

Becoming a Member of Grey County Council

Candidate Information Session

April 2026

Agenda

- Grey County Overview
- Who are Grey County Councillors?
- Services and Service Differences Between Levels
- Being a County Councillor
- Questions

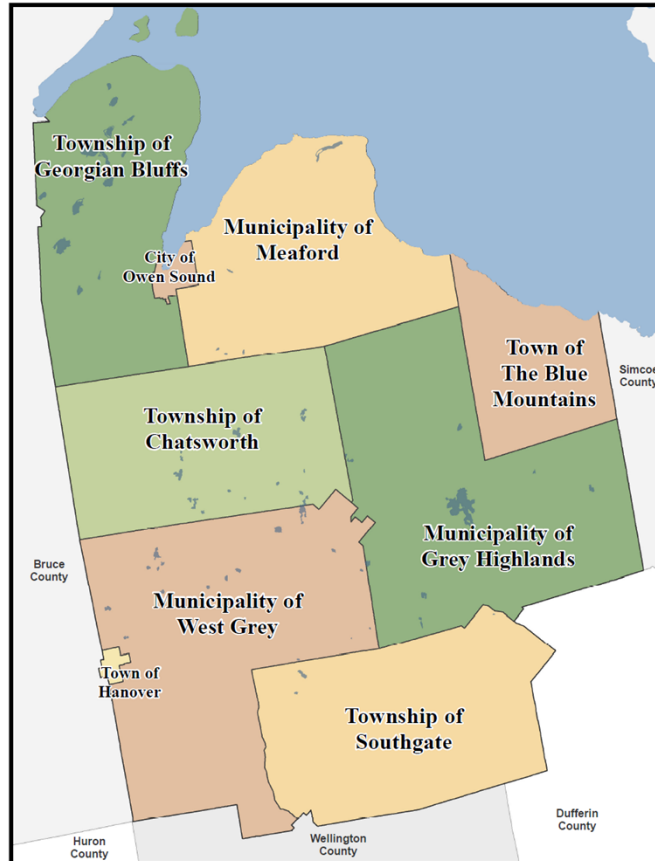
Grey County Overview

Ontario has three types of municipalities

- upper tier, lower tier, single tier

Grey County Profile

- upper tier municipality
- 9 lower tier municipalities
- Population of 100,905 (2021 census)
- Combined Operating and Capital Budget - approx. \$300 million (2026)



Who are Grey County Councillors?

- Indirectly elected
- Mayors and Deputy Mayors from 9 municipalities
- 4 year term
- Warden as Head of Council, elected annually from among peers
 - *Role of the Head of Council*
- Decisions for Grey County residents as a whole

Services & Service Differences

Grey County (Upper Tier) Services

- County Roads (~900 km)
- Regional Planning (Subdivisions (except for Owen Sound), County Official Plans, approval of Local Official Plans), Growth Projections
- Social Services (CMSM) – Ontario Works, Child Care, Social Housing, Homelessness Prevention and Supports
- Paramedic Services
- Long-Term Care (3 homes – Rockwood Terrace, Lee Manor, Grey Gables)
- Provincial Offences Act (POA) Administration
- Economic Development and Tourism
- Tax Policy set by Grey County

Local Municipal (Lower Tier) Services

- Local Roads and Sidewalks
- Local Land Use Planning (Consents, Zoning, Minor Variances, Site Plans)
- Fire Services
- Water and Wastewater
- Waste Management
- Recreation, Parks, and Libraries
- Building Permits and By-law Enforcement
- Property Tax Collection

Being a County Councillor

Meeting Structure and Commitment

- 2 Council meetings monthly
- 2nd and 4th Thursday of most months (one meeting in August)
- Daytime meetings
- Meetings range from 2-6 hours depending on agenda
- Special Meetings (ex. budget, strategic planning)
- Recorded votes are weighted – *County of Grey Act, 1993*
 - Based on # of electors in the most recent election
- Parliamentary Procedure

- Hybrid participation available
- Escribe - agenda management software
- Two full day meetings per month + any committee work, special meetings

- Alternate representation
- Municipal Act now permits a councillor from a local municipality to attend on member's behalf to represent the municipality
- Appointed for the length of the term
- Helps keep community representation

- Salaried + meeting per diems, mileage for in person meetings
- Conference attendance - 2 per year, Warden unlimited
- Committees – ex. GCJAAC, Community Services,
- External appointments on Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy, Stewardship Grey Bruce, etc.

Need more practical information?

Grey County Council meetings are streamed online, or visit a meeting in progress

Questions?

- Questions to any staff or presenters in attendance?
- Resources

AMO - <https://www.amo.on.ca/about-us/municipal-101>

AMO - [Election Resources: Supporting your Run for Municipal Office in 2026 | AMO](#)

FCM - <https://fcm.ca/en/resources>

CAMA - [Residents' Guide – Your Local Government: A Resident's Guide to Services, Roles & Good Governance | Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators \(CAMA\)](#)

Government of Ontario - <https://www.ontario.ca/document/2026-candidates-guide-ontario-municipal-council-and-school-board-elections>