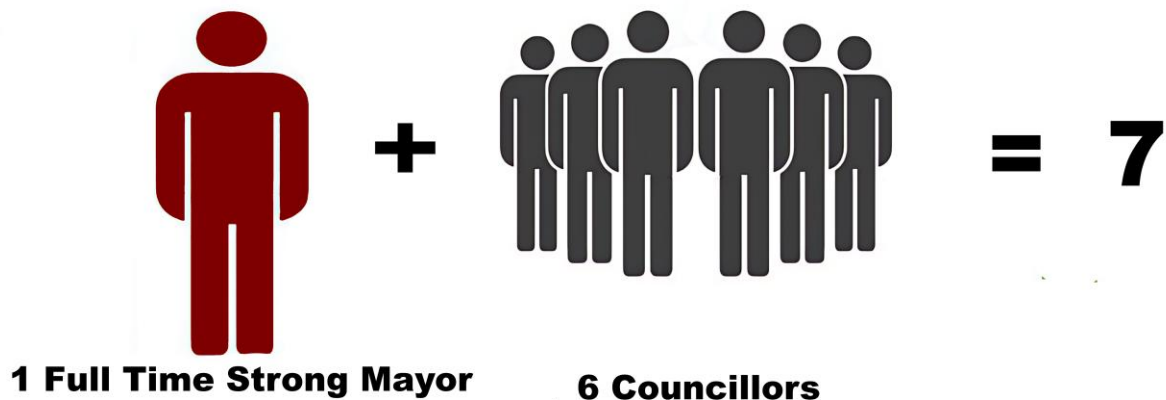


Why Your Vote for Lord Mayor May Be the Most Important Vote You Cast for Niagara-on-the-Lake's Future

This October, Niagara-on-the-Lake residents will elect a new Council operating under Ontario's Strong Mayor legislation. For the first time, your vote for **Lord Mayor** could have a decisive impact on the future of the community.

Election 2026



Why?

Because on the issues that most shape Niagara-on-the-Lake—**planning and development**—the Lord Mayor will have powers that no previous mayor has held.

Under this legislation, the Lord Mayor can veto certain planning and development by-laws if they are seen to conflict with provincial priorities such as housing and growth. Council can override that veto, but only with a **two-thirds vote of the full Council**.

Beginning in 2026, Council will consist of **seven members**: the Lord Mayor and six councillors. That means **five votes are required** to overturn a veto.

This threshold has significant consequences.



If the Lord Mayor is supported by just **two councillors**, they hold three of the seven seats—enough to prevent the five votes needed for an override. In practical terms, **the Lord Mayor and two councillors can block Council from reversing a veto on major planning and development decisions.**

The impact becomes even greater when attendance is reduced. Absences due to illness, vacation, conflicts of interest, or vacancies do not lower the five-vote requirement. With only six members present, reaching five votes becomes difficult; with five members, it becomes impossible.

These decisions shape Niagara-on-the-Lake for decades—affecting housing, neighbourhood growth, commercial development, traffic, and the preservation of the community's heritage and character. They are among the most consequential choices Council makes and often draw the highest public interest.

Whether residents support or oppose Strong Mayor powers is a matter for each voter to decide.

But before casting a ballot, every voter should understand this:

On the issues that most shape Niagara-on-the-Lake's future—planning and development—the support of just two councillors, together with the Lord Mayor, may be enough to determine the outcome.