

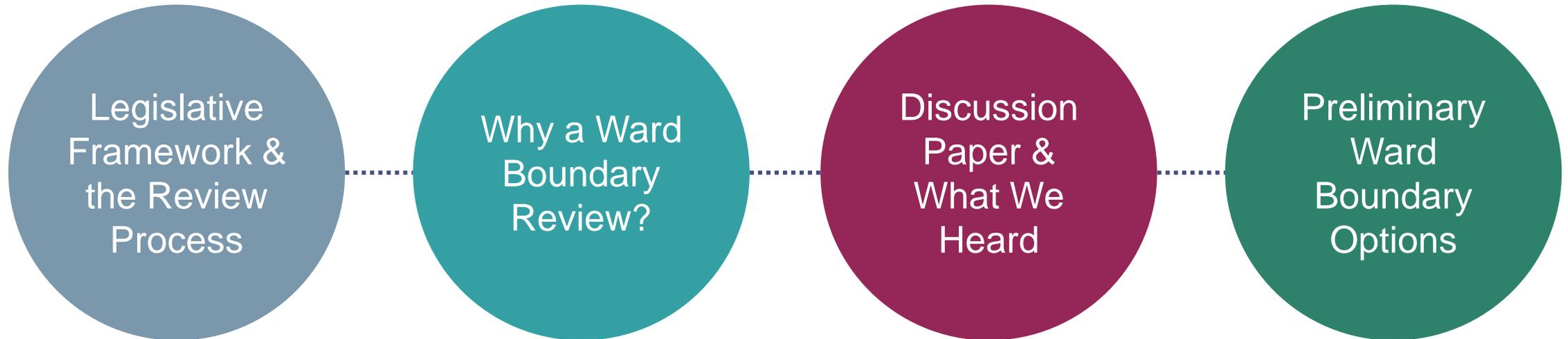


Municipality of Clarington Ward Boundary Review (WBR)

Interim Report
Dr. Robert Williams, Jack Ammendolia + Dr. Zachary Spicer



What Will Be Covered in This Information Session?



Context



Town of Newcastle
created under the Regional
Municipality of Durham Act

-
*Made up of former Town of Bowmanville,
the Village of Newcastle and the
Townships of Clarke and Darlington*

Town of Newcastle
renamed Clarington

1973

1993

1996

Council included:
Mayor (elected at-large)
6 Councillors (3 Regional + 3
Local (1/ward))

**Regional Council
seats changed:**
6 Councillors
(2 Regional +
4 Local (1/ward))

Legislative Framework



Ontario's *Municipal Act, 2001* authorizes a lower-tier municipality to:

- change the size of the Council
- determine how Council (other than the Mayor) will be elected
- “divide or re-divide the municipality into wards or dissolve the existing wards”

No stipulated schedule, standardized process or established criteria exist for electoral reviews in Ontario

- Each municipality must set its own terms, parameters, guiding principles, etc.
- A review is typically framed by established procedures and principles applied in several Ontario municipalities and by the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) and judicial rulings on representation

Review Process

Phase 2



1

Population
Forecasting/
Data Modelling

2

Development of
Preliminary Ward
Boundary Options

3

Public Consultation

4

Develop
Final Ward
Boundary Options &
Recommendations

Clarington Ward Boundary Review



The primary purpose of the study is to prepare Clarington Council to make decisions on whether to maintain the existing ward structure or to adopt an alternative arrangement

- Clarington's representation on Durham Regional Council is set at three members for 2022 (Mayor elected at-large & two Regional Councillors)
- Clarington is divided into four wards, each elects one local Councillor; the two Regional Councillors are each elected in a pair of wards
- These arrangements in place since 1996 when the population was less than 65,000. Today it is approaching 100,000.

Introduction: Why a Ward Boundary Review?

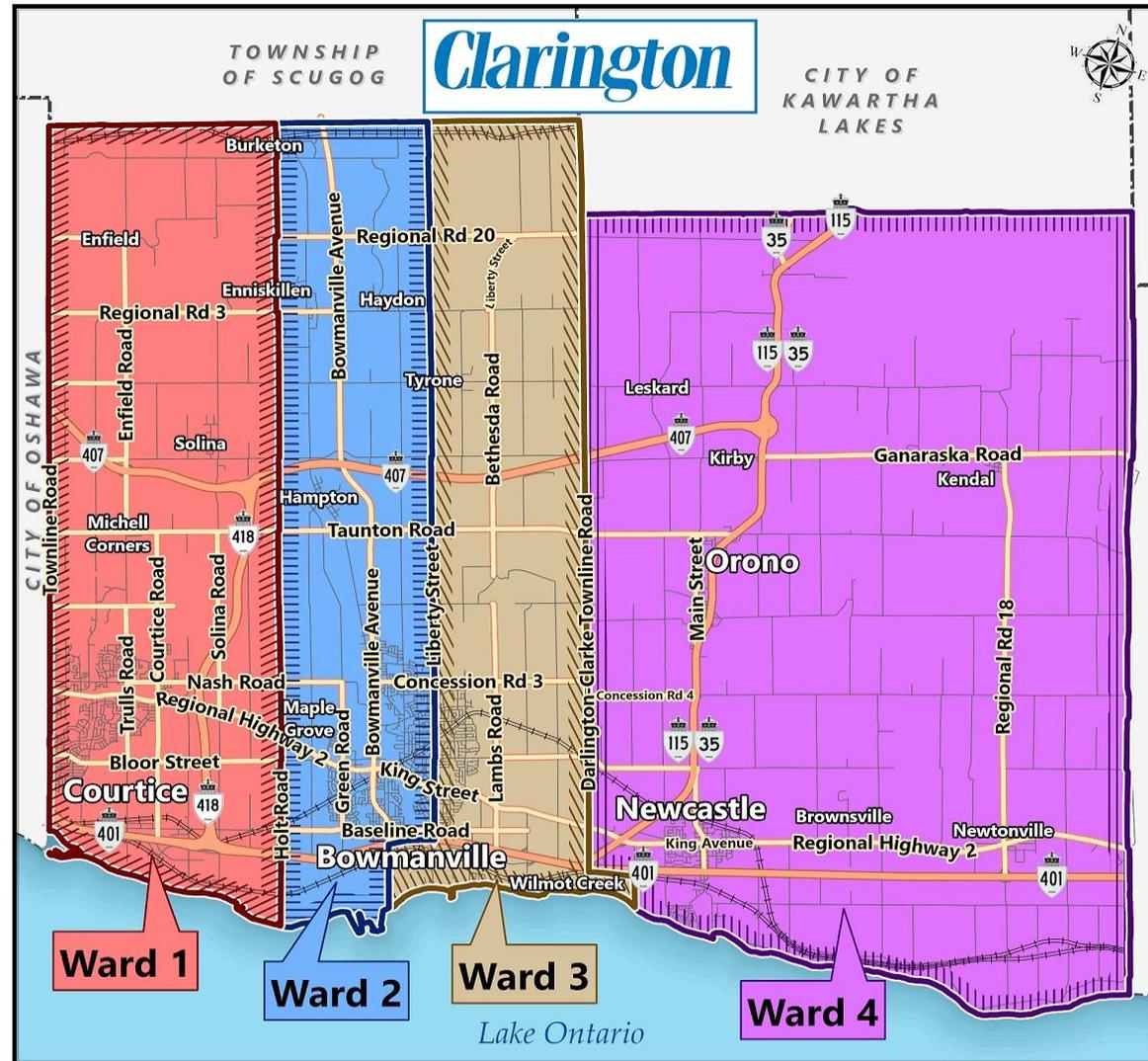


How well does the present electoral structure serve the citizens of Clarington?

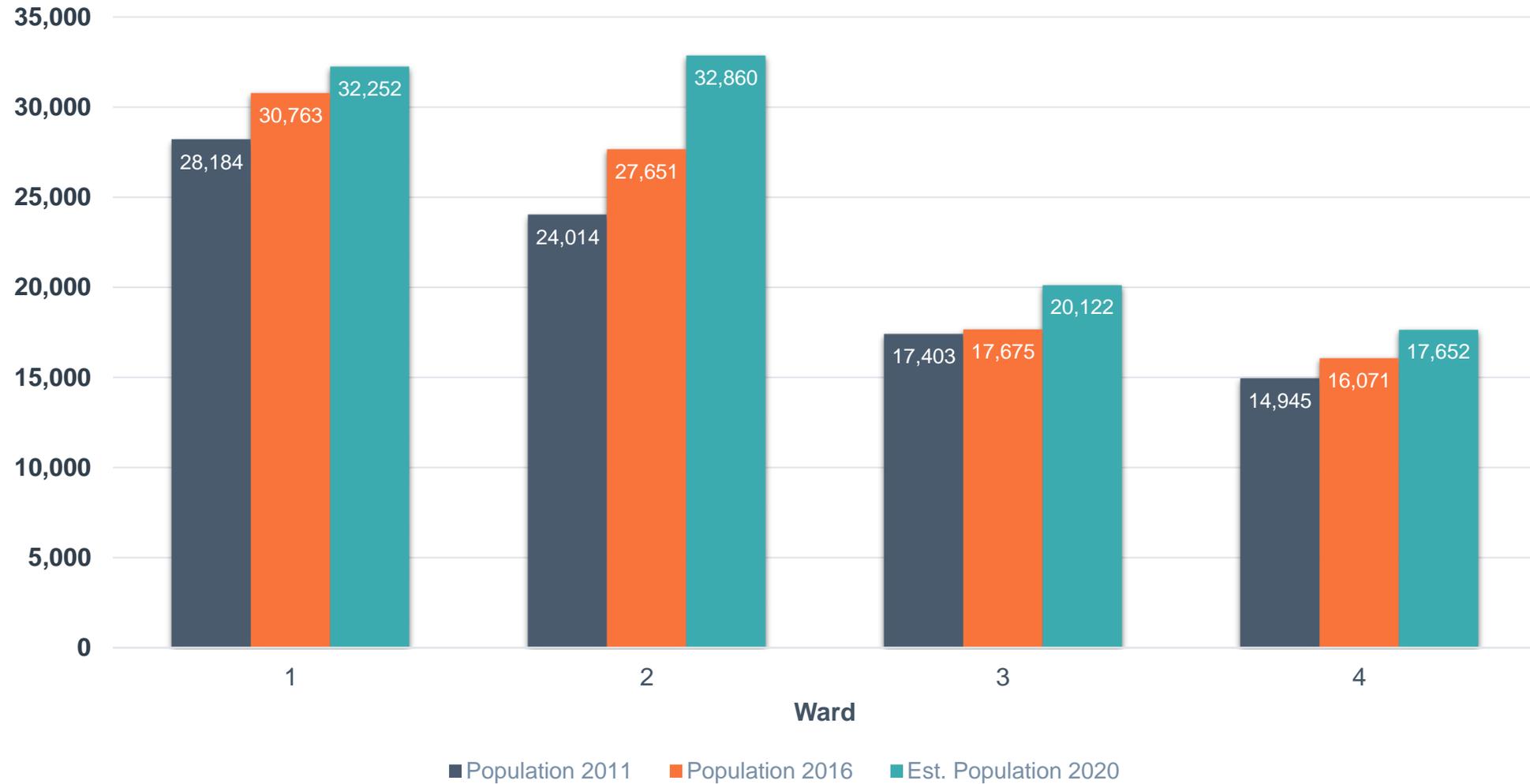
Does the present electoral structure provide fair and effective representation?

Would an alternative system provide better representation
for the citizens of Clarington?

Existing Ward Map



Populations by Ward



Emerging Issues



What is the rationale for electing four Local Councillors in a municipality soon to have a population over 100,000?

Can seven part-time Councillors provide effective political management and effective representation of the diversity of the municipality and still be “close to the people”?

What are the strengths and weaknesses of having a ward system in Clarington?

Phase 1 Consultations



Public Engagement Overview

- Interviews with senior staff and members of council
- Four, one-hour public consultation sessions
- A survey and engagement website where comments were collected from interested residents

Some High-level Perspectives

- Respondents tended to identify more with individual communities than Clarington

What We Heard



1

Strong rural and agricultural interests and many well-established hamlets not specifically represented on Council.

2

Respondents believe Clarington has been well served by having Regional Councillors attached to wards.

3

Adding additional voices to the Council table (that is with more wards) can contribute to the democratic needs of the municipality.

4

Respondents suggested priority be placed on representation by population and effective representation, slightly less on community or diversity of interest.

5

The possibility of additional councillors:

- Addressed by survey respondents and staff
- Proposals for 5 and 6 ward systems
- Calls for a northern/rural ward

Phase 1 Assessment



The WBR begins with an assessment of the present ward system to determine whether it constitutes an equitable and effective electoral arrangement (i.e. does it provide “effective representation” to the residents of the municipality?)

- If there are shortcomings, the Consultants will present alternatives for consideration.

Preliminary assessment of the present ward system suggests:

- Present wards fail to adhere to the representation by population principle.
- Population disparities throughout the wards expected to worsen through the next three election cycles.

Existing Population Parity



Ward	Population 2016	Variance		Estimated Population 2020	Variance	
1	30,763	1.34	OR +	32,030	1.25	O +
2	27,651	1.20	O +	33,700	1.31	OR +
3	17,675	0.77	O -	19,890	0.77	O -
4	16,071	0.70	OR -	17,280	0.67	OR -
Total	92,160	Optimal	23,040	102,900	Optimal	25,725

Phase 1 Assessment (cont'd)



Preliminary assessment of the present ward system suggests:

- Present wards fail to adhere to the representation by population principle.
- Population disparities throughout the wards expected to worsen through the next three election cycles.
- Three major communities in separate wards but northern hamlets seem to have more in common with one another than the southern communities.
- Bowmanville divided into two wards.
- Existing ward boundaries straightforward and easy to comprehend.
- Rural Clarington distributed across the four wards.



Overarching principle of “effective representation” means:

- each resident should have comparable access to their elected representative
- each Local Councillor should speak on behalf of an equal number of residents

Current populations disparities between wards are too great to achieve effective representation (especially on Regional Council)

Do the Wards Need to Be Changed?

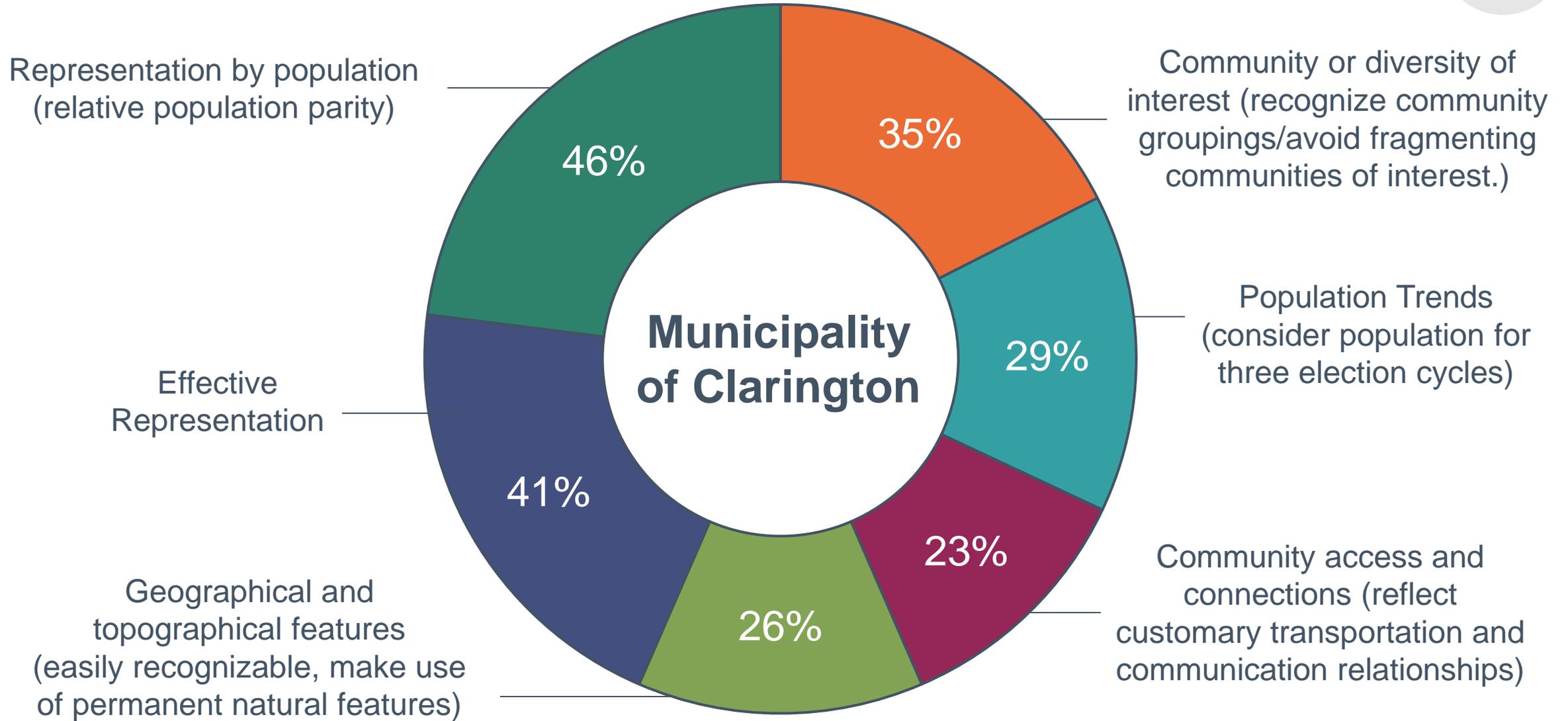


YES

The wards do not provide “effective representation” based on the core principles.

- Preliminary alternatives to “re-divide” the municipality have been developed taking into account quantitative and qualitative data, case law, successful models adopted in other municipalities and the core principles.
- No ward system design can **uniformly** meet all the core principles, especially with the unique challenges in Clarington: the large geographic area and population concentration in the south (45% of the total 2020 population in the Bowmanville urban settlement area and another 28% in Courtice).

What Should an Alternative System Look Like?





Clarington is unique:

- several historically recognized population centres of varying sizes;
- the concentration of population (close to 75% of the entire population) in two southern centres;
- a large thinly populated northern territory; and
- a forecast of significant further population growth in the southern part of the Municipality.

**The characteristics just noted will not change;
what can change is the number of wards.**

¹Municipal Act, 2001 s.217

²Municipal Act, 2001 s.222

³Municipal Act, 2001 s.223

Preliminary Options



Two preliminary four-ward options are presented in the Interim Report, along with a five-ward and a six-ward option.

Preliminary Option A provides acceptable population distribution, but two wards maintain a mix of rural & urban combinations.

Preliminary Option B reflects distinctive communities of interest but results in large population disparities.

Preliminary Option C adds a rural ward north of Courtice and Bowmanville.

Preliminary Option D includes two largely rural wards.

Next Steps



The Interim Report and Round 2 PICs will contribute to:

1

An opportunity for the Consultant team to better understand Clarington

2

An understanding of the preferences of members of the public who choose to participate in the Review

3

The development of recommended ward options

Your Contribution to This Review

Public Engagement

- Be willing to ask questions at the PICs and through the Municipality's website
- Read the Interim Report and other materials on the Municipality's website to better understand the issues under consideration
- Complete the survey on the Municipality's website



Your Contribution to This Review

Public Engagement

While public input provides valuable insight into the Review, it is not relied on exclusively.

Public input is utilized in conjunction with professional expertise and experience and guided by best practices to develop recommended options.



Questions?