

CITY OF BELLEVILLE
Matthew MacDonald
Director Corporate Services/City Clerk
Corporate Services Department
Report No. DCS-2021-38
August 9, 2021

To: Mayor and Members of Council

Subject: Ward Boundary Amendments – Public Engagement

Recommendation:

“THAT the Director of Corporate Services/Clerk’s Report No. DCS-2021-38, Ward Boundary Amendments – Public Engagement, be received”.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

The City of Belleville’s Strategic Plan identifies nine strategic themes. This report aligns with each of the City’s nine strategic themes and the City’s mission statement by providing innovative and efficient services in support of our community’s vision.

Background:

At the April 26th meeting of Council a Notice of Motion was tabled and subsequently considered by Council at their meeting of May 10th proposing the amendment of the current two (2) Ward system and the establishment of a four (4) Ward system.

At the May 25th Council meeting a By-law to establish new ward boundaries in the City was given First Reading by Council and as directed by the Council approved motion a period of public consultation commenced on the four (4) Ward system as proposed in the By-law. The intent was to gauge resident comfort and/or interest for transitioning from the current system to that as proposed over the period from May 10th through to the By-law coming back to Council for consideration at the August 9th meeting.

Subsequently a survey was posted on the City’s website on June 23rd while at the same time an opportunity for residents to complete a hardcopy of the survey, email or contact the Clerk’s office via telephone to provide feedback on the proposed change commenced.

Thirty (30) emails from fifteen (15) individuals, three (3) pieces of written correspondence and two (2) telephone calls were received from members of the public, with seven hundred and twenty-four (724) responses to the online survey. A summary

of the survey results is attached and identified that as it related to the question of transitioning from a two (2) ward system of representation to a four (4) ward system, as proposed by By-law 2021-114 that has received First Reading, 41% of the respondents were in favour while 59% were not in favour.

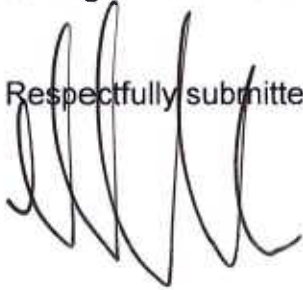
Financial/Analysis:

Accurate cost information for the transition from a two (2) to a four (4) ward system is unknown at this time.

Conclusion:

Management recommends that Council receives this report.

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew MacDonald
Director Corporate Services/City Clerk

attachment: Survey results summary

Belleville Wards Survey

724 responses

Do you feel that the proposed ward changes would create focus on different issues specific to areas, services and lifestyles?

720 out of 724 answered



Do you feel these changes would help to protect rural lifestyle and services for residents living in those areas?

720 out of 724 answered



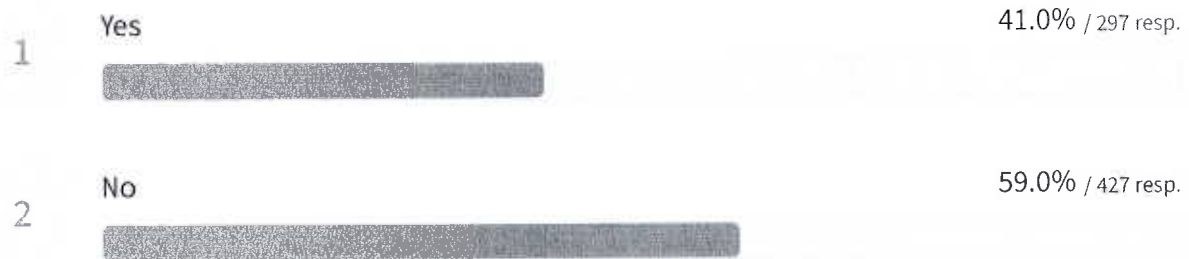
Would the voting process be simplified if you only needed to choose two candidates to represent your area?

719 out of 724 answered



Are you in favour of the proposed balanced four-ward alignment for Belleville City Council?

724 out of 724 answered



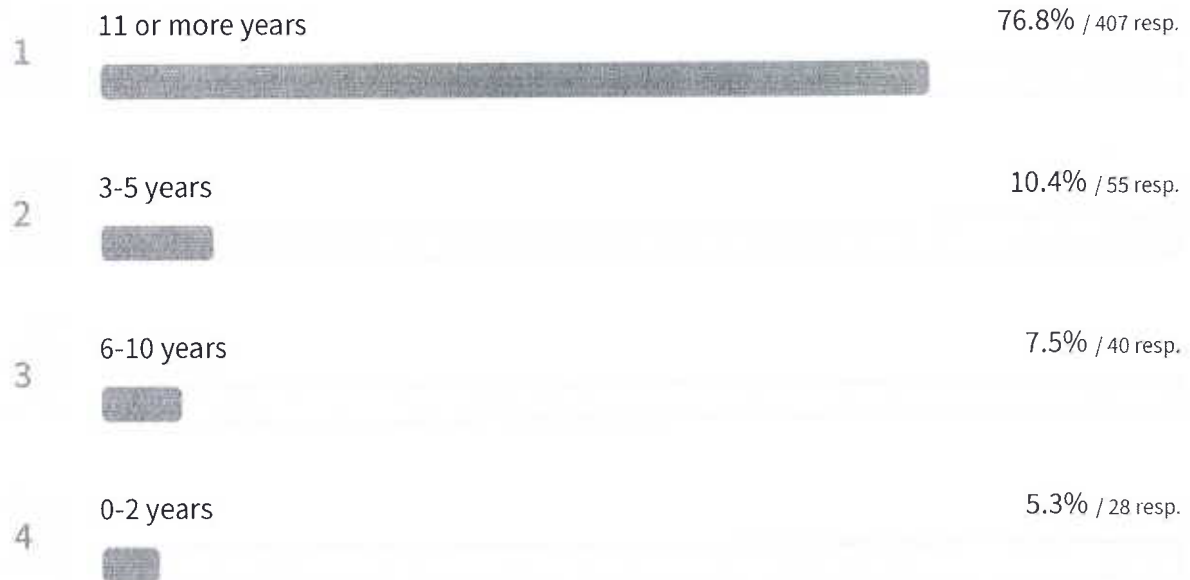
Are you willing to answer a few additional questions that will help provide information to make this important decision?

724 out of 724 answered



How long have you lived in Belleville?

530 out of 724 answered



Did you vote in the 2018 Municipal Election?

608 out of 724 answered



Have you or have you considered running for City Council?

608 out of 724 answered



Would you be more inclined to reach out with questions and concerns if you knew two elected Councillors specifically represented your area?

607 out of 724 answered



Do you feel that this boundary reform would improve our municipal democracy and resident participation in the process?

609 out of 724 answered

