

How Council Members Voted

Many of you have asked for information about the voting records of candidates running for re-election. Well here it is!!

Over the past four years, the Municipality of North Cowichan’s Council has voted thousands of times, on a multitude of issues. We searched out what we consider to be significant decisions, post the gist of what was voted on, and how individuals voted. (If you really want to dive into a vote, you can note the date in the left hand column and seek out the agenda and minutes for that council meeting.)

Guided by our focus on keeping North Cowichan rural, we paid particular attention to land use, environmental protection and amendments to the Official Community Plan (OCP). We have also included decisions on jobs, public services and community well-being. Together, these votes show where council members agreed and where their approaches differed.

The colour shading helps readers to follow those patterns. It reflects how each vote aligns with the priorities highlighted in this comparison, rather than simply whether a councillor voted “yes” or “no.”

Blue shading indicates votes aligned with NCC’s priorities of protecting rural character, farmland and the environment. Red indicates votes taking the opposing position on the issue. These colours reflect NCC’s perspective.

We encourage readers to consider the wording of each motion alongside the voting results, and draw their own conclusions.

North Cowichan • Selected votes from the 2022–2026 term

Yes/No refer to the motion shown, including motions to deny. Gray = not serving, absent or conflict.

OCP = Official Community Plan.

UCB = Urban Containment Boundary: the line separating urban growth areas from rural and natural areas.

Date	Motion / decision	Findlay	Manhas	Caljouw	Hogg	Douglas	Justice	Istace	Toporowski ₁	Result
ACCOUNTABILITY										
Sep 3, 2025	Developer disclosures: refer Mayor Douglas’s proposed policy to staff for a report and legal review. The proposal would require councillors to disclose developer donations and meetings, and consider recusal if a donor’s project comes to a vote.	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Carried 6–1
Sep 2, 2026	Developer disclosures: postpone consideration until November 18, 2026, after the municipal election. A Yes is a vote to postpone.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	N/A	Carried 4–3
NATURE, RURAL CHARACTER AND ENVIRONMENT										
Dec 7, 2022	Indefinitely postpone Findlay’s proposed request to senior governments for information on weather modification/cloud seeding/geoengineering—not a vote adopting his proposal.	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Carried 7–0
Dec 13, 2022	Committee of the Whole: maintain 2023 contributions of \$100,000 to Quamichan Lake and \$183,900 to Climate Action and Energy reserves. A No opposed maintaining these contributions.	No	No	No	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Carried 4–3
Sep 4, 2024	Adopt the Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation Strategy to prepare municipal services, infrastructure and natural systems for climate risks.	No	No	No	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Carried 4–3
May 21, 2025	Request a staff report on Crofton waterfront copper-smelter slag contamination and options for seeking senior-government assessment or remediation. Motion by Justice.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Carried 7–0
Aug 20, 2025	Add Municipal Forest Reserve harvesting to Council’s strategic priorities—not approval of a specific logging operation. Motion by Findlay.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	N/A	Carried 4–3

Date	Motion / decision	Findlay	Manhas	Caljouw	Hogg	Douglas	Justice	Istace	Toporowski ₁	Result
Sep 3, 2025	Give three readings to Bylaw 4032, lowering the Zero Carbon Step Code requirement for new buildings from EL-4 to EL-1. The code primarily addresses emissions from space and water heating; EL-1 requires builders to measure and report emissions rather than meet EL-4's near-zero-emissions standard. This was not final adoption.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	N/A	Carried 4–3
Nov 19, 2025	Investigate resuming Municipal Forest Reserve harvesting through a five-year plan and revenue options, without committing to harvest. Staff's preliminary staffing/planning/engagement cost estimate was about \$500,000.	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	N/A	Defeated 3–4
Nov 19, 2025	Reaffirm co-management with Quw'utsun Nation and complete the framework and plan before reconsidering forest harvesting as a strategic priority.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Carried 7–0
Feb 4, 2026	Request letters to senior governments and regulators seeking action on fibreglass pollution in the Cowichan Estuary. Motion by Justice.	Yes	No	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Carried 5–1
May 20, 2026	Protect farming, farmland, rural character and food security, retain the Urban Containment Boundary as the limit to residential growth, and advance farm-focused zoning work. Motion by Justice.	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Defeated 3–4
May 20, 2026	Endorse the Electric Vehicle Community Charging Strategy and guide future work plans, budgets, grants, engagement and bylaw review.	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Carried 5–2
May 20, 2026	Approve a \$2/hour municipal EV-charging fee, prepare the fee-bylaw amendment and direct net revenues to the Climate Action and Energy Plan Reserve Fund.	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Carried 5–2
Jun 17, 2026	Authorize a letter supporting provincial funding for transit service to the new Quw'utsun Valley Hospital. Motion by Caljouw.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Carried 7–0
Jul 15, 2026	Adopt the Biodiversity Assessment and Policy reports and direct staff, with the Environmental Advisory Committee, to prepare a Biodiversity Policy Implementation Plan.	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Carried 6–1
Sep 2, 2026	Adopt the Natural Assets Management Strategy and seek Environmental Advisory Committee advice on prioritizing its actions.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Carried 7–0
Sep 2, 2026	Direct staff to prepare a zoning amendment defining data centres and prohibiting that land use throughout North Cowichan—not adoption of the prohibition.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Carried 7–0

LAND USE DECISIONS

Feb 1, 2023	Provide a 24-month amnesty for owners excluded from the revised Urban Containment Boundary to notify the Municipality of their intent to pursue previously available development options. Motion by Findlay.	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	No	No	No	No	Defeated 3–4
Feb 21, 2023	Deny the 2083 Indian Crescent zoning application as inconsistent with the OCP, contrary to staff's recommendation to advance an OCP Amendment .	No	No	No	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Carried 4–3
Feb 21, 2023	Deny the 6409 Wicks Road zoning application as inconsistent with the OCP, as staff recommended. A No opposed denial.	No	No	No	N/A	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Defeated 3–4
Feb 21, 2023	Deny the Lot 2 Moose Road zoning application as inconsistent with the OCP, as staff recommended. A No opposed denial.	No	No	No	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Carried 4–3

Date	Motion / decision	Findlay	Manhas	Caljouw	Hogg	Douglas	Justice	Istace	Toporowski 1	Result
Feb 21, 2023	Deny the 7022 Bell McKinnon Road zoning application as inconsistent with the OCP, as staff recommended. A No opposed denial.	No	No	No	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Carried 4–3
Jun 18, 2025	Advance West Vista's OCP Amendment without the staff-requested fiscal impact assessment, contrary to staff's recommendation. Justice was absent.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Absent	Yes	N/A	Carried 5–1
Aug 20, 2025	Morgan Maples: deny early consideration of an OCP Amendment for a bare-land-strata proposal at 3499 Henry Road, as staff recommended. A No opposed denial.	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Carried 4–3
Sep 3, 2025	Advance West Vista/Bell McKinnon OCP Amendments expanding the UCB north of Herd Road—including West Vista's 33 acres—against staff recommendation; begin readings and the hearing process.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	N/A	Carried 4–3
Oct 1, 2025	Grant Road: advance OCP Amendment and rezoning changes for a potential increase from 14 to up to 36 dwellings, against staff recommendation. Six process/readings votes, each 4–3—not final adoption.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	N/A	Carried 4–3
Oct 1, 2025	Require a fiscal impact analysis before considering an extension of the Kingsview Phased Development Agreement for potential upper phases. Motion by Justice.	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Carried 5–2
Oct 15, 2025	On reconsideration, again advance West Vista/Bell McKinnon OCP Amendment bylaws 4028/4029 through readings and the hearing process, contrary to the originating staff recommendation.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	N/A	Carried 4–3
Nov 19, 2025	After the hearing, give third reading to and adopt West Vista/Bell McKinnon OCP Amendment bylaws 4028/4029, contrary to the originating staff recommendation. Four votes, each 4–3.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	N/A	Carried 4–3
Mar 4, 2026	Hidden Hills: on reconsideration, continue processing OCP 00025 and prepare an OCP Amendment —not final subdivision or rezoning approval. This is for early consideration.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	N/A	Carried 4–3
Mar 18, 2026	Westhill Place: continue processing an OCP Amendment for 3037/3047 Westhill Place alongside rezoning, against staff recommendation—not final subdivision approval.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	N/A	Carried 4–3
May 6, 2026	Oak & Vine: rescind the requirement to register a restrictive covenant governing event numbers, attendance, hours, noise and neighbour safeguards as a condition of rezoning. Motion by Findlay.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	N/A	Carried 5–2
May 6, 2026	Oak & Vine: remove the condition requiring Lakes Road shoulder pavement widening before final zoning adoption. The widening was to be paid for by the property owner. Motion by Findlay.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	N/A	Carried 4–3
AFFORDABLE HOUSING										
Mar 15, 2023	Allocate \$902,000 from the provincial Growing Communities Fund grant to North Cowichan's Affordable Housing Reserve.	No	No	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Carried 5–2

Date	Motion / decision	Findlay	Manhas	Caljouw	Hogg	Douglas	Justice	Istace	Toporowski ¹	Result
Dec 17, 2025	Rescind the September 17 police–nurse crisis-response report request because of cost considerations. Council approved this on consent—not a unilateral decision by Hogg.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Carried 7–0
TAXES										
Nov 19, 2025	Request a comparison of North Cowichan's residential tax burden with defensible B.C. comparators, using a repeatable method—not a tax-rate change. Motion by Justice.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Carried 7–0
Mar 18, 2026	Adopt the 2026–2030 Financial Plan, with an 8.42% municipal tax-revenue increase for 2026—not necessarily an 8.42% increase on each property's bill.	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Carried 6–1
JOBS										
Apr 15, 2026	Request stronger provincial/federal raw-log export policies for Vancouver Island forest lands to support domestic processing, value-added manufacturing and forestry employment. Motion by Justice.	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Defeated 3–4
Aug 19, 2026	Support a Vancouver Island value-added wood manufacturing strategy and request provincial partnership for local manufacturing, investment, innovation and jobs. Motion by Justice.	No	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Carried 5–1

¹ Toporowski appears only for historical votes when she served; Hogg is N/A for those earlier meetings. N/A means not serving, not absent.

We couldn't help but notice...	
At the CVRD's July 8, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting, the Cowichan Valley Citizen reported that Caljouw, Manhas and Findlay opposed endorsing the updated climate projections as a basis for regional adaptation planning. The committee recommendation nevertheless carried.	Read the Citizen article
February 19, 2025 — Councillor Justice raised concerns about private mooring buoys and pollution from live-aboard boats in Maple Bay. No motion or recorded vote was found.	
Jobs and Taxes	
Mayor Douglas acted quickly after the Crofton mill closure to seek help for affected employees.	Read the December article
Mayor Douglas convened the Mill Closure Response Working Group to seek help for employees and the tax base.	Working group update
Mayor Douglas announced Shinohara Nexus Group's planned Chemainus manufacturing facility: 30 jobs expected by early 2027, with plans for about 70 positions over the next three years.	Read the announcement

About this selection

During the 2022–2026 term, Council has voted on many issues. This is our selection of some of the issues we consider most important. It is not a complete record of any member's votes.

Votes are grouped by topic. Related decisions are shown separately so that referrals, deferrals and later votes can be read in context.

A vote to refer or defer a proposal does not adopt it. Readings, hearings and directions to prepare amendments may advance a proposal without granting final approval.

Motion sponsors are identified where confirmed. Names are not listed for every motion.