

2018/2019 Ward Boundary Review Update

Background

- Council approved the Ward Boundary Review Policy on April 5, 2016.
- Pursuant to section 2 b) ii) Council directed the Returning Officer to conduct a ward boundary review following the 2018 municipal census and report to Council by the end of the first quarter of 2019.

2018 Municipal Census Results

- Strathcona County conducted a census on May 1, 2018.
- A summary of the 2018 results was provided to the Priorities Committee on October 23, 2018 as a Report for Information.

Summary of 2018 Census Results

- As per 2 a) of the Ward Boundary Review Policy, Enclosure 2 of the report contains a breakdown of the current population and eligible voters by ward and the deviation from the mean population and mean number of eligible voters by ward.
- Enclosure 3 contains graphs that illustrate a comparison of the population and number of eligible voters in each ward to the mean for both urban and rural wards.
- Population and number of eligible voters are both relevant considerations in designing ward boundaries.
 - Number of eligible voters impacts the number of voting stations
 - Ward Councillors represent by population

Boundary Adjustments

- Based on the 2018 census results, Ward 4 exceeds the +25% deviation of population, and based on the policy, would require a boundary adjustment.
- Another criteria under the policy is to consider growth over the next ten years. This will be considered in the proposals that will be brought forward for Council review.
- The policy states that the ward boundaries should be designed with the intent of lasting a minimum of two municipal elections.

Timing Considerations

- Next municipal election is October 21, 2021.
- In order to meet MGA requirements, first reading of the bylaw should be passed on or before December 18, 2020.
- To assist with timely election planning, it is desirable to pass first reading of the bylaw in 2019.

Next Steps



- Develop ward boundary proposals based on the criteria contained in the policy.
- Consult with internal and external stakeholders.
- Present options to Council in 2019.