

COUNTY OF RENFREW COUNCIL

2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION INFORMATION

The information provided is intended for prospective candidates with an overview of the role, responsibilities, and expectations of serving on County of Renfrew Council. It is provided for information purposes only and should be read in conjunction with applicable legislation and County by-laws.

RENFREW COUNTY COUNCIL

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WHAT IS COUNTY OF RENFREW COUNCIL?

The County of Renfrew is an upper-tier municipality established under the Municipal Act, 2001. It became a fully constituted municipality in 1866. Today, the County of Renfrew Council collaborates closely with local municipalities to effectively deliver and manage a wide range of services and governance functions on a county-wide level.

MEETINGS AND DECISION MAKING

Council operates under a Committee of the Whole structure, supported by **five** standing committees: Health, Community Services, Corporate Services, Development and Property, and Operations. Council and Committee meetings are typically held on the **second** and **fourth** Wednesday of each month, starting at 9:30 a.m.

The Warden

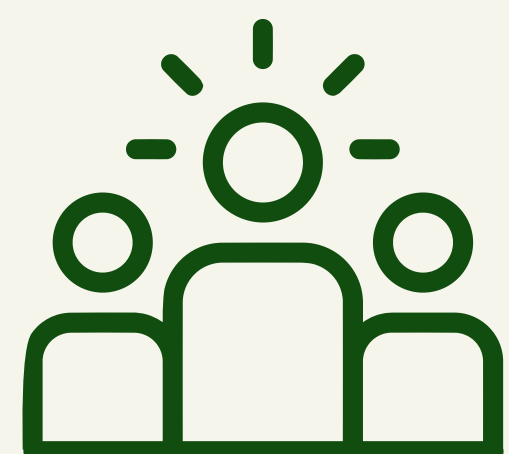
The Warden serves as Head of Council for the County, presides at meetings, represents the County at official functions, and participates in County and regional advocacy, including representation on the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC). The Warden is elected annually by the members of County Council. Nominations for the office of Warden must be filed with the Clerk no later than 12 p.m. on the second Friday of November.

ROLE OF COUNTY COUNCIL

County Council is responsible for setting strategic direction, approving policies and by-laws, adopting the County budget, overseeing County services, and representing the collective interests of all municipalities within the County of Renfrew.

COUNTY SERVICES

County Council oversees a wide range of services, including Long-term Care, Paramedic Service and Emergency Management, Public Works, Roads and Trails, Community Services (Child Care, Ontario Works and Community Housing), Planning and Real Estate, Economic Development and Tourism, Forestry, Provincial Offences Administration, and Corporate Services such as Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, and Legislative Services.



LEGAL AND ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Members of County Council are subject to the same legal and ethical obligations as all municipal councillors. These include compliance with the Municipal Act, 2001, the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA), the County of Renfrew Code of Conduct, and the County of Renfrew Procedural By-law.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I become a County Councillor?

County Councillors are appointed by their respective local councils following the municipal election. Eligibility and appointment processes are determined at the local municipal level.

Is County Council different from my local council?

Yes. County Council focuses on services and issues that affect the County as a whole, while lower-tier councils address local municipal matters.

Are County Council meetings open to the public?

Yes. Meetings are generally open to the public, with limited exceptions for closed sessions as permitted by the Municipal Act, 2001.

What voting system is used at County Council?

County Council operates under a weighted and consensus voting system as set out in the County of Renfrew Procedural By-law.

What is expected of me as a County Councillor?

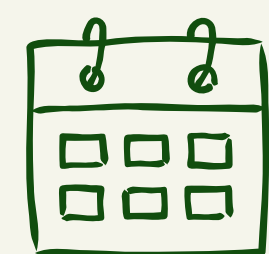
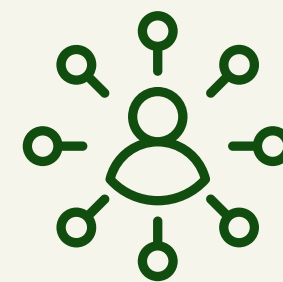
Members are expected to attend meetings, prepare in advance, act ethically and respectfully, and represent the broader interests of the County as a whole while remaining accountable to their local municipality.

TIME COMMITMENT

The time commitment for a County Councillor varies depending on committee assignments and responsibilities on external boards. On average, members can expect to dedicate approximately 25-30 hours per month to Council meetings, committee work, appointments, and occasional community events, in addition to the necessary preparation time for each meeting. Beyond these monthly duties, all members of County of Renfrew Council are expected to complete the full four-year term of office from 2026-2030. You can access the public meetings and agendas at the County of Renfrew website (<https://bit.ly/CORMeetings>)

COMPOSITION OF COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Renfrew Council is comprised of the elected Mayors/ Deputy Mayor or Reeve of each of the 17 local municipalities. The Warden is the head of County Council and is elected each year from amongst the membership.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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