



 **Watson
& Associates**
ECONOMISTS LTD.

2024/2025 Ward Boundary and Council Composition Review

City of Vaughan

Final Report

June 18, 2025

Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.
905-272-3600
info@watsonecon.ca

In association with: Dr. Robert J. Williams, Dr. Zachary Spicer,
and ICA Associates Inc.



Table of Contents

| | Page |
|---|------------|
| 1. Introduction..... | 1 |
| 2. Study Objective | 1 |
| 3. Context | 3 |
| 4. Existing Population and Forecast Growth in the City of Vaughan..... | 4 |
| 4.1 Existing Population and Structure | 5 |
| 4.2 Forecast Population Growth, 2025 to 2036..... | 6 |
| 5. Public Consultation..... | 7 |
| 5.1 Resources..... | 9 |
| 5.2 Online Engagement | 10 |
| 5.2.1 Engagement Page | 10 |
| 5.2.2 Surveys..... | 11 |
| 5.2.3 Social Media Engagement | 12 |
| 5.3 Public Consultation Sessions..... | 13 |
| 5.4 Interviews and Direct Community Outreach..... | 14 |
| 6. Evaluation of the Existing Ward Structure..... | 14 |
| 7. Final Ward Boundary Options | 19 |
| 7.1 Final Option 1 | 22 |
| 7.2 Final Option 2 | 26 |
| 8. Next Steps and Council Decisions..... | 30 |
| Appendix A Public Engagement Overview | A-1 |
| Appendix B Preliminary Options Council Presentation..... | B-1 |
| Appendix C Survey Results (Phase 1)..... | C-1 |
| Appendix D Survey Results (Phase 2)..... | D-1 |



1. Introduction

The City of Vaughan retained Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., Dr. Robert J. Williams, Dr. Zachary Spicer, and ICA Associates Inc., hereinafter referred to as the Consultant Team, to conduct a comprehensive and independent Ward Boundary and Council Composition Review (W.B.C.C.R.).

The primary purpose of the study was to prepare the City of Vaughan's Council to make decisions on whether to maintain the existing electoral structure or to make changes. This report provides two final options for Vaughan Council to consider based upon analysis, evaluation, research, and two rounds of public consultations with the residents and interested parties of Vaughan. **These two options are to be considered if composition changes are made to York Regional Council.** In this context, the Consultant Team recommends that Council adopt one of the final options for implementation ahead of the 2026 municipal election.

The review is premised on the expectation that Vaughan City Council would provide effective and equitable representation to residents, and its members would be elected in a system that is based on an accurate reflection of the contemporary and future distribution of communities and people across the City.

2. Study Objective

The project had several key objectives:

- Develop a clear understanding of the present electoral system, including its origins and operations as a system of representation;
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the present electoral system based on guiding principles adopted for the study;
- Develop and conduct an appropriate consultation process in accordance with Vaughan's public engagement practices to ensure community support for the review and its outcome;
- Prepare population projections for the development and evaluation of alternative electoral structures for the 2026, 2030, and future municipal elections, if plausible;



- Deliver a report that will set out recommended alternative council composition, size and ward boundaries to ensure effective and equitable electoral arrangements for Vaughan, based on the principles identified; and
- Consider possible Regional Council composition changes and the impact those might have on Vaughan's Council.

In August 2024, the Consultant Team prepared a series of Discussion Papers that set out:

- The parameters and purpose for the review;
- The basic electoral arrangements in Vaughan;
- Council's legislative authority to modify electoral arrangements in the City; and
- An initial assessment of the City's current ward boundary system.

Discussion Paper D provided a set of guiding principles that informed the study and the work of the Consultant Team, as follows:

- Representation by population;
- Current and future population trends;
- Geographical and topographical features as boundaries; and
- Communities of interest.

Taken together, these principles will contribute to achieving the overarching principle of effective representation.

Each principle is described in detail in Discussion Paper D and can be found on the City's Ward Boundary and Council Composition Review project page.^[1]

The purpose of this Final Report is to provide:

- A summary of the work completed;
- A summary of the information received from the public engagement sessions and tools, such as the survey and website; and
- A final ward boundary option recommendation for Council's consideration.

^[1] <https://vaughan.ca/WardBoundary>



3. Context

The City of Vaughan’s Council has 10 members, including the mayor (elected at-large), four local and regional councillors (referred to herein as the Regional councillors) and five ward councillors, elected across five wards (referred to herein as the City councillors), who sit exclusively on Vaughan Council. The Regional councillor who receives the most votes also serves as the deputy mayor for the term. A ward system has been used in Vaughan since 1985, while the current system of five wards electing five councillors has been used since a 1994 change ordered by the Ontario Municipal Board (now the Ontario Land Tribunal). The current ward boundaries have been in place since 2009.

The *Municipal Act, 2001* establishes that the council of a “local municipality” must consist of “a minimum of five members, one of whom shall be the head of council” (subsection 217 (1) 1) and that the head of council (the mayor) “shall be elected by general vote” (subsection 217 (1) 3). Furthermore, the “members, other than the head of council, shall be elected by general vote or wards or by any combination of general vote and wards” (subsection 217 (1) 4). With 10 members, Vaughan has five Council members above that of the minimum of five required under the Act.

Members of York Regional Council are elected in what is known as a “double direct” form of election, meaning those elected at the lower tier (either as mayor or regional councillor) earn a seat on both their local Council and their Regional Council. They are, in effect, responsible for governing two municipalities. Vaughan now has five representatives on York Regional Council – the mayor and four local and Regional councillors who are elected at-large, meaning these councillors do not represent local wards or identifiable geographic communities.

Council adopted the terms of reference for the W.B.C.C.R. in the spring of 2024. Work completed to date includes:

- Research and data compilation;
- Interviews, workshops and meetings with councillors, the mayor, and municipal staff; and
- Extensive public consultation on the existing ward structure and preliminary alternatives.



Interviews with staff and Council, and meetings with the clerk's office and other staff concerning this study were conducted both virtually and in person. The Consultant Team presented to Council on October 7, 2024. Two rounds of public consultation were also conducted: one from September to October 2024 and another in April 2025. Each round included five live sessions held at five different locations across the City.

During this project, the Consultant Team was informed by City of Vaughan staff about possible governance changes in York Region. At the time, those changes were not publicly announced. At the time of writing, those changes have still not been announced publicly but could involve each lower-tier municipality in York Region being represented only by its mayor, who would have a weighted vote in Council decisions. Although such changes have not been publicly announced, it is prudent to consider the impact on Vaughan's governance system, given that four of the ten members of Vaughan Council (aside from the mayor) also serve on York Regional Council. The Consultant Team was asked to address possible composition configurations that did not include the election of both City and Regional councillors in the present format.

In December 2024, the Consultant Team submitted an Interim Report, which summarized much of the work to that point. The Interim Report also provided additional context to the change in direction that the Consultant Team received from Council considering the possible governance changes to York Regional Council discussed above. In April 2025, the Consultant Team submitted a Preliminary Options Report, which included six preliminary options. All options considered a change to the number of wards under the premise noted above: composition changes to York Regional Council. These options included 2 six-ward options, 2 seven-ward options, and 2 eight-ward options. The public and Council were given an opportunity to provide feedback during the second round of public engagement. Based upon this feedback, the Consultant Team has recommended two final options, discussed fully below.

4. Existing Population and Forecast Growth in the City of Vaughan

As previously discussed, a basic premise of representative democracy in Canada is the notion that the geographic areas used to elect a representative should be reasonably balanced with one another in terms of population. A detailed population estimate for the City of Vaughan, including its constituent wards and communities, has been prepared to allow for the evaluation of the existing ward structure and subsequent alternatives in



terms of representation by population, beginning with the most recent Census (2021) and utilizing the most up-to-date information available at the time of this study. This estimate will include the population not captured through the Census (i.e., Census undercount).

It is important to note that the planning and economic landscape is evolving rapidly. This review reflects the current information available at the time. Given the uncertainties developing in the housing market, the Consultant Team recommends that the City continue to monitor population and elector numbers after the conclusion of this review to ensure equitable representation by population across the wards. If population projections are not realized or growth patterns are different from estimates, another review could be required.

4.1 Existing Population and Structure

Consistent with the guiding principles, this study is required to consider both the existing and future ward population distribution. Another question this study aims to review is the composition (size) of the council. The estimated 2025 population for the City of Vaughan is 370,300, with each local ward councillor responsible for representing over 74,000 people on average. The 2025 population distribution is presented by ward in Table 4-1.

Two of the five wards fall within the optimal range ($\pm 5\%$ of the optimal/average population) while three wards (Wards 1, 2, and 4) fall above the 5% optimal range but within the acceptable range of 25%. While the existing (2025) ward population distribution is reasonable, based on the optimal and accepted percentage variances, it is important to note that the size of Vaughan's population can mean that there is still a large degree of population difference between some of the wards. For example, Ward 4 has the largest population and Ward 2 the smallest, and while both lie within the acceptable percentage variance, the wards differ in absolute population by approximately 20,000 people.



Table 4-1
City of Vaughan
2025 Population by Ward

| Ward | Total Population | Population Variance |
|----------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Ward 1 | 79,100 | 1.07 |
| Ward 2 | 61,000 | 0.82 |
| Ward 3 | 73,750 | 1.00 |
| Ward 4 | 81,750 | 1.10 |
| Ward 5 | 74,700 | 1.01 |
| Total | 370,300 | - |
| Average | 74,050 | - |

Source: Derived from the 2022 York Regional Official Plan with revisions made to the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre, by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.

4.2 Forecast Population Growth, 2025 to 2036

In accordance with the City's 2022 York Regional Official Plan, with revisions made to the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre, the City of Vaughan is expected to grow by almost 80,000 people between 2025 and 2036, representing an increase of 22%.

Anticipated population growth to 2036 was identified on a sub-geographic unit level and presented by the existing ward structure in Table 4-2. Overall, population parity does not improve when population projections are incorporated. For example, Ward 1 falls outside the optimal range and another ward is on the cusp of the optimal range, while the remaining three wards stay within the optimal range of the average ward population. The difference in population between the smallest and largest wards is projected to increase to more than 46,000.



Table 4-2
City of Vaughan
2035 Population by Ward

| Ward | Total Population | Population Variance |
|----------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Ward 1 | 114,600 | 1.27 |
| Ward 2 | 68,250 | 0.76 |
| Ward 3 | 79,050 | 0.88 |
| Ward 4 | 106,950 | 1.19 |
| Ward 5 | 81,150 | 0.90 |
| Total | 450,000 | - |
| Average | 90,000 | - |

Source: Derived from the 2022 York Regional Official Plan with revisions made to the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre, by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.

5. Public Consultation

The public engagement component of this study was delivered both virtually and in person and was designed to achieve two main objectives:

- To inform residents of Vaughan about the reasons for the W.B.C.C.R. and the key factors that were considered in the review; and
- To gather valuable input and advice to the evaluation of the existing ward structure and the development of alternative ward boundaries.

Two extensive rounds of engagement took place under the general direction of the City's communications experts. Each phase lasted about one month and included a comprehensive web page full of information, a survey to gather input, and in-person information sessions.

The first phase launched September 9, 2024 and ended on October 9, 2024. The City created a web page, ran frequent notices on the City's social media channels, added notices to the electronic displays in recreation centres, and parked a portable sign at high-visibility intersections. The Consultant Team led five in-person information sessions from September 23 to October 1, 2024. Sessions were in activity rooms inside recreation centres and the City Hall, usually in the evenings. These sessions included



posters describing the current situation, the guiding principles, and examples of what a change might look like, and visitors had the option of immediately completing the survey on laptop computers.

A total of 217 people provided their input through the online survey, and 17 of the 19 people who attended the open house events wanted to stay informed about the next round of engagement in March 2025. Of the 217 who started the survey, the more in-depth questions received lower response rates, ranging from 89 to 141 respondents per question. While participation seemed low, this was anticipated because of the relatively abstract nature of the topic, and it is not out of line with other recent public consultations. That said, those who attended the in-person sessions were keen to engage in conversations about the topic, often talking for 15 to 20 minutes with the consultants. These kinds of in-depth conversations were invaluable to the Consultant Team as they gathered ideas of how to approach the next phase of the project.

Opinion was somewhat divided on the need for more councillors, tipping towards keeping the number the same at five. The need to redraw some of the boundaries seemed very clear to most respondents, especially because Ward 1 was identified as too large and populous to be well represented and the new Vaughan Metropolitan Centre area was identified as having had a huge increase in population density. Therefore, it is understandable and consistent that people expressed a preference for the guiding principle to design wards using current and future population trends and projections, aiming to ensure that the population of each ward is as close to equal as possible. The other four considerations were essentially ranked equally in second place. The Consultant Team deduced from the conversations and survey input that while there is some appetite for changing boundaries and increasing the size of Council, any increase would have to be kept small.

The second round of public consultations was launched on March 24, 2025 and the survey remained open until April 28, 2025. Five public in-person events occurred from April 7 through April 13, 2025, mostly in City recreation and library facilities as well as one in a local mall. Communications were handled in a similar fashion by the City experts. They edited the web page, adding all the new materials from the Consultant Team, ran ads on social media, inserted notices in regular newsletter emails, and put notices in rotation on the display screens in the recreation centres. The difference in the public sessions for the second round was to place the displays in hallways where



passers-by could be intercepted by the Consultant Team instead of hoping that people would find their way to the event/meeting room.

The second round of consultations focused on discussing options. The in-person sessions displayed six options, the guiding principles, and the current state. The options included detailed estimates of ward population projections as well as ward boundaries. In-person sessions generated a lot of conversations with visitors and deeply influenced how the Consultant Team evaluated the options.

A total of 141 people visited the in-person sessions, with the most (53) at the Promenade Mall on Sunday, April 13, 2025. This was a huge improvement on the first-round involvement. The survey tool generated far more responses: 385 people started the survey with a fairly even number of participants per ward but a drastically skewed demographic towards older people who have lived in Vaughan a long time, who own their own single-family homes, and who are politically engaged already. The in-person events captured greater age diversity, but only a few actual opinions were written down as participants had the option to complete the survey at another time. While 117 of 127 people rated each of the six options, the two questions about which option they preferred the most and the least were answered by just 99 people.

Written explanations of why people rated the six individual options the way they did and why they preferred one option over the others contained few surprises. A large number of people were not in favour of having more councillors, mainly due to concerns that the extra cost of adding a councillor or two to the payroll would increase property taxes. A smaller number of people spoke passionately of the need for better representation and equal populations among the wards, and hence the desire for more councillors and wards. Though out of scope, it is worth noting that in both rounds of consultations a lot of people associated this exercise with land use planning, so they expressed frustration with planning, growth, and traffic.

5.1 Resources

The Consultant Team did extensive research to prepare a report for each round of public consultation designed to give people as much information as possible to help with discussions. For the first round, Background Reports were prepared and shared on the website. For the second round, a Preliminary Options Report was prepared, containing



maps and population projections for each option and why the six options were developed.

All possible information about the review was made available by the City on the City's website: <https://vaughan.ca/WardBoundary> (see Appendix B for more details).

Through the public consultation sessions, surveys, and the project engagement web page's online comment/feedback form, participants were invited to provide their input and opinions with respect to the following:

- Existing Council Structure – Is a five-ward system with five local councillors and one mayor the appropriate number? (Phase 1)
- Existing Ward Structure – What are the strengths and weaknesses of the current ward structure? (Phase 1)
- Guiding Principles – Which guiding principles should be given the greatest priority in the development of ward boundaries? (Phase 1 and Phase 2)
- Preliminary Options of Ward Boundary Configurations – How appropriate to Vaughan are each of the six alternative ward configurations? Which one do you prefer the most and the least? (Phase 2)

The feedback and comments collected through the first round of public consultation informed the development of six preliminary options for ward boundaries. The input from the second round of consultation informed the revisions of the six options into two preferred options to present to Council. While public input from consultation provides valuable insight into the review, it is not relied on exclusively. The Consultant Team utilized the public input in conjunction with its professional expertise and experience in other W.B.C.C.R.s, along with best practices, to develop the final options presented herein.

5.2 Online Engagement

5.2.1 Engagement Page

A public-facing engagement web page was created on the City's website as a single home base for everything related to the project. The web page was designed to raise awareness about the W.B.C.C.R., to disseminate information about the process, and to give the residents of Vaughan an opportunity to provide feedback directly to staff and the Consultant Team. Through this platform, residents could access the online surveys,



view information about the public engagement sessions, view proposed ward boundary options, and review background material. There was even an interactive map tool that adventurous visitors could use to compare one option to another. The engagement page included links to the initial Background Report, the Interim Report, and the Preliminary Options Report. A purpose-built whiteboard animation video was also posted on the web page, which distilled some key information about the W.B.C.C.R. process into a short, accessible format. During Phase 2 of the review, the engagement page garnered a total of 832 page views. The Consultant Team's Preliminary Options Report, interactive map of these options, and other information about the review, remain available online at: <https://vaughan.ca/WardBoundary>.

5.2.2 Surveys

Of those who visited the W.B.C.C.R. engagement page, a significant number also opted to provide feedback through the public surveys. The surveys provided the Consultant Team with an opportunity to evaluate public preferences using both qualitative and quantitative analytical techniques. Surveying was done at two different stages of the public consultation process – an initial round to evaluate public priorities and perspectives on the existing ward structure and council composition (Phase 1) and a later survey that asked respondents to assess and rank a set of preliminary ward boundary options (Phase 2).

The Phase 1 survey was open from September 9, 2024 to October 9, 2024 and resulted in 217 responses. Respondents were asked to discuss whether Council was the adequate size for the City of Vaughan, what are the strengths and weaknesses of the existing wards, and to rank the guiding principles in terms of priority. An in-depth discussion of the Phase 1 survey results is available in the Interim Report, which can be found on the City of Vaughan's W.B.C.C.R. project web page. In summary, residents clearly prioritized balancing the future population distribution among the wards based on projections (35%). The other three guiding principles tied for second place and received between 20% and 22% apiece.

As for the size of council, just less than half of the respondents think the existing size is appropriate, and about 35% felt Council is too small. Only a few people thought that Council had too many councillors. (Note: The survey did not complicate the issue by mentioning the roles of Regional and local councillors, of whom there are four on Vaughan City Council. Changes to Regional Council were out of the scope.



Nonetheless, a lot of comments had to do with frustrations about the role played by Regional and local councillors.)

The Phase 2 survey was open from March 24, 2025 to April 28, 2025. It asked participants to review all the preliminary options, indicate their preferences, and make suggestions. There was a greater level of engagement with the Phase 2 survey compared to Phase 1, with 385 respondents. Survey respondents were asked which of the preliminary ward boundary options they preferred the most and the least, as well as how appropriate each individual option was and why.

In this case there were six options, two offered six wards, two offered seven wards, and two offered eight ward configurations. They were labelled Options 6-1, 6-2, 7-1, 7-2, 8-1, and 8-2. The most preferred option was Option 6-1 (33%), and Option 6-2 came second (23%). The least preferred options were Option 8-2 (43%) and Option 8-1 (16%). The written reasons for the preferences were fairly clear – a desire to see smaller government and fewer politicians.

In interpreting these results, it is important to highlight that this survey does not constitute a representative sampling of the population and is by no means a scientific assessment of public preferences. The level of participation in this survey was strong with respect to surveys completed for studies in other municipalities, but relative to Vaughan's population, the sample is small and not randomly selected. The geographic distribution of respondents across five wards was reasonably balanced, from 14% to 23%, but when looked at through the lens of "community," there were considerably more people from Woodbridge (30.5%), Maple (20%), and Thornhill (15.5%). Most survey respondents did not answer all questions, but 99 did indicate their preferred option. The survey numbers and commentaries were nevertheless a tremendous source of insight for the Consultant Team but should be viewed as only one of several resources informing the recommendations provided in this report.

5.2.3 Social Media Engagement

In the absence of *any* traditional local media or engagement over social media, other than hugely expensive direct mail campaigns, social media announcements were the only remaining platform for disseminating information about the W.B.C.C.R. to the public. Notices were posted on Facebook, LinkedIn, X, and Instagram, raising awareness and directing the public to the feedback survey and the in-person events. In



total, posts related to the W.B.C.C.R. during Phase 2 of the review, generated 1,811 impressions.

5.3 Public Consultation Sessions

The Consultant Team held 10 in-person public consultation sessions with Vaughan residents – five open-house sessions from September 23 to October 1, 2024, during Phase 1, and five in-person intercept or “pop-up” sessions from March 24 to April 13, 2025, in Phase 2. These were opportunities for memorable in-depth conversations, often lasting 20 minutes or more. These conversations also sparked lively discussions within the Consultant Team afterwards and imparted a sense of the flavour, tone, or mood of the community. Feedback from these sessions was used to inform the final recommendations provided in this report.

During these in-person sessions, members of the public had opportunities to ask many questions. They shared their impressions of the current council composition and ward system, expressed their preferences for the guiding principles, and during the second round of engagement, provided their thoughts on the alternative options. One way these responses were collected was through the use of “Feedback Frames,” an anonymous rating ballot tool. Residents could “vote” on the guiding principles (Round 1) and on the preliminary options (Round 2) by dropping poker chips into slots that corresponded to their preference without being able to see where others put their poker chips. This method might reduce the influence of other residents. After voting, visitors were encouraged to write down their reasons, and a few of them did. Laptop computers were also available for visitors who could be persuaded to complete the survey immediately. In Round 2, many visitors opted to either access the survey by scanning a QR code or take a slip of paper home with QR codes that directed them to the website and survey.

Overall, those attending the in-person sessions during Round 1 of engagement indicated a preference to prioritize population parity (both current and future) and an openness to change, even creative changes. In Round 2, there was a more diverse demographic present (more young people) and a more even distribution of preferences, meaning that, compared to the survey results, more people indicated a preference for a seven- or eight-ward configuration. Among these options, Option 8-2 was slightly the most popular. The number of written responses, however, was so low that it is not a



strong indicator on its own. The Consultant Team found that listening to the conversations mattered the most.

5.4 Interviews and Direct Community Outreach

Alongside public engagement, it was essential for the Consultant Team to gain insights from those within Vaughan's government. Interviews were conducted with the mayor, council members, and senior City staff to capture their perspectives.

The feedback and comments gathered during the consultation process are integrated into the analysis and have significantly influenced the findings and recommendations. As noted earlier in this report, while public input from the consultations offers valuable insights, it is not the sole basis for the review. This is due to the fact that only a portion of the population participated in the W.B.C.C.R., which may not fully represent the broader community. The Consultant Team used its professional expertise and experience in ward boundary reviews, combined with knowledge of best practices, to interpret the public input and develop the recommended options.

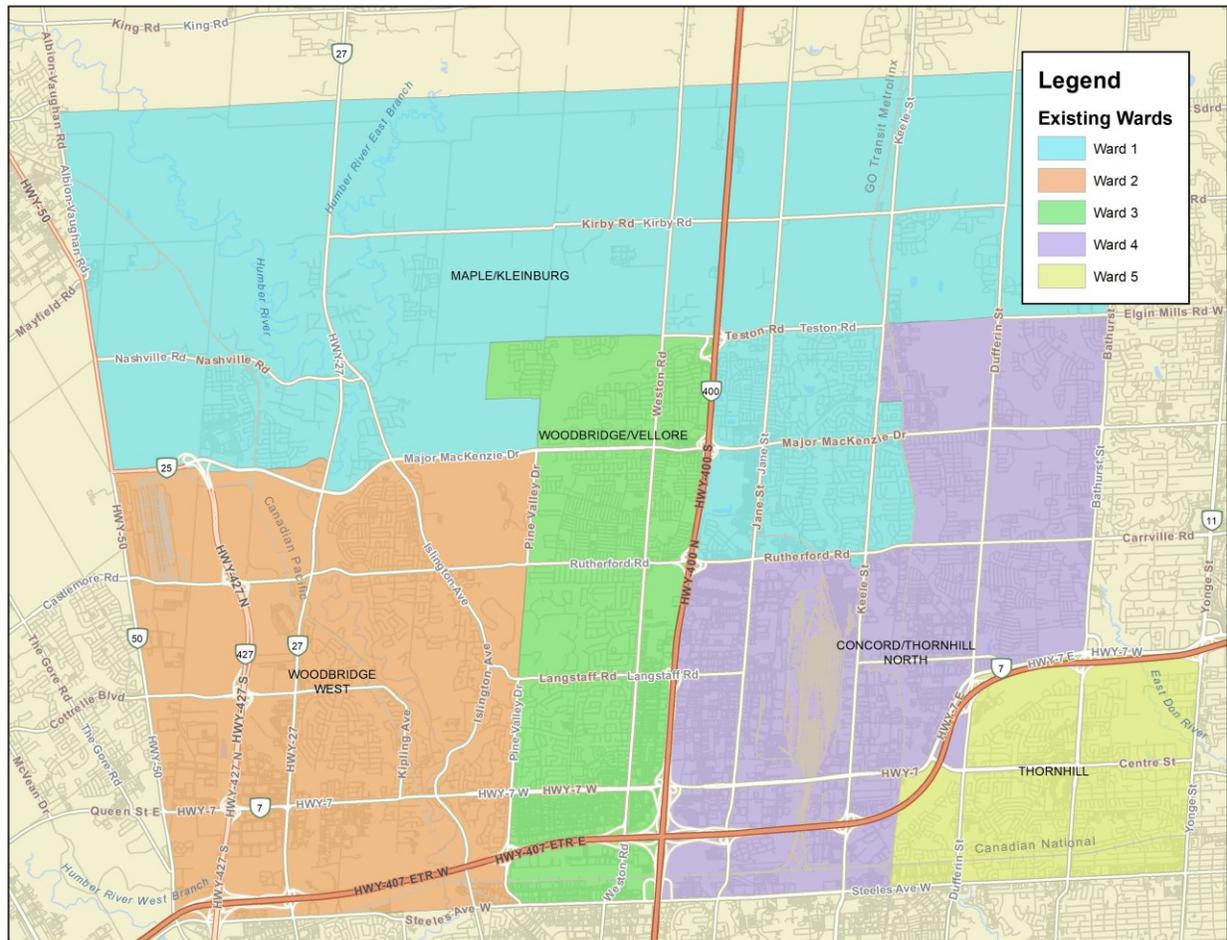
6. Evaluation of the Existing Ward Structure

A preliminary evaluation of the existing ward structure, included in the Interim Report, addressed the wards in terms of the guiding principles. In addition, the Interim Report also included the results of the first phase survey, where respondents were asked to assess the current wards in terms of their strengths and weaknesses. These responses add depth to that preliminary assessment.

This section revisits those evaluations, integrating information received during the public consultations and addressing certain challenges identified in parts of the existing ward system, as heard from residents of Vaughan. For reference, the current wards are presented in Figure 6-1.



Figure 6-1
City of Vaughan
Existing Ward Structure



The current system has been evaluated based on four main principles that fall under the overarching principle of effective representation. These principles are discussed at length in section 8 of the Interim Report in relation to the present wards, so they will not be addressed again in this Final Report. The Consultant Team has considered the importance of each principle and a careful evaluation of which of the principles is most important for determining an appropriate system of representation for the 2026 municipal election and beyond in Vaughan.

The principles contribute to a system that provides for equitable ongoing access between elected officials and residents, but they may occasionally conflict with one another. Accordingly, it is expected that the overriding principle of effective representation will be used to arbitrate conflicts between principles. Any deviation from



the specific principles must be justified by other principles in a manner that is more supportive of effective representation.

The priority attached to certain principles makes some designs more desirable in the eyes of different observers. Ultimately, the ward design adopted by Vaughan's Council should be the one that best fulfills as many of the guiding principles as possible.

The evaluation of the current ward system in Vaughan suggests that there are identifiable but not insurmountable shortcomings when evaluated against the guiding principles for this review. Our evaluation of the existing wards is summarized in Table 6-3 below.

The main challenge with Vaughan's current ward system is population parity. While all of the wards are currently within the acceptable range, the variation between them is quite significant. Using 2025 population figures, Ward 2 has 61,000 residents. In contrast, Ward 4 has almost 20,000 more. With only five wards, this substantial representational disparity between the wards needs to be acknowledged. If unchanged, these disparities worsen as Vaughan moves towards 2036. By that time, two of the wards (Wards 1 and 4) are forecast to have over 100,000 residents and Ward 1 would exceed the acceptable range of variation. Put another way, if the population difference between the smallest and largest wards is forecast to grow to 46,350, the 114,600 residents of Ward 1 get to elect one representative but so do the 68,250 residents of Ward 2. This uneven and unfair representation as found in the existing ward structure should be addressed by considering an alternative configuration.

The objective of population parity (every councillor generally representing an equal number of constituents within their respective ward) is the primary goal of an electoral redistribution, with some degree of variation acceptable considering population densities and demographic factors across the City. The indicator of success in a ward design is the extent to which all the individual wards approach an "optimal" size.

Optimal size can be understood as a mid-point on a scale where the term "optimal" (O) describes a ward with a population within 5% on either side of the calculated optimal size. The classification "below/above optimal" (O+ or O-) is applied to a ward with a population between 6% and 25% on either side of the optimal size and is considered an acceptable variation. A ward that is labelled "outside the range" (OR+ or OR-) indicates that its population is greater than 25% above or below the optimal ward size. The adoption of a 25% maximum variation was part of the terms of reference established by



the City and can reasonably be applied in municipalities like Vaughan that include both urban and rural areas. These ranges are presented in Table 6-1.

Table 6-1
Optimal Population Ranges – 2025 and 2036

| Symbol | Description | Variance | 2025 Population Range | 2036 Population Range |
|--------|------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| OR+ | Outside Range - High | 25% and above | >92,563 | >112,500 |
| O+ | Above Optimal but Acceptable | 5% to 25% | 77,753 – 92,563 | 94,500 – 112,500 |
| O | Optimal Population Range | +/- 5% | 70,348 – 77,753 | 85,500 – 94,500 |
| O- | Below Optimal but Acceptable | -5% to -25% | 55,538 – 70,348 | 67,500 – 85,500 |
| OR- | Outside Range - Low | -25% and below | <55,538 | <67,500 |

Table 6-2
Existing Wards' 2025 and 2036 Population Distribution

| Ward | 2025 Total Population | 2025 Population Variance | 2025 Optimal Range | 2036 Total Population | 2036 Population Variance | 2036 Optimal Range |
|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Ward 1 | 79,100 | 1.07 | O+ | 114,600 | 1.27 | OR+ |
| Ward 2 | 61,000 | 0.82 | O- | 68,250 | 0.76 | O- |
| Ward 3 | 73,750 | 1.00 | O | 79,050 | 0.88 | O- |
| Ward 4 | 81,750 | 1.10 | O+ | 106,950 | 1.19 | O+ |
| Ward 5 | 74,700 | 1.01 | O | 81,150 | 0.90 | O- |
| Total | 370,300 | - | - | 450,000 | - | - |
| Average | 74,050 | - | - | 90,000 | - | - |



Table 6-3
Present Vaughan Ward Configuration Evaluation Summary

| Principle | Does the Current Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle? | Comment |
|--|--|---|
| Representation by Population | Largely Successful | While all wards are within the acceptable population range and two are optimal, the difference between the largest and smallest wards is approximately 20,000. |
| Future Population Trends | Partially Successful | The population disparity between the present wards is forecast to increase (to 46,000) as development (especially the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre) intensifies. The wards become more uneven and the structure more unfair over time. |
| Communities of Interest | Partially Successful | Current ward boundaries do not always and comfortably contain single, identifiable communities of interest. The scale of growth is contributing to changing communities of interest that are not necessarily reflected in the existing wards. |
| Physical and Natural Boundaries | Largely Successful | The existing wards largely reflect natural and physical geographic boundaries with some exceptions, such as wards crossing Highways 400 and 407. |
| Effective Representation | Partially Successful | Accelerating population imbalances, the mix of communities within the wards and the sometimes significant range of population disparity in some wards, hinder full effective representation. |

The degree to which each guiding principle is satisfied is ranked as “**Yes**” (fully satisfied), “**Largely Successful**,” “**Partially Successful**,” or “**No**” (not satisfied).

Data presented in the Interim Report confirms that the pattern of population imbalance present in 2025 is worsened by 2035, with the existing Ward 1 exceeding the acceptable range of population with none of the existing wards at the “optimal” point.

All told, analysis of the current and future population trends, along with feedback received during the public consultation and other features of Vaughan in 2025, leads to



the conclusion that the present wards fall short of achieving complete and effective representation, and that Council could consider an alternative ward configuration to address this in the future.

7. Final Ward Boundary Options Without Local and Regional Councillors

In the Preliminary Options Report, the Consultant Team proposed six preliminary options. Consistent with the direction from Council, two options provided for six wards, two provided for seven wards, and two provided for eight wards. **Each option was intended to be deployed in a scenario where Local and Regional councillors no longer served on Vaughan Council.**

The first preliminary option (Option 6-1) consisted of six wards – one more than the current system. This option had three wards on either side of Highway 400. The proposed Ward 1 ran from Highway 400 west towards the western municipal boundary. Major MacKenzie Drive was largely used as a southern boundary, running down Highway 27 south to Rutherford and then to the western municipal boundary line. The proposed Wards 2 and 3 divided Woodbridge along Islington Avenue and Pine Valley Drive. On the eastern side of Highway 400, the proposed Ward 4 contained much of Maple, largely using Rutherford Road and Major MacKenzie Drive as a southern boundary with Ward 4, which ran south to Highway 407 and the southern municipal boundary line. The proposed Ward 6 contained much of Thornhill, south of Highway 407 towards the rail line. This option was created and adjusted by municipal staff and analyzed by the Consultant Team. This option provided for adequate population parity, but two wards were outside the acceptable range of population variation in 2025 and one was outside using forecast 2036 population data.

The second preliminary option (Option 6-2) had a similar configuration to Option 6-1. The proposed Ward 1 again contained much of the Kleinburg and Nashville communities, running north from Rutherford Road and Major MacKenzie Drive to the northern municipal boundary. Highway 400 served as an eastern boundary. The proposed Wards 2 and 3 again separated Woodbridge, with Ward 2 using Major MacKenzie Drive as a northern boundary, before running south along Islington Avenue. The proposed Ward 3 ran south of Rutherford Road, but as a major departure from Option 6-1, this option crossed Highway 400, capturing much of the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre. The proposed Ward 6 again contained much of Thornhill south of



Highway 407, using Dufferin Street instead as a western boundary. The proposed Wards 4 and 5 used a similar configuration as Option 6-1, with the noted move of Ward 3 into the southern portions of the proposed Ward 5.

This option provided for very good population parity now and in the future. Having one ward in the southern portion of Vaughan cross Highway 400 allowed for better population distribution between the wards. All the wards were, at present, within the acceptable range of population variation, with two of them in the optimal range. By 2036, one more ward was expected to fall into the optimal range, with all the wards again in the acceptable range.

The third preliminary option was the first of two to have seven wards. This was a design provided to the Consultant Team by the City of Vaughan. Given the larger population on the east side of Highway 400, this preliminary option placed four proposed wards on the east side and three on the west, using the highway as a dividing line. On the west side, the proposed Ward 3 ran from Major MacKenzie Drive north to the northern municipal boundary. The proposed Wards 1 and 2 separated Woodbridge, using Islington Avenue and Pine Valley Drive as boundaries. On the east side, the proposed Ward 5 ran between Major MacKenzie Drive and Rutherford Road, and then extended north along Dufferin Street, creating an inverted L-shape. The proposed Ward 4 ran from Major MacKenzie Drive, north to the northern municipal boundary, using Dufferin Street as an eastern boundary. The proposed Ward 6 extended south from Rutherford Road to the southern municipal boundary. Finally, Ward 7 was based on Thornhill, using Highway 407 and Dufferin Street as boundaries. This option provided for good population parity in the future, with all wards in the acceptable range of population variation by 2035. Two wards (the proposed Wards 4 and 7) were outside the range in 2025.

The fourth preliminary option again included seven wards, employing a similar design on the western portion of Highway 400, although Islington Avenue was used consistently as a dividing point between the proposed Wards 2 and 3. Four wards were located on the east side of Highway 400. The proposed Ward 5 stretched from the northern municipal boundary, past Highway 407, using Dufferin Street as a western boundary. The proposed Ward 4 ran from Dufferin Street to Highway 400, using Rutherford Road and Major MacKenzie Drive as southern boundaries. The proposed Ward 6 extended from the boundaries to the southern municipal boundary and the proposed Ward 7 ran from Highway 407 to Centre Street and west to Keele Street.



This option was designed by the Consultant Team. It provided for very good population parity. All the wards, both now and in the future, were in the acceptable range of population variation. Three of those wards (the proposed Wards 2, 4, and 5) were now in the optimal range, while the proposed Wards 6 and 7 would be in the optimal range by 2035.

The final two options – Options 8-1 and 8-2 – each offered an eight-ward system. Both were designed by the Consultant Team. Option 8-1 utilized a balanced design, with four wards on either side of Highway 400. The proposed Wards 3 and 4 separated Woodbridge at Islington Avenue, using Rutherford Road as a northern boundary. The proposed Ward 1 extended from Rutherford Road towards the northern municipal boundary. The western municipal boundary and Pine Valley Drive were used as a western and eastern boundary. In the south, the proposed Ward 2 cut into this ward at Major MacKenzie Drive and ran south along Islington Avenue. On the east side of Highway 400, the proposed Ward 5 contained much of the northern portion of Vaughan, running from Major MacKenzie Drive north to the northern municipal boundary. The proposed Ward 6 extended south from Major MacKenzie past Highway 407 to Centre Street. The proposed Ward 7 ran southward to the southern municipal boundary, using Dufferin Street and Highway 407 as boundaries. The proposed Ward 8 ran from Yonge Street to the rail line past Dufferin Street. This option provided for good, but not great population parity, with two wards, both now and in 2036, outside the range of acceptable population variance.

The final preliminary option again explored having one ward cross Highway 400 to balance out population. On the western side of Highway 400, Woodbridge was again largely separated in two wards, using Rutherford Road as a northern boundary. Pine Valley Drive, however, was used consistently as a boundary between both wards. The proposed Ward 4 extended over Highway 400 into the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre. The proposed Wards 1 and 2 used a similar design as Option 8-1. The proposed Ward 5 was similar to Option 8-2. The proposed Wards 6 and 7 extended south from Major MacKenzie Drive, with the proposed Ward 6 running south of Highway 407. The proposed Ward 7 ran to the southern municipal border. The proposed Ward 8 extended from Yonge Street to Dufferin Road. Crossing Highway 400 provided for far better population parity than found in Option 8-1. Four of the eight wards were in the optimal range in 2025, with one in 2036. The remainder, both now and in population forecasts towards 2036, were in the acceptable range of population variation.



Options 6-2 and 8-2 received the most interest and support during the second round of public engagement. Members of the public, however, provided valuable feedback on all options, commenting on how certain details of each map could be optimized.

7.1 Final Option 1

Final Option 1 is the adjusted version of Option 6-2. This option has six wards, with one (the proposed Ward 3) crossing Highway 400 in the south of the municipality. The proposed Ward 1 contains much of the Kleinburg and Nashville communities, running north from Rutherford Road and Major MacKenzie Drive to the northern municipal boundary. Highway 400 served as an eastern boundary. The proposed Wards 2 and 3 separate Woodbridge, with the proposed Ward 2 using Major MacKenzie Drive as a northern boundary, before running south along Islington Avenue. The proposed Ward 3 runs south of Rutherford Road, before crossing Highway 400, capturing much of the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre.

Two adjustments were made to the eastern portions of Option 6-2, based upon feedback received from the public. In Option 6-2, the proposed Ward 4 ran south from the northern municipal boundary to Rutherford Road, using Keele Street as an eastern boundary. The Consultant Team heard from the public during the second round of engagement that this boundary marker separated key portions of the Maple community. Therefore, in Final Option 1, the boundary marker for the proposed Ward 4 is extended east towards the rail line.

Further south, the proposed Ward 5 now ends at Highway 7, rather than the southern municipal boundary. The proposed Ward 3 is brought further east to the rail line. The proposed Ward 6 does the same, moving further west to reach the same point.

Both adjustments were made to further the communities of interest principle and bring more consistency to the boundary markers. Option 6-2 provided for very good population parity, with two wards in the optimal range in 2025 and three in 2036. All the wards were in the acceptable range of population variation both now and in the future. The changes made weaken that parity somewhat, but all the wards are still in the acceptable range of population parity in Final Option 1. Only one ward is at the optimal point by 2036.



Table 7-1
City of Vaughan
Final Option 1 – Population by Ward

| Ward | 2025 Total Population | 2025 Population Variance | 2025 Optimal Range | 2036 Total Population | 2036 Population Variance | 2036 Optimal Range |
|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Ward 1 | 69,128 | 1.12 | O+ | 87,723 | 1.17 | O+ |
| Ward 2 | 51,374 | 0.83 | O- | 57,828 | 0.77 | O- |
| Ward 3 | 56,714 | 0.92 | O- | 72,065 | 0.96 | O |
| Ward 4 | 69,286 | 1.12 | O+ | 91,756 | 1.22 | O+ |
| Ward 5 | 49,118 | 0.80 | O- | 59,498 | 0.79 | O- |
| Ward 6 | 74,694 | 1.21 | O+ | 81,134 | 1.08 | O+ |
| Total | 370,300 | - | - | 450,000 | - | - |
| Average | 61,700 | - | - | 75,000 | - | - |

Source: Derived from the 2022 York Regional Official Plan with revisions made to the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre, by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.



Figure 7-1
Final Option 1

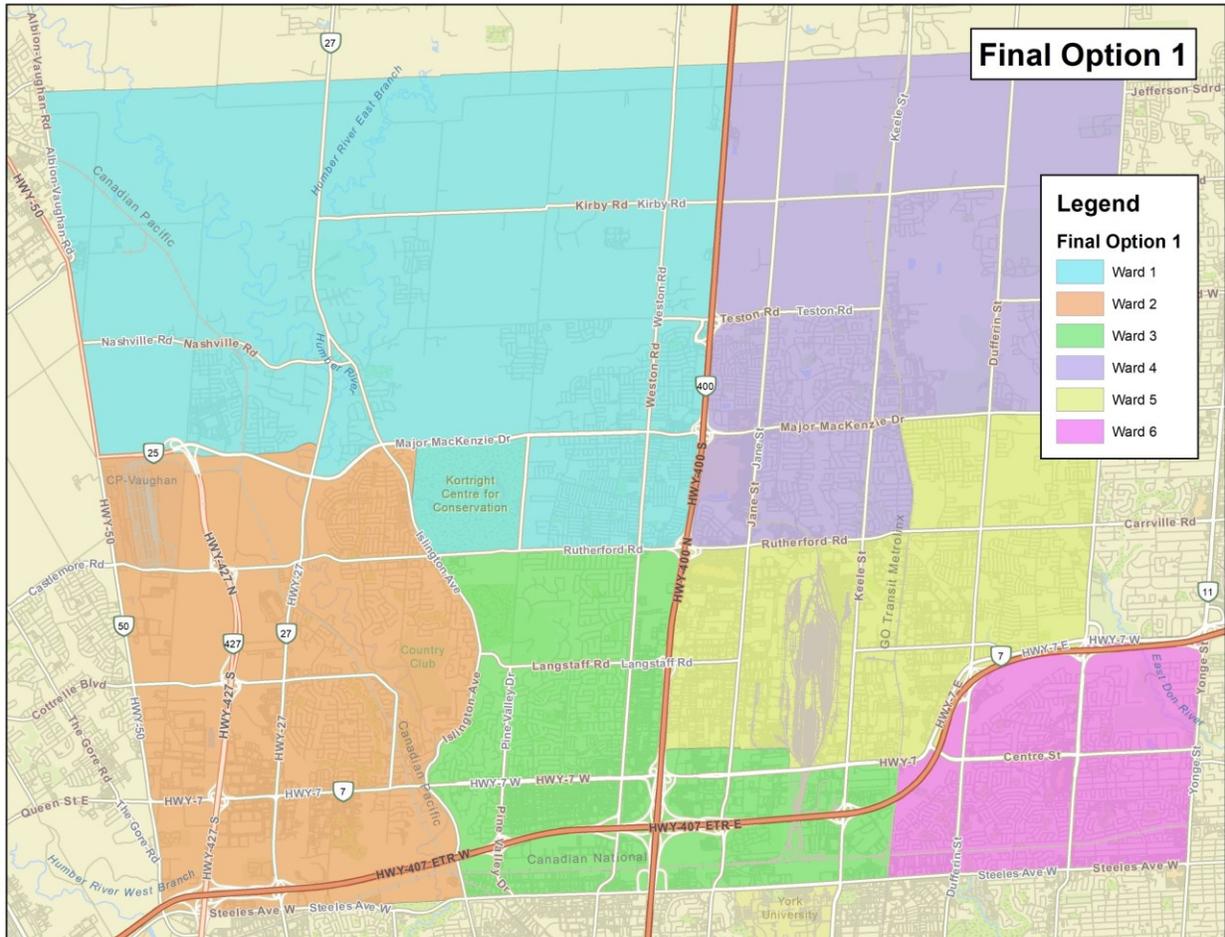




Table 7-2
City of Vaughan
Final Option 1 Evaluation Summary

| Principle | Does the Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle? | Comment |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Representation by Population | Largely Successful | All wards are within the acceptable range of variation, but with sizable disparities between certain wards. The population difference between the largest and smallest is approximately 20,000 people. |
| Future Population Trends | Largely Successful | All wards are within the acceptable range of variation ($\pm 25\%$) but sizable disparities exist between the largest and smallest wards being close to 34,000 people. |
| Communities of Interest | Yes | Most communities comfortably contained in single wards. |
| Geographic Representation | Yes | Most boundary lines follow identifiable markers. |
| Effective Representation | Largely Successful | This option provides for good population parity and comfortably contains most communities of interest and uses recognizable boundary markers but is held back from fully achieving effective representation by sizable population disparities between wards. |

The degree to which each guiding principle is satisfied is ranked as “**Yes**” (fully satisfied), “**Largely Successful**,” “**Partially Successful**,” or “**No**” (not satisfied).



7.2 Final Option 2

Final Option 2 is an adjusted version of Option 8-2 that includes eight wards, with one crossing Highway 400 in the south.

The proposed Ward 1 runs from the northern municipal boundary, south to Rutherford Road. The proposed Ward 2 does the same but uses Pine Valley Drive and Highway 400 as a western and eastern boundary, respectively. The proposed Ward 2 also moves west along Major MacKenzie Drive to include the Kortright Centre for Conservation. Woodbridge is largely separated in two wards, using Rutherford Road as a northern boundary (the proposed Wards 3 and 4). Pine Valley Drive serves as a boundary between the wards.

The proposed Ward 4 extends over Highway 400 into the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre. Like Final Option 1, this option also includes an adjustment in this area that moves the eastern boundary for Ward 4 to the rail line, instead of using Keele Street as in the preliminary design. The proposed Ward 8 is also adjusted in this final option to meet at the same point.

The proposed Ward 5 begins at a similar point as in the preliminary design, running south from the northern municipal boundary. In this final option, however, the southern boundary moves south to Rutherford Road, again making use of the rail line as a western boundary. In the preliminary design, the proposed Ward 5 terminated at Major MacKenzie Drive. To balance out population figures, the northern boundary of the proposed Ward 6 was subsequently moved north to Teston Road.

Again, these adjustments were made to strengthen the communities of interest principle. In doing so, population parity is weakened. In Option 8-2, all the wards were within the acceptable range of population variation, with four in the optimal range in 2025 and one in the optimal range in 2036. In Final Option 1, four proposed wards are within the range of variation again based upon 2025 population data, but the proposed Ward 8 is outside the acceptable range of variation, with more than 14,000 residents above the average. By 2036, this ward enters the acceptable range of population variation, but the proposed Ward 7, which was already on the lower end of the acceptable population range, falls outside the range. At this point, it is expected to have 16,351 residents below the average.



Table 7-3
City of Vaughan
Final Option 2 – Population by Ward

| Ward | 2025 Total Population | 2025 Population Variance | 2025 Optimal Range | 2036 Total Population | 2036 Population Variance | 2036 Optimal Range |
|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Ward 1 | 39,575 | 0.85 | O- | 46,254 | 0.82 | O- |
| Ward 2 | 45,340 | 0.98 | O | 59,376 | 1.06 | O+ |
| Ward 3 | 45,195 | 0.98 | O | 50,341 | 0.89 | O- |
| Ward 4 | 46,271 | 1.00 | O | 60,363 | 1.07 | O+ |
| Ward 5 | 46,559 | 1.01 | O | 68,745 | 1.22 | O+ |
| Ward 6 | 51,743 | 1.12 | O+ | 58,702 | 1.04 | O |
| Ward 7 | 35,141 | 0.76 | O- | 39,899 | 0.71 | OR- |
| Ward 8 | 60,490 | 1.31 | OR+ | 66,323 | 1.18 | O+ |
| Total | 370,300 | - | - | 450,000 | - | - |
| Average | 46,300 | - | - | 56,250 | - | - |

Source: Derived from the 2022 York Regional Official Plan with revisions made to the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre, by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.



Figure 7-2
City of Vaughan
Final Option 2

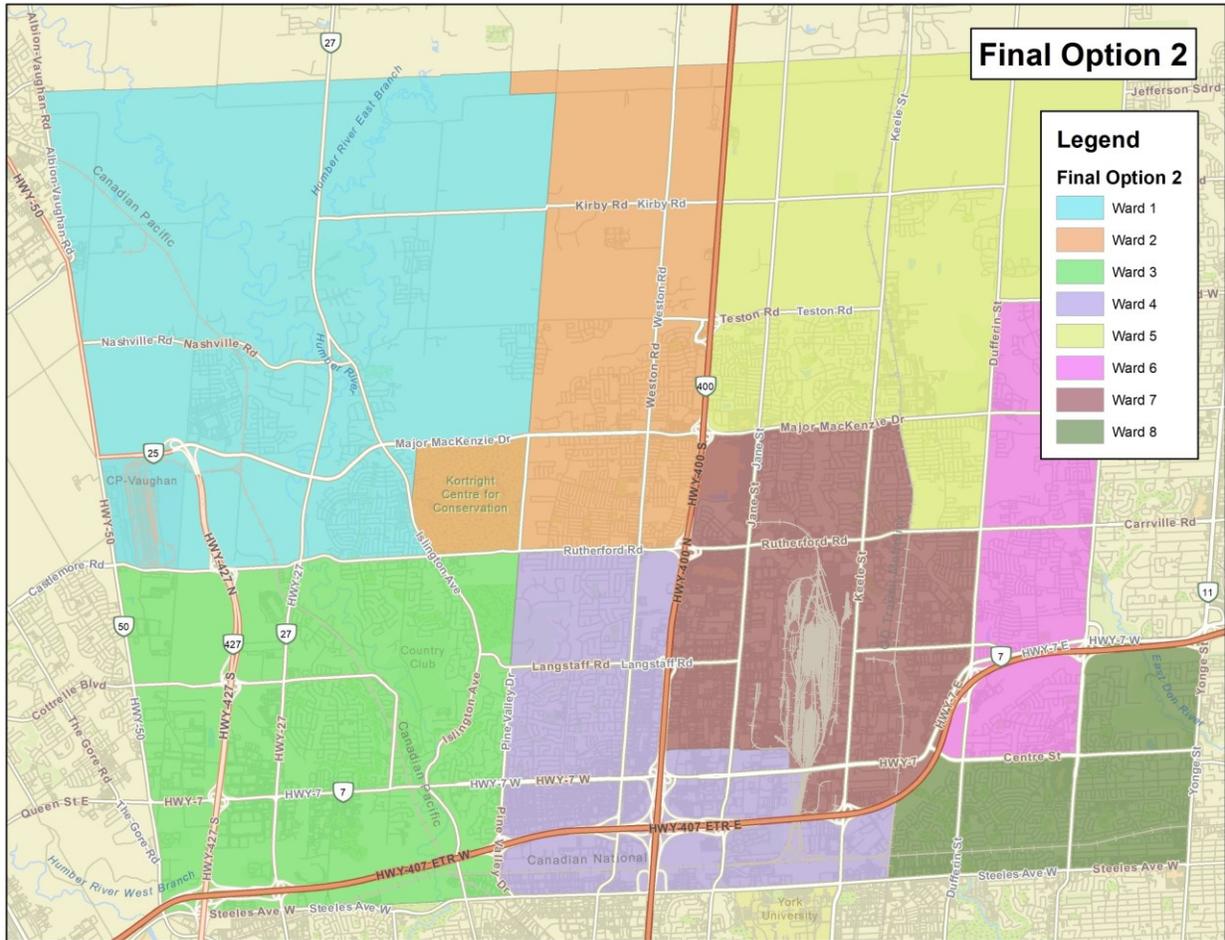




Table 7-4
City of Vaughan
Final Option 2 Evaluation Summary

| Principle | Does the Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle? | Comment |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Representation by Population | Largely Successful | One ward is outside the acceptable range of variation; four are within the optimal range. |
| Future Population Trends | Partially Successful | One ward is outside the acceptable range of variation; one is within the optimal range. |
| Communities of Interest | Yes | All wards are reasonable groupings of communities. |
| Geographic Representation | Yes | All wards use a recognizable configuration. |
| Effective Representation | Largely Successful | This option largely provides for effective representation through a combination of clear and recognizable boundary markers, protecting communities of interest and providing for reasonable population parity. |

The degree to which each guiding principle is satisfied is ranked as “**Yes**” (fully satisfied), “**Largely Successful**,” “**Partially Successful**,” or “**No**” (not satisfied).



8. Next Steps and Council Decisions

The Consultant Team conducted this review with the possibility of governance changes occurring within York Region. These changes – described more fully above – could include the elimination of Regional councillors from Regional council, leaving only the mayors across York Region to populate that Council. In this scenario, City and Regional councillors would no longer be needed on Vaughan Council.

Within this report, the Consultant Team has presented two final options that would serve the City of Vaughan well should the expected governance changes occur. We have detailed their various attributes above, including their strengths and weaknesses. Based upon feedback received during the second round of public consultation, each option was adjusted. Given the potential elimination of Regional councillors, both final options would result in an overall reduction in the size of Vaughan Council.

The Consultant Team believes that the two final options provide the residents of Vaughan with an opportunity to establish a revised ward system that better aligns with forecast population growth while adhering as closely as possible to the guiding principles adopted for this review.

Council can respond to this report in three ways:

- Council can adopt one of the final options with or without minor modifications and later ratify a by-law to implement changes to the boundaries of the wards. Such a by-law is open to appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal, but the Consultant Team is confident that it could withstand such an appeal.
- Council can select one of the other preliminary options that were presented to the public (with or without modifications).^[2]
- Council can take no action at all; that is, it may view the current ward system as adequate and, by default, endorse it by not selecting an alternative option. If it declines to act, Council must clearly understand that such a decision essentially indicates to the City's residents that it believes retaining the existing ward system still serves Vaughan well.

^[2] It would also be possible for Council to adopt one of the preliminary options but, in our professional assessment, the final options presented herein better meet the criteria applied in this review.



In that context, it is also important to note that taking no action is a form of decision that can still be appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal, albeit indirectly. Section 223 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* indicates that one per cent of the electors or 500 of the electors in the municipality, whichever is less, may “present a petition to the council asking the council to pass a by-law dividing or redividing the municipality into wards or dissolving the existing wards.” If Council does not pass a by-law in accordance with such a petition within 90 days after receiving the petition, any of the electors who signed the petition may apply to the Ontario Land Tribunal to have the municipality redivided into wards.

If Council’s decision is to endorse one of the final options contained in this report, a by-law to implement a preferred option is expected to occur as soon as possible. The by-law would describe the boundaries associated with the approved wards and assign numbers (or names) to them that may be different than those included in Figure 7-1 and Figure 7-2.



Appendices



Appendix A

Public Engagement Overview



Figure A-1
List of Public Engagement Tools

| Tool | Description |
|--|--|
| Vaughan Ward Boundary and Council Composition Review (W.B.C.C.R.) Web Page | A dedicated engagement website was developed for the review at: www.vaughan.ca/WardBoundary . The web page included one informative whiteboard video, links to public engagement sessions and surveys, and up-to-date messaging to inform the public of the status of the W.B.C.C.R. |
| Public Open Houses | <p>Ten open houses were held:</p> <p><u>Phase 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 23, 2024; • September 24, 2024; • September 25, 2025; • September 26, 2024; and • October 1, 2024 <p><u>Phase 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 7, 2025; • April 8, 2025; • April 9, 2025; • April 11, 2025; and • April 13, 2025 |
| Public Engagement Surveys | <p>Two phases of surveys were posted on the W.B.C.C.R. web page: the first intended to discern whether the existing council size and ward system was adequate and which guiding principles were prioritized by the community, and the second to discern which preliminary option was preferred.</p> <p>The phase one survey had 217 responses and phase two had 395. All wards were well represented in these responses with the majority of responses from long-term residents of Vaughan.</p> <p>See Appendices C and D for a summary of the results.</p> |



| Tool | Description |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Interviews with Members of Government | The mayor and each member of Council were invited to participate in a one-hour discussion with the consultant. |
| Social Media | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phase 2 Website Views: 832• Phase 2 Social Media Engagements: 1,811 |



Appendix B

Preliminary Options Council Presentation



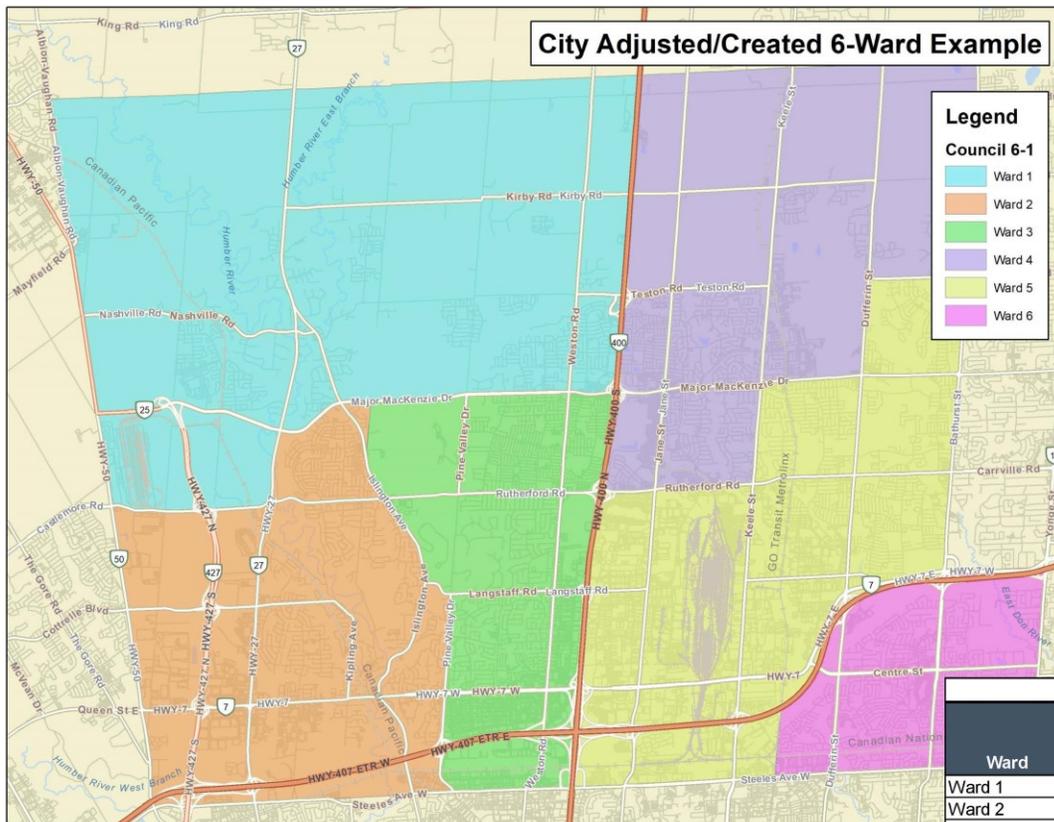
Preliminary Options for Vaughan

On January 28, 2025, Council adopted a motion based on the Committee of the Whole Report (January 22, 2025):

"That City staff also be directed to consider a variety of Ward boundary options different from the original directive of seven (7) Local Councillors, in addition to the Mayor, including but not limited to a Council composition of six (6) and eight (8) Local Councillors in a scenario where there are no longer Regional Councillors."



6-Ward Options



Option 6-1

- Utilizes Highway 400 as a boundary with three wards on each side.
- Three wards within 25% for 2025 and four for 2036.
- Ward 5 is outside 25% of the optimal range and remains outside for 2036.
- Ward 4 will grow into parity (within 5%) for 2036.
- Maple split in 2 wards.

| Council 6-1 | | | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Ward | 2025 | | | 2036 | | |
| | Total Population | Population Variance | Optimal Range | Total Population | Population Variance | Optimal Range |
| Ward 1 | 41,200 | 0.67 | OR- | 60,400 | 0.81 | O- |
| Ward 2 | 60,350 | 0.98 | O | 65,550 | 0.87 | O- |
| Ward 3 | 55,400 | 0.90 | O- | 58,000 | 0.77 | O- |
| Ward 4 | 53,450 | 0.87 | O- | 74,500 | 0.99 | O |
| Ward 5 | 85,250 | 1.38 | OR+ | 110,450 | 1.47 | OR+ |
| Ward 6 | 74,700 | 1.21 | O+ | 81,150 | 1.08 | O+ |
| Total/Average | 370,300 | 61,700 | | 450,000 | 75,000 | |

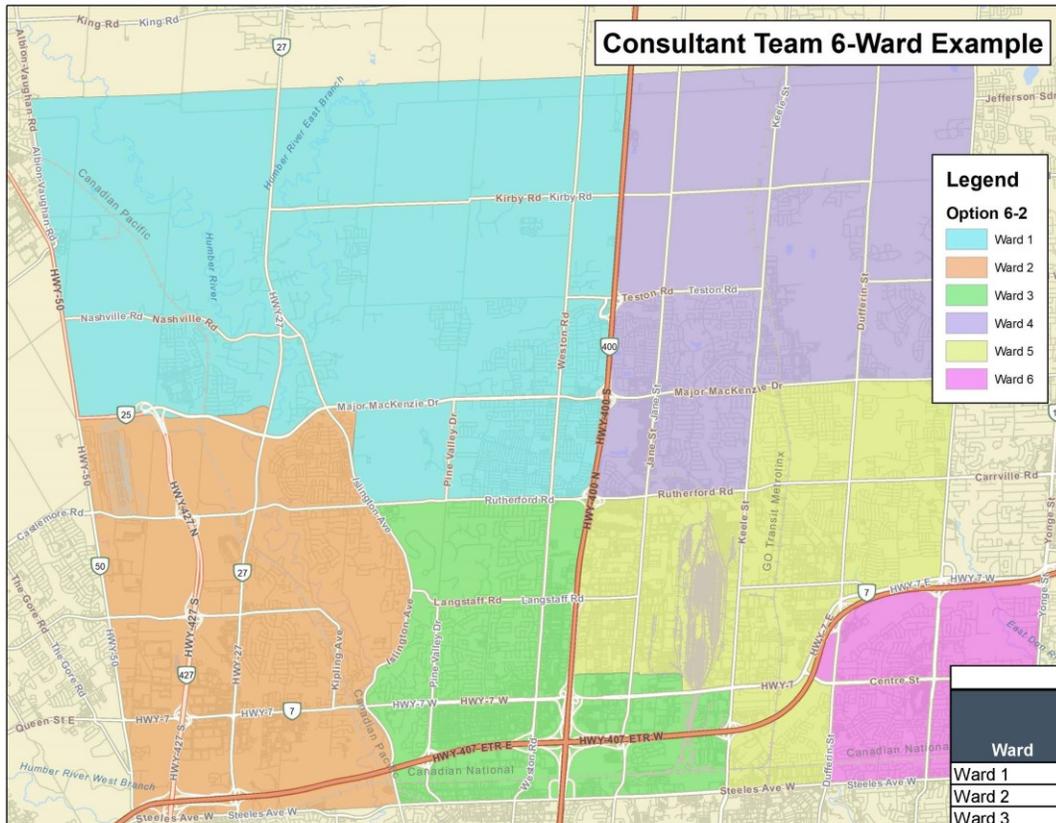


Option 6-1 Evaluation

| Principle | Does the Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle? | Comment |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| Representation by Population | No | Significant population imbalance between the proposed Wards 1 and 5. Disparity between largest and smallest ward is over 44,000 people. |
| Future Population Trends | No | Modest improvement over time, but the proposed Ward 5 remains well above the acceptable range of variation. |
| Communities of Interest | Largely Successful | Most communities of interest are contained comfortably. Woodbridge is split, as in the current system. Maple is split between two wards. |
| Geographic Representation | Yes | Boundary markers are recognizable. |
| Effective Representation | Partially Successful | Population disparities limit the effectiveness of this option. However, if population growth in the proposed Ward 5 is more conservative than projected, this option has greater viability. |

The degree to which each guiding principle is satisfied is ranked as:

- “Yes” (fully satisfied);
- “Largely Successful”;
- “Partially Successful”; or
- “No” (not satisfied)



Option 6-2

- As noted in 6-1, population east and west of the 400 are not equal. This option looks to capture some of the population on the east with wards on the west.
- Ward 3 extends across the 400 on the south side of the City, including the VMC with the community around Highway 7 west of the 400.
- Much stronger population parity with crossing of the 400 (wards ranging from 51,350-69,150)

| Ward | Option 6-2 | | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | 2025 | | | 2036 | | |
| | Total Population | Population Variance | Optimal Range | Total Population | Population Variance | Optimal Range |
| Ward 1 | 69,150 | 1.12 | O+ | 87,700 | 1.17 | O+ |
| Ward 2 | 51,350 | 0.83 | O- | 57,850 | 0.77 | O- |
| Ward 3 | 55,900 | 0.91 | O- | 71,250 | 0.95 | O |
| Ward 4 | 63,250 | 1.03 | O | 85,250 | 1.14 | O+ |
| Ward 5 | 62,900 | 1.02 | O | 73,800 | 0.98 | O |
| Ward 6 | 67,800 | 1.10 | O+ | 74,200 | 0.99 | O |
| Total/Average | 370,300 | 61,700 | | 450,000 | 75,000 | |



Option 6-2 Evaluation

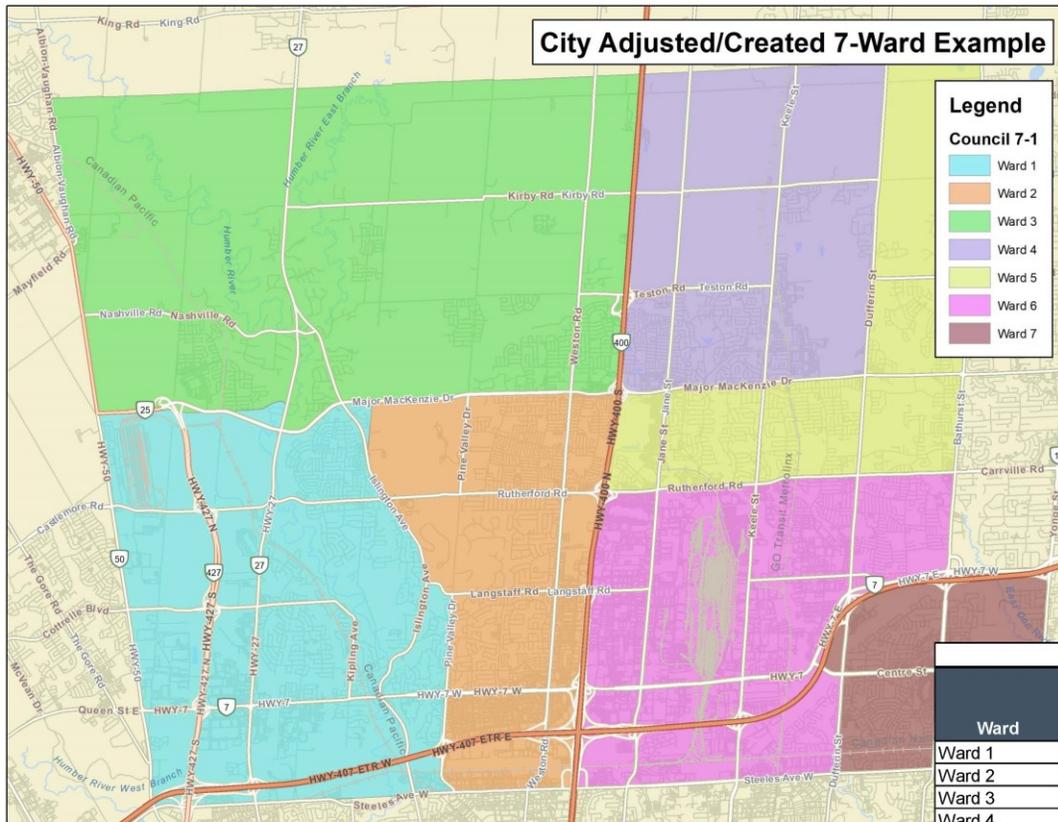
| Principle | Does the Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle? | Comment |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| Representation by Population | Yes | All wards within the acceptable range of variation. |
| Future Population Trends | Largely Successful | All wards within the acceptable range of variation and three of six within 5% of optimal. Some variance occurring between the largest and smallest wards (~30K). |
| Communities of Interest | Largely Successful | Most communities comfortably contained in single wards, with the exception of Ward 3, which crosses Highway 400 and contains portions of Woodbridge and VMC. |
| Geographic Representation | Largely Successful | Most boundary lines follow identifiable markers, with the exception of some Ward 3 boundaries. |
| Effective Representation | Largely Successful | Based upon good population parity both now and in the future, combined with largely meeting other principles, this option provides for largely successful effective representation. |

The degree to which each guiding principle is satisfied is ranked as:

- “Yes” (fully satisfied);
- “Largely Successful”;
- “Partially Successful”; or
- “No” (not satisfied)



7-Ward Options



Option 7-1

- Utilizes the 400 as a divide with three wards on the west, four on the east.
- Two wards at parity (within 5%) for 2025 but two wards outside the acceptable range and large variance between smallest and largest wards.
- In 2036 population parity improves significantly and all wards are within the 25% acceptable range.

| Council 7-1 | | | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Ward | 2025 | | | 2036 | | |
| | Total Population | Population Variance | Optimal Range | Total Population | Population Variance | Optimal Range |
| Ward 1 | 60,450 | 1.14 | O+ | 67,700 | 1.05 | O+ |
| Ward 2 | 55,400 | 1.05 | O | 58,000 | 0.90 | O- |
| Ward 3 | 41,100 | 0.78 | O- | 58,250 | 0.91 | O- |
| Ward 4 | 34,900 | 0.66 | OR- | 55,200 | 0.86 | O- |
| Ward 5 | 54,550 | 1.03 | O | 62,800 | 0.98 | O |
| Ward 6 | 56,150 | 1.06 | O+ | 73,900 | 1.15 | O+ |
| Ward 7 | 67,800 | 1.28 | OR+ | 74,200 | 1.15 | O+ |
| Total/Average | 370,300 | 52,900 | | 450,000 | 64,300 | |

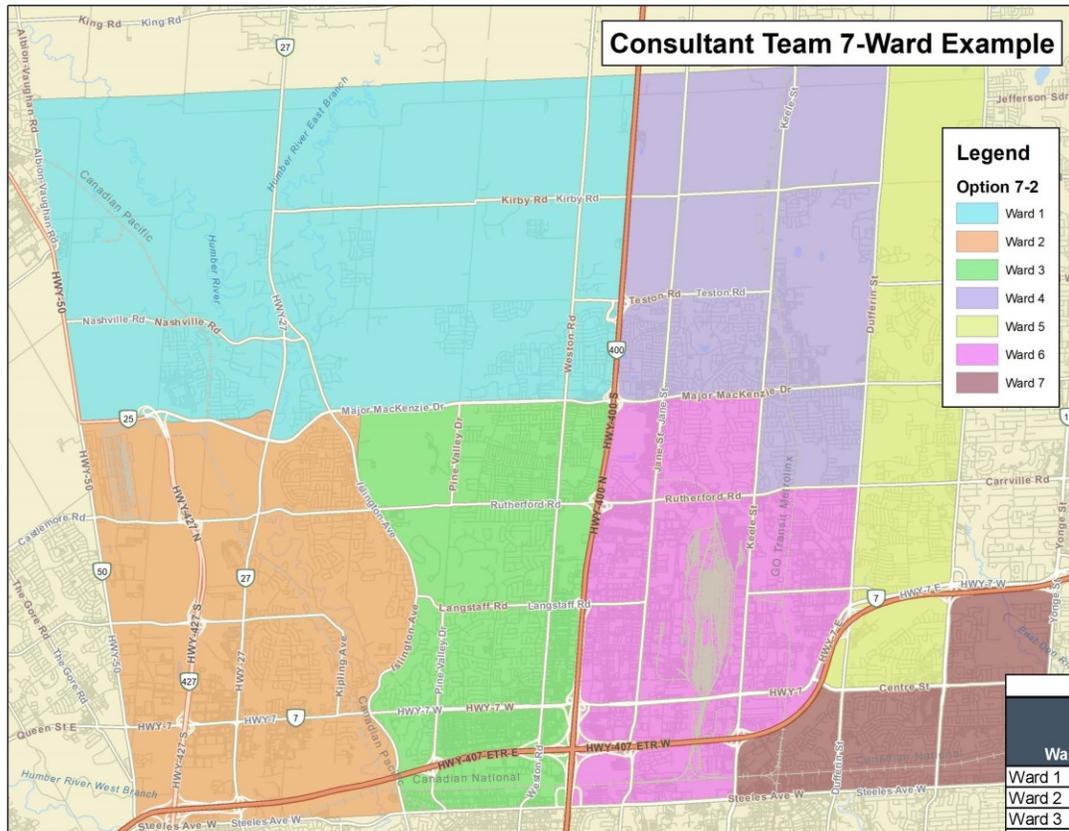


Option 7-1 Evaluation

| Principle | Does the Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle? | Comment |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| Representation by Population | No | Ward 4 and 7 are well outside of the range of variation. Ward 3 is also close to falling outside of the acceptable range of variation. |
| Future Population Trends | Largely successful | Population parity improves over time. Wards 6 and 7 are still high but not outside the range of variation. Population disparity between largest and smallest wards is ~16,000. |
| Communities of Interest | Largely successful | Six wards are reasonable groupings of communities. The proposed Ward 6 includes both the VMC and "North Thornhill" rather than a single community of interest. |
| Geographic Representation | Largely Successful | Ward 5 an unconventional configuration. Much of the rest of the map is recognizable. |
| Effective Representation | Partially Successful | Existing population disparities impede effective representation in the short term, but this could be a model that improves with population growth. |

The degree to which each guiding principle is satisfied is ranked as:

- “Yes” (fully satisfied);
- “Largely Successful”;
- “Partially Successful”; or
- “No” (not satisfied)



Option 7-2

- West remains the same as option 7-1, changes to the east to address population parity.
- Eastern edge of the City, in a single ward, extending south of 407.
- Provides very good population parity both for existing and projected populations.

| Ward | 2025 | | | 2036 | | |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | Total Population | Population Variance | Optimal Range | Total Population | Population Variance | Optimal Range |
| Ward 1 | 41,100 | 0.78 | O- | 58,250 | 0.91 | O- |
| Ward 2 | 51,350 | 0.97 | O | 57,850 | 0.90 | O- |
| Ward 3 | 64,450 | 1.22 | O+ | 67,850 | 1.06 | O+ |
| Ward 4 | 51,750 | 0.98 | O | 74,000 | 1.15 | O+ |
| Ward 5 | 52,550 | 0.99 | O | 59,950 | 0.93 | O- |
| Ward 6 | 48,600 | 0.92 | O- | 65,800 | 1.02 | O |
| Ward 7 | 60,500 | 1.14 | O+ | 66,300 | 1.03 | O |
| Total/Average | 370,300 | 52,900 | | 450,000 | 64,300 | |



Option 7-2 Evaluation

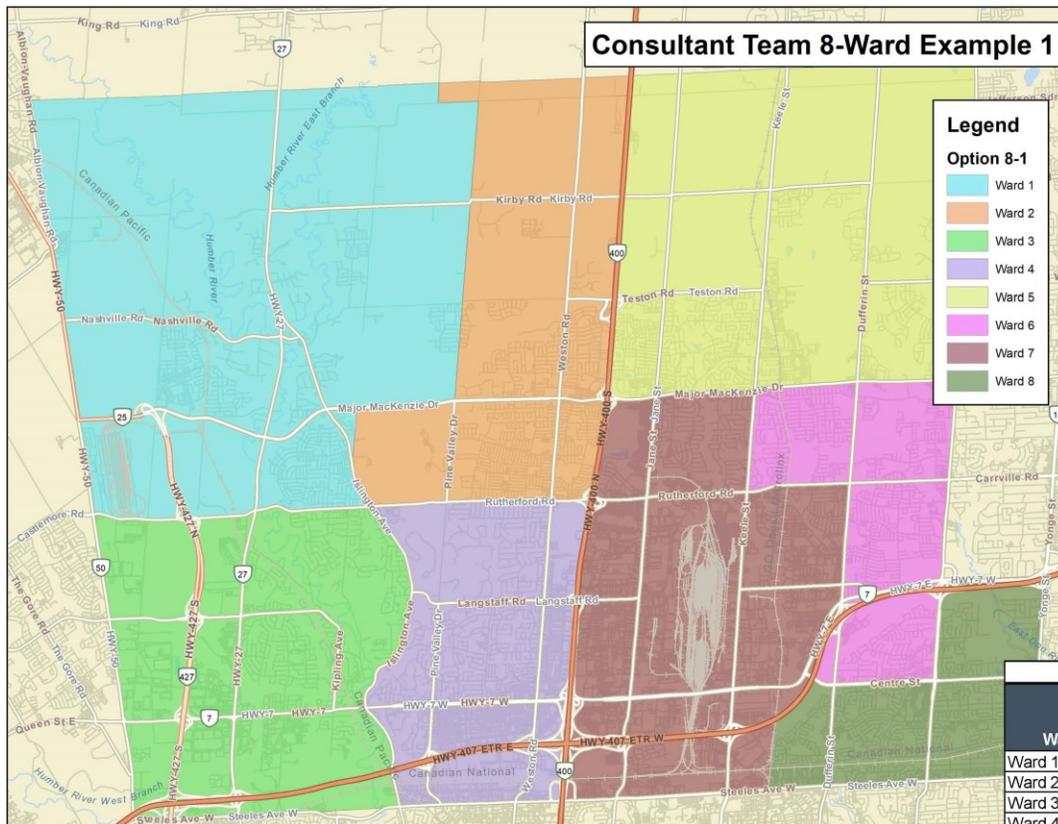
| Principle | Does the Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle? | Comment |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| Representation by Population | Yes | All wards in acceptable range of variation. Three wards are in the optimal range. |
| Future Population Trends | Yes | All wards in acceptable range of variation. Two wards are in the optimal range. |
| Communities of Interest | Largely Successful | Most communities of interest contained in single wards. The proposed Ward 5 contains portions of Maple and Thornhill. |
| Geographic Representation | Yes | Boundary markers are clear and follow major and identifiable roadways. The proposed Ward 5 crosses Highway 407. |
| Effective Representation | Yes | This option provides for effective representation. |

The degree to which each guiding principle is satisfied is ranked as:

- “Yes” (fully satisfied);
- “Largely Successful”;
- “Partially Successful”; or
- “No” (not satisfied)



8-Ward Options



Option 8-1

- Utilizes the 400 as a boundary with four wards on each side.
- Two wards outside range of variation for 2025 and 2 for 2036.
- Three wards at parity for 2025 and three within 25%.
- No wards at parity for 2036 and six within 25%.
- Disparity between largest and smallest wards is significant both in 2025 and 2036.

| Ward | 2025 | | | 2036 | | |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | Total Population | Population Variance | Optimal Range | Total Population | Population Variance | Optimal Range |
| Ward 1 | 39,550 | 0.85 | O- | 46,250 | 0.82 | O- |
| Ward 2 | 45,350 | 0.98 | O | 59,400 | 1.06 | O+ |
| Ward 3 | 35,600 | 0.77 | O- | 39,900 | 0.71 | OR- |
| Ward 4 | 36,400 | 0.79 | O- | 38,350 | 0.68 | OR- |
| Ward 5 | 45,500 | 0.98 | O | 67,200 | 1.19 | O+ |
| Ward 6 | 58,800 | 1.27 | OR+ | 66,750 | 1.19 | O+ |
| Ward 7 | 48,600 | 1.05 | O | 65,800 | 1.17 | O+ |
| Ward 8 | 60,500 | 1.31 | OR+ | 66,300 | 1.18 | O+ |
| Total/Average | 370,300 | 46,300 | | 450,000 | 56,250 | |

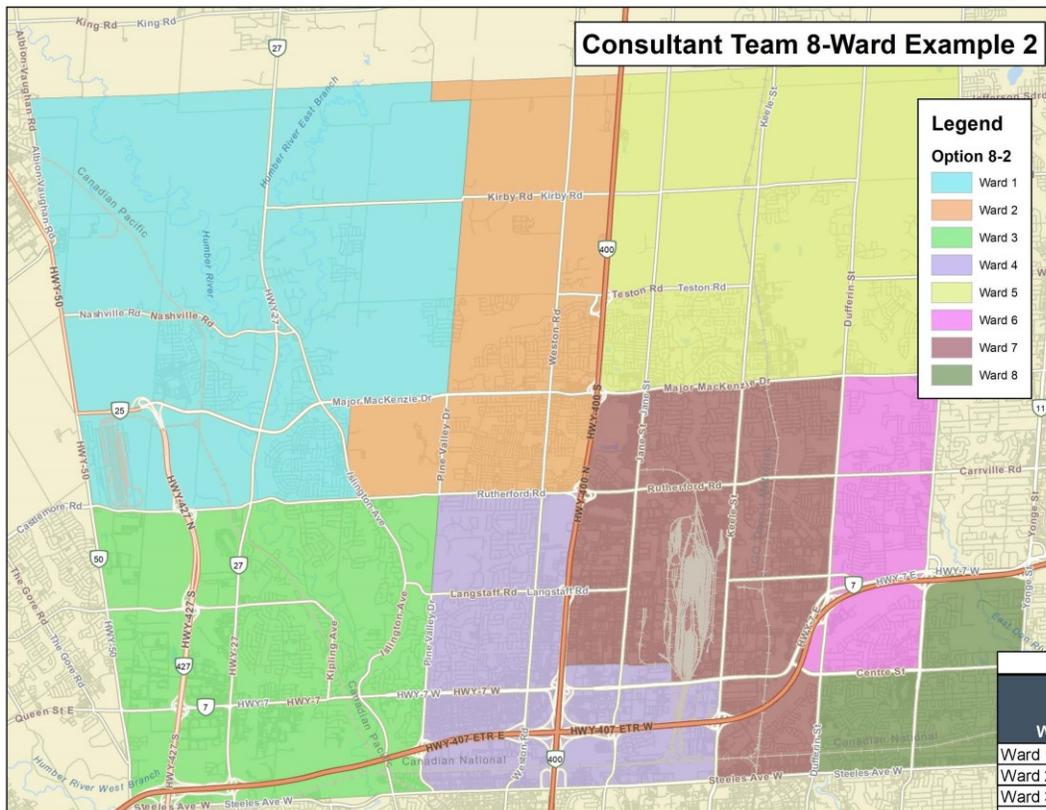


Option 8-1 Evaluation

| Principle | Does the Current Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle? | Comment |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| Representation by Population | Partially Successful | Two wards outside the range of variation. |
| Future Population Trends | Partially Successful | Population parity improves over time, but two wards fall outside the acceptable range of variation. Population disparity between largest and smallest wards approximately 28,800. |
| Communities of Interest | Largely Successful | Seven wards are reasonable groupings of communities. The proposed Ward 7 includes both the VMC and "Southern Maple" rather than a single community of interest. |
| Geographic Representation | Largely Successful | Boundary markers are clear and follow major and identifiable roadways. |
| Effective Representation | Largely Successful | This option largely provides for effective representation. |

The degree to which each guiding principle is satisfied is ranked as:

- **“Yes”** (fully satisfied);
- **“Largely Successful”**;
- **“Partially Successful”**; or
- **“No”** (not satisfied)



Option 8-2

- Addresses population imbalances in Option 8-1 by crossing the 400 in the south.
- Captures VMC with the Highway 7 community west of the 400 (northern boundary of ward 4 utilizes Portage Pkwy east of the 400).
- Strong population parity both in 2025 and 2036.

| Ward | Option 8-2 | | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | 2025 | | | 2036 | | |
| | Total Population | Population Variance | Optimal Range | Total Population | Population Variance | Optimal Range |
| Ward 1 | 39,550 | 0.85 | O- | 46,250 | 0.82 | O- |
| Ward 2 | 45,350 | 0.98 | O | 59,400 | 1.06 | O+ |
| Ward 3 | 45,200 | 0.98 | O | 50,350 | 0.90 | O- |
| Ward 4 | 46,250 | 1.00 | O | 60,800 | 1.08 | O+ |
| Ward 5 | 45,500 | 0.98 | O | 67,200 | 1.19 | O+ |
| Ward 6 | 41,950 | 0.91 | O- | 47,950 | 0.85 | O- |
| Ward 7 | 52,900 | 1.14 | O+ | 58,700 | 1.04 | O |
| Ward 8 | 53,600 | 1.16 | O+ | 59,350 | 1.06 | O+ |
| Total/Average | 370,300 | 46,300 | | 450,000 | 56,250 | |



Option 8-2 Evaluation

| Principle | Does the Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle? | Comment |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| Representation by Population | Yes | All wards within acceptable range of variation. Half of the wards within optimal range of variation. |
| Future Population Trends | Largely Successful | Not as good as 2025 population parity, but all wards within acceptable range of variation. One ward in optimal range. |
| Communities of Interest | Largely Successful | Seven wards are reasonable groupings of communities. The proposed Ward 4 includes both the VMC and "East Woodbridge" rather than a single community of interest. |
| Geographic Representation | Largely Successful | Ward 7 an unconventional configuration. Much of the rest of the map is recognizable. |
| Effective Representation | Largely Successful | This option largely provides for effective representation. |

The degree to which each guiding principle is satisfied is ranked as:

- “Yes” (fully satisfied);
- “Largely Successful”;
- “Partially Successful”; or
- “No” (not satisfied)



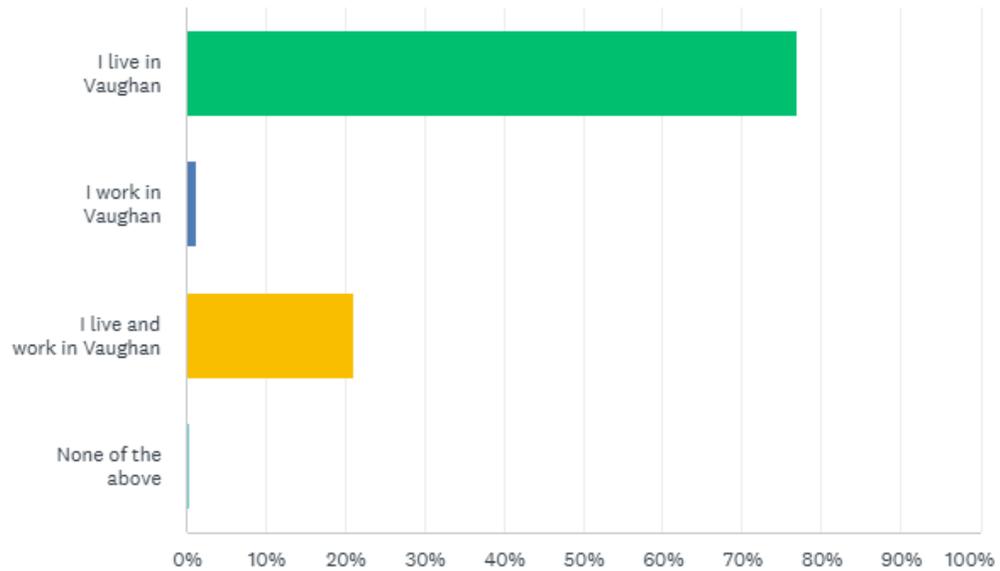
Appendix C

Survey Results (Phase 1)



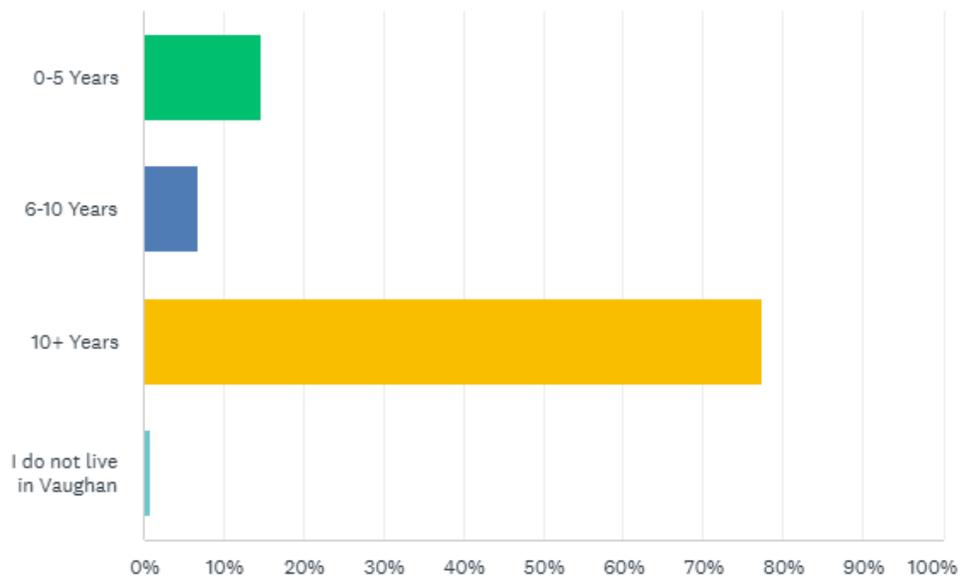
What best describes you?

Answered: 217 Skipped: 0



How long have you lived in Vaughan?

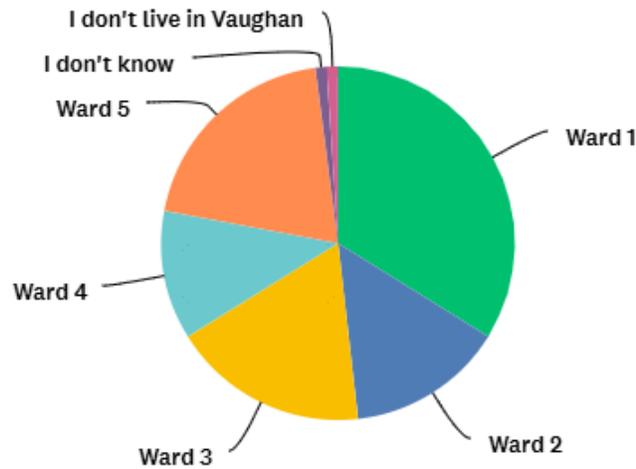
Answered: 217 Skipped: 0





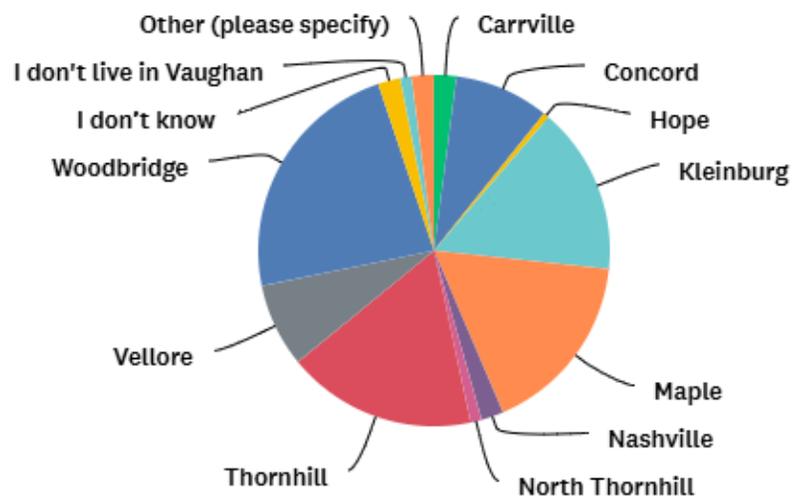
Which ward do you live in?

Answered: 195 Skipped: 22



Which community in Vaughan do you live in?

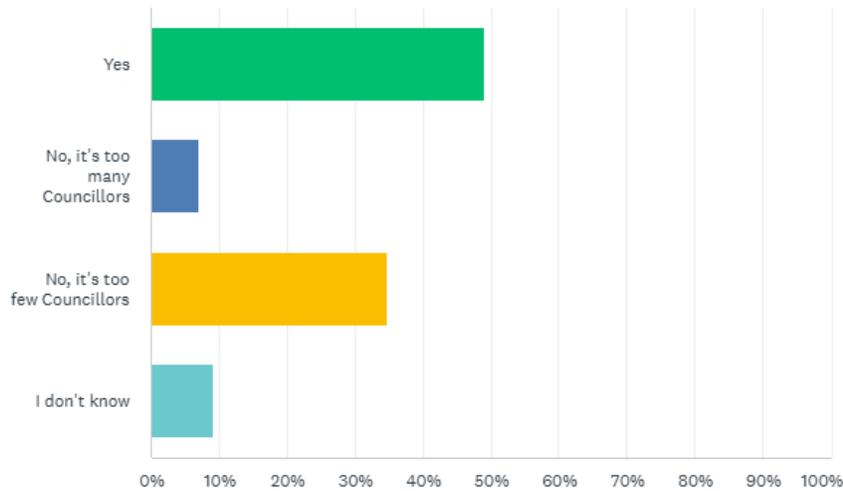
Answered: 195 Skipped: 22





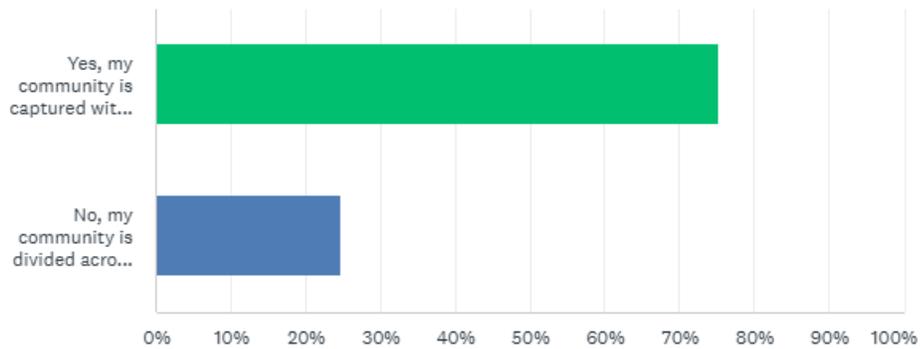
With Local Councillors representing approximately 65,000 constituents per ward, is a five-ward system with five Local Councillors the appropriate number?

Answered: 141 Skipped: 76



Do the boundaries of the ward you live in capture your community?

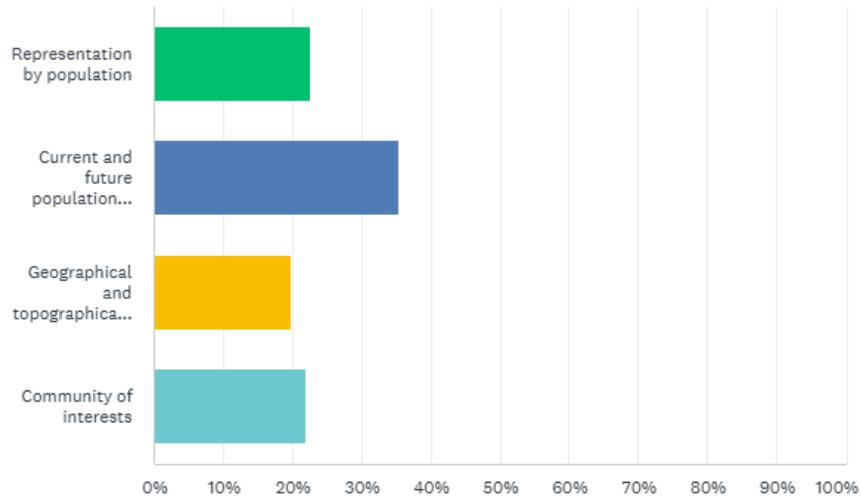
Answered: 141 Skipped: 76





Please indicate the ONE guiding principle that should be given the highest priority to ensure effective voter representation in Vaughan:

Answered: 141 Skipped: 76





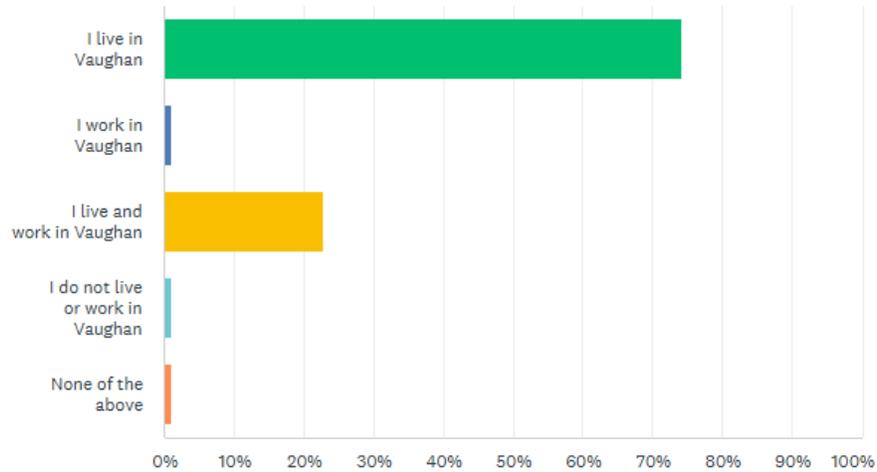
Appendix D

Survey Results (Phase 2)



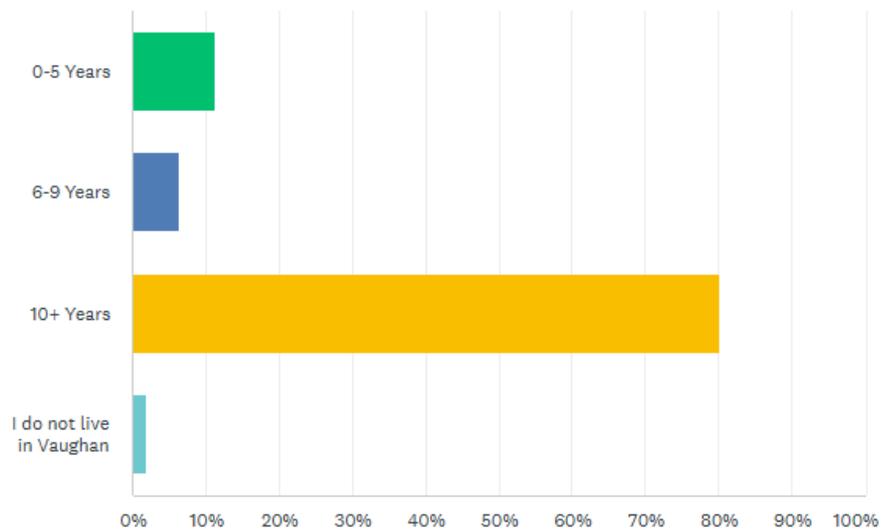
What best describes you?

Answered: 395 Skipped: 0



How long have you lived in Vaughan?

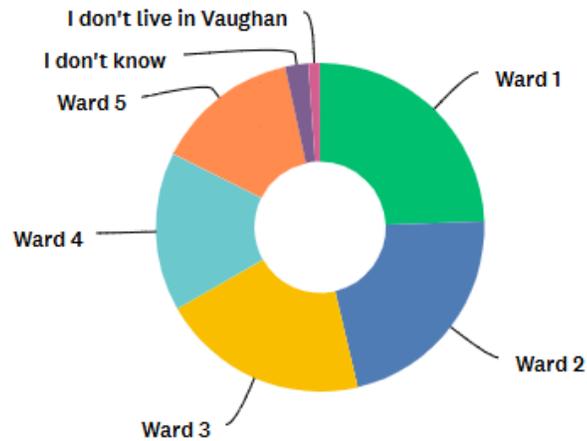
Answered: 395 Skipped: 0





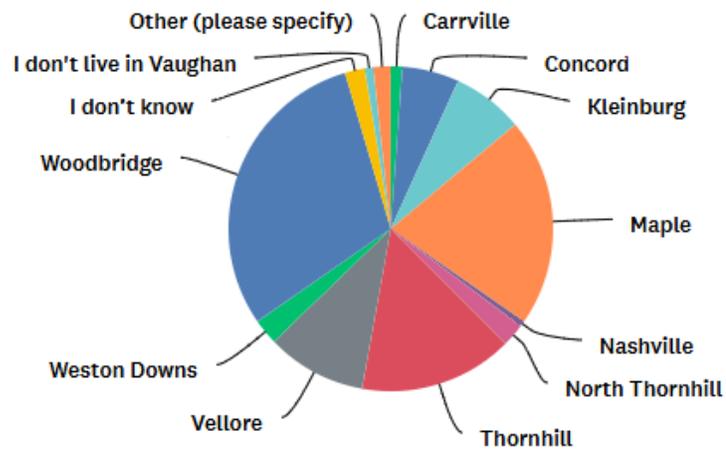
Which ward do you live in?

Answered: 352 Skipped: 43



Which community in Vaughan do you live in?

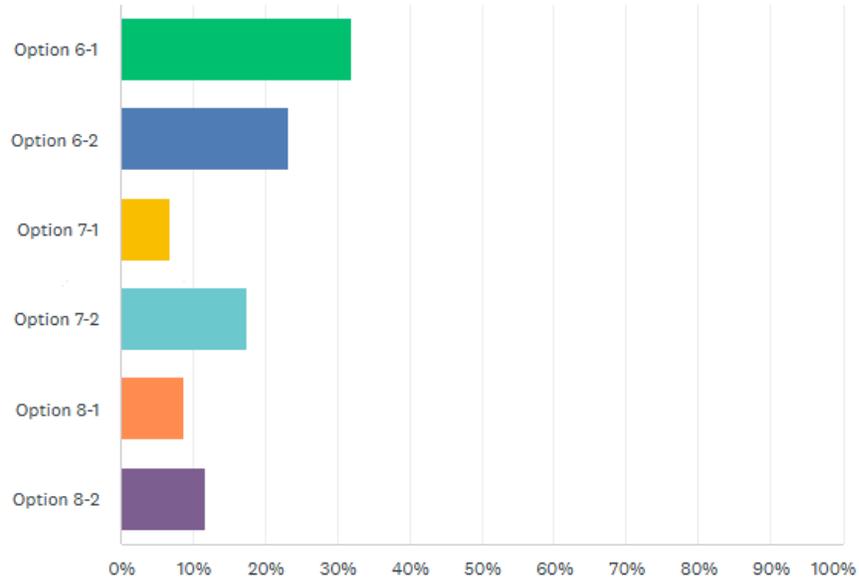
Answered: 352 Skipped: 43





Of all of the presented options, which is most preferred?

Answered: 103 Skipped: 292



Of all of the presented options, which is least preferred?

Answered: 101 Skipped: 294

