



Criteria for Determining Districts

When asked how important each criteria is in deciding how districts are determined within the Halifax Regional Municipality, respondents were provided with the following definitions:

- a. **Geography** (that is, districts are defined by the geographic features and geographic size of each district)
- b. **Number of electors** (that is, how many electors each councillor represents)

Who can vote in Municipal Elections?

You qualify to vote if you meet all of the following conditions:

- You are 18 years of age or older and a Canadian citizen on the first advance polling day
 - You have been ordinarily resident in Nova Scotia for 6 months immediately before the first advance polling day
 - You are ordinarily resident in the Halifax Regional Municipality and have been so since immediately before the first advance polling day
 - You are not otherwise disqualified to vote in the Municipal and School Board Elections.
- a. **Communities of Interest** (that is, districts are defined by things such as: existing communities, historical connections, recreational issues, tax and area rates, water and sewer boundaries, traffic infrastructure and patterns, planning boundaries, school districts, shopping patterns and business centres, language, and ethnic origin)
 - b. **Population Density** (that is, districts are defined by the number of people per square kilometre living in a district)
 - c. **Relative parity of voting power** (that is, all districts have roughly the same number of electors so that each vote carries the same weight)



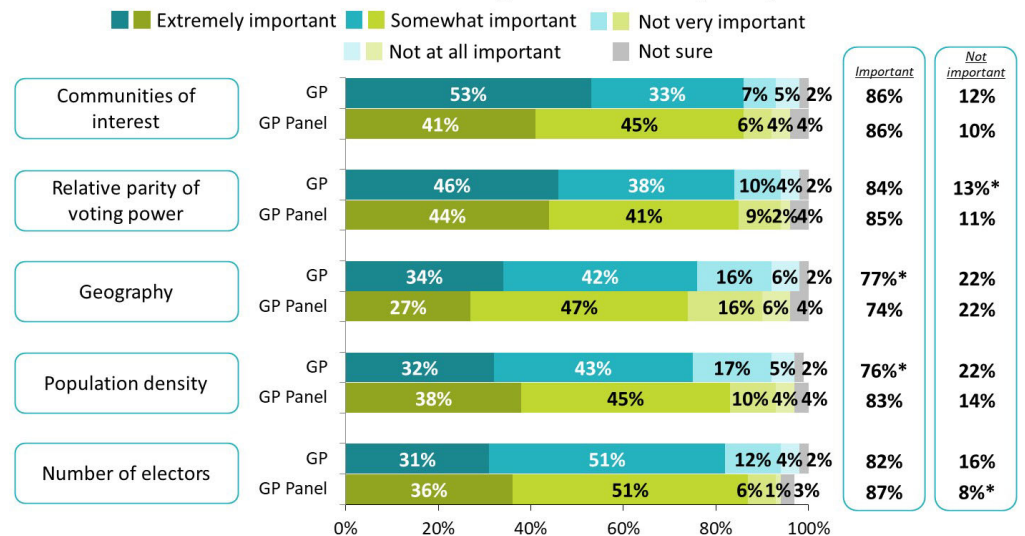
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Communities of interest and relative parity of voting power are of the highest importance to residents when determining districts.

The majority of respondents believe that all listed criteria – communities of interest, relative parity of voting power, geography, population density, and number of electors – are important to some extent when considering the division of districts within the Halifax Regional Municipality.

Some criteria, though, are considered to be slightly more important than others. There is a higher number of respondents who believe *communities of interest* and *relative parity of voting power* are *extremely important* criteria, while there is a less strong emphasis on the importance of *geography*, *population density* and *number of electors* in comparison.

Importance of Criteria in Deciding How Districts Are Determined within Halifax Regional Municipality



Q.C6a-e: In your view, how important are each of the following criteria in deciding how districts are determined within the Halifax Regional Municipality? (General Public n=766; Gen Pop Panel n=433) *Due to rounding.