

CITY OF VAUGHAN
EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 22, 2021

Item 21, Report No. 32, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted, as amended, by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 22, 2021, as follows:

By receiving the following Communications:

- C48. Tony Malfara, dated June 21, 2021;***
C52. Irene Ford, dated June 21, 2021; and
C53. Paola Maria Stefania Crocetti, dated June 21, 2021.

21. 2020 WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW FINAL REPORT

The Committee of the Whole recommends:

- 1) That the current ward boundary configuration be maintained;**
- 2) That the report of the Deputy City Manager, Administrative Services and City Solicitor, dated June 8, 2021, be received;**
- 3) That the presentation by Mr. Zachary Spicer, Watson and Associates Economists Ltd., and Communication C60, presentation material entitled, “City of Vaughan Ward Boundary Review (WBR)”, be received; and**
- 4) That Communication C57 from Ms. Irene Ford, dated June 7, 2021, be received.**

Recommendation

- 1. That Council provide direction with respect to redividing the existing ward boundaries or maintaining the current ward boundary configuration.**

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Tuesday, June 8, 2021

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: 2020 WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW FINAL REPORT

FROM:

Wendy Law, Deputy City Manager, Administrative Services and City Solicitor

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To provide Council with a final report on the completion of the 2020 Ward Boundary Review, containing options for Council's consideration, including redividing the existing five wards into new configurations, or maintaining the five wards in their current configuration.

Report Highlights

- 687 participants fully completed the surveys released during the two rounds of public consultation, and the project site received 6,899 visitors between December 2020 and March 2021.
- 52 members of the public participated in eight virtual open houses, four in each of the two rounds of public consultation.
- The City of Vaughan has retained Watson and Associates Economists Ltd., ICA Associates and Dr. Robert J. Williams and Dr. Zachary Spicer to conduct a comprehensive and independent Ward Boundary Review.

Recommendation

1. That Council provide direction with respect to redividing the existing ward boundaries or maintaining the current ward boundary configuration.

Background

At its meeting of May 27, 2020, Council approved the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole (Working Session) that staff be directed to undertake a Ward Boundary Review. Council received the presentation from the City Clerk on the subject of Ward Boundary and Council Composition Review, and determined that a review should take place, but that its focus should be on a ward boundary review only, and not

a council composition review that may consider changes to the size, composition or organization of Council, including adding or reducing the number of wards (and by association, the number of local councillors), or attaching local and regional councillors to wards.

The City of Vaughan retained Watson and Associates Economists Ltd. in association with ICA Associates, and Dr. Robert J. Williams and Dr. Zachary Spicer to serve as the consultant team for the purposes of conducting an independent and comprehensive Ward Boundary Review.

At its meeting of May 18, 2021, Council approved the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole (Working Session) to receive the report of the DCM, Administrative Services and City Solicitor and the presentation by the consultant team, respecting the 2020 Ward Boundary Review Interim Report, detailing the first round of consultation and engagement, and detailing the preliminary ward boundary options. Council had the opportunity to provide additional feedback to the consultant team based on the options presented, and to ask the consultant team clarifying questions about their evaluation and design of the preliminary options.

Previous Reports/Authority

[Direction for Ward Boundary and Council Composition Review, CW\(WS\) May 27, 2020](#)

[2020 Ward Boundary Review Interim Report, CW\(WS\) May 18, 2021](#)

Analysis and Options

The second phase of the 2020 Ward Boundary Review involved a second round of stakeholder consultation based on the preliminary ward boundary options developed by the consultant team. The Mayor and Members of Council, municipal staff and the public were invited to review the three (3) preliminary options and provide feedback to help inform the final options presented by the consultant team at Attachment 1. The public participation and responses from the public consultation is detailed in the appendices at Attachment 1.

Based on the feedback received during the second round of public engagement, the consultant team refined the preliminary options, to produce two final options for Council's consideration. The details of this engagement and evaluation process, as well as the final options, are outlined in the consultant report included in Attachment 1. Council is asked to provide a final decision at this meeting, including whether to redivide the existing ward boundaries according to one of the two options prepared by the consultant team, or to retain the current boundaries as established by order of the Ontario Municipal Board in 2009.

Financial Impact

There is no financial implication associated with this report.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

There are no regional impacts associated with this report. School boards were engaged by the consultant team as part of the stakeholder consultation process and will be notified if the existing ward boundaries are redivided as a result of Council direction.

Conclusion

Following an extensive process of evaluation and public engagement, the consultant team from Watson and Associates Economists Ltd. in association with ICA Associates, Dr. Robert J. Williams and Dr. Zachary Spicer, have developed two final options for ward boundary configurations, based on Council's direction to retain the existing number of wards and local councillors. Today, Council will be asked to decide whether to adopt one of these new configurations, or to retain the existing 2009 OMB approved boundaries as are currently in effect.

For more information, please contact Evan Read, Manager, Elections and Special Projects, ext. 8241.

Attachment

1. 2020 Ward Boundary Review – Final Report, Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. in association with: ICA Associates, Dr. Robert J. Williams, Dr. Zachary Spicer, May 19, 2021.

Prepared by

Evan Read, Manager, Elections and Special Projects, ext. 8241.
Todd Coles, City Clerk, ext. 8281.

Approved by



Wendy Law, Deputy City Manager,
Administrative Services and City
Solicitor

Reviewed by



Jim Harnum, City Manager



2020/21 Ward Boundary Review

City of Vaughan

Final Report

May, 2021

Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.
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info@watsonecon.ca

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

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1. Introduction and Study Objectives

In the spring of 2020, the City of Vaughan retained Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. (Watson), in association with Dr. Robert J. Williams, Dr. Zachary Spicer and ICA Associates Inc., hereinafter referred to as the Consultant Team, to conduct a comprehensive review of the City's ward boundaries before the 2022 municipal election.

The primary purpose of the Ward Boundary Review (W.B.R.) is to prepare Vaughan Council to make decisions about whether to maintain the existing ward structure or to adopt an alternative arrangement. The project has a number of key objectives in accordance with the project terms of reference, as follows:

- Develop a clear understanding of the present ward system, including its origins and operations as a system of representation;
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the present ward system on the basis of identified guiding principles;
- Conduct an appropriate consultation process to ensure community support for the review and its outcome;
- Identify plausible modifications to the present ward structure; and
- Deliver a report that will set out recommended alternative ward boundaries to ensure effective and equitable electoral arrangements for Vaughan, based on the principles identified.

This phase of the study provides Council with a final report and alternative ward boundary structures considering the existing 5-ward structure, for their consideration, as presented herein.

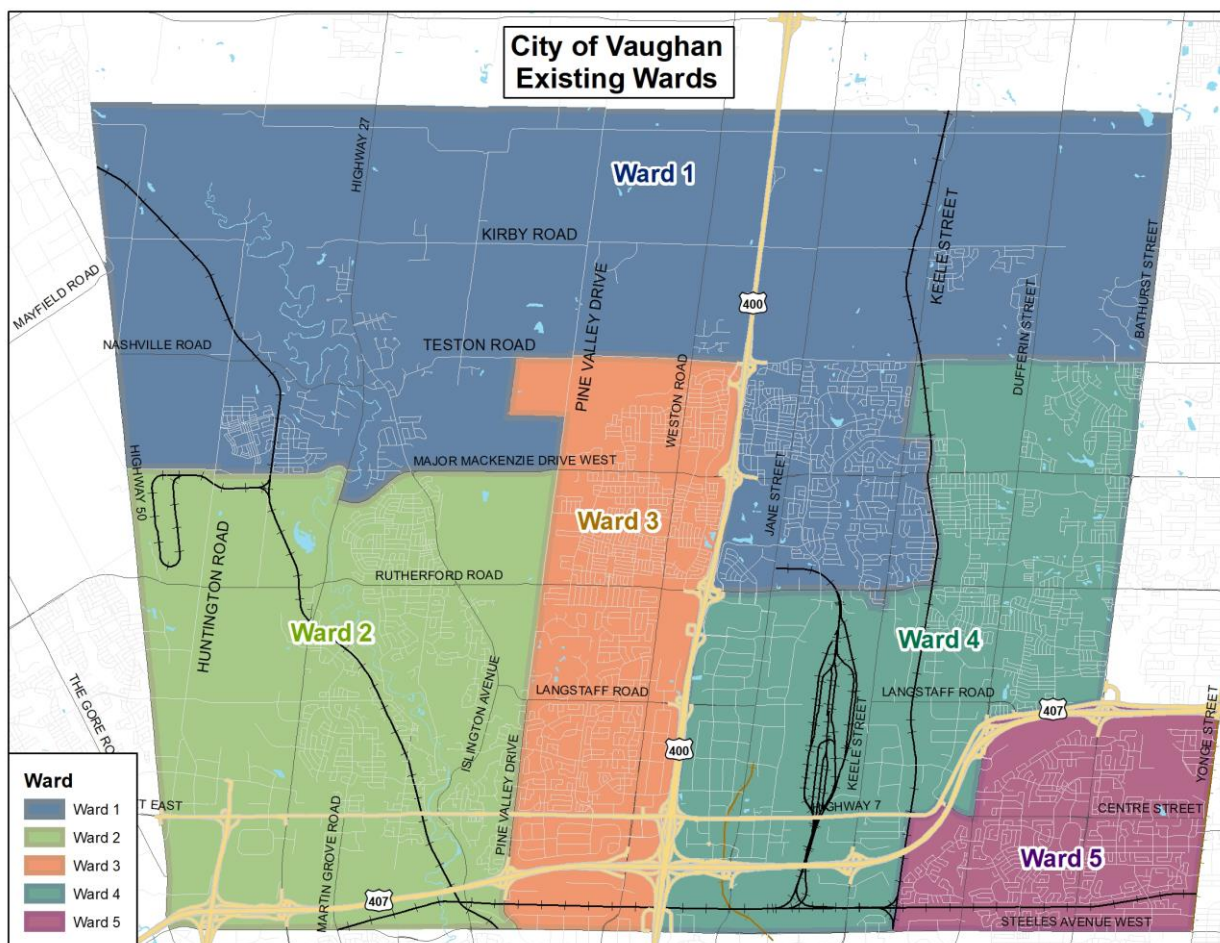
2. Context

The basic requirement for any electoral system in a representative democracy is to establish measures to determine the people who will constitute the governmental body that makes decisions on behalf of electors. Representation in Canada is organized around geographic areas, units referred to as constituencies in the federal and provincial parliaments and typically as wards at the municipal level, as is the case in the City of Vaughan.



At present, Council is comprised of nine members, consisting of a Mayor, who is elected at-large, three Local and Regional Councillors elected at-large and five Local Councillors elected in wards. Vaughan's Mayor and the three Local and Regional Councillors sit on both the Regional Municipal of York and Vaughan Councils. In 2020, York Regional Council approved the addition of a fourth Local and Regional Councillor from the City of Vaughan. This change would come into effect for the 2022 municipal election. The existing ward structure is presented in Figure 2-1.

Figure 2-1: Vaughan Current Ward Structure



Councillors in Vaughan were originally all elected at-large until a ward system was established in 1985. An order from the Ontario Municipal Board (O.M.B.) reconfigured the ward system in 1994, which shifted from a three-ward system that elected a total of five Councillors to five wards each electing one Councillor. A by-law following a staff-



run W.B.R. was appealed to the O.M.B. in 2009. The current boundaries date from the 2009 Board order.

3. Project Structure and Timeline

The W.B.R. commenced in the fall of 2020 and is anticipated to be completed by June 2021.

Work completed to date includes:

- Research and data compilation;
- Interviews with councillors, the Mayor and key municipal staff;
- Population and growth forecasting and data modelling 2021 to 2030;
- Development of three preliminary ward boundary alternatives;
- Public consultation on existing ward structure and preliminary alternatives;
- Development of final options and recommendations, and preparation of a Final Report (this document constitutes the Final Report); and
- Presentation to Council (May 5, 2021).

4. The Preliminary Options Report

A Preliminary Options report was released in March 2021, which provided preliminary alternative ward options that were developed by the Consultant Team. That report is available, along with the earlier Discussion Paper and other assorted materials associated with this review, can be found on the City of Vaughan's website here:

https://www.vaughan.ca/projects/city_government/boundary_review/Pages/default.aspx

The Discussion Paper and Preliminary Options Report serves as a platform for the Final Report since it includes:

- An explanation of the terms of reference and objectives for the W.B.R.;
- An outline of the format and timeline for the project;
- The context and background for the W.B.R.;
- A detailed discussion and explanation of the guiding principles that frame the study;



- An analysis of the distribution of the present municipal population and a forecast of population growth over the 2021 to 2030 period;
- An analysis and preliminary evaluation of the present wards within the context of the guiding principles; and
- Three preliminary ward boundary options.

The Final Report does not explore the topics discussed in the Preliminary Options Report in detail, except in summary form to provide context, and assumes that those interested in the recommendations included herein have access to the document.

5. Population and Growth Trends

One of the basic premises of representative democracy in Canada is the belief that the geographic areas used to elect a representative should be reasonably balanced with one another in terms of population. In order to evaluate the existing ward structure and subsequent alternatives in terms of representation by population in the existing year (based on early-2021 population figures), the Consultant Team developed a detailed population estimate for the City and its respective wards and communities.

The City of Vaughan is forecast to experience significant population growth over the next decade and beyond. For this reason, it is important that this study assess representation by population for both existing and future year populations. In accordance with the study terms of reference, the analysis considered representation of population over the next three municipal elections through to 2030. A population and housing forecast for the City for the 2021 to 2030 period was determined, and the results of this analysis are discussed below.

5.1 Historical and Existing Population

Vaughan has been one of the fastest growing communities in Canada over the past several years. Since the City's existing wards were established in 2009, the population



has increased from 270,000 to 330,100 by early-2021 (excluding the net Census Undercount),^[1] a growth of over 22%.

An early-2021 population estimate was derived by utilizing the 2016 Census and a review of building permit activity from 2016 through mid-2020, with an assumed six-month lag from issuance to occupancy. Vaughan's 2021 population is estimated at 330,100 excluding undercount and 340,000 including the Census Undercount.^[2]

Population presented in this section and hereinafter in the report includes the net Census Undercount. The City's 2021 population by existing ward is presented in Table 5-1. As shown, Ward 1 accounts for approximately 23% of the total population where Ward 2 only accounts for 17%, a total population difference of over 21,200 between the two wards. Wards 3, 4 and 5 all fall within 20%-21% with just over a 2,000-person difference between the smallest (Ward 4) and the largest (Ward 3).

Table 5-1: City of Vaughan

Ward	2021 Population	Population Share
Ward 1	77,420	23%
Ward 2	56,200	17%
Ward 3	69,910	21%
Ward 4	67,850	20%
Ward 5	68,660	20%
City-wide	340,000	100%
Ward Average	68,010	-

Note: Numbers have been rounded.

Source: Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. 2021.

The 2021 base population was developed at a sub-municipal level, allowing the Consultant Team to aggregate these blocks to determine populations for existing and alternative ward options. As discussed throughout the Discussion Paper and the Preliminary Options Report, the existing wards fall within the 25% acceptable range of

^[1] The Net Census Undercount is an adjustment to the population to account for the net number of persons who are missed (i.e. over-coverage less under-coverage) during enumeration and is estimated at approximately 3% within the City of Vaughan.

^[2] Reflects an early-2021 population estimate and includes Census undercount of approximately 3.0%.



one another, however there is a population range of over a 21,200 people from the smallest to the largest ward, and as growth continues to develop, these wards will continue to grow further out of parity.

5.2 Population Forecast, 2021 to 2030

Provided herein is a summary of the population and housing growth allocations prepared by Watson for the City of Vaughan W.B.R. in late 2020. These population and housing forecasts were prepared using a combination of approved local and regional forecasts, including the 2031 population target of 416,000, regional population targets provided through the York Regional Preferred Growth Scenario (2015) of 412,000 by 2031, and a review of the 2018 Development Charge Background Study, and adapted to small geographic units (S.G.U.). These population figures were utilized to provide ward level population figures for the existing (2021) and projected (2030) populations for the existing ward structure and all additional alternatives prepared by the consultant team.

Community level growth allocations were guided by a comprehensive review of opportunities to accommodate future residential growth through plans of subdivision (registered unbuilt, draft approved, and proposed), site plan applications, secondary plans and discussions with municipal planning staff. Approximately 25,300 units are anticipated to develop over the next decade, with a large share of the forecasted high-density units to be accommodated through the quickly developing Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (V.M.C.) located north of the 407 and east of the 400. Additional large-scale growth in Vaughan is allocated in north Vaughan within the designated greenfield areas north of Major Mackenzie Drive.

The significant population growth in the City of Vaughan over the past decade is forecast to continue. By 2030, Vaughan's population is anticipated to grow by approximately 68,860, bringing the total population (including undercount) to approximately 408,890, an increase of 20%, as shown in Table 5-2.

Almost 50% of the city's growth is expected to occur within the existing Ward 1, with a growth of just under 33,000 people over the next decade. Ward 4 will also see significant growth with the developing V.M.C. located in the heart of the ward.



Table 5-2: City of Vaughan Population Growth, 2021 to 2030

Ward	2021 Population	2030 Population	2021-2030 Population Growth	2021-2030 Population Growth Share
Ward 1	77,420	110,300	32,880	48%
Ward 2	56,200	61,570	5,370	8%
Ward 3	69,910	77,860	7,950	12%
Ward 4	67,850	88,220	20,370	30%
Ward 5	68,660	70,950	2,290	3%
City-wide	340,000	408,900	68,900	100%
Ward Average	68,010	81,780	-	-

Note: Numbers have been rounded.

Source: Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. 2021.

6. Public Engagement

The W.B.R. employed a comprehensive public engagement strategy, in which the Consultant Team solicited feedback from staff, Council, and citizens of the City of Vaughan through a variety of methods:

- Extensive communication and outreach using social media, video, interactive tools and quizzes, all pointing to a public-facing website;
- Online virtual open houses for each round of consultation;
- Surveys to gather public input and insights, and
- Interviews with members of Council, the Mayor, key members of staff, and direct outreach to citizen-run and municipal organizations.

Information on the W.B.R. process was communicated through the website, as well as through social media posts on Facebook and Twitter, and additional notices were provided through local news media. A full list of the communication efforts can be found in Appendix A with additional materials in Appendices B to D.

The feedback and comments received through the consultation process are reflected in the analysis and have been essential to inform the findings and recommendations. While public input from consultation provides valuable insight into the review, it is not



relied on exclusively. Public consultations were not a poll or referendum, but a valuable source of additional insights. To develop the recommendations contained in this report the Consultant Team utilized the public input in conjunction with its professional expertise and experience with W.B.R.s, along with knowledge of best practices in the field.

6.1 Communications and Outreach

The City of Vaughan had enough in-house capacity and expertise and resources to conduct most of the communications and outreach for the project with input and assistance from the Consultant Team. ICA Associates facilitated a planning session in November 2020 to help the City's related people to outline how they intended to approach the project so a communications and outreach plan could be used for the rest of the project.

6.1.1 Website

The City created two of its own web pages for public engagement under the “special projects” part of the City’s website and labeled it as www.vaughan.ca/wardboundary. The landing page provided a project overview and links to resources. A subsequent page under a “get involved” link was the place where visitors could focus on reviewing reports and maps, watching recorded events and explainer videos, registering for the online town hall meetings, and adding their insights through a survey residing in a third-party application (SurveyMonkey.com). The pages were recreated for each round of consultation and included explanations, lists of related links, and large buttons to click as calls to action. In December 2020, City communications staff also created a whiteboard style of animated explainer video that was also posted on the webpage. It distilled some key information from the Consultant Team about the W.B.R. process and presented it in an accessible modern format.

In total, there were 6,899 website visits. Further details about website engagement metrics are included in the City’s communications metrics in Appendix B.

6.1.2 Outreach and Advertising

City staff created print ads, graphics for the landing pages, media products (PSAs), social media posts, council packages and City Updates, paid social media ads/posts



and made use of existing digital signage in 10 different city-owned locations. They monitored media for articles in the local and regional news and engaged people over the City's social media channels. In total there were thousands of points of contact. Further summary notes are also in Appendix B.

6.1.3 Creative Use of Social Media

Social media proved an effective platform for disseminating information about the W.B.R. to the public, particularly at the outset in round one (December-January). To amplify and animate discussion, Watson created a short brain-teaser survey entitled "How Well Do You Know Vaughan?" and the City circulated it through its social media channels. Respondents were quizzed on their knowledge of their municipality. It was intended to be a fun and easy method for informing the public, which would hopefully generate interest in the W.B.R., and also directed participants to the survey. City staff created an explainer whiteboard video that was also promoted using social media and similarly provided visually stimulating content to share. It is still viewable on the City's YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zqat5h_aaY.

The second round of consultations did not include any new quizzes or explainer videos however it did contain video recordings of informative presentations the Consultant Team created an interactive mapping tool. Visitors to the website could visually compare the three preliminary options to one another. Interestingly, the people who played with the mapping tool seemed to prefer option 2 while the people who did not play with it preferred option 1.

In total, the City had 144 social media posts engaged 6,380 people. To boost awareness further they paid for social media posts four times in each of the two phases of the project, engaging 7,292 people.

While mass emailing was not part of the campaign, there were nine e-newsletters that contained promotions of the project and notices were included in Council packages so that individual councillors could spread the word through their networks too.

6.2 Engagement

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was required that all encounters with the public be socially distanced in order to comply with public health requirements and guidelines.



This entire project, therefore, relied almost exclusively on the use of online engagement of the public. In-person meetings were forbidden as unsafe. The City's website was elevated in importance to a project hub or home base. Surveys became the primary form of gathering input. Presentations typically shared at town hall meetings were delivered through video a conferencing platform, Microsoft Teams. All of it worked and the volume of input and involvement was very high, perhaps higher than if the team relied upon in-person events alone.

Engagement with Vaughan's W.B.R. website was surprisingly high during the first round of consultations which led to more than 900 surveys being initiated (585 answered the key questions), but substantially lower during the second round when only 144 people took the survey (102 answered most of the key questions). Note that survey response numbers vary and do not always add up because questions were not mandatory, and some people skipped questions.

6.2.1 Online Surveys

The Consultant Team created two short surveys containing both closed-ended and open-ended questions relevant to each phase of the project. People were not simply asked for their preferences they were also asked why they held those opinions and they were asked for specific suggestions. None of the questions was forced or mandatory except location identifiers to be able to filter out people who neither lived nor worked in Vaughan. In the absence of in-person meetings, these surveys became essential part of the engagement process.

Surveying was done at two different stages of the public consultation process:

1. In December 2020 and January 2021 people were asked about the strengths and weaknesses of the existing ward structure then to rank in order of importance a given set of guiding principles governing ward boundary creation.
2. In February-March of 2021 people were invited to assess a set of preliminary ward boundary options, indicate which they prefer and why, and to make further suggestions for improvement.

As documented in the Phase One Report, people did not seem too concerned about the current ward system though they did identify some obvious areas for investigation such as the large size of Ward 1, the impact of highways on ward boundaries, and concern



that a rapidly growing population might lead to unequal representation. They were clear about their priorities when it comes to the guiding principles: Population parity (32.5%) and future population parity (31.3%) were most important to them. Communities of interest (22.7%) and natural/physical boundaries (13.5%) were less important considerations. This was echoed in their comments about the importance of fairness and equality and a concern that putting too much emphasis on communities of interest might help with a local sense of identity but lead to disunity in the city as a whole, making decisions harder to reach. This was vital for the Consultant Team to understand in order to create preliminary options.

In the second round of consultations the results were a little less definitive:

- 30% preferred option 1;
- 33% preferred option 2;
- 26% preferred option 3; and
- 10% had no preference.

All three options were intended to be viable, so this balanced response may validate that effort; however, it does not make the selection of one option easy. The Consultant Team was concerned that a disproportionate number of respondents were from Ward 1, but looking at their responses alone revealed a similarly tight race: 34%, 30%, 25% and 11% for options 1, 2, 3, and no preference. This was particularly interesting since one of the big differences among the options was: keeping Ward 1 geographically wide and rural versus splitting it in two and joining the two parts with wards to the south. While 34% would like to keep Ward 1 largely intact, 55% prefer to break it up with either option 2 or 3.

Full survey results are reported in Appendix D.

6.2.2 Virtual Town Hall Meetings

During each round of consultation, the Consultant Team hosted a series of four town hall meetings with Vaughan residents. The purpose was three-fold:

- to inform and educate people so they can participate more confidently;
- to promote visits to the engagement website and survey; and
- to engage with people directly so consultants become as clear as possible about the interests of the community.



All three meeting objectives were attained.

The virtual town hall meetings were scheduled at different times of the day and week to accommodate as much personal availability as possible. People were encouraged to register ahead of time on the city's website in order to receive the meeting coordinates and avoid the "zoom-bombing" that happens if sign-in links are posted on a public website. The meetings used Microsoft Teams as a platform and included presentations followed by question-and-answer sessions. During the presentations, participants were encouraged to write their questions and comments into the chat. After the presentations, the chat questions were read aloud and answered by the Consultant Team members, then participants were invited to turn on their mic and camera to have an open conversation. The meetings were booked for 90 minutes but ended earlier or later depending on the questions and conversations. All the questions and comments were documented, and a recording of the presentation was shared on the project web page. Summary notes of these virtual town hall meetings can be found in Appendix C.

While the conversations with residents in the virtual town hall meetings may not have generated hugely different insights than were gathered through the surveys, engaging with people and their ideas ensured that the Consultant Team understood the interests of community members. Therefore, these meetings were important ways to inform the recommendations provided in this report.

It should be noted that, while these public consultation sessions had to be held virtually due to COVID-19, the four sessions in January attracted 31 participants and the four sessions in March attracted 21 participants. Those numbers are similar participation rates as one might find during in-person sessions that would have occurred under normal circumstances for a typical ward boundary review. Thus, while social gathering restrictions may have posed some barriers to public engagement, the results are not to be ignored. The City's communications staff were able to promote the virtual town hall meetings on social media and that promotion generated greater awareness of the project and the survey as a result.

The Consultant Team's slides presented in the virtual town hall sessions are included for the record in Appendix C of this document and may still be on the City's website at https://www.vaughan.ca/projects/city_government/boundary_review/General%20Documents/Vaughan_Phase2_Posterboards.pdf.



6.2.3 Video Interviews

In addition to the public engagement, it was crucial for the Consultant Team to benefit from the perspectives of professionals in government throughout the City. At the outset of the project a series of interviews was conducted with the Mayor and members of Council, as well as their senior staff. These interviews help to understand the overall context of the project.

7. Principles

The City of Vaughan established the following core principles for this ward boundary review:

- Representation by population;
- Consideration of current and future population trends;
- Consideration of physical and natural boundaries;
- Consideration of communities of interest; and
- Effective Representation.

These principles are discussed at length in section 3.3 of the Discussion Paper so they will not be addressed again in this Final Report. The Consultant Team has given a thorough consideration of the importance of each principle and a considered evaluation of which of the principles is most important for determining an appropriate system of representation for the 2022 municipal election in Vaughan.

The principles contribute to a system that provides for equitable on-going 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.



8. Vaughan's Existing Ward Structure

A preliminary evaluation of the existing ward structure in Vaughan is found in Chapter 3 of the Preliminary Options Report. That discussion and our evaluation of the existing wards are found in Table 8-1 below.

Table 8-1: Existing Vaughan Ward Configuration Evaluation Summary

Principle	Does the Current Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle?*	Comment
Representation by Population	Somewhat successful	All wards are within the acceptable range of variation, although the difference between the largest and smallest is significant.
Current and Future Population Trends	Largely unsuccessful	Four wards are in the acceptable range (i.e. 25% variation) but only one is optimal (i.e. 5% variation). Ward 1 is well above the acceptable range resulting in a large disparity between Ward 1 and Ward 2 (2030 difference of almost 50,000). Additionally, the population disparity between wards (Ward 1 and 2) will likely increase.
Consideration of Physical Features as Natural Boundaries	Somewhat successful	Most markers used as boundaries of the wards are straightforward, although Highway 400 bisects Ward 1.
Consideration of Communities of Interest	No	Current ward boundaries do not comfortably contain single, identifiable communities of interest.
Effective Representation	Largely unsuccessful	Accelerating population imbalances, the mix of communities within the wards and the extreme range of population disparity hinder effective representation.

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



The existing ward boundaries confront two main challenges: providing for existing population parity between wards and accommodating future population trends.

The objective of population parity (every councillor generally representing an equal number of constituents within his or her respective ward) is the primary goal of an electoral redistribution with some degree of variation acceptable in light of 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 average 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. 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 is based on federal redistribution legislation and is widely applied in municipalities like Vaughan that include both urban and rural areas.

Based on the municipal population estimates for 2021 of approximately 340,000 the optimal population size for a local ward in a five-ward system in Vaughan would be 68,010.^[3] This optimal ward population size increases to 81,780 by 2030 when the population is projected to increase to approximately 408,900 (Table 8-2).

Table 8-2: Population by Existing Ward, 2021 and 2030

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

Note: Population estimates have been rounded.

Source: Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2021.

^[3] Population and growth trends for Vaughan are included in the Preliminary Options Report.



While all wards are currently within the acceptable population range, large disparities do exist. These trends will intensify over time. Population data suggests that four of the five wards will be outside of an optimal range by 2030, with the disparity between wards 1 and 2 being the largest. Vaughan is expecting significant population growth throughout this period, much of it concentrated in communities such as Maple and the V.M.C. As such, this growth will be unevenly distributed throughout the City.

In the present configuration, the wards do not wholly respect identifiable communities of interest within Vaughan. Some communities with little connection share the same ward, such as Kleinburg and Maple in Ward 1 and are physically separated by Highway 400 which bisects the municipality. Overall, it would be difficult to say that the current ward system fully respects all identifiable communities of interest in the individual wards, either by keeping them intact or by combining them in plausible groupings.

The combination of accelerating population imbalances, the mix of neighbourhoods and communities within the wards, and the extreme range of population disparity between Ward 1 and the remaining wards in the southern portion of the City suggests that the present wards in Vaughan do not contribute to effective representation.

9. Recommended Options

As mentioned in the Preliminary Options Report, Vaughan - like many municipalities in Ontario - provides a unique challenge when finding a suitable ward boundary system. Vaughan is a community with large and growing population centres. The municipality has experienced some of the highest growth rates in the country throughout its recent history. Significant growth is expected to occur in several areas of the City, albeit concentrated in certain communities, such as Maple and the V.M.C. As mentioned above, and in both the Discussion Paper and Preliminary Options Report, Vaughan is home to a number of identifiable communities of interest. In the first round of consultation communities of interest were given a low priority, but several of the subsequent comments suggest some affinity with the identifiable former towns and villages. Therefore, the Consultant Team's mapping efforts tried hard to protect and enhance communities but kept running up against a wall of achieving fair population parity. Through consultation, the public has indicated that the preservation of these communities is a priority throughout the W.B.R. process.



Ultimately, the choice of ward system is a decision for Council. Taking the guiding principles of the review into consideration, along with feedback from residents and the expertise and experience of the Consultant Team, two options have been prepared for Council to consider. One option provides minimal changes to the existing ward boundary map. As indicated above, the existing system has several strengths but falls short of achieving effective representation now and into the future. This option attempts to correct the existing deficiencies with minimal disruption. The second option provides a more fundamental re-design of the ward boundary system, achieving population parity and the preservation of communities of interest.

The Consultant Team created a total of three preliminary options to garner feedback during the consultation process. One option presented minimal changes to the existing ward map, while the other two provided different configurations of a five-ward map that was a much more significant departure from the existing map. These three options can be viewed in the Preliminary Options Report. Through public consultation, the Consultant Team refined both sets of options into the two presented in this report.

9.1 Final Option 1

The first final option was initially presented in the Preliminary Options Report as Preliminary Option 2 and has been revised based upon feedback received during the consultation process. This option provides a way to align the wards in a manner that meets the representation by population principle for the 2022 municipal election and the two subsequent elections.

Final Option 1 provides a large departure from the existing ward boundary map. The largest change is seen in the north of the City, where the present large Ward 1, which spanned the entire municipality, has been replaced with two wards separated by Highway 400. The first ward runs from the western boundary of Vaughan, along the northern boundary of the municipality towards Highway 400 and down to Rutherford Road. The border travels north along Pine Valley Drive, to Major Mackenzie Drive towards the western boundary of the municipality. This ward contains the communities of Kleinburg and Vellore. The proposed Ward 2 contains much of Woodbridge and runs from Major Mackenzie Drive in the north, down to Rutherford Road via Pine Valley Drive and towards Highway 400 in the east. The western and southern borders of Vaughan provide boundaries to Ward 2. The proposed Ward 3 contains much of Concord and



the V.M.C., comfortably encapsulating an area with significant anticipated growth. The ward follows Highway 400 as a western boundary, runs to the east along Rutherford Road and north along the rail lines to Major Mackenzie Drive. The eastern and southern municipal boundaries of Vaughan, along with Highway 400 provide the remaining borders for the ward. The proposed Ward 4 contains Maple, which will bring significant future population growth to the ward. Highway 400, along with the northern and eastern boundaries of Vaughan serve as the boundaries for the ward. The southern boundary runs from Highway 400 along Rutherford Road, north along the rail lines and eastward towards the border with Richmond Hill. Finally, the proposed Ward 5 contains Thornhill and retains most of the present boundaries, using railway lines as a western boundary and running along the 407 to the north.

As mentioned above, this option was originally presented in the Preliminary Options Report as Preliminary Option 2. Based upon feedback received during the consultation process, adjustments were made to better align this option with the guiding principles for the review. When originally presented, the boundary between Wards 3 and 4 ran from Highway 400 along Major Mackenzie Drive, south along Dufferin and then east along Rutherford Road towards the eastern municipal boundary. Using these boundaries, the proposed Ward 3 had a population of 69,480 in 2021 and a forecast population of 89,070 in 2030. Proposed Ward 4 had a population of 59,410 and a forecast population of 70,620. This placed Ward 3 in the optional range in 2021 and above optimal in 2030, while Ward 4 was below the optimal range in 2021 and 2030. In the revised option, the boundary between the proposed Wards 3 and 4 runs along Rutherford Road, north along the rail lines towards Major Mackenzie Drive and east towards the municipal boundary. This change brings Wards 3 and 4 closer to parity in 2030 and better defines communities in both wards.



Figure 9-1: Final Option 1

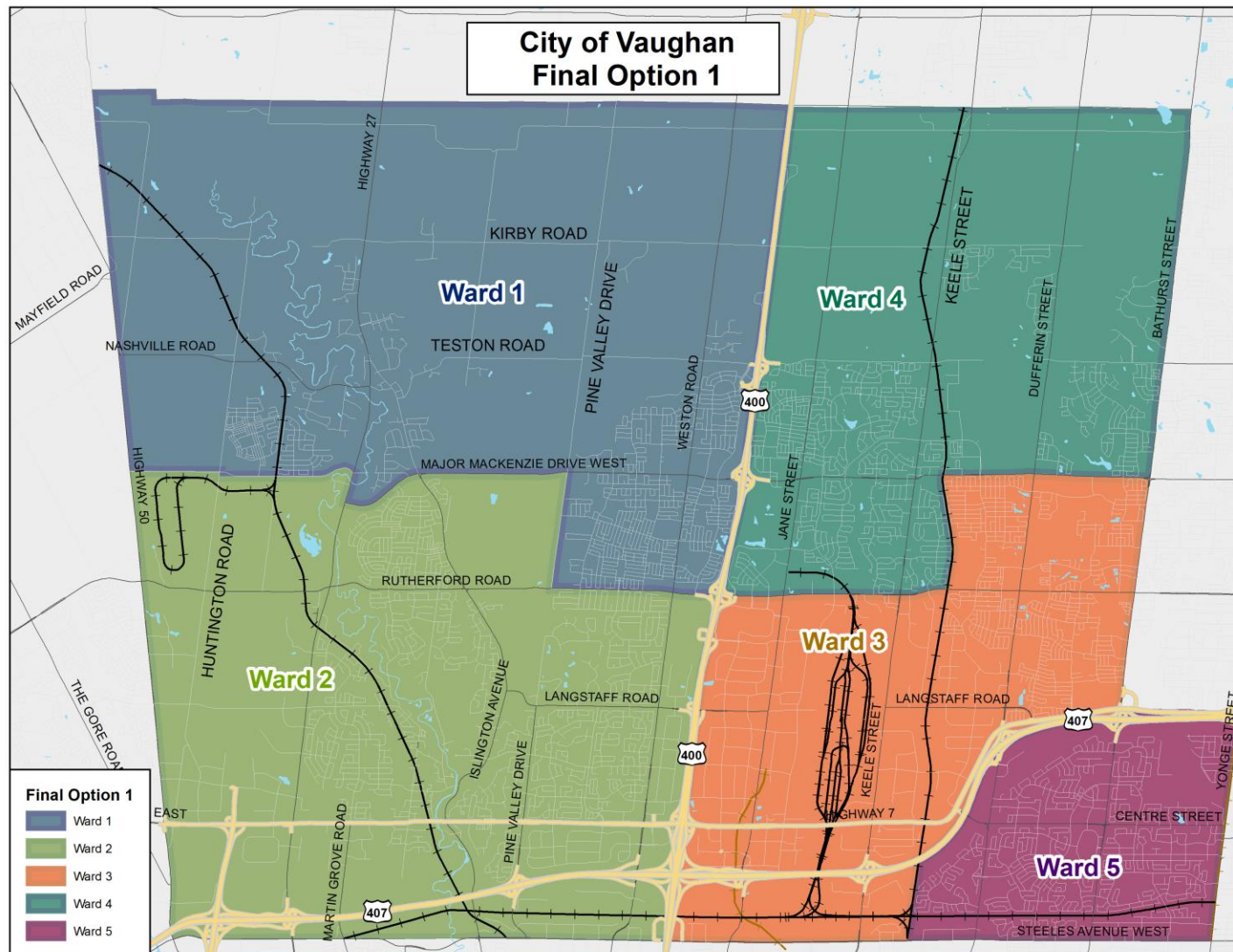




Figure 9-2: Final Option 1 – Population Distribution

Ward	2021 Total Population	2021 Population Variance	Optimal Range	2030 Total Population	2030 Population Variance	Optimal Range
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	56,520	0.83	O	75,940	0.93	O+
Ward 4	72,380	1.06	O-	83,750	1.02	O-
Ward 5	68,660	1.01	O	70,950	0.87	O-
City-wide	340,040	-	-	408,900	-	-
Ward Average	68,006	-	-	81,780	-	-

Note: Numbers have been rounded.

Source: Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. 2021.

This option is a significant departure from the current ward boundary map but provides for a ward system that balances population well and protects significant communities of interest. All wards are well within the acceptable range, providing for a well-balanced distribution of population. As indicated, significant growth is expected in certain areas of the municipality. This option allows for population parity now and into the future, while preserving significant communities of interest. None of the wards are bisected by major physical boundaries, such as Highway 400. All the boundaries are clear and recognizable. As a result of these significant strengths, this option provides for effective representation for the City of Vaughan over the next three election cycles.

9.2 Final Option 2

The second option was originally presented as Preliminary Option 1. This option provides for minimal changes to the existing ward boundary map, while compensating for certain current deficiencies. The large, northern Ward 1 is left intact in this option, stretching from the western to eastern boundaries of the municipality, using Major Mackenzie Drive and Teston Road as a southern boundary. Wards 2 and 3 remain largely intact, with the exception of Pine Valley Drive now being used as the western boundary of Ward 3. Ward 4 stretches from Highway 400 up to Major Mackenzie Drive in the north and to the eastern boundary of the municipality. Ward 5 has very similar borders as the existing system but takes in the Thornhill Woods community north of the 407, which the Consultant Team heard from residents was part of the core Thornhill community. The boundaries for this ward now stretch from Dufferin Street, up Rutherford Road and towards the eastern boundary of the municipality.



Figure 9-3: Final Option 2

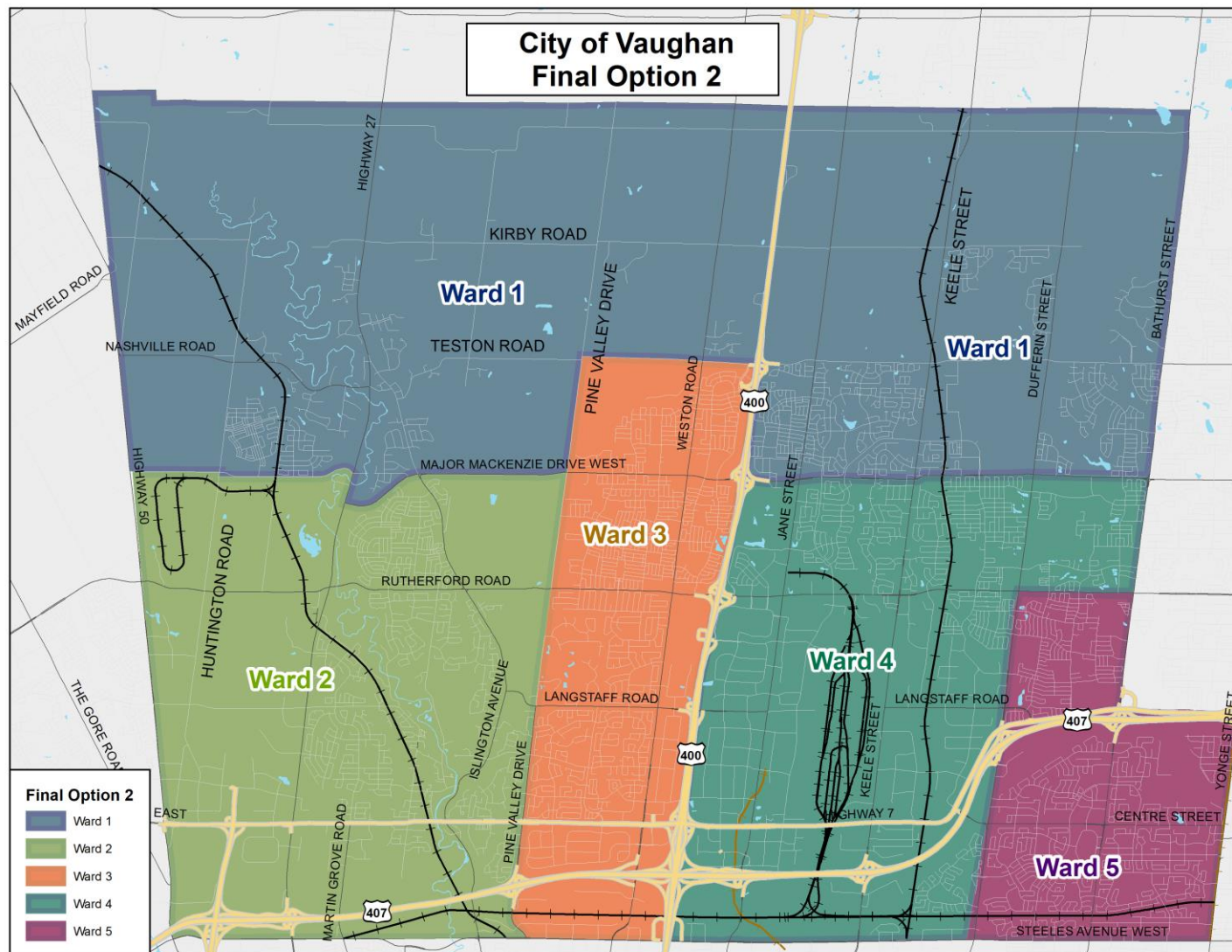




Figure 9-4: Final Option 2 – Population Distribution

Ward	2021 Total Population	2021 Population Variance	Optimal Range	2030 Total Population	2030 Population Variance	Optimal Range
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-
City-wide	340,040	-	-	408,900	-	-
Ward Average	68,006	-	-	81,780	-	-

Note: Numbers have been rounded.

Source: Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2021.

This option presents a minor departure from the current ward system. Much like the current system, however, it does not provide for population parity as the municipality reaches the 2030 election. In this configuration, Ward 1 has 40,000 more residents than Ward 2, a significant disparity. This option also uses Major Mackenzie Drive as the boundary between the proposed Wards 1 and 4, effectively dividing the community of Maple.

While this option appears as it did in the Preliminary Options Report, the Consultant Team did take considerable care to explore all possible configurations to balance the guiding principles in this option. One such configuration included keeping the entirety of the Maple community in Ward 1. However, maintaining the existing southern boundary of Ward 1 at Rutherford Road pushes the population of Ward 1 to 163,850, intensifying the already large disparity between Ward 1 and the rest of the municipality. Maintaining a boundary for Ward 1 at Rutherford Road. This could create a disparity of over 120,000 residents between Ward 1 and the least populated ward (in this case the proposed Ward 4) by 2030. A disparity in population of this size between wards is nearly impossible to justify, given that it would significantly dilute the voice of residents in this ward on council and substantially add to the workload of the local councillor. The Consultant Team tried various configurations to ensure that Maple was contained in a single ward, none of which ultimately proved viable.

Members of the public expressed concern about the large size of the current Ward 1 during the consultation stage of the W.B.R. While many believed the issues across the north were similar, the sheer size of the ward, coupled with projected rapid population



growth in certain areas, led many to express concern about the maintenance of such a large, expansive ward. Additionally, when prompted to identify which of the guiding principles of the W.B.R they thought most important, most prioritized population parity now (32.5%) and in the future (31.3%). It is safe to assume, then, that retaining a ward that not only maintains the current population disparity, but also adds to it, would likely not be palatable to community or to LPAT, in the event a bylaw to implement it is appealed.

10. Next Steps and Council Decisions

This report will be presented to Council at a meeting scheduled for June 8, 2021. During their deliberation, Council has a series of choices to make. As outlined in this report, along with the Discussion Paper and Preliminary Options Report, the current ward boundaries no longer provide for effective representation for the residents of Vaughan. The municipality has and will experience significant growth. Finding a ward boundary system that provides for effective representation now and into the future is important for the community.

The Consultant Team has presented two options for consideration, both using the five-ward parameters as outlined in the terms of reference for this project. The first provides a departure from the current map, splitting the large Ward 1 along the top of the municipality into two, and providing three wards to the east of Highway 400 and two to the west. While this option looks much different than the ward system that is currently in place, it does provide for relative parity among the wards now and into the future while maintaining existing communities of interest. The second option provides minimal disruption to the current map, keeping many of the same ward configurations intact, but adjusting for population growth. While this option looks familiar, it does not keep some communities of interest (namely Maple) intact and does not maintain population parity as Vaughan nears the 2030 municipal election. Different configurations were designed to keep Maple together as one community in this option, but the population disparity between this ward and others became far too great. These options have been constructed and revised based upon the feedback the Consultant Team received from the public during two rounds of consultation.

One final course of action for Council is to take no action at all. Council may view the current ward system as adequate and implicitly endorse it by not selecting one of these alternative options. In doing so, they must clearly understand that such a decision



sends a clear message to the City's residents that it believes retaining the present ward system still serves Vaughan well. The Consultant Team has reached a different conclusion.

Throughout the public consultations for the WBR, the Consultant Team heard that there is a desire to add an additional local councillor and that considerable confusion over the roles and responsibilities of Local and Regional Councillors remains among some segments of the community. As the community grows, it is natural for Vaughan council to want to address these issues, potentially exploring adding an additional local councillor or clarifying either the scope of responsibilities of Local and Regional Councillors or their accountability relationship with the community. Selecting either of the final options contained in this report does not preclude council from making decisions in the future around the composition of council or the role of Local and Regional Councillors. Council has the ability to proactively address the growing disparity between wards now, while making decisions about the composition of council in the future.

Within this report, the Consultant Team has highlighted some deficiencies in the current ward boundary system in relation to the guiding principles. These deficiencies have led the Consultant Team to conclude that the current ward boundary system no longer serves the residents of Vaughan well and ought to be changed. The public engagement efforts throughout this review have been largely consistent with this view.

Depending on Council's decision related to the Final Options contained in this report, ratification of a by-law to implement a preferred option is expected to occur shortly after the June 8, 2021 meeting.



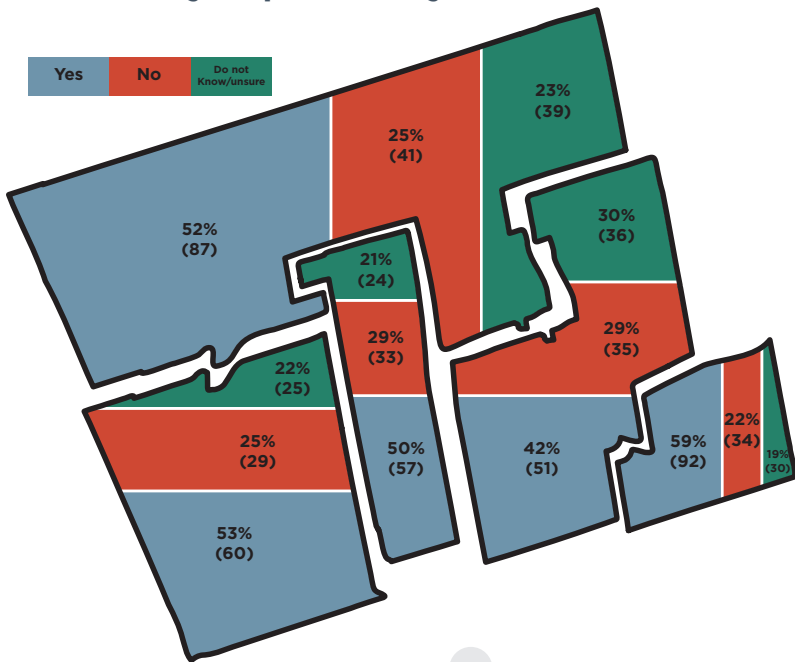
Appendix A

Public Engagement Summary

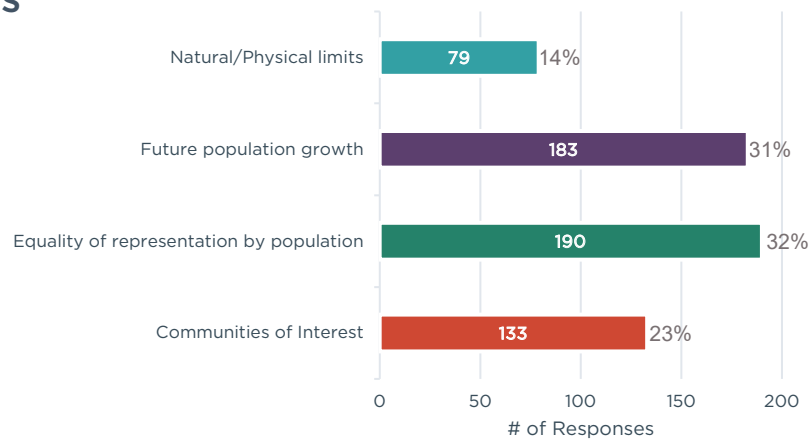
744 People Engaged

6,900 Unique webpage visitors

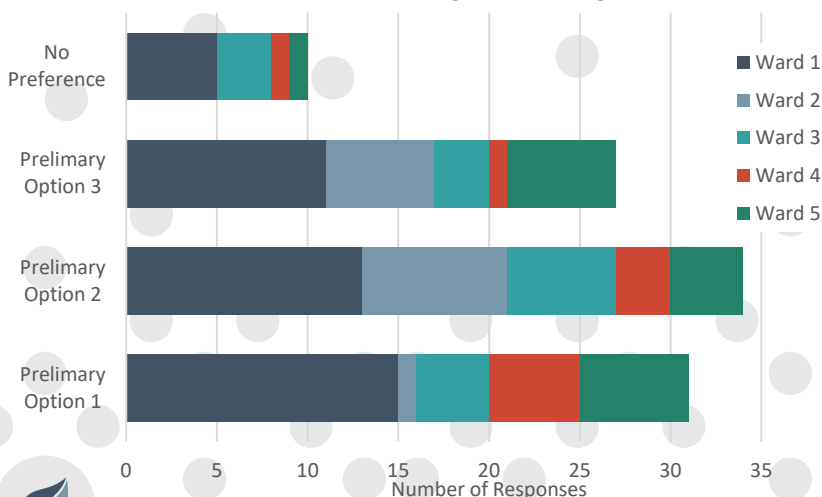
Do you feel the current ward boundaries accurately represent you?



Which principle should be given the highest priority



Preferred Option by Ward



What we heard





Figure A-1: List of Public Engagement Tools

Tool	Description
Vaughan W.B.R. Webpage	<p>6,899 people visited a dedicated engagement web page developed for the Ward Boundary Review (W.B.R.) study at https://www.vaughan.ca/wardboundary. The webpage included an informative whiteboard video, links to public engagement session registrations and surveys, and up-to-date messaging to inform the public of the status of the W.B.R. Further, the review was featured on the front page of the City's website.</p> <p>See Appendix B for a record of public communications.</p>
Public Open Houses	<p>52 people participated in eight virtual town hall events, four per round of public consultations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.• Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.• Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.• Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.• Saturday, March 6, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.• Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.• Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.• Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. <p>See Appendix C for questions and answers.</p>
Public Engagement Surveys	<p>Two surveys were posted on the W.B.R. webpage, one for each round of consultation. The first intended to discern which guiding principles were prioritized by the community, and the second to discern which preliminary option was preferred.</p> <p>See Appendix D for the results.</p>



Tool	Description
Interviews with members of Council	Each member of Council was invited to participate in a one-hour discussion with the consultant to understand the larger context of the review. The interviews were private, not recorded.
Communications and outreach	The City promoted the project using: digital signage at ten locations, print ads in two newspapers, banner ads on the City's main website, nine PSAs, twelve paid social media ads, nine notices in City Updates and the Council packages and e-newsletters, and 144 social media posts on the City's accounts.



Appendix B

Record of Public Communications



This summary of communications and outreach efforts by the City of Vaughan throughout the ward boundary review is provided by City staff.

SIGNAGE

Digital signs - we have ten digital sign locations across the City, outlined below, throughout the course of the promotions:

- Al Palladini Community Centre
- Dufferin Clark Community Centre
- Fire Station 7-5 (Weston+7)
- Fire Station 7-7 (MM+400)
- Joint Operations Centre
- North Thornhill District Park
- Rosemount Community Centre
- Sonoma Heights District Park
- Vellore Village Community Centre
- Woodbridge Pool and Memorial Arena

PRINT ADS

- Vaughan Citizen and Thornhill Liberal (attached)

ADDITIONAL GRAPHICS & TACTICS

- Banner on the homepage of vaughan.ca multiple times throughout the process promoting each survey and virtual public open house
- Custom voice message recording through the City's contact centre, Access Vaughan

MEDIA AND SOCIAL MEDIA

- Media products issued (PSA's): 9
- Media coverage: 7 articles monitored = 1,212,000 total reach:
 - [https://www.yorkregion.com/news-story/10309786-is-the-right-time-to-review-vaughan-s-electoral-wards-during-the-pandemic-/](https://www.yorkregion.com/news-story/10309786-is-the-right-time-to-review-vaughan-s-electoral-wards-during-the-pandemic/)
 - <https://www.thestar.com/local-vaughan/news/2021/01/18/is-the-right-time-to-review-vaughan-s-electoral-wards-during-the-pandemic.html>



- [https://www.insidehalton.com/news-story/10309786-is-the-right-time-to-review-vaughan-s-electoral-wards-during-the-pandemic-/](https://www.insidehalton.com/news-story/10309786-is-the-right-time-to-review-vaughan-s-electoral-wards-during-the-pandemic/)
- <https://www.yorkregion.com/community-story/10304684-in-pursuit-of-equal-representation-vaughan-seeks-input-for-ward-boundary-review/>
- <https://www.yorkregion.com/news-story/10284943-are-vaughan-s-5-wards-boundaries-equitable-effective-/>
- <https://www.toronto.com/news-story/10284943-are-vaughan-s-5-wards-boundaries-equitable-effective-/>
- <https://www.northbaynipissing.com/news-story/10284943-are-vaughan-s-5-wards-boundaries-equitable-effective-/>
- City Updates: 9
- Council Packages/eNewsletters: 9
- Social posts: 144
 - Total engagements: 6,380
- Paid social posts: x4 campaigns = 12 posts total
 - Total engagements: 7,292

WEBSITE VISITS

December 1, 2020 to end of March 2021 – **6,899** to be exact. NOTE: The bounce rate is high because the survey is an external link (i.e. site visitors are actually encouraged to leave the page to take the survey).



Appendix C

Virtual Town Hall Sessions



The following are excerpts from eight online public townhall meetings held as a component of the public engagement for the City of Vaughan's Ward Boundary Review in 2020 – 2021. The questions and comments were separated to enable each question to have answers logged below it. The questions were rephrased for clarity and were selected if they highlighted recurrent themes in the consultation sessions, or if they were particularly pertinent to the issues addressed throughout the review. The answers are paraphrased from verbal comments made by the Consultant Team. The agenda for the 90-minute events was simple, as participants typed their questions and comments into the chat feature throughout the presentations, which were followed by Q&A sessions, during which open discussion was encouraged:

1. Introduction;
2. An overview of the W.B.R. process (pre-recorded);
3. Presentation and explanations of the preliminary options (live; Phase 2 only);
4. Answer the Questions from the chat;
5. Q&A session with encouraged open discussion;
6. Next steps and how to engage (on the city's project website).



Session 1 - January 12, 2021

(11 Participants)

Key Questions and Comments:

Are the 3 elected councillors accessible to the constituents or is it just the "ward" councillors?

- All councillors are accessible to you.
- A local councillor is usually more involved in local issues and regional councillors with regional ones.

Would adding regional councillors help with addressing access, i.e. could it be an option to leave the wards as is, and increase councillors?

- If you want to make sure you have access to someone from your ward, then a local councillor is needed.
- The issue really has to do with how much an individual councillor can manage. It may be that it is hard to reach everyone in the city for a regional councillor elected at large.
- In theory, having more councillors creates more access points for a resident, but there are other factors to weigh as well.

Are there provisions to prevent gerrymandering?

- This is an important question and is exactly the reason why municipalities hire a third party to generate the recommendations.
- You hear this term more in the United States. Gerrymandering is when the politicians themselves draw the boundaries in order to favour themselves. One common way you hear it described is: Politicians picking their voters instead of voters picking their politician.
- A ward boundary review is the opposite of gerrymandering as the review is "at arm's length" from council.
- Councillors do get interviewed by the Consultant Team to provide background information and context but not to tell consultants what to do.
- Councillors get the same report as everyone else.
- The community will comment on the options developed by the Consultant Team before the council meets to discuss them.



- The rationale for ward boundaries is based on a set of guiding principles that were the result of a supreme court challenge and they all point us towards “effective representation.” None of the guiding principles has anything to do with the electoral chances of any politician.
- If there is a belief that something has gone wrong in the redrawing of the wards, then there is an opportunity to appeal the council’s decision to the LPAT. This happens frequently.
- Therefore, we ensure the survey results and community input is actually used in making our recommendations.

Does it make sense to consider increasing the number of councillors in the future, rather follow the current model of Toronto, which is 9-10 times the population of Vaughan and yet represented by 25 councillors. The math leads to a Vaughan council of 3 only. What is your comment?

- There is always a trade-off. On the surface, fewer councillors costs less and might make decisions faster... on the surface.
- These councillors have a lot of work to do with their constituents, not just reading reports and voting. It can be exhausting and demanding work.
- So fewer councillors may be harder for citizens to reach and they may need more staff support.
- The municipal act requires a minimum of 1 mayor and 4 councillors, so 3 councillors would probably contravene the Act.
- Council size is not something we have been tasked to review.
- The city of Toronto had a 44-member council and was recommended to increase to 47 based on an extensive analysis and consultation and it was challenged and approved at the OMB. The province changed it without consultation and now the city has taken the province to the supreme court.
- The city of Toronto councillors are full time politicians paid \$110,000 a year.
- It could very well be a false economy to shrink the council and have fewer people discussing and deciding the issues, but in the end it’s about what fits the local community.



Session 2 – January 13, 2021

(7 Participants)

Key Questions and Comments:

Why are there only 5 wards in Vaughan. Considering we are city, why does each councillor have so many constituents. How does Vaughan compare to other cities in Ontario for constituents to be represented?

- There are no rules other than 5: 1 mayor and 4 councillors. It is wide open to the municipality to decide. Vaughan has had the number 5 in place for a long time.
- A council composition review was explicitly NOT what we were asked to study.
- That said, if a lot of people are saying the city needs more than 5, we can report this to council as something we heard.
- There is no list or formula or even a rule of thumb that we have come across that might help a municipality know if their council is too big or too small.
- In a 2-tier municipality is it fair to say Vaughan has a 5-member council or is it more accurate to say it is a 9-member council?
- There is also the consideration of workload, tensions, trade-offs, between how many councillors and are they part-time or full time and do they have enough staff support to reach their constituents?

We have not had representation from some parts of Vaughan at the regional table for 32 years. There is need for a better model than the at-large elections because the representatives who get elected are not from different parts of the city. We do not have the ability to ensure that the issues reflected at the regional council reflect local concerns. Without some sort of fair distribution of the regional seats voices are not heard. One recommendation is the “junior” and “senior” representatives. Plus, matching ward boundaries to federal and provincial ridings might enable alignment and communication/conversations at all three levels of government (as it is in Toronto now). That would create three wards. Perhaps we could elect a mayor and deputy mayor across the city and then elect regional councillors from three wards aligned with the ridings. Regional council has influence over more funds than the local council.

- Regarding the Toronto example, it was the Province that put the Toronto wards in place. This week that decision is at the Supreme Court, so the topic is actually timely.



- The provincially decided ward boundaries were not locally derived – there was no real citizen involvement in that decision.
- Having fewer councillors did not reduce cost because they need more staff to serve their constituents.
- In Vaughan there would be mismatches between the city limits and the riding boundaries; the ridings are not contained inside the city of Vaughan.
- The boundaries of ridings are based on out-of-date population figures so they are out of date before implemented. That would jeopardize the acceptability of the ward boundaries because we are legally required to apply a set of guiding principles that includes population projections.
- There is an argument that regional councillors cannot be elected from wards, but it has been tried. For example, the city of Oshawa designed 5 wards for regional councillors. Is there appetite for the principle of a geographic focus for regional councillors?
- When assigning federal and provincial ridings, they are not required to consider municipal ward boundaries.
- How are the provincial and federal ridings created? There is an “electoral quota” set and three people work their way through all the ridings in the province using population figures from the past census.
- Whereas municipal wards involve a lot of local insight and input, not just old census data. We are asked to consider growth and get ahead of population changes. The federal boundaries are only trying to catch up to the last census.



Session 3 – January 14, 2021

(8 Participants)

Key Questions and Comments

Can the Region of York (re)determine the physical boundaries of Vaughan?

- Not really. Changing the municipality's boundaries is a provincial government decision.
- Annexation is hard to negotiate but not able to be done by one municipality working alone.
- In the past, the creation of regional governments for example, has been a purely provincial initiative.

Large portions of the city of Vaughan are considered protected land, forest, etc. and cannot be developed. Is this information available in Phase 1?

- This is the kind of information we will be looking at, but we rely on existing materials that we can find that influence patterns of growth.
- We are tasked to look at population parity, which is the current population and we are also required to look at population growth so the ward boundaries will be good for three election cycles.

Would you say that there is one guiding principle that is more important than another?

- Some people think that representation by population is the only concern, but that does not necessarily achieve the goal of effective representation.
- Populations are not distributed evenly. There are some identifiable areas and nodes that could be a community that should be grouped into one ward.
- It's the same with barriers. Does the highway 400 form an obvious barrier? It is massive and it does create a physical barrier but we have heard the argument that the interests of people on both sides of the highway might be similar.
- Sometimes the differences in population density are so large (urban and rural) that compromises need to be made.
- There is no one principle that drives all the decisions but a combination and a balancing act among all the principles.
- If you only used one principle the map would look odd and would not generate balanced, fair representation.



Session 4 – January 14, 2021

(5 Participants)

Key Questions and Comments:

I'm concerned about abandoning the ward system for a strictly At-Large system. As far as I'm concerned about At-Large, if all councillors are responsible, then none are responsible. Any councillor can dodge any issue that they don't want to deal with by making an excuse and point the constituent to the others. That doesn't guarantee that any councillor will take ownership. Of course, in a Ward system the councillor could also shirk responsibility, but that can be addressed in elections.

- The municipality can divide and redivide the municipality into wards or not.
- An at-large model is probably not workable in Vaughan for a few reasons.
- No municipality with a population over 100,000 people uses an at-large system. It is probably more useful in a small community.
- Larger communities are more complex and might benefit from wards. In an at-large system there could be a very long list of candidates – too many for all the voters to comprehend. And the other thing that happens is they could come from the same neighbourhood.

The 400 and 407 definitely divide communities. So do the railways. The railway that runs parallel to Steeles divides us in ways we actively work to overcome.

- The different guiding principles include one that has to do with the physical boundaries like highways and railways. All the principles are in play and we need to do a balancing act in a way that reflects the community.
- We can't use the physical boundaries as the ONLY guiding principle, but clearly it plays a role.
- Comments like yours are exactly the kind of insight that helps the Consultant Team understand what might be meaningful for Vaughan.



Session 5 – March 6, 2021

(6 Participants)

Key Questions and Comments:

If we kept the boundaries as it is, do we have the proposed outlook?

- Yes, the current situation is thoroughly examined and included in the materials / presentation. In short, it's acceptable right now but it won't last, and will fall out of population parity. Even though the deviation from the norm is within acceptable range in terms of percentages, the difference in population between the largest and smallest wards is very significant.

Is there any consideration of ignoring highway 400 and focus more on Weston road?

It's more commercial. Rutherford Weston all the way to Steeles. I can see it pulled into ward 4. Keep Weston road west in ward 2.

- Yes, there was some consideration of that.
- Some feedback has suggested that highway 400 is a bigger consideration in the south than the north.
- Thank you for the feedback; it will be considered in our Preliminary Option designs



Session 6 – March 9, 2021

(4 Participants)

Key Questions and Comments:

Has any consideration been given to the distribution of public schools and catholic schools within each proposed boundary?

- Yes, we invited their input and we have good relationships with school boards.

Do the consultants have a preference or ranking of the three options?

- Absolutely not. We need you to tell us about your preferences. Which has the most potential?
- In the end it is up to Council to decide which options they will adopt. We can only put the options in front of them that make the most sense.

How does this compare to the previous review that did not result in any changes?

- The previous review limited its population variance to 10%.
- We use a 25% variance from the optimal number because it allows us (wiggle room) to capture what Vaughan really is as a city, a blend of guiding principles other than population parity alone.



Session 7 – March 9, 2021

(5 Participants)

Key Questions and Comments:

Where do these projections come from?

- We start with what exists as a baseline based on census populations.
- There are a lot of projects in development with plans being approved and under review and the city can share these data with us.
- All projected populations are derived from housing supply data, and careful analysis of population yields from future developments currently in the approvals process.

How does this affect school board trustees?

- Most municipalities use the wards to elect trustees as well.
- However, it has nothing to do with individual school catchment areas.



Session 8 – March 11, 2021

(6 Participants)

Key Questions and Comments:

Could implementing wards that run north-south, therefore spanning both rural and urban areas give each councillor an understanding of urban and rural issues, which could bring a more balanced perspective to council?

- It's a good question and a reasonable assumption but from our experience, it's not a strong correlation. It is probably better for the wards to capture a sense of coherent "community," but even that is not absolute. As a general principle (not pre-judging Vaughan) it is more likely that some wards will reflect some community and others diversity.



Appendix D

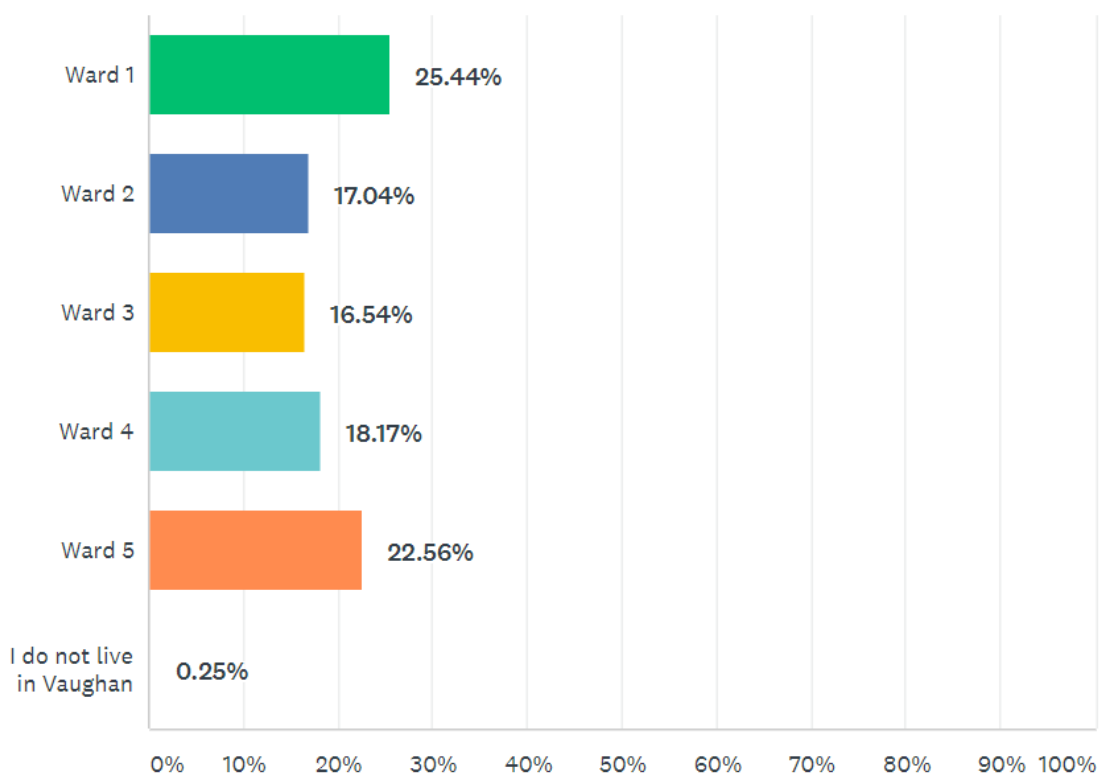
Public Engagement Survey Results



City of Vaughan Public Engagement Survey – Phase 1

Figure D-1
Which ward do you live in?

Answered: 798 Skipped: 115



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Ward 1	25.44%	203
▼ Ward 2	17.04%	136
▼ Ward 3	16.54%	132
▼ Ward 4	18.17%	145
▼ Ward 5	22.56%	180
▼ I do not live in Vaughan	0.25%	2
TOTAL		798



Figure D-2
In which community do you reside?

Answered: 803 Skipped: 110

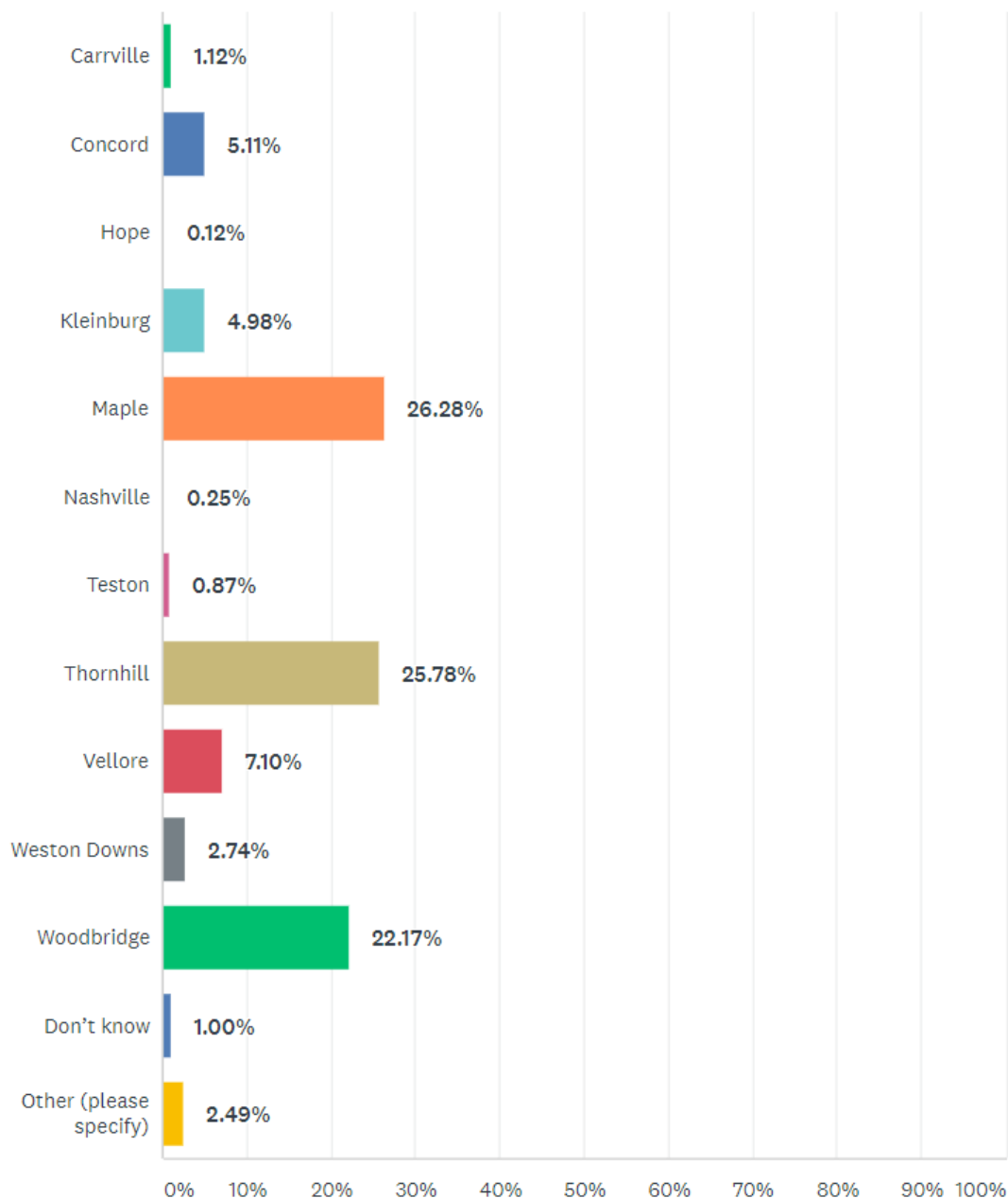
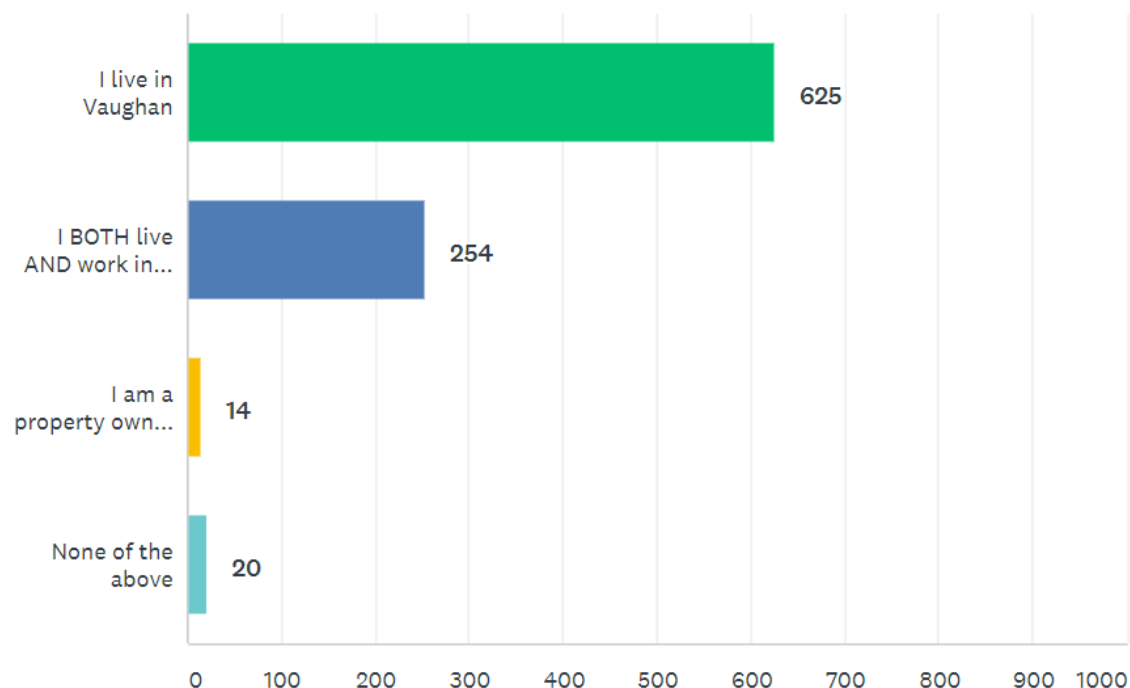




Figure D-3
How do you relate to Vaughan?

Answered: 913 Skipped: 0

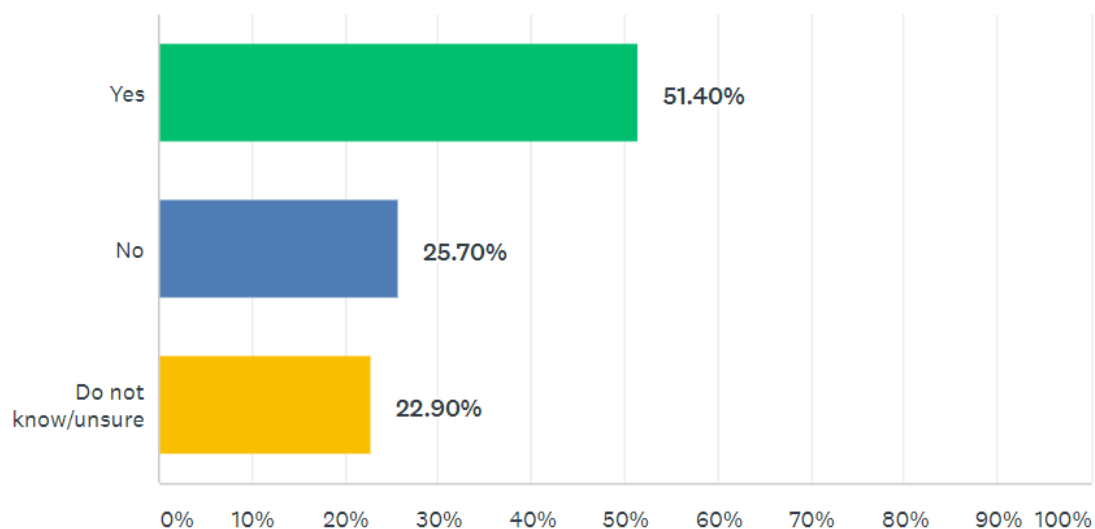


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I live in Vaughan	68.46%	625
I BOTH live AND work in Vaughan	27.82%	254
I am a property owner in Vaughan but do not presently live there	1.53%	14
None of the above	2.19%	20
TOTAL		913



Figure D-4
Do you feel the current ward system accurately represents you?

Answered: 677 Skipped: 236

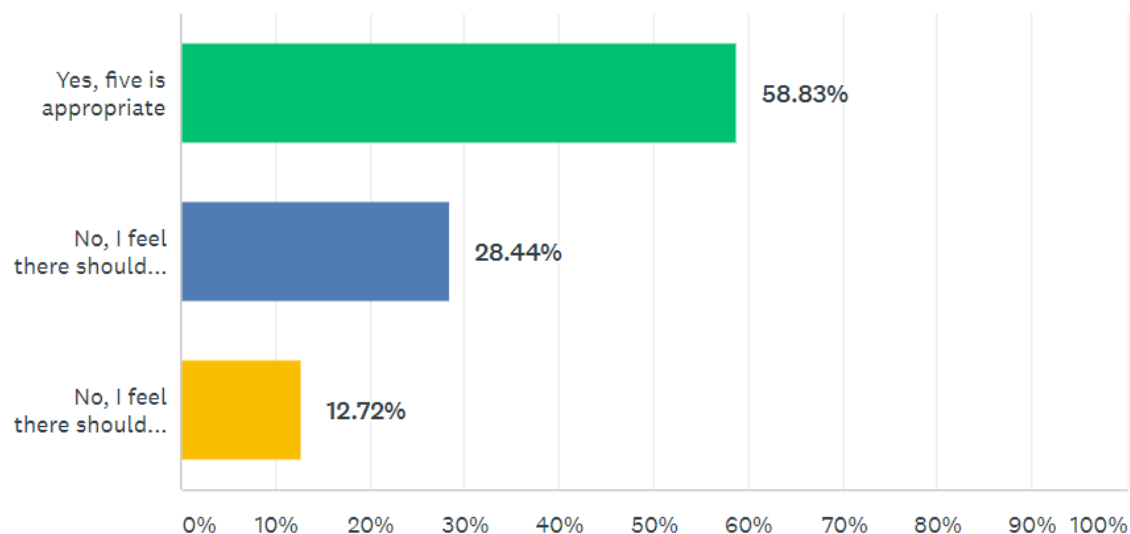


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	51.40%	348
No	25.70%	174
Do not know/unsure	22.90%	155
TOTAL		677



Figure D-5
Does the City have the right number of elected officials for the City?

Answered: 668 Skipped: 245



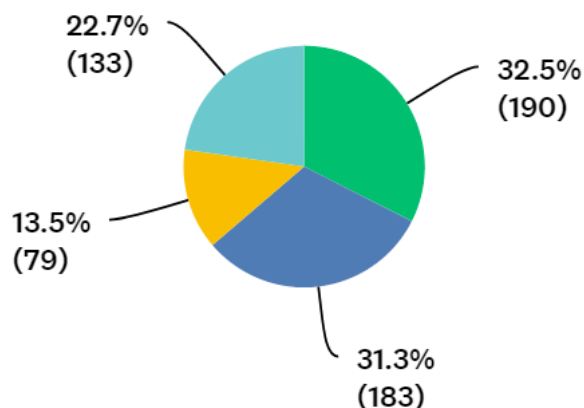
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, five is appropriate	58.83%	393
No, I feel there should be MORE than five Local Councillors	28.44%	190
No, I feel there should be FEWER than five Local Councillors	12.72%	85
TOTAL		668



Figure D-6

Which principles do you believe should be given the highest priority as we assess the current ward makeup in Vaughan?

Answered: 585 Skipped: 328



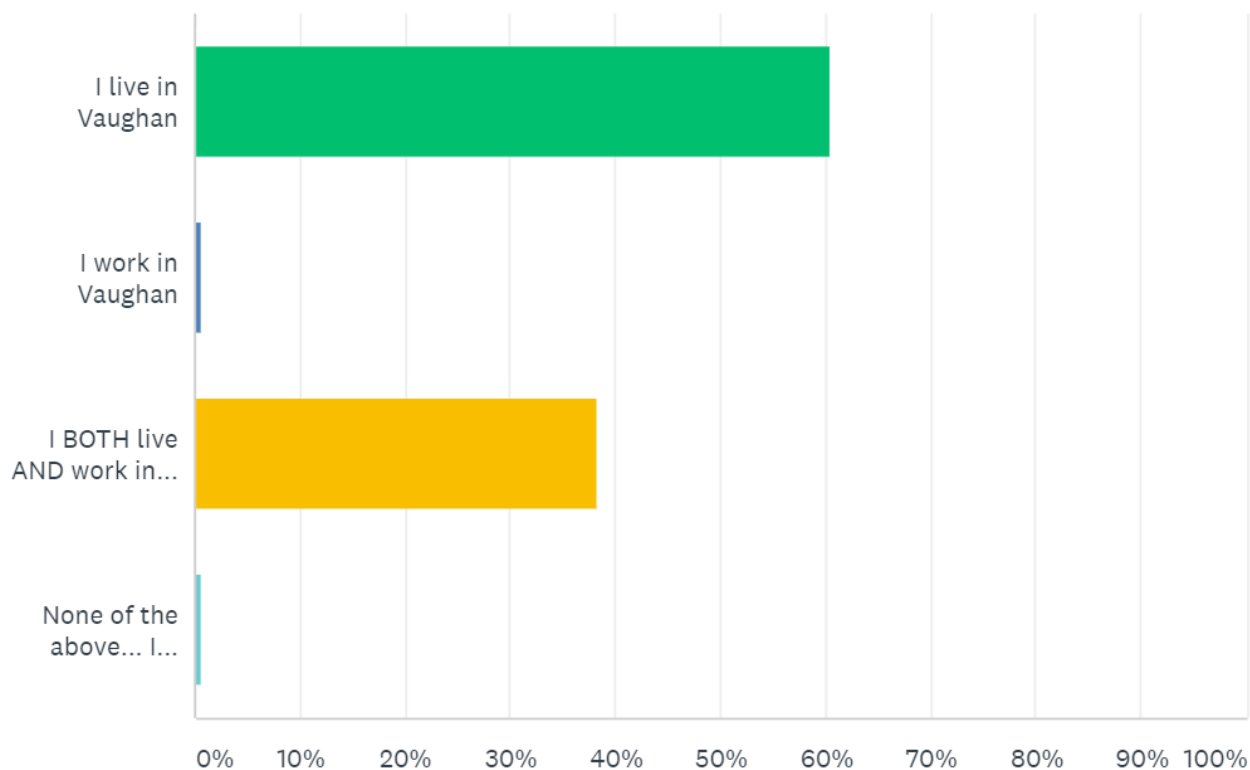
- EQUALITY of representation by population (each ward should have very similar populations)
- FUTURE population growth (wards should account for population changes for the next three e...)
- NATURAL / PHYSICAL limits (wards should have clear and visible boundaries like rivers...)
- COMMUNITIES of interest (wards should reflect historic and prominent communities)



City of Vaughan Public Engagement Survey – Phase 2

Figure D-7
What Best Describes you?

Answered: 144 Skipped: 0

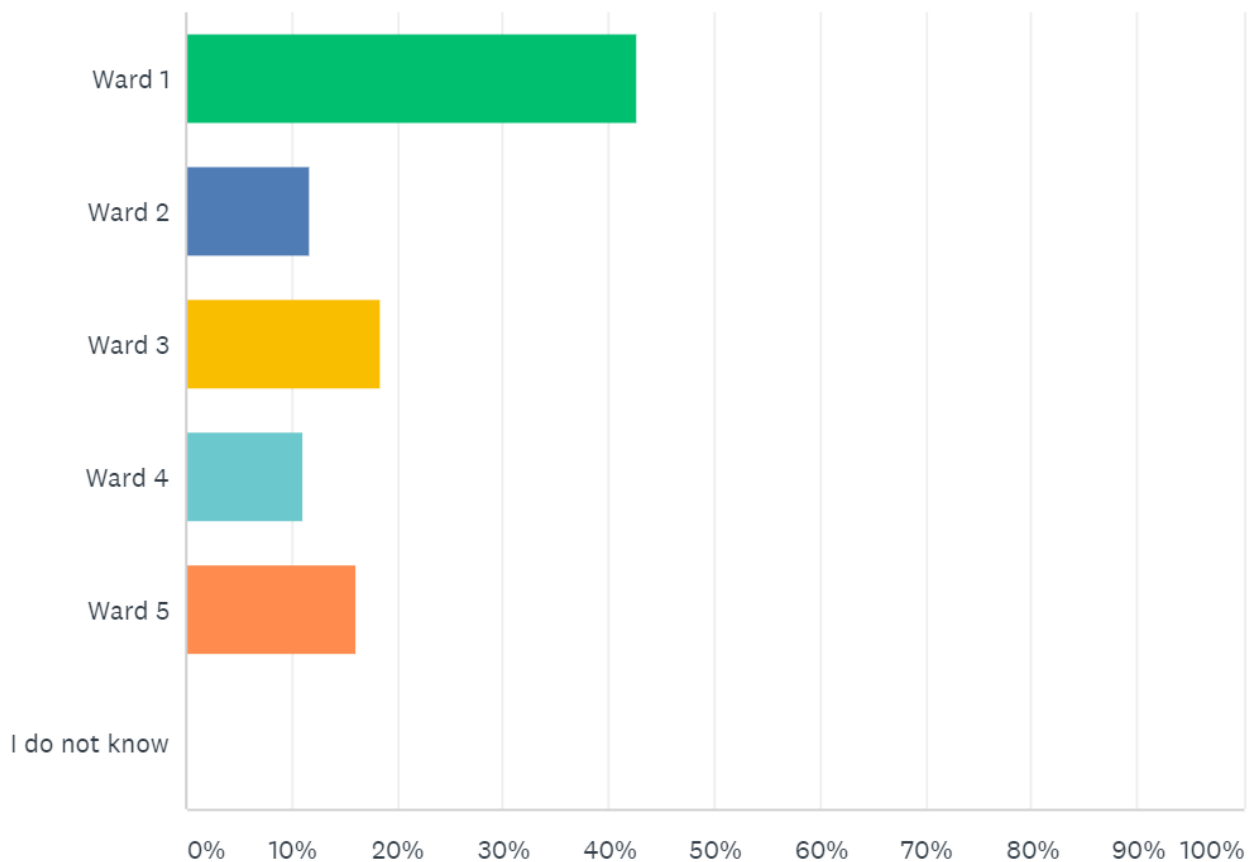


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I live in Vaughan	60.42%	87
I work in Vaughan	0.69%	1
I BOTH live AND work in Vaughan	38.19%	55
None of the above... I neither live nor work in Vaughan	0.69%	1
TOTAL		144



Table D-8
What ward do you live in?

Answered: 136 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Ward 1	42.65%	58
▼ Ward 2	11.76%	16
▼ Ward 3	18.38%	25
▼ Ward 4	11.03%	15
▼ Ward 5	16.18%	22
▼ I do not know	0.00%	0
TOTAL		136



Figure D-9
In which community do you reside?

Answered: 132 Skipped: 12

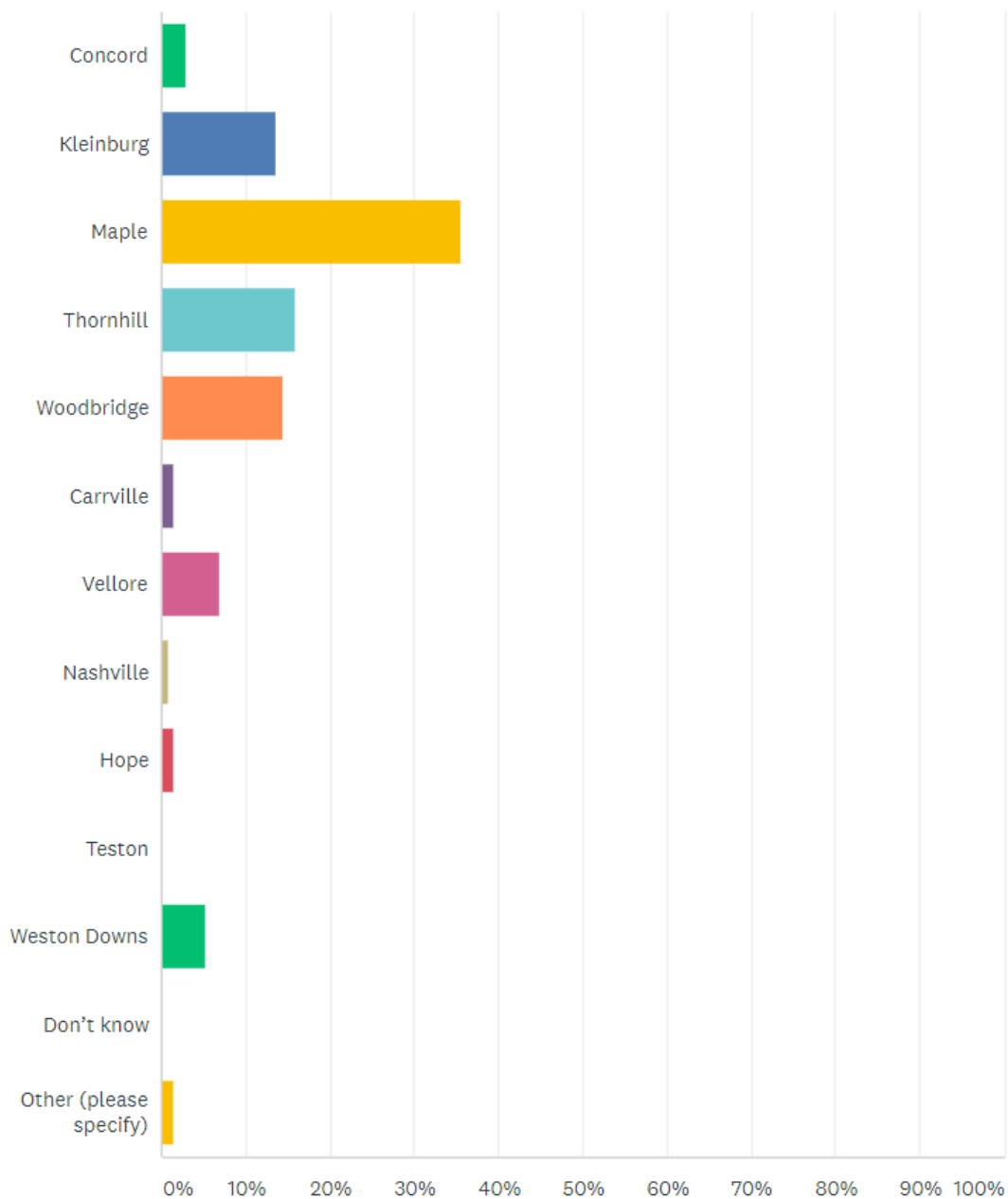
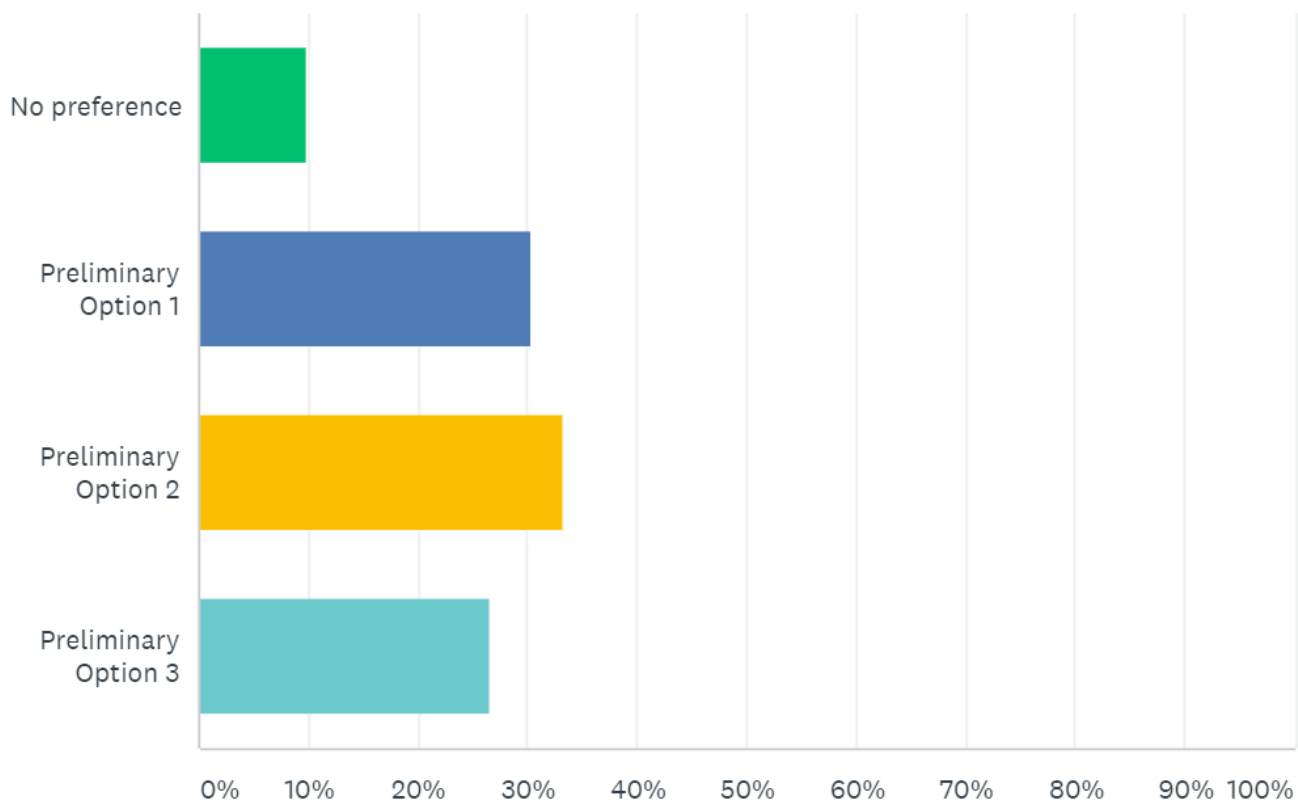




Table D-10
Preferred Options

Answered: 102 Skipped: 42



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No preference	9.80%	10
Preliminary Option 1	30.39%	31
Preliminary Option 2	33.33%	34
Preliminary Option 3	26.47%	27
TOTAL		102