

## **RDN Board Voting Formula Under Review**

Regional district boards act through resolutions and bylaws, which are voted on by board directors. The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) uses a provincially legislated voting formula that determines how many directors sit on the RDN Board and how many votes each one has, based on population. With population growing across the region, the current voting formula is expected to no longer work after the 2026 Census data is applied in 2027. To prepare, the RDN is exploring new voting formula options now. Members of the public are invited to share their thoughts on the options being considered.

The proposed change will affect how many directors are on the RDN Board and how many votes each one has. Every community gets a set number of directors and a set number of votes based on its population. Reducing the total number of directors or votes can change the outcome of a vote. In reviewing the voting formula, the RDN Board is considering not only the numbers, but also values such as fairness, equity, and inclusive regional governance.

The 2026 Census is expected to show that the City of Nanaimo (City) would need to appoint ten directors under the current system, but the City has only nine elected officials, making this requirement impossible to meet. The RDN Board is considering a change where the City would receive more votes to reflect its growing population but would only need to appoint seven directors. The City of Parksville is also expected to gain one vote due to population growth but keep the same number of directors. The District of Lantzville, Town of Qualicum Beach and the seven electoral areas would keep the same number of directors and votes.

The proposed changes include:

- 1) Increasing the voting unit from 2,500 people to 2,600 (this number determines how many votes each area gets); and,
- 2) Changing the voting divisor from 5 to 6.7 (this determines how many directors each community needs to appoint to the RDN Board based on how many votes it receives).

A proposal must be submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs for approval.

As part of the review and decision-making process, the public is invited to share their views on the voting formula options between 8:30 a.m. on March 11 and 4:30 p.m. on April 17. Feedback can be submitted by:

- Emailing [inquiries@rdn.bc.ca](mailto:inquiries@rdn.bc.ca)
- Mailing a letter to the RDN at 6300 Hammond Bay Road, Nanaimo, BC V9T 6N2
- Requesting to attend as a delegation at the RDN Board meeting, tentatively scheduled for April 28, 2026. Learn how at [rdn.bc.ca/appearing-as-a-delegation](https://rdn.bc.ca/appearing-as-a-delegation)

**Get Involved RDN!**

For more information including current Board composition and voting formula, the options being considered, how to submit a question, or to register to receive project updates, visit [getinvolved.rdn.ca/rdn-board-voting](http://getinvolved.rdn.ca/rdn-board-voting).

- 30 -

**For media inquiries, please contact:**

Rebecca Taylor  
Communications Coordinator  
Regional District of Nanaimo  
250-713-2400  
[engagment@rdn.bc.ca](mailto:engagment@rdn.bc.ca)



**Get Involved RDN!**



[www.rdn.bc.ca](http://www.rdn.bc.ca)