Ontario as a “single-tier municipality”; that is, it is not part of an upper-tier municipality such as a regional government or a county (for example, Waterloo Region or Perth County).<sup>1</sup> Figure 5 compares Guelph to other single-tier municipalities within the same population range.

Figure 5  
Composition of Council  
Ontario Single-Tier Municipalities – Population 100,000 to 200,000

Municipality	Population (2016 Census)	Number of Councillors (excluding the Mayor)	Councillors per Ward
Greater Sudbury	161,531	12	1
Barrie	141,434	10	1
Guelph	131,794	12	2
Kingston	123,798	12	1
Thunder Bay	107,909	12	1 plus 5 at-large
Chatham-Kent	101,647	17	Varies from 2 to 6

Source: Population – Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population  
Council information – various websites

Deciding on an appropriate number of councillors is a balancing act. A large number of councillors can slow down and complicate the decision-making process when every

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<sup>1</sup> Although Guelph shares some services with Wellington County, such as Paramedic Services, the City is not part of the County governing structure.



councillor may feel a need to weigh in on every discussion. Councils need to be large enough to ensure that all the community's interests are represented on council. A council should be large enough to address the diversity of the community in terms of its neighbourhoods, gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic interests, and history.

## 2.2 Stakeholder and Public Consultation

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In our interviews with the Mayor and Councillors, we were told that the current number of Councillors prolongs debate without adding to its quality when every Councillor chooses to participate in a debate without adding substance. It is clear that more participants will lengthen a debate; however, sometimes that lengthened debate will result in better discussion of the topic. The quality of a contribution is frequently in the eye of the beholder.

Figure 5 (above) illustrates the above comments about there being no guiding principles that govern the number of councillors and wards. For example, the largest municipality by population on the list (Greater Sudbury) has a smaller Council than the smallest municipality in the category (Chatham-Kent).

Guelph's twelve Councillors make it very similar to comparable municipalities in Ontario. This information offers little direct guidance to Guelph but provides a reassurance that the City currently falls in the middle of the range, and if it increases or decreases the number of Councillors or wards slightly it would remain within that range.

The survey conducted as part of the Phase 1 public engagement activity asked respondents for their opinion on the size of Council. Figure 6 indicates that slightly less than a majority of respondents was satisfied with the current number and a quarter of the responses preferred a smaller Council. Fewer than twenty percent of respondents supported the idea of a larger Council in Guelph. It is helpful to consider the reasons why respondents provided the answers summarized in Figure 6.



Figure 6  
What Number of Councillors Do You Prefer for the City of Guelph?

Response	Number	Percent
Smaller	169	25.2
Larger	114	17.0
Same	329	49.1
Don't know	58	8.7
Total	670	100.0

The comments of those who endorsed maintaining a twelve-member Council can be grouped around three themes: the size is consistent with other similar municipalities, a larger Council would hinder good decision-making, and what might be called the “Goldilocks” outlook (“not too large, not too small, just about right”). For example:

- “It is a good size for a city of our population.”
- “The current allocation of Councillors is about the middle of the pack in Ontario, which is where Guelph likes to be.”
- “Why not? I see no compelling reasons to change it.”
- “If it isn't broke, don't fix it.”
- “Larger bodies become less capable of arriving at decisions.”
- “Adding more voices does not always make it easier to make decisions or reach consensus around the table.”
- “This is a good size to ensure representations yet small enough to be accountable.”
- “Guelph is too big for less than 12 and not big enough for more.”
- “The population is not declining, so why would we have fewer? And it's increasing slightly, but not extremely quickly.”

The comments of those who believe Guelph City Council should be smaller can also be grouped into three themes: a smaller Council will contribute to better decision-making, would cost less, and would contribute to addressing two other issues (two-member wards and the role Councillors play). For example:

- “Too many cooks in the kitchen...more decisiveness in issues when fewer people can push their agendas.”



- “Less is sometimes more viable and easier to make proper decisions for all citizens.”
- “Group decision making is more efficient with a smaller number, with 7-8 optimal.”
- “Guelph has more councillors than larger cities. It's a waste of tax-payers money.”
- “To reduce costs. I think it will be easier to achieve consensus with fewer councillors.”
- “I believe 8 councillors will suffice in providing a voice of various wards across the city of Guelph, especially if they each work full-time.”
- “It should be smaller but the roles should be full-time.”
- “So they can be full-time.”
- “Having too many councillors, especially part-time, will create a lot of inefficiencies and lost communication between the 2 councillors in each ward.”
- “Prefer to have smaller council but make them full-time. Even with two Councillors responses can take days, if they ever get back.”

The case for a larger Council was consistently tied to the population growth of Guelph. For example:

- “We lack representation. Guelph is huge and growing.”
- “As the city expands rapidly more representation is key.”
- “The city has grown, so it makes sense to have more councillors so as to maintain an acceptable level of engagement.”
- “As the city grows, it makes sense that more councillors are needed to represent the various communities.”
- “The city is growing. To keep the representation equal (with each councillor representing about the same number of people), there needs to be more councillors. Failing that, at least admit that being an effective councillor for a city the size of Guelph is a full-time job.”

Our recommendation on the composition of Guelph City Council is found in Chapter 7 (see below).



### 3. Ward System or At-Large System

The next decision involves determining whether Guelph will continue to elect Councillors in wards or at-large (called a “general vote” system in the *Municipal Act, 2001*).

#### 3.1 Context

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In the *Municipal Act, 2001* s. 222 (1) a “local municipality” is authorized “to divide or redivide the municipality into wards or to dissolve the existing wards” through a by-law that is subject to appeal to the LPAT. Section 217 (1) (4) provides that “other than the head of council, members shall be elected by general vote or wards or by any combination of general vote and wards.” Beyond these provisions, there are no conditions or constraints imposed by the Province to help formulate a local decision to adopt one electoral system or another.<sup>1</sup>

In an at-large system there are no geographic divisions within the municipality. All candidates run across the entire municipality, and voters choose candidates who will represent the entire municipality. For example, if a municipality chooses to have eight councillors elected at-large, then each voter has eight votes to cast among the candidates. When the votes are tallied, the eight candidates with the most votes are declared elected. In a ward system in comparison, candidates are nominated in a particular ward and electors choose among those candidates who are nominated in that ward.

In principle, each system has its own attributes and implications that assist in determining whether it is appropriate for the particular municipality. A table that sets out some of the strengths and weaknesses of each system is presented in Appendix B.

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<sup>1</sup> Before amendments to the *Municipal Act* in 2006, section 222 (2) of the *Municipal Act* stipulated that before passing a by-law the municipality shall “(b) have regard to criteria for establishing ward boundaries prescribed by the Minister.” That clause was repealed in 2017 but, in fact, the Minister of Municipal Affairs has never issued criteria related to municipal representation arrangements.

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A ward system is used by most medium and large municipalities because it recognizes the natural divisions in a municipality defined by neighbourhoods and natural barriers such as waterways, highways, railway lines and so forth. An at-large election system is most often found in smaller, rural municipalities that do not have significant social or topographical differences within the municipality. Vancouver (population 610,000) is the largest city in Canada with an at-large system but elections there are contested by candidates who represent local political parties, a factor that assists electors in making a choice about which candidates to support. The largest municipality in Ontario using an at-large system is Niagara Falls (population 85,000). Both cities have had periodic discussions about switching to a ward system. No Ontario municipality with a population greater than 100,000 elects its councillors in an at-large system.

From 1909 through to the 1988 municipal election, Councillors in Guelph (at one time as many as 18) were elected by general vote. Since the 1991 municipal election, Guelph has elected a total of 12 Councillors in six wards and in response to a question on the 2006 municipal ballot [“Are you in favour of retaining the current ward system as the method of electing City Councillors?”], 80% of Guelph electors endorsed keeping that system.

## **3.2 Stakeholder and Public Consultation**

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The survey responses reported in Figure 7 below and our interviews with the Mayor and Councillors indicated that there was general satisfaction with the principle of a ward system in the City of Guelph. There is an understanding that the current boundaries of the wards need to be reviewed because of uneven growth across the City. That issue, however, will be considered in Phase 2 of the review and is a separate issue from the principle of continuing to use a ward system. A number of respondents supported a system in which some Councillors are elected in wards and others at-large, an arrangement permitted under Ontario legislation but not widely used.



Figure 7  
Residents' Attitudes to a Ward System: From Your Perspective as a Citizen,  
Which Way of Electing Councillors Do You Think Makes the  
Most Sense for the City of Guelph?

Response	Number	Per cent
Ward	446	66.6
At-large	76	11.3
Mixed	138	20.6
Not sure	3	0.4
Don't know	7	1.0
Total	670	100.0

It is helpful to consider the reasons why respondents provided the answers tabulated above. Those who favoured retaining wards in Guelph saw these advantages:

- “Different parts of the city have different experiences in the city. It's important to have people that reflect those different experiences negotiating with each other when they make decisions.”
- “Guelph is (still) a city of neighbourhoods. If we were to lose ward representation, then the only voices would be those who view the city as something to be homogenized. The value of the city is in its neighbourhoods. I don't want to live in a faceless suburb.”
- “It's only natural that there will be times that there is a conflict between the needs of one ward over another ward. It's only good and fair practice that each ward have a local representative to speak for their ward at council.”
- “Responsible to neighbourhood and more knowledgeable about specific areas, don't have to be expert everywhere, thus able to be part time.”
- “Local advocacy. Councillors should feel responsible to their entire ward. At-large structures can create a system where a geographically small area can have a disproportionate voice on council, and could lead to neglect in other areas.”
- “Easier to get rid of the non-performers.”
- “Residents should have someone who lives in their part of the city that is able to advocate on their behalf. At-large elections typically favour incumbents, as people will usually just vote for familiar names.”



A small proportion of the survey respondents support at-large elections in Guelph. They view the role of Councillors differently; for example:

- “More focus on good of the City as a whole.”
- “Ward Councillors can create more division, each representing the classic NIMBYism regularly seen in Guelph. Councillors who have to represent everyone might take a more holistic view of what the community needs and may better represent Guelph's diversity than wards do now.”
- “Councillors would be more likely to represent the best interests of the city and not fall prey to parochial local issues and special interests.”
- “What happens in another ward impacts me as well. I drive around the city for services.”
- “As councillors vote on issues of the city as a whole it seems to make much more sense for councillors to be responsible to the whole city rather than their ward alone. Of course, all will then be responsible for all wards all the time.”
- “Local ward system in no way ensures representation of local concerns. A system allowing us to vote for members who we feel reflect our concerns and beliefs would be beneficial and would allow for reduction in size of council.”
- “At-large councillors could help to move decision making forward from the “big picture” perspective when there are conflicts between the needs of the different wards and their representatives.”

A number of respondents support the idea of a system in which some Councillors represent wards but combining it with an additional second “layer” of Councillors who are elected at-large. For example,

- “The combination allows for some focused representation from the variety of wards in the city plus gives ‘at large’ representatives who can be counted on to see decisions in a more holistic manner.”
- “Each ward can have unique interests, viewpoints, and experiences, which necessitates having ward councillors. A couple of citywide councillors could provide balance by representing the city as a whole.”
- “I believe that having a larger city-wide based category allows for the City to consider and elect individuals that are operating on platforms that encompass more than just the needs of their particular ward. Hyper-localized politics and ward advocacy have their role, but I believe that individuals who are thinking of a





larger picture should also be offered the opportunity to present that agenda without having to tailor it to a particular ward.”

- “A mixed system would give the benefits of each type of election while allowing for more flexibility.”
- “I would like to see a mix, where you have one vote designated for a local representative and one vote for any candidate. We must have representation at the ward level. Guelph is a large enough city that it is imperative that each ward is represented by at least one person who is knowledgeable about that ward, and is also directly accountable to those who live in it. It would also be of value to be able to vote for a councillor who does not represent the ward you are in, but who has a vision for the city's future that aligns with your own.”
- “Having primary councillors elected by the city and then secondary councillors that are more ward specific. This brings more awareness to who is actually in council (if they're not in my ward I probably have no idea who they are or what they stand for), so by voting for primary councillors as a city, you get a better idea of who is actually making decisions about the city.”

As noted earlier, Ontario legislation permits municipalities to combine at-large and ward systems, but it is relatively rare. The City of Kingston, for example, experimented with a combination of ward and at-large councillors for one term in the late 1990s as part of an amalgamation before quickly converting to electing all councillors in wards. Among single-tier Ontario municipalities comparable to Guelph (in the 100,000 to 200,000 population range), only the City of Thunder Bay uses a combination system; five members of its Council are elected at-large and seven in wards (note: 26 candidates sought the five at-large seats in 2018). This configuration was also the result of an amalgamation and has been used ever since the City was created in 1970.

While many respondents to the survey presented legitimate reasons for introducing such a system to Guelph, the problem with the hybrid system is that it creates an awkward relationship between at-large and ward councillors. Under Ontario legislation, all councillors at the table are equal, but when councillors are elected from different electoral bases, does this mean that some are seen to be more important than others?

In the early 1900s, several large Ontario cities elected a combination of councillors chosen by wards and at-large. The at-large councillors were members of what was called a Board of Control, a group that tended to dominate council decision-making



since it acted as an executive committee of council through its responsibilities over budget and key administrative matters. Most Boards of Control were eliminated in Ontario during the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, largely because of dissatisfaction with the idea of a hierarchy of councillors.

In principle, ward and at-large election systems each have valid positive and negative attributes [see tables of attributes]; however, the risks to effective representation for the City's distinctive neighbourhoods and other communities of interest that an at-large system would bring to a municipality the size of Guelph cannot be overlooked.

Our recommendation that the City of Guelph continue to use a ward system to elect Council members is found in Chapter 7 (see below).

If Guelph City Council has determined the number of Councillors and decides to elect them at-large, the only remaining Phase 1 consideration will be the employment status of Councillors (see Chapter 6 below) and Phase 2 of this review is unnecessary. If Council has determined the number of Councillors and accepts the recommendation to elect some or all of them in wards, two inter-related questions follow:

1. How many Councillors should be elected from each ward?
2. How many wards should the City be divided into?

These questions are addressed in Chapters 4 and 5 below. Answering one question will of course determine the answer to the other. Since Guelph has had long experience with the same format to elect Councillors (two per ward), it is appropriate to address that question first, since even if Council chooses to maintain a two-member per ward format, the community should be confident that the merits of the present system actually outweigh its shortcomings and that none of the alternatives is an improvement.

## 4. Ward Magnitude (the Number of Councillors per Ward)

### 4.1 Context

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The City of Guelph has elected two Councillors per ward since the ward system was introduced in Guelph for the 1991 election. Figure 5 (above) indicates that Guelph is

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the only city of its direct comparators using this arrangement. There are, however, other cities in two-tier regional government systems such as St. Catharines and Welland, and other smaller single-tier cities such as Peterborough, Orillia, and Brantford that use this arrangement.

There are a very small number of Ontario municipalities such as Chatham-Kent and Prince Edward County where varying numbers of members are elected per ward. Such arrangements are typically products of amalgamations where the electoral system recognizes those historical circumstances. A system in which an unequal number of councillors is elected in the various wards, however, would likely be seen as confusing or unfair, even in municipalities that have these unique historical circumstances.

Councillors in Guelph are, of course, familiar – even comfortable – with this long-standing two-member per ward system but familiarity should not be the crucial factor in determining the most appropriate system of representation. There are several attributes that should be considered in Council's decision.

The primary strength of a two-member per ward model is the perception that it is more likely that a constituent will be able to get the ear of a councillor even if one of the ward councillors is unavailable or unsympathetic to the constituent's concerns. For others, having two choices may assist in strategic voting; for example, an elector may choose to vote for both a male and female candidate, or for an incumbent and a fresh candidate rather than having to vote for one or the other.

The shortcomings are more numerous: the two Councillors per ward system contributes to a larger Council which could complicate and prolong debate. It also increases the size of wards (since there are currently only six in Guelph) which makes it more difficult for Councillors to stay on top of issues across their entire ward. It can also lead to confusion when a constituent approaches both Councillors, each of whom then approaches City staff.

## 4.2 Stakeholder and Public Consultation

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Figure 8 below indicates that two-member wards are favoured by the majority of survey respondents. This distribution might be viewed from the perspective that a two-member ward system is the only one with which many Guelph residents are familiar.

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Figure 8  
From a Citizen of Guelph Perspective, How Many Councillors  
Should be Elected from Each Ward?

Response	Number	Per cent
One	232	34.6
Greater than one	353	52.7
Doesn't matter	11	1.6
Not sure	25	3.7
Other	49	7.3
Total	670	100.0

The reasons provided by survey respondents are informative. Those who supported a system in which each ward elected more than one Councillor saw the advantages in these terms:

- “If one is unable to do their job for some reason such as illness, holiday, etc., you can go to the other one.”
- “If one doesn't really represent your views, you have someone else to go to. I am more inclined to err on the side of having more representation than less. In the case that one councillor is unresponsive to a citizens' needs, having a second councillor would provide additional avenues for citizen engagement. Having two councillors approach city staff to advocate for their constituents would be preferable to one councillor forgetting to do so.”
- “Two member wards have generally done well for Guelph for a long time, why change it now?”
- “With 2 councillors per ward, it allows for collaboration, a variety of perspectives, and allows citizens some choice when contacting their representative.”
- “Multiple councillors per ward makes it more likely that ward representation is more diverse, and represents a greater number of the people of the ward. In a 'winner takes all' electoral system, limiting ward representation to just one councillor makes it highly likely that a large number (or even a majority) of constituents are not represented by the person they voted for. That's not acceptable.”



- “It makes sense to have two people with different strengths, experience and points of view to offer insights and to back each other up to ensure the needs of the people they represent are met.”
- “A single councillor per ward, elected under our first past the post system, could win with the support of a small minority of ward voters.”
- “It’s working as is. Not sure why this issue has come up for discussion.”
- “One councillor is insufficient to represent citizen diversity.”

It is also noteworthy that some respondents link the case for two-member wards to maintaining a system of six wards:

- “The wards are large so I feel at least 2 councillors are necessary to handle true community engagement as well as the work load.”
- “Some wards are quite large and Guelph is growing. Wards are getting more diverse and they need to have more than one representative.”
- “The wards are fairly big and the population is growing. Having two councillors from each ward hopefully gives a broader representation. It would also give easier access to at least one of the councillors.”
- “To allow everyone the ability to contact and communicate with their representative, there should be more than 1 councillor per ward, or smaller wards.”
- “I believe that residents require access to their councillors so more than one per ward sounds appropriate.”
- “The wards are large enough that one person does not seem like enough, especially given the multiple roles of a Councillor (i.e., engagement, advocacy, policy, administration, etc.). The number of Councillors should be proportional to the number of people in each ward, or better yet, the ward boundaries should be modified so that they are approximately equal in size.”

Those who endorsed one-member wards identified several kinds of benefits, in particular related to better accountability and efficiency, as well as contributing to a smaller Council or to a full-time role for Councillors:

- “One representative per ward. Straightforward.”
- “Easier way by having just one point of contact.”



- “So that it is clear. Why should I email two councillors to be aware of an issue? It would be easier to know who has responsibility for my area of the city.”
- “Two councillors does not make sense. Information gets lost between the two representatives. One councillor per ward means better accountability. A single full-time councillor can focus their efforts on a particular ward and if citizens find them to be unavailable, they can be held accountable. There isn't the option to go to the other councillor such as in the two per ward system which I fear can hide poor representation and work.”
- “There is less need to cooperate with other councillors when you have a built-in partner for support.”
- “Having more than one councillor per ward seems redundant and unnecessarily expensive.”
- “Better value to the taxpayer and quicker decisions will be made.”
- “We have too many now. My ward has two very different councillors, with different views and I feel like their votes cancel each other out.”
- Less of a chance for competing interests and focus.
- “It would force them to be directly accountable. No 'hiding' behind a more active Councillor.”
- “If there is one per ward, the councillor will need to make sure they hear all the people and not just those that they agree with. Then it will certainly become clear whether a councillor is listening or not to everyone.”
- “Once again, when it comes to making important decisions that impact the citizens of a city, smaller is better. This is basic knowledge: all successful organizations keep their decision-making bodies small.”
- “Because I think there should be more, smaller wards. I only want to make one phone call if I have a political concern to raise or a local issue that needs to be addressed. Also, fewer voters, less comparing \$\$, better democracy.”
- “One per ward with smaller wards to make it more representative of your area.”
- “As the city is expanding, perhaps more wards, and 1 councillor who can be more dedicated to their specific area.”
- “Just not sure we need two, especially if number of constituents per ward goes down.”
- “Fewer councillors but full time.”
- “1 full time is sufficient.”



- “2 per ward make sense if both working part time. Having 1 per ward but working full time makes sense since the demands of the job has (sic) increased over time.”
- “I think that ward sizes should be adjusted so 1 councillor per ward can service each ward. This to me would be the most cost-effective solution for a city that is destined to grow so much in the next decade.”

Our interviews with the Councillors and City staff identified some problems with the two-member arrangement that reflect experiences we are familiar with in other municipalities (and noted above). The system can cause confusion on the part of residents who do not know which Councillor to contact when they have an issue. When they contact both Councillors, this may cause further confusion about which Councillor should take a lead role. When both Councillors try to deal with the issue, relevant City staff members will be contacted twice about the same issue.

When the two ward Councillors get along with one another, there are work-arounds to deal with this problem. We heard that two Councillors in one ward in Guelph have agreed to divide the ward in half and each one deals with issues in his half. Thus, they deal with the two Councillors per ward issue by effectively converting their one ward into two. When the two Councillors get along with one another, there are a number of work-arounds like this that can be established. When they do not get along so well, there can be problems. No matter how hard Councillors try to get along with one another, however, it is difficult for them to ignore the fact they will be running against one another in the next election.

Two-member wards also result in larger wards. Compared to similar cities, Guelph's six wards are fairly large. This makes them less homogeneous and more difficult for Councillors to represent effectively. If Guelph retained 12 Councillors and shifted to one-member wards, it would have 12 wards which would be approximately half the size of the existing wards.

Our recommendation that Guelph move to a system of one Councillor per ward is found in Chapter 7 (see below).



## 5. The Number of Wards

### 5.1 Context

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If Council has agreed on the total number of Councillors and opts for a system of one-member wards, this question has already been answered. A twelve-member Council with one-member wards, leads to 12 wards. If the idea of single-member wards is adopted, however, the City actually has more flexibility than it currently has with two-member wards.

By retaining two-member wards, it is difficult to get away from six wards in Guelph. Fewer than six wards for a City the size of Guelph does not seem desirable, and adding wards means adding two Councillors for each new ward which would increase the total size of Council.

If Council decides to move to one-member wards, it will have the flexibility to consider eight, nine, or ten wards, for example. This would simultaneously reduce the size of Council, which some see as desirable, and at the same time reduce the size of the individual wards which would help to make the wards more homogeneous.

In effect, this question intersects with Council's initial decision in Phase 1 (the composition of council) and the previous question on the number of Councillors per ward. In a single-member ward system, whatever number of Councillors is preferred will be the number of wards. A decision to adopt two-member wards will require half as many wards as there are Councillors.

Our recommendation on the number of wards is found in Chapter 7 (see below).

## 6. The Role of Councillor: Part-Time or Full-Time?

### 6.1 Context

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Guelph, like most other municipalities in Ontario, has had part-time Councillors since its inception. This means that Guelph Councillors have been paid at a level that would require them to obtain supplementary employment to support themselves and a family. In truth, there is no legal distinction between a part-time and full-time Councillor. All





Councillors have the same legal rights and responsibilities. A Councillor is a Councillor. The difference between part-time and full-time Councillors is the rate of pay and the accompanying expectations.

Appendix D shows that only three municipalities in Ontario pay their Councillors what would be considered a full-time wage. Councillors in the other single-tier municipalities in the table are paid less than \$50,000 per year, in a few cases less than \$35,000. Councillors in the next group in the table (“lower-tier municipalities double direct”) serve on both an area and regional Council while Councillors in the last group (“lower-tier municipalities direct”) serve on either the area Council or the regional Council but not both. The former collects two salaries, the latter receives one or the other.

## 6.2 Stakeholder and Public Consultation

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There is a perception that the workload of Councillors has been increasing as the complexity of government activity and the expectations of residents have increased. Appendix C shows the results of a survey conducted as a part of this review. It indicates that current Guelph Councillors say that they spend an average of about 20 hours per week on Council business. This is less than typical full-time employment, but it uses up so much time that it is difficult to see how a Councillor could seek other full-time employment or even pursue a regular, fixed-schedule part-time job. Furthermore, the average disguises the fact that the number of hours can vary significantly from week to week with little or no warning. Some variations are predictable; for example, budget time requires a commitment of a major block of time. Crises or dealing with constituents’ issues, however, are totally unpredictable and can require a great deal of time. Fitting a regular full-time job or even a traditional part-time job with regular hours around the significant and irregular time commitments of a Councillor would be very difficult.

The residents who responded to our survey seemed to understand the increasing demands of the position of Councillor. Slightly less than a majority of respondents felt that the position of Councillor should be considered full-time.



Figure 9  
From a Citizen Perspective, How Do You Recommend  
that the Role of City Councillor be Viewed in Guelph?

Response	Number	Per cent
Part-time	265	39.6
Full-time	327	48.8
Doesn't matter	17	2.5
Not sure	61	9.1
Total	670	100.0

Support for full-time Councillors in Guelph was seen as a positive part of the electoral system. For example,

- “We need Councillors to be fully engaged in understanding the work of the city and representing their constituents. They cannot do this part-time.”
- “They would be able to focus their attention on making decisions and engaging with city residents.”
- “Councillors have a lot of work to do and should not be distracted by another position.”
- “Properly compensated, full time councillors would be able to put all their efforts into ensuring proper management of this city.”
- “They would not have to juggle other jobs. Currently, there are a mix of situations where some councillors work full-time elsewhere, thus putting in much less time/effort as Councillor than others, who are treating this as full-time work, and are not getting paid for the effort they are putting in. It would equalize expectations of what a Councillor is expected to do.”
- “Municipal issues have become increasingly complex. A full time Council will be more accessible.”
- “To allow proper consideration of issues – review documentation, consult with experts/residents. Meet with other councillors to come up with solutions that benefit the most parties. This might help reduce some of the crazy long council meetings that happen! Good decisions don't happen at 1 a.m.!!”
- “From interacting with my local councillors, this seems like a lot of work. I can't imagine trying to do it as a part-time job and tacking another job on top. This should absolutely be a full-time job.”



Other respondents saw treating the position as full-time as a way to attract stronger candidates:

- “Having full-time councillors opens the door to more potential candidates who may not be able to afford to leave their current employment.”
- “Better candidates running for council. Full time attention to council work.”
- “Keeps the job from being only available to affluent candidates.”
- “Then a person who does not have an alternative source of income could take on the position of Councillor and still pay the bills. As it is, Councillors need another source of income, like a pension.”
- “This leads to a skewing of the age of Councillors. I'm OK with older, smart people, but I don't like to exclude younger, smart people.”
- “More diversity among candidates. A full-time job would appeal to more and different kinds of people. Most people can't afford to live on a part time salary and would have to work another job or rely on another income on top of this one. More people may want to participate, but can't afford to live with a part-time income. Part time jobs are most attractive to retired people or people with other sources of income. Then, if elected, their commitment may be split between their "real" job and being a Councillor. Being a Councillor is important, requires full time commitment, and warrants a full-time income.”

Critics of the idea emphasized the idea that serving on a local Council is a form of public service not “a forty hour a week job” and that Councillors should stay connected to the Guelph community through a job while many others were unwilling to pay the costs. For example,

- “Pay for the work they do, not for the title.”
- “Not enough work to be 40 hours a week.”
- “It's a calling to one's civic duty not a job.”
- “We don't need professional politicians.”
- “It's important for local government representatives to be working in the community as well as serving it!”
- “The need for full time councillors is not there. So allowing councillors to work amongst the citizens they represent allows them to be seen by the public more.”
- “May attract a broader group of individuals to apply for the position.”



- “I do not like the idea of having full time ‘politicians’ deciding on our future. Let it be some people with a great sense of community and who show their love for our city and neighbourhoods.”
- “Prevents ‘institutionalization’ of the councillors. However, with increasing responsibilities full time might in the end be required.”
- “They only really work Part-time anyways, meetings are not held 8 hours a day.”
- “Work life balance for Councillors. There are many people who might feel that leaving a current occupation to serve on council full time would have a detrimental effect on their career/employment and so would choose not to seek election even though they would be good in the position. I think a part-time commitment makes it easier for more people to consider running for election.”
- “City staff run the city with council oversight. Council is not a full-time job.”
- “Because it is less political and more pro the inhabitants of a ward, since even though they are pay for their time, they don't depend solely on the Councillor job, and that makes them more in tune with the actual living conditions/struggles of the community they represent.”
- “Part-time councillors would have more background experience/knowledge of the working world around them. They can still work full time or part time in their existing career.”
- “I would hope councillors are more imbedded in their neighbourhoods/wards and what goes on there, not just applying for a full-time job as a councillor.”
- “People can continue their work while working as a councillor. We don’t need full time professional politicians.”
- “I am wary of turning the city councillor role into a full-time job, as this would tend to attract opportunistic career politicians more concerned with their own re-election rather than with the concerns of their wards. It's not a job, really. It's a form of community service for which councillors should receive honoraria and expenses rather than salaries and benefits. This is an argument for keeping our ward- based system with two councillors per ward. City council should not be populated by the same people year in and year out. But there are problems with part-time in that business people and retirees tend to have the time and flexibility needed to serve. And regardless of full- or part-time status, huge swathes of the community have little incentive to serve and would not/cannot take a break from family commitments and/or career commitments.”
- “Keeps costs down.”



- “Less of a burden on the tax payer due to lower salaries.”
- “Salary. Works fine. Why fix what’s not broken? Our councillors work hard, are available. Don’t need full time. Whose idea is this anyway? Leave well enough alone. We are not a big city.”
- “Guelph is a relatively small city. It is city staff that propose and prepare policies for council's consideration. Part time means less politicization of issues.”
- “We are not a large city, keeping up with say Mississauga or London is not necessary. They need to be efficient. Our taxes are high enough now without having to add full time salaries to the mix.”

Moving from part-time and full-time Councillors will involve an increased cost. The current total annual compensation cost for the 12 Councillors is \$578,319. This represents a salary of \$41,528 per Councillor plus benefits. The estimates in Figure 10 below for full-time Councillors are based on the assumption that the salary level would double to \$83,056 and the benefits would also be adjusted. This is an estimate because Council could set the salary figure at any amount. The actual compensation for Guelph Councillors after the next election will be considered by the Council Remuneration Advisory Committee, a body composed of citizen volunteers.

This estimate was chosen for purposes of illustration. This figure would make Councillors for the City of Guelph the lowest paid full-time Councillors in Ontario.



Figure 10  
Comparison of Current Cost for 12 Part-time to  
Costs of Select Number of Full-time Councillors

For this number of full-time Councillors	This would be the total cost of compensation	This is the current cost of Councillor compensation	This would be the additional cost of compensation beyond the current compensation
6	\$593,268	\$578,319	\$14,964
8	\$791,024	\$578,319	\$212,720
10	\$988,780	\$578,319	\$410,476
12	\$1,186,536	\$578,319	\$608,232

It is likely that full-time Councillors would want to have full-time staff support of some type. Figure 11 below provides information supplied by the City of Guelph about the cost of salary and benefits associated with some positions that would likely meet the needs of Council.

Figure 11  
Compensation Costs of Selected Positions

Position	Total Compensation (Salary Plus Benefits)
Executive Assistant	\$111,800
Policy Analyst	\$111,800
Administrative Assistant	\$90,350



Full-time Councillors would likely want office space in City Hall and additional common space such as a meeting room. There would also need to be office space for support staff. This could involve one-time renovation cost to create any additional office space needed. There would also be the cost of equipping new offices with office furnishings.

We were unable to estimate the one-time costs associated with renovations at City Hall. However, City staff have provided an estimate of these renovation costs in the accompanying staff report.

There would be some additional cost in accepting this idea but based on our research and the viewpoints expressed by residents of Guelph in the public engagement activities, Council must decide whether it wants to continue the status quo. The present arrangement restricts the type of people who can afford to make themselves available to run for office and forces people to make sacrifices to become a Councillor, but there is a case that compensating Councillors at a full-time wage so that they can concentrate primarily on their Council responsibilities is now appropriate.

Our recommendation whether Councillors should serve on full-time basis and should be compensated accordingly is found in Chapter 7 (see below).

## 7. Recommendations

We began this report by asking five questions:

- How many Councillors should sit on the Council?
- Should elections be at-large or ward-based?
- How many Councillors should be elected per ward?
- How many wards should there be?
- Should the role of Councillors be understood to be (and paid) as full-time or part-time?

The purpose of this section is to provide recommendations related to these five inter-related questions. These issues cannot be addressed in isolation because the number of Councillors is related to the number of wards and the number of members per ward. In order to deal with this inter-relatedness, we begin by establishing two guiding principles drawn from the information we obtained from public consultation and personal interviews. These principles then guided us in forming our recommendations.



### **Principle 1. The City of Guelph should have at least six wards.**

The City of Guelph has functioned with six wards in the past and residents are comfortable with that number. Guelph, however, has fewer wards than other comparable cities and is planning on significant growth. The City of Guelph could continue to operate with six wards, but there are good reasons for considering an increase in that number.

### **Principle 2. The City of Guelph should have no more than 12 Councillors.**

Respondents to the survey indicated that they were comfortable with the current number of Councillors and there was little appetite for an increase. Interviews with Councillors indicated some concern that 12 Councillors slowed down and complicated the decision-making process. Comparison with other municipalities indicated 12 Councillors was within the norm. There seems to be no compelling argument to increase the current number of Councillors, but some have suggested that the system would work better with fewer Councillors.

Working with those two principles we have developed the following recommendations that begin with an affirmation that Guelph should continue to elect councillors by ward (implicit in our first principle) followed by the question of the number of councillors per ward. (our second principle). With those questions determined, council can then address the appropriate number of wards leading to the determination of the total number of councillors. The employment status of councillors will be influenced by Council's responses to the first three recommendations.

### **Recommendation 1. The City of Guelph should continue to use a ward system.**

Large and medium-size cities generally employ a ward system because it recognizes that there are real differences in different parts of the City and it is important that each of those areas is represented. The results of the survey and interviews with Councillors indicated a great deal of support for the continuation of a ward system.

### **Recommendation 2. The City of Guelph should switch to a system of one member per ward.**

Using a system of one member per ward would provide the City of Guelph with more flexibility in choosing its governance system than it has currently.





If the City of Guelph wanted to retain the two-member per ward system, there is little room to maneuver within the two principles established above. The only way to reduce the size of Council would be to reduce the number of wards, but Guelph is growing and already has fewer wards than comparable cities. There was also little support for a reduction in the number of wards.

If the City of Guelph wanted to retain the two-member ward system and increase the number of wards, the number of Councillors would increase by two for each additional ward. This is not the direction in which people expressed a desire to move.

A system of one member per ward would allow the City to increase the number of wards and decrease the number of Councillors simultaneously.

This is not in agreement with the majority view of those who responded to the survey, although a significant minority did support one-member wards. It is understandable that residents are more comfortable with a system that has been in place for almost thirty years. The views of Councillors and staff who work in the system, however, as well as experience elsewhere, lead us to conclude that one-member wards would solve issues that frequently arise both between the two Councillors in the same ward and the working arrangements with City staff.

**Recommendation 3. The City of Guelph should have eight single-member wards.**

This would move the City of Guelph in the direction that many people advocated in two dimensions. As a growing city, Guelph would now have two additional wards at the same time that it has four fewer Councillors.

If the City chose not to settle on eight Councillors, it could easily move to six, ten, or even 12 either now or in the future.

**Recommendation 4. Councillors for the City of Guelph should be considered full-time Councillors and should be compensated accordingly.**

The current Councillors, who are considered part-time, have a significant workload. This will certainly increase as the City grows. Reducing the number of Councillors will further increase the workload falling on the remaining Councillors. Reducing the number of Councillors will also reduce the impact of the increased cost associated with full-time Councillors.



## 8. Potential Next Step – A Ward Boundary Review

If one of the decisions taken at the conclusion of Phase 1 is to maintain a ward system in Guelph, Phase 2 will take that direction from Council to develop alternative ward options for consideration by the community and Council early in 2021.

This review will occur even if it is Council's decision to retain six wards, since the present wards have not been subject to a comprehensive review since they were established in 1990. The only adjustments in ward boundaries since that time occurred in 2006 when the northern boundary of Ward 5 west of Woolwich Street was moved from the CNR line to Waterloo Avenue and the southern boundary moved from Stone Road closer to Kortright Road and in 2016 when the boundary between Wards 5 and 6 just west of Victoria Road South was realigned to take account of a subdivision built since 2006. In the latter case, a total of 38 properties were reallocated between the wards.

Electoral divisions like wards are intended to reflect the distribution of population at a given time and, since Guelph's population has increased from approximately 91,000 in 1991 to approximately 132,000 in 2016, the present wards do not reflect that change (see Figure 2 above).

Terms of Reference for Phase 2 were approved by Council in July 2019 (Report CS-2019-61 "2018-2022 Council Composition and Employment Status Review") and will be applicable even in the context of the changes to the way the review will be conducted under restrictions related to the COVID-19 global pandemic. The ward boundary review will undertake to develop wards that adhere to a number of specific guiding principles, subject to the overriding principle of effective representation. Information on the process, the guiding principles, and opportunities for public participation in the review will be available by mid-November through <https://www.haveyoursay.guelph.ca/>.



# Appendices



# Appendix A

## Public Consultation



# Appendix A: Public Consultation

## The Importance of Community Engagement in Guelph

Guelph strives to make decisions that are sustainable, reflect the common good, provide transparency in decision making, and are grounded in understanding and support by the community. It is through this lens that the review seeks to engage citizens and stakeholders. The City of Guelph is guided by a community engagement framework that guides those decision-making activities by goals that will:

1. Support the City's strategic goals through transparent, accountable, consistent, and accessible community engagement.
2. Build engagement opportunities that inspire community stakeholders to shape Guelph's future.
3. Support decisions that reflect the common good for all Guelphites now and in the future.
4. Build community stakeholder trust in the City of Guelph's decision-making process.

In order to provide Council with an independent recommendation, Council strongly endorsed that the review be supported by wide-ranging community engagement and best practices. The City of Guelph has a well-developed and defined community engagement framework and the review's public engagement strategy has been prepared in accordance with this framework.

## Principles Guiding the Project's Public Consultation

The community engagement strategy and public engagement component is considered a critical part of the review and is grounded in the following principles:

- Providing input to the work being done by the Consultant Team as they develop their recommendations to Council.
- Engaging the people of Guelph in a manner that provides valuable input to the evaluation of council composition and employment status of councillors, and the existing ward structure alongside alternative approaches being presented.



- Educating residents on the context/background and the key factors that are being considered and ensure that they understand why this is happening and the impact of decisions being made.
- Inspiring confidence in local decision making and a transparent process.
- Enhancing the ability of City of Guelph residents and ultimately decision makers to make sound assessments about the democratic structure of Guelph.
- Expanding the diversity of community members' voices and support to decisions that seek to make change or to maintain the status quo.

### **Community Engagement Purpose, Objectives, and Goals for the Project**

The review incorporates a comprehensive public engagement component which includes two distinct phases of public consultation – Round 1 and Round 2.

The purpose of the public engagement component is two-fold:

- Inform residents of Guelph about the context and reasons for the review and the key factors that are being considered in the review; and
- Engage the residents in a manner that provides valuable input to the development and design of council composition, employment status, and ward boundary options which reflect municipal vision.

The community engagement and public consultation objectives and goals for the two phases are:

1. Engage with City of Guelph, designated stakeholders, and external stakeholders to accumulate insights of the City's current electoral system approach and identify what works, issues and options for evaluation, and further development to understand and evaluate the present and potential future considerations.
2. Engage with as many citizens of Guelph as is possible and stakeholders over the two phases of the project.
  - Interact and converse through 1,300 engagements with City of Guelph citizens and designated stakeholders over the two phases of the project and motivate them to learn more and provide their comments, considerations, and opinions including perspectives on what works, issues



and options for evaluation, and further development which will be utilized in reports on the project with Council. Given past experiences with engagements on this kind of topic in other communities, this numerical goal seemed aspirational.

- Build engagement opportunities through virtual, online or otherwise facilitated by digital tools and platform interaction that reach a cross range representative of the citizen population and allows for multiple forms of participation.

## **Consultation Process Overview**

### Consultation Program

Public and stakeholder engagement and consultation played an important role in shaping the Phase 1 review report. As well, this round of consultation is helping feed into the report recommendations by giving consideration to citizens' shared ideas, advice, and concerns.

HaveYourSay.Guelph.ca/council-composition, the project's online engagement page and portal was created and launched. It contained as much as possible for citizens to use: the project timeline, main contact people, background resources information, and community feedback data gathering tools. It was designed to provide an easy and secure way for the citizens of Guelph to participate and give their feedback when and where it was convenient for them, 24 hours a day. The City's website had a page (guelph.ca/council) for sharing general information on the project, timeline, and how and where to engage more. It was launched in March 2020.

### The Consultation Period

The first round of public consultation was completed during the period August 17 to September 4, 2020.

The public consultation in Round 1 was intended to inform the public about the review and to be able to provide their insights and advice to the Consultant Team as input to inform their Phase 1 Report recommendations to Council specific to council composition and employment status, with key questions around:

- How many Councillors?



- How many Councillors per ward?
- At-large or ward elections?
- How many wards?
- Full-time or part-time Councillors?

### Synopsis of Engagement Methodologies that were Used to Generate Community Input

Members of the community provided their feedback to help shape the review through an online survey which ran the duration of the campaign, one live town hall webinar on August 25, the City's Engagement HQ project website portal [HaveYourSay.Guelph.ca/council-composition](https://HaveYourSay.Guelph.ca/council-composition), and selected platform tools that allow ways for citizens to become aware, informed, and engage in the topic. In addition, the engagement activities included City-led emails and newsletter updates and other methods of correspondence including updates to Council to encourage engagement of their local community residents. City staff reached out to more than 200 community organizations using the most comprehensive and up-to-date list they possessed. Virtual office hours were held by City staff with dedicated time slots posted on the project website and shared in correspondence and on the City's site with a goal to ensure the public had the opportunity to speak directly, one-on-one with someone live. This added level of support was for people who were uncomfortable with digital communications, or who were uncomfortable writing their ideas in a survey. It was hoped this high-touch addition might help engagement feel more "normal" or "familiar" during a time when COVID-19 challenges the public consultation process around what is normal. Interestingly, nobody took advantage of these opportunities.

### Consultation Activities

The feedback and comments received from Round 1 of consultation are reflected in the analysis presented herein. The following is a summary of the Phase 1 engagement activities and tools deployed. Further details on the feedback from the public and input received are provided in appendices.

### Dedicated Project Engagement Website Hub – [HaveYourSay.Guelph.ca/council-composition](https://HaveYourSay.Guelph.ca/council-composition)

The site was set up for the public to:

- Ask questions and get answers;





- Review background information;
- Register to keep in touch;
- Share ideas;
- Indicate where they live on a map; and,
- Make recommendations.

Tools used on the site for engagement over the period include activities and measures for awareness, informing, and engagement with the information.

### Specific Tools Used for Phase 1 on the Project Website

**Consultant-Generated Short Background Documents (Inform)** – On each of these topics a downloadable PDF was posted including a study overview, current electoral system, at large or ward comparisons, full- or part-time Councillors, size of Council and ward structure. Each contain definitions and explanations and comparisons with other cities of similar size in Ontario.

**City Council Composition Review Survey (Engage)** – The 10-minute survey of 12 questions (with only four required, the rest optional) ran for the full consultation period. The public's considerations have been combined and have influenced research to help build this report and can help in framing ward boundary considerations. The Phase 1 survey sought input on:

- The size of Council in total;
- How Councillors should be elected, from wards or at large;
- If Councillors are to be elected from wards, how many Councillors to elect from each ward; and,
- Whether the role is seen as a part-time or full-time position.

Respondents were given the opportunity to explain why they recommend each of their choices.

There were three optional questions at the outset designed to give respondents a few moments to collect their thoughts and examine their personal assumptions before diving into the main questions. The first was an open-ended question about their vision of what they might see as a result of having a successfully composed Council. The second and third were closed-ended questions about what they see as the primary role of Council and Councillors.



Since the four key questions included an option for respondents to explain their ideas, then the researchers have a richer understanding of the thinking behind the numbers.

**Question and Answer Area (Engage and Inform)** – For citizens to ask a question about the composition or design of Guelph City Council for response by staff or the Consultant Team. These came through the site directly and also housed questions following the live event that were asked and responded to during the live stream, and captured those that could not be answered because the event ran out of time.

**Map with Current Ward Boundaries (Engage)** – Optional for citizens to “drop a pin” in the ward where they live. This tool will be far more important in phase two. Introducing it in phase one has added value in that it prepares people to recognize it and use it later.

**Video (Inform)** – The panel discussion recording of the live virtual town hall was hosted on the site following the event.

**Project Timeline (Inform)** – Each phase of the entire project lifecycle is posted on the site which remains up throughout the duration of the project.

#### Virtual Town Hall Panel Discussion Live Event (Inform/Engage)

A live-streamed panel discussion and presentation occurred on Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. It was moderated by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. and ICA Associates, and included opening comments from the General Manager, City Clerk’s Office, and two of the project’s consulting experts, a Public Affairs Consultant and a Municipal Governance and Administration Consultant.

The session focused on informing about the project and timelines, providing background for the big questions of Phase 1 through a series of short presentations, collecting comments from all sources and putting the questions to the panelists. Questions that could not be answered along with those that were, were collected and posted with responses on the project website.

Audience participants were encouraged on numerous occasions to ask questions and share their ideas through the webinar chat function or through comments on the Facebook live stream. These were collected and consolidated throughout the event into a shared document being reviewed by the moderator during the event. The moderator



grouped the questions by topic as they were being collected. There was duplication among the questions, yet the entire range of questions were posed to the panelists and answered live for 30 minutes.

After the event, the questions and answers were added to the appropriate section of the [haveyoursay.guelph.ca/council-composition](http://haveyoursay.guelph.ca/council-composition) website.

The virtual town hall panel discussion was streamed live in exactly the same manner as the City's council meetings. Participants could attend using Webex, or watch it live streamed on the City's Facebook page and the City's council page. The event was also recorded and posted on the City's website and Facebook page for viewing at any time. It was intended for re-broadcast on Rogers Cable TV.

#### Dedicated Virtual City Office Hours (Inform/Engage)

Four City staff allocated four two-hour time blocks for residents to be able to call and speak in person with the General Manager, City Clerk's Office, or the Manager, Legislative Services/Deputy City Clerk. Two times were allocated prior to the town hall and two following. Citizens were also encouraged to email the City or write letters.

#### Communication and Promotional Tactics Summary

The following were used to promote the online town hall, survey, and other engagement opportunities:

##### DIGITAL

##### *City Website Content Updates*

Content was updated to include Phase 1 engagement opportunities, key dates, and online meeting. Also included: event listings for open office hours, media releases in a latest news updates feed, and resources on separate subpages to educate our audience prior to engagement.

##### *Event Calendar Listings*

Public Notice – Used to promote the August 25 virtual town hall

Email to Mayor and Council – Request to promote the August 25 virtual town hall



Council splash screen – displayed at the August 12 Special City Council meeting and the August 24 City Council meeting

YouTube video tile – Up following the virtual town hall to share the recording

Screenscapes – Ran the campaign duration with Guelph's public library, select City department/services landing pages and Guelph transit.

Social media – Posts and interactions on the City's Facebook page, Instagram and Twitter

EHQ newsletter – Covered in eblast just prior to consultation period date

## ADVERTISING

Various promotional paid advertising to get the message out through ads on City news;

- Guelph Today digital advertising through daily headline emails and banners on their website;
- social media boosts to promote the online event on Facebook to the broader city
- and on Instagram to specifically target younger and student audiences;
- mobile signs placed strategically in the City which ran with rotating messages throughout the campaign period. It's important to note that one mobile sign was located in each ward, in high-traffic areas located in parks and active transportation routes where audiences likely had more time to pause, pull out a phone and either take a picture for later or visit the website.

## Phase 1 Public Consultation and Engagement Results

### Overview Summary

Citizen engagement through the consultation period exceeded expectations. The Phase 1 review garnered much interest by the public mainly with thanks to communication activities and promotional tactics. The response rate to the survey, engagement on the site and through the live event were representative of citizens across the City (demographics postal codes were gathered) and in age, although youth were not well represented in the phase. Just over half the survey respondents said they had learned something new about council composition from participating in the review.



The most important results to note is that the survey had 670 respondents from August 17 to September 4. The engagement tool itself categorizes visitor interactions on a scale from low to higher levels of engagement.

The following are some additional highlights from the EHQ analytics.

1. Resources were widely used.

There were 461 downloads of documents from the resource library by 166 people during the consultation period. People continue to download the documents and the count is currently over 550. This project relies heavily on residents understanding the dynamics of various council makeups. The resources were intended to help residents achieve a base level sense of knowledge of the project to help them decide how they picture Council in the next few decades. Downloads have exceeded expectations.

2. Participants came from different parts of the City.

The project team's goal was to achieve participation in all wards with little disparity between them. The survey asked participants for their postal code, which shows location in each ward. Visitors were from widely dispersed postal codes. During the second phase of the project (ward boundary review), site visitors will be more strongly urged to indicate in which ward they live.

3. People learned from their experience.

About half the survey respondents indicated they had learned something new about council composition from participating in the survey. While that may not be high, the other half considered themselves to be already well informed. Judging by the thoughtfulness of the open-ended answers, this seems very likely.

4. The most popular age range to complete the survey was 35-44. There were fewer survey respondents under the age of 24 and over the age of 75.

5. Those who are interested are really interested.

Survey respondents only had a few closed-ended questions but almost everyone – usually more than 500 people – wanted to explain their reasons for their choices. Many understood the interconnected nature of their choices and took pains to explain their thinking. Inside the survey responses there were surprisingly few off-topic comments.



## Project Engagement Site Results

### Visitors Summary

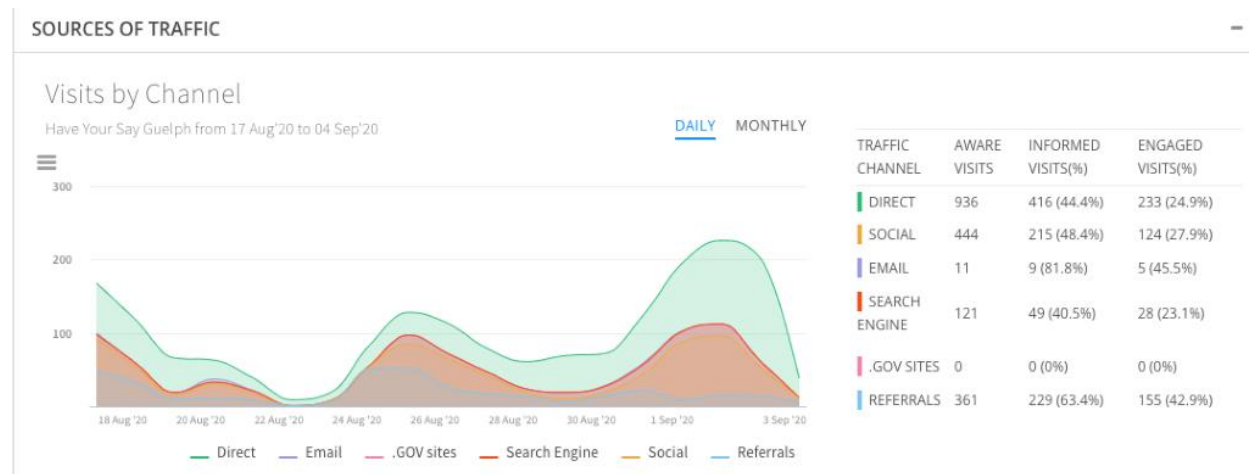
- The highest number of visitors per day was 219. There were three waves of participation corresponding with: the launch of the consultation period, the live webinar, and the final two days before the end of the consultation period.
- The majority of the people came to the site directly (936) and from social media (444).

Table 16  
Visitor Sources Summary

Total visitors	2,200
Direct visitors	1075
Social media visitors	529
Email visitors	13
Search engine visitors	178
Referrals	421

### Visits by Channel

The following information is generated by the engagement tool itself and does not capture the engagements from emails or telephone calls to City staff. It is worth noting this information as it relates to the City's successful advertising and communication efforts.





### Survey Tool

The survey was the most important source of insights and input to researchers, and participation was higher than hoped.

- There were 914 visitors that went to the survey with 670 completed.
- Of those who chose to share their postal code, there were 20 City of Guelph postal codes represented.
- More than 500 people completed every optional question to explain their choices. They generated thousands of data points in their comments.

### Questions and Answers Tool

- There were 125 visitors
- 33 visitors posted questions and 27 were answered publicly (4 were duplicate questions). 2 questions were answered privately because they were deemed out of scope.
- Questions raised during the town hall live presentation were answered live then copied from the Facebook and Webex chats to the Question and Answer section of the engagement site.

### Places Tool

- 38 visitors looked at the map and 14 individuals identified the ward where they live by placing a virtual “pin” on the map.

### Virtual Live Town Hall Results

The virtual town hall took place on August 25. There were 122 total participants watching on Facebook, [guelph.ca/live](https://guelph.ca/live), and on Webex. The breakdown is as follows:

- 39 participants watched on Facebook.
- 33 participants watched on Webex.
- 50 participants watched on [guelph.ca/live](https://guelph.ca/live).
- At 2.4k and growing, the video is one of the most frequently viewed on the City’s Facebook channel.
- Numbers of viewers of the re-broadcast on Rogers Cable are not known.



### Contacting the City Directly Results

- Total number of emails, letters, or telephone calls with citizen comments was 25.
- Number of people that called during dedicated call-in office hours was zero.
- Three calls from the public outside the advertised call-in time.
- Manually entering in answers to the survey questions on behalf of callers accounts for the difference between number of individual respondents and number of surveys completed.

### **Communication Results that Helped Drive Engagement**

#### Media Coverage

- 19 stories were run since March 2020 through September 4, 2020.
- 7 of the 19 stories were letters to the editor or opinion pieces.

#### Social Media

The City's communications staff executed targeted campaigns that generated an impressive reach.

- Total reach between Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, both boosted and organic was an exceptional 99,418.
  - 41,179 reach on Facebook with 2,146 engagements and 271 link clicks.
  - 44,485 reach on Twitter with 1,704 engagements with 4,905 link clicks to the project website; 118 retweets on Twitter.
  - 1 Instagram add targeted to reach students and youth and especially ones expressing an interested in policy.
- There were 2,400 video views of the virtual town hall on Facebook with 89 clicks to share following the event.
- 766 clicks from social media to the website.
- 124 total comments on social media (including the town hall video).
- 89 shares on Facebook.

#### City-Hall website page for project

- 320 visitors to home page with 241 unique visitors.
- 135 unique visits to the Council composition page. 58 unique visits to the ward boundaries page.





- People spent longer than the average amount of time on these pages than others on the City's website, anywhere from 1.5 to 2.5 minutes.



# Appendix B

## Ward-Based Versus At-Large System Advantages and Disadvantages



## Appendix B: Ward-Based Versus At-Large System Advantages and Disadvantages

### Implications of an At-Large System of Representation

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Electors have greater choice and flexibility in elections (each voter has the opportunity to consider every candidate in the Council election).</li><li>• Electors are able to select the candidates they think will do the best job, rather than having to make a choice among candidates who happen to run in their ward.</li><li>• Residents will have a larger number of Councillors to approach with their concerns.</li><li>• The system promotes the concept of a City-wide focus, with Councillors being elected by, and concerned for, the City as a whole, rather than placing a priority on more parochial interests.</li><li>• The likelihood of acclamations is reduced.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Candidates must campaign across the entire City; this may make the cost of a campaign prohibitive (especially for newcomers).</li><li>• There would be no designated voices for particular communities or localities within the municipality.</li><li>• At-large elections can lead to significant communities of interest and points of view being unrepresented (or under-represented).</li><li>• The system can lead to Councillors being relatively inaccessible for residents of some parts of the City.</li><li>• Candidates who appeal to areas where voter turnout is highest tend to be elected disproportionately.</li><li>• The format can lead to confusion of responsibilities and duplication of effort on the part of Councillors (everybody on a Council represents everybody in the municipality).</li><li>• Large numbers of candidates on the ballot can be confusing for voters.</li></ul>



## Implications of a Ward System of Representation

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Councillors are more likely to be truly local representatives, easily accessible to residents and aware of local issues.</li><li>• Significant communities of interest are more likely to be represented.</li><li>• It is less likely that one particular point of view or sectional interest will dominate the Council.</li><li>• Provides more cost-efficient government, primarily by eliminating duplication of administrative work communicating the same information to and from two or more Councillors.</li><li>• Simplifies the election process for electors.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Councillors may be elected on minor or parochial issues and lack a perspective of what is to the benefit of the City as a whole.</li><li>• Ward boundaries may divide communities of interest which may be difficult to define.</li><li>• Voters may have a restricted choice of candidates in elections for individual wards.</li><li>• There is a greater likelihood of acclamations.</li><li>• There may be problems if a Councillor is not performing effectively or is clashing with some electors, as electors for that ward have no alternative (knowledgeable) Councillor to approach.</li><li>• Ward boundaries may be susceptible to frequent change caused by demographic shifts.</li><li>• Population changes can lead to unequal workloads for Councillors until ward boundaries are reviewed.</li><li>• If a Councillor resigns or dies, it may be necessary to hold a by-election to select a replacement.</li><li>• May discourage new candidates if an incumbent is generally popular or if an incumbent who is popular with a dominant community of interest is running.</li></ul>



# Appendix C

## Time Commitment to Council Activities



## Appendix C: Time Commitment to Council Activities

Time Commitment to Council Activities  
(hours per month)

Question	Number Who Responded	Range	Average
Approximately how many hours do you spend attending meetings of Council and Committee of the Whole in an average month?	11	10-24 hours	17 hours
Approximately how many hours do you spend reading and preparing for Council and Committee of the Whole meetings in an average month?	11	5-34 hours	15.27 hours
Approximately how many hours do you spend attending other meetings of committees directly related to the City of Guelph (Police Services Board, Conservation Authority, etc.) in an average month?	11	1-13.5 hours	5.64 hours
Approximately how many hours do you spend meeting with constituents (including meeting with staff and others to deal with constituent issues) in an average month?	10	4-20 hours	10.5 hours
Approximately how many hours do you spend meeting with other Councillors and staff to deal with internal City issues in an average month?	11	2-10 hours	4.05 hours
Approximately how many hours do you spend on activities related to municipal issues beyond the scope of the City of Guelph (AMO, FCM, etc.) in an average month?	9	1-10 hours	3.33 hours
Approximately how much time do you spend on Council related work not listed above in an average month? Please identify the type of activity and the hours spent.	9	4-54.4 hours	18.93 hours
Total time on direct Council business.	8	35-135.4 hours	78.36* hours



Question	Number Who Responded	Range	Average
Approximately how much time do you spend on service with other community groups not directly related to City of Guelph business, but that are important for your role as Councillor (service clubs, recreation associations, faith-based organizations, etc.) in an average month? If you're comfortable, please also provide examples of these organizations?	11	2-29 hours	9.64 hours
Total time on community and Council activity.	8	39.5-143.4	85.68* hours
Do you have full-time or part-time employment in addition to your role as a Councillor? If so, how much time do you spend on that employment in an average month?	9	0-200	57.44
On average, how many constituent emails do you receive weekly?	10	10-50	24.45
On average, how many constituent telephone calls do you receive weekly?	11	0-10	3.73

\*Averages include only data from Councillors who responded to all questions.



# Appendix D

## Councillor Compensation





# Appendix D: Councillor Compensation

## Councillor Compensation for Select Ontario Single-Tier and Lower-Tier Municipalities

### Single-Tier Municipality:

Municipality	Population 2016	Annual Compensation (\$)
Toronto	2,731,571	117,164 <sup>1</sup>
Ottawa	934,243	105,684 <sup>1</sup>
Hamilton	536,917	97,357 <sup>2</sup>
London	383,822	33,337 <sup>3</sup>
Windsor	217,188	45,748 <sup>1</sup>
Greater Sudbury	161,531	38,734 <sup>7</sup>
Barrie	141,434	32,125 <sup>2</sup>
Guelph	131,794	41,528 <sup>4</sup>
Kingston	123,798	40,000 <sup>2</sup>
Thunder Bay	107,909	30,672 <sup>8</sup>
Chatham-Kent	101,647	32,000 <sup>1</sup>

### Lower-Tier Municipalities (Double-Direct):

Municipality	Population 2016	Annual Compensation (\$)		
		Area Municipality	Upper-Tier	Total
Caledon	66,502	37,234 <sup>2</sup>	55,957 <sup>2</sup>	93,191
Mississauga	721,599	82,831	55,957 <sup>2</sup>	138,788
Vaughan	306,233	78,953 <sup>3</sup>	55,955 <sup>3</sup>	134,908
Oshawa	159,458	27,110 <sup>6</sup>	54,694 <sup>2</sup>	81,804
Pickering	91,771	35,317 <sup>2</sup>	54,694 <sup>2</sup>	90,011
Burlington	183,314	56,796 <sup>2</sup>	51,026 <sup>2</sup>	107,822

### Lower-Tier Municipalities (Direct):

Municipality	Population 2016	Annual Compensation (\$)	
		Area Municipality	Upper-Tier
Waterloo (City)	104,986	28,892 <sup>5</sup>	43,731 <sup>2</sup>
St. Catharines	133,113	21,029 <sup>2</sup>	30,204 <sup>4</sup>



Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Effective 2019

<sup>2</sup> 2018

<sup>3</sup> 2017

<sup>4</sup> 2020

<sup>5</sup> 2018, 1/3 is non-taxable

<sup>6</sup> 2017, 1/3 is non-taxable

<sup>7</sup> Average of remuneration of Councillors in 2018. This includes compensation of work on Council and committee(s)

<sup>8</sup> Base salary effective 2019 but before additional pay from sitting on outside boards (average \$2,650 in 2018)

Source: Population – 2016 Statistics Canada Census; Compensation – various websites



# Appendix E

## Media Coverage

## Appendix E - Media Coverage

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### Council composition and ward boundary review

#### Pre-launch

[City staff wants to review Council makeup, ward boundaries starting next year](#)

Guelph Today, April 2, 2019

[Guelph could see new wards, Council size in 2022](#)

Guelph Mercury-Tribune, June 27, 2019

[Opinion: Guelph city council review deserves strong public participation](#)

Guelph Mercury-Tribune, July 10, 2019

[More money sought to review Council makeup and ward boundaries](#)

Guelph Today, November 19, 2019

[Opinion: Remember, the Internet is more complicated than you think](#)

Guelph Today, Market Squared, May 9, 2020

[Changes to Guelph's council, ward could still be in place for 2022 election, despite COVID-19 delays](#)

Guelph Mercury-Tribune, July 28, 2020

[Review of ward boundaries, council make-up, voting methods back on track](#)

Guelph Today, July 30, 2020

Podcast: [Behind the scenes of the remote Council](#)

Guelph Politico, August 5, 2020

#### Phase 1: Council composition

[How many councillors does Guelph need? City wants your input](#)

Guelph Today, August 17, 2020

[Guelph reviews makeup of City council, ward boundaries](#)

Global News, August 17, 2020

[Guelph reviews city council composition and district boundaries](#)

The Canadian, August 17, 2020

[BLOG: Should we have part-time councillors? Should they serve wards or the community at-large?](#)

Ward 2 Guelph, August 17, 2020

[Composition of future Guelph councils now up for public discussion](#)

Guelph Mercury Tribune, August 18, 2020

[Council composition virtual town hall](#)

Rogers TV, August 18, 2020

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[Guelph council: Goal-setting is the first step in renewing our municipal democracy](#)  
Guelph Mercury-Tribune, August 20, 2020

[Letter to the editor: A smaller city council wouldn't be a good idea](#)  
Matt Saunders, Guelph Today, August 22, 2020

[Have your say about the composition of City council](#)  
Guelph Today, August 24, 2020

[Guelph hosting virtual town hall on structure of city council](#)  
Global News Kitchener, August 24, 2020

[Guelph hosting virtual town hall on structure of city council](#)  
MSN Canada, August 24, 2020

[Guelph hosting virtual town hall on structure of city council](#)  
Jump 106.9, August 24, 2020

[Guelph hosting virtual town hall on structure of city council](#)  
CFox News, August 24, 2020

[Letter to the Editor: A lot democratically wrong with invitation for input about future Guelph councils](#)  
Karen Farbridge, Guelph Mercury-Tribune, August 24, 2020

[Letter to the Editor: There are many advantages to having multiple councillors per ward](#)  
Kevin Bowman, Guelph Mercury-Tribune, August 27, 2020

[Opinion: A startling string of true clichés about trust](#)  
Adam Donaldson, Guelph Today, August 29, 2020

[Letter to the editor: In support of the ward system and full-time councillors](#)  
Guelph Today, September 1, 2020

[Letter to the editor: Guelph council review: I urge you to have your say](#)  
Guelph Mercury-Tribune, September 3, 2020

[Residents call on Guelph to "press the pause button", extend consultations on Council composition](#)  
Guelph Mercury-Tribune, September 4, 2020



# Appendix F

## Engagement Site Tool – Questions and Answers

## APPENDIX F Questions and Answers

### Context

The following questions and answers were collected from the City's engagement site tool called "Q & A". Visitors to the [HaveYourSay.Guelph.ca/council-composition](https://HaveYourSay.Guelph.ca/council-composition) site posted their questions themselves. In addition, questions were posted by city staff who cut and pasted them from a webex live event and Facebook livestream held August 25, 2020. Questions were received and directed to a relevant expert for an answer and the public was promised a three-day turnaround. Some answers came from the consulting team and some from the City Clerk's office. Questions posed at the livestreamed event were read aloud by a moderator and answered by panelists. For the record, questions captured at the virtual town hall (whether from Webex or Facebook chats) are documented separately at the end of this file, so a little repetition might be noticed by the reader.

**"We want to answer questions you have about the Council composition and ward boundary review. We're an open book. Ask us a question and we'll share the answer. "**

---

**Q. Susan asked a question during the webex virtual townhall. How has the ratio of population to representation changed over the years in Guelph?**

A. The table below shows the trend since the current system of 12 councillors elected from six wards has been in place.

Census year	Number of Councillors	Population	Population per Councillor
1991	12	87,976	7,331
2001	12	106,170	8,848
2011	12	121,700	10,142
2016	12	131,705	10,975

---

**Q. Susan asked this question during the virtual townhall chat. What does research show about the number of women and minorities elected in at-large vs. ward systems?**

A. At this point we are not aware of any research in Ontario that addresses this issue. There is a new database that should allow research on this question, but this database has only become available recently.

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**Q. Susan asked this question at the webex virtual townhall. Any data/research which shows whether full-time or part-time positions support the participation of women or minorities?**

A. We are not aware of any research on this issue. The relatively small number of municipalities with full-time councillors in Ontario would make it difficult to do very much research which

would yield statistically significant results. We understand that other aspects of female representation are being considered and may be viewed at [nosecondchances.ca](https://nosecondchances.ca)([External link](#))

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**Q. Susan asked this question at the webex virtual townhall: Do these other cities also have part-time councillors, or are they full-time?**

A. Our research indicates that only three cities in Ontario pay councillors what could be considered full-time pay—Toronto, Ottawa, and Hamilton. All three of these cities use single-member wards.

---

**Q. This question was asked on Facebook: Is there a breakdown of projected population growth by ward as they are currently available at this time? Seems it might be helpful in making this decision (answer: slide #26)**

A. These projections are available and they will be used in drawing ward boundaries in Phase 2 of this project. It is a widespread practice in drawing ward boundaries that current populations as well as projections into the future are considered. In the Guelph ward boundary review we will use population projections to 2030 to design wards for the next three municipal elections (2022, 2026 and 2030). Wards need to be of reasonably equal size now, but it is undesirable to change ward boundaries too frequently so both current population and future growth are considered.

---

**Q. Anonymous Southie asked this question at the webex townhall: Is it better to have wards of different sizes and populations to match the distinct neighbourhoods in Guelph (which are of different sizes), or keep wards equivalent populations but blend more than one unique neighbourhood?**

A. You point to an inevitable problem in creating wards. Wards should have relatively equal populations (one person, one vote), but they should also be built around existing communities of interest. Sometimes these two considerations can work at cross-purposes. This can be a problem in drawing ward boundaries, but usually a reasonable compromise can be worked out that involves recognizing these two (and other) considerations but bending to a certain extent. There are very few examples of municipalities using wards of different sizes and presumably electing different numbers of councillors. One we are aware of is Chatham-Kent where this came about as a result of an amalgamation in 1998. It seems to work reasonably well there because of the historical circumstances. Niagara Falls used a similar system in the 1960s and 1970s as a product of an amalgamation, but eventually eliminated it. One crucial consideration in a system of this kind is that it would give an advantage to the residents of some wards not others; that is, some people could get to vote for two or three members of council and others only one. This would not be an equitable system.

---



**Q. Corrie asked this question on Facebook. Are there any advantages to having "councillors - at-large" added to one councillor per ward.**

A. This mixed system was used in most large cities in Ontario in the 19th and early 20th century. The at-large members formed what was called the Board of Control. This was abandoned in most places in the 1960s or 1970s. It caused tension around the council table because it created two classes of councillors. Thunder Bay has used this system as a product of the amalgamation that created the city in 1970. By most accounts it has worked well there because it has a lengthy history. Kingston instituted a mixed system like this when it was reorganized by amalgamation in 1998. It abandoned the system after one term. A form of this is used in some regional governments where regional councillors are elected at-large and serve on the councils of area municipalities.

The lesson seems to be that this system can work where it has historical roots or is a by-product of a larger system such as regional government. However, the fact that it can create two classes of councillor has caused other municipalities to steer away from it. It is not clear what role a number of councillors-at-large would play in Guelph.

---

**Q. Denese asked a question on Facebook: With the idea of growing demand how would it be if we would had 7 Councillors and 7 wards would that relieve the growing demand of the citizens on the Councillors**

A. Reducing the number of councillors from 12 to seven would increase the workload on those councillors. Of course, if they became full-time the expectation would be that they could devote full-time to their council work. The alternative of reducing the number of councillors is open to Guelph City Council and will be addressed in the Phase 1 report to Council in November.

---

**Q. Michelle asked a question on Facebook: What is the average number of councilors per capita in a city of comparable size for our projected 2040 population?**

A. The table below shows the population per councillors for comparable municipalities in 2020. It is difficult to project forward to 2040 and, in fact, our review is aimed at designing wards based on population projections out to 2030, not 2040. A reasonable assumption would be that whatever changes affect Guelph over the next 20 years would have a similar impact on these comparable municipalities, so the actual numbers will change, but the relationship between them will likely stay approximately the same.

Municipality	Population	Number of Councillors	Population/Councillors
Sudbury	168,813	12	14067.8
Barrie	149,302	10	14930.2
Guelph	143,169	12	11930.8
Kingston	135,204	12	11267.0

Thunder Bay	112,740	12	9395.0
Chatham-Kent	105,666	17	6215.6

---

**Q. During our recent townhall the following question was asked: How would changing the number or configuration of the wards affect the distribution and cost of services and/or community funding?**

A. Wards are part of the election system in Guelph. It is our understanding that the delivery of services in the City is not affected by the configuration of wards. Therefore, a change in the ward system would have no impact on the distribution and cost of services or other aspects of community funding.

---

**Q. How many Councillors (probably "Aldermen" at that time) did we have in 1909 when the population of Guelph was 11,500? Were they full or part-time?**

A. Reaching too far back in history can be a bit murky. According to the Canadian Encyclopedia the number of councillors fluctuated between 11 and 18 from Guelph's founding in 1856 until 1930 when it was fixed at 11 councillors elected at-large (<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/guelph#:~:text=Guelph%2C%20Ontario%2C%20incorporated%20as%20a,km%20east%20of%20Kitchener%2DWaterloo.>) This was changed to 12 councillors elected from six two-member wards for the 1991 election. Throughout this time, all councillors have been part-time.

---

**Q. Why have "student populations" been excluded from the "Population per Ward" Table 1 in the background document: "Guelph's Current Electoral System"? Roughly 30,000 students attend the University of Guelph. While they are resident in the City, they are eligible to vote like any other citizen. If we are going to uphold the principle of "One person, one vote" in relationship to generally equal electorate sizes in each ward, then it is critical that the student population be included. With the set date for municipal elections, we know that the civic election will always take place during the academic year.**

Susan Watson asked 21 days ago

A. The figures used for reference in Phase 1 were compiled from the 2016 Census which does not include post-secondary students who reside in Guelph only during the school year and were included purely as an illustration of the differences in ward populations in Guelph today. A key component of the ward boundary review in Phase 2 will involve the compilation of accurate data on post-secondary students that will involve consultation with all post-secondary institutions in Guelph to obtain complete figures. The Ontario Municipal Board confirmed in a case in 2013 that post-secondary students must be considered in a ward boundary review and that precedent will apply in this review.

---

**Q. I apologize for not being clearer with my question. I understand that we can submit comments via the survey. How do we get to see comments that other citizens are making? In the Town Hall, one of the panelists commented that a lot of input is being received around the diversity of Council. I would like to read what other people are saying. One of the characteristics of in-person consultation is that we get to hear what other people in the community are saying.**

A. We are posting questions and answers that we have received here. Some of the conversations have been taking place on social media and in letters to the editor. We have included links to those letters below.

[Letter to the editor: A smaller city council wouldn't be a good idea](#)

Matt Saunders, Guelph Today, August 22, 2020

[Letter to the Editor: A lot democratically wrong with invitation for input about future Guelph councils](#)

Karen Farbridge, Guelph Mercury-Tribune, August 24, 2020

[Letter to the Editor: There are many advantages to having multiple councillors per ward](#)

Kevin Bowman, Guelph Mercury-Tribune, August 27, 2020

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**Q. When considering the possibility of changing the number of wards and ward boundaries I'd like to know what other elements of city life are based on ward boundaries. For example, what city services or community funding are managed through the ward system? How would changing the number or configuration of the wards affect the distribution and cost of services and/or community funding?**

A. The current wards serve primarily as electoral boundaries for Guelph municipal elections as well as elections held for school board trustees. Changes to Guelph's ward boundaries might also lead to changes in the wards used to elect school board trustees.

The guiding principles for the ward boundary review, which will include a second round of community engagement in early 2021, are:

- Respect for the approved recommendations of Phase One of the Council Composition and Ward Boundary Review (CCWBR).
- Ensure effective representation as mandated by the Supreme Court decision in the Carter case.
- Information received through the community engagement process.
- Representation by population: where possible efforts should be made to ensure that wards have reasonably equal populations.
- Geographic representation: revised ward boundaries should follow Guelph's natural boundaries and geographic features where possible.
- Projected demographic trends: revised ward boundaries should accommodate projected growth patterns for the City.
- Communities of interest: to the extent possible, efforts should be made to avoid splitting neighbourhoods or communities of interest into different wards.

- A best practices approach that builds on the experience of other municipal ward boundary reviews and the outcome of LPAT hearings where ward boundary reviews have been appealed.
- Fiscal responsibility and alignment to the Community Plan and Strategic Plan for the City of Guelph.

Other City services such as waste collection, transit and drinking water are not affected by changes to ward boundaries.

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**Q. Maureen asked during the webex Townhall chat: Can you repeat how many councillors currently work full-time?**

A. Guelph City Council has several councillors who have jobs (part-time and full-time) in addition to their roles as councillors.

---

**Q. Marty asked a question on facebook - Is it possible to maintain current size of council and number of wards but pay councillors a full-time salary rather than part-time basis as is presently the case?**

A. Yes. It is possible to maintain the existing size and composition of City Council while raising salaries to be more consistent with a full-time work load. The Council composition review will make a recommendation to City Council on whether the work-load of a councillor should be considered full-time or part-time. Once that determination has been made, a resident advisory committee will make recommendations to City Council regarding salary and benefits.

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**Q. Joanne asked this question on Facebook What is there to stop "full-time" councilors for taking on additional part-time work**

A. There is nothing which would prohibit part-time Councillors from taking on additional part-time work. In addition, there is nothing in provincial legislation that would prevent a full-time Councillor from taking on additional work.

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**Q. Dhruv request this information during our Townhall webex chat: Can you please mention current Guelph Councilor are working full time or part time Thank You .**

A. Currently, Guelph City Councillors work part time. Several councillors have jobs (part time and full time) in addition to their roles on Council.

---

**Q. Mike asked this question during our Townhall webex chat: will their be any discussion on the roles, responsibilities of councillors and how much time they currently spend fulfilling their duties? I believe this needs to be disclosed before making any decision.**

A. The Council composition review is in fact a review of whether Guelph needs full or part time councillors, which speaks to their role and time spent performing their duties. A breakdown of

the number of hours that councillors spend fulfilling various duties is available as part of the [‘full-time or part-time councillors?’ backgrounder](#) document on [guelph.ca/council](http://guelph.ca/council).

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**Q. Maureen asked the following Question: Has the option of a mixed member representation been considered?**

A. Mixed member proportional representation refers to electors placing one vote for a local/ward candidate and one vote for a political party. As political parties are not permitted at the municipal level in Ontario, mixed member proportional representation cannot be considered.

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**Q. Tayna asked the question during the Townhall webex chat: I don't understand how 2 councilors per ward leads to "increased size of wards" (the second bullet point on the disadvantage**

A. Having two councillors per ward generally leads to a lower overall number of wards than if one councillor is elected per ward. A lower number of total wards means a higher population in each ward. In this case, “increased size” refers to population counts and not necessarily geographic size.

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**Q. Michelle asked during our virtual townhall webex chat: Is a hybrid option possible with one for each ward and the rest at large?**

A. Yes, hybrid options (with some councillors serving wards and others serving at-large) are allowed and are being considered as part of this review

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**Q. In 2006 our ward system for electing councillors was confirmed via a referendum question on the ballot of the municipal election that year. Will a referendum be held again on whether or not we should have a ward or "at-large" system? If not, how will you ensure that the decision reached is a democratic one, supported by a majority of Guelphites?**

A. A referendum (referred to as a ‘question on the ballot’ or ‘question to electors’ in the Municipal Elections Act) can be requested by City Council through a bylaw. Currently, staff do not anticipate recommending a question to electors on the topic of Council composition. Instead, staff will recommend that City Council make the decision based on the recommendation of third-party subject matter experts and the results of this community engagement.

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**Q. I'm not clear how this forum is set up for comments, as well as questions? On the Metrolinx consultation, comments and questions go up directly on their site so we can see what other citizens are both thinking and asking. (You are much more prompt on the answer end of things!) My comment on your response to my question about timelines is that the process needs to serve citizens, not the other way around.**

A. We certainly welcome comments. This tool is used specifically for questions, if you could submit your comments to [clerks@guelph.ca](mailto:clerks@guelph.ca). We will direct them to our project team.

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**Q. I recognize that this process is operating under time constraints and that the original plans for community engagement were derailed by the pandemic. However, would it be possible to extend this consultation period for at least another two weeks until September 18th? Public consultation is normally not conducted during the summer as people are away and generally disengaged from politics. While many people had been staying home, the stops seem to have opened on vacationing this August. The decisions that will arise out of this process are critically important. Many people may tune in after Labour Day to find that the window for input has closed.**

A. You are correct, the consultation period was delayed due to a full pause on all public engagement by the City during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Originally this engagement period was to run through an earlier part of this year and include both in-person and online components.

Consideration was given to extending public engagement post-summer vacation months. The timelines of the project make it difficult to extend engagement periods in phase one (Council composition) without affecting phase two (ward boundary review) since one requires completion before moving on to the second phase.

The ward boundary review also requires completion with enough time to manage any potential appeal to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal so that results can be in place, in advance of the 2022 municipal and school board elections.

While the revised online engagement plan is not what we had originally envisioned, we are offering a thorough three-week virtual engagement that includes:

- online survey
- question boards
- virtual town hall (which will be recorded and shared after the fact online and through local Rogers broadcasts)
- thorough communication and advertising
- set virtual office hours for the project team answers questions via phone, e-mail or video calls

This engagement will provide members of the public the opportunity to safely, within the guidelines we know that public health is recommending and requiring that we follow, effectively engage with the project while maintaining the original intention of having composition and ward boundary changes in place for the 2022 municipal election.

The final decision regarding Council composition will take place at a Special City Council meeting this November – ensuring delegates and City Council have a dedicated meeting at

which to consider the topic. In addition to this first round of engagement, there will also be a second round of engagement related to the ward boundary review early next year.

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**Q. Will the Town Hall Tuesday evening be recorded so that people can watch it at a later date?**

A. Yes, the town hall will be recorded so that it can be viewed at a later date. The video will be available on the Council composition page over at [guelph.ca](http://guelph.ca), the project page on [haveyoursay.guelph.ca](http://haveyoursay.guelph.ca) and the [City's Facebook page](#). We'll share a tweet on the [City's Twitter account](#) with a link to the video when it's ready. In addition, there will be a delayed broadcast on Rogers Television, you can check out those dates and times [here](#).

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**Q. I saw in comments on Guelph Today that people think we should limit Council and the Mayor from being elected for more than two terms. Is the allowed?**

A. Discussion of term limits for City Councillors is not a part of the Council composition review. At this time, Canada has no legislated or mandated term limits at any level of elected government. The City cannot impose term restrictions because it would conflict with provincial legislation.

This does not mean that the suggestion has not been made at other levels of government where changes could come forward in future legislation.

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## **Live Webinar Questions And Comments Arising**

From August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 panel discussion about Guelph Council Composition.

Cut from Webex chat and FaceBook chat then pasted into the categories of research questions. Panelists addressed the whole range of questions live during the last stage of the event. The moderator did not ask duplicate questions.

Questions and answers from the live event were added to the HaveYourSay.Guelph.ca engagement site (in the "Q & A" tool) to ensure anyone can read the answers. The whole event was recorded too, so the questions and answers can be viewed on the City's Facebook page and shared.

### **Re: SIZE OF COUNCIL**

- How would changing the number or configuration of the wards affect the distribution and cost of services and/or community funding?
- Susan: For how long has Guelph had 12 part-time councillors? (Answered in the presentation)
- Kevin: I am concerned that any reduction in the size of council will reduce the capacity of council to do its job. However, if councillors became full-time then a reduction in the number of councillors would not be as much of a concern since the total working hours of council would remain the same or increase.
- From Facebook (Michelle): What is the average number of councillors per capita in a city of comparable size for our projected 2040 population?
- Claudia: We need more councillors and perhaps re-arrange the wards, maybe one more? Ward 6 is definitely growing, and is the one suffering the most changes
- When considering the possibility of changing the number of wards and ward boundaries I'd like to know what other elements of city life are based on ward boundaries. For example, what city services or community funding are managed through the ward system? How would changing the number or configuration of the wards affect the distribution and cost of services and/or community funding? On number of councillors, number of wards and full-time vs part-time councillors.
- Claudia: I don't think 12 people to represent 132,000 people on the contrary, I think 12 people is barely enough to represent the residents of Guelph,
- From Facebook (Denese): With the idea of growing demand how would it be if we would had 7 Councillors and 7 wards would that relieve the growing demand of the citizens on the Councillors?

### **Re: WARDS OR AT-LARGE**

- Susan: In 2006, we had a referendum to make the decision to keep the ward system. Would we have a referendum again this time? How would you ensure that any change to an at-large system would be democratic?
- Susan: What does research show about the number of women and minorities elected in at-large vs. ward systems?
- Facebook question from Corrie: Are there any advantages to having "councillors -at-large" added to one councillor per ward.



- Michelle: Is a hybrid option possible with one for each ward and the rest at large?
- Claudia: Ward system represents residents best as it ensures that the councillor will not have a partisan relation with the other councillors/major
- Scott: A more appropriate starting point for this process would have been to ask citizens about values. Once values are sorted out, the aspects of Council composition would flow from those values. We are somewhat starting in the middle of the conversation.
- Anonymous Southie: is it better to have wards of different sizes and populations to match the distinct neighbourhoods in Guelph (which are of different sizes), or keep wards equivalent populations but blend more than one unique neighbourhood?

### **Re: ONE REP OR MORE PER WARD**

- Steve: I think having more than one councillor per ward is really important. The City is having to deal with more complex issues. Making good decision requires thoughtful discussion and having more than one perspective represented per ward will improve the decisions made.
- Kevin: Multiple councillors per ward is great and we should not move to single member wards. Multiple Councillors per ward ensures an alternate if one member is unable or unwilling to represent some constituents. It also kind of forces a minimum of dialogue as the two councillors for a ward will likely discuss issues with each other rather than just form an opinion in isolation and stick to it.
- Tanya: I don't understand how 2 councilors per ward leads to "increased size of wards" (the second bullet point on the disadvantages)
- Scott: I favour multiple member wards because combined with ranked balloting will lead to a more proportional system
- Susan: I think the Guelph experience is that the Ward Councillors work in partnership and avoid duplication.
- **James:** What is the best Council composition for ranked ballots?
- Maureen: Has the option of a mixed member representation been considered?

### **Re: FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME ROLE**

- Q From Facebook: What would the property tax increase would be required to have the current number of Councilors on a full-time salary?
- Q Susan: Do these other cities also have part-time councillors, or are they full-time?
- Mike: Will there be any discussion on the roles, responsibilities of councillors and how much time they currently spend fulfilling their duties? I believe this needs to be disclosed before making any decision
- Dhruv: Can you please mention current Guelph Councilors are working full time or part time Thank You
- Q from Facebook (Joanne): What is there to stop "full-time" councilors for taking on additional part-time work?
- Q from Facebook (Marty): **Is it possible to maintain current size of council and number of wards but pay councillors a full-time salary rather than part-time basis as is presently the case?**

- Susan: Any data/research which shows whether full-time or part-time positions support the participation of women or minorities?
- Maureen: Can you repeat how many councillors current work full-time?
- Susan: how has the ratio of population to representation changed over the years in Guelph?
- Susan: We're not discussing ranked ballots at this stage, but the number of councillors elected per ward impacts the level of proportionality you get under a ranked ballot system. Could someone comment?
- Q from Facebook: Is there a breakdown of projected population growth by ward as they are currently available at this time? Seems it might be helpful In making this decision (answer: see presentation slide #26)Q From Webex: I saw in comments on Guelph Today that people think we should limit Council and the Mayor from being elected for more than two terms. Is the allowed?
- Q From Webex: I recognize that this process is operating under time constraints and that the original plans for community engagement were derailed by the pandemic. However, would it be possible to extend this consultation period for at least another two weeks until September 18th? Public consultation is normally not conducted during the summer as people are away and generally disengaged from politics. While many people had been staying home, the stops seem to have opened on vacationing this August. The decisions that will arise out of this process are critically important. Many people may tune in after Labour Day to find that the window for input has closed.

#### QUESTIONS/COMMENTS OUT OF THIS PROJECT'S SCOPE

- Claudia: Very small, too many projects going on in Guelph for the current council to do a deep dive on each project
- Q from Facebook (Mike): I think the new library should be a referendum question on next election ballot. It should be put on hold until then. I understand majority of residents are against it. This would be the fairest way to get a true picture. Can this be done?
- Mike: Will the consultants be looking at how any potential changes to council structure will impact working with City staff?



# Appendix G

## Survey Responses

# City Council Composition Review Survey

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## **SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT**

Engagement Period: 7 August 2020 - 04 September 2020

### **PROJECT NAME:**

Council composition and ward boundary review  
[www.HaveYourSayGuelph.ca/council-composition](http://www.HaveYourSayGuelph.ca/council-composition)

Prepared by: Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. in  
conjunction with ICA Associates Inc. and Drs. David Siegel  
and Robert J. Williams



# SURVEY QUESTIONS

**Q1** | What would you hope to see in 5 years as proof that the way citizens elect their Council in the City of Guelph is working well?

Anonymous 8/17/2020 08:41 AM	Full time council. More transparency. adding a new ward
Anonymous 8/17/2020 08:46 AM	Diversity including women, men and ethic group representation. Young, middle aged and senior.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 09:02 AM	Composition of council is more diverse/representative of Guelph's racial diversity
Imousseau 8/17/2020 09:06 AM	More diverse voices being heard and represented in decisions that represent the entire community, not just the vocal minorities of the entitled/elite who *think* they represent everyone and have the privilege of time and/or money to respond and engage. Councillors should do more to understand the voices of all their constituents, especially the marginalized ones.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 09:19 AM	Less duplication of effort.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 09:52 AM	Council reflects the community's diversity while striving for a growing community with good jobs.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 10:08 AM	Increased voter turnout, more candidates vying for positions
Anonymous 8/17/2020 11:20 AM	I would like to see BIPOC members of council.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 11:27 AM	Change and options. Recent election was full of incumbants and unchallenged candidates
Anonymous 8/17/2020 01:15 PM	A healthy variety of opinions on Guelph's future, and a rigorous adherence to the Strategic Plan
Anonymous 8/17/2020 12:23 PM	Able to effectively and transparently solve problems while minimizing the wasteful spending and boutique projects we've seen over the last 30 years.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 01:15 PM	Each Council member plus the mayor elected with over 50% of the popular vote.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 01:33 PM	Competent, knowledgeable, engaged councillor. No deadwood or old, outmoded thinking/beliefs. Diverse. No overt or covert sexism, racism, nimbyism, other isms.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 01:33 PM	Councillors that have the resources and time to respond to their residents.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 02:15 PM

Greater representation of the public's interest and desires while balancing necessary growth and development in the city.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 01:47 PM

A larger percentage of our community voting.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 01:52 PM

Variety of voices across the city are able to be heard rather than a focus on a minority of strong special interests groups

Anonymous

8/17/2020 02:28 PM

I'd like to see fiscally responsible decisions that are: fairly distributed between the wards; reflect the will of the majority of the citizens; with the goal of maintaining essential services while enhancing our quality of life.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 02:57 PM

The City should provide an overview on an annual basis of what were the key issues both City-wide and per Ward, and then provide a summary of what engagement was part of the review process, and whether or not the Councillor's view (and ultimate vote) was consistent with his/her Ward engagement process.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 02:57 PM

Wards represented fairly, cohesiveness among councillors, educated & knowledgeable councillors.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 03:04 PM

6 or 8 full time councilors and a boundary redistribution that has the extra councilors in the south and east end.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 03:17 PM

Strong, diverse and qualified candidates for mayor and councilor positions; strong voter turnout In municipal elections; strong citizen engagement between elections at town halls and other opportunities to provide input.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 03:43 PM

I would expect to see a City Council that is more diverse, representing the cross-section of cultures in this community. I would hope to have a City Council that is seriously concerned about Climate Change.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 03:48 PM

Ranked ballots

Anonymous

8/17/2020 03:49 PM

Citizens of all political stripes feel represented by their councillors and we have a diversity of opinion on council that reflects Guelph, but can still work together cooperatively to implement solutions and make decisions that move Guelph in a progressive, just, equitable and sustainable direction. It would be lovely to see more BIPOC folk represented in our City leadership.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 03:50 PM

More engagement from citizens.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 03:51 PM

Citizen engagement and no hidden agendas. If there are still 2 part time per ward they should be representing that ward while keeping the whole city in perspective. Council should not be telling staff how to do their jobs nor

	expect them to not follow policy and by- laws voted on by council.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 04:57 PM	Proof? Is there proof that it's working well currently?
Anonymous 8/17/2020 04:59 PM	That what the majority of Guelphites have their voices heard and that decisions are more streamlined.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 06:11 PM	That the citizens of Guelph are well-represented in their wards with diverse, dynamic council members
Anonymous 8/17/2020 06:22 PM	Significant improvement via statistics in community engagement and Citizen satisfaction with City Council
Anonymous 8/17/2020 06:51 PM	That we are listened to when we voice our concerns, our objections and our ideas. So like... hey no \$67 plus million dollar library. Preservation of naturalized areas. More green spaces. Affordable housing.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 07:04 PM	Better road conditions and traffic flow for vehicles
Anonymous 8/17/2020 07:38 PM	Stop centralizing city services in the northern area of the city, centered around Wyndham and McDonnell, services must be decentralized
Anonymous 8/17/2020 08:51 PM	Internet voting, protected by, but not limited to, dual authentication such as Google Authenticator.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 09:02 PM	A council that actually listens to and acts on residents concerns
Anonymous 8/17/2020 09:02 PM	Councillors having regular meetings with their ward members to discuss their issues.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 09:33 PM	Progress in wards to support community. Each ward should have reasonable short term and long term goals
Anonymous 8/17/2020 09:44 PM	More public trust/confidence in City decisions as a result of early and thorough engagement
Anonymous 8/17/2020 10:36 PM	no changes
Anonymous 8/18/2020 04:37 AM	Diversity on council, senior city staff and boards, particularly police. Guelph Leadership is way too white.
Anonymous	a way to cast votes online in order to ensure a true majority elected anyone



8/18/2020 05:07 AM	to council
Anonymous 8/18/2020 05:31 AM	More diversity on council. Controls on development. We need more parks. We need a grocery store serving every neighbourhood. There is far too much focus on serving (out of town) land developers, and far, far too little on serving our citizens.
Anonymous 8/18/2020 06:03 AM	More women and marginalized populations on council and on staff, a new library, bike lanes everywhere, and a downtown closed to traffic. Cam Guthrie and Dan Gibson are no longer on council.
Anonymous 8/18/2020 06:53 AM	I would hope to see a diverse Council that is representative of different cultural, economic, and generational backgrounds.
Anonymous 8/18/2020 07:39 AM	I'd love to see a "cleaner" downtown core with a vibrant shopping and restaurant industry there and free weekend parking. I'd love to see a more "complete" City of Guelph where all residents feel involved in the entire city. Right now I feel that there is a division between downtown, south end and even west end. That is not sustainable and there needs to be more understanding of the challenges and benefits of all regions of our city
Anonymous 8/18/2020 07:41 AM	Greater City transparency in its operations. More effective procedures for approving, building and funding business and civic space. A better public transportation service that is publicly owned, runs more frequently, and services citizens of Guelph just as efficiently and fairly as University Students.
Anonymous 8/18/2020 07:41 AM	That council members get elected with long-term vision of the city in mind.
Anonymous 8/18/2020 07:59 AM	Responsible decision-making and budgeting. A Council that reflects all views and all community members, including more diversity of Councillors.
Anonymous 8/18/2020 08:02 AM	More positive engagements and delegations with city council
Anonymous 8/18/2020 08:51 AM	That I see and am familiar with the councillors representing my ward, that I have a predictable, publicly known way of accessing them during protected time blocks; that they make all decisions following publicly known, protected, accessible consultation processes where the councillor sits down as an equal in a circle with other citizens; that their responses show attentiveness and not just stick to the message-ness and twist your words in order to affirm their own positions while ignoring your input. Protected, predictable space in the public, not behind closed doors, literally out in the open whenever possible, for citizens to voice and listen in a non-adversarial format.
Anonymous 8/18/2020 09:06 AM	A council as diverse as it's electorate
Anonymous	Tax increases which are affordable and online with other municipalities,

8/18/2020 09:08 AM

becoming an expensive city to live in.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 09:18 AM

More diversity so they are actually representative of Guelph's population

Anonymous

8/18/2020 09:29 AM

Council that works together and on behalf of all citizens. Given the price of housing today, what that also understands that our taxes are based on the value of our homes, and both keep rising beyond affordability.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 11:01 AM

Council composition that is reflective of the population. Tangible outcomes that reflect the needs of all areas of the city.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 11:58 AM

Easy to contact when an issue arises in my area or ward; councillors represent my ward at council meetings; my councillors listen to concerns and are willing to speak up at council meetings.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 01:15 PM

Council is able to connect better to constituents in a timely manner. Council is able to be present and involved 100% of the time with their designated communities. Council can do their jobs efficiently with limited conflict of interest.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 12:48 PM

2 full time councillors per ward.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 01:29 PM

We only need one council member per ward! Why 2, so they can disagree? There is not enough work to make it full time.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 02:48 PM

Incorporate secure internet voting, in order to increase voter participation.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 04:18 PM

Representation that speaks directly to the unique needs Of the community based on the composition of each of the wards and on the changes expec

Anonymous

8/18/2020 04:46 PM

Increased public infrastructure in green transportation

Anonymous

8/18/2020 04:51 PM

Fiscal restraint, stop the waste of taxpayers money. Too many projects that are unsustainable.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 05:10 PM

When major votes take place, council should contact their citizens for their views and opinions on the issue, go with the majority to help with the vote. This can be done by connecting via social media, info at city owned facilities to reach a large amount of the population.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 05:37 PM

More diversity among the elected officials would be a good way to demonstrate that minorities matter to Guelph.

Anonymous 8/18/2020 08:10 PM	No hunger. No homelessness. Incomes based on TRUE cost of living. Two children policy plan. An environmental plan with no garbage and renewable energy policy plan. An inter-jurisdictional quality management system for the ONE taxpayer, citizen, voter needing planned openness, transparency and accountability.
Anonymous 8/19/2020 05:36 AM	Greater diversity on Council. Stronger leadership on Council that understands their governance role and has hired administrative leadership that believes in engaging citizens in local decision making.
Anonymous 8/19/2020 07:01 AM	More accountability on the part of Councillors. And not just on issues like driveways.
Anonymous 8/19/2020 07:11 AM	Diversity of all kinds, and more turnover. This council has two new members, elected from Wards where incumbents didn't run. No incumbent member was defeated at the polls.
Anonymous 8/19/2020 07:49 AM	More candidate debates.
Anonymous 8/19/2020 07:57 AM	Improvement in voter turnout rate
Anonymous 8/19/2020 08:00 AM	Fix the roads.
Anonymous 8/19/2020 08:45 AM	A diverse council representing young and old and people from a variety of cultures and backgrounds
Anonymous 8/19/2020 11:47 AM	Equal representation by each ward, as it compares to population size. If a ward has a higher population, it should have higher representation. Alternatively, the ward boundaries should be re-drawn, so that each ward has an equal population of residents.
Anonymous 8/19/2020 12:08 PM	Proof would be indicated by voter turn out, by positive input from citizens, by communication between citizens and their representatives.
Anonymous 8/19/2020 12:27 PM	There wouldn't be just a group of white males and female. I think it is important that we represent diversity and forward thinking. We need to also be mindful that youth and young adults are impactful to the future and maybe taking a lead through that. The community Plan will be a perfect way to make this tangible solution for our future.
Anonymous 8/19/2020 12:36 PM	Increases in participation in local elections; increases in participation in public consultations; greater opportunities for citizen participation between elections; a council that broadly reflects the social, political, and ethnocultural diversity of Guelph; a moderate increase in council turnover; a stronger media and civil society public conversation around issues under consideration at City Hall.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 03:42 PM

Less stress at the meetings more positive actions

Anonymous

8/19/2020 03:43 PM

Proof regarding the electoral system is working well would be reflected in a large percentage of the population from all walks of life engaged at a level of 70% or more voter turnout.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 05:15 PM

A reduced council size so that votes in each ward don't cancel each other out.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 06:10 PM

Caps on how many terms a councilor can sit

Anonymous

8/19/2020 07:42 PM

A great working group of councillors that debate issues fairly.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 09:11 PM

Citizens feel represented and are reaching out to give input because they know their voice matters.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 04:43 AM

to have actual recreation. more than 2 rec centres. NO increase in taxes. not stupid looking painted fire trucks that DON'T look like fire trucks at all.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 06:01 AM

Term limits. Must live in the ward that you represent.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 08:17 AM

High voter turn out. A council that represents the diversity of our community.

Caleahcampbell

8/20/2020 08:45 AM

Regular community engagement, responsive councillors,

Anonymous

8/20/2020 10:15 AM

A Council which represents the various area of the city but works toward policies and procedures which benefit the city as a whole

Anonymous

8/20/2020 09:35 AM

That all votes count and representation is not limited by fewer councilors.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 10:01 AM

I would like to see a city that is affordable, especially for seniors. Increasing property taxes every year is not appropriate. Having bike lanes that are rarely used by cyclists and are seasonal is a waste of money. Having a new library, when the existing downtown library is never busy is a complete waste. If another library is built, it should be a smaller library in the south end.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 10:12 AM

less collusion between mayor and his buddies on council

Anonymous

8/20/2020 10:52 AM

A council acting much as it does today but 2 more wards to account for growing pop

Anonymous

8/20/2020 11:12 AM

Things are be accomplished in all parts of the city. We see growth in all parts not just the areas with the fastest population growth. Local issues are being addressed but there is a clear vision and goals for the whole city

Anonymous

8/20/2020 12:57 PM

Council listens and acts on the constituents behalf, not their own

Anonymous

8/20/2020 03:35 PM

A continued diversity of opinions in council representing the diversity of opinions of Guelphites. New projects to be evaluated effectively by a number of representatives. New spending to be appropriately reviewed to ensure fiscal responsibility while continuing to succesfully execute these new projects in a way that makes needed improvements across Guelph's many communities.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 05:06 PM

Feedback to the public quarterly on achievements

Anonymous

8/20/2020 05:40 PM

Councils are reachable

Anonymous

8/20/2020 07:22 PM

Regular public reviews (quarterly or semi-yearly) of what that counselor has done, how they have protected their citizens and their rights and whether or not they have met expectations.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 08:01 PM

by reducing our debt

Anonymous

8/20/2020 08:28 PM

I would hope that the city of Guelph will attract amazing candidates who will move the city forward and continue to be one best places to live in Canada.

Anonymous

8/21/2020 05:40 AM

A diversity of individuals from a wide range of neighborhoods.

Anonymous

8/21/2020 07:00 AM

Fair distribution of resources around the city.

Anonymous

8/21/2020 08:12 AM

As the city grows, the amount of wards also grows, keeping the same representational system of 2 part time councillors per ward. I have lived all across this country and find this the most responsive/participatory system so far.

Anonymous

8/21/2020 08:38 AM

Strong movement toward renewable energy targets, robust public transportation, bicycle infrastructure, green space protection, additional food gardens and urban agriculture

Anonymous 8/21/2020 09:07 AM	like to see maybe 4 more people on council in the next 5 to 10 years as the city gets bigger
Anonymous 8/21/2020 10:36 AM	Better management of big projects and a clear vision for future developments and programs.
Anonymous 8/21/2020 12:46 PM	Budget is set well and the general public agrees that it is reasonable. Turnover on Council is regular but not extraordinary. Polling the public yields answers that are generally positive.
Anonymous 8/21/2020 01:12 PM	That we continue to see healthy respectful debate not only among individual views of the councillors but also between the varying needs of the wards (ie downtown vs east vs west etc). Too much grandstanding or alignment based on labels (liberal vs conservative) would indicate a failure as none of the council members nor the mayor should be representing provincial or federal political parties - they represent the people of the city.
Anonymous 8/21/2020 02:05 PM	More community engagement, less partisanship, more cooperation.
Anonymous 8/21/2020 04:14 PM	Members of City Council representative of diverse gender ethnicity cultural and economic backgrounds
Anonymous 8/21/2020 05:30 PM	Some kind of system that compares the views of a particular Ward on one issue in relation to the voting record of the Council.
Anonymous 8/22/2020 09:58 AM	Citizens feel well represented and their voices heard, Regardless of political affiliation or belief.
Anonymous 8/22/2020 11:15 AM	Reduced homelessness and drug addiction in the city. Lower housing prices.
Anonymous 8/22/2020 11:26 AM	I would like to see an effective council, working for the benefit of all residents, not just council members. I would like council to be responsive as I have contacted my member many times with no response. I would also like to see a long term plan for Guelph including water access as we are expanding and our needs are already short. An effective hiring process within the City and not just friends or family. And MORE....
Anonymous 8/23/2020 10:45 AM	That Council is responsible to the community that elected them and not to the pressures of corporations or big companies. (This not meant as a criticism)
Anonymous 8/23/2020 04:15 PM	that everyone in the neighbourhood knows who they are, because they get out and get involved in neighbourhood events.
Anonymous 8/24/2020 07:38 AM	Big and small projects across the city are discussed; plans don't focus on just downtown or just the south end etc.

Anonymous 8/24/2020 10:23 AM	Less politics and more long term planning and decision-making for public good. Visionary leadership.
Anonymous 8/24/2020 10:55 AM	As a business, we do not vote for council. That makes it difficult for us to have a say in the process. (Guelph Little Theatre)
Anonymous 8/24/2020 11:26 AM	A spirit of cooperation and mutual respect on Council.
Anonymous 8/24/2020 11:35 AM	Decisions reflect the common good and fit the general consensus of both the City and respect the unique makeup of each individual Ward. Councillors should be accessible, knowledgeable, passionate and respectful. They must be willing to work together, but also advocate strongly for their respective community members. I believe a single, full-time councillor per ward could provide the continuity, the consistency and the representation without all the duplication and overwork.
Anonymous 8/24/2020 11:49 AM	Number of citizens running for council or getting involved at committee levels Municipal voter turnout rate
Anonymous 8/24/2020 11:51 AM	A diverse council that reflects our community and works for the benefit of everyone.
Denese 8/24/2020 01:15 PM	Social housing, Hospital ready for the population infrastructure repairs fiscal responsibility
Anonymous 8/24/2020 01:39 PM	With council actually working together to find solutions to Guelph problems
Anonymous 8/24/2020 01:44 PM	A well represented and functioning city.
Anonymous 8/24/2020 01:48 PM	Cam Guthrie and anyone else who is in the developers pockets to be off of it.
Anonymous 8/24/2020 01:59 PM	Increased investment in social problems, incubation of the green technology sector, significantly reduced investment in the police department
Anonymous 8/24/2020 02:01 PM	Two terms maximum
Anonymous 8/24/2020 02:01 PM	A greater representation for conservation and restoring surrounding communities. Less dense condo developments and greater protections on small town buildings as well as increased environmental projects(greenspaces/planting/trees/greenroofs/solar/cleanup projects)

Anonymous 8/24/2020 02:15 PM	Council treats the city as a whole when making decisions in wards. The ward system fragments the money and decision-making
Anonymous 8/24/2020 02:16 PM	Continuing the ward system, but changing Ward boundaries if necessary, to ensure that each ward has roughly the same population numbers.
Anonymous 8/24/2020 02:57 PM	More election and city government involvement as perhaps measured by voter turnout.
Anonymous 8/24/2020 03:00 PM	high voter turnout for municipal elections and a functional council with no obvious political 'blocks'
Anonymous 8/24/2020 04:15 PM	I would like to see a way of measuring the effectiveness of councilors. For example if a councilor chooses not to represent all residents in their ward the citizens can remove the ineffective councilor and hold a new vote.
Anonymous 8/24/2020 04:25 PM	less older white people on the council, and a unified team of doers of good deeds that all get along the past two terms it was like a battle of two sides, 6-7 council members on each side, sad and very sloppy results, and back stabbing.
Anonymous 8/24/2020 05:39 PM	Low rises, not more than 4 story tall. By laws and zoning bylaws not changed at the whim of developers. Parkland and natural spaces increased. Metrolinx located outside city limits. Growth slowed. City legal challenge of "Places to Grow". 10% of new housing reserved for low income.
Anonymous 8/24/2020 06:00 PM	A council that better reflects the diversity of our city.
Anonymous 8/24/2020 06:19 PM	I would like to see more diverse members of council and mixed-member proportional voting.
Anonymous 8/24/2020 07:57 PM	During the last municipal election homemade signs made for the person that ran against this mayor were destroyed. Speaks volumes for the supporters of this mayor. I do not approve of on line voting. We should eliminate the role of the mayor as he is overpaid for what he does. Ward councillors can rotate chairing the meetings. City staff need to be thinned. The wards are unbalanced. There are "friends" representing wards that they do not even live in. That is absolutely wrong. Kortright Hills is represented by two councillors that live in the far south end of the city. One has blatantly not supported the concerns of many of the residents of Kortright Hills and is not respected by many residents who live in Kortright Hills. He blatantly dismissed hundreds of concerns regarding the unnecessary and costly replacement of the Niska bridge. Kortright Hills should be merged with Ward 5 and not be a part of Ward 6. Advocacy? What advocacy? Is that a joke? Engagement? This is insulting.
Anonymous	I would hope to see a decrease in police spending and an increase in mental



8/24/2020 08:27 PM

health support and social services.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 09:03 PM

Ward representatives from all the different neighborhoods.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 10:15 PM

All areas of the city are well represented

Anonymous

8/25/2020 06:24 AM

Proof that we have a Council that works well would include new and revised policies that reflect the diversity of the citizens of Guelph. Policies that reflect our reputation as a progressive city that does not simply follow, but leads in environmental, social, and fiscal sustainability. I would also like to see the city adopt a clear systems approach to discussing and solving city-wide problems.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 07:38 AM

Increased voter participation, increased number of candidates for elected positions.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 07:57 AM

The concerns that are brought forward by the particular ward residents are taken in to account and are dealt with in a timely manner.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 08:25 AM

More effective and frequent community engagement by councilors. More things getting done with precision and strategy. No more half-baked ideas that don't make sense economically because our council is overworked as "part-timers".

Anonymous

8/25/2020 08:53 AM

Prioritize their approvals of items. eg: right now: stop catering to the people who want unnecessary things such as library. Concentrate more on helping the underprivileged and allocate more money to road improvements. Affordable housing now we are in a pandemic and people have lost jobs. Good idea to have a referendum at voting eg: new library as we the citizens are paying for it.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 10:15 AM

Statistics about engagement and role. I really haven't had much interaction with either of my councilors.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 11:26 AM

That things haven't gotten worse.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:03 PM

I would see perhaps another ward implemented due to Guelph's growth. I would see more ethnic diversity in council. The Ward system works well.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:09 PM

Online voting; more diversity in the applicants / selection of council members

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:09 PM

I would love to see a more diverse mix of people who represent the ethnic and cultural makeup of Guelph.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:18 PM

Fair representation of voters on council such that each councilor represents roughly the same proportion of the Guelph population

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:27 PM

A streamlined, a dedicated full time council that are able to make decisions quickly, consult constituents and work with city staff to improve Guelph

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:31 PM

I would hope to see new people in council positions, and considerably more diversity. If we cannot achieve both of those things, we should consider our system to be underperforming. The present system favours those who have the privilege to take on the position part time.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:41 PM

I like how Guelph has a Guelphiness to it. We are kind, caring, are open to everyone and have a green spin to things.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 01:16 PM

Community diversity is well represented, councillors work together to come up with good solutions rather than working as adversaries, council debates in meetings rather than on Twitter, councillors live in their wards

Anonymous

8/25/2020 01:22 PM

Decisions moving forward are reached sooner. Seems many councilors in city our size is a little over kill and slows processes down.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 01:36 PM

A council that doesn't listen to special interest groups and spend our tax dollars on the hospital or roads

Anonymous

8/25/2020 02:45 PM

In 5 years, I would like to look around the Council horseshoe and see a greater diversity of ages, gender identity, income level / background, professional experience and cultural perspective. I would like to see not only more diverse candidates with diverse perspectives that represent our evolving community.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 03:21 PM

City Council will work as a Engagement Manager, their main task is so to collect requirements from Guelph Citizen and deliver agreed/approved task with the help from City Staff's resources.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 03:32 PM

All people know who to talk to when they need help with a civic matter.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 03:42 PM

Increased diversity, gender parity

Anonymous

8/25/2020 04:22 PM

All neighbourhoods in Guelph are represented by a council reflective of the neighbourhood. Diverse and vibrant neighbourhoods planned and developed with vision, Greenpeace and bylaws that stand.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 04:23 PM

I would like to see councillors reach out to their ward members more for feedback and engagement and not rely so much on who comes to delegate. Taking time to delegate is important, but also difficult, stressful, and done by people who feel strongly against things primarily. Councillors need to do

	outreach to get a good feel for what their voters want them to support.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 04:28 PM	Fiscally responsible, no more buildings and construction projects that always seem to end up over budget.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 04:44 PM	Diversity in our councillors
Anonymous 8/25/2020 04:58 PM	I would like to see Guelph citizens well represented on the Council, and I do not want them to be as part of a party team as I think that would create bias among the council
Anonymous 8/25/2020 05:11 PM	More diversity on council
Anonymous 8/25/2020 05:13 PM	Diversity! And limits on terms. All of the city should vote for every council member
Anonymous 8/25/2020 05:13 PM	A high functioning balanced council with less absolute philosophical divides
Anonymous 8/25/2020 05:28 PM	Diverse voices are running for council seats and are reflective of local constituents
Anonymous 8/25/2020 05:34 PM	I'm just praying I'm not getting a 9 story apartment building down the street from me. Omg. Please only 5 or 6 stories.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 06:11 PM	Better interaction between Councillors and electorate
Anonymous 8/25/2020 07:55 PM	I think it's working well now, so I'd like to see no large changes in 5 years.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 09:06 PM	Happy citizens and minimal tax increases.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 09:52 PM	I would hope to see a council that really pushes for community growth. Councillors who are active within the community, answering emails, active on social media. Be more like Cam!
Anonymous 8/26/2020 06:58 AM	More diversity in the voices in council. In particular, representation from across the city, equal numbers of men and women, people of colour.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 07:21 AM	A better mix of Councillors. People from all backgrounds and Professions. More wards, more Councillors representing more demographics as Guelph is very diverse. Councillors who engage with their Wards to find out what residents of Guelph actually want instead of making decisions based on their

	own opinions. Eliminate the Ward voting system so that the voters have more options. Encourage more currently working Professional people to run for City Council.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 07:30 AM	Councillors are engaged with their constituents and respond to their concerns, take the time to understand ward issues, and follow up.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 08:00 AM	I would like to see greater accountability, canvassing of input from neighbourhoods from the different wards, a more active role/voice on city council for all areas of the city not just one, a councillor who lives in the ward on a full time basis - not living and working in another city/country.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 08:24 AM	Improved decision making that aligns with Guelph's strategic plan and values. More meaningful engagement with constituents to ensure Councillors represent our needs.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 08:26 AM	Diversity of councillors that represent the gender, racial, and regional differences within Guelph.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 09:22 AM	Community engagement opportunities are not just surveys intended for subject matter experts with a lot of time to spare. Shovels in the ground for a new library. Information dropped off in my mailbox about what my councillors are doing and what is happening in the city. Opportunities to engage at a time when I am not at work. Plain-language and visual information available to everyone about how the city is governed and how to engage.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 09:27 AM	High voter turnout, potentially online options, good public knowledge of system and elections, representation of different locations in the city.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 09:32 AM	The city council's decisions are based fairly on the needs, wants and desires of the increasingly diverse and growing population. The city council has been able to do comprehensive reviews, with public input, and is able to make truly informed decisions. Therefore, decision are not rushed due to inadequate city council resources.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 10:17 AM	That the decisions being made by Council, reflect those of its Citizens. That our Councilors are pushing forward decisions that make sense (financially, socially, etc.) and not just for their legacies.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 10:31 AM	We see the current council and Mayor both tossed out for poor decisions with Guelph Hydro, increasing their own salaries, the library boon dockle, another over budget and over delivery project like the Police HQ etc.. etc..
Anonymous 8/26/2020 10:35 AM	If we stay a "ward" system rep. Must live in the ward they run in.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 10:58 AM	Make decisions efficiently and act on them. (See Library. Stalling is costing us millions.) JUST DO IT. Too many councillors change their mind too often when it is politically convenient.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 11:42 AM

Accountability, record of votes, attendance at meetings, etc.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 11:44 AM

Anonymous

8/26/2020 11:46 AM

I hope to see ongoing ward representation so neighborhoods can continue to have 2-3 designated ward counselors. This ensures local issues are addressed and fair representation for all.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 12:32 PM

Ward system Continues so all areas of the city get to have input

Anonymous

8/26/2020 12:36 PM

Continue to elect 2 councillors per ward

Anonymous

8/26/2020 12:42 PM

A diverse council that represents their constituents and having a guiding hand over the municipality (as it's elected board).

Anonymous

8/26/2020 02:29 PM

Less councillors

Anonymous

8/26/2020 03:10 PM

A Council that functions better because of diversity and direct citizen representation for each ward. Never at-large purely by election with no specific accountability to ward residents. A ward based council makeup that checks and balances against political ganging and non-resident representation.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 03:28 PM

Citizens are represented equally - with the number of potential voters in each ward similar number. Councillors representing the interests of those resident in their ward, with pre-conceived ideological perspectives minimized. That council continues to maintain a strong credit-rating, and is focused on a livable, climate-friendly city - i.e. not short-sighted.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 04:32 PM

Proper roads, saving areas from over development

Anonymous

8/26/2020 04:48 PM

Nothing more than a general sense that each voter had a fair opportunity to elect who they want and those elected do as they promised or to do what seems necessary.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 04:59 PM

Greater diversity and representation Greater transparency More community engagement Innovative, community-driven uses of public funds

Anonymous

8/26/2020 05:12 PM

Council Members who keep the taxpayer in mind. The cancellation of the expensive library is a good start. Enlarge the present one by building on the parking lot and buy the properties on Paisley for parking. Should be a lot less than \$67,000,000.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 05:41 PM

Council works in the interest of their community, without partisan interests.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 06:50 PM

Decisions are made taking into consideration the following priorities: creating resilient communities, environmental stewardship, walk able communities. Address the issues of poverty, homelessness, mental health and addiction. These are all interrelated issues and cannot be dealt with separately. We need visionaries, more than functionaries. This city must stop building condos devoid of nature and dependent on automobile transportation. Developers should not be allowed and cut down trees. We need communities gardens, naturalization areas, groceries stores and small shops in all communities.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 08:15 PM

i would like to see councillors send out surveys to their constituents to get a better feel for what the community is looking for. People are busy and don't always have time or confidence to attend a council meeting to voice their opinion. Its 2020 the democratic process is allowed to evolve now...

Anonymous

8/26/2020 07:29 PM

50% Less socialists on council

Anonymous

8/27/2020 07:11 AM

Limited terms

Anonymous

8/27/2020 08:22 AM

I would like to see a focused council of full time individuals empowered to make system changes and uphold the ideals of Guelph we claim are important. Experienced individuals on council with development experience to grow guelph for the rich and poor would be what I'd like to see. Shrink council but make pay and oversight comparable to a full time position.

Anonymous

8/27/2020 10:15 AM

Not sure

Anonymous

8/27/2020 12:12 PM

Working for the betterment of the whole city together

Anonymous

8/27/2020 01:34 PM

More wards (10 in total) and 1 councillor per ward

Anonymous

8/27/2020 02:20 PM

They represent our best interest; appropriate supports have been implemented. Residents feel satisfied with the changes.

Anonymous

8/27/2020 03:24 PM

A fair and responsive city that prioritizes humans and the environment over merely commercial and development. Quality of life.

Anonymous

8/27/2020 03:36 PM

No major changes. Council works well. A few tweaks should help adjust to our growth.

Anonymous 8/27/2020 09:39 PM	If the council represents the city as a whole in terms of culturally, demographically, and with a balance of different individuals all with the clear goal of helping lead the city.
Anonymous 8/28/2020 03:42 AM	Economic and Racial Diversity across municipal government.
Anonymous 8/28/2020 07:18 AM	To see that city hall staff are not to be the only voice
Anonymous 8/28/2020 07:21 AM	a Grocery store on the property at Watson and Starwood, no more houses built in Guelph until infrastructure catches up. No more lane reductions on busy streets for bike lanes no one uses and bikers don't even want.
Anonymous 8/28/2020 08:42 AM	a decline in partisan ideology that puts penny pinching ahead of people's enjoyment of city services. Excellent services and amenities make the city worth living in.
Anonymous 8/28/2020 09:14 AM	I would like to see a Council that reflects the diversity of the City's population and engages in healthy debate and decision-making to meet the full range of our community's needs.
Anonymous 8/28/2020 12:00 PM	Keep Wards, ideal to have representatives live in the wards, councillors need to reflect the diversity of the community, bring issues to decision making
Anonymous 8/28/2020 12:13 PM	Diversity on the council that reflects the diversity within our city a council that knows how to strategically balance social, economic and environmental well-being
Anonymous 8/28/2020 01:08 PM	I would like to see a more diverse and at large council, actually working for all citizens, no matter their background. Self interest has to stop. We need to run on a stricter budget and shave off some salaries at city hall.
Anonymous 8/28/2020 01:46 PM	Higher voter turnout. Increased civic engagement between elections. Participation in public debate beyond tweets and other social media thumbs-up/thumbs-down exercises.
Anonymous 8/28/2020 06:26 PM	community centre plans. more outdoor rec facilities (bike park). stuff for kids of all ages. downtown issues fixed (drugs, sketchiness).
Anonymous 8/28/2020 09:18 PM	Diversity and inclusion
Anonymous 8/29/2020 06:15 AM	That Guelph is a prosperous, inclusive city where people trust one another and appreciate their public spaces.
Anonymous 8/29/2020 07:29 AM	Fair representation throughout Guelph for the various districts.

Anonymous 8/29/2020 08:12 AM	Increased citizen engagement in Council and committee work.
Anonymous 8/29/2020 11:23 AM	A more diverse Council
Anonymous 8/29/2020 05:23 PM	Fewer socialists
Anonymous 8/29/2020 05:52 PM	The decisions of council truly represent the needs of residents, not developers or outside interests.
Anonymous 8/29/2020 08:30 PM	Evidence of engagement of citizens from all wards; development that benefits citizens in all wards (eg why isn't there a grocery store in the ward?)
Anonymous 8/29/2020 11:24 PM	Councillors more focused on representing neighbourhoods
Anonymous 8/30/2020 06:54 AM	Keep things the same with the addition of ranked ballots.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 11:29 AM	Each elected member should have a digital portfolio with issues they campaigned on and a chronological record of voting, comments, involvement in various committees. This should be accessible to all city residents with no editing, redacting etc
Anonymous 8/30/2020 11:59 AM	Reduction in size of council. More fiscal responsibility with tax dollars (looking particularly at gross overspending on projects like city hall, library, etc) that show a true respect for their constituents.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 12:09 PM	Sooner than 5 years, hope to see that the council members represent all of Guelph, geographically and demographically.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 01:02 PM	A democratically elected City Council representing specific wards in Guelph
Anonymous 8/30/2020 01:03 PM	I would like to see a good cross section of points of view, representative of the City as a whole: non-partisan, with an ability to manage issues by consensus.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 01:50 PM	I would like to see a independent panel of experts conduct a report to look at the new Council Composition to verify that it is indeed benefiting the people of Guelph and make further recommendations. Surveys should also be sent to residents who could share their views as to whether the new policy is working and offer areas for improvement. Town hall meetings should be set at intervals for residents to share their concerns with city council and the Mayor and discuss improvements that need to be made.



Anonymous 8/30/2020 01:55 PM	Better engagement at the local level with individual wards and their councillors
Anonymous 8/30/2020 01:59 PM	I would like to see proof of consultation with Guelph citizens on important issues, such as the closure of Dublin street and potentially other streets and the choice of locations for future Metrolinx infrastructure.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 02:46 PM	That Council proportionately reflects the diversity of the community and that lack of adequate campaign financing is not necessarily a barrier to election.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 02:51 PM	taxes under control and basic services meeting requirements, cut down on frills, stick to basic services
Anonymous 8/30/2020 02:57 PM	All areas of our economy supported (esp the arts), less homelessness, less addictions, more affordable housing.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 04:46 PM	Having a council that actively engages with the populous at talks and campaigns, and that citizens have met their Councillor at least once.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 04:57 PM	That many people stand for council
Anonymous 8/30/2020 05:00 PM	Elections by ward with more wards as Guelph grows in population.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 06:17 PM	Increasing voter turnout. Development taking place in all Wards, more or less evenly.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 06:21 PM	Greater community engagement, including increased voter participation. Diverse representation on Council, reflective of community and with a wide variety of lived experience, backgrounds, genders, races, and cultures.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 07:03 PM	- A diverse council that represents the city at large - Change occurring that benefits the vast majority
Anonymous 8/30/2020 08:35 PM	Reduced number of challenges to the electoral system
Anonymous 8/30/2020 08:44 PM	Lower taxes and more efficient staff. Community is engaged in caring for public property. New homes being built pay a fair share of property taxes (more than established as those established homes have been paying taxes for years to build the services).
Anonymous 8/31/2020 06:27 AM	I would like to see that the councillors I have elected represented my concerns at city council meetings. That they are available to hear my concerns about issues that arise in my ward.
Anonymous	A continuation of diversity on council. In five years we should continue to see

8/31/2020 06:58 AM

each ward, each neighborhood represented by a diversity of people who actually live in those wards/neighborhoods.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 07:29 AM

-a diverse council composed of roughly equal male-female members including a component of different cultures representative of the % of people in Guelph who are of many cultures

Anonymous

8/31/2020 09:04 AM

this is a dumb question

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:08 AM

High voter turnout.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:18 AM

Councillor communication on what they are working on or issues in their ward.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:25 AM

A diverse council that is representative of those it serves and a high level of satisfaction among folks as to how they are being represented at the municipal level.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:28 AM

Community satisfaction.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:34 AM

Good communication between the Mayor, Councillors and citizens

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:39 AM

Run the city like a household! Get rid of city debt before overspending on wish projects. We all would love newer and bigger things but don't go after these things until we have the money. We all lose our homes if we all spent like the city. Get a few people on council who can own and run a home with one salary under \$50,000 per year

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:59 AM

That respectful debate is facilitated and encouraged.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 11:21 AM

More wards and thus a few more councilors. Get ahead of possible pop. growth

Anonymous

8/31/2020 12:08 PM

I think things are currently working well. It's hard to know what to change. Perhaps just that there is more equal representation between wards (i.e. ward 6 having 27000 residents and ward 3 having 17000, and each with 2 votes at council, is not equal).

Anonymous

8/31/2020 12:14 PM

A more diverse council, greater satisfaction among citizens with decision making, greater transparency, and a more inclusive dialogue with citizens on all issues.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 12:26 PM

That every citizen knows their councillor and responds to our concerns

Anonymous

8/31/2020 01:07 PM

A survey of residents to ensure their needs and /or issues have been recognized by their ward representative, addressed and resolved in a timely fashion.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 01:08 PM

That there is an increase in voter turn out for municipal elections. Turn out is historically low which suggests voters are not engaged with municipal issues or not well informed.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 02:18 PM

Improved voter turn out. Long planned library open.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 02:23 PM

There is plenty of opportunity for the publics involvement in the current process .The face to face aspect is important during canvassing this should not be automated in any way,

Anonymous

8/31/2020 04:15 PM

Follow historical standards, dating back to 1491 B.C. (3511 years ago) that are easy to understand, implement and adjust. Read Exodus 18:13-27, especially noting verses 21,22,25 and 26.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 04:28 PM

That issues that are facing the city are well heard & council voting reflects a diverse range of opinion.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 04:57 PM

A greenbelt around guelph to stop endless sprawl growth.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 05:11 PM

if change is brought in before the next election

Anonymous

8/31/2020 05:42 PM

A well balanced group of conservative, liberal and socialist voices who work together

Anonymous

8/31/2020 07:01 PM

Fairness of attention in all wards. All Councillors work for the betterment of Guelph and not just for their own ward.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 07:09 PM

The number of councillors elected is proportional to the number of people in their respective wards. The City of Guelph has a diversity and inclusion policy that extends to councillor composition on the council itself.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 07:26 PM

A city council that is representative of the people of Guelph.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 07:31 PM

Less complaints from residents overall across all City departments Council represents the diversity of Guelph residents Guelph is seen by other cities as a model to emulate for diverse governance Guelph residents consistently rank quality of life as high, regardless of neighbourhood where they live

Anonymous

8/31/2020 07:42 PM

That you don't make decisions for us. You allow freedom of choice!

Anonymous

8/31/2020 09:15 PM

If guelphites felt an understanding of the principles their elected councillors stand and stood for. Whether they feel that their voices are being held by the elected officials and whether they feel council is working hard for the city of guelph, keeping guelphites best interests ahead of external pressures. Good infrastructure and happy people.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 04:46 AM

Higher voter turnout during elections.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 05:34 AM

That Council has robust debate and listens to depositions, but then comes to a consensus on difficult decisions. Sometimes council needs to demonstrate leadership on an issue on things that are not popular.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 06:07 AM

That's a tough first question. I believe that the current council arrangement is working. All areas of the city are represented. In 5yrs a check into ensure that the population distribution throughout the city is represented through an equalized council distribution or ward boundaries changed for this same reason.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:01 AM

a prosperous and growing City that is safe.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:45 AM

That the change we will witness in this City is thoughtful and fully representative of the values, aspirations and character of the residents. I want our City to reflect our collective aspirations.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 08:58 AM

Diversity on city council - representation of issues in all areas of the city as well diversity of councillors in terms of gender and minorities. Ability of all citizens who have different networks (not just well established lucrative ones) to feel they have a chance of being elected.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 09:44 AM

I would like to see electronic voting along with paper ballots

Anonymous

9/01/2020 09:59 AM

All aspects of governing is not viewed by the citizens that the developers with deep pockets are running the City.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 10:12 AM

The number of women and BIPOC on Council reflects the diversity of the City of Guelph

Anonymous

9/01/2020 10:31 AM

No comment

Anonymous

9/01/2020 11:07 AM

I hope to see no changes in that department.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 11:32 AM

- we should go back to at-large councillors entirely - better communication for folks not internet savvy - no more ward system

Anonymous

9/01/2020 02:06 PM

Value for tax dollars as well as elimination of all non essential services.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 02:21 PM

Almost impossible to evaluate this? What criteria would you use to demonstrate efficacy?

Anonymous

9/01/2020 02:24 PM

Councillors who treat citizens money as their own, and stop CONFISCATING more and more of it....

Anonymous

9/01/2020 02:29 PM

Low tax increases.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 02:40 PM

Citizens are satisfied with the way their Councillors represent them. Councillors are responsive to the needs of their constituents. Pride in being a resident of Guelph remains strong.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 04:14 PM

That council actually starts representing citizens by listening and acting on concerns instead of a select few voting on what they want to happen.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 04:23 PM

More engagement from the tax payers in this city. I would like to referendum votes for matters that will significantly affect property tax increases

Anonymous

9/01/2020 04:31 PM

A city and council that addresses and advocates for the concerns of their constituents

Anonymous

9/01/2020 04:52 PM

Increased engagement, increased and timely response to citizen correspondence.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 05:42 PM

Hear viewpoints of several councillors, not just mayor's view,

Anonymous

9/01/2020 06:12 PM

Please scrap the \$67 million new library! I have never heard anyone in the public suppose it besides Council. Ridiculous!

Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:15 PM

Smart growth that includes green space, Transit that makes sense, amenities that are concise to for all. Minimal increases to taxes

Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:25 PM

A citizenry more engaged in its democratic future

Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:39 PM

more people running for council and especially for mayor

Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:43 PM

I would like to see a thriving downtown, lower rental costs, more doctors accepting patients. That's a start anyway.

Anonymous 9/01/2020 07:45 PM	More transparency. More accountability. Less mayoral double speak.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 07:50 PM	Satisfaction survey by each ward's residences and summary of results. Survey to be completed by each ward as well.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 08:07 PM	greater voter turnout, consistency in Council direction to staff.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 09:04 PM	An even more beautiful city but safer for everyone
Anonymous 9/01/2020 09:08 PM	More people taking an interest
Anonymous 9/01/2020 11:46 PM	A representative council that understands what the community wants.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 04:47 AM	Baseline survey determining level of satisfaction. Follow up survey 5 years from now.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 05:18 AM	More representation of citizens when making decisions.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 05:30 AM	I will see Councillors actively representing the interests of their wards.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 05:45 AM	A council that understands the needs of ALL areas and citizens of our city.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 05:51 AM	New candidates with fresh ideas
Anonymous 9/02/2020 06:12 AM	Diversity in representation and ideas.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 06:52 AM	Informed decisions being made and less mismanaged projects.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 06:52 AM	City that is well managed and promotes community
Anonymous 9/02/2020 06:55 AM	I'm not sure about this.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:59 AM

I would like to see that council is easily recognized by community members, and communities are best divided by how their interests may vary - downtown wards versus suburban wards.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:07 AM

More representative and diverse council that reflects the diversity of the population not only in terms of race but also in terms of educational, financial and social background. At the moment it seems like an exclusive club for middle age white middle class members.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:19 AM

Better engagement and more transparency from council.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:23 AM

There is increased and sustained voter turnout.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:23 AM

Council is diverse and represents all people who live here. Budget is balanced and there is a solid outlook for the future planning. No renagging on past decisions.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:35 AM

Prudent fiscal management that reflects the values of the electorate

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:50 AM

Surveying citizens is the best way to do this. Should be based on who well represented individual citizens feel and how well citizens feel the city has developed (economical, developmentally)

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:02 AM

Localized interests/needs are addressed eg various parks for kids, dogs as well as overarching improvements to make Guelph a stronger city for the future- eg build a new central library

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:02 AM

high voter turnout and engagement

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:02 AM

That Councillors represents the city as a whole and not just a ward

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:16 AM

A view to future developments that are environmentally sustainable and consider the well-being of the people of Guelph should be the top priority. Economic advantages for a few developers are not a priority because they most often do not include considerations that contribute to a context in which people lead a happy, meaningful life. A community in which well-being is a priority is more important for the long-term economic development of Guelph than short-term financial gain for the few.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:16 AM

Continue Guelphs reputation as a good city to live in and build a new library and more athletic and kid play facilities.

Anonymous

Increased diversity on Council; council articulates a clear vision for the City

9/02/2020 08:17 AM

through community engagement; Council works closely with administrators and community partners to implement its vision

Anonymous

-

9/02/2020 08:26 AM

Anonymous

functional, working as a team

9/02/2020 08:44 AM

Anonymous

High voter turnout. Intelligent councillors. Rational decision-making by council that takes into account objective (not politicized) recommendations by professional staff.

9/02/2020 09:14 AM

Anonymous

There is tight competition for the Councillor and Mayor positions; more front-running candidates in each Ward than there are positions. (e.g. 2 positions; 3 high-vote candidates)

9/02/2020 09:19 AM

Anonymous

Voters better understand the role of local vs. provincial government and other agencies. People may not agree with every municipal decision, but they should have opportunities to participate and learn about competing interest and obligations.

9/02/2020 09:22 AM

Anonymous

Present voting methods work well. I would like to see full time councilors (2 per ward) have a say in their wards 75% and at large 25%. (if that is possible)

9/02/2020 09:23 AM

Anonymous

while taking into consideration individual ward concerns, councillors make decisions for the overall good of the city, without the partisan camps which have occurred in the past and getting away from the "not in my backyard." recognition from councillors that this is a job, it is not personal

9/02/2020 09:33 AM

Anonymous

No cars downtown, more greenspace, accessible everything, grocery store downtown, library renewal. I mostly love where this city is going so more of that.

9/02/2020 10:24 AM

Anonymous

A council that is NOT PARTISAN - "slates" of representatives or party-style divides are not helpful at the municipal level. And a Council that does not get bogged down in futile adversarial debate, but can work towards respect, compromise, and common ground - this should be every Councillor's goal regardless of their personal beliefs.

9/02/2020 11:02 AM

Anonymous

Guelph, by population, is becoming a relatively big city; mentally, many residents and perhaps councillors, tend to think and act as if it were still small. This is reflected in the timidity with which council often addresses planning issues, where an unwillingness to invest in necessary change is evident. Obviously, structural change alone won't alter a cloistered mindset, but I believe accepting the fact that being a councillor is a full-time job is a necessary first step. Small towns can be run by part-timers. Big cities can't.

9/02/2020 11:32 AM

Anonymous

More equitable representation in terms of class and experience.

9/02/2020 11:32 AM



Anonymous 9/02/2020 11:40 AM	Resident satisfaction with the councilors in their ward when concerns have been listened to and reacted on in a concerned fashion and not a political way.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 11:44 AM	Full time council members, one per ward and representing constituents views and voices not solely their own views.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 11:44 AM	I hope to have a sense that delegations and surveys are listened to, acknowledged, and perhaps used to make reasonable changes or confirm decisions. I'd like never to read on social media that Councillors do not respond to emails. I'd like to watch discussions and see votes recorded that reflect community views and yet, still embrace the broader concerns of a diverse city.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 11:45 AM	Balance of support for all areas of the city not just downtown.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 12:24 PM	I hope Council in Guelph will start to listen to citizens of Guelph
Anonymous 9/02/2020 12:40 PM	Sound decisions and constructive cooperation between councillors. Seems to work relatively well right now.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 01:04 PM	A council that considers the full range of viewpoints present in the citizenry, but ultimately is capable of making responsible, timely decisions and providing leadership, without spending disproportionate amounts of time and money on niche issues.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 01:53 PM	more citizen engagement
Anonymous 9/02/2020 01:58 PM	The city equalizes service and maintenance throughout; that is, some areas such as downtown are not sacrificed to the interest of other areas, such as suburbs.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 02:25 PM	Better communication between council and administration staff. Continued citizen engagement on issues that impact the city and on the ward level.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 02:31 PM	Members of Council have the ability to represent both local ward interests and needs and of the city as a whole. Members of Council have each others respect as well as the respect of their constituents. Members of Council are not associated with larger political parties or even closely identified as either left or right.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 02:46 PM	Decisions made by council are made responsibly, with transparent information, feedback related to decisions are made with participation from the community citizens who would be impacted by the relevant decisions.
Anonymous	I do not like the ward system and want to hold every council member

9/02/2020 03:35 PM

accountable.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 03:41 PM

Less development in green spaces! Less high rises blocking out sun and causing wind tunnels Less housing to attract Toronto workers! Let Toronto find housing for their workers ! Commuters spend more time on 401 than they do in Guelph!

Anonymous

9/02/2020 03:58 PM

Absolutely no idea. Stupid question

Anonymous

9/02/2020 04:31 PM

A fair balance between business interests and private, citizen interests. Fair and transparent disclosure of business contributions to council campaigns. More consistent management of conflict of interest when discussing development.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 05:20 PM

The concerns of residents were taken into account for decision making and that there was less in camera time and secretive actions.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:37 PM

Greater diversity.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:48 PM

More engaged citizens

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:55 PM

Diversity of location that councillors are based in and serve, gender balance, working class representation, vigorous public debate between elections.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:30 PM

More diversity on council, more transparent representation of ward issues

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:51 PM

Keep the wards, perhaps realign them

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:42 PM

Councillors who actually care about their city.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 10:37 PM

More councilors per ward

Anonymous

9/03/2020 04:42 AM

Yearly budgets stay within set budget. Decisions made are based on taking into consideration the benefit and advancement of the entire City

Anonymous

9/03/2020 04:59 AM

That no council can serve again after having done so.

Anonymous

Council composition will reflect the diversity of the community in respect to

9/03/2020 05:23 AM

gender and race.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 05:35 AM

Guelph needs good accountable councillors.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 05:45 AM

Once councillors are elected, they have a formal online system to hear from the public through to allow them to establish an understanding of what their constituents want them to support / not support. This would replace Facebook / Twitter etc and would provide a record of comments that could be reviewed long term.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 05:53 AM

That the councilors are still living and Hopefully living in Guelph

Anonymous

9/03/2020 06:11 AM

All my dreams come true. What a dumb, simplistic question.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 07:27 AM

Full time fully engaged council that actually represents its constituency.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 07:52 AM

Less tall buildings

Anonymous

9/03/2020 09:15 AM

Better and more regular communication between my elected councilors and the ward constituents.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 09:50 AM

More BIPOC representation on council - and fewer barriers to the participation of lower income communities at the decision-making tables of the city. I want to keep the ward system, and keep at least two councillors per ward.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:22 AM

Each ward represented equally

Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:33 AM

Councillors are accessible to the people, councillors have fully read and understand information being presented to them, council works together more harmoniously, the public know who their councillor is and what ward they live in.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:39 AM

This question is oddly phrased. Higher voter turnout

Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:42 AM

Citizen needs are given priority

Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:49 AM

A more cohesive "team"

Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:59 AM

I'd like to have a hybrid of at-large and ward councillors, so that I'm able to speak to different councillors based on how much expertise they have about an issue. I'm doing that now but I feel like I'm imposing on councillors outside of my ward.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 11:00 AM

a completed rec center in the south end with 4 ice pads.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 11:51 AM

Councillors who live in the wards they represent bring info to residents & consulting & taking values & views back into city decision making - council reflects the socio economic, diversity of our wards and residents

Anonymous

9/03/2020 12:37 PM

Council now seems to be divided with the usual people always banding together in their opinions. No matter what the mayor says, the groupies always back him. Seeing more opinions that are their own would show it's not a popularity contest but rather people trying to make Guelph a better place. Not to be seen as a follower with no mind of their own.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 12:38 PM

Guelph needs to build identity and make decisions accordingly . 5 year plan. State what Guelph is about. Do what we do very well!

Anonymous

9/03/2020 12:46 PM

A true representation of the diversity of the citizens of the city of Guelph.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 01:05 PM

Shorter council meetings- faster decision making process

Anonymous

9/03/2020 01:12 PM

I would hope that they realize we don't need a \$67 million library

Anonymous

9/03/2020 01:14 PM

Progress

Anonymous

9/03/2020 01:18 PM

Increased public engagement, fewer marathon council meetings, greater diversity of experiences on Council.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 01:19 PM

Diversity- racial and gender. Actually the majority of council should be female.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 01:24 PM

Low taxes

Anonymous

9/03/2020 02:08 PM

A freeze on tax increases. Also an increase of businesses locating to our city. Tax burden is weighted on our households to fit the Bill way to unevenly.

Anonymous

In five years, if the composition of City Council includes more persons

9/03/2020 02:27 PM

identifying as women and racialized than white males, and no incumbents with significantly more than 10 years service, I would consider this evidence that the election process is working well.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 02:54 PM

That council meetings are a display of vigorous debate and display a diversity of opinion. That decisive action after debate is taken and reflect bold policy reflecting a vision of Guelph for all the potential that it and its citizens have.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 04:15 PM

Equal representation from wards by councillors to help make all parts of Guelph great.

gmhunter

9/03/2020 04:12 PM

Councillors working well together but, primarily, listening to and responding to the needs of their constituents.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 05:21 PM

Guelph city council would be representative of the diversity of our City. There would be people of colour, women, and younger people. There would be new faces regularly.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 05:48 PM

Higher support for elected councilors from constituents because they are more closely aligned in their concerns.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 06:02 PM

Representative of the population- diversity to match the city.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 06:14 PM

That council gets the city working smoothly and efficiently. This city is great because of the people who live in it. Relative to other cities I have lived in taxes are high for what we get - parks are poorly designed, tree canopy is weak, history of insiders calling the shots, developers are putting large towers everywhere with subpar addressing of the environment and long term well being of citizens, city development standards are weak and enforcement is poor and it doesn't appear that city lawyers know how to write a contract with all the crap that has happened over the years. City staff keep leaving - what's wrong in there? Weak leadership in addressing these issues. The south end is going to look like Mississauga or Brampton at the rate it's going. The Hanlon business park is an oasis of warehouses - was it worth it?

Anonymous

9/03/2020 06:22 PM

That council takes control of spending and returns to the mandated needs and not over spend on wants. Decisions need to be made with a city wide view, not by ward. Wards divide municipalities.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 07:15 PM

An electoral system that allows residents to provide more information that just "who is my first pick", AND, a system that results in a more representative council.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 06:27 PM

Communication for the people that elected them

Anonymous

No property tax increase and more bike friendly

9/03/2020 06:51 PM

Anonymous

9/03/2020 06:52 PM

socially responsible for those less fortunate, no large taxation increases, growth, jobs, green ideas

Anonymous

9/03/2020 09:00 PM

Open data polling of citizens for important issues, items, and pending decisions

Anonymous

9/03/2020 09:52 PM

increased voting numbers, residents interacting more with councillors and city and being listened too.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 05:42 AM

Lower property taxes

Anonymous

9/04/2020 05:57 AM

Lower taxes

Anonymous

9/04/2020 06:01 AM

Decrease in homelessness, effective transit, vibrant downtown. No further urban sprawl

Anonymous

9/04/2020 06:07 AM

Good communication from elected officials; strong connections with community groups; long-term articulated vision balanced with fiscal responsibility

Anonymous

9/04/2020 06:56 AM

Greater diversity on council

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:10 AM

More consensus building by our elected officials and less of a "strong-Mayor" approach currently being used.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:15 AM

That citizens are kept up-to-date on all happenings in Guelph by their Councillor(s) on a regular basis (at least monthly). I do not live in Dominique O'Rourke's ward, but supported her campaign and she kindly kept me on her email list. Her regular newsletter to her constituents is fabulous. For the first time ever, I am "in the know" on all sorts of things, like this Council review. I am now participating more in these surveys and am aware of important decisions being made by Council. All elected officials need to follow this path so that we have more engaged and knowledgeable residents. That would be a huge marker of success for citizens. Regular communication with constituents.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:13 AM

Unsure

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:14 AM

Transparency in all public meetings. City Council should not be making decisions behind closed doors.

Anonymous 9/04/2020 07:21 AM	Ward Councillors with city-wide concerns and responsibilities. City employees freed up to do their jobs without political interference.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 07:22 AM	The council members actually listen to everyone's concerns not just the rich people moving here from mississauga and Toronto. I want to see affordable housing initiatives! For new grads, minimum wage workers and those seeking subsidized housing. The gentrification of Guelph is pushing marginalized folks farther away and out of Guelph.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 07:23 AM	More green spaces and public venues like the new main library...things that make this city more livable for all ages especially the older generation
Anonymous 9/04/2020 07:29 AM	Councilors gain knowledge and expertise on broad strategic issues that impact the social, political and financial considerations that impact the city.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 07:32 AM	Very close to what we have now. There can be controversy in a city..that means everyone using their right to voice their opinion.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 07:33 AM	Citizens engaging with councillors both online and in person. Councillors being visible and accessible to citizens.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 07:58 AM	Resident voices are strongly reflected in city planning - unpopular initiatives that favor corporate interests over citizen interests are diminished (eg metrolinx expansion harming walkability of the city)
Anonymous 9/04/2020 08:01 AM	See more of a focus on the east end of Guelph. Trying to build it up with more than just houses.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 08:05 AM	I think that all major capital investments should go to vote at referendum at each election so that the new incoming council has a clear mandate on what the majority wants versus a select few I think any needs should be taken care of however wants should go to vote
Anonymous 9/04/2020 08:05 AM	A safer community- less theft from homes, yards. More affordable housing. Access to affordable recreation opportunities for youth. Services in place for vulnerable populations (housing, treatment). Affordable mental health services- without 2 year wait lists.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 08:07 AM	Change
Anonymous 9/04/2020 08:10 AM	More diversity. Less ideological divide. Less catering to vocal groups that don't represent the majority.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 08:14 AM	higher turn out to the polls, more engagement between councillors and their constituents, more diversity on the city council
Anonymous	All areas of the city are flourishing.

9/04/2020 08:16 AM

Anonymous

responsiveness to citizen requests, complaints, suggestions

9/04/2020 08:20 AM

Anonymous

More diversity, not just ethnically, but younger members who bring different perspectives.

9/04/2020 08:23 AM

Anonymous

Higher voter participation rates, more accountability for councilors

9/04/2020 08:28 AM

Anonymous

That council decisions reflect the wants of its citizens but ensures that decisions are based on sound policy advice and evidence, and have a long term view. I would also like to know that decisions are based on meaningful engagement and that public debate and discussion are protected, including amongst councillors. Further, council make up should reflect the diversity of our city.

9/04/2020 08:33 AM

Anonymous

Council should have a review process half term or more often (polling of some kind) where they can get feedback from its citizens as to if they feel they are being represented properly. Shouldn't have free reign to spend multimillion dollar projects without polling the city first needing at least 51% approval or higher.

9/04/2020 08:35 AM

Anonymous

Geographic representation of citizens by elected councilors is the cornerstone of a fair representation of their municipal electoral rights. I would hope that there was a uniform and easy way for citizens to engage City Hall about problems they are experience or foresee happening. The front end for this would allow for citizens to engage the city through a single 311 like city hotline (phone, web...)so that citizens could articulate their issue and receive a method to track updates and resolution of the issue. Only if after a reasonable period of time the issue was not resolved would they then engage their councilor to make them aware of the issue and how it would impact their Ward. Random people tweeting at the Mayor is not the proper citizen engagement model.

9/04/2020 08:43 AM

Anonymous

Balanced budget.

9/04/2020 08:45 AM

Anonymous

That they actually vote in the way their constituents want, instead of for their own choices.

9/04/2020 08:51 AM

Anonymous

Real engagement from councillors. I know who my mayor is. I hear from him frequently in the news and social media. Unless it is election time, I never hear from our councillors. I don't even remember who they are anymore.

9/04/2020 08:52 AM

Anonymous

Realigning and balancing the electoral boundaries every 4 cycle using Census data

9/04/2020 09:07 AM



Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:13 AM

When we have a Council that is comprised of all walks of life, backgrounds and histories - working class, working poor, everyday people for instance - rather than a small sliver of semi-retired educated upper middle class managers that we are currently represented by.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:20 AM

Communications inward and outward between citizens and Council involve more citizens, with frequency of participation by both entities increased.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:22 AM

decisions based on local issues and needs

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:22 AM

Stable taxes. Can't be increased every year

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:43 AM

A polite, functional council, that collectively finds sensible, pragmatic solutions to the City's on-going needs for answers.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:44 AM

Better and more even representation of whole city. More transparency.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:02 AM

That there is a mixture of Councillors that reflect the community; we need to continue to encourage members from diverse communities and to make it clear that they have both a right to be at the table and that they are welcome. That there is a really broad spectrum of ideas and positions among Councillors, so that no one set of ideas ever dominates the discussion. That Councillors really understand that their job is to collaborate to support the entire Guelph community. That the Guelph electorate know that they are not just an afterthought who pay ALL the bills and vote once every 4 years. There needs to be some very real community engagement that is meaningful to participants - not just ticking boxing. Guelph has one of the best community engagement policies I have seen recently. It would be great if the staff and council actually followed it.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:06 AM

Council should be more accessible on social media ( much like Cam Guthrie is ) , and willing to be transparent and engage with citizens to start . More focus on places for addiction and rehab programs , out reach . And more housing for low income and middle class ( more affordable )

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:08 AM

Better city management

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:15 AM

1) Voter turnout in municipal elections exceeds 70% of eligible voters. 2) Guelph citizen engagement as measured by on-line participation exceeds 40% of eligible voters. 3) The Guelph Mayor and all Councillor positions are full time occupations with appropriate pay and benefits and "independent councillor services staff" (Do not report to Mayor, CAO) Report to and serve Council members. 4) The Ward system is made stronger and maintains 2

Councillors per ward. Ward system is strengthened by keeping wards small in geographic size and amount of eligible voters. 5) There is more informed discussion at Council Meetings and between voters and Councillors during issue specific sessions. There is simply not enough informed discussion and agreement on data, data accuracy, data interpretation, problem identification and possible solutions. There is currently not sufficient time and early notification given to voters on issues and budget matters.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:25 AM

That the needs of the various parts of the city are being met, not simply the needs of select areas.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:32 AM

- less development of high rises - some housing for low income folks (affordable housing) - slowing down the growth of the City population wise

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:56 AM

I feel the current system is working well. There are bound to be issues no matter what. I worry that "at large members" would have their own biases. At least this way each ward has two councillors whose politics may be different, but who work well together. I believe the current composition represents the citizens of Guelph very effectively.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:56 AM

At least some turnover in council.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 11:05 AM

More Council working together. Caring about issues outside one's ward. Less biting comments and divisiveness on social media. Less "side taking" ex Cllr Gibson & Mayor Guthrie often defend each other. Less "look what I'm doing" Less obvious

Anonymous

9/04/2020 11:14 AM

Greater racial, class and gender diversity of councillors

Anonymous

9/04/2020 11:36 AM

That Council can move as a reasonably cohesive group on issues that affect the city especially in housing, infrastructure, policy and sound fiscal management while maintaining its status as a great city to live and work in. Even with the ward system the overall needs of the city need to have primacy. The ward system works well for the most part in our city.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 11:48 AM

Improved efficiencies for traffic flow incorporating the student impact as well

Anonymous

9/04/2020 11:55 AM

No more wards. Less councillors

Anonymous

9/04/2020 11:56 AM

A reversal of the library decision. I don't know how it's got as far as it has, but it satisfies the fiscal irresponsibility of a select few in the city over everyone else

Anonymous

9/04/2020 11:59 AM

More help for community mental health services, one psychiatrist is not enough and More low income housing

Anonymous

9/04/2020 12:30 PM

More direct input.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:07 PM

Have a more diverse group of councillors who actively listen to their citizens and try to implement changes to help the community.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:12 PM

Maintained roads - winter clearing and general maintenance like pot holes  
Reviews of out dated bylaws  
More accountability of councillors to their wards  
- councillors should not be able to use their influence to make money  
privately like give city contracts to friends and their own companies. We should be making the best fiscally responsible choice for all Guelphites  
Updated garbage program for large bulky items, spring cleaning etc  
Better structured transit, and drivers held accountable for their driving. Feels like complaints get taken and go nowhere. Transparencies through out all processes not just the ones the city feels like sharing. Hire city employees who value their job and commitment to a public role - not just in it for the pay and benefits.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:20 PM

Cap and reduction in property taxes. Serious approach to annual budgets, that, takes into account current economic factors as well as debt/deficit avoidance.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:31 PM

An end to the obvious 'partisanship'

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:37 PM

diverse representation, with all neighbourhoods feeling that their views are represented

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:43 PM

Some KPIs around voter participation. Ex. 70% voter turnout by 2025.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:47 PM

maintain or increase voter participation in municipal elections

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:58 PM

Actual change, seems the old people of Guelph want one thing, the young ones either want the opposite or don't care, we need a council that'll engage us

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:58 PM

Officials that listen to majority population of the city, not based on corporations or businesses.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 02:03 PM

Because residents feel that City Council and the Mayor are only there to push their own agendas, they feel it is useless to even try to express their own interests and what they would like to see. This is why our elections have such poor turnout. We need to see City council and Mayor more in tune with all the people and not just continuing to push and support the agendas of

those they agree with. We need a huge shift from the biases and opinions of City Council that has existed for way too many years. Also, city staff need to be challenged more and not just have everything they suggest rubber stamped.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 02:07 PM

That's a tough question. I guess I would look to see that the municipal elections are dynamic and widely discussed with community leaders coming forward to run for council. I'm never sure that part-time council attracts the best candidates.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 02:10 PM

Stop signs at Brady & Bathgate and Kortright and Fieldstone

Anonymous

9/04/2020 02:20 PM

I would hope to see more citizens engaged in voting and in making delegations on matters of concern to them. I would hope to see the voting numbers up to over 50% of the eligible electors. Anyone who does not vote should not be allowed to make comments!!

Anonymous

9/04/2020 02:43 PM

Sufficient turnover of councillors not just the repeat nominations as a show of a vibrant council. Also voter turnout should be greater than the provincial average.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 03:29 PM

Council renewal (mix of new and experienced council) higher voter turnout; diversity on council reflecting Guelph;

Anonymous

9/04/2020 03:42 PM

Improved voter turnout, bipartisan support, more consensus decisions

Anonymous

9/04/2020 03:43 PM

Managed budget. Not over spending

Anonymous

9/04/2020 04:05 PM

Diversity on Council. Ban Developers from supporting councilors n Mayor. The Mayor should not be able to hand pick his desired council n campaign with them!

Anonymous

9/04/2020 04:07 PM

Balanced and equitable representation of the population, by ward, and by demographic (gender, colour, age, ability, sexual orientation, etc.)

Anonymous

9/04/2020 04:44 PM

I would like to see a plan on homelessness, providing community centres sufficient to service all citizens, getting citizens engaged in the process of governing, making the city more green - being a model for public transit, community gardens, access to green spaces

Anonymous

9/04/2020 05:09 PM

I would like to see a council that reflects the diversity of the city and that is capable of representing my and my neighbors views. A council that comes from every part of the city and is composed of people who share some of my own views.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 05:36 PM

Counsel voting the way the people want them to not just how they feel - decisions need to be made with the citizens of Guelph top in the priority. Too

many times decisions are made on economics and "preferences" such as environmental concerns - I believe this should be taken into consideration but we live and work here and it is our voice that should be heard.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 06:13 PM

- Diversity on Council - Community Engagement is valued by both the administration and Council and carried out consistent with the Community Engagement Framework policy. - Council has a clear vision for the City and adequate time and resources to work closely with City staff and community partners to implement that vision. - Council decisions serve the common good by building toward a shared community vision for the future. - Council is fulfilling its governance role as a board of directors and providing robust oversight of the administration - The administration respects the governance role of Council and embraces its accountability, not only to Council, but to the people they serve.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 06:16 PM

I'm not sure...I would like to say a progressive agenda, but right now I feel like there is an adequate balance of council pushing progressive policies while balancing a more conservative stance.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 06:18 PM

Council debates are civil, reasoned, evidence-based discussions among well-informed and well-prepared Councillors, resulting in world-class policy decisions.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:15 PM

In 5 years, the City of Guelph will see a city council that is representative of the diversity that exists within the city. Guelph is not a homogeneous city, however you would not be able to tell that by looking at the current or recent elected officials. IF the way citizens elect their council in the City of Guelph is working well, representation will be present.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 06:26 PM

Maintaining a similar vision from one council to the next without any major swings of the "vision for Guelph's future planning strategies" pendulum. People voting in high numbers to support our city.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:21 PM

- Increased voter turn-out in all wards - People from all walks of life can afford to run for Council - Council better reflects the demographics of the City

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:58 PM

There is a diverse number of people from the Guelph community running in the Municipal elections.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:59 PM

Actual progress in reducing city's carbon footprint, increasing social services and increasing development of low income housing.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:13 PM

Public polling shows overwhelming support for the improved representation from ranked ballots. Further deepening democracy activities, eg participatory budgeting.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:26 PM

Diverse thinking; alignment in execution

Anonymous

More Guelph citizens voting in the municipal election and hopefully better

9/04/2020 09:27 PM

government representing their values. But this also depends on whether we go to a ranked ballot.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:55 PM

A council comprised of representatives of people from all backgrounds, ages, and walks of life.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:02 PM

Increased voter participation

Anonymous

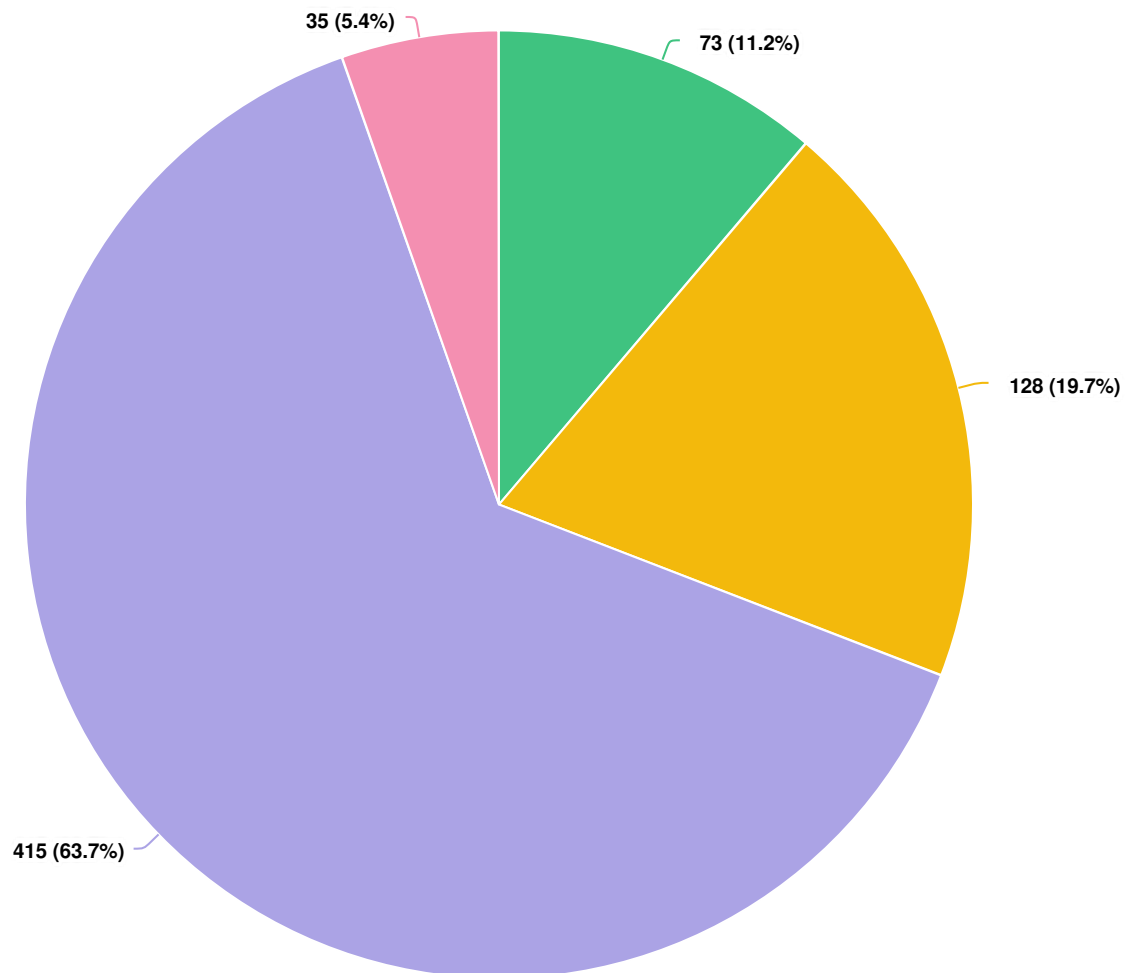
9/04/2020 10:06 PM

Strong local representation by full time councilors balanced by a mayor that builds consensus amongst members of council

**Optional question** (511 response(s), 145 skipped)

**Question type:** Essay Question

**Q2** What is your understanding of the primary role of the whole city council?

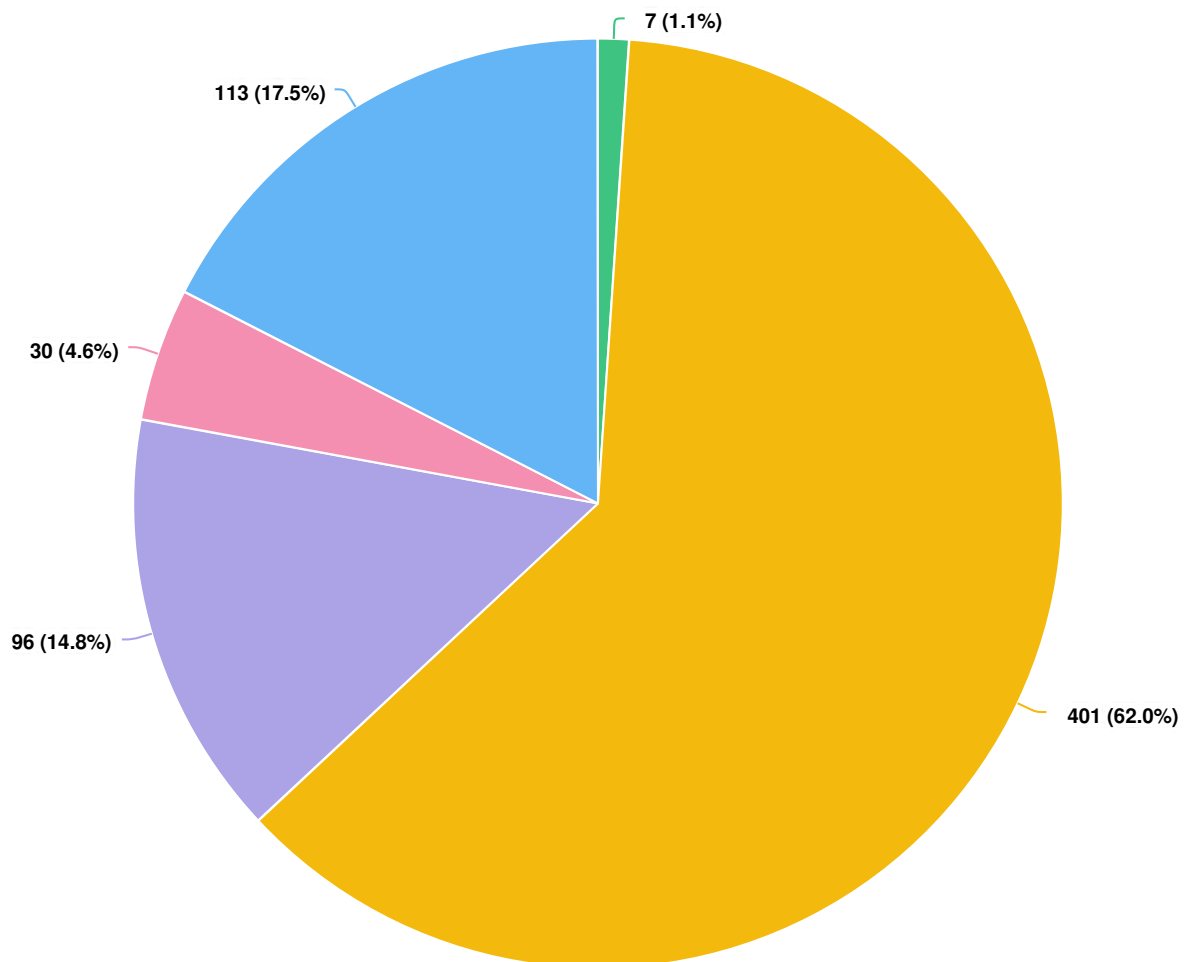


**Question options**

- ☐ A city Council is more like a "board of directors" of a company or charity, providing governance and oversight to the corporation itself.
- ☐ A city Council is more like a "parliament" for political debate and expression of citizen interests.
- ☐ Both
- ☐ Other (please specify)

*Optional question (651 response(s), 5 skipped)*  
*Question type: Radio Button Question*

**Q3** What do you see as the primary role of each individual city Councillor? Your choice does not eliminate the other roles, just underlines what you think is most important.



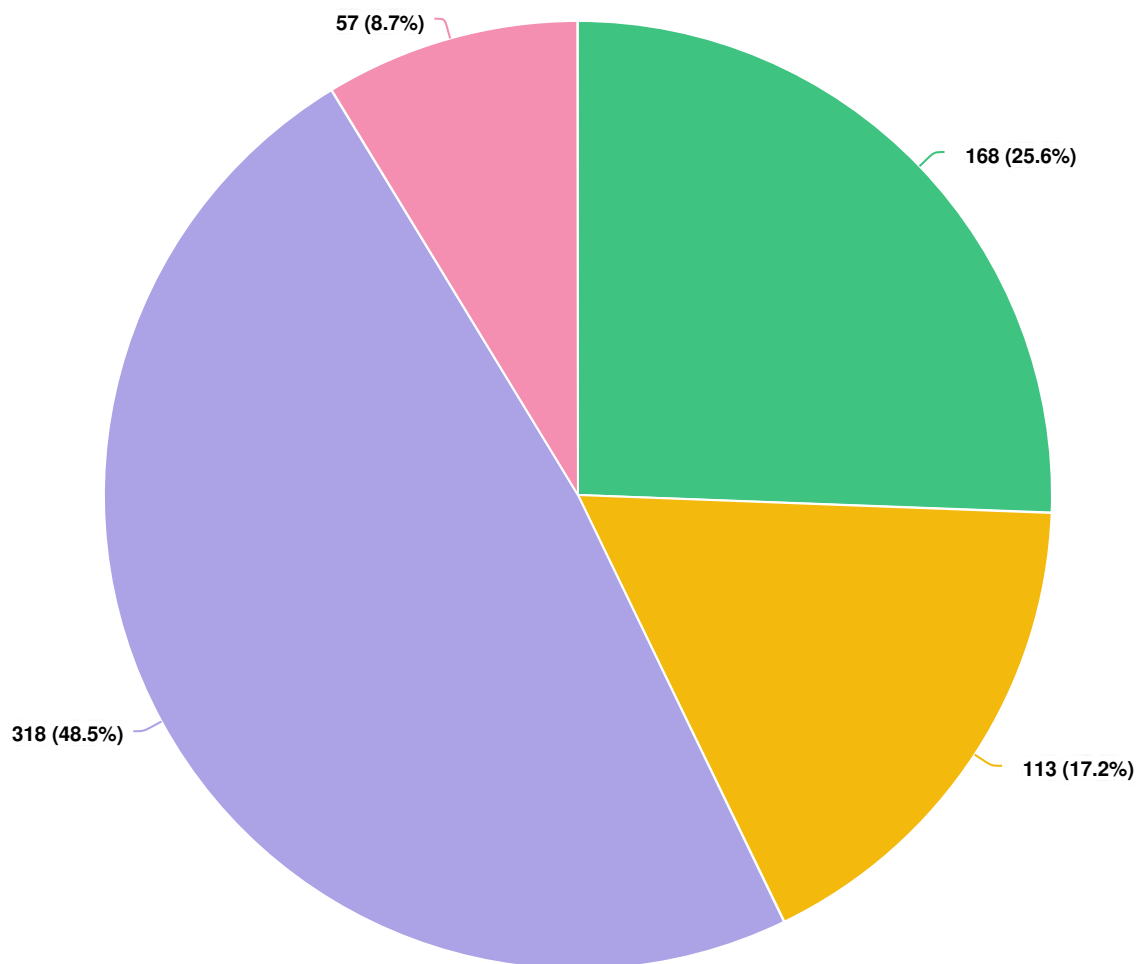
#### Question options

- Autonomy: Councillors use their own best judgement when making decisions and citizens only get involved through elections.
- Engagement: Councillors actively and frequently engage with the public to understand the interests of citizens and to represent those interests when making decisions.
- Advocacy: Councillors are available and responsive when citizens ask for assistance dealing with any local issues.
- Administration: Councillors focus on overseeing the proper functioning of City administration.
- Policy: Councillors focus on creating and improving policies and not focus on day-to-day operations.

Optional question (647 response(s), 9 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question



**Q4** What number of Councillors do you prefer for the City of Guelph?



**Question options**

- Shrink it SMALLER than the current 12
- Grow it LARGER than the current 12
- Keep it the SAME number of 12 Councillors
- I don't know

Mandatory Question (656 response(s))  
Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q5** | **How many Councillors do you recommend sit in a larger City Council?**

Anonymous 14

8/17/2020 08:41 AM

Anonymous 16

8/17/2020 01:15 PM

Anonymous 18

8/17/2020 01:33 PM

Anonymous 14

8/17/2020 02:57 PM

Anonymous 17

8/17/2020 03:49 PM

Anonymous 20

8/17/2020 06:51 PM

Anonymous 16

8/17/2020 07:04 PM

Anonymous 16

8/17/2020 07:38 PM

Anonymous 18

8/17/2020 08:51 PM

Anonymous 16

8/17/2020 09:02 PM

Anonymous 15

8/17/2020 09:33 PM

Anonymous 18

8/18/2020 05:31 AM

Anonymous 15

8/18/2020 07:41 AM

Anonymous 14

8/18/2020 12:48 PM

Anonymous 15

8/18/2020 04:18 PM

Anonymous 14

8/18/2020 05:15 PM

Anonymous 18

8/18/2020 05:10 PM

Anonymous 14

8/19/2020 07:27 AM

Anonymous 14

8/19/2020 08:45 AM

Anonymous 14

8/19/2020 11:47 AM

Anonymous 14

8/20/2020 06:01 AM

Anonymous 16

8/20/2020 08:45 AM

Anonymous 15

8/20/2020 10:15 AM

Anonymous 17

8/20/2020 10:19 AM

Anonymous 14

8/20/2020 10:52 AM

Anonymous 16

8/21/2020 08:12 AM

Anonymous 16

8/21/2020 08:38 AM

Anonymous 15

8/21/2020 09:07 AM

Anonymous 15

8/24/2020 11:26 AM

Anonymous 14

8/24/2020 11:51 AM

Anonymous 15

8/24/2020 01:39 PM

Anonymous 16

8/24/2020 01:59 PM

Anonymous 15

8/24/2020 02:57 PM

Anonymous 14

8/24/2020 03:00 PM

Anonymous 16

8/24/2020 06:00 PM

Anonymous 20

8/24/2020 08:27 PM

Anonymous 14

8/25/2020 12:03 PM

Anonymous 15

8/25/2020 03:32 PM

Anonymous 17

8/25/2020 04:23 PM

Anonymous 14

8/25/2020 05:13 PM

Anonymous 14

8/26/2020 08:26 AM

Anonymous 18

8/26/2020 09:22 AM

Anonymous 14

8/26/2020 09:32 AM

Anonymous 20

8/26/2020 11:46 AM

Anonymous 25

8/26/2020 02:27 PM

Anonymous 18

8/26/2020 08:03 PM

Anonymous 24

8/27/2020 02:20 PM

Anonymous 14

8/27/2020 09:39 PM

Anonymous 14

8/28/2020 08:42 AM

Anonymous 16

8/28/2020 01:46 PM

Anonymous 15

8/30/2020 01:02 PM

Anonymous 16

8/30/2020 01:03 PM

Anonymous 14

8/30/2020 01:55 PM

Anonymous 20

8/30/2020 04:46 PM

Anonymous 14

8/30/2020 04:57 PM

Anonymous 14

8/30/2020 05:00 PM

Anonymous 15

8/30/2020 07:03 PM

Anonymous 18

8/31/2020 10:18 AM

Anonymous 14

8/31/2020 01:07 PM

Anonymous 14

8/31/2020 02:18 PM

Anonymous 14

8/31/2020 04:15 PM

Anonymous 16

8/31/2020 09:15 PM

Anonymous 16

9/01/2020 04:46 AM

Anonymous 13

9/01/2020 09:44 AM

Anonymous 14

9/01/2020 10:12 AM

Anonymous 18

9/01/2020 02:03 PM

Anonymous 13

9/02/2020 04:47 AM

Anonymous 16

9/02/2020 05:18 AM

Anonymous 15

9/02/2020 06:12 AM

Anonymous 16

9/02/2020 07:13 AM

Anonymous 15

9/02/2020 01:58 PM

Anonymous 14

9/02/2020 06:48 PM

Anonymous 16

9/02/2020 06:55 PM

Anonymous 16

9/02/2020 10:37 PM

Anonymous 13

9/03/2020 05:53 AM

Anonymous 16

9/03/2020 07:52 AM

Anonymous 14

9/03/2020 09:50 AM

Anonymous 16

9/03/2020 01:14 PM

Anonymous 25

9/03/2020 03:34 PM

Ray Stultz 14

9/03/2020 04:15 PM

Anonymous 13

9/04/2020 07:59 AM

Anonymous 14

9/04/2020 08:00 AM

Anonymous 16

9/04/2020 08:01 AM

Anonymous 18

9/04/2020 08:07 AM

Anonymous 18

9/04/2020 08:23 AM

Anonymous 14

9/04/2020 08:31 AM

Anonymous 17

9/04/2020 08:35 AM

Anonymous 13

9/04/2020 09:20 AM

Anonymous 18

9/04/2020 09:22 AM

Anonymous 14

9/04/2020 09:43 AM

Anonymous 14

9/04/2020 10:15 AM

Anonymous 16

9/04/2020 10:43 AM

Anonymous 15

9/04/2020 11:05 AM

Anonymous 14

9/04/2020 11:36 AM

Anonymous 16

9/04/2020 01:07 PM

Anonymous 15

9/04/2020 01:20 PM

Anonymous 18

9/04/2020 02:36 PM

Anonymous 16

9/04/2020 03:42 PM

Anonymous 24

9/04/2020 03:54 PM

Anonymous 14

9/04/2020 04:44 PM

Anonymous 14

9/04/2020 05:09 PM

Anonymous 16

9/04/2020 08:58 PM

Anonymous 14

9/04/2020 09:13 PM

Anonymous 18

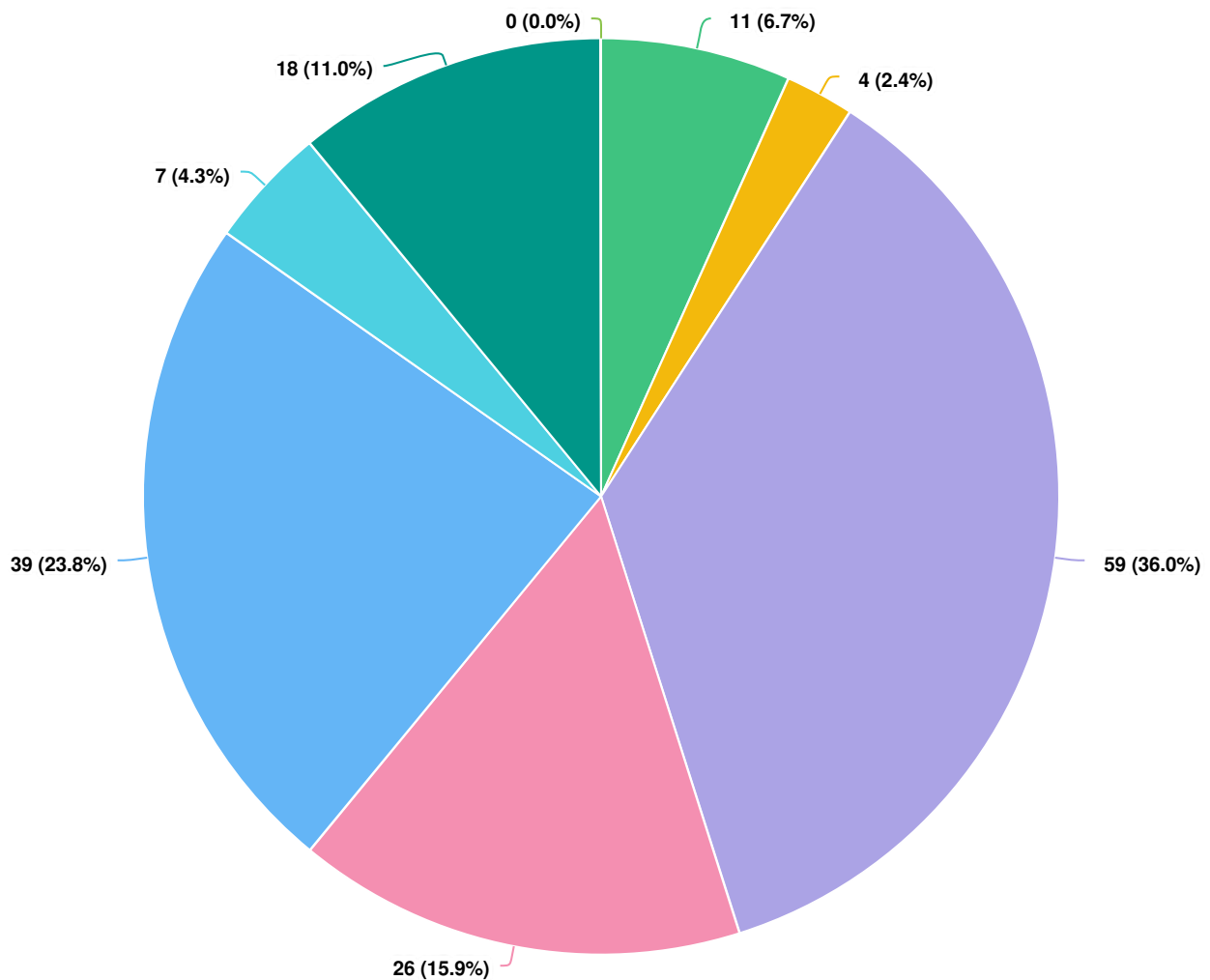
9/04/2020 09:55 PM



**Optional question** (104 response(s), 552 skipped)

**Question type:** Number Question

**Q6 | How many Councillors do you recommend sit in a smaller City Council? (the Municipal Act requires a minimum of 4 plus the Mayor)**



**Question options**

4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

Optional question (164 response(s), 492 skipped)  
Question type: Dropdown Question

**Q7** Why do you think the Guelph City Council should be smaller?

Anonymous

8/17/2020 08:46 AM

One person of contact for ward. One interest and voice for ward.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 09:06 AM

I think we need one full-time Councillor per ward, not two councillors doing this work part-time/off the side of their desk. We need Councillors to be fully engaged in understanding the work of the city and representing their constituents. That might mean more wards with one per, plus the mayor, but would still likely be less people than currently sits on Council.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 09:19 AM

i think a single full time councilor and increased number of wards will better suit our city's needs.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 11:27 AM

I don't believe there is any benefit to having two Councillors per ward. I would be ok with 12 councillors if there were 12 wards. But the current format of 2/ward has no benefit in my view.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 12:23 PM

I think 6 plus mayor total. Because it is more difficult to come to a reasoned agreement with more people around the table. A variety of viewpoints is good to a certain extent, but at some point there becomes diminishing returns and that results in gridlock with regard to problem solving. I think the 7th position serves as the tie breaker (3/3) and that power should fall to the mayor. I think this structure will lend itself to meaningful and vigorous debate among people who know the stakes and are focused on what they're doing and are well prepared to defend their position. This is accomplished by reducing the number and making the positions full time instead of part time. I think it also lends itself to more constructive discussions around the table. Less chance of a big block forcing their will on the council.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 02:15 PM

It should be smaller but this is misleading because I think councillors should be full-time and only serve a single ward. Smaller wards with single full-time councillors will provide better representation for constituents. The wards should be reduced in size based on a combination of population and size. This can also mean a better pool of candidates because councillors wouldn't need to be concerned about another source of income. This means you can get passionate people who aren't necessarily affluent.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 01:47 PM

So they can be full time

Anonymous

8/17/2020 01:52 PM

If we move to full time councilors we absolutely must decrease the number of councillors and 6 seems like an adequate number.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 02:26 PM

The reason is simple - we are such a small city!

Anonymous

8/17/2020 02:28 PM

There is no need for two councillors per ward, it's unnecessarily redundant.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 02:57 PM

Only ONE Councillor per Ward is needed to engage with the public to understand the interests of citizens and to represent those interests when making decisions.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 03:00 PM

Just one council member per ward, make them full time. Then they can serve the city better.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 03:04 PM

full time not part time and even up to 8 with a focus on the south and east ends. Full time allows more time to devote to the wards and their problems

Anonymous

8/17/2020 03:48 PM

1 councillor per 20000 residents seems more appropriate. Some Toronto councillors have 100K residents.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 03:50 PM

by comparison, the city of Kitchener (with 100,000 + more population than Guelph) has two LESS councillors than Guelph.... we should be cutting costs, especially now that the mayor and council are racking up additional fees (i.e., the police station)

Anonymous

8/17/2020 04:59 PM

Too many opinions means that decisions take longer, there are better ways to get diverse thought to the table.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 06:22 PM

A) To afford them to be full time B) To press them to stay at the policy level and out if the weeds of operating /administration

Anonymous

8/18/2020 05:07 AM

too many cooks in the kitchen...more decisiveness in issues when fewer people can push their agendas

Anonymous

8/18/2020 05:52 AM

Wr need to get rid of some of the egos and have a team that support and work together. The two divides (Karen vs Cam) is really obvious and unproductive.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 06:53 AM

I believe that 6 ward councillors and 4 general-elected councillors would be sufficient.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 07:39 AM

I think our councillors should be full time and that one per ward makes sense. If we had 6 council members + the mayor that should enable a voting mechanism that allows a "win" of 4-3 on challenging issues. Full time councillors would be fairer for all, allowing for better advocacy and representation

Anonymous

8/18/2020 07:59 AM

One full-time Councillor per ward.

Anonymous

Duplication of efforts in some wards. Some council members are visible and

8/18/2020 09:08 AM

some I never hear from.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 09:18 AM

Guelph has more councillors than larger cities. It's a waste of tax-payers money.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 09:29 AM

I think that a city of this size one councilor for every 20K people is enough

Anonymous

8/18/2020 01:15 PM

I think we could lessen the number of councillors right now, but as per my selected priority, they could dedicate themselves better to advocacy, customer service delivery and ensuring a connection to the community by dedicating themselves full time.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 12:38 PM

Too many people getting paid to do nothing. We need less of that

Anonymous

8/18/2020 04:05 PM

Smaller, but make the Councillors full time. 1 per ward instead of 2. One councilor with a full time position could get more work done than 2 part time councilors that have to hold their regular jobs as well.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 04:51 PM

One full time councillor per ward.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 09:15 PM

Do not need 2 per ward.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 05:36 AM

Improve dynamics among councillors.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 07:01 AM

No other city of our size has 2 standing Councillors for each ward. Furthermore, while some Councillors are engaged, many are not and it seems an egregious waste of resources (beyond those financial ones).

Anonymous

8/19/2020 07:11 AM

Because I believe they should be full time.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 07:49 AM

Don't need the current two people per ward.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 05:15 PM

Some ward council members work against each other and do not represent the true Ward needs

Anonymous

8/20/2020 08:42 AM

I think that a 1 councilor per ward is a good.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 10:01 AM

There does not need to be 2 councillors per ward. One councillor per ward is enough. Two councillors does not offer better representation than one, if that

	councillor is actually representing the citizens in that ward.
Anonymous 8/20/2020 10:12 AM	nothing getting done as is
Anonymous 8/20/2020 12:57 PM	Population doesn't warrant it
Anonymous 8/20/2020 05:06 PM	Councillors should elected to a fulltime position to address constituent concerns
Anonymous 8/20/2020 05:40 PM	My ward has two councils. I am only familiar with one. Not sure what the other one is doing. We don't need "Yes" man and rubber stamps. We need someone who is approachable. I am fine to cut one council per ward.
Anonymous 8/20/2020 07:22 PM	Less government the better.
Anonymous 8/20/2020 08:01 PM	debt is out of control.
Anonymous 8/20/2020 09:06 PM	Because one of my two is a ghost. Never can get hold of Bob bell and he never responds to any emails or questions or requests for help
Anonymous 8/22/2020 11:26 AM	The more people you have, the less each has to do and be responsible / accountable for. Also, the more people in the room on any given topic, the harder it is to get a consensus on anything.
Anonymous 8/24/2020 08:41 AM	Cost as our mayor has advocated for keeping taxes low this has not happened as council make up continues to want to spend money . This number would be even more important if we go to full time councillors
Anonymous 8/24/2020 10:23 AM	Less councilors but paid full time positions.
roy.clarke 8/24/2020 10:36 AM	I think that it should be one council member per ward
Anonymous 8/24/2020 11:35 AM	Streamlining by having fewer overall, can provide more succinct debate without reducing quality of representation. Create a 7th Ward South of Ward 1 and East of Ward 6, redistribute Ward 5 & 6 to rectify the current and projected population imbalance.
Anonymous 8/24/2020 01:15 PM	The wards should be redesigned since the growth of the city. We only need one Councillorper ward
Anonymous 8/24/2020 01:48 PM	Efficiency, waste of money to have two Councillors per ward.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 02:01 PM

Its a tremendous waist of money. Part time job with too many benefits.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 04:25 PM

dumb question but the answer is that if the council members are focused, they can get more work done, we have two council members in my ward, not sure what they have done, but only dealt with them twice, a total of two minutes, one council member is plenty per ward WTF who needs 2 in guelph wards

Anonymous

8/24/2020 07:57 PM

Because I believe they are overpaid for what they do. There are only 3 councillors that show up for important issues. All the rest are weak and do not provide adequate representation. The mayor should not be making \$150,000 per year. He is absolutely overpaid.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 08:25 AM

We should cut it in half so that there is one full-time councilor per ward. If we establish new (and more) wards, that number would increase to ensure each ward has ONE full-time councilor.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 10:15 AM

I don't have any visibility into what the councilors actually do for the city. Maybe more education and information on how they are assisting the public would justify council size?

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:09 PM

To reduce costs. I think it will be easier to achieve consensus with fewer councillors. Maybe it will alleviate some of the bickering that happens, too.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:09 PM

I believe that fewer people around a table can make better decisions.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:27 PM

Smaller and full time so they can focus on the work of the city and will feel more responsibility towards their constituents. Streamline debate and voting process in council.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:31 PM

I would prefer to see wards re-drawn, with 1 councillor to each ward. This is based on an assumption that the current 6 wards could be re-drawn as 8 smaller wards.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 01:22 PM

Please refer to answer of question #1

Anonymous

8/25/2020 01:36 PM

Might get along better and make wise decisions

Anonymous

8/25/2020 02:45 PM

I think a one full-time Councillor per ward should be the future direction - the same public cost with increased capacity to dedicate time to City and community work. If the ward review finds additional wards are needed then I support aligning one full-time Councillor per ward (if that is 7 wards then 7 Councillors, etc.).

Anonymous

8/25/2020 03:16 PM

I like the idea of ward system with one rep per ward, but increasing the number of wards to make the population relatively the same in each.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 04:48 PM

1 per ward. Less drama and debates.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 08:00 AM

City council should have one representative per ward. I feel that it is businesses that run our city not city hall.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 10:17 AM

I think that although diversity and experience are vital to on a Council, we run the risk of having too many bodies filling seats, and not taking their roles seriously - especially when these are part time roles. I think we need to curb expenses where we can and ensure oversight in the our Councilors and emphasis how important their role is.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 11:42 AM

less red-tape and save \$ that could put towards other needs.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 12:42 PM

There seems to be a lot of redundancy in the current model. I have never liked the fact that there are two councillors per ward. I also don't believe that having more voices at the table is creating interesting or useful dialog. Those in the south vote as a block, those downtown vote in a block, those in the East and West vote as a block.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 02:29 PM

Less is sometimes more viable and easier to make proper decisions for all citizens

Anonymous

8/26/2020 03:28 PM

Group decision making is more efficient with a smaller number, with 7-8 optimal

Anonymous

8/26/2020 05:12 PM

Council should be 1 per Ward and 3 to 4 at large and no more than one from any ward for the at large.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 05:41 PM

One full time councillor per ward, focused, presently two do not seem to be aware of community issues, such as Margaret Greene Park issue.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 08:15 PM

I think that city council should be smaller and move to a full time position. Eliminate the idea of 2 councillors per ward and move to 1. Again I would like to see that full time councillor conduct a lot more engagement with citizens and get a better feel for what their interests are. I think if that did happen we wouldn't see the giant pushback against the new library. Clearly city council was off the mark and only listening to the small interest groups making all the noise. Their job should be to reach out engage people to get a feel for what the general public wants not interest groups.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 07:29 PM

Significant dead wood on council. Too many platform seekers using council as a stage for their social justice projects.

Anonymous

Efficiency. A City the size of Guelph does not need a councillor for every



8/27/2020 06:50 AM

nook and cranny. All should be looking for the best of the whole city.

Anonymous

8/27/2020 08:22 AM

I think we should have redraw wards to reflect the overextended south end and shrink to 1 councillor / ward to reflect other larger communities like missosauga / Toronto. Approximately 100,000 constituents per councillor is the going rate so I think 6-7 councillors + mayor is reasonable to stay on budget and make councillors a full time position.

Anonymous

8/27/2020 12:12 PM

Less arguing and better decision making on behalf of all of Guelph

Anonymous

8/27/2020 01:34 PM

I think having 2 councillors for each Ward makes no sense, but there needs to be a critical mass of elected officials to carry the work load on Committees.

Anonymous

8/28/2020 07:18 AM

Councillor should be a full time job. Only 1 per ward

Anonymous

8/28/2020 01:08 PM

I think some councillors are so similar in their ways of thinking, and ideas that it just is redundant to have so many representing the same interests.

Anonymous

8/28/2020 06:26 PM

I think the councillors should be full time - in order to pay for that, I guess we would need to have less for now until the population increases. 8 or 10 because Guelph is growing so I think we need more than half of current.

Anonymous

8/29/2020 05:23 PM

They would be more responsible to a broader base

Anonymous

8/30/2020 11:59 AM

8 would be enough to engage in discussion and debate regarding issues in Guelph. More is a waste of money.

Anonymous

8/30/2020 01:50 PM

Making city council smaller will reduce the amount of money spent on having more Councillors. This money then could be allocated elsewhere where there is a shortage. More council members increases unnecessary bureaucracy. Having too many members can lead to Councillors pushing for policies that favor special interests and less on the direct needs of people. There are many ways to increase the close relationship between ward Councillors and residents and improving effective government without increasing council and those should be studied and implemented. Having more Councillors doesn't automatically mean improved service for residents or that communication between parties will improve either. The amount of Councillors should ultimately be decided by the residents of Guelph, not city council.

Anonymous

8/30/2020 05:46 PM

If we go to full time there should be less. Guelph has grown so just cutting in half does not make sense. 8 is better than 9 as with the mayor there is an odd number meaning you won't have split votes.

Anonymous

8/30/2020 06:21 PM

Fewer Councillors, but full time positions.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 09:04 AM

More is not better. We need better councillors not more.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:18 AM

1 councillor per ward...too many do nothing or appear to do nothing....Bob Bell

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:23 AM

Barrie, a city comparable in size, has 10 councillors for 10 wards. I'd prefer more wards but with one councillor per ward.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:39 AM

Less time hearing so many of the same points of view and save money for taxpayers

Anonymous

8/31/2020 11:22 AM

8 plus the mayor would make the best representation

Anonymous

8/31/2020 02:23 PM

Use the current budget to allow the councilors to go full time

Anonymous

8/31/2020 05:11 PM

because there is too much happening at council.. so much division. smaller council could accomplish more

Anonymous

8/31/2020 05:34 PM

By making it a full time position it should be enough for proper representation for each ward

Anonymous

9/01/2020 01:40 AM

To reduce cost, and by mixing it with 1 Councillor per ward it would make the Ward smaller, so is a good balance on money saving plus accessibility and knowledge of a Councillor for a particular ward.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:01 AM

Bigger is not better. 8 full time councilors makes more sense. Less infighting, more control and focus. Mayor breaks the tie vote.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 09:59 AM

Too many special interests with the ward system. Smaller council would make them more accountable for the decisions that are made that affects the city down the road.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 10:31 AM

Make the wards larger and pay them more to represent a larger area. If you make the wards too small then you risk the concerns of an area overridden by the councilors of the other wards. For example all the intensification is being directed to ward 6 as other councilors don't want it in their ward so as to keep their people happy.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 02:24 PM

Because all these self proclaimed 'know it alls', who buy into the Municipal 'speak' and when they tell you something at the door, they do the opposite when they're given power. Ward 6 Mark MacKinnon....

Anonymous

9/01/2020 04:14 PM

A few councilors have been around far too long and I believe they put their own needs and wants first. We need new council with fresh ideas that

	actually benefit citizens.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 04:23 PM	One council member per ward
Anonymous 9/01/2020 04:52 PM	Because the position should be full-time.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 06:12 PM	Save money
Anonymous 9/01/2020 07:15 PM	I have never heard or seen any communication from any councillors and I have lived in different wards in Guelph
Anonymous 9/01/2020 07:27 PM	2 per ward if confusing who do I go to ?
Anonymous 9/01/2020 07:50 PM	I believe 8 councillors will suffice in providing a voice of various wards across the city of Guelph, especially if they each work full time. Having too many councillors, especially part time, will create a lot of inefficiencies and lost communication between the 2 councillors in each ward.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 11:46 PM	There should be less of them and full time. The part time council members don't have the time to engage with their citizens. They have other responsibilities and are not up to speed on the issues. Their votes are muddled with personal opinion and easily led by the loudest voice.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 05:45 AM	I think one councillor per ward plus a few councillors looking at the wider picture would be beneficial. I have two councillors, and any time I've contacted them both, I've only heard back from one, so feel like the second one hasn't been effective for me anyway. Smaller council would also reduce cost, which given the economic disaster that Covid 19 pandemic is bringing us, would be a responsible/timely choice.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 06:52 AM	Council meetings are already inefficient with multiple councillors adding nothing to the conversation other than "I agree." Bring in "ditto" cards to visually show approval and let the conversation move forward. Less voices will speed up the decision making process.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 07:23 AM	Shrink the size of Council and make them full-time representatives. The city is too big and complex to have people dabbling in the side to fulfil their council duties. Also, having a smaller full-time council makes it more accessible to a wider demographic in the community (not just retirees, entrepreneurs or professionals) .
Anonymous 9/02/2020 07:35 AM	Large government creates nothing but additional bottlenecks. The councillors can speak for a larger ward, with fewer councillors making more headway with less confusion.
Anonymous	To many hands in the pot.....some do a lot of work and others do nothing

9/02/2020 08:02 AM

Anonymous

9/02/2020 09:14 AM

Convert part-time posts to full time, reduce Council by half. Make all councillors 'at large' and answerable and responsive to all residents of Guelph.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 09:22 AM

Shorter meetings. I think we have a lot of councillors compared to other, larger cities. Collaborative decision making is critical for local government, but I feel like 9 (full-time) Councillors could discuss, debate and reflect community interests as effectively as 13.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 11:44 AM

Reduce council to 1 person per ward, make this a full time position paid the equivalent of the previous 2 councilors. This will allow councilors to work full time hours to deal with matters quicker and result in decisions being made so one councilor can not cancel out the 2nd councilor as they can now by voting in opposing views.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 02:25 PM

We should have at least nine wards to match the demographics. 1 full time councillor per ward.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 03:35 PM

Too much talk and too little action.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:18 PM

Only one person per ward. Increase in number of wards if needed.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:40 PM

Save taxpayer dollars. You only need 1 representative per ward

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:42 PM

There no need for 12 of them, when half of them don't engage with the city residents

Anonymous

9/03/2020 04:59 AM

Because they be useless now. They are working in plans from the 90's. The library. With all the technology in our hands they should thought about change not just following what others wanted before our time.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 05:35 AM

Guelph is one of those cities with the highest property taxes and yet it is run so poorly. Our infrastructure is outdated and we don't have a vision of growth. Our downtown core is filled with drug addicts and we have tent cities affecting every neighbourhood at every corner. They want to build a library as well! !!! We don't need councillors... we need less government and more advocating for the people of Guelph.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 05:45 AM

Impacted by my selection of a mixed system below. Voting on an issue would allow for the vote of the ward plus 4 councillors at large to consider the greater good of the city. That gives 5 possible support votes. The mayor is also equivalent to an at large rep for 6 votes, which is enough to carry a vote. There is also the option for a councillor to engage neighbouring ward councillors.

Anonymous 9/03/2020 10:33 AM	current number does not allow for consensus building, it creates division and duplication of effort (citizens have to reach out to 2 councillors to ensure their opinions are heard)
Anonymous 9/03/2020 10:39 AM	Efficiency
Anonymous 9/03/2020 10:53 AM	Shift to full time. One per ward plus Mayor.
Anonymous 9/03/2020 12:38 PM	Lower cost ... There are tons of city employees to do "the work"
Anonymous 9/03/2020 12:46 PM	Single councilor per ward remainder at large and full time
Anonymous 9/03/2020 01:12 PM	Too many cooks in the kitchen.
Anonymous 9/03/2020 01:18 PM	Prefer to have smaller council but make them full-time. Even with two Councillors responses can take days, if they ever get back.
Anonymous 9/03/2020 01:24 PM	Not enough 'wor', a lot of 'busy' work though
Anonymous 9/03/2020 02:14 PM	8 Wards, 8 Councillors and 2 at large plus the Mayor (tie-breaker). Councillors to be full-time employees of the citizens of Guelph.
Anonymous 9/03/2020 02:27 PM	Guelph City Council should be smaller only in terms of seats, not in reduced service. My recommendation of six Councillors plus the Mayor entails that the role of City Councilor in a rapidly developing and increasing diverse City is a full time job. The long term cost and service benefit of a focussed and dedicated council cannot be underestimated.
Anonymous 9/03/2020 06:14 PM	Add one councillor for splitting the wards up into 7 to handle the population growth and make them full time positions. Each councillor should have to live in their ward so they really know what it's like. They don't need an office, renovations or support staff. Covid has taught us that zoom or MS teams meetings work. A church or school space can be easily obtained for meetings.
Anonymous 9/03/2020 06:22 PM	I believe there should be 5 councilors that represent the whole of the city that would be full time. The other 5 would be part time and deal with ward issues.
Anonymous 9/03/2020 06:27 PM	Half them don't represent the wards like they should

Anonymous 9/03/2020 06:51 PM	Cost savings
Anonymous 9/04/2020 05:42 AM	Any more than 7 people in a room can never come to a decision.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 07:13 AM	I think a smaller group can work together more efficiently
Anonymous 9/04/2020 07:29 AM	Makes it easier to gain expertise, focus and make decisions.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 08:05 AM	I feel that a larger council creates more red tape and that each ward then gets 2 votes to an issue whereas only one vote should apply per issue
Anonymous 9/04/2020 08:28 AM	More accountability, less waste, more efficiency, more transparency
Anonymous 9/04/2020 08:51 AM	Given recent reductions in other larger cities, 10 seems a more realistic number for our, even though ever growing, population. Right now 12 are not doing a very good job, so a small reduction may make them more aware of the responsibilities they have been awarded.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 08:52 AM	One councillor per ward and should be a paid position. Each councillor should be focused solely on the needs of their ward and not spreading themselves too thin by trying to manage both work and council. I would like to see councillors actively engaging their ward constituents outside of election time. They are not very active outside of this time.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 09:22 AM	I don't even know my Council. Never met my rep for my area
Anonymous 9/04/2020 09:44 AM	Too many people to get anything accomplished.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 11:48 AM	There is no need to have many people debating their own agenda. Council should be used to improve the city and there of them there are the less likely anything gets accomplished.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 11:54 AM	No money to increase or grow larger.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 11:55 AM	We do not need these many period!!!
Anonymous 9/04/2020 11:56 AM	Because at 130,000 people, there's no reason to have 12 opinions on topics that will effect everyone across the city equally. The city is too small to have

	problems or solutions that only affect "some" of the residents
Anonymous 9/04/2020 12:30 PM	Everyone shares city interests. No need to divide up the city into small sections. The greater good for the city as a whole over small areas of the city .
Anonymous 9/04/2020 01:12 PM	It should be smaller but the rules should be fulltime
Anonymous 9/04/2020 01:20 PM	Smaller makes for greater accountability. The greater the number (such as now) allows for the passing of inaction because the second councillor in the ward voted differently.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 02:03 PM	One councillor per ward is fine. Some of the comments councillors have made have been offensive and insult the intelligence of residents. With one councillor per ward hopefully, with responsible residents informing themselves, these councillors will get weeded out of council. Also this means one councillor per ward will need to make sure they hear all the people and not just those that they agree with. Then it will certainly become clear whether a councillor is listening or not everyone.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 02:43 PM	Better value for the taxpayer and faster decision making
Anonymous 9/04/2020 03:29 PM	Population size
Anonymous 9/04/2020 03:43 PM	Bigger cities operate more efficiently with fewer - ie Kitchener has 10. Too many voices at the table gets nothing done.

**Optional question** (158 response(s), 498 skipped)

**Question type:** Essay Question

## Q8 Why do you think the Guelph City Council should be larger?

Anonymous 8/17/2020 08:41 AM	City size has grown significantly. especially ward 6. Ward 6 should be split into two
Anonymous 8/17/2020 01:15 PM	to represent the growing areas of the City.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 01:33 PM	City continues to grow. More councillors should enable more engagement with constituents, public, other stakeholders ...Also would enable mixed ward-city wide voting.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 02:57 PM	Ward 6 has increased & soon we will have the addition of Clair Maltby. The south end is growing and needs more representation

Anonymous

8/17/2020 03:49 PM

Guelph's population has grown and reducing the number of councillors goes directly against principles of democratic representation. If anything, the current wards are not very well representative of Guelph's diversity of communities and neighbourhoods, and we need more, smaller wards with councillors. Our population rose from just under 96,000 in 1996, giving a ratio of 7985 residents per 1 councillor (with a council of 12). Today, with a population of 131,794 (2016 census) that ratio is 10,983 residents per councillor. To achieve a number closer to the 7985, we would need at least 16 councillors to get 8237 residents per councillor. My suggestion of a 17th seat is to entertain the idea of a single rep dedicated to University of Guelph students.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 06:51 PM

Better democracy and representation of citizens.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 07:04 PM

The city is larger

Anonymous

8/17/2020 07:38 PM

Part time so not dependent upon salary and to be split 2 per ward to better represent citizens

Anonymous

8/17/2020 08:51 PM

I'd split Wards 4, 5 & 6 in 2, with 2 new Councillors in each new ward.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 09:02 PM

With the population growing at the rate it currently is, there is no way one councilor can keep up with all the concerns of resident's

Anonymous

8/17/2020 09:33 PM

Based on larger wards 3 sit or add a ward for progress

Anonymous

8/18/2020 05:31 AM

We lack representation. Guelph is huge and growing.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 07:41 AM

To ensure more efficient representation of Wards and improve Councillors ability to operate beyond just purely administrative and budgetary concerns. Councillors should be engaging citizens, looking into issues at the ground level, and engaging with NIMBYism issues, promoting civic projects, and expanding cooperation between citizens and government.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 12:48 PM

To represent the population more effectively

Anonymous

8/18/2020 04:18 PM

As the city grows, we need to ensure we have adequate representation for each of the areas

Anonymous

The city has grown substantially, and the ward boundaries need to be re-



8/18/2020 05:15 PM

worked to reflect the growth, particularly in the South End.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 05:10 PM

City is growing at a rapid rate, 3 per ward would be ideal in larger wards, in smaller wards with less growth or no new development 2

Anonymous

8/19/2020 07:27 AM

Ward 6 currently too large in proportion with other wards, It should be partitioned

Anonymous

8/19/2020 08:45 AM

I think each ward should represent up to 20,000 people, and to plan for growth we'll need to add another ward at the south end.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 11:47 AM

I think the ward boundaries should be re-drawn. As the city has grown, I believe the ward system should be expanded from the current 6 Wards to a new 7 Ward map. I believe each of the new 7 Wards should continue to be represented by two councillors.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 06:01 AM

The East End (east of Victoria) should be a new ward. It is quite distinct from downtown and should have it's own representation.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 08:45 AM

As the city expands rabidly more representation is key.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 10:15 AM

If there is an increase the number of Wards, the city should still maintain the 2 Councillors per Ward structure. This generally ensures at least one Ward Councillor is in attendance at Council meetings.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 10:19 AM

City has grown so much. We need smaller wards so councilors can actually hear what the ward is saying.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 10:52 AM

add 2 new wards to accommodate growth and keep 2 councilors per ward.

Anonymous

8/21/2020 08:12 AM

As the city grows, it makes sense that more councillors are needed to represent the various communities

Anonymous

8/21/2020 08:38 AM

with growing population, more Councillors are needed to fairly represent citizen views

Anonymous

8/21/2020 09:07 AM

as the city gets larger there can be more concillors to look over all parts of the city or have 3 people per ward so public can talk to them in person

Anonymous

8/24/2020 11:26 AM

The city has grown a lot, so Council needs to grow proprtionally.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 11:51 AM

ward 6 and ward 1 have grown a lot and cover a much bigger area then other wards. With growth targets in mind it would be good to divide them into two.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 01:39 PM

The ability to have a greater range of voices is important to me and also Guelph is growing at a significant rate and council should continue to reflect that growing size.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 01:59 PM

The City is larger than it was when the current Council was configured, and under the Places to Grow act is projected to grow more than almost any other municipality in Ontario. Growing our City Council ensures citizens are represented, and positions Council for the future.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 02:57 PM

I believe there should be 3 "at large" councillors who are elected by the entire city and vote on behalf of the whole city, not just their Ward.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 03:00 PM

the city is changing and ward boundaries need to reflect that- almost certainly need to go from 6 to 7 wards, hence from 12 to 14 councillors

Anonymous

8/24/2020 06:00 PM

The city is growing. To keep the representation equal (with each councillor representing about the same number of people), there needs to be more councillors. Failing that, at least admit that being an effective councillor for a city the size of Guelph is a full-time job.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 08:27 PM

A larger number of councilors will be able to deal more carefully with the concerns of the people they represent.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:03 PM

City has grown and more representation on Council for that growth would ensure a fairer representation.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 03:32 PM

We should have a councillor for every 10,000 people until we need to scale them to having staff members.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 04:23 PM

I think a mix of ward and at large councillors could help get both diversity and representation on City Council. 2 councillors per ward is a good amount, so the increase would be in 3-5 at large councillors.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 05:13 PM

Because the city continues to grow and the council must represent the people fairly. We must encourage young people to be council members as well

Anonymous

8/26/2020 07:21 AM

It currently does not represent the entire demographics in Guelph. If there were more Wards, there would be more Councillors. Some Wards have far less population than others so people are not being represented fairly.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 08:26 AM

Guelph has expanded and changed a lot. In the interest of representing all of the voices within Guelph, I think that that wards 5 and 6 should be turned into 3 wards.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 09:22 AM

Well- I live in Ward 3, which is very diverse and includes people living in very wealthy areas close to downtown in single detached homes, and families living in high-rise buildings along Willow Rd and Dawson Rd. Our ward is one of the most diverse in the city with regards to immigration status, language

	spoken at home, income etc. Our neighbourhood needs more representation at city council so that more voices are heard.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 09:32 AM	There is increased complexity at the municipal level in addition to a growing population. Building a stronger city council foundation will build a stronger and more resilient city, better able to review, respond and act.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 11:46 AM	I want councilor positions to remain part- time but feel 12 part- time councilors are not enough would ideally have 3 per ward
Anonymous 8/26/2020 08:03 PM	Because population has already grown by more than 30% since 1991 and is projected to grow by another 40% by 2040 this will maintain a reasonable representation level around the 20,000 level
Anonymous 8/27/2020 02:20 PM	A multitude of voices with a variety of intersectional representation will more broadly be able to address issues, demands, unity, and advocacy for all.
Anonymous 8/27/2020 09:39 PM	To better allow for representation of smaller groups and communities that are currently not given access to political power.
Anonymous 8/28/2020 08:42 AM	At least two councillors are needed for every ward, while Ward 6 is geographically too large, too economically diverse, and should become two wards
Anonymous 8/28/2020 01:46 PM	The city has grown, so it makes sense to have more councillors so as to maintain an acceptable level of engagement. However, it should not increase the point at which numerous factions appear, which will inevitably be co-opted by various vested interests.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 01:02 PM	Because the City is growing
Anonymous 8/30/2020 01:03 PM	Some wards are becoming unmanageable; wards 1 and 6 should be partitioned, resulting in a total of 8 wards, each with 2 councillors.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 01:55 PM	There are areas in our city that are not well represented at present because Guelph has grown.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 04:46 PM	I think with the large influx of new citizens, especially in the south end, they have a right to see and talk to their councilors and if we keep the amount where it is at the moment this will not be a possibility. Councillors will get over worked and would not have time to talk and engage with the populous
Anonymous 8/30/2020 04:57 PM	The city is growing and council should keep up
Anonymous 8/30/2020 05:00 PM	Population is growing

Anonymous 8/30/2020 07:03 PM	The population has been growing and there should be more members of city council to represent that.
Anonymous 8/31/2020 10:18 AM	Better oversight with different view points.
Anonymous 8/31/2020 11:21 AM	18
Anonymous 8/31/2020 01:07 PM	The 12 ward Councillors are good. It would be nice to have 1 or 2 elected at large to represent the interests of the City as a whole.
Anonymous 8/31/2020 02:18 PM	Assume adding at least one ward as city grows with two part time (not full time as councillors likely prefer to continue their usual employment).
Anonymous 8/31/2020 04:15 PM	One councillor per 10,000 citizens, adjusted every 4 years.
Anonymous 8/31/2020 09:15 PM	Due to the predicted growth rate of 40% it would seem reasonable to enlarge the number of councillors.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 04:46 AM	With the increase in population with all the new development some wards should be split up or reportioned.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 09:44 AM	Ward 6 is growing quickly We do not need a 13th counsellor now. I believe we will need 1 more counselor in the future
Anonymous 9/01/2020 10:12 AM	As the city grows, the number of councillors could/should also grow so that there is more chance that the council is made up of members who reflect the diversity of our city and the workload is not too great for each individual councillor.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 04:47 AM	Shrink ward populations to roughly 10,000 people represented by a single councillor. City staff exist to develop policy and ensure continuity. Council provides weighted citizens input on those policy decisions.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 05:18 AM	There should be two more wards with 2 councillors per each extra ward for an additional 4 councillors
Anonymous 9/02/2020 06:12 AM	The city is growing larger with a larger diversity of residents.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 06:52 AM	To better represent interests of growing population and allow more diversity of voices
Anonymous	Greater representation for different neighbourhoods and areas of the city.

9/02/2020 07:13 AM

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:16 AM

As the population of Guelph increases, the number of councilors representing the people needs to increase proportionately

Anonymous

9/02/2020 01:58 PM

The city is growing in population.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:48 PM

More citizens and larger geography

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:55 PM

Larger field means more avenues for engagement for citizens. Some councillors are not responsive to citizens of left-leaning political viewpoints. A larger array means more diverse political engagement. I also think there should be more wards and there should be 2 councillors per ward

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:30 PM

Community is growing

Anonymous

9/02/2020 10:37 PM

The population of Guelph has grown and continues to grow but the council has not changed in number.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 05:53 AM

South end is still growing. Need more representation

Anonymous

9/03/2020 07:52 AM

More people with different backgrounds and experiences

Anonymous

9/03/2020 09:50 AM

Ward 6 is large and only represented by two councillors. Current Ward 6 councillors do not represent the diverse people who live in this ward. There are a lot of immigrant communities and renters, not just home owners. The current councillors are not in touch with the diverse needs of people living in Ward 6 and do not advocate for the vulnerable people in this area, do not reflect their interest, and do not engage with them beyond social media.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 01:14 PM

Because the population is growing

Anonymous

9/03/2020 03:34 PM

To better represent the interests of the people living here and better represent the diversity in the city. Double the councillors for each ward and add a councillor that is specifically associated with the university itself.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 04:15 PM

Wards 1 and 6 need additional representation

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:59 AM

To reflect Guelphs growing population

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:00 AM

Ward 6 is giant and growing

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:01 AM

Guelph has grown so much. Ward 1 is for to big for two members. People who live in St. George's park opinions differ from those on Starwood area.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:07 AM

population growth

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:23 AM

Provides more opportunity for diversity instead of the same people being elected every single year with no one else even having a hope of gaining council.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:31 AM

12 by ward 2 at large

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:35 AM

I think it's important that you are able to have a diverse group that represents the needs of ALL citizens and not just the wealthy or business sectors.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:20 AM

I don't actually have a number in mind, beyond 12, but rather prefer to express that the number needs to grow in proportion to the population growth of the City. Proportional representation is the key.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:22 AM

There should be a way to increase the number of councilors according to citizens/square km covered

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:43 AM

Guelph has grown, and is growing. More taxpayers need at least another ward (with 2 councilors) to represent them, so as not to overburden real life people (who happen to be councilors).

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:15 AM

Two main reasons. 1)Because of growth in the south end, another ward should be created for now (might require more in the future) Should keep wards small to reflect city neighbourhoods. 2) Should maintain 2 councillors per ward system. This better captures the diversity within wards.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:43 AM

better representation for our growing city

Anonymous

9/04/2020 11:05 AM

Some areas have grown - ex South. Differences in closer ton401 section vs Stone rd section Ward 1 should be distinct wards - east side is different than the pocket with more downtown focus

Anonymous

9/04/2020 11:36 AM

The city has grown and the population has increased substantially. I believe we need to rethink some ward boundaries in order to ensure that all citizens have reasonable representation by a Councillor.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:07 PM

Because the current size of some of the wards are too big for just one councillor, for instance Ward one is the entire East End of Guelph, The Ward

and the Downtown area and each area has different and specific needs that one councillor working for just the part they're in leaves so many others in their wards voices unheard.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:57 PM

i'm not sure of an exact number, but since the city is growing, perhaps it would make more sense to re-district, and have one councillor per ward rather than the current 2?

Anonymous

9/04/2020 02:36 PM

Wards need to be set by population and need to add more where development or urban density is happening for proper representation of the entire population.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 03:42 PM

The city is growing and needs more councillors.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 03:54 PM

One person representing a Ward is not enough. It does not follow a democratic approach at the grass roots level.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 04:44 PM

if we look at population in Guelph, we are looking at 1 councillor/11,000 citizens. With the plans of increasing the size of the city to 180,000, we should be looking at a minimum of increasing representation up to 18 councillors to represent 10,000 each. This does not have to be done at this time, but moving forward. I would like to still see wards, but possibly have Wards with several moving to an At-large

Anonymous

9/04/2020 05:09 PM

As the city grows, the size of council must grow to maintain the same density of representation

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:58 PM

Guelph city council should be larger because the city has been expanding and requires more councillors to properly represent their constituents. Equity is very important, there should also be councillors that represent the diverse needs of the Guelph community.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:13 PM

Population per ward has increased considerably, even after redistribution. To be responsive to citizens requires lower citizens / representative. I prefer even more councillors but much prefer full-time councillors as a budget trade-off.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:55 PM

Right now, most councillors represent very similar viewpoints. It's easier for wealthy businesspeople to have the time to win a political campaign. We need to make room for more than just one demographic on our council.

**Optional question** (107 response(s), 549 skipped)

**Question type:** Essay Question

**Q9** | Why do you think the Guelph City Council should be kept the same size (12 Councillors + Mayor)?

Anonymous 8/17/2020 09:15 AM	Guelph will only get larger. This offers opportunity for diversity in thought and process for each ward.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 09:02 AM	Size seems about right when compared to similar sized cities & allows for diverse mix of councillors
Anonymous 8/17/2020 09:52 AM	Too big of a council can create dysfunction. What needs to happen is better balance the representation of the ward councillors.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 10:08 AM	This depends on how many wards end up being established via the boundary review, and whether councillors move to full-time status. If councillors move to full-time, then the number can go down. However, if they remain part-time, keep the current two-per-ward system in place.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 11:10 AM	Size is fine but instead of 2 councillors per ward make the wards smaller.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 11:12 AM	More would create greater bureaucratic/political roadblocks to progress. Two per ward makes sense.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 11:20 AM	I think that size of council is adequate to meet present and future rep by pop demands.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 01:15 PM	Guelph is too big for less than 12 and not big enough for more. There has to be a certain number of citizens per Council member.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 03:17 PM	The number depends on whether part time or full-time! If full-time, I see no reason to go beyond 12 at this time — good number for any Board or decision-making group.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 03:43 PM	Seems to be a reasonable Council size for a city the size of Guelph
Anonymous 8/17/2020 04:57 PM	Seems to work.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 06:42 PM	It seems like it's small enough and large enough to have good generative discussions
Anonymous 8/17/2020 09:02 PM	With increasing population there is no need for a reduction in size
Anonymous 8/17/2020 10:36 PM	during last 50 years i have found if one councilor in my ward isn't helpful i can rely on the other. it has been vital during my lifetime. it is a fail safe fallback. some years both in my ward are equally helpful.
Anonymous	I don't know. I think it's okay if it gets smaller but definitely not bigger.



8/18/2020 04:37 AM

Anonymous

8/18/2020 06:03 AM

Ottawa has 1million people and 24 councillors. We have 130,000 and 12 + Mayor. We certainly do not need more councillors.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 08:02 AM

Two per ward offers redundancy and backup that isn't available in a one-per-ward system. There is great benefit to our current structure, though it's uncommon in Ontario.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 09:06 AM

If we continue to have part-time city councilors we need to ensure there are at least twelve.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 11:58 AM

It is a good size for a city of our population.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 02:48 PM

With the ward system, councillors represent a certain area of town. Not necessarily population. If more wards are created, then additional councillors should be added.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 04:46 PM

Seems like a reasonable number for diverse voices and yet can build relationships and get things done.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 05:37 PM

It seems like the number has worked for us so far...

Anonymous

8/18/2020 06:58 PM

Too many councillors with competing issues will result in delayed projects and division. Speed of resolving problems is essential.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 08:10 PM

There are 6 priority directions being food, shelter/transportation, work/income, children, environment and governance and 2 councillors for each priority gives support and flexibility to plan policy and system for management.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 11:54 AM

This number allows for a wide range of opinion on council and is large enough that individual councillors have enough time to respond well to their constituents' concerns.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 12:36 PM

Roughly 10,000 residents to a Councillor, given residents about a vote in local elections about 10 times more powerful than in provincial and federal elections, is fairly liberal. But larger councils can be connected to some positive outcomes, including stronger local democratic engagement. Also, retaining this number of councillors permits some innovation in the electoral system. The size of council should be somewhat dynamic, too; 12 councillors is appropriate for now, but council may need to add members in a decade.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 03:42 PM

Until Guelph grows, it is enough

Anonymous

13 provides a good size; small enough for discussion and accountability,

8/19/2020 06:10 PM

large enough to still have a good discussion and representation even if 1 or 2 are away for some reason

Anonymous

8/19/2020 07:42 PM

Guelph is complex and needs a detailed and well resourced group to listen to our needs.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 09:11 PM

Guelph is one of the most desirable cities in Canada to live in. 12 has been working. 12 allows for one or two to be away and there are still enough voices to have a thoughtful discussion.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 04:43 AM

Because guelph iS NOT a big city. increasing means increasing taxes and taxes are already too high with NO return on investment

Anonymous

8/20/2020 08:17 AM

This allows for two councillors per ward which means two people to listen to the voices of citizens but also to work together and to hold each other accountable to make decisions that reflect the best interests of citizens in their ward.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 09:35 AM

Better represents population helping make better decisions . Too narrow of a view with fewer councilors. Possibility of council being stacked by those who are only conservative, or liberal in their views. We need a diverse council , not rulers.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 11:12 AM

Don't want it to be too big but also don't want a small number making all the decisions

Anonymous

8/20/2020 03:35 PM

Current council size is functional. Reducing council size would cut down on avenues of representation for Guelphites. There should never be a regression in representation in a functional democracy. Increasing council size I have not seen any specific compelling arguments or needs to justify doing so at this time.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 08:28 PM

As long as all of the wards are well-represented, 12 should be enough.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 08:33 PM

For the size of Guelph 12 is a good representation

Anonymous

8/21/2020 05:40 AM

Sufficient range of potential viewpoints.

Anonymous

8/21/2020 07:00 AM

Large and diverse city needs adequate representation.

Anonymous

8/21/2020 10:36 AM

Because it works. More councillors would be inefficient, fewer councillors would diminish representation, particularly with respect to minority interests.

Anonymous

It is fairly proportional compared to other Canadian cities, erring on the side

8/21/2020 12:46 PM

of more councillors per capita than average.

Anonymous

8/21/2020 01:12 PM

I believe 2 councillors per ward provides better access and responsiveness to the citizens of each ward; we should only consider more wards as the needs of the city grows. We should not reduce number of wards.

Anonymous

8/21/2020 02:05 PM

Allows for more diversity of thought. Could increase number of wards to 12 and decrease number of councillors per ward to one

Anonymous

8/21/2020 04:14 PM

There is good evidence that a decision-making group of about twelve is large enough to provide for a diversity of backgrounds and experience while allowing for effective one on one communication among the members of the group so differing points of view are understood before decisions are taken.

Anonymous

8/21/2020 05:30 PM

I think that shrinking the Council could lead to a loss of debate. I recognize that debate may be time consuming from a process point of view, but a smaller council increases the chances of homogeneity of thought and groupthink. At the same time, I recognize that increasing the council may unnecessarily complicate the decision making process.

Anonymous

8/22/2020 09:58 AM

Wards are based on population and are somewhat balanced. As Guelph grows and more wards are created, city council will grow, but the number of councillors/ward should remain at 2 = 12 councillors. 2 councillors/ward seem to provide good representation

Anonymous

8/22/2020 11:15 AM

Fewer voices would make it easier for a minority of voices to skew city planning, and also make it harder for them to respond to ward residents. This would be bad for ensuring bad ideas are avoided.

Anonymous

8/23/2020 10:45 AM

The number of councillors should be relative to the size of the population. For the current size of Guelph, 12 councillors is adequate.

Anonymous

8/23/2020 04:15 PM

I believe that the wards are small enough that council can get to know their communities. However, there may need to be some jiggling of neighbourhoods to actually represent the numbers living there due to new subdivisions etc.

Anonymous

8/23/2020 07:09 PM

It is a good idea to have more than one councillor per ward.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 07:38 AM

This seems to work OK - too small means councillors are overworked and things get lost; too many and it becomes onerous to reach a consensus.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 10:55 AM

Two per ward makes sense in that there is a greater chance that someone is available to help their constituents and to provide a different perspective.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 11:49 AM

The number of Councillors is comparable to other similar sized municipalities that do not cover large rural areas (e.g. Chatham Kent) and it is highly representative. I have found my ward councillors to be extremely

	approachable and responsive to local issues.
Anonymous 8/24/2020 12:58 PM	I would only grow it if portions of the city or populace were under represented
Anonymous 8/24/2020 01:44 PM	As the city population grows this will still be a representative number as long as ward sizes (populations) are balanced accordingly.
Anonymous 8/24/2020 02:15 PM	Make the positions full-time and the 12 councillors will focus better on city affairs, making a larger council unnecessary
Anonymous 8/24/2020 02:16 PM	The population is not declining, so why would we have fewer? And it's increasing slightly, but not extremely quickly.
Anonymous 8/24/2020 03:01 PM	2 per ward seems to be working
Anonymous 8/24/2020 04:15 PM	I don't feel the size is the issue. I feel that the elected councilors pick and choose what constituents they represent. If there is no mechanism for accountability making council smaller or larger can still lead to ineffectiveness.
Anonymous 8/24/2020 05:39 PM	No need for more to represent Wards well.
Anonymous 8/24/2020 06:19 PM	I think it's important to have as many voices as possible in order to reduce bias. 12 or more would be great.
Anonymous 8/24/2020 09:03 PM	As long as each ward is equally represented, that seems right.
Anonymous 8/24/2020 10:15 PM	Since the heavy lifting is done by city staff, the current 12 (2 per ward) is sufficient.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 06:03 AM	I feel that if councillors actively engage those within their wards on issues that affect their wards as well as the city as a whole including prospective building, commercial development, transportation, environment 12 is a sufficient number...or basically 2 reps per ward. I do believe though that candidates must reside in the ward they are running for.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 06:24 AM	I am not sure what the correct citizen to councillor ratio should be, however we should not decrease citizen representation and access to their councillor. You will also see later that I am in favour for making these full-time positions.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 07:38 AM	Things are working well. There is a diversity of voices, each ward citizen has assigned councillors that they can reach out to specifically, who know the ward issues.

Anonymous 8/25/2020 07:57 AM	I feel that 2 councillors per ward is a fair representation on behalf of the ward residents whose issues and concerns can be voiced effectively.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 08:53 AM	City is much larger and I think 2/ward is good. However, I think it was better many years ago when the aldermen represented the whole City. Undecided now which system would work better.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 11:26 AM	Too many people will just make it impossible to get things done in a timely manner. too few will mean less representation for everyone and less new ideas. 12 was fine before, so I wouldn't change it. (But if you absolutely have to change it, I think adding one or two more councillors to balance out population growth is about as much of a change as would be reasonable.)
Anonymous 8/25/2020 12:18 PM	If there were more councilors then the council could become difficult to manage. If there were fewer councilors then either the wards would need to be larger (keeping two councilors per ward but the councilors would be less representative of different demographics within the ward) or smaller (one councilor per ward but lots of small wards could be difficult to arrange)
Anonymous 8/25/2020 12:41 PM	It seems to be working at the current size and with our budget restraints from COVID I don't think we should add additional financial burden.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 01:16 PM	Decent number to represent variety of citizens and neighbourhoods, small enough to be workable and affordable
Anonymous 8/25/2020 03:21 PM	12 Councillors + Deputy Mayor + Mayor (All are Full Time) - Guelph Growing
Anonymous 8/25/2020 03:25 PM	Seems to work well, if ward boundaries are adjusted to equalize number of eligible voters.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 04:22 PM	The number reduces the ability for corruption of power and ensures that all communities have a say.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 04:44 PM	I think a larger or smaller group would be less effective.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 04:58 PM	I think two per ward is good enough, but the wards need to increase to well represent the current population, specially ward 6, too many people, too many projects, it would be best served if divided, or we go from 6 to (7-8) wards
Anonymous 8/25/2020 05:11 PM	More than 12 is too expensive and too many people for meaningful debate and consensus
Anonymous 8/25/2020 05:13 PM	Because we need equal representation on conflicting issues

Anonymous 8/25/2020 05:28 PM	The population is growing but more in density than spread. 12 Local councillors can in theory, adequately represent their wards, recognizing that each ward is unique
Anonymous 8/25/2020 05:34 PM	If all 12 are good councillors then it should work. The big issue is Ward 1. It's a big and very diverse Ward.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 06:31 PM	I feel 2 councillors per ward is beneficial. If the number of wards changes, than the number of councillors should follow suit
Anonymous 8/25/2020 07:55 PM	Obviously a larger number would better represent the diversity of opinions and visions of the population, but I think 12+1 is an adequate size for Guelph.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 09:06 PM	Too many and voices get lost. Too few and voices will not be heard.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 09:52 PM	Honestly, I think 12 is a good number for a cross section of people.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 06:58 AM	I would consider adjusting ward boundaries to ensure the representation is equal first, and that councillors represent equal numbers of Guelphites. If the city has grown, then perhaps add another ward (and representatives). The city has different needs across the city, and I wouldn't want to see the number reduced.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 09:27 AM	A large representation of distinct neighbourhoods seems like a good way to ensure all voices and priorities of citizens are represented.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 10:04 AM	Similar other council sizes of comparable cities. Allows for different perspectives while not having too many voices at the table (making it difficult to reach consensus and set an agenda).
Anonymous 8/26/2020 10:31 AM	There's no evidence that adding more councilors will achieve anything other than inflating the cost of town council. I don't want to see my property taxes go up so we can have more cronies just doing whatever the Mayor says.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 10:35 AM	Our population doesn't warrant anymore.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 10:58 AM	Each ward is already huge, so asking one person to cover a larger area would isolate even more people from the political process than currently are. Having two councillors in each ward means one can be a stiff and the ward is still represented (see current council)
Anonymous 8/26/2020 11:44 AM	A smaller council means less diversity in perspectives.
Anonymous	I think it enables issues to be debated fairly and then the decisions made are

8/26/2020 12:36 PM

based on the wants of Guelph not just certain neighborhoods. We are not a conservative city and therefore our municipal politics should align accordingly. Making our council smaller seems very reminiscent of Ford and his bid to centralize power. Our mayor should not decide things without being held accountable to the elected councillors.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 03:10 PM

Question #4 is not deceptively simple, it is in fact deceptive and leading. Ward systems demand that councillors are accountable to citizens in their wards while at-large has no such accountability. So, council size should be based on the number of wards with 2 councillors per ward plus the mayor. If there are more or less wards the council number would change accordingly.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 03:22 PM

It makes sense to have two councilors per ward. This also allows each ward to have both a man and a woman represent them.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 04:32 PM

It's working. We have enough changing with over development and an unnecessary library. We need to have the same or more voices advocating for what the people in this city want and need/ don't need

Anonymous

8/26/2020 04:48 PM

I don't believe we need more and yet would not want to see fewer - 6 wards, 2 per ward, 1 mayor.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 04:59 PM

My understanding is that each ward has representation, and that two councillors are elected per ward. I believe this allows for greater diversity.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 06:50 PM

It think is working well as is. This is a manageable number for debate and decision making. Everyone has their say. Each ward has 2 Councillors to represent their interest. I am definitely against reducing the number of Councillors. Our population is going to grow even more. This does not make sense.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 07:32 PM

I think 12 is already an adequate number to deal with council issues.

Anonymous

8/27/2020 06:42 AM

Cost

Anonymous

8/27/2020 07:11 AM

2 representatives from each ward

Anonymous

8/27/2020 10:15 AM

Adding more voices does not always make it easier to make decisions or reach consensus around the table. I think you need to change boundaries as the city grows so about the same number of people are represented by each Councillor. Given our size I could see adding one more ward so going to 14 Councillors, but after that, just rezone the wards because more than 15 people would become unwieldy.

Anonymous

8/27/2020 03:24 PM

city not big enough yet to need more

Anonymous

8/27/2020 03:36 PM

The arrangement of two councillors per ward is good. However, one councillor per ward should be full time. Six full time and six part time councillors.

Anonymous

8/28/2020 03:42 AM

Increase decision-making and reduce arguments.

Anonymous

8/28/2020 07:21 AM

It's hard enough to get things to happen in Guelph adding more would be even more hassle

Anonymous

8/28/2020 09:14 AM

The current allocation of Councillors is about the middle of the pack in Ontario, which is where Guelph likes to be. The number of constituents currently in each Ward is pretty balanced: each Ward should have about 16% of the City's population and right now Wards 1, 2, 4 and 6 are within striking distance of that. The outliers are Wards 3 and 6, but neither enough to cause a great deal of concern to me at least. One of the challenges in changing Ward boundaries would be historical alliances or neighbourhood character. The current system reflects how the City has grown over the years. It also acknowledges the City's built and natural geography, which can be difficult to overcome. Most of the City's growth is scheduled to take place in Ward 6 but I don't think we are certain enough of the timing of that growth or the details to make wholesale changes to the size of Council. When growth in the South End is more on-track, I would support contemplating adding another Ward, but mathematical rigidity is not the only concern.

Anonymous

8/28/2020 11:32 AM

I think we need two from each ward so that they can share the work, and so that a variety of voices are present. I like that there is usually some new members while there is also some continuity.

Anonymous

8/28/2020 12:00 PM

Matches 6 wards

Anonymous

8/28/2020 12:13 PM

My actual answer isn't represented in the options. I think there should be 2 councillors from each ward, However, with the growth in our population, we may need to think about adding another ward, in which case it would be 14. I didn't select the first option, because I didn't want the results to suggest I am suggesting grow it larger just for the sake of it. I don't know yet whether another ward is justified

Anonymous

8/28/2020 09:18 PM

This allows for a good number without too many voices. 2 councillors per ward also allows for more than a single voice from each ward which is important to me.

Anonymous

8/29/2020 04:14 AM

Well, given growth in some areas, there may be a need for 2-4 more. but not a great number more. I really like the 2 councillor per ward system as it can bring more diversity in voices for each ward and to the city as a whole. I often vote for 2 very different people in my ward, because I have both progressive and conservative views on many subjects. As well, I think it



	allows councillors to act a bit as at-large and ward council.
<p>Anonymous 8/29/2020 06:15 AM</p>	<p>Too few is not an effective representation of their community....how could they possibly serve their constituents? More than 12 and it's too cumbersome.</p>
<p>Anonymous 8/29/2020 07:29 AM</p>	<p>I think that 12 members is a larger number of people to make decisions and represent the city. If you think of same size corporations or larger, their leadership team is often smaller than this. At 12 members we have representation of just under 1 councillor per 12,000 residents which seems reasonable. However we need to review the # of wards and determine whether we still need 2 councillors per Ward.</p>
<p>Anonymous 8/29/2020 08:12 AM</p>	<p>The ratio of roughly 10,000 people per councilor is a reasonable one allowing access by citizens.</p>
<p>Anonymous 8/29/2020 11:23 AM</p>	<p>We are growing city</p>
<p>Anonymous 8/29/2020 04:23 PM</p>	<p>My general view is that more representatives per person is better, but what is most important to me is the current two-councillors-per-ward model, so I wouldn't want more councillors total if it meant changing that model</p>
<p>Anonymous 8/29/2020 05:52 PM</p>	<p>There are differences and differing needs of the diverse wards in the city. If we truly want councillors to understand the needs and specific issues of their constituents, ward representation is the way to go. It might even mean expanding council as Guelph grows.</p>
<p>Anonymous 8/29/2020 08:30 PM</p>	<p>I think you need at least 2 councillors per ward For cross coverage and more than one view on a ward issue; more than two becomes expensive; council shouldn't increase in size as I think it's already large for the size of the city</p>
<p>Anonymous 8/30/2020 06:54 AM</p>	<p>It works well now but I would be happy with more councillors added to meet population growth.</p>
<p>Anonymous 8/30/2020 07:43 AM</p>	<p>12 +1 is an adequate number for Guelph's current and projected population, and the odd number makes ties impossible when members attend and vote. A larger council would make Guelph a target for downsizing by the Ford government in line with what it did to Toronto under applicable provincial legislation. Toronto now has one councillor per 100,000 residents. I think that is appalling, and I would hate to see the same kind of cuts imposed on Guelph or other municipalities.</p>
<p>Anonymous 8/30/2020 11:29 AM</p>	<p>I think that with 12 differing opinions, experiences, life purposes etc there is an abundance of ideas, philosophies, and representation.</p>
<p>Anonymous 8/30/2020 12:09 PM</p>	<p>The current ward system appears to represent the breadth of Guelph at the moment. I don't think it should be any smaller. If anything, it will need to grow as the city grows. We require representation and do not need to overwhelm our councillors with representing too many people in too broad an area.</p>

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Anonymous 8/30/2020 01:59 PM	Because there are more opportunities to involve the general population in the decision-making process. If this doesn't happen then council can shrink in size.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 02:46 PM	It would be difficult to allow adequate diversity with fewer Councillors. I certainly would not make it bigger, though.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 02:51 PM	12 is enough to make decisions, there are enough politicians at all levels of government. No need for more on public payroll.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 02:57 PM	More representation is never a bad thing. Smaller is def NOT better. Seems like keeping the way it is a good decision. I can't see the point of shrinking it.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 06:25 PM	Although ward boundaries may have to change to take account of growth of populations in some wards, the two councillors per ward makes sense.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 08:35 PM	These are part-time position and should remain so. Having 2 councilors per ward means the work load can be shared and collaborate on how best to represent their constituents.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 08:44 PM	This is a good size to ensure representations yet small enough to be accountable.
Anonymous 8/31/2020 06:27 AM	The city of Guelph is required to increase significantly in size over the next 10 years; shrinking the council when the needs of the city will be increasing seems counterproductive.
Anonymous 8/31/2020 06:58 AM	Keep it at 12 and then perhaps expand two councillors (another ward) at a time if necessary as the city grows in population. 12 councillors seem to sufficiently cover the size of Guelph at the moment, but that could change. Also, presently we have some diversity on council, although I am hoping this increases. Diversity is incredibly important as the world goes through such changes. Every gender, and every person of colour should be given a fair chance to represent the city, and their part of the city. Fewer councillors/wards is the opposite of this and is taking council backwards to when few ruled many without truly representing who they were as people, and their needs. We need 6 wards, or more when we grow, and we are growBig. I equate going back to less councillors/wards with the introduction of amalgamation in Ontario. It is impossible to properly represent people in a very large area. There's no chance to really help local neighbourhoods as you can with the number of wards we have now.
Anonymous 8/31/2020 10:25 AM	I don't get the sense that the benefits of having more than 12 Councillors would outweigh the costs. To me, the issue is more about how the Councillors are chosen, and in particular, the way in which the ward boundaries are mapped out (e.g., Ward 6 is disproportionately large compared to the others but has the same number of Councillors).
Anonymous	Seems appropriate number for the size/population of City.

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8/31/2020 10:28 AM

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:34 AM

Unless Ward numbers change, the number of Councillors should remain the same.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:59 AM

Removing councillors increases the burden on those remaining. Guelph is a decently sized city and the number of councillors currently seems appropriate. With the planned additional growth over the next 5-10 years, that number may need to be increased.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 11:31 AM

More councillors provide a better diversity of opinions on major issues.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 12:08 PM

seems to be working well. more councillors = significantly longer council meetings. less councillors = less opportunity to respond to residents' concerns.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 12:14 PM

This is a number which is small enough to have proper debates around the horseshoe. Many more councillors, and the debates will be even more unwieldy and difficult than they already are. This puts a lot of responsibility on individual councillors, however, as they're expected to represent up to 30,000 ppl each, so there's no way council can be shrunk.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 12:26 PM

Because we have grown in population and issues seem to be larger and more relevant than before

Anonymous

8/31/2020 01:08 PM

With current ward set up representation of 2 Councillors per ward seems appropriate. If a ward review of representation suggests additional wards be introduced to maintain representation equity across the City then Council numbers would grow to reflect the additional wards.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 03:15 PM

Unless a ward becomes too big to handle the number of constituents and perhaps should be split in two wards, the current model works fine from my perspective

Anonymous

8/31/2020 04:28 PM

I think that a larger Council is not needed for a city of our size, plus a 12 person council is just big enough that diversity can be achieved (without getting too big to work through conflict). Smaller would make council more inaccessible for poorer candidates (or candidates who aren't backed by wealthier supporters).

Anonymous

8/31/2020 05:42 PM

We don't need more people to argue decisions. We have enough on the council to make well balanced views heard

Anonymous

8/31/2020 07:26 PM

Provides a good number of councillors to sit on committees. Twelve wards would be small enough for personal engagement.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 07:42 PM

Don't want it to be less than a few controlling people get to decide for the citizen. Too many would cost the tax payers too much money.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 05:34 AM

It is a reasonable amount for a city this size.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 06:07 AM

Simply because it appears to be working as far as size of Council...perhaps not distribution.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:45 AM

As Guelph transforms in multiple ways (e.g. size, demographics, social/cultural) it is important that our Council be the steward in managing this change while having a "ear" close to residents' values, aspirations and needs. We need capable and compassionate Councilors who can understand and lead this change. It is difficult to attract Councilors with these qualities given the time commitment required to do the job right with limited compensation. So expanding the the number of Councilors exacerbates an already challenging situation. I prefer fewer highly qualified Councilors that are paid more to devote a full-time effort in this role.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 11:07 AM

It's been working fine. No need to fix what ain't broken. Certainly no need to make it any bigger.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 02:06 PM

Very good representation at present for all areas of the city. Each ward is given good governance, as well as each councillor understands the needs of the area that they represent. Going to a smaller number of members would give credence to the argument that we would have to pay each elected official. This I strongly oppose as it would weaken the voice of the public in the guidance of our city.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 02:21 PM

No particular rational to my decision. 12 people representing a population of 135,000 seems about right. Are their provincial standards for allocating the optimal size of councils/population? The one criterion that should be observed is that councillors must not be affiliated with any of the federal or provincial political parties. This should automatically disqualify them.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 02:40 PM

It provides for a diversity of representation of constituent needs without being unwieldy in size.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 04:31 PM

We need at least as many councillors to be able to address all of the concerns of the constituents

Anonymous

9/01/2020 05:26 PM

I like 2 reps per ward. I like the ward system. I feel better connected to my 2 councillors.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 05:42 PM

Ward System gives all parts of Guelph representation, hopefully those councillors are also thinking not city as a whole

Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:25 PM

Sufficiently large group for today's size of city

Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:30 PM

I see no evidence that the current size does not work. Any larger we run the risk of an inability to function and smaller we run the risk lack of advocacy. 12 is roughly 1 councillor for every 10,000 residents...

Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:39 PM

if wards #s are unchanged, 2 councillors per ward seems ok.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:43 PM

I think that it would make the city government less democratic if the number of councillors was decreased. There would likely be less direct contact because they would be busier.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:45 PM

I think it is important to have multiple representatives for each ward to ensure all voices are being heard and shared. I think councillors should have fixed terms without renewals, as well to ensure that the citizenry is being represented and respected. No career councillors needed - they are less responsive and engaged.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 08:07 PM

Too many voices and nothing will get done, too few voices and special interests can take over more easily. 13 seems like a decent compromise.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 08:14 PM

It is okay as it is currently. In other questions I have commented on retaining two councillors per ward. It may one day be necessary to review the current wards and possibly change some boundaries and increase the number of wards which would increase the number of councillors.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 09:04 PM

I don't see a reason to make it smaller, as it is I never see or hear from my representative at all. If made more than, then it will be more difficult to make decisions

Anonymous

9/01/2020 09:08 PM

Honestly who cares. This is a dumb question. The real question is how do we make the role of councillors more effective

Anonymous

9/02/2020 05:51 AM

Until I understand if their role is changing it is hard to determine if more are required

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:55 AM

We do not need to add more layers of government and additional positions. We need the governments and council to be working together as a cohesive group.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:59 AM

I think that wards should be decreased in size to represent the interests created by unique geographies of each neighbourhood. The values of my area are much different than the values of the furthest boundaries of my ward. I think a similar size council with smaller groups of constituents could more actively engage and represent populations. It would be amenable to see fewer councilors and more wards in my opinion.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:07 AM

This seems on par with other same-sized municipalities and it seems to be working. It will also allow for wider representation. Smaller councils would offer less opportunities for diversity on the council and might leave some parts of the city or the community unrepresented.

Anonymous 9/02/2020 07:19 AM	12 councilors representing the needs of approximately 130, 000 residents is reasonable.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 07:23 AM	If more, less decisions will be made
Anonymous 9/02/2020 07:50 AM	I think that is a solid number, around 1 council member per 10,000 citizens seems about right. I feel like this is a good number in order to gain a variety of different ideas and perspectives on issues facing the city, but not too many that proper discussions are not hard to maintain, too many voices lead to a lot of chaos in discussion.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 08:02 AM	Large enough for different viewpoints while manageable for discussion, debate and decision making.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 08:02 AM	works well for the size of the wards. 2 councillors per ward allows for differing politics to be represented in the same ward
Anonymous 9/02/2020 08:16 AM	God number to make decisions
Anonymous 9/02/2020 08:17 AM	Given that Guelph is growing we cannot do with less representation.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 08:26 AM	cost of the administration
Anonymous 9/02/2020 08:44 AM	number is associated with representing different perspectives on an issue; associated with members working with peer pressure in doing a 'good job' and working as part-time stewards of the city in a rapidly developing region. Acknowledges that the City is under tremendous growth pressure and balancing distinctiveness of place with a variety of interests is of upmost importance.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 09:16 AM	the city is getting larger and we need enough councillors to cover a lot of issues. We need an odd number for voting purposes
Anonymous 9/02/2020 09:19 AM	I think it's hard for a group larger than 12/13 to effectively work together.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 09:23 AM	Eliminate Ward 3 by increasing 2 and 4 with Woolwhich street as a dividing street. Divide wards 5 & 6 and a new ward 3 by population as perceived for 2041.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 09:33 AM	I think the size is in keeping with similar cities and allows for adequate representation as the city grows.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 10:24 AM

I like the representation of 2 per ward but also like general 'city wide' reps. But also don't think getting bigger than 12 is a good idea. So one per ward and then 6 city wide reps would make sense to me.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 11:02 AM

FOR NOW 12 seems sufficient. As the city quickly grows, more would be a good idea. Wards should not be so populous that people cannot connect with their Councillors.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 11:32 AM

I'm not adamant about this - maybe council should be larger - definitely not smaller. But 12 is a manageable size from the point of view of decision-making, large enough to give voice to a diversity of views.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 11:32 AM

Is fair for the population.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 11:40 AM

I feel that Councillors should represent each ward to justly represent concerns of residents in that ward. There are too many concerns in a city for concerns to be made and managed generally by city council.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 11:44 AM

More becomes unwieldy. Less wouldn't accommodate population growth

Anonymous

9/02/2020 11:45 AM

It represents the entire city

Anonymous

9/02/2020 12:24 PM

this city can not afford to pay for full time councillors, taxes are very high, with little return.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 12:40 PM

Appears to work right now

Anonymous

9/02/2020 01:04 PM

Allows for 2 councillors per ward.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 02:31 PM

When you get past a group of a dozen people it can get pretty unwieldy in terms of group dynamics.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 02:46 PM

Size is appropriate so far. May require increasing if the city continues to grow.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 03:41 PM

Too big, too expensive, more time wasted with too many opinions! If 12 was enough to proclaim Christianity in Jewish state, it is enough for Guelph to cover all religious beliefs!

Anonymous

9/02/2020 03:58 PM

The existing system works

Anonymous

The City is growing quickly and councillors representing approximately 11K

9/02/2020 04:31 PM

citizens seems reasonable.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 05:20 PM

A larger size will make meetings more cumbersome.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 05:32 PM

I think it can function best with twelve councillors, enough to represent the citizens of Guelph but not too many that decisions can't be made in a timely fashion. Also I don't think we need to pay for more than twelve.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:28 PM

It's important that there are two councillors per ward. They can work together as a team. As the city grows and more wards are added then the number of councillors will need to increase.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:37 PM

Seems reasonable for the size of city we have.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:15 PM

Seems to be working well.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:51 PM

The mayor should only vote in a tie

Anonymous

9/02/2020 09:08 PM

I haven't had any issues with there being 12 councillors so I see no reason to change it. Changing the number of councillors without a good reason would add unnecessary work to change the administration of the city.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 04:07 AM

It seems appropriate based on the current population and size

Anonymous

9/03/2020 04:42 AM

Don't need more expenses. Adding people adds to less work being accomplished and increases drama.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 05:23 AM

Twelve is large enough to represent various viewpoints but not so large as to get bogged down when making decisions.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 06:11 AM

Obviously because this is the correct choice.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 07:27 AM

12 is good

Anonymous

9/03/2020 08:55 AM

I Think we need same size to get different opinions and views. More councillors will be burden on city tax payers and sometimes it be hard to get things done.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 09:15 AM

Cities of comparable size seem to manage. Twelve seems to allow for good diversity of opinion and is a manageable number for meetings.



Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:22 AM

Keep costs lower

Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:23 AM

There is a lot going on for a city this size. 12 allows us to grow and to create efficiencies for greater capacity without adding people.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:35 AM

2/Ward makes sense to me.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:42 AM

Need representation in each part of Guelph.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:59 AM

I think this would work for a hybrid system. 6 ward councillors and 6 at large, or 8 ward councillors and 4 at large.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 11:00 AM

I feel considering the current population size that 2 Councillors per ward is sufficient. I would not be opposed to adding 6 Councillors (3 per ward) once we have a population that surpasses 150,000

Anonymous

9/03/2020 11:37 AM

Why not? I see no compelling reasons to change it.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 11:51 AM

We have 6 wards, 2 councillors each

Anonymous

9/03/2020 12:37 PM

Guelph is growing and 2 representations for each ward makes sense.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 01:05 PM

More people less effective decision making

Anonymous

9/03/2020 02:08 PM

The city is getting bigger not smaller. It is inevitable that we will need more counselors in the future so why shrink it now?

Anonymous

9/03/2020 02:54 PM

Two councillors per ward allows for greater representation and diversity of opinion. It increases the availability of these councillors to engage with citizens. The mayor should act as a mediator for the different policy positions that each councillor provides and works to build consensus through compromise. NOT build consensus through the creation of partisan politics and guaranteed voting patterns. Ideally each ward is represented by two councillors that provide two different perspectives of their particular constituents.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 04:16 PM

2 ward councillors mean you likely have one advocate. Wards are manageable sizes.

<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/03/2020 05:48 PM</p>	<p>Would like to see wards split, so instead of 2 for each ward, q for each smaller ward.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/03/2020 06:02 PM</p>	<p>Might need to grow as population grows but need two councillors per ward to have proper representation.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/03/2020 07:15 PM</p>	<p>I am not overly concerned with the exact size. 12 seems reasonable, maybe a bit bigger. It needs to be big enough so that it can be representative of various interests. It also needs to be big enough to allow an electoral system where more than one seat is up for election in each ward, otherwise we will not get a representative council.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/03/2020 06:52 PM</p>	<p>I feel the council size can properly represent the population of Guelph and taxpayers cannot efforts large tax increases for additional salaries</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/03/2020 09:00 PM</p>	<p>Number is reasonable but time for full time 12. We can expect them to do more. Pay more for full time and interest in running will increase growing the talent pool</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/03/2020 09:52 PM</p>	<p>guelph has grown constantly over the decades, which means there is no case for decreasing the number of councillors. you need a reasonable number to express opinions both personnal and public.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/03/2020 10:02 PM</p>	<p>Providing the ward populations are relatively similar two Councillors should be able to effectively address and represent citizen concerns.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/03/2020 10:26 PM</p>	<p>In line with the council sizes of other communities of similar size in Ontario. The wards should be broken into smaller units though, 1 councillor per ward.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/04/2020 05:57 AM</p>	<p>More councillors make it harder for a consensus to pass policy, not worth the extra salary since we already have good representation.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/04/2020 06:07 AM</p>	<p>Each ward is well-represented with 2 councillors who can share responsibilities and develop areas of expertise</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/04/2020 07:10 AM</p>	<p>Because we are well represented by the current approach.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/04/2020 07:15 AM</p>	<p>Larger Councils are cumbersome. Keep it the same size but redistribute Ward boundaries, so that Councillors roughly have the same number of constituents to deal with.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/04/2020 07:14 AM</p>	<p>Changing it would cost too much and would be a huge hassle. Why are we even considering this?</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/04/2020 07:21 AM</p>	<p>Should** be a well-functioning and diverse team.</p>

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:23 AM

We have been able to afford this number so far

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:32 AM

2 councillors per ward makes it easier for people to contact a representative when they need help. It is a large load to place on only 1 person.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:33 AM

It is a reasonable number of individuals to connect with citizens in a city of this population and size.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:44 AM

I like the idea of two part time Councillors per ward and 6 wards.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:05 AM

It is important to have more than 1 represent the best interests of each ward.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:16 AM

We seem to be working just fine the way we are. Now is not the time to expand and increase our costs.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:20 AM

reducing the size would hand more voting power to the mayor. increasing the size would add complexity and cost.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:33 AM

I think this is a good size for ensuring proper checks and balances and ensuring effective decision making

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:43 AM

This is a tough question to select one answer for. I believe that the current size of COuncil is just about right and the costs associated with is are perfectly reasonable to ensure citizens democratic representation. We do need ot be cognizant that as the population of Guelph grows there may be a need to increase the number of Councilors t ensure adequate representaiton

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:45 AM

To mitigate financial waste.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:47 AM

The only reason to change the present situation is if another ward is required to address the increase in population. Change for change sake in this crucial COVID scene is totally irresponsible!

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:07 AM

Regardless of the number of wards there should always be two elected from each ward in the event an individual is not effective.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:13 AM

2 councilors per ward offer the council a good balance between the public facing aspects of engagement, advocacy and the governance aspects of policy and administration. Too few councilors means we will get more of one or the other.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:02 AM

There are currently 2 Councillors for each of the 6 wards. This allows for the breadth of opinion in the community so that a broad spectrum of ideas and

positions are represented in all of the wards. If you don't like the positions of one Councillor in your ward, you can always speak to someone who might be more in tune with your positions. The ward system was put in place to deal with nepotism issues that appeared to have plagued council in the past (prior to 1996). It encouraged local people to run for office and encouraged those with modest means to take on community leadership roles. This is an important aspect of the ward system and I strongly support retaining it. Currently the ward populations are not entirely equal - but the differentials are not huge and ensuring all those who are eligible to vote (Canadian citizens) would help. In addition there needs to be a look at the boundaries to help move us towards more equal population bases in each ward - this needs to be done with care. We have a recent example of a publicly funded provincial crown corporation - Metrolinx coming to Guelph and indifferently cutting a community in half (the Dublin street rail crossing closure with NO consultation). I expect the staff of the city of Guelph to behave respectfully to all members of the communities they engage with in review ward boundaries and that those consultations will be open and transparent (there is an excellent community engagement policy in place to provide guidance for how to do that). We have one mayor and that it how it should be. The mayor only has one vote, however the position has enormous positional power - which was designed to have whoever is in that role work with all Councillor members to ensure that there is a balanced and fair decision making process in place for all issues. When the role is interpreted this way it works really well and I see no valid reason to change it.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:06 AM

To many hands in the pot , makes things more complicated .

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:08 AM

Good ratio of residents to reps

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:18 AM

it works

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:25 AM

2 from each Ward is good representation. Lessening it may make decisions faster, but less accurately. Increasing it only bogs down the process.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:32 AM

- to increase the size would be more expensive

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:56 AM

I like 2 councillors per ward plus Mayor. Assuming the current size of council takes Guelph's future growth into consideration, this current set up is fine.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:56 AM

2 per ward for 6 wards or 1 per ward with 12 wards gives better representation for each areas taxpayers. As long as its part time. If they change to full time then cut it in half.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 11:14 AM

Manageable.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 12:00 PM

Enough representation from Each community

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:03 PM

It works well

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:43 PM

The number of councilors should be representative of the population. 12 Councillors is roughly 1 Councillor per 10,000 people which seems reasonable. The council size should grow as the City of Guelph grows.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:47 PM

We are a small city so we do not need more than 12 councilors, but it is important to have diverse voices and perspectives on council so shrinking the size could limit that potential.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 02:20 PM

Because a larger Council would prevent the lively debates and discussions that are now often a feature of Council meetings. Too many Councillors would mean that some can sit back and be silent, or cannot get an opportunity to speak. Twelve is a good number for community meetings.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 03:43 PM

Same size council. Smaller wards.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 04:05 PM

Otherwise you risk having a council of like minded one side council

Anonymous

9/04/2020 04:07 PM

Wider diversity of thought and perspective, allowing for better decision making.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 05:36 PM

It seems to me that it is hard enough to get 12 Councillors to agree on anything - they are usually bent on getting their opinion heard rather than looking at the citizens desires - you increase the number there will be more disagreement and less co-operation.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 05:56 PM

I think the city is well represented by the number we have now

Anonymous

9/04/2020 06:13 PM

Keep the number of Councillors the same at 12 Councillors, but make the job full-time. This will increase the quality of democratic representation without increasing the number of wards or Council positions. 12 Councillors allows for 2 per ward under the current system. This has worked well for our City. 12 Council representatives plus the Mayor enables us to achieve a diversity of age, gender, ethnic diversity and socio-economic diversity (among a number of things) that reflects the make-up of our community. Retaining 12 councillors, 2 per ward, will allow us to keep our current system of 6 wards. While the boundaries will need to be adjusted to account for population

growth, I would suggest that the Wards as they exist have developed collective identities over the past 30 years and that this social/cultural history should be respected.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 06:18 PM

Assuming the number of wards remains at 6, having 2 Councillors per ward gives citizens choice when it comes to constituency work, should there be any dissatisfaction with one of their Councillors. It also gives citizens the option of influencing the political makeup of Council by electing candidates from across the political spectrum. E.g., in the last municipal election I purposely voted for a candidate on the 'left' and another from the 'right' in the hope that the two points of view would be aired in Council's discussions and decisions.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:15 PM

Decision making becomes more difficult if too many people are around the table. 12 seems to be an efficient number for decision making.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 06:26 PM

Our city council works in a balanced way right now. There are 2 representatives for each ward and that improves the opportunity for more views to be represented.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:21 PM

If it isn't broke, don't fix it. If there is to be a review of council composition, don't do it in the middle of a pandemic. If, for example, the south end population explodes in the next 4 years, by all means, do a proper review. But for now, the differences in ward size (geographic) and population are not enough to trigger a review. Furthermore, I don't believe that the citizens are the driving force of this review.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:59 PM

It's a number that works. Larger becomes too many voices. Fewer leads to lack of access due to having too much on their plate.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:27 PM

Seems to work well right now but city is growing to 190,000 people by 2040 so may have to increase size to ensure representation is fair.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:02 PM

It seems an appropriate sized table for a city our size

Anonymous

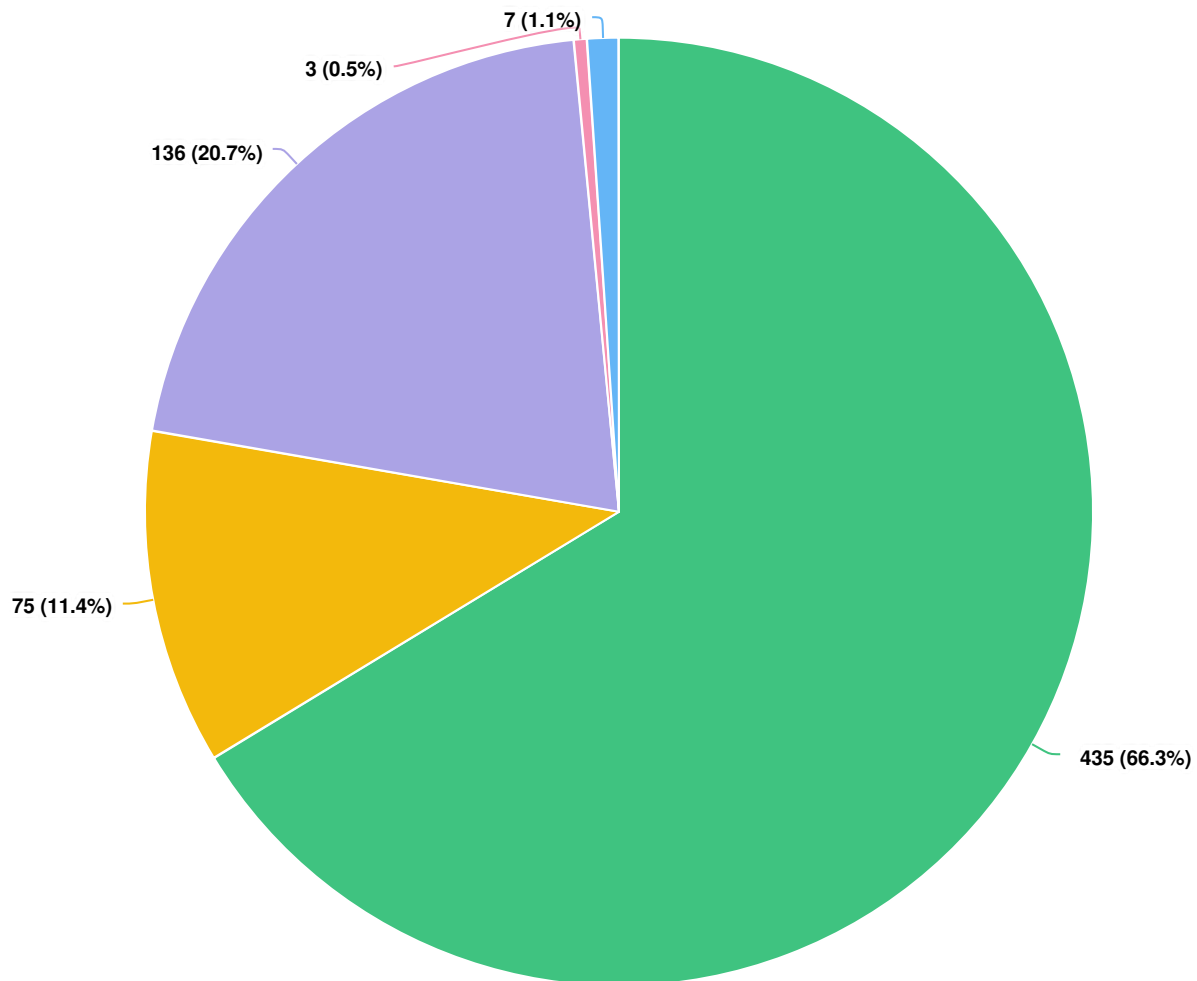
9/04/2020 10:06 PM

The number of people elected to council plus the mayor is fine, however wards should be split by population in order to ensure greater representation by a single councilor

**Optional question** (280 response(s), 376 skipped)

**Question type:** Essay Question

**Q10** From your perspective as a citizen, which way of electing Councillors do you think makes the most sense for the City of Guelph?



#### Question options

- Local, "ward" based elections where you can only vote for the candidates running in your part of the city, with the exception of the mayor who is elected city wide.
- City-wide, "at-large" elections where everyone can vote for candidates from the whole pool of candidates.
- A mixed system with some ward voting and some general voting. Some councillors would be elected for wards and others city wide.
- It doesn't matter to me ● I am not sure

Mandatory Question (656 response(s))  
Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q11 | From your perspective as a citizen of Guelph, what would be some advantages of having local WARD elections for city Councillors?**

Anonymous

8/17/2020 08:41 AM

If they live in my ward they should have a better understanding of issues in my ward.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 09:02 AM

Provides access to councillor who can be expected to be knowledgeable about ward & able to consider/balance with what is best for entire community

Anonymous

8/17/2020 09:19 AM

you can contact someone to represents your local needs. I feel downtown has much different needs than a more suburban area.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 09:52 AM

Ward councillors can focus on issues specific to a ward (e.g., community centre need) while balancing overall needs of the city.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 10:08 AM

Residents should have someone who lives in their part of the city that is able to advocate on their behalf. At-large elections typically favour incumbents, as people will usually just vote for familiar names.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 11:10 AM

More focus on citizen representation.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 11:27 AM

City council is not particularly useful as formulated already. Diluting local/ward-based input would make it even more irrelevant

Anonymous

8/17/2020 01:15 PM

More effective representation of local Ward issues.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 12:23 PM

Force the candidate to work in their ward rather than be popular city wide. The point of the ward system is to make sure the citizens have a voice on the council. So the candidate should be working in the ward to get the votes.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 01:15 PM

Different parts of the city have different experiences in the city. It's important to have people that reflect those different experiences negotiating with each other when they make decisions.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 01:33 PM

If we had smaller wards that had 1 Councillor then more can be done on the ground and representation of neighborhoods would be maintained.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 02:15 PM

This would mean better representation of the diverse areas of Guelph. If councillors serve at-large, what's to say they won't all be from the same area of Guelph? Councillors from the south-end wouldn't understand the needs of downtown and vice-versa.

Anonymous

They will act in my wards interest



8/17/2020 01:47 PM

Anonymous

8/17/2020 02:28 PM

Local representation. It's only natural that there will be times that there is a conflict between the needs of one ward over another ward. It's only good and fair practice that each ward have a local representative to speak for their ward at council.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 03:00 PM

You would have a member of your community area on the council who would truly understand the area and could more easily meet with members of the community at town halls etc.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 03:04 PM

easier to get rid of the non performers

Anonymous

8/17/2020 03:17 PM

In Ward 6 we have some very specific issues that require the specific focus of our councilors — intensification corridor, student housing issues, traffic to 401 etc. I am not sure that a more general councilor could be as laser-focused on these very real issues for residents in Ward 6.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 03:43 PM

To the extent that Councillors are expected to represent the concerns of citizens, it makes sense to have Councillors attached to a particular community.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 03:48 PM

Due to the size of Guelph and what the city takes care of, I don't believe that there are many Guelph wide issues that require 'at-large' councillors. I would want to see how 'at-large' councillors have worked in other similar sized cities.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 03:49 PM

Each neighbourhood in Guelph has very unique and distinctive needs and challenges. Evidence for this statement can be seen in the neighbourhood groups formed both within and without the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition. Equating the affluence of the Exhibition Park or Old University neighbourhoods with the economic situation of Onward Willow, for example is ridiculous. Westminster Woods and Clairfields struggled for years and years to get sufficient shopping development in the form of local grocery stores, whereas central and Western neighbourhoods had plenty. Grange Hill East is still stuck with a single low-end grocery store. Transit is another resource that is unevenly distributed and non-optimized in terms of connecting workers between the area they live and their place of work. In terms of workload for the councillors, it does not make sense to have 16 or even 12 councillors who are each individually expected to represent 131,000+ residents.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 03:51 PM

Ward councillors are more interested in what is happening around them.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 04:57 PM

Accountable and available to someone in their area.

Anonymous

I think it's important for a city ward to have neighbourhood representation.

8/17/2020 06:11 PM

Their city council member should be someone who lives in the ward they represent and understands the issues of that particular area.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 07:38 PM

Responsible to neighbourhood and more knowledgeable about specific areas, dont have to be expert everywhere, thus able to be part time

Anonymous

8/17/2020 09:02 PM

Someone you can contact directly regarding any concerns

Anonymous

8/17/2020 09:33 PM

Clear voice for the people and balance those placed to create views and clear planning

Anonymous

8/17/2020 09:44 PM

- lower financial/time barrier for candidates to run a campaign - division of labour, councillors spending at least some of their time/attention on hyper local issues instead of all trying to address every issue - less chance of a few active groups monopolizing the time/attention of the entire council

Anonymous

8/17/2020 10:36 PM

i like have ward representatives who live in my ward know my ward intimately and therefore have affection for it. and work harder for it.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 05:31 AM

Guelph is (still) a city of neighbourhoods. If we were to lose ward representation, then the only voices would be those who view the city as something to be homogenized. The value of the city is in its neighbourhoods. I don't want to live in a faceless suburb.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 06:03 AM

- understanding of local, neighbourhood issues; good relationship with residents so that neighbourhood/ward voice makes it to council.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 07:39 AM

ward's make it easier to represent a smaller community...more understanding of needs and also a chance to get to know a ward population more than "worrying" about a larger demographic and region

Anonymous

8/18/2020 07:59 AM

Councillors can better represent the specific topics, needs and concerns of their ward. For example, the south end has different key needs and issues than the downtown core.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 08:02 AM

Smaller pool of candidates to research and get to know before an election. Also makes one-on-one contact easier with ward councillors (whether one or two per ward). At large only good for larger rural communities.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 08:51 AM

Presumably this person should be better connected to the realities of my local environment and more accessible than someone who resides elsewhere and who is 'flown in'.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 09:06 AM

Local advocacy. Councillors should feel responsible to their entire ward. At-large structures can create a system where a geographically small area can have a disproportionate voice on council, and could lead to neglect in other areas.

Anonymous

be a voice for your ward and represent your citizens

8/18/2020 09:08 AM

Anonymous

8/18/2020 09:18 AM

Different areas of Guelph have different needs, so their councillor should understand what to advocate for on behalf of their constituents

Anonymous

8/18/2020 09:29 AM

They should be able to represent and speak for their neighbours

Anonymous

8/18/2020 11:01 AM

Having elected Councillor by Ward gives citizens clarity on who to discuss local issues with. Councillors in their Ward would be the most familiar with the issues in their area to highlight to city council.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 11:58 AM

As a local citizen representing me in my ward, they are my neighbours with the same interests and concerns for my ward.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 01:15 PM

Greater connections to the communities they are elected in. Guelph has rich and diverse wards with completely different needs. There is something to be said for being able to dedicate yourself to that connection and getting to know a smaller handful of residents and their needs.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 12:38 PM

Accountability

Anonymous

8/18/2020 02:48 PM

One gets to know the councillor better, since they probably live in the ward.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 04:05 PM

You have one contact for your concerns (if you have one full time time councilor). With 2 part time councilors per ward, communications from citizens go to both councilors and double the work. If you have at-large councilors, every citizen concern will go to the mayor cc every Councillor and no one have specific responsibility to help. "When everyone is responsible, no one is responsible"

Anonymous

8/18/2020 04:18 PM

It ensures the unique needs of each ward are understood and represented.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 04:51 PM

Hopefully the individual would be required to live in the ward they represent creating greater accountability and awareness to local needs of residents.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 05:10 PM

First off, if it stays as Ward based, I feel that the Councillors must reside in the Ward that they run in/represent. If they move during their term, fine but they need to run in the ward they live in for the next election. Reason being is if you reside in that Ward you have a vested interest on improving the area in which you and your family live in. City wide would loose the connection with the citizens in a smaller area

Anonymous

8/18/2020 06:58 PM

Councillors lives as my neighbour and lives the problems

Anonymous

8/18/2020 09:15 PM

They represent the interests of their ward.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 05:36 AM

Greater diversity of candidates. More accessible local government.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 07:01 AM

There is a known and definable point of contact for citizens. The real problem comes when your Councillors don't even connect back with you.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 07:27 AM

truly local candidate - more investature in Ward issues, easier for candidate to run

Anonymous

8/19/2020 07:49 AM

They are the folks that will represent you.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 07:57 AM

Improves the engagement and advocacy of a councillor when they are local to the area and understand its unique challenges. With purely at-large voting, uneven population growth can lead to some areas of the city having a louder voice than others.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 11:47 AM

Knowledge of issues in a specific geographic area. Greater engagement and relatability with Ward councillors.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 11:54 AM

A couple of main advantages: having councillors elected from wards means residents know who to contact with their local concerns; and representing a ward means council candidates don't have to mount a city-wide campaign, making it less daunting to run for council and making it more likely that people with a wide range of backgrounds will seek office and get elected.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 12:08 PM

Each ward has its own challenges and is best represented by someone from that area of Guelph.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 03:42 PM

I would know my own Councillor and they would be more familiar with the local issues in the area in which I live.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 05:15 PM

The council member lives in and advocates for their ward and taking into account city needs as a whole

Anonymous

8/19/2020 06:10 PM

Councilors know the ward, and its residents. Accountability.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 07:42 PM

Direct understanding of issues in each area, councillors must live in this boundary

Anonymous

cause i don't care about who is not in my ward

8/20/2020 04:43 AM

Anonymous

Representatives that understand and share particular concerns.

8/20/2020 06:01 AM

Anonymous

Neighbourhood representation

8/20/2020 08:42 AM

Anonymous

Have someone you feel you can contact directly who understands your neighbourhoods unique needs

8/20/2020 08:45 AM

Anonymous

Residents know who exactly to contact on City Council if they have a need/question. This will also prevent Councillors who have a greater name recognition from being overtasked with requests.

8/20/2020 10:15 AM

Anonymous

The advantage of having a ward election would be that the councillor would represent their citizens. This rarely happens though. The councillor usually does whatever they want, not what the citizens in the ward want.

8/20/2020 10:01 AM

Anonymous

easier to know candidates and better for work on local issues. Better accountability

8/20/2020 10:52 AM

Anonymous

This ward system should allow a citizen to speak to their council member vs being a voice in a crowd idea

8/20/2020 12:57 PM

Anonymous

Clarifies specific responsibilities of representation for councillors in addition to their role representing the city at large. Allows clear avenues for resolution of more isolated issues by neighborhood. Ensures some amount of representation for wards whose issues/politics may differ from the city at large. Reduces burden of information among options necessary to be an informed voter. Ability to research individual candidates without party/open partisan affiliations is important.

8/20/2020 03:35 PM

Anonymous

Councils will represent the Ward. They are more approachable.

8/20/2020 05:40 PM

Anonymous

each ward needs to have a kind of relationship with it's counselor. No more ivory tower. That counselor should be living in that ward and easily accessible. This needs to be done to keep accountability.

8/20/2020 07:22 PM

Anonymous

I believe it makes the councillors more accountable to their ward. In cities like Vancouver that has an at-large system, there is very little engagement between the citizens and their local council. There is a sense at the citizen level of not having the ear of their local government.

8/20/2020 08:28 PM

Anonymous

Have each areas best interests addressed

8/20/2020 08:33 PM

Anonymous 8/21/2020 05:40 AM	Neighborhood concerns are represented.
Anonymous 8/21/2020 07:00 AM	we need to be represented by people who live in the area, and are dedicated to listening to and promoting the interests of those people. at large is not responsive to the parts, and too focused on the whole. the whole comes from and with the parts.
Anonymous 8/21/2020 08:12 AM	More responsive to the needs of individual communities. More opportunities for relatable politics/representatives and local participation.
Anonymous 8/21/2020 08:38 AM	more citizen access to council work, councillors better able to attend to constituent needs; more efficient campaigning because a smaller population needs to be contacted, listened to and citizens can know the candidates better
Anonymous 8/21/2020 10:36 AM	Everyone has 2 councillors who understand and can speak their issues, because they represent a specific area.
Anonymous 8/21/2020 12:46 PM	It helps "chunk" issues by councillor so that they can focus on certain areas of town, and don't have to be perfectly knowledgeable about the entire city.
Anonymous 8/21/2020 01:12 PM	Only way to ensure the voices of that ward are heard; no need for "councillors at large" (who do they represent anyway?)
Anonymous 8/21/2020 02:05 PM	Councillor more focused on issues important to ward. But I expect them to also be mindful of city wide issues and governance. I lived through Guelph's at large system. It was sadly a mess. The council was very parochial and divisive.
Anonymous 8/21/2020 04:14 PM	The at large system of election generates multiple-term councillors based on name recognition - a bad outcome. A mixed election system leads to an unwarranted sense of superiority of the at-large- elected councillors. Having only ward-based councillors promotes equality .
Anonymous 8/21/2020 05:30 PM	Order of preference 1) ward based, 2) mixed and 3) city-wide. I think it's important to recognize that there are distinct communities within Guelph that have varied interests. My concern is that in the case of city-wide elections, there would be an overrepresentation of individuals from privileged positions that do not have the experience or knowledge of the needs of individuals from diverse areas of city. Ideally, all councillors would work in the best interest of all citizens in Guelph. However, I believe that a Ward-based system is the best way to ensure fair representation for all.
Anonymous 8/22/2020 09:58 AM	Councillors are more likely to be knowledgeable and interested in issues in their neighborhood. They will be more familiar with the residents and more likely to advocate for their community
Anonymous	Having councillors that actually understand the context of residents, ensuring

8/22/2020 11:15 AM

a major subset of the population isn't neglected and ignored

Anonymous

8/22/2020 11:26 AM

Ward voting allows for an advocate for respective sections of the City. With general overall voting, the councillors can and will focus solely on the downtown core and make decisions accordingly. Eg. Instead of building a new arena in the west end that would have been larger and have available parking and no cost to taxpayer, the decision was made to place one downtown, much smaller, with no parking and at a substantial cost to all taxpayers. This seems to be repeating itself with a very expensive, new library downtown, removing parking, at substantial cost to taxpayers, at a time when all residents are facing their own income loss. This is not the time for a new library.

Anonymous

8/23/2020 10:45 AM

The councillor is responsible to the citizens in his or her ward.

Anonymous

8/23/2020 04:15 PM

Personal contact and involvement

Anonymous

8/24/2020 07:38 AM

It ensures that local issues don't get lost when one area or subject becomes a hot topic. It is easier to involve people locally when you have a local representative as well.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 10:36 AM

As a per of the ward they would have better understanding of the requirments of their ward

Anonymous

8/24/2020 10:55 AM

Understanding of the issues of that ward and knowledge of the history of the area.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 11:26 AM

Keep the ward system! Local representation is crucial. The city web site lists some supposed "advantages" of an at-large system. 1. "Electors have greater choice". Well, yes ... but it is not a choice that we need or want. I used to live in Vancouver, which has an at-large municipal election system. On election day, I was given a ballot paper as long as my arm, with more than 100 candidates running for ten positions. No-one bothers to study the qualifications of 100 diffeent candidates! So the "greater choice" becomes an obstacle, not an advantage. Either the election turns into a lottery, with many voters simply checking off the names from the top of the alphabetical list (a great advantage for Mr Abercrombie but an impossible hurdle for Ms Worthington!); or else the candidates form political parties, and most voters just vote for the candidates on their preferred party. The result is intense politicization and partisanship. 2. "Residents will have a larger number of councillors to approach with their concerns." This is misleading. Yes, one will be able to "approach a larger number of councillors" ... and so will every other resident of Guelph! The result will surely be less, not more, opportunity for citizens to have personal interactions with Councillors. 3. "The system promotes the concept of a municipal-wide focus ... rather than placing a

priority on more parochial interests.” It is unfair to describe ward interests as “parochial”. The concerns of residents in particular wards can be very different, and for understandable reasons. Each ward has a distinctly different character. Recognizing these differences via ward representation is not “parochial” - it is an expression of respect for diversity!

Anonymous

8/24/2020 11:35 AM

Reasons outlined in background documents, including reducing barriers to entry, proximity to the people being represented, less duplication of effort. The needs of the wards in Guelph can be quite distinct, it is valuable to have a councillor who is aware and advocates for the needs of each specific area.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 11:49 AM

Personal connection between residents and ward councillors. Ward councillors live in the neighbourhood.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 11:51 AM

they are truly representatives. It helps ensure that the councilor knows and understands the issues of the ward they are elected in.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 12:58 PM

There is one point person to advocate for the constituents of their ward. One main point of contact . much like an MP for Parliament

Anonymous

8/24/2020 01:39 PM

Having local ward elections is more personal because in our city some issues to ward 4 and 6 will differ and as such ward elections are best to represent those differences

Anonymous

8/24/2020 01:48 PM

More in tune with neighbourhood issues, accountable to a smaller group of people so in theory fewer conflicting interests

Anonymous

8/24/2020 01:59 PM

Different areas of our city are different from each other and have unique needs. The ward system ensures citizens from diverse parts of the city are represented.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 02:16 PM

A councillor for a Ward can get to know that area intimately, the specific issues in that area, the general views of the population in that area... And we, the voters can get to know our councillors well, knowing whether we will, or will not, vote for them again.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 03:00 PM

it ensures that local concerns are properly reflected, and provides accountability for this; having any at large members of council (other than the mayor) also opens up the door to political party based alliances- we get enough of this at the provincial and federal level, and I don't want to see that here

Anonymous

8/24/2020 03:37 PM

I perceive I have a relationship with our local councillors. I believe that municipal politics is the learning ground for a more participatory democracy. I have not experienced councillors who are parochial in their thinking, Instead they look at what is good for Guelph as a whole.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 04:25 PM

some of the advantages, 1) they know the hood 2) easy to find them if needed, they have a sincere concern for the ward and 3) flip the question, the disadvantages are countless, you fill in the blanks, another dum question,



<p>Anonymous</p> <p>8/24/2020 05:39 PM</p>	<p>Ability to know your councillor and get response when concerns. That councillors knows and lives in the ward and knows issues. Personal approach.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>8/24/2020 06:00 PM</p>	<p>Guelph has expanded radically over the past 35 years — so the reasons why citizens fought long and hard to switch to a ward system are even more valid: one area's concerns are not the other areas. The previous system didn't ensue that all regions were represented at Council so many weren't. Also, the ward system has fostered more gender diversity and is more likely to create a diverse Council than the at-large system. The at-large system also makes money more of an influence, as running a city-wide electoral campaign is far more expensive.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>8/24/2020 07:57 PM</p>	<p>They should live in the Ward they serve in order to understand the issues of that ward. Never should a councillor be elected to represent a ward that they do not live in.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>8/24/2020 08:27 PM</p>	<p>Ward councilors can represent more local interests and debate them with councilors from other wards. General councilors would not be tied to the interests of particular wards, raising the danger that the interests of some wards, especially the poorer wards, would be overlooked.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>8/24/2020 09:03 PM</p>	<p>Not all neighborhoods would run candidates. Elites from wealthier wards could win all the seats. All neighborhoods deserve equal representation.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>8/24/2020 10:15 PM</p>	<p>Better representation of citizen concerns, More manageable for councillors. Easier for citizens to identify who to contact with concerns.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>8/25/2020 06:03 AM</p>	<p>IF councillors truly engaged residents of the wards and lived in the wards they aim to represent, I feel they would be in the best position to understand the needs of that region.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>8/25/2020 06:24 AM</p>	<p>We need diversity and representation of all areas and all citizens of Guelph. The at-large system will simply turn into a popularity / party politics which is what we DO NOT WANT. There is no space for party politics in city representation.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>8/25/2020 07:38 AM</p>	<p>Local ward elections means that we are electing local councillors who know who we are and who we all know. If there were general councillors, communications would be all mixed up and some councillors would be more stretched than others based upon their communication strategy. It is also likely that those 'popular' councillors would not be representative of the population of Guelph and therefore our concerns would be filtered through the interpretation of someone who doesn't represent us.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>8/25/2020 07:57 AM</p>	<p>The local WARD elections provides an opportunity for the elected candidates to bring forward the concerns of the ward residents in an effective way as they can relate to the issues first hand.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>8/25/2020 12:03 PM</p>	<p>The Ward system has increased diversity on council and provides a far better representation of each area in the city. Under the former at-large system,</p>

which was scrapped in the early 90s, most councillors were white men living in downtown. (Now there more women, still white though.) • Let's keep the Ward system and consider making city councillors full time and/or increasing the numbers, because the city is growing quickly – about 40% from when our current system was implemented.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:09 PM

Each area of a city is unique and has its own strengths and challenges. It feels good as a citizen to be represented locally.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:09 PM

This way I know who I can speak to and that person would be able to focus on advocating for me and my neighbours.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:18 PM

Councilors represent the views of the people of that ward. The councilors are hopefully local to the ward they represent. The councilors know more about the issues within the ward they represent.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:27 PM

Local representation

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:31 PM

Responsiveness. If we moved to an at-large system, I feel as though there would be less responsiveness to hyper-local issues.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:36 PM

Retains a sense of neighbourhood and sensitivity to local concerns, while simultaneously acting on behalf of the City at large.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:41 PM

They are more in tune with what is going in that specific area of Guelph and could speak to it better.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 01:16 PM

If councillors live in the wards they represent, the neighbourhoods will have their unique needs brought to city hall, more diversity in council,

Anonymous

8/25/2020 01:22 PM

Most Councillors will live in the ward they represent and will be better able to understand its citizens concerns.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 02:45 PM

I think ward based elections allows a clearer responsibility and advocacy point of contact for residents when an issue arises - I know who to call and feel less like the issue can be passed to any number of Councillors as with an at large system. Wards ideally align with community neighbourhoods and identity to allow more direct representation of the opportunities and challenges faced in my ward.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 03:16 PM

councillors are more connected to specific needs and issues in particular areas of city councillors live in all parts of the city (ideally if they live in the ward they represent)

Anonymous

8/25/2020 03:21 PM

Council know the residence of their area/territory and their requirements and same way the residence know their Councilors and how to contact them. Easily accessible and available.

Anonymous 8/25/2020 03:32 PM	Different areas have varied needs and it's better to have accountability for them.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 03:42 PM	Different wards have different priorities, it is important that representation is by someone who lives in the neighbourhood
Anonymous 8/25/2020 04:22 PM	Representation.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 04:28 PM	As Guelph continues to grow, ward representation will be important to ensure the interests and needs of the various neighbourhood are being met.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 04:44 PM	Every region of Guelph would be guaranteed representation
Anonymous 8/25/2020 04:58 PM	Majority of people will be better represented if they vote for their councillor rather than have no choice but to vote by a team, citizens might not necessarily agree with the team composition
Anonymous 8/25/2020 05:11 PM	Different areas of the city have different make-ups and issues. Having someone familiar with the specific issues in an area is most beneficial.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 05:13 PM	Conflicting needs ie the parking bylaws being applied to support new neighbourhoods while at the detriment of older neighbourhoods
Anonymous 8/25/2020 05:28 PM	Additional representation from the community.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 05:34 PM	I like the Ward elections. It feels comforting that your councillors live in your Ward and potentially are dealing with the same issues the residents are. A councillor in the West wouldn't necessarily care what's going on in the South or at least not much.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 06:11 PM	To represent the people living within the specific Ward
Anonymous 8/25/2020 06:31 PM	A voice for specific areas of the city. Allows councillors to focus on that area and not have these areas disappear from view
Anonymous 8/25/2020 07:55 PM	It's the only way to prevent a concentration of power and influence from a single neighbourhood.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 09:06 PM	Knowing who to go to for help and they are familiar with ward to help. Too often when councillors are elected at large, citizens go only to the responsive ones and those councillors become overwhelmed and the others sit back and enjoy doing nothing. It did not work the last time it happened here.

Anonymous 8/25/2020 11:37 PM	Representation on council that accurately reflects the unique needs of my neighborhood.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 06:58 AM	Having a point person to contact, knowing there is someone who understands the issues where I live.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 08:00 AM	The person would represent the area and bring these areas concerns to council.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 08:24 AM	Councillors are more engaged with their community / neighborhoods to understand our needs.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 08:26 AM	Representation from all areas of the city instead of strictly concentrated ones.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 09:22 AM	Each ward in our city is very different and the needs of the populations in each ward are different. Therefore it makes sense to elect councillors who can represent our interests at council.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 09:27 AM	Representation and knowledge of local neighbourhood needs and concerns that might be overlooked if no councillors are elected for that specific area. If all/most councillors live downtown or in a more high income area, they will not be the best representatives for many citizens living in lower income areas.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 09:32 AM	This would enable more people to run for office, as a ward campaign is more accessible than a city wide campaign, from a financial and resources standpoint. Once elected, a ward councillor is better able to represent a more focused population, rather than be over-extended by city-wide representation. The strength of the council would be based on the ward councillors' in depth knowledge of their ward.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 10:04 AM	Local representation, advocacy for ward specific issues, point of contact for municipal issues.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 10:17 AM	It ensures that the people running for these positions know their neighbourhood and their constituents. It makes us feel like they know what are various wards/neighbourhoods are experiencing and can represents us better.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 10:31 AM	Better representation for wards, instead of just looking out for the Mayor's pet projects.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 10:35 AM	If candidate lives in ward they are more aware of needs in that ward. Underserviced wards will get their voices heard and not lost in th clamour of wealthier wards.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 10:58 AM	Smaller area to represent. No "unrepresented" areas that don't happen to have a councillor near them. Focus on community specific issues that don't

	affect the whole city.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 11:42 AM	they in theory will know the issues that impact their ward.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 11:44 AM	Can better represent a particular area of the city, allows citizens to know who to reach out to, means that no area of the city is unrepresented just because a councillor doesn't happen to live there.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 11:46 AM	Guelph is a small but very diverse city. The issues impacting many of the older neighborhoods are different than new subdivisions. Local ward representation allows diverse ideas and community representation.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 12:32 PM	As above
Anonymous 8/26/2020 12:36 PM	The councillors are from our neighborhoods and understand the nuisances that pertain to the people around them. People who live downtown do not have the same challenges as those in the south and folks in the south so not representing folks who live downtown. It is important to have that diversity in experience. Please do not destroy that.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 03:10 PM	Ward systems demand that councillors are accountable to citizens in their wards while at-large has no such accountability. An at-large system lacks true democracy or representation and has no checks and balances to guard against political ganging and special interests to serve political interests.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 03:22 PM	Representation by someone who knows the specific issues faced by their ward. It also add diversity to the council.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 03:28 PM	Better representation and understanding of issues facing citizens in each ward.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 04:32 PM	They know the area. They listen and understand specificities of the people of the area.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 04:48 PM	More likely that the Councillor can make a personal connection with the people in his or her ward and argue on behalf of that Ward's most pressing needs as well as how that Ward is impacted by other City initiatives.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 05:41 PM	None
Anonymous 8/26/2020 06:21 PM	Being able to speak to neighbourhood issues and move projects forward that speak to specific communities within the city.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 07:29 PM	The advantage of a ward system is that councilors at least nominally have some responsibility for a particular group of constituents ie the residents of that ward. A point of contact for residents.

Anonymous 8/26/2020 07:32 PM	Not all wards have the same issues. Having citywide elections also makes it harder for people from poorer wards to have adequate representation.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 08:03 PM	Local representation
Anonymous 8/27/2020 07:11 AM	Gives representations from areas across the city, brings perspectives of unique challenging each ward faces
Anonymous 8/27/2020 10:15 AM	You have a 'point person' that each citizen can get to know and makes it easier to contact one or two people since most people have local concerns that they want to address with a Councillor. It also avoids the possibility of electing several people who all live in one part of the city leaving people living in other parts of the city feeling under-represented or ignored. Councillors are more accountable in a ward system. I think most people expect that Councillors are able to balance helping with local concerns vs city wide issues.
Anonymous 8/27/2020 01:34 PM	It makes the reaching out to voters much easier if you don't have to canvas the whole City, and the cost of getting elected is bearable. It also means a lot less trash at election time. Can you imagine all 30 candidates posting election signs throughout the City!!!
Anonymous 8/27/2020 02:20 PM	Actual representation for residents in the ward. Everyone should vote for the mayor.
Anonymous 8/27/2020 03:09 PM	Different areas of Guelph have different needs, it's important for each area to have representation.
Anonymous 8/27/2020 03:24 PM	More responsiveness to neighborhood concerns; we have a specific person to contact with a question or for advocacy. The old at-large system was not good so please do not return to it.
Anonymous 8/27/2020 03:36 PM	There would be dozens of council candidates trying to knock on every door in Guelph during a municipal election. Chaos. It's hard enough getting to know the ward candidates as it is. I want to know that at least two councillors feel a particular responsibility for my ward.
Anonymous 8/28/2020 03:42 AM	Economic and Racial Diversity across municipal government.
Anonymous 8/28/2020 07:18 AM	Councillor would be full time , and not have to worry about having another job. Also working full time requires a pay increase
Anonymous 8/28/2020 07:21 AM	it is hard enough to keep track of the 5-8 candidates in one ward and what the support/represent. It would be impossible to get a good understanding of all 30-40 candidates.

Anonymous

8/28/2020 08:42 AM

The ward system makes it far easier for councillors to maintain contact with their constituents, and it allows for councillor candidates to canvas most voters in their ward prior to election. If elections were city-wide, only the candidates with the deepest pockets and name recognition could hope to be elected.

Anonymous

8/28/2020 09:14 AM

The election of Ward Councillors encourages a greater depth of representation. It's not just the loudest voices that get heard, but the many points of view that are encouraged and new sources of information considered. In identifying with a neighbourhood, Councillors are more accessible to their electors. That said, I believe that all Councillors have the best interests of the City at heart, not just the localized concerns of their constituents. Many studies have proven that a Ward system also makes it easier for women to run for political office, which is an extremely important issue for me. A Ward system also encourages members of visible minorities to run for office. This is also an important consideration for me in building a city Council for the future. We need to remove barriers to ensure greater diversity on city Council and I believe that moving to an at-large system would be a significant barrier to achieving these goals.

Anonymous

8/28/2020 11:32 AM

Different parts of the city have different issues. It would be awful if the majority of councillors were from one part of town while other areas felt that they had no representation at council

Anonymous

8/28/2020 12:00 PM

Hopefully there is a specific geo-area for councillors to engage in w residents; councillors should live in the ward, meeting people at the grocery store, park and regular engagement; this has not been my experience w Ward 4 councillors only hosting a budget meeting this year; wards, live in the neighborhood and hopefully are willing & able to engage

Anonymous

8/28/2020 12:13 PM

it keeps the balance of power more evenly distributed across the City's diverse neighbourhoods. my fear with city wide is that it would mean we see over-representation from Guelph's "ends" (North end, South end, etc)

Anonymous

8/28/2020 01:46 PM

As the primary concerns of various locales within the city vary, it stands to reason that they should be represented. The ward system is the best way to achieve this.

Anonymous

8/28/2020 09:18 PM

Equal representation for all areas of Guelph with councillors who actually live across the whole city

Anonymous

8/29/2020 04:14 AM

A representative for my part of town with its own needs and concerns

Anonymous

8/29/2020 06:15 AM

People know who to contact for help in their ward. Every ward has 2 councillors so all wards are represented. Representation of the constituents of their ward does not mean that the councillors are blind to what is happening around the city. The ward system is the best of both worlds

Anonymous

Given the size of our city and the cost to participate in the democratic

8/29/2020 07:29 AM

process I think local representation makes the most sense. It also creates accountability and engagement at a local level for the representative of each Ward area. This allows residents to specifically understand WHO represents their interests for their area of the city. This also ensures there is a balance of city-wide AND local area voices.

Anonymous

8/29/2020 08:12 AM

Accountability is clear. Potential for accessibility of the councilor is highest. I cannot believe we are revisiting this issue. At-large councilor elections violate democratic principles.

Anonymous

8/29/2020 11:23 AM

More local representation and ensures Councillors are elected from different areas.

Anonymous

8/29/2020 04:23 PM

Guelph is a diverse city and different neighbourhoods have different needs and wants. For example, our mayor seems very preoccupied and excited about development in the south end and uninterested in pushing for the overdue new library branch downtown which is my closest branch (I am in Ward 1). I don't want the needs and interests of my neighbourhood, which is less wealthy, do get lost in a non-local council model

Anonymous

8/29/2020 05:23 PM

The city is diverse

Anonymous

8/29/2020 05:52 PM

They have a better understanding of the needs of the area.

Anonymous

8/29/2020 08:30 PM

More democratic

Anonymous

8/29/2020 11:24 PM

If we make the Wards smaller, it would allow each Councillor to do a better job of representing that area.

Anonymous

8/30/2020 06:54 AM

Having a councillor that truly represents and understands the issues of the neighbourhood.

Anonymous

8/30/2020 07:43 AM

I would draw your attention to Karen Farbridge's community editorial in the Mercury on this matter. I agree with her views.

Anonymous

8/30/2020 11:29 AM

All Wards have their own problems, needs etc. They are unique.

Anonymous

8/30/2020 12:09 PM

Our representatives need to know what's happening 'on the ground' in each locality. We need input from across the city that will result in the best decisions for the city as a whole, and not neglect any particular areas such as those that might have a harder time voting or mounting candidates.

Anonymous

8/30/2020 01:02 PM

Better representation, community engagement. Preferred citizen choice historically



Anonymous

8/30/2020 01:03 PM

The primary advantage would be the facilitation of citizen engagement; that would be much harder if each councillor had to attempt to engage with the entire city.

Anonymous

8/30/2020 01:55 PM

Better representation of local issues Easier access to individual Councillors on important local issues

Anonymous

8/30/2020 02:46 PM

Same as outlined in the background doc. I think either system could work, but I don't see enough benefits to change from the current approach.

Anonymous

8/30/2020 02:57 PM

Because the people who represent us actually live in the neighborhood. It would make NO sense for someone from the south end making decisions on behalf of the downtown core, for example.

Anonymous

8/30/2020 04:46 PM

I think from a citizenry perspective you know which Councillor is yours. In the non-party system we have, it allows unknown candidates an easier entry into running due to less citizens to talk to and less ground to cover. It would also allow the Councillor to bring up ward-specific issues

Anonymous

8/30/2020 04:57 PM

Represents local as well as city wide interests, knows their ward

Anonymous

8/30/2020 05:00 PM

More democratic because councillors are directly involved in a particular ward and answer to their particular constituents

Anonymous

8/30/2020 05:46 PM

This way you don't end up with the majority of council only concerned about a certain district.

Anonymous

8/30/2020 06:17 PM

Councillors have a more defined area that they are asked to represent. They aren't spread thin, and it avoids preference for some areas over others.

Anonymous

8/30/2020 06:21 PM

Encourage women, racialized citizens, and others who may have limited resources compared to white, male counterparts to run. Potential candidates may be less inclined to run with fewer resources if they have to campaign city-wide as opposed to in a single ward.

Anonymous

8/30/2020 06:25 PM

Because the two councillors presumably have an interest in that part of the town, they can become well known personally to the residents and, also, that their campaign expenditure in time and money at election time is necessarily less.

Anonymous

8/30/2020 08:35 PM

Firstly living in a ward makes a representative of that ward representative of & responsible to the constituents in that designated area, ensuring no area of the city is under-represented. Secondly campaigning in a given ward is a more manageable venture than doing it city wide. Thirdly in a time where it is crucial to ensure diversity, going to a city wide election system would be a move backward ensuring only those very well known individuals in the city would get elected rather than learning about and electing newer and

Anonymous

8/31/2020 06:27 AM

potentially better candidates who might better represent their respective ward.

I can take issues specifically affecting my neighborhood directly to my councillor and know that they will work to have them resolved, etc. Ward councillors will advocate for much needed services for their under serviced wards.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 06:58 AM

See my answer in Question 5. Also, know my local ward councillors. Because they live in my neighbourhood I know that they will care about or at least listen to local issues, very local issues. For instance, I never, ever go to the south end so why would I want to elect anybody from there? Most of what goes on there has nothing to do with how I live here. Different neighborhoods, different issues and situations. I am still free to read about in question what's going on in other parts of Guelph, but I know that what's going on in my ward will be looked at in more detail then if it's an at-large system.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 09:04 AM

I believe that residents need to have one Councillor who knows the ward, who knows the particular issues and problems in the ward and someone who will champion their cause at City Councillor. I think we should have one councillor per ward, fewer councillors, part time councillors and perhaps a little better paid.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:18 AM

They know issues, concern, or opportunities in their area of the city

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:23 AM

Two factors. The first is about representation. Councillors should live in and serve those within their ward's geography. Second is about upholding a fair democracy. Under an at-large election, interest groups will undoubtedly mobilise either against/for prospective councillors. Also, highly-engaged parts of the city can consolidate power in council and give a disproportionate voice to the areas where they live.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:25 AM

Engaging with constituents is a central part of Councillors' role. This becomes much harder to do with at-large elections than ward elections; you want folks to feel like they have a point of contact and Councillors need to have a clear idea of the needs and priorities they represent.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:34 AM

Better representation of Ward needs, if the Councillor bothers to listen and not follow their own agenda.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:39 AM

Not so overwhelming to listen to all the wards. Get to know the area where you live better and making neighbourhood decisions as applied to city

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:59 AM

Having Ward Councillors means you know who represents your area and interests and is available to you when you have questions or need assistance.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 11:21 AM

Avoidance outside interference. Creates focus on ward issues-ie ward 2 and traffic on Victoria

Anonymous

8/31/2020 11:31 AM

No taxation without representation...

Anonymous

8/31/2020 12:08 PM

councillors live among the people they represent. it makes absolutely no sense to me to go to an at-large system. the needs of the south end are very different from the needs of downtown, for example -- they are like two different cities. If we elect members at large it's possible we'd have a makeup of council that was entirely from one area or the other, and was completely unresponsive to the concerns of residents outside their area.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 12:14 PM

I am frankly upset that the city is asking this question at all. The current system was instituted after years of significant citizen activism, and was confirmed by a ballot question in 2006. I would like to know who precisely is responsible for asking this question at all, especially given the circumstances (online format only, short time frame for responses, no public meetings), and I think it is irresponsible to ask it in such a nonchalant way. This is a shameful part of this survey.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 12:26 PM

Personal relationships and interests

Anonymous

8/31/2020 01:08 PM

Have experience with both "At large" and "ward" and prefer the Ward as Councillor more in touch with constituency and any issues local to that Ward. it seems more equitable to have ward representation

Anonymous

8/31/2020 02:18 PM

The number of residents in each ward is large. Better opportunity for a candidate for ward councillor to know the ward residents, planning, issues going forward. Clarify that candidates in fact live and/or work in the ward.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 03:15 PM

Currently, it is easy to raise issues with and approach the ward counselors - especially with issues related to the ward. The counselors more likely have a vested interest to represent the concerns of the ward.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 04:28 PM

The ward system ties counselors to a specific area which helps keep a better balance of power across the city, especially when taking in wealth distribution across the city (it could seriously tip the scales to benefiting candidates who are backed by certain industries).

Anonymous

8/31/2020 05:11 PM

having someone understand what, as a ward, the issues are

Anonymous

8/31/2020 05:34 PM

The city is too large area wise and nearly impossible for a city councillor to properly represent its constituents

Anonymous

8/31/2020 05:42 PM

Each ward has an equal voice. This would create transparency and equality no matter where you live in Guelph

Anonymous

8/31/2020 07:09 PM

Assuming the councillors from a ward actually live there, because not all do now, they would be more aware of issues within their ward because they

	would be able to see and experience the same issues. Each ward in Guelph is slightly different and i'd like to see a clear representation of that on council.
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>8/31/2020 07:26 PM</p>	<p>Candidates would need to be familiar with neighbourhood issues, and could serve as effective advocates.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>8/31/2020 07:31 PM</p>	<p>Representation of people who actually live in the neighborhoods they represent</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>8/31/2020 09:15 PM</p>	<p>councillors who understood the areas that they represent. They know that "annoying pot hole that has been on farley for the last six months" etc. I also like the ability of the "average joe" being able to run and have visibility in elections. A large field may swamp out some.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/01/2020 01:40 AM</p>	<p>It is easier to reach the Councillor, and he/she will be more knowledgeable of the particular circumstances of localized area.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/01/2020 07:45 AM</p>	<p>Maintaining the Ward system is preferable. Being residents of my Ward my two Councilors can best appreciate the values, benefits and issues of our area of the City. They know what is like to live in the central area of Ward #3. I know who I can reach out to discuss my issues or concerns - both of whom are very responsive and listen well. This is an asset for us residents in this Ward. The same is likely true for residents in other areas of the City.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/01/2020 08:58 AM</p>	<p>There would be more diversity of councillors. City-wide elections would cost individuals more money and could result in a concentration of elites who have the connections and financial support and who could be drawn from similar areas of the city where they have specific goals not represented by all wards.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/01/2020 09:44 AM</p>	<p>I see that the local ward system allows us to vote for the person that will represent our ward.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/01/2020 10:12 AM</p>	<p>In Ward elections, councillors do not have to compete across the whole city which is much more expensive than just campaigning in one ward...and this would mean women and BIPOC would be at a disadvantage in the general voting system.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/01/2020 10:31 AM</p>	<p>Under at large you are excluding some minority populations who would have a better chance of getting elected in a ward which has a large population of their cultural group. Also, with an at large system you risk loading council with people from one area like it was before. It is a step back to change from a ward system.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/01/2020 11:07 AM</p>	<p>More likely that specific ward issues will be addressed.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/01/2020 01:59 PM</p>	<p>Knowing who to talk to about an issue</p>

Anonymous

9/01/2020 02:06 PM

See the comments under #5.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 02:24 PM

When you elect people who pay the same rate as you, your neighbours, they should wish to protect their citizens, not the 'council'...

Anonymous

9/01/2020 02:29 PM

Local knowledge, feel for the neighborhood.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 02:40 PM

With local ward elections, each Councillor is accountable to a specific group of residents. It's clear that different areas of the city have different needs, which are fairly represented on Council with the ward system. I believe that it's important for each resident to have a designated local representative or representatives to turn to when they need assistance with municipal matters. With ward Councillors, I feel that someone has my back in Council and can help me understand municipal issues, particularly those specific to my area of residence; with at-large Councillors, I wouldn't feel supported this way. Changing to ward Councillors would remove some of the sense of community connectedness that I enjoy in Guelph.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 04:23 PM

Ideally these councillors would live in the community and would be best to represent the needs and concerns of the residents. Local ward elections allow for communities to pick the representative they feel can best represent them.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 04:32 PM

Feels like less of a popularity contest and more of the candidates getting to know their neighbourhood

Anonymous

9/01/2020 04:52 PM

Because not all parts of Guelph are equal...eg the East End has no amenities compared to downtown or the South end

Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:25 PM

Better able to understand citizen needs and concerns. And be accountable.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:30 PM

There is accountability to a geography of the city.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:39 PM

for me this draws on riding system in prov and federal government elections. wards are mini-ridings. areas of rapid growth i.e. south end, could have a disproportionate influence on elections.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:43 PM

The councillors represent a certain area of the city and they should have a better understanding of issues there and the concerns of their constituents. It is easier to have a more granular picture of the concerns of your constituents when you have less of them.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:45 PM

It is difficult enough to follow the election process (debates, platforms, etc) for your ward. Having to expand that engagement and information to include

potentially hundred+ hopefuls would be stressful. Local ward representatives should understand their neighbourhood very well - what is important to the people they represent as well as the city at large. If you take from a large pool, every councillor may end up living in the lush, wealthy south end and not even know what it's like living in another area.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:50 PM

The councillor will have a more vested interest /pride of leadership in their particular ward. They can get to know the residents in that area better, have a better understanding of issues in that community. Easier voting system, creates relatively even representation across the city (hopefully!).

Anonymous

9/01/2020 08:14 PM

Having the ward system and two councillors from each ward gives all sections of the city and the population representation.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 09:04 PM

People within the neighborhood and know the actual issues inside it

Anonymous

9/01/2020 09:08 PM

Place based

Anonymous

9/01/2020 11:46 PM

Should be representing a section that they can have the time to understand the wants and needs of that ward.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 04:47 AM

More effective representation on ward issues. Skin-in-the-game, the expectation would be that councillors live in the ward they represent.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 05:18 AM

The councillors should live in the ward they represent, that way the citizens of that ward are accurately represented

Anonymous

9/02/2020 05:30 AM

Certain areas of the city that have different needs will have their voices heard and represented.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:12 AM

Accurate representation of each ward's interests. More diversity of opinions.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:52 AM

Localized engagement.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:55 AM

Local wards put emphasis on the local issues. I would like to see a requirement that the councilor actually must live in the ward they are representing.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:59 AM

Ensures that council represents the interest of the ward they serve.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:13 AM

Ward councillors can represent the concerns and priorities of citizens in their neighborhood which may not be shared by those of other neighborhoods.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:19 AM

Each Ward has different characteristics, needs and issues. Ward councillor should better represent this.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:23 AM

Better representation for different segments of the community.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:39 AM

It is critical to represent the different parts of the city properly. Different neighbourhoods and areas have different demographics and concerns. Only a ward-associated councillor can understand and address to council matters as they are experienced in a given part of the city.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:41 AM

A ward based councillor should have a better understanding of issues related to that geogography.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:50 AM

Each ward of the city has councilors that are advocating for their specific needs (hopefully)

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:17 AM

- A more level playing field for candidates, particularly non-incumbents, because there is less need for campaign financing - Respects the 2006 referendum outcome - Encourages voter turnout and democratic participation by making the amount of information facing voters more manageable

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:26 AM

to know your councilors

Anonymous

9/02/2020 09:16 AM

hopefully that councillor would have a vested interest in the ward they represent and the councillor should live in the ward that they represent

Anonymous

9/02/2020 09:19 AM

We need candidates who are in tune with - and responsible to - the needs of each Ward. At-large councillors can be easily "lobbied" by the people pushing what they feel are the most important issues for the City, meanwhile leaving certain areas without a voice.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 10:36 AM

If I have an issue in my neighbourhood, I want to be able to reach out to a person who has been elected to represent my neighbourhood.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 11:02 AM

A Ward Councillor represents their specific area. Different areas of the city have different problems and issues that affect them. Having a general Council of at-large members would risk biasing its outlook towards some areas, at the expense of others, as well as making it harder for citizens to connect locally with Council.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 11:32 AM

I feel strongly that the city should stay with the ward system. Guelph's neighbourhoods are distinctive in many ways. Some are more affluent than others. Some are more diverse. Some are old and have old infrastructure. Some are new and lack necessary amenities. Ward representation means that these distinctive features, and the issues they give rise to, each have a

voice in the deliberations of council. This is vital to the wellbeing of the whole city.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 11:40 AM

Individual concern from a ward Councillor is important to me. It is important to have a good rapport with our own councilperson on issues in our ward. I feel it would offer more personalized management.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 11:44 AM

While I really see some advantage to members at large because I do think sometimes Councillors are too Ward-centric, the disadvantages outweigh. I understand the implications of campaign issues and overwhelming these individuals with specific concerns. My worry with the two-per-ward system is that I can see that they are not always equally representative, or available - and then one councillor ends up always having to address residents' concerns.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 11:45 AM

Hopefully balance planning for all areas of the city

Anonymous

9/02/2020 12:40 PM

city wide elections simply do not work because one does not have the opportunity to evaluate all possible candidates for office

Anonymous

9/02/2020 01:04 PM

- Councillors are more likely to be truly local representatives, easily accessible to residents and aware of local issues.
- Distinctive communities of interest are more likely to be represented.
- It is less likely that one particular point of view or sectional interest will dominate the Council.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 01:53 PM

each neighbourhood is represented and it is easier for citizens to vote from a smaller pool of candidates during an election

Anonymous

9/02/2020 01:58 PM

Councillors elected by ward are responsible to their constituents. Councillors elected at large are responsible to the political parties or special interest groups that organize and fund city-wide campaigns. Ward elections result in a city that is like a large family with common interests. At-large elections will divide the city into Republicans and Democrats.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 02:25 PM

I know who my neighbours support and where my neighbourhood stands. This promotes well being and a feeling of being a part of a system that I can feel a part of. I know my councillor will have an understanding of my ward specifically and who to spend my time petitioning or who will have my best interest at heart.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 02:46 PM

Councilors representing a particular ward should have knowledge of their area, easier for residents to interact with them.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 03:58 PM

It works

Anonymous

9/02/2020 04:31 PM

Each area of the city has unique challenges. I like that my councillors live in my area and are familiar with its character and needs.



Anonymous

9/02/2020 05:20 PM

In theory it makes the councillors accountable to the residents.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:28 PM

A councillor representing a ward would be able to have a more in-depth understanding of local issues. An at large representative could be spread thin. The mayor is the at large representative on council.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:37 PM

Way of connecting personally with councillor and having him/her know the local issues.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:55 PM

Guelph is not a homogenous city. It needs representation from different areas so organizations and citizens based in the fringes or in marginalized communities have an easier time making their voices and concerns heard. At large councillors will all be responsive to the largest voices in town which privileges people who are highly politically active. Downtown and wealthy suburban voices tend to be heard loudest even with a ward system. Removing the ward would exacerbate that problem.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:15 PM

-more democratic -more voices to be heard and more issues brought to the table so things are not rushed through council

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:30 PM

A representative responsible for ward representation, better inclusivity

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:51 PM

Lived here during the at large, doework. Too many to choose from, and no issues in a particular area to address properly. Issues in the south end may not affect the north end.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:18 PM

Would know local ward issues and be able to advocate for them.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 09:08 PM

At election time I can spend more time deciding on my candidates and I have specific people to reach out to if I have an issue and they know they have a special responsibility to listen to me because I am in their ward. Additionally there is nothing stopping me from contacting all the councillors if I feel it's necessary.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 04:07 AM

The ward system ensures that each area has a voice at the table. Each ward will have unique concerns and/or needs

Anonymous

9/03/2020 05:23 AM

Councillors will be more familiar with the needs and concerns within their ward. Citizens will have a more personal connection to their councillors. Ward elections make it easier for newcomers and diverse populations to run for office.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 05:53 AM

They are more familiar with the areas and concerns of the people in their ward. Kinda like specialists. I.e Margaret greener park. Our councilors know of our concerns whereas a south end councilman may not care as it's not in their area

Anonymous

9/03/2020 06:11 AM

Because local councillors must then be responsible to their constituents. Plus this prevents or at least lessens the far right from buying their way into council en masse and then from making retrogressive policies to promote their, and their families' own self interests, all at the cost of making an unliveable city for everyone else. A ward system is a good backstop for democracy against this creeping and poisonous peril .

Anonymous

9/03/2020 07:52 AM

More local issues

Anonymous

9/03/2020 08:55 AM

i think this way councillor will be committed to its ward and will be more responsible to its people

Anonymous

9/03/2020 09:15 AM

There is the potential for better communication about issues that affect the ward and it is possible for better advocacy of local issues.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 09:50 AM

Each part of the city has different concerns. Those concerns need to have designated representation on the council. No one person is ever going to represent the whole city and its local concerns. Also, if you are not designated to a ward, you do not necessarily have accountability to that ward or familiarity with that ward. If there were no ward councillors, councillors would not be held accountable to electorates in different parts of the city.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:22 AM

Local representation

Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:33 AM

they would know the issues, concerns and opportunities from their area of the city and be better able to represent the people. otherwise, you could have a council focused on special interests of one particular area. Citizens would have better opportunity to get to know their councillor.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:42 AM

Different neighborhoods have very different needs and all deserve representation.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:53 AM

better geographic representation across the City

Anonymous

9/03/2020 11:00 AM

given if the councilor is a resident of their ward, I feel they would have a more vested interest in seeing the local neighborhood success. I do not trust someone who spends little to no time in my neighborhood to make decisions that would adversely affect my surroundings. It would also give added opportunities to engage with them if they live close by as our kids might go to the same school etc.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 11:37 AM

More cost-effective for candidates => at-large and mixed options have increased costs for candidates which might discourage some from running. The advocacy and engagement roles of Councillors are more effective when they have greater "buy-in" for a particular area (ward).

Anonymous

9/03/2020 11:51 AM

Definitely not city-wise, we did that and it was terrible, those who could run, with \$ for campaigns win & did not engage w residents in decision making !; Wards in theory hold councillors accountable and in theory councillors are visible and approachable in the Ward, we definitely do not want to go back to city-wide councillors

Anonymous

9/03/2020 12:37 PM

It's not a popularity contest. This seems fair. You are voted by where you live, not who you know

Anonymous

9/03/2020 01:14 PM

Local representation

Anonymous

9/03/2020 01:18 PM

Councillors will be familiar with the issues of their wards and focus on respies ring their interests at council. It will help ensure distribution of funds and priorities across the city.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 01:19 PM

Better representation

Anonymous

9/03/2020 01:24 PM

You can leave the left wing, James Gordon, downtown

Anonymous

9/03/2020 02:27 PM

Although imperfect, the Ward system (in principle) inhibits the systemic inequities that often arise from the 'At Large' system, such as homogenous candidates, incumbency, and voting blocs. The Ward system also promotes neighborhood/community based advocacy and individual accountability of the elected representative, in a manner that is less achievable within the 'At Large' system, However, continuing to elect part-time councillors, even within the Ward system, tends to promote many of these same inequities.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 02:54 PM

Although Guelphites share many common experiences with regard to public operations each ward also experiences very different and nuanced issues. The rate of intensification in development, the geographic characteristics, and the economic demographics are some of the ways in which wards differ. Having city wide elections would dampen the voices of specific wards and contribute to a council which acts on an overgeneralized representation of the needs of all of Guelph. Who better to weigh in on issues for each ward than those that were elected by the direct citizens of each ward.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 04:16 PM

People that are knowledgeable about and invested in local issues

Anonymous

9/03/2020 05:48 PM

Local interests vary for each ward, what one wants another might not.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 06:02 PM

Micro local connection, understanding of the ward they represent etc....

Anonymous

9/03/2020 06:14 PM

Councillors need to listen to citizens as I don't think City staff do. For example, in my Ward, Hugh Guthrie park play ground was take out and replaced after "consultation" with citizens but most of the recommendations were not included, the park is worse than it was before, the old equipment was fine and the swings worked great (gone and not replaced). Looks like they worked to what the contractor was offering and not what people wanted. Don't do things to waste money just because the budget (or limited budget) has it.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 07:15 PM

I think having some wards ensures voices from different parts of the city.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 06:27 PM

Working for the ward they live in

Anonymous

9/03/2020 06:52 PM

Understanding the unique characteristics and challenges faced by residents in the ward

Anonymous

9/03/2020 09:52 PM

local councillors , local problems and issues, out of site out of mind!

Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:02 PM

Your Councillor living in your neighborhood may have the same experiences giving insight into possible concerns. Councillor accessible.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:26 PM

A smaller pool of potential voters requires less advertising and therefore less money be raised.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 05:42 AM

More localized representation

Anonymous

9/04/2020 06:07 AM

I like dealing directly with 2 councillors Who understand the character of the ward and the sometimes-unique problems of specific neighborhoods. Ward councillors can better advocate on behalf of an area they know well.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 06:56 AM

It ensures each ward is represented fairly on council, and I would guess it makes "running for council" more accessible/affordable to candidates

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:10 AM

City-wide elected councillors will require deeper pockets to run for office which will inevitably privilege councillors that have closer ties to the development and home building industries.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:15 AM

More opportunity for Councillor to get to know their constituents. Easier to get to know 1/6th of Guelph residents, than to have to be available to meet any Guelph resident. Also, there may be issues that only affect specific Wards, and having local representation will ensure these issues are identified to Council.

Anonymous

It fairly represents the various opinions and needs of the different

9/04/2020 07:14 AM

neighbourhoods in Guelph.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:23 AM

They have a vested interest in informing themselves of the issues locally that are important. For instance they will also have personal experiences from their ward if they live there, like the mess the ward streets become in the winter when snow plows can not adequately remove snow due to parked cars left overnight, or the increased safety risk to residents and children when cars parked on roads obscure a clear view of the road.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:32 AM

Neighborhoods have unique needs.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:33 AM

Ward elections to me mean all areas of Guelph are represented, not just smaller clusters of areas.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:44 AM

They represent the local interests of the Ward.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:01 AM

Being able to deal with smaller issues in the ward.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:07 AM

familiarity with area

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:10 AM

More manageable for someone to campaign - especially first-timers. Provides more local knowledge of specific concerns (ie trains or more intensification or poverty concentrated in certain areas). What prompts people to run is often an issue close to home. At-large is confusing for people to research all the candidates and can concentrate power to a small group/ideology or geography.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:14 AM

The Ward system allows counsellors to engage with and represent the interests of their constituents, I believe this is important as different geographical areas of the City face different challenges and it's important to make sure all areas are represented equally.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:20 AM

municipal politics are the most intense level of social organization dependent on geographical specifics. we must concentrate representation based on the area represented.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:28 AM

Greater accountability, better representation

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:33 AM

Local needs can be represented more effectively. A ward based system will also help make it more manageable for under represented groups (women, lower income, POC, people with disabilities, etc.) to participate (city-wide campaigning, travel, etc may be inadvertently limiting). Local ward based councillors are also more accessible to citizens because you know who your

	primary contacts are.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 08:43 AM	It helps to ensure that citizens in a specific geography/ward can vote for those individuals whom they feel will best represent their ideas of what is needed in the ward and the City as a whole.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 08:45 AM	Local, community input.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 08:47 AM	These councillors live in the ward I live in and therefore understand the issues in that ward. It also allows for quick access to the councillors and an opportunity to be more familiar with each other.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 08:52 AM	Ward voting allows the councillor to focus on the needs of their specific part of the city. Each ward is unique and represents different needs and wants. To this point, councillors should live within their specific ward that they are running.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 09:00 AM	More representative of local ward issues.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 09:07 AM	Individuals don't need as much \$\$ to run for election versus at-large Councillors are more likely to be truly local representatives, easily accessible to residents and aware of local issues. Distinctive communities of interest are more likely to be represented.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 09:13 AM	People are best represented by people living closest to them, who may be better positioned to understand local issues and balance them against city-wide concerns. As an example, no one would want all 12 councillors living within 2 blocks of each other. However, I may be open to a mixed system but it will not be my first preference.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 09:20 AM	Municipal issues are local issues. They need to be understood and represented at the neighbourhood or ward level.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 09:43 AM	Those citizens in a Ward then know WHO to contact when they need help, or they want to share their ideas or feelings.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 10:02 AM	2 city Councillors per ward encourages a much more diverse opinion base being represented 2 councillors per ward means that local people can speak to a councillor who knows the community and can with knowledge respond to their concerns Ward councillors gives the opportunity those of modest means to run for office to represent their own community - something that would be much less likely if they had to fund a city wide campaign Ward councillors encourages local people to give small donations to people they are likely to have heard of or could be their neighbour - it means that councillors would not feel obliged to represent donors who provide large donations - this is to protect councillors and the mayor for that matter from being accused of responding to the needs of those who donated large amounts to their campaigns and frees the politicians to vote on issues that represent the

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:15 AM

public good rather than a particular community or corporation.

1) The Ward System reflects the character and diversity of Guelph City neighbourhoods. This diverse character of neighbourhoods is what makes the city what it is and gives it life. Part of the role of councillors is to bring this diversity of views to City Council Meetings and decisions. 2) Councillors deal with and attempt to resolve neighbourhood issue. Whether it is pot holes, cracked sidewalks, neighbourhood celebrations, new green spaces, etc., etc., etc. This is what councillors consider on a daily basis. There is no other individual at the municipal, provincial or federal level that exists and has the necessary knowledge to provide these needed services. People are ATTACHED to their NEIGHBOURHOOD and need representatives who are also ATTACHED to and KNOWLEDGABLE about THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:25 AM

I will elect a person who I believe represents me and the community I live in - each neighbourhood in Guelph is really it's own community, with differing issues it faces, unique to the city.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:56 AM

City councillors need to be focused on the needs of their ward. The city is big enough that the needs of Ward 4 will be different from those of Ward 5, etc.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 11:14 AM

Easier to learn about the candidates. Reduced campaigning costs and so more opportunity for marginalized candidates.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 11:36 AM

You have more opportunity to at least have heard of the ward representatives and perhaps know them. It gives citizens an opportunity for a personal interaction with a councilor. I also believe that councilors who live in their wards are more aware of the issues that affect their ward.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 11:59 AM

Because they hopefully would want to better the same ward

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:03 PM

It's crucial to represent our area. If it were an at large, I could see most of our council coming from the more affluent areas.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:07 PM

It allows for citizens to elect the councillors that focus on their needs in that ward instead of having councillors having people who are friends with them or have invested interest in them being elected but don't live in that area.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:37 PM

people that live in our neighbourhoods and understand the unique concerns of local citizens

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:43 PM

In an ideal system, Councillors elected for their ward would have an intimate relationship with their constituents, and advocate for things that best meet their needs. For example, Ward 1 may have drastically different needs than Ward 4, and that needs to be represented.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:47 PM

I like having a councillor that is tied to my local area - it helps to ensure that certain neighbourhoods are not left out of consideration when council is

	making decisions.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 01:58 PM	Smaller issues that an at-large official may be too removed from can be handled with more care by a local ward councilor. Ex. Small roads in a suburb are run down and damaged, a ward councilor may be more likely to deal with it as opposed to an at-large councilor which could ignore the issue as it doesn't affect the majority of the city.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 02:10 PM	Issues change drastically by location
Anonymous 9/04/2020 02:20 PM	Immediacy of contact, knowledge of the area of the ward, interest in the issues in the ward, acquaintance with many residents of the ward, awareness of the strengths and weaknesses, needs and wants of the ward
Anonymous 9/04/2020 02:30 PM	Different neighbourhoods/wards may have different needs.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 02:36 PM	Councillors need to be familiar with their wards issues or needs (ie downtown ward needs to be aware of homeless issue and small business concerns) not to say other wards don't also but those issues would especially apply downtown. )
Anonymous 9/04/2020 02:43 PM	Councillors should live in the areas they represent to truly understand the concerns.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 03:42 PM	They know what is going on in my neighborhood.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 03:54 PM	Each neighbourhood has its own distinct challenges. One specific person who can focus on those issues is most advantageous.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 04:05 PM	Then EVERYONE is represented not just rich people. Each ward deserves 2 voices to share their concerns
Anonymous 9/04/2020 04:07 PM	Access to someone who understands isolated neighbourhood issues.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 05:09 PM	It is important that each area of the city be represented at council. With all large systems it is possible that some areas could be left out of representation while others will be over represented. Ward elections make running for council less expensive than running across the whole city. We can't have a system that is only open to those with wealthy backers.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 05:36 PM	It is helpful to know who you can call on in any situation - if the Councillor is specific to an area they are more in tune with what is going on in a small area and know the people involved
Anonymous	Advocate for the needs of each area of Guelph



9/04/2020 05:56 PM

Anonymous

9/04/2020 06:13 PM

It is imperative to retain the current Ward system to help ensure diverse representation on Council. Guelph citizens reaffirmed the current ward system with overwhelming support in the 2006 referendum that took place as part of the municipal elections that year. No clear rationale has been presented that would warrant a change to an At-large voting system. Research has shown that campaign spending is a determining factor in the success of candidates running for municipal office (Kushner, Siegel, and Stanwick, 2009). At-large elections require more financing to be able to campaign effectively over a larger area, making it more difficult for women and new candidates from diverse backgrounds to win Council seats. Research also shows that the development industry is a significant source of funding for candidates who represent its interests and that this funding is associated with increased vote shares for those candidates (McDermid, 2007). At-large elections amplify the influence of development industry funding in municipal elections because of the greater cost of campaigning city-wide. Candidate financial filings reveal that in 2018, individuals with ties to the housing development industry funded 25% of all campaign costs in Guelph. In an At-large election, candidates representing the interests of developers would be more likely to garner the financial resources to run effective City-wide campaigns. Other candidates would need to rely on self-funding and donations from community members. Further, it's well-known that one of the factors that reduces voter turnout is barriers to information about candidates and their positions. In Ward elections, voters only need to familiarize themselves with the perspectives and platforms of perhaps 5 – 7 candidates. If we have the same number of candidates in an at-large election, voters may need to familiarize themselves with the platforms of 30 – 40 candidates which would be likely to overwhelm voters and reduce turnout.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:15 PM

- councillors can be more engaged with their local "ward" and ensure that they are representing that areas concerns

Anonymous

9/04/2020 06:26 PM

Each ward is unique and Councillors elected within their own specific wards can represent the unique needs of their ward members, hopefully with understanding and with the wisdom of lived experience.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:01 PM

The elected 'ward' council person advocates on behalf of representatives in that area of Guelph. I feel there is more responsibility of that person to present concerns of the people from that area. As well, I feel the person elected from my ward is one who I would contact first if have a council person to talk to

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:21 PM

It keeps it SIMPLE and FAIR for both Councillors AND citizens. Campaigns are done in wards, rather than across the entire city. Citizens know who to contact: their Councillors. Councillors are able to engage more meaningfully with their constituents - they don't have to engage the entire city. More effective representation because each Councillor represents a "chunk" of the

	city. Better representation of communities. Constituents in each ward are represented DIRECTLY in Council. (Who exactly do "at-large" Councillors represent?)
Anonymous 9/04/2020 08:58 PM	Voter turn out would be higher because folks will be looking at their local candidates rather than city wide candidates. The greatest impact is made locally. Plus, a diverse and more accurate representation of constituents and their interests.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 09:13 PM	Smaller geography for a councillor to cover, fewer citizens means better engagement per citizen, at-large seats increase exposure to special interest lobbying and require larger campaign budgets that exclude democratic participation / decrease diversity and representativeness of council.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 09:26 PM	Holistic city representation
Anonymous 9/04/2020 09:27 PM	Best representation and allows many folks to run for council - not limited by finances or geography. (But in the age of Trump and For, it may be time to have folks take a psychological test to ensure they are stable enough to take on the responsibility of governing the city.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 10:02 PM	Closer representation. Easier and less expensive to run an election campaign for new candidates
Anonymous 9/04/2020 10:06 PM	Local representation, a single person to bring your concerns to, local input on city wide issues

**Optional question** (397 response(s), 259 skipped)

**Question type:** Essay Question

## **Q12 | From your perspective as a citizen of Guelph, what would be some advantages of having CITY-WIDE elections for city Councillors at-large?**

Anonymous 8/17/2020 09:06 AM	The idea of ward councillors can be useful as each councillor should (in theory) have a more complete understanding of their neighbourhoods' unique challenges. Right now ward boundaries are large and so the challenges are really diverse. If we continue by ward, boundaries need to be reviewed and redone, and with growth in Guelph, we need more wards. On the other hand, ward Councillors can create more division, each representing the classic NIMBYism regularly seen in Guelph. Councillors who have to represent everyone might take a more holistic view of what the community needs and may better represent Guelph's diversity than wards do now.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 01:52 PM	New candidates would have a greater chance of being elected and we certainly need some fresh blood in council. As well, I feel it is beneficial to have councillors that keep all the citizen's interests into consideration rather

than just their ward. I dislike only being able to vote for 2 councilors in my ward as in some years I feel there is no good choice and would like to have a greater number of options from across the city.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 04:59 PM

Councillors are accountable to the entire city and all Interests are taken into account.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 06:51 PM

You would not be hindered by the voices only available in your ward. So say you are an environmentally conscious person, but your ward only offers people who fail to understand the importance of going green, and naturalized areas, ect.. well your vote wont speak for you. But say another ward(s) have decent candidates that would represent your views for the city, you could vote for that voice and still be represented in the big picture.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 05:52 AM

There is way too much downtown separation. There is a whole city here that is not represented well.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 07:41 AM

To have a more unified Council. Also, possibility of more true representation of our city.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 01:29 PM

They would represent view of all citizens not just ward views. They would govern in the best Interest of the whole city

Anonymous

8/18/2020 08:10 PM

No barriers to having a leadership election to elect the most dedicated to civil service.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 08:45 AM

What happens in another ward impacts me as well. I drive around the city for services.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 12:27 PM

This city while rather large in citizen size - you can basically drive 15 minutes and any direction and be in a new ward. I think it important to have a say. Especially when some wards do not represent the diversity of the city.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 12:36 PM

- The incumbency advantage would likely be reduced, or at least we may see modestly lower barriers to entry for some non-incumbents, resulting in more fresh talent in local governance. - All of the above would generate more dynamic elections with greater voter choice. - Councillors would likely be more policy- and governance-focussed, and less consumed with doing customer service work on behalf of the city administration. - It would create an opportunity for stronger representation of non-geographic communities within Guelph, who could coalesce behind a candidate. Geographic communities could do the same when they had strongly defined interests, which is the case sometimes but not always.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 10:12 AM

make sure not same old same

Anonymous

Less favorites...other constituents can often see the flaws in other wards,

8/20/2020 05:06 PM

often the issue being the councillor

Anonymous

8/20/2020 08:01 PM

for the good of the entire city should be top of mind for all council

Anonymous

8/20/2020 09:06 PM

Less bias and councillors cannot be elected just by their neighbors and friends

Anonymous

8/21/2020 09:07 AM

everyone has a fair shot to be on councillor with a city wide vote the public can see more candidates vote for more people in election

Anonymous

8/24/2020 08:41 AM

As councilors vote on issues of the city as a whole it seems much more sense for councilors to be responsible to the whole city rather than they re ward alone. of course all will than be responsible for all wards all the time

Anonymous

8/24/2020 10:23 AM

More focus on good of the City as a whole.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 01:15 PM

Councillors would have to be accountable to all the citizens not just special interest groups in their ward

Anonymous

8/24/2020 02:01 PM

Then there is no NIMBY. Not in my back yard!!

Anonymous

8/25/2020 01:36 PM

All of guelph would know where they stand

Anonymous

8/25/2020 02:50 PM

You would not need 12 councillors.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 09:52 PM

I think having city wide elections will help us find really strong and passionate members who are in it to make a difference in Guelph!

Anonymous

8/26/2020 07:21 AM

Some Councillors won their Ward because they were the only one running in that Ward and not because they were the best person for the job.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 02:29 PM

All councillors would work for the benefit of the citizens as a whole

Anonymous

8/26/2020 08:15 PM

Its not that big of a city. I travel and use every part of this city on a regular basis. I think it would be far more practical to have decisions that make sense for the entire city not just one neighbourhood.

Anonymous

8/27/2020 06:50 AM

Less politicking for very localized issues. We need big picture governance.

Anonymous 8/27/2020 12:12 PM	Councillors focus on what's best for the whole city
Anonymous 8/29/2020 01:05 PM	Better budgeting
Anonymous 8/30/2020 11:59 AM	Local ward system in no way ensures representation of local concerns. A system allowing us to vote for members who we feel reflect our concerns and beliefs would be beneficial and would allow for reduction in size of council.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 08:44 PM	Doesn't divide communities within our city.
Anonymous 8/31/2020 10:28 AM	Potentially better/more qualified candidate pool.
Anonymous 8/31/2020 11:22 AM	Allows for the best representation from councillors as a whole
Anonymous 8/31/2020 07:42 PM	Get to see what the people stand for and make the best judgement of who represents the people of Guelph.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 04:46 AM	Having representation and the ability to speak to any Councillor regardless of where you live in the city. No concerns over a vacant council seat.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 05:34 AM	Councillors would be more likely to represent the best interests of the city and not fall prey to parochial local issues and special interests.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 11:32 AM	- ability to vote councillors in you agree with regardless of their ward - there are sometimes councillors you really like but you can't vote for them because they aren't in your ward
Anonymous 9/01/2020 02:03 PM	They would have to appeal to the entire city and not a single constituency.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 04:14 PM	Again, there are people set in their ways and a few councilors who I believe have run their course. Let the city as a whole decide who is elected.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 04:31 PM	Sonthat we can vote for who were would like to address city wide concerns instead of just who we clean to advocate for our own backyard
Anonymous 9/01/2020 07:27 PM	They can think more strategic and not be beholdng to small local groups.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 06:52 AM	Hopefully better representation for the different populations in our city

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:35 AM

I don't think a specific councilor needs to represent a specific geographic area. They need to be accessible to the public for feedback and input, but to be constrained to specific arbitrary boundaries makes no sense to me

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:02 AM

You pick all of the people to represent you on council. There are councillors now that are only on because the rest of the city did not get to vote for or against them

Anonymous

9/02/2020 09:14 AM

Eliminates (potentially) competition between Councillors focused on their ward goals, instead of City-wide goals that would be better suited to long-term thinking necessary for government operations.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 11:44 AM

The ability to support and vote for candidates in all riding's for those people that share our views for the betterment of the city.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 12:24 PM

city wide Councillors put the city of Guelph first, not look at how it will benefit their ward. Councillors need to work together for all of Guelph

Anonymous

9/02/2020 03:35 PM

Gets rid of the comfortable council cliques that stifle progress and promote selfish policies.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:42 PM

We can choose who in , as no many people vote and there needs to be a change in it . New council members are so needed

Anonymous

9/03/2020 04:42 AM

Councillors need to understand the impact of their decision on the entire City. Not just focused on individual needs of a specific Ward

Anonymous

9/03/2020 04:59 AM

Certain wards keep voting in the same counsel who won't listen and have their own agenda if it was city wide those people wouldn't get voted in.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:39 AM

Prevent NIMBY neighbourhood groups from wasting time

Anonymous

9/03/2020 12:38 PM

People can vote for councillors running on their important issues and know they are supported. City will then have someone with that view. It doesn't have to be your area person .

Anonymous

9/03/2020 01:12 PM

We are limited to who we can vote for with the ward system. They don't necessarily reside in the ward they are running in .... which makes no sense at all.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 02:08 PM

The city wide system avoids favoritism and bias by a counselors specific ward they represent. The city as a whole is recognized

Anonymous

9/03/2020 06:51 PM

Better overall planning and policy rather than smaller divided approach

Anonymous

It would focus councillors to look at the city as a whole and represent

9/04/2020 05:57 AM

everyone equally and not just their ward

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:22 AM

This way I think the interest of all citizens are taken into place. Instead of rich neighborhoods battling poor neighborhoods or white neighborhoods vs BIPOC neighborhoods.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:58 AM

City-wide elections mean that candidates need to campaign on city-wide interests. No favouring of narrow local issues to get elected.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:05 AM

..

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:35 AM

If you include everyone it's always more interesting.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 11:54 AM

People don't pay attention to wards. It's arbitrary. Councillors make decisions for the entire City, not just their ward.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 11:55 AM

You get to actually choose the individuals you want

Anonymous

9/04/2020 12:30 PM

Stops the NIMBY and focus on the good for everyone in the city.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:20 PM

It would allow for citizens to have influence beyond their wards. Many councillors from other wards influence policy and push personal agendas that those in other wards have to no voice or ability to effect.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 02:03 PM

All councillors are voting on all city wide issues, ie. libraries, rec centres, etc not just what will be affecting my neighbourhood. Whether it affects my neighbourhood or not, it will ultimately affect my taxes. I want the choice of being able to vote for those councillors who have a better sense of fiscal responsibility.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 02:07 PM

Advantages? Council would be comprised of the top candidates in the city. Councillors could get involved in issues in every area. Elections could be more interesting with all candidates talking about city-wide issues. Councillors would have greater legitimacy speaking on behalf of the city. Committee work would be more dynamic with councillors taking greater interest city issues.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 03:43 PM

Levels the playing field, no special advantages for particular regions of city. Will be accountable to city at large rather than small section of itm

Anonymous

9/04/2020 06:16 PM

A wider variety of choice by ward.

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**Optional question** (69 response(s), 587 skipped)

**Question type:** Essay Question

**Q13 | From your perspective as a citizen of Guelph, what would be some advantages of having a combination of ward-based AND city-wide at-large elections of Councillors?**

Anonymous

8/17/2020 08:46 AM

Larger wards for those elected specifically for a ward with more emphasis on residential concerns and growth. City wide councillors could concentrate on more specific unique issues such as downtown, industrial/manufacturing areas. somewhat of a rural and industrial mix. Suggest 2 at large, 4 ward councillors and one mayor.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 11:12 AM

Although local wards are important, decision making around the horseshoe requires majority votes. As such, having a say in all the candidates that represent our city seems only reasonable.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 11:20 AM

Local reps -- plus a chance for additional terrific candidates, even BIPOC persons.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 01:33 PM

City wide councillors can have a broader view

Anonymous

8/17/2020 02:57 PM

Provides a say in matters that are not just in the Ward that you live in. We are also participating in events/activities hosted in other Wards.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 02:57 PM

We may have great leaders in this community who have a heart for Guelph, we should not limit their passion based on Geography.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 06:22 PM

The combination allows for some focused representation from the variety of wards in the city plus gives 'at large' representatives who can be counted on to see decisions in a more wholistic manner

Anonymous

8/17/2020 06:42 PM

Being able to vote for the best representative and someone that shares your ideals. Those two are aren't always the same.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 07:04 PM

Ward councillors are too focused on the individual ward, general counselors could help with a broader focus on overall city development

Anonymous

8/17/2020 08:51 PM

Each ward can have unique interests, viewpoints, and experiences, which necessitates having ward councillors. A couple of citywide councillors could provide balance by representing the city as a whole.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 04:37 AM

Diversity. We need some councillors who specialize and know the issues of one particular part of the city. But also some that understand the city, as a whole. Plus, candidates of colour don't have a hope in hell of being elected in a ward when each ward is primarily white.

Anonymous

public having a larger say in the city beyond just where they live. Perhaps



8/18/2020 05:07 AM

their jobs are in other wards that they can't vote for now

Anonymous

8/18/2020 06:53 AM

First and foremost, I believe that maintaining some parts of a ward system are essential to ensuring that there is a mix of representation on Council and to ensure that not only those from the richest areas of Guelph are elected. I also believe that having a larger city-wide based category allows for the City to consider and elect individuals that are operating on platforms that encompass more than just the needs of their particular ward. Hyper-localized politics and ward advocacy have their role, but I believe that individuals who are thinking of a larger picture should also be offered the opportunity to present that agenda without having to tailor it to a particular ward.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 07:41 AM

It would ensure that specific areas of the City, even if they have a smaller population, are fairly represented on the City Council. On the flip side, electing City Wide may allow for a more balanced approach that removes narrow NIMBYism activism from the Council and ensures a focus that goes beyond particular interest groups. Both dynamics are important for local governance, and both can be damaging.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 12:48 PM

It would ensure council looks at what is best for the city and not just parts of the city.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 05:15 PM

Much more flexibility in choice of our elected officials.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 04:46 PM

Need councillors to focus on both community issues and the whole city together

Anonymous

8/18/2020 05:37 PM

A mixed system would give the benefits of each type of election while allowing for more flexibility

Anonymous

8/19/2020 07:11 AM

Ward elections are better for candidates. They can focus on a smaller area. They are better for voters too. They don't have to sift through 30 Candidates. But sometimes not being able to vote for somebody in another ward that you believe has merit and represents your views better than any of your ward choices is frustrating. Have a system that allowed you to cast an additional ballot would allow for the election of candidates who, if unsuccessful in their ward may nonetheless be elected from voters across the city. Also, there is a tendency for ward councilors to advocate for their ward sometimes to an unhealthy extent. We need more who have, by definition, with a cross-city focus.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 03:43 PM

It seems there are vast differences concerning the priorities of wards. For ex. Heritage might be hugely important to Ward 1 while insignificant to ward 6. However in the long term (hundreds of years) both wards need to be concerned with heritage equally. Same with transportation. Mobility is important throughout the entire city yet cars/trucks are only effective where road infrastructure can accommodate. Ward 6 will one day be as congested

as ward 1. We need a plan that accommodates public transit eliminating dependence on cars/trucks. Old ideas such as the toronto suburban railway if still available and expanded would have served all quite well the entire city. but individualism (cars) robbed the 'good for all' best for the entire community model. Leaving us with a hodgepodge of transportation rather than a strategy that accommodated everyone equally.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 09:11 PM

If a citizen could vote for a ward councillor and several at large councillors, there is a good chance one of their votes would be successful in electing a representative. This would have more voters connected with more councillors. In the current model, often the 2 "winning" councillors have a combined vote total of less than 50% - so most voters feel unrepresented.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 09:35 AM

I would not be limited to candidates who may not represent my view of how they think. Allows me to vote for what I want, not what I don't want. If someone outside my ward represents me better, I would vote for them.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 11:12 AM

Someone to focus on our ward issues but more people concerned with the city as a whole then The current System

Anonymous

8/24/2020 01:44 PM

You'd have at least one councilor per ward but the other 6 being city wide would allow for the best possible candidates regardless of location.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 02:01 PM

You can show your opinion as to how you wish certain skills be utilized. One candidate may be better with certain local issues whereas another may offer a balance with a broader holistic view of the city. There may be more candidates from the same ward that may have good ideas and strategies to benefit the whole city that may be left out if they aren't making the cut.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 02:15 PM

Constituents would have a ward councillor who takes ward concerns seriously and at large councillors would be the ears for concerns of the city as a whole

Anonymous

8/24/2020 02:54 PM

I would like to see a mix, where you have one vote designated for a local representative and one vote for any candidate. We must have representation at the ward level. Guelph is a large enough city that it is imperative that each ward is represented by at least one person who is knowledgeable about that ward, and is also directly accountable to those who live in it. It would also be of value to be able to vote for a councillor who does not represent the ward you are in, but who has a vision for the city's future that aligns with your own.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 02:57 PM

The awards of the city have different demands and it is great to have representatives from those areas, looking out for those areas. However I think those positions should be part time and the other councillors should represent the entire City and be full time.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 03:01 PM

Candidates in your ward are not always representative of what people in that wars want

Anonymous

The ward based councilors would give a very focused neighbourhood view

8/24/2020 04:15 PM

and the at large can look at what is best for the city overall. It seems like a balanced approach. Currently the councillors must struggle with what is best for their riding and what is best for the whole city.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 06:19 PM

There are certain issues that effect certain wards and certain issues that effect all of Guelph. It would be nice to be able to have councilors that I could bring up out of ward problems to.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 06:43 AM

Ability to represent ward issues and also see the bigger picture for the whole community

Anonymous

8/25/2020 08:25 AM

Ward-based councilors have their priority focused on their specific ward. That's the whole point. Talk to your constituents, take their ideas to council, and fight for what makes their ward a better place. However, we by also having city-wide representatives, who have no "allegiance" to a specific ward - but rather, the city as a whole - they can provide "unbiased" perspectives (along with the Mayor) to ensure that one change that may benefit one ward, does not have negative outcomes elsewhere. In a word: balance.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 10:15 AM

I would like proportional representation.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 11:26 AM

This would mean that every ward still has a representative and isn't left without a voice. But it also means that if a ward happens to have a few good candidates that everyone in the city likes, we are not forced to only have one of them. This way we can have all of the good people running instead of at most 2 from a certain ward.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 03:25 PM

a) Wards need an individual who both lives in and represents the ward's interests whom they can contact for information and concerns - this needs to be a full time position, voted within the ward. b) To cope better with conflicting local concerns, the city needs individuals whose primary interest is the whole city. These should be elected at large, but preferably should be half-time ( good training ). c) So I'm suggesting 6 full time ward reps, and 6 full city reps, all half time.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 04:23 PM

Ward based means you have a clear line of communication to the city through your local representation. Adding some at large roles could help to add some diversity. This could also lead to feeling that you have representation on council. In a two person per ward system and a lot of people vying for the role, a person could have voted and not had either person be their choice. If you feel your ward councillors don't represent you, rather than disengage, you have at large councillors who might be elected.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 05:13 PM

I am able to vote for people who represent Guelph and not just one area and have only their focus and ideas for one ward

Anonymous

8/26/2020 07:30 AM

Your ward councillor should know the businesses, neighbourhoods and general concerns of the area. They need to live in that ward or be familiar with the ward. Engage with these citizens. Having some councillors at large

would allow for a more broad approach that would take into consideration the thoughts of multiple wards and Guelph residents as a whole. Often times it feels like some councillors care more about other wards than their own - this may help eliminate that. This would also allow councillors who may not live in the ward they want to run in, to run for the city.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 12:42 PM

I see my local Councillor's role as being an advocate for my community. They should be focused on the issues that their constituents hold to be important. A city-wide councillor should be focused on issues that affect the whole citizenry or issues that have multi-ward considerations. I would like to see 6 ward based councillors and 2 city-wide councillors. To me this brings more perspective to the table. My understanding is that mixed systems are often equal, ie. 4 ward based and 4 city wide. I believe the bias should still be the ward based model, but there is value in a full city vision.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 04:59 PM

I;d like to be able to keep the ward element - as that increases geographic representation - while also having an extra vote or two to throw behind whichever councillor I find most inspiring.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 05:12 PM

Broader consideration for the City as a whole

Anonymous

8/26/2020 06:50 PM

Each voter would have more say in the composition of the council.

Anonymous

8/27/2020 06:42 AM

Balance with city wide overview ( what is best for the city) but some local. Don't want a not in my backyard silo sections of Guelph.

Anonymous

8/27/2020 08:22 AM

Race for ward representatives and city wide race for board members such as finance, chairman, mayor is how European countries like Berlin typically elect city officials. Not to sound like a european-phile but that seems pretty reasonable to me.

Anonymous

8/27/2020 09:30 AM

There are times that decisions for the whole city need to be made and with only ward based councillors they may look at the issue based only on their ward, not for the good of the whole city.

Anonymous

8/27/2020 09:39 PM

To allow for a more diverse council

Anonymous

8/28/2020 09:43 AM

Continuing with some ward councilors ensures every area continues to have a specific voice. By combining some city-wide councilors allows a stronger non-bias voice for larger issues in specific areas.

Anonymous

8/28/2020 01:08 PM

Hopefully a better representation of the citizens and what is wanted for the city as a whole

Anonymous

8/28/2020 06:26 PM

Some people running for council in another would be great for the city in my opinion but I am not able to support them if they aren't in my ward. And,

Anonymous

8/30/2020 01:50 PM

some people running in my ward don't resonate me.

Electing a Councillor for a specific ward would allow for residents to have a close relationship with a Councillor who understands local community needs and can address those through policy at city council. their role would be to address the issues of local residents specifically. As for a city wide Councillor, their role would be more focused on city wide issues that concern or impact all residents and their role would be to not only address local community issues but those bigger specific issues as well.

Anonymous

8/30/2020 01:59 PM

There would be councillors invested in the well being of the city in a more holistic and organic way, not simply in the issues concerning their ward and their "constituency". Cities are living organisms and the well being of an organ determines the well being of the whole. At least this is how we should think of them.

Anonymous

8/30/2020 02:51 PM

some Councillors to vote reflecting ward concerns and some for overall city concerns.

Anonymous

8/30/2020 07:03 PM

- This would create a council which represents both the specific neighbourhoods , as well as the city as a whole. - Having both ward based and city wide councillors creates a system where change can easily happen in specific areas as well as across the whole city.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 07:29 AM

We are apt to have better candidates emerge from some wards who can both be elected as one could be ward-based and one, city wide.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:08 AM

Citizens would be able to freely choose whom to vote for across all candidates, as well as have a local representative to contact when issues arise in their neighbourhood.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:18 AM

More critical view of what is best for the City.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 01:07 PM

There may be issues where what a particular ward wants it addressed in a way that best serves their needs but it may not always be the best resolution for the City as a whole. Having a mixed system would allow a voice for the City as a whole.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 04:15 PM

Easy to comprehend representation and better representation than we have now! "History is written for our example". In other words we are to learn from history, especially if we realize that is the BEST way to apply a decision (decision means to "cut off"). We have tried more complex solutions and it is time now in 2020 to go back to the basics (KISS - "Keep It Short and Simple")

Anonymous

8/31/2020 04:57 PM

some issues need a local approach (like speeding on my street) - it is good to have a councillor to pay attention. Other issues are better dealt with city-wide

Anonymous

Some Councillors tend to only focus on what their ward needs sometimes at

8/31/2020 07:01 PM

the expense of the city as a whole.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 07:21 PM

Better able to vote for people who represent you as a person in your community.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 06:07 AM

This would allow for ward representation and a voice at the table while enabling possibly 3 or 4 strong candidates from a particular ward to be elected. This does bring up the question of a possible imbalance of how certain areas of the city are represented which I can see is the argument to maintain only ward Councillors. The combination of both would be with a vision of increasing the quality of Council and not swing the balance of representation.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:01 AM

the overall interests of the City would take more precedence over ward issues. the whole is the focus not the ward or special interests.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 09:59 AM

You would not have areas pitted against another. Too much NIMBY currently going on in the City. The dog parks are a disaster and the building heights of apartments in certain areas is another ruinous eye sore.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 02:21 PM

You want the best people on city council but you also need a connect with the populace. A hybrid system seems the best way of achieving this.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 05:42 PM

Individual wards need at least one councilor to be sure citizens have someone to represent them and also at large could help to make decisions for whole city. Important to have at large councillors not to just listen to one ward

Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:15 PM

1 councillor per ward that talks to residents and gets feedback to properly advocate and a couple of councillors that support the mayor and the entire city

Anonymous

9/01/2020 08:07 PM

local representation for each ward, and the ability to elect "position" or "issue" Councillors as well.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 05:45 AM

I FIRMLY believe we need a councillor who intimately understands a ward. Each area of this city has unique interests and needs. The South End is entirely different from downtown, and ALL areas need to be heard and represented. At-large councillors could help to move decision making forward from the "big picture" perspective when there are conflicts between the needs of the different wards and their representatives.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 05:51 AM

Would help even out the playing field between councillors and their own agendas

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:07 AM

This means that ward councillors will remain connected and anchored to their communities so they can better represent them, while the city-wide councillors can bring a city-wide perspective and provide additional point of contacts for citizens in case ward councillors are underperforming.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:02 AM

A larger pool of public office minded citizens not impacted by where you live, while still having individuals focused on smaller municipal segments and their unique needs. I see this option as the 'best of both '.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:02 AM

Many issues are relevant to my ward only and myself, traffic calming etc, but I would also like a say on how decisions are made that affect me in other wards. I would like to be able to directly impact, through voting or as a voting citizen having influence on a councillor, issues in other wards. I work in ward 4, shop in other wards as well, travel all over the city and use services and infrastructure throughout.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:16 AM

"Local" concerns could be addressed by ward councilors while those chosen "at large" could focus more on larger issues concerning the entire community.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:44 AM

encouraging a variety of perspectives - not ward politics, but city politics can be considered.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 09:22 AM

Now, I am not an expert on this stuff so I may not fully appreciate all potential outcomes. Are we considering instant run-off or ranked voting? I'd like to maintain ward-specific representation, but often I find candidates in other wards more aligned with my political preferences. I understand there has been a lack of diversity among at-large councillors in the past, and people may feel that ward-specific representation helps address that concern. What if I was allowed to vote for a mayor, a candidate in my ward, and a second candidate running in any ward? Elected councillors would still represent their wards, and community members could support policies rather than just politicians.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 09:23 AM

What happens in another end of town matters to all. Guelph area are still common to all.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 09:33 AM

The ward system allows for individual groups and voices to be heard. It is also less expensive to run in just a ward so allows for those with less financial resources to also get elected. However, just wards do not necessarily have councillors making decisions in the best interest of the city. A combination would allow for individual input, however, they must also make sense for Guelph. Realistically, just a city at large system could result in people whose names are most prominent to get elected, as the majority of citizens do not invest a lot of time and energy into municipal politics.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 10:24 AM

Wards have particular issues and need to be represented but we also need broad city wide representation beyond the mayor. I like this mix a lot.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 11:32 AM

a fairer and more accurate representation of the residents of the city, and a way to keep the council from being too large.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 02:31 PM

To have only the mayor as the single person on council elected by the whole city places an unfair burden on that person. I would like to see at least a

	couple of other people who are city-wide.
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/02/2020 03:41 PM</p>	<p>It is the qualities of the candidate that is important to me. We have had no choice since the award system was introduced they have hogged the positions and do not return calls and generally unavailable!</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/02/2020 05:32 PM</p>	<p>That way the two councillors in a ward can't dominate as a pair within their ward, because as it stands now, other individuals wishing to challenge them at election time may be at a disadvantage. A combination plan might also ensure that more councillors are seeing the bigger picture for the city as a whole.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/02/2020 06:48 PM</p>	<p>It allows more diversity of skills and ability of councillors available</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/03/2020 05:45 AM</p>	<p>The local ward representative would be able to reflect the needs of that specific group. The city wide councillors could then consider matters from the city wide perspective. The dog parks are a great example. They are only located in 2 wards but benefit the city as a whole.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/03/2020 10:23 AM</p>	<p>There are ward specific issues and citywide issues. A combination could address both.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/03/2020 10:35 AM</p>	<p>Some elections make sense for city-wide and some don't.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/03/2020 12:46 PM</p>	<p>Representation for different needs in different areas, east v south Guelph for example.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/03/2020 01:05 PM</p>	<p>1 representative of local concerns and ideas - wider view of the personality of the citizens that are engaged.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/03/2020 02:14 PM</p>	<p>Ward based should be focused on the concerns of their citizens who vote them into that position, the at-large should be non-biased as far as Ward issues, concentrating on the larger overall picture for the good of the City as a whole.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/03/2020 03:34 PM</p>	<p>To help elect voices that represent our specific communities well in addition to specific concerns we have on top of that, relevant to the whole city.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/03/2020 04:15 PM</p>	<p>Best candidates out of the pool and removing greater focus on candidates in an area. Councillors can learn about the area by connecting with residents.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/03/2020 05:21 PM</p>	<p>Currently, most incumbents win, it is very difficult to have new people on council. City wide at large positions would provide an opportunity for some additional representation. All positions should be based on a ranked ballot not first past the post.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p>	<p>It would help eliminate the concept that one ward is getting more than</p>



9/03/2020 06:22 PM

another ward.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 09:00 PM

Simply there would still be local ward representatives but also the ability to elect intriguing candidates to rep the city as a whole.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:21 AM

Prevent NIMBY mentality but maintains live experience in regions.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:29 AM

Why would a bright councilor who brings talent to the table be regulated to a small geographic area? There are issues and considerations that impact the entire city and need to be viewed accordingly.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:00 AM

My wars councillors have never listened to my comments. It's always 'thats not my job's. Having floaters to address issues in different areas would make the process more democratic

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:16 AM

Sometimes there are several excellent candidates in one ward and we are losing their talents.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:23 AM

Having primary councillors elected by the city and then secondary councillors that are more ward specific. This brings more awareness to who is actually in council (if they're not in my ward I probably have no idea who they are or what they stand for), so by voting for primary councillors as a city, you get a better idea of who is actually making decisions about the city. The secondary councillors would be elected by the ward, and would be part of the expanding the # of councillors but these would have a more community focus.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:51 AM

Some wards appear to have numerous great choices, and only 2 make it in. Others have poor choices, so they still end up being elected.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:22 AM

increases accountability towards both the ward and the city

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:22 AM

Help certain areas but also look out for city in general

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:44 AM

You need ward based councillors to represent constituents concerns in their own wards. However, it would be advantageous to be able to vote for other candidates outside your own ward that you feel have excellent qualities and ideas.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:06 AM

Allows everyone to be involved in the entire city ! As we all travel /conduct some sort of interaction in all area's of the city no matter what part we live in .

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:08 AM

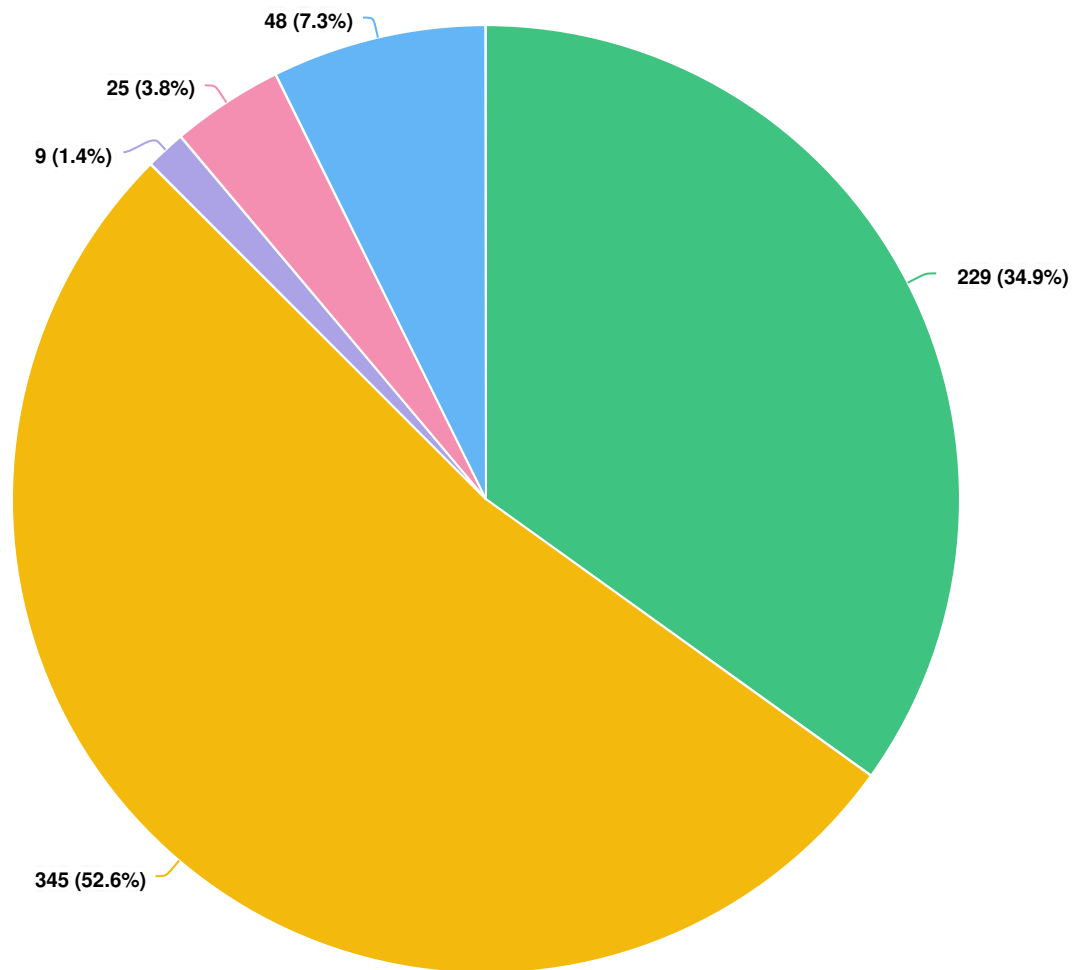
Full time city wide acting primarily to oversee city operations, part time Ward councillors focused on resident concerns

Anonymous 9/04/2020 11:05 AM	See larger picture of whole city versus ward focus. When an issue happens currently in a ward citizens say oh we'll remember this - for good or bad and that's often not the councillors fault or heroics.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 11:48 AM	Allows most ward to be represented while allowing people to elect councilors that will do what's best for all of Guelph.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 11:56 AM	Wards express the vested interest of a neighbourhood, but city wide could be the deciding factor in municipal progression as a whole. Less infighting.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 01:12 PM	More oversight as a city as a whole
Anonymous 9/04/2020 01:31 PM	The ability to support a strong candidate who may not be my ward representative
Anonymous 9/04/2020 01:57 PM	Local representation is still important, but there are city-wide issues that affect us all, and I like the idea of 'representation' based on bigger picture as well.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 01:58 PM	Ward based allows community's properly represented, but having a pool would allow areas with no representation the chance for their word
Anonymous 9/04/2020 03:29 PM	Responsive to hyper local specific geographical issues and also balance with overall city-wide vision.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 04:44 PM	Until the population stabilizes, I would like to see a combination - advantages listed above
Anonymous 9/04/2020 06:18 PM	Constituency work may require the ward-specific knowledge held by ward Councillors, while some issues are clearly City-wide. Importantly, I think it would be a serious mistake to have exclusively at-large Councillors since constituency work would then naturally gravitate to a subset of Councillors who are perceived by citizens to be especially good at this work. This would lead to an imbalance of Councillors' workloads which, in turn, would land on The Horseshoe in the form of political gamesmanship.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 08:59 PM	The city has regions that are quite different. So local representation is important. At large positions could focus on city wide issues.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 09:55 PM	A city-wide election would allow representation of demographics which are not geographically concentrated. However, it's also important to have some geographic representation -- people would be unhappy otherwise! We need a combination of both. Maybe an at-large election where the top six candidates win, and the person with the most votes overall becomes mayor? In addition to the two candidates per ward system.

**Optional question** (119 response(s), 537 skipped)

**Question type:** Essay Question

**Q14** From a citizen of Guelph perspective, how many Councillors should be elected from each ward?



**Question options**

- Elect one councillor per ward
- Elect more than one Councillor per ward
- It doesn't matter to me
- I am unsure
- Other (please specify)

Mandatory Question (656 response(s))  
Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q15** Please share your ideas about WHY you recommended that number of councillors per ward.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 08:41 AM

should always be more than 1

Anonymous

8/17/2020 08:46 AM

Less of a chance for competing interests and focus.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 09:15 AM

It's hard enough getting in touch with my ward councillor now and I have two.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 09:02 AM

If full-time then 1 per ward, if part-time then 2

Anonymous

8/17/2020 09:06 AM

I think we need one full-time Councillor per ward, not two councillors doing this work part-time/off the side of their desk. We need Councillors to be fully engaged in understanding the work of the city and representing their constituents.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 09:19 AM

gives one voice to a local community.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 09:52 AM

A balance between maintaining the ward system of the city while recognizing the city has grown.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 10:08 AM

If full-time, having one councillor (and the associated staff for said councillor) per ward should suffice for community engagement. If part-time, with no associated staff as per the current model, there should be multiple options available to reach a councillor, as one may not be available due to other commitments.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 11:10 AM

Smaller wards with one councillor reduces the overlap and shrinks the citizens per ward.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 11:27 AM

See above

Anonymous

8/17/2020 01:15 PM

- If one is unable to do their job for some reason such as illness, holiday, etc you can go to the other one. - If one doesn't really represent your views, you have someone else to go to. - Two member wards have generally done well for Guelph for a long time, why change it now

Anonymous

8/17/2020 12:23 PM

I'll say that i think it facilitates a more robust debate. It allows the Councillors to be prepared and focused on their full time job rather than splitting it

	between 2. Not to mention 2 councillors from the same ward may disagree on the best course of action. This would again help facilitate a better ability to communicate between constituents and councillors. IMO.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 01:15 PM	More than one Councilor---if the votes are counted properly---allows different points of view to be reflected from one Ward.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 01:33 PM	two currently, need that to continue
Anonymous 8/17/2020 01:33 PM	Smaller wards with 1 Councillor would allow for more connections to that area and easier on Council members to manage.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 02:15 PM	One councillor per ward means better accountability. A single full-time councillor can focus their efforts on a particular ward and if they citizens find them to be unavailable, they can be held accountable. There isn't the option to go to the other councillor such as in the two per ward system which I fear can hide poor representation and work.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 01:47 PM	So they can be full time
Anonymous 8/17/2020 01:52 PM	We need to keep costs in check and I question what value we get from having 2 versus 1.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 02:28 PM	One councillor is all that is needed. Two councillors per ward is unnecessarily redundant. The two councillors may not even agree with each other, essentially canceling their vote.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 02:57 PM	Only ONE Councillor per Ward is needed to engage with the public to understand the interests of citizens and to represent those interests when making decisions.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 02:57 PM	Allows for teamwork, diversity, new ideas
Anonymous 8/17/2020 03:00 PM	That's the best way
Anonymous 8/17/2020 03:04 PM	already discussed that
Anonymous 8/17/2020 03:17 PM	Succession planning for one — an experienced councilor as we had with Karl, along with incoming councilor in Mark, and now Dominique in Ward 6. Provides diversity of experience, opinion, and long-term continuity.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 03:43 PM	Two or more Councillors per ward provide additional perspectives for concerns that arise within their community. Citizens have the opportunity to

	work with Councillors with different views.
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>8/17/2020 03:48 PM</p>	<p>I believe that residents require access to their councilors so more than one per ward sounds appropriate.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>8/17/2020 03:49 PM</p>	<p>Efficient representativeness. Our population rose from just under 96,000 in 1996, giving a ratio of 7985 residents per 1 councillor (with a council of 12). Today, with a population of 131,794 (2016 census) that ratio is 10,983 residents per councillor. To achieve a number closer to the 7985, we would need at least 16 councillors to get 8237 residents per councillor. My suggestion of a 17th seat is to entertain the idea of a single rep dedicated to University of Guelph students. As for 2 per ward, I think it is essential if the part-time role continues, and I do not think Guelphites want more full-time, career politicians. The advantage of 2 per ward is if you have a ward like Ward 1 (Two Rivers, Grange Hill East, St George), you have a mix of very affluent with new suburban with poor. Having the chance to elect a councillor who understands your needs is more likely with more than 1 councillor.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>8/17/2020 03:50 PM</p>	<p>From my experience working in municipal government, one per ward is enough.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>8/17/2020 03:51 PM</p>	<p>Number of councillors per ward depends on if part-time vs full- time and the budget cost for annual salaries.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>8/17/2020 04:57 PM</p>	<p>One person does not represent, the residents of a ward. The council could be more representative or even diverse.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>8/17/2020 06:11 PM</p>	<p>Some wards are quite large and Guelph is growing. Wards are getting more diverse and they need to have more than one representative.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>8/17/2020 06:22 PM</p>	<p>This allows for the combo of ward and members at large without significantly expanding the size of council. You can actually reduce the size</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>8/17/2020 06:42 PM</p>	<p>One of my councillors hasn't been responsive and the other has. If I only had one, I worry if get stuck with the unresponsive one.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>8/17/2020 06:51 PM</p>	<p>Better chance of success?</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>8/17/2020 07:04 PM</p>	<p>Two councillors per ward add to a "hung jury" mentality in council. There is less need to cooperate with other councillors when you have a built-in partner for support</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>8/17/2020 07:38 PM</p>	<p>See above</p>
<p>Anonymous</p>	<p>To allow everyone the ability to contact and communicate with their</p>

8/17/2020 08:51 PM

representative, there should be more than 1 councillor per ward, or smaller wards.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 09:02 PM

As noted above, our population is growing rapidly. There is no way one person can respond to all concerns

Anonymous

8/17/2020 09:33 PM

We need new blood Current views and people not directly benefit from planning. Take the blinders off and move forward

Anonymous

8/17/2020 09:44 PM

- It is critical that there be an alternate in case one councillor is unable to fulfill their duties due to illness, injury, etc. - it forces some dialogue within each ward at least between the two councillors instead of one person speaking for an entire ward with one voice (if two councillors from the same ward agree that is a good indication of broad support, if they don't that is an indication of unresolved differences that need to be addressed, NEITHER situation is possible with single member wards)

Anonymous

8/17/2020 10:36 PM

one is no good. 2 is good. during last 50 years . some years one Councillor is hard working and responsive and the other isn't. sometimes both Councillors are good. need the security of two per ward.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 04:37 AM

It depends on how many wards. Our wards are too large.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 05:07 AM

fewer personal agendas

Anonymous

8/18/2020 05:31 AM

Diversity of opinion. It is the way municipal government works.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 05:52 AM

I still think it should be smaller and city wide , but if we have to have wards, we still need less people and more accountability.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 06:03 AM

gives balanced perspective on ward issues.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 06:53 AM

In my previous answers, I indicated my support for a mixed approach. Given this, I believe that each ward could be served by one councillor.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 07:39 AM

as noted above

Anonymous

8/18/2020 07:41 AM

Two Councillors ensure interests are not captured by any one group. It allows more discourse, which is important in local governance.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 07:41 AM

If we must stay with the Ward system, it gives citizens a better chance of being represented. For instance, in my Ward, there has traditionally been



one councilor who is more "left-leaning" and one who is more "right-leaning".  
If only one councilor per Ward, the divisiveness may be exacerbated.

Anonymous  
8/18/2020 07:59 AM

If you make Councillors full-time, then you may only need one per ward.

Anonymous  
8/18/2020 08:02 AM

Councillors can work together, sharing the load to keep the job part-time.  
Helpful backup for each other during vacations or every day work.

Anonymous  
8/18/2020 08:51 AM

This allows for a little bit more diversity, opportunities for teamwork, and perhaps even gender parity.

Anonymous  
8/18/2020 09:06 AM

One per ward isn't sufficient.

Anonymous  
8/18/2020 09:08 AM

duplication of efforts.single source of truth and information. Sometimes both councilors are not aligned.

Anonymous  
8/18/2020 09:18 AM

1 per-ward so each ward is represented

Anonymous  
8/18/2020 09:29 AM

answered above. 1 per 20K

Anonymous  
8/18/2020 11:58 AM

I have found that over the years that councillors may enter local politics for selfish reasons-perhaps to prevent or encourage certain goals. With 2 councillors that goal may be harder to achieve.

Anonymous  
8/18/2020 01:15 PM

Again, I think that's all we need especially if those councillors are full time.

Anonymous  
8/18/2020 12:48 PM

If it remains a ward system then having more voices around the horseshoe is a more democratic council.

Anonymous  
8/18/2020 01:29 PM

Don't need 2 , not enough to do añd only causes problems if they dont agree

Anonymous  
8/18/2020 02:48 PM

Two councillors per ward allows for diversity within the ward. Some wards can be quite large and be very diverse, socially.

Anonymous  
8/18/2020 04:05 PM

One full time councilor is more engaged than two part time councilors and reduces duplication in communication from constituents.

Anonymous  
8/18/2020 04:18 PM

It makes sense to have two people with different strengths, experience and points of view to offer insights and to back each other up to ensure the needs of the people they represent are met.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 05:15 PM

We need more than one voice on council for our concerns, if there are only ward-based elections. If ward plus city-wide, one per ward will do.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 04:46 PM

1 per ward + 6 city wide seems like a good mix of local and whole community to address issues

Anonymous

8/18/2020 04:51 PM

Possibly have better individuals getting involved that might be more fiscally response. People with business common sense.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 05:10 PM

I have never met my councilors, they are not visible in the community as lime our amazing Mayor. 2 or 3 (depending on the Ward size) Part Time Councilors will be able to hold down a regular job and family commitments as well as the city commitments.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 06:58 PM

Wards are not small and neither are the problems. 2 councillors can pool ideas and also support each other

Anonymous

8/18/2020 08:10 PM

I object to a ward system to prejudice me with this question as wards create barriers, competition and prerjudice. The whole of the city is greater than the sum of the ward parts.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 09:15 PM

I is more then adequate.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 05:36 AM

Greater diversity of councillors representing a ward.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 07:11 AM

I would like to see 6 ward councilors, 2 at large, all full time.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 07:27 AM

More balanced representation, esp. if one councillor unavailable

Anonymous

8/19/2020 07:49 AM

One person is enough to represent us.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 07:57 AM

If the job remains part-time then 2 Councillors makes sense, if it were to go to full time, then 1 per ward makes sense.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 08:45 AM

If we cut the number of councillors in half then there will be no room for diversity, for the inexperienced.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 11:47 AM

I believe that 2 councillors elected per ward is the correct number. I do however believe that the city has grown to the point that we should re-draw the ward boundaries and increase the number of Wards from 6 to 7.

Anonymous

Having two councillors per ward has been working well in Guelph and I think

8/19/2020 11:54 AM

we should stick with the current council composition.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 12:08 PM

There are many issues to cover in each ward. As the population increases and the growth continues, more than one councillor helps share the responsibilities.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 12:27 PM

Unsure what would be best. Maybe 1 or 2 would be good.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 12:36 PM

Particularly paired with ranked ballots, you could end up with more positive elections, reduced barriers for new candidates, and potentially representation of a wider swath of views in the community. This is highly preferable to very small, somewhat arbitrary geographical blocks electing single councillors, which often results in impenetrable incumbency advantage, little turnover, and less diverse representation.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 03:42 PM

More representation

Anonymous

8/19/2020 03:43 PM

See above.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 05:15 PM

Two council members in wards have demonstrated working against each other And cancel out their votes

Anonymous

8/19/2020 06:10 PM

Allows for some differences within each ward.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 07:42 PM

Shadowing,resources,redundancy

Anonymous

8/19/2020 09:11 PM

Having more than one councillor per ward is a key strength for Guelph. Cities are complex and having thoughtful discussions require more than one voice speaking for issues. Also, it is about the voter's experience of being represented and having their vote be effective. If more votes are effective the representation is better as I have explained in #7.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 04:43 AM

i've contacted my current councillor about issues and she is doesn't get the ball moving. it's "oh well, i'll email this GENERAL CITY EMAIL " um no. PICK UP THE PHONE AND GET THINGS DONE

Anonymous

8/20/2020 06:01 AM

With 2 councillors per ward, it is allows for collaboration, a variety of perspectives, and allows citizens some choice when contacting their representative.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 08:42 AM

I think it would help if they were full-time councillors, one per ward.

Anonymous 8/20/2020 08:45 AM	I find that two provides a balanced approach - it means that one councillor may not empathize with you but the other does.
Anonymous 8/20/2020 10:15 AM	It allows shared work between Councillors and can ensure that at least one Ward Councillor is available to attend Council meetings.
Anonymous 8/20/2020 09:35 AM	Better representation, for all voters.
Anonymous 8/20/2020 10:01 AM	It only takes one councillor to effectively represent each ward. Provided that the councillor actually votes the way that the citizens in their ward want.
Anonymous 8/20/2020 10:12 AM	two in my ward seem to bot have a ward vision, only after own interests (?)
Anonymous 8/20/2020 10:52 AM	allows councillors to work together on town halls. Allows for representing diverse views within a ward
Anonymous 8/20/2020 11:12 AM	Can have differing opinions or focus
Anonymous 8/20/2020 12:57 PM	One councillor one ward.
Anonymous 8/20/2020 03:35 PM	Avoids regression in democratic representation. Multiple councillors per ward allows work burden on addressing ward-specific issues to be spread between multiple representatives. Allows voters in each ward more opportunity to have their opinion on an issue represented in council. Councillors from a single ward can differ or share views on an issue, potentially better representing the consensus/division of the ward's voters.
Anonymous 8/20/2020 05:06 PM	Fulltime councillors
Anonymous 8/20/2020 05:40 PM	Don't understand why we need two councils per ward. Totally waste of salary.
Anonymous 8/20/2020 07:22 PM	less government the better
Anonymous 8/20/2020 08:01 PM	as in our private life we need to learn to live within our means.
Anonymous 8/20/2020 08:28 PM	Having 2 councillors per ward allows more work on behalf of and responsiveness to the concerns of the ward residents.

Anonymous 8/20/2020 08:33 PM	Elect 2 so we have options
Anonymous 8/20/2020 09:06 PM	See above
Anonymous 8/21/2020 05:40 AM	Fuller representation of concerns of citizens
Anonymous 8/21/2020 07:00 AM	lots of reasons - many issues, personal availability, multiple perspectives - it's too much for one person. they'd end up needing staff (\$), and that person would not be accountable.
Anonymous 8/21/2020 08:12 AM	I like having two councillors for our ward. They work well as a team and find room for different perspectives.
Anonymous 8/21/2020 08:38 AM	Councillors bring some diversity of views and approach to each ward; redundancy is important e.g. when one councillor may be ill, away for conferences or other reasons; the workload is significant and should be shared
Anonymous 8/21/2020 09:07 AM	more ideas better for the city with more councillors onboard
Anonymous 8/21/2020 10:36 AM	Because it works. More than 2 would be inefficient, but having 2 councillors means you probably always have some level of representation, even if one of the two is a dud or is absent for some reason.
Anonymous 8/21/2020 12:46 PM	It is often nice having a teammate to confer with before making decisions, so why not have a fellow ward councillor to help make decisions with?
Anonymous 8/21/2020 01:12 PM	As stated above - to ensure there is availability of a councillor when a citizen has an issue.
Anonymous 8/21/2020 02:05 PM	Allows City to increase number of wards as it grows but still maintain 12 councillors or close to that number.
Anonymous 8/21/2020 04:14 PM	Two councillors per ward gives better choices to the voter first past the post prevents a voter from expressing support for two very well qualified candidates each of whom deserves support. Having two councillors per ward allows for the possibility of the two working co-operatively together to better represent the expressed interests of residents in their ward on contentious issues.
Anonymous 8/21/2020 05:30 PM	As per the attached document, I am more inclined to err on the side of having more representation than less. In the case that one councillor is unresponsive to a citizens needs, having a second councillor would provide additional avenues for citizen engagement. Having two councillors approach city staff to

	advocate for their constituents would be preferable to one councillor forgetting to do so. However, I am inclined to prefer the Chatham-Kent model of having the number of councillors be dependant on the size of the ward if they were to be developed in a way that led to population size differences.
Anonymous 8/22/2020 09:58 AM	Better chance of representation of ALL ward residents, not just the loudest or wealthiest or most influential. Councillors also have an individual to discuss issues of the ward and how best to strategize to meet the demands and solve issues. Two heads are better than one
Anonymous 8/22/2020 11:15 AM	Single voices that don't have validation or correction from another are dangerous. Having 3 per ward might be best.
Anonymous 8/22/2020 11:26 AM	Best representation by equal population size to make up eight members
Anonymous 8/23/2020 10:45 AM	This allows for greater number of positions on policy to be given consideration and for opposing views to be debated.
Anonymous 8/23/2020 04:15 PM	Need for ability to get involved and know what is going on, to be an advocate of your community's needs.
Anonymous 8/23/2020 07:09 PM	Better and fairer representation.
Anonymous 8/24/2020 07:38 AM	We're too big to have just one - that's a lot of people and a lot of work for one councillor!
Anonymous 8/24/2020 08:41 AM	Again it is a cost situation and more importantly if there is a move to full time councilors
Anonymous 8/24/2020 10:23 AM	Less councilors but paid full-time.
Anonymous 8/24/2020 10:36 AM	I feel it should be one per ward on a full time basis
Anonymous 8/24/2020 10:55 AM	see above
Anonymous 8/24/2020 11:26 AM	The present system of two councillors per ward works well. It isn't broken, so let's not try to fix it. In particular, having two councillors per ward means that one councillor is usually available to "cover" for another, in cases of illness, vacations, travel to meetings, etc.
Anonymous 8/24/2020 11:35 AM	Providing just one contact ensures clarity, consistency and a single point of focus for community members and City staff alike.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 11:49 AM

I am very pleased with Guelph's electoral system of 2 councillors per ward, plus the mayor elected at large. I work for a smaller municipality that is elected at large and it has the drawback of becoming more partisan v. focused on local/neighbourhood concerns.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 11:51 AM

If ward sizes are reduced i think 1 is fine if they are not then two is better. Each councillor should represent roughly the same number of people.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 01:15 PM

There is too much grouping up of Councillors with an agenda

Anonymous

8/24/2020 12:58 PM

are the wards too big one Councillor? is two too costly and unwieldy ? we could eliminate 1/2 the Councillors and make the job full time my fear with that is that Councillors become career politicians . that s not good for any anyone

Anonymous

8/24/2020 01:39 PM

Having two voices and two ideas for how our ward should tackle issues is a great way to engage a wide variety of differences of opinion on matters that affect the city and our wards

Anonymous

8/24/2020 01:44 PM

To have at least one councilor represent the needs of that ward.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 01:48 PM

What country doesn't have two presidents? What riding doesn't have two MPs? Where would catholicism be without the popes?

Anonymous

8/24/2020 01:59 PM

A minimum of two Councillors per ward ensures a Councillor from a particular ward is always available, even in the case that a Councillor is on vacation, ill, etc. Furthermore, a single Councillor shouldn't be relied upon to represent a ward in case of conflicts of interest.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 02:01 PM

No Wards

Anonymous

8/24/2020 02:01 PM

There need to be more voices to facilitate discussion and critically evaluate all sides of an issue. it doesn't mean every side of an issue needs to be addressed and implemented, but it at least needs to be given a forum to let us decide why is needs to be heard or not.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 02:15 PM

1 councillor per ward and the remainder at-larger councillors

Anonymous

8/24/2020 02:16 PM

In my view, each Ward should have roughly the same number of residents.... We live in Ward 2 and I know that the volume of work -- for part-time Councillors -- definitely justifies two.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 02:54 PM

Multiple councillors per ward makes it more likely that ward representation is more diverse, and represents a greater number of the people of the ward. In

a 'winner takes all' electoral system, limiting ward representation to just one councillor makes it highly likely that a large number (or even a majority) of constituents are not represented by the person they voted for. That's not acceptable.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 02:57 PM

2 part time people per ward are needed for the number of people they represent and can respond to. I'd rather have 2 part time people than one full time.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 03:00 PM

lets be realistic- one person can't possibly reflect the needs and desires of 20,000 people! two seems reasonable

Anonymous

8/24/2020 03:37 PM

Increasing the number of wards to e.g. nine means fewer councillors, if only one per ward, and having them work more hours but not full time, keeps the integrity of our current system of accountability but leads to less confusion. Please note my answer in relationship to Q9.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 04:25 PM

the pay is around \$40K for part time work, thats enuff for council member considering they could work less and get more done if they stop talking and not working, they dont work that much

Anonymous

8/24/2020 05:39 PM

Two councillors works well to share responsibilities. Support for each other. Divide workload.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 06:00 PM

Because it encourages gender diversity. Also, it allows more informed voices at council for each ward, ensuring that a wider range of input in running the city.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 06:19 PM

It's important to have multiple voices to reduce bias.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 07:57 PM

It is unnecessary and too costly to have more than one councillor per ward.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 08:27 PM

As I argued above, one councilor per ward would be have difficulty listening to and representing the interests of everyone in that ward. It's too big of a job.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 09:03 PM

More than one councillor per ward allows for diverse opinions within a ward. But the ward system should be maintained.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 10:15 PM

2 councillors per ward means spreading out the work load and someone to cover the ward if one gets sick, etc.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 06:03 AM

The wards are large so I feel at least 2 councillors are necessary to handle true community engagement as well as the work load.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 06:24 AM

To allow for diversity of representation within a ward and to provide citizens with greater access to city government and decision that affect their lives.



Anonymous

8/25/2020 07:38 AM

It's about representation. Two councillors per ward means that it is more likely that at least one of them will be from an equity-seeking part of our community. This is important to me.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 07:57 AM

More representation of the ward residents and the work load is divided equally between the Councillors so that they can get more coverage of their Ward.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 08:25 AM

Councilors are currently "part-time" but they're expected to put in well-beyond full-time hours. This is lunacy. This system, which requires councilors to likely maintain a full-time job at the same time, creates a problematic working environment. They're overworked and expected to juggle city council and a job. Insane. Cut it to one full-time councilor per ward so that they can actually put their entire focus on bettering their ward, serving their constituents, and benefiting our city. If you continue the part-time model, we'll continue to get half-baked ideas that aren't well-thought-out because they simply don't have the time to do the proper due-diligence and back-end work.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 10:15 AM

I don't see engagement or contribution form either of my councilors so, why have 2?

Anonymous

8/25/2020 11:26 AM

Because then you have 6 councillor seats that go to whoever is voted as the best, and 6 seats for the various wards to ensure representation. This way someone running with a specific platform thats universal to the whole city, can possibly get elected if enough Guelph ppl think its a good idea. They will represent ppl who are not grouped by location, but by ideals.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:03 PM

The City has grown both in size and diversity. Two Councilors per ward has worked well so adding one more Ward with two additional Councilors for that ward would seem logical

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:09 PM

There are currently 2 councillors in my ward and I find this confusing and wasteful. The second councillor is redundant.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:09 PM

Fewer Councillors and smaller wards makes sense to me. I don't see the benefit in duplicating the number of representatives for an area. It just makes one of them superfluous.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:18 PM

Having two councilors per ward gives good representation for the people of the ward. There is more than one view to represent the people. I think this promotes more diversity on council.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:27 PM

To support full time councillors

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:31 PM

I feel like 1 full-time councillor with a smaller ward could do the job of 2 part-time councillors with a larger ward. Also, helps when there is just one contact for issues.

Anonymous

In my ward that works well.

8/25/2020 12:36 PM

Anonymous

8/25/2020 01:16 PM

Again, I think that this will encourage participation on council from a more diverse population; geographically, and by gender and other measures of diversity

Anonymous

8/25/2020 01:22 PM

Please see answer to question #1

Anonymous

8/25/2020 01:36 PM

Might get along better and make wise decisions

Anonymous

8/25/2020 02:45 PM

I support 1 full-time Councillor per ward - this would provide the same level of political and policy support at Council and to the community with greater capacity to do this work professionally rather than around existing work responsibilities. I've heard comments that we should maintain 2 Councillors per ward so that residents can go to an alternative Councillor if they don't get along with one. Let's be adults - we all have to get along and work with people politically and professionally that we have differing views from. We don't have 2 MP's or MPP's. Only one is needed.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 02:50 PM

If it is going to be a full time position, 1 per ward is plenty.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 03:16 PM

Just not sure we need two, especially if number of constituents per ward goes down.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 03:21 PM

RACI - Responsible, Accountable, Consulted and Informed

Anonymous

8/25/2020 03:25 PM

Effectively functioning groups decline rapidly as the number increases. Boards which are too small become self-serving. For a city the size of Guelph , six wards of 20,000- 30,000@ 2 each = 12 councillors

Anonymous

8/25/2020 03:32 PM

Similar to now, but smaller ward boundaries.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 03:42 PM

Brings more voices to the table

Anonymous

8/25/2020 04:23 PM

I think 2 per ward is fine if the make-up of council is larger through adding at large councillors. If not adding at large councillors, 3 per ward would be better, but still feels like a lot.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 04:28 PM

Not all councillors are responsive and engaged with their community. Having more than one will hopefully ensure each ward will at least have one good councillor

Anonymous 8/25/2020 04:44 PM	I like our current system
Anonymous 8/25/2020 04:48 PM	Less drama and more actual debates
Anonymous 8/25/2020 04:58 PM	If we have only one, what would happen if that councillor is sick or in the hospital?, the ward would have no representative at all, I don't think Guelph is big enough to go for three, and two seems to be the average on similar cities so two would be good.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 05:13 PM	We need more diversity and more ideas
Anonymous 8/25/2020 05:13 PM	To reflect more accurately the population
Anonymous 8/25/2020 05:28 PM	To increase the chances that people from visible minority groups, and other marginalized communities will have a place at the council table.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 05:34 PM	Too much work for one person. City and citizens would suffer
Anonymous 8/25/2020 06:11 PM	To represent a spectrum of needs and ideas across a Ward
Anonymous 8/25/2020 06:31 PM	Allows for difference of opinion leading to healthy discussion
Anonymous 8/25/2020 07:55 PM	A single councillor per ward, elected under out first past the post system, could win with the support of a small minority of ward voters.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 08:03 PM	Collaboration and balanced perspective is important to me, as well as a safe guard against error and intent.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 09:06 PM	Because if One councillor is unresponsive, then perhaps the other could pick up the slack. I recently wrote to my Ward councillors about a concern and only one responded.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 09:52 PM	Because you can't please everyone. It's better to have more voices at the table.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 11:37 PM	An opportunity to be engaged with a councilor without them being over burdened.
Anonymous	Because then the 2 councillors can collaborate if needed, or even represent

8/26/2020 06:58 AM

opposing views within their ward. The representation would be greater, and a greater chance for diversity in our representatives and their ideas.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 07:21 AM

To help provide a broader perspective than one individuals opinion.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 07:30 AM

Elect one councillor per ward, and 6 councillors at large. The one councillor per ward should take a resident/humanistic approach and really get to know the people, neighbourhoods and businesses.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 08:00 AM

We need less government not more also our city council needs to be held more accountable for their spending and policies/by-laws need to be better enforced. Also, can the people of Guelph afford another tax increase to support a larger city council on a full time basis?

Anonymous

8/26/2020 08:24 AM

Number of Councillors depends on full time, part time and number of wards.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 08:26 AM

Again, one person cannot represent a full range of diversity of individuals even within a ward.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 09:22 AM

See my answer in response to question 6 above.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 09:27 AM

As long as there is at least one per ward and they are elected, the area is having a chance to have their voices heard. I would hope that individual councillors would be able to represent/consider more than one perspective from within their wars b

Anonymous

8/26/2020 09:32 AM

A city councillor partnership in each ward would increase the capacity to respond to issues, given the ebb and flow of city council work, and the integration of city councillors into the communities.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 10:04 AM

Ensures ward sizes (population wise) are too small.

clwoolley

8/26/2020 10:17 AM

I think we have too many "seat fillers" on council right now. We're bringing forth motions that have already been discussed and debated numerous times, taking away time and energy from the real issues at hand.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 10:31 AM

More representation for our ward.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 10:58 AM

1. It's working as is. Not sure why this issue has come up for discussion. 2. Less seems unreasonable. The wards are huge already. 3. People are cash strapped. Our lives are more expensive than ever, and our wages are stagnant. No need to be paying more for government than we need to be.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 11:42 AM

one is enough...guelph is a small city.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 11:44 AM

Because it increases the diversity of perspectives at the table, ensures a councillor will always be available even when one cannot serve, there will be more robust discussions at council.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 11:46 AM

I prefer 2-3 part- time councilors to one full-time.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 12:36 PM

I think it works and helps hold people accountable so there isn't a monopoly.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 12:42 PM

Having engaged with my councillors, I see no value in the redundancy of two councillors. I had to meet with them both. I had to convince two people that my issue had merit. I had to manage two relationships. It is ineffective.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 02:29 PM

I prefer getting rid of ward system if not done we need less people anyway

Anonymous

8/26/2020 03:10 PM

More councillors per ward insures a balance of representation and guards against a lame councillor or one with other political aspirations.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 03:22 PM

Two councilors per ward allow for the ward to elect both a man and a woman, again adding to the diversity of the council.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 03:28 PM

Having more than one councillor per ward seems redundant and unnecessarily expensive.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 04:32 PM

They can help eachother and three could be the deciding voice if needed

Anonymous

8/26/2020 04:48 PM

I have been here long enough to remember the old at large system which I felt favoured the current group simply due to name recognition. So Ward elections and two per Ward seems adequate.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 04:59 PM

I;d have to look at data to see if this is evidence-based, but general trends in politics result in white men winning single races, for a number of reasons (access to resources, sexism, racism, etc.) However, with a second spot, it allows people to broaden the base of councillors.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 05:12 PM

One per Ward and possibly one at large

Anonymous

8/26/2020 05:41 PM

Focus of energies, perhaps better knowledge of ward issues

Anonymous

8/26/2020 06:50 PM

Already answered this question previously.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 08:15 PM

I think that having too many voices at the table can sometimes stall and delay the agendas. If there were less councillors and they were very educated on what their constituents wanted the process would move more effectively. There would be no cost savings as I believe this should be a full time position to allow them to properly research these costly decisions.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 07:29 PM

with 6 wards a single councilor can comfortably represent 25,000-30,000 people.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 07:32 PM

It would be too easy to ignore citizen requests with only one councillor.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 08:03 PM

Because it preserves local representation and provides a measure of choice for the population

Anonymous

8/27/2020 06:42 AM

We are not a Hamilton or Toronto

Anonymous

8/27/2020 06:50 AM

See above.

Anonymous

8/27/2020 07:11 AM

Differing opinions, different insights

Anonymous

8/27/2020 07:58 AM

I think even within the wards there are multiple communities at large that need to be thought of and supported. Diverse representatives are required in order to meet the needs of people. I recommend that there is a person of colour elected from every Ward and a councilor with experience in the municipal governing elected. Ideally, having a rather equal non-POC to POC ratio, this way our communities at large are being heard and understood.

Anonymous

8/27/2020 08:22 AM

Until wards exceed 200,000 constituents, I think that's plenty.

Anonymous

8/27/2020 09:30 AM

The wards aren't huge and I feel that one ward councillor is sufficient and have the citizens choose one city wide councillor as well. That will leave 12 on the council

Anonymous

8/27/2020 10:15 AM

Councillors from the same ward should see themselves as colleagues, so that if there is specific ward related issue they have 'backup' when meeting with the community or approaching council as a whole. Someone to brainstorm with. Also for the public, there are many different viewpoints and have two would allow for more choice so that everyone feels they have elected at least one person they feel confident represents them and their viewpoints.

Anonymous

8/27/2020 12:12 PM

We don't need 2 per ward so they can disagree!

Anonymous

8/27/2020 01:34 PM

The election is to choose the best people to fill council and after the election, to provide a contact for the citizenry. However, once elected, councillors should understand that they work on behalf of all residents in the City, not just those in their Ward.

Anonymous

8/27/2020 02:20 PM

I've explained this above. More diversity, means more collaboration toward unity, and true representation. :)

Anonymous

8/27/2020 03:24 PM

Because no one person should have a monopoly on the voices of a neighborhood; there are a variety of interests.

Anonymous

8/27/2020 03:36 PM

Councillors are human beings and sometimes they take holidays or they're of sick or I may not like one of them. We need more than one per ward and Guelph does not need more than a dozen councillors. One of the councillors per ward should be full time.

Anonymous

8/27/2020 09:39 PM

So that different voices can be heard

Anonymous

8/28/2020 07:18 AM

I believe councillor be able to devote all their time to the job

Anonymous

8/28/2020 07:21 AM

With the current ward boundaries there are very different demographics within the same ward so multiple councillors are required to serve all demographics. e.g. Ward 1 downtown has much different concerns than Ward 1 East of Victoria but for some reason they're the same ward.

Anonymous

8/28/2020 08:42 AM

Assuming that only one councillor were elected per ward, that councillor would reflect the ideologies of those who voted for him/ her. Given the exceptionally low turn out at municipal elections, it can be assumed that the single elected councillor would not reflect the diversity of opinion of those in the ward. If two councillors are elected, there is a much better prospect of adequate representation for ward residents.

Anonymous

8/28/2020 09:14 AM

There is too much work to be done to have just 6 Councillors and a Mayor, even if the Councillors are full-time. Guelph is a rapidly growing city and the complexity of the issues facing us is increasing as well. There was a tone throughout the background material that suggested that one of the intentions of these changes was to smooth out the democratic process, spending less time on discussion and discovery and just getting on with things. Democracy is messy, and sometimes makes halting progress towards its goals. I don't always see this as bad; in fact it is an often necessary activity so that we can reach the right solution together.

Anonymous

8/28/2020 09:43 AM

see above

Anonymous

Having more than means that each ward has more than one voice on

8/28/2020 11:32 AM

council. This is important, since reasonable people can still have different ideas for the best way to deal with issues. By having more than one rep, we are more likely to have councillors that work together to find consensus and really see issues from many angles. I also like that when one councillor decides to retire or is not re-elected, there is often still some continuity.

Anonymous

8/28/2020 12:00 PM

Wards are large and as part time politicians two can work together

Anonymous

8/28/2020 12:13 PM

two Councillors per ward to balance each other out and hopefully bring more diverse perspectives. (ideally!!)

Anonymous

8/28/2020 01:46 PM

This will mitigate some of the distortionary effects of a first-past-the-post system.

Anonymous

8/28/2020 06:26 PM

If there are only 6 wards I don't feel like that is enough councillors for our city.

Anonymous

8/28/2020 09:18 PM

It is important to have more than a single voice from each

Anonymous

8/29/2020 04:14 AM

Explained above in #5

Anonymous

8/29/2020 06:15 AM

It gives those people in each ward 2 people to contact, if one is not available, or is not approachable. It allows a fairer perspective of issues in the ward.

Anonymous

8/29/2020 07:29 AM

I think we can shrink the size of the Wards, increase the # of Wards and then have 1 representative per Ward.

Anonymous

8/29/2020 08:12 AM

There are pros and cons to each model. I like having 2 councilors but one per ward may be better for accountability.

Anonymous

8/29/2020 11:23 AM

More wards and 1 Full Time Councillor, perhaps 10 instead of 12. Only need one. Distribution of work.

Anonymous

8/29/2020 01:05 PM

I don't like ward system

Anonymous

8/29/2020 04:23 PM

1) I like having a choice of who I can get in touch with. I like both my councillors for different reasons; I am grateful to have Bob Bell at the council table representing the interests of Ward 1, but on the other hand when I have a personal issue with municipal matters I prefer to contact Dan Gibson and he's great at fielding those calls. It's good to have two people who can cover both roles 2) having two per ward also makes election time more comfortable. Knowing that the top two will get elected, you don't have to



Anonymous 8/29/2020 05:23 PM	worry so much about "strategic voting" and we can just vote for the candidates we like best. It makes the elections more democratic in that way
Anonymous 8/29/2020 05:52 PM	One is enough
Anonymous 8/29/2020 08:30 PM	More than one councillor means more diversity of voices (hopefully).
Anonymous 8/29/2020 11:24 PM	2 can cross cover each other and bring varying view points;
Anonymous 8/30/2020 06:54 AM	Maintain 12 wards but make them smaller so Councillors can do better at representing their area
Anonymous 8/30/2020 07:43 AM	Having at least two per ward means that they can together meet the needs of the neighbourhood and if one is unavailable the citizens are not left unrepresented.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 11:29 AM	I would draw your attention to Karen Farbridge's community editorial in the Mercury on this matter. I agree with her views.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 12:09 PM	Different perspectives, experiences, philosophies, genders, race religion etc
Anonymous 8/30/2020 01:02 PM	Reduction in size of council (which I support) would require a change to 1 member per ward if the ward system is maintained.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 01:03 PM	2 is sufficient, they bring different perspectives and can share the work of constituent service.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 01:50 PM	The system works well as is on behalf of each ward. It has proven to be the best choice
Anonymous 8/30/2020 01:55 PM	One councillor is insufficient to represent citizen diversity.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 01:55 PM	There doesn't need to be 2 or more Councillors fulfilling the role of ideally 1 person, it creates unnecessary bureaucracy. One Councillor and their staff is good enough to serve the residents of each ward. Each of Guelph's 6 wards can have one Councillor and another elected Councillor could be elected to assist the Councillor of each ward to address resident issues but their main focus would be more on city wide issues.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 01:55 PM	Better representation at the table and if one is not doing his or her job , the other representative can step up to the job.

Anonymous 8/30/2020 01:59 PM	I think that to have a balance between wards and city-wide councillors would keep councillors focused on local issues and also on the well being of the city as a whole.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 02:46 PM	Because I don't think shrinking the size of Council to 6 is a good idea.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 02:51 PM	same as above, current system has worked for decades
Anonymous 8/30/2020 02:57 PM	Because then there is a better chance of a wider variety of perspectives represented.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 04:46 PM	If you do not like your Councillor then you can talk to another one. It also allows different views for a ward to be representative in the council
Anonymous 8/30/2020 04:57 PM	The current system works well and gives balanced representation
Anonymous 8/30/2020 05:00 PM	Better representation
Anonymous 8/30/2020 05:46 PM	I think we should have a smaller council but don't necessarily want larger wards. The most logical then is to create a few more wards and vote in one each.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 06:17 PM	More than one councillor per ward brings balance to perspectives
Anonymous 8/30/2020 06:21 PM	For budgetary reasons, and supposing financial constraints require it, I would opt for fewer Councillors paid for full-time work than a higher number of Councillors filling part-time roles. The full-time model would allow for a more diverse group of citizens to consider the Councillor role if it were structured as a full-time position.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 06:25 PM	Two councillors per ward in a six ward area results in twelve councillors, which we now have and which seems to be a winning calculation.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 07:03 PM	- Having at least 2 councillors per ward makes it more possible for everyone to be represented.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 08:35 PM	See my answer to question #5. Additionally by having two part-time councilors per ward means that constituents are well represented.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 08:44 PM	I don't think we need wards

Anonymous

8/31/2020 06:27 AM

I think that ward sizes should be adjusted so 1 councillor per ward can service each ward. This to me would be the most cost effective sokution for a city tgat is destined to grow so much in the next decade

Anonymous

8/31/2020 06:58 AM

Again, diversity! As a woman I want to see more women on Council, if I were a black man I would want to see more black men on council, if I were transgender I would like to see a transgender person on Council and if we have less counsellors per ward there will be less diversity. Look around you. The world is on fire with injustice. My worry with less counsellors will be a all male white council and that would be absolutely shameful.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 07:29 AM

I don't want an unwieldy number of counsellors.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 09:04 AM

I can't think of a single reason why two councillors are better than one. City Council is a DECISION MAKING BODY. The focus should be on making good decisions. I don't see how 2 councillors contribute to making better decisions.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:18 AM

See above

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:23 AM

Having one councillor per ward allows the responsibility of that ward to fall directly on the shoulders of that councillor. It will also make it easier for citizens to reach out to their representative as there will only be one. There's no guessing involved with respect to which ward councillor to contact and why.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:25 AM

The wards are large enough that one person does not seem like enough, especially given the multiple roles of a Councillor (i.e., engagement, advocacy, policy, administration, etc.). The number of Councillors should be proportional to the number of people in each ward, or better yet, the ward boundaries should be modified so that they are approximately equal in size.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:28 AM

2 provides adequate representation.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:34 AM

Life can be busy and a Councillor might be unable to attend all meetings. Two per Ward would be more effective, if they bother to work as a team and ensure a rep is at each meeting.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:39 AM

Have one councillor listen to and voice that neighbourhoods thoughts

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:59 AM

2 councillors per ward is reasonable.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 11:21 AM

Diverse opinions. Need two to keep engagement.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 11:22 AM

If you have wards, only one is needed per ward

Anonymous

8/31/2020 11:31 AM

There should be 2 part-time councillors per ward to balance out the decisions...

Anonymous

8/31/2020 12:08 PM

opportunity to have dissenting voices within a ward represented at council.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 12:26 PM

Because we are big enough that only one person cannot fully address all our issues. But I would want them to be united in their support of US and not simply try to push their own personal or party agenda

Anonymous

8/31/2020 01:07 PM

This is not an easy question to put a blanket answer to. The system we have now works well with 2 Councillors but if we added Councillors elected at large this may change the need in some wards. More evaluation would need to answer this question with proper insight.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 01:08 PM

I think that 2 is good for representation. Councillors may not agree on all issues that affect the City or the ward and having more than one representative allows for discourse and debate. It can also spread the workload for each Councillor

Anonymous

8/31/2020 02:18 PM

For balance between the experiences & backgrounds & availability of each councillor considering they work at a job in addition to role on council. Ideally they work well together, communicate clearly.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 02:23 PM

Make the councilors full time enabling them to do proper research to make informed decisions

Anonymous

8/31/2020 03:15 PM

Given the size of the wards and the number of constituents that have to be represented, having two councillors provides a better perspective plus it assists to distribute the work load in a part-time role, see below

Anonymous

8/31/2020 04:15 PM

One male and one female (husband and wife is okay) to better represent all of the citizens.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 04:28 PM

Only one counsellor per ward doesn't reflect the diverse range of views in a ward.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 04:57 PM

I think if each citizen got a local and a city wide vote they could balance their interests but have a more 'whole guelph' approach than the current.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 05:11 PM

2 is too many

Anonymous

8/31/2020 05:34 PM

6 wards 6 full time councillors

Anonymous 8/31/2020 05:42 PM	Each ward has conservative and liberal population that needs to be represented equitably
Anonymous 8/31/2020 07:01 PM	Answer is the same as above. What duties will Councillors do better with more, and what would suffer with fewer Councillors??
Anonymous 8/31/2020 07:09 PM	We have too many now. My ward has two very different councillors, with different views and i feel like their votes cancel each other out.
Anonymous 8/31/2020 07:21 PM	Some ward have far larger populations that others but are still represented by only two people.
Anonymous 8/31/2020 07:26 PM	Candidates would be able to contact almost every resident of the ward they wish to represent.
Anonymous 8/31/2020 07:31 PM	One councillor per Ward is not enough to represent the diversity of the residents in each neighbourhood
Anonymous 8/31/2020 07:42 PM	I don't care. I want them to equally represent the people of a Guelph and stand up for individual rights and freedom of choice. Otherwise it's just a bunch of people getting paid to make decisions without engagement with the people who pay their wage.
Anonymous 8/31/2020 09:15 PM	I think that having the two Councillors gives availability and as mentioned in the article can help residents put forward their views more readily.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 01:40 AM	Less confusion on which one to contact, and he/she will be more knowledgeable of the particular circumstances of localized smaller area.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 04:46 AM	To have representation even when one councillor isn't available.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 05:34 AM	See above
Anonymous 9/01/2020 06:07 AM	There needs to be more than one voice to represent an area/ward. One voice (vote) for a ward is possible to not represent what is best and I suppose having a second voice reduces that risk.....somewhat.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 07:01 AM	one councilor is available on a full time basis to look after ward constituents. the over all elected at large make the City government more general and focused on the entire City.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 07:45 AM	Maybe it is best to create more Wards in this increasingly diverse City. If the number of Wards does not increase than keep two Ward representatives.
Anonymous	The minimum of two councillors is important. However, as the city population

9/01/2020 08:58 AM

increases, consideration might be given to three per ward unless more wards are created by boundary distribution changes.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 09:44 AM

We have 2 per ward now and I feel that is a good number. If one councillor is away we still have representation

Anonymous

9/01/2020 09:59 AM

I only recommend the number of councillors of 7 so the City can hold them accountable for decisions made on behalf on its citizens. City staff need to know that their actions on the job will reflect on how the Council is viewed by the citizens.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 10:12 AM

Most wards would also be diverse and having 2 councillors would mean that more of the constituents would be represented by their councillors.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 10:31 AM

If they are part time, which I feel they should be to bring a more diverse view, you need a few per ward to ensure all the work can be done and split equitably.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 11:07 AM

2 per ward is effective.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 01:59 PM

So that it is clear. Why should i email two councillors to be aware of an issue. It would be easier to know who has responsibility for my area of the city.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 02:06 PM

More review of each wards needs and not restricted to one persons personnel views.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 02:21 PM

The best approach would be to have one councillor per ward and 6 at-large councillors. This would ensure the best (rather than second best ) get elected.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 02:24 PM

Representing people is a lot of work....BUT NOT A FULL TIME JOB

Anonymous

9/01/2020 02:29 PM

Cost savings.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 02:40 PM

Having two Councillors per ward adds a greater diversity of voices to Council, but it's unclear whether this would be necessary should Councillors be changed from part-time to full-time. It's possible that there is a duplication of effort, or inequality of effort, with two Councillors per ward. That said, I enjoy the current system of two Councillors per ward.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 04:14 PM

I believe I just did. If one ward is larger than another have two councilors. If one is slightly or considerably smaller have one.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 04:23 PM

Because we only elect one councillor, if you want 2 councillors per ward then elect 2 councillors.

Anonymous 9/01/2020 04:32 PM	Because one is not enough!
Anonymous 9/01/2020 04:52 PM	It would force them to be directly accountable. No 'hiding' behind a more active Counsellor.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 07:15 PM	I have ever seen communication from any councillor therefore they do not seek to represent me. If there was only 1 there are no miss understandings if residents have communication
Anonymous 9/01/2020 07:25 PM	Better representation.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 07:27 PM	Smaller numbers can focus on the work at hand,
Anonymous 9/01/2020 07:30 PM	Again I do not see any evidence that this system does not work.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 07:39 PM	2, it provides for competing voices from the same area.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 07:43 PM	Less constituents means more direct democracy.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 07:45 PM	More balanced representation.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 07:50 PM	One full time councillor per ward will increase efficiencies, no need for 2 councillors to communicate with each other, no duplication of efforts. Having 2 can also be troublesome if councillors have opposing views and make it tough for decision making.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 08:07 PM	If ward system only, then 2 per ward so that voices are still heard when one Councillor is absent, and also spreads the load between two people.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 08:14 PM	The wards are fairly big and the population is growing. Having two councillors from each ward hopefully gives a broader representation. It would also give easier access to at least one of the councillors.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 09:04 PM	Easier way by having just one point of contact
Anonymous 9/01/2020 09:08 PM	More participation. More opportunities for a greater diversity of skills and experience
Anonymous	Full time, single ward makes sense.

9/01/2020 11:46 PM

Anonymous

If shrinking ward size, a second councillor is not necessary.

9/02/2020 04:47 AM

Anonymous

Two councillors bring two opinions and differing opinions and two voices to represent the citizens of the ward, one voice just isn't enough and not enough diversity

9/02/2020 05:18 AM

Anonymous

I don't know enough about why more than one councillor would be necessary.

9/02/2020 05:30 AM

Anonymous

Cost reduction-our country is entering an economic disaster due to the pandemic. Many tough decisions lie ahead, including this one.

9/02/2020 05:45 AM

Anonymous

I think 2 is sufficient

9/02/2020 05:51 AM

Anonymous

To provide more democratic and diverse decision making within each ward.

9/02/2020 06:12 AM

Anonymous

1 is enough.

9/02/2020 06:52 AM

Anonymous

For diversity and balance in decision making

9/02/2020 06:52 AM

Anonymous

The number of councilors should be informed by the number of residents in that ward. Two councilors allows for a part time system to exist in a more effective way?

9/02/2020 06:55 AM

Anonymous

More efficient representation in council. Councilors could be supported by staff that can fuel engagement process that could be brought to council.

9/02/2020 06:59 AM

Anonymous

It all depends on the wards map.

9/02/2020 07:07 AM

Anonymous

Having a second person makes it easier to have a neutral view and see multiple sides of issues at hand.

9/02/2020 07:13 AM

Anonymous

2 councillors per ward will hopefully prevent councillors from doing things that their constituents may not support.

9/02/2020 07:19 AM

Anonymous

See above.

9/02/2020 07:23 AM



Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:23 AM

Should be based on population size

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:35 AM

We need smaller government, not larger. adding councilors per ward further makes the job of getting stuff done more difficult.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:39 AM

As the size of the city grows, it is important that councillors can manage the work. Also, councillors should have someone with whom they can discuss the issues in their ward so that they can have a better idea if they are reacting correctly. One councillor to figure out how a ward issue should be treated seems to likely to create inapt representation.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:41 AM

I think the wards should be smaller in geography representing a smaller number of Guelphites. If smaller and representing a smaller number of constituents, one councillor would be easier to know who to contact.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:50 AM

I think the way we are electing councilors currently is working well, not just one voice from each ward is heard, there is a lot of diversity within each ward and that is better represented by electing multiple councilors per ward.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:02 AM

To allow councillors at large while not more than 12 on council.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:02 AM

1st and 2nd choice both making it to city hall allows differing viewpoints, and as inevitably people are classed or class themselves as left or right leaning, this allows wards to avoid being the liberal ward or the conservative ward, but rather better representing the viewpoints of all or more constituents.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:16 AM

2 councilors per ward are preferred so that there is an element of "checks and balances."

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:16 AM

At large may attract more innovative candidates

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:17 AM

- It's working well now, provides greater likelihood of diversity on Council

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:26 AM

the cost

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:44 AM

obtain variety of perspectives in policy setting for the municipality

Anonymous

9/02/2020 09:14 AM

6 full-time and 'at large' would ensure focus on the job and a more thorough understanding and appreciation of the issues. A 6 Council composition would also assist in the decision-making process (i.e. rather than having to consider 12 councillor's blah blah).

Anonymous 9/02/2020 09:16 AM	I think we should have smaller wards and one councillor per ward 12 wards and one councillor per ward
Anonymous 9/02/2020 09:19 AM	It is difficult to get a representative perspective from only 1 councillor per ward. Having at least 2 allows the opportunity for multiple views to be expressed and worked on right within a Ward.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 09:22 AM	It depends how they are elected ward-specific or at large or ranked voting would give very different results.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 09:23 AM	Two can communicate, share the load and opposing views may come to light.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 09:33 AM	I actually only want one councillor per ward and 6 additional councillors at large for a total of 12 councillors
Anonymous 9/02/2020 10:24 AM	As above. One per ward is good only if we also have city wide reps - we need more and better representation - not less.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 11:02 AM	It allows voters in a ward to support several different personalities and outlooks in their representation. It increases the diversity of opinion on Council.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 11:32 AM	As your background material suggests, the present system - two councillors per ward - means that there should be a councillor available if one is absent for some reason, and citizens have an alternative if, for some reason, their relationship with one councillor is strained. This system has been working well: why fix it if it ain't broke?
Anonymous 9/02/2020 11:32 AM	One is not equitable.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 11:40 AM	Depending on the ward I feel that if the number of issues in each ward are too numerous it is better to have 2 Councillors elected.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 11:44 AM	This will allow councilors to work full time hours to deal with matters quicker and result in decisions being made so one councilor can not cancel out the 2nd councilor as they can now by voting in opposing views.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 11:44 AM	I veer towards the one per ward which means reorganizing the city into many smaller wards. But I think two per ward could work. It does provide a system of checks and balances, and shared work load. But it certainly assumes cooperation and collaboration.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 12:24 PM	for the population of Guelph, the number is okay
Anonymous	one is not sufficient and more than two lead to a number that is not

9/02/2020 12:40 PM

manageable

Anonymous

9/02/2020 01:04 PM

Two councillors per ward increases the size of council which assists in providing diversity in representation. Two councillors also provide some assurance that a councillor will be available when one councillor is unavailable. This system also provides a constituent with an alternative when one councillor is not sympathetic to the constituent's concerns

Anonymous

9/02/2020 01:53 PM

I'd prefer one full-time councillor for a smaller ward

Anonymous

9/02/2020 01:58 PM

Two councillors per ward seem to be an adequate number. The main objective is to keep the wards equal and manageable in size and representative of contiguous neighbourhoods. That is, avoid gerrymandering.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 02:25 PM

One councillor who will receive a full time salary and do the work full time.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 02:31 PM

I am OK with one person per ward although I recognize that this might place an unfair burden on that one person.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 02:46 PM

Two per ward seems to be working; offers different perspectives, thoughts on issues allowing for residents to make knowledgeable decisions as needed as well.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 03:35 PM

Odd number creates an imbalance for vote counting.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 03:41 PM

Two heads better than one, always!

Anonymous

9/02/2020 03:58 PM

I have no problem with two per war . If changing would suggest 1 per ward and 6 at large

Anonymous

9/02/2020 04:31 PM

Two heads are better than one. My ward councillors seem to work well together and build on each other's ideas.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 05:20 PM

Give them smaller areas and let them get closer to the residents.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 05:32 PM

As I said earlier, I think one is enough per ward and having some at large would give a wider perspective on city-wide issues.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:08 PM

At least as much local representation as the current system is needed.

Anonymous

They can co-operate in bringing forward ward concerns and handle citizen

9/02/2020 06:37 PM

concerns.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:48 PM

One per ward - have 7 wards and then 7 councillors at large

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:55 PM

Gives citizens of different political persuasion the opportunity to choose which councillor(s) they would like to engage with.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:15 PM

The role of the councillor is a challenging one with a wide range of issues to be informed about. With Guelph's population growing so quickly, if the role is shared, this could be better for constituents allowing each councillor more time to effectively perform their role.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:30 PM

Different perspective, better access for citizens to council

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:51 PM

Gives a proper perspective to issues

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:18 PM

2 per ward make sense if both working part time. Having 1 per ward but working full time makes sense since the demands of the job has increased over time.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:40 PM

Save city money...most dont vote based on who they are representing anyways...just on personal preference and what benefits them....(most..not all)

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:42 PM

As said before half of them don't listen to the people living here in Guelph

Anonymous

9/02/2020 09:08 PM

If I have a problem with one there's an alternate person I can reach out to. Also when I'm electing councillors I could choose people with different strengths.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 04:07 AM

One councillor per ward but with more, smaller wards (still 12 councillors total) might allow for more fine tuned representation.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 04:42 AM

Keep expenses down.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 04:59 AM

No wards sorry but certain wards go out of their way to make sure people go vote for them in their ward. Make it city wide

Anonymous

9/03/2020 05:23 AM

Share the workload, more diverse voices on council, more opportunities for citizens to interact with their representatives.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 05:45 AM

To keep the size of council manageable, one per ward = 6 plus 4 at large plus mayor

Anonymous

9/03/2020 05:53 AM

Each ward needs a tandem team as too much responsibility for one. Every ward seems to be growing which means more work

Anonymous

9/03/2020 06:11 AM

Because that's what we have now and it allows for divergent ideas to get expressed as seats on council.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 07:27 AM

Avoids Council becoming cliquey

Anonymous

9/03/2020 07:52 AM

More people with different views and connections in the community

Anonymous

9/03/2020 08:55 AM

To get views of people properly

Anonymous

9/03/2020 09:15 AM

With at least two councilors there is a chance to find at least one that supports my point of view on an issue. Many times in the last 30 years at least one of the two councilors has consistently voted in a manner that was in direct opposition to my views on a particular matter. If that councilor were my only representative on council I would feel that I had no voice.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 09:50 AM

Each ward should have at least two councillors. Two are needed in the event that one is out of commission due to illness/other reason. They are also needed because there are likely people with different politics in each ward - you want more than just one person's specific opinions and politics represented in each ward. Having more councillors makes for more representative voices at the city's decision-making tables.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:22 AM

Seems to work fine now

Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:23 AM

One from each ward bringing issues forward that have citywide implications. They gain support from the at large members where and when required. Not all areas of the city are busy with issues while others have greater issues to deal with

Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:33 AM

i think councillors should be full time and in that capacity one per ward is appropriate. One per ward also decreases division in opinion and allows for one proponent for the areas interests. If there is more than one councillor and they disagree on an issue, their votes cancel each other out.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:35 AM

It's not bloated, but it allows more than one person to speak for each ward.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:39 AM

Time savings

Anonymous 9/03/2020 10:42 AM	Provide back-up for each other as well as accountability.
Anonymous 9/03/2020 10:53 AM	1 full time is sufficient
Anonymous 9/03/2020 10:59 AM	One per wars plus at-large councillors should provide access to constituents when they have concerns. Also, the councillors should have to live in the ward he/she represents.
Anonymous 9/03/2020 11:00 AM	I feel that given the current population that it is sufficient. for populations less than 50k, I believe the model of the city wide approach would be in best interest of everyone. 1 councilor per ward for 50k-100k, 2 councilors per ward for 100k-150k, and 3 councilors per ward for 150k-200k
Anonymous 9/03/2020 11:37 AM	More than one Councillor per ward (I recommend remaining at 2) allows for more diverse representation within each ward.
Anonymous 9/03/2020 11:51 AM	Two has worked, again when you have good councillors; perhaps in larger wards (pop) there could be an additional representative, or 'weighted votes'?
Anonymous 9/03/2020 12:37 PM	Wards are big and have many people living within the boundaries. 1 person can't possibly manage everything
Anonymous 9/03/2020 12:38 PM	I want a councillor who views my priorities as important it doesn't matter if they are from the north or West
Anonymous 9/03/2020 12:46 PM	Fewer councillors but full time.
Anonymous 9/03/2020 01:05 PM	One representative of the interest of the ward
Anonymous 9/03/2020 01:12 PM	12 council members are too many
Anonymous 9/03/2020 01:18 PM	Having two is redundant. We can manage with one who is full-time dedicated.
Anonymous 9/03/2020 01:19 PM	Proportional representation
Anonymous 9/03/2020 01:24 PM	See above
Anonymous	The different views of the members of the ward should be considered by two

9/03/2020 02:08 PM

individuals so that all opinions can be expressed without a monopoly.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 02:14 PM

Make this a full time position and increase the number of Wards to 8. This makes more sense than citizens communicating with 2 councillors and queries being duplicated . All of these suggestions must make fiscal sense though!

Anonymous

9/03/2020 02:27 PM

Currently, Guelph has six Wards. Again, my recommendation infers that Councillors are full time. One representative per. Ward. Straightforward.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 02:54 PM

As shared above, having a plurality of choice for ward councillors allows for a diverse set of policy stances to reflect various voices within the community.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 03:34 PM

To better represent the community and allow for more voices to have a representation.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 04:15 PM

Increased population in those wards needs greater representation

gmhunter

9/03/2020 04:12 PM

Less expensive. In the past some councillors have coasted and left all the work to the second councillor. We would know exactly who to call.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 04:16 PM

May get one councillor that you agree with and others will have someone to advocate for their perspective. Not winner takes all.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 05:48 PM

Want to split wards. Keep same number of total councilors.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 06:02 PM

It is a lot of work; different perspectives from two people, more opportunity to have representation/diversity.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 06:14 PM

Please see my earlier comments.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 06:22 PM

Eliminating the number of wards will help control the cost to help pay for full time members. With one part time councilor per ward the costs can be controlled. The new system should not increase the cost by a great deal.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 07:15 PM

It is essential to have more than one councillor per ward. I would prefer 4 wards with 3 councillors each. Electing three people per ward using a single transferable vote system would likely result in a representative council. The less number of councillors per ward, the less likely the resulting council will be representative.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 06:27 PM

Half the time you never hear from either councillor until election time and then they are knocking on your door. After the election you hear nothing from either one

Anonymous 9/03/2020 06:51 PM	One is enough to voice neighbourhood specific concerns
Anonymous 9/03/2020 09:00 PM	I am hoping for a mixed 6 ward 6 at large system.
Anonymous 9/03/2020 09:52 PM	one councillor for each ward is enough, maybe reduce the size of ward if it is to large.
Anonymous 9/03/2020 10:02 PM	Councillors share workload Gives residents option of who to contact /connect with.
Anonymous 9/03/2020 10:26 PM	Because I think there should more, smaller wards. I only want to make one phone call if I have a political concern to raise or a local issue that needs to be addressed. Also, fewer voters, less comparing \$\$, better democracy.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 05:42 AM	Lower cost with only having 1
Anonymous 9/04/2020 05:57 AM	Save money, easier to make policy, but you would never do this
Anonymous 9/04/2020 06:07 AM	Two per ward works well. Some wards are growing and with Increased development comes issues that require research, meetings with constituents etc. It can be a lot for only one councillor to undertake.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 06:56 AM	It seems to be working now, why change?
Anonymous 9/04/2020 07:10 AM	Current approach is working as it promotes teamwork between the two elected councillors for each ward.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 07:15 AM	Two Councillors/ward can share the load. What if one gets sick or needs a leave of absence? Also, if one Councillor seems unresponsive to an issue, there is a second opportunity to reach out. The Ward boundaries should be recalibrated so that they contain roughly the same number of constituents. Right now they seem very uneven. This is unfair to both Councillors and residents of the bigger wards.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 07:14 AM	2 councillors per ward allows for a proper democratic process at the ward level. Having only 1 councillor per ward would monopolize that vote into the hands of 1 person. It would easily fall into the hands of large property developers and other foreign interests.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 07:21 AM	Promotes diverse representation.
Anonymous	Why waste more public dollars? Save the money and spend on community



9/04/2020 07:22 AM

services that need it. Make the one councilor accountable so there is no arguing between multiple ones.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:23 AM

Back up and succession planning reasons. Also Allows for work sharing and various view points to be engaged

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:29 AM

Once again, when it comes to making important decisions that impact the citizens of a city, smaller is better. This is basic knowledge, all successful organizations keep their decision-making bodies small.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:32 AM

As above. Responsiveness to the needs of the community.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:33 AM

Two councillors per ward is ideal.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:44 AM

With 2 councillors you have a better chance of finding a representative that can advocate on your behalf.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:58 AM

Keep costs down but maintain representation.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:00 AM

More perspectives

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:01 AM

It's better to have two different individuals. Just so it's not there way or the highway.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:05 AM

..

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:05 AM

Having more than one per ward ensures better representation. For example, in my ward one of the councillors is more focused on a certain section of the ward and doesn't care about the rest of the area. The other councillor makes sure the needs of all are taken into account.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:07 AM

not enough exposure right now with 2

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:10 AM

It's difficult. Two councillors give people a choice on whom to approach and potentially separates the workload. Two councillors who disagree also cancel out each others' votes. Two councillors allows for more diversity (women at this point).

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:14 AM

Having more than one counselor per ward would allow for democratic debate and ensure that representatives are not pushing through personal interests, but focusing on the interests of their constituents and the City.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:16 AM

Every ward needs an advocate. In the past some areas of the city were ignored.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:20 AM

I would like to see councillors be full time and remunerated thusly so they can concentrate on the best representation for their constituents.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:23 AM

18 councillors. Each ward would have a primary councillor and 2 secondary councillors. Better chance to connect with the community and actually be representative of where they are elected.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:28 AM

Less confusion for voters, more accountability,

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:33 AM

At least 2 per ward helps to create a more balanced perspective and also means that there is a second person always available to represent the ward. In the era of Covid and with all the challenges our municipality is facing (especially financially) the workload isn't going to get lighter.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:35 AM

It's always good to have checks and balances

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:43 AM

It helped to offer a balance of opinions. Not everything rests in one persons hands.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:45 AM

Less bureaucracy, red tape.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:47 AM

Two people that are familiar with the ward is better than one and it also helps to lighten the load for just one councillor. You also will get two perspectives within the ward and that is better for conversation and decision making.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:51 AM

One councillor can have personal animity with constituent, more than One gives constituent options.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:51 AM

Thinking, as the city is expanding, perhaps more wards, and 1 councillor who can be more dedicated to their specific area.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:52 AM

Two councillors dose not make sense. Information gets lost between the two representatives. You may talk to one and the other is the one that votes due to being absent at a particular vote. All issues should be funnelled through one.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:00 AM

Keep same.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:07 AM

Helps if one individual is ineffective or biased. More chance of ensuring diversity

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:20 AM

If the number of wards is not increasing, then the number of elected representatives needs to increase beyond 1 per ward. To be clear, this question (10) is asking about "that number", which I did not specify above. I simply selected greater than 1.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:43 AM

One councilor would likely lead to excessive work demand, no back-up in case of a single-councilor illness, and no alternative if a citizen has difficulty dealing with ONE of the elected ward representatives.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:44 AM

Falls into my goal of smaller council of a mixed ward and at large voting system

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:02 AM

we have 2 and they actually work really well - see answers to question 8. Just because a system has been in place for some time does not mean that it needs to be changed. Its definitely worth looking at, but from the information you have provided and my own research both in Canada and beyond I see absolutely not reason for changing a system that is working well for Gueph citizenry. i would remind the experts who are managing this process that the point of this review is to ensure that the needs of Guelph citizenry (who pay the bills) MUST be foremost. This is not an exercise in efficiency for staff.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:06 AM

only one is required

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:08 AM

One elected part timer in each of six wards, six full time at large

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:15 AM

Having two councillors per ward provides more opportunities to reflect the diverse nature of the ward. By keeping the wards small PLUS having two councillors per ward encourages a greater range of views to percolate to the surface. This in turn encourages more individuals to express their views because they will at least be heard and may consider running in an election. Furthermore, having small wards and 2 or more councillors per ward, keeps the cost of elections lower. People power is more important then financial power.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:25 AM

2 is good, 3 is too many, 1 is simply hard to gather all the info and properly represent thousands of people with only 1.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:32 AM

- more than enough work for multiple councillors per ward - gives residents a difference of opinion in their councillors

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:56 AM

2 councillors per ward ensures that people are well represented.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:56 AM

One per ward if full time and 2 per ward if part time

Anonymous 9/04/2020 11:05 AM	A combo of population and geography Should dictate number per area. Ward 6 needs at least 2 councillors
Anonymous 9/04/2020 11:14 AM	Variety.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 11:36 AM	To share the workload and to eliminate bias in ward decisions
Anonymous 9/04/2020 11:48 AM	There is no need for more than one councilor per ward. Citizens elect who they want to represent them, adding more councillors in my opinion is allowing council to be inefficient and waste taxpayers money.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 11:54 AM	One point of contact for folks.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 11:55 AM	We do not need 2 the work can be done by one 🗣️
Anonymous 9/04/2020 11:56 AM	One councillor to represent a ward, the rest to represent the city. Good balance.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 11:59 AM	Idk, maybe two, one to keep the other accountable
Anonymous 9/04/2020 01:03 PM	One per ward with smaller wards to make it more representative of your area
Anonymous 9/04/2020 01:07 PM	Unless you divide the wards up even more, with the city growing having one councillor would just overwhelm them and so many voices would be lost, currently the only way to get any help in the city with anything is tweet Mayor Guthrie a tonne and get lots of others in the community.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 01:12 PM	Should be one per ward on a fulltime bases
Anonymous 9/04/2020 01:20 PM	One councillor bears the responsibility and accountability to the citizens of their ward. Again, there is not pointing the finger that the other councillor had the greater influence. One councillor owns the outcomes/results accordingly.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 01:31 PM	With Guelph's population increasing, one councillor per ward is not realistic. Plus, based on my experience as well as the experience of others, usually one of the 2 councillors is more responsive - it is helpful to have an alternative
Anonymous 9/04/2020 01:37 PM	allows for a balanced approach

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:47 PM

If we only had one per ward, then council would be too small unless there was a hybrid model. Electing two per ward can help to bring a diversity of voices to council.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:57 PM

not sure what the purpose of 2 per ward is/was. i'd rather see better, more community-based representation.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:58 PM

Less, full time should cost less

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:58 PM

More than one prevents corruption while taking work off of each other so smaller issues and larger issues can both be dealt with more efficiently.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 02:03 PM

One councillor per ward is fine. Some of the comments councillors have made have been offensive and insult the intelligence of residents. With one councillor per ward hopefully, with responsible residents informing themselves, these councillors will get weeded out of council. Also this means one councillor per ward will need to make sure they hear all the people and not just those that they agree with. Then it will certainly become clear whether a councillor is listening or not everyone.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 02:07 PM

I'm not sure having two councillors per Ward increases representation, access or outcomes.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 02:10 PM

Fairness

Anonymous

9/04/2020 02:20 PM

Better representation. The numbers of citizens in each ward would be too many for one person to represent. If we elect a bad councillor, we would have a second chance with a better one. The opinions would be better formed and more representative.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 02:36 PM

The best representation.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 02:43 PM

Better value to the taxpayer and quicker decisions will be made.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 03:29 PM

Two per can cause disunity and confusion, pitting Ward councillors against one another. Take a single issue even if on a hard subject.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 03:42 PM

A good councilor is engage with constituents regularly. In a city the size of Guelph, it takes two or more depending on the (current) ridings

Anonymous

9/04/2020 03:43 PM

See question 6

Anonymous

9/04/2020 03:43 PM

One per ward, but make the wards smaller.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 03:54 PM

Wards are not small and people have different opinions and needs. Having more than one representative is ideal

Anonymous

9/04/2020 04:05 PM

Again....the fewer councilors the fewer voices....I don't want a council full of Cam or Dan's! We need devirsity..bright now we have greens. NDP. Liberals n conservative opinions....too few could cause one sidedness

Anonymous

9/04/2020 04:07 PM

Greater diversity of perspective and back-up person if one councillor is not available.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 04:44 PM

spoke to this above - 1 councillor currently represent 11,000, would like to see that decrease to a minimum of 1/10,000

Anonymous

9/04/2020 05:09 PM

If there are more than 1 councilor there is more likelihood that one of them will share my views. More than 1 councilor makes it more likely that one of them will be available to deal with an issue or be knowledgeable on a particular issue. Having more than 1 councilor per ward can potentially deliver more proportional results by allowing differing views from the same ward. If multiple member wards are combined with ranked balloting, a much more proportional system is possible

Anonymous

9/04/2020 05:36 PM

There is too much work for one person - ie phone calls, meetings, agendas - you need a team

Anonymous

9/04/2020 06:13 PM

-The two Councillor per ward system has worked well for our community. - Two Councillors per Ward enhances the proportional representation impact of ranked ballots, resulting in successful candidates who are supported by the broadest possible number of constituents in a Ward. - Two Councillors per Ward increase the likelihood at a range of political opinions in the Ward are represented at Council. Since 1991, a number of Wards have had both a conservative-leaning and a progressive-leaning Councillor. This means that all Ward residents have someone to go to who will understand and be sympathetic to their concerns. - Duplication of staff responses to Councillor inquires is currently avoided by updating all members of Council with staff responses when information is sought. - Two Councillors means that they can spell each other off for vacations, illnesses, scheduling conflicts, etc; - Two Councillors allows for a kind of informal succession process. Typically both seats will not turn over in a ward in the same election. This means that citizens will have a more experienced councillor to turn to, as well as someone with fresh ideas. When Councillors are open to working as a team within a Ward, there is an opportunity for mentoring.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 06:18 PM

Two heads are better than one. Two Councillors gives citizens choice of whom to approach when dealing with issues.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:15 PM

- increases accessibility for citizens looking to engage the councillors in their ward - different perspectives with two councillors

Anonymous

9/04/2020 06:26 PM

Two ward members seems to work well. They can offer better outreach as people might gravitate to one Councillor over the other. Two can bounce ideas off each other, and they can also offer varied perspectives within their ward.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:21 PM

Two (or more) Councillors can bounce ideas off each other. The weight of the ward is distributed on more shoulders. If one Councillor is unavailable, the other Councillor is there. Barring disaster, constituents will always have someone to contact. More Councillors = more varied input during Council meetings, and more thorough representation of the ward

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:58 PM

Again, diversity! In order to accurately represent constituents, there has to be more than one council to represent each ward. Plus with this, there's a level of accountability.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:59 PM

So that the at large positions can be created without increasing the total number.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:13 PM

The vote is more representative of citizen preferences. With one Councillor it is a winner-take-all result, and with many campaigns having many more candidates than seats a candidate can win with a weak plurality and rarely a majority. Two or more Councillors results in better representation and fewer wasted votes, especially with a Ranked Ballot.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:26 PM

Diversity of thought

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:27 PM

Need to continue at 12 councillors - 2 per ward -- until population hits 150,000 when size of council should be increased (as well as m# of wards). See above.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:55 PM

Having multiple councillors win in an election allows for more minority voices on council. One winner-take-all will please a (possibly small) plurality, but leaves many people unrepresented.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:02 PM

The current method works to get elect the top two for each ward

Anonymous

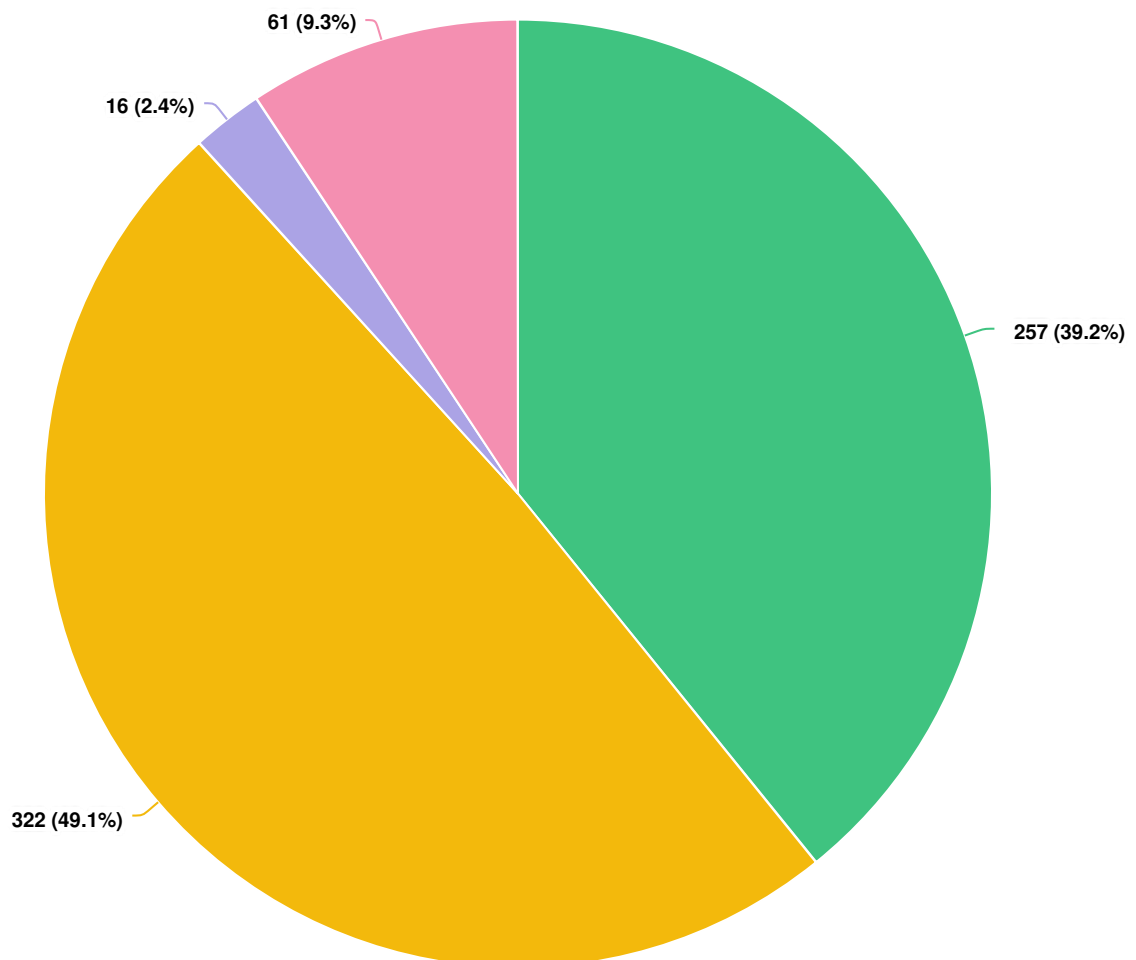
9/04/2020 10:06 PM

Only require one person to hold to account, avoids disagreement within wards

**Optional question** (562 response(s), 94 skipped)

**Question type:** Essay Question

**Q16** From a citizen perspective, how do you recommend that the role of city Councillor be viewed in Guelph?



**Question options**

☒ It is a PART-Time responsibility   ☒ It is a FULL-Time responsibility   ☐ It doesn't matter to me   ☐ I am unsure

Mandatory Question (656 response(s))  
Question type: Radio Button Question



**Q17 What would be the advantages of having PART-time city Councillors?**

Anonymous

8/17/2020 11:10 AM

Keeps costs down.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 01:33 PM

not sure it requires full-time commitment. my view might change though if being part-time constrains the pool of potential councillors with the skills, experience required.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 01:33 PM

Having smaller wards and 1 Councillor per ward would take some of the workload of their plate.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 01:52 PM

No increase in salary costs, office space, assistant salary etc.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 02:57 PM

Less of a burden on the tax payer due to lower salaries. The City of Guelph's Councillor positions are not full time jobs.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 03:49 PM

I do not think Guelphites want more full-time, career politicians. I also personally like the idea that the councillor will continue to have a "real world" job that keeps them connected to the people, whether that be SAHM/caregiver, retail, profesor, business owner, what-have-you. I think we risk having City Council become too insular with full-time councillors.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 04:57 PM

Wouldn't be paying for jobs for life.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 06:42 PM

I believe there should be separation between governance and operations. Full time councillors will probably be much more involved in operations and therefore unable to properly govern from the right distance.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 07:38 PM

Not sole source of income, could attract broader spectrum of candidates that dont have to leave a career or calling

Anonymous

8/17/2020 09:33 PM

Cost less. No ministry placement is full time as an executive decision maker. Why should our tax dollars support full time when little is done with the time already paid

Anonymous

8/17/2020 10:36 PM

advantage of part time is that you can easily afford two councilors. that way you always have one good or helpful ones

Anonymous

8/18/2020 05:07 AM

lower pay...makes more fiscal sense

Anonymous

8/18/2020 05:31 AM

They remain connected to the city, and are not career politicians.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 05:52 AM

Pay for the work they do.. not for the title.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 06:03 AM

- still working in the community; doesn't incentivise politics for money.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 08:02 AM

Keeps council as oversight, with the majority of heavy operational listing done by paid professional staff.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 09:08 AM

based on today's numbers its part time, if you have 1 per ward could consider fulltime

Anonymous

8/18/2020 09:18 AM

No need to waste tax-payers \$\$ paying councillors full-time - their function is not that time-consuming

Anonymous

8/18/2020 11:01 AM

Cost, councilors having additional and current other knowledge/expertise,\

Anonymous

8/18/2020 11:58 AM

Councillors have more background experience/knowledge of the working world around them.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 01:29 PM

Not enough work to be 40 hours a week

Anonymous

8/18/2020 02:48 PM

Full time councillors would be considered "city employees". In the past aldermen or councillors had full time employment elsewhere, and represented citizens on council on a part time.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 05:10 PM

They only really work Part-time anyways, meetings are not held 8 hours a day. They can still work full time or part time in their existing career.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 09:15 PM

There is not enough for a fulltime.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 07:49 AM

If only one per ward, it could be full time, but with two it is definitely part time

Anonymous

8/19/2020 11:54 AM

A big advantage of allowing it to remain a part-time role is that it allows people who have other jobs to be on city council, which increases the talent pool for council and promotes diversity on council.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 12:27 PM

Able to have 2 people doing the role and then creates discussion and diversity.

Anonymous

The individual could also work within their chosen field and then bring

8/19/2020 03:42 PM

balance to the City Hall

Anonymous

8/19/2020 05:15 PM

City staff run the city with council oversight. Council is not a full time job

Anonymous

8/20/2020 06:01 AM

I prefer 2 councillors per ward. If all of these positions were full-time, I'd be concerned about the growing cost.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 08:45 AM

I don't think this requires they do this full time. I think their current role and compensation makes sense

Anonymous

8/20/2020 09:35 AM

Allows those who are not just in it for money, to think about running. Less biased councillors.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 10:01 AM

It would save the tax payers money. An example is the mayors position. Once it became full time, the salary for the position went through the roof. The wage that the mayor makes for a city the size of Guelph is embarrassing.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 10:12 AM

so they stay focused, and serving

Anonymous

8/20/2020 05:40 PM

People can continue their work while working as a council. We don't need full time professional politicians.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 08:01 PM

living within our means

Anonymous

8/20/2020 08:33 PM

It is not a full time job

Anonymous

8/21/2020 08:12 AM

They have other jobs that help root them in the community. However, I don't know how much time commitment is currently being asked of them or if that is realistic compared to work done.

Anonymous

8/21/2020 10:36 AM

Attracts more people to the role and is more efficient than having full timers.

Anonymous

8/21/2020 04:14 PM

I favour part-time councillors based on current experience that well-qualified people with an adequate range of social backgrounds find it possible to run for office. The drawback to this choice is that economically disadvantaged sectors have to find representatives outside their social grouping to represent their interests.

Anonymous

8/21/2020 05:02 PM

Its a part time job full time responsibility. NO TO FULL TIME COUNCILLORS

Anonymous

Part time hopefully means that they also spend part of their time living life

8/22/2020 11:15 AM

and working as a real resident, not detached from the context of their Ward's residents.

Anonymous

8/22/2020 11:26 AM

Cost less money to taxpayer. Would allow more participants to throw in their chance to run for office without giving up their main income stream. Would make members less political and more focused on issues for the benefit of Guelph residents.

Anonymous

8/23/2020 07:09 PM

We don't have to pay them as much to not listen to us.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 11:49 AM

The number of hours do not justify making the position (beyond Mayor) full-time at this time. Financial compensation does not become one of the primary reasons for becoming a councillor. Giving back to your community or advancing a local cause takes precedence.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 01:15 PM

It would be cheaper not to pay full time wages and they could have an outside job

Anonymous

8/24/2020 12:58 PM

see above. Council would become too political.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 01:44 PM

I would hope councilors are more imbedded in their neighbourhoods / wards and what goes on there, not just applying for a full time job as a councilor.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 02:01 PM

No benefits.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 02:16 PM

They are already part-time and that makes sense in a small city of only 130,000 people. I know some that DO work full-time hours while other Councillors need to be employed elsewhere too, in order to earn enough to fully support their families and lifestyles. The part-time concept also allows for some high profile business people to be on Council ... they do not want to give up their businesses to work full time on Council. This is a Win/Win situation in my view.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 03:01 PM

Currently my councillor never responds to my emails so I wouldnt want to see that happening should they be full time.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 03:37 PM

We want councillors who are engaged in other community activities and who do not see being a councillor as a lucrative job.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 05:39 PM

Salary. Works fine. Why fix what's not broken? Our councillors work hard, are available. Don't need full time. Whose idea is this anyway? Leave well enough alone. We are not a big city.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 07:57 PM

Spending less tax dollars on members of council. They only work part time and have very few issues to deal with.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 08:27 PM

I think we should have councilors who can pursue their work and lives and take time to represent their ward on the side. Having multiple part time councilors per ward would give a richer perspective on each ward rather than fewer full time councilors.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 10:15 PM

Guelph is a relatively small city. It is city staff that propose and prepare policies for council's consideration. Part time means less politicization of issues.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 07:57 AM

If this role is a full time responsibility, it will limit the possibility of the interested candidates to consider for this role if they are already in another full time job which they would like to still continue. A part time role will generate more interest from a larger pool of demographics where retired, part time workers, homemakers and full time workers would like to be the voice for their Ward!

Anonymous

8/25/2020 11:26 AM

Frankly, \$40,000 for part time work is already more than minimum wage with full time hours, and we expect our minimum wage workers to survive on less while spending more time working. If someone really wants to be a councillor, then this is plenty of compensation for the job. Especially when they can still have a side hustle to earn even more income if they want to. I do support making sure that the income rises every year to keep up with inflation, and I think that would help keep the wages fair. How long has it been \$40k? Because if it's been a few years then it's due for an increase. That would be more useful than trying to find make-work for councillors and having them sit in an office all day with not much to do, simply because you want to increase their hours but not their workload.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:18 PM

I think having part time staff increases the pool of potential councilors. If the role of Councilor was a full time position then Councilors would either have to be retired or take a break from their careers.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:36 PM

Perhaps just for now. As the city grows I suspect it may need full-timers.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:41 PM

Similar to my comment above about the cost factor.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 03:16 PM

Financial.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 05:11 PM

Rather than having someone focused solely on ensuring they are re-elected as it is their job, part time councillors are part of the working community and have a better sense of the issues of residents.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 05:13 PM

They are not full time city workers. They are connecting part time

Anonymous

We have a large city staff to run the city. Councillors bring opinion and input:

8/25/2020 05:13 PM

Anonymous

8/25/2020 05:28 PM

2 part time councillors from each ward makes one "full.time" position working on behalf of their ward. I think this is adequate but should be revisited depending on population growth.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 06:11 PM

More cost effective to have multiple view points represented

Anonymous

8/25/2020 06:31 PM

The city is t big enough for full time. Soon though maybe

Anonymous

8/25/2020 07:55 PM

There are drawbacks to both in terms of who can afford to take adequate time from their full time job to be a part time councillor, or who can afford to leave a career completely to be a full time councillor. But part time will discourage councillors from getting too involved in day to day operations of the city. That's not council's role. They should provide guidance to staff and authorize budgets only.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 07:21 AM

You would have much better candidates if they were professionals who didn't have to leave their existing careers.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 08:00 AM

One of the advantages of having part time city councillors is less salaries to be paid.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 08:26 AM

Efficiency of tax-payer dollars - only attract people that actually want to do good within the city.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 10:58 AM

Full time will required them to be paid more. As I mentioned above, now is not the time to be paying more.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 11:46 AM

Part-time coucillors allow for better ward representation.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 12:36 PM

They are also then active in their respective jobs and communities. Providing us with more representation and voice as outlined in your document about the benefits of two of two councillors.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 04:48 PM

They are more like citizens who still have to find a way to make a living in this City. Full-timers become politicians, in my opinion.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 05:12 PM

The work of the Councillors should only be part time. Staff are doing much of the background work and presenting it to them before they meet.

Anonymous

8/27/2020 06:42 AM

The city administrators should be running the city, this is an board to oversee

Anonymous

8/27/2020 07:11 AM

2 p/t representatives per ward are the equivalent to 1 full time Position

Anonymous

8/27/2020 09:30 AM

More cost effective as I don't feel Guelph is big enough that we need 12 full time councillors.

Anonymous

8/27/2020 10:15 AM

Work life balance for Councillors. There are many people who might feel that leaving a current occupation to serve on council full time would have a detrimental effect on their career/ employment and so would choose not to seek election even though they would be good in the position. I think a part time commitment makes it easier for more people to consider running for election.

Anonymous

8/27/2020 12:12 PM

Not enough to do to be full time. Board of directors don't work full time. Councillors don't run day to day

Anonymous

8/27/2020 02:20 PM

More voices, more delegation of work load. Teammates who then come together to collaborate.

Anonymous

8/27/2020 03:24 PM

Doesn't seem like there is enough work that requires more than what is being done now. Full-time jobs turn them into politicians, not community servants. Plus, costs go up and the result will be worse.

Anonymous

8/28/2020 07:21 AM

part-time councillors apply and run because they believe in making Guelph a better place. Full-time councillors will campaign based on trying to get, and even worse, keep a job and a paycheque not what is best for the city but what keeps them employed.

Anonymous

8/28/2020 11:32 AM

I could see the value of both ideas. The nice thing with part time is that people running for council are not likely to be doing it as a way to earn a living and so are more likely to be doing it because of a passion for community.

Anonymous

8/28/2020 12:00 PM

Same as present

Anonymous

8/29/2020 04:14 AM

It limits people thinking that it is a career. Part of our democratic problem is people using politics as a career and looking how best to hold themselves up through their life. Especially at the local/municipal level, politics should be seen as a service to community. Not a lifelong career to aggrandize oneself. There should be a burnout feature built in so that fresh voices roll in regularly. This is maintained through part-time councils.

Anonymous

8/29/2020 06:15 AM

Part time councillors work other jobs, which means they directly understand the problems that their city faces. I would worry that full time councillors eliminates the opportunity for some very capable people to run. Also, I'm worried that people who apply for full time councillors are more interested in becoming "career politicians", where they are just using it as a stepping stone to further political careers, instead of being most interested in serving their

Anonymous

8/29/2020 04:23 PM

community.

I did not pick "part time" as a cost-saving measure. Assuming cost was held constant, I would rather have more part-time councillors than fewer full-time councillors. I like having part-time councillors because it makes the councillors more like everyday people with other jobs, and less like career politicians. Furthermore, I think this model also makes being a city councillor more approachable for regular people who are interested. In short, I think the part-time model attracts more of the right kind of people I would like to represent me as city councillors

Anonymous

8/29/2020 05:23 PM

We don't need professional politicians

Anonymous

8/29/2020 08:30 PM

Councillors have other careers and interests which inform they positions at city councillor

Anonymous

8/29/2020 11:24 PM

With smaller wards, the workload should be a bit more manageable.

Anonymous

8/30/2020 07:43 AM

I am wary of turning the city councillor role into a full-time job, as this would tend attract opportunistic career politicians more concerned with their own re-election rather than with the concerns of their wards. It's not a job, really. It's a form of community service for which councillors should receive honoraria and expenses rather than salaries and benefits. This is an argument for keeping our ward-based system with two councillors per ward. City council should not be populated by the same people year in and year out. But there are problems with part-time in that business people and retirees tend to have the time and flexibility needed to serve. And regardless of full- or part-time status, huge swathes of the community have little incentive to serve and would not / cannot take a break from family commitments and/or career commitments.

Anonymous

8/30/2020 11:29 AM

Focus

Anonymous

8/30/2020 11:59 AM

Less cost. Also, becoming a councillor shouldn't be seen as a career, but more about serving the city.

Anonymous

8/30/2020 12:09 PM

They are able to retain some earning ability and work in the community, and are not depending on amassing political power to hold political jobs. This is why 2 councillors per ward make sense. Don't make it so only richer people can afford to run for office and quit their day jobs. Why do you want to fix what isn't broke?

Anonymous

8/30/2020 01:55 PM

They can still earn a part time salary from their existing job.



Anonymous 8/30/2020 02:51 PM	full time politicians eventually only serve themselves, make a career out of it, pandering to special interest groups instead of doing what is best for the average tax payer
Anonymous 8/30/2020 05:00 PM	Cost reduction
Anonymous 8/30/2020 08:35 PM	The number of hours devoted to the work of city councilor with the population of Guelph does not mandate a full time position.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 08:44 PM	Being a councillor is open to more people (those with jobs). It avoids people from trying to become 'career politicians' It helps avoid councillors from evolving into a staff type role.
Anonymous 8/31/2020 06:27 AM	It is my understanding that treating the city councillor position as part-time allows the city to save on paying these positions the benefits that would come with a full time job which I for one would never support. These positions do not support a full time job classification.
Anonymous 8/31/2020 07:29 AM	Money. Can Guelph support a council of people whose only job is being councillors?
Anonymous 8/31/2020 09:04 AM	Having full time councillors means we get full time POLITICIANS like our current mayor. Council is not a full time job and should not be a full time job. We want people representing us and making decisions whose career and livelihood is totally wrapped up being a councillor. MAKING DECISIONS is not a full time job. It doesn't take any more time to make a good decision than it does to make a bad decision.
Anonymous 8/31/2020 10:08 AM	I would support expanding the council if councillors were part-time. Having more councillors would allow for more diversity in viewpoints, and I think keeping them part-time would reduce redundancy and also allow for more people to run for council.
Anonymous 8/31/2020 10:28 AM	It's a calling to ones civic duty not a job.
Anonymous 8/31/2020 10:34 AM	Cost-effectiveness. Considering the current 2 in Ward 4 seem to do nothing, there must not be enough work for full-time.
Anonymous 8/31/2020 10:39 AM	As a taxpayer save money
Anonymous 8/31/2020 11:31 AM	2 part-time councillors should be enough...
Anonymous 8/31/2020 12:26 PM	We also have many city department to do their jobs, but with oversight

Anonymous

8/31/2020 01:07 PM

Part time City Councillors provide the least number of opportunities for exclusion. If we went to full time Councillors -potential candidates would be required to give up their current full time job for a term with no guarantee of re-election. We would also eliminate potential candidates whose salary is currently greater than what the full time Councillor salary would be. We would also eliminate a number of retirees who retired because they do not want to work full time anymore. I realize part time Councillors may exclude potential candidates whose employer will not offer the flexibility needed to accommodate the needs of this part time position. I believe there are more options for potential candidates if the Councillor position is a part time position.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 01:08 PM

I understand that any person who is a part-time Councillor makes a huge commitment of time and energy to fulfill the role. I respect that and admire the commitment. However 12 full-time Councilors would seem like we have simply added to City Bureaucracy and they look more like employees than a Board of Directors.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 02:18 PM

More likely to recruit interested new people who would prefer to maintain their primary source of income. If full time, salaried, benefits, the costs would mean fewer councillors rather than more, part time.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 03:15 PM

We currently have PART-time city councillors, which I find represent me well. I further believe that a PART-time city councillor will better represent me than a FULL-Time councillor whose self-interests might change over the years because s/he will not necessarily have a fallback role to go to and as such will potentially do everything necessary to hang on to her/his councillor FULL-Time role. This raises concern that "serving the constituency" might become secondary to remaining in the role. I rather avoid upfront putting a councillor in such a potential conflict of interest position.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 04:15 PM

Two part-time city councilors (20 hours per week, scheduled) for the price of one full-time councilor (40 hours per week, scheduled)

Anonymous

8/31/2020 04:28 PM

Reduce overall cost of municipality

Anonymous

8/31/2020 04:57 PM

councillors don't seem to change, if it was FT work they might never leave. It is true that the disadvantage of part time is that only relatively wealthy people can do it. so there are pros/cons.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 05:42 PM

They have to make decisions which help the workplace or neighborhood they are in, but it shouldn't be their whole life.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 07:42 PM

Less money to be paid by tax payers

Anonymous

8/31/2020 09:15 PM

I think that if you increased the amount of councillors to represent the people of guelph more representively that Councilors would still be able to work

	part-time. Also if you increase the number as I suggest the number of hours worked would not require full time positions.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 01:40 AM	Because it is less political and more pro the inhabitants of a ward, since even though they are pay for their time, they don't depend solely on the Councillor job, and that makes them more in tune with the actual leaving conditions/struggles of the community they represent.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 04:46 AM	They are still engaged in the community and not in a bubble in city hall.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 05:34 AM	Less expensive, less political
Anonymous 9/01/2020 06:07 AM	It would entice a greater number of citizens to run because it would not require them to decide between their full time employment job and being a councillor. Full time would also lead to less councillors I would imagine and that is not preferable in my opinion.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 07:01 AM	cost saving and only support full time if some councilors elected at large and size of council reduced.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 09:44 AM	People have other responsibilities this allows more people to run as counsellor
Anonymous 9/01/2020 10:31 AM	We don't need professional politicians
Anonymous 9/01/2020 11:07 AM	It's not a full-time job so tax payers shouldn't be paying full-time salaries.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 11:32 AM	if they are full-time they should not be able to run other businesses
Anonymous 9/01/2020 01:59 PM	less expensive, and not sure it should be full-time other than the mayor. It could get messy and we want the city staff to be able to make decisions and not have the councillors weighing in on everything.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 02:06 PM	You will always have representation by someone who is not after a PAID position, and seeks to better our city above personal gain.
Anonymous 9/01/2020 02:24 PM	POLITICS IS NOT A CAREER AND THEREFORE A FIEFDOME....
Anonymous 9/01/2020 02:29 PM	Keep costs low.
Anonymous	Less money spent and perhaps it would force a more direct approach.

9/01/2020 04:14 PM

Anonymous

9/01/2020 04:23 PM

No council position is a full time position, I doubt even the mayor is working 40 hrs per week.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:15 PM

I actually think a mix. Councillors should be held accountable to the residents and better communicate and act

Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:39 PM

cost, and deterring the career councillor from rooting.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:45 PM

I know you said don't mention cost but they get paid a lot for part time work. They do a good job now. They do not need to work more at the cost of the new main library project.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 09:04 PM

I do not like the idea of having full time "politicians" deciding on our future. Let it be some people with a great sense of community and who show their love for our city and neighborhoods

Anonymous

9/02/2020 04:47 AM

Improves the turnover rate among councillors. 20 hours per week is not a full time job. Would not be opposed to full time if term limits are set and the level of engagement doubles (eg. Min levels of expected community engagement by councillors such as one major event per quarter, one minor event per quarter, 2x door visits per term, time and access to investigate citizen concerns/questions)

Anonymous

9/02/2020 05:18 AM

They are still to able to keep their other job if they choose

Anonymous

9/02/2020 05:45 AM

I think that councillors will have a deeper knowledge of the community if they stay in touch with the realities of their citizens by other day to day involvement such as working a non political job. Career/full time politicians can be blinded to a lot of what the people they represent are living. Also, keeping it part time opens up the pool of potential councillors, as most people who may be considering public office can't simply leave a career on the gamble that they can return to it after they have completed their term. Keeping the role part time allows people who are often underrepresented to consider entering politics.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:12 AM

Cost savings.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:52 AM

Tax dollars will not be spent on individuals who are not qualified to make decisions on behalf of the City. A full time job requires qualifications or expertise. Our councillors have neither, they ran and were voted in.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:52 AM

They can continue their other business and/or interests

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:55 AM

Part time builds in flexibility for the positions and makes it possible for anyone, even full time employees to be able to represent their community. This could mean quality people. Also, we have an entire city hall of city employees to handle the day to day operations.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:50 AM

More citizens are able to see a potential as a councilor. There are likely great candidates with family or career responsibilities that would be put off by it being a full time responsibility.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:02 AM

cost savings mostly. form observations I don't think there is full-time work needed, but I don't know really. track their hours and make it full time if they are too busy, just like any other contracted employee.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:16 AM

Working in the city can give a broader perspective

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:26 AM

savings

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:44 AM

part time decision makers on behalf of the citizens of Guelph; Most important qualification is for the councillor to be a full-time citizen of the community

Anonymous

9/02/2020 09:16 AM

cost savings if you keep 6 wards, maybe have one full time and one part time per ward. the voting would have to be looked at if this happens

Anonymous

9/02/2020 11:40 AM

If 2 Councillors are elected it would help offset the load. Presently , I have no idea what the caseload is for the Councillors and knowing that would shed more light on a more accurate answer to this question.

corrieod

9/02/2020 11:44 AM

cost more level playing field

Anonymous

9/02/2020 12:40 PM

prevents "institutionalization" of the counsellors. However, with increasing responsibilities full time might in the end be required.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 03:35 PM

We don't have to listen to the all day.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 03:41 PM

They are doing community service and not in it for the income. It is not a professional position.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 03:58 PM

No advantage . But don't feel work load warrants more

Anonymous

9/02/2020 05:20 PM

It should be cheaper.

Anonymous 9/02/2020 06:37 PM	Does not make it into a professional politician.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 06:48 PM	Cost
Anonymous 9/02/2020 07:30 PM	Councillors who work outside of council responsibilities are more in touch with the needs of the city
Anonymous 9/02/2020 08:42 PM	They cannot complain they do not have time to make things happen.
Anonymous 9/03/2020 05:35 AM	Tax reduction and less opposition
Anonymous 9/03/2020 06:11 AM	Because of the amount of actual work we task them with. Plus it avoids graft.
Anonymous 9/03/2020 10:39 AM	Reduce council time debate Focus more on the City Administration accountabilities
Anonymous 9/03/2020 10:59 AM	The ward councillors would be part-time, as they are now, and the at-large councillors, who presumably would be tasked with more work, would be full-time. Part-time allows a wider variety of candidates to apply for the position, as candidates can still hold another job.
Anonymous 9/03/2020 11:00 AM	Less costs to taxpayer. Less opportunity for corruption of office. Greater chance to have work life balance for our councilors so that they do not become jaded.
Anonymous 9/03/2020 12:37 PM	They still need to work in their city as a regular worker to keep level headed. Keeps egos in check!
Anonymous 9/03/2020 01:12 PM	Save tax payers money.
Anonymous 9/03/2020 01:24 PM	No one makes it a career
Anonymous 9/03/2020 02:08 PM	Why do we need full-time counselors? It is the mayor's job to represent the city full-time.
Anonymous 9/03/2020 04:16 PM	Affordable and gets people that are committed to the community and aren't looking to do the work of the staff. If we were to have full time councillors then it should only be one.
Anonymous	Keep costs down.

9/03/2020 05:48 PM

Anonymous

9/03/2020 06:22 PM

You have not provided all alternatives in your choices. Please refer back to previous answers.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 06:27 PM

It should may be full time but it has yet to be proven that there is enough for them to do

Anonymous

9/03/2020 06:51 PM

Cost savings

Anonymous

9/03/2020 09:52 PM

its important for local government representatives to be working in the community as well serving it!

Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:02 PM

Salary costs to the city.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 05:42 AM

Lowers the cost

Anonymous

9/04/2020 06:07 AM

More diversity on council, allows a greater # of persons to run for office

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:23 AM

May attract a broader group of individuals to apply for the position

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:44 AM

It allows for a broader range of people that can take up the position. It is full time then, it limits the number of people that can run. Fewer people would be willing to give a full time job or career to be a full time councillor.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:58 AM

The survey provided suggested that the hours that councillors spend on the job add up to, on average, 80 a month. That's 20 hours a week - a half-time job.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:05 AM

Save tax dollars. We are rarely listened to anyways

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:14 AM

With the current role of City staff in providing research and information to councillors, I do not think this role justifies a full-time position. If councilors were to become full-time I would expect their engagement to extend beyond only meeting and policymaking into a more operations based role within the city as well.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:16 AM

We are not a large city, keeping up with say Mississauga or London is not necessary. They need to be efficient. Our taxes are high enough now without having to add full time salaries to the mix.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:23 AM

More people instead of just 1 fulltime person.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:45 AM

Less financial waste.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:47 AM

The councillor still has the opportunity to work and/or volunteer in the community. Thus, giving the councillor a better understanding of the community. I like that the person has one foot planted in the City piece and the other foot planted in the community.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:07 AM

Save tax payer \$\$\$. Individuals become Councillors for public service and not a full-time position.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:13 AM

encourages more "everyday" people to run for office and encourages better representation. Not everyone can afford a 4 year "gap" in their careers to be a full-time politician.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:20 AM

We could have more of them. They would be more accessible therefore.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:22 AM

less expensive

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:22 AM

Cost less. Get a job in city you represent

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:18 AM

its not a full time job

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:25 AM

It's a big job, but there are 2 people per ward. It's now not as big a job in that way. And the reality is that the Mayor is full-time, so the city is already paying that salary. The city should not pay even more full-time salaries of councillors.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:56 AM

Can pay them less so we have more councillors

Anonymous

9/04/2020 11:48 AM

The need for full time councillors is not there. So allowing councillors to work amongst the citizens they represent allows them to be seen by the public more.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:31 PM

You would widen the pool of potential candidates. There are many citizens with wonderful skills and experience who would not throw their hat in the ring if they had to give up their career

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:37 PM

less cost councillors remain citizens first and foremost, rather than politicians



Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:47 PM

By having 12 part-time councillors in a small city, I think we are most likely to get thoughtful, diverse councillors. I recognize the shortcomings of part-time unpredictable work, but feel that we get good councillors despite that because public service is likely an important motivations for councillors.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:58 PM

With more councilors the job is split more. When its part time policies can be more reactionary to the people's wishes and needs at specific moments.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 02:36 PM

I don't think Guelph is the size of city that would require full time councillors yet

Anonymous

9/04/2020 03:43 PM

Cuts the fat.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 03:54 PM

Cost. Taxes are too high as it is. Two part time Councillors is ideal.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 04:05 PM

Then the it's are committed to the city. They aren't in it for the money or to be used as a stepping stone. It's not about the money but commitment

Anonymous

9/04/2020 04:07 PM

They can hold down secondary employment (if needed). I don't not want councillors who are either career politicians, or all retired, or all unemployed, or all independently wealthy.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 04:44 PM

Councillors should not have to worry about the day to day running of the city - that is done by the staff - they should be providing the vision/plan - not implementing it

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:26 PM

A snail grows to the size of its shell. They'll be busy; but, the city will only get incremental value. I don't want my taxes paying for 12 full time roles and all that comes with it - big difference between full time and part time employees.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:55 PM

Councillors should come from all walks of life. If we vote in full-time councillors, people who already work for a living won't be able to participate in our representative government. There's no option here for "both". Some councillors need to be full time to devote the time required to understand policy nuances. Some councillors need to be part-time to make sure all demographics can be represented.

**Optional question** (212 response(s), 444 skipped)

**Question type:** Essay Question

## Q18 What would be the advantages of having FULL-time city Councillors?

Anonymous

8/17/2020 08:41 AM

Devote more of their time to the job. Make better more informed decisions, more community engagement

Anonymous

8/17/2020 08:46 AM

If one councillor, this would be their job, their main responsibility, not a part-time do when I have time job. The will work hard to keep that job as each 4 years they would want to keep their job.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 09:15 AM

More time spent on local issues; less conflicts of interest perhaps?

Anonymous

8/17/2020 09:02 AM

Increase access to councillors; enable a more diverse group of candidates & councillors

Anonymous

8/17/2020 09:06 AM

We need Councillors to be fully engaged in understanding the work of the city and representing their constituents. They cannot do this part-time.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 09:19 AM

More focus on the needs of the community.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 09:52 AM

Levels the playing field for all residents of the city to consider running for office which will support encouraging diversity on council.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 10:08 AM

Having a representative available at all times, not just when they're free, is better for democracy. Some councillors are notoriously difficult to get a hold of because of other commitments, thus resulting in unequal representation at city hall.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 11:12 AM

More time to engage with a broader base of citizens, not just the ones with the loudest voices.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 11:20 AM

Making the job a full-time role likely reflects the workload anyway. Taking on the job in the current 'part-time' manner is not economically feasible for many potential candidates...thus it represents a barrier for many in considering a run for council.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 12:23 PM

Every councilor i've spoken to has told me it's a full time job no matter how much they tell you it's a part time job. I believe them. I think that giving people the time to do their job and paying them well for it (not obscenely well, but a reasonable amount for taking the pressures of public life) will result in more thoughtful and better prepared representatives. Able to share and articulate the citizens needs because they have the time to understand them.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 01:15 PM

Far too many Council members don't have the time to really understand what they are voting on because they have too little time to really research a topic.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 02:15 PM

A more diverse pool of candidates can run in elections. I'm having a hard time imagining a councillor can be anything but affluent if they are able to take a part-time salary. Full-time pay might bring out candidates who are passionate about their community and are able to dedicate themselves to city council business without sacrificing taking care of themselves and family.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 01:47 PM

They can avoid any conflicts because they are not working for other orgs.  
They can spend much more time on engaging our community.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 02:28 PM

We're a big city. Big decisions, millions dollar decisions. If I was a councillor, I would want to be able to give the job my full time attention.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 03:00 PM

Quicker responses and the council members can get more done

Anonymous

8/17/2020 03:04 PM

more time for their ward and only their ward

Anonymous

8/17/2020 03:43 PM

Few citizens can afford to devote part-time to the role of City Councillor. It seems to me that Guelph would be better served by representatives who could devote full time to this position.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 03:48 PM

There are too many issues for any councillor to deal with and the more time they are able to spend on issues the better.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 03:50 PM

Accountability and insight - they're more committed if it's a full time gig.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 04:59 PM

Completely focused on the job - have time to do it

Anonymous

8/17/2020 06:22 PM

We are a single tier city. The issues of a city are complex and require full time Councillors who are compensated to do the needed reading, attend a range of meetings /locations without conflicting schedules. They also might take the job of working collaboratively seriously if they worked together everyday

Anonymous

8/17/2020 07:04 PM

Full-time employment = full-time commitment and focus

Anonymous

8/17/2020 08:51 PM

There are enough issues to be dealt with and need to hear from constituents that I don't believe it to be a part-time job. As the world gets more complex, the need to focus on solving problems quickly means suitable time needs to be spent each week doing so.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 09:02 PM

More time to focus on the job of representing the needs of the community

Anonymous

8/17/2020 09:44 PM

The responsibilities of a councillor for a city of 130,000 (soon to be 150,000+) is certainly a full-time commitment. Also, if we want a council that accurately reflects the whole community then the running for and holding office needs to be accessible to ANYONE who meets the legal criteria. Having the position part-time and compensated as such makes the position untenable for

	working poor, single parents, etc.
Anonymous 8/18/2020 04:37 AM	They could actually dig in to policy research, represent citizens, etc. Plus, PAY PEOPLE FOR THE WORK THEY DO. councillors are not putting in part-time hours. They do much more.
Anonymous 8/18/2020 06:46 AM	More time available to learn, educate and engage themselves on important policy decisions and become advocates for a better city, rather than relying too heavily on city staff recommendations
Anonymous 8/18/2020 06:53 AM	Many individuals of certain economic backgrounds are unable to enter local politics because they cannot balance the roles of Council with their jobs. This leads to a disproportionate number of retired and/or self-employed individuals sitting on Council since they have the flexibility to manage the role. By allowing for councillors to be a full-time role, this permits more individuals to consider running for Council since they do not have to worry about finding a balance between their economic needs and the demands of Council.
Anonymous 8/18/2020 07:39 AM	as noted above
Anonymous 8/18/2020 07:41 AM	It is silly to me that Councillors are part-time. This is a full time job that requires many hours of work, and the City of Guelph has a responsibility to ensure that Councillors are doing their work effectively, and spending an appropriate amount of time on it. Having a part-time system is irresponsible, and reduces the City's ability to ensure transparency in Governance, and its ability to fairly and equitably support and serve its constituencies. The money involved should not even be part of this debate, and seems to be setting the discourse up for failure.
Anonymous 8/18/2020 07:59 AM	They can focus more attention on their role, have more time and resources to learn about the issues facing their ward and their city, and come up with well thought-out, fact-based solutions.
Anonymous 8/18/2020 08:51 AM	Higher level of engagement that goes along with increased time and formal mechanisms for citizen engagement.
Anonymous 8/18/2020 09:06 AM	Diversity. Currently your study shows that you can't hold down a full time job and do your job as a councillor, so by default you are down selecting to people who have enough money already. This leaves out a broad swath of the city who could have important voices and do excellent jobs, but they simply can't afford to be a city councillor. I would be okay with having one councillor per ward if they were full time.
Anonymous 8/18/2020 09:29 AM	fewer council but full time attention
Anonymous 8/18/2020 01:15 PM	They can fully dedicate themselves to this work and not have to divide their time. Perhaps less conflicts of interest.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 12:48 PM

It opens up the job to more people. It reflects the actual work of a councillor who are expected to be available 24/7.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 04:05 PM

Total time and energy dedication as they wouldn't need to hold a full time job in addition to being a councillor. You can also reduce the number to one per ward, which cuts down on communication duplication and duplication of efforts when a citizen contacts both their councillors.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 04:18 PM

Whether or not they are deemed full-time, they are ALWAYS on duty. It's a full time job by nature.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 05:15 PM

They would be able to devote more time to their valuable work.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 04:46 PM

You need to invest to get things done. Higher investment, higher accountability, hopefully stronger outcomes

Anonymous

8/18/2020 04:51 PM

Full time dedication to the role.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 05:37 PM

Full-time positions allow the officials to commit to their roles and give it the attention and resources deserved for such a responsibility

Anonymous

8/18/2020 06:58 PM

Total dedication to the city and citizens. More indepth understanding of complex legislation and studies and more time to get proper answers.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 08:10 PM

Dedication in making the city work well for its citizens assuming that there will be an inter-jurisdictional quality management system such that city councillors work with provincial and federal elected officials on the 6 priorities....food, shelter/transportation, work/income, children, environment and governance.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 05:36 AM

Reflects the complexity of the role. Would allow more time for councillors to fulfill their governance role as well as representing constituents to hold the administration accountable to citizens.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 07:11 AM

The job is already a full time one for those that take is seriously. The time needed to be fully informed of issues, consult with constituents, attend meetings is more than a part time roll.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 07:57 AM

Allows for more people to run without fear of financial challenges. Allows them to be able to focus better on their role as a city leader.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 08:45 AM

They could do more. They could actually have time to read the kind of things that take representatives of organizations months to put together, and their decisions would be more informed. It would be accessible to more people. That said I make less working full time than the councillor's part time wage, so I'm not really saying they should make \$80,000 per year. But I would be

	good with \$65,000 . I don't think they need offices, or secretaries at this point, we'd be giving them more time to do their own stuff.
Anonymous 8/19/2020 11:47 AM	My belief is that to be completely accessible and effective in the role, it probably takes 40+ hours per week. I would define that as Full-time.
Anonymous 8/19/2020 12:08 PM	This is a full time position that demands so much of our councillors. They should be able to give all of their focus to this important work.
Anonymous 8/19/2020 12:36 PM	Local governance is growing in importance and complexity. High-quality representation, scrutiny, and policy deliberation require unique skill sets and full attention. A professionalized council would produce better quality governance, which would result in all kinds of positive outcomes in how the city operates--making the marginal additional public expenditure more than worthwhile.
Anonymous 8/19/2020 03:43 PM	Less conflict of interest. Since they have nothing to gain personally making decisions that can affect business, they hopefully are going to make decisions based on the good of the city, not for the good of the business they have a personal interest in.
Anonymous 8/19/2020 06:10 PM	I can tell that some councilors don't do their homework, i.e. read all of the staff reports, citizen input, and research other cities. They need more time. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that they would do their homework even if they were given the time.
Anonymous 8/19/2020 07:42 PM	You can attract from a bigger pool and they can focus on city issues all the time
Anonymous 8/20/2020 04:43 AM	MAYBE THEY WILL ACTUALLY GET THINGS DONE AND WE WILL HAVE A SOUTH END REC CENTRE
Anonymous 8/20/2020 08:17 AM	The advantage of full time councillors is that they can dedicate their full attention to the role. It makes the role open to more candidates who can't afford to work part-time or who can't juggle two part-time jobs.
Anonymous 8/20/2020 08:42 AM	They would be able to focus more on city matters for better incentive.
Anonymous 8/20/2020 10:15 AM	Being able to focus entirely on Council business. As the City grows, the demands on Councillors time will increase.
Anonymous 8/20/2020 11:12 AM	More focus. It is time consuming anyway
Anonymous 8/20/2020 12:57 PM	To be available to the constituents at any time

Anonymous 8/20/2020 05:06 PM	More focus of the issues
Anonymous 8/20/2020 07:22 PM	Accessibility
Anonymous 8/20/2020 08:28 PM	They could focus on their jobs as councillors and handling the concerns of their ward residents without the worries and stresses of holding another job.
Anonymous 8/20/2020 09:06 PM	Could have one good representative instead of one that works and one that does nothing
Anonymous 8/21/2020 05:40 AM	It would allow individuals of lesser means to serve the public interest. The current system is more middle-upper class centric and structurally discriminatory against BIPOC individuals.
Anonymous 8/21/2020 07:00 AM	It's prolly already a f/t gig, might as well pay them for it. but, do it on the low end - pay should be just enough to be fair but not so much that anyone would do it just for the cash.
Anonymous 8/21/2020 09:07 AM	better ideas better for the city
Anonymous 8/21/2020 12:46 PM	Why force working-age citizens to find another job when they could be caring for our city with reduced distractions?
Anonymous 8/21/2020 01:12 PM	Ensures the councillor has the time and energy to properly represent the citizens. Only downside is that we may lose great qualified people who cannot afford to give up regular work to be a councillor. If that is an issue then part time is fine
Anonymous 8/21/2020 02:05 PM	Allows them to commit to job and not be caught between city responsibilities and professional responsibilities. Also would allow more diversity.
Anonymous 8/21/2020 05:30 PM	1) Currently, we receive little to no communication from councillors. Having lived in 4 different wards in the past 6 years, I cannot recall ever being approached by a councillor, and I am quite amenable to public engagement activities. Ensuring this is a full-time responsibility would allow councillors to have more time to ensure their voting records align with the 2) Having the position as a part-time job precludes certain individuals from applying. As documented in the attached survey, attempting to take on a part-time job or full-time job in addition to this role is unrealistic. I think that ensuring full-time compensation would allow BIPOC, mothers, lower-income folk and in general, a more diverse and representative group of councillors that more accurately portray the population of our city.
Anonymous 8/22/2020 09:58 AM	More time and energy to dedicate to our community. The issues Guelph faces with increasing density, affordable housing, water resources etc, we

	deserve to have individuals who's focus is only on the city.
Anonymous 8/23/2020 04:15 PM	they would be available.
Anonymous 8/24/2020 07:38 AM	I think most councillors would say that they're spending more hours on this than a part time job. It is also hard to find people who can juggle part time hours with another job so you are eliminating a lot of people who might otherwise make good councillors because they can't split their time easily or live on part time wages.
Anonymous 8/24/2020 10:23 AM	Always available. Shared the burden more effectively. Better work-life balance including for mayor. They should take over some of his attendance at functions, et cetera to support his family life.
Anonymous 8/24/2020 10:36 AM	They can give better focus on ward concerns
Anonymous 8/24/2020 11:35 AM	Removing barriers by acknowledging the work involved, opens up the potential for new entrants, recognizes that municipal politics is the most important vehicle impacting the day-to-day lives of city residents. In many ways this has greater impact than other levels of government, and should be valued accordingly.
Anonymous 8/24/2020 11:51 AM	councillors would not need to supplement their work and could focus fully on serving the community.
Anonymous 8/24/2020 01:39 PM	At this point they're basically working as full-time staff being paid as part-time workers and the advantage of calling them full-time is if they would be paid full-time wages
Anonymous 8/24/2020 01:48 PM	Minimize conflict of interest, councillors would be able to devote 100% of their working time to the business of representing their constituents
Anonymous 8/24/2020 01:59 PM	More involvement in city building and working with citizens
Anonymous 8/24/2020 02:01 PM	Full time would allow for and OBLIGATE the individual to focus their energy on providing the citizens with the best representation possible. If we had a combination of full and part time then there would be infighting and resentment as in all jobs where one person may do more or less, a part timer may do more work than a full timer but get paid less or less credit, or a lack of representation may be excused away with the idea that it isn't their full time job or responsibility. Ultimately this position is more than just a job, it is a position that carries a heavy weight and burden of representing many lives and their decisions could shape peoples livelihoods and health/finances/rights and must be given the highest level of dedication. Ensure these needs are met and responsibilities are taken seriously by making it a contractual, full time obligation, with real consequences should



one fail their community or shirk their responsibilities. People's lives depend on the work you all put in at city hall and you need to understand that.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 02:15 PM

Serious focus on the city as their full-time job, more accountability

Anonymous

8/24/2020 02:54 PM

I believe many of the councillors are already working full time, or close to it, in order to keep up with the demands of the role and staying in touch with constituents. Therefore they should be paid accordingly. It has also become apparent that many councillors who truly treat the role as a part-time role while they work in other jobs, are unable to keep up with the demands of the job and too frequently come to meetings unprepared.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 03:00 PM

would not have 'hidden' agendas, like being a councillor AND a developer, etc.; full time would also allow some of the duties that might in future be done by city staff to be taken on by councillors, which could streamline things and also increase direct accountability; a full time position may be more attractive to more people to run- our current council is not very reflective of the actual city demographics as to race, sex, age (especially age!!)

Anonymous

8/24/2020 04:25 PM

none, unless you get them to work, I think our council members and other politicians are wanna bes and they talk talk talk and act out like they care. not many do its an easy gig full time mayor and full time city admin staff already WTF dumb question # 12

Anonymous

8/24/2020 06:00 PM

They have time to devote to what really is a full-time job. The population is expected to reach 144,500 in the next four years. I can't find the figures for 1990, but it has grown 8% since 2011, so I would imagine the population has grown by at least 25% since the ward system was introduced.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 06:19 PM

More time to focus on citizens. Maybe some could be full-time and some could be part-time, because it still feels like not all of Guelph is being heard.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 09:03 PM

It's an important job and requires many hours of work. It shouldn't be a part time job for elites in high income jobs. If it was full time, even people from poorer areas could do the job for appropriate compensation.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 06:03 AM

Councillors would have the time and focus to do the job thoroughly and effectively.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 06:24 AM

As the city grows in size, complexity, and diversity councillor must not only represent and engage their ward constituents but also need to understand the series of interconnected systems we call a city. Policies must reflect a systems approach to looking at problems and solutions.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 06:43 AM

Dedicated to resolving issues quickly and ability to focus on best resolutions.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 07:38 AM

Full time means more engagement with citizens, more opportunity for making evidence-informed decisions, more opportunity to fundraise, to awareness

raise, to build a sense of community. This is not the time to do the minimum! now is the time to ramp up. Guelph has so much going for it and with more investment in our community, in our people, and in our representation, we can outpace other municipalities and become leaders in a what defines a caring community.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 08:25 AM

They can provide their full focus to the job. They don't have to balance outside work. In the current model, you're expecting people to put full-time hours into a part-time role. This is toxic and doesn't do us any good. Fix it.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:03 PM

Full-time pay for full-time work. As it is right now, with part-time pay they have to have other jobs but with full-time they would be able to engage more with their constituents

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:09 PM

Sometimes I don't hear back from my Councillors right away and I get that it's a part-time job. With full time COuncillors, I would have greater access to them and know this is their primary focus, instead of being a side job.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:27 PM

Focus on the job, more time to interact with constituents and city staff

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:31 PM

This city is growing, and governance seems to no longer be a part-time job. Also, full-time employment may attract a broader range of candidates.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 01:16 PM

Many councillors already spend full-time hours on the job. Full-time pay would allow participation by a wider range of citizens who could not otherwise afford to do this work. It's an important job and needs to be given the time and money to be done well.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 01:22 PM

1/2 the number of Councillors means more work for each of 6, thus full time makes sense

Anonymous

8/25/2020 01:36 PM

More time to look into real issues that effect the whole city

Anonymous

8/25/2020 02:45 PM

The range of candidates for Council would increase - very few people have the ability to maintain current employment and take on part-time Council work. Our existing and past Councils have represented largely middle to upper class white citizens that were retired or were in favourable financial and professional positions that were flexible to work around Council's schedule. But this rules out many qualified and good candidates in the community who can't make ends meet on a part-time salary. The advantage of having full-time professional expectations from the community would also serve to make our Council more professional and standardized with clear expectations - just as I have work hours and am expected to respond in a certain time, so too would my Councillor. The variation of hours input into Council work indicated in the background document is huge. You shouldn't have one Councillor putting in 1/3 of the time that other's are. Standardization of expectation and professionalism would significantly advance Council and

	the City.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 03:21 PM	RACI - Responsible, Accountable, Consulted and Informed (Guelph is now growing )
Anonymous 8/25/2020 03:25 PM	I would prefer having BOTH full-time councillors (1 per ward) and part-time (1 per ward but elected city-wide). Being available and accountable to ward residents is a full time job. But we also need to allow for encouraging political engagement for people concerned about the whole city's balance and growth - hence the recommendation of a matching number of part-time councillors to be elected city-wide.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 04:23 PM	Let's be honest, the job already borders on full time hours, and for some well over. They should be compensated appropriately so that they can devote their full work availability rather than having to have a full time job and do council work in the off time. It's not fair to us as citizens and it's not fair to the councillors.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 04:48 PM	Main focus is their ward and not other stresses
Anonymous 8/25/2020 09:06 PM	This City has enough population now and in the future to warrant full time work, particularly if council remains at the same size or shrinks.
Anonymous 8/25/2020 09:52 PM	Because then that would be their SOUL job. It's probably a mountain of work. Let's pay them a living salary, perhaps upwards of 55k per year, get them set and be able to focus on making Guelph amazing.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 07:30 AM	They would be able to talk to citizens more, make accessible "town hall" hours, have more time to respond to email and phone requests and be more accountable to the citizens of Guelph.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 08:24 AM	Councillors require more time to fulfill their responsibilities including more community engagement, preparation time and research for important votes / decisions and time to work / meet with City staff. Full time Councillors should have an office at City Hall with regular office hours.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 09:32 AM	This would significantly broaden the base of candidates and be a more level playing field, in addition to addressing the increased workload and the need to be available, both within council and within the community.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 10:04 AM	Clear focus on council duties, possibility for lower stress and increased engagement on the part of councilors.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 10:17 AM	I would support full time Councillors if we had less of them so we could have their full attention on the needs of the citizens of Guelph. I also think I would feel more comfortable with individuals serving multiple years on council if they worked full time.
Anonymous 8/26/2020 10:31 AM	They're already making full time salaries, so they should be putting in the full time work. The Mayor is massively overpaid.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 11:42 AM

They would be accountable and have in theory a good working knowledge of what is going on.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 12:42 PM

They are focused on just their duties of guiding the city and representing their constituents. They are not distracting by other activities. This isn't a small town any more.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 02:29 PM

Councillors would hopefully put more effort in to the job if they viewed it as a full time position

Anonymous

8/26/2020 03:10 PM

Currently, the amount of time and work councillors are expected to provide to fulfill their duties is already a FULL-time city councillor. If councillors agreed to FULL-time and were paid FULL-time (currently a meager PART-time salary for FULL-time work), the attraction of skilled councillors with a firm focus on their fiduciary duties would make for a more highly functioning council and city as a whole.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 03:28 PM

Attention to and awareness of ward and City-wide issues. Improved accountability.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 04:32 PM

Focus, accountability

Anonymous

8/26/2020 04:59 PM

Full-time means a councillor does this as their job. As a part-time role, someone will be required to look for other work. This will naturally weed out folks who require financial stability and, again, select for richer folks from privileged backgrounds.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 05:41 PM

Cut # in half, full time. More professional attitude to job

Anonymous

8/26/2020 06:21 PM

Accessible to people to who don't aren't business owners, independently wealthy, or have a supporting spouse.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 06:50 PM

It is a big job given the depth and breadth of the problems we have to face.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 08:15 PM

Allow them to better educate themselves on the decisions before them and to allow them more time to effectively engage the public to know where people stand not just their own opinion on things. Digital votes within their wards are very simple to conduct now and should be done to allow them to get a feel for the public interest in things

Anonymous

8/26/2020 07:29 PM

Guelph has too many dabbling yahoo's on council. Make councilors full time, clear out the dead wood and make individuals responsible for their ward. Now free loaders and activists are provided a municipal UBI to subsidize their slacktivism. We have a municipality to run and council gets regularly

derailed, tim, lives and money wasted, on matters that are not under municipal jurisdiction. To get serious about municipal affairs we need serious people around the horseshoe.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 08:03 PM

They could more full represent heir elctorate

Anonymous

8/27/2020 06:50 AM

Too obvious for comment

Anonymous

8/27/2020 08:22 AM

members are subject to oversight, scrutiny and are empowered to improve guelph infrastructure and policy.

Anonymous

8/27/2020 01:34 PM

I think reducing the number of Councillors, but making the role a full-time job makes a lot of sense. Many councillors spend as much time as many full-time employees on council related matters. Making these jobs full-time also means additional responsibilities can be undertaken for each Councillor position.

Anonymous

8/27/2020 03:09 PM

Their full time job should be the city, rather than it being a side job.

Anonymous

8/27/2020 09:39 PM

They should be focused on the job at hand and it feels like running a city should be a full-time job

Anonymous

8/28/2020 07:18 AM

The city is growing and full time councillors are required to deal with daily issues

Anonymous

8/28/2020 08:42 AM

It seems that currently, unless retired, most councillors must devote their energies to their main occupations, and not the task of keeping in touch with constituents and doing the research necessary to be informed when making decisions. Some of our current councillors neither return inquiries from constituents nor come to Council meetings prepared for reports and delegations - they ask questions of matters that are clearly laid out in staff reports. We need better representation that can only come if the positions are full time.

Anonymous

8/28/2020 09:14 AM

City Councillors have an increasingly complex job. It's not just about dog parks and fixing potholes but figuring out what it takes to build a healthy and safe community, managing the social and economic costs of growth, and planning for the future. It's also about navigating politics at the provincial and federal level. If we want to level the playing field, making Councillors full-time would be a good place to start.

Anonymous

8/28/2020 09:43 AM

we are a large city with a large expectant growth- many issues just take too long to get through. We have a notoriously bad reputation for being very slow-moving. Full time would allow more work to be done quicker

Anonymous

If they have to be both a board of directors and a parliament, then perhaps

8/28/2020 12:13 PM	recognizing the weight and importance of this role with a full time position is more appropriate
Anonymous 8/28/2020 06:26 PM	I really feel that Guelph needs the commitment and engagement from full time councillors. I feel that full time council would make quicker decisions.
Anonymous 8/29/2020 08:12 AM	It focuses the councilor's work and make accountability clearer. Councillors have to be close to full time anyway now. SO in a sense making it officially full time just recognizes the reality. However, there is a tradeoff with ward size. It would be better to have more wards and part-time councillors compared to fewer wards and full time councillors.
Anonymous 8/29/2020 11:23 AM	A Councillors would be solely devoted to this job rather than seen as a paid hobby, more accountability. It is really full time to do all the work required even if some only spend 20 hours.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 01:02 PM	Full-time councillors can provide better service and as the City grows they can take on the added duties required - such as sitting on committees, considering submissions etc.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 01:03 PM	They would have the time to devote to a growing city without sacrificing too much of their personal lives, and be adequately compensated.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 01:50 PM	Having full time city Councillors gives residents more time to meet with a ward Councillor and discuss policy and concerns and have those issues addressed. They could allocate more time to study policy and regulations that people would like to see changed or adopted to meet their needs.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 01:59 PM	More focus, more commitment and determination to consult with citizens. In the end, there would be more at stake for each of them and citizens would benefit.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 04:46 PM	It reduces corruption (i.e. second job and business interests). Also, we should respect those that choose to give their lives to the people in public service since it is a difficult job.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 05:46 PM	Full time councillors will be focused on the city and hopefully that will mean better decision making.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 06:17 PM	Dedication
Anonymous 8/30/2020 06:21 PM	In addition to my earlier points regarding greater diversity, Councillors need to dedicate their full attention and focus to the job at hand - most importantly, engaging with citizens and ensuring responsible governance over City resources.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 06:25 PM	Obviously the members would be able to focus all their available time on council matters. As this calling appeals to retired people who have more free time, the full-time aspect would surely attract younger people, creating a wider range of ages around the table.

Anonymous

8/30/2020 07:03 PM

- Guelph is a growing city, and having full time councillors can create a system where issues are looked after and people are represented to the fullest - Having councillors work part time may mean they have to take on other jobs, which means they may be more distracted as a councillor, or create bias as they work

Anonymous

8/31/2020 06:58 AM

A big city needs proper looking after. It's a full time job.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:23 AM

Engaging with citizens and upholding their will ought to be something that every councillor is wholly dedicated to. Making the position full-time will also allow for councillors to be fully invested in knowing/understanding their position and how best to serve the public.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:25 AM

I am confident that there is enough work for these positions to be full-time; the tradeoff, of course, is the cost. One option may be to designate one full-time individual per ward and the others as part-time. This can be decided after the election through discussions and voting amongst Councillors and the Mayor.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:59 AM

Less conflicts of interest for councillors with business interests in the City. More time to devote to their Council business.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 11:21 AM

Faster engagement for citizens. More change to advocate to new businesses for Guelph, greater Guelph promotion outside of city

Anonymous

8/31/2020 11:22 AM

Full time councillors are more engaged. If you had a smaller number, the cost would be negligible.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 12:08 PM

From interacting with my local councillors, this seems like a lot of work. I can't imagine trying to do it as a part-time job and tacking another job on top. This should absolutely be a full-time job.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 02:23 PM

As above

Anonymous

8/31/2020 05:11 PM

more focused on resident issues

Anonymous

8/31/2020 05:34 PM

Proper focus on the issues at hand

Anonymous

8/31/2020 07:09 PM

It's a big role that should not cater to people who can "make do" on a councillor's salary. We need to take a business like approach, something badly missing in our current council. I expect full time level engagement with the people who live in their ward and i am willing to pay for it.

Anonymous

Councillors have the full-time resources they need to do the job they are

8/31/2020 07:31 PM

already doing now.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:45 AM

We are rapidly changing City. This requires attention from our elected officials who will lead the City into the future. The demand on their time is intense and being full-time (also fully compensated at say \$100k/year) they can best respond to constituent questions and concerns and help us to reach appropriate City staff for any particular situation. As we grow and undergo change this is no time for part-time Councilors or Mayor. We need full-time attention because the consequence of poor decisions will live with us for a very long time.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 08:58 AM

More time for the many complex decisions that are before city council. I know councillors who already put in full time hours.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 10:12 AM

Councillors would be paid fairly for the work they do. I expect most Councillors work more hours than they are paid for. Many women and BIPOC people may be employed in jobs where they do not have flexible work hours and so attending committee and other meetings would be difficult. If they were employed full time as councillors, they may be able to leave their other jobs and focus on the councillor job.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 02:21 PM

More dedicated folks willing to put the time and energy into the job.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 02:40 PM

It would ensure that anyone interested in running for a Council position would not be impeded by financial considerations. It doesn't seem realistic for Councillors to maintain other employment, so the current level of compensation could be a barrier and favour those of greater socioeconomic status. As well, the current pay level does not seem to be reasonable given the level of responsibility and prestige associated with Council positions; Councillors should be paid more. This is particularly true given that Guelph is a single-tier municipality, so Councillors do not have the ability to supplement their income with higher-tier municipal council positions.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 04:52 PM

Dedicated full-time Councillors would promote accountability, and would encourage more women and less wealthy candidates to run.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 05:26 PM

The requirements of governance are getting more complex. I think it is unfair for a city this size to expect a part time councillor to handle all these issues. I want my rep to have time to read all the meeting materials, and reference materials, and be well prepped for meetings. It IS already a full time job in my opinion.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:27 PM

They are currently doing full time work, this acknowledges that fact

Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:30 PM

Given the location of Guelph and Guelph's growth there are probably a number of issues that require a fair amount of attention and time.



Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:50 PM

Councillor will be more readily available throughout entire day, could open up opportunity to more people (current PT system hinders # of candidates), increased and dedicated engagement from one person.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 08:07 PM

Councillors who are full time could be better prepared for meetings, read through all the material personally instead of relying on summaries or only reading those bits that interest them, and be available to constituents when administrative persons in the City are also available.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 08:14 PM

Gives councillors more time to devote to representation and the work of council rather than having to fit it into a schedule which may include other employment.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 09:08 PM

Time. They also need staff moving to full time.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 11:46 PM

They can engage the citizens.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 05:30 AM

Councillors will be able to devote their time to making the city a better place to live in. Juggling a job and being a councillor seems unrealistic.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:59 AM

No competing interests. More accountability to council position. Proper compensation for busy work.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:07 AM

- First, they can focus on the job without worrying about seeking other employments to pay the bills. - Second, it allows for more diversity and better representation as the part-time status excludes the vast majority of the population who needs full-time job to keep a roof over their families and cannot run for councillors position.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:19 AM

Full time means that presumably my councillors will be available more often when constituents want to speak with them. Full time councillors would also have more opportunity to focus on city issues. I feel that part time councillors have other interests that can affect the decisions they make on behalf of their constituents.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:23 AM

See above.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:23 AM

The City is growing and we need to attract people to this job. This can only be done as a full time job to get more diversity in council composition

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:35 AM

Full time ONLY if we have fewer councilors

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:41 AM

The amount of time and effort that our current councillors dedicate to their jobs is a lot. They should have the time and space to do this full-time.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:02 AM

Higher expectations re local engagement, better study of background information for complex issues and decision making, not distracted by the need to maintain sufficient employment/income sources. This role is a job, not a hobby, although it is/can be a vocation.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:16 AM

There are enough complex issues for councilors to consider and deal with that they require full-time attention to their jobs.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:17 AM

- Dedicated Councilors able to devote their full attention to the work of representing Guelph citizens and managing the demanding decision-making and City Hall oversight role - Increases representation without increasing the size of Council

Anonymous

9/02/2020 09:14 AM

They are probably already working more or less full time, but are likely distracted with other jobs/careers/things. A more focused approach would be good, and would require that they actually read council reports and understand the issues more thoroughly.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 09:22 AM

More diversity among candidates. A full time job would appeal to more and different kinds of people. Most people can't afford to live on a part time salary and would have to work another job or rely on another income on top of this one. More people may want to participate, but can't afford to live with a part-time income. Part time jobs are most attractive to retired people or people with other sources of income. Then, if elected, their commitment may be split between their "real" job and being a Councillor. Being a Councillor is important, requires full time commitment, and warrants a full-time income.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 09:23 AM

There will be full communication with residents, other councilors, and private interest. The increased population and load and expectations would justify this. As a caution...Just because it is a paid position I would not want to see either the elite or money seekers taking the job. The dedication of the present councilors cannot be ignored.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 09:33 AM

When I look at the number of hours councillors indicated they put in, if they were paid full time then it would be a job, that someone other than a retiree or an independent person could work at

Anonymous

9/02/2020 11:02 AM

It would allow/encourage more people to get involved and run for municipal politics regardless of current job situation or income.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 11:32 AM

The job of councillor makes enormous demands on their time and intellect. I've seen some of the mind-boggling material they are expected to absorb before a council meeting. It's a significant responsibility to make some of the decisions required - legal, technical and financial. I'm also aware of the demands constituents make on their time (and patience). Recognition of the full-time nature of the job is overdue.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 11:32 AM

They can more successfully focus on their representative role and without conflict of interest from their employment/business.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 11:44 AM

This will allow councilors to work full time hours to deal with matters quicker and result in decisions being made so one councilor can not cancel out the 2nd councilor as they can now by voting in opposing views.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 01:53 PM

opens the role up to more people and citizens would have someone who is fully dedicated to the job

Anonymous

9/02/2020 02:25 PM

Full commitment and focus on making Guelph a city to be proud to live in. Some one who can work and advocate for issues that need addressing and providing better service and constituent commitment. This is a no brainer. I don't wish to have a councillor being paid for parttime work when I expect fulltime results.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 02:31 PM

Truly, I am guessing that a part-time Councillor is really working full-time in actual fact. I haven't asked any Councillor that question but it is the kind of job where there is no end because there is always one more person to phone, one more document to read, etc.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 02:46 PM

Total focus would be on their responsibilities related to their respective wards.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 04:31 PM

To allow proper consideration of issues - review documentation, consult with experts / residents. Meet with other councillors to come up with solutions that benefit the most parties. This might help reduce some of the crazy long council meetings that happen! Good decisions don't happen at 1 am!!

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:28 PM

The city is growing. A part time councillor would not be able to fully understand any issues that may come up. A part timer also wouldn't be available to the citizens in the ward

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:55 PM

Ability to do meaningful, comprehensive community engagement, which Guelph severely lacks.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:15 PM

All their energies would be focused on performing their role--better for the councillor, the constituents and the city.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:51 PM

We are groat an alarming rate. Need 2 per ward

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:18 PM

More time is needed to devote to issues.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 09:08 PM

They could listen to the people in their ward more and spend more time seeking out their input into city issues their ward members should be aware of.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 04:59 AM

If we took it down to 4 but full time they could devote themselves more to the city

Anonymous

9/03/2020 05:23 AM

Councillors would have time to research and understand complex issues and be better prepared for council meetings. It would give them more time to interact with their constituents. It would recognize the importance and value of the work and may attract a more knowledgeable and younger demographic.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 05:45 AM

This would open a larger group who could take on roles. However, this would also rely on those becoming councillors to pause or give up their current career. In a mixed system, I would propose the at-large councillors be full time but ward councillors be part time.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 07:27 AM

More time to dedicate to city matters

Anonymous

9/03/2020 07:52 AM

More dedication on their part and they are better compensated

Anonymous

9/03/2020 08:55 AM

More dedication, interaction with people

Anonymous

9/03/2020 09:15 AM

We could really hold the councilors accountable for actually paying attention to issues and doing the job. I think if the position of council is full-time there should also be a method to evaluate the effectiveness of the councilor in meeting the needs of the constituents; a mid-term review for example. It would not necessarily be binding but could provide some feedback to the councilor about how well they are serving their constituents. There should also be a recall mechanism if a councilor is deemed to be ineffective or incompetent.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 09:50 AM

It is not financially feasible for most underprivileged communities (women, BIPOC folks, lower income, disabled, etc.) to hold the position of councillor at the current rate of pay it is, considering the time commitment it requires to be a fully engaged city councillor. That salary does not cover the costs of living in that ward and supporting a family. I would want the people representing me at council to be compensated for the time needed to fully engage with the issues raised in the community and to be fully informed about them. I want there to be clear expectations of what their job is with respect to advocacy, engagement, and accountability. There are some councillors who are more engaged than others, and it shows.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:23 AM

Focused efforts and greater priority

Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:33 AM

they would be available at regular hours, would have time to fully understand recommendations before them, they would be reachable and less conflict of interest since this would be their full time job.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:35 AM

Full focus is on the task at hand

<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/03/2020 10:42 AM</p>	<p>Less risk of conflict of interest (if you run a business in your ward you might make decisions just to benefit yourself).</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/03/2020 10:49 AM</p>	<p>Better engagement</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/03/2020 10:53 AM</p>	<p>Municipal issues have become increasingly complex. A full time Council will be more accessible.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/03/2020 11:37 AM</p>	<p>Current demands of the position make it almost impossible to be a part-time Councillor and full-time employee. This limits the pool of potential candidates. It is telling that only 2 of the current Councillors hold full-time employment. Note that I DO NOT, in any way, shape or form, support the notion of reducing the number of full-time Councillors in order to mitigate the cost of moving from part-time to full-time positions.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/03/2020 12:38 PM</p>	<p>More of a priority and focus ... Less people being more effective</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/03/2020 12:46 PM</p>	<p>Availability to citizens. Hopefully better quality candidates as opposed to topping up other salaries, pensions etc.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/03/2020 01:05 PM</p>	<p>The are many reports to read and so little time</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/03/2020 01:14 PM</p>	<p>More representation</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/03/2020 01:18 PM</p>	<p>They will be focussed on Council issues. Reduces conflicts of perceived conflicts of interest. It will allow for more diversity of experience on Council (those that work 9-5) and cannot work part time or juggle two part time jobs.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/03/2020 02:14 PM</p>	<p>See survey question # 10. Plus perusing the amount of time spent currently on various items from the chart, a full-time councillor would and should become more well-versed in all things Guelph, and should be compensated accordingly.</p>
<p>Anonymous</p> <p>9/03/2020 02:27 PM</p>	<p>A rapidly growing and complex City demands a dedicated and highly focussed City Council. A Full Time Councillor focusses on their public service, over and above any of their other conflicting vocational priorities. A Full Time Councillor role encourages more women, racialized, and young persons to run for Office. A Full Time Councillor role encourages greater representation from people with professional backgrounds and lived experiences - as well as the independent business persons, civil servants, and semi-retired persons who are often more typically represented on municipal councils. A Full Time Councillor has more opportunity to focus deeply on legislation, policy development, Committee Work and advocacy in</p>

a manner that is often impractical, and often impossible, in a part-time position. A Full Time Councillor has one job and is more accountable to their constituents. To be clear, IMHO, if the City of Guelph continues with part-time council, we will not move beyond the current status quo.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 02:54 PM

There primary concern is the engagement of citizens and the careful consideration of policy decisions. Perhaps their role could be expanded in regards to the above concerns. Making thselves regularly available for public input in person and working more closely with city staff.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 04:15 PM

Greater focus on city governance and development. Greater accountability to wards they serve as their time is city compensated.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 06:14 PM

I expect more focus and dedication to each ward

Anonymous

9/03/2020 07:15 PM

It opens up the job to more people. Likely there are those interested in the job who simply cannot do it because it is part time. Although it is not unreasonable to have part-time councillors for a city our size.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 06:52 PM

I believe if we have one full time councillor per ward they could better represent the citizens in the ward.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 09:00 PM

Guelph is large enough and the ability to focus on the job without juggling a 9-5 would advantageous for both the councillors and the citizenry

Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:26 PM

A full-time councillor has more time to devote to studying issues, consulting voters, engaging other communities. I think you'd get better results.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 05:57 AM

There's lots to do

Anonymous

9/04/2020 06:56 AM

It would mean they are dedicated to their ward & city, and have more time to devote to the job, rather than having to maintain another part-time job or business

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:10 AM

Councillors would be better prepared for Council meetings and better able to represent their constituents.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:15 AM

They would not have to juggle other jobs. Currently, there are a mix of situations where some councillors work full-time elsewhere, thus putting in much less time/effort as Councillor than others, who are treating this as full-time work, and are not getting paid for the effort they are putting in. It would equalize expectations of what a Councillor is expected to do.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:14 AM

It's more than a full time job. Any councillor who is only working part-time is not properly representing the people. It takes work, you can't sit at home and play your guitar each day at noon. I'll gladly take the place of any councillor who doesn't want a full time job working for the people.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:21 AM

Focused commitment to the work at hand. Accessibility. Greater opportunity to participate in community activities, wider availability, better presence,

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:22 AM

This allows someone who truly wants to do this to take the job and put their all into it. They will spend their time actually doing their job and not worrying about whatever other jobs they have. This needs to be someone who is fully committed to their ward.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:32 AM

Not dividing their time and energy between another job and their work for the city.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:33 AM

They can do more to be actively engaged. While I support Full time councillors, I would not support them having full time responsibilities outside of acting as councillor. For example if someone was elected to a full time councillor role, I would not like them to have a full time job, say, selling insurance, or own and operate a full time business of their own. If they're elected to a full time role, I'd like them to devote their full attention.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:00 AM

They can focus on the role and spend more time in/with their communities rather than at other jobs

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:05 AM

They can devote all of their energy to serve the needs of the city.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:07 AM

Exposure to the community

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:10 AM

Difficult. It's more like 3/4 time. People expect more than full-time service but begrudge the part-time pay. They want someone who has legal, planning, governance, communication skills, etc. Difficult to attract someone like that at a part-time salary unless they are retired w a pension or have another source of income. The salary and time commitment precludes a lot of people from running. If they go full time they have to do more than the part-time expectation without starting to get into operations.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:20 AM

better able to concentrate on their duties without trying to maintain a second job.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:33 AM

I think this might help ensure more diversity if they are paid full time positions. It will also attract people who are serious about the job, and who are capable and willing to dedicate themselves to being a councillor. I think that, as mentioned earlier, the pressure and workload for city council is going to increase as we continue to deal with Covid and recovery from Covid.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:35 AM

If you are being paid full time to do a job you SHOULD be putting in more time and effort to do it right. Also, you are representing your ward and it should be a job not a hobby.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:51 AM

More time to consider and review matters.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:51 AM

Ability to dedicate the time required to satisfy constituent needs and focus on the job at hand.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:52 AM

Full time paid councillors would keep the needs of their constituents focused and centric based. Less clear responsibilities and point of contacts.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:00 AM

It would only be more democratic (more time they can afford to doing the job of Councillor).

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:43 AM

Then a person who does not have an alternative source of income could take on the position of Councilor and still pay the bills. As it is, Councilors need another source of income, like a pension. This leads to a skewing of the age of Councilors. I'm OK with older, smart people, but I don't like to exclude younger, smart people.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:44 AM

Councillors would have full and undivided attention to issues and must be available to respond to constituents as a full time position

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:02 AM

I started from a position that positions should be part time, as I was worried that people who see themselves as career politicians would now be the only people who would run. However, I have been convinced that full time positions would provide an opportunity for those of modest means - and this could mean any part of our diverse population would consider running for office and providing service to their community. It would mean that councillors could actually have the time to read all of the material that staff provide them with, it would mean that they could engage with staff to be more informed about the details of issues, it would mean that councillors could help individual means who have an issue that would best be resolved at the municipal level. As a bonus if we have councillors who are full time, with some physical space at city hall where they could meet with their constituents it would help make Guelph city hall feel less like Fort Knox - it is THE most unfriendly municipal public space that I have come across having lived in large cities (London UK Paris France, Toronto Canada)

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:06 AM

Focus , commitment , is required part time is not enough .

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:08 AM

Ability to focus and engage. Suggesting half part time, one from each Ward, and six full time at large

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:15 AM

To have the knowledge required to really know your ward and its people and the various views on the issues, requires a lot of attention and time. Being informed about neighbourhood issues and helping resolve these issues is a full time job. Knowing your ward and representing your ward at City Hall



meetings including Council Meetings is a full time job. Being well briefed on matters coming before Council, including City Transportation, the Library, the City Budget, Affordable Housing, Homeless and vulnerable people issues, etc., etc. is a full time job. Having full time city Councillors is not a luxury, it is a NECESSITY. This is not simply an "advantage" It is a necessary requirement for someone to carry out their job responsibilities fully.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:32 AM

- get more things attended to, more things running better, get answers back more quickly

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:56 AM

Properly compensated, full time councillors would be able to put all their efforts into ensuring proper management of this city.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 11:05 AM

They'd get paid for all the work they do

Anonymous

9/04/2020 11:14 AM

Keeps the job from being only available to affluent candidates.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 11:36 AM

The larger the city becomes the workload increases and I believe the councilors need to have the opportunity to participate fully in their role.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 11:54 AM

They might read the background materials about decisions they are making.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 11:56 AM

Given that the number of councillors shrinks, the extra work would make it full time. Less conflicts of interest, more focus on issues.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 12:30 PM

Allows for focus and time on larger issues.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:03 PM

Full-time councillors would allow more people the opportunity to run. It's hard to manage a full-time job, and being a councillor putting too much pressure on a person. Part-Time councillors tend to be financially able only to have this one job, which doesn't adequately represent our city.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:12 PM

no divided interests or time restraints

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:20 PM

This is only with the proviso that city council is reduced to six councillors instead of the current twelve. Should council be retained at twelve or increased I would only support part-time. We don't need any increased costs to the city.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:43 PM

Likely to get more qualified candidates if it is a full-time, well-compensated position. Full-time would also facilitate more engagement with the public, which is never a bad thing :)

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:58 PM

They wouldn't be distracted by other things

Anonymous

9/04/2020 02:03 PM

FULL-time ONLY if there is one councillor per ward. I would think full-time would give both councillor and resident better opportunities and more time to be able to connect. If we do not change to one councillor per ward and keep two, then it should remain as PART-Time.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 02:07 PM

Better candidates running for council. Full time attention to council work.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 02:10 PM

Dedication to the position, a 'job or career' would always be priority

Anonymous

9/04/2020 02:20 PM

To give them adequate time to read huge Council reports and to hear from and talk to their constituents. Having another job means they may not be fully attentive to issues and people.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 02:30 PM

Councillors can dedicate full time to addressing citizen concerns.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 02:43 PM

If only one councillor per wsrd this should adequately cover concerns from taxpayers and to get involved in the wsrd

Anonymous

9/04/2020 03:29 PM

Part time work for part time pay limits the job to those who can afford it. Spend full time attention on important work.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 03:42 PM

Councillors have a lot of work to do and should not be distracted by another position.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 05:09 PM

Full time counselors opens the door to more potential candidates who may not be able to afford to leave their current employment.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 05:36 PM

Councillor are over worked trying to balance the City job and a personal job- however I am not sure that at this time Guelph is large enough to warrant full-time councillors

Anonymous

9/04/2020 06:13 PM

Full-time councillors will provide better representation for citizens at City Hall As the population of Guelph has grown, full-time positions have been added at City Hall to respond to needs like policing, emergency services, libraries, waste pick-up, etc; However, in more than a century, the full-time-equivalents (FTEs) around the Council horseshoe have remained essentially unchanged. In 1909, we had a population of 11,500. In the early years of the 20th century, the number of Councillors went back and forth between 12 and 18. Assuming they were part-time, that works out to an equivalent of 1 part-time Councillor for 640 – 960 citizens, or one FTE for 1,280 – 1,920 citizens. In 2016, we had 12 councillors for a population of 136,000, which works out to

one part-time councillor representing 11,330 people, or an FTE representing 22,660 citizens. Our democratic representation has been diluted as the City has grown. I anticipate that there will be a backlash to the concept of increasing annual funding for 12 full-time councillors, which would be in the order of \$500,000 annually. I would like that to be considered in the context of the 2019 decision to add \$4.1 million annually to the City budget to finance 30.5 FTEs for the Police Service. Making the current 12 Councillor positions full-time would effectively be equivalent to adding 6 FTEs to the Council payroll. We also need to look forward to the expected growth of our City to a population of 190,000 in the coming decades. It is of note that in 1867, the Provincial legislature had 82 members. It now has 124. In 1867, the House of Commons had 181 members. It now has 338. Accessibility Working conditions and the part-time nature of Council work preclude many people from serving on Council. This impacts diversity of representation and points of view. Not everyone is able to combine a part-time Council job with their existing employment or family duties. The possibility of serving on Council should be available to everyone. If all Councillors were full-time, it would be possible to schedule more frequent meetings, ie: weekly. This would make for shorter agendas for citizens who wish to participate as delegates and fewer late nights for the staff who are required to be present. Fairness The answers to the questionnaires present the possibility that some Councillors are putting in around 10 hours per week, while others are working 36 hours a week on Council and Council-related activities. This means that some members of Council are subsidizing their Council work through pensions or family income. Or, they are essentially volunteering 50 per cent of their time. At the low end of the spectrum, it is unlikely that someone who is already working a 50-hour work week at another job can put in more than 10 hours a week of Council-related work. In this situation, citizens may not be getting value for their tax dollars as the Council member may not be regularly working the 17.5 hours for which they are being remunerated. Full-time Councillors would be accountable to citizens for giving their full-time attention to the role. Complexity of the role. The roles and requirements of Council members have become more and more complex. A recent Council agenda was more than 900 pages long. I believe that full-time hours are required to do the job properly. It is clear to citizens who frequently attend Council meetings that some members of Council have read the agenda package in advance and some have not. The length of Council meetings could shorten considerably if questions were not asked by members of Council which had already been answered in the staff background reports. Council members need to be familiar with Provincial legislation, as well as local By-laws. Oversight: It is clear that we have reached a point where part-time councillors are not able to provide effective oversight of full-time staff, as required by the Municipal Act. A recent example is the vote on the By-law to close Dublin St. Many Councillors appeared to be unaware of the content of the By-law and that other options had not been explored by staff. Lack of awareness of the selection of Margaret Greene Park for major Provincial infrastructure is another glaring example, as are 11th-hour revelations of problems with the

Police Station renovation. Office space: Office space for 12 Councillors was built into our relatively new City Hall. I was shown these offices when I toured the building after the official opening.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 06:16 PM

More time and autonomy for managing the city.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 06:18 PM

The Councillors I've spoken with are PAID for part time work but are doing essentially full time work, so this is really a question of fairness. In addition, if we are concerned about equitable access to the job of Councillor, a part time role (and pay) is a barrier to some citizens who may want to join Council.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:15 PM

- the councillor can increase their engagement and availability to citizens - they can spend their time learning about local issues and opportunities to make Guelph even better - accountability-- with part time roles, the level of commitment can really vary but with full time, the councillors will be focused on building a great city

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:21 PM

Councillors can focus all of their energy on being a Councillor. Full-time Councillors will be paid a full-time wage; thus, the opportunity to become a Councillor is available to more citizens. An "average" citizen can become a Councillor, rather than someone who happens to have a lot of free time and a healthy savings account.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:58 PM

Councillors are overworked and put a full time effort into a part time job. Their labour must be adequately compensated.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:59 PM

More time to engage with constituents and work with city staff.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:13 PM

The responsibilities of Councillors are extensive, City operations are complex, and the combination of research, consultation, informal and formal meetings / committees, informal and formal events, and more it is a significant burden for Councillors to effectively deliver on the full responsibilities required of the role.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:27 PM

If Guelph has a full-time mayor and full-time bureaucracy, councillors should also be full-time. Otherwise the councillors are at a major disadvantage -- especially when staff can take up to 4 years to work on a report/EA and then give council and citizens only a week to respond.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:02 PM

Represents the amount of work they are doing

Anonymous

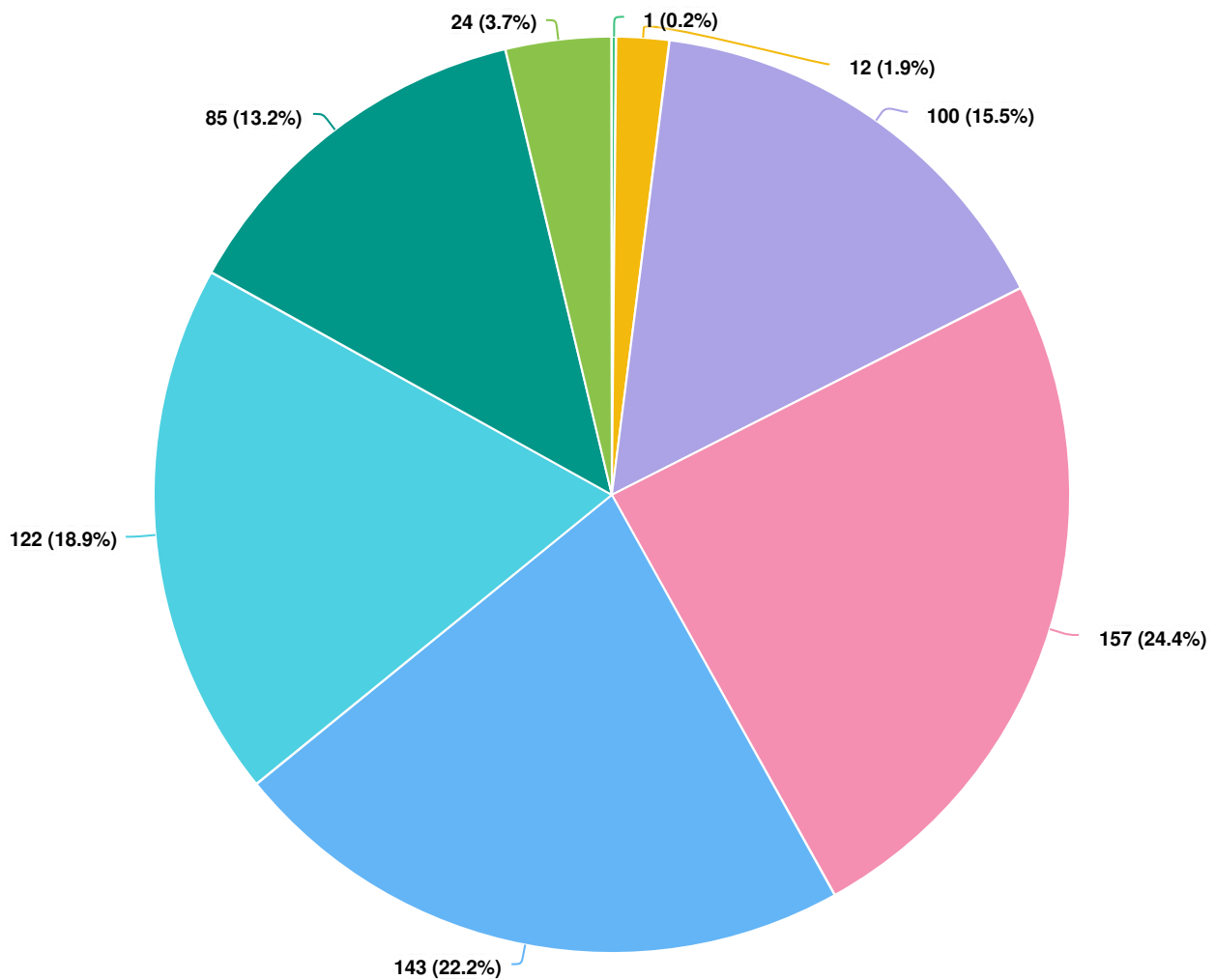
9/04/2020 10:06 PM

More direct full time study of issues by elected representatives versus city staff (who would be best situated as SMEs and operational staff). Direct control of city business by elected representatives.

**Optional question** (296 response(s), 360 skipped)

**Question type:** Essay Question

**Q19 What is your age range?**

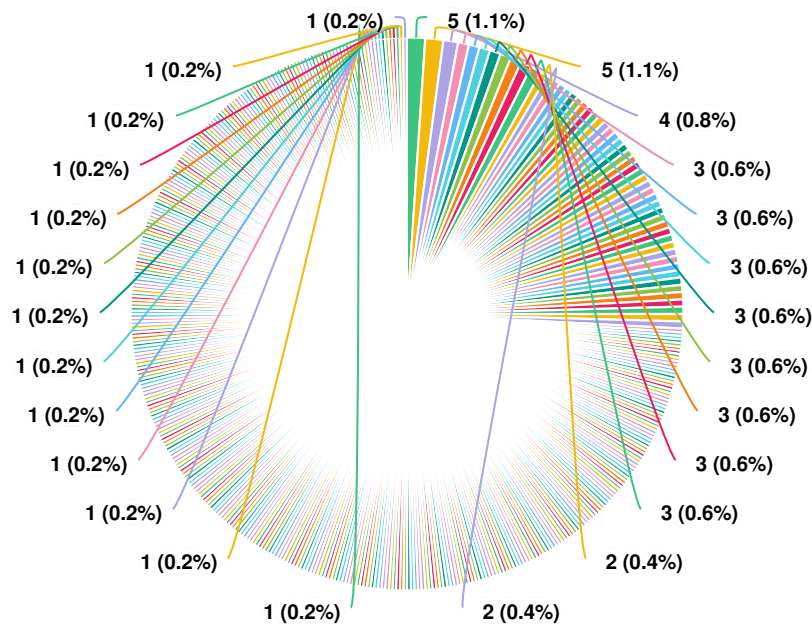


**Question options**












































































● under 18 years old 
 ● 18 to 24 
 ● 25 to 34 
 ● 35 to 44 
 ● 45 to 54 
 ● 55 to 64 
 ● 65 to 74 
 ● 75+ years old

Optional question (644 response(s), 12 skipped)  
Question type: Dropdown Question

**Q20** What is your postal code?

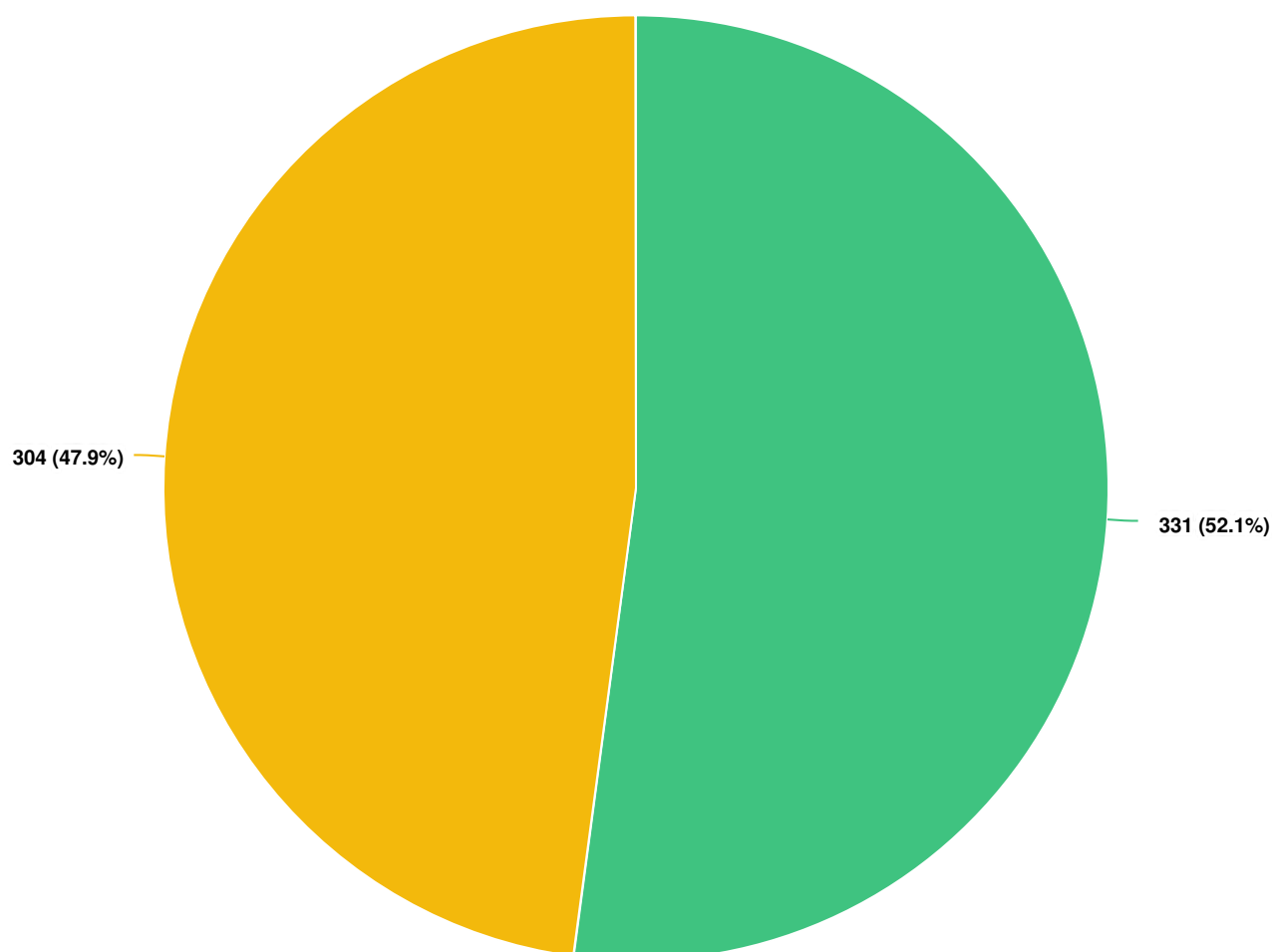


### Question options

 Guelph, ON, N1G2G2	 skipped	 Guelph, ON, N1G2X5	 Guelph, ON, N1H5T8	 Guelph, ON, N1G4S7
 Guelph, ON, N1K1R9	 Guelph, ON, N1H8H5	 Guelph, ON, N1H3Z5	 Guelph, ON, N1E3E2	
 Guelph, ON, N1H3B6	 Guelph, ON, N1H2Y7	 Guelph, ON, N1H3C6	 Guelph, ON, N1G2L6	
 Guelph, ON, N1H7H7	 Guelph, ON, N1L1R5	 Guelph, ON, N1G4T9	 Guelph, ON, N1G3N9	
 Guelph, ON, N1L1P6	 Guelph, ON, N1H6A8	 Guelph, ON, N1C1H1	 Guelph, ON, N1L0G1	
 Guelph, ON, N1L1H1	 Guelph, ON, N1G5G8	 Guelph, ON, N1E0C9	 Guelph, ON, N1E4J6	
 Guelph, ON, N1E2Z2	 Guelph, ON, N1E5Y1	 Guelph, ON, N1G4Y3	 Guelph, ON, N1L1M2	
 Guelph, ON, N1H8M5	 Guelph, ON, N1E0P5	 Guelph, ON, N1H2N9	 Guelph, ON, N1K1S1	
 Guelph, ON, N1H3L6	 Guelph, ON, N1H2L7	 Guelph, ON, N1H5W8	 Guelph, ON, N1E0C7	
 Guelph, ON, N1H8N8	 Guelph, ON, N1E2J7	 Guelph, ON, N1H2Y1	 Guelph, ON, N1E0G6	
 Guelph, ON, N1H6C2	 Guelph, ON, N1H1H6	 Guelph, ON, N1H8B4	 Guelph, ON, N1E5S9	
 Guelph, ON, N1L1M3	 Guelph, ON, N1L1L8	 Guelph, ON, N1K1R4	 Guelph, ON, N1G5H4	
 Guelph, ON, N1L1G6	 Guelph, ON, N1E7B9	 Guelph, ON, N1G2V9	 Guelph, ON, N1G3K5	
 Guelph, ON, N1G3N8	 Guelph, ON, N1E5W7	 Guelph, ON, N1G2S9	 Guelph, ON, N1E7J2	
 Guelph, ON, N1G5A3	 Guelph, ON, N1L1A9	 Guelph, ON, N1H7R4	 Guelph, ON, N1L1E7	
 Guelph, ON, N1E7M4	 Guelph, ON, N1H1G9	 Guelph, ON, N1H4G7	 Guelph, ON, N1G4R4	
 Guelph, ON, N1E7L4	 Guelph, ON, N1G0A7	 Guelph, ON, N1G4A8	 Guelph, ON, N1H6X3	
 Guelph, ON, N1L0K8	 Guelph, ON, N1E2J6	 Guelph, ON, N1H7Z5	 Guelph, ON, N1G4X7	
 1/6				

Optional question (467 response(s), 189 skipped)  
Question type: Region Question

**Q21** Did you learn anything from this survey experience?



**Question options**

☒ Yes ☐ No

*Optional question (635 response(s), 21 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question*

**Q22** Do you have any further comments?

Anonymous

8/17/2020 08:46 AM

Awesome job.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 09:19 AM

Fewer councillors, full time councillors, more wards, smaller wards is a happy medium for cost vs result.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 12:23 PM

Why is there no sunset clause on the mandatory mask order? What criteria do we need to accomplish to repeal the mandatory masks? Why does 1 person unilaterally decide about mandatory masks and what criteria are they making this decision? How often is the mandatory mask order revisited and what criteria is it measured by?

Anonymous

8/17/2020 01:33 PM

Hopeful that this will mean better management of Staff

Anonymous

8/17/2020 02:15 PM

My overall thoughts: - Less councillors but more wards - One councillor per ward - Full-time salary for councillors

Anonymous

8/17/2020 02:28 PM

I'm glad that city hall is reviewing this issue.

Anonymous

8/17/2020 03:00 PM

Cam for Mayor, Dan Gibson for Ward 1

Anonymous

8/17/2020 03:04 PM

no

Anonymous

8/17/2020 03:17 PM

I hope the Council has put some thought towards succession planning —For the Mayor's position Specifically. It was unfortunate that no one was going to run as an alternative (until very young Aggie opted to preserve democratic debate by running even though unqualified.) How do we ensure our future leadership is being planned for? Are the most qualified people willing to run?

Anonymous

8/17/2020 03:43 PM

This is an important discussion, thanks for letting us participate!

Anonymous

8/17/2020 03:49 PM

I wish I could have picked a top two for the "role of" question, because I believe advocacy+engagement are fused together as the "primary" role of councillors. Policy is an important third, but it must be in service of the first two. What I strongly do NOT believe is that council should be involved in day-to-day operations and administration. That is for full-time staff with the proper expertise in their respective fields.



Anonymous 8/17/2020 03:50 PM	Guelph council is very unresponsive compared to other areas I've lived and worked..they should respond to emails within 2 business days and they should respond to every email.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 03:51 PM	Ensure that promoting this survey is across all mediums, not all residents have access to electronic surveys.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 06:22 PM	Do the right thing for us and don't say we cannot make the needed changes just because other similar size cities are doing something different
Anonymous 8/17/2020 06:42 PM	If we move to full time councillors, I believe there should be fewer.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 06:51 PM	No
Anonymous 8/17/2020 07:38 PM	That this is a poorly functioning survey for an android device
Anonymous 8/17/2020 09:33 PM	Tighten your belt Start being decisive and repair what we have first. Extremely disappointed with the direction we are going and short sighting planning. Might just divorce my relationship with our sinking city despite lipstick of such a great place to live. Wasteful
Anonymous 8/17/2020 09:44 PM	Most important goal: avoid single member wards! This would effectively silence all residents not in agreement with the position of their one representative! Total number of councillors should depend on if they are full-time or part-time. If we keep part-time any reduction in the size of council is a reduction in representation and governance capacity and that is not acceptable. If the total number of councillors were reduced (say to 10) but they were considered full-time and compensated as such (say 1.5x the living wage which is approx \$53,000 plus benefits and maybe a child care subsidy) that would increase representation and governance capacity to a level that would meet the current and future needs of the city and it would only require a negligible increase in the council compensation budget.
Anonymous 8/17/2020 10:36 PM	wow was the wording top to bottom in this survey and all accompanying information paragraphs done poorly. horrible. lacked simplicity most of all and it lacked clarity. you have to stop using people with grade 8 education.
Anonymous 8/18/2020 04:37 AM	I didn't learn anything because I'm pretty well-versed on this already.
Anonymous 8/18/2020 05:31 AM	There needs to be much more transparency and accountability at the city department level. There needs to be direct, transparent reporting to the citizens of the city regarding how administrative departments are furthering city goals. I'm not seeing anything beyond statements of fiscal management. The city isn't here to move money around. It is here to provide service to the

Anonymous

8/18/2020 06:53 AM

citizens.

The dynamics and politics of Guelph are set to drastically change over the next decade. As the city continues to expand as more and more individuals move here from the GTA, serious consideration will need to be given to the dynamics of the city moving forward. I believe that it is extremely important for the City to consider how they encourage a wide range of individuals to run for municipal government, especially young people who are the most invested in the future of the City. Additionally, I believe that the City should continue to, and in fact increase, its funding and dedication to providing good governance training. Public representation is only strong when it is also smart and aware. Governance training is an essential aspect of this. Perhaps the City could consider looking into the concept of Right Tough Regulation as developed by the Professional Standard Authority in the UK. While not directly applicable, I believe that the concepts of risk analysis and mitigation are essential and could help train Councillors on the principles of good governance. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 07:39 AM

thank!

Anonymous

8/18/2020 07:41 AM

This is a great initiative and needs to be supported fully by Council and City Staff. Not enacting this reform would be irresponsible to Citizens who may not have a full understanding of how local governance works.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 07:41 AM

Diversity in our society and the world make it such that we have to move away from the "winner-takes-all" model in any form of government. It is the more democratic model.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 07:59 AM

Good luck!

Anonymous

8/18/2020 08:02 AM

Current situation of 6 wards and 12 councillors isn't perfect, but it is probably the best governance model for Guelph. Advantages and disadvantages to all models, but more pros than cons

Anonymous

8/18/2020 08:51 AM

Should look into things like: - Equitable representation in terms of identities of those chosen - How to engage the grassroots and make councilors more like links than executive thinkers/actors - Questioning eurocentricism of approach to making decisions

Anonymous

8/18/2020 09:08 AM

Any change needs to be cost neutral

Anonymous

8/18/2020 09:29 AM

no

Anonymous

8/18/2020 11:01 AM

With the growth of Guelph, the 'borders' for wards should be considered in this survey. The population within each ward should be fairly consistent. With the growth of South Guelph, it would be my assumption that South Guelph is

under-represented on city council currently.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 11:58 AM

Guelph is growing at such a fast pace that the infrastructure in our city is not able to keep up. Take note of the growth in the south end of Guelph. Roads are congested; parks are few and far between, and since this area has become a transient community, property standards have decreased. Many home owners rent out/are absent and do not cut their grass, shovel their sidewalks or take pride in their homes. Vehicles are parked everywhere on some streets leading to concern for access for emergency vehicles. Guelph prides itself in believing that it is a "green" community; it is not. People need and will continue to use vehicles to get around. Bicycles and buses are inconvenient and infrequently used by the majority of Guelph citizens. More attention has to be given to adequate road development-now and in the future!!! You cannot keep widening roads that were completed a couple of years before-where are the city planners???? Our mayor is not qualified to administer a city of this size and growth. The mayor should be more concerned with the present citizens of Guelph and not encouraging more and more development.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 12:38 PM

I feel the councillors don't actually do work. I have called numerous times to get something fixed and I was constantly passed to different people. This has happened many many times. So from my perspective they do nothing NOTHING. So many business owners who have minor issues that need to be resolved. Never get resolved.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 12:48 PM

Keep democracy empowered.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 01:29 PM

City needs to cut all unnecessary spending like library, park equipment replacement etc. Need to tighten budgets and not just keep raising taxes

Anonymous

8/18/2020 04:05 PM

Guelph is big enough that it needs full time, dedicated councilors. However, a full time councilor means that there need only be one per ward.

Anonymous

8/18/2020 04:51 PM

A full review and some serious adjustments need to be made ASAP

Anonymous

8/18/2020 05:10 PM

Thank you for involving the citizens on this issue

Anonymous

8/18/2020 05:37 PM

Thank you for this opportunity to communicate thoughts as a citizen, we are very lucky to have this freedom

Anonymous

8/18/2020 06:58 PM

Dominique is a wonderful, smart councillor. Lucky to have her!

Anonymous

I no longer vote because there is no quality management system across the

8/18/2020 08:10 PM

jurisdictions that corroborate intelligence (data, information, knowledge), agree on rule of law (Act, Regulation, Section to be at odds) and has no consensus on moral, ethical and social behaviour to cooperate, coordinate and collaborate to beget a dying nation (few children to be replaced by rich immigrants) overrun by political allegiance to the 1% to destroy the economy and the environment. The proof is in front of our eyes where things (money, investments and investors) are more important than people to turn a democracy into a dictatorship, where voting is not that important and neither is leadership to address priorities such as hunger for more food banks, homelessness for more police, more taxes for less income to afford the cost of living and children, an environmental mess and a squabbling governance infrastructure competing for attention of their ONE taxpayer, citizen and voter stretched to the limit of tolerance. I am watching and hoping for a miracle.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 05:36 AM

Question 3 should have allowed ranking of the roles. This is such an important decision that this should not be an online survey but a randomized survey of the community.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 07:11 AM

The wording of this question "Do we need to redraw our ward boundaries to keep our democracy healthy?" is leading. So if I say no, I don't care about a healthy democracy? A better way to put it might be "should ward boundaries reflect as near as possible an equal number of voters in each of them?"

Anonymous

8/19/2020 11:47 AM

Just to reiterate, I believe the City of Guelph should move forward with 7 Wards, represented by 2 Councillors per Ward.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 12:08 PM

Please maintain the ward system in Guelph. Additionally I would like to thank our city councillors for all of their time and energy.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 12:27 PM

Really important survey - this should be more accessible through the city so we can truly get an opinion.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 12:36 PM

These kinds of processes often get derailed by politics. It's hard politically for councillors to give themselves a pay raise, for example. But there's a misguided kind of populism in that instinct to oppose. Ultimately, councillors have no right to deny the public a higher quality of council. I'd suggest looking at how citizens' assemblies have been used to address these kinds of questions around institutional and electoral change. Another alternative is to appoint some kind of independent expert commission to do render some quick advice. That way, you can be guided by evidence and citizens' true preferences, and avoid the politics of lazy populism.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 03:42 PM

I feel that that the councillors work very hard on our behalf.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 03:43 PM

Please share with me the findings/results

Anonymous

8/19/2020 06:10 PM

Good to review this question. We do not need bigger government.

Anonymous

8/19/2020 07:42 PM

Thanks for listening.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 04:43 AM

Guelph does NOT provide value for money in taxes. 2 rec centres that full time staff aren't even present in in the evenings when things are busy. there is no accountability. all i see is a bunch of people pointing fingers at each other and no one doing work. you spend money on STUPID THINGS (like those fire trucks) and leave things that need to get done with no money. Guelph is NOT a good place to live, and i never recommend it.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 09:35 AM

More representation is always better for "the people" less is in my view for a few people's self interest.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 10:01 AM

I council should actually represent the wishes of the people that they were elected to represent. It is not their position to push their own agendas.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 10:12 AM

what kind of idiotic thoughts, full time council when transit is being reduced!

Anonymous

8/20/2020 11:12 AM

Afraid that new wards will mean some neighbourhood that aren't large will lose a voice

Anonymous

8/20/2020 12:57 PM

Do not put my tax dollars into the library. We as a city can't afford it

Anonymous

8/20/2020 05:06 PM

Fix the God damn roads!!

Anonymous

8/20/2020 05:40 PM

Every councilor should have a website so concern citizens can contact them.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 07:22 PM

I want my city's government to protect my rights. Period. The current council has been a huge disappointment through this crisis.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 08:01 PM

please stop spending money we dont have.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 08:28 PM

I appreciate the opportunity to engage with city building in forums such as these.

Anonymous

8/20/2020 09:06 PM

Would like more forward thinking like the library that could revive downtown and provide much needed services. More people use libraries than sports complexes that some cannot afford to use

Anonymous

8/21/2020 05:40 AM

That which serves greater equity serves all in the long term.

Anonymous

8/21/2020 04:14 PM

While I favour part-time councillors I strongly favour the City providing councillors with some office support staff to handle contact with citizens with enquiries much like constituency offices for MPs and MPPs.

Anonymous

8/21/2020 05:30 PM

From a public engagement perspective: Each one of these questions represents a value trade off. Making these values evident and the trade-off clear is important. 1) Having folks consider the disadvantages of their suggestions/positions and 2) Priming folks to think about all citizens, not just themselves can lead to more democratically legitimate engagement.

Anonymous

8/22/2020 11:15 AM

Debate and scrutiny are key to making good decisions.

Anonymous

8/22/2020 11:26 AM

I have lived in Guelph for awhile now, and although I have seen it expand, I have found it to be less of a nice place to live than it once was. I do not want it to be competing with other municipalities but unique unto itself. I would also like to see the fire department under more scrutiny and limiting the daily joy riding, and using the biggest truck to shop for groceries or pick up chicken wings for lunch. I would like to see more volunteer firefighters as we may get to the point of not being able to support /pay for the service anymore as has been the issue with other towns.

Anonymous

8/23/2020 04:15 PM

Communitiy theatre is an essential part of this community and has been for 85 years, with covid we have no income, yet little support from agencies. What is council going to do to help us survive. We have been an important back bone of arts and culture, but because we are all volunteers we do not qualify for government subsidies, other municipalities have given grants to their communnity theatres to help keep them alive, because the groups are important to the community.....what can we expect from our council.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 07:38 AM

One councillor full time and one part time, per ward, might also work. Municipal politics has a big impact on our day-to-day quality of life and why we like to live in Guelph, let's put in the time it deserves.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 08:41 AM

The city of Guelph needs to do a whole lot more listening to all of Guelph rather than special interest groups . It should not be about the squeaky wheel getting the grease . A lot more needs done to look at allowing for what will be continued auto traffic in Guelph Not bike lanes which the taxes on gasoline should not be paying road infastructure to bikes Check out cambridge recently cancelling temporary bike lanes for lack of use . Someone on council actually studied the bike traffic and found not being used hardly at all. By making sound decisions on policing costs and road infastructure . And serious looks at spending the city will do quite well . I suggest looking at practical needs VS wants is a prudent step towards responsible stewardship. Also transit costs ie buses if they are not being used cut back dont try force the city ppl to take buses vs driving a car we arent interested as a whole .

Also take another look at plans to electrify buses scale it back to many eggs in the basket IF a move is made to full time salaried councilors than definately reduce to 6 for the city or one per ward . They will have a full time job than. if staying at 12 than no way full time . it might be possible to split hairs as well to 8 with some wards having two and some with one . But again no way for full time a that number . I also think the concept of believing once a council is elected it is a mandate to do as u want without extreme broad consultation of all not special interest groups is presumptious if not fool hardy . if guelph as a whole does not get more cost prudent and look more closely at its road maintenance as priority VS green infastructure our growth plan will suffer going ahead . Stop trying to win global green intiative awards

Anonymous

8/24/2020 10:55 AM

I have two different roles in this. I am a taxpayer/home owner and President of Guelph Little Theatre. However, I still see the same issues surfacing. Parking will always be an issue, especially at the theatre.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 11:26 AM

Keep the ward system!

Anonymous

8/24/2020 01:15 PM

I really think that the ward system needs to be revisited and redesigned since the expansion of the city

Anonymous

8/24/2020 01:44 PM

I'm not as invested in local politics as I could be but want to see Guelph improve in all aspects of living here.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 01:48 PM

Cam Guthrie is a margarita pizza.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 02:01 PM

Two terms only for every elected position

Anonymous

8/24/2020 02:01 PM

I moved here from a big city and the draw was the people, the space, the peace and quiet, and the fact that it was a smaller city with progressive values that seemed to include every walk of life. But with recent years there has become a drastic increase in development, corporate drives for expansion, and a seemingly increasing abandonment of that small town feel in hopes of being more profitable and more popular. It even feels less progressive and less representative than it did when I moved here and that is very hard to convey. Please don't coast on your past reputation as a green, progressive city like many areas and businesses do and realize that there are always tipping points where identity is lost and profit only takes us so far. Oh and I understand there is a need for a better building, but please don't build a 60+ million dollar library.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 02:16 PM

There are 6 Wards and 12 Councillors... this makes sense but particularly if the number of residents in each Ward is similar. If there are major inequities in this regard, then the Ward boundaries should be amended so each Ward contains roughly the same number of residents.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 02:57 PM

I couldn't answer #11 clearly because I feel council needs some of both part time and full time.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 03:00 PM

this survey would have been more useful if you had provided the population density, and say 10 yrs worth of changes in that, for each of the 6 wards

Anonymous

8/24/2020 03:37 PM

the survey feels a bit clumsy, especially with out the recommendations of the consultants.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 04:15 PM

I feel that the decisions of council are often based on the input from the same group of retired educators. I would like to see a way of getting more voices heard. I think the old way of delegations registering a head of time and showing up and sitting there for sometimes hours to talk about why they feel this way or that just doesn't work for most of the residents of Guelph. It's the same delegations talking about buildings are too tall, we need less density, dog park is too close to my house and blah blah blah. I would like a way to discuss why it's so hard for some businesses in Guelph to call home and others get special treatment. I want to know why I can't access city services that others can. There needs to be a way forward for all discussions.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 04:25 PM

get some better questions, these are typicall lame brain stuff

Anonymous

8/24/2020 05:39 PM

No need to change things when what we have is fine. Crazy idea. Why don't you poll councillors to see how they feel? If they want change, then let us hear their suggestions. This would be the main reason for change.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 06:00 PM

Only: why August, when many are away and most are not paying attention? And why only three weeks? And why is the Ward system again being debated, despite a referendum 15 years ago that was soundly in favour of it?

Anonymous

8/24/2020 07:57 PM

Get rid of the mayor's position. It is absolutely not needed. There should be one councillor per ward.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 08:27 PM

This is an interesting survey, and I am glad that input is being sought in this format.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 09:03 PM

Don't lose the broad, diverse representation the ward system protects. Putting local governance in the hands of only wealthy elites is wrong for Guelph.

Anonymous

8/24/2020 10:15 PM

At this time we cannot afford to increase the size of council or pay full time salaries plus office staff, etc. We have to pay for the damage of the pandemic.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 06:03 AM

I very much appreciate the opportunity to share my opinions. Guelph is growing very quickly and I do feel that councillors must be able to focus on the needs of their wards as each ward faces unique issues.



Anonymous

8/25/2020 06:24 AM

The ward system MUST be kept to preserve the integrity of city council as councillors will be held accountable by their ward.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 07:57 AM

None.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 08:53 AM

There has to be a referendum about the new library. I read on fb a lot of disapproval. 65 million which will be a few million more, is unrealistic. People are struggling now and will still be in the future. What were the councilors who voted for this THINKING????

Anonymous

8/25/2020 11:26 AM

If you do end up going with less councilors, then you have to increase their hours and pay, to full time, as less people need more time to do the same work. You cannot separate these two questions, as they are linked together.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:03 PM

My question is: this has already been decided so why waste citizen, staff and Council time rehashing it? People like the Ward system. It is more democratic. The at-large system is less focused on individual wards, which can vary greatly in make-up, and it encourages big money to influence city politics, as each councilor needs more resources for an election campaign.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:18 PM

I think that the ward boundaries need to be amended such that Councilors represent the approximate same number of residents. I think that when redrawing boundaries, consideration should be taken to future development within Guelph.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:36 PM

Possibly at the next stage!

Anonymous

8/25/2020 12:41 PM

The city did a good job advertising this survey, I saw it on a road sign as well as via Guelph Today.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 01:16 PM

Disappointed to see this engagement only online, and during the summer. I can't imagine that you'll get a good cross-section of citizens responding.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 01:22 PM

Sure...do not be ridiculous and build a \$67 million new library!! They are not revenue generating for the city and so much more can be done with that kind of budget. Thank you!

Anonymous

8/25/2020 01:36 PM

Don't need a new library!! The guelph hospital is a mess and needs more money and our streets are a mess and needs more maintenance

Anonymous

8/25/2020 02:50 PM

not at this time.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 03:21 PM

I am interested to work with ward boundaries for particular my ward No. 1

Anonymous

8/25/2020 03:25 PM

Thanks for encouraging open ended responses - forced choices can often lead to misinterpreted results because of the ignorance or bias of the survey designer

Anonymous

8/25/2020 04:48 PM

Too many questions. Just want to vote or have a say about numbers. 1 FT per Ward.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 04:58 PM

Thanks for the survey, hope you consider the feedback and do not take our representatives away.

Anonymous

8/25/2020 05:13 PM

Please consider stopping the 67million dollar library. This is NOT something most of Guelph supports. This is why you must have council members serving a limited term. There must be diversity. There must be changes in ideas and processes. This council should not be the voice of such a specific set of Guelph individuals. Members must be available for citizens who wish to express their views via email and telephone or they should not serve at all

Anonymous

8/25/2020 05:13 PM

It is a waste of resources to be revisiting this right now

Anonymous

8/25/2020 09:52 PM

Our mayor rocks and we need a council that is just as awesome. To be honest I'm even considering running for council next election.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 07:30 AM

Councillors need to be held accountable to the citizens they are representing. I have one great councillor who is responsive and kind, and one who nobody ever hears from. Councillors need to understand the needs, opinions and concerns of their residents, not just make their own decisions based on their own thoughts and values. We need a community-driven council, not a council that is basing their opinions on their own agendas.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 08:00 AM

I am not sure why we need a full time city council in the first place? What say does the city council have on anything, since it is mostly the developers who seem to be "running the city". When was the last time our city had a major employee come to set up their business? Why are we being by passed for large companies to set up shop here? Would this not help alleviate the tax burden on the citizens of Guelph? We have far too many housing developments and our taxes are too high. Every year our services become depleted, such as, snow removal, yard waste removal and street sweeping. I would like to see my property taxes go down in value not up. We also need fewer working a city hall in general.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 08:26 AM

Keep the ward system!

Anonymous

8/26/2020 09:22 AM

The design of this survey is HORRIBLE. For a publically-funded, PUBLIC CONSULTATION you are expecting your respondents to read a large volume of fairly technical background documents in order to be able to complete the survey. This assumes that your respondents read and understand English

fluently, that they have the time to complete this exercise prior to the survey, and that they will understand the material well enough to make informed replies to survey questions. The questions of size of council and local democracy are significant, particularly in these highly unpredictable and turbulent times. Local government and citizen representation has never been more important. Yes, this survey says that you are not actually interested in an engaged citizenry, because the survey design excludes so many people from participation. Public consultation looks like: information that is easy to read and has been already digested for the public by the survey administrators; is easily available (like a colourful leaflet put into everyone's mailbox explaining where and how to complete the survey, for example); is available in alternate formats and in different languages; and explains the goal and purpose of the survey (aka: why we should care and why we should complete it!). You can do better, City of Guelph.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 09:27 AM

While I think full time work is important and would be a benefit to allowing councillors to focus on their responsibilities and have quality of life, I think it is also not representative of the work situation of many citizens, and might therefore lead councillors to make decisions without recognizing the overwhelming burden of part time employment that many citizens face, and which defines large parts of their lives.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 09:32 AM

I am hoping this review will result in the reinforcement of the critical importance of city council and the need to put more resources into city councillors, in order to move forward as a city. Given the current climate, just keeping our heads above water is a major feat.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 10:17 AM

I really enjoyed the town hall last night. Very informative and made completing this survey much easier. My other comment is that if we continue with 12 part time council members, we need to limit to how long they can sit on council. We need to ensure the council represents the community well and does not become an "olds boy club". I know they are elected and there is not much (or any) competition in some wards.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 10:58 AM

Sortition! Not sure why communities don't use sortition. It works in the judicial environment. It should be used for governance as well. This would make for less "cocky" elected officials who think their minimal knowledge of government administration should overrule the hard work of professional planners, engineers and administrators on staff. THAT ARE TRAINED IN THESE MATTERS. Really irks me when staff gives oodles of solid information on a file to council and the Mayor just says, "NOPE, I'm going with my gut". Ugh. Sortition Part-Time Paid 2 year term Let staff do their jobs.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 11:46 AM

I worry that the review of the current council structure is an attempt to greatly reduce local representation and erode our representation on city council. The time allowed for feedback is insufficient for this very large decision.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 12:36 PM

This is a really big decision that is not really being given the time or advertisement. I have seen signs around Guelph "should councillors be part

time or full time” which is sort of misleading to what is really at stake here. These kinds of decisions should be voted on and you should be representative of most of the population of Guelph, not just those who have time and space to be socially aware. Also doing this while the students are away to keep their voices absent seems a bit underhanded as well. It really makes folks wonder about the underlying reasoning behind the need to do this now. Let’s be more transparent please. We didn’t elect Ford and we clearly don’t want his conservative political tactics being used in our municipal politics.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 12:42 PM

Offering this survey during the summer, during covid, was a mistake. This is an important conversation and should have been done during primetime, after summer.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 02:29 PM

You made this very compatible to do this survey thks

Anonymous

8/26/2020 03:10 PM

I have grave concerns that administration or wherever the question of ward vs at-large is coming from has a political agenda. Guelph ward system works, just need realignment for better representation considering different areas of the city require different representation and focus. Why is there no Downtown ward or a central north and south or an east north and south or a west north and south ward being considered? Where is the discussion about adjusting ward boundaries to make the current ward system more efficient?

Anonymous

8/26/2020 04:48 PM

We need to do more to keep Council out of day-to-day business and focus more on long term issues of the City - hire competent staff, orient them and manage them and then let them do their work within the overall guidance of the Council. We need to do more to engage citizens regularly rather than just when some NIMBY issue arises and everyone has to be heard at a Council meeting, wasting a lot of time. The input is not always helpful and it is often coming from the same disaffected individuals. The time for public input is long before an issue hits the Council agenda.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 04:59 PM

A backgrounder to suggest pros and cons/provide education prior to completing the survey is sorely missing.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 06:21 PM

Whatever system leads to better representation. Ranked ballot for mayor would be a big improvement for example.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 06:50 PM

I answered question 1 in alignment with the title of that section: hopes and dreams, not in response to question number 1.

Anonymous

8/26/2020 08:15 PM

This survey is exactly what I expect from my municipal government. These are so much easier with the use of technology and you can now base your opinion on data collected instead of just a couple peoples opinion. Feed back from the end users is essential in 2020

Anonymous

I don't think this is an appropriate time to be thinking about changes to the

8/26/2020 07:32 PM

council structure. There are far more pressing issues right now and this seems like a big waste of time and money.

Anonymous

8/27/2020 06:50 AM

The inefficient Ward system sacrifices the good of the whole for localized self interest

Anonymous

8/27/2020 07:58 AM

Listen to your young people councilors. There are many who have grown up in this town and wish to stay, and they will make up the bulk of the next generation of home owners and renters. Accessibility is key for everyone, including your locals. A reasonable market should be a priority.

Anonymous

8/27/2020 10:15 AM

I think surveys like this are a good way to get public feedback. I think every effort should be made to engage the community in this way. This might mean more advertising, a greater effort at engagement.

Anonymous

8/27/2020 12:12 PM

City council should not be the ones to vote on the final results. Why would they vote to eliminate some of their positions and to only keep their positions part time. Huge conflict of interest giving them the final vote

Anonymous

8/27/2020 01:34 PM

I learned that Council is reviewing this matter that is now long past due.

Anonymous

8/27/2020 02:20 PM

Thank you for asking our opinion!

Anonymous

8/27/2020 03:24 PM

Do not turn the city council into a boardroom. That is a terrible terrible idea. Cities are not profit making corporate entities -- they are human spaces and should be structured to serve the people who live there and the environment. Stay local and connected

Anonymous

8/27/2020 03:36 PM

Question 10 did not offer an option for mixed full and part time councillors. That is my choice. Candidates for each ward would run either as full or part time. There would be one full time and one part time councillor per ward.

Anonymous

8/27/2020 09:39 PM

I feel like a big problem is the first-past-the-post nature of our current election system.

Anonymous

8/28/2020 07:21 AM

The survey title indicated that this was a ward boundary review and that is what I cared most about. Guelph city council doesn't really do much that is useful, staff make all the decisions and they only care about adding more development to the south end because there's more tax revenue.

Anonymous

8/28/2020 08:42 AM

the survey experience was not informative, as that hopefully wasn't its intention. I rather thought that the survey was intended for we, the voters, to inform the City... your last question (15) is bizarre

Anonymous

8/28/2020 09:14 AM

I'm curious as to the impetus for this review. Who is agitating for this? (It wasn't clear from the background material, other than a nod as to the last time it was discussed.) If the issue is better representation for our citizens, then I think the considerations should not just focus on the number of people represented in each Ward but WHO is representing us and making it easier

	for women and people of colour to run for office.
Anonymous 8/28/2020 09:43 AM	no
Anonymous 8/28/2020 12:13 PM	Diversity and equity for all members of our community should be the # 1 priority of our City Counsel
Anonymous 8/28/2020 06:26 PM	Thanks!
Anonymous 8/29/2020 04:14 AM	Given growth since the 90s, maybe another ward or 2 needs to be added. Guelph council usually works well as is. It would be good to have some more diversity, but to also maintain the care for the communities within the city. Personally I think the way the current ward system is set up is the best way to achieve balance and community consideration. But I concede balance might involve a mix of at large/ward system, but I really don't think so - I think at large leads to too much micromanaging of the city overall and less leadership opportunity for the mayor. I think the 2 councillor system can help to create that balance if marketed the right way so that people elect their different interests within their wards. Either way, I definitely do not want to see full time councillors.
Anonymous 8/29/2020 06:15 AM	The comment period should be longer. This is a very important issue that will impact Guelph for years to come.
Anonymous 8/29/2020 07:29 AM	I think it will be important to share the cost structure of each of the options for part-time vs. full-time councillors, more Wards vs. less Wards, etc. as each model potentially changes the cost of operation of the city and has both pros/cons. This needs to be transparent to the community at large.
Anonymous 8/29/2020 08:12 AM	I fear that this will not result in positive changes, given the type of questions being asked. Perhaps the status quo is better than the direction this seems to be headed.
Anonymous 8/29/2020 05:23 PM	Council needs to ignore left wing pet projects
Anonymous 8/29/2020 08:30 PM	I wonder if we could have fewer wards and more councillors per ward
Anonymous 8/30/2020 06:54 AM	I strongly disagree with shrinking the size of our council.
Anonymous 8/30/2020 12:09 PM	Why is this necessary? Guelph has larger issues of concern, such as reconstructing business through and after this pandemic, providing affordable housing, reducing poverty, and expanding the hospital and other health-care facilities.

Anonymous

8/30/2020 01:02 PM

This consultation should be extended by 2 weeks

Anonymous

8/30/2020 01:50 PM

As a resident i would like to see the city of Guelph adopt a system whereby each ward has one elected Councillor to focus more on local, community issues and one elected Councillor to focus more on city wide issues that residents of each ward are concerned about. The people of Guelph need to have a greater say when it comes to forming policy in the city of Guelph. Decisions made by city council should take citizen concerns more seriously and adopt those policies specifically over what city council feels is the best course of action. Residents should be allowed to vote on specific policies, not just rely on city Councillors to do that for them.

Anonymous

8/30/2020 01:55 PM

I like the current system but we need to add Councillors or a another Ward in new areas of Guelph.

Anonymous

8/30/2020 02:51 PM

don't change what isn't broke

Anonymous

8/30/2020 06:25 PM

I realise that making council membership a full-time occupation would add significantly to cost, so reducing the number of councillors would ease that problem, but how to divide a smaller number of councillors into six wards equally and fairly?

Anonymous

8/30/2020 08:35 PM

Why is the ward question being raised when the citizens of this good city vehemently challenged council in the 90's to eliminate the city wide system because it was unrepresentative of all constituents? The ward system has been working very well since.

Anonymous

8/30/2020 08:44 PM

In relation to part time vs full time roles, the city should look at reducing the time commitment so more people that want to get involved can run. Maybe look at increasing council to 18 to achieve this. It is desirable that our councillors have other real jobs. If you move to full time, who is going to quit their job if they have a successful career already? No one. This will lead to poorer representation overall by eliminating the very people that have the skills to be great representatives.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 06:27 AM

No

Anonymous

8/31/2020 06:58 AM

Is this going to reach many people? If you are surveying people online just before we are sending our children back to school then you were not going to get very many answers. It's a very stressful time for parents, well for everybody! I think you need to do this survey later in the year as well to make it fair.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 09:04 AM

I think we need better councillors, not more councillors or councillors spending more time making poor decisions. The zoning situation in Guelph is out of control. Who on council encouraged a builder to put forward a

proposal for a 25 storey building on a lot zoned for 6. Guelph received an award for preparing a top quality city official plan. A great deal of time and effort was put into this plan by a lot of people - the City Planning Department, City Council, citizens, business groups, etc. The ink wasn't wet on this highly lauded plan and City Council was already accepting requests for zoning changes from builders. Ten stories goes to 14, etc. The city's zoning by laws are surrounded on three sides by a 2 foot fence topped by razor wire, but the fourth side is wide open, no fence. The city's zoning by-laws are a farce. Who's responsible for that? City Hall. the City Planning Department. This city needs councillors who are focused on making good decisions. We have, or should have, competent management and staff, who are well paid, to look after the operation of the city.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:18 AM

I respect and appreciate the job our councillors (mostly) and council as a whole does....however change isnt a bad thing and may help with cohesiveness with less "special interest" of certain council members

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:25 AM

I attended part of the online seminar (Facebook Live) on this matter, and I was disappointed to see that there were no women or BIPOC represented among the consultants and staff present at that session. How can we trust that the recommendations that come out of this review will appropriately honour the needs and priorities of everyone in our community?

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:34 AM

I think this is a very effective platform for Citizen feedback. Thank you.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 10:39 AM

Not every home resident has the luxury of 2+ incomes or a bountiful pension supplement. Being a single senior who has lived in the city 35 years I can afford my home but not the ever increasing taxes! City taxes are higher monthly than all my amenities combined..... groceries heat hydro insurance automobile gas. And yes I still have a bit left to splurge on the odd bottle of VQA for a treat. Let's reconstruct property taxes to not only include the home value but to think about the household income as well. Maybe a discount to single home owners

Anonymous

8/31/2020 11:31 AM

No

Anonymous

8/31/2020 12:08 PM

Just to reiterate, going to an at-large system could potentially disadvantage many Guelph citizens if the balance of councillors are elected from a single area. This is a bad idea and should not go forward.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 12:14 PM

I think this survey was conducted in an arrogant and antidemocratic way. This is not the way the city should be soliciting feedback for such a vitally important discussion. There should be opportunities for in-person involvement and town halls, and under no circumstances should it be rushed.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 12:26 PM

I like living here and I hope the growth becomes more manageable



Anonymous

8/31/2020 01:07 PM

it is nice to see Council structure being looked at as it has been the same for many years. Always nice to look at options to continuously improve the service.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 01:08 PM

Felt there is some built in bias to some of the questions, perhaps not intentional, but the wording of some questions felt could have been better. Question 3 about Primary Role should have allowed multiple responses to prioritize perhaps top three or to scale from 1 to 5. Also could have included a comment box on Question 3. I understand this survey is only available online, seems limiting as not all voters have access to online and this has tight timelines of only a few weeks at a time when many people are more concerned about back to school issues than City surveys.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 02:18 PM

My complements to ward 6 councillor, Dominique O'Rourke, for her excellent regular communication with residents. Many of my neighbours are on her communication list as I am. The Mayor stated during the last election campaign he had plans after the second term, rather than continuing in municipal politics. I agree that number of terms be limited for positions of mayor, premier, prime minister. With our tax bills as high as they are, expenses well over budget, eg police station, legal costs, city population expected to increase, it is unacceptable that the library is being deferred by this council while spending elsewhere is ongoing.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 02:23 PM

no

Anonymous

8/31/2020 03:15 PM

If council intends to change the existing ward system, I would like to see that this issue would go through a referendum given that it impacts directly all citizens. Thank you.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 04:15 PM

Elect 1 city councilor at large per 50,000 citizens. For Guelph, at approximately 140,000 citizens in 2020, that would be 2 city councilors at large. 1 Councilor could focus on Guelph East for the upcoming term and 1 Councilor could focus on Guelph West for the upcoming term. For this term, make the 2 Councilors at Large part-time (20 hours per week scheduled and same pay as the Ward Councilors) and proratedly reduce the other 14 Ward Councilors wages to pay these 2 councilors at large. This makes remuneration revenue neutral for all of the councillors.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 07:01 PM

I'd like to better understand what the job of a Councillor would look like with more elected, and/or if they were full time. What would they do given 35 hours a week devoted to Council? How would this benefit citizens, and what measurements or evaluation (besides an election every four years) would be in place to review Councillor performance?

Anonymous

8/31/2020 07:09 PM

I didn't see a question about the number of wards. We need to make sure ward sizes are adjusted to reflect their respective population sizes. In my opinion some wards should be split to make that happen (south end, east end). This would ideally be one councillor per ward, but more wards.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 07:26 PM

Politicians make important decisions that directly affect people's lives. All people should be represented fairly using districts that follow clear boundaries and avoid splitting neighbourhoods. The people should decide who will speak for them, and the wards should be created to serve the needs of the electors, not the elected. Single-member wards would make it easier for councillors - and those seeking to become councillors - to meet and speak with the voters they want to represent. When wards become too large this personal connection isn't always possible, making money and party affiliations a larger factor in who gets elected. Most Guelph City Council candidates run their campaigns out of their own basements, using mostly their own money, with help from their friends and neighbours. Cutting the size of wards in half will make it easier (and cheaper!) for them to run a credible campaign, and do more door-knocking and less fund-raising.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 07:31 PM

I strongly oppose changing to a city-wide council system, as this would lead to a reduction in the diversity of council and reduce representation of those who actually live in each neighbourhood.

Anonymous

8/31/2020 09:15 PM

I didn't see the number of wards discussed (maybe this is at a different phase?). I would suggest increasing the number of wards to 8, dividing up the population more equally amongst these 8 wards and having two part time Councillors per ward. This increases the number of Councillors to 16. There maybe sight for future population increases that don't currently exist (e.g. Clair maltby expansion) and this should be planned in any change to the ward system that currently operates. Thanks for allowing me to contribute to this process. It is thought provoking and a challenging issue.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 05:34 AM

This survey wasn't designed the best. Some answers should have ranked answers rather than either or.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 06:07 AM

I believe the functionality of Council is increased through the true commitment and desire for collaboration in working towards what is best for Guelph. From watching our council for many years it's apparent that this can fluctuate. As with any team the leader is key to setting the tone. The elected full time Mayor is this lead and I believe is why we don't require full time councillors.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:01 AM

Have a question on the ballot next election re: at large and ward composition of council. Size and whether full or part time as well. this is a fundamental change and should be determined by the electorate...not the sitting council as there is an obvious bias.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:45 AM

See my response to question #11.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 09:44 AM

This is the first time ai have responded to anything like this

Anonymous

Do not do anything to make it more difficult for women and members of other

9/01/2020 10:12 AM

under-represented groups to run for City Council....it is already very different and we need these voices at our Council table!

Anonymous

9/01/2020 10:31 AM

This is a hard process because sometimes you get what you pay for. It was interesting to see the variety in hours councilors spend on city business. I wonder about the people who spend so little time on preparing for meetings.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 02:06 PM

Please put this to bed permanently .

Anonymous

9/01/2020 02:21 PM

Happy to have had the opportunity to express my opinion.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 02:24 PM

THIS IS PROBABLY JUST AN EXERCISE TO 'SHOW' IMPUT IS WANTED..... but decisions are / have already been determined..

Anonymous

9/01/2020 02:40 PM

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this decision-making process.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 04:14 PM

Start treating taxpayer money with respect. It's not your money. It belongs to the citizens. There is only one taxpayer for three levels of government. If certain pet projects require a tax increase then forego that project.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 04:32 PM

I realized how much I don't know about city council, or the councillors' roles...

Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:25 PM

There should be incentives for citizens to contribute to campaigns. That is gain a tax credit. Similar to federal/provincial elections.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:27 PM

Term limits, and financial assistance to run city wide.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:45 PM

We should also put firm term limits on mayors.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 07:50 PM

I moved to Guelph from Mississauga last year and found it really odd that there were 2 elected councillors per ward, I would prefer 1 per ward so was really excited to see this survey. Thanks for hearing us out!

Anonymous

9/01/2020 08:07 PM

The current system works fine, but there is always room for improvement. I'd be interested in seeing a system evaluated where we elect one Councillor per ward, 7 Councillors at large, and then the mayor is selected by that body of 13 elected persons. The mayor should be carrying out the will of council, not exerting extra influence on Council directions.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 08:14 PM

At some point, it may become necessary to increase the number of wards as the city grows, which may also involve changing the borders of some of the existing wards.

Anonymous

9/01/2020 09:04 PM

Please, let's make of a true community leadership board with people who love our city and the people who live here

Anonymous

9/01/2020 09:08 PM

This is a pretty narrow consultation. They are far better ways to improve city governance

Anonymous

9/02/2020 04:47 AM

I appreciate this opportunity for review. I think a great next step would be an examining the interaction between city staff and the public.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:52 AM

I do not endorse full time councillors.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:52 AM

Thanks for the good work done so far this year. It's not been easy to manage this pandemic but it has been done well in Guelph. Thank you for being a leader to mandate masks from early on

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:55 AM

No

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:59 AM

My Postal Code cannot be selected by survey method, it is not N1H0A5, it is N1H 2J3. Thank you for facilitating an engagement process for this project.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:35 AM

Small, small, small

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:39 AM

Going to an 'at-large' system tends to create a political establishment that develops one or two general approaches to issues. It is more likely to represent ideas or ideologies than to represent the real matters and interests that arise in wards and neighbourhoods.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:02 AM

This survey forced me to consider what I believed. And, I differ somewhat from my spouse!! Thx for doing this and for including the link in the Ward 5 newsletter.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:44 AM

a useful exercise; thank you

Anonymous

9/02/2020 09:14 AM

I have witnessed both politicization of professional staff (i.e. political influence over what should be objective professional opinions and recommendations. I have witnessed short-term thinking (expedience) rather than long-term thinking (for potentially better results). Government provides the goods and services that are not typically provided by the private sector, but always ensuring appropriate due diligence, safety, security and reliable effectiveness of operations; government should not be run like a business (i.e. not competitively nor for profit nor for growth), although efficiency is important and should continuously be pursued. And Guelph should strive to set an example of a no-growth urban area, focused on creating a reliable and

	sustainable economy that supports a high quality of life (i.e. not just growing continuously and recklessly). Thanks, J. Stokes.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 09:16 AM	I hope that more people would be interested in becoming councillors so we can have more diversity. I think there is too much money wasted on projects that only serve a few people.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 09:19 AM	Regarding P/T vs F/T ... I am unsure because I know that some Councillors treat the job as F/T while only being compensated for P/T. It's great if they have a lifestyle to support that, but it might put pressure on those who can only offer P/T effort. It might also prevent good candidates from running because they can't afford the job. On the other hand, a F/T job is a large increase in overhead expense. And, what additional work would a Councillor do if they were F/T? Certainly we wouldn't expect to move someone from a P/T to a F/T role and not increase their responsibilities. Where is the information on this?
Anonymous 9/02/2020 09:22 AM	Thank you for the opportunity.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 09:23 AM	As seen above.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 09:33 AM	i would like to see the bylaws changed irrespective of the system, so that you have to reside in the ward you are running for in order to be a councillor for that ward.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 10:24 AM	Thanks for asking! I would love to learn more about council - maybe even jump in the race myself someday.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 11:32 AM	Keep the ward system. Accept the fact that councillor is a full-time job.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 11:32 AM	There should be a strict limit on how many times/how many years an individual can be on council.
Anonymous 9/02/2020 11:40 AM	More information on a couple of questions, for example, what is the current amount of time that Councillors spend working on city matters in a month. this information would have helped me answer question number 8 and 10. Thank you
Anonymous 9/02/2020 11:44 AM	This is a great format and I encourage you to continue and expand this to allow for input from the public. Thank you
Anonymous 9/02/2020 12:40 PM	I learned about this survey only by reading the the Guelph Today online service. I am concerned that there is no adequate vehicle to bring this kind of survey to general attention.
Anonymous	« Le mieux est l'ennemi du bien ». Don't spoil a good thing.

9/02/2020 01:58 PM

Anonymous

9/02/2020 02:25 PM

This survey seems to be set up to serve a predetermined agenda. The survey assumes all citizens have the same knowledge of how Guelph is governed and how the city operates. It seems set up for those in the know.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 02:31 PM

Any system will work with the good will of its participants. That doesn't mean that these systems should not be tweaked but the quality of the people is the most important ingredient.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 02:46 PM

The elected Mayor must also show that he/she makes decisions based on facts, community input and not on personal biases.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 03:35 PM

Would like to make it policy that all councillors and staff managers must reside in Guelph. For example: maybe that way they might have some idea of Guelph's embarrassing crumbling roads.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 03:41 PM

No, except Guelph City Council does need re evaluation especially over spending tax dollars!

Anonymous

9/02/2020 03:58 PM

No

Anonymous

9/02/2020 04:31 PM

Having this consultation during the summer and during a state of crisis doesn't seem like a great idea. People are not super available to turn their minds and consideration to this issue.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:08 PM

Do not reduce the size of council or remove wards.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:28 PM

My postal code didn't appear on the list. Here it is N1H 0B5

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:37 PM

Not sure why this review is taking place. If it is not broke . . . don't fix it. Not persuaded that there is an issue.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 06:48 PM

No thanks

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:15 PM

This was a challenging survey to complete since it required much background knowledge and becoming informed in order to complete the survey. It is very much geared toward folks who have an indepth knowledge of the workings of municipal government. I believe that, because of these reasons, many would be dissuaded from completing the survey. Perhaps simpler questions requiring multiple choice answers rather than requiring short answers would encourage a larger number of respondents from a more varied background.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 07:51 PM

Start listening to the citizens. Do not go backwards, move forward.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:18 PM

Nope.

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:40 PM

Full time if one position, part time if 2

Anonymous

9/02/2020 08:42 PM

Making it a smaller size would benefit people and most likely will vote. We need more people to vote

Anonymous

9/02/2020 09:08 PM

I'd like to hear from and engage with my councillors more.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 04:42 AM

No

Anonymous

9/03/2020 04:59 AM

Please make voting online.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 05:23 AM

The timing of the survey is problematic with COVID-19 top of mind and back to school concerns the end of summer is not a good time for a public engagement exercise.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 06:11 AM

You should hire unbiased folk to design your surveys if you want a realistic reflection of the public's mood.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 09:15 AM

If we move toward full-time councilors I would like to see a mechanism for recall or at least a mid-term review of the councilors' effectiveness in fulfilling the role.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 09:50 AM

I think reducing the number of councillors and having city-wide councillors instead of ward-specific ones is a terrible idea that will hurt the most vulnerable people in our community. I do not think this consultation process was adequate. It needs to be voted on. I will be spreading this survey around and encouraging community members to take part in it. I know many are not aware of what is going on and where to find this survey. They do not understand how the city works, and why it is important. There is a huge lack of civic engagement on the part of the city when it comes to decision making. How far is reach in proportion to the city's population?

Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:22 AM

keep it the same and adjust boundaries for population growth

Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:35 AM

Pave Rhonda Road!

Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:39 AM

City hall is over staffed Why do we keep having future generations pay our bills? Political reasons (!getting re elected Supersedes fiscal responsibility)

Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:49 AM

I think our councillors need to be full time so that they can be better dedicated to the wards they serve

Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:59 AM

I think consideration should be given to term limits for councillors. Some are being elected on name recognition only. In my ward, one councillor doesn't reply to emails at all. I've contacted three councillors outside of my ward on a variety of matters and they've all be very helpful. I'd like to have a hand in helping them get elected.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 12:38 PM

Go Guelph!

Anonymous

9/03/2020 01:14 PM

Change is needed in Guelph. The old ways accomplish little

Anonymous

9/03/2020 01:19 PM

No

Anonymous

9/03/2020 01:24 PM

Lower taxes

Anonymous

9/03/2020 02:14 PM

Having been on the Council Remuneration Review Committee and having our findings re: the mayor totally ignored, I am doubtful that this survey will have any real true effect on what really happens. I have lived here since the early 70's prior to the Hanlon) and have been in the same house since 1976, and I hope that good decisions prevail. Thank you for this opportunity to have my say.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 02:27 PM

I appreciate the opportunity to comment. However, I'm often skeptical of this sort of public consultation. In my view, most people do not have the time or inclination to become deeply informed and engaged with municipal governance. As such, important initiatives such as this tend to get reduced to quasi-referendums, facile 'dollars and cents' arguments and an opportunity to air superficial populist viewpoints about government in general. In other words, I hope that this isn't just a status quo, checking the box exercise, and you will give appropriate weight to the quality and depth of the community perspectives, not merely the volume. Good luck!

Anonymous

9/03/2020 02:54 PM

Diversity of opinion and deliberation on policy is a strength of democracy.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 04:15 PM

Better understanding of ward system.



Anonymous

9/03/2020 04:12 PM

I believe that the number of wards should be determined by first determining a desirable average size for each ward. This would be similar to the way in which provincial and federal ridings are established.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 05:21 PM

Public engagement of an issue this important should not be undertaken during the summer and during a pandemic. I am furious this is occurring with so little engagement and next to no education. Shame.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 06:14 PM

Please actually listen to everyone who has made comments. Please publicize this huge change that is being considered and allow more time for citizens to actually absorb it and have their voices heard and ACTED on. Please get working on Police reform. We need more social workers and no more increases in policing. We need police, fire, paramedics and social workers working as a team and not as individual silos.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 06:22 PM

Council must be made up of individuals who will treat decisions as if it was their business they are operating. Municipalities cannot and should not be the delivery of all services. If council wishes to provide services in unlegislated areas, they must choose which will be operated by public funds or delivered via private operation. To do this, you need to have council and staff who are not afraid to make tuff choices. If this means thinking outside the box and hiring staff from the private sector to provide guidance, then do it. There is only one tax payer whether the federal, provincial or municipal government comes calling for our dollars. The dollar can only be divided so far. Council must place limits on what services can be provided beyond those that are legislated.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 07:15 PM

I realize electoral reform is not part of this survey, but that is my primary motivation. Our democracy in Canada is woeful in terms of the way we elect our representatives. The big parties and the lobbyists who hold their pockets work hard to prevent electoral reform at the national and provincial levels. We need to start at the municipal level so people see alternative voting systems in practice.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 06:51 PM

We have no money to waste on building a library

Anonymous

9/03/2020 09:00 PM

Thanks for doing this! Best of luck with it all

Anonymous

9/03/2020 09:52 PM

its important for the city to be dedicated to public transport, the cities roads and streets are being cloaked with to much traffic. the city needs to encourage its citizens to use the transit system in the city, and for traveling to other areas. traveling to areas like cambridge,fergus and kitchener isnt convenient. Seniors should be encouraged to give up the car and to use public transport.

Anonymous

9/03/2020 10:02 PM

The survey should have been made available for more than 3 weeks at the end of the summer when many residents are out of town and focus is elsewhere.

Anonymous 9/03/2020 10:26 PM	For goodness sake, don't go to at-large council. I lived in Oshawa during that failed experience. A real gong show.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 05:42 AM	The primary role of any city government is to keep homeowners property taxes low or lower than what they presently are and to downsize the city workforce. At present the cost of running it with all of it's legacy expenditures are quite unsustainable and it should be outsourcing as much as possible. Socialism is bad. Capitalism is the way to go.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 07:15 AM	Please continue to ask citizens for input. This is great!
Anonymous 9/04/2020 07:14 AM	This survey is unnecessary. Keep the councillor & ward system the way it is. The ward system is ingrained in our local Guelph language. You can say "I live in the Ward" and people know what you mean.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 07:22 AM	Councillors cannot be politicians. They need to be real people who are ready to fight for the poor, marginalized and most vulnerable in our communities. Not the rich. Not corporations or big businesses. The majority of Guelph. We need affordable housing. Not townhomes that cost 500 grand.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 07:23 AM	I oppose the reversal of winter street parking rules as noted above. Not sure why consultation is happening during the summer and a pandemic...not a very efficient nor effective consultation strategy.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 07:29 AM	The objective is to make Guelph a great city to live and work in the most cost effective manner possible.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 07:33 AM	Thank you for having a survey, it allowed me to feel engaged during the pandemic. Please provide 12 ward based councillors + Mayor all at full time responsibility levels.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 08:05 AM	No
Anonymous 9/04/2020 08:14 AM	I'm frequently disappointed with the decisions made by the council. So much money is wasted on projects that do not serve the needs of citizens in Guelph. Often decisions are made against recommendations of city staff and need to be reversed at great cost due to public backlash.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 08:16 AM	Our ward 6 Councilor is excellent in keeping us up to date and informed with ALL issues in Guelph!!! I would hate to lose her to a city wide voting system. Her commitment helps the whole city also, so I don't feel the ward system is a negative thing.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 08:35 AM	Please ensure decisions are made without stakeholder influences and stay true to your missions statements and visions.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 08:43 AM	Citizen representation is critical. We must not let it erode in these bizarre times.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:47 AM

Don't fix what isn't broken!

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:51 AM

The Mayor has had such a difficult time, trying to accomplish what is best for this city. It's time for a shake up. Wish we could get Andy VH back on council.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:13 AM

For the love of all things nice, please have a wider window for engagement on this important topic. Everyone is freaking exhausted with everything that is going on, not sure how you think you will get any meaningful engagement in a fundamenally transformative process in just a 3 week comment window. Defies common sense. Do better!

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:20 AM

For reconsiderations of wards, numbers of councillors, etc., we need to find ways to more thoroughly engage our citizenry. That will make Guelph a more vibrant and livable city.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:43 AM

We need reasonable, intelligent, willing, capable people in both City staff, and in our Council representatives. Their vision needs to respect the on-going viability and livability of the special city we call our home, Guelph.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:44 AM

Current council lacks transparency and accountability. There is also an over-representation of downtown and surrounding area due to ward layout and electing 2 councillors per ward.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:02 AM

I really wish you had given more time for public input on this issue. The democratic process and how it functions is qualitatively different for most other issues. It is, in my opinion, the basis for good governance at all levels of government. The worst pandemic in 100 years has made things difficult and more complicated, but we are all learning to be innovative in this 'new normal'. humans have an enormous capacity for creativity, now is the time to use it. The pandemic has provided an opportunity for some governments to flout open and transparent processes under the guise of health and safety of the community - I trust that Guelph is not one such government.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:15 AM

I did not always agree with how a question was framed with regard to an issue. In many cases I did not agree with the options provided. Both the questions and the options seemed to be geared to a quick tabulation of the survey results and not the rich diversity of voter views. The ability of this survey to capture voter views on the issues and questions confronting the City, is concerning.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:25 AM

Moving away from Wards would be an error for this city. It's presumptuous to think people can represent the entire city.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 10:32 AM

- upset that the mayor does not answer call or follow-up based on calls received.

Anonymous

councillors must live in the ward they represent.

9/04/2020 10:56 AM

Anonymous

9/04/2020 11:05 AM

Municipal politicians should try to keep their political leanings aside left/right  
More diversity is needed & should be sought out - age/ race/ culture/ education. It's mostly white Caucasian males making decisions. As a minority it does not feel representative and I feel my experiences are worlds away from the Mayors/his group

Anonymous

9/04/2020 11:36 AM

I appreciate the opportunity to provide input in a timely fashion. The background information would be very helpful for many. Hopefully this encourages more citizens to take an interest in their city and their civic responsibilities.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 11:56 AM

Don't spend \$67 million on a goddamn library. There is absolutely no justification. If you can't make a good library for under \$30 Mil, try again, because you aren't doing your job

Anonymous

9/04/2020 12:30 PM

Please fix some of the long standing issues instead of just focusing on your riding area. Its the city of Guelph, not my section of Guelph and the rest is someone else's problem.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:07 PM

Seriously divide the wards up or add more councillors or get councillors who actually work for the citizens in their ward. People shouldn't have to just spam the mayor on social media for the councillors of that ward to do something.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:20 PM

I would agree that we need to consider the current configuration and role of council. However, more is not necessarily better. I would also like to add that councillor should maintain complete authority over city administration including the retention and dismissal of all city employee's, departmental budgets, and the enforcement of austerity measures when they are required.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:37 PM

As the city expands, look into whether wards need to be redrawn (or new wards created) to balance based on population numbers

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:43 PM

This is a very good public outreach tool. Thank you for making democratic decisions that are based on data and evidence.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:47 PM

By and large I think Guelph has had good councils and mayors in the 13 years I have lived in Guelph. I have not supported every decision made, but I don't feel like we are ever governed by ideologues.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 01:58 PM

Perhaps not having life time people in there. Couple terms and done

Anonymous

9/04/2020 02:03 PM

i think it would be good if we could get to a place where residents felt comfortable to contact councillors and the mayor whenever they need to. Councillors seem to be better than the mayor. There doesn't seem to be any way to touch base with the mayor personally. Emails just get rerouted. How do you get a message to the mayor without having to post on a social site.

	He should be available to residents questions.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 02:10 PM	I think the Mayor is doing a fantastic job. Fully engaged and deeply cares about the city of Guelph.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 02:20 PM	I hope you will consider the input of Guelph's citizens, as well as the expert research on this issue. I hope you will make sure that it is citizens who are replying to this engagement and not those with pecuniary interests in the outcome. I wish you had extended the reply period into September.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 02:36 PM	I think councillors should have an office in their ward.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 02:43 PM	Thank you for asking my opinion
Anonymous 9/04/2020 03:42 PM	Don't be intimidated by the provincial government when considering council size. Do what is right for the city and make them fight you if they want to take away our collective municipal democratic power. I think folks underestimate the power of city council, but we should all know that you have an immense ability to improve our city; our piece of the planet we call home.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 03:43 PM	This council voted for a \$67 million dollar library..Really? That shows how out of touch with the people they are. This is not what the people of this city want, take the temperature of any Guelph facebook group, which has 1000s of members. Not to mention it was a corrupt conflict of interest that one of the council members voted as he was on the Guelph Library board.Repair some of the roads (Gordon..Edinburgh and Paisley..) Get rid of the lights clogging up the Hanlon and install overpasses to make it a real highway.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 04:05 PM	Yes.....please keep it part time. People making \$100,000 are only in it for the money but if they choose to run as a part time position you know they are committed n dedicated to our City.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 04:07 PM	Even with 12 PT councillors in a growing city, a significant amount of their workload could be diverted if citizens knew who to contact for administrative matters (like potholes or garbage pickup). They need HELP!! A constituency assistant or administrative person who can divert the non-policy issues to the right area would lessen their workload so that they can focus on policy and civic engagement.
Anonymous 9/04/2020 05:09 PM	Retaining multiple member wards is most important to be preserved
Anonymous 9/04/2020 06:13 PM	At the town hall, no one was aware of research relating to the participation of women and minorities in municipal politics. Please take into account the findings of this local research document from "The Research Shop" at the University of Guelph: Women and Politics: Overcoming Barriers to Participation in Leadership: <a href="https://atrium.lib.uoguelph.ca/xmlui/bitstream/handle/10214/10505/CowperSmi">https://atrium.lib.uoguelph.ca/xmlui/bitstream/handle/10214/10505/CowperSmi</a>

th\_etal\_WomenAndPolitics\_AODA.pdf?sequence=4&isAllowed=y Regarding the role of Council: This question might yield better results if people were able to choose several options they felt mattered most. By asking for one choice, it artificially limits people's options. Advocacy: While many citizens appreciate this work performed by Councillors, if citizens require advocacy in dealing with City Hall, it suggests that the bureaucracy is not functioning efficiently and not serving the needs of citizens. Councillors should serve as way-finders, helping their constituents navigate the organization to get the answers and service they need from the administration. Autonomy: This choice suggests an inactive and unengaged community that wants to vote and then tune out. This is not the reality in Guelph. No self-respecting board would do this. Engagement: This is a desired quality in Councillors, but community engagement is something that should be structured into every decision at City Hall, not conducted ad hoc by Councillors via social media or personal contacts. Properly structured community engagement ensures that everyone's voice is heard and that all perspectives are represented. This should be carried out by the Community Engagement team at City Hall. It is an administrative role. Administration: As the complexity and volume of matters requiring Council approval increases, the greater the need for a clear vision and policies to guide decision-making and city staff conduct. Administration of day-to-day operations should be left to city staff.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 06:18 PM

I do. While I appreciate your having provided this opportunity for input I have deep concerns about the process of making these decisions. First, it is a TERRIBLE time to expect a broad band of the citizenry to engage in this topic. For the last several weeks the prime focus of families in Guelph has been the reopening of the school system and the problem of child care during this week and next, as well as before and after school care. This preoccupation is on top of the economic impacts on families of the pandemic, and the health and general well being of themselves and their families. People are rightly putting their priorities elsewhere, meaning that whatever information you're trying to collect right now is profoundly unrepresentative and does not form a satisfactory basis for decision making. Second, as I understand it, Council itself, i.e., 13 people, will make the decision. That's 0.01% of the City's population. On something like this, the essence of municipal democracy, surely EVERY voter should be given the opportunity, not to INFLUENCE the decision, but to MAKE the decision. If ever there was an issue that called for a properly-managed referendum process, this is it. Notwithstanding the desire to have this issue resolved in time for the 2022 municipal election, I strongly recommend that the impact of the pandemic be acknowledged as rendering this project defunct, and that whatever resources have been allocated to it be redirected to developing a full referendum program for implementation in the 2022 election, so that implementation for the 2026 municipal elections can proceed on the basis of the outcome.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 07:15 PM

Please prioritize diversity on city council and consider how council can be more accessible. Guelph still has a long way to go in this area and it needs to be prioritized in order to ensure that Guelph can reach its full potential

Anonymous

9/04/2020 06:26 PM

I am unsure about recommending having full or part time city Councillors. If they are currently able to meet their responsibilities, then it should remain as is, part time. It is my sincere hope that the City of Guelph maintains the feeling of being it's own city, with a downtown that is a welcoming hub for its citizens, strong community values and a vision for a sustainable future. I'd like to see our city Councillors represent this vision.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:01 PM

Sorry no extra comments. I am proud of how Guelph is running. Thank you!!!

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:21 PM

Questions 2 and 3 were difficult to answer. #2: I chose "parliament" because I see City Council like a mini-Canada, and Canada is governed by a parliamentary democracy. (But then I see the word "governance," and I wonder if the analogy to a Board of Directors is a better one.) A Board of Directors appoints the Chair, the leader of the party with the most seats is the Prime Minister, whereas the Mayor is directly elected by the people. (Even then, city council is more like a parliament.) Now that I think of it, I analyzed my choice of "parliament" AFTER I made it. #3: I chose "advocacy" because unless a Councillor makes himself available to his constituents, he's NOT doing his job AT ALL.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:58 PM

The city CANNOT move to an at large system without a referendum.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 08:59 PM

Taxes are much higher here than other places I've lived. That's okay, but it doesn't seem to result in support for those who need it most at the fringes of society.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:27 PM

During one of the presentations, Guelph was compared to other municipalities. Some of these comparisons made little sense. For example, Sudbury is one of the largest municipalities in Ontario at almost 4,000 square km and Guelph is less than 600 square km. This difference alone means that each requires unique governance.

Anonymous

9/04/2020 09:55 PM

Any system we propose must be crafted to result in an inclusive and representative council, that shares power with minority interests. We must measure any proposal against this yardstick, and reject it if the system will fail to meet this goal.

**Optional question** (324 response(s), 332 skipped)

**Question type:** Essay Question





# City of Guelph Council Composition and Ward Boundary Review Phase 1 Study Findings and Recommendations

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Council Presentation  
NOVEMBER 5, 2020



# Study Overview



- The Consultant Team: Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., in association with ICA Associates Inc. and Drs. David Siegel and Robert J. Williams.
- Retained by the City of Guelph in January 2020 to conduct a comprehensive Council Composition and Ward Boundary Review:
  - Phase 1 – Council Composition and Employment Status Review
  - Phase 2 – Ward Boundary Review

# Phase 1 – Key Questions to Address



- How many Councillors are appropriate?
- Should Councillors continue to be elected in wards or city-wide?
- If so, how many Councillors should be elected in each ward?
- Would the City of Guelph benefit from having City Councillors who could devote themselves full-time to their Council responsibilities or should they remain part-time?

# Public Engagement



- Phase 1 engagement and consultation significantly exceeded expectations. (Target 300+ citizens providing detailed input).
- 670 citizens shared thoughtful, detailed insights in a survey, generating thousands of data points. Many more visited the site and joined a webinar to learn about the project.
- Methodology: Five key questions were closed-ended and mandatory. Optional follow-up questions allowed respondents to explain their reasoning. Most did.
- Respondents' views and ideas were considered and inform the Consultant Team's recommendations to Council.

# How many Councillors should sit on the Council?



- Council has the legislative authority to change the composition of council: *Municipal Act, 2001* s. 217 (1).
- No clear principles, standards, or formulas to apply in determining the appropriate size of a municipal council (see Phase 1 Report).
- Appropriate number of Councillors “a balancing act”: impact on Council decision-making, representation, costs, population growth.

# Elections by Wards or City-Wide?



- Council has the legislative authority “to divide or redivide the municipality into wards or to dissolve the existing wards” through a by-law: *Municipal Act, 2001* s. 222 (1) - subject to appeal to the LPAT.
- Each system has its own attributes and implications but wards more appropriate in large municipalities like Guelph.
- Some respondents endorsed a hybrid system but the Consultant Team concluded that two types of Councillors is unwarranted.

# Ward Magnitude?



- Many Guelph residents only familiar with a two-member system.
- Guelph only city of its direct comparators with two-member wards.
- Many see advantages in having two Councillors to contact but shortcomings more numerous: contributes to a larger Council, increases the size of wards, leads to confusion and duplication when a constituent approaches both Councillors.
- One-member wards provide the flexibility to increase the number of wards while decreasing the number of Councillors.

# Number of Wards?



- Question intersects with previous question(s).
- Fewer than six wards for a City the size of Guelph does not seem desirable.
- Adding (two-member) wards means adding two Councillors for each new ward which would increase the total size of Council.

# Full-time or part-time?



- Only three municipalities in Ontario pay Councillors what would be considered a full-time wage (Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa) - all are single-tier municipalities.
- Fitting a regular full-time or a traditional part-time job with regular hours around the significant and irregular time commitments of a Councillor is very difficult.
- Many respondents understood that increasing demands on Councillors require them to be fully engaged: “They cannot do this part-time.”



# Principles and Recommendations



- **Principle 1. The City of Guelph should have at least six wards.**
- **Principle 2. The City of Guelph should have no more than 12 Councillors.**

# Principles and Recommendations



- **Recommendation 1. The City of Guelph should continue to use a ward system.**
- **Recommendation 2. The City of Guelph should switch to a system of one member per ward.**
- **Recommendation 3. The City of Guelph should have eight single-member wards.**
- **Recommendation 4. Councillors for the City of Guelph should be considered full-time Councillors and should be compensated accordingly.**

## Phase 2 – Ward Boundary Review



- If Council determines in Phase 1 to maintain a ward system in Guelph, Phase 2 will see the Consultant Team develop alternative ward options for consideration by the community and Council
- Development of preliminary ward options Q1 2021
- Final Ward Options to Council Q2 2021
- Consultation and engagement activities will replicate the Phase 1 process unless public health regulations permit a return to live events



Questions?



# **City of Guelph Council Composition and Ward Boundary Review – Phase 1**

## **Members of Council and Senior Staff Interviews – Summary of Interview Notes**

The following are notes prepared by Drs. Siegel and Williams following interviews with members of council and senior staff. The interviews were semi-structured, beginning with a series of open-ended questions aimed at discovering what the interviewees saw as the major issues in Phase One of the review. Discussions were always focused on council activity but sometimes they went beyond the prepared questions.

Interviewees were promised anonymity at the outset of the discussion in order to obtain candid responses. This is a summary of the responses, not direct quotations.

### **Thematic Summary**

#### **1. Council Composition**

##### **No change**

- This is a reasonable size for a corporation of this size.
- It is counterfactual to reduce the size of Council now: the City is growing
- There is a risk of a cabal in a smaller Council.

##### **Reduce**

- Council is too big. Too much grandstanding, repetition at meetings.
- I would not want a lot fewer Councillors but a couple less who are here full-time would be a good result.
- It is onerous with twelve members – there is too much talk. Eight or ten would be a happy medium.

#### **2. The Guelph Ward System**

- The wards are so big that trying to manage everything contributes to the volume of work.
- The present boundaries are arbitrary.
- Smaller wards would improve access to Councillors; “contact” would be severed in an at-large system.
- What about a couple of at-large councillors?
- An at-large system would be a deterrent to candidates. Also “who is ‘my’ councillor?”
- A mixed system would confuse people.



### 3. Two-member Wards

No

- Councillors often seem to be tripping over each other. Not only is there duplication in terms of contacting staff, the responses from Councillors to the same question are frequently different and may be sent to different staff to handle the issue.

Yes, but . . .

- On a practical level it is a problem but there is a cushion for people if one of the councilors is absent. It gives people two Councillors to contact but duplication is fairly common.
- I appreciate having a ward colleague and sharing the workload but it takes some effort.

Yes

- A second Councillor can be a back-up on various tasks. It puts two people at the forefront for people with concerns.

### 4. How Councillors Use Their Time

- The role of Councillor has changed considerably: the complexity of the legislative framework, the pace of change, the expectations of constituents, the expectation to participate in outreach (social media and information dissemination). There is more active political discourse and that takes more time to participate properly. These things are all taking an emotional/psychological toll.

Governance

- There is a tendency to want to micro-manage but we need to keep boundaries, to keep our distance from management.
- Councillors need to understand their governance role; it is the micromanagers who complain of overwork.

Customer-service

- We spend an inordinate amount of time on referrals
- We should be facilitators not problem-solvers.
- The customer-service side of the job is enjoyable – helping people – being a “navigator” for them.

### 5. Full-time vs. Part-time

Pro Full-time

- The oversight requirements for the corporation need a full-time (dedicated) focus not people with two full-time jobs.
- It would eliminate the “I was too busy at work to . . .”



### Con Full-time

- Being full-time does not make you a better councillor. There would be a lot of make-work projects.
- You are asking people to step into an uncertain future.

### Questions

- What would full-time status do to the pool of candidates?
- There is not enough work to justify full-time status; I have made it a full-time job but I don't have to do all of those things.
- Does going full-time mean we would be better governed?
- Full-time Councillors would be easier to sell to residents if the size of Council is reduced

## 6. Other Topics

- Best practices may be very significant to the outcome of this review.
- A stronger governance board is needed to monitor and provide oversight.
- I would prefer a Committee structure (rather than Committee of the Whole) so we could get deeper into some issues. The CoW is more efficient but that is not the only measure of how we should do our job.
- The CoW system was a huge mistake. We seem to know a bit about everything but are not experts on anything.

## Full List of Comments

### 1. Council Composition

- Council is too big. Too much grandstanding, repetition at meetings.
- We don't need 12 full-time Councillors. Either we reduce the Council to fewer full-time people or we look for some sort of staff support.
- I would not want a lot fewer Councillors but a couple less who are here full-time would be a good result.
- We have 'way too many Councilors; six or seven would be better instead of having to listen so much to each other.
- With 12, it is hard to get enough people on side to make a decision. The shortcoming of a smaller council would be less divergent viewpoints.
- I like 12 members: we get good decisions with a wide and diverse range of experiences, etc.
- There is a risk of a cabal in a smaller Council.
- It is onerous with twelve members – there is too much talk. Eight or ten would be a happy medium.
- This is a reasonable size for a corporation of this size.
- It is counterfactual to reduce the size of Council now: the City is growing.





- Perhaps reduce to eight single-member wards; as it is, one person takes the bulk of the work. We also would not need two-members per ward if we are full-time.
- Twelve are warranted as part-time Councillors – convergent and divergent views are available.

## 2. The Guelph Ward System

- There appears to be loyalty/identity with Wards 3 and 5 (older sections of the City) not found elsewhere in the City.
- The wards are so big that trying to manage everything contributes to the volume of work.
- The present boundaries are arbitrary.
- Even though we are elected in wards, only about 20% of our work is concentrated on the ward; the rest is City business.
- (from a Councillor in the same ward): About 60-70% of my works is from Ward X
- An at-large system would be a deterrent to candidates. Also “who is ‘my’ councillor?”
- A mixed system would confuse people.
- Smaller wards would improve access to Councillors; “contact” would be severed in an at-large system.
- What about having a hybrid system – three at-large and the rest in wards? This could be a half way step to full-time Councillors.
- What about a couple of at-large councillors?

## 3. Two-member Wards

- Councillors often seem to be tripping over each other. Not only is there duplication in terms of contacting staff, the responses from Councillors to the same question are frequently different and may be sent to different staff to handle the issue.
- A second Councillor can be a back-up on various tasks. It puts two people at the forefront for people with concerns.
- I am unclear how to make the division between the two of us. Perhaps a single member with support would work better.
- There is some duplication with two members but a non-responsive ward-mate can be an issue.
- We have the Mayor’s EA as an unofficial helper, but we are too sensitive to the public purse to add support for Councillors.
- My colleague and I co-operate informally, we copy each other on responses to reduce duplication.
- It is not necessary. With only one Councillor, you would not have to figure out how to work with your wardmate.



- On a practical level it is a problem but there is a cushion for people if one of the councilors is absent. It gives people two Councillors to contact but duplication is fairly common.
- I appreciate having a ward colleague and sharing the workload but it takes some effort. If I have a ward colleague who did nothing and still got re-elected, I have to remember that they were elected.

#### 4. How Councillors Use Their Time

- Customer-service a waste of their time: some support would help but how would that improve governance?
- Some administrative support (not without cost) would be helpful but it should not lead to “busy work.”
- Councillors need to concentrate on their fiduciary duties, focus at the strategic level not “gum on the sidewalk”
- Too many councillors are not focused on the governance agenda and get tied up with the mundane. Would a 311 system be an improvement? Or a recognized/centralized point of contact (a staff person) for Councilors to direct questions?
- Councillors should focus on the horizon, not at their feet.
- If they just want to solve the problems, they should apply for a job with the City.
- Customer-service has increased as residents seek instant answers to their questions/complaints.
- Councillors need to understand their governance role; it is the micromanagers who complain of overwork.
- We spend an inordinate amount of time on referrals. There needs to be an education process for the community about addressing these routine matters.
- The customer-service side of the job is enjoyable – helping people – being a “navigator” for them.
- We should not have staff handle constituency work. The City needs better education and better tools to handle these things.
- The business imposed by staff has increased but not our responsibilities. My role is to create the solutions - to lead, not to follow.
- I am not trying to please people so I forward all concerns from the public to staff.
- I never respond to emails directed to all members of Council.
- The email never stops – from the public and staff.
- If I can save staff time by answering an email myself, I'll do that.
- We should be facilitators not problem-solvers.
- Councilors are not as well-versed in the topics on the agenda as they used to be – things are more complex but there is a lack of understanding or an unwillingness to learn.



- I would say that 55% of the matters raised by constituents are not the Councillor's business to solve. We should be going to a constituency assistant who could generate a workorder to deal with the matter. People need to know how this works; it would save an awful lot of work for Councillors.
- There is a tendency to want to micro-manage but we need to keep boundaries, to keep our distance from management.
- The role of Councillor has changed considerably: the complexity of the legislative framework, the pace of change, the expectations of constituents, the expectation to participate in outreach (social media and information dissemination). There is more active political discourse and that takes more time to participate properly. These things are all taking an emotional/psychological toll.

## 5. Full-time vs. Part-Time

- There are significant City-issues related to growth pressures that will be present for another ten years; full-time councillors might be better able to handle such responsibilities.
- Those who already make it a full-time job are likely retired.
- If they are full-time you know where to find them.
- A few better-paid Councillors would be better for the City – maybe not full-time.
- Councillors are now considered “employees” so receive some benefits but full-time Councillors would be eligible for OMERS.
- The oversight requirements for the corporation needs a full-time (dedicated) focus not people with two full-time jobs.
- Full-time status would attract more qualified people.
- Job insecurity is a deterrent – would a pension help?
- You are asking people to step into an uncertain future.
- This would eliminate the “I was too busy at work to . . .”
- There is a huge difference between the job and what people think it is. Many already think we are full-time because of all of the things we do and are surprised at how much – how little - we are paid.
- For some people the part-time salary (\$40,000) is a lot of money and is already too much.
- You get what you pay for.
- I am making a financial sacrifice to do this job and having some financial stability would be a benefit but I am not sure who would want it on a full-time basis. It would need to tie into the person's career path.
- I think there would be better candidates, a better cross-section of the community and more “regular” people.



- I would support full-time Councillors if the added time brings more value but it is probably closer to three-quarter time.
- Full-time Councillors would be easier to sell to residents if the size of Council is reduced.
- Part-time status encourages the self-employed and the retired. Full-time status would attract younger candidates with present (not past) experiences, with family perspectives and more community engagement. They would be more in touch with today's working world.
- We will always exclude some people, whatever the employment status.
- The community needs to value the role.
- You can put in as much time as you want.
- We are not well served by having part-time Councillors at the ward level. We do not have control because we are part-time; we are led around by the nose by staff.
- Being full-time does not make you a better councillor. There would be a lot of make-work projects. There is already too much interference with staff.
- Our Council meetings are too long because people have not prepared and don't ask questions ahead of time.
- I originally supported going full-time; it would allow people to concentrate on Council business. Presently, Councillors are people with free time on their hands but we don't pay a living wage for what we get.
- We are not at the point where we need full-time Councillors; it would become a "day job" but municipal politics is not a 9-5 job. It would also mean holding daytime meetings which are not in the public's interest.
- Full-time limits potential candidates
- Does going full-time mean we would be better governed?
- What would full-time status do to the pool of candidates?
- There is not enough work to justify full-time status; I have made it a full-time job but I don't have to do all of those things.
- Many Councillors are disengaged outside the chamber.

## 6. Other Topics

- If nothing changes, at least we have "date-stamped" this aspect of our organization.
- I would prefer a Committee structure (rather than Committee of the Whole) so we could get deeper into some issues. The CoW is more efficient but that is not the only measure of how we should do our job.
- At present, the committee chairs are not directing the agendas.
- Best practices may be very significant to the outcome of this review.
- I thought there would be more cohesion on Council.
- We seem to know a bit about everything but are not experts on anything. The CoW system was a huge mistake.



- A stronger governance board is needed to monitor and provide oversight.
- Councillors have the prerogative to disagree with staff but some councillors show a blatant lack of trust in staff.

## **City Council Composition and Ward Boundary Review, Phase One – City Council Composition and Employment Status, 2020-179**

### **General Correspondence**

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I just read the item in Guelph Today about the staff proposal to increase the number of wards to 8 and to have just 1 full time councillor per ward.

I'm in general agreement with the proposal, except for one part - I believe that there should be some councillors at large, perhaps 4 but am undecided about whether they should be full or part time.

I am 78, and have lived in or around Guelph all of my life. I first voted when all councillors were "at large" and was not a big fan of the ward system. I would have preferred to have one per ward, plus 6 at large. Having said that, It's worked pretty well so far as designed, but now that the city is much larger, I think increasing the number of wards is the way to go.

I am still in favour of an "at large" component, so that some councillors will take a wider view of issues, and not think too much of their own area.

My two cents worth.....

And thanks for doing a good job for us!!

Wynne Wright

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I'm writing to express my opinion on this matter but must admit that the article in todays (23rd) Guelph Today is creating much confusion - making it sound as if the public already voted for 12 full time councilors.

That aside I agree that as Guelph is growing so rapidly the move from six to eight wards makes sense....particularly since some areas are becoming much more populated.

I also agree that 8 full time councilors is more than sufficient. Given that Toronto has a population of 2.9M and functions with 25 councilors, Guelph most certainly should not require more than eight.

In my opinion not all the current councilors are pulling their weight; let's tighten up the numbers and hopefully they'll be more productive.

My only other concern is the wages for councilors. What will full time councilors be paid? I believe they currently get \$40K with generous benefits as well.

Guelph needs to tighten up its spending. As a senior the proposed tax levies are stress inducing to say the least!

Regards,

Phyllis Paroshy  
Guelph

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Dear Mr. McMahon and Drs. Siegel and Williams:

I am writing this letter to the three of you, but copying the Mayor and Council and members of the media as well.

***Key data is missing from the City of Guelph Council Composition Phase 1 Report.***

Figure 3 on page six of the report, the Study Process references *Interviews with Senior City Staff and the Mayor and Members of Council*.

Watson & Associates gets top marks for transparency in relation to the public consultation aspect of the process - there are almost 300 pages of raw data in the report and everyone can read everything that citizens submitted.

In stark contrast, key opinions conveyed to the consultants by senior staff and the Mayor and Council are absent from the report. The one exception is the tally of hours worked by Councillors which is set out in a table in Appendix C.

I would be most appreciative if the raw data from the staff and Council interviews could be included in the consolidated agenda which will be published on Friday.

Including this information is crucial to meeting the stated goal of *"Inspiring confidence in local decision making and a transparent process."*

I was at a loss to understand why you recommended fewer Councillors. This is completely contrary to the results of the public input which indicated that **66.1% of citizens want a Council that is either the same size, or bigger.**

This disconnect was picked up by local media:

***Public Survey Shows 12 Full-Time Councillors is Preferred Choice:***

<https://www.guelphtoday.com/local-news/public-survey-shows-12-full-time-councillors-is-preferred-choice-2817030>

This passage on page 35 of the report appears to hold the key as to the drivers behind the your recommendations:

*A system of one member per ward would allow the City to increase the number of wards and decrease the number of Councillors simultaneously.*

***This is not in agreement with the majority view of those who responded to the survey, although a significant minority did support one-member wards. It is understandable that residents are more comfortable with a system that has been in place for almost thirty years.***

***The views of Councillors and staff who work in the system, however, as well as experience elsewhere, lead us to conclude that one-member wards would solve issues that frequently arise both between the two Councillors in the same ward and the working arrangements with City staff.***

*Recommendation 3. The City of Guelph should have eight single-member wards.*

So... the "views of Councillors and Staff" are driving your recommendations, however these "views" are completely opaque to citizens and even Council itself.

Some staff and Councillors clearly gave formal input that the size of Council is a problem for them, and **that** input has been prioritized over public input from some 670 citizens. Why have comments from these interviews not been summarized and included in the report so we can see how many staff and members of Council were advocating for this change and the rationale they put forward?

It is frankly disturbing that political and bureaucratic positions have been privileged over clear majority citizen preferences, but doubly so that these positions are not on the public record and therefore not subject to public scrutiny. How many individuals among senior staff and Council advocated for a smaller Council? Where are their interview responses not just to this question, but to the other matters being studied by the consultants?

I hope that this situation can be rectified by this coming Friday and that full transparency can be brought to bear on this process.

Sincerely,  
Susan Watson

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Dear Mr. McMahon and Drs. Siegel and Williams:

Slide 6 of the consultant slide deck in the Council package contains the following statement:

- Guelph only city of its direct comparators with two-member wards.

<https://pub-guelph.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=9846>

This statement does not align with the data provided in Fig. 5 on Page 11 of the consultants' report which lists Chatham-Kent as one of the single-tier comparator cities. You identify that Chatham-Kent has multi-member wards, ranging from 2 to 6.

While St. Catharines, Oshawa and Brantford were not selected as comparator cities for the purpose of the study, these three communities also have two Councillors per ward.



Perhaps it would be more precise to state that Guelph is among a minority of municipalities who have two-member wards.

Sincerely,  
Susan Watson

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Dear Mr. McMahon:

Page 7 of the Watson and Associates reports notes the following:

***"City staff pulled out all the stops to promote civic engagement by reaching out to their most comprehensive and up-to-date list of over 200 community organizations...."***

Have these 200 organizations been notified regarding the release of the consultants' report and the impending decision meeting on November 5th?

If not, I would suggest extending the delegate registration and correspondence deadline beyond this coming Friday.

Sincerely,  
Susan Watson

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Mayor Guthrie and members of Council:

I'm looking at page 32 of the consultant's report. The consultant is suggesting that full-time Councillors would want/need support staff: two positions at \$111,800 and one at \$90,350. This is almost equal to the cost of 12 full-time councillors - just off by one salary.

Citizens were never asked in the public consultation what they thought of the option of cutting council size, but adding support staff.

Making Council positions full-time AND adding in support staff seems counter-intuitive. In fact, I would posit that it is part-time councillors who need support staff most, not full-time councillors.

Full-time councillors would have more time to do their own admin and policy analysis.

You have no mandate from the community to shrink the size of Council: not via the 2018 election, not via the public consultation and not via a referendum.

Staff claims they conducted an in-depth, robust public consultation. The number of participants was twice what the consultants had projected.

The mandate you received from citizens via the consultation is for 12 full-time Councillors - two per ward. And yes, the boundaries need to be re-drawn to balance for population growth.

Make council positions full-time and forgo the support staff. It's almost exactly the same cost.

Sincerely,  
Susan Watson

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Dear Mr. McMahon and Mr. O'Brien:

Could you please ponder the following questions in advance of the November 5th Council meeting?

Is there anything that precludes a given municipality from having both part-time and full-time councillors serving on the same council? I read in the consultants' report that some municipalities have both at-large and ward councillors. There was no mention of whether there is a difference in remuneration.

I know that in two-tier municipalities, some councillors may work full-time - serving on two tiers, while others may work part-time, only serving on one. On our own Council, the mayor has a full-time job, while councillors are part-time.

Here is a second theoretical question: Is there any legal or legislative barrier to a councillor running for and working a full-time council job on a part-time basis for half the salary?

The range of actual hours worked by individual councillors set out in Appendix C of the consultant's report is striking: at the lower end, some councillors are putting in 10 hours a week, not even meeting the half-time hours for which they are remunerated. At the other end of the spectrum, some councillors are consistently working 36 hours a week.

It appears that in practice, there are no accountability structures around hours worked and it is simply up to the individual councillor.

Given this reality, could a councillor simply state to voters as part of his or her election platform that s/he would do the job on a part-time basis and donate back, or only take 50% of the salary? It would essentially be a negotiation between electors and the individual councillor.

The reason I ask this question is that it has become clear to me that segments of our community would be excluded from running for Council if it is an either-or scenario. Part-time work excludes people who cannot live off the part-time salary or who do not have flexible work they can combine as a second job. Full-time work excludes people who may have a professional career or have a business to run, but who would bring valuable outside perspectives to Council.

If the underlying principles we want to pursue are accessibility to and diversity on Council, then maximum flexibility to have part-time or full-time councillors would uphold this principle.

I look forward to your responses.

Sincerely,  
Susan Watson

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Mayor Guthrie and Members of Council:

You have no mandate from citizens for an 8-ward, 1 member per ward, 9-member Council. You don't have a mandate from the 2018 election. You don't have a mandate from the public consultation. You don't have a mandate via a referendum.

*Why is community engagement important? Quite simply, because it's your city. This is the city you have chosen to live in, to work in, to volunteer in, to raise your family in, to run your business in. **Council and City staff work for you.** It's your tax dollars we are spending to offer services you need and want. In order to make the best decisions possible, Council needs to hear from you. **And we don't want to hear only from the loudest people, or the most articulate people, or the most connected people – we want to hear from everyone. A solid community engagement framework helps make sure that happens.** Local government works better when we're all in this together.*

*Mayor Guthrie, Community Engagement Framework, February 2015.*

What are the stated values underpinning this whole process? I could only find one: "one person - one vote." That principle is what is driving the need to rebalance the wards as a result of population growth.

The unstated principle driving the consultants' recommendation is **expediency**. They wrote, "*We were told that the current number of Councillors prolongs debate without adding substance.*" And at the end of the report they state: "*The view of Councillors and staff who work in the system, however, as well as experience elsewhere, lead us to conclude that one-member wards would solve issues that frequently arise both between the two Councillors in the same ward and the working arrangements with City staff.*"

So...the viewpoints of staff and Council are being prioritized and the clearly stated preferences of citizens are being dismissed.

What problem are you trying to solve? If it's overly lengthy and inefficient Council meetings and interpersonal conflicts, the poison is worse than the cure.

Why are we diminishing democracy because some of you can't get along and others don't want to have to listen to their colleagues?

If we want to address problems around Council meetings, let's tackle that in a holistic manner. The total number of councillors is only one potential factor. What about poor agenda-setting, poor chairing, constant re-hashing of decisions, lack of preparation and substandard or ignored community consultation in advance of the meeting?

If diversity and true democratic representation are the driving values - what does that look like? Citizens told you: 6 wards, 2 councillors per ward - a total of 12. Full or part-time should be the choice of an individual councillor and the constituents who elect them.

Funding for full-time positions has a plurality of support, is supported by many Councillors, and has been previously endorsed by the Council Compensation committee. I think individual councillors should have the freedom to opt for part-time, if they so choose, within this scenario. Take it to the voters.

I would point out that you allocated a \$4.1 million annual increase for policing to add 31.5 FTEs. Making all Council positions full-time would be the equivalent to adding 6 FTEs. If we can spend \$4.1 million annually to enhance our collective security, we can spend an extra \$600,000 annually to deliver robust democracy and fair wages for people who are working a full-time job to represent us.

The consultants are actually suggesting adding 5 FTEs, only they are proposing adding 2 FTEs for Councillors and 3 FTEs for support staff. Again, you have no mandate for this option. Create full-time Council positions and forgo the admin staff. That will only be one more FTE than what the consultants are recommending. The difference in total costs between these two scenarios is very small.

None of you are capable of setting aside individual biases. This is about your jobs and income. Everyone has a pecuniary conflict-of-interest. Those of you who are heartily endorsing the consultant's recommendations and claiming to be above "self-interest" are being disingenuous: you are supporting the consultants' recommendations because it's what you told them you wanted in the first place.

You have support from the electorate for the status quo, with a possible shift to full-time positions. Boundaries need to be redrawn, no question.

Any other scenario needs to be endorsed by citizens. I believe this would be the most objective way to move forward:

- Council votes to keep status quo for 2022 election
- Ward boundaries are redrawn to balance out population growth
- City Hall assembles a randomly-selected citizen's committee using the voters list (invitations sent randomly to voters in wards; select 2/ward; balance for gender; ensure 25% visible minority)
- Committee reviews all input and recommends referendum question for 2022 election

Whether or not a referendum would be legally binding is a red herring. Even if voter participation does not surpass 50% of the electorate, you will have a strong mandate from citizens for the path forward.

Sincerely,  
Susan Watson

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Dear Mayor Guthrie, James and Rodrigo:

I understand that there is a history of examining Council's composition and Ward boundaries going back at least seven years, certainly before my wife and I moved to Guelph in 2017. Forgive me if I'm not completely up to speed on that history, not to mention my ignorance of the Ontario Municipal Act.

Nevertheless, I am writing to register my grave concern that Council itself would decide the issue of its own composition. Surely there are members of Council, perhaps yourselves, who have ambitions in future municipal elections. Does this not mean that (some) current Councillors would have vested interest in the outcome?

This decision ought to be strictly about the governance of Guelph provided by its Council, and must not be corrupted by the factoring in of the political careers of Council's current members.

I recommend that, instead of voting on Staff's recommendation, a motion be put forward to hold a plebiscite on the matter so that the voters of Guelph can express their democratic rights and responsibilities in a more direct way than by delegating this decision to their Council.

I should mention that I myself would vote to support the Staff recommendation if I were given the chance, so for me this is not a matter of what Staff is recommending, but a matter of democratic process.

I hope you will consider my suggestion when the matter comes before Council.

Thank you for your service to the community.

Ted Bangay

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NO to shrinking council and NO to one councillor per ward!  
Let's facilitate inclusion and diversity.

Sincerely,

Dan Maitland

volunteer with Education Committee of Guelph Black Heritage Society

community volunteer with Guelph-Wellington Local Immigration  
Partnership - Leadership Council

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Guelph operates well with the representation we have. I am not alone in recommending that we keep the number of councillors for our ward representations. I cannot understand how fewer representatives would enhance our democracy, as the Guelph City Staff seem to imply. Furthermore City Staff apparently thinks that a smaller council would be more accountable. I disagree.

As I say, I join the majority of Guelph residents in asserting that we need good representation and that means more voices. Please do not change the make up of Guelph's democratically elected representation.

Sheila O'Reilly

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Shrinking city council! When the people want it to grow!!!

What's wrong with this picture? Why are consultants and city staff ignoring the public will? Why are we shrinking council when Guelph is growing? Why would ward residents want fewer people representing them and working for them at City Hall? How are these changes supposed to improve democracy and public accountability? Seems like they do the opposite.

Marsaye Treen

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Dear Mayor, Councillors and Clerks,

I am writing to express my concern, as a resident of The City of Guelph, over the fact that despite pulling out all the stops to promote civic engagement with your online survey (and obtaining more than double the response you expected), and

obtaining a clear result in which 61.1% of participants state that they support a Council of the same size or bigger, you are nonetheless considering the recommendations of the consultants for the Boundary Review to shrink the number of councillors to 8. This is anti-democratic, and does not address concerns about ward representation during illness and holidays or having councillors who are unresponsive to citizens' needs.

More importantly in my view, if this reduction in the number of ward councillors goes forward, we will be curtailing the already tenuous diversity of representation, and contributing to the homogenizing of our representatives at a time when multiplicity of ideas and opinions should not only be celebrated but actively sought.

I beg that you please reconsider and don't prioritize the (always contingent understanding of the) bottom line above our democratic need for robust representation.

Respectfully,  
Natasha Pravaz

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I have received a message from Democracy Guelph that shows Public Opinion significantly favouring 12 or more Councillors and More than one per Ward. while Consultants and City Staff recommend 8 Councillors and One per Ward.

Democracy depends on having informed and involved citizens. Any changes to Council should be aimed at improving Democracy, not making it impossible.

My understanding is that current part-time Councillors are overworked and often struggling to keep up.

I don't know if 8 is the right number, but suggest that efficiency and effectiveness of representation could be improved by:

1. Having full-time Councillors,
2. Mandating that each Ward have a Committee made up of local citizen volunteers, with attached budget, to provide support to each Councillor.

This structure multiplies contact at the Ward level without increasing the size of Council, and provides an enhanced conduit for information flow in both directions.

Gordon Framst

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Plain and simply, Guelph must maintain its diversity representation in Council by maintaining two councillors per Ward. This constituent supports a 13 vote Guelph horseshoe.

Sincerely,  
Jane Thornton

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Good afternoon,

I understand that the staff report on changing the composition of council, recommends a smaller council with one councillor per ward.

It appears that the community engagement results showed a strong preference for keeping 2 councillors per ward. There are numerous reasons for this, all of which have been articulated by others, so I won't repeat them here.

Guelph is a growing city. Now is not the time to shrink council and give citizens less opportunity to see and hear their voices represented at city hall.

Katie Saunders

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It doesn't make sense with a growing population to shrink our councillor representatives. This is NOT serving Guelphites at all. Our voices and concerns will have a hard time being heard and acted upon should you shrink council and restrict numbers of councillors per ward.

Regards,

Barbara Mathews  
Ward 4

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Hello, everyone at City Hall, notably those making decisions on Council:  
I have been following the news reports and the consultant report about the formation of Council.  
I firmly believe that a councillor's position should be full time and that there should be 2 councillors per ward. The consultant report ignored the 650 people that responded over the past few months. Did the report consider 650 people too small?  
If that is the case then Council has a major responsibility - to table the consultant report and bring the matter to the people OR have the Council edit the findings



after the people are heard. That has to be adjusted with added time during this C19 time we are in.

If we can have consultations with neighbourhoods about rezoning plans or have community input on the type of housing or street modifications, then surely a major change in the formation of Council is of that much greater importance, notably to those in the present and future who will be vastly affected - by taxation; by service; by availability; by a variety of views; by different models of representation; by greater options and diversified representation. What I would demand though are clear expectations and reviews of the performance of a full time councillor as well as a review of the compensation for full time work. Full time remuneration and clear expectations will support quality people from joining the Council and remove those who cannot meet such expectations as attendance; being on committees; reporting findings; conducting oneself professionally; being accountable to budget, planning, and representation of their constituents.

Thank you and best wishes. Be wise; stay safe. Take care of yourself as you serve your constituents and "employers", the citizens of Guelph. As well, take care of your loved ones and each other. Be the dignified team that has integrity and full disclosure that we expect because that is why we, including you, vote. Best wishes during this C19 time.

Will Lenssen

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Wards should be based on a) equal or close to equal population per ward and b) potential increases in housing as per the City planning. Presently having 6 wards with 2 full-time councillors per Ward requires a review of the workload for each of the councillors in order to determine if the 6 wards should become 7 or 8. Also for consideration should be which wards are demanding more work based on the planning departments and if councillors are required to spend time on that work, development, etc. Eg Ward 1 may be expanding exponentially or have major environmental or infrastructure issues whereas Ward 4 may be "stagnant" for a period of time hence less workload for the Ward 4 councillors. So I am unable to do this analysis or review. I just know that the role and workload of a councillor can change accordingly. The councillors should have input in full disclosure and trust with a list of things each of them do or should do. Perhaps this could result in re aligning the Ward boundaries or even add a Ward or two. That list or job description should be uniform across each councillor "job description" and should be visible to the Ward voters as well.

The decision regarding ward and councillor numbers requires the above in my opinion.

Best wishes on deciding what is best for Guelph.

Will Lenssen

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I don't want the number of counsellors on city council to go down. It is a silly idea. Please listen to your constituents!!

Karen Morris

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My preference would be a mix of ward assigned councilors and some at large. There are sometimes very good candidates to choose from in one ward and less so in another. That means we lose out on having new people to choose from.

I do not like the idea of full time councilors. That is another level added then for career politicians with an enticing salary. As it is now, it is getting harder to get good candidates to run for political office.

Part time councilors have done an excellent job over the years we have lived in Guelph. Some were excellent, some not but there are elections to allow citizens to choose who should continue in their view.

I do appreciate the amount of time involved and also the low remuneration. Past councils have made every effort to keep costs down and sacrificed a lot in order not to appear "greedy" and burden the taxpayer. That does not seem to me to be fair now with the current recommendations.

I also believe that there will be a different kind of candidate when it is full time. It will mean decisions about giving up a job perhaps or not having flexibility in time commitment . Perhaps the salary will be too low for some people who have above average incomes. It will not be a representation of average local citizens and that is what is needed. The city should have highly qualified staff who have expertise to do the work and give coucillors the information needed to make decisions. I think it will create a whole different council.

The solution would be to acknowledge the time being given by raising the current part time salaries. The possibility of at large councillors would also be a good idea. This should go to a referendum in the next election. Citizens should be given the opportunity to make this decision. Even if over 600 people responded to the survey, that is a very low response given the implications of this change to council.

Margaret Abbink  
Resident since 1974

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Dear Mayor Guthrie, Council Members and City Staff,

I support the City's plan to retain the ward system and to make Council positions full time.

However, I am dismayed by the plan to decrease the size of City Council to 8 members, 1 per ward. Those moves contradict wishes clearly expressed by citizens in the recent consultation on this matter. A majority of citizens support a Council with 12 or more members and 2 members per ward.

Yes, it may take a little longer and cost more to operate the a Council with the preferred structure. Democracy is not necessarily efficient. Good governance, not efficiency, should be its primary goal!

Please follow the wishes of citizens on this important matter.

Best Regards,  
Janet Wood

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Mayor and Members of Council:

I have read the Watson report and the City Staff report on phase 1 of the review of our system of local representation in Guelph.

I find the Watson report mechanical, unimaginative and essentially one which takes Council through the regulatory arithmetic of our local government system under the current Ontario legislation.

Guelph's population is currently close to 140,000, and the city is growing rapidly toward 200,00, and beyond. What does a modern, progressive urban community of the 21st century need in its local political system? I saw little in the consultant's report to address any of these matters.

How do we move as much as we can toward a highly participatory process, one that might be found in direct democracy, within the highly centralist legislation of the Municipal Act, the realities of the costs of government (and scant resources available to local government), and the challenges of social, cultural, economic and other diversities in a growing city?

I hope that Council will look at the idea of having 12 wards, and a single ward representative. Currently we have approximately 1 councillor for about 11,700 residents. A city of 200,000 (within another 30 years, or so) with 8 councillors (as per the consultant's recommendation) would have each represent some 25,000 residents. On the face of it, hardly a recipe for more democratic engagement.

If we stayed with the present ratio of population represented (i.e. around 11,700) we would need 17 councillors.

However, if we go to a system with 12 wards, each represented by one councillor, we would have a representation rate of about 16,700 (city population of 200,000) residents per councillor. Not in itself, a serious dilution of democratic representation.

This option would keep City Council at its current size.

Another option would be to expand the wards from 6 to 8, with 2 councillors per ward. City Council would increase from 12 to 16 councillors. Not necessarily, in my view, a serious operational problem. And we would have 1 councillor for every 12,500 Guelph residents, close to current conditions.

The red flag raised suggesting that all representatives will always want to have their say on any and all matters before Council is somewhat disingenuous, and hardly respectful of public service.

I would hope that Council will look at the option of having 1 ward representative elected as an urban community representative, and the other on the basis of internal ward matters and priorities. In a growing and diversifying urban community we need to cultivate the idea of city building, of local representatives freely and explicitly focusing on the longer term, the big picture, the commonwealth of the urban community's future, and related matters. And it is no contradiction to suggest that *city* representatives can and should be elected to represent urban constituents who happen to live in a particular ward.

Besides the political arithmetic I hope that Council will attend to the *substantive* matter of investing in expanding the democratic engagement of our urban community. Should the current neighbourhood organizations be reconstituted as ward-based political organizations? Or should new local organizations be designed? How do we cultivate greater political outreach at the local level? How do new Canadians become more easily involved? How do the less economically and otherwise advantaged (unprivileged?) become active in the local political process? What about younger people? Should we encourage local forums to bring their own development priorities directly to Council? Should we be investing in credible participatory budgeting, from the ground up? Should there be development summits throughout our neighbourhoods, and a plenary event in their City Hall? And, .. ..

I think there is considerable merit in the notion of full-time councillors. However, the estimated additional costs associated with this recommendation in the reports received by Council need rigorous review and challenge.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

David J.A. Douglas  
Guelph

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To Mayor and Councilors,

I would like to ask that council not support staff's recommendations to shrink City council to 8.

As Guelph unfortunately keeps growing, it is now more important than ever to have good representation and instead of shrinking council we should be adding another ward and having

2 more city council representatives.

Thank-you,  
Lorraine Pagnan

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My issue begins with the assertion that the decision to move toward full time councillors is what "Guelph" wants. If Guelph's population is 131 974 (Stats Can 2016) there were 670 respondents to the survey. At 0.5% of the population participating, you should begin to question public engagement. Moreover, this would represent the views of the small portion of the population that is engaged with municipal politics and actively sought out the survey.

Secondly, to hire a firm with a target goal of 300 respondents (0.22%) they are not developing a full picture. I would be disappointed to find out the cost for this third-party service.

--

Wade A. Van Der Kraak

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Greetings!

I am writing to offer feedback on the issue of composition of Guelph Council. I understand that only 670 people responded to the survey seeking input on whether or not to make elected positions on Council a full-time "job". As an applied social scientist, I find it odd that anyone could possibly conclude that 670 responses represents an accurate and reliable finding from a city the size of ours, which in 2020 is estimated to be about 134,842. Even though the sample of 670 was above that sought by the firm contracted to do the study (300), it is still far below a statistically representative sample size.

More to the point, people who seek public office do so out of interest in service. The remuneration, if any, is not the driving factor as most do not see this type of service as a job but rather as a chosen duty of service to represent others with whom they frequently consult with. Having served myself in numerous public service and leadership roles over my lifetime I never once thought about what was in it for me and certainly never about how much money would I get paid for something I did for the betterment of others. However, if Guelph moves ahead with its plan to make council members "paid employees" the idea of public service in the interest of the public will be squashed and replaced by self-interest. Furthermore, if council members do become paid, full-time employees of the City of Guelph, I would like to know what their credentials are and are these employees suited for the roles they are assuming? We give elected people a very easy pass on this account, but if they are being employed full-time then I and the others in Guelph

have the right to know what their credentials are. Are they civil engineers, social scientists, health and mental health professionals, community planners etc.? My bet is that the taxpayers' money could be better spent hiring those needed when needed who possess the knowledge, training, skills, and experience to do what needs to be done. Good elected people surround themselves with experts, who they consult with and whose recommendations they follow. Bad elected officials surround themselves with grifters who are interested in what they can lobby for and at what cost to their bottom line, which is not in the public interest.

So, for what it's worth bad science provides convenient results that confirm already decided upon directions. Good science and practices directs us to keep elected officials in a voluntary role who out of passion and commitment serve as representatives of the public and not as paid employees who cut themselves a cheque at the taxpayers' expense and represent themselves. My hope and belief is that our elected members of Council sit because of their call to duty and service. So, I would caution moving down a path that takes us away from the meaning of representational government and towards a bureaucracy divorced from the community they serve. I would ask that my comments be shared with members of Council and be considered at the next Council meeting

Respectfully,

Dr. G. Brent Angell

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Hello,

I'm writing to say I do want to lose 2 councillors per ward. Our City population is growing and diverse, we should have a council large enough to properly represent our city. On public surveys, the citizens of Guelph want 12 or more councillors and more than one councillor per ward. Support what the public wants.

Thank you for your time,  
Elly Pond

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To whom it may concern,

As our city increases its population, it is becoming more important than ever to maintain a strong council with enough ears to listen to our needs and concerns, and enough voices to be able to debate and formulate balanced decisions. City council must have been counted on to provide a check-and-balance for the decisions that are critical to our city. I would support a growing council to represent the Guelph population, but shrinking it will lead to less objectivity and more special-interest groups gaining a foothold in the decision-making process.

Sincerely,

Francis Papillon

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Hello,

I'd like note for the public record that I fully agree with the consultant's recommendations for the 2022 Council composition.

It makes sense given the growing population, and with full-time allowing people to have sufficient paid time for a quality job. Should also reduce confusion and overlap between 2 councillors in the wards yet still ensure diversity and ward-specific representation at Council.

Sam Stevenson

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Good morning,

As a long-time resident of the City of Guelph and as a respondent to the survey conducted on the size and composition of city council, I am writing to express my concern with the recommendations of the consultants involved in the survey, as well as the recommendations of city staff. These recommendations are in direct contradiction to what the public indicated as their preferences. A large majority (66 per cent of people) said they wanted 12 (as we have now) or more councillors total but the recommendation is to shrink council to eight. A clear majority (53 per cent of people) said they wanted two councillors per ward (as we have now) but the recommendation is to switch to one.

At a time when our city is growing rapidly, please do not reduce the size of our city council. Local representation and a strong local democracy are vital to tackling the challenging times ahead of us as a community. Democracy is in decline all over the world and here in Guelph we have the opportunity to be a beacon of light to those around us. This includes having strong local representation that reflects the preferences of the population and encourages civic engagement. Reducing the size of council at a time that the city is growing and the challenges keep mounting makes no sense- it's what Doug Ford did to the City of Toronto without precedent and without consultation and I ask you to do better here in Guelph.

I implore you to listen to the public you consulted. Keep our wards and our city council strong and representative of the population they serve.

Dunja Lukic  
Ward 3

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Dear City Clerk,  
Please include this letter for correspondence for Monday Nov 2 2020 meeting,  
"Council Composition"

Dear Guelph City Council, Mayor, and Clerks,

I am truly concerned that you are describing community engagement as;  
an 18 day window,  
at the end of summer,  
in the PANDEMIC  
on the core structure and democratic representation for the citizens of Guelph  
and you have wholly left out the 30,000 students who contribute to our economy  
with an online dependence for response,  
with neonate, emergency crisis media communication systems scrambling.

Our Guelph City Couciors need to have administrative support. It is  
embarasing there is no staff and space.

The councilors need a pay raise & administration staffing( mayor got a raise ).

This is the type of question that merits being placed on a referendum.

Thank you.

Regards,  
Diane Hurst

A VERY GOOD LETTER SUMMARY OF CITIZEN RESPONSE ON COUNCIL  
REPRESENTATION

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<https://www.guelphtoday.com/letters-to-the-editor/letter-consultants-and-city-staff-contradict-public-will-2829048>

**LETTER: Consultants and city staff contradict public will**

'Why are we shrinking Council when Guelph is growing fast?' asks reader Kevin Bowman

*GuelphToday has received the following letter to the editor from Kevin Bowman concerned that staff is not taking the recommendation of Guelph citizens into account when they make recommendations.*

The City of Guelph recently published the results of public consultations on questions of council composition. Of particular note are two questions:

- How many councillors in total should Guelph have?
- How many councillors should each ward have?



Other questions were asked but these two worth noting because the recommendations coming from the consultants and city staff who ran the public consultations are in direct contradiction to what the public said they wanted.

A large majority (66 per cent of people) said they wanted 12 (as we have now) or more councillors total but the recommendation is to shrink council to eight. Only 25 per cent of people want that. A clear majority (53 per cent of people) said they wanted two councillors per ward (as we have now) but the recommendation is to switch to one. Only 35 per cent of people want that.

Why are we shrinking council when Guelph is growing fast? Why would ward residents want fewer people representing and working for them at city hall? Why does city hall bother to pay tens of thousands of public dollars (if not more) to consult the public and then proceed to ignore the public's will?

If you are a resident of Guelph and you have an opinion on this matter I encourage you to email your thoughts to [clerks@guelph.ca](mailto:clerks@guelph.ca) by the submission deadline of Friday, Oct 30 at 10 a.m.

This is not an isolated incident. There seems to be a growing trend of public consultations not happening when they should, being done poorly and being ignored. Some examples:

- city staff suggested limiting public delegations to either Committee of the Whole or council but not both with no advance public consultations
- a bylaw was passed to close Dublin St. with no consultation
- the Metrolinx Power Station was planned for Margaret Greene Park in collaboration with city hall with no advance public input
- the input of citizens being considered equivalent to the input of developers who stand to profit from the development and then don't have to live there for the coming decades
- residents being asked if they feel "confident" in internet voting with no attempt to educate them about the risks and benefits.
- Council siding with staff and developers on the Parkland dedication issue when local residents were opposed
- local residents clearly preferring a community park with a view of Hall's pond and city staff making an alternate proposal

Luckily council overruled staff on the last example but the question remains, why is this happening in a city with an award-winning Community Engagement Framework?

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October 29, 2020

Re: Council Composition and Ward Boundary Review

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Councillors:

I have read the consultant's report *Council Composition and Ward Boundary Review* and quite frankly find some of their conclusions rather insulting. Let me expand.

Under Section 4 Ward Magnitude (the Number of Councillors per Ward)

"The two Councillors per ward system contributes to a larger Council which could complicate and prolong debate."

This would seem to suggest that rigorous debate detailing all points of view is a bad thing. In my opinion good debate deserves time to consider various perspectives and should result in a better understanding of the issue. What unnecessarily prolongs debate is poor process and grandstanding which should be addressed by the head of council.

"It also increases the size of wards (since there are currently only six in Guelph) which makes it more difficult for Councillors to stay on top of issues across their entire ward."

Surly we should be able to trust our councillors to understand the diversity in our city and to consider approaches that serve the greater good without ignoring specific needs within their own wards.

"It can also lead to confusion when a constituent approaches both Councillors, each of whom then approaches City staff."

If councilors prefer to work independently that is up to them. However staff have an obligation to address questions from all councilors. They can simply copy their response to both councilors in a ward in order to be efficient and transparent.

"Figure 8 below indicates that two-member wards are favoured by the majority of survey respondents. This distribution might be viewed from the perspective that a two-member ward system is the only one with which many Guelph residents are familiar."

I find this statement particularly insulting. To think that I cannot see for myself the advantages and disadvantages of each option as laid out in the report suggests that I cannot imagine a different way. If staff and the consultants really feel this way why bother asking our opinion in the first place. Perhaps the respondents felt that this configuration of council actually works well for our city.

"The system can cause confusion on the part of residents who do not know which Councillor to contact when they have an issue."

The information regarding ward councillors is readily available on the city's website. If a person does not have a relationship with their councillors it would be best to correspond with both to see if they have a difference of opinion. This will help citizens decide who to vote for in the next election.

“When they contact both Councillors, this may cause further confusion about which Councillor should take a lead role. When both Councillors try to deal with the issue, relevant City staff members will be contacted twice about the same issue. When the two ward Councillors get along with one another, there are work-arounds to deal with this problem. “

See my answers to all of the above. Councillors who do not work well together may have different approaches and different responses. Getting different responses helps citizens know where a councillor stands on an issue and helps voters make choices that align with their own values.

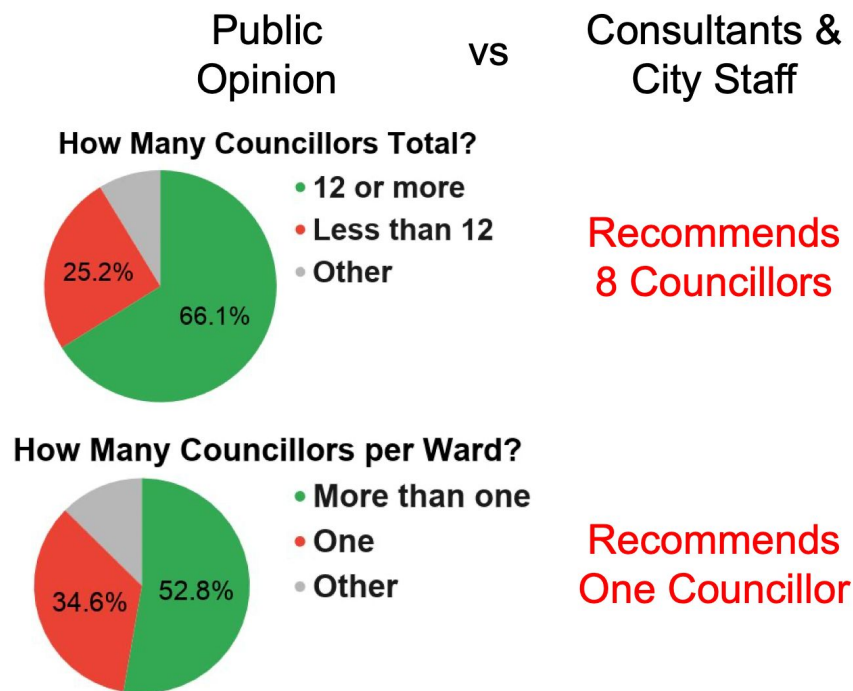
I would suggest that you carefully consider the consequences of ignoring the public feedback. Although it represents a small number of citizens these are the people who are engaged on this issue. The consultants noted that the response was twice the number they expected to receive. Looking at what is happening around the world we see a rise in authoritarianism. When political leaders ignore the voices of the people they lose credibility and become seen as ‘elites.’ We only have to look to the US to see how that plays out.

Sincerely

Teresa McKeeman  
Ward 5 Guelph

To Guelph City Council,

Please respect the will of the people of Guelph and reject the recommended changes to council composition. A large majority (66%) of the participants in public consultations said they want 12 or more councillors, not less. A clear majority (53%) said they want more than one councillor per ward, not one. This is according to the numbers in the Consultant's report itself! Why are the consultants and staff making recommendations in **direct opposition to the majority of public opinion**? Especially since public participation was relatively high (double expectations!) and therefore we can infer that people care about these issues.



Reducing the size of council and the number of councillors per ward **makes no sense for a growing and increasingly diverse city like Guelph**. If anything we need MORE councillors and MORE councillors per ward in order to ensure Council is representative of the voting population.

Sincerely,

Kevin Bowman  
Democracy Guelph Spokesperson

Hello Councillor Goller,

Having now read the full report, I can better understand some of the consulting teams' rationale (though not all), and better articulate my own reasons as to why I do not support the recommendation. I am concerned first and foremost with the reduction in the number of individual councillors, then with the subtext of expediency, then finally with the reduction to single member wards as a barrier against proportionality in representation.

First of all, I acknowledge the challenge with the balancing of keeping two member wards, increasing representation, and creating a system where councillors are both accountable and accessible to their constituents, values clearly held across those supporting increases, decreases, or retaining the same number.

My first concern is with the reduction in number. Democratic representation is not related to the function of "full-time vs. part-time"(1), but the simple fact that one person is now accountable to, and expected to represent the views of, a much larger number of people. According to the numbers available to me from the 1996 and 2016 censuses, the representativeness of council has shrunk by around 3000 constituents per councillor across the past 20+ years. The proposed reduction to 8 councillors corresponds to an even larger loss of representation (holding the 2016 population static, so not even accounting for further population increases) of 8489 constituents. In fact, the threshold number of proposed seats at which we see an increase in representation is 17. Rather than addressing this democratic deficit, the recommendation of 8 is making it worse, literally doubling down on the loss. Furthermore, no matter how one slices the numbers, the community consultation data is clear: 49.1 (Figure 6, p. 13), a FPTP-style majority(1), favours 12 councillors. If one removes the non-answers of "Don't know", the proportions adjust accordingly, but the threshold of respondents preferring 12 advances to 53.8%. How the consultants inferred a reduction mandate from this data is 100% unclear from the report as it is written.

The sole reason I can find in the report for decreasing is expediency. The report pulls from both internal interviews and public input that the current number of councillors "prolongs debate" and a smaller number "makes for easier decisions". However, as the data from informant interviews is not provided, it is almost impossible to understand the consultants' analysis on how the number 8 was arrived at. In fact, there is no analysis on the number, and the choice of the number directly contradicts the consultants' own stated principles and recommendations:

"Councils need to be large enough to ensure that all the community's interests are represented on council." (p. 12) (see my first paragraph)

"A council should be large enough to address the diversity of the community in terms of its neighbourhoods, gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic interests, and history." (p. 12) (also see above)

"...provides a reassurance that the City currently falls in the middle of the range, and if it increases or decreases the number of Councillors or wards slightly it would remain within that range." (p. 12)

A reduction to 8 takes us well outside of the "reassuring" comparable range.

"The City of Guelph should have no more than 12 Councillors" (p. 34)

This principle clearly specifies a maximum, but does not mandate a reduction. The possibility of remaining the same should have equal prospect as any other number (between the regulated minimum of 5) based on this principle. Based on the public consultation data, 12 should be the preferred number. As there is no other data available to the readers of the report, it is impossible to see where the rationale for a reduction, let alone as drastic a reduction as from 12 to 8, comes from, especially when costs will actually go up compared to the status quo, due to the accompanying recommendation to move to full-time positions.

"Respondents to the survey indicated that they were comfortable with the current number of Councillors and there was little appetite for an increase. Interviews with Councillors indicated some concern that 12 Councillors slowed down and complicated the decision-making process. Comparison with other municipalities indicated 12 Councillors was within the norm. There seems to be no compelling argument to increase the current number of Councillors, but some have suggested that the system would work better with fewer Councillors." (p. 34)

-- There was also "little appetite" within the public consultation to decrease the number, with only 25.2% favouring a decrease (versus 17% favouring an increase). The consultants seem willing to ascribe the desire to remain at 12 to a "mere familiarity" effect, but made no effort to measure actual satisfaction with the number, as they instead asked for preferences "What number of Councillors do you prefer for the City of Guelph?"(2) However, the precision of this question gives the consultants a clear, public, mandate: keep it at 12. What is perfectly unclear to any reader is the source, weight and credibility of the statement "some have suggested". I assume the consultants are referring to these non-available interviews as the genesis of the statement "seems to be no compelling argument to increase",

because as someone who has begun reading through all of the qualitative answers from the public survey, there seem to be several "compelling argument[s] to increase" therein.

Finally, I come to the issue of single-member versus two-member wards. Here the consulting team again relies on the familiarity argument to dismiss the public's clear majority preference for two-member representation. Although the current First Past the Post (plurality) voting system does not seem to offer any clear benefits with two-member wards, under a ranked ballot voting system, two member wards would allow for greater fairness in voting. I was disappointed that neither of the political science experts on the consulting team made any effort to report on any literature review they may have conducted, since they could have found ample evidence of the impact of multi-member electoral systems, as I just spent less than 5 minutes on google scholar and found the following: Electoral Systems and Women's Representation in Australia ( <https://doi.org/10.1080/14662040701317519>) Ballot structure, district magnitude and constituency-orientation of mps in proportional representation and majority electoral systems ( <https://doi.org/10.1080/00344893.2012.720880>)

I thank you for your time in reading through my response. To answer your questions directly, what I myself would like to see for my city, from my own understanding of and training in political psychology, is yes, at least 8 two-member wards, making for 16 full time councillors, but with ranked ballots. Were I on the consulting team and trying to balance the conflicting views presented with the (available) data, I would say since the majority want two-member wards, and the majority want 12 councillors, and the majority want full time councillors, I would go with our current system of 6 two-member wards with 12 full-time councillors.

I hope my rationale for my position of opposition is abundantly clear now. Thank you for taking the time to ask me for a more detailed description of my opposition to the recommendation.

Sincerely,  
Gillian Maurice

(1) Although "slightly less than a majority" was deemed an appropriate public-consultation derived threshold to recommend that councillors be moved to full time: "Slightly less than a majority of respondents felt that the position of Councillor should be considered full-time." (p. 27)

(2) - The export of the survey tool shows a total of 656 respondents to the "What number..." question, yet the report consistently cites 670 as the total, without explaining the discrepancy. Thus, the percent preferring 12 varies between 48.5 and 49.1 in the report.

Calculation of Democratic Deficit going into the Council Composition Review process and Consultation

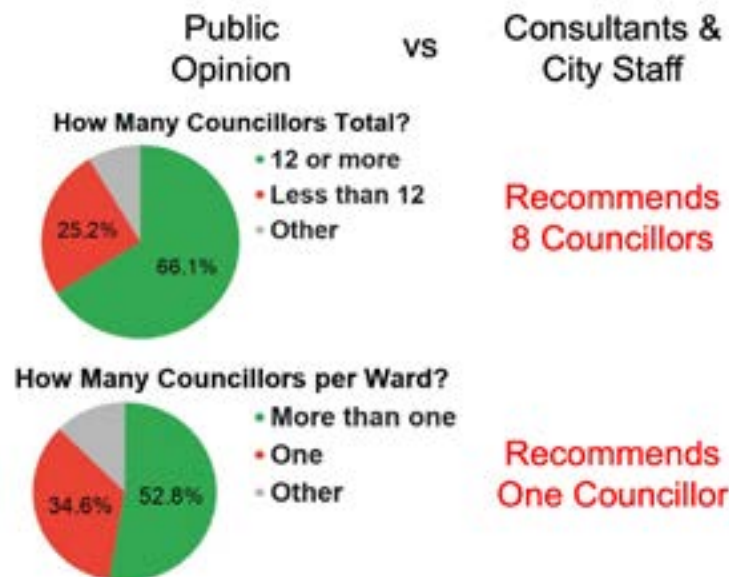
year	popn	councillors	popn per councillor	loss of representation
1996	95,821	12	7985.08	
2016	131,794	12	10982.83	
				2997.75

# Keep dual member wards, Keep 12 or more councillors

I am writing to request that council reject the consultant's recommendation, primarily because their recommendations DO NOT reflect the will of the citizens of Guelph.

As the consultants have said in their report, the level of engagement in Guelph, on this topic, has been far greater than other communities, and the participation rate has exceeded expectations. This high level of engagement and participation, in spite of the impediments due to a global pandemic, in my opinion, add additional weight to the preferences that were expressed.

The consultants reported that 52.6% of those who responded to the survey expressed a desire to keep dual member wards. Only 34.9% favoured changing to single member wards. 66.1% wanted to keep 12 Councilors, or add more. Only 25.2% wanted a reduction in city Councilors.



In spite of this clear desire to keep dual member wards, and retain 12 or more councilors, the consultants recommended the opposite of that, single member wards and a reduction of the size of council. Having recommended a course that was different from the public will, I expected a strong argument for deviating from it, but what I found was rather thin gruel. From the report; "The views of Councillors and staff who work in the system, however, as well as experience elsewhere, lead us to conclude that one-member wards would solve issues that frequently arise both between the two Councillors in the same ward and the working arrangements with City staff." This sounds like "The high level of citizen engagement and representation that Guelph enjoys goes beyond what most people expect and is inconvenient for the embedded professionals who have to deal with them."

Changing the Council Composition and/or voting system is basically writing the constitution of the city. A government has no legitimacy without the consent of the governed. We have asked what the people want, they have delivered a clear answer. The way forward is clear. Respect the will of the people.

Presentation to City Council  
on  
City Council Composition and Ward Boundary Review

By  
Hugh Whiteley  
November 2020



## WHAT SIZE OF COUNCIL IS BEST – A “WICKED” PROBLEM

“No political problem is less susceptible to a precise solution than that which relates to the number convenient for a representative assembly”

*James Madison Federalist Papers 54 February 12 1788*

“For two centuries, the problem of an appropriate size of a legislative body has remained unsolved. The difficulty, as Madison described it, is to find a mean on both sides of which inconveniences will be found.”

*Douglass Muzzio and Tim Tompkins Proc. Academy Pol. Sc 7(3): 83-96 1989*

# CHARACTERISTICS OF A “WICKED” PROBLEM

- A “wicked” problem has no clear problem statement but instead involves many stakeholders who all have different ideas of what the problem really is.
- A “wicked” problem is intertwined with other problems with many different root causes.
- A “wicked” problem has no right or wrong answers - the choice of a solution is a matter of judgement and is hard to justify.
- A “wicked” problem is never fully resolved; the search for solution never stops.

# SIZE OF CITY COUNCIL OVER THE YEARS

Data from Leo A Johnson History of Guelph 1827-1927

Years	# of Wards	#/Ward	# Councillors
1878	4	3	12
1879	6	2	12
1880-1902	6	3	18
1903-1906	-	-	11
1907-1909	6	3	18
1910-1918	-	-	11
1919-1928	-	-	18
1929-1990	-	-	11
1991-2018	6	2	12

# WHO SHOULD DECIDE THE SIZE OF COUNCIL

- It is the role of Councillors to represent the public and to consider the well being and interests of the municipality.
- The appropriate size of a City Council is a matter of judgement with no right or wrong answer based on objective criteria.
- City Council made a decision in 1988 that since Councillors are elected to represent the public the composition of City Council should be decided by the public in a referendum.
- This role for the public was confirmed by City Council in 2008 with a second referendum on City Council composition.

# Conclusion

- The well being of a municipality is best served by having a City Council whose size and method of election is selected and supported by the electorate.
- In the past Guelph City Council has recognized the rightful role of the electorate in making decisions on City Council composition.
- In the absence of strong dissatisfaction of the electorate with the present composition of City Council there is no obvious justification for change in composition.
- If City Council identifies compelling reasons for change the proposed change should be subject to a referendum.

Do you think racism is a problem in Guelph?

Systemic racism silences people. Guelph's 2 member Ward voting system ensures more citizen's are represented by councils they have voted for.

I highlight that our current 2 member ward (without a ranked ballot) results in 25% more voters having a voice they have chosen representing them. 25% is the average percent of the vote that the second place Ward Councilor received in 2018.

<b>Bob Bell (elected)</b>	<b>2,361</b>	<b>18.41%</b>
<b>Rodrigo Goller (elected)</b>	<b>2,728</b>	<b>23.52%</b>
<b>Phil Allt (elected)</b>	<b>3,187</b>	<b>32.59%</b>
<b>June Hofland (elected)</b>	<b>2,764</b>	<b>28.26%</b>
<b>Mike Salisbury (elected)</b>	<b>1,702</b>	<b>17.68%</b>
<b>Cathy Downer (elected)</b>	<b>3,525</b>	<b>33.13%</b>
<b>Mark MacKinnon (elected)</b>	<b>3,137</b>	<b>24.14%</b>

**Average**

**25.39%**

A single member Ward will eliminate these second voices and voters.

At a this time when we are committed to addressing systemic racism it is imperative that we maintain and build upon systems that support electing diversity. We need more voices to be effective. The black life's matter protest resonated strongly with the people of Guelph.

We cannot move to a single member ward system because it silences voters.

If we decide to move to 8 full time councillors, please consider

#### **4 Wards that elect 2 Councillors**

This will also simplify the Ward boundary discussion as dividing the City in quarters is relatively simple

We need more diversity on council. We need more citizens to vote. We need more votes to be effective in electing councillors. We can not move to silence voters.

Steve Dyck

# **The Corporation of the City of Guelph**

## **By-law Number (2020) – 20538**

A by-law to confirm proceedings of a meeting of Guelph City Council held November 5, 2020.

### **The Council of the Corporation of the City of Guelph enacts as follows:**

1. Subject to Section 3 of this by-law, every decision of Council taken at the meeting at which this by-law is passed, and every resolution passed at that meeting, shall have the same force and effect as if each and every one of them had been the subject matter of a separate by-law duly enacted.
2. The execution and delivery of all such documents as are required to give effect to the decisions taken at the meeting at which this by-law is passed and the resolutions passed at this meeting, are hereby authorized.
3. Nothing in this by-law has the effect of giving to any decision or resolution the status of a by-law where any legal prerequisite to the enactment of a specific by-law has not been satisfied.
4. Any member of Council who disclosed a pecuniary interest at the meeting at which this by-law is passed, shall be deemed to have disclosed that interest in this confirmatory by-law as it relates to the item in which the pecuniary interest was disclosed.

**Passed this fifth day of November, 2020.**

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**Cam Guthrie, Mayor**

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**Dylan McMahon, Deputy City Clerk**