

**The Corporation of the  
Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen**

**By-law Number 2024- 074**

Being a By-law to dissolve the Ward System of Electoral Representation for the Corporation of the Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen and Institute an At-Large System of Electoral Representation

**Whereas** *Section 222(1) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended*, provides that a municipality may pass a by-law to dissolve existing wards; and

**Whereas** the issue of electoral reform was discussed by candidates during the 2022 municipal election campaign and Council is desirous of dissolving the existing wards; and

**Whereas** a public consultation process was conducted that included a survey and two public meetings; and

**Whereas** the results of that survey broke down as 446 (69%) in favour of a change and 203 (31 %) opposed to a change; and

**Whereas** two Public Meetings were held on July 16, 2024 to receive verbal input from the residents of the Township; one in the morning and one in the evening; and

**Whereas** six (6) verbal presentations and one (1) written submission were received at the Public Meetings expressing support for abolishing the ward system and replacing it with an at-large system and three (3) verbal presentations were received in opposition to changing the current ward system; and

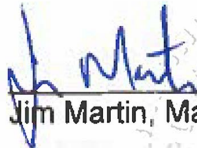
**Whereas** the principle of effective representation for the entire Township supports a change to the at-large system of electing all Members of Council whereby voters can be equally represented and the relative parity of voting power is achieved by having all eligible electors voting for all positions of Council; and

**Whereas** at the Open Session Council Meeting held on August 15, 2024, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen passed Resolution Number R-421-24 to eliminate the ward system and and create an at-large system whereby the roles of Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and three Councillor positions are all elected at-large;

**Now therefore** the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen hereby enacts as follows:

1. That Electoral Ward 1 and Electoral Ward 2 are hereby dissolved in their entirety.
2. That the Ward System of Electoral Representation in the Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen is hereby replaced by an At-Large Electoral System for the entire municipality whereby the roles of Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and three Councillor positions are all elected at-large.
3. That the Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to proceed with all required actions in order to give effect to this By-law, including the providing of notice as per Section 222(3) *the Municipal Act*, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended allowing for an appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal within 45 days of the passage of this by-law as per Section 222(4) *the Municipal Act*, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended.
4. That this by-law shall come into effect subject to and in accordance with Section 222(8) *the Municipal Act*, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended for the 2026 election and all subsequent elections.
5. That any By-law or parts of any By-law that are inconsistent with this By-law are hereby deemed repealed in their entirety.

Read a first, second, and third time and finally passed in open Council this 15th day of October, 2024.

  
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Jim Martin, Mayor

  
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Robert V. Angione, Clerk