

Lac La Biche County *Policy*

TITLE: Ward Boundary Review

POLICY NO: GOV-11-018

RESOLUTION: 20.203

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 3, 2020

DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE: Legislative Services **NEXT REVIEW DATE:** March 1, 2025

POLICY STATEMENT:

Ward boundaries promote equitable and effective representation by Elected Officials across Lac La Biche County.

DEFINITIONS:

“Elector” means a person eligible to vote, as defined by the *Local Authorities Election Act*.

“Population” means the total number of people residing in a defined area.

“Ward” a municipal electoral district for the purpose of electing Councillors, established under the authority of the *Municipal Government Act*.

PRINCIPLES:

1. Following the first completed census after a municipal election, or as directed by Council, Administration will provide Council with a summary of the census data by ward and deviation from the mean population per ward.
2. Upon receiving the summary of the census data by ward, Council may:
 - a. accept the summary of the census data as information;
 - b. direct Administration to propose ward boundary revisions for Council’s consideration;
 - c. engage an external consultant to propose ward boundary revisions;
 - d. establish a community-based committee to propose ward boundary revisions; or
 - e. provide other direction as deemed appropriate by Council.
3. The criteria, and general order of priority in developing ward boundaries are:
 - a. Population – the total population is intended to be relatively equal between the wards and based upon the allowable deviation from the mean population per ward. Maintaining a relatively equal number of electors may also be considered, but the primary factor will be population.
 - b. Deviation – the maximum allowable deviation from the mean population of the wards is +/- 25%.
 - c. Future growth – ward boundaries will be designed with the intent of lasting at least two municipal elections and therefore, the potential for growth over the next 10 years will be considered.
 - d. Communities of interest – efforts will be made to ensure residential subdivisions are kept within the same ward. In consideration of the County’s specialized municipality status, urban and rural interest will be taken into consideration when developing ward boundaries.

- e. Geographical features – whenever possible, ward boundaries will be readily identifiable to the public by using both natural and human made geographical features (lakes, roads, etc.).
 - f. Least number of changes – adjustments should involve the fewest number of changes.
 - g. Block-shaped wards – ward boundaries are to be designed relatively block-shaped.
4. Administration may propose a minor ward boundary review for the purpose of corrections based upon communities of interest or geographical features.
 5. Ward boundary revisions are under the authority of Council and will be made in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act*.

“Original Signed”
Chief Administrative Officer

March 4, 2020
Date

“Original Signed”
Mayor

March 4, 2020
Date

SPECIAL NOTES/CROSS REFERENCE:

AMENDMENT DATE: