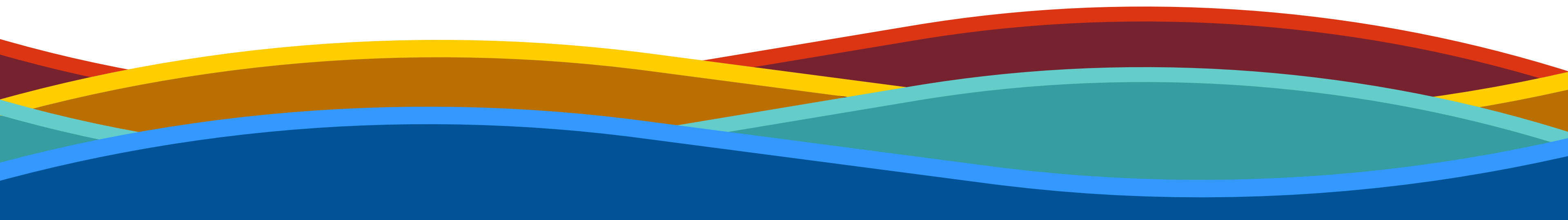


Candidate Information Night.





Welcome

Purpose of Candidate night:

To provide clear, accurate Wasaga Beach-specific information about running for Council.

The Clerk's department administers the election and focuses on election processes and policies, not campaign advice or legislative interpretation.

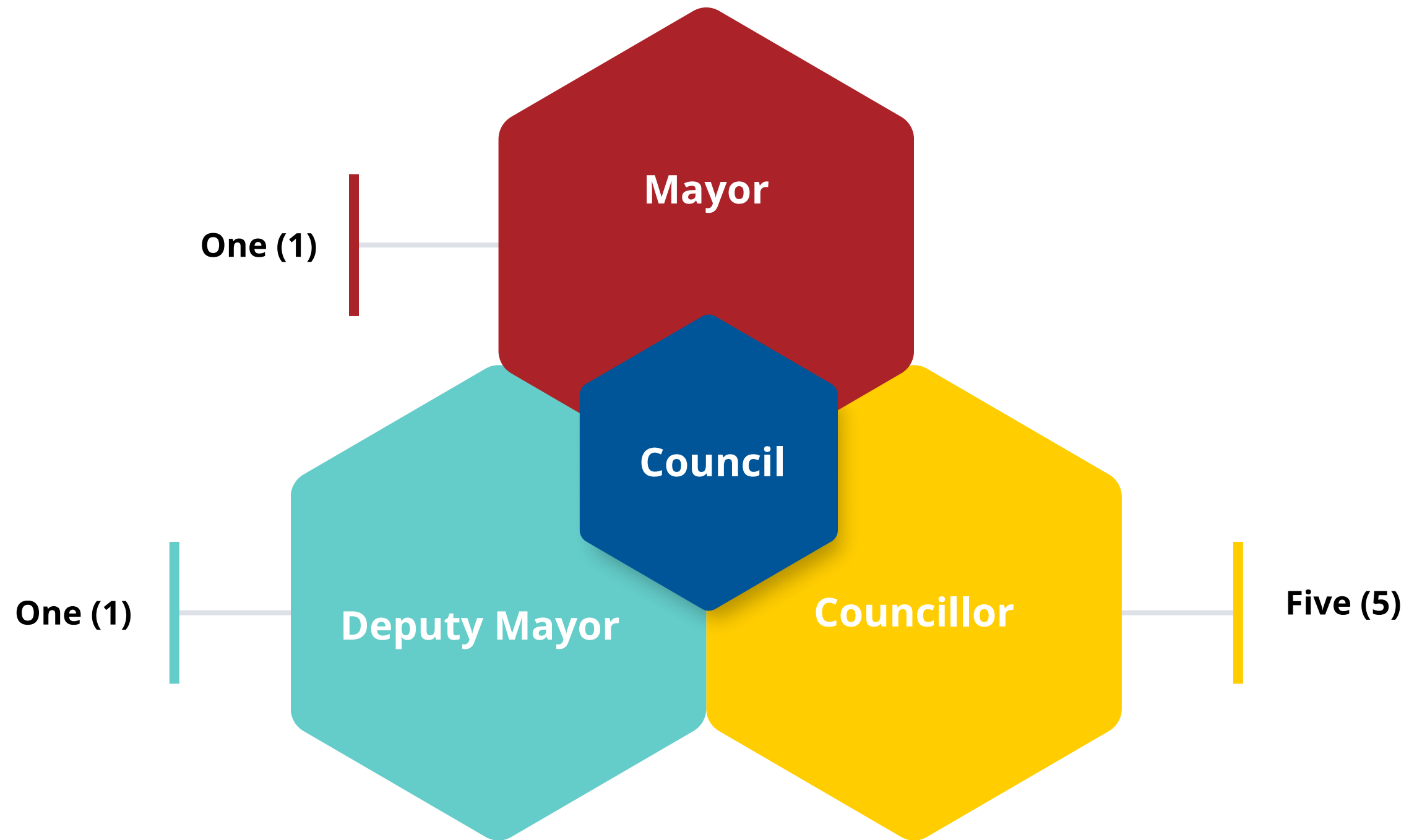
Nicole Rubli, Returning Officer

General Manager - Legislative & Development Services/Clerk

Carly Murdoch, Deputy Returning Officer

Special Projects Leader

Council Composition



An At-Large System

- Town of Wasaga Beach currently elects all seven (7) members of Council using an at-large system.
- In this system, the municipality is a single electoral district.
- All eligible voters may vote for:
 - Mayor (1)
 - Deputy Mayor (1)
 - Councillor (5)
- All seven members of Council represent the interests of the community at-large.

Strong Mayor Powers



- Strong Mayor Powers apply in Wasaga Beach effective May 1, 2025
- Authority under Part VI.1 of the Municipal Act, 2001 includes:
 - appoint and dismiss senior managers (either by the Mayor or their delegate)
 - create committees of council, assign their functions, and appoint their chairs and vice-chairs (either by the Mayor or their delegate)
 - propose the city's budget (subject to council amendments, a Mayoral veto, and a council override process)
 - submit matters for council's consideration if the Mayor believes it supports a provincial priority
 - veto bylaws if the Mayor believes it supports a provincial priority
 - direct city staff in writing
- All powers must be exercised in writing and made public

Eligibility for Office

- To run for Mayor, Deputy Mayor, or Councillor, a candidate must:
- Be a Canadian citizen.
- Be at least 18 years old.
- Be a resident of Wasaga Beach or own/lease property in the Town (or be the spouse).
- Not be legally prohibited from voting or holding office.
- Maintain eligibility throughout the term.

Nomination Process

- Nomination period opens: May 1, 2026.
- Nomination Deadline: August 21, 2026 at 2:00pm.
- Filing is **by appointment only** with the Clerk's office. Contact **election@wasagabeach.com**
- Filing fees: Mayor \$200.00 Other Offices \$100.00 (refunded if financial statements are filed on time) Cash, credit, debit and cheque.
- Candidates must complete the following forms, links available on the website, in advance of their nomination appointments:
 - Form 1 - Nomination Form
 - Form 2 - Endorsement of Nomination

Voting Methods & Dates



Election Day is **Monday, October 26, 2026**. The Town is offering both Online and in-person paper ballot voting for Election Day and the advance voting period.

- The Advance voting period for **online voting** will begin **October 1, 2026** and will remain open until election day at 8:00pm.
- The following Advance Voting Days have been established for in-person paper ballot voting:

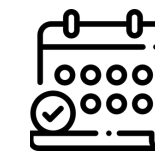
Date	Location	Address
Monday, October 5 10:00 am - 4:00 pm	RecPlex	1724 Mosley Street
Wednesday, October 14 2:00 pm - 8:00 pm	RecPlex	1724 Mosley Street
Saturday, October 17 10:00 am - 6:00 pm	Wasaga Stars Arena	544 River Road West



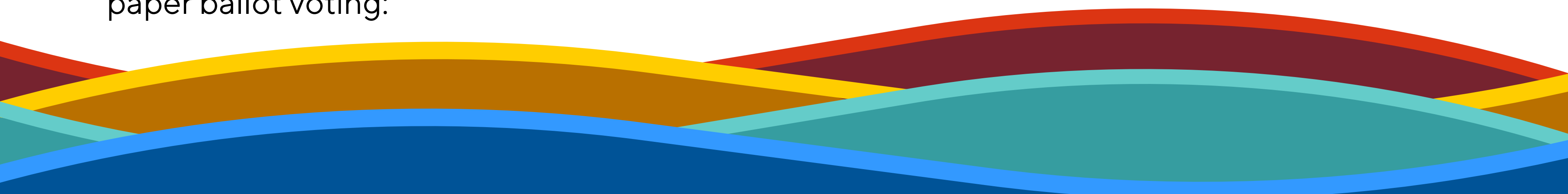
In Person



Online



In Advance



Ballot Question

- On February 12, 2026, Council passed a by-law to place a question on the 2026 Municipal Election Ballot. The question that will be posed to voters is:
 - Q: 'Are you in favour of moving to a ward system?'**
 - A: 'Yes' or 'No'**
- The outcome of the question depends on voter participation. If more than 50% of eligible voters in the municipality vote on the question, AND more than 50% of the votes on the question are in favour, then the result will be binding:
 - A majority “Yes” requires the municipality to implement a ward system promptly, beginning a ward boundary review after the 2026 election.
 - A majority “No” prevents implementation for four years.
- If voter participation falls below 50%, the result is not binding but may guide Council’s decision-making.

Voter's List



- Starting with the 2026 Municipal Election, the Voter's List is now administered by Elections Ontario (MPAC in previous years).
- Municipalities have been working with Elections Ontario since September 2025 to create the most accurate list of voters.
- Elections Ontario and local Municipalities are asking that voters check their registration by visiting: RegisterToVote.On.Ca
- The Town is committed to a robust communications strategy to maximize voter turnout through our **"Your Community. Your Vote"** campaign.
- MPAC is still responsible for updating school support.
- Access to the Voter's list will be digital. The first list will be available to Candidates by September 1, 2026; interim list by October 1, 2026.

Voter Engagement

Your Community. Your Vote.

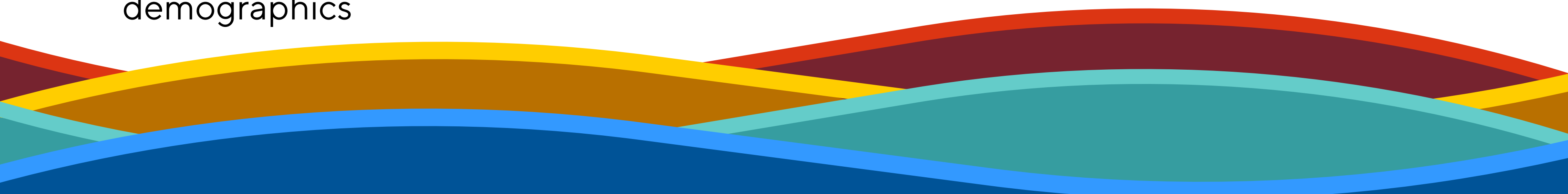


Goals

- Increase voter registration accuracy
- Improve public awareness of voting options and dates
- Create a branded identity for elections to help maintain consistent communications
- Encourage voter participation across all demographics

Communication Channels

- Social media campaign
- Town website and print media
- Moveable roadside signage
- Town-owned electronic signs
- Print media and local newspaper advertising
- Community events and outreach booths



Use of Corporate Resources

- March 26, 2026 Council enacted a by-law to update the policy.
- Purpose of the policy to prevent Municipal resources from being used for a Candidate's campaign and to ensure that no Candidate or Third Party is provided an unfair advantage.
- Applies to members but also to staff, candidates, and third parties.
- Important changes include new restrictions around:
 - Social media
 - Town Facility Rentals
 - Campaigning on Town property
 - Town Events
 - Use of logo and branding assets
- A copy of this policy is on the website and is also included in the nomination packages.

Election Signs

	Requirement	Key Rules / Limits	By-law Ref.
Where Signs Are Prohibited	Municipal property	No signs on municipal property including parks, road allowances, buildings, benches, trees or utility poles	13.1.1, 5.4
	Voting locations	No signs at or within 50m of a voting place. This includes signage on or in trailers or vehicles.	13.1.3
	Other jurisdictions	Cannot advertise candidates from outside Wasaga Beach	13.1.13
Private Property	Permission required	Must have owner consent before placing signs	13.1.2
Number of Signs	Residential zones	Max. 2 signs per candidate per property	13.1.10
	Non-residential zones	Max. 3 signs per candidate per property	13.1.11
Size & Height	Maximum size	1.22 m x 1.22 m	13.1.9
	Maximum height	2.0 m	13.1.9
Setbacks & Placement	Minimum setbacks	1.5 m from lot lines, driveways, walkways	13.1.7
	Sight triangles	Not permitted in sight triangles	13.1.7, 5.4
Timing	Installation	Only after candidate certification. August 25, 2026.	13.1.14
	Removal	Within 72 hours after election day	13.1.14
Responsibility	Candidate accountability	Candidate is responsible for placement, maintenance, and compliance	13.1.5, 5.11
Content Restrictions	Use of Town branding	Cannot use Town logos or marks	13.1.6, 6.2

Council Meetings



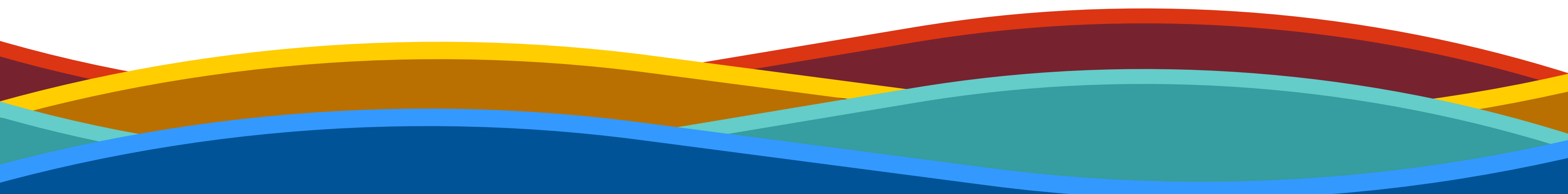
- **Regular Council Meetings**

- Every other Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers at Town Hall
- Usually in-person but the procedural by-law allows for hybrid meetings.
- The typical meeting lasts for about 3 hours.
- Summer Session: In July and August only 1 Council meeting per month is scheduled.

- **Special Council Meetings**

- May be called as needed.

- Meetings are livestreamed and open to the public.



Boards and Committees of Council

- Council appoints members to boards and advisory committees.
- The Mayor sits on two (2) boards: OPP and WDI.
- A number of Committees are legislated:
 - Accessibility
 - Committee of Adjustment
 - Property Standards
- Council members assigned as representatives to the other advisory committees of Council.
- Committee restructuring underway for 2027.

County Council

- **Bill 100, Better Regional Governance Act, 2026**
- County Council reduction of composition from 32 to 17, made up of the 16 Mayors of the member municipalities and a full-time provincially appointed Warden.
- Report from the County Clerk, Jonathan Magill, regarding these changes - CCW 2026-126.



Council Remuneration

- By-law 2024-53 sets the rate of Remuneration for Council.
- Council members are also eligible to receive benefits including optional dental and extended health coverage, CPP, life insurance, AD&D, expense allowances and reimbursements, Cost of Living increases.
- The Mayor also receives a stipend from County Council (\$31,900 in 2025) and from WDI (\$ 34,000 in 2025)

Position	2026 Rate
Mayor	\$66,727.30
Deputy Mayor	\$37,124.89
Councillor	\$32,450.65

Inauguration and Orientation



- Council Inauguration will take place on **Tuesday, November 17, 2026 at 6:00pm** in the RE/MAX room at the Wasaga Stars Arena (544 River Road West).
 - Members should plan to be available for most of the day for photos and to be sworn in.
 - More information including a schedule will be provided to newly elected members.
- Council Orientation **November 18 - 20, 2026 9:00am -4:00pm**
 - Mandatory for all members of Council.
 - Overview of all Municipal divisions and departments including Staff Presentations.
 - OCWA training.
 - SCMIP insurance training.
 - Training on the legislative framework and roles and responsibilities of Council by Town legal Counsel.

Thank You

For more Candidate Information and Resources visit wasagabeach.com/election

