

TAY TOWNSHIP



Public Meeting Council Composition Review

Presented By:
Cyndi Bonneville,
Municipal Clerk

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Background

- After an initial round of public consultations, including a survey undertaken during November-December 2020, and numerous one-on-one consultations between members of council and electors, council is leaning towards changing the current number of councillors from 7 to 5.
- Council is also leaning towards changing to an at large voting system, eliminating the current ward system.



Current Council Make-up

- Council is currently comprised of a Mayor, Deputy Mayor (both elected at large) and five Councillors - two from Ward 1, two from Ward 2, and one from Ward 3 (these are elected by voters within their specific wards).



Council Composition

- Municipal Councils can have 5, 7 or 9 members.
- What is the ideal size of Tay Township Council?
 - 5 total members of council
 - 7 total members of council
 - 9 total members of council
- If council chooses to move to either 5 or 9 members a ward boundary review would be required, if wards are not eliminated.



Ward Boundaries

- The ward system was chosen in 1996 and identifies the three largest communities and aims to divide the representation proportionally.
- It was designed to facilitate better communication and accessibility between councillors and the electorate.
- Some ward boundary changes have occurred over the years to respond to growth.
- Tay Township currently has 3 wards.



Wards

- Would you like to see
 - The current ward system remain with no adjustments
 - The ward system removed, and all members of council voted on at large
 - The current ward system remain, but the ward boundaries altered



Community Engagement to date

- Correspondence via letter and email
 - We received a total of 14 emails and one telephone call
 - 10 opposed to eliminating the wards and 1 in favour of reducing the size of council
 - Majority of the comments were regarding how the ward system better represents diverse communities
 - Minimal written comments were provided on Council composition in regards to number of members
 - Numerous comments were received regarding concerns that the rural and agricultural communities have been under-represented for years



Council composition survey results from November to December 2020

Do you think the current Council is the correct size? (currently 7)			
	Response Percent	Response Count	
Yes – it's the perfect size	54.14%	98	
No – it's too small	12.15%	22	
No – it's too big	33.70%	61	

What is the ideal size of Council (Provincial law dictates that Councils be composed of 5, 7 or 9 members)?			
	Response Percent	Response Count	
5 total members of Council	37.78%	68	
7 total members of Council	50.00%	90	
9 total members of Council	12.22%	22	

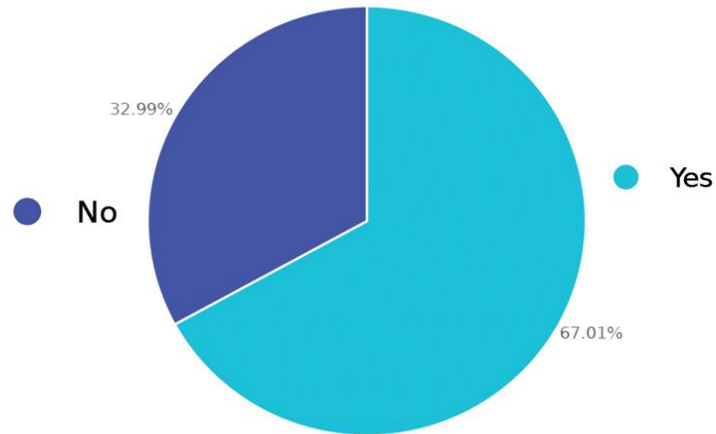
Would you like to see the ward system removed and all members of Council voted on at large?			
	Response Percent	Response Count	
Yes	37.43%	67	
No	62.57%	112	



Survey Results from February-March, 2021

Should Council move from a 7 member council (Mayor, Deputy Mayor and 5 councillors) to a 5 member council (Mayor, Deputy Mayor and 3 councillors)?

Answered: 97 Skipped: 0



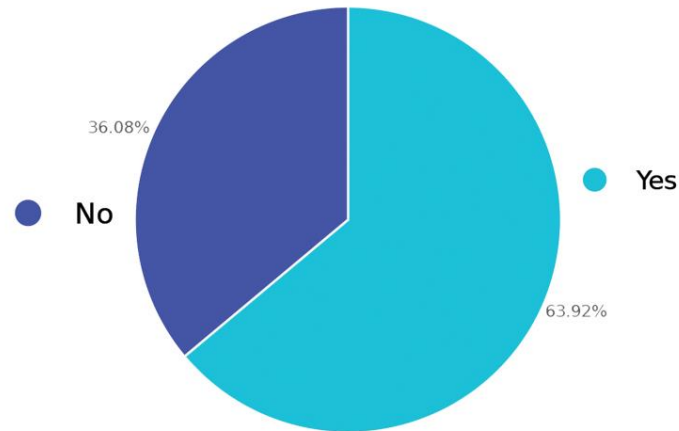
Choices	Response percent	Response count
Yes	67.01%	65
No	32.99%	32



Survey Results from February-March, 2021

Should Council move to an at-large voting system, eliminating the Ward System?

Answered: 97 Skipped: 0



Choices	Response percent	Response count
Yes	63.92%	62
No	36.08%	35



Voting Methods

Voting methods are the ways to cast your ballot in the municipal election. Tay Township currently uses vote by mail and election day in person polling station voting.

- Would you like to see other voting options?
 - Telephone voting
 - Internet (online) voting
 - Hybrid of any of the above (in person, vote by mail, telephone, internet)



Next Steps/Timeline

- Staff report to council summarizing results of survey and public meeting.
- Municipal By-law to establish new ward boundaries or to dissolve the existing wards must be passed before end of 2021 and may be subject to appeal through the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal.
- Municipal By-law to make changes to Council composition must be passed before end of 2021, the Municipal Act does not provide for an appeal mechanism for objections.



Next Steps/Timeline

- May 1, 2022 Last day to pass a by-law authorizing the use of voting and vote-counting equipment and/or authorizing electors to use an alternative voting method.