

Governance



Agenda

- A Review of the current Governance Structure
 - Rules of the game
- Recent History of Middlesex Governance
- Current challenges
- Considerations
- Questions



Representation

That representation on Middlesex County Council shall be based on 5,000 electors;

That a local municipality will be represented by its Reeve or Mayor, and where according to the last revised polling lists it has 5,000 or more electors, by its Deputy Reeve or Deputy Mayor;

That representation on Middlesex County Council shall be capped at two (2) per municipality;

That municipalities with less than 1,500 electors shall have no representation on Middlesex County Council;



Representation

That, for those municipalities below 1,500 electors, their weighted votes can be transferred by local by-law to another Middlesex County municipality;

That a representative or representatives of a municipality shall have one weighted vote for every 1,000 electors or part thereof as per the last revised polling lists in accordance to Schedule "A" attached;

That where there is a Reeve or Mayor and Deputy Reeve or Deputy Mayor that municipality's weighted votes shall be divided equally between them; and that where there is an uneven number of weighted votes, that the Reeve or Mayor shall have an additional weighted vote;

That all tie votes on Middlesex County Council shall be broken by a mandatory weighted vote.



Weighted Voting

BRENNAN, JOHN (6)

Middlesex Centre

BURGHARDT-JESSON, CATHY

Lucan Biddulph (4)

CORNELISSEN, ADRIAN (2)

North Middlesex

DEVIET, AINA (6)

Middlesex Centre

ELLIOTT, KELLY (5)

Thames Centre

MAYHEW, ALLAN (5)

Southwest Middlesex

RICHARDS, BRAD (8)

Strathroy-Caradoc

ROPP, BRIAN (3)

North Middlesex

SMITH, KURTIS (3)

Adelaide Metcalfe

VANDERHEYDEN, JOANNE (9)

Strathroy-Caradoc

WARWICK, ALISON (5)

Thames Centre



The Elector Rule

MUNICIPALITY OF:

Number of
Electors

Votes

Distribution

ADELAIDE METCALFE	2,415	3	3 – Mayor
LUCAN BIDDULPH	3,533	4	4 - Mayor
MIDDLESEX CENTRE	12,335	13	7 – Mayor 6 – Deputy Mayor
NORTH MIDDLESEX	4,829	5	3 – Mayor 2 – Deputy Mayor
SOUTHWEST MIDDLESEX	4,236	5	5 – Mayor
STRATHROY CARADOC	16,242	17	9 – Mayor 8 – Deputy Mayor
THAMES CENTRE	9,979	10	5 – Mayor 5 – Deputy Mayor

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Rules of the Game

Governance changes must be made before electoral period starts

Depending on the type of change, you may need a triple majority to obtain the change

Any Change to Governance will require mandatory representation for Newbury on Council



Size

Declining size of County Council(10 members in 2022)

- North Middlesex will lose the deputy Position at the next election in 2022
- Southwest Middlesex lost the deputy position in 2018

Difficult to discern an appreciable difference moving from 12 to 11 members of council

Have representation from all municipalities with the exception of Newbury



Workload

Despite Declining size, Council workload does not appear to have increased noticeably

Declining external Boards

Committee of the Whole



The Options

Status – Quo

Eliminate the minimum elector rule

Change the Minimum Elector Rule to a lower number

Move to population numbers instead of electors

Hybrid governance model



Eliminate the Minimum Elector Rule

Complicated option

Will invoke the triple majority rule

Addresses the Newbury challenge

Establish a set number of representatives



Change the Minimum Elector Rule

Slightly more complicated option

Will invoke the triple majority rule

Addresses the Newbury challenge

Where do we put the line?



Move to Population

Electors is inaccurate

Electors is lagging

Still need to make a line



Hybrid Governance Model

This model was first proposed in 2001

Since that time Wellington has adopted this model

Eliminates the disenfranchisement argument

Addresses the Newbury challenge

Maintains Council size

Provides for direct election of a few members of County Council



Status - Quo

Our current position

Simplest and most efficient economically

Doesn't address any concerns Council may be trying to solve



My Thoughts

- I have carefully reviewed the various options
- I believe that partial direct election solves a number of current and future challenges
 - Disenfranchisement
 - Newbury
- While I support partial direct election I recognize that there is not currently enough support at County Council for this change

My Thoughts

- If we are not going to be able to solve the disenfranchisement challenge that leaves Size and Representation as outstanding issues
- After careful review, I believe that the declining size of council is not an immediate concern
- I also believe that this is an issue that will self correct in the near future



My Recommendation

With all of these factors in mind, I am recommending that we maintain the status-quo in terms of governance for the upcoming electoral period

