



# COUNTY COUNCILLORS

## INFO FOR CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR

Under the current County of Simcoe governance structure, those successful in being elected (or appointed) to the office of Mayor in one of the 16 member municipalities (lower-tier) are also automatically elected to serve as a member of Simcoe County Council as a County Councillor. This information sheet is, therefore, intended to provide relevant information regarding the County of Simcoe (upper-tier), the services provided by this level of municipal government and the responsibilities of a Simcoe County Councillor.

### COUNTY OF SIMCOE

- Consists of:
  - Seven Towns**  
Bradford West Gwillimbury, Collingwood, Innisfil, Midland, New Tecumseth, Penetanguishene, and Wasaga Beach
  - Nine Townships**  
Adjala-Tosorontio, Clearview, Essa, Oro-Medonte, Ramara, Severn, Springwater, Tay, and Tiny
- Over 4,800 sq km make up the County of Simcoe
- Largest County based on population and third largest County in Ontario based on physical size
- Total County population (2021 Census Canada):
  - 350,222 (est.) excluding Barrie and Orillia
  - 531,462 (est.) including Barrie and Orillia
- Approximately 34,347 acres of County-owned/managed forests
- 1,830 lane kms, 115 bridges, 92 oversized culverts and 63 signalized intersections
- Approximately 2,360 full- and part-time employees

### Operating and Capital Budget

The County's 2026 operating and capital budget is approximately \$1 billion.

### COUNTY SERVICES

The Municipal Act and other pieces of legislation guide municipalities with respect to the services they are required or allowed to deliver:

#### Mandated County Services

- Ontario Works
- Community Housing
- Early Learning and Child Care
- Housing and Homelessness Services
- Long Term Care and Seniors Services
- Paramedic Services
- Solid Waste Management
- Planning
- Emergency Management

#### County Directed Services

- Roads
- Forestry
- Tourism Simcoe County
- Museum
- Archives
- By-Law Enforcement
- Economic Development
- Lake Simcoe Regional Airport

Although the County provides a range of cost-shared services to both the cities of Barrie and Orillia, they are politically and administratively separate from the County. Representatives from the Cities of Barrie and Orillia are invited to participate in decision-making at relevant County Committees related to those shared services.



## County Governance Structure

Beginning with the 2026-2030 term, County Council is comprised of 17 members, including the Head of Council (Warden) and the Mayors of the County's 16 member municipalities.

The *Better Regional Governance Act, 2026* permits the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing the option to appoint the Head of Council at the start of the term; otherwise, Council will appoint the position.

While sitting as a member of County Council, Councillors consider and make decisions regarding County services that are in the best interests of the residents of the County as a whole.

## County of Simcoe Council / Committee / Board Meetings

All members of County Council are required to attend regular and special meetings of County Council and its Committees, as well as any advisory or special purpose Committees, Boards, or Commissions to which they are appointed.

With few exceptions, there are a minimum of two regular Council/Committee meetings each month which are typically held in the Council Chamber, County of Simcoe Administration Centre, 1110 Highway 26, Midhurst. Regular and special meetings of both Council and Committees occur during the day.

## Council Orientation

Local Mayors will be provided an in-depth orientation session to further inform and prepare them for their responsibilities as County Councillors.

For more information about the County of Simcoe, visit [simcoe.ca](http://simcoe.ca) or contact:

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