



 Watson
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ECONOMISTS LTD.

City of Barrie
Ward Boundary Review

Introductory Council Workshop

January 15, 2025



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Agenda



**Introduction to the
2025 Ward Boundary Review**



**Focus on
Barrie**



**Next Steps and
Discussion**

Key Questions



**Consider
these
Questions**



- How does the present electoral arrangement for the City of Barrie measure up?
- Do the current wards deliver **fair representation, conducive to good governance**?
- What are the goals of a Ward Boundary Review?
- What information does Council need to **make an informed decision**?

2024 Ward Boundary Review

Why Undertake the Review?

Prepare Council to consider and discuss whether to maintain the existing 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

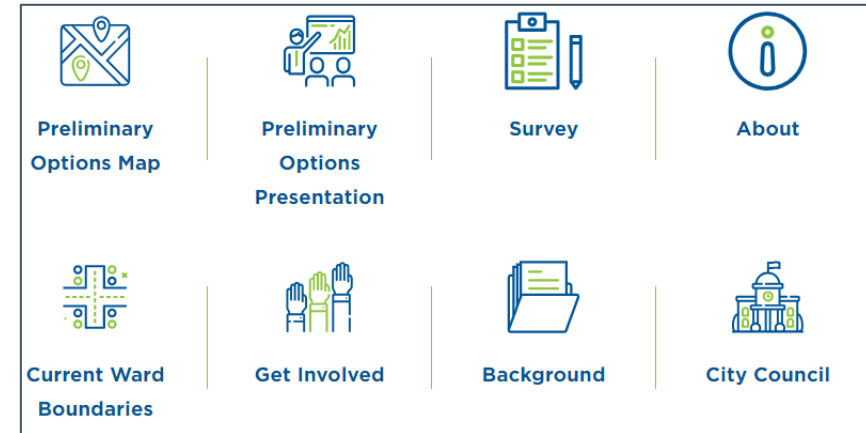
A review can align boundaries, reflect population shifts, and better serve evolving community distribution and interests.

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

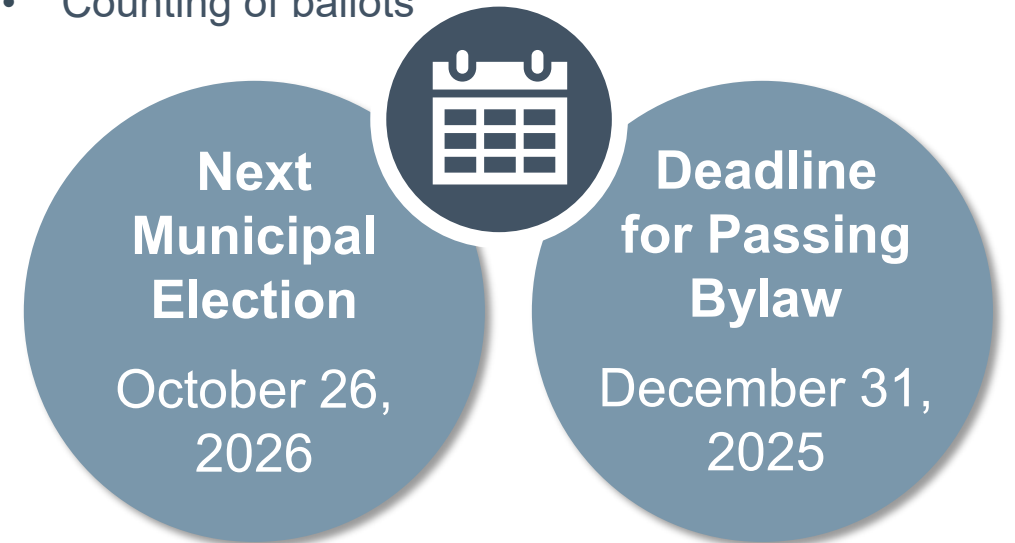
- May be elected by general vote, wards, or any combination of a general vote and wards
- No appeal rights associated with executing this authority

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



Focus on Barrie

Past, Present and Future



1959

City of Barrie

Barrie was incorporated as a city

2002,
2013

Ward Boundary Review

In the 2013 review, the wards were redrawn to create the existing ward configuration

2024/
2025

2024 Ward Boundary Review



2026

Next Municipal Election

Any adjusted ward boundaries would be in effect for the October 26, 2026 Municipal Election

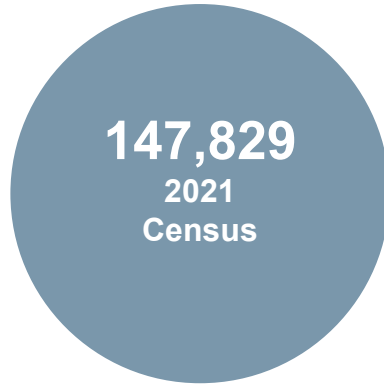
2025 WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW



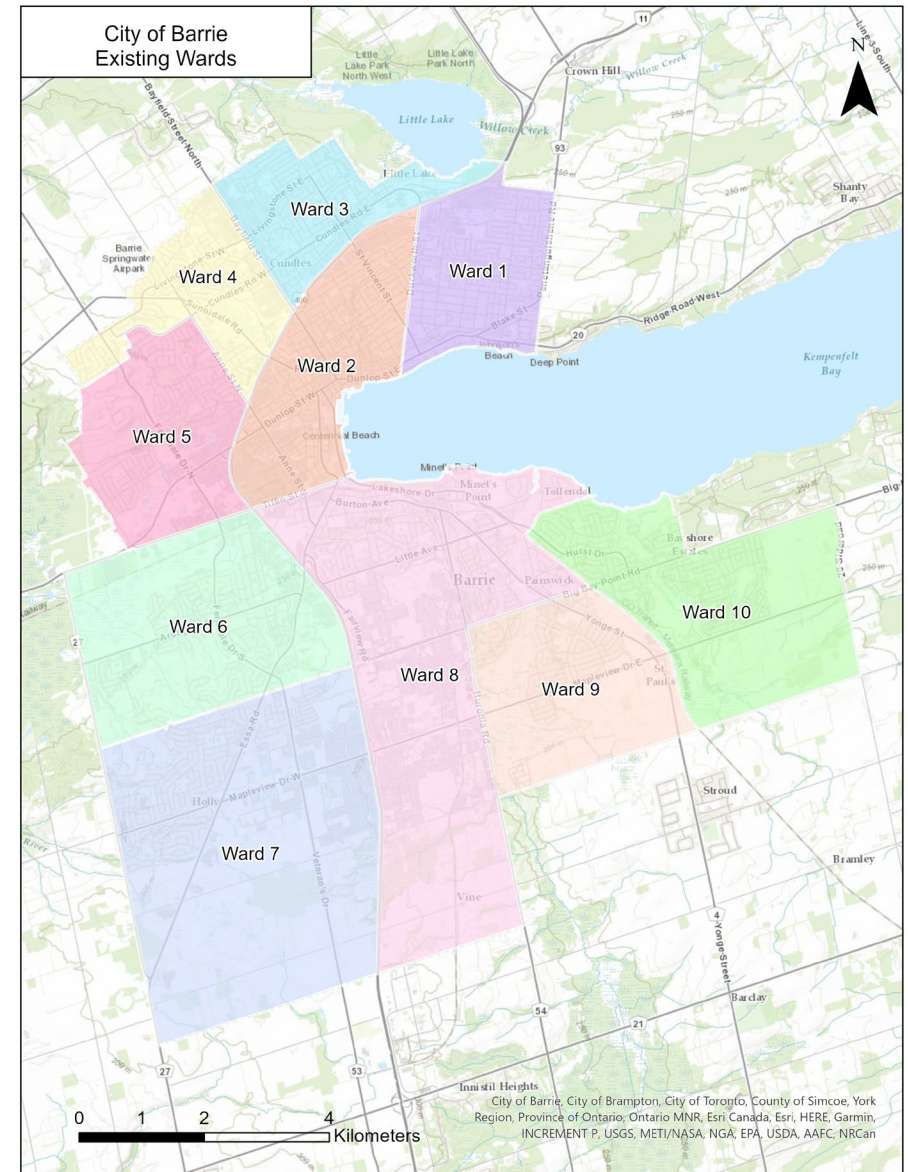
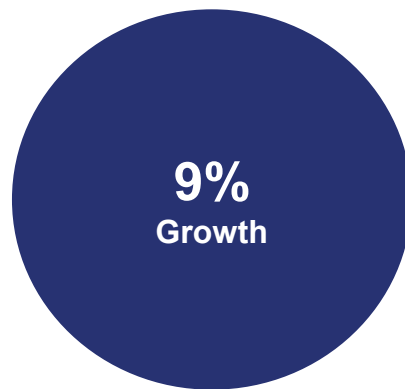
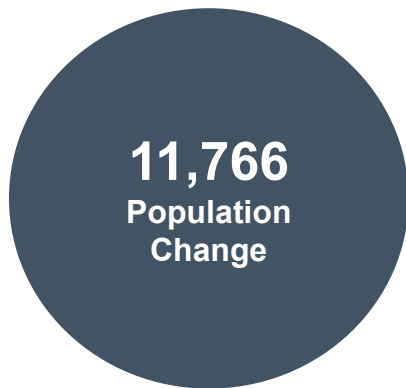
Focus on Barrie

Population and Growth

Total Barrie Population



2011 – 2021 Total Barrie Population Change



Focus on Barrie

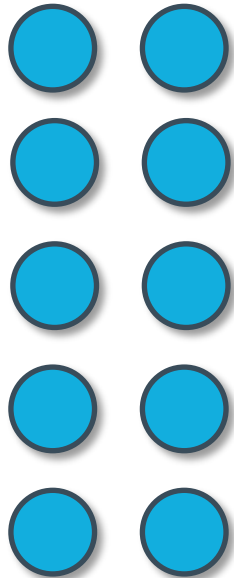


Barrie Council Composition and Representation in Ontario Municipalities



Mayor

Elected at-large as the head of City Council



10 Ward Councillors

Elected by ward to serve on Local Council

Municipality	2021 Population	Area (sq.km)	Council Members	Avg. Population per Member
City of Burlington	186,948	186.12	7	26,707
City of Oshawa	175,383	145.72	11	15,944
City of Greater Sudbury	166,004	3186.26	13	12,770
City of Barrie	147,829	99.01	11	13,439
City of Guelph	143,740	87.43	7	20,534
City of Cambridge	138,479	112.99	9	15,387
City of St. Catharines	136,803	96.2	13	10,523
City of Kingston	132,485	451.58	13	10,191
Town of Ajax	126,666	66.64	7	18,095
City of Waterloo	121,436	64.06	8	15,180
Average	147,577	449.601	9.9	15,877

Council Members include head of Council and Regional/County Councillors where applicable.

Next Steps

Project Timelines and Activities



Today

Introductory Workshop

Introduce Consultant Team

Provide background information

Stimulate discussion



Winter 2025

Information Collection

Collect core review themes and key considerations

Engage community and stakeholders



Spring 2025

Reflection and Evaluation

Reflect on collected information

Evaluate existing ward boundaries

Explore alternatives



**Spring/
Summer 2025**

Recommendations and Report

Engage community and stakeholders

Present alternative options

Prepare and deliver recommendations to Council