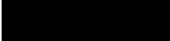


# HALIFAX

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**Item No. 9.1.1**  
**District Boundary Resident Review Panel**  
**August 3, 2022**

**TO:** Chair and Members of the District Boundary Resident Review Panel

**SUBMITTED BY:**  **(Original Signed)**

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** July 29, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Updated Population & Estimated Elector figures for the Halifax Regional Municipality – Phase Two

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## **ORIGIN**

Staff initiated report.

## **LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Administrative Order Number 2022-001-GOV respecting the Special Advisory Committee for the 2022 Halifax Regional Municipality District Boundary Review, section 5

## **Duties of the Committee**

5. The Committee shall advise Council, through Executive Standing Committee, on proposed boundaries for the electoral districts of the Municipality by:

- (a) leading a public engagement process in alignment with this Administrative Order and guidance from past decisions of the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board;
- (b) analyzing responses and themes from public engagement to inform the Committee's recommendations to Council; and
- (c) adjusting the current district boundaries to develop proposed boundaries that take into consideration:
  - (i) the direction of Regional Council from Phase I of the District Boundary review;
  - (ii) the results of the public engagement process; and
  - (iii) the objectives set out in section 368(4) of the Municipal Government Act, including consideration of the number of electors, relative parity of voting power, population density, community of interest, and geographic size.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the District Boundary Resident Review Panel adopt the updated population and elector figures and projections for the Halifax Regional Municipality as outlined in the discussion section and attachment one of this report to be used as the official population of the HRM for the purposes of Phase Two of the 2022 District Boundary Review project.

## **BACKGROUND**

On December 13, 2021, Council approved a two phased study approach as recommended by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board for the 2022 District Boundary Review: Phase One to determine the size of Council and its governance structure, and Phase Two to set the specific district boundaries.

On June 14, 2022, Halifax Regional Council approved Executive Standing Committee's recommendation on Phase One by confirming the number of polling districts and the number of councillors at sixteen (16) and directing that this be applied to Phase Two of the District Boundary Review Project.

The 2021 Census release was not available for the initial phase of the project and statistical projections, based on 2016 Census data and enriched by Environics Analytics software, were used to complete Phase One<sup>1</sup>. As noted in the March 1, 2022 staff report presented to Executive Standing Committee at its March 28, 2022 meeting, staff indicated that an updated district-by-district breakdown relative to the population and the projected number of electors by 2024 would be provided for Phase Two of the District Boundary Review project.

**DISCUSSION**

The Federal Census was conducted by Statistics Canada in 2021 with data releases provided intermittently. HRM's GIS staff make use of Environics Analytic software which takes the Statistics Canada census data and enhances it to provide predictive population projections (DemoStats).

The Environics data is available to GIS staff through the Environmental System Research Institute (ESRI) Data Enrichment Analysis, which gives access to the DemoStats variables, some of which are total population and population for individuals 18+ in age (eligible electors). Environics uses the current census dissemination area data (2021) and projects population 3 years (2024), 5 years (2026) and 10 years (2031) into the future. The Environics data was used for population estimates for 2024, 2026 & 2031.

To get the population estimates for polling districts, GIS staff use a custom tool that recalculates population for a desired polygon boundary (polling district boundaries). The population is redistributed within the polling districts by using data within HRM's corporate GIS database for residential dwellings. The population is calculated by weighing the percentage of dwelling units within the boundaries and then basing the population results on where the population lives to more accurately redistribute the population results. This places HRM's total population at 440,071 as opposed to the 452,154 projection for the 2021 population provided by Environics. This analysis for the current population and estimated number of electors for each of HRM's electoral districts was completed by GIS staff using this methodology and is outlined in the table one:

**Table One**

<b>Electoral District</b>	<b>Current Population – 2021 Census (July 21, 2021)</b>	<b>Current estimated number of electors (2021) – Environics</b>	<b>Projected Population 2024 - Environics</b>	<b>Projected number of electors (2024) - Environics</b>
1	21644	18642	24537	19589
2	26357	22527	28244	23319
3	29743	25952	33680	27045
4	24528	21085	26911	21813
5	28300	25259	30630	26358
6	26462	21865	27390	22706
7	30105	26802	30962	28276
8	28351	25499	29788	26264

<sup>1</sup> March 1, 2022 Executive Standing Committee report: <https://cdn.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/standing-committees/220328esc1211.pdf>, page 4.

9	29235	24703	30812	25505
10	28853	22950	28258	23707
11	27786	22892	29461	23908
12	29201	25580	33033	26886
13	27818	22098	30398	23465
14	24820	20458	27842	21646
15	20911	18881	24216	19891
16	35957	27010	35134	28283
<b>Total</b>	<b>440071</b>	<b>372203</b>	<b>471296</b>	<b>388661</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>27504</b>	<b>23262.68</b>	<b>29456</b>	<b>24291.31</b>

Staff are recommending that the District Boundary Resident Review Panel adopt the current population and current estimated number of electors for the HRM as outlined in this report and apply these figures to Phase Two of the District Boundary Review. This is being recommended as it is consistent with HRM's approach to determining population and demographic information for the municipality based on census data provided by Statistics Canada. This is also consistent with the methodology used in previous boundary review applications.

For further comparative information respecting the 2016 - 2021 census data, the 2020 Environics enriched data used in Phase One, and for population/elector projections for 2026, and 2031, please refer to attachment one of this report.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

No financial implications were identified.

#### **RISK CONSIDERATION**

The District Boundary Review is a legislatively required action. Administrative Order 2022-001-GOV (section 9) requires that the District Boundary Resident Review Panel submit its final report and recommendation to Executive Standing Committee by its November 2022 meeting to ensure that the project remains on track to meet the NSUARB application deadline of December 31, 2022.

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

No community engagement was required.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

No environmental implications were identified.

#### **SOCIAL VALUE**

No social value was identified.

#### **ALTERNATIVES**

Staff are not recommending alternative recommendations.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Updated District Population and Number of Electors Estimates (2021 Census Data)
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**2022 Population & Estimated Elector figures for the Halifax Regional Municipality  
District Boundary Resident Review Panel Report- 4 -**

**August 3, 2022**

A copy of this report can be obtained online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca) or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Liam MacSween, Elections and Special Projects Manager, 902.233.5207

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<b>DIST_ID</b>	<b>2016_StatsCan_Population</b>	<b>2020_Enriched_Population</b>	<b>2021_StatsCan_Population</b>	<b>Change 2016-2021</b>	<b>Change 2020-2021</b>
1	21157	23685	21643	486	-2042
2	25364	27185	26354	990	-831
3	28634	31384	29883	1249	-1501
4	24459	25963	24430	-29	-1533
5	26897	29587	28345	1448	-1242
6	24666	26403	26386	1720	-17
7	24401	26997	30105	5704	3108
8	25377	29002	28377	3000	-625
9	27775	29651	29189	1414	-462
10	25207	27048	28774	3567	1726
11	24550	27605	27981	3431	376
12	27431	30562	29010	1579	-1552
13	25750	28532	27768	2018	-764
14	22324	25242	24736	2412	-506
15	20657	22480	20955	298	-1525
16	28133	31763	36136	8003	4373
<b>Total</b>	<b>402782</b>	<b>443089</b>	<b>440072</b>		
<b>Dist Average</b>	<b>25173.875</b>	<b>27693.0625</b>	<b>27504.5</b>		

### Updated District Population and Population Estimates 2021-2031

DIST_ID	StatsCan Census Population 2021 (March 15 2021)	2021 difference	StatsCan Census Population 2021 (July 21 2021)	2021 July to Environics 2021	Environics Population Estimates 2021	Change 21-24	Environics Population Estimates 2024	Change 24-31	Environics Population Estimates 2031
1	21643	1	21644	1784	23428	1109	24537	2701	27238
2	26354	3	26357	902	27259	985	28244	2424	30668
3	29883	-140	29743	2546	32289	1391	33680	2713	36393
4	24430	98	24528	1550	26078	833	26911	2272	29183
5	28245	-45	28300	1108	29408	1222	30630	2211	32841
6	26286	76	26462	-6	26456	934	27390	2033	29423
7	30105	0	30105	-658	29447	1515	30962	2967	33929
8	28277	-26	28351	617	28968	820	29788	1751	31539
9	29189	46	29235	685	29920	892	30812	1754	32566
10	28774	79	28853	-1473	27380	878	28258	2120	30378
11	27981	-195	27786	513	28299	1162	29461	2442	31903
12	29010	191	29201	2185	31386	1647	33033	3416	36449
13	27768	50	27818	967	28785	1613	30398	3660	34058
14	24736	84	24820	1575	26395	1447	27842	2947	30789
15	20955	-44	20911	2163	23074	1142	24216	2813	27029
16	36136	-179	35957	-2375	33582	1552	35134	3209	38343
<b>Total</b>	<b>440072</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>440071</b>	<b>12083</b>	<b>452154</b>	<b>19142</b>	<b>471296</b>	<b>41433</b>	<b>512729</b>
<b>Dist Average</b>	<b>27504.5</b>		<b>27504</b>		<b>28260</b>		<b>29456</b>		<b>32045.5625</b>

### Updated Elector Population Estimates 2021 - 2031

DIST_ID	Environics 18 + Population Estimates 2021	Change 21-24	Environics 18+ Population Estimates 2024	Change 24-26	Environics 18+ Population Estimates 2026	Change 26-31	Environics 18+ Population Estimates 2031
1	18642	947	19589	609	20198	1620	21818
2	22527	792	23319	522	23841	1475	25316
3	25952	1093	27045	710	27755	1444	29199
4	21085	728	21813	461	22274	1436	23710
5	25259	1099	26358	611	26969	1078	28047
6	21865	841	22706	500	23206	1156	24362
7	26802	1474	28276	926	29202	1828	31030
8	25499	765	26264	481	26745	982	27727
9	24703	802	25505	449	25954	943	26897
10	22950	757	23707	447	24154	1242	25396
11	22892	1016	23908	596	24504	1381	25885
12	25580	1306	26886	870	27756	1902	29658
13	22098	1367	23465	886	24351	2176	26527
14	20458	1188	21646	770	22416	1641	24057
15	18881	1010	19891	604	20495	1687	22182
16	27010	1273	28283	827	29110	1801	30911
<b>Total</b>	<b>372203</b>	<b>16458</b>	<b>388661</b>	<b>10269</b>	<b>398930</b>	<b>23792</b>	<b>422722</b>
<b>Dist Average</b>	<b>23262.6875</b>		<b>24291.3125</b>		<b>24933.125</b>		<b>26420.125</b>