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**Item No. 12.1.2**  
**Executive Standing Committee**  
**February 28, 2022**

**TO:** Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**



(Original Signed)

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** January 18, 2022

**SUBJECT:** 2022 District Boundary Review – Phase One

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## **ORIGIN**

The Municipal Government Act requires that HRM undertake a district boundary review every eight (8) years. Council is required to submit an application to the Board to confirm or to alter the number and boundaries of polling districts and the number of councillors by December 31, 2022.

December 14, 2021 motion of Halifax Regional Council to designate the Executive Standing Committee (ESC) to undertake Phase One of the District Boundary Review and bring forward a recommendation to Regional Council on or before May 31, 2022, with regard to the number of Municipal Polling Districts appropriate to regional decision making, including a Community Council governance structure for the HRM.

## **LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Section 364 of the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter:

Part XVI of the Municipal Government Act applies to the Municipality. 2008, c.39, s364

Part XVI of the Municipal Government Act:

369(1) In the year 1999, and in the year 2006 and every eight years thereafter the council shall conduct a study of the number and boundaries of polling districts in the municipality, their fairness and reasonableness and the number of councillors.

(2) After the study is completed and before the end of the year in which the study was conducted the council shall apply to the Board to confirm or to alter the number and boundaries of polling districts and the number of councillors.

**RECOMMENDATION ON PAGE 2**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Executive Standing Committee approve in principle the 2022 District Boundary Review Public Engagement process and timeline for Phase One as described in the discussion section and attachment three of this report.

## **BACKGROUND**

On December 14, 2021, Halifax Regional Council approved a motion confirming the two phased study approach to the 2022 District Boundary Review process as recommended by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB). Phase One is intended to review the Council Governance and provide rationale for the number of polling districts for the HRM. Once a recommendation on the size of Regional Council has been developed, Phase Two will look at polling district boundaries across the municipality. Both phases of the study will require public consultation and must consider the number of electors, relative parity of voting power, population density, community of interest and geographic size.

Phase One will require Council to consider the desired number of polling districts for the HRM. The NSUARB has indicated that this should include an evaluation of what is required for effective political management, effective representation, and accountability. As a part of the 2010/11 review a special committee of Council was struck. For the 2022, Regional Council has designated the Executive Standing Committee to undertake this part of the review. The role of Executive Standing Committee in Phase One will be:

- Advise on the strengths, challenges and opportunities of the existing governance model for Regional Council,
- Provide direction and confirmation on public engagement activities as well as required information for evaluation,
- Participate in the public engagement sessions,
- Receive “what we heard” reports from phase one of public engagement and provide feedback prior to a formal submission to Regional Council,
- Provide a recommendation, based on public consultation, to Regional Council on the recommended number of polling districts on or before May 31, 2022.

It is important to note that work on both phases of the study is being done concurrently.

## **DISCUSSION**

Phase One of the District Boundary Review requires Regional Council review the existing governance model for Regional Council. The NSUARB has indicated:

*“Determining the size of council involves the consideration of the desired style of Council, the governance structure of Council, and a determination of an effective and efficient number of councillors. The style of government is a question which should not be decided by council until adequate public consultation has occurred respecting the expectation of its constituents. The size of council and its governance structure is a matter which can then be determined by Council in an informed debate.”*

### **Governance Structure**

The *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter* (HRM Charter) is provincial legislation that provides the governance framework for the Municipality. All other municipalities in Nova Scotia are governed by the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA). The HRM Charter adopts some entire parts of the MGA (including Part XVI – Boundaries) by reference.

Sections 8 and 9 of the HRM Charter establish the minimum requirements for the size of Council and representation for each polling district:

### **Government of Municipality**

- 8 (1) The Municipality is governed by a Council consisting of at least three members.
- (2) One councillor shall be elected for each polling district in the Municipality.

### **Election of Mayor**

- 9 (1) The Mayor shall be elected at large.
- (2) Every person eligible to vote for a councillor is eligible to vote for the Mayor.

The Mayor is elected at large, and one councilor is elected for each polling district. Since 2012, the Halifax Regional Municipality has been comprised of sixteen (16) electoral districts which are represented by sixteen (16) Councillors, and a Mayor that is elected at large.

The HRM Charter gives Council discretion in how it conducts its affairs, including granting Council the authority to establish Community Councils, Standing Committees, and Advisory Committees, and to assign certain duties to them.

### Community Councils

Sections 24 and 25 of the HRM Charter provide Council with the authority to establish Community Councils and the powers and duties which may be assigned to them. These general duties include monitoring the provision of services and making recommendations with respect to services and making recommendations to Council on community matters. Currently, Council has established four community Councils, each consisting of five (5) to six (6) districts:

- North West Community Council (Polling Districts 1,13,14,15,16)
- Harbour East – Marine Drive Community Council (Poling Districts 2,3,4,5,6)
- Halifax and West Community Council (Polling Districts 7,8,9,10,11,12)
- Regional Centre Community Council (Polling Districts 5,6,7,8,9)

In *Administrative Order 48, Respecting the Creation of Community Councils*, Council has delegated certain authorities to Community Councils in accordance with sections 30 and 31 of the HRM Charter, including the ability to:

1. hear variance appeals and site-plan appeals;
2. approve development agreements and amendments to development agreements where the applicable municipal planning strategy provides for it;
3. amend a land use by-law if the amendment carries out the intent of the municipal planning strategy.

In its exercise of these three powers, Community Council stands in the place of Regional Council.

### Standing, Special and Advisory Committees

Section 21 of the HRM Charter gives Council the ability to create standing, special and advisory committees. In 2012, Halifax Regional Council created a Standing Committee system and reporting structure for each of its associated advisory Committees. The Standing Committee structure was adopted out of several governance reviews dating back to the amalgamation of the former municipal units of Dartmouth, Halifax, Bedford, and Halifax County in 1996.

In moving to a Standing Committee structure, Council cited the need to reduce the number and complexity of advisory committees, improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Council decision making, bring strategic council focus to well defined policy and program areas, fill in policy development gaps, and provide accountability and oversight to advisory committees. Their main objective is to monitor current program delivery, service levels, emerging issues, recommending policy and program changes to Council, and

providing a forum for public participation<sup>1</sup>. Currently, there are six Standing Committees comprised of six or seven members of Regional Council. They are as follows:

- Appeals Standing Committee.
- Audit and Finance Standing Committee.
- Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee.
- Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.
- Executive Standing Committee.
- Transportation Standing Committee.

The schedules to Administrative Order One set out the mandate of each standing committee. Except for the Appeals Standing Committee, standing committees generally provide advice to Council on matters within their mandate. Standing Committees are enabled to request staff reports that align with their respective mandates. This allows the Standing Committee to provide policy and program advice to Council. Standing Committees are used to review and deliberate on items within their mandates and forward a recommendation to Council for its consideration. This is intended to make the decision-making process more efficient and provide more opportunity for community engagement within the decision-making process. In 2015, Council gave Standing Committees the authority to include public participation at each regularly scheduled meeting allowing for further citizen engagement. Standing Committees often hear presentations from public organizations, citizen groups and other orders of government on matters within their terms of reference.

In addition to Community Council(s) and Standing Committees, Halifax Regional Council has twenty (20) internal advisory committees which provide specific advice to Regional Council on certain municipal policy areas. Generally, these advisory committees report directly to Standing Committees except in some instances where otherwise specified by Council. The membership of advisory committees can be entirely citizen-based or they can be comprised of both citizens and members of Regional Council. Attachment 1 of this report provides an overview of Halifax Regional Council's current governance structure including Community Council, Standing, and Advisory Committees.

Since the amalgamation of the former municipal units in 1996, Halifax Regional Council has taken an evolutionary approach with respect to its governance structure through successive reviews to establish a system that strives to maximize efficiency and allow for informed decision making at both a local and regional level. The public engagement process for Phase One of the review should therefore focus on gathering measurable data from the public and Council on how the current Standing Committee and Community Council structure is working and what changes or improvements should be considered to make it more effective.

### **Aspects of Review**

During this review there may be governance aspects identified that are not in the jurisdiction of the NSUARB. The NSUARB does not have jurisdiction to amend legislation that rests with the Provincial Legislature of Nova Scotia including the HRM Charter, the Municipal Elections Act (MEA) or the MGA. This includes such things as voter eligibility and Councillor nomination requirements. Past Councils have identified governance priorities that, although they are not in the jurisdiction of the NSUARB, are potential opportunities for legislative change. The NSUARB has indicated that while these items may be a priority to Regional Council formal submissions should be focused on the requirements of the NSUARB. This is evidenced in the 2011 decision of the NSUARB when evaluating the Community Council governance structure proposed in the 2010 District Boundary Review application:

*[190] Further, various presenters at the evening session suggested that the community councils would benefit from residents serving on the councils. Currently, only councillors are permitted under*

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<sup>1</sup> November 5, 2009 staff report re: Committees of Council Reform  
<https://legacycontent.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/documents/101012cow3n.pdf>

*the Act to be members of community councils.*

*[191] As noted earlier in its Decision, the Board recognizes the important role of community councils. The Board has concluded that the present requirements for community councils can be accommodated in a council size of 16.*

*[192] In the view of the Board, the authority conferred upon community councils is a policy matter to be determined by the Province, not the Board.<sup>2</sup>*

Additionally, when hearing from interveners in 2011 respecting the distinct urban/rural nature of the Halifax Regional Municipality, the NSUARB was consistent in that it would not consider matters outside of its jurisdiction:

*[194] Mr. Mills testified that, in his view, the present urban/rural makeup of HRM is not workable. He described various examples which he believed demonstrated the incompatible tasks of administering both urban and rural areas. In his opinion, the root causes of the problem lie in the sheer size of the regional municipality and HRM's inability to meet the expectations of rural residents who, Mr. Mills says, request the same level of services as residents in the urban core.*

*[195] While he recognized the Board's lack of jurisdiction in this respect, Mr. Mills urged the Board to comment on the issue in its Decision and make a recommendation to the Province to divide the Municipality.*

*[196] As noted above, Mr. Novack also intimated that a significant challenge facing HRM is its large geographic size and diversity, leading to a wide "array of divergent interests".*

*[197] Clearly, the issue raised by Mr. Mills is outside the Board's jurisdiction. Further, even if it were inclined to consider Mr. Mills' request, the evidence in this hearing does not clearly lead to the desirability of Mr. Mills intended result. Moreover, the public did not have notice that this issue would be discussed in this hearing and there may be other views in the community about the issue. This was not the purpose of the hearing. In the circumstances, the Board considers it appropriate to make no comment on the issue.<sup>3</sup>*

Currently, the only formal direction provided by Regional Council on these items from a previous review is with respect to including permanent residents on the list of electors and allowing permanent residents to run as candidates in municipal elections. A formal request for legislative amendments to the *Municipal Elections Act* was approved by motion of Council on December 2, 2014.

*"The Province has indicated it viewed the ability to vote as inseparable from the ability to nominate candidates and run in elections. The question of permanent resident voting was considered, at various stages, of the administrative review of the elections process which took place from February to May 2019. Although there were several discussions, the Municipal Elections Review Advisory Committee did not recommend amendments to the Municipal Elections Act at this time to allow permanent residents to vote, nominate, and run. The Committee pointed out that it would require significant revisions to other sections of the Municipal Elections Act, including changes to the voter identification requirements and election processes. As the committee was comprised of administrators, most proposed amendments were administrative in nature. The Committee's recommendations are with the Minister for review."<sup>4</sup>*

The district boundary application to the NSUARB should reflect existing legislation, and not assume any future amendments. The public engagement process for Phase One of the District Boundary Review should focus on changes with respect to size of Council and the governance structure currently permitted under the legislative framework. However, the public engagement process for the boundary review may identify items that Council wishes to provide direction on for in the future. Staff will document these items when identified and return to the Executive Standing Committee at a future meeting with a report on their status and how to move them forward.

<sup>2</sup> 2011 NSUARB 119, <https://www.canlii.org/en/ns/nsuarb/doc/2011/2011nsuarb119/2011nsuarb119.html>, section 190-192.

<sup>3</sup> 2011 NSUARB 119, <https://www.canlii.org/en/ns/nsuarb/doc/2011/2011nsuarb119/2011nsuarb119.html>, section 194-197.

<sup>4</sup> August 8, 2019 In Camera (In Private) staff report re: Legislative Requests Update – Spring 2019 pp.5

<https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hal/regional-council/190917ic-i01.pdf> (Declassified October 22, 2019)

### Current Population and Number of Electors

An assessment of the current/projected District Boundaries has been completed (Attachment 2). This includes the current population of the HRM and an analysis between the districts when compared to the requirements of the NSUARB; as well as the projected voter population by 2024. Population and population growth are important factors of this for both phases of the District Boundary Review. The NUSARB requires “that the target variance for relative parity of voting power should be  $\pm 10\%$  from the average number of electors per polling district or ward. The municipality or town must justify any variance exceeding this target in its application to the Board. The larger the proposed variance, the greater the burden on the municipal unit to justify the higher variance from the average number of electors. Factors that may support higher variances include the need to accommodate population density, community of interest or geographic size”.<sup>5</sup>

At the time of the 2010 review, HRM’s total population was 372,679<sup>6</sup>. This shows that since the 2010 review, the HRM has grown by 70,410 residents to a total of 443,089. Attachment Two (2) provides an overview of the current number of electors per district, and the projected number of electors by 2024. It is important to note that this information was compiled using data from the 2016 Census. Due to the timing of the Federal Budget release, the 2021 Census data is still being assessed by staff to determine a *district by district* comparison on the current population and number of electors. Staff will present updated numbers which incorporates this information once they have been made available from Statistics Canada. It is anticipated that this demographic information will be provided to staff in late April or early May. In terms of general population data as of 2021, the Halifax Regional Municipality is in the top six (6) of the 25 largest municipalities in Canada with a 9.1% population growth rate from 2016-2021. Downtown Halifax’s downtown population is the fastest growing in Canada (26.1%). In terms of population distribution, the Halifax Regional Municipality is as follows<sup>7</sup>:

Regional Centre (<10 mins from downtown)	Suburban (10-30 mins from downtown)	Rural (>30 mins from downtown)
33.6%	46.9%	19.5%

### Phase One Engagement

The overall objective for Phase One of the District Boundary Review is to obtain direction on the size of Regional Council and its governance model. To achieve this, staff have developed a draft public engagement process to assist the Executive Standing Committee in gathering the necessary information to make an informed recommendation to Halifax Regional Council on Phase One of the study.

The NSUARB requires that municipalities solicit feedback from the public that will determine the size of council, the governance structure of Council, and to determine an effective and efficient number of councillors. The public engagement approach undertaken in 2010 outlined several scenarios with specific numbers of residents and the Councillors required to represent them. Members of the public were asked to provide their feedback on what they thought was the proper size of Council and number of Councillors. Additionally, the survey questions and public information meetings focused on the Community Council governance structure and solicited information on whether Community Councils should be given more authority to deal with local issues and increase public participation in the decision-making process.

As a part of the 2011 NSUARB decision the following feedback was provided by the Board in determining the size of Council:

<sup>5</sup> NSUARB Municipal Boundaries User Guide - [https://nsuarb.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/NSUARB-%23289533-v1-Municipal Boundaries User Guide Dec2021\\_0.pdf](https://nsuarb.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/NSUARB-%23289533-v1-Municipal%20Boundaries%20User%20Guide%20Dec2021_0.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> 2011 NSUARB 119, <https://www.canlii.org/en/ns/nsuarb/doc/2011/2011nsuarb119/2011nsuarb119.html> section 116.

<sup>7</sup> HRM Planning and Development 2022/23 Budget & Business Plan Presentation - <https://cdn.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/220218bc07pres.pdf>, page 12.

[77] In determining a size of council, Dr. Williams considered three elements: the capacity of the council to provide effective political management, effective representation, and accountability. For the first element, he elaborated as follows:

*Research in social psychology hypothesizes that size is a significant factor in influencing the "quality" of decision-making since, in general, there is a trade-off between efficiency (more likely in smaller bodies) and full availability of alternatives (more likely in larger ones).*

*An application in support of a regional council of a specific size should articulate the governance style the council itself wishes to practice and should provide consistent or conclusive research evidence in support of the appropriateness of that model to the municipality and to a council of a certain size. ... How much material must councillors review and understand before participating in council decision-making? How much casework is directed to councillors?*

[78] This was not addressed in the application, as Dr. Williams elaborated:

*If you're going to talk about how well the system works, and that's where you start; you've got 23, does it still work. Is it still sustainable or do we go elsewhere, you need to collect that information in some -- ideally, some verifiable fashion over a period of time to be able to say. As we heard from several councillors, "I'm run off my feet. I can't handle anymore. It would be terrible," and others saying, "Oh yeah, sure." Or the Chamber and others saying, "Oh yeah, we can easily drop seven or eight people and it wouldn't affect workload." I don't know who to believe because I don't have evidence.<sup>8</sup>*

With respect to governance, the Board provided the following feedback from the 2011 decision of the NSUARB:

[69] *Dr. Williams found that the work of the committee did not ask the appropriate questions to encourage the uncovering of information, prompt discussion and allow for thoughtful retrospection on how Regional Council should work. Such an analysis, even if partially done, would have achieved the purposes of s. 369 of the Act (NSUARB recommended study)*

*The review committee's report did not look at complementary initiatives to make the present structure work better both as a decision-making body and as a representative institution. Nor did the review demonstrate how a smaller council can better achieve these two objectives. For example, the capacity of an elected council - larger or smaller - to give residents "a voice in the deliberations of government" through "more effective methods of garnering and considering the input of residents" ... is not incorporated into the application at all.<sup>9</sup>*

#### i. Survey

Staff are proposing the development of a survey during the public engagement for Phase One. The survey will be concise and will request input from residents across HRM respecting the size of Council and the effectiveness of the current Standing Committee and Community Council structure required to represent the populace effectively. The NSUARB, in its 2011 decision provided the following commentary respecting the size of Council:

[111] *While the Board is mindful that HRM adopted a means of public consultation similar to that used by HRM for other municipal issues (i.e., public meetings), the Board concludes that it effectively removed the relevant question from the discussion by its residents, i.e., the council size appropriate for HRM<sup>10</sup>.*

<sup>8</sup> 2011 NSUARB 119, <https://www.canlii.org/en/ns/nsuarb/doc/2011/2011nsuarb119/2011nsuarb119.html>, sections 77-78.

<sup>9</sup> 2011 NSUARB 119, <https://www.canlii.org/en/ns/nsuarb/doc/2011/2011nsuarb119/2011nsuarb119.html>, section 69.

<sup>10</sup> 2011 NSUARB 119, <https://www.canlii.org/en/ns/nsuarb/doc/2011/2011nsuarb119/2011nsuarb119.html>, section 69.

This survey will be conducted by Narrative Research who have specialized expertise in developing public engagement surveys and analyzing the data that is collected.

The survey will run concurrently with the proposed public participation meetings hosted by HRM's Community Councils. The information report and staff presentation provided at the public participation meetings will be made available to respondents and they will be encouraged to review the material in advance of completing the survey.

Draft survey questions are being developed with Narrative staff and can incorporate feedback provided by the Executive Standing Committee. Staff are intending on providing the draft survey questions to a Executive Standing Committee at a special meeting in March 2022.

**ii. Public Participation Meetings hosted by Community Council**

Public participation meetings related to phase one of the District Boundary review will take place at all Community Council meetings in March and early April of 2022. The public participation meeting format will be similar to that of public information meetings hosted by a Planning Advisory Committee. Staff will provide a presentation and submit an information report on the Phase One study parameters. This information will be publicly available in advance of the meeting via the Community Council agenda page. Speakers will then be given five minutes to address Community Council on the size of Regional and the effectiveness of its Community Council and Standing Committee governance model. Community Councils will be tasked with listening to the feedback from residents. The information provided at these meetings will be recorded on video, through meeting minutes and captured by the external public engagement specialists to be included in the "what we heard" report.

The public engagement meetings hosted by Community Councils will be advertised in local newspapers, on halifax.ca and through the Municipality's social media accounts. Staff are anticipating that the public engagement meetings will take place between March 21 and April 4, 2022 and that additional or special meetings of some Community Councils may be required to achieve this timeline.

**iii. Interviews with Councillors**

Members of Council will be interviewed to determine their thoughts on the size of Council and the current governance model. With assistance from Narrative Research, a list of standardized questions will be produced and interviews with members of Council and the Mayor will be scheduled. The engagement questions will be similar to those provided in the public survey and will focus on the strengths, challenges and opportunities of the existing governance model and size of Council from a Councillor's perspective. As part of the 2011 NSUARB decision the following feedback was provided by the Board:

*[71] Dr. Williams stated that if he were asked to conduct a study he would have incorporated, as a start, the five questions asked by the UK Electoral Commission.*

- 1) Roles and responsibilities of the councillor.*
- 2) Allocation of councillor time.*
- 3) Council size and efficiency and effectiveness.*
- 4) Council characteristics.*
- 5) Members per ward and councillor workload.<sup>11</sup>*

Staff are recommending that the interview questions, and the public engagement activities incorporate elements of the five questions articulated by Dr. Williams. It is anticipated that these interviews will be conducted from mid-March to early April 2022 and the data collected will be used to inform the "what we heard" report.

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<sup>11</sup> 2011 NSUARB 119, <https://www.canlii.org/en/ns/nsuarb/doc/2011/2011nsuarb119/2011nsuarb119.html> , section 75.



**iv. Correspondence**

The Municipal Clerk's Office will receive correspondence from members of the public on Phase One of the 2022 District Boundary Review. This correspondence will be collected through the [clerks@halifax.ca](mailto:clerks@halifax.ca) mailbox and processed by staff in the municipal Clerk's Office. This correspondence will be shared with members of the Executive Standing Committee and provided to the third-party engagement specialists for analysis in the "what we heard" report.

**v. Executive Standing Committee**

Upon completion of the public engagement activities related to Phase One of the District Boundary Review in April 2022. With the assistance of external engagement specialists, the "what we heard" report will be developed and submitted to the Executive Standing Committee for its consideration and recommendation to Halifax Regional. Staff are proposing that this meeting of the Executive Standing Committee be open to all members of Regional Council to participate in the discussion before the Phase One recommendation is forwarded to Regional Council and that Committee of the Whole rules apply to the debate on the matter. The Executive Standing Committee has a public participation component on each regular meeting agenda allowing further opportunity for the public to engage prior to debate on the final recommendation at Regional Council.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Staff will require the services of a third-party public engagement firm to conduct the public engagement activities related to Phase One of the 2022 Municipal District Boundary project. The amount of \$100,000 has been included in the proposed 2022/2023 operational budget in A125 – 6399 (Elections – Contract Services). Funding from reserve account Q511 - Election Reserve is included in 2022/23 reserve budget.

Staff have awarded Narrative Research Associates with a contract to develop a survey and assist with the collection and analysis of data from the public engagement activities related to Phase One. The cost for these services is \$35,353 net HST included. This funding is accounted for in the 2022/2023 operational budget, A125 – 6399 (Elections – Contract Services).

**RISK CONSIDERATION**

The District Boundary Review is a legislatively required action. Staff are recommending that Phase One of the District Boundary review project be complete on or before May 31, 2022 to ensure that the project remains on track to meet the NSUARB application deadline of December 31, 2022.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Phase One of the District Boundary Review will include a public engagement component. Staff are recommending the development of a Survey, four interactive public participation meetings hosted by each Community Council to gather public input on the size and governance model for Halifax Regional Council. The themes collected from this engagement will be captured in the "what we heard" reports, analyzed and used to inform the recommendation report to Regional Council on Phase One. Staff are recommending that a third-party public engagement specialist develop the survey, analyze the data collected and compile the "what we heard reports".

Staff are further recommending the development of a comprehensive communications plan for Phase One of the District Boundary Review project. This communications plan will advise and inform the public on the purpose of the District Boundary Review and how they can engage in the process in simple and accessible language. The Communications strategy will include print ads in media outlets across the municipality, a poster campaign, and graphic communications on HRM's digitalized screens. Additionally, information on

the District Boundary Review will be communicated through HRM's social media accounts and posted online at <https://www.halifax.ca/city-hall/elections/district-boundary-review>.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

No environmental implications were identified.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

The Executive Standing Committee could recommend amendments to the proposed public engagement process for Phase One of the District Boundary Review Project. This course of action may require further analysis by staff.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Governance Structure of the Halifax Regional Municipality
2. Population by District and Estimate Voters (2024)
3. Proposed timeline for Phase One of the District Boundary Review Study

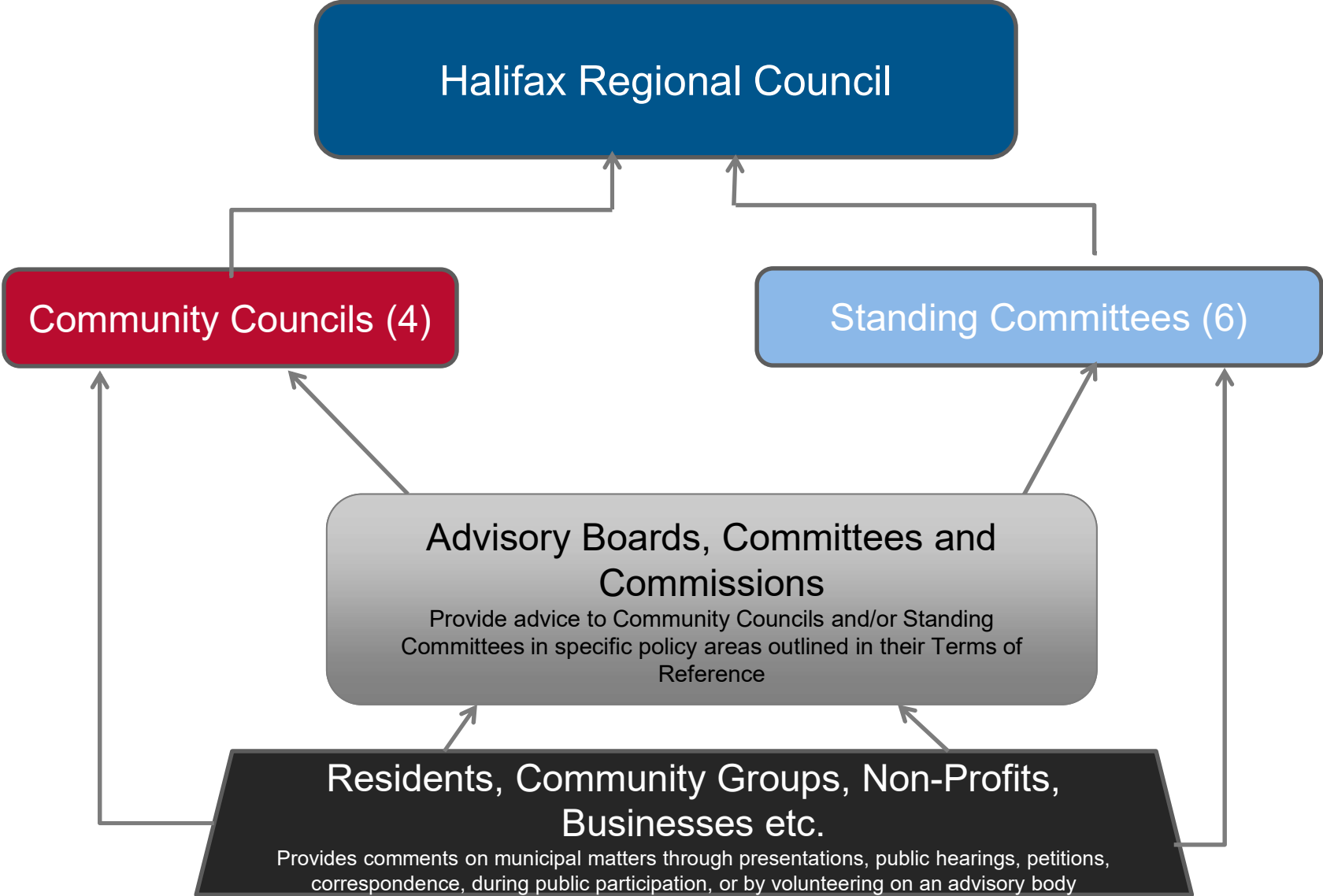
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A copy of this report can be obtained online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca) or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by:       Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk, 902.490.6456  
                                  Liam MacSween, Elections and Special Projects Manager, 902.233.5207

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# Governance Structure



**ATTACHMENT 2: POPULATION BY DISTRICT AND ESTIMATED VOTERS (2024)**

District	Population	Estimated Voter (2024)	Percentage Deviation
1	23685	19740	-15.5
2	27185	23315	-1.9
3	31384	26238	13.3
4	25963	21911	-7.2
5	29587	26195	0.7
6	26403	22667	-5.7
7	26997	25287	-3.5
8	29002	26123	4.7
9	29651	25444	7.1
10	27048	23420	-3.3
11	27605	23243	-0.7
12	30562	25844	10.4
13	28532	23128	3
14	25242	20534	-9.9
15	22480	19159	18.2
16	31763	26700	14.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>443089</b>	<b>378948</b>	
<b>DISTRICT AVERAGE</b>		<b>27693.0625</b>	

“The Environics 2020 enriched demographic data uses the 2016 Statistics Canada Census data as its base data. Demographic projections are based on comprehensive methodologies to determine current and future demographic populations. Environics Analytics is the owner of all enriched data and the data should not be available for distribution”

Current Voters (18 and over)			Voters 2024 (15 and up now)		
18772	0.837808964	0.162191036	19740	0.833465278	0.166534722
22297	0.995132456	0.004867544	23315	0.98440947	0.01559053
24475	1.09233829	-0.09233829	26238	1.10782482	-0.10782482
20909	0.933184936	0.066815064	21911	0.925129569	0.074870431
25167	1.123222788	-0.123222788	26195	1.106009268	-0.106009268
21651	0.966300973	0.033699027	22667	0.957049516	0.042950484
23432	1.045788389	-0.045788389	25287	1.067671554	-0.067671554
23942	1.068550085	-0.068550085	26123	1.102969273	-0.102969273
24121	1.076538995	-0.076538995	25444	1.074300432	-0.074300432
22462	1.002496534	-0.002496534	23420	0.988842796	0.011157204
22243	0.992722394	0.007277606	23243	0.981369475	0.018630525
24239	1.081805427	-0.081805427	25844	1.091189292	-0.091189292
21689	0.967996943	0.032003057	23128	0.976513928	0.023486072
19499	0.870255539	0.129744461	20534	0.866989666	0.133010334
18323	0.817769744	0.182230256	19159	0.808934207	0.191065793
25276	1.128087543	-0.128087543	26700	1.127331454	-0.127331454
<b>TOTAL: 358497</b>			<b>TOTAL: 378948</b>		
<b>DISTRICT AVERAGE: 22406.0625</b>			<b>DISTRICT AVERAGE: 23684.25</b>		

<b>TOTAL POPULATION</b>	<b>443,089</b>
Total Voters	378,948
Districts	16
Population/Dist.	27,693
Voters/Dist.	23,684
Above 10%	26,053
Below 10%	21,316

# District Boundary Review Timeline – Phase One



March 2022

March - April 2022

Mar 21 – Apr 4, 2022

April 5 - 30, 2022

May 23, 2022

May 31, 2022

**STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

Return to the Executive Standing Committee with draft survey and interview questions

**STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

Conduct individual interviews with members of Council on size of Council and Governance

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

Host public information meetings at Community Councils & Conduct Online Survey

**ANALYSIS**

Develop “what we heard report” based on data gathered from the public engagement

**EXECUTIVE STANDING COMMITTEE**

Debate report and forward recommendation on phase one to Regional Council

**REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Debate on ESC recommendation on phase one (Size of Council and Governance Structure)