

**Bylaw 22-2016
Municipal Ward Boundaries and Council Composition
(Repeals Bylaw 59-2006)**

Report Purpose

To present the findings of the ward boundary review and to give first reading to a bylaw that proposes to change the municipal ward boundaries.

Recommendation

1. That Bylaw 22-2016, being a bylaw to establish the municipal ward boundaries and Council composition, be given first reading.
2. THAT Administration conduct a ward boundary review following the 2018 municipal census and report to Council by the end of the first quarter of 2019.

Council History

December 12, 2006 - Council approved Bylaw 59-2006 being a bylaw to change the municipal ward boundaries for the 2007 and subsequent general municipal elections.

April 5, 2016 – Council approved GOV-002-032 the Ward Boundary Review Policy and directed Administration to conduct a Ward Boundary Review and report back to Council with boundary options on or before the May 24, 2016 Council meeting.

May 24, 2016 – Council amended the April 5, 2016 motion to change the date that Administration was required to report back to Council with ward boundary options from May 24, 2016 to June 21, 2016.

Strategic Plan Priority Areas

Economy: n/a

Governance: Voters have the right to both equal and effective representation. “Equal” representation requires that a single vote is equal to any other vote cast in the area regardless of location. “Effective” representation ensures that voters have the ability to access their elected representative equal in strength to the rest of the population. Recognizing that truly ‘equal’ and ‘effective’ representation is impossible to achieve, the Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that an allowable representation range of + or – 25% from the population mean is appropriate.

Social: The proposed ward boundaries recognize and respect the importance of the urban and rural characteristics of Strathcona County and preserve the communities of interest wherever possible.

Culture: n/a

Environment: n/a

Other Impacts

Policy: GOV-002-032 Ward Boundary Review Policy

Legislative/Legal: *The Municipal Government Act (MGA)* and the *Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA)* govern processes associated with municipal elections. The legislation allows municipalities to establish electoral boundaries for municipal elections and to determine the number of councillors for each ward.

Interdepartmental: Information Technology Services, GIS Branch, Planning & Development Services, Communications

Summary

Legislative & Legal Services worked with Planning and Development Services and the GIS Branch of Information Technology Services to complete a ward boundary review. The criteria set out in GOV-002-032: Ward Boundary Review Policy (the "Policy") was used to complete the review. Section 1 f) of the Policy states that "to provide stability in elected representation, ward boundary proposals should include the fewest changes possible to achieve the desired results."

The recommended changes to the ward boundaries, as shown on Enclosure 1, are to align the urban service area boundary with the urban ward boundaries. Currently the Optima Wye Crossing condominiums and Salisbury Village are located in Ward 6 but are part of the urban service area. Under the proposed Bylaw, Ward 3 and Ward 6 boundaries would be changed to align with the urban service area boundary. These minimal changes will ensure compliance with the Policy for the 2017 election.

Enclosure 2 provides a summary of the ward populations using the 2015 census data and shows deviations from the population mean. Enclosure 3 reflects the changes to the ward populations and deviations based on the recommended changes to Wards 3 and 6. Administration is confident that growth between 2015 and 2017 will not cause the population deviation to exceed the +/-25% criteria outlined in the policy.

However, based on 2021 population projections provided by Planning and Development Services (Enclosure 4), Administration is recommending that a review of the ward boundaries be completed following the 2018 municipal census. Population projections indicate that significant changes will likely be necessary to the urban ward boundaries prior to the 2021 election to accommodate growth in the northeast corner of Sherwood Park.

Enclosures

- 1 Recommended Ward Boundary Changes Map
- 2 Ward Populations Based on 2015 Census Data
- 3 Ward Populations Reflecting the Recommended Boundary Changes
- 4 Current Development and Potential Future Growth Projections/Impacts on Existing Ward Boundaries
- 5 Bylaw 22-2016, Urban and Rural Ward Boundary Maps
- 6 Ward Boundary Review PowerPoint Presentation

