



# City of Burlington

## Council Composition and Ward Boundary Review

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Introductory Council Presentation

October 7, 2024



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# Agenda



**Introduction to the  
2024 Council Composition and  
Ward Boundary Review**



**Focus on  
Burlington**



**Next Steps and  
Discussion**

# Key Questions



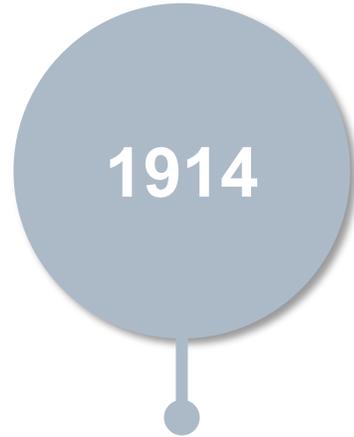
**Consider  
these  
Questions**



- How does the present electoral arrangement for the City of Burlington measure up?
- Do the current wards deliver **fair representation, conducive to good governance**?
- What are the **goals** of a Ward Boundary Review?
- Is the principle that all **local councillors are also regional councillors** still right for the City?
- What information does Council need to **make an informed decision**?

# How Did We Get Here?

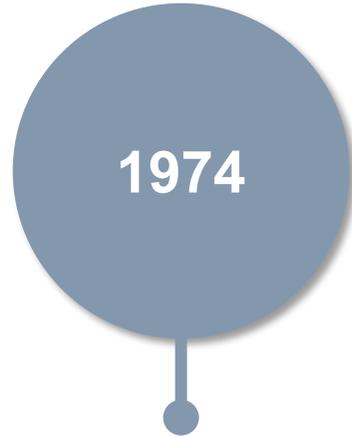
## Past and Present



### Town of Burlington

Wellington Square and Port Nelson merged to become the Village of Burlington (1873) which then became the Town of Burlington in 1914

1911 Population: ~1,831



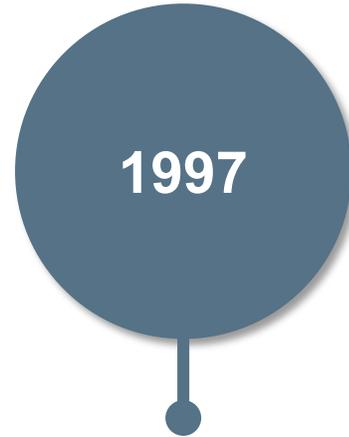
### City of Burlington

Electoral structure

**Mayor**  
*(elected at-large)*

**16 Aldermen**

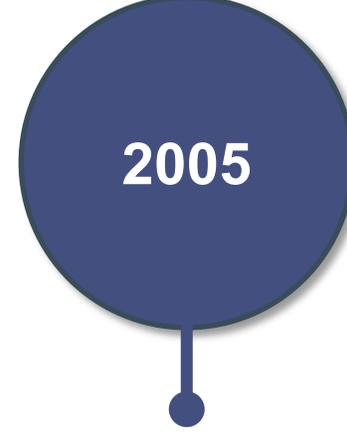
1971 Population: ~87,023



### Council Composition Review

Council size reduced to **6 Local & Regional Councillors** plus the **Mayor**

1996 Population: ~136,976



### Ward Boundary Review

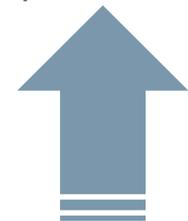
Six ward boundaries were re-drawn & the seven-member council maintained

2006 Population: ~164,415



### 2024 Council Composition and Ward Boundary Review

2021 Population: ~186,948



2024 COUNCIL COMPOSITION  
AND WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW



# 2024 Ward Boundary Review

## Why Undertake the Review?

Prepare Council to consider and discuss whether to maintain the existing council composition and ward boundaries or pursue an alternative arrangement.

## Objectives of the Review

### Fair Representation

Reviewing electoral arrangements can help ensure equal representation and give communities an equitable voice in decision-making processes.

### Consider Population and Demographic Changes

A review can align boundaries, reflect population shifts, and better serve evolving community distribution and interests.

### Improve Democracy

An independent review promotes transparency and accountability, bolstering trust in the democratic system, and increasing civic engagement.



## Website Materials and Interactive Tools

 Preliminary Options Map	 Preliminary Options Presentation	 Survey	 About
 Current Ward Boundaries	 Get Involved	 Background	 City Council

## Educational Videos



# 2024 Ward Boundary Review



## Legislative Basis

Ontario's *Municipal Act, 2001* authorizes a local municipality to:

Change the size of the Council

- Requirement that there be a minimum of five members, including the head of Council
- No appeal rights associated with executing this authority

Determine how Council (other than the Mayor) will be elected

- May be elected by general vote, wards, or any combination of a general vote and wards
- No appeal rights associated with executing this authority

Divide or re-divide the municipality into wards or dissolve the existing wards

- A by-law adopted by Council is subject to appeal rights

The *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* standardizes key elements:

- Date of elections
- Term of office
- Eligibility
- Counting of ballots



# 2024 Ward Boundary Review

## Guiding Principles



Overriding Principle of “Effective Representation”



Balancing the present and future population distribution among the wards



Respecting established neighbourhoods and communities (Communities of Interests)



Respecting geographical features and the defining natural and infrastructure boundaries



Three Terms of Council

# Focus on Burlington

## Population and Growth



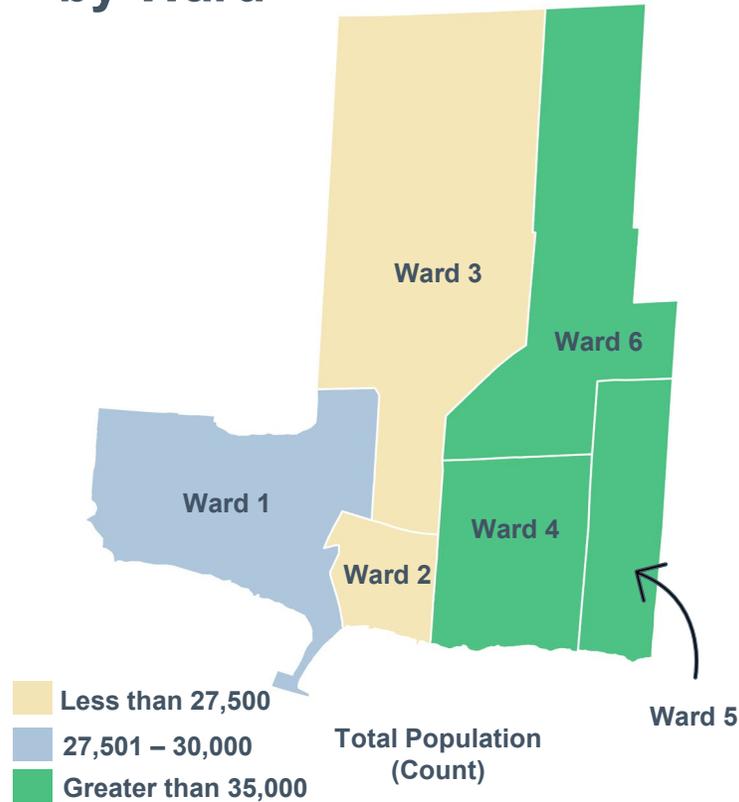
### Total Burlington Population



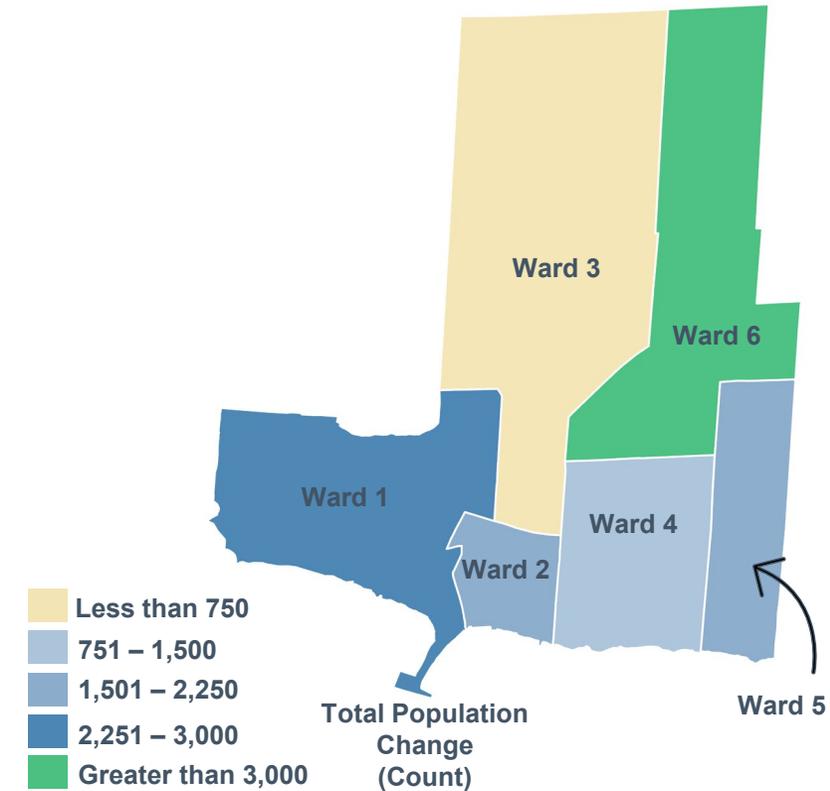
### 2011 – 2021 Total Burlington Population Change



### 2021 Total Population by Ward



### 2011-2021 Population Change by Ward

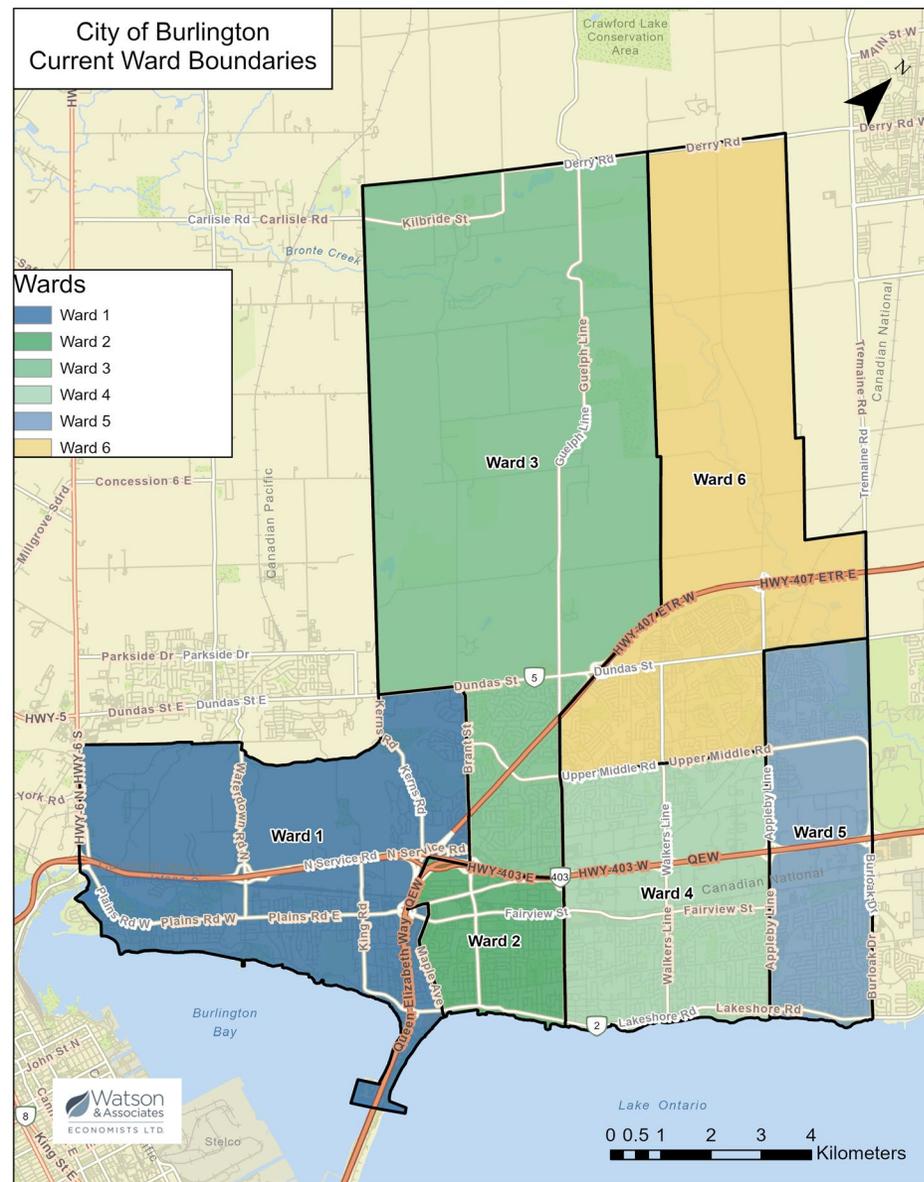


# Focus on Burlington

## 2021 Population by Ward

Ward	Area (SqKm)	2021		
		Population	Population Variance	Optimal Range
Ward 1	35.4	28,542	0.92	O-
Ward 2	8.2	26,785	0.86	O-
Ward 3	65.9	23,692	0.76	OR-
Ward 4	21.7	36,441	1.17	OR+
Ward 5	15.8	36,049	1.16	OR+
Ward 6	40.7	35,439	1.14	O+
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>187.7</b>	<b>186,948</b>	<b>31,158</b>	

O	±5% of the Optimal (Average) Population
O-	±5%-15% of the Optimal (Average) Population
OR-	>±15% of the Optimal (Average) Population



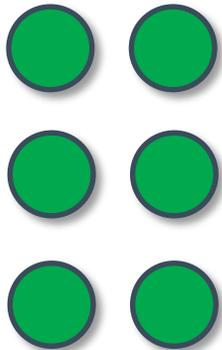
# Focus on Burlington

## Burlington Council Composition and Representation across Halton Region



### Mayor

Elected at-large as the head of Local Council and serves on Halton Regional Council



### 6 Ward Councillors

Elected by ward to serve on Local Council and serve on Halton Regional Council

\*Each Councillor also has a Deputy Mayor portfolio.

Municipality	2021 Population	Area (sq.km)	Council Members	Avg. Population per Member	By Ward or At-Large
Burlington	186,948	187.71	7 Total Members Mayor 6 Local & Regional Councillors	26,707	By Ward
Halton Hills	62,951	276.81	11 Total Members Mayor 8 Local Councillors 2 Regional Councillors	4,905	By Ward
Milton	132,979	363.83	9 Total Members Mayor 4 Local Councillors 4 Regional Councillors	14,775	By Ward
Oakville	213,759	138.94	15 Total Members Mayor 7 Local Councillors 7 Regional Councillors	14,251	By Ward
Average	149,159	241.82	11	15,159	-

# Focus On Burlington

## Composition of Council



- Burlington's City Council is unique in Ontario:
  - the six councillors (plus the Mayor) constitute the entire governing body for the City;
  - the six councillors (plus the Mayor) are all members of the governing body of a second municipality; and
  - the Mayor has assigned responsibilities to all six councillors to serve as a Deputy Mayor for particular "portfolios"
  - Council members also serve on a number of local and regional agencies, boards and commissions.

# Next Steps

## Project Timelines and Activities

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**Summer  
/Fall  
2024**

### **Information Collection**

Collect core review themes  
and key considerations

*Engage community and  
stakeholders*

**Today**

### **Introductory Presentation**

Introduce Consultant Team

Provide background  
information

Stimulate discussion

**Fall  
2024**

### **Reflection and Evaluation**

Reflect on collected  
information

Evaluate existing council  
composition and ward  
boundaries

Explore alternatives and  
provide Interim Report to  
Council

**Winter/  
Spring  
2025**

### **Recommendations and Report**

*Engage community and  
interested parties*

Present alternative ward  
boundary options

Prepare and deliver Final  
Report & recommendations  
to Council

# Population Parity Example

FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

## 6 Wards

Ward	2021		
	Population	Population Variance	Optimal Range
Ward 1	32,595	1.05	○
Ward 2	31,671	1.02	○
Ward 3	32,703	1.05	○
Ward 4	31,543	1.01	○
Ward 5	29,285	0.94	○-
Ward 6	29,151	0.94	○-
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>186,948</b>	<b>31,158</b>	

○	±5% of the Optimal (Average) Population
○-	±5%-15% of the Optimal (Average) Population
OR-	>±15% of the Optimal (Average) Population

