

HALIFAX

2022 District Boundary Review – Phase Two

Executive Standing Committee
November 28, 2022

District Boundary Resident Review Panel (DBRRP)

- Citizen led volunteer panel created to advise Regional Council, through Executive Standing Committee, on the boundaries of the municipal electoral districts for the Municipality as part of Phase Two of Council's process to develop its application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board for the 2022 District Boundary Review
- Responsible for conducting the public engagement activities for Phase Two with the support of HRM staff



Phase One

In the spring of 2022, the first phase of a District Boundary Review study was undertaken in HRM with the aim of determining the number of Municipal Polling Districts appropriate to the Municipality, as well as to review the governance structure of HRM

Results of that initial phase recommended that the number of polling districts and councillors for the municipality should remain at 16



Phase Two

- The District Boundary Resident Review Panel was tasked by Regional Council with advising Regional Council through Executive Standing Committee on proposed boundaries for the municipal polling districts for the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM)
- The Panel's objective was to adjust the current district boundaries to develop proposed boundaries that take into consideration the objectives set out in section 368(4) of the Municipal Government Act (MGA), rooted in the feedback from the public engagement process



Criteria



The five criteria are [Section 368 (4)] of the MGA:

- **Number of electors** (that is, how many electors each councillor represents)
- **Relative parity of voting power** (that is, all districts have roughly the same number of electors so that each vote carries the same weight). In considering relative parity of voting power the target variance is +/-10% per district. Voter parity of up to +/- 25 % is permitted in some circumstances with appropriate justification
- **Population Density** (that is, the number of people per square kilometre living in a district)
- **Communities of Interest** (includes: 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)
- **Geographic Size** (that is, districts are defined by the geographic size of each district)



Role of DBRRP



- Completed background evaluation of the boundary review process and how it related to the HRM;
- Developed mapping criteria and mapping options for evaluation against the review criteria and future growth;
- Developed a mapping option for public evaluation;
- Created and completed a public engagement plan for the review; and
- Evaluated the public engagement plan and directed staff to provide a mapping response to the public engagement feedback.

Public Engagement Activities

- Online survey (Narrative Research) accessed on halifax.ca with 1321 completed submissions from residents across HRM
- Two rounds of interviews with members of Halifax Regional Council on Phase Two conducted by Narrative Research - August and October 2022.
- Five in person/virtual public engagement sessions facilitated by Narrative Research – October 11 – October 20, 2022
- Three in person public engagement sessions hosted by HRM's Community Councils – October 11 – October 24, 2022
- Two additional in person public engagement sessions held in Middle Musquodoboit (October 20) and Cherry Brook (November 9)
- Meetings of the District Boundary Resident Review Panel – June - November, 2022
- Correspondence submitted to Panel through the Municipal Clerk's Office

Current Population/ Number of Electors

- Since the 2010 review, the HRM has grown by 67,392 residents to a total of 440,071.
- The current number of electors within the HRM is 372,205 based upon 2021 Census data
- The Halifax Regional Municipality is in the top six (6) for growth with a 9.1% population growth rate from 2016-2021



Recommended District 1

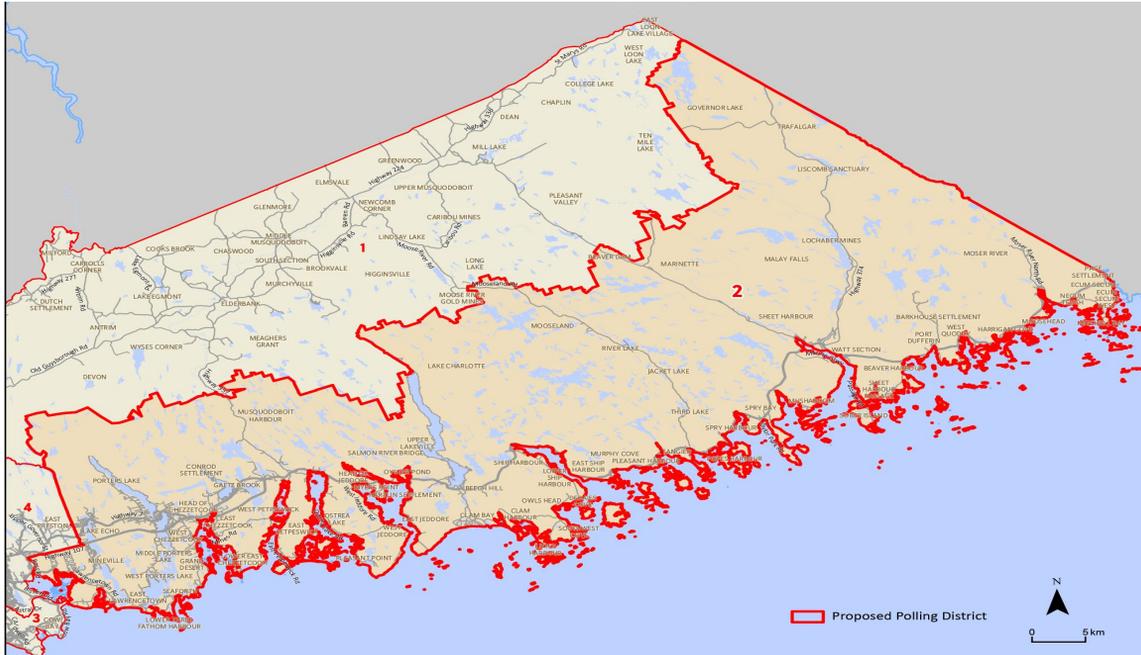
Elector Count: 17,702 (-23.9%)

- Includes communities along the northeastern boundary of the municipality from Montague Gold Mines, Waverley, and Windsor Junction to East Loon Lake Village, including but not limited to Fall River, Wellington, Middle and Upper Musquodoboit.

Changes from existing District 1:

- Few changes, very similar to existing district
- Removes Lake Charles/Craigburn Drive area south of Highway 107, as public feedback indicated this area identified most with Dartmouth, rather than Waverley/Fall River
- Removes a small area around Beaver Bank Lake to follow the edge of the Wellington community boundary

Recommended District 2



Prepared by HRM GIS, November 2022

Recommended District 2

Elector Count: 20,726 (-10.9%)

Includes communities along the Eastern Shore, from Lawrencetown to Ecum Secum, including but not limited to Lake Echo, Porters Lake, Musquodoboit Harbour, Ship Harbour, and Sheet Harbour.

Changes from existing District 2:

- Removes historical African Nova Scotian communities (North Preston and East Preston) so that they can be included with other historical African Nova Scotian communities in the proposed District 4

Recommended District 3



Prepared by HRM GIS, November 2022

Recommended District 3

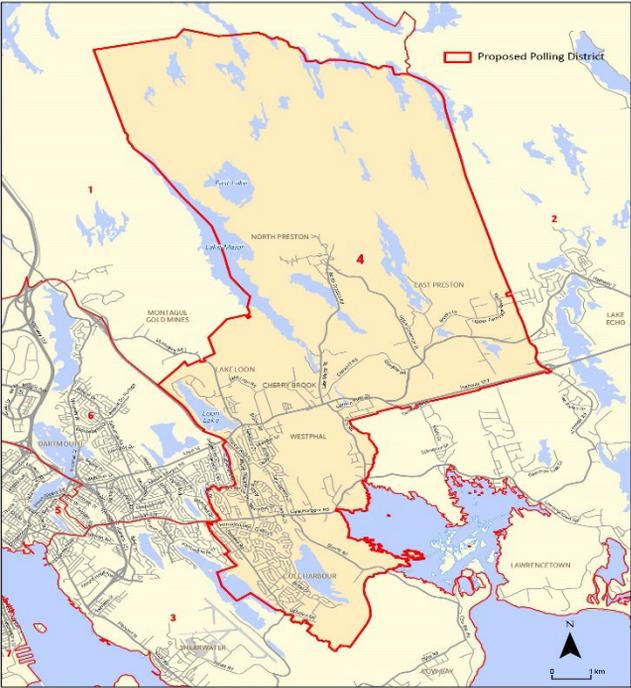
Elector Count: 25,326 (+8.9%)

Includes communities of: Cow Bay, Eastern Passage, Shearwater, Dartmouth (Woodside, Southdale)

Changes from existing District 3:

- Removes the portion of the Woodlawn area of Dartmouth north of Portland Street that was in the existing district to keep Woodlawn together as a community of interest
- Includes North Woodside and Southdale neighbourhoods of Dartmouth

Recommended District 4



Prepared by HRM GIS, November 2022

Recommended District 4

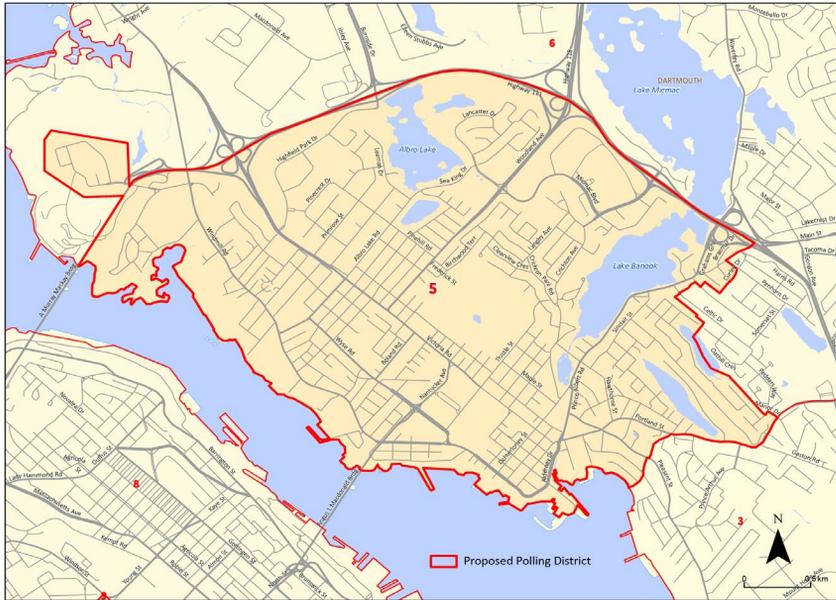
Elector Count: 22,887 (-1.6%)

Includes communities of: North Preston, East Preston, Cherry Brook, Lake Loon, Westphal, Cole Harbour

Changes from existing District 4:

- Includes the communities of East Preston and North Preston, to unite them with other historical African Nova Scotian communities of Cherry Brook and Lake Loon in this district. This change was supported in the feedback provided by the public.

Recommended District 5



Prepared by HRM GIS, November 2022

Recommended District 5

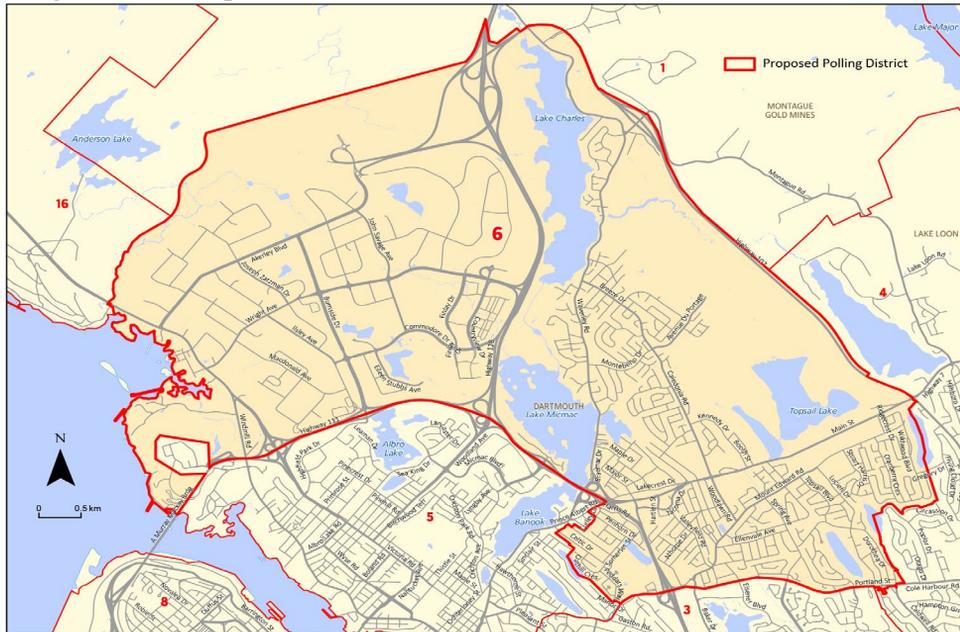
Elector Count: 25, 684 (+10.4%)

Includes communities of Dartmouth (within the Regional Centre)

Changes from existing District 5:

- Removes the areas of Woodside, Southdale, Penhorn, and Manor Park to maintain voter parity in this district and proposed Districts 3 and 6. Public feedback indicated that the Manor Park area is similar to residential communities on the other side of Highway 111.
- Includes North Dartmouth, Highfield Park, Shannon Park, and the Princess Margaret Blvd areas, keeping these areas together with other central Dartmouth neighbourhoods and following the Regional Centre Plan boundary

Recommended District 6



Prepared by HRM GIS, November 2022

Recommended District 6

Elector Count: 23,006 (-1.1%)

Includes communities of Dartmouth and a small portion of Waverley

Changes from existing District 6:

- Includes Lake Charles/Craigburn Drive area south of Highway 107, as public feedback indicated this area identified more with Dartmouth, rather than Waverley/Fall River
- Includes all of Woodlawn to keep it together as a community of interest
- Removes North Dartmouth, Highfield Park, Shannon Park, and the Princess Margaret Blvd areas to keep these areas together with other parts of central Dartmouth in proposed District 5, following the Regional Centre Plan Boundary
- Includes the areas of Penhorn and Manor Park to maintain voter parity in this district. Public feedback also indicated that the Manor Park area is similar to residential communities on the other side of Highway 111.

Recommended District 7



Prepared by HRM GIS, November 2022

Recommended District 7

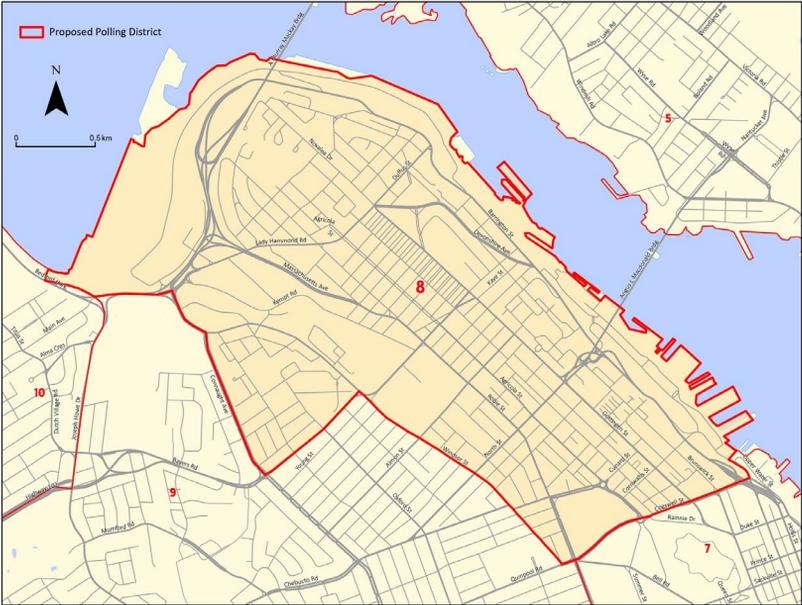
Elector Count: 23,716 (+1.9%)

Includes communities of Halifax (South End)

Changes from existing District 7:

- Removes the area bounded by Quinpool Road, Robie Street, Jubilee Road, and Oxford Street. Although public feedback indicated this area might ideally be included in this district, this change was needed to maintain voter parity among districts.
- Removes the area bounded by Cornwallis Street, the Halifax Harbour, Cogswell Street, and the Halifax Citadel. This was based on this area being part of the North End community of interest, as opposed to downtown, and was supported by the public through the engagement process.

Recommended District 8



Prepared by HRM GIS, November 2022

Recommended District 8

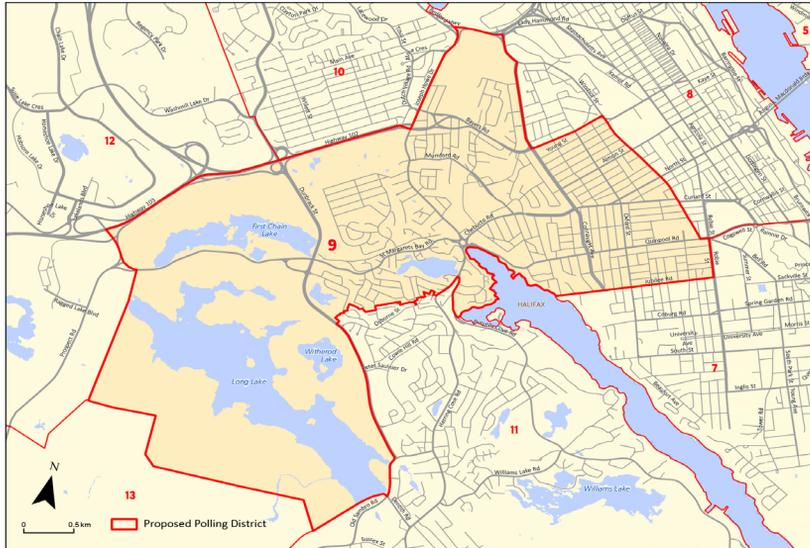
Elector Count: 21,655 (-6.9%)

Includes communities of: Halifax (North End)

Changes from existing District 8:

- Includes the area bounded by Cornwallis Street, the Halifax Harbour, Cogswell Street, and the Halifax Citadel. This was based on this area being part of the North End community of interest, as opposed to downtown, and was supported by the public through the engagement process.
- Removes the area bounded by Windsor Street, Quinpool Road, Oxford Street, and Bayers Road, to keep the West End together as a community of interest.

Recommended District 9



Prepared by HRM GIS, November 2022

Recommended District 9

Elector Count: 23,087 (-0.8%)

Includes communities of Halifax (West End, part of Armdale)

Changes from existing District 9:

- Includes the area bounded by Windsor Street, Quinpool Road, Robie Street, Jubilee Road, Oxford Street, and Bayers Road to keep the West End together as a community of interest.
- Includes part of Long Lake Provincial Park; public feedback indicated concern with this park being represented in a single district, and this proposed boundary splits the park (if not the lake itself) between all surrounding proposed districts (9, 11, 12 and 13).
- Removes Cowie Hill and Jollimore areas to keep them with Spryfield in the proposed District 11 as a community of interest.

Recommended District 10



Prepared by HRM GIS, November 2022

Recommended District 10

Elector Count: 22,950 (-1.3%)

Includes communities of: Halifax (Clayton Park, Rockingham, Fairview, part of Bedford West)

Changes from existing District 10:

- Adjusted slightly to exclude properties off Hogan Court, so that street can stay within one district, following the Halifax community boundary

Recommended District 11

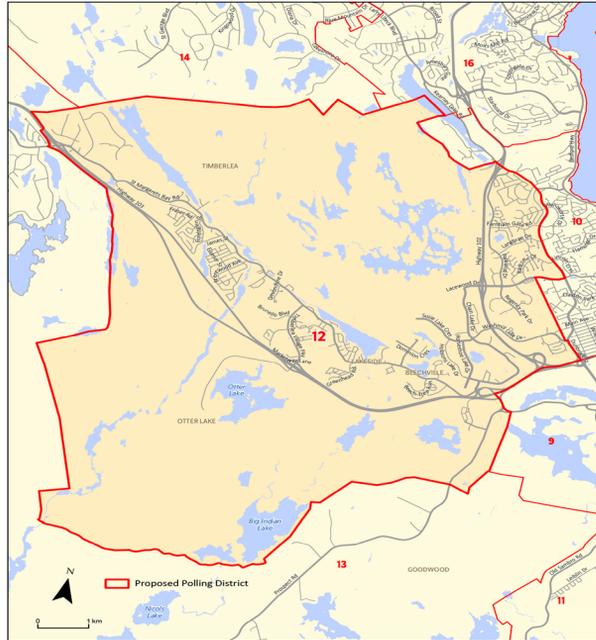
Elector Count: 24,258 (+4.3%)

Includes communities of Halifax (Cowie Hill, Spryfield), Fergusons Cove, Herring Cove, Halibut Bay, Bear Cove, Portuguese Cove, Duncans Cove, Ketch Harbour, Bald Rock, Sambro Head, Sambro, Sambro Creek, Williamswood, West Pennant, East Pennant, Harrietsfield

Changes from existing District 11:

- Includes Cowie Hill and Jollimore areas to keep them with Spryfield as a community of interest.
- Includes only the communities accessed via the Herring Cove Road, Purcells Cove Road, and Old Sambro Road (from Halifax to West Pennant along the coast) due to their shared infrastructure and community similarities.
- Removes communities accessed via the Prospect Road (from Terence Bay to West Dover along the coast)

Recommended District 12



Prepared by HRM GIS, November 2022

Recommended District 12

Elector Count: 25,729 (+10.6%)

Includes communities of: Beechville, Lakeside, Timberlea, Otter Lake, Halifax (Clayton Park West, Bayers Lake)

Changes from existing District 12:

- Includes the area around Ragged Lake so that it can be included as part of the historic Beechville area with the rest of the community
- Includes the Shel Drake Lake area to the west of Highway 103 to keep this neighbourhood together with other parts of Timberlea

Recommended District 13

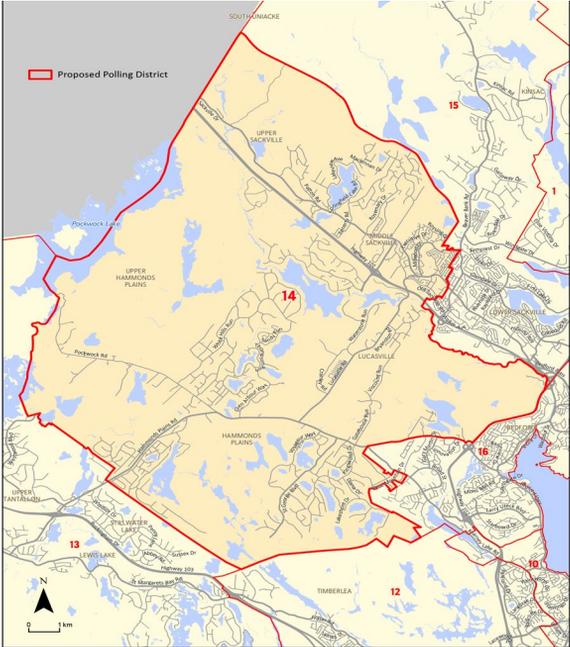
Elector Count: 20,354 (-12.5%)

Includes communities around St. Margarets Bay as far east as Terence Bay along the coast, including but not limited to Goodwood, Hubley, Peggys Cove, Upper Tantallon, and Hubbards

Changes from existing District 13:

- Includes the communities accessed via the Prospect Road (from Terence Bay to West Dover along the coast), due to their shared infrastructure and community similarities.
- Removes the communities of Upper Hammonds Plains, Hammonds Plains, and Lucasville in order to keep Upper Hammonds Plains and Lucasville together as historic African Nova Scotian communities in the proposed District 14.

Recommended District 14



Prepared by HRM GIS, November 2022

Recommended District 14

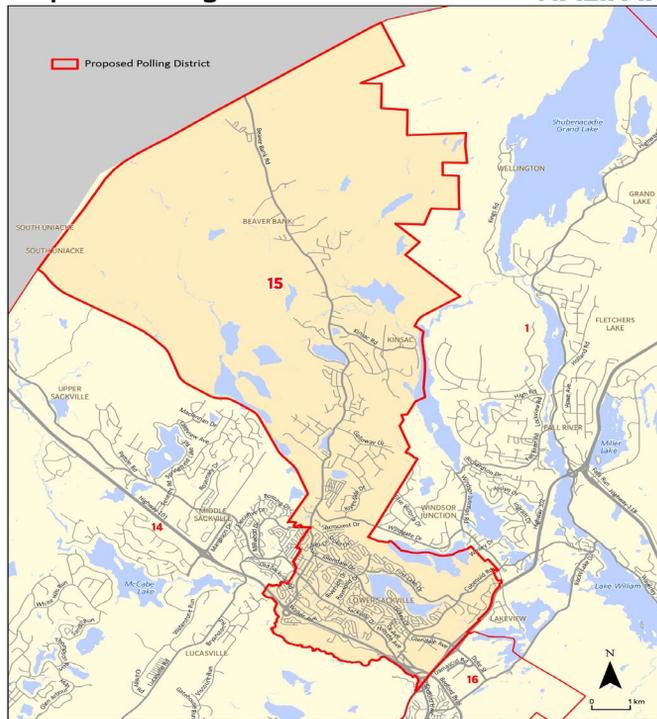
Elector Count: 23,148 (-0.5%)

Includes communities of Upper Sackville, Middle Sackville, Lucasville, Hammonds Plains, Upper Hammonds Plains

Changes from existing District 14:

- Includes the communities of Upper Hammonds Plains and Lucasville, to keep these historic African Nova Scotian communities in one district
- Includes the community of Hammonds Plains as a community of interest similar to the other communities included.
- Includes Sandy Lake Regional Park, using Highway 102 as a natural boundary between this district and Bedford.
- Removes Bedford West sub-areas 7 and 8 to keep them together with the remainder of Bedford West in another district
- Removes the community of Beaver Bank and Kinsac to keep them with Lower Sackville in the proposed District 15 as these communities are similar and have common transportation connections, which was supported by public feedback.

Recommended District 15



Recommended District 15

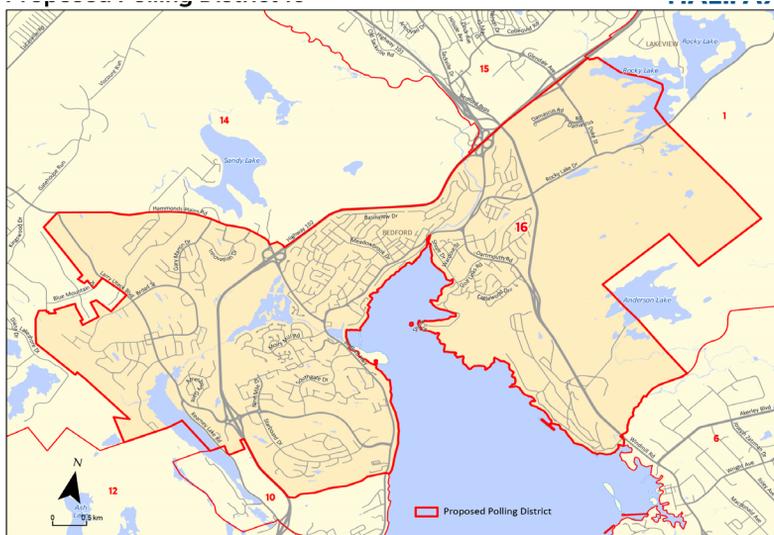
Elector Count: 24,943 (+7.2%)

Includes communities of: Lower Sackville, Beaver Bank, Kinsac

Changes from existing District 15:

- Includes the community of Beaver Bank and Kinsac to keep them with Lower Sackville, as these communities are similar and have common transportation connections, which was supported by public feedback.

Proposed District 16



Prepared by HRM GIS, November 2022

Recommended District 16

Elector Count: 27,033 (16.2%)

Includes communities of: Bedford, Halifax (Wentworth, Bedford South)

Changes from existing District 16:

- Removes Sandy Lake Regional Park, using Highway 102 as a natural boundary of this district
- Includes Bedford West sub-areas 7 and 8 with the remainder of Bedford West
- Includes previously undeveloped properties off Hogan Court, so that street can stay within one district, following the Bedford community boundary

Population and Electors

District	Population (2021)	Number of electors (2021)	+/- 10 percent variance for voter parity
1	20,580	17,702	-23.9%
2	24,325	20,726	-10.9%
3	29,065	25,326	8.9%
4	26,560	22,887	-1.6%
5	29,682	25,684	10.4%
6	26,822	23,006	-1.1%
7	26,571	23,716	1.9%

Total Population 2021 Census	Total number of Electors 2021
440,072	372,205

Proposed District	Population (2021)	Number of Electors (2021)	Voter Parity variance +/- 10 %
8	24,334	21,655	-6.9%
9	26,735	23,087	-0.08%
10	28,883	22,950	-1.3%
11	29,699	24,258	4.3%
12	29,386	25,729	10.6%
13	24,141	20,354	-12.5%
14	28,575	23,148	-0.5%
15	28,390	24,943	7.2%
16	36,354	27,033	16.2%

Average Number of Electors	High Range +10%	Low Range -10%	Average Population per District
23,263	25,589	20,936	27,505

Recommendation

The District Boundary Resident Review Panel recommends, that to complete Phase Two of the 2022 District Boundary Review the Executive Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve the proposed polling district boundaries as set out in Attachments 1 and 3 of the report dated November 23, 2022 for submission to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.

Thank you

