

VAUGHAN  
WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW

# **REPORT ON PREFERRED WARD ALIGNMENT**

AUGUST 12, 2016

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

This Preferred Ward Alignment Report is the second report in the Vaughan Ward Boundary Review (Vaughan WBR) project. It is the result of the public discussion of the first report, the Options Report, June 2016, which outlined a number of options for realigning the ward structure of the City of Vaughan.

## 1.1 BACKGROUND

In April 2016, the City of Vaughan engaged an independent consultant team (the Vaughan WBR Team) to carry out a comprehensive ward boundary review. This review is in line with a Council approved direction and is scheduled to be completed in early 2017 for implementation in the 2018 municipal election. The Vaughan WBR Team is a partnership among the Canadian Urban Institute, Beate Bowron Etcetera, The Davidson Group and Hemson Consulting.

The Vaughan WBR is timely, since the populations across Vaughan's 5 wards vary considerably. Based on the 2011 Census, Vaughan's wards range from 45,800<sup>1</sup> (Ward 4) to 69,500 (Ward 5), a spread of minus 23% to plus 17% around the average ward population of 59,500. Estimates for 2014 put the average ward population at 62,800 and the spread at minus 17% to plus 14%. These variances among ward population sizes do not achieve the principle of *effective representation*, as defined by the courts and applied by the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB). A map of Vaughan's existing wards is attached as **APPENDIX A**.

The Vaughan WBR was tasked with bringing forward a number of options for a re-aligned ward structure for Vaughan. To develop these options, the Vaughan WBR used population projections supplied by York Region, established a 'target year of 2022', aimed for a +/- 10% in voter parity and ensured that all options result in a ward structure that can last the City of Vaughan for the 2018, 2022 and 2026 municipal elections. All of the options meet the test of *effective representation*.

## 1.2 EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION

The principles of *effective representation* contain several distinct components that need to be balanced. These are: voter parity; natural/physical boundaries; and geographic communities of interest. Additional factors that are taken into consideration include: capacity to represent, size and shape of wards and population growth within wards. While all of these factors have to be examined, they are not all equal. Some need to be given more prominence than others in determining options for new ward configurations. For example, voter parity, often referred to as 'rep-by-pop' (representation by population), is pivotal and is a key determinant of *effective*

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<sup>1</sup> All projected numbers in this report have been rounded to the nearest 100.

*representation*. Respect for communities of interest is another major element of ward boundary reviews, as is the use of coherent, recognizable boundaries for wards.

### 1.3 OPTIONS REPORT

In June 2016 the Vaughan WBR published an [Options Report](#), which outlined three options for re-aligning Vaughan's ward structure. **Option 1: Maintain Current Number of Wards**, is based on retaining the existing number of wards at 5. Since Vaughan's population is growing, this increases the average ward population to 71,600 by 2022. **Option 2: Maintain Current Average Ward Population**, accommodates Vaughan's growth and results in 6 wards with an average ward population of 62,800. **Option 3: Four Wards**, has 4 wards with an average ward population of 89,500. This option is based on the OMB's recognition of the role Local & Regional Councillors play at the ward level by sharing the workload of local Ward Councillors. The Region of York is currently considering increasing the number of Regional Councillors in Vaughan from 3 to 4. **APPENDIX B** contains the maps of the three options.



### 1.4 HOW TO READ THE PREFERRED WARD ALIGNMENT REPORT

This report on the Preferred Ward Alignment outlines the public consultation process on the Options Report in **Section 2**. **Section 3** discusses the rankings of the options that resulted from the public consultation process. **Section 4** describes the option that emerged as the 'Preferred Option' and examines the suggested refinements to ward boundaries of the Preferred Ward Alignment. **Section 5** describes the next steps of the Vaughan WBR.

## 2. PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE OPTIONS

### 2.1 PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS

The public consultation process on the three options proposed by the Vaughan WBR Team took place in June 2016. It included 4 community meetings, individual interviews with all Members of Council, an online survey and meetings with the York Region District School Board (YRDSB) and the York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB). The online survey was open until July 4, 2016.

In all cases a survey questionnaire was used asking participants to both rank the options and provide suggestions for refinements. A copy of the survey is attached as **APPENDIX C**. Members of Council were asked two additional questions:

- What functions do the Local & Regional Councillors perform at the ward level? and,
- Which community groups should be on the Vaughan WBR mailing list?

Community groups suggested by Members of Council were included on the Vaughan WBR mailing list and **APPENDIX D** of this report contains a summary of the responses from Members of Council regarding the role of Local & Regional Councillors.

Since the meetings with the two School Boards involved only staff, they did not produce any rankings. However, the meetings discussed the implications of each of the options for the organization of the current Trustee wards. The general response was that “the more change there is, the more it disrupts the system”. This was also evident from a response received from one of the Trustees, who urged that the current ward alignment in the City of Vaughan remain as it is now.

Staff from both School Boards forwarded information on the Vaughan WBR as well as the survey to their respective Trustees and encouraged them to comment on the Options.

Attendance at the 4 public meetings was sparse. However, a total of 102 surveys were received, 94 on-line and 8 from people attending the public meetings. The survey responses came from across the city.

## 2.2 COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH

The City of Vaughan staff and the Vaughan WBR Team publicized the project, advertised the public meetings and made effort to draw attention to the online survey.

The City of Vaughan established a project webpage to ensure easy access to information about the ward boundary review ([www.vaughan.ca/wardboundaryreview](http://www.vaughan.ca/wardboundaryreview)). The website had more than 1,000 visits in the month of June.

The main outreach tool for the Vaughan WBR is the contact database, which includes more than 3700 business owners, residents’ associations, community services organizations, other stakeholder groups and individual residents. Three sets of e-news were sent out to the entire contact database to introduce the Vaughan WBR project, advertise the public meetings and encourage participation in the survey. Throughout the project this database has grown, as individuals request that their names be added to the list.

Several other communication and outreach activities were conducted to promote the public meetings and the survey:

- A slide about the Vaughan WBR was shown on the Vaughan TV network and community centre screens.



- Information about the Vaughan WBR was included in the City’s corporate eNewsletter that goes to approximately 8,000 subscribers.
- A banner was placed on the City’s website homepage directing users to the project webpage.
- Posters advertising the process and public meetings were displayed in the City’s libraries and community centres.
- A notice was placed on the City’s digital signage network.
- Ads were placed in the Vaughan Citizen, the Thornhill Liberal and the Toronto Star. The Vaughan Citizen published an article about the public meetings.

The City of Vaughan was also responsible for social media and was active on Twitter and Facebook spreading the news of the release of the Options Report and to promote local public meetings and the survey. The City of Vaughan has 9,501 followers on Twitter and 2,580 Likes on Facebook. Many of the Tweets and Posts were shared, retweeted and liked, which extended the reach of the posts.

Many Councillors also shared e-news and tweets/posts about the public meetings and the project in general with their constituents. Examples of tweets can be found below:



### 3. RANKING THE OPTIONS

This Section of the Report discusses the ranking of the three options for re-aligning the City of Vaughan’s wards by Members of Council and through the public survey.

Table 1 summarizes the key elements of the three options.

**Table 1: Summary of Options**

OPTION	AVG. WARD POPULATION	POPULATION RANGE (+/- 10%)	# OF WARDS
<b>1: Maintain Current Number of Wards</b>	71,600	64,440 – 78,800	5
<b>2: Maintain Current Average Ward Population</b>	62,800	56,500 – 69,000	6
<b>3: Four Wards</b>	89,500	80,500 – 98,500	4

The analysis of the feedback on the three options is presented separately for the public survey and Members of Council. This approach is used to preserve statistical accuracy.

Not all survey participants ranked all the options. For example, some only provided their first or first two choices or, perhaps, no choices at all. In these cases, the options have been listed as “not ranked”. Some Members of Council have indicated that they do not like an option at all, a “no-way” comment. In those cases, the option has been ranked as a “No”. Members of the public have not used the “No” approach.

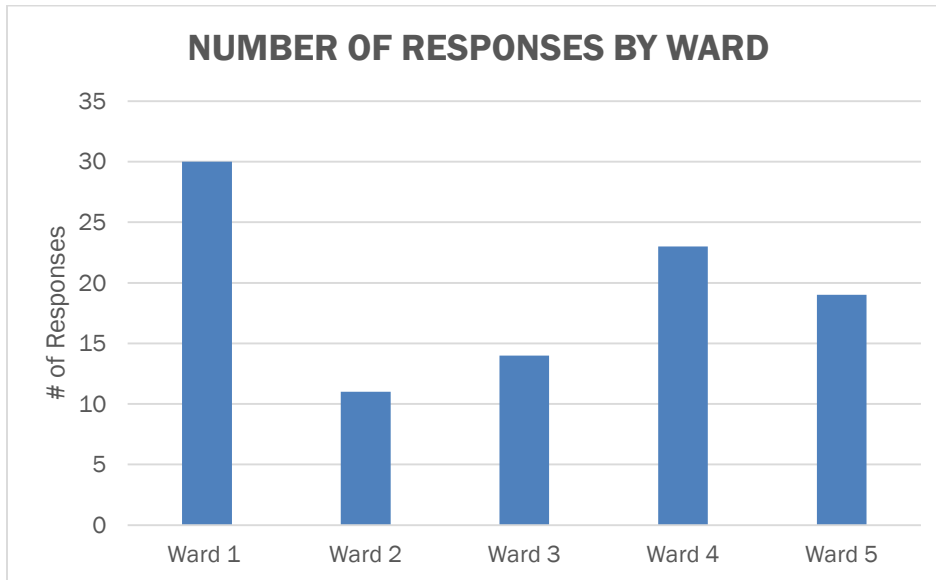
In addition to the ‘first choice’ analysis, the Vaughan WBR team has also applied a ‘ranked score’, which is able to weigh second and third choices. The ‘ranked score’ assigns a numerical value to each choice and the sum of those values determines the overall ranked result, or score.

Choices have been scored to determine a ‘ranked score’ for each option as follows:

➤ First Choice	3 Points
➤ Second Choice	2 Points
➤ Third Choice	1 Point
➤ Not Ranked or No	0 Points

#### 3.1 PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

102 surveys were received, 94 on-line and 8 from people attending the public meetings. The following chart shows survey responses by ward.



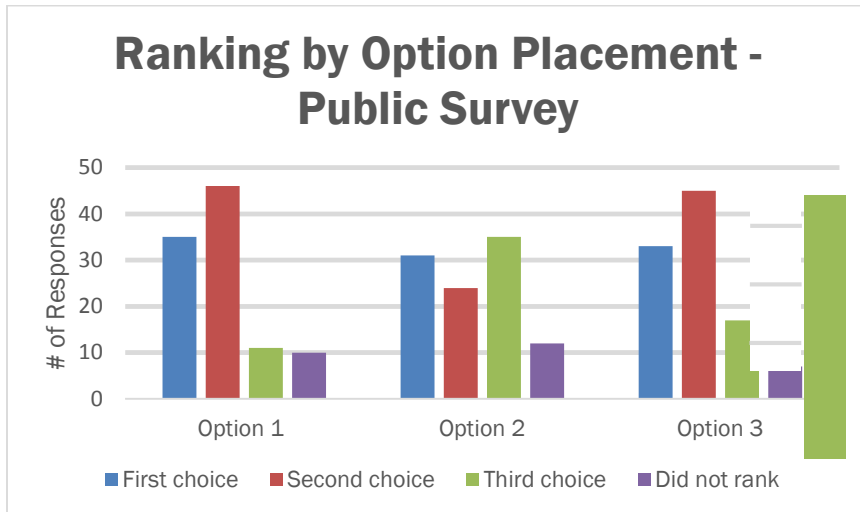
Respondents were asked to rank the three options by indicating their first, second and third choice, while keeping in mind the components of *effective representation*. Table 2 shows the ranking of the options by the public.

**Table 2: Ranking by Option Placement – Public Survey**

	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3
<b>First ranked</b>	35	31	33
<b>Second ranked</b>	46	24	17
<b>Third ranked</b>	11	35	45
<b>Not ranked</b>	10	12	7
<b>Total</b>	102	102	102

The following chart depicts Table 2 in graphic form.





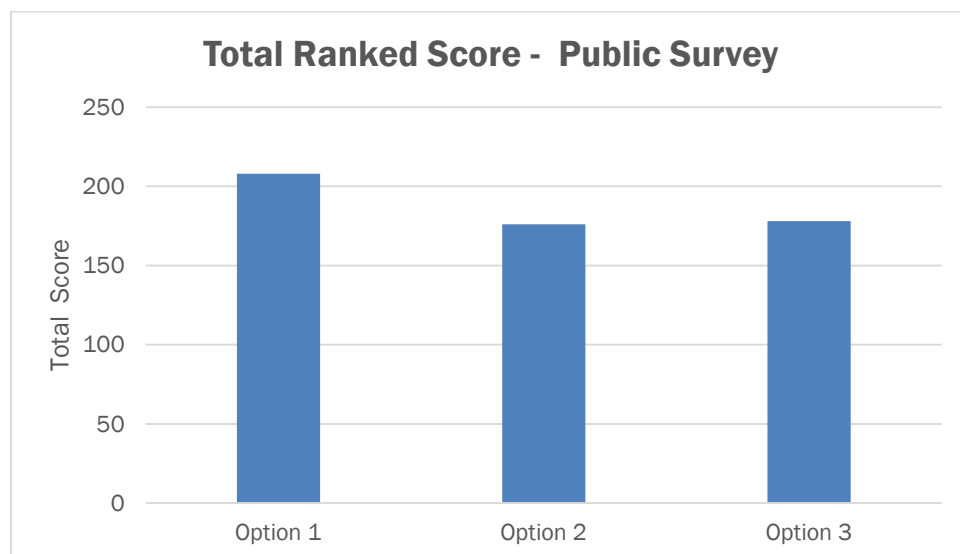
From the public’s perspective, as contained in the surveys, all three options ranked closely as a first choice. Option 1 was slightly ahead with a score of 35. However, Option 3 had a score of 33 and Option 2 had a score of 31.

The second and third choices of respondents allows for a determination of a “ranked score” based on the scoring approach outlined above. Table 3 presents the “ranked score” for each option.

**Table 3: Total Ranked Score – Public Survey**

	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3
<b>Total Score</b>	208	176	178

The following chart depicts Table 3 in graphic form.



When the results of second and third choices are included, Option 1 leads by a wide margin with 208 points. Options 2 and 3 are virtually tied with 176 and 178 points, respectively.

Taking all aspects of the public survey into account, Option 1, the five ward option, is clearly the preferred option based on the public survey.

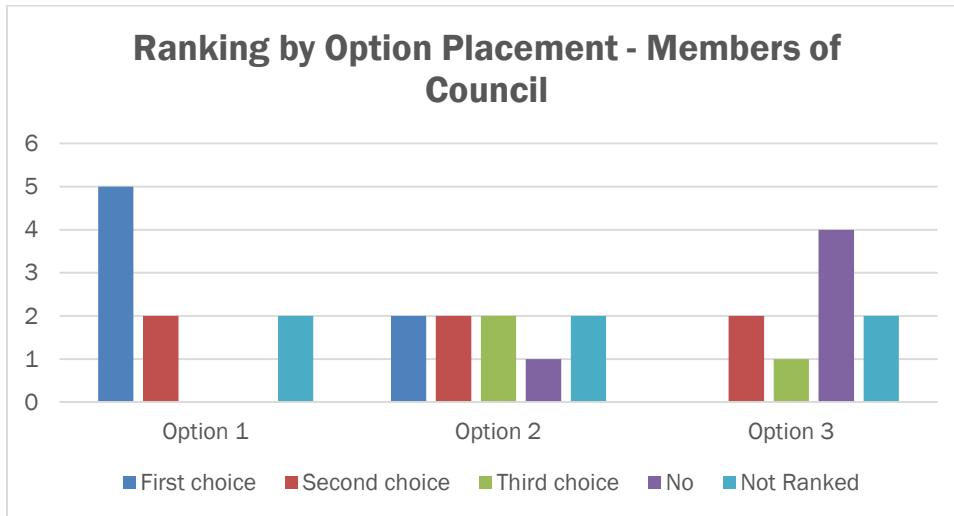
### 3.2 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL SURVEY RESULTS

All Members of Council were interviewed individually. Most provided a ranking of the options. Table 4 provides the rankings from the Members of Council.

**Table 4: Ranking by Option Placement – Members of Council**

	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3
<b>First ranked</b>	5	2	0
<b>Second ranked</b>	2	2	2
<b>Third ranked</b>	0	2	1
<b>No</b>	0	1	4
<b>Not ranked</b>	2	2	2
<b>Total</b>	9	9	9

The following chart depicts Table 4 in graphic form.

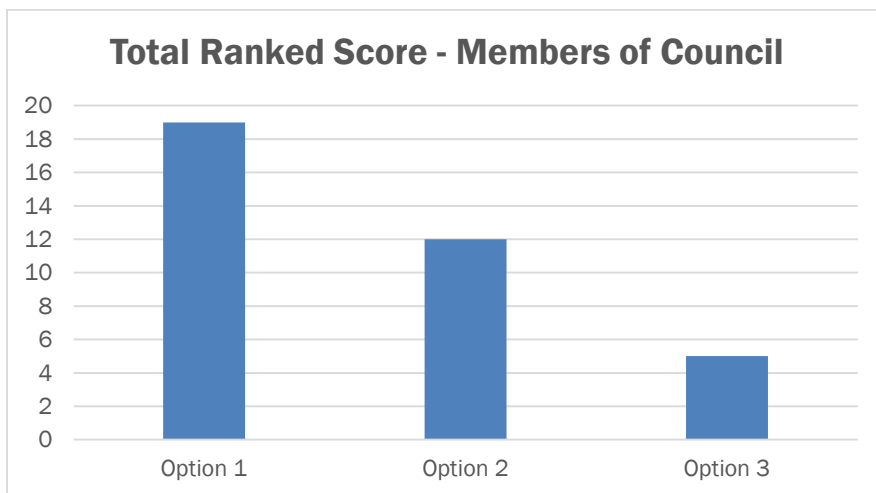


Based on the responses from Members of Council, Option 1 is clearly the preferred option. A calculation of the “ranked score” solidifies this preference, as Table 5 and its accompanying chart demonstrate.

**Table 5: Total Ranked Score – Members of Council**

	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3
<b>Total Score</b>	19	12	5

The following chart depicts Table 5 in graphic form.



Based on the responses from Members of Council, the preference for Option 1: Maintain Current Number of Wards is clear.

## 4. PREFERRED OPTION AND REFINEMENTS

The analysis of the rankings of the three options in Section 3 of this report demonstrate that the public and Members of Council clearly and consistently prefer Option 1: Maintain Current Number of Wards. This option becomes, therefore, the ‘Preferred Option’.

During both the interviews with Members of Council and in the online survey and public meetings the Vaughan WBR Team asked for suggestions for refining the ward boundaries of each of the options. Numerous ideas were offered, many related to retaining communities of interest such as old and new Maple and smaller areas across Vaughan.

The Vaughan WBR Team evaluated each suggestion related to the ‘Preferred Option’ to determine whether it could be incorporated without jeopardizing voter parity, communities of interest and the need to have relatively coherent ward boundaries. Not all of the suggestions could be incorporated.

**APPENDIX E** lists the suggested refinements for the ‘Preferred Option’, and the Vaughan WBR Team’s ‘Action/Comment’ for each of those refinements. Based on the refinements that could be incorporated, a revised ward alignment has been prepared for Option 1: Maintain Current Number of Wards.

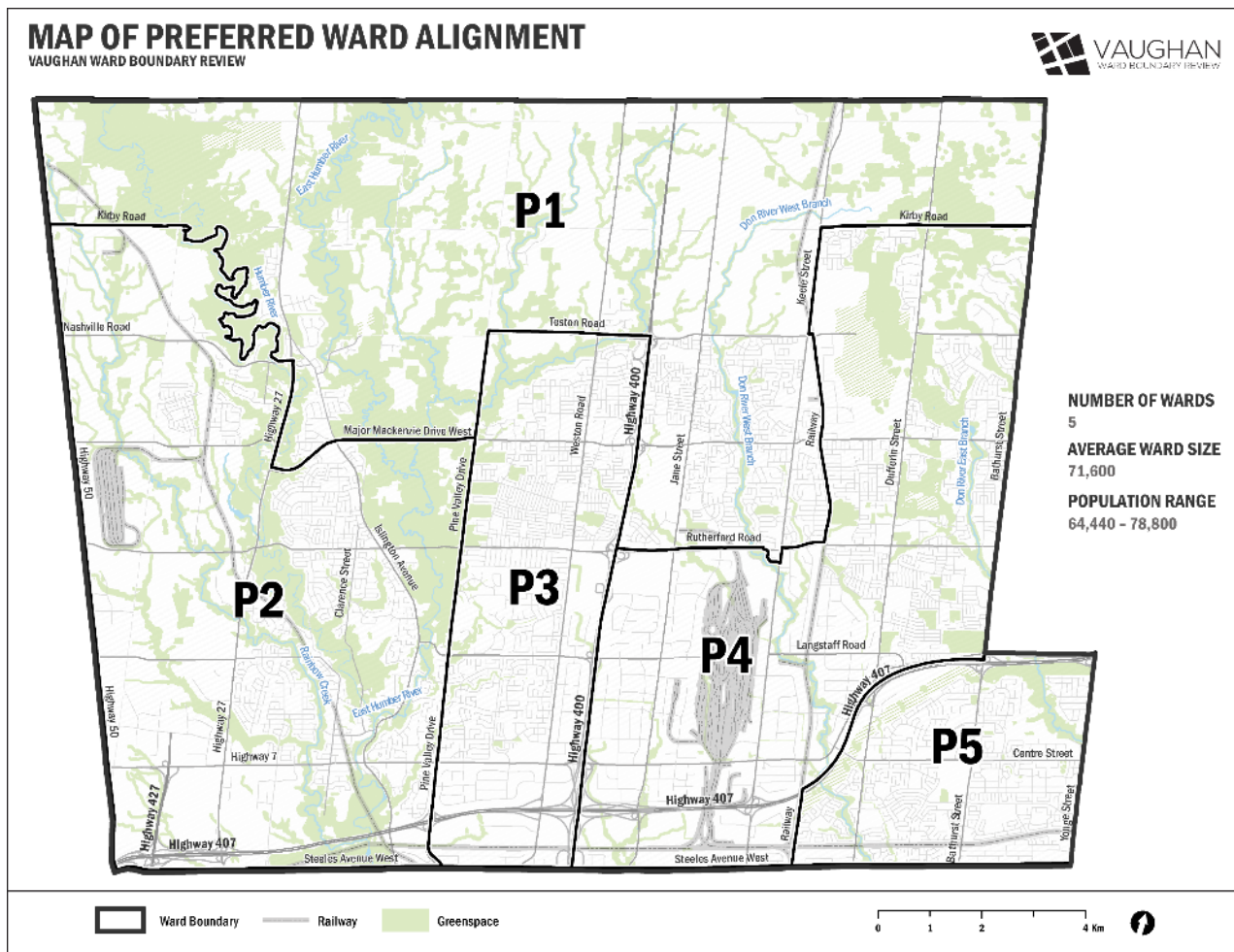
Table 6 shows the Forecast Population and Variance for each of the wards in the Preferred Ward Alignment.

**Table 6: Preferred Ward Alignment – Forecast Population and Variance**

YEAR	2018		2022		2026	
WARDS	POPULATION	VARIANCE	POPULATION	VARIANCE	POPULATION	VARIANCE
<b>P1</b>	62,200	-7%	69,500	-3%	78,900	3%
<b>P2</b>	66,000	-2%	71,600	0%	76,200	-1%
<b>P3</b>	69,800	4%	73,000	2%	75,800	-1%
<b>P4</b>	64,900	-3%	70,900	-1%	78,400	2%
<b>P5</b>	72,600	8%	73,000	2%	74,100	-3%

In the target year 2022 all of the 5 wards are projected to be within a +/- 3% variance range around the projected ward population average of 71,600. This is excellent in terms of voter parity. As Table 6 indicates, this situation is not expected to change in 2026.

The Map below illustrates the Preferred Ward Alignment. A larger version of this map is attached at the end of this report in **APPENDIX G** and a larger version of this map with current ward boundaries shown is attached as **APPENDIX F**.



## 5. NEXT STEPS

This Preferred Ward Alignment Report will be the subject of another round of public consultation. It is expected that Vaughan Committee of the Whole will discuss the Report at its meeting on September 12, 2016 followed by 3 public meetings on September 24, 28 and 29 and another online survey between September 12 and October 17. During this time period the Vaughan WBR Team will also schedule meetings with both School Boards.

A final report on the Vaughan WBR is expected by January 2017.