



2026 Municipal Ballot Questions – Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why are these questions being placed on the ballot?

Council has chosen to seek direction from electors on two matters that affect the structure of local government:

- Whether to continue using the ward system, and
- Whether to reduce the size of Council.

The Municipal Elections Act allows municipalities to place such questions on the election ballot.

2. What is the current ward system?

The Township is currently divided into wards, and electors vote for Councillors representing their ward. Abolishing the ward system would mean electing Councillors at large (all Councillors elected by all voters in the Township).

3. What does “reducing the size of Council” mean?

Council currently consists of:

- 6 Councillors
- 1 Mayor

The proposed change would reduce Council to:

- 4 Councillors
- 1 Mayor

All elected officials would continue to serve the entire municipality.

4. What happens if I vote YES on a question?

A “YES” means you support the proposed change being asked in the question.

5. What happens if I vote NO?

A “NO” means you do not support the proposed change.

6. Are my answers to the two questions connected?

No. Each question is counted separately. You may vote YES to both, NO to both, or YES on one and NO on the other.

7. Are the results binding on Council?

The results are binding only if:

- At least 50% of all eligible electors vote on the question, and
- More than 50% of valid responses choose either YES or NO.

If the turnout threshold is not met, the results are non-binding, but Council may still consider them.

8. What happens if a result is binding and the majority vote YES?

Council must pass the necessary by-laws to implement the change.

For example:

- If the ward system is abolished, Council must pass a by-law establishing an at-large election system.
- If the size of Council is reduced, Council must pass a composition by-law to take effect for the next municipal election.

9. What happens if the majority votes NO?

If turnout is sufficient and the majority votes NO, the existing system remains unchanged.

10. How will these changes affect me as a voter?

- If wards are abolished, you will vote for all Councillors instead of only the Councillor for your ward.
- If Council size is reduced, you will vote for fewer Councillor positions.

11. How do I vote on the questions?

The questions will appear on your ballot during the 2026 municipal election. You will select YES or NO for each question. Detailed instructions will be provided on the ballot and by election officials.

12. Can Council repeal a by-law that places a question on the ballot for the 2026 Municipal Election?

Yes. Under section **8.1(1)(c)** of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, a by-law submitting a question to the electors under section 8(1)(b) or (c) may be repealed on or before Nomination Day. For the 2026 regular municipal election, Nomination Day is Friday, August 21, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.. After that date, the by-law cannot be repealed.