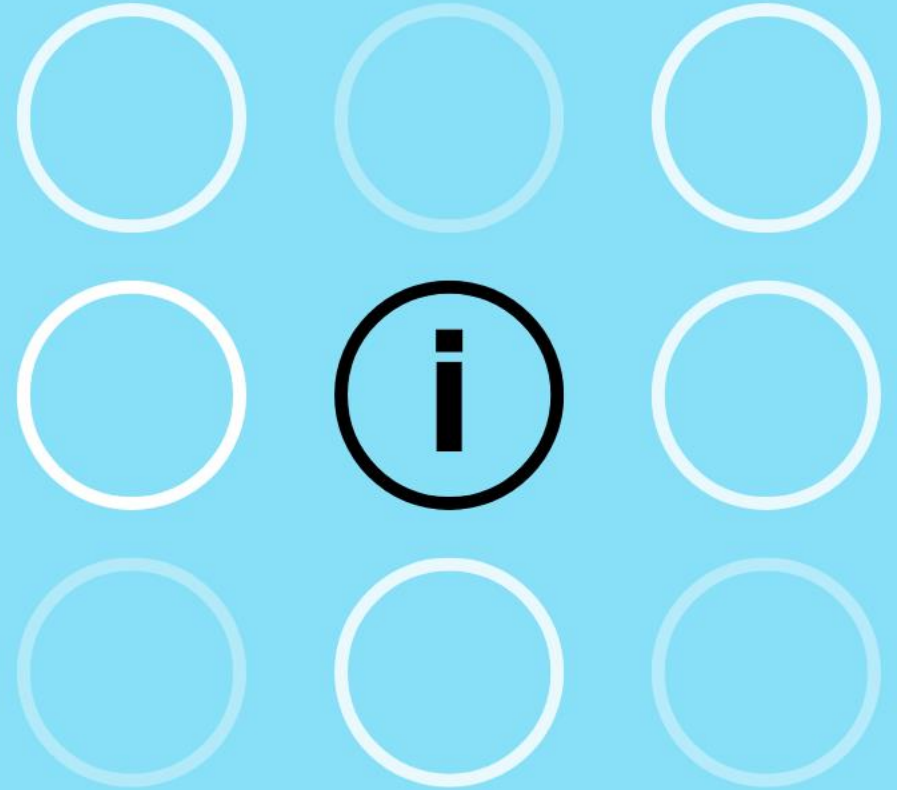


# 2024 Municipal Election

Candidate Information  
Session: July 9

[easthants.ca/election](http://easthants.ca/election)



EAST HANTS

# Election 2024

- October 19, 2024
- Nomination Day – September 10, 2024
- Phone or Online voting
- Voting starts October 10<sup>th</sup>
- Training: November 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>
- Internal Orientation

## Eligibility

- Be a Canadian Citizen
- Be 18 years old on nomination day (September 10, 2024)
- Be a resident of the municipality for a period of six months preceding Nomination Day (by March 9, 2024)
- Not disqualified under Section 18 of the Municipal Elections Act
- Candidates must have municipal charges such as taxes and liens, fully paid.



EAST HANTS

# Information Election 2024

- [Candidate Guide to Municipal Elections](#)
- [www.easthants.ca/election/](http://www.easthants.ca/election/)
- **Candidates School (DMAH)**
  - July 13 - Shelburne - Shelburne Community Centre
- **New Councillor Orientation**
  - 2 Days DMAH
  - Internal Program



EAST HANTS

# You Won! Now What?

- Executive Committee meetings
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month
- Monthly Council meetings
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday Policy Meeting
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month
- Extra budget meetings every new year (January to March)
- Committee work
- Heavy Agendas – Come prepared!
- Compensation every 2 weeks
  - Base salary \$33,000



# Municipal Government

- Municipalities are the only level of government without their own independent identity
  - Municipalities are “creatures of the Province”
  - We exist and operate within authorities and responsibilities set out in provincial legislation
- The Municipal Government Act (MGA) is the largest piece of legislation that governs Municipalities
- As an employer, Municipality must abide by the Labor Standards Code, Occupational Health Safety Act, Pensions Benefits Act and Workers Compensation Act
- The MGA gives the municipality authority to set policy and bylaws
- In many areas, the MGA is permissive but does not REQUIRE the Municipality to do certain things, i.e. Municipalities may spend money on Fire Protection but it is not mandated



# Legislation \*not an exclusive list

- Accessibility Act
- Assessment Act
- Building Code Act
- Conflict of Interest Act
- Dismantling Racism and Hate Act
- Emergency Measures Act
- Environment Act
- Fire Safety Act
- Fences & Impounding of Animals Act
- Freedom of Information & Protection of Privacy Act
- Heritage Property Act
- Land Registration Act
- Municipal Conflict of Interest Act
- Municipal Elections Act
- Municipal Finance corporation Act
- Municipal Grants Act
- Municipal Housing Corporation Act
- Police Act
- Utility & Review Board Act



# Municipal Government Services

- Building permits & inspection services
- Emergency Management Services
- Land Planning (zoning and development)
- Development Control
- Civic Addressing
- Solid Waste Collection and Disposal
- Water and Wastewater Services
- Transportation Services (J Class roads, sidewalks, streetlights, etc.)
- Fire Service Funding for volunteer departments
- Recreation, Parks and Leisure programming (parks/trails, aquatic centre, EHSP, grants)
- Police Service (RCMP)
- Economic Development
- Various grant programs - \$1.3 Million in 2022/2023



# Not Municipal Government Services

- Provincial Roads
  - Maintenance
  - Crosswalks
  - Development approvals for as of right
  - Stormwater management
  - Interchanges
- Education issues
  - Bussing
  - School issues
- Health care
  - Mental health care direct support
  - Doctor recruitment
- Housing
- Library Operations
- Stormwater management between neighbours
- Financing business in any way





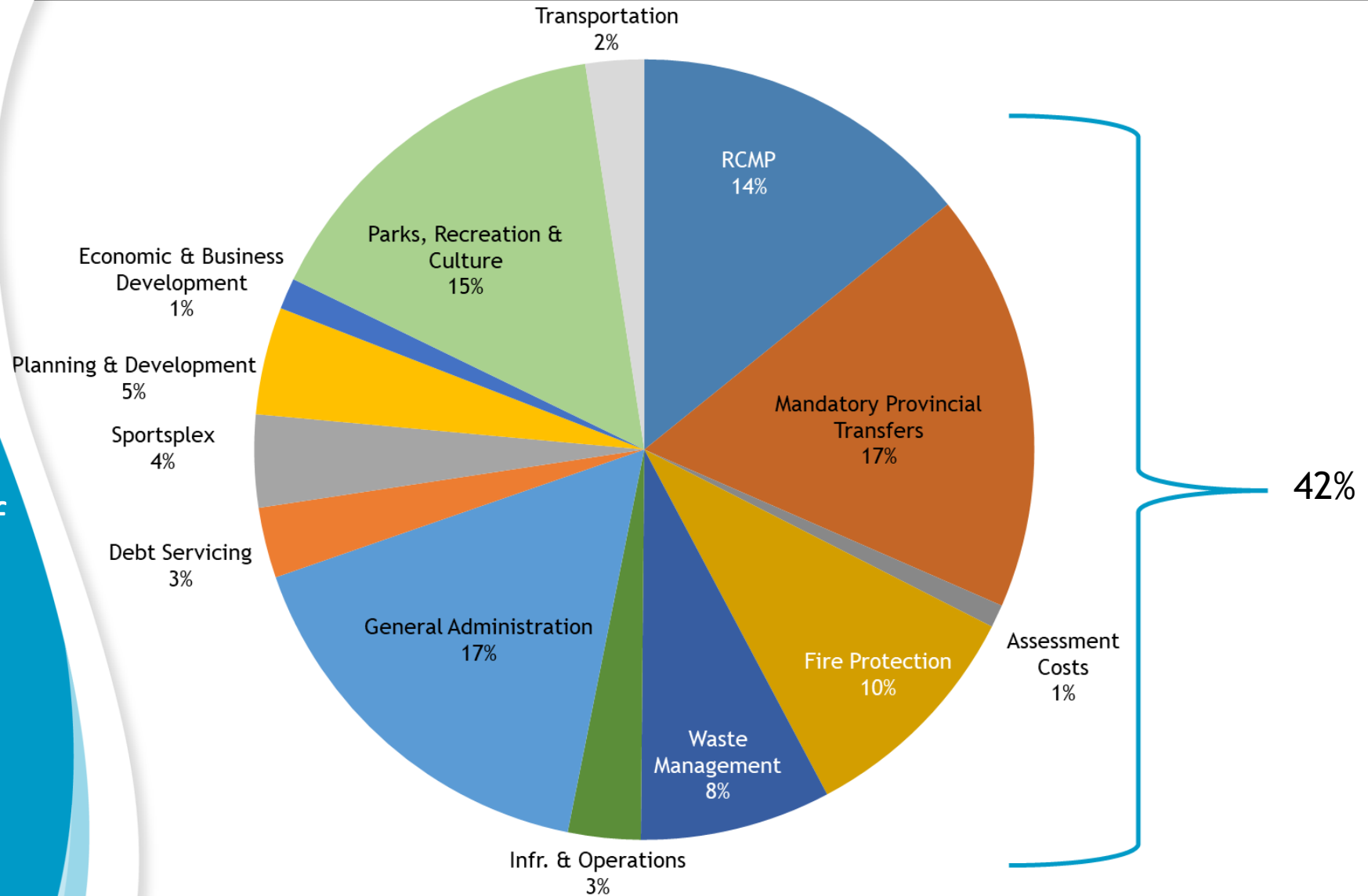
# Municipal Funding

- Budget set every year with accompanying Business Plan
- The MGA gives Council wide authority to decide the levels of taxation of it's property owners/residents
- Taxation reflects decisions made by Council around the level of service
- Taxes may be allocated on the basis of property value, per dwelling unit, per tax account and other basis determined appropriate by Council
- User fees are all determined by Council or delegated by policy to the CAO
- Capital Contribution from the senior levels of government
- East Hants does not qualify for any operating funding from the Provincial Government



# General Tax Rate

- 42% of the General Tax Rate expenses are out of Council's control
- Mandatory Provincial Services
  - Education - Libraries - Roads



# Water Utility Funding

- Council does not decide the water rates to be charged
- This is done through application to the Utility and Review Board
- Water Rate Review
  - The process of applying for water rates
  - Includes public input in the form of a public hearing
  - Water rates vary widely among municipal units depending on a number of factors, but the source of water and treatment methods being a big factor
  - Regulations around treatment and facility operations are set by the provincial government
  - In the workplan for 2025



# Council & Administration



# Council...

- Approves the Strategic Plan & Holds CAO accountable to results
- Determines Level of Service
- Approves Annual Budget and Business Plan
- Approves Council policy (policy based governance)
- Adheres to a Code of Conduct (regulated)
- Has only one employee - the CAO

# CAO...

- CAO has broad authority and responsibility to run the organization
- Advises Council and carries out Council's wishes - Strategy
- Sets Administrative Policy to compliment Council Policy
- All staff of the Municipality are the responsibility of the CAO
- The CAO is the only staff member who is directed by Council



# Strategic Plan 2021-2024

- **MISSION**

East Hants cares about people and their quality of life. Through program and service excellence, we are building a strong, thriving community.

- **VISION**

East Hants is a vibrant, welcoming community that embraces rural and urban living - a place where everyone feels connected.

- **4 KEY STRATEGIES**

- Sustainable Infrastructure
- Corporate Excellence
- Strong Community
- Economic Prosperity

- **CORE VALUES**

Integrity ~ Fairness ~ Respect ~ Learning ~ Excellence

- **ORGANIZATIONAL VALUES:**

Responsive, transparent and accountable  
Fiscal responsibility  
Innovation  
Safe & Healthy work place  
Informed & Sustainable Decision-making



# Other Strategies

- East Hants Playground Development Strategy
- East Hants Parks, Open Space and Active Transportation Master Plan
- Recreation Services Master Plan
- East Hants Tourism Strategy
- Diversity & Inclusion Strategy (Recreation)
- Active Transportation Strategy for the South Corridor
- East Hants Transit Service Operating and Business Plan
- Economic Development Plan 2023-2027
- Workforce Development Plan
- Source Water Protection Plan
- Accessible East Hants Plan
- Etc.



# Municipal Information

- Generally information is livestreamed & open to the public
  - Exceptions: personnel, legal, in-camera discussions
- Elected Officials must not “debate” outside of properly called meetings
- Once Council votes, Councillors speak with one voice





# Municipal Information – In Camera

The MGA outlines when Council can go into a private in-camera session. The legitimate reasons include:

- Acquisition, sale, lease and security of municipal property;
- Setting a minimum price to be accepted by the municipality at a tax sale;
- Personnel matters;
- Labour relations;
- Contract negotiations;
- Litigation or potential litigation;
- Legal advice eligible for solicitor-client privilege;
- Public security;
- Hearing from a developer BEFORE they submit an official application. (s. 203(1)(b))

Most months there is one or more issues to be discussed “in camera”.



**CLOSED**

# Committees of Council

The Council Procedural Policy outlines the operating principles and procedures for the municipal Council and Council Committees of the Municipality of East Hants.

East Hants operates an Executive Committee structure (similar to a Committee of the Whole, which includes all members of Council) that meets monthly and includes the following Committees of Council:

- Corporate & Residential Services
- Planning Advisory (including Heritage Advisory)
- Parks, Recreation & Culture
- Infrastructure & Operations
- Police Advisory (meets quarterly)



# Committees of Council

There are other Committees of Council that meet and report to Council on their own schedules or as needed:

- Nominating Committee
- Fire Advisory
- Fences Arbitration Committee
- Audit Committee
- Agricultural Advisory
- East Hants Source Water Protection Advisory
- Accessibility Advisory

Council also has appointed representatives to outside agency/organizations as follows:

- Northern Region Solid Waste
- Colchester-East Hants Library Board



# Emergency Management

- CAO is responsible for:
  - EMO Planning
  - Emergency Management Centre operations
  - EMO Communication (with Warden)



# Policing

- East Hants is policed by RCMP
- 28 Officers
- \$6.1 million/yr
- Managed by S/Sgt. Michael Balmaceda
- Detachment offices in Enfield, Rawdon and Mount Uniacke
- Police Advisory Committee



# Fire Service

- 13 independent Volunteer Fire Departments
- Bookkeeping services
- Levies collected on the Fire Service behalf
- Fire Department Funding Policy
- \$4.1 million + Operating Grants



# Are you prepared to...

- read technical reports written by staff?
- prepare for meetings in advance?
- speak for your region and the whole of the Municipality?
- establish the vision for East Hants and set the priorities to get there?

## Have more Questions?

**Ask Away!**



EAST HANTS