



To: **County Council**

Agenda Section: Matters for Consideration
Division: CAO, Warden, Clerk's and Archives
Department: Chief Administrative Officer

Item Number: **CO - 2025-203**

Meeting Date: August 12, 2025

Subject: **Council Composition By-law Validity and Triple Majority Results**

Recommendation

That Item CO 2025-203, dated August 12, 2025, regarding Council Composition By-law Validity and Triple Majority Results, be received.

Executive Summary

This Item provides an update on the results of the triple majority process requirement and overall validity of County By-law 7119-25 ("the By-law"), a By-law to Change the Composition of Council of the Corporation of the County of Simcoe.

Step 2 of the triple majority process requires that a majority of lower-tier Councils pass resolutions consenting to the upper-tier By-law to change Council composition. This requirement has not been achieved. In total, 8 of 16 municipalities passed a resolution consenting to the By-law while 8 did not consent. The consent of only 8 municipalities falls short of the 9 required for a majority. The By-law states that if the conditions necessary to consider the By-law valid are not met by January 1, 2026, the By-law shall be repealed in its entirety on that date. With no changes to the current result of the triple majority process by that time, the By-law will self-repeal on January 1, 2026 and not come into force for the next term of Council. County Council's current composition of 32 members and a Warden elected from within would remain unchanged.

Background/Analysis/Options

At its meeting held April 22, 2025, Council of the County of Simcoe enacted By-law 7119-25, being a By-law to change the composition of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Simcoe, pursuant to Section 218 of the *Municipal Act*.

Currently, County Council is comprised of 32 Members including the Mayors and Deputy Mayors of each of the County's 16 lower-tier municipalities. The By-law would reduce the size of County Council to 17 Members including only the Mayors of the 16 lower-tier municipalities and a separate Head of Council. The Head of Council is currently appointed from among Members of Council and therefore serves both on County Council and a lower-tier Council. The By-law would have established a Head of Council that serves exclusively on County Council for a four-year term and who is appointed by County Council from among eligible electors who put their name forward. The By-law also included required updates to the existing weighted vote system, which allocated the existing number of votes for each municipality to the one representative.

The passing of the By-law by County Council on April 22, 2025 fulfilled the first step in the "triple majority" process outlined in Section 7.1 of the By-law and Section 219 of the *Municipal Act*, which is that a majority of votes on County Council be cast in favour. A By-law to change the composition of an upper-tier Council is not valid until it achieves all steps in the triple majority process which is prescribed as:

1. a majority of all votes on County Council in favour; and
2. a majority of lower-tier Councils passing resolutions consenting to the by-law;
and
3. the lower-tier Councils consenting to the by-law represent a majority of all electors in the upper-tier municipality.

To fulfill the remaining steps, on April 24, 2025, a letter was sent by the County Clerk to the Council of each lower-tier member municipality requesting them to consider passing a resolution consenting to County By-law 7119-25. A response from each Council was requested by June 30, 2025. Responses from all member municipalities were received. Table 1 below shows the results of municipalities which provided a resolution indicating consent to By-law 7119-25. Schedule 1 includes copies of all consenting resolutions. Table 2 below shows the results of municipalities which provided a resolution indicating non-consent to By-law 7119-25. Schedule 2 includes copies of all non-consenting resolutions.

Table 1: Eight municipalities which provided a resolution indicating **consent** to By-law 7119-25

Municipality	Number of Electors Represented
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury	27,833
Town of Collingwood	22,142
Town of Innisfil	32,770
Town of New Tecumseth	31,859
Township of Ramara	11,869
Township of Springwater	17,506
Township of Tay	10,301
Township of Tiny	19,162

Table 2: Eight municipalities which provided a resolution indicating **non-consent** to By-law 7119-25

Municipality	Number of Electors Represented
Township of Adjala-Tosorontio	8,679
Township of Clearview	12,993
Township of Essa	15,336
Town of Midland	14,301
Township of Oro-Medonte	20,157
Town of Penetanguishene	7,450
Township of Severn	14,147
Town of Wasaga Beach	23,836

Step 1 of the triple majority process was achieved when County Council enacted the By-law on April 22, 2025.

Step 2 of triple majority has not been achieved. A majority of municipalities consenting requires 9 of 16. Only 8 municipalities have provided resolutions consenting to the By-law.

Step 3 of triple majority is achieved. The total number of electors represented by municipalities that have provided consent to the By-law is 173,442. A majority of the 290,341 total number of electors in the County is 145,171.

Each condition of triple majority must be met for the By-law to be considered valid. All three conditions have not been met.

Section 7.4 of the By-law (See Schedule 3) states that if the triple majority conditions necessary to consider this By-law valid are not met by January 1, 2026, the By-law shall be repealed in its entirety on that date. With no changes to the result by that time, the By-law will self-repeal on January 1, 2026 and not come into force for the next term of Council. County Council’s current composition of 32 members and a Warden elected from within would remain unchanged.

Council could choose to provide direction to staff to prepare an alternative composition structure if it wishes to continue to pursue a change to Council composition. However, time is of the essence as the *Municipal Act* requires a By-law to change Council composition to be passed and achieve triple majority prior to the year of an election for a By-law to be in effect for the next term of Council. In addition, staff will need time to develop a draft By-law reflecting an alternative proposal and the *Municipal Act* requires a public meeting be held.

Governance Committee continues to have a mandate to consider ways and means to enhance the governance structure and decision-making process. This will be true for the remainder of the term and into the next term as well if a future Council chooses to revisit the topic of Council composition.

Financial and Resource Implications

There are no financial or resource implications associated with this Item.

Relationship to Corporate Strategic Plan

Responsive and Effective Governance: Address the structural and procedural challenges of a County spanning a divergent group of 16 municipalities.

Reference Documents

- CO 2025-048 (March 25, 2025) Council Composition Public Meeting Summary and By-law for Council Consideration

Attachments

Schedule 1 – Lower-tier Resolutions Providing Consent to By-law 7119-25
Schedule 2 – Lower-tier Resolutions Providing Non-Consent to By-law 7119-25
Schedule 3 – County By-law 7119-25

Prepared By Mark Aitken, Chief Administrative Officer
Jonathan Magill, County Clerk

Approvals

Trevor Wilcox, General Manager, Corporate Performance
Mark Aitken, Chief Administrative Officer

Date

August 4, 2025
August 6, 2025

Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury

100 Dissette St., Units 7&8
P.O. Box 100, Bradford, Ontario, L3Z 2A7

Telephone: 905-775-5366

Fax: 905-775-0153

www.townofbwg.com

June 19, 2025

Sent VIA EMAIL: Jonathan.Magill@simcoe.ca

Jonathan Magill
County Clerk, Director of Statutory Services and Archives
County of Simcoe
Clerks Department
1110 Highway 26
Midhurst, ON L9X 1N6

RE: Request to Consider Consent of County of Simcoe By-law 7119-25 to Change the Composition of County Council

Mr. Magill,

Please be advised at its meeting held June 17, 2025, Council of the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury passed the following motion:

Resolution 2025-210

Moved: Councillor Verkaik

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Sandhu

That Report CAO-2025-9 titled "Simcoe County Council Composition" be received; and

That Council of the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury advise Simcoe County that it consents to County By-law 7119-25.

Result: CARRIED

Please let me know if you have any questions or require any further information.

Sincerely,



Tara Reynolds
Clerk



Town of Collingwood

Legislative Services
97 Hurontario Street, PO Box 157
Collingwood, ON, L9Y 3Z5
Phone: 705-445-1030
www.collingwood.ca

June 24, 2025

Sent via E-mail (jonathan.magill@simcoe.ca)

County of Simcoe

c/o Jonathan Magill

County Clerk, Director of Statutory Services and Archives

1110 Highway 26, Midhurst, Ontario L9X 1N6

RE: County Council Composition Considerations

At its meeting held on June 23, 2025, the Council of the Town of Collingwood passed the following resolution in response to the County's call to consider consent of County of Simcoe By-law 7119-25 to change the composition of County Council.

Moved by Councillor Perry

Seconded by Councillor MacCulloch

THAT the Council of the Town of Collingwood consents to County of Simcoe By-law 7119-25, being a By-law to Change the Composition of Council of the Corporation of the County of Simcoe;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Clerk at the County of Simcoe.

CARRIED.

If you require any further information with respect to this resolution, please contact clerk@collingwood.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BD', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Becky Dahl

Manager, Legislative Services/Deputy Clerk

Town of Collingwood

A large, light green decorative graphic consisting of overlapping, rounded, leaf-like shapes arranged in a circular pattern, located in the upper right quadrant of the page.

CLERK SERVICES

Sent Via Email:
clerks@simcoe.ca

May 15, 2025

County of Simcoe
1110 Hwy. 26
Midhurst, ON L9X 1N6

Attention: Jonathan Magill, County Clerk, Director of Statutory Services and Archives

Re: Consideration of Consent regarding County of Simcoe By-law 7119-25 to Change the Composition of County Council

Hi Jonathan,

The Council for the Town of Innisfil considered your request on May 14, 2025, and the following resolution was adopted:

1. That the correspondence from the County of Simcoe regarding Request to Consider Consent of County of Simcoe By-law 7119-25 to Change the Composition of County Council dated April 24, 2025, be received; and
2. That the Council of the Town of Innisfil consents to County of Simcoe By-law 7119-25, being a By-law to Change the Composition of Council of the Corporation of the County of Simcoe; and
3. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the County Clerk.

Trusting the above meets your requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patty Thoma".

Patty Thoma,
Town Clerk
705-436-3740 Ext: 2402



Clerks/Administration Department
Administration Centre
24 Tupper Street W.
Alliston, ON L9R 1H2

Web Address: www.newtecumseth.ca
Email: pfettes@newtecumseth.ca
Phone: 705-435-3900
or 905-729-0057
Fax: 705-435-2873

May 13, 2025

County of Simcoe
c/o County Clerk Jonathan Magill
1110 Highway 26
Midhurst, Ontario
L9X 1N6

VIA EMAIL: jonathan.magill@simcoe.ca
clerks@simcoe.ca

Dear Sir:

Re: Changes to County Council Composition

Please be advised that the Town of New Tecumseth Council passed the following resolution 2025-164 at their meeting of May 12, 2025:

2025-164 **Be It Resolved That** the correspondence from Simcoe County be received;

And Further That Council of the Town of New Tecumseth consents to the County of Simcoe By-law 7119-25, being a By-law to change the composition of council of the Corporation of the County of Simcoe;

And Further That a copy of this resolution be sent to the County Clerk.

Yours truly,

Pamela Fettes
Clerk/Director of Administration Services



June 12, 2025

Jonathan Magill
County Clerk, Director of Statutory Services and Archives
1110 Highway 26,
Midhurst, Ontario L9X 1N6

By email: jonathan.magill@simcoe.ca

RE: Ramara Council Resolution – Consent to County of Simcoe Bylaw 7119-25

Please be advised that at its meeting held on June 2, 2025, the Council of the Township of Ramara passed the following resolution for your records:

Resolution:

THAT the Council of the Township of Ramara consents to County of Simcoe Bylaw 7119-25, being a Bylaw to Change the Composition of Council of the Corporation of the County of Simcoe;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the County Clerk.

I trust the above is self-explanatory; however, should you require further information or clarification, please contact me.

Sincerely,
TOWNSHIP OF RAMARA

Jennifer Connor

Jennifer Connor, CMO, AOMC
Director of Legislative & Community Services/Clerk



www.springwater.ca
2231 Nursery Road
Minesing, Ontario
L9X 1A8 Canada

June 19, 2025

Sent via electronic mail
jonathan.maqill@simcoes.ca

Jonathan Magill, County Clerk
County of Simcoe
1110 Highway 26
Midhurst, Ontario L9X 1N6

Dear Clerk Magill,

At its Regular meeting on June 18, 2025, the Township of Springwater's Council passed the following resolution;

Resolution C279C-2025

Moved by: Cabral

Seconded by: Garwood

That the correspondence from the County of Simcoe regarding a request to consider consent of County of Simcoe By-law 7119-25 to change the composition of County Council, be received; and,

That the Council of the Township of Springwater consents to County of Simcoe By-law 7119-25, being a By-law to Change the Composition of Council of the Corporation of the County of Simcoe; and

That a copy of this resolution be sent to the County Clerk.

Carried

I can be reached via email at jennifer.marshall@springwater.ca or by phone at 705-728-4784, Ext. 2042.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jennifer Marshall'.

Jennifer Marshall
Clerk, Township of Springwater

TAY TOWNSHIP

450 Park Street
PO Box 100
Victoria Harbour, Ontario
L0K 2A0



May 29, 2025

Jonathan Magill, County Clerk
County of Simcoe
1110 Highway 26
Midhurst, ON L9X 1N6

Via Email: jonathan.magill@simcoe.ca

Dear Mr. Magill,

Re: Request to Consider Consent of County of Simcoe By-law 7119-25 to Change the Composition of County Council

During their Committee of the Whole meeting dated May 14, 2025, the Council of the Township of Tay carried the following recommendation, which was subsequently adopted at the regular Council meeting on May 28, 2025:

Recommendation:

Moved by Councillor Gerard La Chapelle
Seconded by Councillor Sylvia Bumstead

The correspondence from the County of Simcoe, regarding Changes to County Council Composition, be received; and

That the Council of the Township of Tay consents to County of Simcoe By-law 7119-25, being a By-law to Change the Composition of Council of the Corporation of the County of Simcoe; and

That a copy of this resolution be sent to the County Clerk.

Carried

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out by telephone at 705-534-7248 ext. 240 or by email at kjohns@tay.ca.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katelyn Johns".

Katelyn Johns, MPPA
Municipal Clerk/Library CEO

Resolution



The Corporation of the Township of Tiny

Meeting Date: June 25, 2025

Moved by: HELONKA Carried: 3-1
 Seconded by: Brewer Defeated: _____
 Signed: _____

THAT the Council of the Township of Tiny consents to County of Simcoe By-law 7119-25, being a By-law to Change the Composition of Council of the Corporation of the County of Simcoe;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the County Clerk.



7855 Sideroad 30
Alliston, ON L9R 1V1
P.: 705-434-5055
F.: 705-434-5051

May 20, 2025

Sent Via Email: Jonathan.magill@simcoe.ca

Jonathan Magill, County Clerk, Director of Statutory Service and Archives
County of Simcoe
1110 Highway 26
Midhurst, Ontario L9X 1N6

Dear Mr. Magill,

Re: Request to Consider Consent of County of Simcoe By-law 7119-25 to Change the Composition of County Council

I am writing to advise that at the Regular Council Meeting held on May 14, 2025, Council of the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio adopted a resolution regarding the Request to Consider Consent of County of Simcoe By-law 7119-25 to Change the Composition of County Council.

The resolution reads as follows:

THAT the Council of the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio **not** consent to County of Simcoe By-law 7119-25, being a By-law to Change the Composition of Council of the Corporation of the County of Simcoe; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the County Clerk.

RESULT:	Carried.
AYES:	Mayor Anderson, Deputy Mayor Lachs, Councillor Simson, Councillor Meadows, Councillor O'Leary, Councillor Borsos, and Councillor Cox

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself by email at rreid@adjtos.ca or phone at 705-434-5055 ext. 263.

Sincerely,

Robin Reid
Municipal Clerk, Director of Corporate Services
Township of Adjala-Tosorontio





CLEARVIEW
TOWNSHIP

Clerk's Department
Township of Clearview
Box 200, 217 Gideon Street
Stayner, Ontario L0M 1S0
clerks@clearview.ca | www.clearview.ca
Phone: 705-428-6230

June 24, 2025

County of Simcoe

Attn: Jonathan Magill, County Clerk, Director of Statutory Services and Archives

Sent by Email: Jonathan.Magill@simcoe.ca

RE: County Composition By-law 7119-25 – Clearview Township Decision

Please be advised that at its meeting held on June 23, 2025, Council of the Township of Clearview discussed the request from the County of Simcoe to consider consenting to By-law 7119-25, to change the composition of County Council.

After a good discussion, Clearview Council subsequently voted against the motion to consent to By-law 7119-25.

On behalf of Clearview Council, I would like to thank County staff for all their work in effectively communicating the triple majority process and assisting the lower-tier clerks with any inquiries throughout the process.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please don't hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Sasha Helmkey-Playter, B.A., Dipl. M.A., AOMC
Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

cc: Mayor Doug Measures, County Councillor
Deputy Mayor Paul Van Staveren, County Councillor

Corporation of the Township of Essa
5786 County Road 21
Utopia, Ontario
L0M 1T0



Telephone: (705) 424-9917
Fax: (705) 424-2367
www.essatownship.on.ca

Jonathan Magill
County of Simcoe, Clerks Department
1110 Highway 26
Midhurst, Ontario L9X 1N6

via email: clerks@simcoe.ca

June 5, 2025

Re: County of Simcoe By-law 7119-25 to Change the Composition of County Council Motion – Request to Consider.

Dear Mr. Magill:

Thank you for your correspondence dated April 24, 2025, regarding the Consent of County of Simcoe By-law 7119-25 to Change the Composition of County Council - Request to Consider.

Please be advised that as requested, this item was placed on the Township of Essa's Council Agenda for Consideration on June 4, 2025.

Motion - Consider Consent of County of Simcoe By-law 7119-25 to Change the Composition of County Council.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Essa consents to County of Simcoe By-law 7119-25, being a By-law to Change the Composition of Council of the Corporation of the County of Simcoe; and
THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the County Clerk.

---Defeated Unanimously---

Council of the Township of Essa has explicitly expressed that they are not in favour of By-law 7119-25 to Change the Composition of County Council.

Sincerely,

Sarah Corbett, Dipl.M.A
Acting Manager of Legislative Services / Municipal Clerk
Township of Essa

cc: Mayor Sandie Macdonald
Deputy Mayor Michael Smith
Ward 1 Councillor – Pieter Kiezebrink
Ward 2 Councillor – Henry Sander
Ward 3 Councillor – Liana Maltby



June 25, 2025

County of Simcoe
Attn: Mr. Jonathan Magill, Clerk,
Director of Statutory Services and Archives, County of Simcoe
1110 Highway 26
Midhurst, Ontario L9X 1N6

Dear Mr. Magill,

Re: Request to Consider Consent of County of Simcoe By-law 7119-25 to Change the Composition of County Council

Please be advised that at the June 25, 2025 meeting, Township of Oro-Medonte Council passed the following motion:

Moved by Young , Seconded by
Lavoie

Date: 25 June 2025

Motion No. C250625-7

“Be it resolved

1. That the correspondence dated April 24, 2025 from Jonathan Magill, County Clerk, Director of Statutory Services and Archives, County of Simcoe re: Request to Consider Consent of County of Simcoe By-law 7119-25 to Change the Composition of County Council be received.



2. That the Council of the Township of Oro-Medonte **consents** to County of Simcoe By-law 7119-25, being a By-law to Change the Composition of Council of the Corporation of the County of Simcoe.

3. That the County of Simcoe, County Clerk, be advised of the Township of Oro-Medonte's decision under the Clerk's signature."

A recorded vote was requested by Deputy Mayor Lavoie

Deputy Mayor	-	Nay
Councillor Schell	-	Yea
Councillor Young	-	Nay
Councillor Bard	-	Nay
Councillor Clark	-	Nay
Councillor Hutcheson	-	Nay
Mayor	-	Nay

Motion **Defeated**

Regards,

Yvonne Aubuchon

Yvonne Aubuchon, Clerk, CMO, CMM III, C.E.M.C.

Township of Oro-Medonte



June 12, 2025

VIA EMAIL

Jonathan Magill
County Clerk, Director of Statutory Services and Archives
County of Simcoe
1110 Highway 26
Midhurst, ON L9X 1N6

Dear Jonathan,

Re: Resolution – County of Simcoe Council Composition

Please be advised that at the May 14, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting, Council directed staff to hold a public meeting at the beginning of the June 11, 2025 Council meeting in order to solicit public feedback on the County of Simcoe Council Composition.

Following public feedback received, Council considered whether to consent to the County of Simcoe By-law 7119-25 to change the composition of County Council. Following some discussion, Council unanimously decided not to consent to the by-law.

Please find the attached resolution associated with the above noted decision. If you require any additional information in regards to the motion, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (705) 549-7453 ext. 211 or kcole@penetanguishene.ca.

Most Sincerely,

Kelly Cole
Director of Legislative Services/Municipal Clerk
Town of Penetanguishene

CC. Doug Rawson, Mayor, drawson@penetanguishene.ca
Dan La Rose, Deputy Mayor, dlarose@penetanguishene.ca





Administration Office
Mailing address
Email
Phone

1024 Hurlwood Lane, Severn
PO Box 159, Orillia, Ontario L3V 6J3
info@severn.ca
705-325-2315

June 5, 2025

County of Simcoe (email only)
1110 Highway 26
Midhurst, ON
L9X 1N6

To Jonathan Magill, County Clerk

Please be advised that the Council for the Township of Severn received your correspondence regarding the request to consider consent of County of Simcoe By-law 7119-25 to change the composition of County Council at their June 4th, 2025 meeting.

Following discussion Motion C2025-055 was approved at the June 4, 2025 Council meeting:

Moved by Councillor - Ward 5 Jim McIntyre
Seconded by Councillor - Ward 3 Phil Brennan

THAT the Council of the Township of Severn does not consent to County of Simcoe By-law 7119-25, being a By-law to Change the Composition of Council of the Corporation of the County of Simcoe; AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the County Clerk.
Carried.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (705) 325-2315 x 232 or by email at agray@severn.ca

Regards,

Alison Gray, BAH, CMO, AOMC
Director of Corporate Services/Clerk

**TOWN OF WASAGA BEACH**

30 Lewis Street, Wasaga Beach
Ontario, Canada L9Z 1A1

Tel (705) 429-3844
Fax (705) 429-6732

May 29, 2025

County of Simcoe
1110 Highway 26, Midhurst, Ontario L9X 1N6
Phone: 705-726-9300 Ext. 1202 Cell: 705-627-8941
Attn: Jonathan Magill, County Clerk, Director of Statutory Services and Archives

Dear County Clerk Magill,

RE: Request to Consider Consent of County of Simcoe By-law 7119-25 to Change the Composition of County Council

Please be advised that at its May 29, 2025 Regular Meeting of Council, the Council of the Town of Wasaga Beach passed the following motion in regards to the above noted matter:

“That the Council of the Town of Wasaga Beach does not consent to County of Simcoe By-law 7119-25, being a By-law to Change the Composition of Council of the Corporation of the County of Simcoe; and

That a copy of this resolution be sent to the County Clerk.”

We thank you for your time in this matter. Should you have further questions please call me at 705-429-3844 ext. 2224 or email me at deputyclerk@wasagabeach.com.

Respectfully yours,

Laura Borland, Deputy Clerk
Town of Wasaga Beach

BY-LAW NO. 7119-25

OF

THE CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY OF SIMCOE

A By-law to Change the Composition of Council of the Corporation of the County of Simcoe.

Whereas section 218(1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25 (the "*Municipal Act, 2001*") outlines the parameters regarding the composition of an upper-tier Council including that the Head of Council shall be elected by general vote or appointed by the members of Council; and

Whereas section 218(2)(a) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* authorizes an upper-tier Council to change the number of members of its Council that represent one or more of its lower-tier municipalities; and

Whereas section 218(3) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* authorizes a municipality to change the number of votes given to any member of Council but each member must have one vote; and

Whereas section 218(4) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* authorizes an upper-tier municipality to change the term of office of an appointed Head of Council so long as the term does not extend beyond the term of Council; and

Whereas Council passed a resolution at its January 14, 2025 meeting directing staff to bring forward a By-law to reduce the size of Council of the Corporation of the County of Simcoe to sixteen members in addition to a dedicated Warden comprising a seventeen member Council; and

Whereas section 219(1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* requires that a municipality shall give notice of its intention to pass a by-law changing the composition of Council and shall hold at least one public meeting to consider the matter; and

Whereas section 219(2) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* establishes the validity requirements of any changes to Council composition; and

Whereas notice of Council's intention to pass a by-law to change the composition of County Council was provided on February 6, 2025 and a public meeting was held on March 11, 2025 in accordance with section 219(1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*; and

Whereas Council deems it expedient to enact a By-law to change the composition of Council and to provide for the number of votes given to members of County Council;

Now therefore the Council of the Corporation of the County of Simcoe enacts as follows:

1.0 Definitions

“Eligible Elector” means an individual meeting the qualifications to be an elector at an election held in a member municipality in the County of Simcoe under section 17(2) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996, S.O. 1996, c. 32, Sched.*

“Member Municipality” means a municipality that forms part of the County of Simcoe for municipal purposes and is not separated therefrom.

“Municipal Elector” means a person whose name appears on the voters’ list, as amended up until the close of voting on voting day, for the most recent regular municipal election.

“Procedure By-law” means By-law No. 6703, as amended – A By-law to Govern the Calling, Place and Proceedings of the Meetings of Council and Committees, or any successor by-law.

“Warden” means the Head of Council of the County of Simcoe.

2.0 Composition of County Council

2.1 That County Council be composed of the Mayors of each member municipality.

2.2 That the Warden shall be an additional member of County Council appointed by members of County Council in accordance with the Procedure By-law.

3.0 Warden (Head of Council)

3.1 That the Warden shall be an eligible elector of a member municipality of the County of Simcoe.

3.2 That, if the Warden is appointed from among the existing members of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Simcoe, the member is no longer entitled to hold office on the council of a member municipality.

3.3 That, if the individual appointed Warden be an active employee of the County of Simcoe or any member municipality or local board, upon accepting the position of Warden they shall be deemed to have resigned from their employment immediately before making the declaration of office for the position of Warden.

4.0 Warden Term of Office

4.1 That the term of office for the Warden shall be concurrent with the term of Council and continue until the new Council is organized following the next regular election.

5.0 Weighted Vote

- 5.1 Voting will continue to be carried out in accordance with the Procedure By-law.
- 5.2 Where the Procedure By-law permits weighted voting, votes shall be allocated as follows:
- a) That each representative of a member municipality shall be entitled to a minimum of three (3) votes.
 - b) Where a member municipality has more than 5,000 municipal electors, the representative of the member municipality shall be entitled to one (1) additional vote for every 2,000 municipal electors over 5,000.
 - c) That the weighted vote for the Warden shall be equal to the member with the lowest number of weighted votes.
- 5.3 The Clerk of each local municipality shall, before the 1st day of December in the year of a regular municipal election, certify in writing to the Clerk of the County of Simcoe the total number of municipal electors for the member municipality.

6.0 Repeal

- 6.1 That By-law No. 4789 – A By-law to Provide for the Number of Votes Given to County Council Members be repealed in its entirety.

7.0 Coming into Force

- 7.1 This By-law shall be valid when each of the following conditions have been met:
- a) a majority of all votes on County Council are cast in favour of this By-law;
 - b) a majority of the councils of all lower-tier municipalities forming part of the County of Simcoe have passed resolutions consenting to this By-law; and
 - c) the total number of electors in the lower-tier municipalities that have passed resolutions consenting to this By-law form a majority of all the electors in the County of Simcoe.
- 7.2 This By-law shall begin to apply the day the new Council is organized following the first regular election following the passing of this By-law.

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- 7.3 Notwithstanding section 7.2 of this By-law, the regular election held immediately prior to the coming into force of this By-law shall be conducted as if this By-law were already in force.

- 7.4 If the conditions necessary to consider this By-law valid in accordance with section 7.1 are not met by January 1, 2026, this By-law shall be repealed in its entirety on that date.

By-law enacted this 22nd day of April, 2025.


Warden




County Clerk