

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (WORKING SESSION) – MAY 5, 2021**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Distributed May 4, 2021**

**Item(s)**

- |     |   |   |
|-----|---|---|
| C1. | Mr. Robert A. Kenedy, President of the MacKenzie Ridge Ratepayers Association, dated May 3, 2021. | 2 |
| C2. | Mr. Tony Malfara, dated May 4, 2021.  | 2 |
| C3. | Ms. Irene Ford, dated May 4, 2021.  | 2 |
| C4. | Ms. Alexandra Ney, dated May 4, 2021.   | 2 |

**Distributed May 5, 2021**

- |     |   |   |
|-----|---|---|
| C5. | Ms. Patricia Pedari, dated May 5, 2021. | 2 |
| C6. | Presentation material.                  | 2 |

**Disclaimer Respecting External Communications**

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Please note there may be further Communications.

**C1**  
**Communication**  
**CW (WS) – May 5, 2021**  
**Item(s) # - 2**

**From:** [Bellisario, Adelina](#)  
**To:** [Bellisario, Adelina](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [External] May 5, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda Item 5(2) Ward Boundary Review, Effective Local and Regional Representation  
**Date:** May-04-21 8:18:53 AM

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**From:** Mackenzie Ridge Rate Payers Association <[mackenzieridgerpa@gmail.com](mailto:mackenzieridgerpa@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 9:30 PM  
**To:** [Council@vaughan.ca](mailto:Council@vaughan.ca); Coles, Todd <[Todd.Coles@vaughan.ca](mailto:Todd.Coles@vaughan.ca)>  
**Cc:** Mackenzie Ridge Rate Payers Association <[mackenzieridgerpa@gmail.com](mailto:mackenzieridgerpa@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** [External] May 5, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda Item 5(2) Ward Boundary Review, Effective Local and Regional Representation

Vaughan City Council  
City of Vaughan  
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive  
Vaughan, ON  
L6A 1T1

May 3, 2021

Mayor Bevilacqua and Councillors,

**Re: May 5, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda Item 5(2)  
Ward Boundary Review, Effective Local and Regional Representation**

Mayor and Councillors,

We are asking Vaughan Council to consider making decisions that will ensure effective local and regional representation is achieved with the addition of a new regional councillor next term. No analysis or studies has been completed considering how this change to Council's composition will alter local representation and decision-making. Presently the Ward Boundary Review excludes regional councillors.

We are also asking Council go with option 1 in the 2020/2021 Ward Boundary Review. We are also asking that future Ward Boundary Reviews include regional councillors. In short, Vaughan's regional councillors have no clear division of responsibility, they are elected at large with little accountability to any community or area of Vaughan. They often support controversial decisions in the presence of strong public opposition. A fourth regional councillor has been added during a global pandemic without any public consultation. Vaughan taxpayers will pay for another regional councillor but were never consulted or asked. When an opportunity came before Vaughan Council to provide direction to staff regional representation was excluded.

Vaughan's Council composition is always compared to Markham who has five regional Council members. Why do we never compare our local council representation to Markham? Markham has eight local councilors representing 350,000 residents, whereas Vaughan has only five local councillors representing 335,000 residents.

**To restore balance between local and regional representation that does not include the addition of another local councillor there may be two options.**

- 1. Regional councillors are eliminated from Vaughan Council, thereby reducing Vaughan Council to six (6) members the Mayor and five (5) local councillors; or,**
- 2. Regional councillors are elected by ward and accountable to wards, they would no longer be elected at large.**

There is clearly frustration among residents with regional representation as documented in the consultant's report<sup>[1]</sup>. Excluding regional councillors from the ongoing review has only aggravated this sentiment, combined with the recent upper and lower tier council decisions surrounding the Highway. Vaughan residents have always been told we need another Regional Councillor to increase Vaughan's regional representation, but the reality is that each time an additional regional councillor has been added Vaughan's local representation has eroded. There is no optimal solution to achieve effective representation, but it certainly will never be achieved if only half of Council's voting members are included in the scope of the Ward Boundary Review. **Vaughan Council's composition is changing, regional representation has increased at the expense of local representation and the public was only consulted about moving lines on a map. This is not democratic or fair to Vaughan Citizens.**

Please take the time to consider what is in the best interests of Vaughan citizens to ensure local and regional representation is balanced, effective and accountable.

Best,

Robert A. Kenedy, PhD  
President of the MacKenzie Ridge Ratepayers Association  
Associate Professor  
Department of Sociology  
238 McLaughlin College  
York University  
4700 Keele Street  
Toronto, Ontario M3J 1P3  
CANADA  
[rkenedy@yorku.ca](mailto:rkenedy@yorku.ca)  
416 736-2100 ext. 77458  
FAX 416 736-5715

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[1] Vaughan Council Agenda Item 5(2), Attachment 1: Ward Boundry Review, pg 40. See: <https://pub-vaughan.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=67003>

Robert A. Kenedy, PhD  
President of the MacKenzie Ridge Ratepayers Association  
Associate Professor  
Department of Sociology  
238 McLaughlin College

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FAX 416 736-5715

**C2**  
**Communication**  
**CW (WS) – May 5, 2021**  
**Item(s) # - 2**

**From:** [Tony Malfara](#)  
**To:** [Clerks@vaughan.ca](mailto:Clerks@vaughan.ca)  
**Cc:** [Council@vaughan.ca](mailto:Council@vaughan.ca)  
**Subject:** [External] Committee of the Whole (Working Session) Meeting - May 05, 2021 Letter for Submission re Agenda Item 5(2)  
**Date:** May-04-21 7:40:11 AM  
**Attachments:** [T Malfara City of Vaughan Boundry Review Letter V1.pdf](#)

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Good morning, please find attached a letter I wish to submit for the Committee of the Whole Meeting on May 5, 2021 - Agenda Item 5(2) Ward Boundary Review, Interim Report.

Thank you

Tony Malfara

May 4, 2021

Mayor Bevilacqua, and Councillors,

**Re: May 5, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda Item 5(2)  
Ward Boundary Review, Effective Local and Regional Representation**

Mayor and Councillors,

The purpose of this letter is to ask Vaughan Council to ask that the necessary review and public consultation is taken to ensure Vaughan citizens receive an effective balance between local and regional representation both today and as we add a new regional councillor after the next election.

With no communication or public input, we are concerned that the addition of an additional Regional Councillor will further erode local representation and decision making in Vaughan to the benefit of the Region.

The actions and representations of Vaughan's four Regional Councillors at Vaughan City Council and York Region meetings where the proposed Highway 413/GTA West Corridor (the Highway) was discussed and then voted highlights Vaughan's problematic regional representation. Although local Councillors voted to withdraw support, the Regional representatives from Vaughan voted against the wishes of the local councillors and the citizens they represent.

Even though it was clear that Vaughan's local councillors and the public did not support the Highway, Vaughan's Regional Council members maintained their support for the Highway, both locally and at the Region.

These actions confirmed that Vaughan has little representation of local interests at the Region. Our four regional members sit on Vaughan Council, vote on local issues, but are conflicted and continually think regional.

We, the citizens of Vaughan, need better clarity and understanding with respect to the accountabilities and responsibilities of Vaughan's elected Regional Councillors. Vaughan's regional councillors lack a clear understanding of the division of responsibility between their local and regional responsibilities. They are elected at large without accountability to any community in Vaughan. They often support controversial decisions in the presence of strong public opposition because it's difficult to hold them accountable as we do our local councillors.

Vaughan's Regional Council composition is always compared to Markham who has five Regional Council members. We each have roughly the same populations, however local interests are strongly maintained in Markham by the fact that Markham has eight local councilors (8 local to 5 regional), whereas Vaughan has only five local councilors (5 local vs. 4 Regional, soon to be 5). In Markham, a local vote to deal with a significant local issue will always favor

local interest by the fact that there are a significantly larger number of local councilors vs. regional.

Attention is needed in order to restore proper balance between local and regional representation. Clearly, there is frustration by the lack of attention our local needs are getting when weighed against the wishes or direction of the Region documented by consultants and just by listening to your voters.

The current structure needs improvement and simply adding a Regional representative without direct accountabilities to Vaughan will not improve things. In fact, given recent events it may make them worse.

Council needs to invest the time to find a solution that indeed gives us a more balanced and representative voice at the Regional table. More importantly we need a governance structure that ensures the decisions and requests coming from local council and Vaughan's community are not overwhelmed or discounted by the requirements of the region which in many cases conflict.

Does Vaughan Council look to increase the ratio of local seats to regional seats on council to ensure discussions and votes have a greater emphasis on the wards and the communities they serve or does the City look to clarify and enhance the accountabilities of our Regional Councillors to require them to be more accountable to the City of Vaughan.

Please take the time to consider what is best for the citizens of Vaughan. We need representation that is balanced, effective and holds our leaders accountable.

Thank you.

Tony Malfara  
Kleinburg

**C3**  
**Communication**  
**CW (WS) – May 5, 2021**  
**Item(s) # - 2**

**From:** [Bellisario, Adelina](#)  
**To:** [Bellisario, Adelina](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [External] May 5 Agenda Item 5(2) - Ward Boundary Review  
**Date:** May-04-21 9:19:44 AM  
**Attachments:** [IFordLetterItem 5 2 WardBoundryRevie.pdf](#)

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**From:** IRENE FORD [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** May-04-21 9:18 AM  
**To:** [Clerks@vaughan.ca](mailto:Clerks@vaughan.ca)  
**Cc:** Rosati, Gino <[Gino.Rosati@vaughan.ca](mailto:Gino.Rosati@vaughan.ca)>; lafrate, Marilyn <[Marilyn.lafrate@vaughan.ca](mailto:Marilyn.lafrate@vaughan.ca)>; Ferri, Mario <[Mario.Ferri@vaughan.ca](mailto:Mario.Ferri@vaughan.ca)>; Bevilacqua, Maurizio <[Maurizio.Bevilacqua@vaughan.ca](mailto:Maurizio.Bevilacqua@vaughan.ca)>; DeFrancesca, Rosanna <[Rosanna.DeFrancesca@vaughan.ca](mailto:Rosanna.DeFrancesca@vaughan.ca)>; Jackson, Linda <[Linda.Jackson@vaughan.ca](mailto:Linda.Jackson@vaughan.ca)>; Carella, Tony <[Tony.Carella@vaughan.ca](mailto:Tony.Carella@vaughan.ca)>; Shefman, Alan <[Alan.Shefman@vaughan.ca](mailto:Alan.Shefman@vaughan.ca)>; Racco, Sandra <[Sandra.Racco@vaughan.ca](mailto:Sandra.Racco@vaughan.ca)>  
**Subject:** [External] May 5 Agenda Item 5(2) - Ward Boundary Review

Clerks,

Please find attached a letter in support of my deputation for tomorrow's meeting.

Thank you,  
Irene Ford

(please disregard previous email sent)

Irene Ford  
Vaughan, ON

Vaughan City Council  
City of Vaughan  
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive  
Vaughan, ON  
L6A 1T1

May 4, 2021

Mayor Bevilacqua, and Councillors,

**Re: May 5, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda Item 5(2)  
Ward Boundary Review, Effective Local and Regional Representation**

Mayor and Councillors,

The purpose of this letter is to ask Vaughan Council to consider a course of action that will ensure effective local and regional representation is achieved with the addition of a new regional councillor next term. No analysis or studies has been completed considering how this change to Council's composition will alter local representation and decision making. Presently the Ward Boundary Review is scoped to exclude regional councillors.

In 1971 when the Town of Vaughan was incorporated the population was 15,000. Vaughan Council consisted of seven (7) members; a mayor, a regional councillor and five (5) local councillors<sup>1,2</sup>. New regional councillors were added in 1989 and 2003. In 1991 when the City of Vaughan was incorporated the population was 115,000. Today our population has risen to over 335,000. Our population has grown by 310,000 people, a two thousand (2,000) per cent increase, yet Vaughan Council's local representation has not changed in fifty years.

In May, 2020 staff presented a report entitled: "*Direction for Ward Boundary and Council Composition Review*<sup>3</sup>". Without any public consultation and during a global pandemic Vaughan Council eliminated options to consider a council composition review, to increase the number of wards, local councillors or further direction to understand how the new regional councillor will affect citizen representation. Vaughan Council decided upon a fundamentally flawed Ward Boundary Review. The scope excludes regional council members; the portion of Vaughan Council changing next term. As a result, the Ward Boundary Review focuses on balancing population growth and per capita local councillor representation by altering the existing geographic ward boundaries. It is impossible to determine if Vaughan citizens have effective and fair representation unless all voting members of Vaughan Council are included in the scope. The

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<sup>1</sup> Vaughan 2010 Official Plan, Pg. 22, see:

[https://www.vaughan.ca/projects/policy\\_planning\\_projects/General%20Documents/Official%20Plan%20Vol%201/VOP%202010%20Vol%201%20Updates%202021/VOP%20Volume%201%20-%202020%20Header%20Update%20Feb%202%202021.pdf](https://www.vaughan.ca/projects/policy_planning_projects/General%20Documents/Official%20Plan%20Vol%201/VOP%202010%20Vol%201%20Updates%202021/VOP%20Volume%201%20-%202020%20Header%20Update%20Feb%202%202021.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Past Members of Council, see: <https://www.vaughan.ca/council/Pages/Past-Council-Members.aspx>

<sup>3</sup> <https://pub-v Vaughan.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=e0a2a95d-6799-4815-aed2-8fd3cb3528b2&Agenda=Agenda&lang=English&Item=12>

addition of another regional councillor will erode local representation. Citizen representation will be skewed to represent the broader public interest and local concerns underrepresented. *Vaughan does not have effective local representation and moving lines on a map will change nothing.*

Recent decisions surrounding the proposed Highway 413/GTA West Corridor (the Highway) highlighted Vaughan's problematic regional representation. All of Vaughan's local Councillors responded to public concern and felt the need to be accountable to their constituents and wards. They argued for their citizens and voted to withdraw support of the Highway. The Mayor and Regional Councillors remained entrenched in their Regional position to support the Highway at Vaughan Council. As per York Region's Code of Conduct regional Council members are not required to act in their "*Official capacity...when executing their duties as a member of a council for a local municipality*"<sup>4</sup>. At the Regional Council meeting on March 18 Vaughan citizens learned their regional Council members have no legal obligation to uphold Vaughan Council decisions. York Region's and Vaughan's Code of Conduct both set out that members of Council are expected to represent their constituents<sup>5</sup>. Vaughan's Regional Council members maintained their support for the Highway at both lower and upper tier councils in the absence of publicly documented support. Vaughan citizens were forced to reach out to other municipal regional Council members for representation at York Region.

This decision proved what many Vaughan residents have believed for some time; Vaughan has no representation of local interests at the Region; we have four members, soon to be five, who sit on Vaughan Council, vote on local issues, but represent and act in the interests of the Region. **It was a watershed moment for Vaughan citizens because it documented that our Regional Council members: uphold regional interests above local interests; and, have no legal obligation to uphold and represent local Vaughan Council decisions.**

Part of democracy is having transparency, accountability and understanding how elected officials represent citizens. Vaughan's regional councillors have no clear division of responsibility, they are elected at large with little accountability to any community or area of Vaughan. They often support controversial decisions in the presence of strong public opposition. A fourth regional councillor has been added during a global pandemic without any public consultation. Vaughan taxpayers will pay for another regional councillor but were never consulted or asked. When an opportunity came before Vaughan Council to provide direction to staff regional representation was excluded.

Vaughan's Council composition is always compared to Markham who has five regional Council members. Why do we never compare our local council representation to Markham? Markham

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<sup>4</sup> The Regional Municipality of York, Code of Conduct for Council Members. Section B.1, Pg. 2, see: <https://www.york.ca/wps/wcm/connect/yorkpublic/70c4d0c7-0196-4e6e-9819-2fc97319f327/Code+of+Conduct+Council+Members.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=mLVV0xf>

<sup>5</sup> Vaughan's Code of Ethical Conduct for Members of Council and Local Boards, City of Vaughan. [https://www.vaughan.ca/cityhall/integrity\\_commissioner/General%20Documents/Code%20of%20Ethical%20Conduct%20for%20Members%20of%20Council%20and%20Local%20Boards.pdf](https://www.vaughan.ca/cityhall/integrity_commissioner/General%20Documents/Code%20of%20Ethical%20Conduct%20for%20Members%20of%20Council%20and%20Local%20Boards.pdf)

has eight local councillors representing 350,000 residents, whereas Vaughan has only five local councillors representing 335,000 residents.

**To restore balance between local and regional representation that does not include the addition of another local councillor there may be two options.**

- 1. regional councillors are eliminated from Vaughan Council, thereby reducing Vaughan Council to six (6) members the Mayor and five (5) local councillors; or,**
- 2. regional councillors are elected by ward and accountable to wards, they would no longer be elected at large.**

There is clearly frustration among residents with regional representation as documented in the consultant's report<sup>6</sup>. Excluding regional councillors from the ongoing review has only aggravated this sentiment, combined with the recent upper and lower tier council decisions surrounding the Highway. Vaughan residents have always been told we need another Regional Councillor to increase Vaughan's regional representation but the reality is that each time an additional regional councillor has been added Vaughan's local representation has eroded. There is no optimal solution to achieve effective representation but it certainly will never be achieved if only half of Council's voting members are included in the scope of the Ward Boundary Review. **Vaughan Council's composition is changing, regional representation has increased at the expense of local representation and the public was only consulted about moving lines on a map. This is not democratic or fair to Vaughan Citizens.**

Please take the time to consider what is in the best interests of Vaughan citizens to ensure local and regional representation is balanced, effective and accountable.

Thank you.

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<sup>6</sup> Vaughan Council Agenda Item 5(2), Attachment 1: Ward Boundry Review, pg 40. See: <https://pub-vaughan.escrimemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=67003>

Municipality	Population	Council Composition			Local / Regional
		Total	Local	Regional & Mayor	
Vaughan	335,000	10	5	5	50% / 50%
Markham	353,000	13	8	5	62% / 38%
Richmond Hill	207,000	9	6	3	66% / 33%
Newmarket	84,200	9	7	2	78% / 22%
Aurora	62,000	7	6	1	86% / 14%
Whithchurch- Soufville	50,200	7	6	1	86% / 14%
East Gwillimbury	31,100	7	6	1	86% / 14%
Georgina	46,000	7	5	2	71% / 29%

C4  
**Communication**  
**CW (WS) – May 5, 2021**  
**Item(s) # - 2**

**From:** [Clerks@vaughan.ca](mailto:Clerks@vaughan.ca)  
**To:** [Bellisario, Adelina](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [External] Item 5.2 Ward Boundary Review  
**Date:** May-04-21 11:42:09 AM  
**Attachments:** [Ward Boundary Review.docx](#)

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-----Original Message-----

From: alexandra ney [REDACTED] >  
Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2021 11:41 AM  
To: Clerks@vaughan.ca  
Subject: [External] Item 5.2 Ward Boundary Review

Good morning,

Please find my attached letter for the Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda Item 5 (2) Ward Boundary Review, Effective Local and Regional Representation.

Kind Regards,  
Alexandra Ney

Vaughan City Council  
City of Vaughan  
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive  
Vaughan, ON  
L6A 1T1

May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Mayor Bevilacqua, and Councillors,

**Re: May 5, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda Item 5(2)  
Ward Boundary Review, Effective Local and Regional Representation**

I'm writing today as a resident living in the rural area of the City of Vaughan. Vaughan has changed and progressed over the years, population has increased. At the same time, I'm not seeing our composition of representation by Local Council or Regional Council changing to better suite our needs. It seems the sentiment from Residents is reflective, the system as it is, is not working. The rural areas differ greatly from urban areas. Farming, rural properties, services –for example the quality and scope of internet supply and even the quality of telephone service. We need and would benefit greatly by having more of a voice! This can only happen with not only our dedicated Local Councillors, but by having a Regional Councillor who is elected by a Ward and as such is responsible and accountable to the Ward. With the addition of another Regional Councillor, the dynamics of Local Council voting changes, possibly leaving local interest under represented. To this end, I would ask that Vaughan consider the following, which is more important than moving boundary lines on a map:

- Dedicated Regional Councillor's elected by Ward, thereby being accountable and representative to each Ward, creating effective local and regional representation

Communications

There is a complete lack of communication. To-date, we do not receive information from Regional Council about upgrades or improvements slated for the area on a Regional level. We do not receive any information regarding budgets or any other important information, which may affect residents. In the past my understanding was that Regional Councillors not only represented their Citizens at the Municipal level, but represented us at a Regional level. We have a need for this to be the reality, in an open, accountable, transparent and effective representative manner at the local and Regional level. For example – was there Public Consultation about adding another Regional Councillor?

### Vast Area and Representation

The City of Vaughan is a vast area, with many different needs to be met from dense urbanization, commercial zones to rural residents and farming. There is a real need for Vaughan Council's local representation to be updated to better represent its Citizens. We will have 5 members on Council who vote on broader Public interest, and only 1 Council vote for each of the Wards that represent local interests unique to each Ward.

### Regional Issues

To-date I've not been informed or asked for input regarding any proposed Regional projects. Have we as Residents, been asked what we would like to see in regards to roads or other projects? Nor have we felt our voices represented when we have approached our Regional Councillors regarding issues, such as the GTA West Corridor/Hwy 413. People need to be heard to be invested. People need to have their largest investment their homes and property represented at both the Municipal and Regional level in a real and accountable manner. Only then I believe, we will have true democracy. Being elected at large with little accountability to any area or community is not effective or working. To this end I feel, Ward boundaries should include Regional Councillors.

Rural areas need more of a voice, I feel we are left behind, on a Regional Level we lack real representation that understands, fights for, and speaks to our profoundly different local needs from high urban areas.

In closing this is not a criticism of Local Council, Ward Boundary review should not be about lines on a map. It should be about representation on all levels of our Council with input from the public. This is democracy. When we all work together; Citizens have an input, Local and Regional Councillors represent the residents input, there is a far better social and economic environment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,  
Alexandra Ney  
Resident of King Vaughan Road

**From:** [Bellisario, Adelina](#)  
**To:** [Bellisario, Adelina](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [External] Ward Boundary Review, Effective Local and Regional Representation Agenda item 5(2)  
**Date:** May-05-21 8:59:26 AM  
**Attachments:** [Request to Speak Form for Electronic Meetings.docx](#)  
[May 5 21 WardBoundryReviewLetter.docx](#)

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**From:** patricia pedari <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 05, 2021 12:59 AM  
**To:** [Clerks@vaughan.ca](mailto:Clerks@vaughan.ca)  
**Cc:** Ciampa, Gina <[Gina.Ciampa@vaughan.ca](mailto:Gina.Ciampa@vaughan.ca)>  
**Subject:** [External] Ward Boundary Review, Effective Local and Regional Representation Agenda item 5(2)

Patricia Pedari (Zeppieri)

Notice of Confidentiality:

The information transmitted is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged material.

Vaughan City Council  
City of Vaughan  
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive  
Vaughan, ON  
L6A 1T1

May , 2021

Mayor Bevilacqua, and Councillors,

**Re: May 5, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda Item 5(2)  
Ward Boundary Review, Effective Local and Regional Representation**

Mayor and Councillors,

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<sup>1</sup> Vaughan 2010 Official Plan, Pg. 22, see:

[https://www.vaughan.ca/projects/policy\\_planning\\_projects/General%20Documents/Official%20Plan%20Vol%201/VOP%202010%20Vol%201%20Updates%202021/VOP%20Volume%201%20-%202020%20Header%20Update%20Feb%202%202021.pdf](https://www.vaughan.ca/projects/policy_planning_projects/General%20Documents/Official%20Plan%20Vol%201/VOP%202010%20Vol%201%20Updates%202021/VOP%20Volume%201%20-%202020%20Header%20Update%20Feb%202%202021.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Past Members of Council, see: <https://www.vaughan.ca/council/Pages/Past-Council-Members.aspx>

<sup>3</sup> <https://pub-v Vaughan.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=e0a2a95d-6799-4815-aed2-8fd3cb3528b2&Agenda=Agenda&lang=English&Item=12>

be skewed to represent the broader public interest and local concerns underrepresented. *Vaughan does not have effective local representation and moving lines on a map will change nothing.*

Recent decisions surrounding the proposed Highway 413/GTA West Corridor (the Highway) highlighted Vaughan's problematic regional representation. All of Vaughan's local Councillors responded to public concern and felt the need to be accountable to their constituents and wards. They argued for their citizens and voted to withdraw support of the Highway. The Mayor and Regional Councillors remained entrenched in their Regional position to support the Highway at Vaughan Council. As per York Region's Code of Conduct regional Council members are not required to act in their "Official capacity...when executing their duties as a member of a council for a local municipality"<sup>4</sup>. At the Regional Council meeting on March 18 Vaughan citizens learned their regional Council members have no legal obligation to uphold Vaughan Council decisions. York Region's and Vaughan's Code of Conduct both set out that members of Council are expected to represent their constituents<sup>5</sup>. Vaughan's Regional Council members maintained their support for the Highway at both lower and upper tier councils in the absence of publicly documented support. Vaughan citizens were forced to reach out to other municipal regional Council members for representation at York Region.

This decision proved what many Vaughan residents have believed for some time; Vaughan has no representation of local interests at the Region; we have four members, soon to be five, who sit on Vaughan Council, vote on local issues, but represent and act in the interests of the Region. **It was a watershed moment for Vaughan citizens because it documented that our Regional Council members: uphold regional interests above local interests; and, have no legal obligation to uphold and represent local Vaughan Council decisions.**

Part of democracy is having transparency, accountability and understanding how elected officials represent citizens. Vaughan's regional councillors have no clear division of responsibility, they are elected at large with little accountability to any community or area of Vaughan. They often support controversial decisions in the presence of strong public opposition. A fourth regional councillor has been added during a global pandemic without any public consultation. Vaughan taxpayers will pay for another regional councillor but were never consulted or asked. When an opportunity came before Vaughan Council to provide direction to staff regional representation was excluded.

Vaughan's Council composition is always compared to Markham who has five regional Council members. Why do we never compare our local council representation to Markham? Markham has eight local councilors representing 350,000 residents, whereas Vaughan has only five local councillors representing 335,000 residents.

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<sup>4</sup> The Regional Municipality of York, Code of Conduct for Council Members. Section B.1, Pg. 2, see: <https://www.york.ca/wps/wcm/connect/yorkpublic/70c4d0c7-0196-4e6e-9819-2fc97319f327/Code+of+Conduct+Council+Members.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=mLVV0xf>

<sup>5</sup> Vaughan's Code of Ethical Conduct for Members of Council and Local Boards, City of Vaughan. [https://www.vaughan.ca/cityhall/integrity\\_commissioner/General%20Documents/Code%20of%20Ethical%20Conduct%20for%20Members%20of%20Council%20and%20Local%20Boards.pdf](https://www.vaughan.ca/cityhall/integrity_commissioner/General%20Documents/Code%20of%20Ethical%20Conduct%20for%20Members%20of%20Council%20and%20Local%20Boards.pdf)

**To restore balance between local and regional representation that does not include the addition of another local councillor there may be two options.**

- 1. regional councillors are eliminated from Vaughan Council, thereby reducing Vaughan Council to six (6) members the Mayor and five (5) local councillors; or,**
- 2. regional councillors are elected by ward and accountable to wards, they would no longer be elected at large.**

There is clearly frustration among residents with regional representation as documented in the consultant's report<sup>6</sup>. Excluding regional councillors from the ongoing review has only aggravated this sentiment, combined with the recent upper and lower tier council decisions surrounding the Highway. Vaughan residents have always been told we need another Regional Councillor to increase Vaughan's regional representation but the reality is that each time an additional regional councillor has been added Vaughan's local representation has eroded. There is no optimal solution to achieve effective representation but it certainly will never be achieved if only half of Council's voting members are included in the scope of the Ward Boundary Review. **Vaughan Council's composition is changing, regional representation has increased at the expense of local representation and the public was only consulted about moving lines on a map. This is not democratic or fair to Vaughan Citizens.**

Please take the time to consider what is in the best interests of Vaughan citizens to ensure local and regional representation is balanced, effective and accountable.

Thank you.

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<sup>6</sup> Vaughan Council Agenda Item 5(2), Attachment 1: Ward Boundry Review, pg 40. See: <https://pub-vaughan.escrimemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=67003>



# City of Vaughan Ward Boundary Review (WBR)

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Council Update

Jack Ammendolia & Dr. Robert Williams

May 5 2021

# WHY A WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW?

To prepare Vaughan Council to make decisions on whether  
to maintain the existing ward structure or  
to adopt an alternative arrangement

# Context



## Town of Vaughan

established under provincial  
legislation (achieved City status  
1991)

Current electoral  
structure established

Present Day

Projected Population  
Estimates

1972

2009

2020

2030

Population ~ 16,000<sup>1</sup>

**Mayor**

*(elected at-large)*

**3 Local & Regional Councillors**

*(elected at-large)*

**5 Local Councillors**

*(1 per ward)*

Population 305,000  
(2016 census)  
and estimated to be  
340,000 in 2021 – an  
increase of almost 30%.

Population over  
400,000

<sup>1</sup>Source: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/16-508-x/16-508-x2019001-eng.htm>

# What Can Council Do?



Ontario's *Municipal Act, 2001* authorizes a lower-tier municipality to:

- change the size of the Council
- determine how Council (other than the Mayor) will be elected
- “divide or re-divide the municipality into wards or dissolve the existing wards”

No stipulated schedule, standardized process or established criteria exist for electoral reviews in Ontario

- Each municipality must set its own terms, parameters, guiding principles, etc.
- A review is typically framed by established procedures and principles applied in several Ontario municipalities and by the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) and judicial rulings on representation

# What Did We Hear In The First Round Of Engagement?



## Public Engagement Overview

- Interviews with senior staff and members of council
- Four public online "town hall" sessions
- An engagement website with lots of materials to learn from.
- A survey collected preferences and extensive comments

## Some High-level Perspectives

- Over 3000 people visited the site to learn more
- 585 people answered the key questions of the survey and 375 people left thoughtful explanations for their choices
- Majority of people were from Maple, Thornhill, and Woodbridge. People from all wards answered

# Guiding Principles to Design Wards



A **ward-based** electoral system should address these core principles/guidelines:



Representation by Population



Future Population Trends



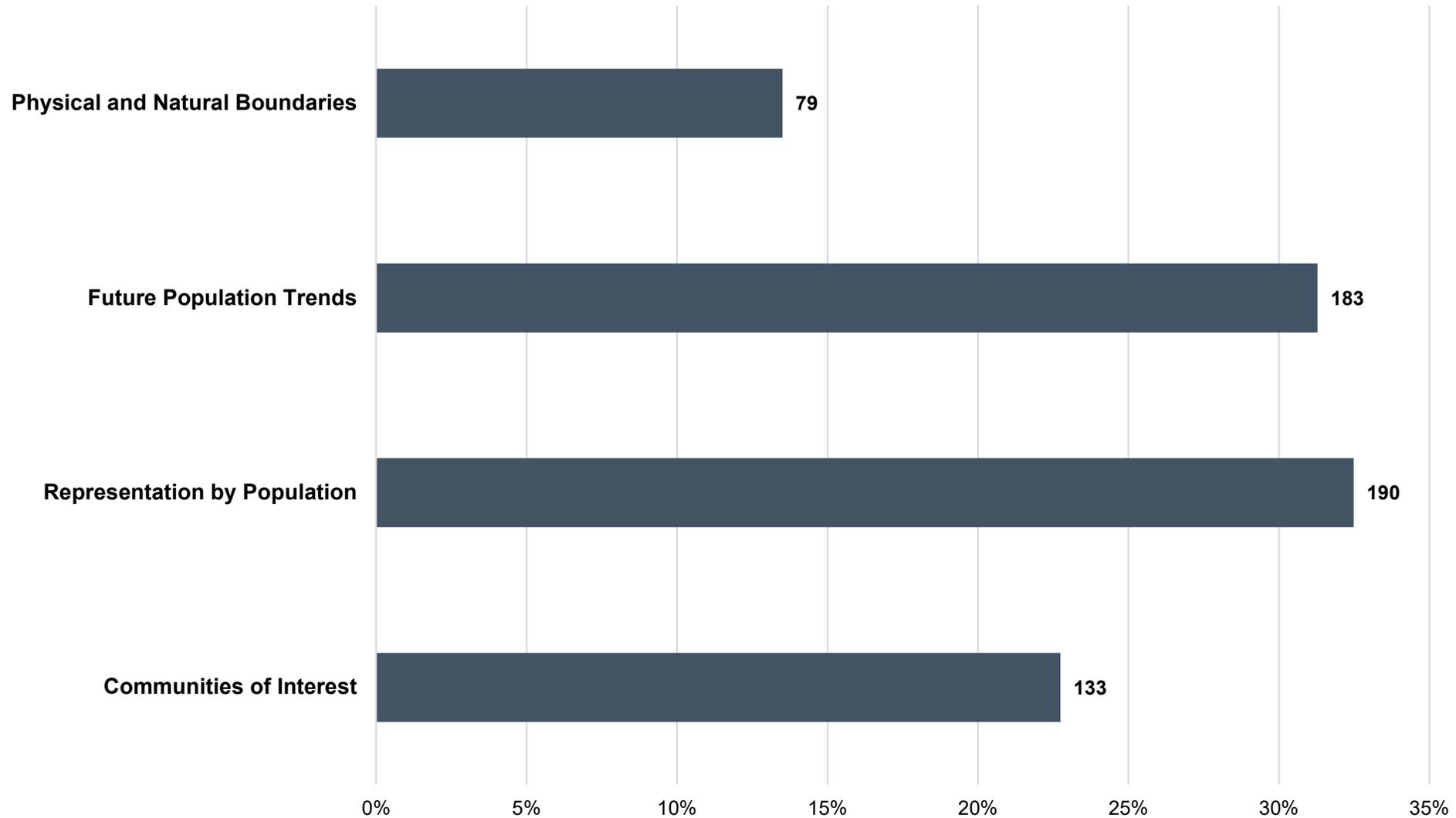
Physical and Natural Boundaries



Communities of Interest

Effective Representation

# What Should an Alternative System Look Like?

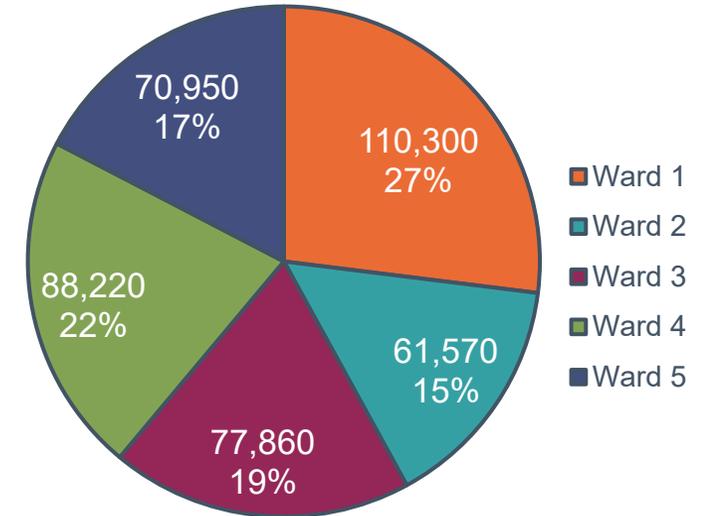


# Population Forecasts & Optimal Population Distribution



- Vaughan was the fastest growing municipality in Canada between 1996 and 2006 and significant future population growth is expected to continue (~70,000 over next decade).
- Population forecasts are based on and have been guided by Regional and Municipal targets and policy objectives along with a comprehensive review of supply.
- However, forecasts and settlement patterns may change and to recognize that, the Guiding Principles allow for a variance (+/- 25%) in the population distribution amongst wards.

2030 Population Distribution

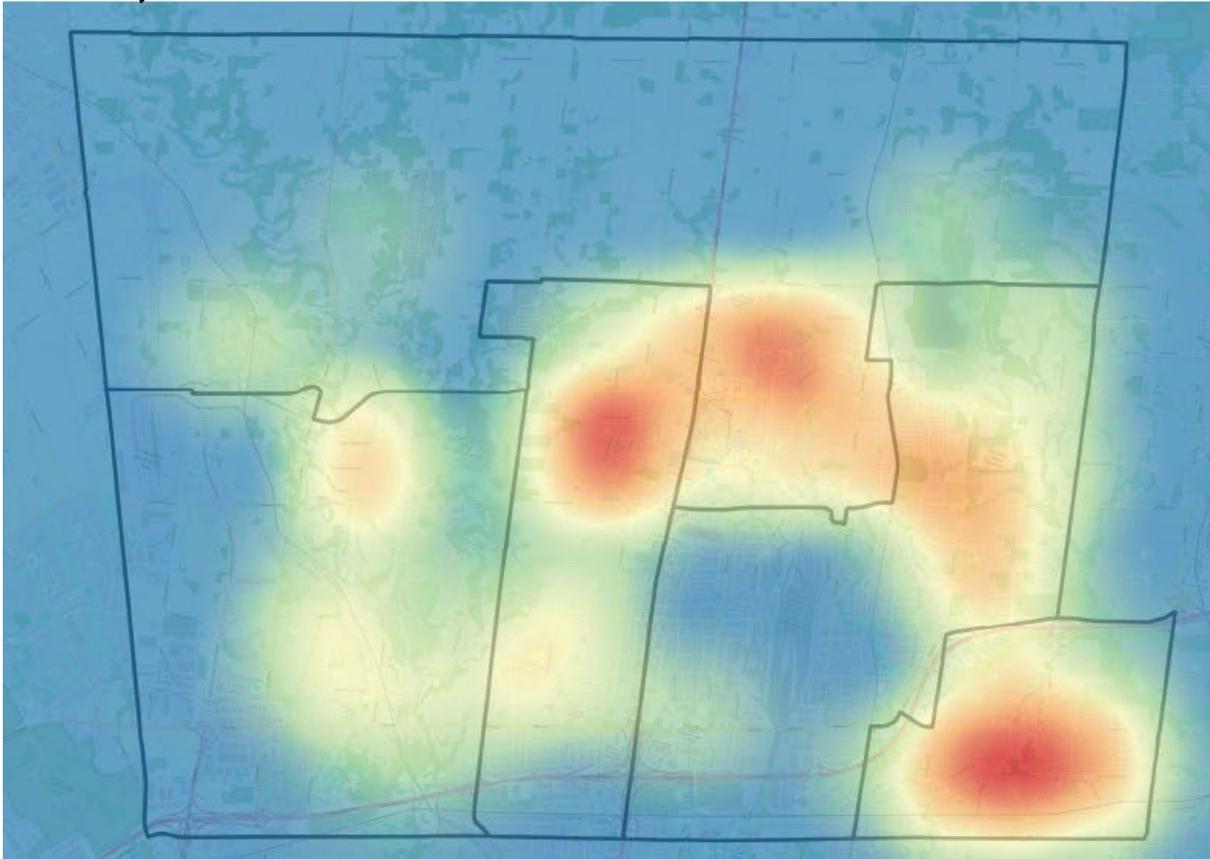


Symbol	Description	Variance	2021 Population Range	2030 Population Range
OR+	Outside Range - High	25%	85,013	102,225
O+	Above Optimal	5%	71,411	85,869
O	Optimal Population Range	-	68,010	81,780
O-	Below Optimal	-5%	64,610	77,691
OR-	Outside Range - Low	-25%	51,008	61,335

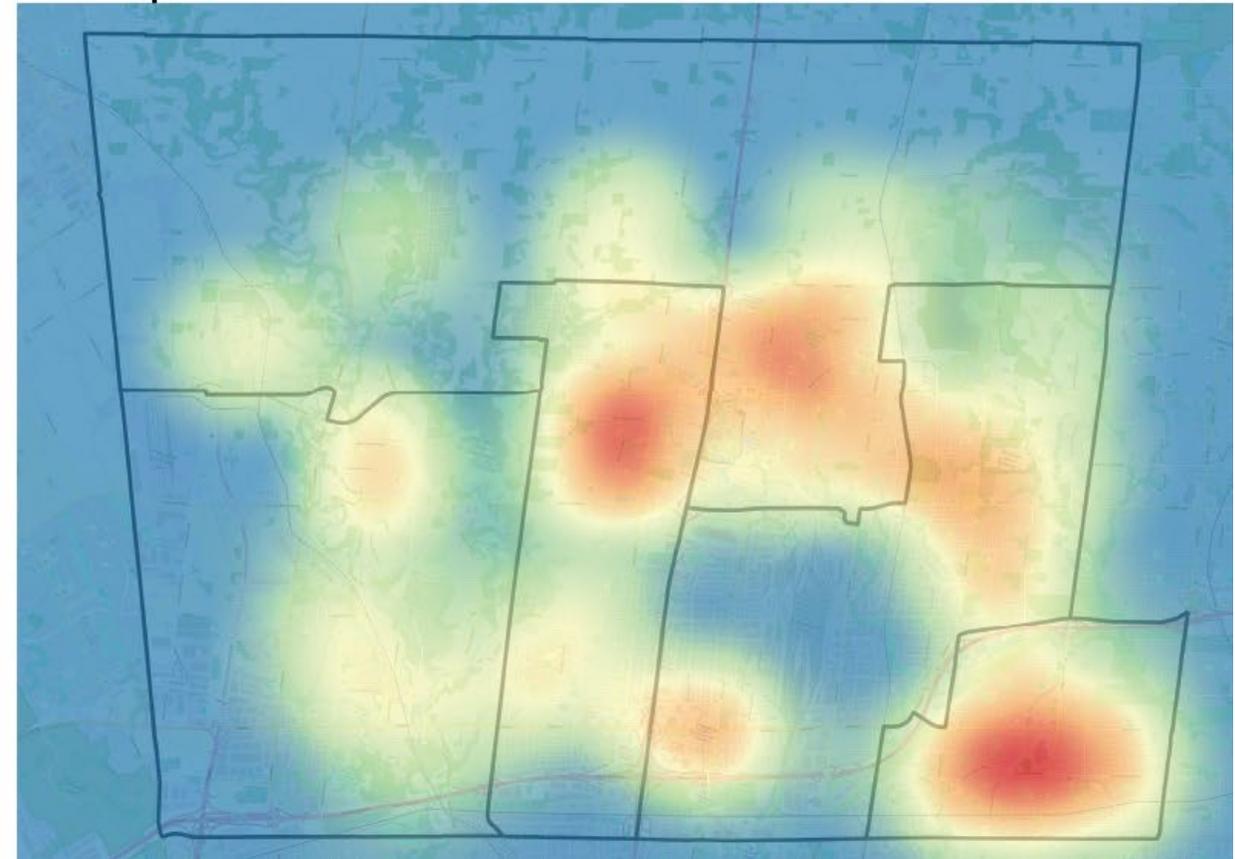
# Existing & Projected Population Settlement



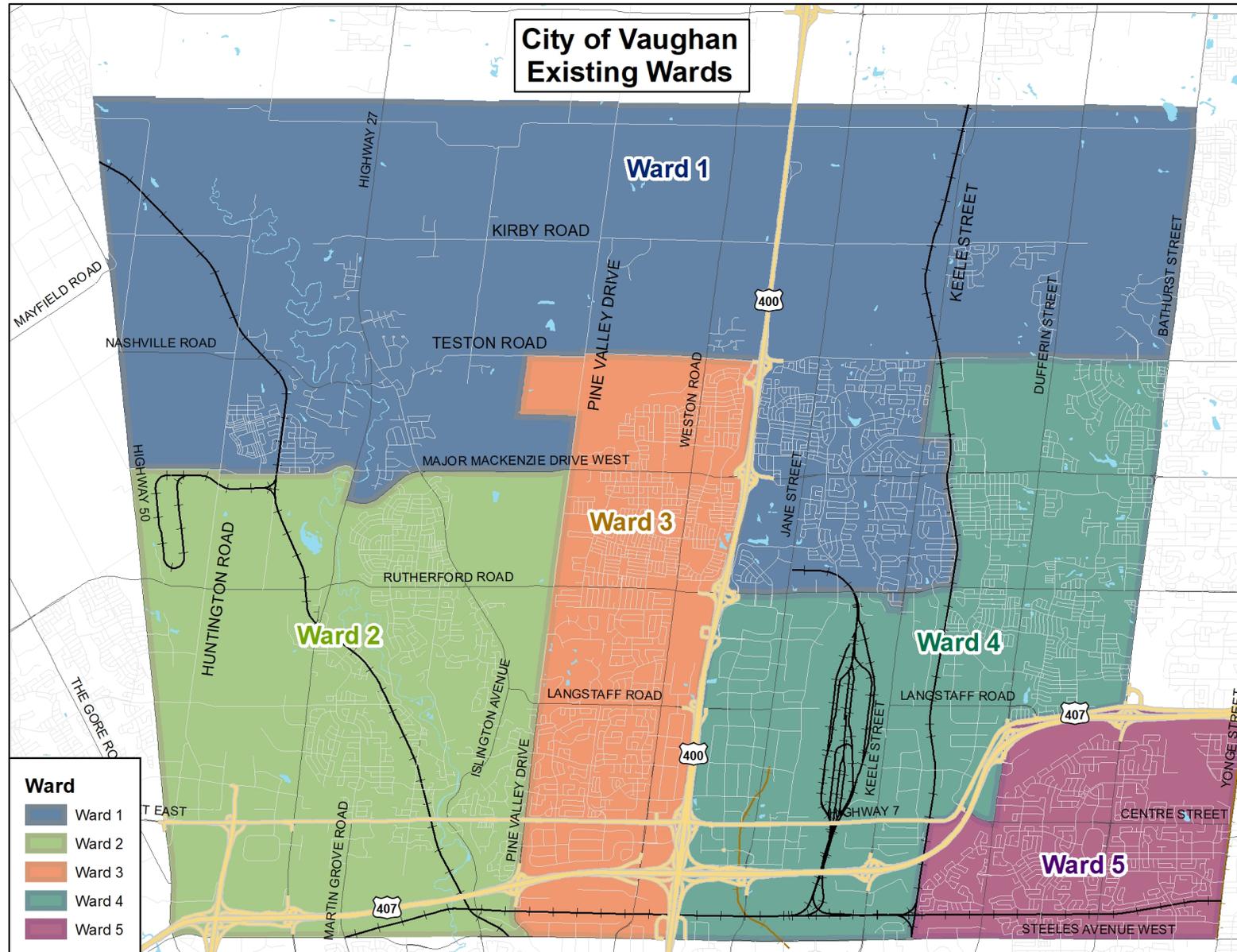
City of Vaughan  
2021 Population Distribution



City of Vaughan  
2030 Population Distribution

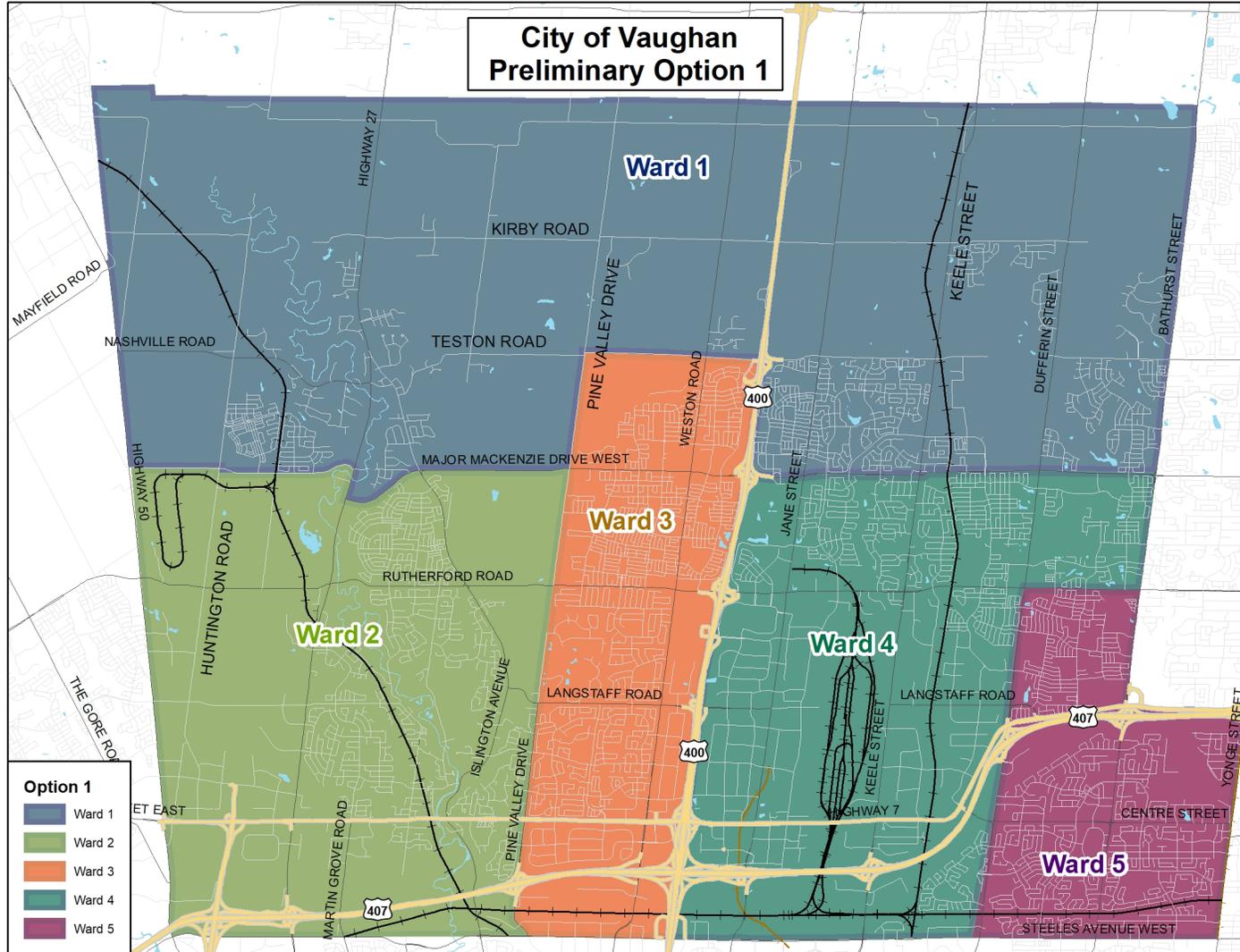


# Existing Ward Map



# Preliminary Option 1

## Focus: Minimal change



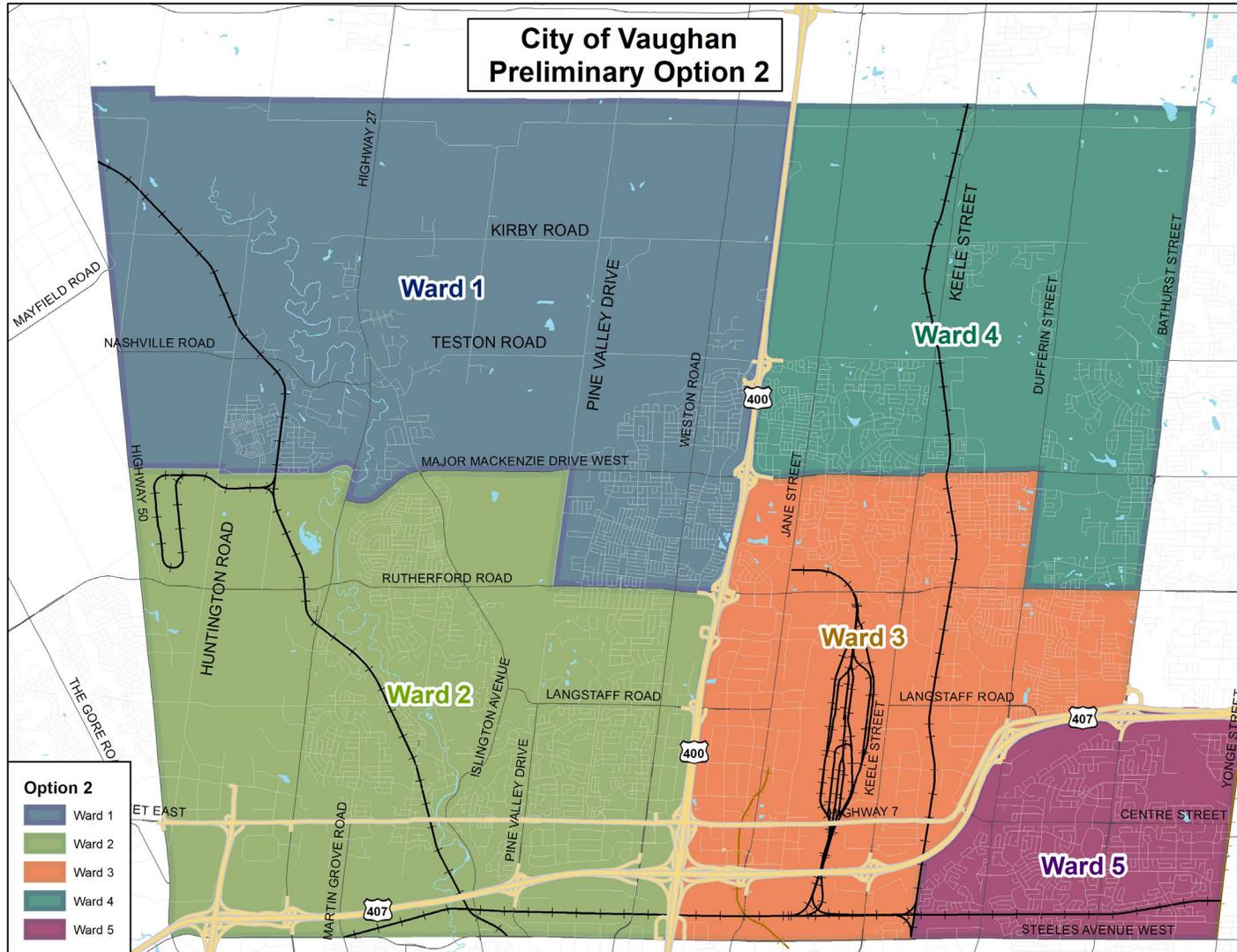
Ward	2021 Total Population	2021 Population Variance	Optimal Range	2030 Total Population	2030 Population Variance	Optimal Range
<b>Preliminary Option 1</b>						
Ward 1	65,470	0.96	O	101,250	1.24	O+
Ward 2	56,200	0.83	O-	61,570	0.75	O-
Ward 3	69,740	1.03	O	75,160	0.92	O-
Ward 4	67,340	0.99	O	87,130	1.07	O+
Ward 5	81,280	1.20	O+	83,770	1.02	O
<b>City-wide</b>	<b>340,000</b>			<b>408,900</b>		
<b>Ward Average</b>	<b>68,010</b>			<b>81,780</b>		

Source: Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. 2021.

Note: Numbers have been rounded

# Preliminary Option 2

Focus: Population parity, north split into 2 wards



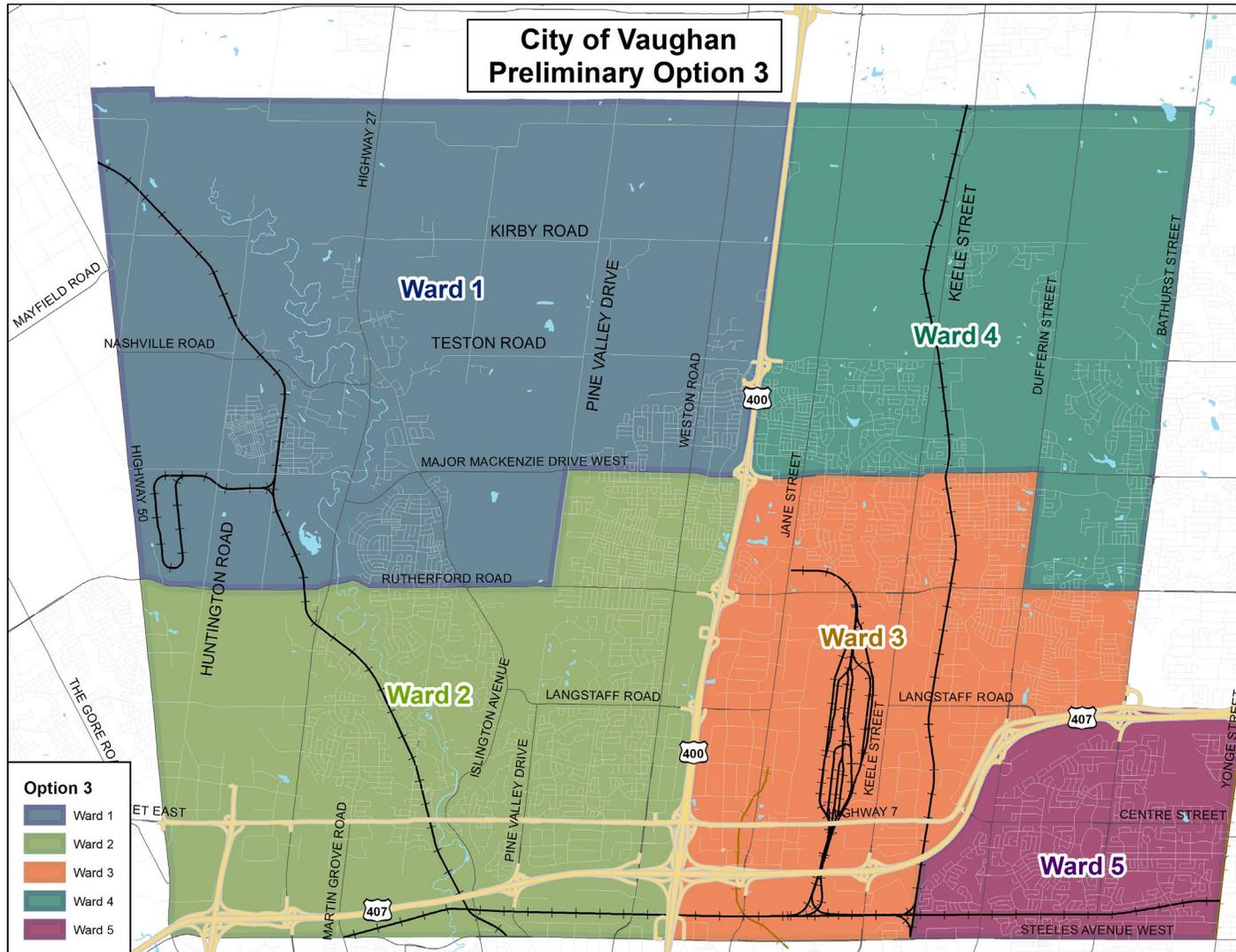
Ward	2021 Total Population	2021 Population Variance	Optimal Range	2030 Total Population	2030 Population Variance	Optimal Range
<b>Preliminary Option 2</b>						
Ward 1	62,140	0.91	O-	91,590	1.12	O+
Ward 2	80,340	1.18	O+	86,670	1.06	O+
Ward 3	69,480	1.02	O	89,070	1.09	O+
Ward 4	59,410	0.87	O-	70,620	0.86	O-
Ward 5	68,660	1.01	O	70,950	0.87	O-
<b>City-wide</b>	<b>340,000</b>			<b>408,900</b>		
<b>Ward Average</b>	<b>68,010</b>			<b>81,780</b>		

Source: Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. 2021.

Note: Numbers have been rounded

# Preliminary Option 3

Focus: Growth into parity and community connections



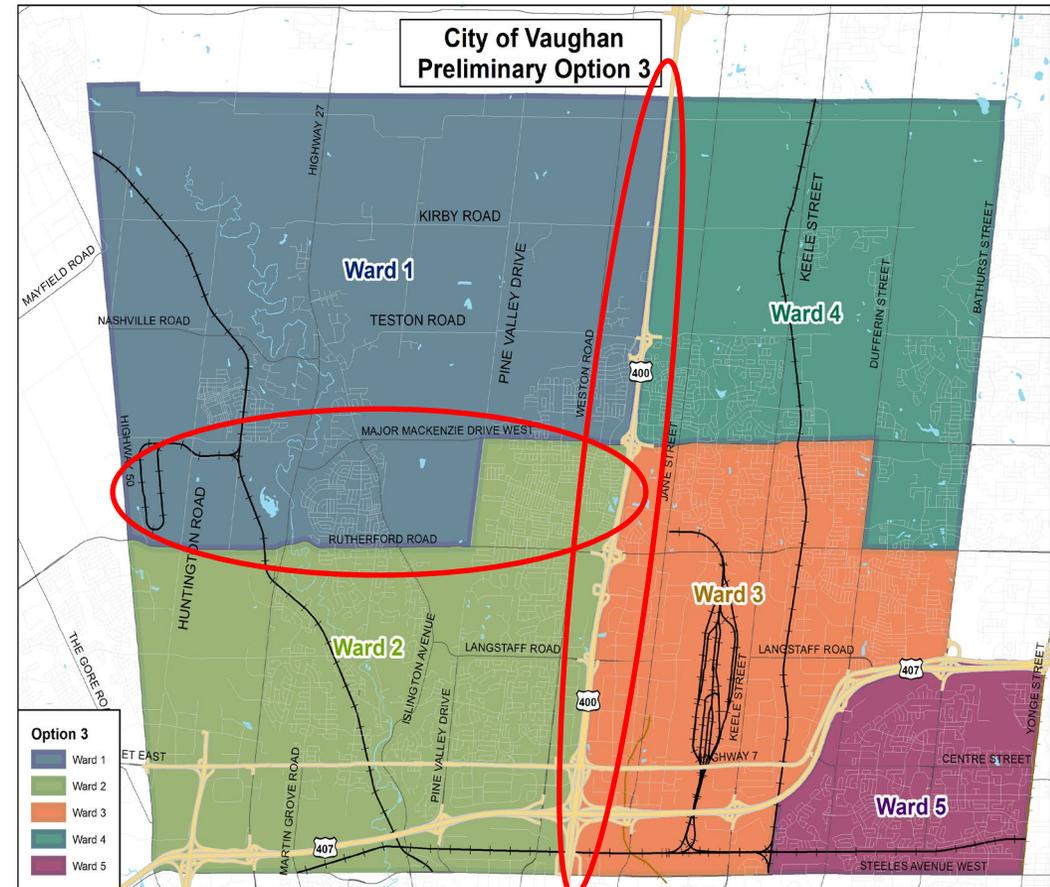
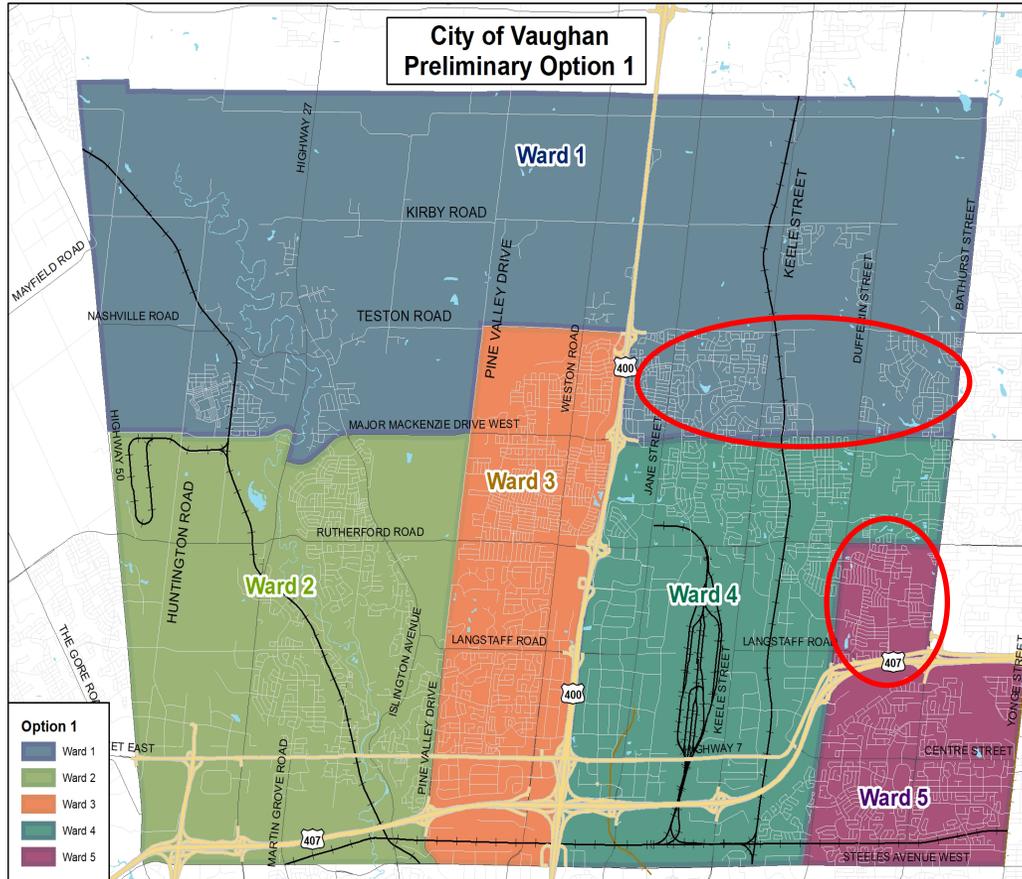
Ward	2021 Total Population	2021 Population Variance	Optimal Range	2030 Total Population	2030 Population Variance	Optimal Range
<b>Preliminary Option 3</b>						
Ward 1	47,180	0.69	OR-	76,430	0.93	O-
Ward 2	95,300	1.40	OR+	101,830	1.25	O+
Ward 3	69,480	1.02	O	89,070	1.09	O+
Ward 4	59,410	0.87	O-	70,620	0.86	O-
Ward 5	68,660	1.01	O	70,950	0.87	O-
<b>City-wide</b>	<b>340,000</b>			<b>408,900</b>		
<b>Ward Average</b>	<b>68,010</b>			<b>81,780</b>		

Source: Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. 2021.

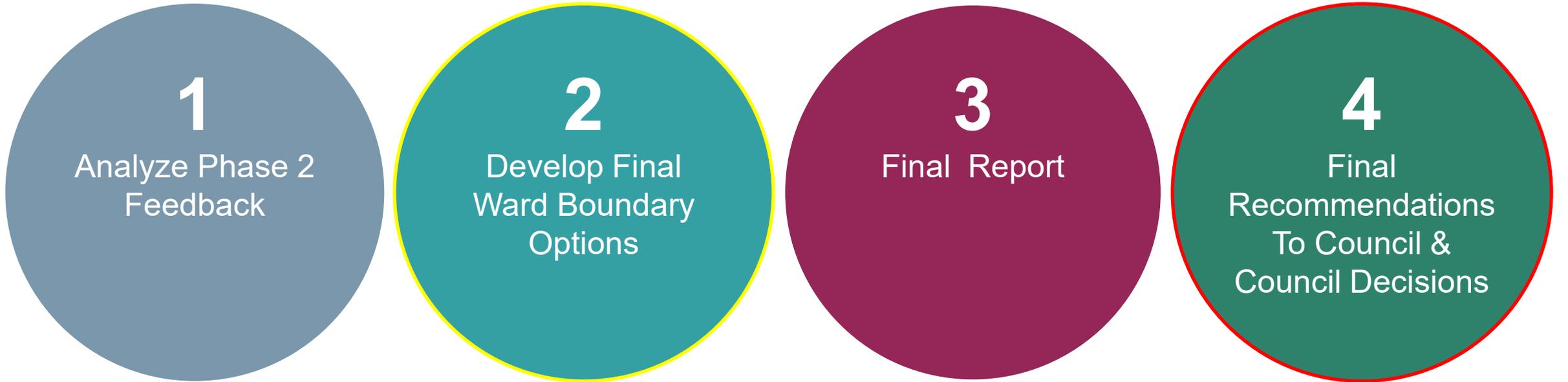
Note: Numbers have been rounded

# Things To Think About

## What are important considerations?



# Next Steps



We Are Here

**Questions?**