



Ward Boundary Review 2020
Examen des limites de quartiers 2020



Options Report

APPENDIX B

Other Comments on Wards and Ward Boundaries

July 2020

Get involved online or in person
See how at ottawa.ca/wardboundary
Ask us at wardboundary@ottawa.ca

Introduction

Appendix B summarizes comments received as part of responses to the OWBR 2020's questions on wards and ward boundaries. Geographic comments regarding ward boundaries and communities, and quantifiable comments regarding ward populations and number of wards have been incorporated into the design of the five options for re-aligning Ottawa's wards.

The comments below are organized as follows:

- A. Other Comments on Wards and Ward Boundaries – Online Survey, Public Meetings and Online Submissions
 - General (Urban Wards; Suburban Wards; Rural Wards);
 - Specific Wards (Urban; Suburban; Rural);
 - Number of Wards/Ward Populations; and
 - Governance.

- B. Other Comments on Wards and Ward Boundaries – Members of Council
 - General;
 - Urban Wards;
 - Suburban Wards;
 - Rural Wards;
 - Ward Populations;
 - Number of Wards;
 - Approach to OWBR 2020; and
 - Office Resources.

The number in brackets at the end of some comments refers to the number of times the suggestion was mentioned.

A. Other Comments on Wards and Ward Boundaries – Online Survey, Public Meetings and Online Submissions

General

- Three issues: 1. We have too many Councillors for the City of Ottawa with an average of 41,907/ward - compared to average population/ward in Vancouver of 63,000, Calgary of 87,000, Montreal of 90,000 and Toronto of 109,000. Yet our Councillors have similar compensation as these other cities. 2. The Urban (inside Greenbelt) Wards currently have 12 Councillors with Rural Councillors at 11. While Urban population is 520,000, the Rural population is at 443,000...but will likely see the greatest increase in population over the next 20 years. 3. There is an uneven number of Councillors at the table. Doesn't it make more sense to have an even number and if there is a tie vote that the Mayor casts the deciding vote?

- Greenbelt provides natural limit for 4 – 5 wards; ward boundaries should not cross it; adjust boundaries inside and outside of it
- When drawing up ward boundaries, look at school attendance maps/school boundaries
- Coping with high population numbers is more a matter of staff and funding
- Natural areas have to be integrated into the Ward boundaries
- Diverse Wards are positive- helps with Council
- Don't want to be engulfed in a ward that has little in common with us (a condo building in a single-family residential area)
- Wards should be made up of places that see themselves as communities. Ward boundaries should encapsulate communities as they see themselves
- Capacity to represent does mean the issues a Ward has to deal with like social housing, etc. The actual number of residents is less important than the makeup of those residents
- The demographics are too varied. One cannot equate the needs of rural and urban dwellers. Harris was wrong in the amalgamation. Did it save money as predicted?
- Consideration should be given to ensuring neighbourhoods and community association and the like are not divided by way of ward boundaries with different councillor representation

Urban Wards

- I am concerned that urban issues do not get the attention they need by a council that is dominated by suburban and rural councillors (2)
- Center town gets way more representation than the Suburbs
- Relative to their populations, urban wards are underrepresented on city council, while rural wards are overrepresented. This is profoundly unfair since it means that an urban vote is less influential and powerful than a rural vote. There are two possible fixes for this. First, ward boundaries are drawn up to make each ward very close to equal in population. Or second, we return to the old two-tier regional model of government. I favour the second. Ottawa as it exists is too big and complex for one level. With the current model, we are seeing poor decisions such as the Lansdowne fiasco approved by the votes of rural and suburban councillors, while the councillors who represent the people negatively affected by the ruin of Lansdowne all voted against it
- The urban population of the city is highly underrepresented by the current ward boundaries. Somerset Ward as 42,000 people - there are some - such as Osgoode that have just over half that figure. Ward boundaries should have a reasonably equal number of residents (give or take 10 or so per cent)
- Downtown, the density is much more intense. Seems important to keep population density in terms of vertical versus horizontal density in mind while re-working the boundaries
- Not much change needed Downtown; just small boundary changes
- The urban core has approx. 50% of the population (and much of the development) but only a few seats on council

Suburban Wards

- Make a third suburban ward in Cumberland
- My Ward's (College) diverse suburban concerns are being increasingly overshadowed and even distorted by the concerns of its more rural parts, and by the rural regions & representatives that joined Ottawa after the municipal amalgamation. Not fair nor good for the more urban dwellers contributing to the tax base & whose needs are growing & very different
- Increasing the number of suburban wards to accommodate growth in the south and east portions of Ottawa will further diminish the rural voice at the Council table

Rural Wards

- Rural and urban communities are split (2)
- Rural and suburban communities are split (2)
- Manotick is a small village with many seniors and children. I fear especially for them with all the truck traffic that moves in a daily basis through the heart of our village. We have 2 seniors facilities and a school right on Bridge street and the large and heavy trucks are a threat to all who use Bridge street. I have no idea how someone has not been seriously injured or killed and furthermore, that there are not more accidents given the speed and "light-running" that the trucks do! It may be a 40km speed limit to many but the trucks (after all, time is money) violate that frequently
- The rural wards have far too few residents. It is anti-democratic (2)
- Reduce the number of rural wards to 2; additional staff could help (2)
- Rural villages in Ottawa are growing and will require representation that helps them to address economic and infrastructure challenges. The size of existing rural wards is already a challenge with Councillors having to travel great distances to represent their constituents
- Rural Ottawa does not get representation at council
- There have been instances in which rural councillors have voted down important measures that would have facilitated activities and projects in the urban core
- Large distances, empty space, issues with one village compared to another can be profound in terms of parking, traffic, etc. It's more difficult to cover a large geographic area, as opposed to a smaller geographic area in an urban area
- In Cumberland - full municipal water and sewer service neighbourhoods vs well and septic villages. Economic development in the latter is quite challenging
- Ensure the following:
 - Effective representation of rural issues at City Council
 - The opportunity for rural wards to work together on key issues for presentation to City Council
 - The opportunity to effectively implement the Rural Economic Development Strategy
 - The ability to ensure the long- term viability of rural villages that exist within the City boundaries.

- Rural wards should consist of primarily rural areas and not include suburban areas
- The City should maintain the current four rural wards

Specific Wards

Urban

- There is no community centre (in Gloucester-Southgate). High school zones are separated by Hunt Club, forcing our kids to go to Ridgemont, further away than Brookfield. Brookfield is a far better school in terms of student population. Being that kids in our zone attend primary school with those zoned for Brookfield, it makes our kids attend school where they have no friends. Ridgemont has many cliques, making it impossible to make new friends
- In Rideau-Vanier the links between Lowertown/Sandy Hill and Centretown are some of the worst transportation corridors in the city. They are dangerous to walk and cycle through and are in need of improvement.
- Rideau-Vanier includes some of Ottawa's richest people and some of its poorest. We have the most shelters and the lowest car ownership rate... and our representation is entirely driven by the rich
- Impact of Wateridge in Rideau-Rockcliffe community which is already being built. The traffic impact was already a factor when planning started. Hemlock will be affected and western part of Manor Park will try to divert traffic along St. Laurent
- Somerset Ward population is more dense than suburban wards and provides more tax revenue to the City, yet representation is not commensurate
- Feel isolated from other downtown constituents. Seems like Capital Ward and Rideau-Vanier get more say than Somerset as there aren't as many people
- Somerset used to be two wards, Wellington and Dalhousie. We had two votes on Council and now we are gerrymandered with too much rural and ex-urban representation
- Additions of population (to Somerset Ward) have already made this ward underrepresented within our municipal democracy and continued intensification without appropriate representation may leave the city open to legal challenges by underrepresented communities. High representation of minority ethnicity and religions in this ward may lead the city open to human rights challenges due to the gerrymandering of democratic districts that appears to be designed to suppress the votes of its minority residents
- Our community (in River Ward) and neighbouring (Knoxdale-Merivale) are split by an arterial road making it challenging to get both councillors onside to add traffic lights which would make our community safer as my girls must cross Fisher avenue to take OC Transpo and or to get to their French language school
- Alta Vista Ward is comprised of wealth and low income/new immigrants. But it seems like most decisions made for "the good of the ward" lean heavily in favor of the wealthy with little to no regard for the low- income families. ie. the new "Luxury apartments" that replaced the low- income houses that saw their

residents evicted and now have no prospect of returning to the community that they once called home

- My interests (in Bay Ward) would be better served by Kitchissippi ward which I am a street over from
- Large community of low income in Bay ward
- Alta Vista encompasses several discrete communities in terms of housing development and traffic priorities
- There is an income gap between two areas of Kitchissippi however this gap is narrowing due to gentrification and housing costs
- I live in the section of Capital Ward east of the Rideau River. As Bank Street is the focal point of the ward, I feel like issues in our Ward focus on Bank Street businesses and wealthy homeowners. This is not reflective of the low- and middle- income renters who live off Riverside Drive
- Huge socio-economic range (in Capital Ward), from multi-million- dollar homes in Glebe, OOS to rental units on Lees Ave. This makes it hard to represent everyone's needs effectively

Suburban

- Orléans has grown extensively, both south and east with no increase in representation (2)
- Kanata North growth is ignored by City Planners. Transportation and other infrastructure plans and budgets are downtown and inside the greenbelt centric which have a fraction of the growth of Kanata North. It has taken the City 10 years to recognize that, just maybe, the Kanata North tech park infrastructure should be a priority
- Kanata North has grown but the power of our representative has not changed Kanata is not sufficiently put at the forefront of the City of Ottawa's priorities. The transportation system (bus and not LRT) is solid proof of that!
- Gloucester-South Nepean - Large area with four distinct communities with different needs-transportation infrastructure; schools; agriculturally based issues; etc.
- The Councillor for Gloucester-South Nepean [with less population] has a much stronger voice than Barrhaven. We should be getting phase 2 of the LRT in Barrhaven rather than Riverside South
- Gloucester-South Nepean is growing exponentially and the roads (especially from Limebank to Leitrim) are not built for that kind of traffic. Now that Findlay Creek is getting built up to Leitrim Road, I expect even more delays traffic wise. Public transportation to downtown could take more than an hour. And busses are full, so often there are only standing spaces available. Often the busses are full and don't even stop to let more people on. The other thing is that we need a public HS. The Catholic HS has students from our ward, Upper Hunt Club and Findlay Creek and is bursting at the seams. Or, maybe have HS students who live in the Manotick area of Riverside South go to St. Mark. Our English Catholic Elementary school is also growing so much because people who live on the "Manotick" end of Earl Armstrong Road do not want their kids to go to school in Barrhaven or Manotick. We would need an English Catholic Elementary or Public

Elementary school build in the Manotick area of RSS. Our area can also use a Public Swimming pool sooner than later

- Kanata South has one of the largest residential populations in the City of Ottawa
- The needs of Gloucester South Nepean and development of that area are years behind the Barrhaven portion of this zone. There is too much competition with the Barrhaven needs
- Riverside South is a prime example where rural farmland is being desecrated by large housing developments as it is in the Half Moon Bay area

Rural

- I am within the boundary of Osgoode Ward, but I don't seem to be getting the services that my taxes are paying for. Manotick Station Road is rarely plowed in winter and Canada Post will not deliver packages to my door, to name a few
- Marchevale Estates is not well represented in West Carleton-March; not getting value for my taxes
- Osgoode Village is constrained by boundaries for development, constrained by lack of roadways for commuters
- Being a predominantly Rural farming ward (Cumberland) there seems to be little to no focus on roadway sharing safety measures with regard to the massive increase of cash croppers using and sharing some over- sized farming equipment that must travel on the too narrow secondary roadways going farm to farm especially during the planting and harvest seasons which includes multiple transport sized trucks drawing crops from the fields to dryers. Another concern is the lack of city or ward information, such as this survey, to those not able to connect to or afford the inflated rates and tower costs to afford access to rural internet. The further encouraged segregation and division of Villages from surrounding area residents. If one does not live right in a village boundary they are completely left uniformed
- Village of Vars and Sarsfield community groups and events are often only posted and advertised in French. Events themselves are all hosted in French. Information in the Vars community association website is often outdated or incorrect. Meeting agendas are not posted before meetings but then votes that impact ALL residents are passed without all being informed. Consultations are not done in a transparent format for surrounding areas to voice concern or comment on changes made that impact loss to them. Ward Councillor did not keep Ward residents informed of Ward any decisions or focuses other than Urban info. Rural Affairs email rarely has rural information in it
- Cumberland Ward is considered a rural ward, yet is mainly populated by suburban residents in Orléans with vastly different interests
- Rideau-Goulbourn is a rural ward and although the population is lower, the physical distance is greater and the issues vary greatly from that of urban wards. Although the City wishes to centre most of its development toward the City Centre where they can help reduce the carbon footprint by "infill", people taking public transit and walking more, the reality is that they are allowing for more and more farmland to be sold off and mega development projects in the rural areas. I

have heard some are encouraging a cut in councillors or a combination of wards. I think a better solution is to realign the current boundaries

- Parts of Rideau-Goulbourn are becoming less rural

Number of Wards/Ward Populations

- Ward sizes are too large (2)
- Wards are too small
- Too many wards (3)
- The wards are too small. As a result, councillors are expected to attend to too many details of very local concern rather than the common good of the city. As a result, the 'communities of interest' become too small
- There should be a greater number of urban wards. Voters in the most intensely urban areas do not currently receive "effective representation" as defined by the Supreme Court for two reasons: 1) The critical issue of *VOTER* parity is mistakenly being conflated with *POPULATION* parity. As stated in the 1991 Saskatchewan Reference case: "A system which dilutes one citizen's vote unduly as compared with another citizen's vote runs the risk of providing inadequate representation to the citizen whose vote is diluted." Urban wards have a much higher ratio of voters to population due to much higher prevalence of one and two-person households, yet none of the City reports I have read thus far even mention voter-numbers-per-ward or calculate projected growth in terms of voting age adults. 2) Effective representation / capacity to represent. As stated in the 2016 Toronto Boundary review, "Capacity to represent is often equated with Councillors' workload. It encompasses ward size, types and breadth of concerns, ongoing growth and development, complexity of issues, etc. For example, wards with high employment, major infrastructure facilities, tourism attractions, or special areas such as the Entertainment District, generate a host of issues a Councillor has to deal with, in addition to the concerns of local residents." Weighting these criteria appropriately along with population growth, and true *voter* (not population) parity would lead to more urban wards and a truer balance of effective representation
- There are too many, should reduce by half the number. Also, each should stretch from core to rural to better rep overall city needs currently overall planning and evolution is hindered by the small pockets of people in the wards, vs the overall need of the city. One example is extending Conrod Road to downtown
- Are the populations of wards in Ottawa equal in all city wards and if not what are the plans to ensure like population density? My concern is that population density across all wards be alike to insure equal voting on issues (2)
- There should be equal number of wards in both Urban and Rural
- Create eight Urban wards and eight Rural wards for a total of 16 Councillors. The Urban Councillors will end up representing, on average, 65,000 residents while the Rural Councillors will be serving, on average, 55,450 residents
- Retain a smaller resident to councillor ratio in rural wards to help balance out the nature and complexity of issues and equalize "voice" compared to urban/suburban wards

- Why does Ottawa need so many wards, when Calgary, with 1.5 million people has only 14
- It is simply wrong that a resident of West-Carleton-March or Osgoode should have more than twice the voting power than a resident of Barrhaven
- Apply a +/- 25 % variance in Ottawa to achieve effective representation
- While Ottawa's rural areas do need special consideration in terms of services..., they do not need a disproportionate vote on Council, any more than Somerset or Rideau-Vanier need more voting power because they have more homeless people; and how many "rural" residents are actually farmers...?
- I'd like to see fewer councillors in order to allow for more streamlined government and lower costs. I'd suggest 20 councillors for an average representation size of around 50,000. We have wards of this population size right now and representation seems to work just fine
- As for voter parity I think it's far more complex than counting how many people are represented by a councillor - there are many diverse communities across wards and there will always be different issues to address within the downtown core, inner city, suburbs, rural ... the danger is that majority rule is not always the most optimum approach if we want overall fairness
- There are too many councillors. Enlarge the wards and get rid of some
- Capital Ward has too many residents to just get one vote. Rural wards have fewer residents and get the same amount of votes
- Rideau-Vanier has too many residents compared to other wards outside the urban core. This makes it much harder for our Councillor to represent us

Governance

- The current model of governance is ineffective; establish a Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Rideau (City of Ottawa and County)
- Establish a mix of ward-based and city-wide Councillors
- Keep the same number of urban/suburban wards, but add an elected non-voting assistant councillor to certain growing wards, to aid these councillors in workload
- The current four rural wards should be recognized as a specific, protected regional municipality. We recognize this is a long-term objective that may not be dealt with in the context of this ward review. We are only delaying the inevitable with the current political structure

B. Other Comments on Wards and Ward Boundaries – Members of Council

General

- Different views among rural/suburban/core wards (2)
- Rural wards have different issues than urban and suburban wards
- 70% of issues in rural wards are the same, the rest are different
- One size doesn't fit all, i.e. apartment building parking formula cannot be the same downtown and in the suburbs
- Perhaps elect a subset of Councillors at-large to provide city-wide lens (2)

- If Council gets too large, need to think about changing governance
- Ottawa should not continue to expand the Urban Boundary; don't have the money for services
- Schools are being planned/located poorly; students have to cross major roads; police have to be there in the mornings; developers put them where it is easiest for them
- Councillors understand, but urban core residents feel rural residents are over-represented
- Concern about potential provincial reaction to Ottawa Ward Boundary Review (2)
- In Ottawa some people's votes count more where they live than where they work
- Losing agricultural land to urban expansion; rural economy is worth \$1 bill. to Ottawa
- Change the name of Gloucester-Southgate, it's always being confused with Gloucester-South Nepean. Name it after the dominant natural feature – Sawmill Creek
- Francophones and Anglophones on Council work well together

Urban Wards

- Among "urban wards" different views re city building among wards in the core and in the inner suburbs (2)
- Rideau-Vanier, Rideau-Rockcliffe, Somerset, Kitchissippi, Capital (old streetcar neighbourhoods) are being outvoted on Council (2)
- Protect Ottawa's core; if you kill downtown, you kill the city
- Workload of downtown Councillors is much bigger than that of suburban/rural Councillors
- Combining legislative/policy work with constituency work is challenging in inner core wards; 311 should be used more

Suburban Wards

- Suburbs are a car culture; lack of transit; downtown wards want to discourage cars
- Suburban residents are more demanding of a Councillor's time than rural or core residents
- Suburban wards do not have BIAs, no cycling
- Orléans, Innes and Cumberland seem to be working well together
- Occasionally Barrhaven and Gloucester-South Nepean have issues

Rural Wards

- Rural Councillors becoming more suburban
- Rural and suburban Councillors get along well
- Rural Councillors are all powerful
- Rural wards are overrepresented on Council; look huge, but populations too low (2)
- Rural and urban populations need to be more even

- Rural Councillors have to attend many events five to six times (i.e. 5 Canada Days; 6 or more Remembrance Day events)
- Need distinctly rural wards
- Rural and suburban populations should not be mixed (2)
- Perhaps add some suburban population to rural wards, as long as “rural population remains dominant
- Manotick is no longer rural
- Workload in rural wards is lighter than in urban wards; put suburban areas into rural wards to even out workload
- Rural wards should not have same office budget with 1/3 of the work

Ward Populations

- Population differences are not a big issue
- Population is not indicative of workload
- Population should not be only criterion; different issues and workload, i.e.:
 - Geography in 21 increases workload
 - 12 needs more resources
 - 6 is more homogeneous, but lots of development
 - 14 has government stakeholders, commercial, residential that 6 doesn't have
- Should be similar range
- Should reflect size of a ward., i.e. average of 50,000 – urban; 40,000 – suburban; 30,000 – rural
- Geographic size of wards outside the core is very large
- Geography counts in rural wards
- There will always be smaller wards; “door-to-door” in rural wards has to be done by car
- Rural wards are not as busy as urban wards, large geography, but there has to be some population balance
- Rural wards can have smaller population numbers (3)
- Barrhaven is too large (3)

Number of Wards

- 30 wards would be a problem
- Don't decrease number of wards (2)
- Could be smaller number
- Not much below current number
- Balance urban, suburban, rural
- Don't want to eliminate a ward (2)
- Maybe amalgamate some of the rural wards
- Don't want to end up with 3 rural wards
- Keep a minimum of 4 rural wards
- Perhaps 2 rural wards based on their number of households/population
- Reduce rural wards by 1 or 2
- Reduce rural wards

- Don't reduce 5 downtown wards to 4 (Rideau-Vanier, Rideau-Rockcliffe, Somerset, Kitchissippi, Capital); different densities/fabric (5)
- Keep number of wards in the bungalow belt
- Inner suburbs could lose a ward
- More representation inside the Greenbelt than outside the Greenbelt; could reduce wards in and around downtown
- If keeping 23 means reducing number of wards inside the Greenbelt, better to add a few more wards
- If a ward gets added, it should be added downtown
- If Urban Boundary gets expanded further, will need more wards
- More concerned with rep-by-pop
- Need to see the population numbers
- One that respects current/anticipated number of people and an average population of 50,000
- Less than 23 would be problem with Committee memberships

Approach to OWBR 2020

- Look at 311 calls; issues in suburban wards are different: speeding, transit; have parks already
- Wards need to be tweaked a bit to end at main streets
- Fix "zig-zag" boundaries
- Main streets should be looked after by more than one Councillor
- OWBR should be about correcting some of the strange boundaries
- OWBR should be unencumbered, look at boundaries with fresh eyes
- If a ward is too diverse, hard to represent
- OWBR should be comparing number of households, not total populations (1 household with 5 generates less work than 5 households with 1 person); workload is directly related to number of households
- Cyclical review of ward boundaries is a good idea
- OWBR should be targeted rather than extensive (i.e. Barrhaven population growth is the driver for the Review)
- OWBR should focus on populations only
- Should not think of using federal riding boundaries as ward boundaries (5)
- Take Urban Boundary expansion into account; don't make same mistake as last Review
- OWBR should be about keeping together communities with common interests
- Houses on the same street should not be in different wards (use backyards instead)
- Use Ward names rather than Ward numbers; residents identify with locations
- Consider using webinars/ Councillor discussions in Round 2 (maybe in different parts of Ottawa with groupings of Councillors)

Office Resources

- Inner core wards need more staff resources; look at the number of services per capita

- Rural Councillors have same budgets with half the population; have difficult logistics, but spread is too large (3)
- More high-density ward may need more resources
- Could expand average ward population with larger office and extra staff
- Reduce number of wards and increase office budgets based on workload
- Population not as important as office resources
- Perhaps wards with larger populations could have more resources