



Municipality of the District Of Lunenburg

Size of Council and Polling District Boundaries Public Hearing

**Council Chambers – Municipality of the District of Lunenburg (MODL)
Wednesday November 30 at 6:30 p.m.**

Public Hearing Agenda

- 1. Call to Order at 6:30 p.m.**
- 2. Opening Remarks by Mayor Bolivar-Getson**
 - (a) Introductions
 - (b) Review of Agenda and Rules of Conduct
- 3. Report and Presentation from Planning Staff**
- 4. Written and Verbal Presentations from the Public**
 - (a) Review of Written Submissions (if any)
 - (b) Verbal Presentations by the Public (if any)

5. Review Of Approval Process

At the next municipal Council meeting Council will make their final decision on the size of council and tentative municipal electoral district boundaries. An application will be made to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board to approve the size of council and the electoral district boundaries. The Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board will hold a public hearing on the matter, which will be advertised. After the Board's Public Hearing they will then make a decision. If the decision of the Board is to approve the application, the changes become effective with the October 2024 Municipal Election.

6. Closing of the Public Hearing

Rules of Conduct

Persons who wish to speak at the Public Hearing are asked to note the following:

- [a] State your name and address;
- [b] Direct all statements to the Chairperson;
- [c] Try to limit presentations to 10 minutes;
- [d] Speakers may address Council twice, but before addressing Municipal Council for a second time, speakers will be requested to wait until all others have had the opportunity to speak, before they can then address Council for a second time.



MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF LUNENBURG

Notice Of Public Hearing **Size of Council and Polling District Boundaries**

On November 8, 2022, Municipal Council gave Notice of its intent to set the tentative electoral district boundaries and the number of councillors as per the requirements of the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board. In determining electoral boundaries, the Municipal Government Act, section 368.4 outlines factors to consider. These are, number of electors, relative parity of voting power, population density, community of interest, and geographic size.

The Council of the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg hereby gives notice of its intention to make application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board to:

- Set the number of Councillors to 10, plus a Mayor; and
- Approve the tentative polling district boundaries.

A **Public Hearing** regarding the above noted application will be held:

Date: November 30, 2022
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Municipal Services Building, 10 Allée Champlain Drive, Cookville, NS

The public can make formal written or oral submissions to Council in support or opposition of the proposed application at this time. Written submissions will be received until 12 noon on Monday, November 28, 2022 and are to be addressed to April Whynot-Lohnes, Municipal Clerk, 10 Allée Champlain Drive, Cookville, NS B4V 9E4 or e-mail planning@modl.ca.

Information regarding the proposed application is available to view at the Municipal Office at 10 Allée Champlain Drive, Cookville, during normal office hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) or online at engage.modl.ca. For further information, contact the Planning Offices at 902-541-1325, or email: planning@modl.ca.

April Whynot-Lohnes, Municipal Clerk



Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Request for Decision

Report to: Council

Submitted by: Jeff Merrill, MCIP, LPP, Director of Planning & Development Services

Date: October 11, 2022

Re: RESULTS – Size of Council Survey

Recommendation

That based on the size of council survey results Staff recommends that Council set the size of council to 10 Councillors plus a mayor. Further that Council direct the Boundary Review Committee to work with staff on drafting revisions to the district boundaries that meet the boundary review requirements of the Municipal Government Act.

Discussion

Council at their April 12, 2022 meeting passed a motion to engage public opinion and feedback on the size of council remaining at ten elected officials and a Mayor by creating a page on the municipality's engagement site and holding a public meeting.

A survey was published on May 18, 2022 and closed on June 30, 2022. Residents were encouraged to provide input through the survey. A virtual public meeting was also held on Tuesday, June 21.

Public Meeting

A member of the public attended the virtual public meeting along with nine Councillors and the Mayor.

Staff gave a presentation on the boundary review process and spoke about what the Municipality does and how decisions are made by Council. After the Staff presentation the floor was opened to questions from the audience. Several questions were asked that sparked discussion with those in attendance. Questions included:

- Do you feel that MODL's current governance structure is accessible to residents?
- Does it allow for effective decision making?
- Does it allow for effective representation for you or your district?
- What are you looking for from your district councillor in representing you?
- What do you think should be the population/representation for MODL's districts?

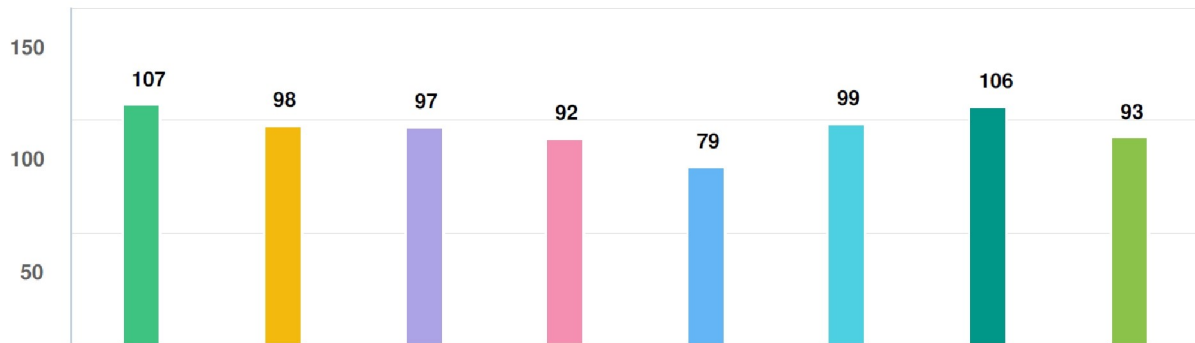
Public opinion was not gathered on the appropriate size of Council at the public meeting. The member of the public was encouraged to complete the survey.

Survey Results

Boundary review survey participation: There were 140 visitors to the survey, 114 contributors provided 117 responses. Hence, some participants (3) filled the survey out more than once.

There was a total of 8 questions on the survey (question 2 was a four-part question). The last question asked if they'd like to be entered for a chance to win a \$200 gift card to the Best Western and if so to enter their contact details. As the last question included personal information it was not included with the survey results.

Question 1 asked participants to check which responsibilities of the municipality they were aware of.



Question options

- Garbage collection
- Municipal roads, and a share of provincial road maintenance
- Land use planning
- Building and fire inspections
- Wastewater treatment plants
- Recreation programming
- Parks, trails and tourism initiatives
- Taxation services

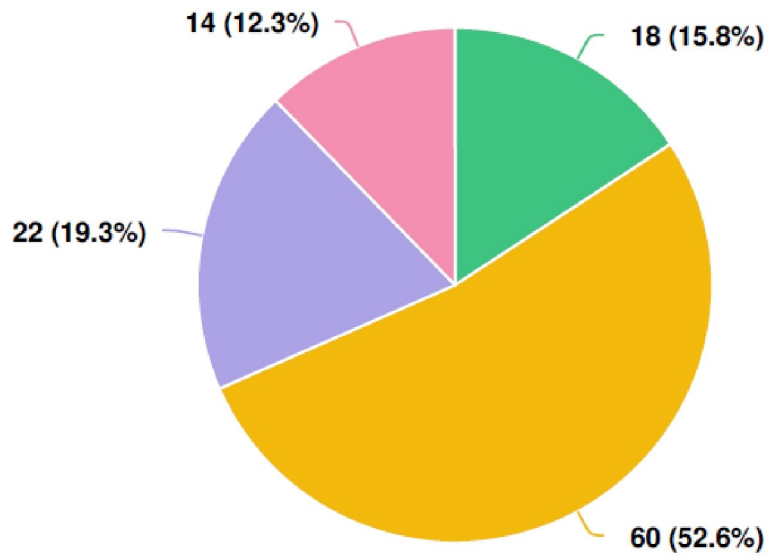
Question 2a: 94 respondents agreed to the statement: *I am aware that I can use modl.ca to access municipal services and information.*

Question 2b: 76 respondents agreed to the statement: *I am aware that information about Council and committee meetings can be accessed online at modl.ca.*

Question 2c: 53 respondents said that they have contacted their Councillor at some point in the past while 52 respondents have never contacted their Councillor.

Question 2d: 98 respondents agreed that they plan to vote in the next municipal election on October 24, 2022.

Question 3 asked: How knowledgeable do you personally feel about the role and responsibilities of the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg? 52.6% of respondents said they were somewhat knowledgeable about the roles and responsibilities of the municipality and 15.8% considered themselves very knowledgeable. 19.3% was unsure and 12.3% said they were not knowledgeable on the roles and responsibilities of the municipality.



Question options

- Not knowledgeable
- Unsure
- Somewhat knowledgeable
- Very knowledgeable

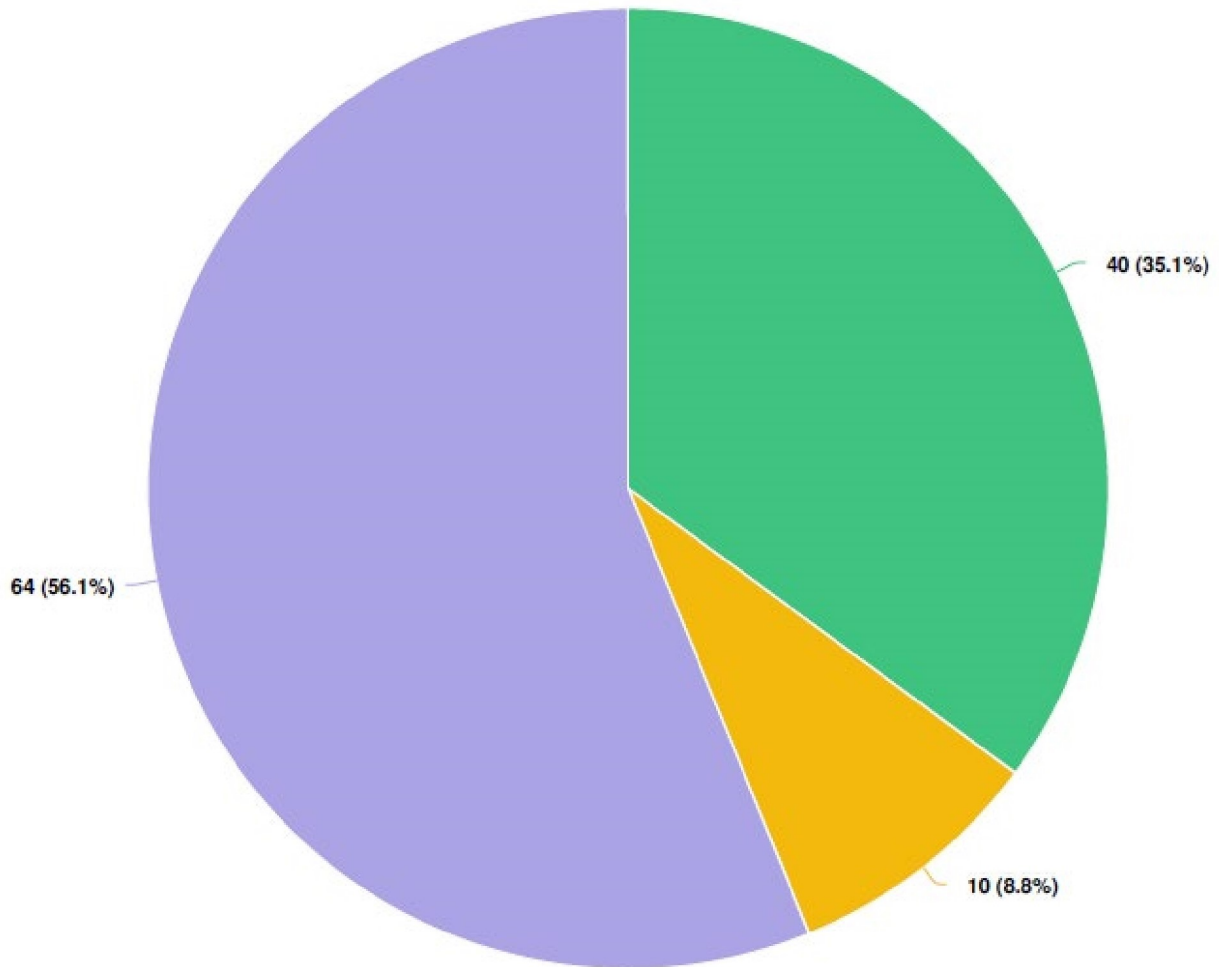
Question 4 Size of council question included the following text and table:

The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg has 25,525 residents and 10 Council members representing 10 districts. Here are some comparably sized municipalities in Nova Scotia, along with the number of Councillors they currently have.

Municipal Unit	Size (km ²)	Population (Oct. 2021)	# of Dwellings (occupied by usual residents)	# of Councillors + Mayor	Ration (Residents to Councillors)
MODC	1,120.61	10,693	5,028	7	1,528
Annapolis County	3,172.36	18,834	8,608	11	1,712
Pictou County	2,795.08	20,676	9,146	12	1,723
East Hants	1,786.53	22,892	9,387	11	2,081
Cumberland	4,253.04	19,964	9,126	8 + 1	2,496
MODL	1,757.79	25,545	11,502	10 + 1	2,555
Colchester	3,568.71	36,044	15,665	11 + 1	3,277
Kings	2,087.88	47,918	20,733	9 + 1	5,324

Question 4 then asked: Seeing these comparisons above, which best represents your view on ratio, or the number of councillors relative to residents in MODL?

56.1% (64) of survey responders replied that MODL has the right number of Councillors, being 10 Councillors plus a Mayor, 35.1% (40) replied that MODL has too many Councillors and 8.8% (10) replied that MODL does not have enough councillors. Attached is a survey results report.



Question options

- At 10 Council members plus a mayor, MODL has the right number of Councillors
- At 10 Council members plus a mayor, MODL does not have enough Councillors
- At 10 Council members plus a mayor, MODL has too many Councillors

Work plan

Once Council sets the desired size of Council for their application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) the next steps are:

1. The Boundary Review Committee to work with Staff to draft district boundary options;
2. Council to tentatively set district boundaries (Nov. 8)
3. Public hearing conducted on the tentative district boundaries (Nov. 30 at 6:30pm)
4. Council to set Council district boundaries (Nov. 30 or Dec. 13.)
5. Submit application to NSUARB (Dec. 31)

Conclusion

56.1% of survey responders replied that MODL has the right number of Councillors, being 10 Councillors plus a Mayor.

Report Preparation	
Department	
Report Prepared by	
Report Approved by	
Date Reviewed by C.A.O.	



Boundary Review Survey

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

12 April 2022 - 01 July 2022

PROJECT NAME:

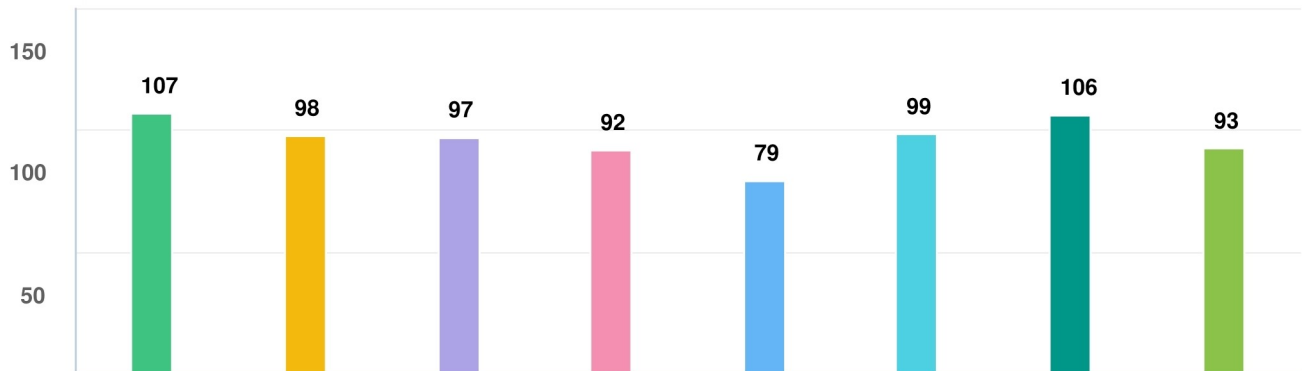
Boundary Review 2022



SURVEY QUESTIONS



Q1 Prior to today, were you aware that the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg’s Council is responsible for the followin...

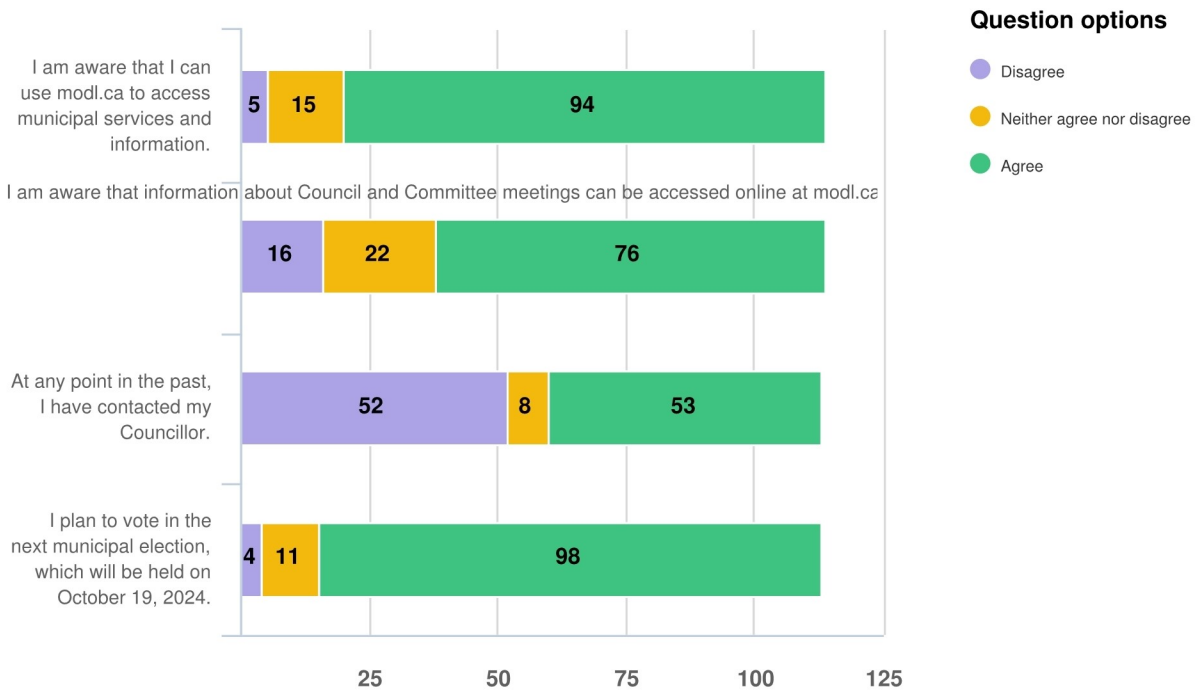


Question options

- Garbage collection
- Municipal roads, and a share of provincial road maintenance
- Land use planning
- Building and fire inspections
- Wastewater treatment plants
- Recreation programming
- Parks, trails and tourism initiatives
- Taxation services

Optional question (114 response(s), 3 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q2 Please respond to each of the following statements with a ‘yes’ or a ‘no’ or ‘unsure’



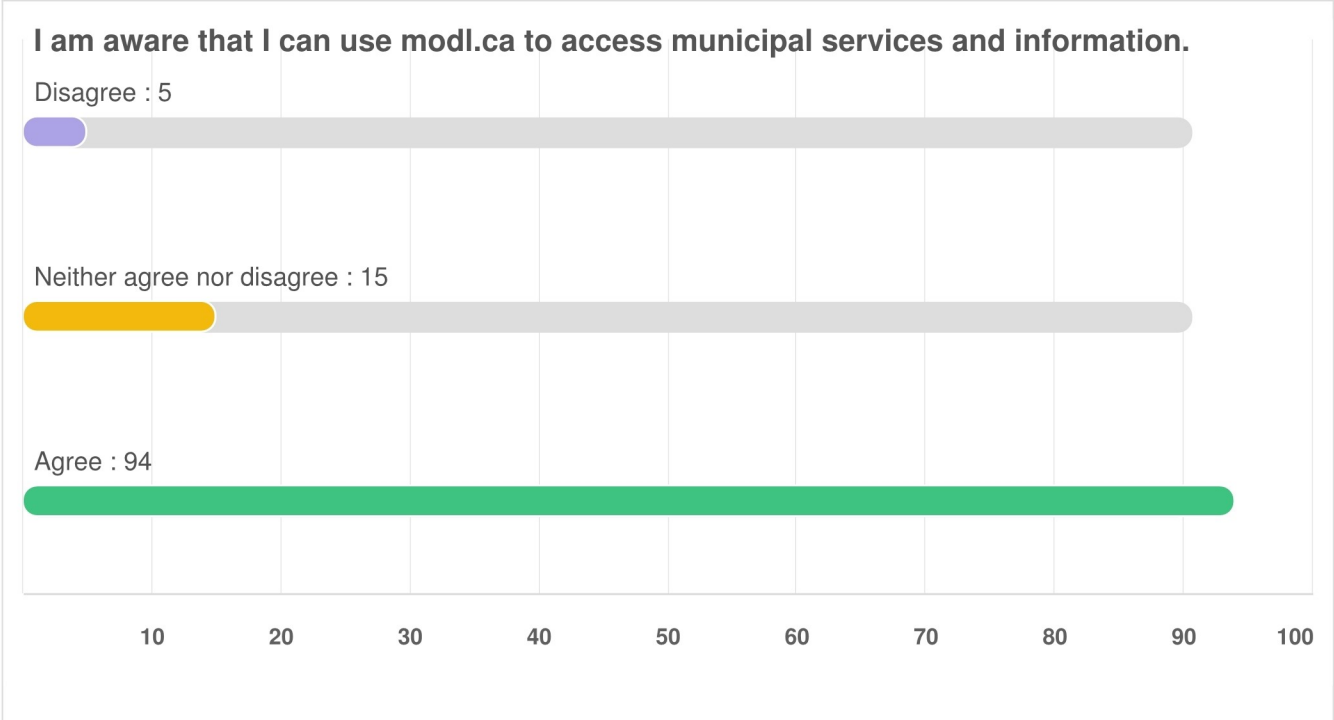
Question options

- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree

Optional question (114 response(s), 3 skipped)
Question type: Likert Question



Q2 | Please respond to each of the following statements with a 'yes' or a 'no' or 'unsure'





I am aware that information about Council and Committee meetings can be accessed online at modl.ca.

Disagree : 16



Neither agree nor disagree : 22



Agree : 76



10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80



At any point in the past, I have contacted my Councillor.

Disagree : 52



Neither agree nor disagree : 8



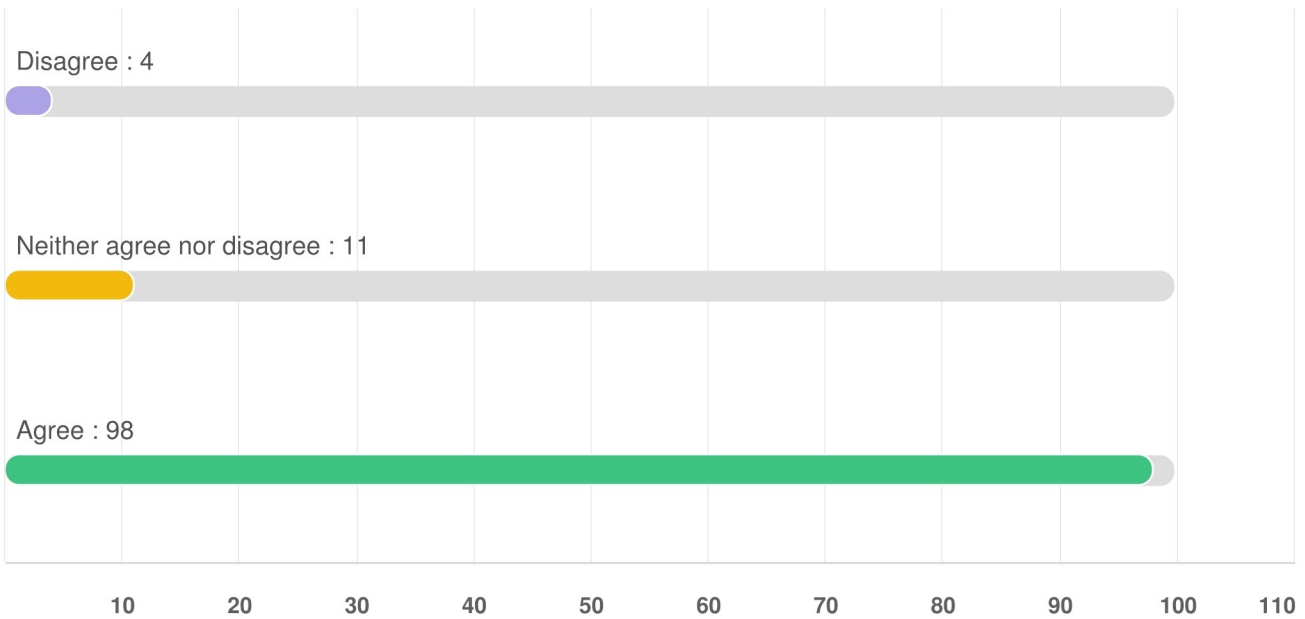
Agree : 53



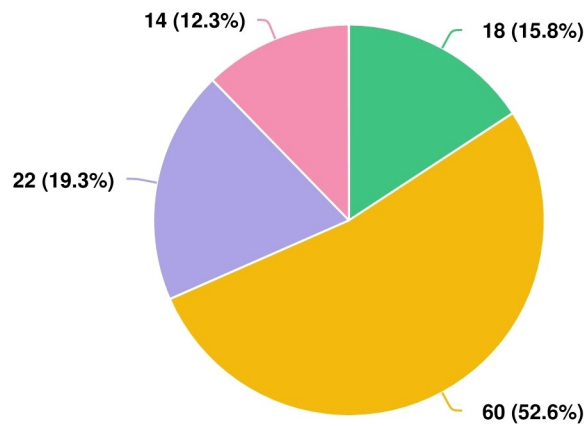
5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60



I plan to vote in the next municipal election, which will be held on October 19, 2024.



Q3 How knowledgeable do you personally feel about the role and responsibilities of the Municipality of the District of Lunenbu...

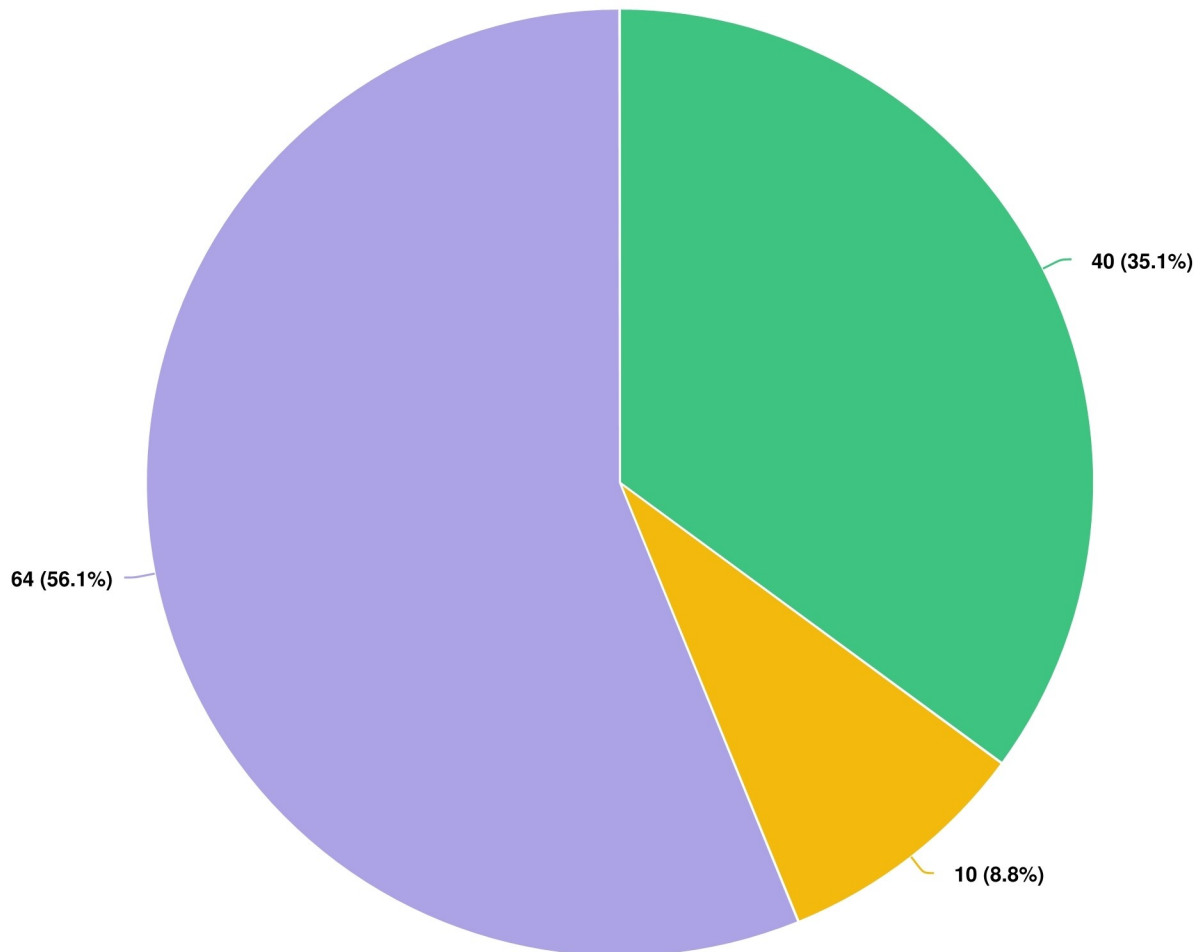


Question options

- Not knowledgeable
- Unsure
- Somewhat knowledgeable
- Very knowledgeable

*Optional question (114 response(s), 3 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question*

Q4 Seeing these comparisons above, which best represents your view on ratio, or the number of councillors relative to residents in MODL?



Question options

- At 10 Council members plus a mayor, MODL has the right number of Councillors
- At 10 Council members plus a mayor, MODL does not have enough Councillors
- At 10 Council members plus a mayor, MODL has too many Councillors

Optional question (114 response(s), 3 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question



Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Request for Decision

Report to: Council

Submitted by: Jeff Merrill, MCIP, LPP, Director of Planning & Development Services

Date: November 8, 2022

Re: Electoral District Boundaries

Recommendation

That the Boundary Review Committee recommends that Council set the tentative electoral district boundaries to Option 6. Further that Council hold a public hearing on the tentative electoral district boundaries on Wednesday November 30, 2022 at 6:30pm at the Municipal Services Building.

Discussion

After seeking public feedback on the size of council, Council at their October 11, 2022, meeting passed a resolution setting the size of council to 10 councillors plus a mayor and directed the Boundary Review Committee to work with staff on drafting revisions to the district boundaries.

Motion 2022-166

“that Municipal Council set the size of council to ten (10) councillors plus a mayor; and further, that Council direct the Boundary Review Committee to work with staff on drafting revisions to the district boundaries that meet the boundary review requirements of the Municipal Government Act”.

In determining the electoral boundaries, the Municipal Government Act (MGA) Section 368.4 outlines the factors to consider, being: number of electors, relative parity of voting power, population density, community of interest and geographic size.

Community of Interest and Geography

After the last election, our Returning officer recommended that during the next boundary review that the electoral boundaries not split communities. Our Returning Officer found that

when council district boundaries divide a community, voters have a difficult time understanding which district they're in and which candidates are running to represent them.

Option 6 was developed with the goal of not dividing communities and to follow travel routes from the service centres. The first iteration of this map did not divide any communities. All boundaries followed the general service area boundaries in the Nova Scotia Civic Addressing File. However, the Committee received feedback from Councillors that there were some communities that it makes sense to split parts between council districts. In these cases, there were either geographic features or local travel routes that made better sense dividing small sections of the community with a council district boundary. Those portions of communities either identify more with the neighbouring community than the residents in their own community or it makes more sense to keep the travel routes continuous. Communities that were divided by a district boundary are as follows:

- The Northern part of the community of Camperdown at the intersection of Camperdown Road and Camperdown School Road (between districts 1 and 3) because of the lakes and travel routes to Lapland and Hebbs Cross;
- A small Southern section of Newcombville along the Lapland Road at the Garber Road intersection that fits better with the travel route from Laconia to Wileville;
- The Eastern section of Waterloo where the Highway 210 flows better being with Chelsea and Newcombville.

Relative parity of voting power

The NSUARB user guide states that the target variance for relative parity of voting power should be $\pm 10\%$ from the average number of electors per district. The municipality must justify any variance exceeding this target in its application to the NSUARB. The larger the proposed variance, the greater the burden on the municipality 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.

The relative voter parity for the district boundaries being recommended by the Boundary Review Committee is shown in Table 1 below. Eight of the ten districts fall within the $\pm 10\%$ from the average number of electors per district. There are two districts that exceed the $\pm 10\%$ voter parity. Those are District 5 (New Germany) at +11% and District 7 (Cookville) at -38.4%.

Table 1: Voter Statistics, Proposed Council Districts

District	Voter (2020)	Percent of the total electors (%)	Voter Parity	
			%	#
1	2,079	9.7	-3.2%	-68.6
2	2,119	9.9	-1.3%	-28.6
3	2,221	10.3	3.4%	73.4
4	2,226	10.4	3.7%	78.4
5	2,384	11.1	11.0%	236.4
6	2,195	10.2	2.2%	47.4
7	1,323	6.2	-38.4%	-824.6
8	2,274	10.6	5.9%	126.4
9	2,350	10.9	9.4%	202.4
10	2,305	10.7	7.3%	157.4
Total electors	21,476			
Average electors per district	2147.6			
Total # of Councillors	10			

Voter data: 2020 provincial voter list provided by Elections NS

The service area in Cookville known as “Osprey Village” is projected to increase significantly. Currently there is a 160-unit seniors living complex and a 90-unit apartment building under construction. These units will be completed prior to 2024. There will be another 42-unit apartment building constructed prior to the 2024 election. There are several other large residential developments (totaling 449 units) in the service area that are in the planning stage and will bring a significant number of residents to the community of Cookville. The additional 449 units are planned to be constructed after the 2024 election and before the 2028 election.

The 2020 provincial voters list has 1.98 voters per dwelling unit. The municipality’s housing stock is currently 93% single detached units. The 1.98 voters per dwelling unit in multi-unit buildings maybe not be the right multiplier for the type of housing stock being built in Osprey Village therefore staff used a 1.5 voters per unit multiplier to predict the number of voters coming to Osprey Village. Based on that assumption it’s predicted that by 2024 there will be 438 voters added to Osprey Village (292 units * 1.5 voters/unit = 438 voters). With that one change the voter parity in District 7 increases from -38.4% to -19.6, and District 5 decreases from +11% to +8.8%, Table 2. After 2024 it’s expected that an additional 673 voters (449 units * 1.5 voters/unit = 673 voters) will be added to Osprey Village for a total of 1,111 new voters which would further raise the voter parity in District 7 to +7.8%, see Table 3, bringing all districts within ±10% voter parity.

Table 2: Voter Parity impact of 438 voters added to Osprey Village prior to 2024.

District	Voter Impact of Osprey Village by 2024	Voter Parity	
		%	#
1	2,079	-5.10%	-112
2	2,119	-3.30%	-72
3	2,221	1.40%	30
4	2,226	1.60%	35
5	2,384	8.80%	193
6	2,195	0.20%	4
7	1,761	-19.60%	-430
8	2,274	3.80%	83
9	2,350	7.20%	159
10	2,305	5.20%	114
Total electors	21,914		
Average electors per district	2191.4		
Total # of Councillors	10		

Table 3: Voter Parity impact of 1,111 voters added to Osprey Village prior to 2028.

District	Voter Impact of Osprey Village by 2028	Voter Parity	
		%	#
1	2,079	-8.00%	-180
2	2,119	-6.20%	-140
3	2,221	-1.70%	-38
4	2,226	-1.40%	-33
5	2,384	5.50%	125
6	2,195	-2.80%	-64
7	2,434	7.80%	175
8	2,274	0.70%	15
9	2,350	4.00%	91
10	2,305	2.00%	46
Total electors	22,587		
Average electors per district	2258.7		
Total # of Councillors	10		

Work plan

1. Council to tentatively set district boundaries (Nov. 8)
2. Public hearing conducted on the tentative district boundaries (Nov. 30 at 6:30pm)
3. Council to set Council district boundaries (Nov. 30 or Dec. 13.)
4. Submit application to NSUARB (Dec. 31)

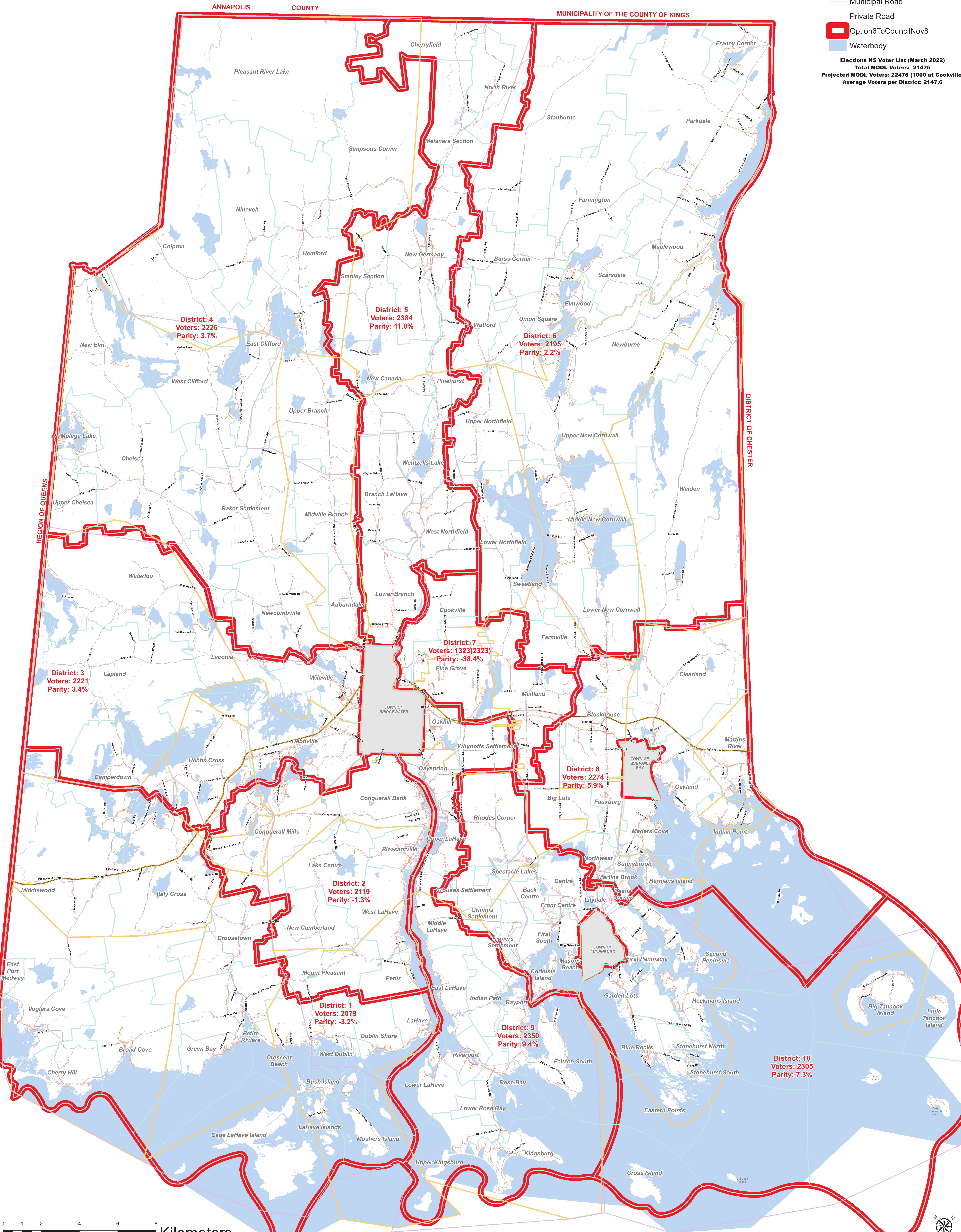
Conclusion

Although the recommended council district map (Option 6) currently exceeds voter parity in two districts, the dense residential growth occurring in Osprey Village will have a significant impact on voter parity during the next two election periods. If Council accepts the recommended district boundary map, Council should set the map as the tentative district boundaries and set a date and time for a public hearing to received feedback on the district boundaries prior to setting the final district boundaries for the NSUARB application.

Report Preparation	
Department	Planning & Development
Report Prepared by	Jeff Merrill, MCIP, LPP, Director of Planning & Development Services
Report Approved by	
Date Reviewed by C.A.O.	

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg TENTATIVE COUNCIL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES Option 6 - November 8, 2022

- ElectorsCivicsMODL
 - Approved Council Districts (2016)
 - Community Boundaries
 - fire_district_lines_wTriDistrict
 - Town Boundaries
 - Highway 103
 - Provincial Road
 - Municipal Road
 - Private Road
 - Option6ToCouncilNov8
 - Waterbody
- Elections NS Voter List (March 2022)**
Total MODL Voters: 21476
Projected MODL Voters: 22476 (1000 at Cookville)
Average Voters per District: 2147.6



0 1 2 4 6 8 Kilometers

