



City of Burlington

Council Composition and Ward Boundary Review

Introductory Council Presentation

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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



1914

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

1974

City of Burlington

Electoral structure

Mayor
(*elected at-large*)

16 Aldermen

1971 Population: ~87,023

1997

Council Composition Review

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

1996 Population: ~136,976

2005

Ward Boundary Review

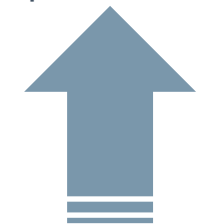
Six ward boundaries were re-drawn & the seven-member council maintained

2006 Population: ~164,415

2024

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.

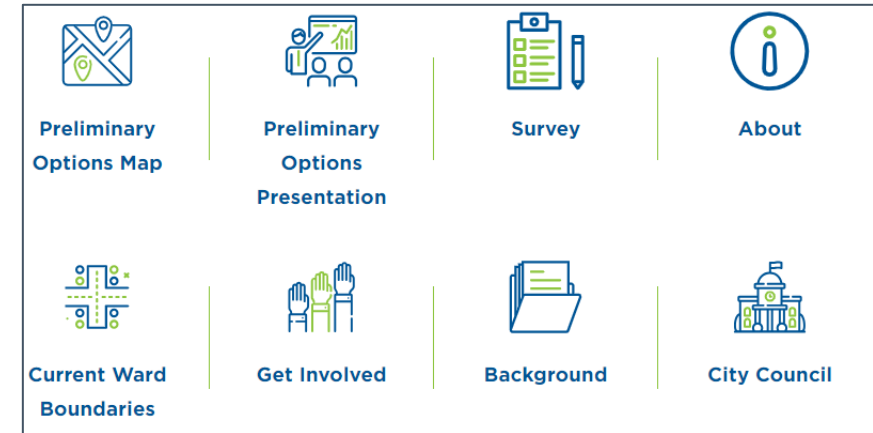
Consider Population and Demographic Changes

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



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

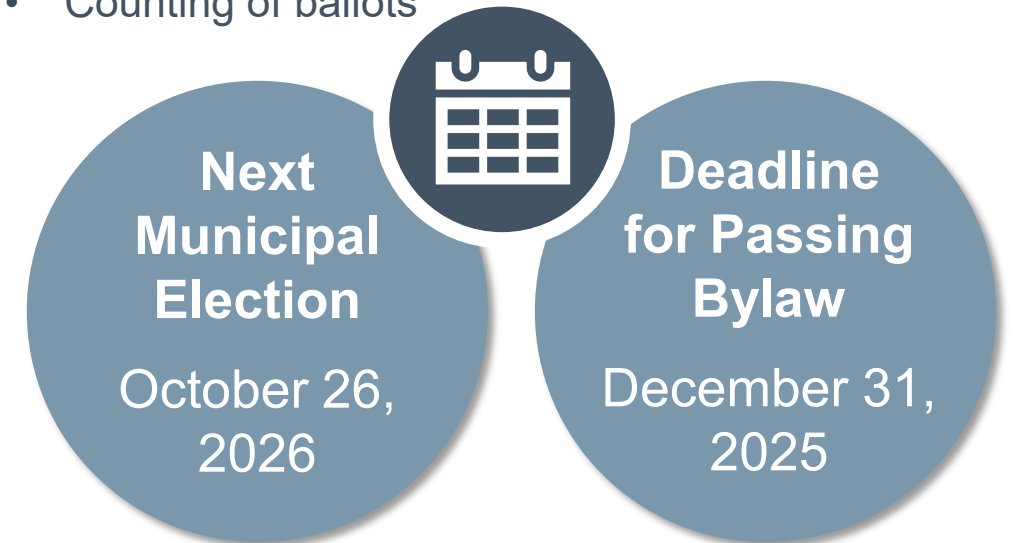
- May be elected by general vote, wards, or any combination of a general vote and wards
- No appeal rights associated with executing this authority

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



Guiding Principles

Public Engagement

2022-2026

2026-2030

2030-2034

Three Terms of Council

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AND WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW

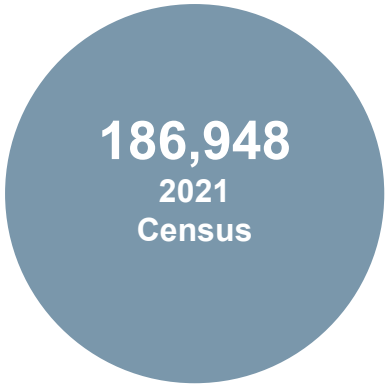


Focus on Burlington

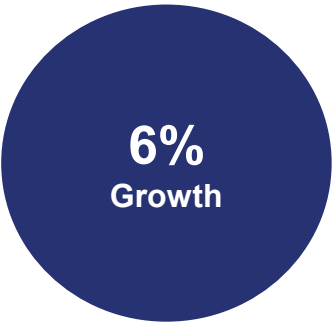
Population and Growth



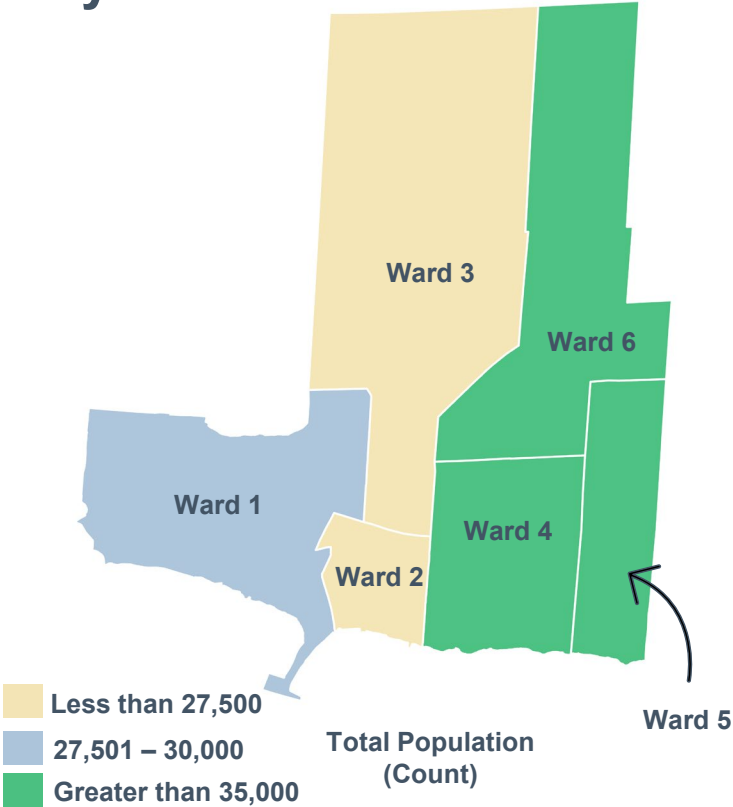
Total Burlington Population



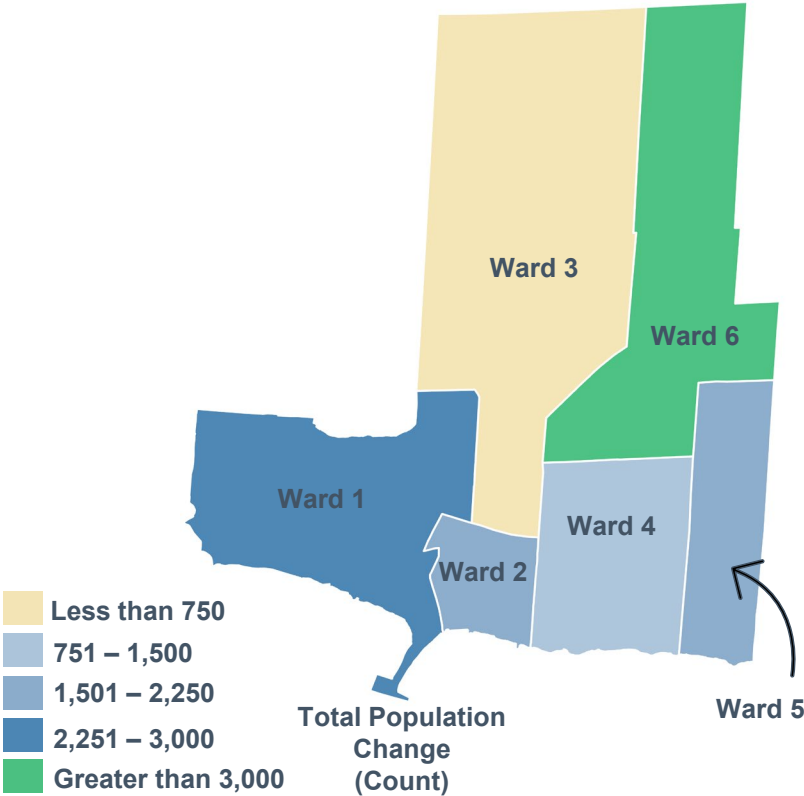
2011 – 2021 Total Burlington Population Change



2021 Total Population by Ward



2011-2021 Population Change by Ward

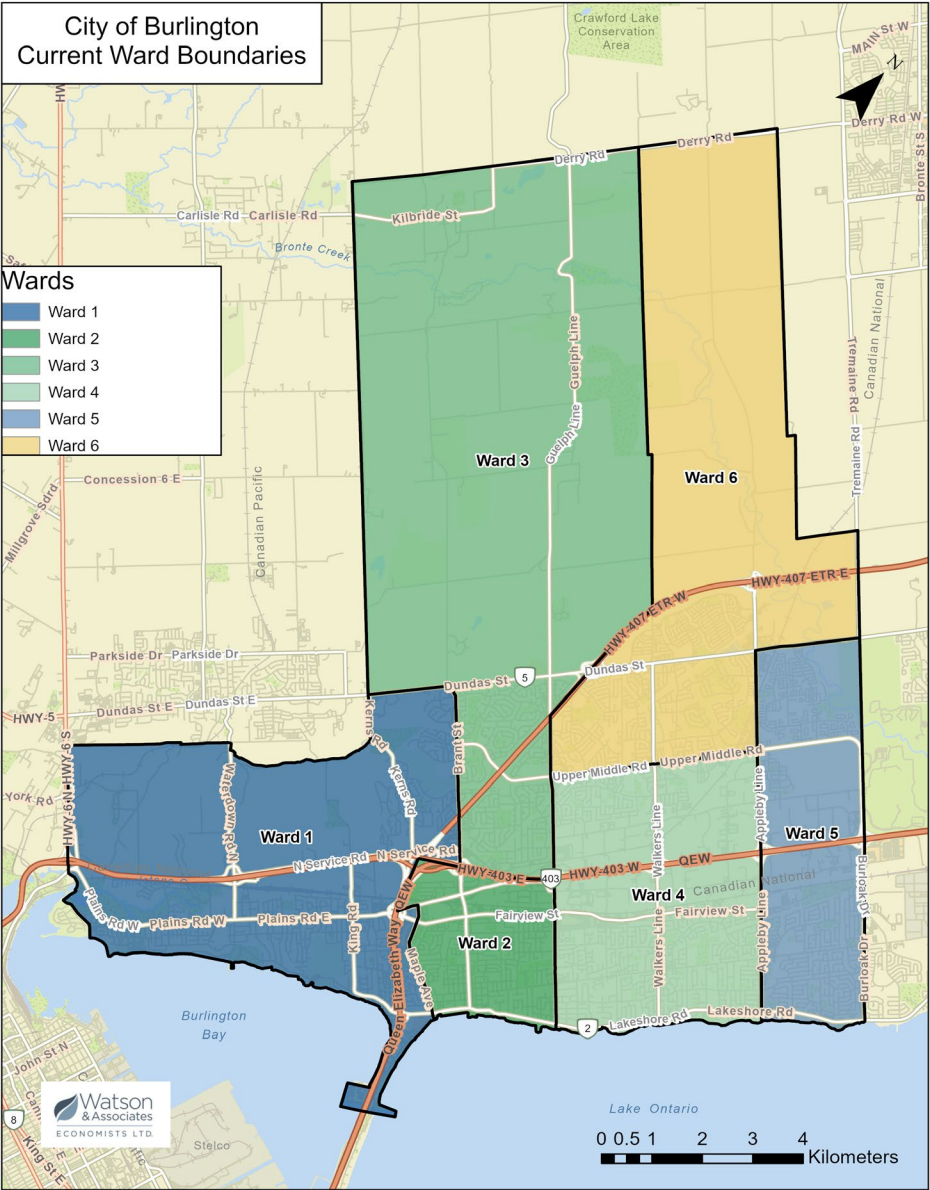


Focus on Burlington

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+
Total/Average	187.7	186,948	31,158	

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



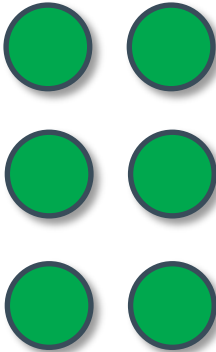
Focus on Burlington

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



**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

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**CITY OF
Burlington**

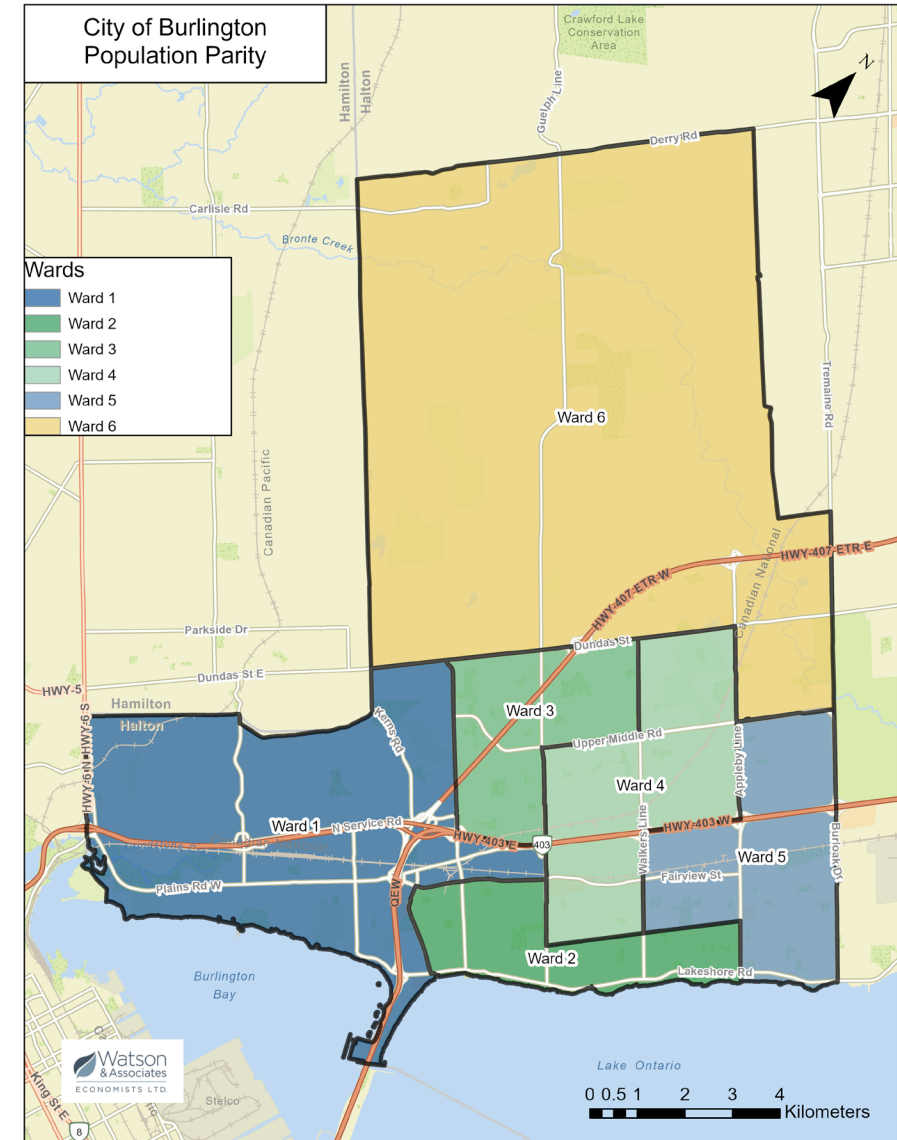
Population Parity Example

FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

6 Wards

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

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



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