

Decades of Democracy

An Analysis of Cobourg
Municipal Elections
(1994–2022)



Analysing nearly thirty years of local political history

9

Election Cycles Analysed
(1994 to 2022)

3

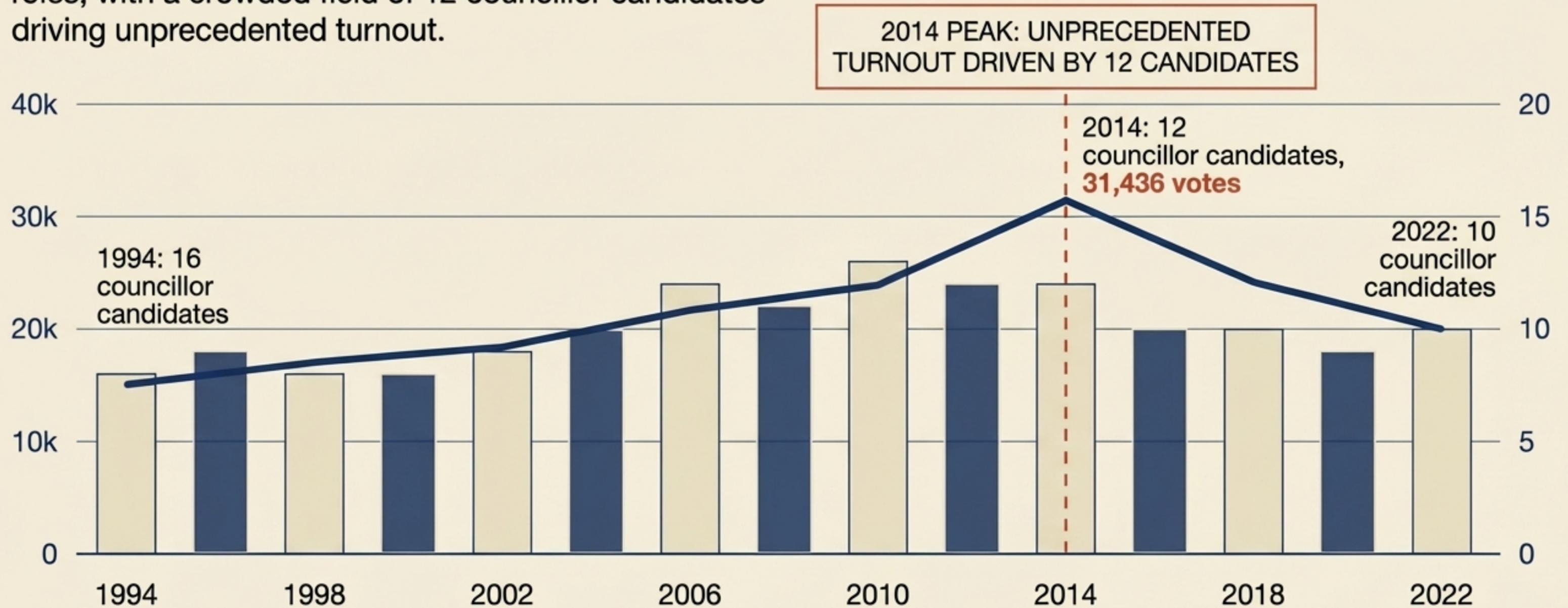
Core Municipal Roles Tracked
(Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillor)

10 to 16

Range of Candidates Competing
for Council Seats per Cycle

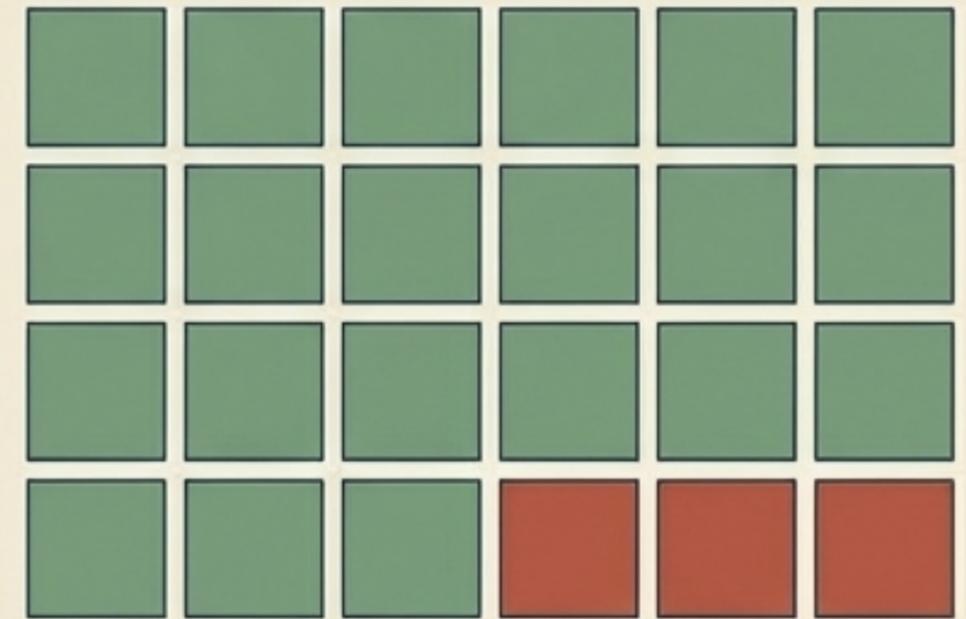
Voter engagement hit its definitive peak during the 2014 election cycle

Peak Participation: 2014 saw 31,436 total votes cast across all roles, with a crowded field of 12 councillor candidates driving unprecedented turnout.



The unwritten rule of Cobourg politics is the fortress of incumbency

880%



24 Total Incumbent Runs
across all roles (1994–2022)

21 Incumbent Wins

3 Incumbent Defeats

Only three incumbents have been defeated at the ballot box since 1994

LOST

**Joan
Chalovich**

Year: 2000

Role: Mayor

Defeated by: Peter Delanty

LOST

**Suzanne
Seguin**

Year: 2022

Role: Deputy Mayor

Defeated by: Nicole Beatty

LOST

**John
Henderson**

Year: 2022

Role: Mayor

Defeated by: Lucas
Cleveland

Four political titans maintain a perfect, undefeated electoral record



Peter Delanty

4 Wins (100% Rate)

13,425 Total Votes

Mayor & Councillor runs



Bob Spooner

4 Wins (100% Rate)

16,097 Total Votes

Deputy Mayor & Councillor runs



Bill MacDonald

4 Wins (100% Rate)

11,851 Total Votes

Four consecutive Councillor wins



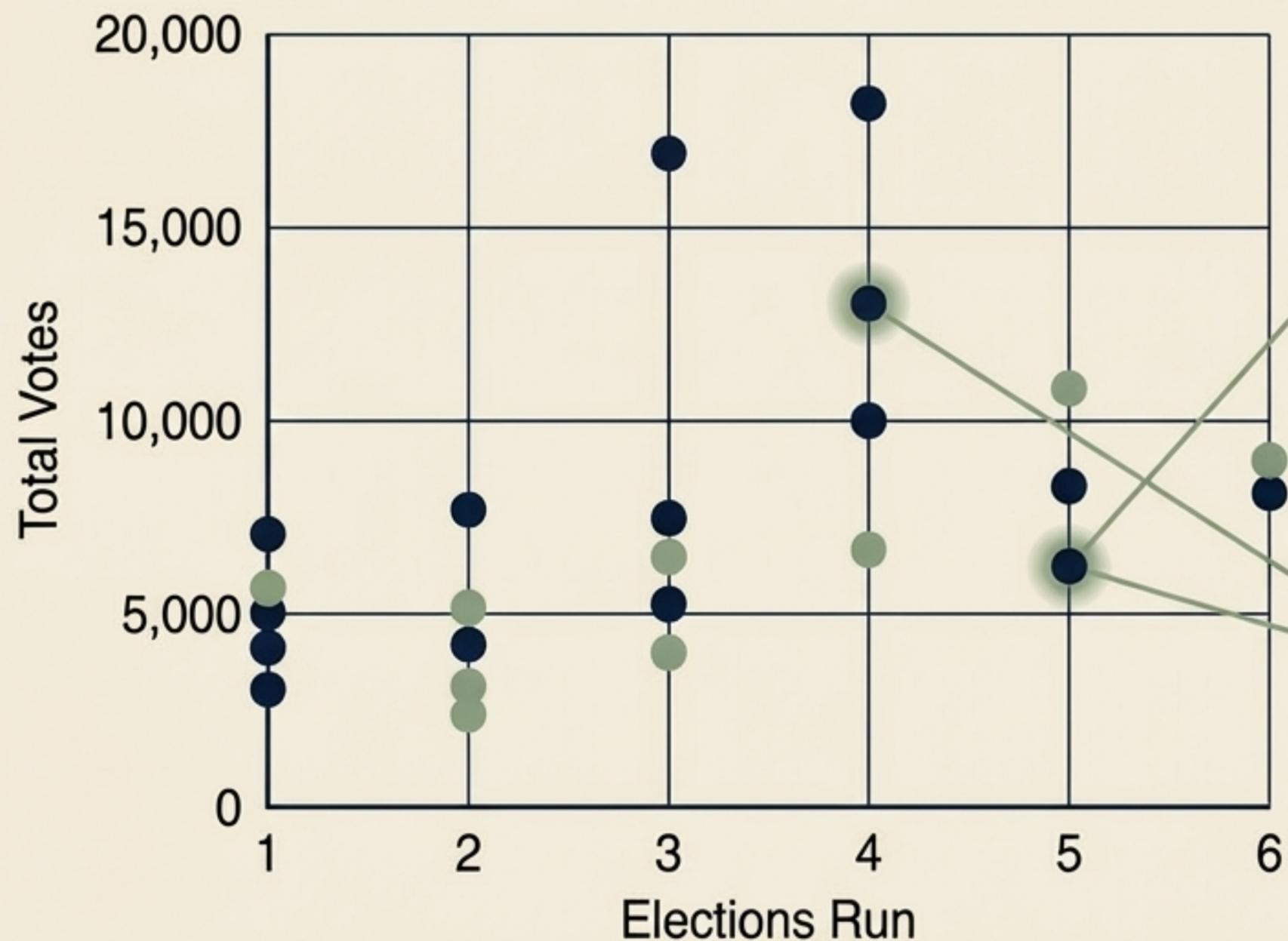
Gil Brocanier

4 Wins (100% Rate)

15,141 Total Votes

Progressed from Councillor to Deputy Mayor, to two-term Mayor

Civic tenacity drives the competitive spirit of local democracy



Lloyd Williams

Most frequent competitor

5 Elections Run

Captured 6,173 Total Votes across Mayoral and Councillor campaigns.

Miriam Mutton

High-volume competitor

4 Elections Run

Captured 13,080 Total Votes. Transitioned from top-tier Councillor to Mayoral candidate.

Mayoral mandates range from overwhelming landslides to absolute nail-biters

The Landslide (2000)

Winner: **Peter Delanty**

5,068 votes, 70.1%

Runner-up: **Joan Chalovich**

2,161 votes, 29.9%



Won by a massive
2,907 vote margin.

The Nail-biter (2022)

Winner: **Lucas Cleveland**

3,391 votes, 50.8%

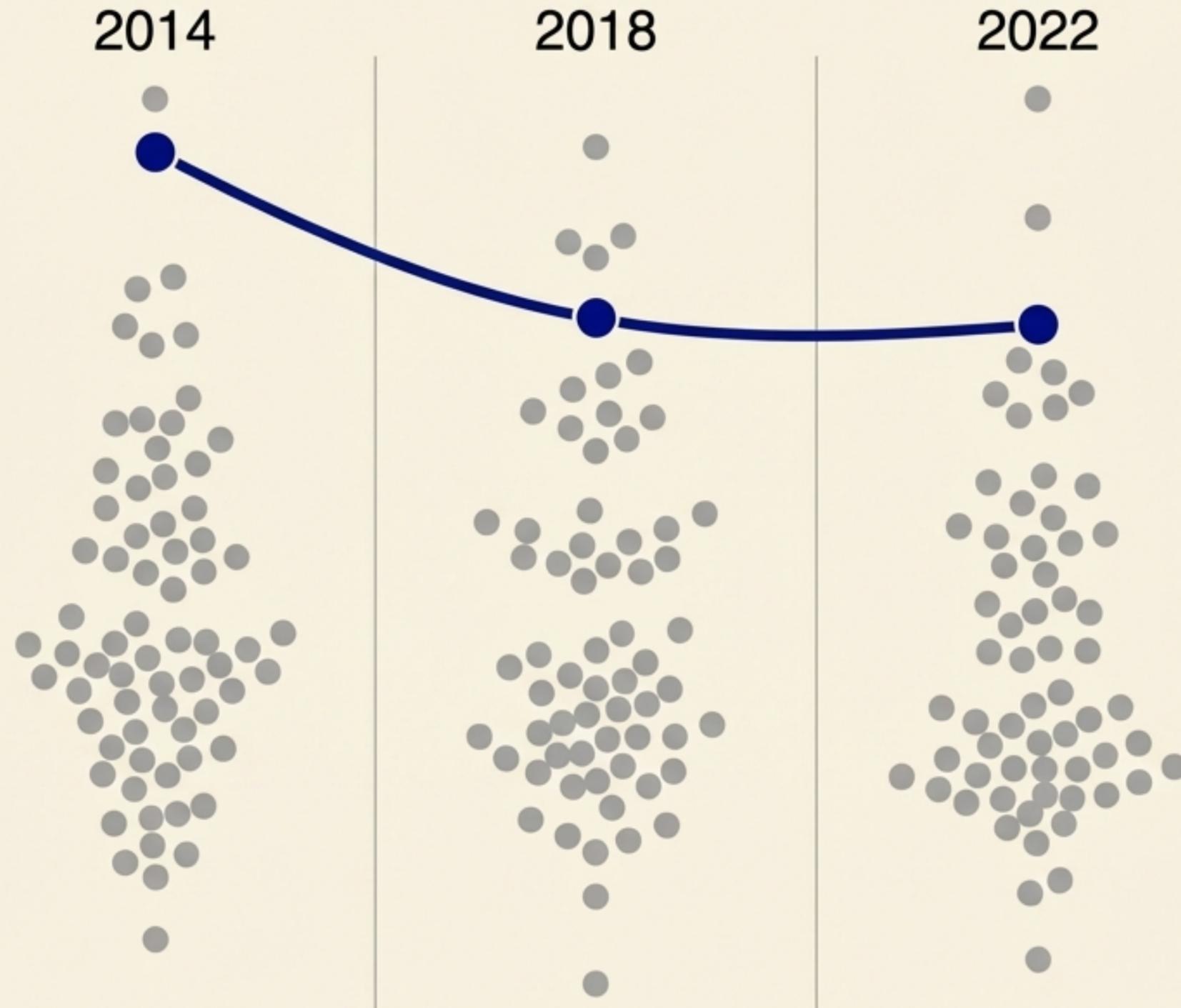
Runner-up: **John Henderson**

3,286 votes, 49.2%



Won by an incredibly
tight 105 vote margin.

Navigating the crowded ballot for a seat on the Town Council



The Dynamic

Up to 16 candidates (as seen in 1994) regularly fracture the total vote pool.

The Standout

Brian Darling has demonstrated remarkable consistency over three cycles:

2014: 1st Place (4,739 votes)
2018: 2nd Place (3,969 votes)
2022: 2nd Place (3,761 votes)

The rare instances of uncontested power at the highest levels



Did You Know?

Year: 2003

Peter Delanty was acclaimed as Mayor, securing the highest office without a single opposing candidate on the ballot.



Did You Know?

Year: 2010

Stan Frost was acclaimed as **Deputy Mayor**, bypassing the traditional election battle entirely.

The 2022 election represents a notable paradigm shift in voter behaviour

The Disruption: Two entrenched incumbents were simultaneously defeated in a single cycle.

Mayoral Upset

~~John
Henderson~~

Lucas Cleveland
(+105 vote margin)

Deputy Mayoral Upset

~~Suzanne
Seguin~~

Nicole Beatty
(+1,066 vote margin,
winning 3,817 to 2,751)

Three defining pillars of Cobourg's electoral health



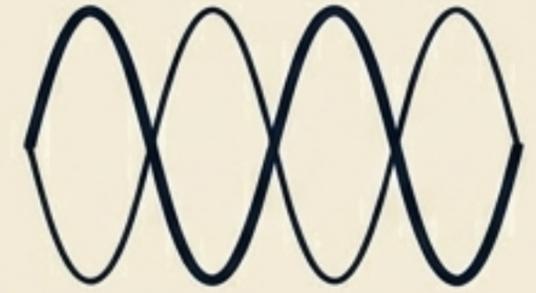
The Incumbency Fortress

Winning office provides an 88% guarantee of retaining it, making the barrier to entry historically steep for challengers.



The Rise of Close Margins

The 2022 Mayoral race (decided by just 105 votes) proves that historic advantages can be overcome by highly motivated voter blocks.



Cyclical Engagement

Turnout heavily fluctuates based on the density of the candidate field, peaking dramatically when a dozen or more voices crowd the ballot (as seen in 2014).