

## Local Government Resident Representation in Canada

The overwhelming majority of Municipalities in British Columbia use an "at-large" election system to elect mayors and councillors. The only municipality in B.C. that uses electoral districts is the District of Lake Country (north of Kelowna). Electors there elect 4 councillors from specific districts and two councillors "at-large". Section 36.1(2) of the BC Local Government Act gives municipalities the authority to create constituencies through a by-law.

Ward (or District) council representation systems, and/or combinations of same are widely used across the rest of Canada. There are several variations of Ward/District systems used by Canadian municipalities and they are used by both large and small municipalities.

The main variations are:

- 1) Wards (Districts) with one Councillor elected in each ward.
- 2) Wards (Districts) with more than one Councillor elected in each (usually two per Ward)
- 3) Ward and at-large; a combination of one council member elected in each ward with more than 1 councillor(s) elected "at large"
- 4) Ward and at-large; a combination of more than one council member elected in each ward with more than 1 councillor elected "at-large"

Various papers have been written and studies done on the strengths and weaknesses of both the "at-large" and ward election methods of electing councillors and is beyond the scope of this document.

In Greater Victoria, the two largest municipalities elect councillors "at-large". In the City of Victoria, Council assigns Councillors to represent Neighbourhood associations, however Councillors are not specifically accountable to the neighbourhood they represent. In Saanich, Councillors are assigned to represent specific Municipal Departments, e.g. a resident with an issue with Planning would be referred to the Councillor responsible to liaise with the Planning Department.

### **The following Canadian Municipalities use either a Ward/District electoral system for councillors or a modified version of a ward system:**

|                   |   |           |
|-------------------|---|-----------|
| Lake Country, BC  | <a href="http://www.okanaganway.ca/municipal/mayor-council/council-bios/">http://www.okanaganway.ca/municipal/mayor-council/council-bios/</a>                                 | 12,922    |
| Calgary, AB       | <a href="http://www.calgary.ca/CityCouncil/Pages/About-Calgary-City-Council.aspx">http://www.calgary.ca/CityCouncil/Pages/About-Calgary-City-Council.aspx</a>                 | 1,239,220 |
| Edmonton, AB      | <a href="https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/city_organization/city-councillors.aspx">https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/city_organization/city-councillors.aspx</a> | 932,546   |
| Red Deer, AB      | <b>Red Deer reverted from Wards to electing Councillors "At Large" in a 2013 referendum</b>   | N/A       |
| Prince Albert, SK | <a href="http://citypa.ca/Portals/0/Council/Ward%20Map%20with%20Councillors%20names.pdf">http://citypa.ca/Portals/0/Council/Ward%20Map%20with%20Councillors%20names.pdf</a>   | 35,926    |

|                       |   |           |
|-----------------------|---|-----------|
| Saskatoon, SK         | <a href="https://www.saskatoon.ca/city-hall/mayor-city-councillors/city-councillors">https://www.saskatoon.ca/city-hall/mayor-city-councillors/city-councillors</a>                                     | 246,376   |
| Regina, SK            | <a href="http://www.regina.ca/residents/council-committees/meet-city-council/">http://www.regina.ca/residents/council-committees/meet-city-council/</a>   | 215,106   |
| Brandon, MB           | <a href="http://brandon.ca/council-information/wards/ward-map">http://brandon.ca/council-information/wards/ward-map</a>   | 48,859    |
| Winnipeg, MB          | <a href="http://winnipeg.ca/council/">http://winnipeg.ca/council/</a>   | 705,244   |
| Thunder Bay, ON       | <a href="http://www.thunderbay.ca/City_Government/Your_Council.htm">http://www.thunderbay.ca/City_Government/Your_Council.htm</a>   | 107,909   |
| Windsor, ON           | <a href="http://www.citywindsor.ca/mayorandcouncil/City-Councillors/Pages/City-Councillors.aspx">http://www.citywindsor.ca/mayorandcouncil/City-Councillors/Pages/City-Councillors.aspx</a>             | 217,188   |
| Greater Sudbury, ON   | <a href="https://www.greatersudbury.ca/inside-city-hall/city-council/">https://www.greatersudbury.ca/inside-city-hall/city-council/</a>   | 161,531   |
| London, Ontario       | <a href="http://www.london.ca/city-hall/city-council/Pages/default.aspx">http://www.london.ca/city-hall/city-council/Pages/default.aspx</a>   | 383,822   |
| Barrie, Ontario       | <a href="http://www.barrie.ca/City%20Hall/MayorCouncil/Pages/default.aspx">http://www.barrie.ca/City%20Hall/MayorCouncil/Pages/default.aspx</a>   | 141,434   |
| Mississauga, Ontario  | <a href="http://www.mississauga.ca/portal/cityhall/mayorandcouncil">http://www.mississauga.ca/portal/cityhall/mayorandcouncil</a>   | 721,599   |
| Peterborough, Ontario | <a href="http://www.peterborough.ca/City_Hall/City_Council_2833/City_Council_Contact_Information.htm">http://www.peterborough.ca/City_Hall/City_Council_2833/City_Council_Contact_Information.htm</a>   | 81,032    |
| Belleville, Ontario   | <a href="http://belleville.ca/city-hall/page/city-council">http://belleville.ca/city-hall/page/city-council</a>   | 50,716    |
| Brampton, Ontario     | <a href="http://www.brampton.ca/en/City-Hall/CouncilOffice/Pages/Welcome.aspx">http://www.brampton.ca/en/City-Hall/CouncilOffice/Pages/Welcome.aspx</a>   | 593,638   |
| Chatham-Kent, ON      | <a href="http://www.chatham-kent.ca/Council/Pages/Council%20Home%20Page.aspx">http://www.chatham-kent.ca/Council/Pages/Council%20Home%20Page.aspx</a>   | 101,647   |
| Hamilton, Ontario     | <a href="http://map.hamilton.ca/Static/PDFs/WardMaps/AllWards_Statistics.pdf">http://map.hamilton.ca/Static/PDFs/WardMaps/AllWards_Statistics.pdf</a>   | 536,917   |
| Oshawa, Ontario       | <a href="https://www.oshawa.ca/city-hall/city-council.asp?_mid_=309">https://www.oshawa.ca/city-hall/city-council.asp?_mid_=309</a>   | 159,458   |
| Kitchener, Ontario    | <a href="http://kitchener.ca/en/insidecityhall/CityCouncil.asp">http://kitchener.ca/en/insidecityhall/CityCouncil.asp</a>   | 233,222   |
| Kingston, Ontario     | <a href="https://www.cityofkingston.ca/city-hall/city-council/district-map">https://www.cityofkingston.ca/city-hall/city-council/district-map</a>   | 123,798   |
| Orillia, Ontario      | <a href="http://www.orillia.ca/en/insidecityhall/wards.asp">http://www.orillia.ca/en/insidecityhall/wards.asp</a>   | 31,166    |
| Ottawa, Ontario       | <a href="http://ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/mayor-and-city-councillors">http://ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/mayor-and-city-councillors</a>   | 934,243   |
| Sault Ste Marie, Ont  | <a href="http://saultstemarie.ca/City-Hall/City-Council.aspx">http://saultstemarie.ca/City-Hall/City-Council.aspx</a>   | 73,368    |
| Timmins, Ontario      | <a href="http://www.timmins.ca/mayor-and-council">http://www.timmins.ca/mayor-and-council</a>   | 41,788    |
| Toronto, Ont.         | <a href="https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/council/members-of-council/">https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/council/members-of-council/</a>   | 2,731,571 |
| Quebec City, PQ       | <a href="https://www.ville.quebec.qc.ca/EN/apropos/vie_democratique/elus/conseil_municipal/index.aspx">https://www.ville.quebec.qc.ca/EN/apropos/vie_democratique/elus/conseil_municipal/index.aspx</a> | 531,902   |
| Longueuil, PQ         | <a href="https://www.longueuil.quebec/en/council">https://www.longueuil.quebec/en/council</a>   | 239,700   |
| Moncton, NB           | <a href="http://www.moncton.ca/Government/City_Council.htm">http://www.moncton.ca/Government/City_Council.htm</a>   | 71,899    |
| Frederickton, NB      | <a href="http://www.frederickton.ca/en/city-hall/city-council-committees/mayor-council">http://www.frederickton.ca/en/city-hall/city-council-committees/mayor-council</a>                               | 58,220    |
| Saint John, NB        | <a href="http://www.saintjohn.ca/en/home/cityhall/mayor-and-council/default.aspx">http://www.saintjohn.ca/en/home/cityhall/mayor-and-council/default.aspx</a>   | 67,575    |
| Edmondston, NB        | <a href="http://edmundston.ca/en/l-hotel-de-ville/conseil-municipal">http://edmundston.ca/en/l-hotel-de-ville/conseil-municipal</a>   | 16,580    |
| Charlottown, PEI      | <a href="http://city.charlottetown.pe.ca/mayorandcouncil.php">http://city.charlottetown.pe.ca/mayorandcouncil.php</a>   | 36,094    |
| Summerside, PEI       | <a href="http://www.city.summerside.pe.ca/mayor-and-council/pages/2012/2/ward-map/">http://www.city.summerside.pe.ca/mayor-and-council/pages/2012/2/ward-map/</a>                                       | 14,829    |

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|--------------------|---|---------|
| Cape Breton RM, NS | <a href="http://www.cbrm.ns.ca/district-11.html">http://www.cbrm.ns.ca/district-11.html</a>   | 94,285  |
| Truro, NS          | <a href="http://www.truro.ca/meet-your-mayor-and-council.html">http://www.truro.ca/meet-your-mayor-and-council.html</a>   | 12,261  |
| New Glasgow, NS    | <a href="http://www.newglasgow.ca/index.php/town-hall/mayor-council-town-committees">http://www.newglasgow.ca/index.php/town-hall/mayor-council-town-committees</a> | 9,075   |
| Halifax, NS        | <a href="http://www.halifax.ca/council/index.php">http://www.halifax.ca/council/index.php</a>   | 403,131 |
| St. John's, NF     | <a href="http://www.stjohns.ca/CityWebDev/cityhall/elections/wardmaps.pdf">http://www.stjohns.ca/CityWebDev/cityhall/elections/wardmaps.pdf</a>                     | 108,860 |

In the Western United States (Cascadia - Alaska, Washington & Oregon) Ward and modified Ward systems are widely used in both small (Blaine, Wa) and large (Seattle) Cities.

**CITIES/MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS THAT USE A COUNCILLOR WARD/DISTRICT REPRESENTATION SYSTEM (WESTERN USA):**

| <b>CITY/MUNICIPALITY</b>     | <b>Description of Council Representation - Reference Data:</b>  | <b>Population:</b> |
|------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| <b>Tacoma, Wash</b>          | Mayor and 8 Councillors - 5 Councillors are elected from 5 Districts and 3 Councillors are elected "at Large" - <a href="http://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_council/">http://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_council/</a>   | 207,948            |
| <b>Seattle, Wash</b>         | Mayor and 9 Councillors - 7 Councillors are elected from 7 Districts and 2 Councillors are elected "at Large" - Seattle adopted this method of councillor elections in a 2013 City Referendum - <a href="http://www.seattle.gov/cityclerk/municipal-code-and-city-charter/council-districts">http://www.seattle.gov/cityclerk/municipal-code-and-city-charter/council-districts</a> | 684,451            |
| <b>Bremerton, Wash</b>       | Mayor and 7 Councillors - all 7 Councillors are elected from 7 separate Districts within the City - <a href="http://www.ci.bremerton.wa.us/155/City-Council">http://www.ci.bremerton.wa.us/155/City-Council</a>   | 39,520             |
| <b>Bellingham, Wash</b>      | Mayor and 12 Councillors - City is divided into 6 Wards - 2 Council members are elected within each Ward - <a href="http://aberdeenwa.gov/government/city-council-members-2/">http://aberdeenwa.gov/government/city-council-members-2/</a>  | 16,276             |
| <b>Anacortes, Wash</b>       | Mayor and 7 Council Members - 6 Councillors are elected from 6 Separate Wards and 1 Councillor is elected "at Large" - <a href="https://www.cob.org/gov/council/pages/contacts-bios.aspx">https://www.cob.org/gov/council/pages/contacts-bios.aspx</a>  | 85,146             |
| <b>Bainbridge Island, Wa</b> | Mayor and 7 Councillors - 3 Councillors elected from 3 separate Wards and 4 Councillors are elected "at Large" - <a href="http://www.cityofanacortes.org/council.php#.WHbZoBRh3-k">http://www.cityofanacortes.org/council.php#.WHbZoBRh3-k</a>  | 16,403             |
| <b>Blaine, Wash</b>          | 7 Council Members - 6 are elected from 3 Wards (Two Councillors per Ward) and 1 Councillor is elected "at Large" - the 7 council members choose one Member to act as Mayor for a two year term - <a href="http://www.ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us/217/City-Council">http://www.ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us/217/City-Council</a>  | 23,840             |
| <b>Blaine, Wash</b>          | The Blaine City Council is comprised of 7 councilmembers. There are 3 wards within the city limits and each ward is represented by 2 councilmembers. A seventh councilmember serves at-large. <a href="http://www.ci.blaine.wa.us/327/City-Council">http://www.ci.blaine.wa.us/327/City-Council</a>   | 5,056              |

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| <b>Burlington, Wash</b>   | Seven council members serve the City of Burlington in a mayor-council form of government. Burlington consists of six council wards with one candidate elected from each ward. The seventh council member serves in the at-large position. All councilors are elected to four-year terms, including the mayor. <a href="http://www.burlingtonwa.gov/index.aspx?nid=144">http://www.burlingtonwa.gov/index.aspx?nid=144</a> | 8,633  |
| <b>Mount Vernon, Wash</b> | Mayor and 7 Council Members - there are 3 wards - 2 councilors are elected in each Ward and one Councilor is elected "at Large" - <a href="http://www.mountvernonwa.gov/Index.aspx?NID=98">http://www.mountvernonwa.gov/Index.aspx?NID=98</a>   | 34,053 |
| <b>Centralia, Wash</b>    | Seven Council members elected as follows: 1 each from 4 wards plus 3 "at Large" - Council elects one Councilmember to serve as Mayor for 2 year term - <a href="http://www.cityofcentralia.com/SectionIndex.asp?SectionID=30">http://www.cityofcentralia.com/SectionIndex.asp?SectionID=30</a>  | 16,753 |

**CITIES/MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS THAT USE A COUNCILLOR WARD/DISTRICT REPRESENTATION SYSTEM (WESTERN USA) (PAGE TWO):**

| <b>CITY/MUNICIPALITY</b> | <b>Description of Council Representation - Reference Data:</b>   | <b>Population:</b> |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------|
| <b>Chehalis, Wash</b>    | Seven Council members elected as follows: 1 each from 4 wards plus 3 "at Large" - Council elects one Councilmember to serve as Mayor for 2 year term- <a href="http://www.ci.chehalis.wa.us/citycouncil/about-city-council">http://www.ci.chehalis.wa.us/citycouncil/about-city-council</a>  | 7,391              |
| <b>Puyallup, Wash</b>    | Seven Councils members - 6 elected from Districts (2 per District) and one elected "at Large" - Council elect one member to serve as Mayor for 2 year term(s) - <a href="http://www.cityofpuyallup.org/633/Meet-the-Council">http://www.cityofpuyallup.org/633/Meet-the-Council</a>  | 39,659             |
| <b>Hoquiam, Wash</b>     | Twelve Council Members are elected - there are 6 Wards, 2 council members are elected within each Ward - The Mayor is elected "at large". <a href="http://cityofhoquiam.com/government/hoquiam-city-council/">http://cityofhoquiam.com/government/hoquiam-city-council/</a>  | 8,405              |
| <b>Spokane, Wash</b>     | Seven council members are elected - two per district in 3 districts and one "at Large" who serves as a Council President - Spokane electors also elect a Mayor "at large". <a href="https://my.spokanecity.org/citycouncil/members/">https://my.spokanecity.org/citycouncil/members/</a>   | 213,272            |
| <b>Anchorage, Alaska</b> | Anchorage has an Eleven Assembly Members - 6 elected from 6 Districts (1 per District) and 5 elected "at Large" and a Mayor - Anchorage uses a "strong Mayor" system, whereby the Mayor has "executive powers" and the Assembly has Legislative Powers - <a href="https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Pages/MemberProfiles.aspx">https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Pages/MemberProfiles.aspx</a> | 298,695            |

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| <b>Juneau, Alaska</b> | The City and Borough of Juneau is a home-rule municipality. The City and Borough of Juneau Assembly has nine members including the Mayor who serves as presiding officer. Voters elect a Mayor and 8 Assembly Members, 2 each from 3 Districts (for a total of six) and 2 "at Large" - <a href="http://www.juneau.org/Assembly/">http://www.juneau.org/Assembly/</a>  | 32,756  |
| <b>Eugene, Oregon</b> | A Mayor and 8 Councilors are elected on a nonpartisan ballot for four-year terms. One councilor is elected from each of eight wards with one-half of the council elected every two years. <a href="https://www.eugene-or.gov/537/Mayor-and-City-Council">https://www.eugene-or.gov/537/Mayor-and-City-Council</a>   | 163,460 |
| <b>Salem, Oregon</b>  | City Council consists of the Mayor and eight City Councilors, each representing one of the eight designated Wards of the City. The registered voters in each Ward elected a Councilor, who resides in the Ward, to represent them on the Council. The term of office for each Councilor is four years, with half of the Councilors standing for election every two years. <a href="http://www.cityofsalem.net/CityCouncil/Pages/default.aspx">http://www.cityofsalem.net/CityCouncil/Pages/default.aspx</a> | 164,549 |

**CITIES/MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS THAT USE A COUNCILLOR WARD/DISTRICT REPRESENTATION SYSTEM (WESTERN USA) (PAGE THREE):**

| <b>CITY/MUNICIPALITY</b> | <b>Description of Council Representation - Reference Data:</b>   | <b>Population:</b> |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------|
| <b>Astoria, Oregon</b>   | The Mayor and City Councilors serve four year terms. The 4 Council members are elected from 4 Wards. <a href="http://www.astoria.or.us/City_Council.aspx">http://www.astoria.or.us/City_Council.aspx</a>   | 9,626              |
| <b>Corvallis, Oregon</b> | Mayor is elected "at Large" and 9 Council members are elected individually from the City's nine wards. Each of the nine City Council members serves a two-year term. - <a href="http://www.corvallisoregon.gov/index.aspx?page=61">http://www.corvallisoregon.gov/index.aspx?page=61</a> | 55,780             |

USA City Population Data Source (2015): <http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045216/00>

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